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## Runaway child bride

By: Fikra Mahmoud  
For the Yemen Times

TAIZ, March, 27 — For five months, Hind has been physically abused, sexually assaulted, and has several times tried to run away from a forced early marriage. Only now has she found shelter. According to the woman she is staying with, she is pregnant.

After she tried to escape, her uncle, who had arranged her marriage, tied her by the neck with an iron chain to his house, because she had refused to stay with her husband.

Hind looks about 13 or 14 years old. Her body and the fact that there are only 24 teeth in her mouth are further evidence that she is less than 14 years old.

Hind, the eldest child of a family of five children, is from the Bajel district in Hodeida. Her father is old and blind, and the family lives in a small shack. What the children bring home from begging is the family's main income.

Last Ramadan, Hind was married off to a 70-year-old man for YR 300,000 (USD 1,400), by her father and her three uncles, one of whom lives in Bajel and the other two in Al-Dharba, Taiz.

The old man that Hind was married to does not have a house, so he used to

take her to the house of the son of his ex-wife, or to a place he shared with his friends.

Unable to accept this condition, Hind decided to run away to her father's house. Her uncles tried to pressurize her to return to her husband, but she refused.

Her eldest uncle, Sanhan, decided to take her with him to Taiz.

When they first arrived, Hind stayed for a night with a 55-year-old woman, Zakya Mohammed, a mother of four, while her uncle made arrangements for her, at the house of his ex-wife. He did not want her to live with him and his second wife.

Next day, the uncle took her to the house of his ex-wife. A heavy iron chain was put around Hind's neck and she was tied in the yard like an animal. She was placed near the bathroom and the kitchen, and the chain was long enough to enable her to reach the kitchen and the bathroom and clean them.

She endured this for two months, during which time she was abused by her uncle and sexually harassed by her cousins.

Although pregnant, one of her cousins tried to pull her, along with the chain, to his room to molest her.

Hind managed to run away, with her

chain, to Zakya's house.

Zakya told her husband to file a case at the local police station.

The criminal investigator inspected Hind's condition, saw her chains and wrote a memo. The police station called the uncle and ordered him not to chain the girl.

But the uncle refused to take her after this, so her second uncle Suleiman, who also lives in Taiz, came to take her and signed a paper saying that the girl was not to be chained.

This, however, was just a formality, because the next day, her uncle Sanhan came and once again took the girl away to his house. He hit her with the chain and tied her to a tree.

Hind's condition worsened. Her back was aching from the beatings, there was pain in her feet and her fetus had stopped moving.

She ran away again, but this time to Hodeida to her aunt. She traveled to Hodeida with the help of taxi drivers who felt bad for the little chained girl.

Unfortunately for Hind, the aunt in Hodeida did not help her and put her in trouble again. The aunt immediately called Sanhan and Hind was taken to his house in Taiz, for the third time. And it was same story all over again: chaining and abuse.

Hind escaped once again and, since

two weeks, has taken refuge in Zakya's house.

Zakya and her husband are well-known in their neighborhood as brave and generous people. Although poor, they are determined to protect the girl from this torture.

Zakya's husband, Saleh Qayed, said that what the uncles did to the girl is shameful.

"I will do my best for this poor little girl. She is in need of love, food and safety," said Zakya.

Hind is grateful to Zakya:

"I like her, she is affectionate and I do not want to leave here until I feel sure that my uncle Sanhan can no longer harm me," said Hind.

Hind's father is blind, her mother is powerless, her brothers are still young and they are very poor.

Early marriage is common in Yemen where around a quarter of Yemeni girls marry under the age of 15.

A bill passed in parliament in February 2009 setting the minimum age for marriage at 17 was rejected by the Islamic Sharia Legislation Committee.

The bill was again put for vote in the parliament at the end of February 2010, but a law has not yet been passed.

There is still no law protecting children against early marriage in Yemen.



Hind now feels unsafe due to domestic abuse and early marriage.

## Protests in Lahj and Al-Dhale' ongoing

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 28 — Around 32 people were injured after security forces in Lahj shot at hundreds of protesters holding a funeral for Saif Ali Sa'eed on Saturday. Saif Ali Sa'eed, was killed participating in a protest on March 11, calling for the secession of the south of Yemen.

Eye witness said that security forces shot repeatedly at protesters from the Central Security Authority gate, and arrested 60 people. The protesters held up signs calling for secession. Among the protesters was Sa'eed's son.

They also forced the protesters to take the dead body back to the morgue

in the Nasr Public Hospital in the center of the governorate.

The forces also arrested Mohsin Al-Haj, a doctor, and Abdullah Ali, a technician, both from Al-Nasr Public Hospital, to prevent them from treating the injured protesters.

According to the sources, the two doctors were arrested without any clear charge against them.

Just after the shooting, protestors cut off the road leading to Sana'a and

forced the vehicles coming from the north to return to where they came.

Last Thursday, Southern Movement supporters in Al-Dhale' held a funeral to bury another protestor, Abdul Hakeem Ahmad Ubadi, known as Kirat. The funeral was held on the same day of Prisoners' Day, held each Monday and Thursday by the Southern Movement.

Another peaceful protest took place on Saturday in Radfan in Lahj, at the same time as the Arab Summit in Libya and the Friends of Yemen conference in Abu Dhabi.

The security forces patrols were seen in Al-Habeelain, Lahj. The protestors were holding up flags calling for secession and photos of Salem Al-Beidh, former president of South Yemen, and Mu'amar Al-Gaddafi, the leader of Libya. They asked that their demands be met.

Ali Naser Mohammad, an opposing leader and Haidar Abu Baker Al-Attas, the first prime minister of a unified Yemen, demanded that the summit stop violations committed against people in the south of Yemen.

They both said in a statement that the military campaign in the south of Yemen is an intentional push for war by the state that does not pay heed to people's interests. The two called people in power in the northern governor-

ates to help the southern movement to reach its demands.

They demanded that the state reconnect cell phone coverage and put an end to the misuse of the word «terrorism» used to target innocent people.

In addition they demanded that all prisoners be released and that the Southern Movement be approved as a political movement. They also called for national dialogue under Arab and international patronage at the headquarters of the Arab League or the United Nations.

The two opposing leaders stressed that military power cannot solve problems, but makes them harder. Dialogue would solve almost all problems, they said.

They called the state's national dialogue «empty and meaningless.» Aidroos Nasr Al-Naqeeb, the head of the Socialist Party condemned what happened in Al-Dhale' when the security forces shot the protestors.

In a statement on Al-Eshiraki net, he put the responsibility on the local authority, especially the governor of Al-Dhale', and demanded the arrest of all those who shot the protestors.

Shooting protestors is an aggressive attack against the ties that have connected people since unification in 1990, he added.

The Specialized Penal Court in

Sana'a sentenced the former Yemeni ambassador to Mauritania Qasem Askar to five years in prison for «acts against the government and incitement to secession.»

Qasem refused to appeal and when asked by the judge about whether or not he would appeal, he replied: "The

court is unfair, how would I appeal to an unfair sentence?"

Qasem refused to reply to the charges against him in the first session in June 2009.

He said that his case is political, that the court is exceptional, and that it violates international conventions.

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## State releases two jailed editors

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 28 — On Friday 26th, the Yemeni government freed two jailed editors who had been detained for some months.

The two editors, Mohamed Al-Maqaleh and Hisham Basharaheel, were found to be in an extremely poor medical condition.

Both of them also were arrested for publishing articles either on the conflict between the army and Houthis in the war torn Sa'ada governorate or the violence in the south.

Al-Maqaleh, the editor of the affiliated Yemeni socialist party news website, Al-Eshtraki.net, was arrested in September in 2009 after publishing a story about an air strike which targeted civilians in the Amran governorate.

They were a group of displaced people who had fled from Sa'ada to Amran and were sheltering the open. Over 80 people were killed, dozens were wounded and, sadly, most of them were women and children.

Basharaheel, the editor-in-chief of the banned Al-Ayyam daily news paper that was closed down in May 2009, was arrested three months ago on the allegations that his paper had published articles inciting violence and harming national unity. He was imprisoned with his two sons, but the condition of the two sons is still unknown.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate hopes that this intimidation against



Left: Hisham Basharaheel, right: Mohamed Al-Maqaleh



journalists will be stopped.

"I do not think that there was legal reason behind the Al-Maqaleh arrest. It was an abusive action against journalists and press freedom," said Mohamed Damaj, Secretary General of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate. "All the security measures associated with this detention were illegal, from start to finish," he added.

Intimidation against journalists, such as arrests, assaults and threats are currently on the increase in Yemen. In 2009, approximately six local news papers were closed down. Some columnists also were put on trial and given prison sentences. Other journalists were banned from writing.

Earlier this month the state seized

the broadcasting equipment from the Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya channels, saying that the two channels that had been operating for years in Yemen, lacked the correct licenses.

Al-Ayyam, which is the largest Arabic daily news paper in the south, is still banned.

The unrest in the south has been escalating for about three years since the emergence of what is called "The Southern Movement".

Since the crisis broke out in the south, over 150 supporters from this movement have been killed and around 500 wounded, according to Dr. Aydoos Al-Naqeeb, a parliamentarian from the Yemeni Socialist Party.

## YR 3 billion to make "road of death" safer

By: Yemen Times correspondent

DHAMAR, March 24 — The Ministry of Public Works and Roads has approved USD 3.373 billion from its budgets to widen the main road Sana'a and Ibb, a move hoped to reduce traffic accidents on the road.

The section to be improved is part of the 54 -km long road connecting Ma'bar, Dhamar and Kitab, also known as the "road of death" because of the frequent accidents there.

"The widening project will solve many current problems on the road," said the head of the Public Works and Roads Authority, Engineer Haysami Al-Haysami. "It will reduce traffic jams on the road, and limit road accidents, and make the death and injury rate will decrease."

"This road is one of the most important roads in the country for transporting goods, agricultural products between governorates, and for domestic tourism," he explained.

He said that the project will be implemented according to modern standards so that more vehicles can use the road.

It will also apply the international traffic safety standards like yellow road lines, signals, cat's eyes, and concrete blocks.

It will also widen entries to towns to 40 meters and roads in two paths.

"The narrow road was a big challenge for the traffic police who are working to reduce the high number of traffic accidents by asking drivers to reduce speed, especially in the 50 km part that starts at Naqil Yasleh and goes to Yarim," the director of the Traffic Authority in Dhamar governorate, Colonel Khaled Anam.

That area has not been able to cope with the traffic because it is on the only main road linking the capital with a number of governorates and is used to transport goods like food, farm machinery and building blocks.

The road witnesses traffic jams during religious and official holidays. Thousands of employees in the civil service and military travel with their families between the capital and the central and southern governorates on holiday.

The current widening project is divided into three sections with a government funding, according engineer Khalid Al-Muazzin .

The first section 10.7 km the Ma'bar-Rusaba with cost of over YR 871 million, and is being implemented by the Yemen Economic Corporation.

The length of the second section

is 10.5 km from Rusabah to Dhamar with cost of YR 902 million. It is being implemented by the Department of Military Works.

The third section, Dhamar - Yarim - Kitab, is 32 km long with an estimated cost of over YR 1.5 billion, which is being implemented by the General authority for Roads and Bridges.

### Obstacles to work

Widening the road has many challenges because of the communities on the roadside, according to an employee at the Ministry of Public Works and Roads who asked to remain anonymous.

When the road was constructed after the Yemeni revolution, nobody thought about the fact that it might be widened in the future. Building and selling land on the both sides of the road was not supposed to be allowed.

The geographical nature of some mountainous areas adds to the challenges.

Another engineer said that the Ministry of Works had widened the road starting from the capital Sana'a, crossing 70 km to Ma'bar, but that these works were not completed because traffic safety standards like yellow lines were not taken into account, which caused incidents.

### Victims of accidents

A source at the Handicapped Association said that road accidents are a significant burden on the association because of the increase in disability cases due to traffic accidents.

Families are displaced when a guardian or parent is injured or dies, indicating that these children are left vulnerable to gangs and terrorist groups who exploit their needs.

Ali Al-Khawalni, a taxi driver who works on the Dhamar-Sana'a road, said he has lost a lot of his fellow taxi drivers in traffic accidents while ferrying passengers to and from the capital over the past years because of the narrow road.

