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## Protesters demand justice, after two prison guards killed in Taiz

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, March 21 — Hundreds of people protested in Taiz on Saturday, after a prisoner sentenced to death escaped and two guards were killed as a result. This happened on Wednesday, when prisoner Mohammad Al-Jabri pretended to be sick and the director of the prison ordered two guards to accompany him to a private clinic. On their way to the clinic in a taxi with the prisoner, the two guards found themselves confronted with armed men, who killed the guards and escaped with the prisoner. Protesters gathered in front of the office of the governor of Taiz, holding the photographs of the two killed guards and demanding the state to implement justice and condemning the crime that took place in front of the public eye. They accused the director of the prison, of being an accomplice to the criminals and said that many security officials earned their living by helping prisoners escape.

The protesters held up signs saying, "The accident is a stigma on the local authority and the security apparatus in Taiz." Abdul Aleem, elite of the Al-Hobaisheem village, to which the two killed guards belonged, condemned the killing of two security guards in front of the public eye and condemned the security's not implementing the rule that bans carrying arms in public places. Nabeel Al-Sufiani, a security officer, wondered how the prison director allowed the prisoner to go out with two guards, to a private clinic and that too in a taxi and not in the official prison car. The deputy of Taiz governorate security office, Ali Al-Umari, promised the people to arrest the criminals, within a week. Yahya Al-Haisami, the head of Taiz governorate security office, told Yemen Times, that the director of the prison had also committed violations, in which prisoners were allowed to

carry mobile phones. Al-Haisami added that the director of the prison was arrested for allowing the prisoner to go out of the prison, without enough guards and in a taxi. Al-Haisami added that the director has been replaced by another officer who is strict, doesn't allow the prisoners to carry mobile phones and has made it compulsory for the prisoners to wear the prison uniform. The prisoners, enraged by this, burned their blankets and tried to start a riot in the prison demanding the release of the ex-director of the prison and giving him back his position. According to Al-Haisami, an investigation into the matter showed, that a room was booked for the prisoner, in a hotel near the place where the guards were killed and that weapons were found in the room. The criminals as well as the places they usually go to, have been identified. Al-Haisami added that the security will spare no efforts in arresting them at the earliest.



Protesters condemned the lack of security that led to the murder of the two prison guards.

## Saleh: War with Houthis is over

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 21 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has declared that the six-year-long war between the Yemeni army and the Houthis is over. This declaration was aired on Fri-

day, March 19, in an interview with Al-Arabiya. The president said that the war has ended and the Houthis have shown positive indicators in complying with the six conditions, such as releasing captured soldiers, removing landmines, opening road blocks, and handing over district centers to the local authorities. Last week, the Houthis released 178 captured soldiers, as well as the detained civilians. Saleh said that this is the first time, during the course of the five wars, when the Houthis have shown such commitment. He said that this were signs that the war has ended. He once again asked the Houthis to apply the six conditions that were laid by the Yemeni state, as fundamental conditions to stop the war.

Referring to the entire war, the president said that the Houthis did not only be termed as "sabotage" and definitely cannot be called "a political act." "It is sabotage and not a political act and they have to apply the six conditions," said Saleh. The president praised the cooperation between the Houthis and the National Observation Committee, set up in mid-February to monitor the implementation of the six conditions. The president accused some parties in the region, of supporting the Houthis and said, "We have documents that prove that some parties are dreaming of the revival of the imamate in Yemen."

He said that these parties think that ruling Yemen is their right. He also said that there are some bodies in Saudi Arabia that collected donations to support the Houthis. Referring to the 12 Shiite doctrine, the president said that, "Yemen believes in doctrinal pluralism and is not against the 12 Shiite doctrine, but it is against a doctrine being imposed forcibly on a country with a Zaidi and

Sunni majority." He warned against attempts to impose any doctrine in the country. Saleh said that the Houthis had opened a new front with Saudi Arabia during the last Sa'ada war in November 2009, due to external interests and as a message to Saudi Arabia from an external power. Saleh denied any American intervention in Yemen, saying there are

only 40 American experts in the field of counterterrorism and that they are training the Yemeni Anti-Terrorism Unit. "The Americans did not interfere in the Houthi issue," Saleh said. The war between Houthis and the Yemeni army in Sa'ada, northern Yemen, started in 2004 and continued until January 2010, with some intermittent periods of truce.

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## Absence of the rule of law responsible for crises in Yemen

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, March 21 — The major problem that Yemen has been facing since 1990 is the absence of the rule of law, which has led to the current crises, according to human rights activists, parliamentarians and journalists.

A seminar on the 'Victims of the War on Terrorism', organized by Sajeen Organization (Prisoner Organization) in Sana'a, on Saturday, March 20, discussed this issue.

Abdu Rahman Barman, head of the Sajeen Organization, said that this seminar has been organized because the violations against the rights of citizens, by the police, under the pretext of the war on terrorism, have escalated.

"This seminar has come at a time, when the human rights of a large number of Yemeni citizens and their families, have been violated by the security authorities, under the name of combating terrorism," said Barman.

"The air strikes that were launched recently by the state, are examples of such violations, as innocent children and women are the victims of the strikes," Barman said.

He said that the war on terrorism has resulted in other kinds of human rights violations as well, such as the police breaking into houses looking for suspects and taking them as hostages.

Dr. Aydroos Al-Naqeeb, a parliamentarian from the Socialist party, participated in the seminar with a presentation titled "Indicators of linking the Southern Movement to Al-Qaeda."

In his presentation, Al-Naqeeb said that the southern issue can not be

resolved by temporary solutions. Since the issue has political roots, it must be thus resolved politically.

"The southern movement is a peaceful civil struggle, looking for a change towards the better, but it was faced with armed force," said Al-Naqeeb.

Although, more than 150 of the southern movement supporters were killed and another 500 were wounded, families of victims have not resorted to any kind of violence for revenge.

He said that the southern movement is a spontaneous activity, which has been adopted by the common people in the south. The movement is not a political organization.

"But, it is a public movement that protests against the oppression of its members, by the state," said Al-Naqeeb.

He said that linking the movement to Al-Qaeda is not acceptable.

Al-Naqeeb went on to say that the state used oppressive measures, such as opening fires at protestors, detaining the southern movement activists, blocking telephone coverage, tightening security measures and creating disputes among tribes in the south and as well as among members of the movement, to suppress the movement.

The attempts of the state and its media to link the peaceful movement to Al-Qaeda, is a campaign to deface the image of the movement and market it internationally as terrorist movement.

He further said that the attempts, to link the movement with Al-Qaeda, are only means to justify the state, dealing with the movement's demands, by using military force.

"Dealing with problems in this man-

ner is an attempt to escape from the reality, more than resolving it," he said.

Ahmed Arman, a lawyer, in his presentation titled "Law Violations under the pretext of War on Terrorism" said that the main problem that Yemen is facing since 1990, and especially after 1994 civil war, is the absence of the rule of law.

Arman said that this problem has led to all the existing problems.

"Since the USA made Yemen a partner in the anti-terrorism campaign on October 12, 2000, Yemen has initiated a series of human rights violations. Its police have detained thousands of people and carried out investigations on them, denying them all human rights" Arman said.

"Hundreds of those who were detained remain jailed at the political security prisons, without trials, and only a few of them were referred to court," he said.

He said that a large number of innocent people, who have no links to terrorism, were affected by the war on terrorism.

Abd Al-Elha Hayder, a journalist specializing in terrorism said that he has evidence, on cases of members of the southern movement who were killed, showing that when their families came to pick their bodies up from the security, they were forced to sign papers saying that their sons were terrorists and Al-Qaeda members.

"The state presents such documents to the international community as evidence of Yemen's war with the Al-Qaeda, asking their support," Hayder said.

## Landmine awareness training for children

AMRAN, 21 March 2010 — At al-Hamza Girls School in the northern Governorate of Amran, Afra Omar from the National Mine Action Programme (NMAP) teaches a class of 50 students about the risk of mines. She holds up photos of some of the improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that were found in neighbouring Saada Governorate, where a war between the army and Houthis-led rebels recently ended.

"If you see things like syringes, pipes, bottles, cigarette packages - don't touch them," she warns the students. "They can be mines."

Children are one of the main groups being addressed in a mine risk education campaign launched in March that is also focussing on the country's 250,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

An estimated 150,000 people were displaced since the last round of the northern war began in August 2009. The rest were displaced by previous rounds of fighting since 2004. Many of the displaced are hopeful of returning home after the two sides agreed a ceasefire on 11 February. However, landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) litter the former war zone and threaten to claim more lives if people return too early.

"The handmade mines that the Houthis planted do not give the impres-

sion that they are mines, encouraging children to touch them and pick them up," Mansour al-Azi, general director of the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC), said. He added that children made up the largest percentage of casualties of the 5,500 landmine and UXO-related accidents in Yemen since 1962.

"It's a huge problem," said NMAP manager Nabil Razzam. Some 700,000 people in Saada, including IDPs in 1,239 villages, were exposed to landmine or UXO risks, he said. In the Harf Sufyan District of Amran Governorate alone, he estimated that 45,000 people in 84 villages were at risk.

Shuruh al-Hubeish, 14, fled her home in Harf Sufyan last year and, like many of the 48,000 IDPs in Amran, years to go home but is afraid.

"Before I was scared of the fighting, now I am scared of the landmines," she said.

Local authorities estimate that 10 percent of IDPs from Amran have already returned to their homes and with them the first casualty reports are trickling through. According to the Ministry of Interior, five people have been killed and 20 injured as a result of contact with explosive devices in the Malaheed and Marran areas of Saada, and in Harf Sufyan in Amran.

### Mine action plan

Three demining teams from the army have been dispatched to the north to clear main roads and assess the gravity of the threat. It is estimated that their initial impact survey will take three months to complete while their technical survey, to mark contaminated areas, will take six to eight months.

A mine action plan will be devised based on these surveys.

"Clearance is slow, but as long as people know where the mine fields are, they can avoid them," Al-Azi said.

One of the problems deminers face is the lack of maps of mined areas as the Houthis kept no record of where mines were laid. Although the Yemeni army is being assisted by their former adversaries, mines were laid randomly by the rebels without central coordination. "The problem is if the person who laid some mines died, the information as to where the mines are died with him," Al-Azi said.

Implementing the Mine Action Plan would cost about US\$5 million and take two to three years, according to al-Azi, with four platoons of deminers, four survey teams and four mine dog groups. "We are ready to start in the north. We only need the money from donors and then we can move immediately," he said.

Source: IRIN

## State gives back Al-Jazeera equipment



By: Andres Cuella Brenchat  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, March 21 — "The government solved the problem that it had created," said Murad Hashim, the head of Al-Jazeera's Sana'a Bureau, after President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave the approval to give back the broadcasting equipment that had been confiscated last Friday.

Al-Jazeera can now broadcast without any restrictions, he added.

"The Ministry of Information didn't ask us for any particular conditions in order to continue our activity," said Hashim.

It's been a week of constant mobilizations from all sectors of society in order to lift what appeared to be new press restrictions, according to Hashim.

"We received calls from several embassies. They wanted to know what the situation was, and some of them promised us that they would try to deal with the subject with the authorities," said Hashim.

It seems that the government took into account the many problems that its decision caused. Many voices rose up, and demanded the channels Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya be permitted to broadcast, according to Hashim.

On Tuesday, March 17, the weekly protest in the premises of the Ministry

of Interior took place as usual. With one big difference though. This time, the multitudes of the gathered human rights activists and people demanding their constitutional rights had doubled.

Fans of Al-Jazeera had joined the weekly protest, raising their voices against the confiscation of Al-Jazeera's broadcasting equipment by the security forces.

The protestors were carrying small white flags mounted on a black plastic pole, with the symbol of Al-Jazeera and a witty slogan "Manbar liman la manbar lahu," or "A forum for those who have no forum."

"Where is Al-Jazeera, Mr. President?" the crowd shouted repeatedly in a cheerful and distended tone, but nevertheless serious one.

The Platform for Youth and Students, was distributing the communications for this special occasion, which said "the acts against the freedom of press in Yemen will only lead to more violations of freedoms that will eventually transform the country in a big prison."

"The freedom of press being the essence of human rights, its manipulation would be considered as a threat against them." They said.

Abd Al-Rahman Barman, a lawyer at the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, Hood, think the government has violated the freedom of press.

"It is for sure, the reality shows once more, that the government has violated the freedom of expression"

"I came to the demonstration to support the Al-Jazeera channel, the civilians of Al-Ja'ashin, and the newspapers that have been closed down, and I do so because it is my constitutional right to manifest."

A source from the ruling party noted that, "Yemen welcomes the media and broadcasting sets but on one condition: that they operate without violating the national laws, igniting chaos or reporting falsehoods about any part of the country."

The Ministry of Information took the transmission devices because they were not authorized by the ministry and that they would be returned."

Ahmed Al-Shalafi, Al-Jazeera correspondent, had something very different to say.

He said, "The allegation that the devices were unauthorized is simply not true. The President himself was fully aware about the situation. He gave the approval to the Ministry of Information in 2006, in order to set up Al Jazeera in Yemen."

