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## Sa'ada detainees still not released

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 4 — Human rights activists have called on the State to release all Sa'ada detainees, some of whom have been in jail since the beginning of the Sa'ada war in 2004.

At the end of February, the State and the Houthis announced a ceasefire. The Houthis have released all their war prisoners as agreed, but the state still are detaining theirs.

The detainees were put in political and national security prisons during the years from 2004 until 2009, at different periods of the war.

For six months now, Zaynab's husband is still in jail and his family spent two and a half months without knowing his whereabouts.

Zaynab and her husband, Ali Yahya Ibraheem, were living in Sa'ada when the sixth war in Sa'ada erupted in May 2009. They fled to Sana'a in June with their daughter and two sons.

In Sana'a, they were taken care of by her husband's Hashemite relatives in the old city. After three months stay in the capital, her husband went out in morning, but he didn't return in the afternoon.

"I became worried and started call-

ing his cell phone, but it was switched off," said his wife, Zaynab.

"We spent two and a half months without knowing where he was" she said. "After that we were informed that he was in the political security prison."

She said that later she had the opportunity to visit him in jail once a week and there he told her the story of his detention. "I was walking in the street and suddenly two civil cars surrounded me and people in civil uniform jumped out. They hit me and pulled me into one of these cars."

Zeynab added, "I, together with the other detainees' families, have held many protests demanding the release of our family members, but there has been no response yet from the government."

It is not only Zaynab's husband who was detained during the Sa'ada war between the government army and the Houthis. There are approximately 96 people from Sana'a who have been detained during the past six years, according to Ali Al-Dailami, the Executive Director of the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Democracy.

"It is a humanitarian issue that has been left unattended to for a long time now and it is directly related to person-

al freedom, freedom of principles and freedom of movement," said Al-Dailami, during the inaugural ceremony of a campaign, organized by his organization, demanding the release of Sa'ada war detainees.

"These arbitrary arrests are illegal and violate Yemen's constitution," he said. "Although they have been confined for a long period between six months to five years, they have not yet been sent to trial or even charged for anything. There have been memos from the Cabinet and the President to free them, but all to no avail."

It is important to understand that most detainees are the main source of income for their families and many of them also are public employees, but their salaries have been suspended by the political security organization.

"My husband was working at an appeal court in Sa'ada and since his arrest, we have not received his salary," said Zaynab. "When we ask the Ministry of Finance about this, they tell us that my husband is being held in custody by the political security and in order to release his salary, we would need to bring them a letter from the security services," she explained. "This salary is our only source of income."

Al-Dailami said that these people were arbitrarily arrested and held for this long period for no apparent reason other than their doctrine, belongings and their Hashemite family name.

He said if there were any serious intent from the state to end the war in Sa'ada, those detainees arrested under the pretext of the Sa'ada war should be released immediately.

Abdullah Al-Maqtari, a Member of the Parliament from the Joint Meeting Parties, who was appointed with the observation committee set up in February to supervise the ceasefire in Sa'ada, insisted that the State is now obliged to free all their Sa'ada war detainees. He stressed the fact that the President signed an agreement with the Houthi field leaders declaring that both warring parties should release their respective detainees.

"The Houthis have released all their army prisoners and civilian detainees and now it is the state's turn to honour their commitment," said Al-Maqtari.

Mohamed Al-Maqaleh, a journalist who was arrested and in custody for six months for publishing stories on the air strikes targeting civilians during the sixth war, feels that there is deliberate collusion between human rights orga-



Detainees' families with Human rights activists and journalists urge the state to immediately release the Sa'ada detainees to end the conflict in Sa'ada forever.

nizations and political parties, on human rights violations during the Sa'ada war.

"Those violations happened for the first time in Yemen's history and the threat of further hostilities is ever present," Al-Maqaleh said. "If the president truly wants to end the conflict in Sa'ada,

he should free all the detainees. I came out from prison with a much more humanitarian attitude and so please free the detainees."

Throughout the different stages of the war, there was a media blackout with journalists banned from any reporting of the hostilities.

## Al-Fadhly ends truce with the government

By: Mohammad Bin Salam

SANA'A, April 4 — Protests have increased in the south, including for the first time in Lawdar, Abyan governorate. After Tariq Al-Fadhly, a former jihadist and a member of the Southern Movement, ended his truce with the government.

Al-Fadhly, who signed a truce with the government last month, announced on Friday that he had cancelled the truce as Special Forces tried to arrest him at his home on Thursday night.

Al-Fadhly's supporters succeeded in stopping them from arresting him.

According to local sources in Abyan, confrontations took place on Saturday between the security forces and jihadists, who live in camps nearby Zunjubar, Abyan.

The confrontations resulted in several casualties, with the most serious taken to hospital.

A security official in the Abyan gov-

ernorate confirmed to the media that the confrontations did take place.

He accused elements of Al-Qaeda in Yemen and members of the Southern Movement of attacking guards at a security point at the entrance of Zunjubar.

The sources mentioned that Baihan and Habban districts in Shabwa governorate also witnessed serious protests in which protesters shouted that their demands should be met. They also asked the state to recall in mind the objectives of the unified Yemen.

In Al-Dhale', since February 27 a curfew has been imposed, cell phone coverage has been disconnected, and the roads have been closed. The secu-

rity forces have said that they are looking for suspects and will make arrest.

But the curfew hasn't stopped supporters of the Southern Movement from protesting.

During a curfew, protesters confronted security forces, 69 were injured in the clashes, and 56 were citizens, among them a woman and 13 soldiers, according to the sources.

The arrested are estimated at more than 150.

### Protests in Lahj

One protester from Southern Movement was killed in the clashes and another four were injured last Thursday after clashes between armed members from the Southern Movement and the security forces in Al-Habelain, Lahj.

Sources at the Habelain district mentioned that the protesters called for a full strike each Monday in the southern governorates.

Dozens of merchants in Al-Hota, also in Lahj, held a peaceful protest in front of the Local Authority Headquarters protesting for their rights the lo-

cal authority promised to compensate them for what happened to their shops during the past days when protesters plundered them.

The authorities had earlier promised to compensate the merchants for their plundered shops.

They expressed their anger as the authorities promised them compensation, but they seem to be going back their promises. They complained about the committee, saying they didn't do it faithfully and didn't report the complete damages.

The merchants said in a statement that they would protest if the were not they compensated added that they cannot open their shops as their in dept.

A threat to security  
Observers and political analysts say the protests in the southern governorates would contribute to the political tensions in the southern governorates and may threaten the social security in Yemen.

They expressed their extreme concern about the possibility that the Southern Movement may be intensi-

fied to a degree similar to Houthi insurgency in the north of Yemen.

In the same context, the executive committee at the Rabat Abna Al-Yemen (RAY) party, called on the ruling party to hold a national serious dialogue in which all parties are involved.

They expressed their deep concern about the current situation. They said that the political parties are not paying attention to it, and are not even trying to find a solution to it.

The committee stated that the real

solution can be applied by imposing a financial and scientific plan to stop the extravagancy aspects in the country adding that the country needs an integrated reform plan especially in the political life.

The committee confirmed that the government have failed to stop the deteriorating of the currency, notably by asking for the help of the Yemen Central Bank by issuing a new bank note.

It stated that a real solution would be to outline a fiscal, correct and scientific plan.

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## UN commits USD 274 million to Yemen's development



School children participating in a UN-supported event promoting handwashing on Global Handwashing Day, on October 18, 2008. Regular hand washing with soap could save the lives thousands of children under five who die annually of diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 3 — The UN System had committed USD 274 million for development support to Yemen. This was announced during the meeting held on Saturday to discuss the findings of a mid-term review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2007 – 2011 to Yemen.

As per the mid-term review, in the past three years the UN system allocated a total of USD189 million or 69 percent of the five-year commitment and successfully disbursed USD151 million or 79.6 percent of the allocated resources.

In addition, the UN System mobilized and disbursed nearly USD 65 Million to respond to the humanitarian needs of Refugees, IDPs and other civilians affected by war, flood and high food prices.

Ms. Pratibha Mehta, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator said that: "The Midterm review is an opportunity to jointly take stock of the UN system contribution to Yemen and ensure continued relevance of UNDAF priorities to the current context of the country. The UN system will continue to work with all partners to help the country achieving MDGs by reducing poverty, malnutrition, diseases, all forms of inequalities, food insecurity and effect of climate change as well as in responding to the immediate life saving needs of people affected by various crisis."

While the UN system is supporting both development and humanitarian needs in Yemen, the mid-term review focused on the UN system contribution towards development outcomes to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the first three opera-

tional years (2007- 2009) of the five year UNDAF.

The UN System in Yemen developed its United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2007 – 2011) in collaboration with the government, multi-lateral and bi-lateral partners and civil society organizations.

The aim of the UNDAF is to provide a collective and integrated UN System response to national priorities within the framework of Millennium Development Goals and other international conventions. It uses a human rights based approach and focuses on four broad outcome areas: (i) Democratic Governance (ii) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; (iii) Population and Basic Social Services; and (iv) Pro-Poor Economic Growth that generates employment for the poor population.

## Child labour in agriculture on the rise

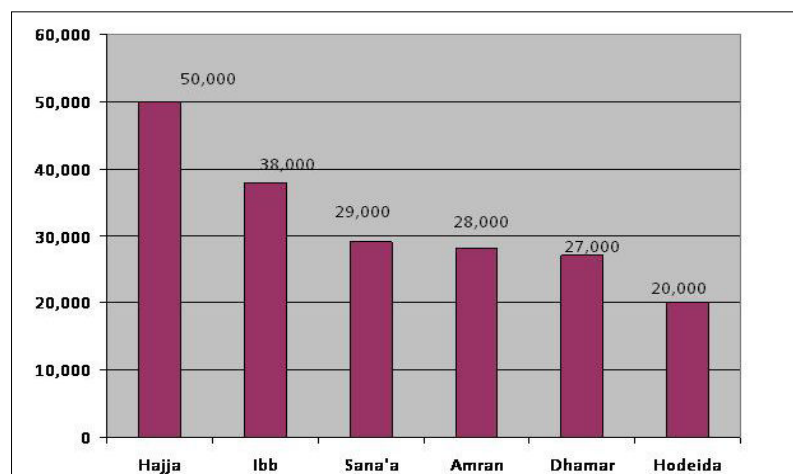
By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 4 — Due to a deteriorating economy and increasing poverty, more and more Yemeni children are being forced to abandon their normal childhood to earn a living. This is especially prevalent in the agriculture sector. A recent study by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs shows that the number of children working in Yemen's agriculture sector has exceeded 192 thousand between the ages of 6 to 14.

The study, carried out in the last quarter of 2009 by the Combating Child Labour Unit at the ministries in six Yemeni governorates, indicated that the Hajja governorate was found to have the largest number of child agricultural labourers, totalling 50 thousand.

A 2004 study by the ministry showed that over 83 percent of children working in agriculture were exposed to serious diseases, with almost half of them suffering from acute skin and eye inflammation and 20 percent having stomach problems. Another 5 percent were plagued with epilepsy, after coming into contact with chemicals that had affected their nervous system.

In 2004, the ministry defined a list of 72 hazardous forms of work that were banned for Yemeni children, according to Mona Salem, Director of



the CCL Unit in the ministry. The restricted work includes working in agriculture, where children are exposed to pesticides, handling heavy agricultural equipment and carrying heavy loads.

The second area is in the construction industry, where children are exposed to chemical toxins and paint and finally car repair workshops, where children face physical injuries, burns and respiratory problems from inhaling fumes.

A 2003 study by Understanding Child Work, a joint research initiative of the International Labour Organization, UNICEF and the World Bank, estimated that 87 percent of working children in Yemen operate within the family environment. The majority of working children are found in agricultural sectors, including in the pro-

duction of qat – a mild narcotic that is legal in Yemen.

According to the same initiative, children living in rural areas are more than five times more likely to work than children in urban areas and rural child workers constitute more than 90 percent of all child workers in Yemen.

Article 45 of the 1995 Labour Law states that a child's working hours must not exceed seven hours per day, or 42 hours per week, and that they should not be made to work for more than four continuous hours at a time. Article 48 ensures that children do not work long hours or during official holidays.

These studies show, however, that many youngsters are forced to do just this.

## Jordanian organs trader arrested in Sana'a

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 4 — A wanted Jordanian man was arrested yesterday in Sana'a accused of organs trafficking, according to the Yemeni Ministry of Interior.

The suspect was apprehended while he was preparing to fly to Egypt with seven of his Yemeni victims, the ministry reported on its website.

The ministry revealed the identity of the suspect as Ramzy Khaleel Abdullah Fareh and said that the trader used to recruit the poor into to selling their organs.

The suspect allegedly was accused of having links to an Egyptian crime network in organs trading that pays USD 7,000 for a kidney.

The ministry said that the seven Yemenis were convinced by the suspect to sell their kidneys in Egypt as they were given an advance payment.

It is not the first time that the Yemeni authorities arrest an organs trafficker as the ministry indicated that they have arrested organ traffickers from Yemen, Egypt and other Arab nationalities.

Every year, hundreds of poor Egyptians sell their organs, such as their

kidney and liver. Egypt is a center area of organs trafficking, according to the World Health Organization.

In late February, the Egyptian Parliament adopted a new law project to regulate organs transplantation to reduce organ trafficking.

In Yemen, there is no law that stipulates specific penalties against human organ traffickers, but according to Islamic Sharia law, human organs trafficking is a crime, according to Abdurrahman Al-Barman, a lawyer and human rights activist at the HOOD Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms.

## Yemen asks for USD 44 billion from Friends of Yemen

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, March 31- Yemen has asked donors to provide it with USD 44 billion for the next five years, to fund a five-year development plan.

In the first "Friends of Yemen" meeting held last March 29-30, the Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Hisham Sharaf, presented the projects included in the Yemeni government's five year plan, 2011-2015.

The government seeks these funds from the Friends Yemen in order to finance projects to help the country overcome its current challenges and further improve development.

Sharaf said Yemen is in pressing need of financial resources to surmount its poverty and unemployment. He noted that the population explosion is a major problem, explaining 68 percent of the population are less than 24 years old with an unemployment rate of 34 percent.

The first meeting of Yemen's Friends that brought together 20 Arab and non-Arab countries as well as a number of international and regional organizations. Sharaf called on donors to honor the commitments made in the 2006 London conference, held to support Yemen's development.

The Friends of Yemen is a forum that was established in an international conference held last January in London. Its remit is to support Yemen in overcoming the security and economic challenges it faces. The London meeting designated "economy and governance" as a major priority for the Friends of Yemen.

Sharaf told the gathering that Yemen has made reforms but that the road is long and everyone's efforts must be coordinated to deal with the trials facing Yemen's development and security.

In the meeting, the Yemeni delegation presented a number of papers on the country's economic and development problems, reforms, good governance and investment needs, accord-

ing to the government-run Yemen News Agency.

The Head of the Coordinating Foreign Aid Unit in the Ministry of Planning, Nabil Shaiban, said that the Abu Dhabi meeting was aimed at tackling a program of support for Yemen in the fields of pressing reforms that would help to alleviate economic and financial challenges facing Yemen.

He stressed that the current economic condition of Yemen and the sharp budget deficit should push Yemen and its donors to work rapidly to diversify the income resources supplying the budget.

The meeting dealt with a number of papers presented by Yemenis on its current problems, an overview on development, investments needs, reforms and an action plan for the group.

Earlier, the United Arab Emirates renewed its commitment to continue cooperating with all countries to help Yemen.

"This is the first meeting to discuss a strategy for the group's work. Its recommendations for the Yemeni government's priorities will be then supported by the Friends of Yemen," said the Under Secretary of the UAE's foreign ministry, Khaled Al-Ghath.

Christoph Wilcke, a senior researcher on the Middle East and North Africa, wrote on Islah party website, assahwa.net, that if the Friends of Yemen do not manage to link economic assistance to improvement, in the country's rapidly deteriorating human rights conditions, they will have let the Yemeni population down.

In his research, written for Human Rights Watch, he says: "If the Friends of Yemen want a stable and unified country, they need to do much more than just give economic aid. They need to emphasize that showing respect for human rights is critical to maintaining peace in Sa'ada, resolving the southern grievances without further bloodshed and finally, confronting terrorism."

Earlier, Prime Minister, Ali Mujawar, hoped for international funding

to enable Yemen to tackle poverty and unemployment, in addition to improving electricity, water and education. He also wanted to increase the Yemeni labor force in the Gulf markets.

### 'The Problem is Yemen itself'

However, economists are not optimistic about the meeting and expect that it will not reap fruitful results.

"This meeting is identical to previous meetings held in London and Riyadh, which haven't produced any positive outcomes," said Dr. Saif Al-Asali, the Professor of Economy in Sana'a University. He explained that the conference had laid down the same conditions as the two previous ones; reforms, good absorption of funds, and combating corruption.

