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Inside:

5

Journalists in exile speak out

8

Climate Change in Yemen:
Drastic changes in the coming 50 years

10

Reading the body gestures of Yemenis

Food agency appeals for urgent donor support

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, May 2 — Anwaar was 15 months old when her mother Lutfiyya brought her to a clinic for food support last October. When the midwife examined her, she found that her weight and height were those of a newborn baby.

Anwaar was born in Qusufi, a village about 60 km from the Yemeni capital Sana'a. Her father, who is illiterate, finds work in a nearby factory, but his wages are not enough to support his wife and four children so they are forced to supplement his income by loans and through begging.

The family's daily diet consists of bread and a water-based sauce. When they can afford it, they buy potatoes and onions because these are the cheapest vegetables in the market. Meat is only eaten, when given through charity, during religious holidays.

After the midwife had measured her, the tiny girl was immediately enrolled for supplementary feeding by the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP), and her weight doubled from 3 to 6 kg within the first month and a half.

But now the UN agency says that it cannot continue to support acutely malnourished infants like Anwaar for much longer because of limited funding.

At the health center in Thulla where Anwaar was taken by her mother, only 70 percent of planned beneficiaries are currently receiving assistance, according to Maria Santamarina, reports officer at the WFP in Yemen, who wrote her story. By July/August, this may drop to 30 percent.

The WFP says it is missing 75 percent of the money it needs to continue vital food assistance to the internally displaced, refugees, and the food insecure in Yemen. It has already started reducing its rations to beneficiaries to make the little resources it has last longer.

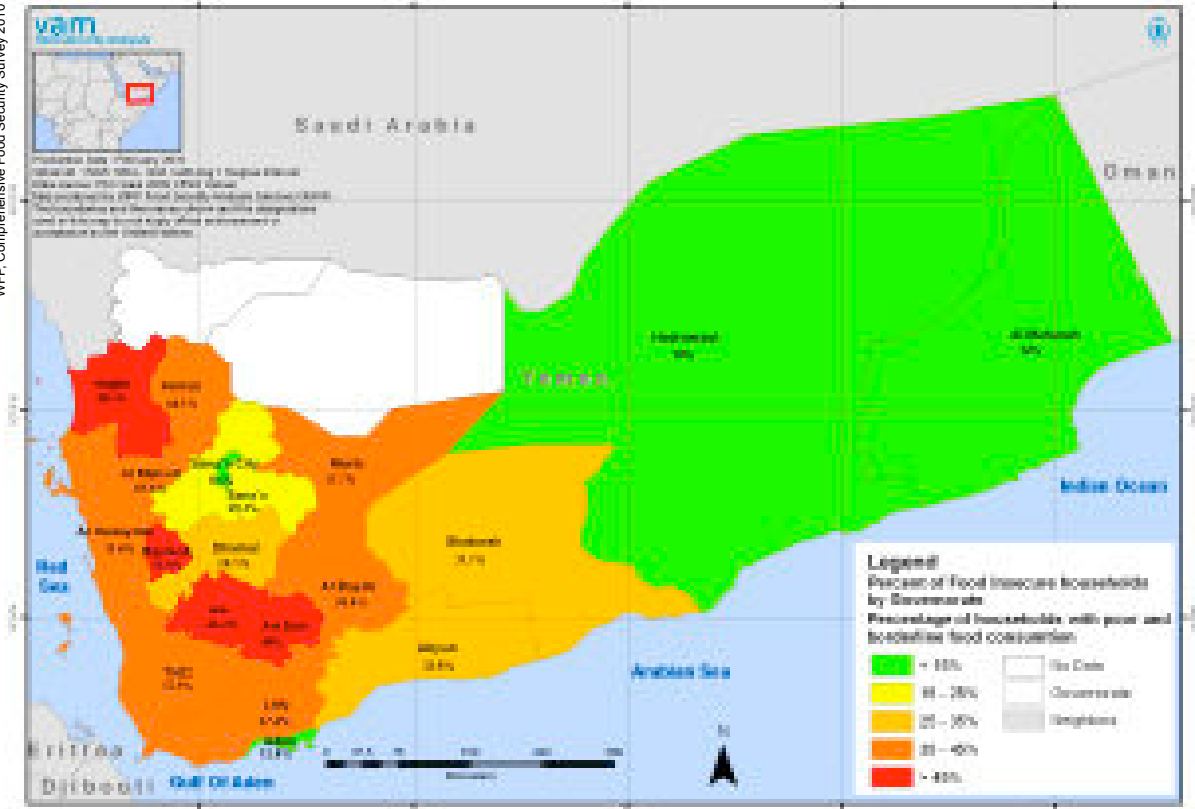
This May, the WFP will be halving food rations to the families displaced by the conflict in Sa'ada, north Yemen.