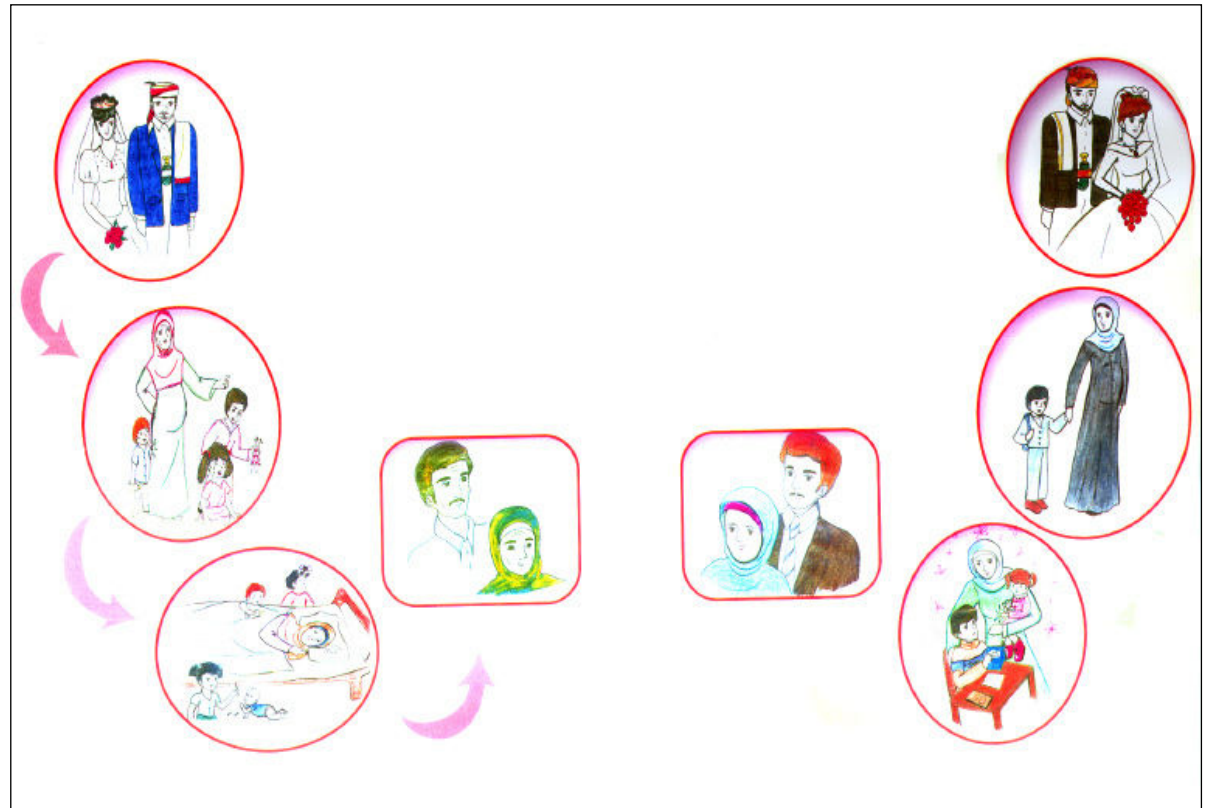
For Al-Shalafi, "The unauthorized devices is just an excuse for the government to stop us from reporting. The real reason for the shut down is the fact that we have been reporting, these last three years, from the South, being eyewitnesses to the truth, and this is what didn't please the government."

Al-Shalafi concluded the interview saying that, "I hope that the government will soon give back the equipments, so that we can broadcast again."

After more than an hour of slogans and speeches, the mob started a long walk to reach the Al-Saeed Trading Center, siege of the now practically empty offices of Al-Jazeera.

Along the way traffic was stopped, creating a chaos but people followed with smiles, and maybe their hearts were with the supporters of the freedom of press.

## Reproductive health guide for mosque preachers



By: Mohammed Ghoath  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, March 17 — Mosque preachers left a recent workshop held by the National Population Council for Population in Sana'a with manuals on reproductive health.

Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Anisi, population expert at the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance, reviewed the contents of the manuals at the workshop as part of the ministry's push to legitimize the country's population policy.

According to the United Nations' Status of the Population report for 2009, the population of Yemen is expected to reach over 53 million in 2050.

Yemen's population increased at a rate of 9 percent during the past five years, according to Al-Anisi.

The preachers were chosen so that they may use their religious authority and influence to raise awareness about health issues addressed in Islam and the Holy Quran and their link to limit-

ing population growth in the country.

According to Al-Anisi, the reproductive guide for religious leaders in its first chapter focuses on educating the family and society on sexual and reproductive health, both linked to physical and mental health.

In its second chapter, dozens of articles by specialists and health workers address the issues of safe motherhood before and after childbirth.

These included spacing between children with different family planning methods to avoid health complications for the mother.

For every 100,000 live births in Yemen, 430 mothers die, according to the UN report.

Motherless children are 10 times more likely to die within two years of their mothers' death, according to the World Health Organization.

Most maternal deaths could be prevented if women had access to quality family planning services, skilled care during pregnancy, childbirth and the first month after delivery, according to the WHO.

The last chapter includes religious sermons on reproductive health, in which it is explained that Islam encourages society to be safe in reproductive health and population issues.

The text highlights that these ideas are in harmony with the Quran and Hadith, as well as the development Yemen, a country with important population challenges.

Among others, head of the National Population Council Ahmed Ali Borghi and general manager of preaching and guidance at the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance Hamoud Al-Saidi spoke of the risks of overpopulation in Yemen.

They stressed the importance of similar workshops to educate people working in the field of population and to raise awareness on the risks of overpopulation.

In each 1,000 live births, 56 of the newborns die before they are one year old, according to the UN report.

Over 23 percent of boys and 59.5 percent of girls under the age of 15 are illiterate, according to the UN report.

## Awareness campaign stops early marriages in Amran

By: Mo'ath Monassar  
For the Yemen Times

AMRAN, March 20 — An awareness campaign on the hazards of early marriage has succeeded in preventing ten early marriages in Amran, according to its organizers.

The campaign concluded earlier this month in the Al-Sood and Al-Sooda districts of Amran, and was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Shahrazad Al-Haiti, coordinator of the program, said that the program was conducted in these two governorates due to lack of health education, widespread illiteracy, and the absence of health centers there.

She pointed out that the project had required great efforts due to the local tribes' initial refusal to welcome them to the area.

The campaign organizers held lectures, plays and competitions to make people aware of the risks of early mar-

riage.

The team members consisted of doctors, academics, members of the local council, teachers, and mosque preachers.

According to Al-Haiti, the program offered health consultations and medication to patients who visited two health centers in the cities of Hajja and Amran.

"We received around 3,000 cases [in the two districts], 200 of which were pregnant women with severe vaginal

bleeding," said Al-Haiti, who added that many divorce cases in court were caused by early marriage.

Up to 75 percent of marital problems happen as a result of early marriage in which girls are not able to understand the duties of marriage, according to the findings of Huria Al-Afiri, the coordinator of the program in Al-Sooda district.

Mohammad Ahmed, the head of local health office, said that the problem lies in peoples' minds and in the absence of

health care centers.

He added that people there need to be informed about the potential problems resulting from early marriage.

According to a recent study by the World Health Organization, up to 365 young mothers die per 1,000 live births.

Most of these cases are young mothers under the age of 18.

For every 50 women in Yemen, one dies during childbearing age because of multiple pregnancies. The study showed that the severe vaginal bleeding during

labor and high blood pressure afterwards were among the reasons for these deaths.

Other causes of mortality rate among young mothers are the low level of medical services for the pregnant women.

Nabila Al-Abhar, manager of the reproductive health office at the Ministry of Health and Population, confirmed that there are dozens of women who die while giving birth, especially those who give birth at home.



In Brief

**SANA'A**  
**Ethiopian military delegation arrives in Yemen**

An Ethiopian military delegation arrived on Friday in Yemen led by director of Military Intelligence Department, Brg. General Gebredela.

During the few-day visit, the delegation will hold talks with Yemeni officials at the Ministry of Defense, General Staff and the Coastguard on aspects of cooperation between the armies of Yemen and Ethiopia.

The talks will also raise the issues of combating piracy and terrorism.

**President Saleh orders authorities to turn historical buildings to cultural centers**

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has ordered the concerned authorities to prepare a house of Yemeni writer Ahmed Ba Kathir and the palace of al-Rannad to become two cultural development centers.

The two would-be cultural centers would be a basis to attract young people and rehabilitate them in various areas of cultural and knowledge development.

Muath al-Shihabi, executive director of Tarim, the Islamic culture Capital 2010, said that the executive office of Tarim would receive next month the palace after the restoration ends to become the largest center for cultural development in Yemen.

"The historical fort and palace of al-Rannad will be called the al-Rannad Center for Cultural Development and will include many cultural and creative departments", al-Shihabi added.

As part of a plan of Culture Ministry to implement the directives of President Saleh, al-Shihabi said that the executive office of Tarim had received the house of the late writer Ali Ahmad Ba Kathir in Seyun town after the end of the restorations to become the Center of Ali Ahmad Ba Kathir for Cultural Development.

**2010 National Center for Information approved**

Chaired by Prime Minister Ali Mujawar, Council of National Center for Information approved on Wednesday its 2010 plan.

The plan aims at boosting efforts of the center to facilitate process of getting information which helps decision makers.

It also includes executives programs to carry out activities of the center.

Moreover, the council discussed a report presented by the director of the center in which he talked about project of the national information network which contributes to link between the government bodies and sectors.

Based on the report, the council formed a committee from the center and ministries of finance and telecommunication to find out technical and financial solutions to offer required telecom channels to operate national information network in government bodies.

**MCCM, Yemen commerce chamber sign two memos**

Two understanding memorandums were signed on Wednesday in Sana'a between Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (MCCM) and each of Federation of Yemen chambers of commerce and industry and Sana'a chambers of commerce and industry.

The memos include exchange of information, expertise and visits between Yemeni-Malaysian businessmen as well as training the chambers members.

The memos also stipulated the establishment of Yemeni-Malaysian businessmen council.

The two memos were signed on the sidelines of the Yemeni-Malaysian Festival 2010 inaugurated on Wednesday in Sana'a with a participation of 100 Malaysian firms.

**HADRAMOUT**

**Fresh 69 Somali refugees reach Yemen**

About 69 Somali refugees have arrived at Yemeni coasts on smuggling boats, the Interior Ministry has reported.

About 39 refugees including 9 women reached Broom coast in the eastern province of Hadramout.

They were gathered and handed to the UNHCR in order to send them to a temporary refugee camp in Maifa'a, Shabwa.

Thubab coast of Tiaz province has received about 30 refugees including

13 women who were sent the Kharaz camp in Lahj.

In the north, police in the capital Sana'a have arrested 7 foreigners including Indians, after they entered the country illegally.

The authorities say the number of people from the Horn of Africa who have already arrived in the country until last year is more 700000 people, mainly coming from Somalia.

Yemen has ordered security authorities in all coastal cities to close all waterways to prevent possible infiltration of terrorists from Africa after Somalia's al-Shabaab Movement said it would send fighters to support al-Qaeda in the country.

**ADEN**

**Yemen makes giant flag**

The biggest flag of Yemen was ever made in Aden province in preparation to celebrate the National Day on May 22.

Head of the local council of Tawahi district in Aden Mohammed al-Jobari said to Saba that the flag is 75 meters long and 8 meters wide and its flagpole is 20 meter tall.

The Republic of Yemen was established on May 22, 1990, with the merger of North Yemen and South Yemen.

On May 22, 1990, President Saleh raised the first flag of the Republic of Yemen in the city of Aden to officially declare the re-unification of Yemen.

**WB organizes consultative meeting with CSOs**

World Bank and civil society organizations in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor launched on Wednesday the consultative meeting for 35 representatives of CSOs in each of Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and Mukalla.

During the meeting, General Director of Social Affairs in Aden Ayub Abu Bakr affirmed the importance of creating a joint work mechanism between CSOs and WB under the umbrella of Social Affairs Ministry and to get an outcome of a common vision which serves the community.

For her part, Senior Communication Officer Samara al-Shaibany presented a detailed explanation on the activities of WB with CSOs in Yemen and other

foreign countries.

It is worth to mention that the WB aims through such meetings with representatives of

CSOs, Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Parliament and the private sector to get an objective assessment of the perceptions of CSOs.

**SHABWA**

**Oil Search Company to drill 2nd explorative oil well**

The Australian Oil Search Company will start next month the process of drilling a second explorative oil well in block No. 7 of Shabwa province.

In a meeting with the governor of Shabwa Ali al-Ahmd, the director general of the company in Yemen reviewed measures taken to start the works in the location of the well and future plan of the company in the block.

He made it clear that the company is working now to analyze outcomes of drilling process in the first well, saying that the company would inform the leadership of the governorate with the final results. He valued concern of the leadership of the governorate to bring activities of the company into success.

The governor urged the company to preserve gas which comes out during process of getting oil out, saying that the government would issue soon a law which gives right for the oil companies to invest the gas comes with oil.

**HAJJA**

**State Minister affirms water resources preservation in Yemen**

Minister of State for the Parliament and Shura Affairs Ahmad al-Kuhlani affirmed on Saturday the importance of preserving water resources as the country is threatened by drought due to lack of water resources and rain.

During the festival, organized by UNICEF organization in coordination with OXFAM on launching Mizraq Water Project and to mark the World Day for Water, al-Kuhlani claimed all segments of the society to stop water usage for Qat trees and spread awareness of the importance of the rationalization of domestic consumption.

He praised the humanitarian support provided by UNICEF and other organizations to provide requirements con-

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cerning displaced people such as food, shelter and health and their contribution to the accomplishment of Mizraq Water Project.

For their part, UNDP and UNICEF representatives and Regional Director of Oxfam Organization affirmed the importance of arising awareness on the risks of drought and scarcity of water resources and to take advantage of the indicators of the United Nations regarding the scarcity of water resources by some people particularly in Yemen.

**TAIZ**

**60 road projects underway**

About 60 road projects are under im-

plementation in Taiz province including ring roads that aims at facilitating movement inside the city and connecting it with other governorates, Deputy Minister of Public Works and Roads has said.

The projects are being implemented at a cost of YR 60 billion and some of them would be inaugurated on the Unity Day, Abdul Malik Haza'a said.

On the other hand, Faisal Masha'al, director general of public works and roads in the province, said that the construction of Al-Saleh residential complex is ongoing as planned.

The complex contains 860 residential units.



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الدكتور علي محمد مجبور

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- Participate, coordinate and supervise socioeconomic baseline studies and stakeholder analysis
- Support Community Development Advisor to ensure appropriate selection, management and monitoring of community investment projects and coordinate with steering committee in Vienna on selection of Community Investment projects
- Keep OMV management informed of social issues and risks and opportunities
- Liaise with, and support security and all other HSEQ functions with social risk assessments
- Support the training of employees and contractors on OMV's values and cultural awareness
- Ensure that contractors follow OMV's social standards
- Liaise between OMV's contractors and communities
- Deliver progress and regular reports to senior management internally
- Develop training needs plan for department staff
- Represents CSR in PEPA
- Conduct CSR trainings for OMV staff
- Reports to HSEQ manager in Yemen with functional reporting to the Head of CSR in Vienna and to General Manager in Sana'a

**Your profile:**

- Relevant graduate qualification, such as anthropology, international affairs, social geography, agricultural extension and development
- Two years or more experience in community development related work in Yemen
- Strong skills in communication related to community issues
- Prior experience of working with tribal communities in Yemen preferable, especially in the areas of Shabwah, Marib, Hadramawt
- Experience in cooperation with industry preferable
- Fluent in Arabic and English language
- Yemeni national preferable
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- Computer literate, including the full suite of MS Office

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### CSR Manager

**Your responsibilities:**

- Develop strategies and implementation plans for OMV Yemen for:
- Stakeholder engagement – including creating and maintaining stakeholder database, and clear communications strategy
- Community Development – including approaches and objectives
- Community Investment – including clear methodology, criteria and monitoring structure
- Internal communications on community and social issues
- Participate, coordinate and supervise socioeconomic baseline studies and stakeholder analysis
- Supervise Community Development Advisor to ensure appropriate selection, management and monitoring of community investment projects and coordinate with steering committee in Vienna on selection of Community Investment projects
- Keep OMV management informed of social issues and risks and opportunities
- Liaise with, and support security and all other HSEQ functions with social risk assessments
- Support the training of employees and contractors on OMV's values and cultural awareness
- Ensure that contractors follow OMV's social standards
- Liaise between OMV's contractors and communities
- Deliver progress and regular reports to senior management internally
- Develop training needs plan for department staff
- Represents CSR in PEPA
- Conduct CSR trainings for OMV staff
- Reports to HSEQ manager in Yemen with functional reporting to the Head of CSR in Vienna and to General Manager in Sana'a

**Your profile:**

- Relevant graduate qualification, such as anthropology, international affairs, social geography, agricultural extension and development
- Five years or more experience in community development related work in Yemen
- Strong skills in communication related to community issues
- Prior experience of working with tribal communities in Yemen preferable, especially in the areas of Shabwah, Marib, Hadramawt
- Government agency knowledge
- Experience in cooperation with industry preferable
- Fluent in Arabic and English language
- Yemeni national preferable

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- Prepare DST and routine Production Test Procedures and Programs.
- Estimates of Work over/Completion/Stimulation Cost.
- Cost / performance control of test, completion and work over operations.
- Keep an open and constant communication with others department's members in order to receive and provide technical support. Thus, contributing to the asset optimum performance and skills improvement.
- Coordinates field Operations (testing, completions, walkovers).
- Warrant an effective daily field data gathering.
- Maintaining a data base of all wells in Block S2.
- Use and supervise the use of HSE standards.