"The problem is not actually the meetings, but Yemen itself," said Al-Asali.

He explained that the government was not helping itself because no effort was put into the much needed financial and administrative reforms. In addition, "it abolished all reforms I made whilst I was Finance Minister in 2006," he further said.

He said that the government has done nothing to combat poverty and lacks the vision to improve Yemen. Meanwhile the number of incomplete projects rise on a daily basis.

He cited the 'road projects' as a proof of yet more government failure. "Anyone who doubts this just has to see the road projects, which are akin to children's toys," he said, explaining that they are damaged as soon as it rains.

He cited another example of government failure to absorb funds, saying the Chinese government has given them USD 1 billion to build a power station, but until now nothing has been done to solve the repeated electricity blackouts.

"The government has done nothing, only continuing to ask for unconditional funds," he said. "It does not even follow instructions from the president."

## IDP returnees face tough challenges

SANA'A, March 29 — Hundreds of displaced families have returned to their homes in the northern governorate of Saada after more than six months of displacement after clashes between the army and Houthi-led Shia rebels.

But many of the returnees lack access to water, health care and education, while others have lost their livelihoods or come back to damaged homes, according to local officials and the returnees themselves.

"We have been suffering since we returned on 14 March. We have lost our sheep and cows... Our orange farms were also destroyed," Abdurrahman al-Farih, a returnee from al-Nadhir village, Razih District, Saada Governorate, told IRIN.

"We are thinking of going back to the northern part of Sanaa where we stayed when we were displaced because there's hardly anything to eat at home," he said.

We are frightened of cultivating our farms because of landmines and other munitions lying around, "but rent [in Sanaa] was a major concern for us and other displaced families."

Dozens of families have returned to their homes in the villages of al-Nadhir, Rijam and Ghamar in Razih District since mid-March after the authorities declared the area safe and police stations were reopened, Dhaifallah Sulaiman Shaeb, the head of Razih District local council, told IRIN.

Some homes were damaged by bombs or shelling, he said.

Over 100 buildings had been completely destroyed and more than 600 partially destroyed in Razih, one of Saada Governorate's 15 districts, Shaeb said, adding: "Fewer than 100 of the nearly 700 displaced families from the district have returned home."

### Presidential directive

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on 20 March ordered the local authorities in Saada and Amran governorates to facilitate the return of IDPs to their homes.

"The war ended... What we need to do now is restore peace and security to war-affected areas, help displaced



IDPs next to their tents in al-Mazraq camp. Up to 270,000 people were displaced by the latest flare-up between the army and Houthi rebels

families return home and begin reconstructing what had been destroyed by the war," he said. "Citizens' safety and wellbeing tops the government's agenda."

A large-scale, voluntary and safe return to Saada Governorate will require stability and security as well as considerable reconstruction and a swift aid effort, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said in a 26 March statement.

"Both the returning IDPs and those who never left the governorate need immediate assistance with food and essential shelter materials," said the statement.

"UNHCR has prepared plans and is ready - funds permitting - to assist in the return process together with other UN agencies, NGO partners and the government."

Since the mid-February ceasefire, some 200 families from the three camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in al-Mazraq, Hajjah Governorate, have reportedly returned to Saada Governorate, according to the statement.

### Obstacles

Some 7-10 percent of an estimated

270,000 IDPs have returned to their homes, especially in the southern, central and northern parts of Saada Governorate, Mohammed al-Emad, head of Saada Governorate local council, told IRIN on 27 March.

"Slow implementation of the six conditions listed by the government [in the ceasefire agreement] for Houthis to implement is one of the obstacles delaying the return of displaced persons to their homes," said al-Emad, who is also head of the Damage Survey Committee.

"Another is that some people's homes were completely destroyed... They can only return if their homes are reconstructed, which may take a long time... given that required funds need to be available."

An initial survey revealed that nearly 5,700 public and private buildings had been partially or completely destroyed in Saada Governorate, he said.

Fighting between Houthi rebels and government forces, which flared up in August 2009, came to an end after a ceasefire was signed in mid-February 2010

Source: IRIN



**In Brief**

**SANA'A VP meets UNICEF Representative in Yemen**

Vice President Abdu Rabo Mansour Hadi met here on Wednesday with the UNICEF Representative in Yemen Aboudou Adjibade on ending his tenure in the country.

Hadi voiced his appreciation of the good efforts Adjibade has exerted during his tenure in Yemen, in areas of health and childhood care, asserting the necessity to the services in such urgent areas.

UNICEF official accentuated that he would spare no efforts to improve the joint cooperation between Yemen and UNICEF and to increase the organization's assistance to Yemen.

Adjibade has hailed the development Yemen achieves in various fields.

**Health minister meets EC experts**

Minister of Public Health and Population Abdul Karim Rasa'a met on Wednesday with the medical expert team from the European Commission led by Paolo Alberti, currently visiting Yemen.

The meeting focused on the outcomes and recommendations of the EC mission on the comprehensive approach and financial reforms to improve the health sector in Yemen.

Alberti affirmed the availability of all comprehensive approach components and the possibility of starting a gradual work in the light of the successful experiences at the health sector including the establishment of a council for supporting the healthcare development in the provinces of Lahj, Taiz and Hodeidah.

The minister stressed the importance of coordination with donors to support the health sector and other sectors in the country.

**Yemen, IFAD discuss fishing cooperation**

Minister of Fisheries Wealth Mohammed Shamlan held talks on Wednesday with the delegation of international fund of agricultural development IFAD

over mutual cooperation between Yemen and fishing sector.

They discussed support of the fund for the fishing sector in Yemen through developing the fishing grounds and offering financial support for junior fishermen in the coastal regions within economic chances fund that would be launched by the fund in cooperation with the European Union and Islamic Bank for the Development at sum of \$ 40 million to support sectors of fishing and agriculture in Yemen.

Shamlan valued support of the IFAD for the development of the fishing sector in Yemen, pointing out to the concern of the ministry to offer all facilities for carrying out projects of the organization.

Yemen and the IFAD signed in the beginning of this year a memo of understanding as the last would present 35 million dollar to implement fishing projects in the country.

**Appeal court to deliver a sentence in case of spying for Israel**

Appeal court is to deliver a sentence on Saturday in a case of three men who were convicted of spying for Israel on Saturday.

In March of 2009, the panel court sent to death Basim Al-Haidari, the main convict in the case, five years in jail against second convict Ali Mahfal and three years against third convict Emad al-Reimi.

The prosecution accused Al-Haidari of being in contact with Israel through an email which he sent to Ehud Olmert. The message reads, "We are the Jihad Organization and you are Jews but you are honest and we are ready for anything."

The accusation said that the Israeli response included the following: "We are ready to support you to be a stumbling block to the Middle East and we will support you as agents."

**Security cooperation between Yemen and Ethiopia discussed**

Deputy Interior Minister Saleh al-Zawari held talks on Wednesday with the Ethiopian Ambassador to Sana'a

Tawfiq Abdullah over security cooperation between Yemen and Ethiopia.

They discussed security issues of common concern including conditions of the Yemeni and Ethiopian communities and issue of illegal immigration in addition to coordination and cooperation between the two nations to tackle these issues.

The deputy minister reviewed security efforts exerted by the Yemeni security bodies to deal with immigrants coming from African horn.

For his part, the Ethiopian diplomat highlighted efforts of Yemen to maintain security and stability in the region, appreciating care presented by the Yemeni government for the Ethiopian community in Yemen.

He voiced readiness of his government to pay further security cooperation and coordination with Yemeni authorities to serve the security in the region.

**DHAMAR IRO started arrangements to build center of youths in Dhamar**

Director of Youths and Sports Office in Dhamar province Shaja al-Magdashii discussed with the representative International Relief Organization (IRO) arrangements to start a project of building the youths center in the province.

The project comes within agreement signed between the organization and ministry of youths and sports to set up the centers for youths in Dhamar, Mahweet and Taiz provinces at sum of \$ 200,000.

The agreement of the one-year project was signed by the first deputy minister of sports and youths Muamar al-Eryani and director of the project at the organization.

Under the agreement, the organization would implement the project and offer all required equipment and the ministry would over all facilities to the organization to bring the project into success

**WB exerts efforts to limit qat cultivation**

Governor of Dhamar Yahya al-Omari discussed on Thursday with a World Bank representative current preparations to limit the cultivation of qat tree in the governorate.

The talks reviewed efforts done by the governorate aiming at curbing the expansion of qat farming through persuading farmers to rout out this narcotic tree and to be replaced by other agricultural crops of economic value.

The governor noted the success of and positive understanding and cooperation of the locals with this move, particularly in Jahran area, affirming readiness of the local authority to continue efforts to eradicate the qat tree cultivation and provide facilities for farmers to help them use their agricultural lands for better crops.

The WB representative, for his part, praised efforts of the local authority in this respect, asserting the importance of providing assistance to help these positive efforts succeed and to transfer Dhamar experience to other governorates as well.

**ADEN JICA education projects in Aden discuss**

Governor of Aden Adnan al-Jafri met on Wednesday with donors coordinator at program of prompting girl education of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) over educational projects of the agency in the province

The governor said that the leadership of the province is working now to collect required funds to support the projects of girl education, affirming importance of such projects to encourage girls to enroll into schools.

The JICA official reviewed activities of the agency and its successful experiments in field of girl education in Taiz, Ibb and Sana'a capital, adding that the agency would carry out educational projects in the province in coming period.

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**Ibb Yemeni-Jordanian scientific, academic cooperation discussed**

Yemen and Jordan discussed here on Tuesday aspects of scientific and academic cooperation between Ibb University and the Jordanian ones.

During his meeting with the cultural attaché at the Jordanian Embassy in Sana'a Mohammed Khaled, Ibb University rector Abdul-Aziz al-Shaibi noted to the keenness of Ibb University to develop the scientific cooperation relations with the Jordanian universi-

ties and to set up agreements directing this cooperation.

Al-Shaibi affirmed offering all facilities for joining the Jordanian students in Ibb University, noting to the importance of exchanging the scientific visits between the staff of teaching of the two sides' universities.

For his part, the Jordanian official affirmed the significance of promoting the relations between these universities which come within the Yemeni-Jordanian distinctive ties in overall fields.

**Their News**

**Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visits IDP camps and projects**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was one of the first donors to provide funding to relieve the suffering of those displaced by the war in the north of Yemen. The generous contribution of USD 1 million had a significant impact on achieving UNHCR's 2009 activities including registration, profiling and monitoring of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), procurement of aid items and the establishment of a Women's Centre. Moreover, their contribution brought relief to thousands of IDPs as well as alleviating the burden on host communities.

In addition to the financial contribution, the good-natured collaboration between the Kingdom and the Republic of Yemen led to the facilitation of five UNHCR missions, three of which delivered humanitarian relief items to some 700 families stranded between the warring parties in Sa'ada governorate. As access to Sa'ada was restricted from the south due to the fighting, Saudi cooperation was key to the success of the cross-border missions that complemented assistance provided by the Government of Yemen and other organizations, providing the stranded IDPs with much-needed tents, mattresses, blankets and other aid items.

The delegation from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the three IDP camps in Hajjah Governorate and met with IDPs and key government officials to gain firsthand understanding of the humanitarian situation in the country. The delegation acknowledged the large numbers of IDPs in makeshift camps and noted the hospitality of host communities.

"I am delighted that this important delegation came to Yemen as we are trying to draw attention to the humanitarian situation in the country" said Claire Bourgeois, UNHCR Representative in Yemen. "As the government of Yemen does its very best to respond to the humanitarian needs, the support of regional and international players is of paramount importance at this critical moment, especially since the declaration of the ceasefire."

With implementation of the ceasefire conditions ongoing, UNHCR supports efforts of the humanitarian community in establishing a durable peace in Yemen. With the Government of Yemen's estimate that as many as 350,000 people have been displaced by the war, large scale voluntary and safe return to Sa'ada governorate will require stability and se-

curity as well as considerable reconstruction and a swift aid effort.

In addition to IDPs, UNHCR Yemen's persons of concern include refugees and asylum seekers who predominantly emanate from the Horn of Africa and continue to arrive on the shores of Yemen in ever increasing numbers placing further strain on the government's resources.

UNHCR Yemen's efforts to facilitate durable solutions for the displaced are, however, severely hindered by the current funding crisis. Appealing to all donors from the region and beyond, in February 2010, UNHCR Yemen launched an appeal requesting USD 39.1 million dollars to cover the operation's needs for 2010 both for IDPs and refugees, and remains funded at just 18% of overall needs.

**Scholarships at the University of Dublin**

The Department of Political Science at Trinity College, University of Dublin, is one of the top Political Science departments in Europe. It is a vibrant, outward-looking department that combines intensive research activity with the strongest commitment to high quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. It is a member of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, one of around 24 schools within Trinity. A background in a social science will be an advantage but not a necessity. Applicants are expected from candidates with a single or joint honours degree in Political Science, Economics, European Studies, History, Sociology, Business and Law. Other subject areas will also be considered. The course is of twelve-months duration, on a full-time basis. Teaching starts in the autumn and the M.Sc. concludes with the submission of a dissertation the following September. Applicants must, in addition to the College requirement to provide academic transcripts and two letters of recommendation, provide a motivation letter and one piece of written work (for example an undergraduate dissertation or essay).

Readmore: <http://cambodiajobs.blogspot.com/2010/03/scholarships-at-university-of-dublin.html>

**Call for Contributions to a Book Project and Video documentary in Honor of Youth-Led Development Activists**

2010 is going to be an important year, and not just because of the football World Cup, the completion of the world's tall-

est building, and the release of the next Harry Potter movie. For us at YPWC it is an exciting and important year because the UN has announced the International Year of Youth beginning from August 12, 2010 to August 12, 2011. The theme for the year is "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding", with the aim to "encourage dialogue and understanding across generations and promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and freedoms, and solidarity."

With the strong belief that young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow but are partners of today, YPWC has been working to inform, empower and involve youth in their own personal development and that of their communities.

YPWC recognizes young people as change makers and agents of social transformation and hence encourages them to take leadership to bring about positive changes in the societies they live in while growing to their fullest potential.

As part of our efforts to promote Youth-Led Development[1], empower young people and also inspire youth to take action in their communities, we are calling for submissions from young people for our "Celebrating Youth-Led Development" book project, which will honor youth who are making a difference in their communities through various social and non-profit interventions. YPWC will give recognition to these young people in Global Youth Service Day from 23rd April - 25th April 2010. While these projects will form the content of the book we will publish about their interventions, we will also make sure that the work of these young people are given enough visibility through the media on Global Youth Service Day[2] and on International Youth Day through a complimentary video documentary, which is expected to inspire other young people and let citizens know that some youth are doing extraordinary things which, when given the needed resources, can enable them to make great impacts on their communities.

Submissions can be made to address any of the following topics.

- Youth Leadership Development
- Peace Building Cross-cultural or inter-community Dialogue
- Youth Entrepreneurship & Employment
- Environmental Conservation
- Agriculture
- Health
- Tourism Promotion
- Youth Activism

- Education
- ICTs and Digital Opportunities
- Community/Social Development

**Submission Eligibility:**

- Young people aged 10 - 35 years.
- Must be resident in a region/state or country in Central Africa or West Africa
- Applicant should demonstrate leadership/entrepreneurial qualities.
- Should be an innovative/creative idea that has been able to produce some tangible results
- On-going projects or new projects can be proposed, completed projects or research proposals will not be considered.
- Application must be made by completing the Application Form (in English).
- The YPWC staffs or Youth Action Ambassadors cannot apply.
- If you meet the above eligibility criteria please download the attached application form.

**Timeline:**

- Application process begins: 20 March, 2010
- Application Submission deadline: 15th April 2010
- Selected youth Profiled in Newspapers and internet platforms on Global Youth Service Day on 23rd April 2010
- Interview of the selected youth and other eminent people on their perspective of youth led development for video documentary: 5th May - 25th May 2010
- Video finalized: 10th July 2010
- Video documentary broadcasted on TV: 12th August 2010-International Youth Day

**CONTRIBUTE NOW!!**

When you are ready, please send your contributions or submission electronically to: [gysd@ypwc.org](mailto:gysd@ypwc.org)

**Call for Candidates**

ADWAR Initiative is now recruiting qualified candidates to run one of its pioneer projects "Volunteering Conference" The conference is meant to be the meeting point of a considered number of non for profit organizations with different dimensions which deals with volunteers from a part, considered number of young volunteers from another part to produce the Alexandria declaration for the volun-

teers rights[ADVR], on the back ground of the declaration draft sponsored by ADWAR Initiative.

The candidates will cover the conference from its all Organizing issues, Public Relations, Fund Raising, Logistics, Media support. Candidates should meet the following qualifications and skills:

- Presentable.
- Talkative.
- Have one of the organizing skills as mentioned above.
- Good command of English language.