He added that the new road project will enable drivers reducing stress experienced by the driver and his family as well as passengers and their families.

Hussein Al-Ansi, another driver, said that road accidents kills thousands, make thousands of others disabled, and displace thousands of families who lost their breadwinner.

He added the authorities have not moved to stop the bloodshed by the undeclared war caused by road accidents.

He said the widening is slow and the ongoing work at the sides of road cause many traffic accidents, especially when the road construction companies remove roadwork signs from the locations of construction.

The farmers in Jahran come with their harvesters in the evening without lights and plows near the road makes problem worse, causing a lot of traffic accidents.

Mahmoud Abdallah, an employee in Sana'a, drives home on Wednesday evening to his family, instead every day because of the road.

A medical source at the emergency of Dhamar General Hospital, said he had seen dozens of victims of traffic accidents, many of which die before arriving the hospital.

He pointed out that some of the traffic accidents require significant efforts by hospital staff because some incidents have between 10 and 20 victims .

Accidents have given some doctors surgery skills and added to their experience in dealing with emergencies and rapid surgical intervention.

### Media warns drivers

A media source said that traffic authorities in Dhamar sometimes ask help from newspapers, radio and mobile companies to warn drivers especially when the road is during bad weather.

He added that mobile telephone companies however do not usually respond to requests to send warning messages to their subscribers.

According to statistics of the traffic police in Dhamar, 2,090 people were killed between 1998 and 2009 in road accidents in the governorate.

Up to 3,991 accidents were registered in the same period on the roads of Dhamar. About 8,349 injuries were registered, many of them were serious.

The statistics indicates that most of the accidents occurred on the Yarim-Dhamar-Sana'a road, now under construction.

The maid road connecting Sana'a, Dhamar and Yarim was called "road of unity" and the "road of death." It connects the capital with about 50 percent of the other governorates including Dhamar, Ibb, Taiz, Baidha, Dhale', Lahj, Abyan and Aden.

The road was built after the revolution in 1962 in North Yemen.

Every day, an estimated 16,000 vehicles pass on the road to and from the capital and within the governorate. This leads to severe traffic jams and accidents.

## Amid economic hardships, Yemen creates two military units

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, March 28 — On Wednesday, the National Defense Council (NDC) held its meeting with a view to managing economic and security challenges facing the country.

The NDC is the supreme government body and comprised of ministers, high ranking officials, and military leaders, chaired by the president of the country. It is in charge of handling the challenges affecting Yemen. It holds its meetings when there are these challenges; whether economic or military.

In the meeting, headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the council tackled a report by the Prime Minister concerning current economic and financial situations (which are obviously difficult nowadays) and measures and solutions to be taken by the government in order to alleviate them.

The report gave the reasons behind the sudden deterioration of the Yemeni Riyal against foreign hard currencies like the dollar (last week one dollar was worth YR 215 now 225) and possible solutions to this problem. The exchange rate had remained fixed for the past two years with one dollar to 207YR.

The report also included the effects of the global financial crisis on the national economy. According to economists, while developed countries have started recovering from the global financial crisis, these effects have just started in developing and undeveloped countries, with no exception to Yemen.

In addition the council listened to report from the Governor of the Yemen Central Bank on financial and economic developments and its results on exchange rates. He explained the funding policy adopted by the bank to deal with these developments.

It reviewed a report from the Minister of Industry and Commerce over supply issues, policies of importing and

exporting, and guaranteeing local goods and products.

As to future solutions for all these issues facing the national economy, the council directed the government to follow up the national reform agenda, that ensures activating economic activities, fixing faults in public expenses, reducing consumption, controlling imports, activating tax cuts and issuing laws including tax income and investment.

It also directed the government to utilize public resources, develop revenues from cement factories and customs, improve fishery wealth, activating control on public funds and improving investment.

However economists do not feel optimistic for these measures taken by the council, either to face economic hardships or on the future of Yemen.

"These are only partial procedures and will probably not be implemented, as we have seen in the past," said economist Ali Alwafi. "The measures did not include issues of reducing the costs of traveling, corruption in tenders and illegal custom exemptions."

He explained that the main problem in Yemen is corruption and bad management of resources as well as an absence of relevant institutions and added that Yemen was facing a future economic catastrophe.

"The crisis in the country is real and is about to turn into an economic catastrophe. The problem is beyond our imagination and yet those who manage the country seem to be unable to create significant changes that are needed in order to rescue Yemen," he said.

### Security conditions

In its Wednesday meeting, The National Defense Council approved the creation of new military units; one for securing borders and the other for coast guards. According to the council, these new units will help in boosting security

to directly combat terrorism, smuggling and organized crime, via the control of marine and ground outlets.

The council also directed establishing a unit for military manufacturing. According to specialists, this unit will assemble military components imported from abroad. In addition, the council directed banning the trafficking of arms, ammunitions and explosives, as well as closing any markets dealing arms. It also approved adding an evening shift from 7:00 to 10: 00 pm for defense and security officers. Not all military officers are however included in this shift. Only military units' leaders and their deputies, deputy ministers, their assistants, department managers and their deputies are included in this shift.

The Deputy Minister of Interior, Saleh Al-Zaw'ari, said that the Ministry of Interior has already started implementing the NDC's decisions concerning security. In a statement he made to Interior Ministry's website, he affirmed that the deputy ministers, their assistants and general directors have started night shifts.

Economist Ali Al Wafi says developing or less developed countries tend to allocate large parts from the public budget to the military.

The defense budget in Yemen is 40 percent of the public budget, despite the low figures put by the government. He considered these large military budgets a huge mistake for developing countries.

He argued that poor countries should reduce defense expenses and this is only one solution that should be implemented to cure economic problems and to take care of both education and health instead.

"When defense expenses in a poor country are large, this is considered an indication of corruption, conflict and the absence of effective institutions," he affirmed.

## Their News

### Yemenia launches online booking

The Yemen Airways launched last Monday online booking and direct selling services through its website www.yemenia.com.

This service was launched in collaboration with SITA Company specialized in providing information technology system for the global air transport sector.

"This service will facilitate the booking procedures for clients and travel agencies, and we expect to raise our booking and direct selling average by 20 percent in the first year," said Captain Abdulkhaleq Al-Qadhi, chairman & CEO of Yemen Airways.

"The project came after great efforts, and we will provide clients with a lot of services in the coming days," he said. "We are going to launch several projects in order to maintain our good performance."

In this ceremony, the Yemen Airways honoured its employees who work in the online booking and direct selling and air cargo services.

In another occasion, the Yemen Airways signed a catering supply contract with Newrest Company.

Yemenia owns 55 percent of the

company, while Newrest owns the remaining 45 percent.

"We are happy to join Newrest in this exciting new venture as Newrest has an excellent international track record in catering and other services and is well-known and respected in the Middle East," said Al-Qadhi.



### Support for Felix Airways

Felix Airways from the Republic of Yemen has signed contracts regarding Total Component Support (TC SO) and CF34 engine services for the regional start-up carrier's Bombardier CRJ fleet.

Felix Airways - founded in 2008 and based in the Yemeni capital Sana'a - operates a fleet of presently two Bombardier CRJ200 and two CRJ700 jets. Additional four CRJ900s will be phased-in starting by 2010. Under the Total Technical Support product, Lufthansa Technik's experts will take care of all aspects of supplying Felix Airways fleet with components from writing the specifications, initial provisioning studies, home base allocation to repair and overhaul, troubleshooting, documentation and engineering services. And all at the highest quality level with the cumulative professionalism gained from 40 years of hands-on experience.

For the maintenance, overhaul and lease engine support of its CF34-3B /- 8C engines, Felix Airways also signed a new contract with Lufthansa Technik AERO Alzey, the regional aircraft engine specialist in the Lufthansa Technik Group. "Lufthansa Technik AERO Alzey convinced us, that even a large MRO provider could custom-



ize its services to the individual needs of a growing carrier who is building a high-frequency operation that requires a perfect reliability," said Mohammed A. Al-Arrasha, CEO of Felix Airways.

"This new contract is an important milestone to expand our engine MRO business in the Middle East MRO market. Felix Airways will fully benefit from our continuous effort to deliver the most competitive support packages and take advantage of our more than 19 years experience in regional aircraft operation and engine maintenance," said Joerg Femeering, Vice President Marketing and Sales of Luf-

thansa Technik AERO Alzey. With the new contracts, Lufthansa Technik is even further expanding its customer base in the regional jet market. Its expertise in this sector covers a wide spectrum of MRO and support services for regional jets of numerous aircraft types including the Bombardier CRJ100/200/700/900-family, the AVRO RJ85 and BAe 146 as well as the Embraer ERJ-135/140/145 and 170/175/190/195 families. Additionally, Lufthansa Technik's AERO Alzey facility is the leading independent service provider for the regional aircraft engine types PW100, PW150 and CF34-3, - 8 and - 10.

## Child bride gets divorce

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANAA, March 28 — Sali Al-Subahi got what she had been dreaming of for two years: a divorce.

When Sali was 10 years old, she was forced to marry a man 13 years older than her. Last Saturday, after a two-year struggle, she managed a divorce after paying back the dowry of YR 200,000 (around USD 1,000 at the time), which was given to her by a number of philanthropists.

"I hate marriage," Sali said immediately after her divorce in the court. "Now I'm free, I will never get married again."

"Before I got married two years ago, I used to look at my parents' wedding photos and dream of my wedding day with a beautiful white dress, cake, and presents. I did not know that this would also mean a man sleeping with me in the same bed."

Sali was not sure that her two-year ordeal would be over, even as she was on her way to court. She was praying all the way that nothing would go wrong and that she would return home a free person. She only started to breathe normally when the judge announced her divorce.

"The most important cause of early marriage is ignorance. Moreover, some marriage officials don't check the age of the girl and they don't demand proof



"I feel free. Now I will continue my education and enjoy my life," said Sali to her Lawyer Shatha Naser (left) who helped achieve the divorce.

of her consent," said Mansour Tallan, a clerk in the Noqom court where the divorce took place.

"Sometimes the age mentioned in the identity card of the girl is false," he explained. "Marriage officials then write the false age of the girl without comparing the age to the face. We support a law stipulating a minimum age for marriage to be passed by the parliament."

Although in essence he was the person who married her off at a young age, Sali's father, Mabkhout Al-Subahi regretted his decision almost instantly.

"After the marriage, my daughter ran away from her husband. She was very afraid and did not want to go back," he said.

Just after 15 days of being married, she was not comfortable with her married life although technically her husband had not yet slept with her according to her father. But when she returned to her family, she stayed for a while and then after a promise from the husband not to touch her, Sali's father returned her back to her husband.

"It took the husband three days be-

fore he forced Sali to lose her virginity using his finger," explained the father sorrowfully. "His mother held her on one end, blind folding my daughter who kept screaming."

The next day, Sali managed to run away to her uncle's house who brought her home to her family. She never returned to her husband but was still legally his wife until her family managed to collect the dowry from different sources and pay her ticket to freedom.

"Sali is victim of early marriage, but her father regretted it, and he refused to let her go back to her husband," said Shadha Naser, a lawyer and an advocate for human and child rights.

"This is a message to parliamentarians and the president to approve the amendments about the minimum age for marriage and protect children from such abuse," she said.

Naser mentioned other cases which she was involved in similar to Sali's, such as those of Nojood and Arwa. They obtained their freedom after paying the money their husbands had paid as their dowry.

"I hope from government to punish the people who marry their girls under 18 years," said Naser. "I also urge to punish marriage officials who approve this kind of marriage contracts."

"You are a great girl, I hope you complete your education and build your new life," the lawyer encouraged Sali.

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## In Brief

### SANA'A Eritrean marine forces seize 10 Yemeni boats

Eritrean marine forces seized 10 Yemeni fishing boats while exiting in international waters during the past few days and took them along with 98 fishermen on board to Massawa port.

Yemeni coast guards in the Red Sea sector said that Eritrean authorities released the 98 fishermen on Wednesday along with a boat carrying them, reported ruling party run website almotamar.net.

According to the website, the Yemeni fishermen arrived today Friday to the fishing port in Hudeida governorate but the other nine boats are still seized by Eritrean authorities in Massawa port.