**Your profile:**

- University degree in Petroleum, Chemical, Mechanics or Reservoir Engineering.
- Min 5 years in the E&P industry for this position.
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# Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (Part 2/3)

After Yemen and Saudi Arabia's success in eliminating Al-Qaeda as a local organization in 2003 and 2006, this organization is now back with cross-border operations reaching the US, and Yemen as its new base for its regional leadership.

The last operation by Omar Farouk who tried to attack Detroit Airport has changed the concept of global security. This attack, adopted by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, redrew security systems in the west and the world, and moved Al-Qaeda in Yemen to the forefront of world news and the major future threats to the world.

By: Abdel Ilah Haidar Shae'e  
Extracts from a paper delivered at the Afif Cultural Foundation

The ideology of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the local branch of the international organization envisions an Islamic state through dismantling current systems operating in the Arabian Peninsula.

Al-Qaeda's aim is to establish an army from Yemen, as one of four, whose job is to manage the "epic battle in the Middle East" that gives its name to the media foundation of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, called the Epics Foundation.

Research into the different strategies of international jihadi operations methodology (the main one being Al-Qaeda), illustrates the fact that Al-Qaeda builds its vision based more on an ideological religious standpoint than on other political or realistic ones. These criteria bring us closer to understanding Al-Qaeda both on a local and international level.

This ideology prompts fighting more than other propaganda or political goals, as is clear in the case of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. This is based on a special interpretation by them for the current situation, describing it as an occupation. Fighting is prioritized due to the perceived humiliation of the Islamic nation in the different areas in the world. In order to understand this fundamental vision of Al-Qaeda, we should study its unilateral explanations of the old scripts and explanations, some of which date back more than 1,000 years.

At the same time however, Al-Qaeda is modern, creative, and innovative in all its military and intelligence tools and techniques. The latest innovation in penetration techniques led to a major change in security systems, when Omar Farouk Abdulmutalab tried to blow up a North West plane over Detroit Airport. In his speech aimed at Yemen, Osama Bin Laden focuses on calling the Yemeni tribes with their names "You the courageous of Hashed and Modhej and Bakeel, come and support your brothers. The war is on fire now" For years, Bin Laden has been asserting that the forces from Yemen are coming.

The tribe, religion, system, political and financial crises are all major factors that have helped Al Qaeda and supported its work for the past four

years. This was strengthened after the operatives escaped from prison in February 2006. Al Qaeda exists both in the city and among tribes, but the arrests and operations statistics show Sana'a and its surrounding areas as the headquarters for most of Al Qaeda's operations. The economic and political situation in Yemen is playing a vital role in supporting the expansion of Al Qaeda both as an organization and an ideology. Moreover, the influence of these local factors is much greater than those of external causes, such as Palestine. The issue of Palestine, on the other hand, is commonly used by Al Qaeda in motivational speeches as an external factor existing in the surrounding countries. Once again, the supporting environment in Yemen was suitable for a new start for Al Qaeda.

The current economic situation in Yemen imposes extreme poverty. This is clearly reflected in the psychological side of the Yemeni who barely cares nor worries about the pattern of his life. This is an important personality character Al Qaeda tries to exploit. So all the current conditions support Al Qaeda in this because they are mainly interested in recruiting youngsters who care little whether they live or die, a fact that is instilled in Bedouin and Tribal cultures, where murder and killing is relatively high due to the absence of real authority. The American - Yemeni operations coordinated in Shabwa, Abyan and Arhab, revealed the fact that authorities cannot operate effectively in these locations fearing local opposition, especially after the bombing of these areas with US missiles. Locals will strongly challenge these authorities and refuse their military or security support.

A few months prior to that mission, there were several incursions into government centres. The opposition speeches, which focused on attacking and questioning the system, helped Al Qaeda. This has created a general set of circumstances that caters for Al Qaeda's main requirement, which is the importance of bringing the regime down regardless of the techniques utilized.

In its local slogans, Al Qaeda has a sacred and a simple message; "Take the infidels out of the Arabian Peninsula" and "twelve thousand fighters are coming out from Abyan Aden", and "Yemen is the land of Warriors". This is a fact that most Muslims can not deny. Yemen is also a solid ground

for the ideological speeches of Al Qaeda and they have achieved a suitable link with public audiences in the strategies and general characteristics of The Al Qaeda Plan.

The political crises and the disintegration between the authority and the opposition has been a perfect opportunity for Al Qaeda to recruit and train. Moreover, Sa'ada's war has drawn the entire country's attention away from what is going on in the southern and eastern governorates, whilst Al Qaeda has managed to establish a regional centre in Yemen.

Both Al Qaeda and the tribe share the fact that they rule themselves and are not entirely subjective to a central authority; the authority of which Al Qaeda doesn't believe in and therefore seeks to destroy. Having built a solid ground for itself due to the current situation, Al Qaeda has managed to cross all borders to regional oceans then the international locations. In doing so, it has also been able to move from the national standpoint to an international one after the merge that took place early in 2009. The Saudi Saeed Al Shahri, Abu Sofian Al Azdi Al Shahri - 35 years old, was assigned the task, along with other Saudi names that started joining Al Qaeda in late 2007. Two other major players are Abu Homam Al Qahtani - 24 years old and Abdullah Hasan Osairi, a 23 year old who executed the assassination attempt of the deputy Minister of Interior, Prince Mohammad Bin Nayef, in August 2008.

Although Al Qaeda is both local and regional, the international aspects of it came from multiple angles namely: the conflict areas and the Al Qaeda aim that the enemy will never feel peaceful, and the fact that Al Qaeda is adopting different international concerns such as Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula builds its conflict based on a "fundamental" principle which is the reciprocity approach; if we're insecure, we'll make you insecure as well, hence the international and cross border operations.

Al Qaeda's invention of a 'weapon' that seems impossible to reveal by electronic devices, has enabled Al Qaeda to export these operations internationally, knowing full well that it has the technique to do just that. Al Qaeda's Ameer Nasser Al Wohaishi says: Muslims do not have to worry about making bombs, its ingredients are available in your mothers' kitchens and as it can be easily made, security devices will not be able to reveal it. So go and hit the airports and capitals of those countries that fight Muslims, terrify them and make them feel insecure.

#### Historical stages

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has gone through four historical stages; the first was building a base, the initial foundation, in Afghanistan. The main aim was to recruit fighters from the geographic areas of Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other Arabian Peninsula countries. This stage lasted from the mid eighties until the early nineties. The most prominent features of this stage were: mobilizing as many youngsters as possible for the training camps in Afghanistan and, emphasizing the fact that the battle will not stop with the Soviets' departure from the country because they would immediately start preparing for a more international battle.

The second stage is one of discovery; it is when Al Qaeda started looking for the best places in the world from which it can manage the conflict. Somalia was the first chosen field for Al Qaeda outside Afghanistan, after the Soviet Union fell apart. This stage marked Yemeni and Saudi youth battling against the US in Somalia and Al Qaeda's ideological operations spread through to the Al Riyadh operation in July 1996, targeting the headquarters for US forces, an operation that was only blessed by Osama Bin Laden and not adopted. This stage lasted from the early nineties until the launch of the international front against Jews and Crusaders in February 1998. During this time fighters were sent out and several assassination groups were formed from a number of the Yemeni Socialist Party leaders. Al Qaeda infiltrated independent groups in the war of '94 that led to the defeat of the Socialist Party, a party Bin Laden considered a more dangerous opponent than the regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The speech at that stage was circling the Arabian

Peninsula, especially Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and called the American existence in Saudi Arabia as an occupation of the sacred locations and the two mosques, ranking it as the second occupation after the Palestinian one.

Simultaneously, different operations were taking place outside the geographical borders in Somalia, Tanzania and Nairobi, with the exception of some limited undertakings in Yemen. Al Qaeda has focused on sending weapons from the Yemeni market to Saudi Arabia, taking advantage of the conflict at that time, between the two regimes.

Al Qaeda's ideology in the Arabian Peninsula became very clear during the operation in Al Maraqshah Mountains, an area in Abyan, southern Yemen. It took place in December 1998 when the Islamic Abyan Aden army announced the kidnapping of western tourists. The issue later developed into clashes with the local security forces, the death of four English men and the arrest of the Islamic Abyan Aden army founder, Abu Al Hassan Zayn Al Abideen Al Muhdar, a nobleman from Shabwa in southern Yemen. The Yemeni authorities executed him in 1999. The most eminent feature of that stage was assigning local leadership for international goals for Al Qaeda, Abu Ali Al Harethi - 40 years old, killed by a CIA plane in early November 2002. Another feature was hitting the USS Cole, an operation through which Al Qaeda was able to attract fresh local recruits for their next stage.

The third stage was building the first organizational structure for Al Qaeda in the area. This happened in parallel with the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. The most important features of this stage were the establishment of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula as a local structural organization with known leadership. Although this organization was known as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, not one attempt was recorded outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, except for the financial and military support for the Iraqi front, along with media support provided by Al Qaeda. The characteristics of this

stage and the most prominent results are the intellectual activity and scientific research. These were published by leaders and scientists who supported and enriched the ideological library of Al Qaeda with readings and interpretation for Islam in accordance with contemporary requirements. After distribution, those scientists and leaders were jailed by the Saudi Authorities. That stage caused internal separation and a split, for the first time, inside the intellectual foundations both religious and secular. The secular religious debate made it into the public domain in Saudi Arabia. Intellectual and media foundations started attacking the religious and the Fatwa foundations in the kingdom, abusing the symbols of religious mindset.

The fourth stage is the current one; it is the difficult stage where Al Qaeda is conducting a major war with international forces. Al Qaeda says that this is an attrition battle against the US in Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. At the early stages Osama Bin Laden is the one who guided the rhetoric; addressing the scientists as 'the noble ones' and the army as 'our brothers', May Allah protect them. However, during later stages the tone took on a different level. All those parties stayed out of Al Qaeda's military operations targets until the new launching stage when the speech came in line with the operations. They started focusing on local factors, assassinating local security leaders such as the recent attempt on the life of Prince Mohammad Bin Nayef. During Al Qaeda's existence in Saudi Arabia, the narrative was mainly confined to advising the scientists, whereas in Yemen it came up to the level of accusing them of treachery and working for the best interest, called the Zionist Crusader Campaign through those in charge, meaning the Al Saud, the governors of Riyadh. Al Qaeda then started advising those called "the Religious men of the awakening" such as Dr. Safr Al Hawali and Dr. Salman Al Awdah. These are currently being accused and attacked.

Al Qaeda's modern history started on the third of February 2006, a date

that was marked by digging an underground tunnel below the political security jail in Sana'a. The tunnel was 45 meters long and 5 meters deep, took 55 days of work and 23 workers, who were fugitives. The US publicized the names of 13 of them as wanted and dangerous members of Al Qaeda.

After the success of some of the most prominent leaders of Al Qaeda in escaping prison, Bin Laden sent out a clear message in July of the same year, addressing the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh as "the traitor who obeys the US". This was a clear message for those who escaped safely to work on taking him down. It was the beginning of a war against Ali Abdulla Saleh, since before this time, all the past speeches only mentioned Saudi leaders. In the current stage, started in 2006, Al Qaeda recorded 4 assassination attempts on security leaders, three of which succeeded. The Mohammad Bin Nayef assassination attempt failed despite the fact that Al Qaeda managed to penetrate his security. There were also 3 attacks on the US Embassy and South Korean Tourists and their investigators, but those operations failed to achieve the intended results.

Finally, for the first time, Al Qaeda undertook their first operation from Yemen targeting the US, an action executed by the 23 year old Nigerian, Omar Farouq Abdel Mottaleb. He managed to travel through six international airports armed with a bomb that he tried to detonate over Detroit Airport in the US. Omar is now facing six charges, one of which is using a weapon of mass destruction.

In its present stage, Al Qaeda is prioritizing its media and promotional aspects. 2008 has witnessed the birth of the Epics Foundation. They have issued four promotional films, a bi-monthly magazine and religious studies. The foundation has also been marketing their data and keeping track of Al Qaeda's activities, covering them locally as a result of media and press accessibility in Yemen. This is something Al Qaeda lacked during its earlier stages in different parts of the world.

## Auction Advertisement No. (6) of 2010 For Selling Italian Container Crane as a Scrap

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation - Hodeidah Port here announces its desire to invite Bidders to Auction No. (6/2010) for Selling Italian Container Crane as a Scrap. Bidders who are willing to participate in this auction have to submit written applications to Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation - Hodeidah Port to receive Bidding Documents (BD) for an amount (YR5,000) Five Thousands Yemeni Rials or equivalent a (\$25) Twenty Five US Dollars non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation Head office -Hodeidah Port

The Deadline for selling BDs will be on Sunday 28/3/2010.

#### Applicants must meet the following preconditions:

1. Inspect the crane to be sold before the auction.
2. Submitting a descriptive written report for the idea of scraping the crane and the implementation and cutting method illustrated with diagrams and engineering drawings, taking into account the availability of standards and the conditions for and the responsibility of a successful company and be within the width of a written technical and financial terms of the crane sale value in a sealed envelope and sealed with red wax to the address of the concerned and the name written on it and the project and tender number and the name of the bidder, one original and two copies.
3. Attach a preliminary guarantee of (25%) of the value of the auction and which will be returned to the unsuccessful bidder.
4. Attach a copy of the certificate of practicing the profession.
5. Attach a copy of the Tax card.
6. Attach a copy of the Zakah card.
7. Attach a copy of Insurance card.