- Age between 17 and 27.
- Have a previous experience in working with NGO's is preferable.

If Interested please send your personal information on: [volunteering\\_adwar@gmail.com](mailto:volunteering_adwar@gmail.com)

Deadline for applying 10 April 2010. Candidates will be rewarded for their efforts during the conference and after, we hope to see your contributions with us very soon.

**Medi Pharm Yemen 2010 Medical exhibition and conference April 5-10**

The health sector in Yemen has seen significant development during the last years as large specialized and medical investment projects have entered the Yemeni market.

Accordingly, the Seventh International Medical Exhibition (Medi Pharm Yemen 2010) will be held it has every two years between 5 and 10 April at Sana'a Expo Center.

Omar Al-Nahmi marketing director of Apollo Company for International Exhibitions says that the Medi Pharm exhibition is a result of cooperation between government agencies and the private sector. The exhibition is under the patronage of Dr. Abdulkarim Rase the Minister of Public Health and Population and with the participation of many local, Arab and international companies working in the medical equipments. Medi Pharm exhibition encompasses of all aspects of the industry, ranging from prescription of medicines, to generics, ethically, herbals, vitamins, minerals and supplements, bulk and raw materials, machinery and contract manufacturing.

Al-Nahmi added that the exhibition will be attended by many doctors and specialists who have been invited from all across the country.

Alongside the exhibition a medical conference oranzied by the Medical Association for the second year will be taking place. As well as the second Kidney Transplant conference organized by Al-Rahma Association for Kidney Transplants.

These medical events are considered a good opportunity for information exchange as well as catching up with the latest news and technology in the medical sector.

**More than USD 8 million worth, six containers arrive at Aden Port**

Six RTG containers arrived at Aden Port Wednesday, 31 March, 2010, coming from Dubai International Port. The containers will work alongside the existing containers to facilitate the handover operations in good efficiency and very short time.

This addition comes within the frame of improving the performance of Aden Port according to the company running the port's policy. This company will train Yemeni cadre with previous experience on operating these containers by foreign trainers.



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# The political role of tribes in Yemen

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori  
For the Yemen Times

A recent study conducted by Yemeni researchers, headed by Adel Al-Sharjabi, professor of sociology at the University of Sana'a, has called on the state to close the Tribes Affairs Authority in Yemen in order to better implement the rule of state law among tribes.

The study entitled Palace and the Divan, the Political Role of Tribes in Yemen, was co-authored by Dr. Adel Al-Sharjabi, Dr. Mohammed Al-Mukhlafi, Dr. Abdulqadir Al-Bana, Dr. Afaf Al-Haimi and Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi.

Presenting their paper at a workshop held by the Observatory for Human Rights with the International Development Research Center (IDRC), the latter said that the political role of tribal sheikhs results in the exclusion of citizens from political involvement. As a result, people rebel against the state to reform its political system.

The study showed that in Yemen, neither the state nor the tribes fulfill their political commitment. The tribal elite do not stand up for citizens who are oppressed by state, and vice versa.

According to the study, a number of factors help empower tribes in Yemen. These factors are: the weakness of the state and its security apparatuses in implementing the law in remote areas, and its use of tribes to implement the law.

The researchers stated that tribal influence all over the country should have been neglected when the state was established.

Relations between tribes and previous presidents have never been of a calm nature since the sixties, according to the study. However, they have been tempered since Saleh became President as his policy was to improve the relationship.

He established the Tribal Affairs Authority to improve the relations between the tribes and the state. Monthly salaries are allocated for each sheikh who assisted the state in the 1994 civil war, and those sheikhs who assisted the state in its war against the Houthis.

The study shows that tribes dominate the parliament and the Shura council in which they have the final say when issuing legislation. This means that some tribal conventions were fused into legislation.

A certain imbalance between the legislative and the executive emerged as a result of an unannounced agreement



Tribes members celebrate Sadiq Al-Ahmar becoming head of the Hashed tribe in Yemen.

to divide positions of authority between the state and the tribal elite.

Adel Al-Sharjabi, during the discussion of the study, said that the most important change is that the sheikhs used to represent their tribe in front of the state, whereas nowadays they represent the state in front of their tribe.

He explained that the state is turning a blind eye to the violations committed by the tribes against citizens. He gave some examples in which tribal sheikhs abused their power and treated citizens unfairly, but the state did not move a muscle in punishing these violations of the law.

As an example, he mentioned the case of Sheikh Mohammad Mansour in Al-Ja'ashin, Ibb, who sends citizens into his private jail without a warrant. According to locals, he also demands state taxes from the people and keeps it for his own benefit.

Al-Sharjabi added that the tribes are no longer providing protection for citizens. People can praise the tribes but not raise a voice of objection against them.

### Entrenched tribal families

Certain obstacles have given the tribes rule over the state. The state provided members of tribes' high positions in state authorities. Some of the main positions are ambassadors, members of parliament, and ministers.

For instance, independent representatives in the parliament form the minority, whereas the majority is sheikhs and their sons.

As the local administrative division has become inherent in the state system, nepotism has become a crucial element in the state. Those who hold high positions can easily obtain important

positions for their sons and relatives.

He pointed out that the number of governorate and district deputies exceed that of the districts themselves. Most of them are sheikhs' sons.

He also condemned corruption in the structure of the state where a father, his son and his other son hold the most important positions in authority. There is no competition for the post because those in charge hold the monopoly of the positions.

He accused people in power of being corrupt and spending money from the state's treasury on their own interests and to keep themselves in their current positions.

### Tribes respond

Sultan Al-Same'e, member of the parliament and tribal leader from Taiz, said that the problem lies in the tribal mentality. If they change their mentality, then their ruling the country would not be an issue. The tribal system cannot be accused of being bad unless it commits violations against the country.

He said that in the past centuries, Yemeni leaders have tried to wipe out the tribal influence in the state but could not.

Al-Same'e accused the current state of encouraging the tribal system in which it selected tribal people to hold high positions, despite having spent some part of their lives in prison.

In the past ten years, there were confrontations between the state and tribes from Marib who wanted to force the state to grant them high positions in some of the most powerful state organizations like oil companies.

Violence is the only language they can speak, said Al-Same'e.



Sometimes, the state uses the tactic of "divide and rule" to erode the tribes' control over the state.

Members of the tribes present at the seminar said that they feared possible misunderstandings arising from the study on state-tribe relations.

They ascribed the state's weakness to the state itself, rather than to the tribes.

Mohammad Al-Zaidi, manager for the Development Association in Marib and member of the Bani Bukair tribe, said that the tribes are falsely understood as an entity against the state. He added that the tribes sometimes do use violence, but to obtain what was taken from them by force.

He used the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia as examples of a tribal system ruling the state in a very positive method while putting in mind the interest of their people.

### A long tribal tradition

The political dominance of the tribes in Yemen dates back to the emergence of sheikhs in political life and their possession of weapons that they use to confront the state with.

According to a study by researcher Bilqis Abu Esba'a, called The Political Ruling Elite, up to 52.6 percent of the army showed tribal affiliation and 26.2 percent of the army were from the qudra or judges in the traditional social class system. About 10.5 percent are from the saada, the traditional elite descended from the family of the Prophet.

The tribes in Yemen were able to break the power of the state when they assassinated former president Ibrahim Al-Hamdi in 1977 when he tried to marginalize their role.

Of the 23 million people living in

Yemen, 85 percent belong to tribes in which most of them have weapons of all kinds, according to the study.

Tribes are proud of possessing weapons such as machine guns, bombs, and rocket propelled grenades. Statistics show that there are over 50 million weapons in Yemen.

### Main Yemeni tribes

The Hashed and Bakeel tribes are of the most important in Yemen. While the Hashed tribe is stronger politically, the Bakeel tribe has the most members.

The Bakeel tribe is located in the

southern parts of the country and in some parts of the northern areas, mainly in mountainous areas. People there are known for their toughness. Despite the members of the Bakeel tribe outnumbering those of the Hashed tribe, the Hashed tribe is more powerful. President Saleh is from Sanhan tribe which belongs to the Hashed tribe.

The departed Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, who died two years ago and was succeeded by his son Sadeq, was the head of the Hashed tribe and the head of the Islah opposition party.

The Mathhaj tribe is the most widespread geographically and contains many other small tribes. They live in the center of Yemen.

The three tribes control the state economically and politically.

The less influential Zaraneeq tribe is from Tehama.

According to many studies, the tribe is the real face of the state, despite some people believing that it is only part of the state. Tribal affiliation has become the main ingredient in almost all state authorities.

Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhood, a Bakeeli sheikh, once stated that urbanization is threatening the tribe. Most Yemenis up to the highest level belong to a tribe, and find it difficult to go against it. All traditions and customs are tribal.

The Republic of Yemen has failed to achieve equality among the social classes and geographical areas. The

## A few tribal terms

### The khetat

Before the 1962 revolution, the ruler used to control the country through the khetat in which he gives a tribe the right to attack another tribe if the latter rebelled against him.

Anything the former tribe takes from the rebel one becomes part of its property and can do whatever it pleases with it. This enabled the ruler to extend his control over the country without using his troops in the battles between the two tribes.

### The aqeer

Last month, Fares Mana'a, a weapons dealer, was arrested by the state. His brother Hasan Mana'a attempted to release him by presenting the aqeer, a present of camels and cows that they slaughtered in front of the palace of the president, as a tribal method to seek his assistance to arbitrate in the case and release Fares Mana'a.

The gift of slaughtered animals was accepted, but Mana'a has still not been released. Sometimes, weapons are also presented by someone to the other telling him that he is submitting himself and will accept his arbitration in their case. This method is considered a way of presenting loyalty to the dignitaries and elite of the tribe.

### The wasla

Any quarrel between tribes is arbitrated. One of the methods which is used is the slaughtering of oxen and cows by the tribe that committed the wrong deed on the land of the other tribe. After the wasla, fire is shot to inform the other tribes that their apology has been accepted.

# Yemeni undergraduates struggle with English

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

To better prepare Yemen's work force for a globalized world, universities in Yemen teach some of their subjects in English. But Yemeni high school graduates complain that their English is not good enough to follow everything that the professors are saying.

Mohammed Faqas, a graduate from the Faculty of Mass Communication, said that he was surprised when he saw it as a subject in his college.

"I had registered at the college but I was shocked by the very high level English curricula. Besides this, the teachers lecture in English, despite the fact that their students don't understand anything," said Faqas.

Faqas graduated from his college but he has no job, due to his weak English.

"The reasons for our failure in subjects that are taught only in English, is the absence of basic language skills in primary and secondary schools, especially in rural areas."

"I learnt English in my village but there were no teachers for English language,"

Faqas said, "I graduated from secondary school and yet I still knew nothing about the language. Unfortunately, we had to cheat at English examinations in order to pass." Faqas added.

"I was studying English in an institute before I registered in my college, but I didn't have time to study English and go to college at the same time," said Khaled Ba Zohair, a student in petroleum engineering, Hadramout University.

"All the subjects are taught in English and the vocabulary is very difficult and scientific," he said, "I've already forgotten my grammar and English skills because I must concentrate on the subject specific vocabulary only."

At the Faculty of Mass Communications some subjects, such as Public Relations and Advertising, Journalism, Television and Radio, are also partially taught in English. The main language is Arabic. However, at other faculties like the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Engineering, all subjects are taught entirely in English.

In all the faculties, students have to attend English language support classes from the first year, to improve their written and spoken language skills, and

then they can focus on a specific area of English, according to the courses they have chosen.

Despite the level of English, in first year, being far below the level taught in Egypt or Syria, the teachers reported that some students still complain that these classes are too difficult.

### Students lack basic English

Other teachers say that students lack motivation and obviously they are the ones who do not have any interest in the language.

"About 50-55 percent of students don't have a basic knowledge of English and some of them cannot read anything in English, but I deal with them purely as university students," said Zakaria Al-Moffi, a teacher at the Education College, Sana'a University.

"Sometime I assess weak students through evaluation then we try to develop them and give them special courses," he said, "the university students need a good level of English and they must be qualified if they want to study at the university, even if their specialization is not English."

### The fear of English

Student Sadeq Al-Awathi said that students fear English for two reasons, the first is due to the lack of good English teaching in rural areas and the second reason is that the lecturers deal with students as if they were already fluent.

"When I had studied in my village, the one year was finishing without English teachers and even though the teachers are available, they aren't fluent either," Al-Awathi said, "the teachers misunderstand the students and this leads to the students hating the subject. There are students who are failed simply because they don't have a good relationship with their teacher."

Student Salah Maoodha who is fluent in English said, "I had to depend on myself to learn English. I wasn't particularly clever in the language but I decided to go to one

of the English language institutes, where I have studied English for two years, for two hours a day. When I used to read an English language book, it took five hours."

"If students are determined to learn English, they will succeed, but some students tend to hold the teacher responsible for their failure," Maoodha said, "In this instance, the students are completely wrong because they need to develop themselves independently."

### Expensive private courses

In spite of the fact that the number of English language institutes are on the increase, people complain about the high prices of their courses.

Zohair Al-Hailama, a university student, said that the teaching of English at university is getting worse. Some teachers, unfortunately, take things personally when students try to say they do not understand anything.

"I think that the professors should bear in mind that there are many students with poor language levels and we need a lot of support from them to help us pass our subjects," he added.

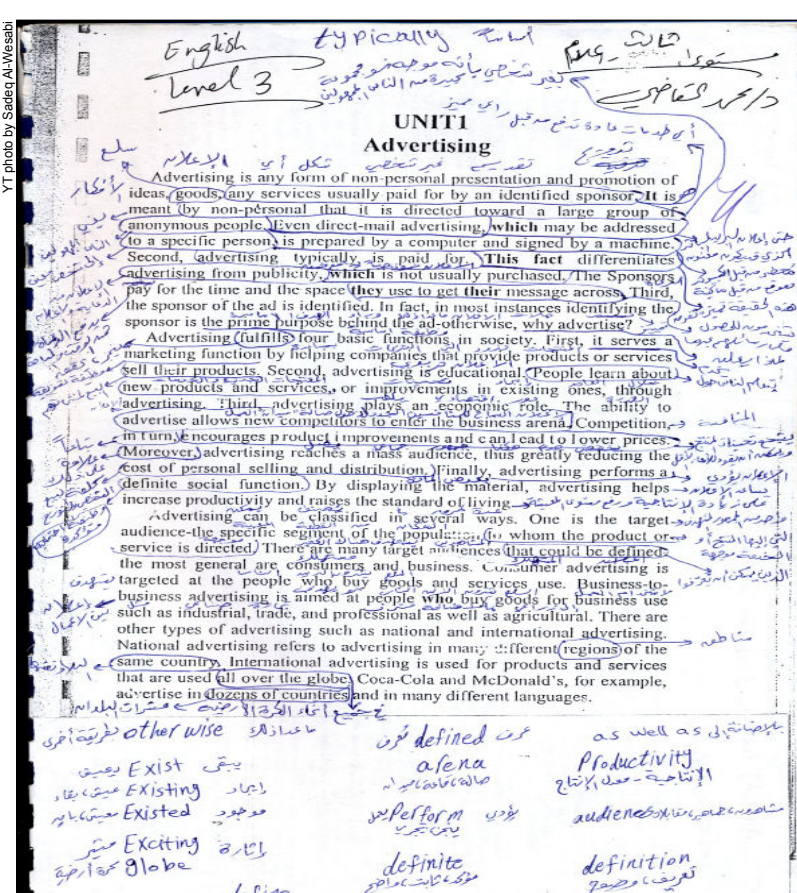
### English courses before university

"English language is a prerequisite for some colleges while it may not for others," said Dr. Abdurrahman Al-Shami, professor of media at the University of Sana'a.

Universities could help their potential students through offering them intensive English courses at a discount price, according to Al-Shami, but the ultimate responsibility lies with the students themselves.

"English today is the language of sciences, technologies, modernity, and all other progress," he added. "This should be clear to all Yemeni students and others, especially decisions and policy makers of education in Yemen."

Better English mean better works opportunities and a "decent life and better future," he said.



Most students spend more time on English than on the other subjects.

### No basics from primary

Most students ascribe their low level of English to the lack of good English lessons in primary school. The main aim of some of the teachers in the schools is to just finish the curriculum without telling the students anything about the importance of the language they study, they said.

Bushra Abdullah, a college student said, "The main reason behind the students' hatred of English as a subject goes back to the days when they studied in school. They sadly never understood

the importance of the language and that they needed to pass it in order to go onto the next grade. Unfortunately they still see it as a means, not as something that will enhance their future."

"I still find it difficult to understand English grammar especially, when the professors expect us to do so. In our schools, we have not been taught to enjoy the language and, as a result, we grow up hating it," she added.