"Reducing rations is not a solution, it's a last resort," WFP country director in Yemen Gian Carlo Cirri told reporters at a press conference last Wednesday.

Together, he and the head of the government's executive unit for internally displaced persons, Minister Ahmed Al-Kohlani, jointly appealed to international donors for urgent financial support to sustain food assistance programs in Yemen.

The WFP needs USD 24 million for its operation in Sa'ada and USD 77 million for the whole of Yemen, according to Cirri.

The agency currently helps 1.5 million people in Yemen including the in-



Percent of food insecure households at governorate level.

ternally displaced persons by the war in Sa'ada. But with the current funding and available stock, this will no longer be possible some time during July or August, said Cirri.

If donors meet the gap in the funding, the WFP hopes to increase its assistance to 3.4 million people, according to Santamarina. Its programs will include expanding nutrition programs like the one that helped Anwaar and one to provide an emergency safety net to 1.7 of 2.7 million severely food insecure families who are currently not receiving assistance.

One in three Yemenis hungry

Notably following the substantial rise in food prices over the past two years, one in three Yemenis is acutely hungry -or food insecure- and emergency levels of chronic malnutrition are second only to Afghanistan, according to the WFP.

Over 30 percent of Yemenis are food-insecure and almost 12 percent people are severely food-insecure, according to its latest survey on food security in Yemen for 2010.

In Yemen, the diet of severely food-insecure families is dominated by cereals eaten on a daily basis, complemented by sugar on six days, oil on five days and vegetables on two days per week, according to Santamarina. Meat, fish and eggs, essential sources of protein and vitamins, are rarely eaten.

"Among food insecure households, 33 percent of their monthly expenditure is spent buying bread alone," she wrote to the Yemen Times. "... Many families we have met rely on bread and tea as their main diet."

Food insecure less educated

Food insecure households are more

likely to be headed by individuals who received very limited formal education or who are illiterate, according to the latest study. They are less likely to send their own children to school compared to food-secure households, especially as the female children grow older.

Notably to break this cycle, the WFP launched the food-for-education program in Yemen to encourage more families to send their daughters to school in exchange for food. It succeeded in

increasing girls' enrollment in certain schools by 60 percent, according to Cirri.

But insufficient funds pushed the WFP to suspend the scheme in June 2009.

The use of unsafe drinking water, increasingly common in rural areas since 2006 according to the report, and a high number of dependents in a family also increase its likelihood of being food insecure.

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National budgets sound “Greek” to Yemenis

Although people's welfare and the health of a country's economy is tied to the national general budgets, average Yemenis are not interested or understand the budgets and how bad budgets impact their lives.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANAA, May 2 — The relationship between the national budget and the average Yemeni is nonexistent, according to Dr. Ali Saif, Professor of Economics at Sana'a University. Despite the fact that the gross national product (GDP) which represents the total value of all goods and services produced over a specific time period composes at least 45 percent of the national general budget.

The state's financial records are also mysterious for journalists, even some of those who write about economic issues. This is one of the reasons why the Studies and Economic Media Center had just concluded a three day workshop training journalists on how to read the national general budgets.



The general budget for 2010 and a parliament report on the budget were used as the case study to train the journalists. The parliamentary report stated that the national budget neglected several important issues such as poverty, food security, water challenges, administrative reform, and unemployment.