- The deadline for submission and bids opening will be at 11:00 AM on Wednesday 31/3/2010. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.
- Bid Opening will take place at Head Office: Hodeidah Port - General Director of Requirement & Purchasing Office and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
- Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period 9/3/2010 to 28/3/2010.

## Invitation for Bids

### Tender Announcement no. (3) of Year 2010

The Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation - Port of Aden here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (3) for supplying Procurement of Rubber Fenders, and Spare Parts for Marine Launches, Tugs Owned by YGAPC

Source of Funding: Self financing

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation - Port of Aden - Headquarters - beside Crescent Hotel - Tawahi - Aden - at the General Department for Stores, Purchases, Bids (secretary of bids) to receive Bidding Documents for an amount 10,000 Y.R non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at Yemen Gulf of Aden port corporation - port of Aden.

Tel: 00967- 02 200168  
Fax: 00967- 02 201541  
Email: ygapcplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 20 April 2010.

Bids have to be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the concerned Entity, (Yemen Gulf of Aden port corporation - port of Aden) mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder. The following documents must also be attached to the envelope:

1. A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (\$ 5,250 /-) of (Five Thousands and Two Hundred Fifty Dollars.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than (90 days) from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
2. Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country).
3. Valid Insurance Certificate.
4. valid commercial register.
5. samples (if required).
6. valid zakat card.
7. valid sales tax certificate.
8. certificate of origin for spare parts, approved by the embassy and issued by the chamber of commerce.
9. detailed invoice approved by the embassy.
10. validity of tender period (90 days).

These documents have to be submitted to the Procurement and Stores Department not later than Saturday at 11:00 am on 24 April 2010. Bids received after the deadline for submission will be returned unopened.

Bid Opening will take place at the Hall of the Marketing department and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period (35 days) starting from advertisement.





British Embassy  
Sana'a

### Vacancy: Full Time LE II Corporate Services Manager (Human Resources)

The full-time post of Corporate Services Manager (Human Resources) is available immediately. Working hours will be 35 hours per week.

The successful candidate will require good working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel, good teamwork and communication skills, initiative and attention to detail. He/she must also be a self-starter, be proactive and able to deliver a high level of customer service. He/she must be a fluent English speaker and writer. Knowledge of Arabic would be helpful but is not essential.

#### The main duties will include:

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- > Implementation of UK Staff terms and conditions of service including arrival and departure of UK Staff
- > Recruitment of Local Staff; maintaining Local Staff records, and Personnel management of HR Assistant and Protocol Officer
- > Embassy Training Liaison Officer for all staff. Create and implement an Embassy Learning and Development Strategy
- > Lead on Investors in People (IIP) policy

#### The ideal candidate must have:

- > The ability to work with contacts and colleagues at all levels (including working with colleagues from other Government Departments)
- > Personal drive, the ability to be a self-starter, and strong teamwork skills to work well within Corporate Services and within the wider Embassy
- > Strong organisational, analytical and time management skills, with very good attention to detail
- > Flexible, resilient under pressure and decisive with a proven track record of delivering results to a high standard within tight deadlines
- > Knowledge of Local Labour Law would be desirable

The British Embassy offers a competitive remuneration package. Subject to satisfactory security clearance and completion of probationary period, the package includes a generous leave entitlement; Embassy medical scheme; Eid bonus; Terminal Gratuity scheme. Locally engaged staff salaries are reviewed on an annual basis.

Applications should be made in English and in the applicant's own handwriting, enclosing a full CV, in an envelope addressed to:

Corporate Services Manager  
(CSM HR Post)  
British Embassy

Applications should be received on or before **Wednesday 24 March 2010**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

## Request for Expression of Interest

### (Consultant Services for Feasibility, Environmental and Social, Technical, and Preliminary Design for about 600 km of rural roads sub projects)

The Government of Yemen has applied for additional financing in the form of a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Second Rural Access Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant for consultant services contract for preparation of Feasibility, Environmental & Social, Technical studies in addition to Preliminary design for about 600 km of rural roads sub-projects.

The required services include: (a) carry out Techno Economic study including examine and analysis of alternatives for possible alignments to select the best alternative, conduct traffic survey, and economic evaluation by using RED Model. (b) Prepare Environmental & Social studies such as Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental & Social Management Plans (EMP). (c) Conduct technical studies including material and geotechnical investigations, in addition to hydrology and hydraulic studies. (d) Carry out preliminary design including identify design criteria and proposed works, select design alignment in addition to produce a detailed line diagrams projected on Google maps along with proposed works and design criteria.

The required services need a high qualified and experienced team consists of: Team Leader, Transport economist, Highway Design Experts, Geotechnical and Material Experts, Hydrology and Structure Experts, Environmental & Social experts... etc. The consultant will have to provide more than one team in order to be able to complete the work in about 12 months.

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways - Rural Access Program Central Management Office - now invites eligible international firms to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide detailed information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.)

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: *Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers issued on May 2004 and revised on October 2006.*

Interested consultant may obtain further information at the address below during office hours, 8:00 to 15:00, Sat-Wed at the following address:

Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH)  
Rural Access Program, Central Management Office (RAOCMO)  
Attn: Te Program Director  
Hadah St, Hadah Complex, Building No 4  
P. O.Box: 16472, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Phone: 00 967-1 264143 / 246473  
Fax: 00 967-1 246516  
Email: RAPCMO@gmail.com

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address above by **10th April, 2010**

# Advertisement



The General Telecommunications Institute announces the beginning of registration for the following diplomas and courses:

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Website: [www.gti.edu.ye](http://www.gti.edu.ye)

The institute also maintains accredited branches in Aden, Taiz, Hodeida, thamar, Mukala, Ibb and Marib



# JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (22)

## Child amusement does not come for free, does it?

By Judith Spiegel  
For the Yemen Times

At the entrance of the zoo three small trains are riding in circles not much larger than a tablecloth. They make a rattling sound. Up the slope, the male lions are laying on their backs, all four legs straight up in the air, sunbathing. The female lions next door are sleeping, with their paws wrapped around each other. A stampede of children's feet - a school class - does not wake them up. Nothing wakes the big cats up, at least not today.

At the ostriches a modern family - mother in a hip balto, father with two mobile phones clipped to his belt, children with ultra white sneakers with built in wheels - feeds the gigantic

birds some bread. Another family is trying to wake the hyena's up. Apart from these few families and the school class, most of the visitors of the Sana'a zoo are men, chewing qat near the crocodiles or monkeys. A plastic bag is floating in the goose pond.

Why is it so quiet during the weekend in this nice zoo, located in a remote corner of the city far south near Taiz road? Are there so many other things children can do in their free time? "No", is the decisive answer of Nouria Nagi, director of a children's shelter, who occasionally organises trips for 'her' children. "No" is the answer of Belqis, a young mother of two daughters. "No", is the answer of Hatem, father of two, and visitor of the zoo. Like Nouria, Belqis and Hatem, many Sanani find that there is not enough to do for children, or more

accurately, that there is not much to do that does not involve money. Nouria: "Everything is for money, that's why you see all the children in the street, especially during summer".

The entrance to the zoo is 50 YER. "Compared to Europe this is cheap", Hatem says while his young daughter is waving at the lions. But he acknowledges that for large Yemeni families, half of which do not make much more than 3 USD (600 YER) a day, it is still expensive. "Compared to other cities abroad, in the Yemeni cities there are zero green spaces where children can play for free". Hatem is thinking about leaving Yemen, to emigrate to the UK, "so my children can have a good start in life".

A few kilometres ahead two girls are pulled up in the big chair of the "Free Fall". Slowly they move to the top of the structure. When the machine drops them in a not so fast free fall, they giggle. Their balto's flutter in the wind. At a miniature version of the Free Fall, two toddlers experience the same sensation, albeit without flapping balto's and at an even lower speed. They hold little bags with sticky colourful sweets, bought at the shop, Sweet City, right behind the entrance of Fun City.

At Fun City it is all colours and light. The Ferris wheel, the tulip shaped street lamps, the sweet shop, the free falls, the bowling hall, everything is cheerfully illuminated. The place seems to merge wonderfully with the lights of the Saleh mosque on the background. "Southern Fried Chicken, Lip Licking Flavour", it says at the entrance of the gigantic eating hall. An average meal of lip licking flavoured chicken costs around 700 YER. A ride in the Freezee or the Space Gun costs 100 YER. A medium sized pizza margarita at Perky's Pizza is 1200 YER. All this after an entrance fee of 100 YER.

Apart from the passengers in the Free Fall machines, a handful of diners in the dining hangar and half a dozen of bowling friends, Fun City is empty. Again, too expensive? Abdul Hamid, Egyptian and father of the toddlers in the mini-free fall machine, believes this may be the case, but he has a much more optimistic view on why it is so deserted in Fun City. "Children spend their time with their families, which is much nicer. It is not what is outside, it is what is inside". He points to his heart and reminds his own childhood where he was very happy playing with sand and water. "We did not have all this, and we did not need it, happiness does not come from a Fun City".

This may be very true, but do the children believe so too? In Altaoun Park, between Zubairy and Tahrir square, Dunya (12) is sitting on one of the green benches. The public garden, tucked away between house blocks, is well kept. The pink and blue flowers and the patch of green grass come for free. So do the swings, painted in the colours of the Yemeni flag. There are around twenty children playing in the park on this late afternoon of a week-day.

Dunya comes here often, she likes it here. "But on Fridays I always go to Sabeen Park, it is much more fun, there are much more things to play with", she says. Dunya does not believe it so expensive at Sabeen Park, "only 50 YER entrance and 50 YER for each play". When asked whether she believes there is enough to do for children in Sana'a, she is very certain. "Yes, there is more than enough to do", she nods, and gives a list of parks in the city. "Every neighbourhood has one", she concludes, not really understanding what the fuss is about.

Maybe Dunya is right. Or maybe one does not miss what one does not



know. Or maybe playing with sand and water is not so bad. Maybe playing cook and making soup out of water, leaves and berries from the garden, served to your grandfather, suits a child's needs very well. That is, provided you have a garden, some restaurant experience and a stimulated imagination. And it is questionable whether these things come for free indeed.

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**أكرم أمين السقاف**  
وذلك بمناسبة حصوله على شهادة البورد العربي (الدكتوراه) في طب وجراحة المسالك البولية  
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عماد السقاف - مدير مكتب يمن تايمز - تعز  
وكافة موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز للطباعة والنشر  
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## 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-Sakkaf,  
(1951 - 1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times



## OUR OPINION

## Sanitation and public awareness

World Water Day is celebrated worldwide every year on March 22. This Year, Yemen Times, with funding from GTZ, is actively participating in this celebration through organizing an event for the World's Longest Toilet Queue. When we first announced the event to the public, there was shock, amusement and then hesitation. Reactions were like, "Toilet queue? That's ridiculous!" or "I won't stand in a line in public telling the world that I want to answer nature's call!" or "Couldn't you find a better name?"

Certain topics in our life, regardless of how crucial they are, are not taken seriously. Sometimes it is because they touch a sensitive nerve such as female genital mutilation, or are topics shameful to talk about, such as the need to go to the loo. The problem is that our silence only aggravates these problems and leads to further complications.

"Yes, a toilet queue might sound silly, but did you know that 4,000 children die every day because they don't have proper toilets?"

"And did you know that only one third of Yemenis is connected to the public sanitation network?"

"Did you know that for some women in the rural areas, going to the toilet means walking several kilometers in the early morning or late night into the woods where they are subjected to rape or attacks by wild animals?"

"And did you know that 35 percent of the death of Yemeni children who die before the age of five is caused by lack of sanitation, especially not washing their hands after answering nature's call?"

If you are still not convinced of how important the sanitation issue is around the world but especially in developing countries such as Yemen take a look at the district of Bani Al-Hareth just outside Sana'a city. The sewage system is dysfunctional and human feces are all over the area. There are seven meters deep puddles of sewage water that does not only cause an environmental hazard but has also caused the death of one child who drowned in it while playing nearby.

If you still think that a toilet queue is not something worth your time, try to hold it for 20 hours like many Yemeni women in rural areas have to. Or try doing it behind the bush and see how you feel. The issue would not be so ridiculous then, would it? Imagine being deprived of the right to go to the restroom whenever you need.

The list of risks and humiliation of not having an adequate sanitation system should not be ignored any more. And by being part of this simple event in Yemen, and around the world, we are making a stand for clean water and sanitation so that the world leaders when they meet next month they understand that there people have a say about their needs and priorities and leaders should act accordingly.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Divorced before puberty

By Nicholas D. Kristof  
The New York Times

It's hard to imagine that there have been many younger divorcees — or braver ones — than a pint-size third grader named Nujood Ali.

Nujood is a Yemeni girl, and it's no coincidence that Yemen abounds both in child brides and in terrorists (and now, thanks to Nujood, children who have been divorced). Societies that repress women tend to be prone to violence.

For Nujood, the nightmare began at age 10 when her family told her that she would be marrying a deliveryman in his 30s. Although Nujood's mother was unhappy, she did not protest. "In our country it's the men who give the orders, and the women who follow them," Nujood writes in a powerful new autobiography just published in the United States this week, "I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced."

Her new husband forced her to drop out of school (she was in the second grade) because a married woman shouldn't be a student. At her wedding, Nujood sat in the corner, her face swollen from crying.

Nujood's father asked the husband not to touch her until a year after she had had her first menstrual period. But as soon as they were married, she writes, her husband forced himself on her.

He soon began to beat her as well, the memoir says, and her new mother-in-law offered no sympathy. "Hit her even harder," the mother-in-law would tell her son.

Nujood had heard that judges could grant divorces, so one day she sneaked away, jumped into a taxi and asked to go to the courthouse.

"I want to talk to the judge," the book quotes Nujood as forlornly telling a woman in the courthouse.

"Which judge are you looking for?"

"I just want to speak to a judge, that's all."

"But there are lots of judges in this courthouse."

"Take me to a judge — it doesn't matter which one!"

When she finally encountered a judge, Nujood declared firmly: "I want a divorce!"

Yemeni journalists turned Nujood into a cause célèbre, and she eventually won her divorce. The publicity inspired others, including an 8-year-old Saudi girl married to a man in his 50s, to seek annulments and divorces.

As a pioneer, Nujood came to the United States and was honored in 2008 as one of Glamour magazine's "Women of the Year." Indeed, Nujood is probably the only third grader whom Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has described as "one of the greatest women I have ever seen."