Marine authorities in Hudeida interrogated the fishermen on the incident to follow up the issue.

### LNG 2nd production line to be ready before deadline, says minister

Minister of Oil and Minerals Ameer al-Aidarous announced Thursday that the 2nd production line of the Liquefied Natural Gas Project (LNG) will be ready before the time limit set for its accomplishment.

In his remarks in the launching ceremony of the 2010 scholarships by the LNG Company, he noted that the project is considered one of the pioneering projects in the world in terms of size, cost and time of its completion.

The minister indicated that the number of scholarships offered for Yemeni students by oil companies

reach 40 annually at the most prestigious universities in the world.

For his part, Director General of the Company made clear that these scholarships will make the opportunity for Yemeni students to obtain international certificates from the French universities and will realize positive results in the forthcoming years.

Moreover, the French ambassador to Yemen, Joseph Silvia signaled that this scholarships program comes within the Company objectives to reinforce cooperation between the Yemeni and French governments.

### EU launches children drawing competition on gender equality

Deputy Minister of Education for Education Sector Mohammed Tawaf and ambassador of the European Union to Sana'a Michele Cervone d'Urso launched on Wednesday the special drawing competition of children on gender equality.

In the launching ceremony, Tawaf affirmed the importance of partnership between the ministry and the EU in supporting the educational process, noting the importance of this competition in improving children skills.

For his part, d'Urso talked about the idea of the competition which is being implemented in Yemen for the 4th year in a row to focus on the issue of equality between men and women and to illustrate cooperation principles between the two sexes.

The competition will continue up to May 08 and will cover school

children between 8 and 10 of Yemen schools.

### Yemeni-Indian oil talks held

Yemeni-Indian talk session on oil, gas and minerals was held on Wednesday.

The session headed by Oil and Minerals Minister Amir al-Aidrour and the Indian Secretary (east) of External Affairs Ministry Latha Reddy discussed the cooperation fields and investment opportunities between the two countries in the field of oil, gas, minerals and energy.

In the session, al-Aidrour reviewed the possible investment opportunities in the oil, gas and metallic and nonmetallic minerals, and the granted facilities in this regard in addition to the possibility to create petrochemical industries based on gas.

He mentioned that Yemen is remarketing the liquid natural gas to a new markets such as India which is one of the largest targeted market, calling to develop the Yemeni- Indian relations to serve the economic development and common interests.

For her part, Ms. Reddy voiced a desire to raise the Indian investments in the field of oil exploration in Yemen and in using gas in various Yemeni sectors as well.

### HADRAMOUT UK renews support for Yemen unity, stability

British ambassador to Yemen Tim Torlot has renewed his coun-

try's support for Yemen's unity and stability.

In a meeting gathered him with leaders of the branch of the General People Congress party (GPC) in Hadramout province, the British diplomat affirmed the necessity of ending the problems which Yemen faces.

### SAYON UK diplomat applauds secured situation in Hadramout

British diplomat applauded on Wednesday the secured and stabile situation in Hadramout province.

During his meeting with the Undersecretary of Hadramout province for Wadi affaires Omair Mubarak, British ambassador to Yemen Tim Torlot expressed great surprise at the media outlets reports that the province is unstable, affirming that the

actual situation is on the contrary.

Torlot, who visit Hadramout's Wadi to take part in the inauguration of exhibition of "Hadramout days", voiced his admiration of the unique mud construction in Tarim city, which is the Islamic Culture Capital 2010.

Mubarak highlighted the historic relations tie Yemen and Britain and the British support to the government's development efforts in the country.

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# The crisis of modern state-building in Yemen

**Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi is professor of political sociology at the University of Sana'a. His academic research has notably addressed the ways for women to accede to decision-making positions, the role of civil society organizations in alleviating poverty, and the concept of human rights in political discourse in Yemen.**

**At the Afif Cultural Foundation last Tuesday, he spoke about the crisis of modern state-building in Yemen. In particular, he spoke of the weakness of the state and the strength of tribal culture in the country.**

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

The modern state must be institutional and enforce the law, and the president has to run the state fairly and support democracy, according to Fuad Al-Salahi.

"The state is a political and lawful entity away from extremism, and the modern state is a constitutional state that based on citizenship and fairness," he explained.

The political elite in the country

cannot concentrate on state-building because its political discourse always concentrates on conflict over power, according to Al-Salahi.

"There is doubt about the idea of state among citizens, and that is why some people carry weapons and disobey the state," said Al-Salahi. "It is impossible to be state and tribe here, because the tribe is based on a traditional system that is incompatible with contemporary development."

"Ours is a religious and human culture, and our origin came from its

human dimensions," he said. "He who alleges that our origin is from a tribe is a liar, because this concept ignores the others who don't have a tribe."

Al-Salahi said that anthropology defines the tribe as a primitive and traditional group that we must ignore.

We are in need for a civil state, and this state must support democracy as a political demand and culture through which Yemenis can establish their society, he said.

"There is a flaw in the educational and cultural system in Yemen," Al-Salahi added. "The weakness of NGOs and political parties in Yemen leads to weakness of the state."

"The opposition must pressure the government in a safe way to establish a clear concept of state, because we are facing a failed state that cannot play its role in development," he said.

"Citizens don't seek the extraordinary, they demand for simple needs," he said.



Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi

"The Carnegie Institute classified Yemen as a failed state, and other international organizations classified it as a fragile state," said Al-Salahi.

"These international organizations have scientific indicators about education and the media in Yemen."

Al-Salahi criticized the state when it confiscated the transmitter of Al-Jazeera last week.

"President Saleh always announces in his speeches that he gives freedom of speech, but there is apparent contradiction in these speeches," he said.

"Some people disobey the state and openly defy the law because the state is not interested in development," Al-Salahi commented. "Unemployment and poverty rates rise every day, besides the poor access to education."

"Discrimination against citizens, unjustified violence, and failure of the state in dialogue with the opposition has created a situation of no-confidence," said Al-Salahi.

"The state cannot build the country without a social base, and there must be

mutual awareness between the president and the wide social base," said Al-Salahi. "The tribes cannot build a state, and the state is required to activation the constitution and law, and to empower women."

"Unless the oppositions explain the concept of civil state, we will remain in the tribal and extremist frame," Al-Salahi said. "I call for economic and social modernization, because 70 percent of citizens don't have that modernization."

Al-Salahi indicated that poor countries have been able to create a state with a political system and respect for all their citizens.

"If the relationship between state and society is bad, there will be two choices," he concluded. "Either the tribes will be stronger than state, or the state will resort to violence."

"In the two cases, it won't be stability and democracy in Yemen," he concluded.

## Head of Civil Defence, Abdul Kareem Me'yad to the Yemen Times:

# Small trucks with long water pipes for the narrow streets of Old Sana'a

The celebration of the World Civil Defence Day on March 1 marked the efficiency of the civil defence worldwide to react in times of natural disasters. All over the world, civil defence teams follow the saying "Prevention is better than cure." In Yemen, the civil defence follows Ministry of Interior guidelines and has 18 branches in the governorates.

Ismail Al-Ghabri interviewed Abdul Kareem Me'yad, the Head of the Civil Defence in Yemen.

What kinds of disasters does the civil defence deal with?

Thank God, there were no large disasters in 2009. The civil defence constantly intervenes to stop accidents and emergencies, for instance, last year it dealt with 699 fires and 133 rescue operations.

What are the procedures for the civil defence in case of gas leaks that result in explosions? And does the civil defence conduct campaigns to spread awareness among people?

First we need to point out the fact that most people do not follow safety instructions as regards gas cylinders. Recently, Rashad Al-Alimi, Minister of Interior, issued a decree to form the General Safety Committee, which took important decisions to prevent accidental gas explosions. The civil defence conducts awareness campaigns to educate people on how to react in such situations. Up to now, the campaign has targeted more than 483,000 people. It has been working in cooperation with the Safety and Standards Committee to conduct these campaigns.

Electricity wires are exposed to weather conditions and may cause electric shocks. What has the authority done to alleviate such problems?

The electricity wires and poles are dangerous. We try our hardest to spread awareness among people not to go near or touch these wires, especially after rain. Our responsibility is to offer relevant advice to people, such as explaining to them that random electricity wiring and buying poor quality wire places them in danger.

How do you conduct your awareness campaigns?

Awareness campaigns are done through direct lectures for school and university students, with employees at various authorities and organizations, as well as publishing advice in newspapers and journals of how to avoid electric shocks. Furthermore TV and radio interviews and booklets are published.

How does the civil defence deal with floods?

These are a rare occurrence. Before the rainy season comes, we hold meetings



in the various governorates to discuss accidents likely to happen. Then we implement certain procedures in order to prevent disasters. Banning any constrictions in water passages during floods and imposing certain building regulations for people according to specific areas, can prevent possible damage. In addition, clearing and cleaning out these water passages is conducted.

The civil defence safety operations are part of the general safety systematic plan in the country. We work with a team of representatives of the high council of civil defence and representatives from other organizations. Sirens are to be installed so that fires can be quickly distinguished as they break out.

It is said that some fire trucks have arrived empty at the location of a fire. How do you reply?

This is not true. A truck wouldn't go out unless it has water. What would be the benefit of its presence at a fire if it has no water? The duty of these trucks is to extinguish fire, so they are equipped with all necessary equipment.

How does the civil defence deal with fires that break out in the narrow streets of the Old City of Sana'a?

This is a real problem for us in the civil defence. Actually, there are a large number of narrow streets throughout the country and not just in the Old City of Sana'a. We are trying our best to solve this by buying smaller trucks with long water pipes so that the truck can reach the fire. We suggested that water tanks run from the pump system are placed in the streets as well as equipping more shops and houses with extinguishers.

Can you give us any statistics about human and material losses in 2009?

In 2009, the civil defence has conducted a lot of events such as training courses. Around 700 fires broke out in total and there were 133 rescue operations. At least 11 people died and 121 various injuries were reported.



REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
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### Expression of Interest

CONSULTANCY FOR REVIEW AND UP DATE THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF SPATE DIVERSION WORKS IN WADI KHAWRAH SHABWA GOVERNORATE (Bid # 05/CS/IRR/WSSP/10)

This request for expression of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in UN Development Business No758 dated Sept 16,,2009.

The Republic of Yemen has received a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) and the governments of Netherlands and Germany towards the cost of implementation of the National Irrigation Program (NIP) under the WSSP, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract to cover the costs of Consultancy Services for review and update of Feasibility Study for the two Spate Diversion Works in Shabwa Governorate.

The scope of Consultancy shall cover two Spate Diversion Work viz.(i) Am Qaid Spate Diversion Work (irrigated area about 1900 ha) and (ii) Rokbat Am Hamra Spate Diversion Works (irrigated area about 6400 ha). These are proposed to be constructed in Wadi Khawrah, one of the main wadis in Shabwa Governorate at a distance of about 80 km west of Ataq. The Consultant shall broadly carry out the following:

- a) Review all the existing Design Reports, Related Studies and other Documents prepared by Al Eatmad Engineering office- Shabwa Governorate during 2002;
- b) Prepare Feasibility Study, Hydrology, Agriculture, Socioeconomic and Environmental Studies and prepare the final Design, Drawings and Bidding Documents for bidding.

These services will be covered under a single contract with the selected consulting firm and will be implemented in about 18 weeks starting on 15st June ,2010 at the latest.

The NIP now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc..). in English.

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, May 2004 (Revised October1, 2006).

Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below during official working days from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by 2nd May, 2010.

Director of National Irrigation Program  
Irrigation & Land Reclamation Sector - MAI  
Al-Mithak Street, Near Ministry of Planning and international Cooperation  
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### Vacancy Announcement

AMI is a humanitarian, apolitical and non-profit French non-governmental organization created in 1979. Now present in 9 countries, for over 25 years AMI has brought medical cares to those most vulnerable populations excluded from all health care systems. AMI is established in Yemen since 2007, in Hodeidah governorate. AMI health projects are implemented in closed collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population. They consist in increasing the technical, material and organisational capacities of public facilities of both Al Marawa and Al Halli districts in order to enable them to provide quality, appropriate and affordable care services to the population. The country representative office based in Hodeidah is seeking for:

### General Practitioner

**Job Summary:**  
The General Practitioner works under the supervision of the medical referent. His/her work time is divided in three functions. First, he has to implement and follow up AMI activities according to weekly/monthly schedule. That means particularly, the permanent assessment of the curative activities implemented, the daily recording of data on registers, the participation to the elaboration/organization of necessary trainings, finally the participation to the identification and selection of AMI beneficiaries.