The report, conducted by the Parliamentary committee, was concerned with studying the state's national budgets and it indicated that the budget used vague terms. Since it is

national financial document, it should have been more accurate. An example of this is the placing of large amounts such as YR 93 billion (more than USD 400 million).

The committee indicated that tax returns should be higher than stated and that the low numbers mentioned in the budget are due to poor performance in tax collection that deprives the public treasury of important resources.

The same committee complained that the State did not make use of the parliament's recommendations on developing the fish industry when writing the budget.

This year's deficit has reached dangerous levels, as it leads to an increase in the country's debt.

More financial awareness needed

“The budget uses complicated economic terms and is written in small print which deters our citizens from reading and understanding it,” he said.

“Yemeni citizens know nothing about budgets, and so they think that

preparing them is complicated work,” said Saif. He demanded that the government explain these budgeting processes to everyone and also urged journalists to analyze budgets in order to reveal their flaws.

In this recent workshop, 25 journalists were trained to analyze the general budgets.

“Unfortunately, economic journalism is still ignored in Yemen, probably because of a lack of qualified journalists. Moreover, officials in media institutions don't care about economic issues” said Mostafa Nasr, head of the centre.

The general budget is important to any national economy, especially in democratic countries, and should accurately reflect government trends and expenditures plans, according to Nasr.

“We want to enhance the state's transparency in financial issues and we urge its citizens to participate in financial decision-making,” Nasr said. “The budget in our country isn't realistic and contains many imbalances. Data in final accounts are very different from the estimates of a general budget.”

Children's Parliament celebrates 10 years anniversary



Children's Parliament at their first session for the term 2010-2012. The sessions take place at the actual parliament premises in the weeks were the real parliament is not in session.

By: Ismail Al-Ghaberi

SANAA, May 1 — Fifty children in the eighth and ninth grades were elected last week in the child parliament's fifth election since its establishment in 2000. In the first election there were only 31 children parliamentarians and with each round the number of candidates, as well as voters, has increased. This term marks the 10th anniversary for this civil society initiative.

These children represent various Yemeni governorates in addition to six segments of society: very poor children, working children, children with physical disability, deaf or dumb children, visually impaired children and orphans.

Girls compose 40 percent of the parliament, which is a significant improvement from the real parliament where there is only one woman among 300 male MPs.

The elections took place last month and 30,000 voters elected the child MPs in electoral centers located in schools. The 50 winners competed against 350 candidates of which 187 were male and 163 were female.

The Children Parliament is a project founded by the Democracy School, a civil society organization. The parliament's objectives are to create awareness among children on democracy and enable them to practice it in real life. Yemeni children from public and private schools can vote and there are special procedures to include children with disabilities.

The parliament conducts a national meeting every three months for one week. During this week parliamentar-

ians are giving training on democratic practices and capacity building. They also meet with officials in the real parliament and in the government including the prime minister.

“This parliament prepares the children for a more active role in the future and to take ownership of their rights,” said Jamal Al-Shami director of the Democracy School.

Many of the children who were previously in the parliament have stayed involved since leaving or have branched out into other activities concerning youth and development.

Widad Ahmed, a former Child MP, says that her confidence in herself and her will to be involved in activism and the public domain has grown significantly. She is now planning to be a leader in the future.

Ahmed Abdulhadi Obaid, also a former Child MP, says that being in the parliament changed his life and the way he sees life. Now he has a better understanding of politics and rights.

Even the children in this current term have shown interest in participating in real elections in the future. Sabr Amin who won a seat representing the Capital Secretariat in the 2010-2012 term says nominated himself because he wanted to make a change. He will advocate for student's rights and be part of projects to facilitate education for disadvantaged children.

Aml Mujali from Hajja wants to learn what democracy means and what it can do for people. She wants to use her position as a child MP in the next two years to advocate against early marriage and child trafficking because those two problems are common in her area.