"However, when I graduate from college, I have a great desire to study English at an institute," she concluded.



Students from the Faculty of Mass Communication, where students are weak in English, complain that the curriculum is difficult.





## DP World invests millions to upgrade Aden's Container Terminal



**Mr. Arif Bin Adhed**  
DP World Aden General Manager

**On** 3rd April DP World Aden has hosted a reception on occasion newly equipment arrival.

The celebration was attended by a very high profile guest including Prime Minister Mr. Ali Mohd' Mugwar, Aden Governor Dr. Adnan Al Gafery, Sheikh Abdulla Bukshan Chairman of DADPC and other Ministers and members of the local shipping community.

Speeches were given by Sheikh Abdulla Bukshan Chairman of DADPC, Mr. Arif Bin Adhed DP World Aden General Manager and the Prime Minister Mr. Ali Mugwar.

The main issue stressed in their speeches is that DP World has commenced an infrastructure and equipment replacement program as part of its effort to improve the Aden Container Terminal. Mr. Bin Adhed described the future development program and assured that the effort made by DP World Aden will contribute effectively to return the port to its leading role in the region.

He also highlighted to the following achievements taken place :

Since taking over the terminal management on 1st November 2008, DP World has improved the terminal storage space by adding storage capacity for over 3000 twenty foot containers. In addition, the company has started an equipment purchase and refurbishment program to improve the container handling capabilities of the ACT and MCT terminal.



In 2009 the global Container handling business suffered from the world-wide recession. Despite this difficult economic period, DP World has moved forward with its plans to upgrade the terminal facilities at Aden Port. Under the service management agreement DP World Aden is engaged in an important program of development which aims at increasing the terminal capacity from 580,000 to 1.5 Million TEUs within 5 year and improving operational efficiency by investing in new equipment, expanding the storage yard including:-

1. Refurbishment of the current equipment and procurement of different sets of new equipments.



2. Yard Extension – Considering of the terminal vision and long term goal and objective yard area will expanded to increase the total storage capacity by almost 60% which will increase the annual handling capacity to approx 940,000 TEUs. The yard expansion will enable the terminal to handle more vessels with higher volume of containers. Design planning has already commenced. Construction will start early in 2011.

3. DP World Aden has installed a modern Zodiac Terminal Operating System, Training was provided to the Aden terminal staff in Hong Kong as well as in Aden. The system will enable the terminal to track containers in Real Time as they are received from ship or local haulers.

4. 14 Prime Movers have been sent to Turkey as part of refurbishment program.

5. DP World Aden has procured a Total of 12 RTGs from GPC Abu Dhabi. 6 RTGs were received on 31st March 2010 and the rest shall be received in June 2010.

6. DPW Aden will expand the quay wharf by 400 M starting in the beginnings of 2011. Design studies are already under development. Two additional modern Quay Cranes for the existing terminal will be ordered for the new section of the terminal.

7. DPW will refurbish all 5 of the existing Quay Cranes at ACT. In addition two modern Quay Cranes will be ordered in 2010 for delivery in 2011.

8. A total of 9 Quay Cranes will be operating at ACT at the completion of the expansion program in 2013 with the investment exceeding USD 220 million





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 أعلى ورعاية صحية  
 لمرضى الفشل العضوي  
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## Words of Wisdom



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

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



## OUR OPINION

## If Yemen wants friends, it should be friendly

The first "Friends of Yemen" meeting in Abu Dhabi last Monday concluded with Yemen demanding money from the world, and the world demanding reform from Yemen. But for Yemen to receive the world's help, it should be friendly.

Yemen obviously really needs money - in cash and urgently for immediate measures to directly improve people's lives. Yemen's economy is struggling, a problem reflected in the rapid deterioration of the local currency. Inflation is shooting up and in no time the average Yemeni citizen will suffer tremendously just to make ends meet.

Indirectly, this will lead to more corruption, because government employees who earn YR 30,000 (today around USD 130) will have to boost their income on the side. Already soldiers and low-ranking policemen blackmail people left, right and center, and extort petty money from both citizens and foreigners in Yemen.

Both practices should be condemned, but extorting money from foreigners in particular does help Yemen's cause. We want the world to help us, but we also need to allow the world the chance to see us directly in a positive light.

We at Yemen Times interact with many tourists and foreign researchers. They have been having a very difficult time coming and staying in Yemen. I know of many researchers who, in full knowledge of the various travel warnings, decided to come and enjoy this country, but then were denied visas, turned back at the airport, or denied an extension of their permit.

I understand the need to fight terror and to do security checks but this way Yemen is losing its potential tourists. I am sure there is a simple way of doing a background check on the person who wants to enter Yemen, without the horror stories that we hear from foreigners who have attempted to obtain a visa from Yemeni embassies abroad.

Yemen needs to make friends, and it can do this by being friendly. The friends Yemen needs are not only the top officials of other countries, but also their people. We need to make sure we don't alienate any individual friends of Yemen in the government's attempt to win other states' support.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Yemen: Test for the West

By: Ginny Hill  
Associate Fellow, Chatham House, convenor of its Yemen Forum

The botched plot to bomb Northwest Airlines Flight 253 - believed to have been hatched in Yemen - has turned the media spotlight on terrorism in this strategic Arabian peninsula state. Speaking after the attempted attack, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown described Yemen as 'an incubator and potential safe haven for terrorism' that presents 'a regional and global threat.' Rising concern about the country's future has prompted the British government to host an urgent international summit on radicalisation there.

Not since the fatal attack on the USS Cole in Aden harbour in 2000 has the poorest country in the Middle East been subject to such international scrutiny and attention. Yemen has a long history of involvement with Al Qaeda and its affiliates - the first attempted strike on United States soldiers took place in Aden in 1992. However, a period of successful cooperation between Yemen and the US in the early years of the 21st century saw the threat temporarily contained.

The current resurgence of Al Qaeda in Yemen stems from a jailbreak four years ago, when more than twenty terrorist suspects and convicts absconded from a high-security prison in the capital, Sana'a. In the same period, security gains elsewhere in the region - in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan - have driven a number of operatives to Yemen. Last year's merger of Al Qaeda in Yemen with the parallel group in Saudi Arabia has established Yemen as its new centre of gravity on the Arabian peninsula.

Over the past year, Yemen terrorist networks have grown in strength and global reach, but the country's current security challenges are a symptom of much deeper problems. The army has been fighting an intermittent civil war in the north for nearly six years, the security services routinely clash with grassroots protestors in the south calling for independence and the last round of parliamentary elections, scheduled for early last year, has been put on hold until next year. Political space is shrinking and press freedom is under assault, with eight newspapers shut last year.

## Running Dry

Against this backdrop, the oil-dependent economy is taking a nosedive, as its mature fields run dry and production falls towards zero. The World Bank predicts that oil reserves will be exhausted in the coming decade, but the squeeze is already being felt.

Concerns about Al Qaeda's support in Yemen are likely to intensify as the macro-economic strain increases, and the state's resources and related political capital diminish. Dwindling oil revenues threaten the government's ability to pay civil service salaries and maintain the country's extensive patronage system.

Pentagon planners worried about Al Qaeda's symbolic revival on the Arabian peninsula now need to combine short-term security objectives with a longer-term strategy to prevent state collapse and support the country in its transition to a post-oil economy.

The test for the west is to embed evolving counterterrorism measures in a comprehensive 'whole of government' approach that coordinates diplomacy, development and defence. However, the range of options is limited and the long-term framework is both high-risk and ambitious. While aspects of the state-building agenda in Yemen are familiar from Iraq and Afghanistan, two stark differences stand out. Firstly, the west has relied on troop deployments to help with state-building projects in Iraq and Afghanistan, but that option is not currently available in Yemen.

Secondly, for all its flaws, Yemen is an established parliamentary democracy and President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been in power for more than thirty years, first as leader of North Yemen and then, since 1990, as ruler of the unified republic. This is not a fledgling post-conflict government installed by the west.

Furthermore, the country's Arabian peninsula location and geographic proximity to Islam's holiest sites raises unique challenges for the west's active pursuit of wanted terrorists. Public opinion is widely hostile

to US policy in the Middle East and prominent Yemenis are warning that the deployment of US troops would amount to an occupation. The White House has calculated that it has no option but to work remotely through the Yemeni military, and US President Barack Obama has ruled out sending soldiers. Instead, the US is maintaining a light footprint by sharing intelligence and providing technical support and military trainers.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has argued for a holistic approach to Yemen, saying the time has come to elevate development as a central pillar of American foreign policy. 'The odds are long,' she concedes. 'But the cost of doing nothing is potentially far greater.' Previous attempts under President George Bush to kick-start an ambitious aid programme ran into the ground when a prominent USS Cole suspect was released from jail, just days before officials were due to sign the agreement. Renewed progress depends on mutual understanding and goodwill between Yemen and the international donors.

## Patchy Record

A whole-government approach relies on a willing and able partner, but Yemen's track record is patchy. Four years ago, Saleh lent his support to a bold national reform agenda. He established the Supreme National Anti-Corruption Authority and revised laws for government purchasing contracts. This promising early start has not been followed with effective implementation.

With international aid contributions standing at less than \$20 per head, Yemen is still underfunded relative to need. Its human development indicators consistently trail the regional average by a wide margin; they are closer to the average for sub-Saharan Africa - where aid levels hit \$40 per head - and often lower.

The population is growing rapidly but roughly a third of people are living on the breadline and Yemen has among the highest rates of child malnutrition in the world. Since 2006, donors have pledged \$5 billion in development aid, but only a tiny fraction of these funds has been spent.

## No Blank Cheques

With money already in the pipeline, Yemen is not likely to receive further development aid pledges until donors improve coordination and ensure that existing funds are allocated.

Low capacity in the civil service is often blamed for the aid spending bottleneck and stagnant reform process, but momentum also depends on high-level political will to tackle corruption.

Yemen's Foreign Minister has warned that the US and Britain should not use heightened concerns about terrorism to increase pressure for reform, or push for the resolution of his country's internal conflicts.

Many Yemenis worry that the US has no choice but to back Saleh at any price, signing blank cheques in return for clamping down on Al Qaeda. Yet, western donors recognise that the resurgence of Al Qaeda there stems, in part, from poverty, poor governance and the lack of law and order. They seem inclined to insist on safeguards and oversight that will help strengthen state institutions. 'Unconditional love will not help Yemen at this stage,' said one western diplomat, wryly, in the run-up to the London conference.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are collectively the largest donors to Yemen. The Saudi Arabian army is deployed at the border, quashing cross-border incursions by rebels in Yemen's northern Saada province. The member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council are well aware that further instability in Yemen has the potential to generate heightened political tension throughout the region. They have far greater influence over Yemen's decision makers.

## Increased Risks

What happens if the message does not get through to Yemen's elite and the underlying issues continue to fester? The implications for Yemen include fragmentation or de facto secession, renewed civil war, a humanitarian crisis and the growth of organised crime.

The implications for the international community include an increased risk of terrorist threats from Yemen, increased risk of internal conflicts spilling over its borders and increased risk to maritime security in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. During the past year, Yemen has risen rapidly up the list of foreign policy priorities, in response to fears about the regional and international fall-out from impending state failure.

The attempted Christmas Day attack in the skies over Detroit has simply accelerated the quest for a coherent response to the country's converging challenges. It is essential that western donors, international institutions and Yemen's neighbours work towards a common position and maintain their focus on state collapse and the economic crisis once immediate fears about counter-terrorism begin to subside.

Time is short and apprehension is likely to rise over the coming year. The appointment of a special envoy would help raise Yemen's profile in global diplomatic institutions. The formation of an international contact group would provide an ongoing framework for sustained engagement. An effective regional approach to Yemen's problems requires a strategy that includes the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as addressing links to the Horn of Africa. The challenges are too great for any single country to resolve alone.

## COMMON SENSE

## In Defense of the Honorable Ms Jennifer Lowenstein (Part 1)

A friend of mine, who understandably is disgruntled by the unusually exaggerated support that Israel and the International Zionist Establishment enjoys from some of America's highest members of officialdom, did not feel I should have any appreciation for Ms Jennifer and her undoubting support in advocacy for Palestinian human rights. While my friend is entitled to express his views openly and candidly as he likes, I do not believe that anyone should ever regard human beings as good or bad in keeping with any ethnic, religious or racial background. Surely, there is no room for prejudice in defense of any cause, even with respect to the Palestinian cause. Here is my response to this streak of unnecessary and uncalled for ethnic hatred, which I would think to be not worthy of print, and the response below would surely indicate that Ms Lowenstein is worthy of much more than just appreciation and respect:

"While I have no qualms about comprehending the inherent nature of Israel [in its biblical context - who we regard ancestrally undoubtedly as our cousins - or modern Zionist context - to consistently behave in a defiant way, even to the prophets and messengers of the Lord Al-Mighty (some of whom they killed mercilessly). However, as Moslems, we absolutely cannot ever promote or adopt any form of ethnic, racial or even religious prejudice, bigotry or intolerance towards ANY human beings. We are also bound to believe in the prophets of Israel (Jacob, Joseph, Moses Aaron, Zachariah, Mary, Jesus) as genuine deliverers of all of mankind and they are surely innocent of the evil defiance of some of their wicked clansmen, but nevertheless deserve our reverence just the same. As Moslems, we regard the history of mankind as one long confrontation between evil and good, where the former can be borne by any human beings and the latter can be the enlightened feature of any human being. Thus, we associate ourselves very well with missions of all the biblical prophets (Israeli and non-Israeli) and consider them as working under the same mandate from the Al-Mighty. We must also believe in the Scriptures - the Jewish, Christian and Moslem - as part of a series of spiritual revelations emanating from the same single Divine source.

The point I wish to make here in the above context is that evil is not monopolized by any one single group of human beings, just as good is not a monopolized trait of any one single categorization of human beings.

From a closer historical context, when Islam came to Yemen at the time of the Prophet Mohammed, Yemenis of all existing religious denominations (Christians, Jews and pagans) adopted the religion voluntarily, including the overwhelming majority of Jews, who eventually got mixed in as mainstream Moslems. The few that remained in their faith were left without any effort to force them to convert, but rather deserved the protection of Moslems, as long as they remained "good citizens" and not show any animosity towards the Moslems. Most of them left in 1948, more out of economic desperation than out of a desire to escape persecution. All Yemenis at that time were not exactly enjoying prosperity; deprivation was common to all Yemenis (A lot of Yemeni Moslems migrated to other lands as well for better economic prospects - including a good number that went to the US). Some Jews actually did not wish to go and until the unfortunate effect of the infiltration of Wahhabi distorted dogma, were not subject to any form of restraint on their religious or economic freedom.

When the Prophet Mohammed migrated to Medina from his native town of Mecca (632 AD), the City of Yathrib then, later named Medina, its occupants were the Yemeni tribes of Aws and Khazraj (who arrived there from earlier migrations from Yemen), three Jewish tribes and other Arab pagans. The Yemeni tribes accepted Islam and asked Mohammed to leave Mecca and come live and take over the City as their spiritual and temporal leader. He entered into pacts with the Jewish tribes and they coexisted for about eight years without any problems. In fact, initially many Jews began to recognize the teachings of Mohammed as indeed a continuation of the teachings of their own prophets and even suggested him as the final deliverer of mankind.

However, when the organized Jewish clerical hierarchy began to see Islam as a threat to the power they had (Islam did not allow for any clerical order to act as middlemen between the believers and God - and left the lines open and direct between the worshippers and their Lord), they thus argued and insisted that the last Prophet can only be of the descent of Isaac and were not ready to recognize the descendants of Ishmael as worthy of God's trust. Whatever the case, they breached the pacts between them and Mohammed and his followers and allied with the enemies of the Moslems, who had come to Medina to try to annihilate Mohammed and his followers once and for all.

These were the pagans of Mecca, who saw Islam as a threat to the power of the horrendously cut-throat mercantile establishment that ruled Mecca (many of whom were relatives of Mohammed then), since they would lose power over the pilgrimage to Mecca, which had been an established tradition since the Prophet Abraham, but distorted to accommodate pagan worship and other social disorientations.

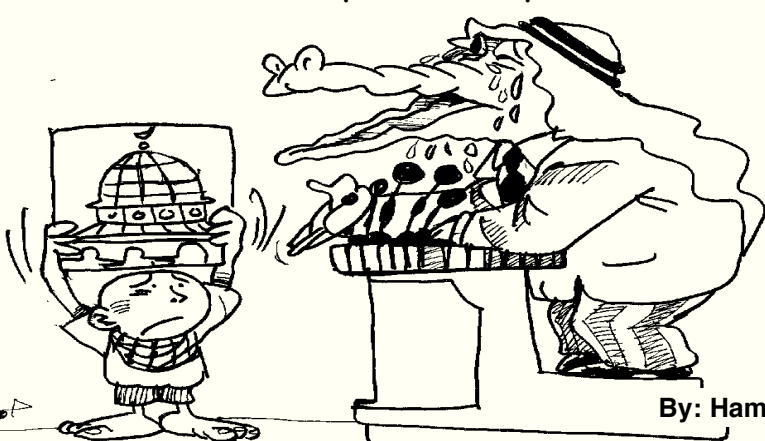
Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. He may be blogged at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com>



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

SKETCHED OPINION

We refuse turning Jerusalem into a permanent capital of Israel.