Nujood's memoir spent five weeks as the No. 1 best-seller in France. It is being published in 18 other languages, including her own native language of Arabic.

I asked Nujood, now 12, what she thought of her life as a best-selling author. She said the foreign editions didn't matter much to her, but she was looking forward to seeing it in Arabic. Since her divorce, she has returned to school and to her own family, which she is supporting with her book royalties.

At first, Nujood's brothers criticized her for shaming the family. But now that Nujood is the main breadwinner, everybody sees things a bit differently. "They're very nice to her now," said Khadija al-Salami, a filmmaker who mentors Nujood and who translated for me. "They treat her like a queen."

Yemen is one of my favorite countries, with glorious architecture and enormously hospitable people. Yet Yemen appears to be a time bomb. It is a hothouse for Al Qaeda and also faces an on-and-off war in the north and a secessionist movement in the south. It's no coincidence that Yemen is also ranked dead last in the World Economic Forum's global gender gap index.

There are a couple of reasons countries that marginalize women often end up unstable.

First, those countries usually have very high birth rates, and that means a youth bulge in the population. One of the factors that most correlates to social conflict is the proportion of young men ages 15 to 24.

Second, those countries also tend to practice polygamy and have higher death rates for girls. That means fewer marriageable women — and more frustrated bachelors to be recruited by extremists.

So educating Nujood and giving her a chance to become a lawyer — her dream — isn't just a matter of fairness. It's also a way to help tame the entire country.

Consider Bangladesh. After it split off from Pakistan, Bangladesh began to educate girls in a way that Pakistan has never done. The educated women staffed an emerging garment industry and civil society, and those educated women are one reason Bangladesh is today far more stable than Pakistan.

The United States last month announced \$150 million in military assistance for Yemen to fight extremists. In contrast, it costs just \$50 to send a girl to public school for a year — and little girls like Nujood may prove more effective than missiles at defeating terrorists.

I invite you to visit my blog, On the Ground. Please also join me on Facebook, watch my YouTube videos and follow me on Twitter.

## Yemen's terror problem

## An al Qaeda haven for Gitmo detainees?

The Wall Street Journal

In recent months, Osama bin Laden's ancestral homeland of Yemen has come into its own as al Qaeda's safe haven on the Arabian peninsula. Now a U.S. court and the Obama Administration may send a batch of potential terrorists there.

U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler last week ordered the release of Alla Ali Bin Ali Ahmed, a 25-year-old Yemeni arrested in Pakistan and held at Guantanamo since 2002, citing lack of evidence. She told Washington to talk to Yemen about taking him back. The Administration already is grappling with what to do with nearly 100 Yemenis still left at Gitmo, which President Obama unwisely ordered closed by January. The U.S. is reluctant to repatriate them to a country where al Qaeda suspects regularly "escape" from jail.

Only Pakistan's tribal regions rival Yemen as a terrorist Shangri-La. As al Qaeda suffered setbacks in Saudi Arabia and post-surge Iraq, Islamist Web sites urged jihadis to head to Yemen. Three unruly tribal provinces bordering Saudi Arabia — a so-called triangle of evil — and active insurgencies in the north and south make the country of 22 million a good sanctuary.

The root of the problem is the government's tacit non-aggression pact with al Qaeda. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh tells American officials he can't push too hard, and for too long the U.S. has indulged him. The Sau-

dis used to play this same double game. Then al Qaeda attacks killed some 200 people and jolted them into a crack-down. The Kingdom has been free of terrorist violence for the past three years.

But the threat is now regathering in Yemen. In 2002, a CIA Hellfire missile took out Abu Ali al-Harithi, the leader of al Qaeda in Yemen. His replacement was also captured, but then the government backed off. A new generation of leaders emerged after 23 Yemenis, including at least a dozen al Qaeda members, dug a tunnel out of a Yemen jail cell to a nearby mosque. The escape had all the signs of an inside job, and most of the escapees are still free.

Among them is Nasir al-Wahayshi, a 33-year-old who now runs al Qaeda in Yemen. In January, the group "merged" with the Saudi al Qaeda chapter, with al-Wahayshi now "emir of the Arabian peninsula." By the Yemen foreign minister's own estimate, between 1,000-1,500 al Qaeda and like-minded fighters are in the country. The U.S. embassy was attacked with a mortar last March and six suicide bombers blew themselves up in front of the compound in September, killing 13.

The U.S. is in talks with the Saudis and Yemenis about the Gitmo detainees. American officials favor putting them through a Saudi rehabilitation center before release. That's almost as risky as sending them directly to Yemen. Eleven former Saudi Gitmo inmates who went through rehab are back on the government's most wanted terrorist list. Said Ali al-Shihri turned up in a January video as al Qaeda's No. 2 man on the Arabian peninsula based in Yemen. If some of the Yemenis rejoined the global jihad — and the odds suggest they would — all that alleged "global good will" won for closing Gitmo will have come at far too high a price.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has other unfinished terrorist business in Yemen. Jamal al-Badawi has confessed his role in recruiting the suicide bombers and renting the skiff used in the U.S.S. Cole attack, in sworn testimony to the FBI admissible in U.S. court. Seventeen Americans died in the 2000 bombing. A Yemeni court convicted and sentenced him to death, but he twice escaped from prison. Recaptured, he supposedly pledged loyalty to President Saleh and was freed in 2007. In response to U.S. pressure, Yemen only last fall put al-Badawi back in custody.

For unexplained reasons, the Bush and Obama Administrations have been reluctant to push Mr. Saleh to hand over al-Badawi and others behind the Cole bombing to the U.S. for trial. The al-Badawi case is a good test of Yemen's willingness to stand up to al Qaeda and reverse its descent into a failed terrorist state.



By: Hamid

## YEMEN TIMES

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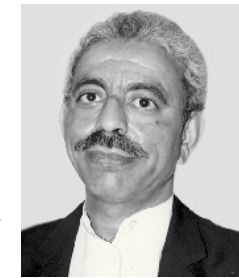
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## COMMON SENSE

## Rachel Corrie again and again!



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The story of Rachel Corrie and her brutal and tragic death seven years ago by the cold blooded murdering IDF is bound to run chills down one's spine, unless one has lost all sense of being human and has lost any semblance of sanity. In the kind of world that we live in, it is not so difficult to be deprived of any hope in human nature — that is until one recalls the unmerciful workings of the International Zionist Movement on the gentle and timid body of Rachel Corrie. It is indeed a great wonder of the Al-Mighty's fabulous creations that Rachel had a heart of solid steel to counterbalance this frailty of human structure, by which the Divine has graced womanhood by. This heart of Rachel was blessed with the infinite kindness to see that in the West Bank and Gaza — or what is left of Palestine — there is a great crime against humanity being unleashed almost daily by a monstrous machine of hatred, chauvinism and obnoxious arrogance that has surpassed all forms of human evil. It is an unrelenting trait of human nature that God has blessed humanity with Rachel — and so many likes of Rachel Corrie — to tell mankind that it does not have to be that way at all. Rachel has reflected the inherent deep good that can be found in all human beings, who know that Zionism is an ugly cancer that has nothing to do with human goodness.

This kind of goodness of the heart was what Rachel Corrie reflected and was ready and willing to give up her life for at such a young and innocent age. She could not believe that America with all its might and extravagance would allow one of its own machines — Caterpillar D — 9 or 10 or whatever to render its very own citizens flat and drained of all that hot freedom loving American blood for the sake of murderers of the likes of Benjamin Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and .... Yes, they are murderers and all their predecessors in Israeli officialdom have a long track record of spilling blood all over the Holy Land. Has anyone forgotten that the land of Palestine has lost its fertility since so much blood has been allowed to poison the dirt that once catered to millions of olive trees and citrus fruit trees and kept the people of Palestine alive for millennia?

Zionism has no room for the blood of Rachel Corrie to continue flowing in her veins, so she can go back home to the good old USA and tell her fellow Americans that American money, guns and tractor/shovels are doing all the dirty work of Zionist demagoguery.

In case anyone did not know, a few days before the untimely death, she and some of her colleagues in the International Solidarity Movement were facing American bullets unleashed by the misnamed Israeli Defense Forces, who were only taught one word throughout their training: "Kill! Kill! Kill! That is the only thing expected of you and the only thing desired of you!" This is the crux of an ideology that is spiced with hatred and demagoguery, disguised vainly as the implementation of a Divine Promise made up over a meal of dry matzo meal, of which the Lord is completely innocent. Otherwise, who would believe in Him, if they knew that He was handing out parcels of land to Zionist witch doctors, who are as far away from God as anyone could ever get.

Rachel Corrie knew better than to allow the name of America to be smeared by Zionist hooligans, who grew up in Brooklyn and now want the whole world to believe that it is the will of the Al-Mighty that they are realizing in the Holy Land. The Lord knows well that these mobsters have desecrated His houses of worship almost with a cold defiance against the One who they claim gave the Zionists the deed to the Holy Land. Ask the millions of Palestinian Christians and Moslems whatever happened to the hundreds of churches and mosques that spread throughout natural Palestine, but fell down under the push of Caterpillar tractor/shovels, after American aircraft, Apaches and tanks have leveled most of the surrounding homes of innocent unarmed Palestinians to the ground.

To Rachel Corrie this is not the model of America she wanted to see reflected in the Holy Land. Even if the Zionist courts do not come up with the result of compensating her loved ones for the tragic loss of their angel - Rachel — her family should still realize that there are a lot of good people in the world, who regard Rachel as a masterpiece of morality and love for her fellow human beings.

Those who give their lives for the sake of other human beings would never find solace from the Israeli judicial system. But just the same, we praise her family for reminding the world that in America there is indeed goodness, kindness and a deep recognition of right and wrong that has not been smeared by the AIPAC and all the advocates of hate that are given a free pass to enter and exit the corridors of the US Senate and House of Representatives as they like and continue to keep those Caterpillar D — 9 crushing even American advocates of peace, freedom and justice — none of which has anything to do with the Zionism that Washington simply cannot do without.

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

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# Iraqi women pursuing more political say

By: Li Laifang, Shaalan Jubury, Jamal Ahmed Xinhua

Iraqi women will hopefully expand their political influence in the future as the next parliament is to include more female representatives, compared with the current term. The to-be-elected 325-seat Iraq's Council of Representatives, or the national legislature, will have one quarter of its members women, as does the current 275-seat one, according to its Constitution. Women should account for at least the same percentage of the total of candidates for each political bloc contesting the election. According to electoral organizers, 6,200 candidates, including 1,800 women, will stand in the election to be held on Sunday. Around 19 million Iraqis are eligible

to vote, with women accounting for more than a half. But despite all these good prospects, women still have a long and tough way to go to achieve their goals as they face much more obstacles and difficulties than men in this country. **Tough campaign** "My election campaign is modest, because I don't have enough money to make a large campaign via satellite channels or other media," said Hiyam Hamad Ghazi, a candidate with the Iraqi Unity Coalition -- a political bloc headed by Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani. It is the second time for Ghazi to stand in the election. She failed in the 2005 parliamentary poll. "This time I feel like I want to do it again, not for money or anything else, only because I have been working as a

political, cultural and social activist since 2003," said the Shiite Arab candidate, who has been busy meeting voters in several places in Baghdad and try to reach more people in recent days. Owing an advertisement company in Baghdad, 42-year-old Ghazi comes from Diwaniya, capital of southern Qadisiya province. Her husband is a university teacher and media worker. She is a member of the country's National Society for Protecting Consumers and of the Hunting Club in Mansur District in the capital. The club is most popular among educated and middle class people in the country. "All of my family members and friends are helping me with the campaign. If my political bloc wins seats in the parliament, then certainly I will win a seat for the women quota of my bloc," said Ghazi, with full confidence that good luck will accompany her this time.

She admits that it is hard for a woman to win a seat alone without the quota, because Iraqi society is strongly dominated by men and people are still skeptical about whether a woman is able to do what a man does. "We should notice some biased social norms and restrictions against women although Iraqi law entitles women to take part in all aspects of life," said Ghazi. "So the problem is with the society, which should accept the participation of women in politics and other aspects of life." In addition to obstacles of social norms, security situation featuring a recent surge of violence ahead of the election is not favorable for their campaign. In early February, a female Sunni candidate was shot dead after leaving her relatives' house in Mosul, capital of northern ethnically mixed, volatile Neineva Province.

**Good beginning** In the current parliament, women lawmakers have struggled to express their opinions and worked hard to push forward legislation regarding the protection of women and children's rights and interests. "I think in the past four years women have shown an outstanding performance in the parliamentary activities," said Maysoun al-Damaloji, a current female lawmaker seeking reelection. "We have been active in monitoring the government, visiting prisons and in the relations with non-governmental organizations (NGO) and media." "I don't think their (women lawmakers) role was less than that of men," stressed Damaloji, also editor-in-chief of Noon, a most popular magazine focusing on women's rights in the country. She worked as deputy chairman of a commit-

tee in charge of NGO affairs in the parliament. Damaloji, from Mosul, joins the cross-sectarian Iraqiya List alliance, headed by former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. The alliance is widely regarded as a strong rival against the State of Law bloc headed by Primer Minister Nuri Al-Maliki. Citing an example of the successes of women lawmakers, Damaloji said women were the first to sign the resignation of former parliament speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani because of his inappropriate behaviors with women. Mashhadani resigned in December 2008. His feisty character invited criticism among lawmakers. "If you look at the list of those who signed, you will find the first 50 signatures were those of female lawmakers," said Damaloji.