Government seeking 50 leaders of the Southern movement

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANAA, May 2 — The government has published a list naming 50 leaders accused of criminal issues. According to the Yemeni news agency Saba, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) were asked to submit the names to the government.

The 50 listed are accused of blocking roads, killing and attacking citizens and plundering cars coming from the northern governorates at Jabr Mountain and in Al-Habelain and Al-Dhale' governorates.

Among the accused is Naif Ali Al-Beidh, the son of the former South Yemeni vice president Ali Salem Al-Beidh.

The JMP spokesman Mohamad Al-No'aimi said that the government should give the JMP the absolute authority to arrest all of the wanted members because it is its responsibility not the JMP's.

Clashes in Al-Dhale'

On Thursday, an intensive fire exchange between the security and

members of the Southern Movement caused several casualties; three security soldiers and a citizen were injured.

The security and the rescue police forcefully stopped a peaceful sit-in organized by civil society organizations in Dent district in Al-Dhale' and arrested some of the organizers.

Last Friday, Taher Salem Taher Tammah leader of an armed squad in Al-Dhale' called Sarw Hemiar detained two republican guards in mountains of Yafe', Lahj Governorate. They then asked the police station in Yafe' to release two detainees in return for the republican guards. The two detainees, Bassam Al-Saeed, the first on the government's list, and Hani Al-Mashwashi, were both arrested when they were protesting with Sheikh Al-Fadhli, a leader in the Southern Movement.

A local source told the Yemen Times that the 7 member squad gave the state 48 hours to release the detainees.

The same source said that Tammah confirmed the kidnapping of the two republican guards and added that they

are not responsible for their lives if the two members of the Southern Movement were not released.

Tammah added that he was in touch with the head of the police station and said that there is a possibility that the issue will be solved.

In other news, a young man named Fares Mohammad Ahmad Al-Yafe'e died of his injuries when he was shot in the head by soldiers at a checkpoint in Lahj governorate when he was on his way to Sana'a.

A group of armed people from Yafe', in Lahj, went to The Al-Rawasi Charitable Association and said that their reply would be aggressive if the state did not kill the soldier who killed Al-Yafe'e.

The people who were accompanying Al-Yafe'e said that the soldiers at the checkpoint allowed them to pass but shot at them as they passed. They claim to not know why they were fired at. They added that Al-Yafe'e had just received a visa for travel to Saudi Arabia.

Yemeni faces smear campaign over pro-gay article

A Yemeni filmmaker is receiving death threats after publishing an article upholding gay rights

By: Rachelle Klinger
The Media Line

SANAA, April 30 — A Yemeni filmmaker is facing a smear campaign from conservative and religious groups in his home country after publishing an article in a local magazine promoting gay rights.

The Paris-based author, Hamid Aqabi, wrote that homosexuality was “part and parcel of our society.” He called on the parliament to extend more rights to gay people and went as far as to suggest that the Yemeni government should consider allowing gay marriages, just like in the West. The article tackled several thorny issues and appeared in A-Thaqafiyya, a cultural magazine funded by the government and issued by the Al-Jumhuriyya institution.

Like in most of the Arab world, in Yemen homosexuality is controversial and rarely discussed topic.

“Yemen is the same as other Arabic societies – homosexuality is practiced in private,” Ali Hilli, the pen-name of a London-based gay rights activist and director of Iraqi LGBT told The Media Line.

“Freedom of speech is very important and should not be subject to prison sentences. Threats or intimidation are a very dangerous weapon against human rights activists and journalists in the Middle East and governments should tackle this issue,” he said.

As to Aqabi's suggestion to introduce gay marriages, Hilli said it was “not very rational” to bring this up for discussion in a society like Yemen.

“In Yemen there is no gay community, because according to Islamic Sharia it's prohibited,” Mohammed Al-Qadhi, a Sanaa-based journalist and analyst told The Media Line. “Yemen isn't the United States. It's a very conservative society and no one will admit that they're gay.”

Al-Qadhi called Aqabi's article “very rare.”