By: Hamid

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Fax: +967 (1) 268-276  
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen  
Letters: [yteditor@gmail.com](mailto:yteditor@gmail.com)

## ADVERTISEMENTS:

Tel: +967 (1) 510306  
Email: [adsyemen@yahoo.com](mailto:adsyemen@yahoo.com)

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief  
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CEO  
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

## Features Editor

Alice Hackman

Head of News Dept.  
Mohamed bin Sallam

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Ali Saeed  
Khaled Al-Hilaly  
Mahmoud Assamiee

Malak Shafer  
Mariem Al-Yameni  
Sadeq Al-Wesabi

## Offices

## Aden Bureau:

Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed  
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596  
Fax: +967 (2) 347056  
Email: [ytaden@y.net.ye](mailto:ytagen@y.net.ye)

## Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,  
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157  
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz  
Email: [ytaiz@y.net.ye](mailto:ytaiz@y.net.ye)

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## Nuclear power in the balance

Mohamed ElBaradei

I am often asked if nuclear power is safe. My standard answer is: "Yes – as safe as air travel." Plane crashes do occur, but highly effective safety systems ensure that they are extremely rare – so rare that most of us board airplanes without worrying that we might not reach our destination. The same is true of nuclear power, although there are always concerns that a severe accident could have major human and environmental consequences.

The question is of more than merely academic interest. The future of nuclear power will be one of the key issues on the table at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December. Global nuclear power capacity could double in the next 20 years. Thirty countries already use nuclear power and many of them, including China, Russia, and India, plan major expansions in their existing programs. Around 60 other countries – most of them in the developing world – have informed the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that they are interested in introducing nuclear power.

Nuclear power has obvious attractions for both rich and poor countries. The developing world desperately needs access to electricity to help lift people out of poverty and ensure sustainable development. In some African countries, electricity consumption per capita is around 50 kilowatt-hours per year, compared with an average of 8,600 kilowatt-hours in the OECD countries.

All countries are concerned about security of energy supplies as reserves of fossil fuels dwindle, as well as about the sometimes wild fluctuations in the price of oil, coal, and gas. Climate change is also a growing concern. Nuclear power is not a panacea for all of the world's energy problems, but it will continue to be part of the global energy mix for the foreseeable future.

As with other technologies, countries must weigh the costs and benefits of nuclear power. Every country has the right to introduce nuclear power, as well

as a responsibility to do it correctly. The IAEA is not a lobbyist for nuclear power. Our role is to provide impartial information and advice. But if a country decides to introduce nuclear power, we work to help ensure that it is done in a safe and secure manner – and exclusively for peaceful purposes.

We impress upon potential newcomers the need to plan properly, to train the required number of highly skilled nuclear engineers and scientists, to build the complex technical infrastructure, to establish independent and effective regulatory bodies, and to adhere to international safety standards and security guidelines. This can take a decade or two. Sometimes, my job is to tell countries that they are just not ready for nuclear power. The risks to people and the environment that arise from nuclear power are well understood. They can be assessed and controlled. An extensive global safety regime is now in place that includes binding international legal instruments, internationally agreed safety standards, peer review and assessment, nationally integrated systems

of governmental and regulatory control, and research and development.

As a result, nuclear safety has improved significantly since the world's worst nuclear

accident at Chernobyl in 1986. But the risk of accidents can never be entirely eliminated. There is always room for improvement, and constant vigilance is needed. It is essential, therefore, to make sure that a true culture of safety takes root worldwide, not least in countries new to nuclear power.

The reactor designs available today are nothing like the Chernobyl reactors. To ensure that nuclear facilities are operated to the highest standards of safety, measures are in place, for example, to control the release of radioactive material to the environment, to prevent the occurrence of events that might lead to a loss of control over a nuclear reactor core, and to mitigate the consequences of such events if they were to occur.

What still needs to be done? Nuclear safety is primarily a national responsibility, but, since risks transcend national

borders, close international cooperation is needed. We must work to extend the coverage of international conventions and codes of conduct. In some countries, we still see a troubling combination of old reactors and weak regulators. Progress is needed in demonstrating the safety of long-term disposal of radioactive waste.

Although IAEA safety standards are the recognized international benchmark and are now being incorporated into European Union law, they are voluntary, not binding. The same is true of the peer-review missions, made up of experts from around the world, which we put together to candidly assess the safety of a coun-

try's nuclear power program. All countries should accept the safety standards and regular peer-review missions, which, ideally, should be made binding.

Energy is the engine of development, and development sustains life. We must do our utmost to ensure that peaceful nuclear energy, when a country chooses to pursue it, remains at the service of humanity.

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## The unknown promise of internet freedom

By: Peter Singer

Google has withdrawn from China, arguing that it is no longer willing to design its search engine to block information that the Chinese government does not wish its citizens to have. In liberal democracies around the world, this decision has generally been greeted with enthusiasm.

But in one of those liberal democracies, Australia, the government recently said that it would legislate to block access to some Web sites. The prohibited material includes child pornography, bestiality, incest, graphic "high impact" images of violence, anything promoting or providing instruction on crime or violence, detailed descriptions of the use of proscribed drugs, and how-to information on suicide by Web sites supporting the right to die for the terminally or incurably ill.

A readers' poll in the Sydney Morning Herald showed 96% opposed to those proposed measures, and only 2% in support. More readers voted in this poll than in any previous poll shown on the newspaper's Web site, and the result is the most one-sided.

The Internet, like the steam engine, is a technological breakthrough that changed the world. Today, if you have an Internet connection, you have at your fingertips an amount of information previously available only to those with access to the world's greatest libraries – indeed, in most respects what is available through the Internet dwarfs those libraries, and it is incomparably easier to find what you

need.

Remarkably, this came about with no central planning, no governing body, and no overall control, other than a system for allocating the names of Web sites and their addresses. That something so significant could spring up independently of governments and big business led many to believe that the Internet can bring the world a new type of freedom. It is as if an inherently decentralized and individualist technology had realized an anarchist vision that would have seemed utterly utopian if dreamed up by Peter Kropotkin in the nineteenth century. That may be why so many people believe so strongly that the Internet should be left completely unfettered.

Perhaps because Google has been all about making information more widely available, its collaboration with China's official Internet censors has been seen as a deep betrayal. The hope of Internet anarchists was that repressive governments would have only two options: accept the Internet with its limitless possibilities of spreading information, or restrict Internet access to the ruling elite and turn your back on the twenty-first century, as North Korea has done.

Reality is more complex. The Chinese government was never going to cave in to Google's demand that it abandon Internet censorship. The authorities will no doubt find ways of replacing the services that Google provided – at some cost, and maybe with some loss of efficiency, but the Internet will remain fettered in China.

Nevertheless, the more important point is that Google is no longer lend-

ing its imprimatur to political censorship. Predictably, some accuse Google of seeking to impose its own values on a foreign culture. Nonsense. Google is entitled to choose how and with whom it does business. One could just as easily assert that during the period in which Google filtered its results in China, China was imposing its values on Google.

Google's withdrawal is a decision in accordance with its own values. In my view, those values are more defensible than the values that lead to political censorship – and who knows how many Chinese would endorse the value of open access to information, too, if they had the chance?

Even with censorship, the Internet is a force for change. Last month, when the governor of China's Hubei province threatened a journalist and grabbed her recorder after she asked a question about a local scandal, journalists, lawyers, and academics used the Internet to object. A Web report critical of the governor's behavior stayed up for 18 hours before censors ordered it taken down. By then, however, the news was already widely dispersed.

Likewise, in Cuba, Yoani Sánchez's blog Generation Y has broken barriers that conventional media could not. Although the Cuban government has blocked access to the Web site on which the blog is posted, it is available around the world in many languages, and distributed within Cuba on compact disks and flash drives.

The new freedom of expression brought by the Internet goes far beyond politics. People relate to each other in

new ways, posing questions about how we should respond to people when all that we know about them is what we have learned through a medium that permits all kinds of anonymity and deception. We discover new things about what people want to do and how they want to connect to each other.

Do you live in an isolated village and have unusual hobbies, special interests, or sexual preferences? You will find someone online with whom to share them. Can't get to a doctor? You can check your symptoms online – but can you be sure that the medical Web site you are using is reliable?

Technology can be used for good or for bad, and it is too soon to reach a verdict on the Internet. (In the eighteenth century, who could have foreseen that the development of the steam engine would have an impact on earth's climate?) Even if it does not fulfill the anarchist dream of ending repressive government, we are still only beginning to grasp the extent of what it will do to the way we live.

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## Stumbling in the dark

By: Bjørn Lomborg

As well-intentioned gestures go, Earth Hour is hard to beat. At the stroke of 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, nearly a billion people in more than 120 countries demonstrated their desire to do something about global warming by switching off their lights for an hour. In a show of official solidarity, the lights also went out at many of the planet's most iconic landmarks, from the Opera House in Sydney to the Great Pyramid at Giza, not to mention Beijing's Forbidden City, New York's Empire State Building, London's Big Ben, Paris's Eiffel Tower, and the skylines of both Hong Kong and Las Vegas.

What ever else it may be, Earth Hour is surely one of the most successful publicity stunts ever dreamed up. First organized in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 by the local chapter of the World Wildlife Fund, its popularity and the level of participation (both individual and official) that generates has exploded in recent years – to the point that there is barely a corner of the earth that the campaign hasn't touched. As Greg Bourne, CEO of World Wildlife Fund in Australia, put it: "We have everyone from Casablanca to the safari camps of Namibia and Tanzania taking part."

But has Earth Hour actually done anything to halt – or even slow – global warming? Not so much.

The event's popularity is not hard to fathom. Who but the most die-hard global-warming denier could resist the notion, as Earth Hour's American website phrased it this year, that merely "by flipping off your lights on March 27 at 8:30 p.m. local time you will be making the switch to a cleaner, more secure na-

tion"?

Needless to say, this was not quite the case. The main thing that anyone accomplished by turning off the lights at nighttime for an hour was to make it harder to see. The environmental impact was negligible. Indeed, even if everyone in the world had participated the requisite hour, the result would have been the equivalent of turning off China's carbon emissions for roughly 45 seconds.

Of course, this wildly optimistic calculation assumes that nobody used more power afterwards. Recent research by two Canadian psychologists found that people who spent money on green products were, immediately afterwards, less likely to be generous and more likely to steal than those who bought non-green stuff. Apparently doing something virtuous – like turning off the lights – makes us feel entitled to act badly afterwards.

The Earth Hour organizers acknowledged the symbolic nature of the exercise. Turning off the lights is just a "call to action," they noted. As WWF Director-General James Leape explained, it provides "a global platform for millions of people to voice their concern about the devastating effects of climate change." Added another WWF official, "It's saying to our politicians, you can't give up on climate change."

All well and good. But according to Andy Ridley, Earth Hour actually has a more specific agenda than that. In addition to being the guy who first came up with the idea for the event over drinks with friends in a Sydney pub several years ago, Ridley is also the executive director of Earth Hour Global, so he presumably speaks with some authority on the subject. "What we're still looking for in this coming year," he told the Associated Press last week, "is a global deal

that encourages all countries to lower their emissions."

Therein lies the big problem with Earth Hour. As much as we would like to believe otherwise, the fact is that carbon emissions won't be lowered by a deal. If that were politically possible, it would have been done a long time ago – if not at the 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, then in Kyoto 12 years later; and if not in Kyoto, then in Copenhagen last December. But it wasn't.

Indeed, after nearly two decades of trying, the best climate deal that countries have been able to agree on is one that imposes no real obligations, sets no binding emissions targets, and requires no specific actions by anyone. Surely, there is a lesson here.

Alas, the organizers of Earth Hour prefer to ignore this inconvenient reality. But there is no getting around it. If we are serious about wanting to solve global warming, we need to take action that actually does good – as opposed to wasting valuable resources on empty agreements and moral posturing that merely make us feel good. Switching off our lights and promising to cut carbon emissions may make us feel momentarily virtuous, but that's all it does. A meaningful solution to global warming needs to focus on clean-energy research and development, instead of fixating on empty promises of reductions in carbon emissions. For just 0.2% of global GDP, or \$100 billion a year, we could bring about the game-changing technological breakthroughs that will be required to make green energy cheap enough to fuel a carbon-free future. So let's stop stumbling around in the dark and do something meaningful for a brighter future.

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- Perform tasks and duties as directed by the Engineering Project Manager.
- Liaise with the Engineering Design service providers as per projects requirement.
- Review the Engineering design in coordination with Engineering Project Manager.
- Review Design drawing and updated drawings are forwarded to construction.
- Coordinate with Design providers for any change required as per site condition & requirement.
- Liaise with the CAD draftsman for Engineering design drawings updates.
- Liaise with Business Support Superintendent for procurement of material on daily basis & give technical support to procurement team.
- Preparing work scope for technical package, technical clarification & technical evaluation for Projects tenders with Contract department.
- Ensure all projects are planned and executed in a safe, cost effective and in a timely manner.
- Ensure that the minimum stocks levels for future Well tie-in are maintained.
- When visiting the Sharyoof facilities work in a safe and prudent manner so as to minimize the risk to personnel, company property and the environment.
- Ensure all construction projects are built to the design basis and the correct COP is followed.
- Prepare Construction, safety and environmental reports as required.
- Liaise with the Canadian Nexen CTF for any Dove Energy related construction issues.
- Closely monitor contractor quality and work output to ensure they meet specifications.
- Maintain a high level of environmental awareness to ensure company and government policies are adhered to.

#### Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Yemeni Nationals.
- Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering.
- Over 7 years industry experience in oilfield & good knowledge on design, quality control & material standards.
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages.
- Good IT/ Auto CAD skills including Microsoft applications.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: [hr@doveyemen.com](mailto:hr@doveyemen.com). (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V.



...for excellence in language education

## Teaching Positions Available

Exceed Language Center has positions open for **Teachers of English as a Second or Foreign Language**. Exceed is an independent institute with a mission to provide professional educational services and to contribute to the advancement of society. Since it was founded in 2007, it has become the largest English-language institute in the country and expects continued growth. The institute operates on a large campus with various facilities, including a fully-equipped multimedia lab, a TOEFL-iBT lab, and an academic resource center, all conducive to an exciting learning atmosphere. Exceed is seeking qualified candidates interested in joining a team-oriented organization with a strong curriculum and which supports instructor creativity and professional development.

#### Qualifications

- Education:** Bachelor's degree is desirable, preferably in English as a Second Language (ESL) or Linguistics.
- Experience:** A minimum of two years' experience in teaching ESL is preferred.
- Ability:** Demonstrated ability to teach in a student-centered manner using the Communicative Approach and to establish a positive classroom learning environment.
- English Proficiency:** A high level of English proficiency in all language skills is required.
- Knowledge:** Strong knowledge of English language teaching methodologies and techniques.

#### Job Duties and Responsibilities

- Teach English as a Second Language using communicative teaching methods.
- Provide language reinforcement activities creatively and productively and establish high-level student rapport and motivation.
- Prepare lessons, assign and correct homework, and administer and grade quizzes and exams.
- Select and develop supplementary activities to enhance the quality of learning.
- Evaluate student progress in all language skills and work individually with students as needed, providing counseling and advice in support of the program goals.
- Actively participate in workshops and staff meetings.

Eligible candidates are asked to submit a cover letter and CV to Exceed, off Algiers Street near Sixty-Meter Road, or by e-mail to [contact@exceededucation.org](mailto:contact@exceededucation.org). For further information and background, please consult the Exceed website: [www.exceededucation.org/careers](http://www.exceededucation.org/careers).





**COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN**  
**Position # 20-20 @ CPF (Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

Participates in installing, maintaining, repairing and configuring a variety of complex communications systems such as fully integrated 2-way Radio Systems (UHF & VHF Mobiles, Base Stations, Hand Held Radios and associated RF Repeaters, Antennas & Towers), Digital Microwave Systems, Telephone Systems (Private Automatic Branch Exchange Systems and ancillary equipment), Camp Entertainment Systems (Satellite TV & associated Cable TV Distribution), SCADA Communication Systems, Satellite Communication Systems such as IBS and Inmarsat.