Also, the GP is in charge to ensure a good quality of medical cares in health facilities.

Finally, he has to report his/her activities through the medical meetings, and a monthly report in order to share it with the complete team and his/her responsible.

**Qualifications & Requirements:**

- Has an official certification in the General Medicine and has already a professional experience.
- Languages: English (compulsory working language, spoken, read and written); fluent in Arabic (reading and writing)
- Good computer operating skills will be appreciate
- Trustworthy and strictness
- Ease in relationship and teaching capacities

**Contract:**

- 6 Months contract with possibility of extension;
- Full time based in Hodeidah;
- Salary according to AMI salary scale.

Candidates should submit their application in English (C.V. and a covering letter detailing their relevant experience and their motivation) at one of the following address:

AMI office, Al Haya Al Tejjari Quarter, in front of Central Inspection institution, PO Box 3940, Hodeidah, Hodeidah Governorate, Yemen.  
Yemen.med2@amifrance.org

Deadline for application: **Wednesday, March 31st 2010 at 4.00 pm.**

Applications that do not meet the minimum requirements listed above will not be considered.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

### إعلان عن وظائف شاغرة

منظمة المعونات الطبية الدولية (AMI)، منظمة فرنسية غير حكومية إنسانية غير سياسية ولاأرثية. تمارس أعمالها في ٩ دول، و الأكثر من ٢٥ عاماً تقوم المنظمة بتقديم الخدمات الطبية للسكان المستضعفين والمهمشين من كافة أنظمة الرعاية الصحية.

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- b) The Field Operator shares responsibility for the safety and security of the operations staff. This is accomplished by the Field Operator through specific duties, which include:
- Reporting of any unsafe acts and conditions (vehicle, driving or workplace)
  - Performing gas testing in preparation to maintenance or other work activities.
  - Performing inspections of work areas on a daily basis.
  - Ensuring that appropriate mechanical or electrical isolations are applied.
  - Participation in Safety Meetings, Safety Inspections, SWP audits
  - Being familiar with "first line" CPF Emergency Response procedures.
- c) The Field Operator shares responsibility (with all other staff) for implementing and supporting the Responsible Care program and its initiatives. This is accomplished by the Field Operator via:
- Knowing and understanding the responsible care Ethics.
  - Following the Responsible Care standards as it applies to his role as Field Operator
- d) The Field Operator shares responsibility (with all other staff) for the environmental conditions of both the land leases and the equipment within the field. This is accomplished by the Field Operator via:
- Reacting effectively to environmental incidents (i.e. spills) upon instruction from Field Foreman or Lead Operator,
  - Ensuring he has a basic knowledge of Nexen's approved Waste Management policies and guidelines.
- e) The Field Operator is responsible for the following administrative duties:
- documenting daily operating conditions in Log Records and Reports,

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Completion of Secondary education.
- Good teamwork Capabilities
- Adequate skills in writing and communicating written procedures.
- Very good knowledge of English.

- ❖ To Apply for this Job please apply to: [recruiting\\_yemsana@nexeninc.com](mailto:recruiting_yemsana@nexeninc.com)
- ❖ Applications **should be submitted NO later than April 12, 2010**. Faxed applications will not be considered.
- ❖ Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.
- ❖ Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



**CORROSION TECHNICIAN**  
**Positions #0067/0733 @ CPF (Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

Ensures that surveys, tests and corrosion monitoring practices are carried out according to the Company Corrosion Control and Monitoring Practices. Maintains the mechanical integrity of the Company's assets by application of the latest corrosion control and inspection methods.

**Job Duties:**

- Implements corrosion monitoring programs including non-destructive testing utilizing ultrasonic inspection, Andscan and Boroscope. Implements intrusive and non-intrusive techniques, electrochemical testing, process fluid analysis and visual inspections including coupon analysis, pipe to soil potentials, scale analysis and sampling.
- Implements cathodic protection programs for Company assets including pipelines, surface installations, tanks, vessels and other production facilities.
- Actively participates in tank and vessel internal visual inspections.
- Monitors production chemical performance including biocides, demulsifiers, water clarifiers, corrosion and scale inhibitor application.
- Performs corrosion related laboratory test on water analysis, residual scale and corrosion inhibitor, scaling tendencies, etc. Understands operation of basic lab instruments.
- Know and understand CNPY " Safe Driving Practice" and report any unsafe acts and conditions (vehicle driving or workplace)
- Carries out other duties as requested.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by formal training in Chemistry and 4 year experience in an oil field corrosion department.
- Completed the NACE Basic Corrosion Course is preferred.
- Good knowledge of English.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

- ❖ To Apply for this Job please apply to: [recruiting\\_yemsana@nexeninc.com](mailto:recruiting_yemsana@nexeninc.com)
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**PROCESS PLANT OPERATOR**  
**Position #0904/0905/0908 @ CPF (Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

The basic function of the Process Plant (CPF) Operator is to perform the required tasks to accomplish the day-to-day operations of the Central Processing Facility (CPF). NOTE: This can be considered an entry-level position.

**Job Duties:**

- a) The CPF Plant Operator is responsible to carry out the tasks required for the day-to-day operations of the Central Processing Facility (CPF). This is accomplished by the CPF Plant Operator via:
- Monitoring and recording the operating parameters of CPF.
  - Identifying suspected anomalies in the routine operation of the CPF.
  - Performing adjustments and fine tuning of CPF equipment.
  - Reacting to anomalies in equipment operation, when required
- b) The CPF Plant Operator shares responsibility for the safety and security of the CPF operations staff. This is accomplished by the CPF Plant Operator through specific duties, which include:
- Performing inspections of work areas on a daily basis and reporting any unsafe conditions to CCR Foreman,
  - Participation in Safety Meetings, Safety Inspections, SWP audits, and the STOP Card program
  - Being familiar with "first line" CPF Emergency Response procedures.
- c) The CPF Plant Operator shares responsibility (with all other CPF staff) for implementing and supporting the Responsible Care program and its initiatives. This is accomplished by the CPF Plant Operator via:
- Knowing and understanding the responsible care Ethics.
  - Following the Responsible Care standards as it applies to his role as CPF Plant Operator
- d) The CPF Plant Operator shares responsibility (with all other CPF staff) for the environmental conditions of both the land leases and the equipment within the CPF. This is accomplished by the CPF Plant Operator via:
- Reacting effectively to environmental incidents (i.e. spills) upon instruction from CCR Foreman or Lead Operator,
  - Ensuring he has a basic knowledge of Nexen's approved Waste Management policies and guidelines.
- e) The CPF Plant Operator is responsible for the following administrative duties:
- documenting daily operating conditions in Log Records and Reports,

**Minimum Requirements:**

- High school diploma (preferred)
- 2.5 experience as an Operator in an applicable Oil Field Facility preferred.
- Adequate skills in writing, communicating work procedures for the plant with minimal supervision.
- Adequate knowledge of English both written and oral.

- ❖ To Apply for this Job please apply to: [recruiting\\_yemsana@nexeninc.com](mailto:recruiting_yemsana@nexeninc.com)
- ❖ Applications **should be submitted NO later than April 12, 2010**. Faxed applications will not be considered.
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- ❖ Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



**POWER PLANT OPERATOR**  
**Position #0909 @ CPF (Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

The basic function of the Power Plant (CPP) Operator is to perform the required tasks to accomplish the day-to-day operations of the Central Power Plant (CPP). The Central Power Plant (CPP) includes all equipment within the Wartsilla building, both SOLAR generators, all equipment within the Ruston buildings, and all equipment within the sewage treatment plant.

**Job Duties:**

- a) The CPP Operator is responsible to carry out the tasks required for the day-to-day operations of the Central Power Plant (CPP). This is accomplished by the CPP Operator via:
- Monitoring and recording the operating parameters of CPP equipment by physical inspection and "walk arounds",
  - Identifying anomalies in the routine operation of the CPP equipment and informing the CPP Control Room,
  - Performing adjustments and fine tuning of CPP equipment.
  - Reacting to anomalies in equipment operation, when required
- b) The CPP Operator shares responsibility for the safety and security of the CPP operations staff. This is accomplished by the CPP Operator through specific duties, which include:
- Performing inspections of work areas on a daily basis and reporting any unsafe conditions to CPP Foreman,
  - Participation in Safety Meetings, Safety Inspections, SWP audits, and the STOP Card program
  - Being familiar with "first line" CPP Emergency Response procedures.
- c) The CPP Operator shares responsibility (with all other CPP staff) for implementing and supporting the Responsible Care program and its initiatives. This is accomplished by the CPP Operator via:
- Knowing and understanding the responsible care Ethics.
  - Following the Responsible Care standards as it applies to his role as CPP Operator
- d) The CPP Operator shares responsibility (with all other CPP staff) for the environmental conditions of both the land leases and the equipment within the CPP. This is accomplished by the CPP Operator via:
- Reacting effectively to environmental incidents (i.e. spills) upon instruction from CPP Foreman or Lead Operator,

**Minimum Requirements:**

- High school diploma (preferred)
- 2.5 experience as an Operator in an applicable CPP preferred.
- Adequate skills in writing, communicating work procedures for the plant with minimal supervision.
- Adequate knowledge of English both written and oral.

- ❖ To Apply for this Job please apply to: [recruiting\\_yemsana@nexeninc.com](mailto:recruiting_yemsana@nexeninc.com)
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## Middle East plagued by corruption cases

Could the apparent increase in corruption cases indicate tighter control over where the money is going?

By: **Rachelle Kliger**  
The Media Line

**C**orruption busters in the Middle East have been working overtime to expose several cases of corruption involving high-ranking officials.

Corruption, graft, money laundering and loopholes for nepotism were exposed over the past week throughout the Middle East, fueling concerns over the stability of the region's economies and the possible erosion of the area's image in the eyes of foreign investors.

"The general trend is that there is abuse of public office, bribery, adoption of laws without enforcing them and lack of transparency," Tamara Kamhawi, program coordinator for Africa and the Middle East for Transparency International told The Media Line. "This is across the region."

The latest case, reported Wednesday, involved the arrest of former governor of Dubai's International Financial Centre for charges of alleged fraud. He is the highest-ranking official seized in the country's anti-corruption drive following the emirate's recent financial crisis.

The Dubai government announced on Wednesday that the suspect, Omar Bin Suleiman, was being accused of diverting public funds worth \$13.6 million. There are suspicions that his arrest may be politically driven, since he was dismissed last November following a falling out with Dubai ruler Sheikh Muhammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

On Tuesday, a Jordanian court issued an indictment against four high-profile figures in a corruption case related to the expansion of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC).

The four suspects, among them a former finance minister, were arrested on March 3 for alleged involvement in a case of bribery and abuse of public office, in a project to modernize the country's only oil refinery at a cost of \$2.1 billion.

In Egypt this week, 100 lawmakers

and activists submitted a bill to parliament aiming to curb corruption and outline measures for fairer political participation. It aims to prevent officials in certain high-level positions, including the president, from giving political privileges to their family members. The bill has not yet been accepted by parliament and critics accuse the ruling party of blocking it.

On Monday, Bahraini King Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa fired Minister of State Mansour Bin Rajab, who is being investigated for an alleged multimillion-dollar international money-laundering scheme.

Some reports suggest the money may have been transferred to Iran's Revolutionary Guard and that the ousted minister provided the Iranians with intelligence information.

This is the first time a senior official has been arrested on corruption charges in Bahrain.

The region ranks low on Transparency International's 2009 Corruptions Perception Index, with 6 countries scoring 5 and above (out of 10) and 13 countries scoring below 5.

"The Corruptions Perception Index (CPI) shows there are high levels of corruption," Kamhawi said. "But at the same time I think the governments are realizing the impact of corruption on the development of their countries. Especially after the financial crisis, there is more of a move to deal with these cases openly, particularly with high-level corruption cases. It's more open to the media."

"The fact that we're seeing more corruption cases coming out in the media shows that the government is acting," she continued. "There are no indications that investment will be affected, but if the governments don't take matters seriously and start going to the roots of the matter and address the structural corruption, then it will hamper investment in the future."