He speculated that the editors of

A-Thaqafiyya apparently overlooked the article and probably did not notice how explosive its content was; otherwise it never would have gone in.

On one hand, Al-Qadhi maintained that Yemen was becoming increasingly conservative and religious. But on the other, he rejected the notion that the publishing of the controversial article indicated a growing tolerance towards the gay community.

He explained that a hard-line approach among decision makers can be perceived in several areas such as the reluctance of religious authorities to support a ban on child marriages and a move to make the school curriculum more religious.

Following the unusually open discussion of this topic, the head of the Al-Jumhuriyya institution blocked the magazine from being published and ordered an investigation of the editorial team.

The article has fueled angry responses among Muslim clerics and the general Yemeni population, who are demanding that Aqabi be given a severe punishment and be put on trial.

The issue has also been discussed extensively on Internet forums, where some participants called for Aqabi to be executed for promoting what they consider pornography.

One forum even prompted “our terrorist brothers” to “prepare one of their suicide operatives to wipe this malignant man off the face of the earth.”

The case has reached Yemen's parliament, where several members of the religious Islah party condemned the article. Following a discussion on April 7, the parliament sent a memo to the Ministry of Communications asking to shut down the paper and investigate those responsible.

However, several journalists and artists have also come to Aqabi's side to express their solidarity.

Aqabi could not be immediately reached for comment to The Media Line. He was quoted as saying to DPA, the German Press agency, from Paris that he will not backtrack on his comments and was astonished by the huge amount of negative comments about him in Internet forums accusing him of indecent sexual acts and calling for

his execution.

He has vowed to take legal action against MP Muhammad Al-Hizmi, who has been particularly virulent in his verbal attacks to the point Aqabi has accused the MP of inciting to kill him.

“Those who are instigating these lies think they are agents of God on Earth,” Aqabi was quoted as saying. “These are the same people who permit child marriages. They are blocking a law to limit the age of marriage and another law that prevents carrying weapons without legal justification or a license. They're against women's freedom and they are silent when it comes to government corruption.”

“I believe that it's the right of any person anywhere to choose their way of life and to enjoy personal freedoms. I don't think this warrants me being labeled a heretic and killing me.”

Aqabi denied rumors that he was trying to stir up a commotion against him as a ploy to win French citizenship, claiming he was fully entitled to this status as a resident there for the past decade.

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Application doors close on the 15th of May 2010

WISE members propose national launch of Jihad Against Violence at first regional meet in Pakistan

In a unique show of unity and common purpose, NGO leaders, religious scholars, and educators convened in Islamabad March 14, 2010 for WISE's first Pakistan regional meeting. The one-day event was designed to establish collaboration between members of the WISE network on the ground and to formulate a cohesive WISE project to further women's rights in Pakistan. Twenty-eight women and men, a vast majority women, from Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar gathered for the meeting that was successful in sparking conversation between these various role players within Pakistani society that often operate only within their respective networks. In particular, religious groups and NGO representatives typically refrain from collaborating with one another, each group perceiving the other as having opposing perspectives.

Participants were more at ease with each other after a morning spent in leadership and team-building training with Wali Zahid, CEO of Skill City, a training and coaching firm that specializes in addressing leadership and management issues, taking into account Asian cultures. Safer Ullah Khan of Bedari, a women's rights NGO in Pakistan, later offered a presentation on the group's partnership with WISE in advocating against domestic violence in the northern Jhelum District - a project under WISE's Jihad Against Violence campaign. The participants finally ended the day with a brainstorming session where participants agreed that addressing violence was a major priority in Pakistan and an awareness campaign should be organized to tackle the issue. Attendees proposed ideas for cooperation, for example women working at madrassas offered to share their curriculum with the media and NGOs; scholars at the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) offered to provide booklets that address women's issues within an Islamic framework; and Maulana Azad, Imam at the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, spoke about his madrasa's activities. Participants individually outlined project ideas as well as resources they could offer.

Based on these recommendations, an action plan will be developed by the WISE network in Pakistan.

"An excellent workshop in helping me recognize my inner self. Very informative & highly interactive."