# New media presents formidable foe for Modern Armies

By: Arieh O'Sullivan & Felice Friedson The Media Line

Modern armies grapple with leaks of classified intelligence on the plethora of new social media like Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. The Israeli army was planning a night raid into a hostile Palestinian village in the West Bank to arrest suspected terrorists. Troops were in place and back-up units were deployed. But unexpectedly, they came upon a formidable foe -- Facebook. The operation was scrubbed when it became known that one of the soldiers in the raiding unit had uploaded details of the impending sweep onto his Facebook account. The army says the leaking of classified information put its troops at risk. The soldier was court-martialed and jailed for 10 days. He was also kicked out of his combat unit. "The operation was postponed because of this," Lt.-Col. Avital Leibovitz, an IDF Spokesperson, tells The Media Line. "Since the soldier specified the name of the village and the time. He also specified that after the operation there would be another two raids. We had no choice but to postpone the operation because we were not sure whether it had been leaked to the people in that vil-

lage." Information security has always presented a potential for leaks. In the past, military censors would monitor telephone calls or letters home from troops. But with the plethora of new social media like Facebook, Twitter and Youtube, the task has become much harder and stemming the flow of information that much more daunting. Whether in Israel, Iraq or Afghanistan, modern armies are more vulnerable than before and hostile intelligence agents scan the Internet to collect information that could undermine their operations. Jeff Hochman, a former security officer in Iraq, says US forces routinely use social media to keep in touch with friends and family half way around the world. "Facebook is extremely popular," Hochman says. "It is a big morale booster to be able to see your friends on Facebook and to be able to chat with them and things like that. But I think your younger soldiers are a little more naive about what is fun and cool looking on the Internet compared to your older officers and senior enlisted." Hochman says that during his time as a commander he would often collect his team member's cell phones before an operation as a precaution, even though it was not standard operational procedure. "It wasn't that I didn't trust my guys," Hochman says. "I just wanted to take away

any chance at all, especially when we were on surveillance, that they might accidentally say something." Reached in Afghanistan, Michael Yon, a popular blogger who has covered US forces in the region since 2004, says there has been a crackdown on Facebook usage by US troops. "Personally they use Facebook," Yon says. "A couple of years ago they were doing it quite a lot. Now there has been a crackdown. I know that there was a crackdown. That is a fact. I don't know what the actual rules are but I know that soldiers don't have as many blogs and websites as they used to." CENTCOM, the US Central Command declined to confirm or deny any crackdown. Public relations officer Lt.-Col. Joseph Kloppel issued the following statement. "Social networking is one of the many forms of communication that service members use along with phone, e-mail, letters, etc. Operational security is a responsibility of all service men and women at all times regardless whether they are talking on the phone or using some other mode of communication." In Israel, soldiers face court martial for leaking classified information. The army also has a special unit to monitor its own troops. Combat troops are also required to give up their cell phones when entering op-

erations. "We do know that our enemies in the borders here surrounding us are very keen to understand and find out some key details from these types of technology elements," says Lt.-Col. Leibovitz. "One of the ways we deal with it is we forbid or we limit the usage of cell phones by the soldiers and the commanders." To drive the point home, posters of mock Facebook pages on Israeli army bases show images of enemy leaders like Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Syrian President Bashar Assad and Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah. Beneath their images reads the caption: "you think that everyone is your friend?" Yon says that he has been told by US officials that insurgents in Iraq had followed his blogs when he filed from there in the past. "But they would also obviously monitor the news," Yon says. "There is a huge amount of information as you are well aware that comes out just in the news. I don't think it makes any difference if it is new or old media. That is quite irrelevant. It's just any source that is radiating information from inside the wire would be worth watching." Hochman, who is also a retired detective from the New Orleans Police Department, says the bottom line is that soldiers need to

self-censor themselves. "We have all these techniques. We have encryption on radios. We have separate inter and intra net accounts for security reasons. But one of the biggest things we have to worry about now is loose lips on the regular Internet sinking ships." Hochman says. "Loose lips sink ships."



## EMBASSY OF INDIA, SANA'A VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of India, Sana'a invites applications from qualified interpreter-translator interested to work as local staff of the Embassy. Candidates should be fluent in English & Arabic with excellent translation/interpretation skills. They should also be well conversant with use of computers and aptitude in public relations. Salary will commensurate with qualification with annual increment. Send application with CV, full contact details and a copy of latest photograph on or before 31.03.2010 to: The Embassy of India Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a. Tel. No. 441251, 441252 Fax: 441257 E-mail: indcom@y.net.ye or indembassy@yemen.net.ye



# Ten research computer science student's papers on Yemen Soft methodology and performance

Discussions on the methodology and performance of the software company Yemen Soft commenced last Thursday as ten students defended their third-level research at Sana'a University's College of Computer Science. Ibrahim, Marwah, Siham, Ammar, Raja, Maram, Eman, Rima, Hisham and Abdullah know that their research was of a special kind as they ventured into relating theory with practical applications and studied references they had not seen before. The researchers reviewed operating systems, performance documents, evaluation questionnaires and in the same time interviewed programmers, system analysts and executors and clients who used software products created by Yemen Soft. They said that this was the experience of a life time for them as they had not had much exposure before this and now started to know the practical and real life of computer science.



Ibrahim Al-Qadasi's research paper was on the electricity corporation software developed by Yemen Soft. He said that the cor-



poration praised the system and said that they had searched the market and found this software to be the best.

Marwah Al-Ba'adni studied the after sales services of Yemen Soft and through her research she interviewed clients and discovered that they have a high satisfaction level. They had chosen Yemen Soft because of its high reputation and after experiencing their work they knew that they had made the right choice.

The recommendations in the ten research papers will be adopted by Yemen Soft in its continuous effort to improve. Abdusalam Al-Dali the Public Relations Manager of Yemen Soft promised to seriously take the research papers which he acquired a copy of.

This practical implementation of the theoretical study in college is one of the practices that would enhance the qualification of the students as Dr. Amat Al-Elah Hummad Dean of the Computer Science

College pointed out.

She praised the cooperation of Yemen Soft and its transparent environment which enabled the students to conduct their research.

Ammar Hizam confirmed this as he revealed that Yemen Soft was not the only software company they had approached, but was the one that gave them the most space and cooperation. His research paper on amendments demands in Yemen Soft Systems said that there is a great flexibility in dealing with both clients and others such as the students.

Raja Al-Hadhouri whose research paper was about the execution of Yemen Soft systems at the client's location said that the problems with Yemen Soft programs are very minimal compared to other available systems. She found this out when she interviewed the clients and discussed the execution operations of the systems at the client's location.

Maram Al-Mughales also had a research paper but this one was a comparison between marketing the readymade systems to the company customized systems. She said that through her research she has found that there are many ready-made programs and systems in the market and Yemen Soft makes the best ones.

Dr. Salah Al-Wazeer a professor of programming at the Computer Science College said that such practices and practical research is very important for the students so that they apply their theoretical knowledge to practical uses.



Rima Al-Shami whose research was on the technology gap in the society said that this research has given them more confidence in themselves and thanks Yemen Soft for its kind cooperation.

Al-Dali PR Manager of Yemen Soft thanked the students and the college for choosing Yemen Soft and promised to be of further assistance in the future.







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# School teachers complain they lack support

By: Ameera Al-Arasi  
With editing by Marwa Najmeddin  
For the Yemen Times

When A.F., 54, learnt that her application for deputy school principal had been accepted by the local council, she rushed to her principal to share the news.

The old deputy principal had left the country for medical treatment abroad, and the principal had been very worried about the vacant position. With a bachelors' in education from Aden University from 1979, A.F. was an experienced candidate for the job.

After hearing the news, the principal started burdening her with tasks inappropriate for her position. The principal asked her to follow up on the students that arrived late at school and to maintain a clean school yard, for example.

The principal insulted A.F. several times in front of the students without respecting the fact that she is a woman in her fifties, even accusing her of being a terrorist who did not know anything about Islam, because she was originally from Aden and not Sana'a.

The principal did not appreciate her efforts. The teacher refuses to give the principal's name because, she said, she knows how important she is to some decision makers. Instead, she puts up with the abuse every day, only because she's from Aden.

"I can only complain to God to help me overcome these difficulties," she said.

## Teachers need a second job

It has become frequent nowadays for teachers to do part-time jobs in order to improve their income. Some of them are teachers in the morning and government employees in the evening. They arrive home late and exhausted.

J.S. is a father of four. He has been teaching for the past 12 years, and has had to work in a clothes store to improve his income. His salary is about USD 200 a month, and he has resorted to work on a rented bus to cover some of his family's expenses.

He complained that teachers' wages in Yemen are very low compared to the wages of teachers in neighboring countries where, he said, they receive almost USD 3,000 a month.

"If they want us to give, they should give us first!" he said.

A.M., 43, is a chemistry teacher who works in both a private and a public school to cover his living expenses.

The teacher says that he cannot control the classes because parents are not cooperative, and the quality of their education suffers.

Teachers say that they try to be role models for their students, but are treated with disrespect in return.

Ali Hasan Baqlan, the head of inspectors in Al-Jawf governorate, said that education in Al-Jawf suffers from a high turnover of directors at the gov-

ernorate's education office. Over the last year, two directors of the education office were changed by the governor and the local authorities.

When inspectors' reports are reviewed at the education offices, misbehavior is often overlooked, and only bonuses are taken into consideration.

## Students cheat

Some teachers complain that students cheat in secondary school exams.

Sometimes, tests are given to students for them to complete at home and return the next day. And sometimes, teachers are too scared to stop students from other governorates from cheating in the examination hall.

This has made Al-Jawf governorate an attraction to many students from the other governorates during exams, for example, said Baqlan. These students travel to the governorate at their own expense in order to get better marks to study abroad.

Teachers sometimes rightly fear their students during exam periods.

B. M. said that his school's management refused to expel a student who brought a gang to school to beat up a 40-year-old mathematics teacher during class in front of the whole school, because he hadn't let them cheat in an exam.

B.M. said how bad it was for a teacher to watch another teacher being beaten and not to be able to move an inch out of fear, because the student was the son of someone well-connected.

## Promotion

B.Q., 45, is an inspector from the municipality with 18 years' experience in teaching and eight years' experience as an executive teacher at one of the big schools in Sana'a. In 2005, she started working as a school inspector.

She said that the Minister of Education is making sure to deprive them from their 5 percent of permissible absence.

As for teachers' promotion, B. Q. asked why teachers don't get promoted based on performance and seniority in schools.

They are only promoted if they have the right connections, she said.

Adel Al-Wahhabi, head of the teach-

ers' syndicate at the municipality, said that promotion is only for those who have 18 to 35 years of experience. They are promoted to an administrative position and stop teaching.

B. Q. also complained that a teacher was once transferred without finding a replacement, with the reason that it was an order from the president. She said that the continuous interference of the area directors is the main reason behind the instability of most public schools.

Al-Wahhabi said that similar complaints had reached him.

"We sometimes solve it by finding a replacement with the support of the director of the education office, or the complaint is taken to the office at the ministry," he said.

He also said that the Ministry of Education will set clearer rules for the transfer of teachers, starting at the end of this year.

The inspector B. Q. said that, when she reports that a teacher has health issues to the school management, they only minimize the number of classes the teacher gives, but do not allow her to leave school earlier to get some rest.

Al-Wahhabi said that, when a teacher has health problems, his or her number of classes should be reduced and he or she might be transferred to an administrative position.

## An unfriendly education office

J. A., 29, employee at the municipality education office, said that she is shocked by how badly some of her colleagues treat teachers who come to finish their paperwork.

She said that they sometimes delay some short procedures only because they have no respect for teachers. The frequent absence of some of her colleagues, especially men, hinders finalizing the paperwork of teachers who can barely find the time to come to the office.

Z. A., another education office employee who has worked in education for five years, complained that employees tend to be protective of their positions, fearing that they will be given to others.

She said that she did not receive a full description of her job before starting to work.

She also asked why the education

office did not provide teachers with a prayer room and a staff room in which they can pray and rest in their free time. She said that she hasn't seen a staff room since she started working in the office three years ago.

## Overcrowded classrooms

M. H. is a 50-year-old secretary in one of the public schools in Sana'a.

She moved from Aden to Sana'a for family reasons. She said that, when she started teaching in Aden in 1984, there were no more than 25 students in the one classroom. A teacher could clearly explain the course material.

But nowadays one classroom can have more than 80 students, which hinders their education and makes it hard for them to clearly understand the curriculum.

She added that parents nowadays threaten teachers to make sure that their children are given good grades.

"Back then, she says, teachers were better valued and respected," she said.

## Tired and unappreciated

T.M., a biology teacher, 31, explained said that sometimes she cannot recognize some of her students, because the classroom is so overcrowded. Teaching so many students is very difficult, she said.

She said that a teacher is expected to deliver 24 classes a week, but is not appreciated in return. Teachers cannot even complain, partly because they know how inefficient the syndicate and education directorates are.

Um Al-Khaleq Al-Alfi is the principal of the Radhwan Elementary School in Shu'ub, Sana'a. She denied that the education office interfered in the school's business.

She said that they only ask for their help when they have difficulties setting the curricula for each classroom. The school has no problems, she said, because they have 219 students only with 28 in each classroom and 18 well-qualified teachers.

## Unaware of protection structures

The head of the teachers' syndicate at



Adel Al-Wahhabi, head of the teachers' syndicate at the municipality.

the municipality Adel Al-Wahhabi said that teachers who are abused should write an official complain, no matter whether a syndicate member or not. Following a complaint, a committee would investigate the case from both sides, documenting their statements for the syndicate.

If this did not solve the problem, specialized people would become involved, and the educational office, municipality and ministry would come to a joint decision.

Al-Wahhabi said that the main problem was that teachers were not sufficiently aware of the syndicate and educational bodies' role in supporting them.

## Paid late

He further explained that some teachers are not paid by the ministry on time, because school principals did not register all their teachers with the Ministry of Education in 2006 for private reasons.

When the syndicate heard about this, it paid 2,673 teachers their salary in January 2009. One year's salary was left, and this was said to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance.

Fawwaz Al-Absi, at the general syndicate at the municipality, said that the Ministry of Finance informed him that of the country's budget shortage in 2008 and promised to provide them with the needed amount during the second half of 2009, if the country's financial circumstances improved.

But now both officials at the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education refuse to meet him or reply to his requests. He was informed that the matter was the direct responsibility of the minister of finance.



YT photo by Ameera Al-Arasi

## REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION HEALTH AND POPULATION PROJECT (HPP) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Republic of Yemen (RoY) has received a Japan PHRD grant (TF093103) from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the proposed Health and Population Project (HPP).

The objective of the proposed HPP is to improve access to and utilization of a package of maternal, neonatal, and child health services in selected regions in Yemen by 2015. The project will contribute to the RoY's goal of achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 (Decrease in Child and Mortality) and 5 (Improvements in Maternal Health).

The Ministry of Public Health and Population now invites Yemeni qualified applicants to indicate their interests in providing consultancy services for the positions of: (1) Project Administrator; (2) Procurement Officer; (3) Financial Officer; (4) Accountant; and (5) Executive Secretary. The key duties and responsibilities and qualifications for each of the above-mentioned positions are as follows:

### 1- Project Administrator:

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

The Project Administration Unit (PAU) Administrator reports directly to the Director General of Family Health (DGFH). He/she is responsible for the administration of the project funds under the direct supervision of the DGFH in compliance with the provisions of the Grant Agreement, the Project Implementation Plan and Project Implementation Manual. The Project Administrator will also administer the remaining period of the PHRD grant He/she is also responsible for the day to day management of the PAU and the satisfactory performance of its staff.