"It's not enough to put high level officials on trial," Kamhawi explained. "They have to attack and study the structure because corruption is systematic."

The 2009 CPI report said the poor

results are a reflection of the damage that conflict and political turmoil in the region are having on the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts.

"The threat to political and institutional infrastructures partly explains the governance gap in the region while other factors such as lack of transparency, insecurity and oil wealth continue to fuel corruption," the report said.

Qatar, the UAE and Israel were the highest-ranking countries in the region, while Yemen, Iran and Iraq occupied the bottom of the index's list.

Dominic Dudley, deputy editor of the Middle East Business Intelligence Magazine Meed, said the abundance of corruption cases coming to light now is likely a reflection of a difficult economic environment rather than of a genuine effort to clamp down on corruption.

"I think the main reason they're coming to light is that the economies are suffering," he told The Media Line. "When things are going well it's easier to gloss over deals and people are happier and less picky. But when the economies are bad, deals are sour and people are losing money, they look for someone to blame. It tends to come to light in bad environments more than in good ones."

Rory Fyfe, editor and economist at the Middle East and North Africa division at the Economist Intelligence Unit agreed that the corruption was more of a problem domestically in these countries than a threat to investment.

"Corruption is a fairly major issue across the Middle East," he told The Media Line. "On a general region-wide perspective I don't think there's a huge amount being done about it."

"Certainly, corruption has a very damaging affect on the country," he said. "I'd be more concerned about the hindrance to economic reform," he said pointing out that governments in the region will often be reluctant to introduce economic reforms during fair weather years.

With regards to the Jordanian case, at least one economist told The Media Line that he believed this would benefit the economy rather than damaging to the country's image, as it showed the system was controlled and robust.

## Egypt keeps politics in the family

Ruling party likely to down a bill that would prevent them from appointing close family members to political positions

By: **Rachelle Kliger**  
The Media Line

**E**gypt's ruling National Democratic Party is rejecting a bill aiming to curb corruption and outline measures for fairer political participation.

More than 100 Egyptian lawmakers and politicians publicly announced the bill on Monday in a press conference, the Egyptian daily Al-Youm A-Sabi reported.

The majority bloc in the assembly tried to stop the gathering from taking place in any of the halls.

Proponents of the 29-page bill include members of opposition parties, the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and independents.

George Ishak, a prominent member of the opposition Kifaya movement and one of the authors of the bill, said it was submitted to parliament, but as of Tuesday was still under discussion.

"If they don't accept it, it will be much worse," he told The Media Line. "Now, all the opposition movements are demanding proper election. If it goes ahead like it went in the past, it will be worse because there's corruption in the electoral voting and in the election centers."

But he was not optimistic about the suggestions being approved.

"In a despotic regime, when the NDP covers all the posts, its very diffi-

cult," he said. "But we're giving them a last chance."

The bill stipulated, among other issues, that political privileges should not be given to relatives of the president, the speaker of the People's Assembly, the head of the Advisory Council and the head of the high constitutional court during their tenure.

The elections were criticized in the past for being rigged.

President Hosni Mubarak has been in power since 1981 and has been accused of running an autocratic regime and failing to cancel the emergency law, which has been in place since he came to power.

Opposition movements are particularly concerned with Article 76 of the Egyptian constitution, which makes it virtually impossible for independent election candidates to run without the blessing of the NDP.

Bahey Eddin Hassan, director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, agreed that the ruling party was likely to foil the bill.

"The political will of the ruling party is not to have fair and clean elections," he told The Media Line. "The ruling party is keen on keeping a monopoly on the politics in Egypt, so it would not allow the rules of the game to change, unless it's subject to serious pressure."

"The main problem is that there is no real independent body supervising the public elections in Egypt," he said.

"So the government can do whatever it likes without any supervision."

Hamdi Hassan, an MP affiliated with the Islamist opposition Muslim Brotherhood movement said the bill would allow all Egyptians to present themselves as candidates in the elections regardless of their political inclinations and without government interference.

"This bill is our big battle to eradicate this brutal regime and we won't spare any efforts in fulfilling this national demand," he said.

In a recent report, Transparency International (TI), a global coalition fighting corruption, concluded that Egypt has the basis for good governance in place but needs to apply existing rules and regulations in order to uproot corruption.

Despite a series of laws and bodies set up in recent years to strengthen governance and accountability, significant challenges remain in the country, TI said.

Major areas of concern identified in the report included conflict of interests, political interference in the work of anti-corruption agencies, a lack of effective whistle-blowing mechanisms, weak enforcement of laws and regulations, a lack of transparency and access to information and excessive limitations on civil society freedoms and the media.

A parliamentary election will be held in Egypt in October 2010, and presidential elections will be held next year.

The 2010 elections will not be subject to court supervision or international monitoring.

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Pour son rôle dans le développement du secteur des services de Télécommunications au Yémen.

# SabaFon's activities in 2009

It has been 9 years that we have been following our true national values in the pursuit of our achievements. During this time we have devoted all our resources towards serving our society and our brethren. And today, as we are at the doorstep of this significant achievement, we believe we have only just started. And this is just our first step towards a brighter future.

It was this belief that, in 2009, saw us lay the foundations of sponsoring sustained activities in the fields of culture, education, literature and science, to name a few. As a company, we have also furthered our country's social and religious causes by participating in related activities, within and outside our country. All to help us achieve our goals while giving our countrymen an opportunity to achieve their true potential and move towards development and prosperity.

## Our activities in 2009

### Education and Technology

#### SabaFon signs a cooperation agreement with the Yemeni Teachers Union:

SabaFon has always been keenly interested in sponsoring cultural, educational, social and humanitarian events. In line with this philosophy, SabaFon sponsored a 2-day seminar, under the patronage of President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sana'a called 'Ethics in Education - 2009', organized by the Yemeni Teachers Union, and also signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with them. The agreement involves selling a large number of free call group lines to all teacher members of the union and their families for special monthly subscription prices and services.

#### Sponsorship of printing of valuable books:

As an acknowledgement to the importance of science and education in promoting our society to the heights of its glory, SabaFon recently sponsored the printing of many valuable books in different educational fields and their subsequent distribution to various beneficiaries. Some of these books were 'Globalization and its religious dimension' and 'Selected works from the modern vocabulary of Texting'. These subjects were chosen with a clear understanding of the needs of the modern generation.

#### Sponsorship of school celebrations:

SabaFon, as part of its corporate social responsibility, is also at the forefront of sponsoring a number of school celebrations. These celebrations are all in line with SabaFon's constant

endeavors to ensure that all Ministry of Education's plans of developing educational processes are successful.



#### Sponsorship of the 2nd Excellence Festival 2009

SabaFon was also the main sponsor of the 2nd Excellence Festival hold on 28/5/2009 at Hadar Mout. This festival, organized by the Seekers of Knowledge Charitable Society in Mukalla, saw more than 200 students being honoured for excellence in academics. The event was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, members of the province's local council, a number of college and higher institute deans, their faculty, students and parents.



#### Sponsorship of the Human Development Exhibition

Under the motto of 'For a better future', SabaFon sponsored the Human Development Exhibition 2009 from the 8th-13th June, 2009, as part of their efforts to support deserving Yemeni youth in accessing the right job opportunities. Participants in the exhibition included professionals, managers, officials and leaders from the education, economic and investment sectors. The exhibition showcased a number of activities and events in the fields of education, training and employment, in addition to discussions, seminars, workshops,

contests and competitions between participating organizations.

#### Annual Festival of Honoring Teachers 2009

Understanding the pivotal role of teachers in shaping our lives, SabaFon started sponsoring the Annual Festival of Honoring Teachers 2009, organized by the Yemeni Teacher Union. At this event, 999 teachers from different provinces were honored while an Ideal Teacher Shield was given to the best teachers in the fields of science and knowledge.



#### The 71 project for Education

Under the motto 'Education for All', SabaFon committed to sponsor the 71 project for Education. The program aims to train 71 young activists to help launch an anti-illiteracy campaign for children, in addition to sending 71 boys and girls back to school and to provide for their school needs. The project also included an entertaining trip for young volunteers and activists and training courses in effective communication. Various awareness events and celebrations on the occasion of the World Day against child Exploitation were also organized.



#### SabaFon Surprise at JITCOM Exhibition

SabaFon has generated unprecedented response to its participation in the 11th Al Jazeera International Information and Communication Technology Exhibition (JITCOM), organized by Apollo International Exhibitions. This participation was proof of its commitment to keep up with the latest innovations in the world of ICT and ensure Yemen's development.



### Religious Activities

#### Celebrating the holy Quran keepers 1430 Hijri

SabaFon and the Moaz Scientific Society sponsored the 11th celebration of the holy Quran keepers and licentiates of prophet Mohammed Sunnah.

#### Graduation of the 203 holy Quran Keepers

SabaFon honoured 203 keepers of the Holy Quran graduating from the charitable Holy Quran Society in Sana'a.

#### Celebrating female keepers of holy Quran

60 female keepers have been honoured by the Charitable Social Reform Society alongwith SabaFon.

#### Graduation ceremony of the holy Quran Higher college

SabaFon contributed in sponsoring the graduating ceremony of 143 students from the Holy Quran High College.



# SabaFon's activities in 2009

## Sport Activities

### SabaFon in Formula 1

Furthering their endeavor to support prestigious sporting events inside and outside the country, SabaFon participated for the second time in a row, in the Formula 1, one of the largest sports events in the world, in terms of media coverage, viewership and awards. Held in Abu Dhabi from 28th October to 2nd November, 2009, the event saw SabaFon being represented by a Senior Sales Manager and 20 POS sales executives. SabaFon spent approximately \$75,000 to create an association with this premier event.

### Republic Shooting Championship 2009

SabaFon was proud sponsor of the first Republic Shooting Championship organized by the Yemen Shooting & Arrows Union, in cooperation with the Sports Military Federation. SabaFon also contributed towards the coronation ceremony for the winners.

### The Open Tennis & Squash Championship

Always a huge presence in sponsoring local sports tournaments, SabaFon added a new feather to its cap with the sponsorship of the Open Tennis and Squash Championship held in Sana'a.

### 21st Arab Basketball League Championship 2009

As a promoter of national sports clubs, SabaFon has consistently supported Tlal Basketball Club in Arab Basketball League Championship in the Jordanian capital.

### Sheikh Mujahid Abu Shawareb Equestrian Championship

The 3rd Sheikh Mujahid Abu Shawareb Equestrian Cubs Championship 2009 also benefited with sponsorships from SabaFon. The extent of sponsorship included the final competitions and the closing ceremony which was attended by the Prime Minister, a number of deputy ministers, youth and sport leaders and members of the General Federation of Equestrian and Camel.

### Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar Equestrian championship

Under the sponsorship of SabaFon, the 4th Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar Equestrian championship was organized in Sana'a, at the Al Wahdan field of Military Academy from the 21st to the 26th of October, 2009. 7 teams participated in the wedge catching and

show jumping tournament, of which the most notable teams were the stable of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar, the equestrian division of the Republic Presidency, and the stables of Sheikh Mohammed Al Koor. SabaFon's involvement in the event comes as part of its policy to promote youth participation in sport and equestrian in Yemen.



### Wedge Catching Results

The tournament opened on the 21st morning in the javelin field of the War College, with the Minister of Youth and Sport, Sheikh Hashim bin Abdullah Hussein al Ahmar and a number of officials from the ministry in attendance. With 42 jockeys participating, it was Jalal Abdul Jalil Al Yousfi from the Police College who won the first place in wedge capturing on his horse Moghira. All winners were awarded their prizes by SabaFon, who also distributed gifts and prizes to members of the audience.

### Show Jumping Results

The show jumping championship was held at the Al Wehdah Equestrian racecourse of the War College on 22nd October with 38 participating jockeys fighting for honours. The first place went to Mohammed Al Qamli from the Stable of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar on his horse Showtime.