**Job Duties:**

- Installs, maintains and repairs mobile, handheld radios and associated RF Repeaters at various locations. Tests radio equipment using complex test gear and perform the necessary alignments to ensure they are operating within manufacturer specs.
- Installs and maintains Camp Entertainment Systems (TV Satellite Decoders, Receivers, Modulators and Cable Systems) at various locations including Drilling Rigs. Installs satellite dish and receivers and aligns the dish to ensure appropriate reception.
- Performs routine preventative and repair maintenance on communications Systems utilizing complex test equipment such as Communications Monitors, Spectrum Analyzers, Oscilloscopes and RF Power Meters.
- Installs and maintains wireless telephone links to remote locations such as drilling rigs and temporary contractor sites.
- Installs and maintains telephone systems. Includes the physical installation of telephones, and cross connect terminations. Under the direct supervision of the Communications Supervisor, maintains PABX Systems (including Voice Mail) by making the required programming and administrative changes.
- Maintains necessary records and reports such as work order reports, service reports, inventory records, site logs, etc.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as routine troubleshooting and repairs to various electronic equipment as required.
- Maintains, aligns and repairs Microwave Link Systems which include Digital Radios, associated transmission lines, alarm control Systems and remote diagnostics.
- Maintains and repairs Data Multiplexers of various manufacture.
- Maintains, aligns and repairs Scada Communication Systems which include RF Data Transceivers, RF Data Repeaters and associated control equipment. Analyze Scada Communication issues and resolve them.
- Maintain, align and repair complete Satellite Communication Earth Stations which include IBS Satellite System and Inmarsat.
- Maintain and repair Video Conferencing systems.
- Install, maintain and repair complete solar power systems which supply power to various radio sites.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Completion of secondary school plus successful completion of a minimum 2 year full time formal electronic/communication training at a Technical College or equivalent.
- 6 years of communications experience including basic understanding of communications software.
- Very good knowledge of English.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

❖ Apply for this Job please apply to: [recruiting\\_yemsana@nexeninc.com](mailto:recruiting_yemsana@nexeninc.com)  
 ❖ Applications **should be submitted NO later than Date April 19,2010** 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.



**ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN**  
**Position # 07-014/10-01/10-02@ BAK PF -B 51 (Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

Performs a variety of electrical and instrument trade functions, such as the installation, maintenance, and repair of equipment including motors, pumps, switchgear, electrical circuits, high voltage systems associated with the generation and distribution of electric power as well as carries out maintenance services on all Instrumentation equipment; includes but is not limited to electronic, PLCs, data acquisition, hydraulic, pneumatic and mechanical systems. Encompasses instrument fitting, fault finding, troubleshooting and diagnostics on all instrument based systems, repair of business machines and fire protection systems. Performs work in a safe and efficient manner and to established Industry standards. Works with and trains trainee National Employees as required.

**Job Duties:**

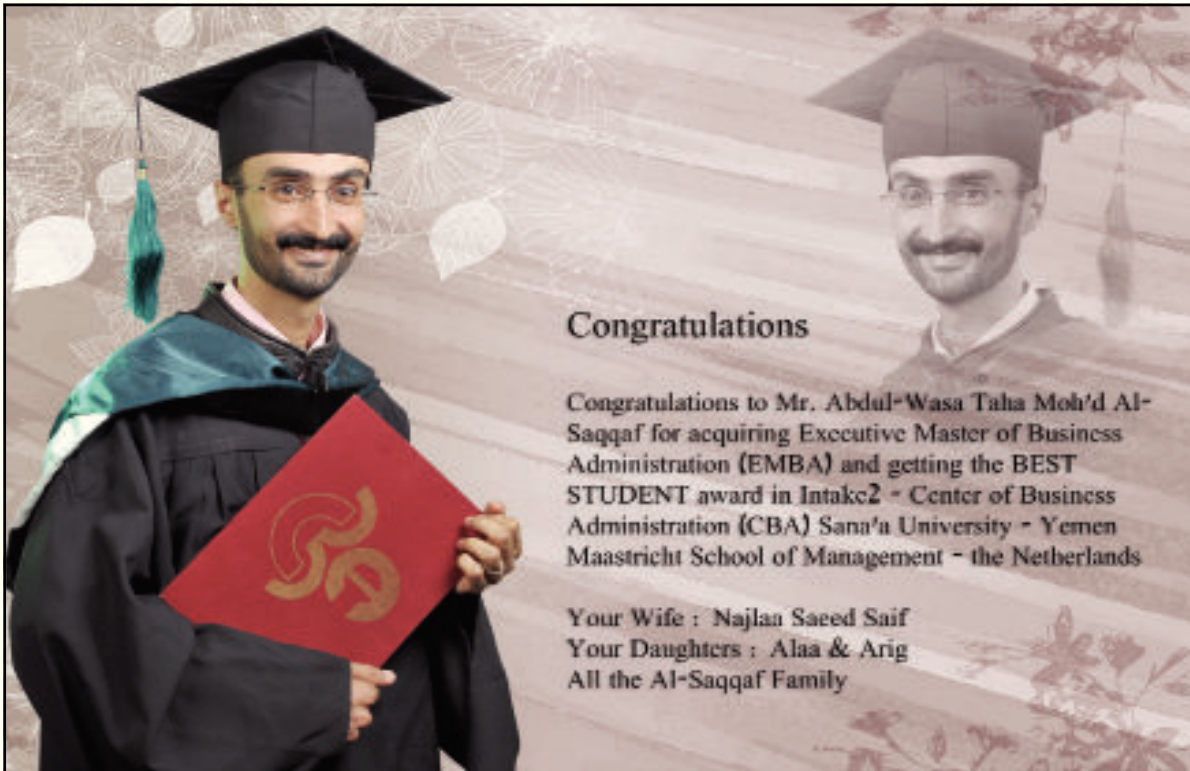
The incumbent shall:

- Installs, maintains, repairs and diagnoses trouble in the electrical systems or electrical equipment. Includes troubleshooting motors, wiring, power supplies (Wartsila and Caterpillar diesel engines), well site equipment, 25kv high voltage network, switchgear, power generation control and protection equipment.
- Participates in planned and preventative maintenance programs and breakdown work. Includes checking, adjusting and diagnosing equipment malfunctions and taking corrective action. Utilizes specialized measuring and testing instruments such as but not limited to, voltmeters, ammeters, and meggers etc. Makes standard assessments relating to load requirements of wiring or electrical equipment. Plans and lays out certain work from blueprints, sketches, wiring. Assembles, disassembles and completely overhauls electric motors, drives, pumps, switchgear, generators, etc. Modifies or reconditions parts and fits manufacturers' spares on electrical circuits, motors and switchgear.
- Connects and disconnects high voltage electrical power supplies up to 25kv after area has been isolated by Electrical & Instrument Foreman. Authorized for electrical isolations and issuing electrical isolation permits up to 480 volts.
- Installs, repairs, calibrates, troubleshoots and maintains all instrument control systems in the plant and field facilities. Covers control valves, electronic pneumatic transmitters, electronic flow measuring devices, electronic and pneumatic pressure controlling devices, chemical injection facilities from small to medium size pumps, and PLC/data acquisition equipment.
- Troubleshoots and repairs other equipment such as office equipment, fire & gas detection systems, etc. within the scope of skill and training.
- Carries out other similar or related duties and preventative maintenance work as deemed necessary to support the Plant and Field activities.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full-time formal training in electrical or instrumentation trades and 6 years of related experience.
- Good computer knowledge, familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel
- Good knowledge of English.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

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**AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN**  
**Position # 9984 @ CPF (Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

Overhauls, repairs and services various types of vehicles and mobile equipment for the CPF. Includes carrying out the repair of vehicles such as land cruisers, pickups and station wagons and large equipment such as forklifts, tractor trailers and cranes.

**Job Duties:**

The incumbent shall:

- Services all types of vehicles and heavy duty equipment. Includes lubricating, changing oil, topping up fluid levels, carrying out safety inspections, performing major overhauls on engines and gear boxes.
- Performs safety inspections. Includes checking condition of tires, steering gear and components, inspecting undercarriages and the general condition of vehicles, and preparing report to his supervisor. Inspections are carried out on a planned basis.
- Carries out major overhauls on engines, gearboxes and transmissions. Includes stripping down and replacing components to restore vehicle to full operational condition.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as trouble shooting hydraulic system on cranes, trucks and forklifts.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full time formal training and 6 years working experience in the Automotive Mechanic / Technician trade.
- Successful completion of at least 95% of the items listed on the Mechanical Technician Skills Ladder.
- Fair knowledge of English.

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**ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN**  
**Position # 18-11/04-163@ CPF (Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

Performs a variety of electrical trade functions, such as the installation, maintenance, and repair of equipment including motors, pumps, switchgear, electrical circuits, hi voltage systems associated with the generation and distribution of electric power at the Terminal, CPF and various field locations. Performs work in a safe and efficient manner and to established Industry standards. Works with and trains National Employees.

**Job Duties:**

- Installs, maintains, repairs and diagnoses trouble in the electrical systems or electrical equipment. Includes troubleshooting motors, wiring, power supplies (Wartsila, Caterpillar diesel engines and Solar turbines), well site equipment, 69/13.8kv overhead line network, switchgear, power generation control and protection equipment.
- Participates in planned and preventative maintenance programs and breakdown work. Includes checking, adjusting and diagnosing equipment malfunctions and taking corrective action. Utilizes specialized measuring and testing instruments such as but not limited to, voltmeters, ammeters, and meggers etc. Makes standard assessments relating to load requirements of wiring or electrical equipment. Plans and lays out certain work from blueprints, sketches, wiring. Assembles, disassembles and completely overhauls electric motors, drives, pumps, switchgear, generators, etc. Modifies or reconditions parts and fits manufacturers' spares on electrical circuits, motors and switchgear.
- Connects and disconnects high voltage electrical power supplies up to 69kv after area has been isolated by Electrical Foreman. Authorized for electrical isolations and issuing electrical isolation permits up to 480 volts.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as providing on the job instruction to trainees and coordinating work activities of labour contractors.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full-time formal training in electrical trades and 6 years of related experience.
- Fair knowledge of English.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

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**ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN**  
**Position #1023@ Terminal (Al-Shahr, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

Reports for work direction to the Terminal Maintenance Foreman. Responsible for day-to-day maintenance of all electrical based field equipment, within CNPY Export Terminal. Overhauling, repairing and Commissioning of power generation and MCC related equipment. Provides leadership and on-the-job training to Yemeni employees. Applies regular maintenance schedules to plant equipment. Works within a multi-cultural environment. Assists in Training, Mentoring and development of National Employees under his or her direction.

**Job Duties:**

- Executes work schedules associated with the electrical portion of an Oil Export Terminal, including Planned Maintenance and general breakdown maintenance.
- Repairs, overhauls and maintains various electrical equipment up to and including 4160 volts switch gear.
- Produces daily progress reports and equipment history records.
- Investigates equipment failures and makes recommendations to eliminate such failures.
- Monitors and implements both EH&S policies and procedures, which includes the Responsible Care program

**Minimum Requirements:**

- High School Diploma.
- Trade Certificate in the electrical trade or the equivalent Technology Diploma.
- 6- 8 years working within the oil & gas industry or related industrial experience.
- Self-starter, with strong interpersonal skills.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work effectively within a culturally diverse organization is essential
- Training and mentoring of Yemen Nationals will be one of the prime objectives.
- Excellent knowledge of English (written and oral) and able to produce technical reports.
- Valid International or Yemeni driving licenses.

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**MACHINIST**  
**Position # 0918 @ CPF (Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

Repairs, manufactures and modifies components for equipment such as pump shafts, axles, clutches, pressure plates, cutting threads, etc. at the CPF and in the field. Works to close tolerances. Ensures that work is carried out in a safe and efficient manner and to established quality standards.

**Job Duties:**

The incumbent shall:

- Fabricates parts in the shop as requested by various departments at the CPF. Uses machinery such as lathes, milling machines, surface grinders, bending machines, press brakes and other equipment.
- Carries out planned maintenance and repairs in accordance with Nexen's Maintenance Planning system. Incorporates the principles of PSM to complete all tasks and achieve desired results. Maintains record of maintenance performed for future reference and possible replication.
- Maintains all equipment in the machine shop. Includes preventative maintenance servicing to all drills, taps, dies, etc. according to manufacturers' specifications.
- Assist other Mechanical Technicians in completing tasks directly related to machining operations in the shop or insitu.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Completion of Secondary education followed by 3 years' full time training in machinist trades.
- 5 years' experience in machine shop.
- Good knowledge of English.

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**MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN**  
**Position # 07-044 (B51)/1022 & 0012 (B14) @ CPF/BAKPF**  
**(Masila, Hadhramout)**  
**For Yemeni Nationals Only**

**Basic Function:**

Maintains, repairs and installs a variety of equipment at CPF, Terminal and in the field such as pumps, valves, turbines, compressors, diesel and other generators etc. Uses such tools and equipment such as small to large combinations, torque wrenches, socket sets up to 1" drive and a variety of hand tools. Utilises Specialised alignment tools.

**Job Duties:**

- Overhauls diesel engines. Includes overhauling Caterpillar, Wartsila Ruston and other types of diesel generators, and commissioning same. Performs work from drawings, and diagrams, includes both operational and Maintenance manuals, to manufacturer's, and other specifications. Disassembles equipment using hoists, hand tools and power tools. Determines nature of repair and examines parts to detect problems, uses measuring tools such as calipers, micrometers and other instruments to determine correct tolerances
- Services generator/Pump drivers. Includes changing oil and lubricants, topping up, lubricating, testing coolants etc. in accordance with planned procedures.
- Carries out daily inspections of solar turbines and generators and Includes changing fuel nozzles, repairing leaks, changing fuel and air filters and lubricating oil cooler fan system. Shipping/Mainline Pumps Fire Water Pumps and Systems.
- Repairs and carries out major overhauls on mechanical pumps. Changes mechanical seals, as required. Makes a repair by replacing, reworking, or refinishing worn or damaged parts. Makes adjustments to functional parts of equipment using hand tools, and specialized equipment. Reassembles equipment and tests performance. Carries out services and inspections on all types of Valves including ball valves gate vaves and specialised valves associated with tankage
- Carries out planned maintenance on all of the above plant and equipment. Includes checking fluid levels, checking for leaks in mechanical seals as necessary, taking vibration readings, checking for abnormal noises, and performing quarterly alignment checks.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as giving on the job instruction to trainees, and overhauling reciprocating gas compressors

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full-time formal training in mechanical trades and 6 years of related experience.
- Fair knowledge of English.

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## Modern Yemen battling the myths of folk medicine

## Fake doc: Just say NO!

The recent past in rural Yemen, even including some cities, was filled with 'pretend' doctors. These were both men and women who claimed to have the expertise needed to treat patients and even perform operations. The problem, nowadays, is that some of the locals still believe this and allow these so-called doctors to treat them, even if it means inserting needles into their eyes to perform eye surgery. Now real doctors are trying to implement damage control and redeem the health of Yemenis, who over the years have become a little more aware.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Zainab Qaid is an old lady from the Same' district in Ta'iz. She does not know her exact age but her children estimate that she is well in her seventies. Like most illiterate Yemenis living in rural areas, Zainab trusted a local folk doctor to cure her eyes.

"I had bad eyesight because there was something clouding the vision of my left eye. They said this man could fix it. So I surrendered my eye to him. He did not use any anesthetics and although it was more than five years ago, I can still vividly remember the pain," explained Zainab, as she sits in a real ophthalmologist's waiting room in Sana'a.

Zainab was taken to the ophthalmologist in Sana'a by her highly educated granddaughter, Fahmia. "I can't believe they actually did that to my grandma! Apparently it took three people from my family to hold her down as the so-called doctor operated on her eye with unclean needles," said Fahmia angrily.

#### Weird practices

When it comes to the eyes, there are several strange practices present all around Yemen. They are not limited to a certain region of the country, although they are more dominant in the remote rural areas and are only fading gradually.

In the Al-Dhale governorate, locals used eggs on which some script was written by a 'specialist'. The eggs were put on the eyes of a person with an eye problem and kept in place for a while. It was believed to have a cooling effect.