#### Qualification:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Management or related fields.
- Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in project administration/ management or in coordinating technical and development programming.
- Experience in international agencies is a plus.
- Health Sector Experience is a plus.
- Good understanding of international procurement, financial management and accounting procedures.
- Demonstrated ability to take a leadership position in a team-based environment
- Demonstrated ability to motivate and promote collaboration amongst diverse teams and team members.
- Proficiency in the use of computers.
- Fluency in both Arabic and English.

### 2- Project Financial Officer:

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Director General of Family Health (DGFH) and the direction of PAU Administrator, the Financial Officer (FO) is responsible for the financial management of the project in close coordination with the MOPHP Finance Department. He/she ensures that an appropriate financial management system is in place, with internal controls, records, and books of accounts; and that the procedures and reports are reliable, timely, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and government regulations; and that financial and other reports as needed are maintained and prepared on a timely basis, communicated to the appropriate users, and properly filed at the PAU. He/she is also responsible for oversight of the accountant who will provide technical support to the FO.

#### Qualification:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree with at least Yemeni CPA/CA designation.
- A minimum of seven years of private and public sector financial management experience, preferably with an auditing or accounting firm.
- The ability to translate planned activities into concrete budgets, establish standard unit costs, and analyze and report them for the purpose of recommending improvements in operations.
- The ability to supervise accounting and other financial functions and report financial information usable to the various stakeholders; Government, World Bank, and auditors.

- The ability to supervise accounting work and motivate the Project Accountant to achieve positive actions and results.
- General understanding of procurement concepts.
- Good experience in implementing and managing the financial and accounting systems
- Familiarity with Government and World Bank/UN Agencies financial procedures;
- Proficiency in the use of computers, accounting and other software applications.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

### 3- Project Accountant:

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Financial Officer, the accountant is in charge of recording all financial transactions, retaining the supporting documentation, preparing the financial reports of the project as required by government regulations and the Legal Agreement, and preparing annual and interim project financial statements to reflect the financial position of the project and for auditing purposes. Key responsibilities include: processing invoices and preparing payment orders; collecting and filing all supporting documentation on all financial transactions of the project after issuance of payment; recording on a daily basis all the financial transactions after ensuring that they have been properly authorized and in accordance with the budget and the PAU procedures for internal control; preparing monthly reconciliation of project disbursement between PAU accounting records and Grant account as per World Bank Disbursement Summary

#### Qualification:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Accounting;
- A minimum of five years of accounting experience, preferably with foreign companies;
- The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project financial statements and other reports as needed by the Project management; and
- Proficiency in Arabic and English.

### 4- Project Procurement Officer:

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Managing the project procurement through implementing all policies and procedures related to procurement activities and ensuring the Bank procurement guidelines are followed in all transactions. Developing procurement tools such as standard format for Terms of Reference (TOR), technical specifications, customized contracts for staff and other individual consultants.
- Organize the necessary bid advertisement and prepare call for expression of interests on periodic basis and update the General Procurement Notice (GPN) on annual basis. Assist the Bid Opening Committee as well as the Evaluation Committee prepare evaluation reports as well as providing necessary assistance and tools for conducting evaluation processes.
- Review and preparation of bidding documents; organization of bid evaluation and contract award. Conduct market research and update price lists in respect of relevant equipment. Develop and maintaining a database of suppliers and consultants to include their contacts, areas of expertise, relevant to project components.
- Coordinate with the PAU Financial Officer for regular preparation of Project Management Reports, as a part of the IDA financial reporting requirements.
- Maintain a coherent filing system for archiving all contracts, contract amendments including procurement preparation and contract management, correspondence, claims, reports, etc, and ensuring that all consultants' deliverables are properly filed and referenced.

#### Qualification:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Engineering, or related fields;
- At least 3 years experience in handling procurement in general, including experience with Law No. 23 of 2007 for public procurement.
- Experience of having worked on World Bank financed procurement will be given a preference.
- Demonstrated analytical and problem solving and negotiating skills with ability to balance project objectives and procurements with client's needs.

- Good experience in selection and management of consultant contracts (especially international firms) is a plus.
- Familiarity with Government and World Bank/UN Agencies procurement procedures;
- Proficiency in Arabic and English languages.
- Strong computer skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work as a team member.

### 5- Executive Secretary

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

- He/She will assist the Project Manager in the preparation and coordination of weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual Project Management Reports, Progress Reports and other required Information System Reports with HPP. Assist in arranging reporting processes, and providing comments on the development of the legal and regulatory framework for the reports and other works given by the Project Manager.
- He/She will make proposals to the Project Manager when necessary to review/change/readjust related project time schedules, and will submit monthly progress reports at the end of each month and year summarizing the monthly and annual reporting and communication activities respectively.
- Provide administrative support including responding to telephone calls and requests for information. Prepare written communications, including memos, letters, distribution mailings, and other materials in line with oral instructions or written notes.
- Generate and process forms and reports (including timesheets, progress reports, fixture lists, etc), maintain file; follow up fixtures; order supplies, photocopy, and fax documents and organize their utilization for the PAU. Update calendars and contact lists and coordinate meetings, make travel arrangements, letters, and email communications responding where appropriate.

#### Qualifications:

- University graduate.
- Similar experience in international organizations or institutions.
- Excellent knowledge of English and Arabic Languages (Writing, Speaking, and Reading).
- Ability to type the ten finger system on typewriter and computer.
- Highly experienced in Windows, Microsoft Office programs.
- Humanistic, friendly and able to meet the needs in relations and communications established due to the position.
- Ability to set priorities, handle multiple tasks simultaneously, and work independently and as part of a team.
- Excellent organizational skills, attention to detail and follow through.
- Ability to take initiative and to deal successfully with short timelines, a heavy workload, and ambiguity.
- Ability to independently evaluate and assess problem areas, and provide recommendations for solutions.
- Must be resourceful, thoughtful, reliable, discreet, and detail oriented; able to handle competing priorities and deadlines; able to learn quickly, and willing to expand capabilities as required.

Interested applicants, who meet the above requirements, may submit their applications with their CVs and supporting documents to the address below by 1st of April 2010. Selection will be processed in accordance with IDA (World Bank) guidelines for selection and employment of consultants and the IDA Financed Project Management Units (PMUs) Guidelines for Establishment and Operations.

Expressions of Interest must be received to the following address:

Attn: Dr. Majed Al-Gunaid  
Deputy Minister for PHC  
Ministry of Public Health and Population  
P.O.Box: 299  
E-mail: [jalaswadi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jalaswadi@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tel: (967-1- 234377)  
Fax: (967-1-252234)



# Empower water users and export fewer bananas, say academics

In Yemen, where over 90 percent of extracted groundwater is used for agriculture, part of limiting dwindling water levels is properly managing its use in irrigation. But in a country where state control is weak, say academics, it is often up to water users in their villages to enforce the law and stop farmers from drilling illegal wells.

Last week, experts from Europe, Africa and the Middle East briefly discussed empowering local communities to do this, among other ideas for good water management in Yemen to ensure future generations have enough water to drink.

By: Alice Hackman

**A**bdulkhaleq Alwan, from the public awareness department at the National Water Resources Authority, pointed to a photograph of an agricultural area just outside the Yemeni capital. The picture was dotted with water wells.

"Look, three illegal wells not more than 150 meters apart," he said, explaining that the majority of the 13,400 wells in the area of the Sana'a Water Basin have not been approved by the state.

Although unlicensed well-digging is illegal in Yemen, this has not stopped farmers from drilling into increasingly depleted aquifers, even in the closest agricultural area to the capital.

But in some areas, such as Taiz, water user associations are implementing the law themselves because they realize the problem, according to Dr. Nasser Al-Aulaqi from the Dutch-supported Water and Environment Center at the University of Sana'a.

The example of Taiz must be spread to the rest of the country, said academics last week, at a two-day workshop on the challenges to good water resource management at the University of Sana'a.

Minister of Water and the Environment Abdurahman Al-Eryani agreed. Local users must be empowered so that they control water resources themselves with the help of the government, he said.

Dr. Hammou Laamrani, regional water expert from the International Development Research Center in Cairo, stressed the importance of a community-

driven approach to water resource management.

"The poorer person than the poorest man in this region is his wife," he said, putting into perspective the range of water users in Yemen, as well as the rest of the Middle East and North Africa.

Laamrani encouraged his audience to seize new opportunities, such as the current discussion about Yemen in the international arena, to better preserve the country's dwindling water resources.

"Local problems need local solutions," said Dr. Richard Soppe, from the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands, and coordinator for the new masters' degree in Integrated Water Resource Management at the Water and Environment Center.

## Satellite map of water consumption

If one of these problems is finding who over-consumes groundwater, then help is at hand, said Prof. Wim Bastiaanssen, water resources modeling expert from the Netherlands.

With the help of increasingly cheaper satellites, notably from China, countries can now see who is consuming how much water where, he told seminar participants.

"We can calculate how much they are using," he joked. "They cannot hide anymore."

"It's not magic, it's all based on science and physics," he added, showing the model he uses to calculate annual water consumption from temperature measurements, knowing the vegetation coverage of a particular area.

The method has been used to map



**If groundwater extraction for agriculture is not well managed, future generations of Yemenis will suffer, say experts.**

water consumption in countries such as China, Egypt, Sudan, and South Africa, he said.

## Reusing wastewater

Dr. Frans Huibers, from the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands, discussed how to best manage wastewater to be able to reuse it after it has been properly treated in agriculture.

To illustrate the importance of treated wastewater and a water resource, he concluded with a picture of a water truck bearing the words: "To you it's sh\*t, to us it's bread and butter."

Huibers however stressed that treated wastewater should be used first for landscaping and industrial crops, and last for food crops, especially vegetables eaten raw.

## Export fewer bananas

Qat consumes a large part of Yemen's extracted groundwater, according to official statistics but, according to Al-Aulaqi, importing qat is not an option, because vested interests will not allow it.

Instead, he encouraged farmers to stop growing thirsty crops such as bananas and mangoes for those that use up less water such as coffee.

"Why do we export bananas?" he asked, explaining that they are a very thirsty crop. "We are exporting our resources!"

"We should export coffee grown in areas where there is good rainfall and irrigation is only supplementary," he said.

## Modern irrigation questioned

Academics also questioned the ability of drip and sprinkler irrigation, modern techniques that only supply as much water as a crop needs, in actually saving groundwater long term.

These modern techniques are subsidized at 70 percent to encourage farmers to adopt them over traditional irrigation methods, but only the powerful and the rich use them, according to Al-Aulaqi.

"Poor farmers do not benefit," he said. And modern irrigation techniques do

not necessarily save groundwater, said the professor.

If a farmer uses drip irrigation to reduce his water consumption for one field, added other participants, he usually uses the water he has saved to start cultivating on a new plot of land and to boost his income.

While this makes irrigation more profitable, it does not actually reduce groundwater consumption.

With drip irrigation, also less water infiltrates back down into the groundwater compared to with traditional flood irrigation, explained Huibers, and the farmer who pumps up water downstream will then have less. On scale larger than just one farm, the problem remains the same.

## Find new livelihood

"Forty years from now, aquifers will dry up, become saline, or too expensive to exploit," said Al-Aulaqi. "That process is already underway. Farmers are abandoning irrigated agriculture."

"Yemen is taking a lot of loans to solve the problem of water," warned Dr. Abdullah Babaqi, head of the Water and Environment Center, stressing the need for action. "The coming generations will have a lot of loans and no water."

"Livelihood will have to be found outside agriculture," said Al-Aulaqi.

The gradual disappearance of irrigated agriculture may be a regional trend. As the population grows and more people move to the cities in the Middle East and North Africa, water supply to inhabitants will have to increase and water consumption in agriculture will have to diminish, according to Laamrani.

## Desalination expensive

Al-Aulaqi ruled out desalination as a solution for the city of Sana'a because of its cost, but said that it might be an option in Taiz where people are already paying YR 3,000 to 4,000 for a water truck and they only receive water through the public network every 30 days.

"Who will pay USD 8 per cubic meter?" he asked.



**Dutch scientist Wim Bastiaanssen says that satellite mapping of water consumption, here of the Dhamar governorate, can show who is consuming too much water.**



**Over 90 percent of Yemen's extracted groundwater is for agriculture, but Yemen still imports about 75 percent of its food.**



**Importing qat is not an option, because vested interests will not allow it, say experts.**

## 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.

## Cell phones and health

One of the most common sights we see these days is that of people with their mobile phones next to their ears. Using mobile phones is an essential way of keeping in touch in today's modern world. A boon for better communication, cell phone usage however has many health hazards. Various studies indicate that the emissions from a cell phone can be extremely harmful, causing genetic damage, tumors, memory loss, and increased blood pressure and weakening of the immune system. This is alarming information, and one has to take into account all these factors.

Though there is no evidence of cell phones causing cancer or any such illness, but the suspicion, or fear of the same is not baseless either. The electromagnetic radiation from cell phones does have a potential link to cancer. The fact that this radiation is invisible, intangible, and enters and leaves our bodies without our knowledge makes it even more intimidating.

### Possible hazards

- Two minutes of exposure to emissions from mobile phones can disable a safety barrier in blood causing proteins and toxins to leak into the brain, could increase chances of developing Alzheimer's multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's.
- Scientists say exposure to the phones' low-level radiation causes red blood cells to leak hemoglobin and can lead to heart disease and kidney stones
- Recent studies suggesting a link between cell-phone use and brain tumors, and the possibility that the microwaves could ignite petroleum fumes at gas stations.
- A cell phone unit, or communications tower, has so many of these radiation emanating gadgets. This can be a problem for its immediate environment.

### SPECIFIC HEALTH CONCERNS

#### Cancer / Tumors

Studies have been conducted suggesting that rats that have been exposed to microwaves similar to the sort generated by mobile phones but more powerful, showed breaks in their DNA which could indicate an adverse effect. Also, mice exposed to radiation for 18 months developed brain tumors. Though of course, these studies are not concrete proof.

#### Blood pressure

It was observed that people using cell phones were prone to high blood pressure. Again, there isn't any concrete evidence of the same.

#### Pregnancy

A study at the University of Montpellier in France was carried out on 6000 chick embryos and suggested that the heavily exposed chick eggs were five times less likely to survive than the control group. This study raised questions about possible effects on pregnant.

#### Headaches, Heating Effects, Fatigue

A study brought out that longer the people used mobile phones, the more likely they were to report symptoms such as hot ears, burning skin, headaches and fatigue.

The study did not include a control group (that is people who do not use mobile phones, to make a comparison); therefore the symptoms reported could have been caused by any number of other factors in the mobile phones users' environment, such as working with computers, stress, driving or reading.

#### Memory

There have been various studies into the connection between mobile phones and memory loss. A study looked into the effect of radiofrequency (RF) on the section of rats' brains that is linked with the memory. The results showed that RF could modify signals in the cells in a part of the brain that is responsible for learning and short term memory.