### Show Jumping Results (under 14)

The Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein al-Ahmar Equestrian Championship ended on Monday 26/10/2009 with a big ceremony attended by Vice-President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, in attendance with Sheikh Sadiq Bin Abdullah Al-Ahmar and Sheikh Hashem Al-Ahmar and the Minister of Youth and Sport and other VIPs. The competition was a great

demonstration of riding skills and was won by Bara' Fadhel Al-Gazali from the stable of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar on his horse Al Zahrah. At the end of the competition, the Vice-President and Sheikh Sadeq Al Ahmar honored the five winners of Youth and Cubs categories of the show jumping and wedge capturing, where the winners thanked SabaFon for its key support in the many sports activities in Yemen.

## Social Endeavours

### SabaFon organizes group wedding sermon

Under the auspices of Sheikh Humaid Bin Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, Chairman of the company, SabaFon organized the fifth group-wedding sermon for 100 grooms. SabaFon is the first company to adopt such a project in the history of the private sector in Yemen. It was attended by a number of important personalities including ministers, members of the House of Representatives and the Shura Council and the family and friends of the grooms.



### Celebration of 7th Orphan day

Based on SabaFon's commitment to express solidarity towards and help orphan children, SabaFon participated in the Orphan Day celebration organized at the Apollo Center on 31st September. SabaFon made financial pledges to support them and committed to help rehabilitate them socially and professionally.



### Celebration of International Woman's Day

Underlining SabaFon's stand on emphasizing the position of women in society, SabaFon had sponsored many woman-centric activities, such as the

celebration of International Women's Day, organized by the National Committee for Women.

### Al Aseel Festival during Eid al-Adha in Aden

SabaFon celebrated Eid Al-Adha by sponsoring the Al Aseel festival, which included theatrical activities and a prize distribution ceremony that gave away 400 SuperNaba Sim cards, 1000 Belques Sim cards and 400 mobile phones.

### 2nd Festival for Visually-Impaired Women

SabaFon, with Al Aman Society, illuminated the lives of visually-impaired women by sponsoring the 2nd festival for the care of Visually-Impaired Women. The event included discussions on the role of the media towards the issues faced and also saw many awareness-raising activities, art and rhetoric activities.

### Celebration of Jerusalem as the capital of Arab culture

SabaFon sponsored the celebration, organized by the Jerusalem International Organization in the capital Sana'a and saw performances by a group of chanters. The event was attended by many cultural ambassadors of Arab countries.

### The Arab Traffic Week

SabaFon contributed to the government's traffic awareness campaign by participating in the Arab Traffic Week and sponsored the printing of around 66000 car stickers for traffic safety.



### Aden Mall Summer Festival 2009

In an entertaining and exciting activity, SabaFon also sponsored the Aden Mall Summer Festival, organized by the Aden Mall management for a period lasting over 3 months.



# Yemen Times & GTZ World Longest Toilet Queue event

## 806 people signed

Photos by Omar Bazaraa



# JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (23)

## The Somali community in Sana'a: High expectations, little chances, proud people

By: Judith Spiegel  
For the Yemen Times

Zeyneb has been selling incense near Bab Al-Yemen for fifteen years. Ahmed is cleaning banks. Zeyneb makes around YR 10,000 per month, Ahmed YR 15,000.

It does not pay their rent of YR 30,000 but they have a son in Denmark who works in a factory and sends them money every month. Ahmed and Zeyneb live in Safia. Ahmed and Zeyneb are Somalis, like many others in Yemen. How many they are, remains somewhat unclear. Ahmed believes there are around

200,000 Somalis living in Yemen, the Yemeni government says at least 700,000, Mohamed Abdi Adam, chairman of the Somali Community Centre, believes that it is at most 40,000 and his colleague Mohammed Alhershi believes it is around 1 million. According to figures of the UNHCR, around 162,000 Somalis are registered as refugees.

Ahmed and Zeyneb live in a nice apartment. The living room has colourful curtains, some pictures on the walls and a prominent television set. "But we cannot eat the television set", Ahmed points out. He finds life hard in Yemen and shows a scar on his upper leg. "This must be operated again, but it is expensive and the Yemeni government does not give us a single penny. They say, If you want food or treatment, go to the camp." Ahmed means the camp at Kharaz, where around 16,500 refugees live, among which many Somalis.

Zeyneb is even more pessimistic. "It is better to be dead, this is no life and the weather in Sana'a is not good either, very cold." At the same time, Zeyneb admits that their three-bedroom apartment is not bad at all. But is not the average Somali dwelling, she says. "In most houses, four people would live in a room like this."

Zeyneb and Ahmed face a problem that has only been tackled recently, the problem of Somali refugees who do not live in one of the refugee camps where things like healthcare and food are taken care of. Those who came to cities like Sana'a and Aden have to manage on their own. Which is why six months ago the Somali Community Centre was opened with the help of UNHCR. The centre, located in the heart of Safia, mainly tries to raise awareness among the new comers to the city.

Chairman Mohammed Abdi Adam: "We teach them how to deal with another culture, to avoid clashes of civilisation. For example, we tell them not to run away when they are stopped by the police." Mohammed is equally as

pessimistic as Ahmed and Zeyneb when it comes to government support. Or any support for that matter. "Nothing of the money of the donor countries reaches the Somali people. The UNHCR pays the rent and the furniture of the centre and that's it". They are equally critical about the IDF (Interaction in Development Foundation) clinic for refugees, just around the corner from the Community centre. "They take the money of UNHCR and that's it".

There seems to be a gap between the expectations of the Somalis and reality. Andrew Knight of UNHCR explains that until recently most operations were focused on the Aden area, where most refugees enter Yemen. "And the main focus of UNHCR is to encourage the government to comply with international law regarding treatment of refugees". Nevertheless, UNHCR recently acknowledged the importance of community issues, that is, of refugees who did not stay in the camps but moved to the city. "We mainly try to enhance people to be able to be independent, to be able to find jobs. Of course, to the vulnerable cases, like single mothers with eight children, we give aid".

Dr. Essam of the IDF clinic also notices differences between expectations of the Somali community and what they can offer. "Somali refugees often insist on being brought to the hospital. But we have little money and a lot of refugees. We do what we can, but we also expect a more active attitude from the patients, they are sometimes too passive. They must understand that we are only a clinic for primary aid."

Somalis in Yemen all have the refugee status, which means they are free to move, free to work and free to take their children to school. The problem, they say, is that they can only work as labourers and that they are not allowed to open new business. Or, as Ahmed puts it, "we can only wash cars or clean the gutters". But maybe the biggest problem, they all admit after



a while, is not them being refugees, but Yemen being a country where it is very difficult to find a job in general, whether Somali or Yemeni. Where poverty is widespread, where getting medical care is equally difficult for Somali's as for Yemeni's.

Which is why most Somalis do not come to Yemen to stay, but to try to use it as a gateway to other, richer, countries like Saudi Arabia or Dubai. Mohammed Alhershi: "But these countries often expel us, so we go back to Somalia and then back to Yemen again". His colleague Mohammed Abdi Adam believes this is also one of the reasons the numbers of Somali in Yemen as presented by the government are so high: "They only count who is coming in, since 1991, they never count who is leaving. I know somebody who has entered Yemen ten times, so he alone counts for ten Somalis".

Another problem which the Somalis face these days, is what the members of the Committee of the Community Centre call "a game they play against us." They explain that Yemeni's are set up against Somali's, who are accused of bringing criminality, poverty and AIDS to Yemen. Mohammed Alhershi, committee member: "We do not know who is behind this, we believe the

Yemeni people do not hate the Somalis. But if the Yemeni government wants us to go, we go. We know how we came, we know how to leave".

In the streets of Safia, most people shopping at the markets are Yemeni. Here and there a group of Somali men hangs around, but it can hardly be called a Somali ghetto. Nevertheless, an anonymous woman from Safia complains: "There are too many of them in this neighbourhood. Their houses are dirty and their children always make problems at school. They are usually very bright, but they only hit the other children, I do not know why. They only wash cars and they are sometimes addicted to drugs like heroine".

Mohammed Abdi Adam: "Some people lack everything, they cannot move, they are stuck and desperate people do desperate things." At the same time, there is a sense of pride and optimism, at least with the members of the Community Committee. Gathered around a big table in their centre, they all agree that they are not afraid, "because we know who we are, they can say whatever they want, we come, we go. And we have the strongest sense of community in the world, which is the secret of our survival."

### 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 soles 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



#### Vacancy: Full Time LEII Finance Manager

The full-time post of Finance Manager at the British Embassy is available immediately. Working hours will be 35 hours per week. The incumbent will report to the Corporate Services Finance Manager.

The successful candidate will have an Accountancy Qualification or other similar relevant experience; previous experience of handling cash; will have attention to detail; excellent working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word; ability to work effectively under pressure; good teamwork, communication and good organisational skills. Some line management experience preferred. Good oral and written English and Arabic essential.

Please be aware that the interview will involve a written Accounts and English test.

#### The main duties will include:

- ▶ Running the Embassy Account, processing payables and receivables
- ▶ Control the Embassy Bank Accounts and liaise with bank on Embassy withdrawal of funds; paying in funds, obtaining bank statements.
- ▶ Process and run reports for other Departments
- ▶ Reconcile and close Embassy Account monthly and at the end of the Financial Year.
- ▶ Calculation of staff salaries.
- ▶ Work closely with Accounts Assistant on day-to-day issues and when assisting Corporate Services Finance Manager and the Head of Corporate Services when required to gather information on the Embassy Account.
- ▶ Line manage Accounts Assistant.

The starting salary for this position will be YR 174,375. 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 the applicant's own handwriting and enclosing a full CV, in an envelope addressed to:

Corporate Services Manager (Human Resources)  
(Accountant Post)  
British Embassy  
Applications should be received on or before 06 April 2010

THE BRITISH EMBASSY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Oil Fields Operation & Procurement Manager

A leading oilfield General Services is seeking Application for oil field & Procurement Manager from all nationalities.

#### Responsibilities

- Driving effective and Coordinated Completion of all National files services activities
- Building a local region field service strategy based on global template i.e training plans, logistics, technical support, planning etc.
- Interfacing with customers, sales, project management and integrated services for technical resources coordination whenever required.
- Partnering with region leaderships ensure customer satisfaction and growth targets are exceeded
- Leading the local team of oil field services personnel to assure their professional development thru on going training target by the draft plans of competency
- Continues improvement of all fields' services metrics including financial quality and HSE.

#### More Specifically:

1. Prospect identification/ reporting
2. Recommendation of partners/ sub contractors for specific prospects.
3. Creating a relationship with the client's project team.
4. Pre- qualification preparation through central marketing
5. Understanding client's requirements and passing information proposals.

#### Qualification/ requirements

- Engineering degree of 5-10 years or equivalent experience
- Proven business acumen
- Excellent communication skills
- Solid ability to work across team and organization boundaries
- Fluency in English. Computer literacy

Interested applicants should send their Resume (CV's) with copies of their certificates and work experience not later than April 29th /2010 to the followings:

Email: [ahmad.shadad@gmail.com](mailto:ahmad.shadad@gmail.com)  
Fax: +967 01 536516 / 534998

Note: Only short listed applicants will be contacted

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أعلى ورعاية صحية  
لمرضى الفشل العضوي  
وزراعة الأعضاء.  
- فعاليات علمية وطبية  
أخرى.

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733229214

EDC

Job Opportunity



Education Development Center, Inc (EDC), through its Leader with Associates Award project Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP3), has been awarded cooperative Agreement number 279-A-00-10-0003-00 by USAID/Yemen to carry out a strategic capacity building program for Al Saleh Institute for Human Development – Marib/Yemen.

The Program is currently looking for candidates for the following position: **A full time Training Officer / Mentor**

**Position Summary:** The Training Officer will work with Al Saleh institute's staff in Marib to design and implement four integrated pilot projects as means of building the staff training capacity to be able to identify, design and implement successful training programming.