In the Duba' district of Ta'iz, the locals

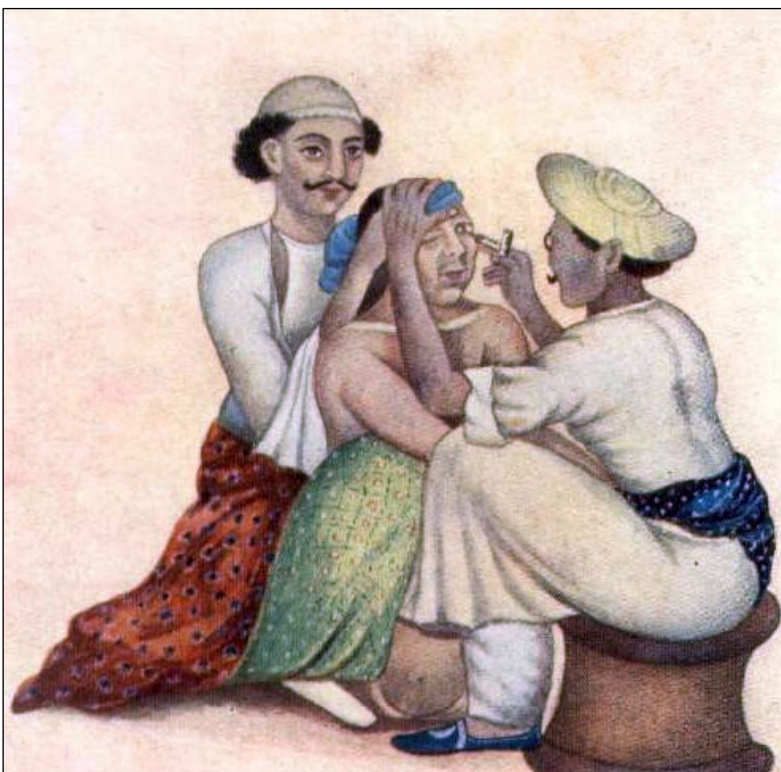
used garden cress or what is known in some regions as garden pepper cress, pepper grass, pepperwort or poor man's pepper. The catch is that someone, anyone, has to spit on the herb first before placing it on the inflamed eyes.

In Mareb, and some places of Sana'a, there is a special person, usually an old woman, whose job is basically to lick eyes clean. When someone has a particle in their eye such as dust that they can't remove themselves, they call for the "Mulahisa," literally translated as the "licker". She maneuvers with her tongue in the patient's eye, apparently licking it clean. It is accepted among the locals that after the licking process their eye would be red for a week. To them, it is a sign that the 'licker' did her job thoroughly and not as a sign of inflammation.

"I remember an old man who used to be considered holy in our area. He would have this one thread in his pocket which he read some verses of the Quran over, and then placed this thread on the person's eyes. Apparently the pain would then go away," said Mahmoud Ali.

In Mahwit, another use of threads takes place in treating eye problems. The "doctor" places a thread in the inflamed eye, keeping one end of the thread protruding from one side. Then he slowly pulls it as if he is sweeping the eye with it. This treatment is usually free of cost unlike the other traditional eye treatments.

However, the most dangerous practice is that of the "Munaqish", translated from Arabic as the "embroider". He or she is a person who uses sharp tools such as needles in the eye. This is known among ophthalmologists as traditional couching.



The procedure involves the mechanical displacement of the lens by a sharp or blunt instrument into the vitreous through the pars plana. Dr. Mahfouth A. Bamashmus is Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Sana'a University Medical Director, Yemen Magrabi Hospital Sana'a, Yemen

He has been studying traditional couching practices in Yemen for several years. Through his research, he discovered a family of couchers, mainly in the Ans region of the Dhamar governorate, who perform couching and travel around rural areas of Yemen. They form a network of couchers and they use the "sharp" method where the lens is pushed backwards into the vitreous by a sharp instrument.

According to Bamashmus, the procedure is being abandoned in most parts of the world because of the associated complications and the evolution of better sur-

gical techniques, such as extracapsular cataract extraction and phacoemulsification, together with intraocular lens implantation.

"Couching can cause blindness although the magnitude of the problem is not yet fully known," he said. He mentioned that there is only one unpublished study in Yemen, by Al-Akily et al, describing the use of traditional eye medicine.

Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness worldwide and cause 46.3% of bilateral blindness in Yemen, according to a 2008 research by Saleh Ahmed Al-Akily and Mahfouth Bamashmus on the causes of blindness among adult Yemenis.

The absence of adequate ophthalmic services and transportation difficulties in Yemen lead some patients to undergo traditional medicine; namely couching. Traditional healers, who are readily available in the community, go from village to village treating blind patients. The family is sometimes ignorant of alternatives; payment is flexible, resulting in an obvious reduction in the cost of transportation, food, and absence from work.

The traditional healer is often paid partially in kind and the price paid varies according to the patient's ability to pay and is on average \$62 USD (range, \$45-\$130 USD per eye) plus accommodation and meals.

The outcome is usually measured by the ability of patients to see moving objects immediately after the procedure, while long-term complications are usually regarded as "God's will" and so are readily accepted. Although many complications from traditional procedures are seen with poor visual outcome, few, if any, have good results.

#### Scientific research on couching

Through his work at the eye clinic in the Ibn Al-Haitham Eye Center in Sana'a, Dr. Mahfouth Bamashmus examined, in his outpatient clinic, a total of 55 eyes from 50 patients with history of having undergone traditional Arabic "couching" of the lens. All these patients presented with poor vision in one or both lenses, as a direct result of having undergone couching.

Among other things the study, recently published in the European Journal of Ophthalmology, showed that all patients operated by couching knew that a modern alternative existed but found it difficult to travel to centers providing a safer, alternative service.

The majority of patients studied were older rural villagers of low educational status but some were not necessarily uneducated, as 36% of our cases had some degree of education. However, they had faith in these traditional Arabic couching healers, who are readily accessible and, as previously mentioned, provide flexible payment methods, either in cash or kind.

In the study, research shows 76.4% of eyes remain blind (by WHO standards) and with poor visual acuity, following couching for cataracts.

"It is important that health policy makers and medical authorities do what they can to prevent traditional healers from performing the couching procedure, as well as to inform the population about the existence of more effective and safer alternatives," recommended Bamashmus, in his published study.

## HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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

### Acute external ear infection What you should know

Nadeera had irritation and itching in her left ear, for a few days. Her earlobe was shiny and red. The doctor next to her house thought that it could be due to an insect bite. He prescribed some medicines and reassured her. However, the irritation and pain persisted. She thought of going to the doctor again the next morning.

At midnight, she suddenly got up with a stinging pain in the left ear. Her pillow was wet; later she found out that it was the discharge from her ear. Her ear lobe was red and puffy. Nadeera was surprised to see swollen glands behind the ear and near the throat. She thought that there was something seriously wrong with her ear.

Nadeera was right. She has developed an acute infection of the external ear (Acute Otitis externa).

Otitis externa is sometimes called 'swimmer's ear', or 'tropical ear', because it can be



Otitis externa is a painful condition of the external ear canal (the tube between the outer ear and the ear drum). Anyone can get otitis externa, but it is slightly more common in women than in men.

caused by water getting inside the ear canal, and it is often more common in humid conditions. It is also caused by an infection, or by an allergic reaction to something that comes into contact with the external ear canal. It can follow skin conditions like eczema, seborrheic dermatitis and psoriasis of the external ear. Fungal infection, allergic and irritant reactions to earrings, or acne can cause this condition as well. Bacterial infection of the hair root is yet another condition which can cause this.

Ear damage caused by scratching, undue cleaning, ear syringing, more than necessary or incorrect wearing of hearing aids, ear plugs, or ear phones can result in acute infection of the external ear. Unusual moisture as in sweating, humid environments and swimming in dirty or polluted water can also favor this condition. Indiscriminate use of hair sprays, hair dyes, and earwax softeners can at times contribute to this. In some cases, the cause remains unknown.

Sometimes, the infection can recur frequently, throughout the year. Then it is called Chronic Otitis Externa.

The pain and swelling will go away gradually with antibiotics and other medications. Most cases of otitis externa clear up completely in 5 to 7 days.

#### General advice to avoid otitis externa

- Try to avoid getting your affected ear wet - for example, by wearing a shower cap while showering and bathing. Remove any discharge, or debris, by gently swabbing your ear with cotton wool, being careful not to damage it.
- Remove anything from your affected ear that may be causing an allergic reaction, such as hearing aids, ear plugs, and earrings.
- Treat any underlying skin condition that may aggravate your otitis externa, such as seborrheic dermatitis, psoriasis, or eczema.
- Relieve ear pain with analgesics (painkillers) such as paracetamol, or ibuprofen. Children under the age of 16 should not take aspirin.
- If you have drug allergies, you should be cautious in using ear drops that contain certain substances like neomycin, or propylene glycol.
- If the condition is severe, you may have to consult an Ear Nose and Throat specialist. Any ear wax, discharge and debris from your outer ear and ear canal have to be removed by microsuction using a small suction device. This allows ear drops to work efficiently. Sometimes, the doctor may keep an ear wick (a soft cotton gauze plug that is covered with medication) into your ear canal. An ear wick allows the medication to reach the end of your ear canal, and should be changed every 2-3 days.

#### How to use ear drops

Follow these steps to apply ear drops effectively. If possible, ask someone to help you apply them.

- Gently remove any discharge, ear wax, or debris from your outer ear and ear canal using a twist of cotton wool. Do not insert cotton wool buds into your ear.
- Warm the ear drops (by rolling the bottle between the palms of your hand for a few minutes) before applying them. This will prevent any dizziness that can be caused by applying cold ear drops.
- To instill the ear drops, lie on your side with your affected ear facing up. The ear drops should fill your ear canal. Gently push and pull your ear to work the drops in and to get any trapped air out.
- You should stay lying down for 3-5 minutes to ensure that the ear drops do not come out of the ear canal. However, if this is not possible, (or it is difficult to get young children to co-operate) try gently plugging the ear for a few minutes using a piece of cotton wool covered in petroleum jelly (Vaseline), or moistened with the ear drops.
- Leave the ear canal open to dry.

Complications can occur but rare. You can avoid otitis externa and prevent it from recurring by the following ways:

#### Avoid damaging your ears

- Do not insert cotton buds, or other objects, into your ears. Wax works its way out naturally, and cotton buds should only be used to sweep around your outer ear (pinna).
- If you find that ear wax build-up is a problem, you should have it removed by an ENT surgeon.

#### Keep your ears dry and clean

- Do not let water, soap, or shampoo get inside your ear when you take a shower or bath. Wear a shower cap in order to avoid water, or soap, entering your ear.
- Use a hairdryer, on warm setting at least 6 inches from your ear to help dry the water in the ear canal. Never push the corners of a towel into your ears to dry them, as this can cause damage.
- If you swim regularly, wear a swimming cap that covers your ears, or use ear plugs.
- Treat and prevent other skin conditions.

### Selection of Consultants Request for Expression of Interest For Providing Consultancy Services in the Field of Port & Container Terminal Management Systems

Yemeni Red Sea Port (Port of Hodeidah, Mokha, Salif) have resolved to implement an automation project for its administrative, financial and operational activities this year so as it can compete in this field to the extent its customers are satisfied where it is envisaged that the project contributes to improving the efficiency of performance by 35-70%. This project is also to implement the National Port Strategy for Yemeni ports, prepared by a specialized American company in addition, this project is one of the most important strategic projects in the investment plan of the Corporation.

Hence, Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation (YRSPC) – Hodeidah Port, invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the necessary consultancy services for the above project. Interested consultants should enjoy the following qualifications:

1. The consultant should prove his understanding of port and terminal processes: container, bulk, break bulk, liquids, cars, RoRo, marine services, and other port activities
2. The consultant should submit a proof that he designed processes and IT systems for ports and terminals on representative terminals in various locations.
3. The consultant should having a good understanding and knowledge of the suppliers and the available IT systems for ports and terminals.
4. The consultant should prove that he has an in depth knowledge of the organizational structure of ports and terminals.
5. The consultant should have been conducted optimization, IT selection, implementation and restructuring projects for ports and terminals.
6. Ports and terminals sector should be the main business area of the consultant.
7. The consultant should having implemented and supervised the implementation of TOS (Terminal Operating Systems) and Port Management Systems.

In addition to that, the consultant should provide the following additional information:

1. its financial, technical and administrative status of the consultant,
2. key staff qualification,
3. references (for verification)

#### The consultancy services shall include:

##### Phase (I):

- Preparation of a study to implement the project of Port & Container Terminal Management Systems automation (Admin, Finance & Operation).
- Preparation of Tender Documents for the project.

##### Phase (II):

- Evaluation of proposals from bidders.

##### Phase (III):

- Supervision for the implementation.

Period of the consultancy services (for Phase "I" only) is expected to be FOUR MONTHS from the date of signing the contract with the selected consultant.

Expressions of Interest shall be made in duplicate hard copies along with a soft copy (CD) to the address mentioned below.

Finance: Self Financed

The consultant will be selected in accordance with prevailing laws (Tender Law 23-2007) and the procedures set out in the High Tender Board's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services applicable in the Republic of Yemen.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below:

Executive Chairman – Chairman of the Board  
Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation-Head Office, Port of Hodeidah- Hodeidah, Yemen  
Tel: +967 3 211600/211603 Fax: +967 3 211264/211561 –  
Email: pmac@y.net.ye requirements\_purchasing@yahoo.com - Website: www.portofhodeidah.com

Deadline for submission is 12:00 hours noon on by Sunday 2nd of may 2010.

No submission after the date above will be considered.

Incomplete submissions will not be considered.





## 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



# Extraordinary Muslim women (Part 2)

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.

## Queen Arwa Al-Sulayhi

**Known for:** Queen of Yemen for over 50 years  
**Dates:** Hijri: 440-533 AH  
Common era: 1048 – 1138 AD  
**Country:** Yemen

Queen Arwa was orphaned at a young age and adopted by the king and queen of Yemen, her uncle and aunt. The queen, Asma, educated Arwa with poetry and the Qur'an, and she was known for her great memory.

Arwa married the crowned prince; yet in a series of traumatic events, the king and queen died. Their son (Arwa's husband) was paralyzed, and retreated from the public eye. Consequently, Arwa was catapulted into rule much sooner than she had ever expected.

Queen Arwa focused her attention on the welfare of her people, setting up several centers for education for cultural and religious studies. She built roads, mosques, fountains, and Dar al-Izz, a grand palace of whose remnants exist today.

She was the first woman to be accorded the prestigious title of hujja in the Isma'ili branch of Shi'a Islam. With religious authority, she ruled peacefully for over fifty years. She never lost support from the Yemeni people, who affectionately called her "Little Queen of Sheba."

“Show her respect, for by Allah she will be the preserver of our race and our crown.”  
— King Ali of Yemen in regards to Queen Arwa  
Natalie Maydell and Sep Riahi, *Extraordinary Women from the Muslim World* (Lancaster: Global Content Ventures, 2007)

## Sayyida Al-Hurra

**Known for:** Pirate Queen  
**Dates:** Hijri: 890 – Unknown AH  
Common era: Ruled from 1485-Unknown AD  
**Country:** Morocco

A Moroccan of Andalusian origin, Sayyida Al-Hurra belonged to a family of Andalusian nobles who fled to north Africa after the fall of Grenada in 1492. Marrying Sultan Al-Mandri, they embarked on war against the Portuguese and she ascended to power while managing her husband's affairs. After the death of her husband in 1515, Al-Hurra, although already a prefect of Tetouan, she was bestowed with the title "Al-Hurra" which denoted a woman wielding sovereign power. Subsequently, she had herself named governor of the city-state.

Following the death of her husband, she wed the King of Morocco, Ahmed Al-Wattasi, but she requested that he travel from Fez to Tetouan for the wedding to indicate that she had no plans on abdicating her power following their marriage.

After making contact with the Turkish corsair Barbarossa, she assembled a fleet and began privateering in the western Mediterranean. It was in this endeavor that she earned for herself the title of undisputed Queen of the Pirates of the region. Perhaps using piracy to continue her first husband's war against the Portuguese, Al-Hurra used piracy to wreak havoc on Portuguese shipping lines. Specifically, in 1520, her forces captured the wife of the Governor and damaged Portuguese colonial shipping.

She was deposed in 1542, by her son-in-law, ending 30 years of rule. She was stripped of her property and power and her subsequent fate is unknown.

## Roxelana Sultana

**Known for:** Sultana of the Ottoman Empire  
**Dates:** Hijri: 916 – 966 AH  
Common era: 1510 – 1558 AH  
**Country:** Turkey

Born in Ukraine, Roxelana was taken as a by the Crimean Tartars and subsequently was shuttled to Istanbul where she was selected to become a member of Suleyman the Magnificent's harem.

Renamed Hurrem, she soon ascended to become a favorite of Suleyman's but also became victim to the jealousies of the other concubines, including the mother of the Crown Prince. Both were exiled and the Crown Prince was later strangled to death, some say at the instigation of Roxelana.

Roxelana's influence on Suleyman became legendary and their affection was the prolific subject of Western artwork. She bore Suleyman five children and, in an unprecedented move, was elevated from slave to free wife. There is also evidence that Roxelana provided Suleyman with astute political advice. For example, she was a correspondent of King Sigismund II August of Poland, like her daughter Mihrimah would later be. During her lifetime, the Ottoman Empire experienced peaceful relations with Poland, no doubt partially due to Roxelana's soothing hand on affairs. Some historians also believed that she may have intervened with Suleyman to control Crimean Tartar slave-trading in her native land—something, she doubtlessly, felt a deep tie with.