#### Posture (holding phone between raised shoulder and ear)

Some researchers claim that holding a mobile phone between the raised shoulder and the ear could have a damaging effect on muscles, bones, tendons and discs. These problems would apply equally to a cordless phone or a landline phone as to a mobile phone and are the effect of bad posture.

#### Mobile Phones and Children

Because of their smaller heads, thinner skulls and higher tissue conductivity, children may absorb more energy from a given phone than adults.

#### Prevention Tips

- Cell phones should be used for emergencies, and not for long conversations.
- A small chip-like cell phone microwave radiation protection device is available, which has the ability to absorb electromagnetic energy waves from your mobile phone. It helps in reducing the potential harmful effects of these emissions to the human body.
- Using a mobile headset is a good idea, you don't have to hold phones next to your ears all the time
- Use a hands free mobile car kit while driving, without taking your hands off the steering wheel

#### The WHO (World Health Organisation) rules

- Mobile phone users should limit their exposure to harmful radio frequencies by cutting the length of calls.
- Hands-free devices cut exposure by keeping the instrument away from the head and body.
- Driving cum mobile phone talking should be banned.
- Mobile phones should not be used in Intensive Care Units of hospitals as they can pose a danger to patients by interfering with the working of pacemakers and defibrillators.
- People with hearing aids should not use mobile phones.
- Base stations, which have low powered antennae on their terrace to communicate with cell phones, should not be located near children's schools and playgrounds.

#### Cell phones while driving

Studies indicate that a lot of car accidents have happened, while the driver was on the phone. This is because while driving, one obviously needs to concentrate, and talking on a phone doesn't help. Thus, it is important to take certain precautions while driving:

- Position your phone within easy reach so that you don't have to take your eyes off the road.
- Get to know the features of your cell phone - speed dial, redial, voice mail, they can be your lifesaver. But don't dial and drive at the same time. Use a hands free kit.
- Avoid using a phone when road conditions are hazardous or traffic is heavy. You can let your voice mail take messages and then call back later.
- Don't engage in stressful conversations that may distract your attention from the road.
- Don't take notes or look up phone numbers whilst driving, wait till you can pull over.
- User abbreviated speed dialing. In fact, voice activated dialing is even better. It leaves both hands free. Frequently called numbers can be programmed.
- Have an answering machine installed that could take messages until you can return the calls. Let your co-passenger handle the calls if you are not travelling alone.



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# Terim becomes Capital of Islamic Culture 2010



YT Photo by Fuad Al-Harazi



YT Photo by Fuad Al-Harazi

Text by Saddam Al-Ashmori  
Photos by Fuad Al-Harazi  
For the Yemen Times

**A**t an opening ceremony on March 7, Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansoor Hadi told gathered crowds and guests that Terim's nomination as Islamic Capital of Culture 2010 had made Yemenis very proud.

He expressed his great pleasure at Terim having received this honor and evoked the city's importance as a city of knowledge, culture and literature.

The Islamic Scientific and Educational Cultural Organization (ISESCO), of which Yemen has been a founding member since 1993, in December 2004 announced its choice of the city as capital of Islamic culture for a year.

Terim was chosen for its history of

producing written works of science, culture and history, and for its continuing role in spreading Islam around the world.

Terim, as an Islamic cultural capital, will enhance cultural relations between Islamic countries, according to Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Al-Towaigiri, head of ISESCO.

"Terim is known for its historical and Islamic features such as mosques and Islamic institutes," said Al-Towaigiri.

According to Mohammad Abubakr Al-Maflahi, Minister of Tourism, activities will run year-long from March 10, 2010 to February 27, 2011.

The functions will focus on showing the Islamic features of the city through seminars, lectures, and forums for poets.

Among other activities, there will be twelve exhibitions on books, calligraphy, photographs and costumes.

International conferences will discuss the role of Terim in Islamic history and its tradition of Islamic clay architecture.

Islamic cultural seminars will be held at nights in which all Islamic cities are participating in these seminars by showing their Islamic prominent features.

Omar Hamed Al-Jilani, deputy of head of the Ahqaf University in Mukalla, expressed his happiness and said that Terim truly deserved to be an Islamic cultural capital.

## A king's city high in the mountains

Terim is one of the renowned cities of the Hadramout Valley. It is situated 35 km to the north-east of Shabwa. Perched 2,070 feet above sea level, Terim covers about 3500 km<sup>2</sup>.

Historical references state that Terim was named after one of its kings, Terim bin Hadramout bin Saba, the younger. It dated back to the fourth century BC.

About 105,552 people live in the area of Terim, of which 67 percent live in the main city.

## Islam in Terim

The inhabitants of Terim embraced Islam when the delegation of Hadramaut met Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Medina in the tenth year of the Hijri calendar.

The Prophet appointed the first governor over Hadramaut, Ziyad Ibn Labid Al-Bayadi Al-Ansari.

Al-Ansari, received a letter from the first caliph, Abu Bakr, requesting the oath of allegiance of the people of Hadramaut. They accepted. However, people from the Kinda tribes did not accept to pay their allegiance to the Caliph.

The people of Terim, who were firm in their Islamic faith, played a major role in fighting against these tribes.

After a decisive battle at the Nujir fortress, about 30 km to the east of Terim, many of the Prophet's companions were injured and taken to Terim for treatment. Some companions of the Prophet were martyred and buried in Terim.

## Mosques in Terim

The list of magnificently designed mosques in Tareem is endless. There are 365 mosques in Terim.

The most famous mosque is Al-Mihdhar mosque. It was commis-

sioned to be built by Omar Al-Mihdhar Al-Saqqaq in 1333 AH.

Its square-shaped minaret is 175 feet high and contains stairs reaching to the top. The most surprising fact about this minaret is that it was built from straw, clay and palm roots.

It was designed by the poet Abu Baker Bin Shihab who died in 1334 AH and it was built under the supervisors of the contractor Awadh Al-Terimi.

## Civilization of clay

In Terim, houses and buildings were constructed of "madr" or "lebn," unburned clay used in building. This material is also used in pottery. Terim habitants used traditional materials to form a deep rooted civilization and magnificent Islamic architecture.

The minarets of mosques are cone-shaped, in which it is wide at the base and narrow at the top. The most famous minarets are the Ba Alawi minaret in the center of Terim and the Zohra mosque's minaret to the north of Terim.

Terim is also known for its palaces. The most famous ones are the palaces of Aisha, Dar Al-Salam, Hamhoot and Salmana.

One of the most famous monuments in Terim is the Renad Fort, which was built four hundred years prior to the arrival of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

The Katheer Sultans renovated the palace in 1938 AD. The palace will apparently be converted into a museum in the future, where ancient handicraft samples are to be displayed.

In the past, the old city of Terim was two neighborhoods connected by the Renad Fort and the Najdi market near the fort.

The city was fortified with a high wall that was destroyed and rebuilt again in 913 AH. The fort has three gates, to the south, to the north, and to the west.

All mosques were built according to Prophet Mohammad's mosque's design in which there are two parts in the mosque, one closed and the other open. There is also a yard and number of bathrooms. Around 14 mosques are now in ruins.

The city of Terim has four old gates, Sada Yaseen, the southern gate, Sada Damoon, the northern gate, Sada Aided, the western gate and Sada Al-Hawi, the eastern gate.



YT Photo by Fuad Al-Harazi



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# Tips to change a gas cylinder in Yemen



By: Ashwini Bhanagay  
For the Yemen Times

The other day, we heard the familiar 'clanging' sound somewhere in the lane, and we ran to open the door and check if the person selling gas cylinders door-to-door was in our lane. Not finding him there, but still hearing the sound, we had to take our car and pursue him. We didn't want to wake up one day and find that both, our 'in use' cylinder as well as our 'spare cylinder' were empty, especially given the shortage of cylinders in the city.

In countries outside Yemen, gas is supplied to households either through pipes or through bottles. In many countries, gas is a scarce resource, it is imported, expensive and there are restrictions on its use.

For example, in India considering that domestic gas can be misused as well as considering the huge demand, one family can get only one gas connection. However, there is an option where the connection can be a two bottled connection which means two cylinders on one connection. Gas connections require proof of address and other identity verifications, and are issued in the name of adult members of households only, by government oil companies. Families have to wait for as long as two months to get connections.

Yemen uses the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and getting a gas cylinder is very simple. I remember when we came to Yemen six years ago, all we did was to

pay a lumpsum amount of YR 3,000 to buy a cylinder from a neighborhood shop. Now this amount has increased to YR 7,000. In Yemen, because the country produces and exports its own gas, there are no restrictions on its use. One can just pay and buy as many cylinders as one wants. The commercial use of gas, such as using it fuel in taxis, is not considered as misuse. If you own a restaurant, there are no registration formalities to be completed.

These neighborhood shops, which look like storage rooms, are actually the authorized dealer outlets authorized by the state-run Yemeni Gas Company and the municipality is supposed to regulate their work. If a person wants to go into this business, he or she has to first get a license because the gas company gives gas only to license holders.

## Replacing an empty cylinder

Do representatives of authorized dealers or distributors come and deliver filled gas cylinders at your house and take away the empty ones? Absolutely not!

When I came here, I was surprised to see men with handcarts going from door to door selling gas cylinders. In doing so, not only does some gas leak out due to the heat, but these men also charge higher. If a cylinder can be bought at YR 650 at the shop, they charge YR 800, or even more, if you are a foreigner.

Buying cylinders on the doorstep can be tricky and if you are not careful you will probably end up with a rusty or half

empty cylinder. Does it sound like choosing good fruits? It's similar.

These door-to-door sellers pick up cylinders from houses as well as from restaurants. Now those which come from restaurants are very dirty. Another thing is that these cylinders are kept immersed in a bucket full of water in order to get the most out of them, which causes their bottoms to rust. Actually, such rusted cylinders are unsafe. Because the company which fills the cylinders does not check their maintenance, buying such a cylinder for your house is like buying a ticking bomb.

Nevertheless, I prefer buying from these men because I don't want to go and stand in the long queues in front of shops. Also, for local housewives buying a cylinder at the door is much more convenient.

On the other hand, Yemenis are never bothered by the question of how to carry the cylinder home. For them the matter is really quite simple.

In a typical Yemeni household, replacing a gas cylinder is the job of the kids. And for the kids, bring a cylinder home is more like a game. They just kick and roll the cylinder down the road to their house. It's a very novel method which one can find only in Yemen, where nobody thinks whether it is safe to roll a cylinder or whether it is safe to start using it immediately afterwards.

## The real cost of a gas cylinder

The state sets the prices, but there is no supervision. Recently, the prices have gone up, and now the official price of one cylinder, at the dealer or distribution outlets, is YR 750.

I live in a lane where there are many poor households around and the children are usually playing on the streets. These kids help us. They run to catch the cylinder man if he's far away. At times, if I tell them that I need a cylinder and ask them to keep an eye out the cylinder man, they promptly bring him to my door.

One day, one cylinder seller asked me YR 800 for one cylinder. All my little helpers started shouting at him in Arabic, "What? YR 800? Don't lie. We buy it for only YR 300!" Finally I could buy it for YR 600. So if you are going to buy a cylinder from the door-to-door seller, be ready to bargain and ensure that the cylinder is not half empty.

## Keep the tool box ready

I will never forget my first experience of changing a cylinder. I have my tools ready. I was armed with a spanner, smaller than the knob of the cylinder, and a pounder. I also need washers, a screwdriver, and a sharp cutter.

I angle the spanner at a specific angle and start lightly hitting it with the pounder till the wheel of the knob turns. I wonder why spanners of the exact size of the knob are not available. We checked in some shops, but were told that this is the only size available.

## Watch out for smells and hissing!

Usually, for us, one gas cylinder lasts for a month. But this time, it ran out very soon. Reason - it was leaking. A young girl, who used to work in our house, once taught me how to ensure that the cylinder is properly secured and that there is no

leakage. This is how it is done.

You make some soap water and sprinkle it around the knob or around place where the regulator is fixed to the cylinder. If soap bubbles ooze out, that means there is a leakage. If the bubbles are near the knob, nothing can be done and you have to return this cylinder and buy a new one and it means losing more than half of the money. If the bubbles are near the nut joining the cylinder and the regulator, either you have to reopen and fix again or you have to change the rubber washer of the cylinder.

These rubber washers need to be changed every time a cylinder is changed, to avoid accidents. They are of two types. One is made out of cork, which wears off very fast and the other is made out of rubber and is of a better quality. You can find the cork ones available everywhere, but the rubber ones are pretty difficult to get.

The leakage in my house was because the rubber tube supplying gas to the stove was leaking. Now back in my country, the authorized dealers, give the consumer the regulator and the rubber tube of standard specifications at the time of registration. Companies come and inspect the tubes every two years. These tubes and regulators are not sold anywhere in the market. We never worry about the tube getting cut or leaking and the tubes are long lasting. Also, the mechanism of attaching and detaching the regulator is very simple and leaves no space for leakages.

Here in Yemen, the regulators and tubes are sold in some shops in the neighborhood. The regulators are available with the dealers as well for YR 500. The tubes come in one or two varieties and get cut fast. One shopkeeper advised me to buy a long tube, so that I can cut off the cut section, and re-attach the remaining, and now I keep a sharp cutter ready. Even to attach the tube securely to the stove, I have to use a small aluminum ring with a screw to ensure it does not come off, for which I have a screwdriver ready.

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## Sounds difficult?

Changing a cylinder is really a big task here and not at all women-friendly. But you will be surprised to see frail girls opening the knob of the cylinder just with one twist of the wrist. And the cylinder man can always help and open the knob for you.

Nonetheless, I cannot help but feel that this is an example of a system, like most systems in Yemen, worked out by men alone.

I think women have to try and participate to make suggestions to improve these systems to make them more practical. I also strongly feel that the society needs to acknowledge that, in the majority of cases, women do most of the work, and that they do it better, as well as on time.

There is a real need to look at the small challenges of everyday life, like changing a gas cylinder, from a woman's perspective and make it more friendly or easy for her.

## The real risk

There is a life risk involved in using these cylinders, whose maintenance is not supervised.

The state does not buy these cylinders and they are imported by traders. Also, the state does not impose any standard specifications for the quality assurance of the cylinders, or even the quality of the rubber tubes and regulators. Cylinders that are rusty, or of low quality, are not withdrawn from the market.

But Yemeni people don't seem to mind. Maybe they don't give much thought to safety hazards, or they are not aware of them. Gas is a precious resource and its wastage in terms of leakages or misuse must be minimized for the future.

Although it is very convenient to buy gas here in comparison to many other countries, it must be remembered that improper storage, below the standard cylinders, fittings and generally an informal way of handling the gas, is hazardous to life.

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