**Primary Responsibilities:**

- Work with the Institute's staff to plan the four training pilot budgets, forecast costs and delegate numbers as required by institutes planning and budgeting systems.
- Assess relevant training needs in consultation with Institutes' staff, including assessment methods and measurement systems entailed.
- Identify relevant skills and qualifications required by staff / external trainers for effective performance, and circulate requirements and relevant information to the institutes staff as appropriate.
- Produce organizational strategy and plans to meet training and development needs, and manage training delivery, measurement and follow-up as necessary.
- Design the training courses of the four pilots necessary to meet training needs, or manage this activity via external training provider(s).
- Identify, select and manage external training and accreditation bodies, agencies and providers necessary to deliver required training as part of the four pilots.
- Organize training venues, logistics, transport, accommodation as required to achieve efficient training attendance and delivery.
- Arrange for the maintenance of all necessary equipment and materials relating to the effective delivery and measurement of training.
- Ensure all training activities and materials meet with relevant organizational policies, including health and safety, employment and equality laws.
- Monitor and report on training activities, costs, performance, etc, as required.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- BA degree in social science, education, management or related fields
- Minimum of 7 years of previous experience in designing and delivering training courses.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Organized and possess the ability to multi-task.
- Ability to conduct in both situations, which require teamwork or individual initiative.
- Computer skills with MS Office suite is required
- Fluent in English (reading, writing, comprehension)
- Dedicated, punctual, meticulous and able to work under pressure.

**Duty Station:** Al Saleh Institute, Marib

**Contract Duration:** 1 year renewable.

**Notes:**

Interested candidates may send their CVs by email to [faltewai@edc.org](mailto:faltewai@edc.org) or [halaulaqi@edc.org](mailto:halaulaqi@edc.org)

The deadline for submitting CV's is **April, 03, 2010**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

## Announcement for Qualifying Vendors to supply Scratch & SIM Cards



## إعلان تأهيل موردين كروت خدش وشرائح سبأفون

The Yemen Telephony Company-SABAFON announces its desire to qualify Vendors to participate in the tender for the supply of Sabafon needs for the Second half of this year and for future with Scratch & SIM Cards according to the following types:

### Scratch Cards

	Serial	Type		Serial	Type
<b>4 in 1 cards</b>	1	PVC	<b>Single PIN</b>	1	PVC
	2	Polystyrene		2	Polystyrene
	3	Paperboard		3	Paperboard

### SIM Cards

Type: Java SIM card 64K

Type: Java SIM card 128K

The interested Vendors, who have the capacity of this project, should submit sealed envelopes contain the following:

1. The company profile and experience in the field of manufacturing and supplying scratch and GSM SIM cards.
2. Copy of manufacturing of smart cards certificates awarded like (VISA card certificate).
3. Quality assurance certificate like (ISO)
4. Security and reliability certificates.
5. Samples of different types of scratch.
6. Samples of SIM cards.
7. Manufacturer capacity.
8. List of previous contract in the same field of manufacturing and supplying scratch and GSM SIM cards.

**The submission will be to the Tender Committee Office –Sabafon Building, Zubairi ST. From the date of this ad till 4/4/2010**

تعلم الشركة اليمنية للهاتف النقال - سبأفون عن رغبتها في تأهيل موردين لكروت الخدش وشرائح GSM للدخول في مناقصة للتعاقد على شراء وتوريد احتياجات الشركة خلال النصف الثاني من هذا العام والطلبات المستقبلية و بحسب الأنواع المدرجة أدناه،

### أولاً: كروت الخدش

نوع الكرت	م		نوع الكرت	م	
بلاستيك	١	<b>كروت عادي</b>	بلاستيك	١	<b>كروت ١*٤</b>
بوليسترين	٢		بوليسترين	٢	
ورقي	٣		ورقي	٣	

### ثانياً: شرائح GSM

نوع: 64K Java SIM card

نوع: 128K Java SIM card

فعلى الشركات الراغبة والتي تجد في نفسها القدرة، تقديم مظلوف مغلق يحتوي على الآتي:

١. تعريف عن الشركة مع الخبرات في مجال تصنيع وتوريد كروت خدش وشرائح GSM
٢. شهادات حصلت عليها الشركة عن تصنيع البطاقات الذكية مثل (شهادة فيزا كارد)
٣. شهادات جودة مثل (ISO).
٤. شهادات الحماية والأمان.
٥. عينات كروت الخدش من الأنواع المختلفة.
٦. عينات شرائح.
٧. تعريف بقدرة المصنع.
٨. قائمة بالتعاقدات السابقة في مجال تصنيع وتوريد كروت خدش و شرائح GSM.

ويتم التقديم إلى مكتب لجنة المناقصات - مبنى شركة سبأفون شارع الزبيري ابتداء من تاريخ الإعلان وحتى ٤/٤/٢٠١٠م.



## YEMEN LNG COMPANY 2010 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### 20 SCHOLARSHIPS TO FRANCE

To further support Yemen in building its human resources, Yemen LNG Company is pleased to announce the availability of 10 undergraduate scholarships and 10 postgraduate (master degree) scholarships to France for Yemeni youth and professionals who intend to continue their education. This is a fair opportunity where scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis.

#### Undergraduate Degree (10 Scholarships)

##### Majors in French Language

- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Logistics
- ▶ Public Health
- ▶ Water Management
- ▶ International Law

##### Majors in English Language

- ▶ Environmental Management
- ▶ Business Administration
- ▶ Corporate Communication

##### Eligibility

Candidates must meet the following conditions:

1. Pass the DALF exam for majors in French or have a TOEFL/IELTS score of at least 550 on TOEFL or 7.0 on the IELTS for Majors in English.
2. Yemeni national residing in Yemen and aged between 17 and 21 years.
3. Secondary school certificate from the Yemeni Ministry of Education.
4. A grade average of 85% or higher - Science section.
5. Candidates applying for Majors in English must have a working knowledge of French (completed level 6 at the French Cultural Center)

##### Requirements

The below should be included in the application for the scholarship program:

1. Must complete the scholarship application form.
2. Must attach a copy of the DALF exam (for majors in French).
3. Must attach a copy of the TOEFL/IELTS exam and certificates of French Language courses (for Majors in English).
4. Submit a copy of secondary school certificate and transcript.
5. Must meet the university/institution's admission requirements.
6. Pass the medical examination.
7. Must commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program.

APPLY BEFORE **14**  
**APRIL**  
**2010**

#### Postgraduate Degree (Masters) (10 Scholarships)

##### Majors in English Language

- ▶ European Public Health Master
- ▶ Master of Public Health
- ▶ University Diploma in translation for non-native speakers of French
- ▶ Master in French Language as a foreign language
- ▶ MBA in International Hospitality Management
- ▶ MBA in International Hotel & Tourism Management
- ▶ Hotel & Foodservice Management
- ▶ International Tourism & Leisure Management
- ▶ Master of Science & Techniques in Urban Environment on Atmosphere, Water & Urban Environment
- ▶ MSC Supply Chain & Logistics Management
- ▶ Masters course in International Cooperation and Urban Development
- ▶ MSC in European Animal Management
- ▶ Masters degree in Industrial Biotechnology Management (Food Process Management)
- ▶ Master 1 "International and European Law" followed by Master 2
- ▶ International and Comparative Law -M.I.C.L.E

##### Eligibility

Candidates must meet the following conditions:

1. Have a TOEFL score of at least 550 or IELTS score of 7.0.
2. Must have earned their Bachelors (BA/BSc) degree with a minimum grade average of "good" certified by the Ministry of Higher Education.
3. At least one year work experience in Yemen.
4. A clear personal career objective.
5. If possible a reference letter from the current employer, supporting the candidate's application and why the organization supports the individual to earn this degree.
6. Must have a working knowledge of French (completed level 6 at the French Cultural Center)

##### Requirements

The below should be included in the application for the scholarship program:

1. Must complete the scholarship application form.
2. Must attach a copy of the TOEFL/IELTS exam and certificates of French Language courses.
3. Submit a copy of their CV.
4. Submit a copy of their university degree and transcript.
5. Must meet the university/institution's admission requirements.
6. Pass the medical examination.
7. Must commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can be downloaded online from our website at [WWW.YEMENLNG.COM](http://WWW.YEMENLNG.COM)

The application along with the required documents listed above should be submitted in a sealed envelope no later than **14 April 2010** to either of the following:

- ▶ Yemen LNG Head Office, Hadda Street, Sana'a, Or
- ▶ By mail to: Yemen LNG Scholarship Program, P. O. Box 15347, Sana'a, Yemen





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Al Rowaishan Motors



# Extraordinary Muslim women (Part 1)

The voices of Muslim women of all backgrounds are repeatedly silenced in today's headlines and within our accounts of history. Their achievements are often forgotten, or worse, never known. The Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) marked the international day for women by celebrating some extraordinary Muslim women leaders of our past and present. Highlighted below are a few of the countless Muslim women that have shaped the world.

The Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) is a program of the American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA) and the Cordoba Initiative (CI). ASMA aims to elevate the discourse on Islam and foster environments in which Muslims thrive through interfaith collaboration, youth and women's empowerment, and arts and cultural exchange. The Cordoba Initiative works to improve relations between the Muslim World and the West by offering innovative, viable, and sustainable solutions with concrete outcomes. The mission of WISE is to build a cohesive, global movement of Muslim women that will reclaim women's rights in Islam, enabling them to make dignified choices and fully participate in creating just and flourishing societies.

## Anousheh Ansari

**Known for:** First Muslim woman in space  
**Dates:** Hijri: 1385 – Present AH  
Common era: 1966 – Present AD  
**Country:** United States

Born in pre-revolution Iran, Anousheh Ansari immigrated to the United States as a teenager. Soon after receiving her master's degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University, she began working at MCI.

In 1993, Anousheh and her husband founded the telecommunications company, Telecom Technologies, Inc which was later sold to Sonus Network, Inc. In 2004, she and her family made a multi-million dollar donation to the X PRIZE Foundation, which promotes innovation regarding social and environmental issues. Subsequently, the X-PRIZE award that supports private space exploration and space craft design was officially renamed the Ansari X PRIZE.

In 2006, Anousheh became the first Muslim female in space, when she blasted off in the Soyuz TMA-9, through Space Adventures, Ltd. She is only one of a handful of self-funded spaceflight participants and the first private female space explorer. She has conducted multiple experiments while at the International Space Station. Anousheh is the first person to contribute to a blog from space. She is the recipient of multiple awards and was one of only two women listed by Fortune Magazine's "40 under 40" list in 2001.



“I hope to inspire everyone—especially young people, women, and young girls all over the world, and in Middle Eastern countries that do not provide women with the same opportunities as men—to not give up their dreams and to pursue them... It may seem impossible to them at times. But I believe they can realize their dreams if they keep it in their hearts, nurture it, and look for opportunities and make those opportunities happen.”  
—Anousheh Ansari, *Space.com*, “Interview with Anousheh Ansari, the First Female Space Tourist” 15 September 2006

## Fatima Al-Fihri

**Known for:** Founded the University of Qarawiyyin, the oldest degree-granting university in operation  
**Dates:** Hijri: Unknown-266 AH  
Common era: Unknown-880 AD  
**Country:** Morocco

Daughter of Mohammed Al-Fihri, Fatima Al-Fihri, also called Umm al Banine, 'Mother of the Boys', is known for creating the oldest academic degree-granting university in existence today, the University of Qarawiyyin. Fatima and her family were among several families who moved from Tunisia to Morocco during the reign of the Moroccan King Idriss II.

After her husband and her brothers died, she and her sister Mariam inherited a large fortune. Both women wanted to devote their money to pious work that would benefit the community in order to receive the blessing of God. To this end, Fatima built the Al Qarawiyyin mosque, while Mariam built the Al-Andalus mosque. From the 10th to the 12th century, the Al Qarawiyyin mosque developed into a university which became an important centre of education and one of the first Islamic and most prestigious universities in the world.

## Nafis Sadik

**Known for:** Special Advisor to UN Secretary General  
**Country:** Pakistan

Nafis Sadik was born in Jaunpur India to parents, Iffat Ara and Mohammad Shoaib. She was the first woman to head one of the United Nations major voluntarily-funded programmes and has made significant contributions to improving the health of women and children. From 1987 to 2000, Sadik served as Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with the rank of Under-Secretary-General from 1987 through 2000.

Sadik received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Dow Medical College in Karachi and has been the recipient of several honorary degrees from universities such as Brown, Duke, and Johns Hopkins. Her work as a doctor in Pakistani military hospitals shaped the rest of her professional career. She then went on to work in the health section of the Pakistani government's Planning Commission where she held a major role in the development of the country's first population policy.

In 1971, she joined UNFPA in several different capacities. In 1994, the Secretary General appointed Dr. Sadik as Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In addition to her work with UNFPA, she is a member of the Board of Governors of the Foundation for Human Development and a member of the South Asian Commission on the Asian Challenge. Dr. Sadik was the President of the Society for International Development (SID) for the period 1994-1997.