In addition to politics, Roxelana was a notable philanthropist who was perhaps the first woman to participate in notable building projects. She founded a number of mosques, dervish lodges, madrasas, a woman's hospital near the slave market, and public bathhouses to serve worshippers close to the Aya Sofya. In 1552, she established a soup kitchen for the impoverished in Jerusalem.

Her son, Selim, became Sultan after the death of Suleyman the Magnificent and her daughter Mihrimah continued her role as a powerful woman of the harem whose word held considerable political clout.

The influence Roxelana continues on to the present day. A number of novels have been written about her. In 2007, Muslims in the Ukrainian town of Mariupol, opened a mosque in her honor.

## Nur Jahan

**Known for:** Empress of the Mughal India  
**Dates:** Hijri: 985-1055 AH  
Common era: 1577 – 1645 AD  
**Country:** India

Empress Nur Jahan was responsible for the many artistic, architectural, and cultural achievements of the Mughal Dynasty's Jahangir Era (1013-1037 AH, 1605-1627 AD). She was of Persian origin, born on a caravan traveling from Teheran to India.

Nur's husband, Emperor Jahangir, was addicted to alcohol and opium, rendering him powerless at decision-making. He relegated all state affairs to her. She controlled all promotions and demotions within the royal government, and even had coins struck in her name, an honor usually reserved for men.

She took special interest in the affairs of women, by providing land for women and opportunities for orphan girls. Nur came from a line of poets, and she and encouraged the women of the court to write and share their poetry.

“... a genuine gift for aesthetic discernment ... an eye for indigenous Indian decoration, combined to produce in Nur Jahan an artistic force...”  
—Ellison Banks Findly, *Nur Jahan: Empress of Mughal India*. Oxford University Press, 1993).

Nur designed the Moghul gardens of Kashmir and Agra using a Persian-inspired garden layout with flowing streams and disciplined geometry. She oversaw the construction of her father's mausoleum in Agra, where she popularized a marble technique that that was used pervasively in the design of the Taj Mahal. Her tomb in Pakistan, which she designed herself, attracts many visitors with its pleasant walks and picturesque gardens.

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

## Jahanara

**Known for:** Early Sufi scholar, princess, and daughter of Shah Jahan  
**Dates:** Hijri: 1022-1091 AH  
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.

## Halide Edib Adivar

**Known for:** Novelist, professor, women's rights activist  
**Dates:** Hijri 1299-1383 AH  
Common era 1882-1964 AD  
**Country:** Turkey

Halide Edib Adivar led many lives. She was a professor, an author, a nationalist and a famous feminist. She was born in Istanbul and attended the American College for Girls, one of the first Ottoman Muslim women to receive a western education. Her father, a bureaucrat for the last Ottoman Sultan, defied the standards of the times and actively supported his daughter's education.

After her graduation, she married her teacher, Salih Zeki Bey and had two children. During this time she founded the Society for the Elevation of Women in 1908 and she published her first two novels in 1909. After her divorce Halide began teaching at an all-girls' high school. She improved the curriculum and added additional courses to include language and science. This began her work as an advocate for women's education and empowerment. During a trip to Syria, Halide met and married her second husband, Dr. Adnan Adivar. After her return, Halide began lecturing at Istanbul's Faculty of Letters.

“I was convinced that sometimes the humblest and most anonymous individual could represent the high ideal of a great nation.”  
—Global Village, *Notable Ladies*, at: <http://gvccommunity.tripod.com/ladies/haide.htm>

She soon became involved in Turkey's nationalist movement, giving speeches and working as a nurse and soldier in the Turkish War of Independence. Attaturk awarded her the rank of corporal, making her the only female officer at that time. After Turkey's independence, Halide lived abroad with her husband, returning in 1939 to create the English Language and Literature Department at Istanbul University. She died in 1964.



## Amina Wadud

**Known For:** Islamic Scholar and Consultant  
**Country:** United States  
**Known for:** Islamic scholar and consultant  
**Country:** United States

Dr. Amina Wadud is a visiting scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry in California and a visiting consultant on Islam and gender at the International Centre for Islam and Pluralism in Indonesia.

Dr. Wadud achieved full Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA, before taking early retirement. She is the author of several books, including *Inside the Gender Jihad* (Oneworld Publisher, 2006), and *Qur'an and Woman* (Oxford University Press, 1999), now available in 7 translations. A core member of Sisters in Islam, Malaysia since 1989, Dr. Wadud contributed the theological basis for the organization in its earliest stages of development. She continues to combine academia and activism; progressive Islam and spirituality in her work.

In the fall of 2009, Dr. Wadud will teach Islam, gender and human rights at the Center for Religious and Cross Cultural Studies at Gadjah Mada University, in Yogyakarta. The following spring (2010) she will teach an intensive workshop at University of Melbourne, Australia. She continues to travel extensively providing consultation on areas related to Islam and Pluralism and is an expert on the theology of Islam and gender equality. She is doing research on knowledge production and gender in Islam.

## Baroness Pola Uddin

**Known for:** First Muslim woman elected into the UK's House of Lords  
**Dates:** Hijri 1378 – Present AH  
Common Era 1959-Present AD  
**Country:** United Kingdom

Baroness Pola Uddin is known for being the first Muslim and Bangladeshi woman to have been elected into the House of Lords. She has dedicated her life to social reforms and equal rights.

Uddin first came, with her family, to the United Kingdom at the age of thirteen. Three years later, against the wishes of her family, she married Mr. Komar Uddin. They have five children.

Uddin began her professional career in the late 70's when she developed and led many community working groups, including distinctly women-centered projects. In 1989, she became the first Bangladeshi and Muslim woman to be elected as Local Councillor in the London area. Four years later, she became the first Deputy Leader of the same area. In 1998, she was raised to the peerage and elected into the House of Lords as Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green. Since then, she has chaired the Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Task Force and the Women Councillors cross-party Taskforce. In her role as Chair, Uddin has hosted outreach events across the UK to encourage women, particularly those from ethnic minority communities to get involved in local politics.

In addition to her role, Uddin serves on the Select Committee on European Affairs and is a board member of Autism Speak UK and a patron of several associations, such as Orbis International, Student Partnership Worldwide, Bethnal Green and Victoria Park Housing Association, Women's Housing Forum, Women's Aid, Brit-Bangla and The Dame Vera Lynn Trust.





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- ▶ Abdul Rahman, High school, experience in reception, secretary, public relations and accounting. Contact: 735248203
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- ▶ Afif, diploma in mechanic control pneumatic, working with PLC, CNC experience in working C Hydraulic pneumatic. Wants to work in any factory or a company. Contact: 771607140
- ▶ Tawfiq TV Satellite ENG. Fixes all kind of satellite TV, expert in India TV and European TV channels. Contact: 735470649
- ▶ B.s.c in Accounting, diploma in English, 3 years experience, Yemen Soft, computer maintenance, data base, programing and application program. Contact: 712734911 - 777253559
- ▶ Abdulrahman, bachelor degree in English, excellent at English and computer. Wants to work in any company. Contact: 771607140 or 713207272
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- ▶ Small business management diploma, former U.S.A resident for almost 10 years, work experience: Cashier, clerk and reception, fluent in English, Arabic and Amharic, looking for bank organization business man. 736605040
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looking for job in any company. 711182322

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## A piece of heaven on earth – West Java, Indonesia



By: Ashwini Bhanagay  
For the Yemen Times

Most people look forward to some relaxation, some adventure and above all quality time with the family, as a vacation. West Java, with the sandy beaches on the Java Sea in the north, the Indian Ocean in the south, green valleys, majestic volcanic peaks and waterfalls, might be just the place you are looking for and a perfect 'family get-away.'

A group of Arabs, who visited Indonesia recently, described Java as 'a piece of heaven on earth.'

### The Abode of Gods – best for adventure

A 25 meter-high waterfall set in perfect natural surroundings, hot water springs (having temperatures between 38 to 47 degrees centigrade), that can cure skin diseases and rheumatism, the green canyon full of stalactite and stalagmite and surrounded by two beautiful green hills, dense forests, botanical gardens. The mountains of West Java are so serene and beautiful that the Indonesians call them the 'Abode of Gods'.

The young and energetic members of your family will love this! And there are many other options for adventure and some thrill as well. Twenty-five km north of Bandung, is Tangkuban Perahu, a volcano. The mountain Tangkuban is shaped like an upside-down boat. Garut, with its waterfalls, craters, steaming geysers and sulfurous lakes, is an ideal place for trekking.

For a combination of wildlife, adventure and fun, it's best to choose the Gede Pangrango National Park. Don't forget to carry warm clothing, a raincoat, strong shoes and your own food with you here. It's a great place for trekking and you can actually stay in tents if you like.

White water rafting in the Citarik River will give you the thrills. Add to it the experi-

ence of staying in traditional farmer huts on an isle in the middle of the river, and it's an experience of the lifetime.

### Parijs van Java – Paris of Java

For those who like shopping, Bandung, the capital of West Java is 'the place'. Known as the 'Paris of West Java', Bandung is mostly known for its clothes industry. This city of flowers first became known after the Asian Conference, in 1955.

Domestic flights from Jakarta serve Bandung daily and buses are available from Central Java, as well. Trains and rental services operate from most important Indonesian cities, to Bandung.

And the best thing is that all the fabulous places, which are a 'must see' in West Java, are only about three to four hours away from Bandung!

### A clue to the mystery

The element of mystery, which is often associated with Indonesia, is kept alive by its celestial music, performing art forms narrating captivating age old stories and the out of the world handicrafts like masks, the plaited mats, painted umbrellas and batiks of Tasikmalaya.

You will enjoy 'Tari Merak' or the peacock dance which has mesmerized audiences through centuries. Choreographed in the 18th century, the beautiful golden peacock-shaped head gears, worn by the dancers and the neck and body movements, will literally remind you of the majestic bird, dancing on a wet day. 'Jai pongan' is another equally wonderful dance form which has originated in West Java.

Wayang golek is a traditional form of puppetry from Sunda, which uses wooden puppets. A sole puppeteer operates the puppets accompanied by his 'gamelan' (a musical ensemble featuring a variety of musical instruments and vocalists), and a simple banana leaf forms the puppet stage behind which the puppets stand.

The Indonesian musical instruments are quite unique and a 'gamelan' consists of metallophones (metal bars struck to make a sound), xylophones (wooden bars struck to make a sound), drums, bamboo flutes and gongs.

But the most unique is the 'anklung' – a bamboo ensemble of tuned, shaken bamboo rattles and consisting of a bamboo frame upon which hang several lengths of hollow bamboos. Anklungs are played like hand bells.

Another mystery is Kampung Naga, a small village 30 km from Tasikmalaya and located amidst beautiful mountains, which still retains centuries old customs.

There are palaces, temples, archeological sites in West Java as well.

### Relaxing on the beaches

Not everyone really wants to follow a rigorous schedule during a vacation. The breathtaking hills and sandy beaches of Pelabuhan Ratu, a three to four hour drive from Bandung or Jakarta, are ideal for relaxation. On the beach of Pangumbahan, one can see the 'tukik' (little turtle) and if you choose to visit the area in March or August, you will be able to watch the 'penyu hijau' (green turtles) digging the sands to lay eggs, at night. The beach is a sea turtle conserve.

### Safaris and much more

There are many options for safaris. The Taman Safari park is a home for rare species of animals and on the southern tip of West Java is the Ujung Kulon wildlife reserve, a dense forest covering 51,000 hectares and a home for the last surviving rhinoceros.

The Cibodas botanical garden, located on the slopes of mount Gede Pangrango, has 40,000 species of plants, including orchids, Indonesian Oaks, chestnuts and Javanese Rhododendrons!

### Once-in-a-lifetime

Newlyweds are looking for a place to spend time with each other and to get to know each other better. The best way to this would be to experience something unique, together.

What would you call, stepping in a canoe to reach your hired cottage constructed out of bamboo, with a coconut palm roof? The most coveted Kampung Samperium resort, built in 1999 on the 'back to nature' concept and located in west Garut, offers this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Here, not only does one get to savor the traditional Sundanese cuisine, its traditional music, dances, but you can even explore the places around!

### Wilujeng Sumping (Welcome) to West Java

On March 30, the Indonesian Embassy organized an Indonesian Tourism Promotion event called 'Indonesia – Amazing Diversity Fabulous West Java, the gateway of your enjoyable vacation,' at its premises, in Sana'a. The event was attended by H.E. Nurul Aulia, Indonesian Ambassador in Sana'a, the Deputy Minister of Tourism of Yemen, the private sector and the media.

The purpose of the event was to introduce Indonesian tourist destinations, particularly those of the West Java province. The Indonesian Embassy is planning another similar event to promote tourist destinations in other provinces as well, to encourage Yemeni travel bureaus to come up with packages for Yemenis to visit Indonesia. The events are also meant to encourage Indonesians to come to Sana'a and visit the Islamic historical sites here.

In his inaugural speech, H.E. Nurul Aulia, Indonesian Ambassador in Sana'a, called upon travel bureaus in Yemen to build partnerships with Indonesian tourist companies and improve communication. He thanked all those who helped organizing the event, especially Saeda and Yemena.

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, in his speech said that the relationship between

Indonesia and Yemen goes back to historical times, when Yemeni traders first migrated to Indonesia for trading as well as to spread Islam. Many settled there and today there are over five million people of Yemeni origin living in Indonesia.

The deputy minister further said that recently, Indonesia and Yemen had signed many agreements. Saying that Yemen is considered as an open museum, he invited the Indonesians to visit Yemen.

The Indonesian Ambassador to Yemen then presented the deputy minister with an Indonesian 'khanjar', as a memento. He also called upon Yemeni businessmen to invest in Indonesia.

This was followed by an eight-minute presentation on the tourist places in West Java, by Herr Dewan, Head of Official Department of Tourism in West Java.

The venue was neatly arranged. A candle placed in a center of each red and white table, added to the atmosphere. What was striking once again, were the traditional Indonesian dresses. The men were clad in silk batik shirts and kains or sarongs (wrap arounds) complete with a traditional felt cap. The women paraded the kebaya (a sheer long sleeved blouse, often with a lace and elaborately embroidered, kains or sarongs and a selendang (a batik stole) draped over the shoulders.

The highlights of the evening were the live performances of the Indonesian traditional dances – the 'tari merak' or the peacock dance and the 'jai pongan' dance, live songs and the traditional West Javanese cuisine.

Another highlight of the evening was the fashion show, especially the traditional wedding dress worn by Yemenis living in Indonesia and the other beautiful golden traditional wedding dresses of Indonesia.

The evening came alive with the intricate designs, tasteful clothes, exquisite ornaments, colorful fashion show, music, all boasting of an highly refined aesthetic sense. But what was overpowering was the team spirit and friendliness of the Indonesians.

### Traditional West Javanese cuisine

Among a variety of chicken and fish items as well as sweets served for the dinner, were satay or sate, a dish consisting of

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diced or sliced chicken or other meats on bamboo skewers grilled or barbecued over a wood or charcoal fire, then served with various spicy seasonings like peanut and soya sauce and some salad and rice and 'es cendol' a cool, sweet, ginger and coconut milk drink with some ground rice noodles.

The food of West java is usually bland, but you can always add a little 'sambal dadak' or hot chili sauce to suit your taste. 'Nasi timbel' (steamed rice rolled in a banana leaf), 'pepes' (fish, chicken or mushroom mixed with crushed and blended herbs, folded in banana leaf and steam cooked), 'jambal' (salted fish), mutton and vegetables, or chicken and vegetables, are the common food varieties. Fried meatballs are a speciality.

### A little about the land of the Sundas

West Java, the land of the Sundas, is the largest and the most populated provinces of Java, the largest of the 17,000 Indonesian islands.

The region, with its tropical climate, an average temperature of 25 degrees centigrade and abundant rainfall is a site of luxurious paddy fields, fruit and vegetable

gardens, fish ponds, forests, rubber and tea plantations, beautiful beaches and is surrounded by volcanoes. June to September, which is the dry season, is the best time to visit West Java.

The native Sundanese people speak two languages: Sundanese and Indonesian. Though it's easy to win the friendship of these friendly people, it's always a help to know a little bit about them. For example, pointing one's toes at another is considered impolite, particularly when sitting with elder people. Also, the Sundanese are very polite people and consider not offending others as 'elementary'.

West Java has a rich cultural and historical heritage. It offers excellent opportunities for adventure, recreation and relaxation. It's also the ideal destination for nature lovers.

Historically, West Java was the first contact points in Indonesia for Indian traders and it is here that the Dutch and British set foot in the archipelago, in the 16th century.

After three and a half centuries of Dutch colonialism, Indonesia got independence in 1945 and in 1950, West Java was declared as a province of Indonesia. Yemen is one of the first countries to recognize independent Indonesia.

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