Sadik has written several articles and edited many books, including *Population: The UNFPA Experience* (1984), *Population Policies and Programmes: Lessons Learned from Two Decades of Experience* (1991) and *Making a Difference: Twenty-five years of UNFPA Experience* (1994).



“Women have special needs in conflict and post-conflict situations; they have a stake and a contribution to make in peacemaking and peace-building; and they are essential agents in longer-term development.”  
—Nafis Sadik, *Statement by Dr. Nafis Sadik at a panel discussion for International Women's Day, "Gender Equality Beyond 2005: Building a More Secure Future," 8 March 2005*

## Jahanara

**Known for:** Early Sufi scholar, princess, and daughter of Shah Jahan  
**Dates:** Hijri: 1022-1091AH  
Common era: 1614-1681 AD  
**Country:** India

Jahanara, was an early Sufi scholar and the eldest daughter of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz Mahal. She was also known by alternative names, such as Fatima, Jahan Ara Begum Sahib, and Shahzadi. At the age of 17 years and upon the death of her mother, Jahanara succeeded to her mother's position as the First Lady in the courts. Additionally, she became responsible for her siblings and the administration of the household.

Jahanara wrote several books about both the practices of Sufism and Sufi figures such as her Sufi teacher, Mulla Shah, of the Qadiriyya line. Her book on her initiation as a Sufi “bears witness to the profundity of her faith and mystical understanding.” (Wiebke Walther, *Women In Islam: From Medieval to Modern Times* [Princeton: Marcus Weiner, 1993], 111.) She was also known for her interest in the arts, and she financed the building of several mosques and gardens.

When her brother Aurangzeb triumphed against their father in a war of succession in 1658CE, Jahanara accompanied Shah Jahan into prison until his death. She was then given her own home outside the prison until her own death.

## Nana Asma'u

**Known for:** Poet, Scholar  
**Dates:** Hijri: 1208 – 1281 AH  
Common era: 1793 – 1864 AD  
**Country:** Nigeria

Nana Asma'u was the daughter of Usman dan Fodio, founder of Sokoto Caliphate which was one of the most powerful kingdoms in northern Africa of the time. For some, Asma'u represents the education and independence that is possible for women under Islam and remains a model for African feminists into the present.

Erudite and well versed in Arabic, Greek, and Latin classics and fluent in Arabic, Fulfulde, Hausa, and Tamacheq, Asma'u was reputed to be a leading scholar in the most influential Muslim state in West Africa. She represented the number of highly educated Muslim women of the time. Bearing witness to the Fulani Jihad (1804-1810) in which her father conquered Nigeria and Cameroon, she recorded her reactions in *The Journal*. Asma'u also left an impressive corpus of poetry which is comprised of historical narratives, elegies, laments, and admonition, which became tools for teaching men and women the principles of the caliphate.

Later, she became her brother's advisor when he took the caliphate and according to contemporary sources, Asma'u debated with governors, scholars, and princes.

Asma'u was also influential on women's education during the caliphate. Beginning in 1830, she formed a group of female teachers who journeyed throughout the caliphate, educating women. Becoming symbols of the new state, these female teachers, or jajis, used the writing of Asma'u and other Sufi scholars to train women from all areas, including poor and rural regions. This educational project began to integrate the pagan portions of the newly conquered empire with the existing Muslim state and culture.

Today, in northern Nigeria, Islamic women's organization, schools, and meeting halls are frequently named in her honor. With the republication of her works, she has become a rallying point for African women for the cause of women's education.



“Women, a warning. Leave not your homes without good reason. You may go out to get food or to seek education. In Islam, it is a religious duty to seek knowledge. Women may leave their homes freely for this.”  
—A *Warning*, II, Nana Asma'u, 1856

## Sultan Raziyya

**Known for:** Sultan of Delhi in India from 1236 to 1240; first woman ruler in Muslim and Turkish history  
**Dates:** Hijri: 601-637 AH  
Common era: 1205-1240 AD  
**Country:** India

Raziyya, or Razia, was the Sultan of Delhi in India from 1236 to 1240. Her father, Iltutmish, appointed her as his successor just before he died. As a result of Iltutmish's choice of successor, rioting erupted. Raziyya sought to quell the disruptive bureaucrats and nobles by riding as a soldier on a horse throughout the streets. As she solidified her power, she believed that appropriating a masculine image would help her maintain control, so she dressed like a man, wearing a turban, trousers, coat, and sword. Contrary to custom, she appeared unveiled in public.

Raziyya was known for her belief that the spirit of religion is more important than its parts. She established schools, academies, centers for research, and public libraries.

“Sultan Raziyya was a great sovereign, and sagacious, just, beneficent, the patron of learned, a dispenser of justice, the cherisher of her subjects, and of warlike talent.”  
—David E. Jones, *Women Warriors: A History*, Potomac Books, Inc. July 2005. P. 42

Many different sections of the community opposed her rule and attempted to defy her in many different ways. After a relationship she had with an Abyssinian slave was exposed, her enemies tried to use that against her. This caused a split in factions and later a revolt against her led by her childhood friend Altunia. Iltutmish's younger son, who had been working with Altunia, was then put on the throne and Raziyya was imprisoned. However, she later married Altunia, who had gone unrewarded by the conspirators. Altunia and Raziyya were later killed as they attempted to reclaim the sultanate.



## Shajarat Al-Durr

**Known for:** The first woman in Islam to assume the throne on her own right  
**Dates:** Hijri: Unknown- 635 AH  
Common era: Unknown-1257 AD  
**Country:** Egypt

Shajarat Al-Durr ('Pearl Tree' or 'Spray of Pearls'), also known as Ismat Al-Din and Umm Khalil, resided in the harem of Abbasid caliph Mustasim, who sent her as a gift to the Sultan of Egypt, Ayyubid ruler Al-Malik Al-Salih Ayub. Instantly in love, the Sultan married her and, after she gave birth to his son, pronounced her his favorite wife. She impressed his court with her devotion to him in his illness. After her husband was captured and imprisoned by his cousin, she accompanied him to prison.

Sultan Al-Salih Ayub died at a time that Egypt was being threatened by Louis IX's crusader forces. Upon his death, Shajarat sent for his son, Turanshah, but – understanding that it would take months for him to arrive – began issuing political and administrative decisions in his name, hiding his death from the public and forging his signature, while being supported by many of his closest companions. As a result of her actions, the Franks surrendered and Louis IX was captured for ransom.

Although Turanshah became sultan briefly, his policies were disastrous and he was murdered. Shajarat was elevated to the sultanate in her own name. Despite the threats from the French, she was able to keep Egypt unthreatened and politically stable.

The Caliph, however, deemed this situation unsatisfactory and demanded that Egypt find a male ruler. To ensure stability, Shajarat agreed to marry again and abdicate her position. Although she married Aybek, the nominal sultan, Shajarat ruled behind the scenes for the next seven years. Eventually, Aybek tired of his wife's control and proposed to marry someone else. When Shajarat learned about his proposal, she had him murdered. As a result, she was imprisoned and Aybek's son Ali (from his former marriage) was pronounced the new sultan. In retaliation, Aybek's former wife and Ali's mother had Shajarat beaten to death.

“The most cunning woman of her age, unmatched in beauty among women and in determination among men.”  
*Syrian historian (Heath, The Scimitar and the Veil, page 218)*

## Asma bint Shihab Al-Sulayhiyya

**Known for:** Queen of Yemen  
**Dates:** Hijri 437 – 460 AH  
Common era: Co-ruler from 1047-1067 AD  
**Country:** Yemen

Asma bint Shihab was the wife of Ali bin Muhammad Al-Sulayhi, the King of Yemen, who reigned from 1047-1067. A notable woman, she was independent and took an active role in the affairs of the state. Because of the Fatimid endorsement of equal education for both women and men, Ali entrusted her with care of the realm and she attended state councils with her face unveiled. Her name was declared alongside her husband's from the mosque pulpits during Friday khutbas.

Queen Asma was also an active influence on the life of the future Queen Arwa for whom she acted as a teacher, and doubtlessly, an admirable role model. She also taught her son, ensuring that both he and his wife were equipped with the necessary tools to be successful rulers. Commentaries of the time indicate intelligence, the breadth of her knowledge, and her role in promoting the arts and acting as a patron for poets.

After her husband fell victim to tribal vendetta and was murdered in 1067 while on Hajj, Queen Asma was held prisoner for a year before her son managed to free her. After he fell ill, she acted on behalf of her son Ahmed Al-Mukarram. Since Ahmed was paralyzed, Queen Asma continued in her active role in managing the state. After her death, Queen Arwa assumed Asma's place of power, continuing on the tradition of strong Yemeni queens into another generation.

To read the biography of more Muslim women or to recommend one go to <http://www.wisemuslimwomen.org/muslimwomen>

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# Yemen's exclusive and original Mocha coffee



Pestle and mortar

By: Minal S  
For the Yemen Times

**H**ave you ever walked past a grocery shop with a grinding machine where fresh coffee is being ground? The aroma of fresh coffee beans being ground will surely drag you subconsciously towards the shop. That's what happened with me. I was enchanted by the aroma and went into the shop to buy some coffee out of sheer temptation! The best part was that the people in Yemen are so humble and polite that this shopkeeper did not charge me a penny as he knew that I had been to his shop out of utter curiosity!

About 6 years ago, I had been to a coffee shop named Mocha, in Bombay, India, on the other side of the Arabian Sea. I did not realize the meaning of the name until I came to Yemen and saw Mocha coffee. This tempted me to visit the Makha or Mocha beach from where the original name of the Mocha coffee originates. The name relates to as early as the 17th and 18th centuries when the business of exporting coffee to Europe was in full bloom and the name Mocha coffee came into existence.

For over 200 years, Yemeni Mocha was the only commercial coffee. Coffee trade declined in later centuries, after Dutch, French and Portuguese sailors took the seed of the bean and were successful in growing Mocha coffee in Holland, France and Portugal.

Yemen is known for the rich and fertile foothills of its many mountains, some of which reach altitudes of more than 3,000 meters above sea level. The Saber Mountain in Taiz is one such mountain which is lush green and a rich resource for many fruits and vegetables, including the most exotic flora and fauna. The coffee plantations on the terraces of its foothills are the same as it was about 300 to 400 years ago. No manure or organic fertilizers are used to nurture this coffee. The soil itself is so rich and apt for the cultivation of Mocha, that no extra supplements are actually required. These crops are always grown on hill slopes or foothills, so that the bushes are always protected naturally from sunlight.

Beans, of course, were never grown in the hot coastal area along the Red Sea. The reason is that coffee plantation needs a very cold and dry climate, not a hot and humid one.

The quality of soil, altitude and climate where the coffee is grown speak volumes about the distinct flavor, texture and the coffee beans produced. Although Mocha coffee over the centuries has been taken from Yemen by various traders and replanted in countries like Ethiopia, Haiti and a few other European places, Yemen still remains its original

birthplace.

The rich and fertile foothills of Yemen's mountains produce all types of Mocha and Arabica coffee. Yemeni types of coffee include: Ahjeri, Anisi, Buraee, Haimi, Harrazi, Ismaeili, Mahweeti, Matari, Wosabi, Raimi, Safani, Udayni and Yafi.

Mocha bean seeds are light pastel green in color. They are roasted and then crushed in a pestle and mortar, ground into a fine powder for domestic use. This fine powder is added to hot water in a small pan, along with sugar to make you a lovely "qahwa," as it is called in Taiz. A little milk added to the same "qahwa" makes "bonn."

It might be very strange for a coffee lover to taste these different types of coffees, but is far too difficult to differentiate as more or less, they all taste the same, with may be a tinge of a difference.

Its quite interesting to note that the Yemen national emblem has a picture of a falcon and right in the middle of its heart is embedded a tree branch of the Mocha bean tree and the Marib Dam which constitutes major symbols of Yemen. The Emblem is represented by a falcon unfolding both wings on the national flag and supported by a base on which the country's name "The Republic of Yemen" does appear.

So folks, now is the time to relax. There's your hot cup of Mocha coffee. Tempting, isn't it? Try it, feel the difference, and get back to me!

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