--Syeda Rafia Mazhar, Assistant Research Associate, Uks Research, Resource & Publication Center on Women & Media

"We are looking forward to continue this interaction along with the other activities such as elimination of violence against women and girls."

--Saleem Malik, Executive Director, Bedari

"... Your efforts to take along diverse groups are commendable..."

--Samina Bashir, Assistant Professor, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI)

Journalist Ishrat Hyatt, who was in attendance at the regional meeting, wrote an in depth article about the event in The News International newspaper: "Equal status for women under Shariah demanded".

To see more photos from the Pakistan regional meeting and other WISE activities in Pakistan, visit <http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=318288801&u=3573610>

Grants to encourage women's studies

The Arab Women Organisation (established 2003) has announced five research grants, of US\$5,000 each, which are open to first-time female or male applicants preparing for master's or doctoral degrees on a social sciences topic concerning Arab women: and a prize worth US\$14,000, which will be awarded to a social sciences project undertaken by an individual and published within the past two years, again reflecting issues relating to women. Applicants must be nationals of one of the organisation's member states. Closing date 30 May 2010.

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Journalists in exile speak out

Journalists in exile are the focus of World Press Freedom day this year. Following are interviews with journalists who have fled their home countries for a lack of freedom of expression, some to report from abroad. All interviews and illustrations are published with permission from the World Association of Newspapers and News Publications (WAN-IFRA).

A lot of journalists go missing in Eritrea: exiled journalist Biniam Simon in an interview with WAN-IFRA

Journalist Biniam Simon left Eritrea after it became impossible for him to carry out his duties as a journalist without living in fear. Having been granted asylum in France, and concerned about the lack of information for the community in his native Eritrea, he started exiled radio station Erena. Broadcasting via satellite to thousands of listeners back home, Radio Erena provides independent news to a country where press freedom is non-existent. WAN-IFRA visited Radio Erena's Parisian studios to talk to Mr Simon for 3 May, World Press Freedom Day.

You're an exiled Eritrean journalist living in France. Why did you leave Eritrea?

I've been here since 2007. The reason I left Eritrea is because there is no freedom of press or freedom of speech, so it is difficult to be true to your self as a journalist. If you write what the government wants you to, you know you are not reporting the news. When you do report the truth, you are seen as a terrorist and out to destroy the unity of Eritrea.

I was working as a TV journalist and editor. It is simply impossible to report the news and what you see. I can't tell you what happened because I am afraid for my colleagues back home who are still working as journalists. It is enough to say that I was afraid for my life, and that there were people in the government who were after me.

I applied for a digital media programme in Japan, so the authorities thought I was leaving Eritrea to study. While I was there, things got worse and I heard that if I returned, I would still

be in danger. There was no way I could go back.

I contacted RSF (Reporters Sans Frontières) while I was in Japan and they helped me to seek asylum in France.

What was your idea behind the radio station?

A group of friends and I had an idea that we could create a free and fair news service outside Eritrea for inside Eritrea. We decided to start a radio station broadcast through a satellite. With the help of my friends and RSF we started our radio station.

Now, all Eritreans can receive the radio station through our satellite. Even Ethiopians can receive it.

How do you get your news?

We get our news from many sources. We have sources in the government who are devoted to reporting what they see and they let us know what is happening by sending us emails or by phone. They are risking their lives to work for us and for the people of Eritrea. I can't imagine if they ever got caught. They would just disappear. A lot of journalists just disappear in Eritrea.

In a country with so little press freedom, what were the challenges in ensuring Radio Erena had listeners?

The government knows we exist and at first there was a huge campaign against us when we started broadcasting. Our challenge in starting Radio Erena was not money or equipment or even finding the studio. The biggest challenge was counteracting the government's claims that we were spies and the radio station was there to create disharmony in Eritrea. It was a huge scare campaign and we had to fight to show we were here for the people and not spies with the CIA.

We are the first independent radio in

Eritrea. There are other media groups not associated with the government, but they are associated with the opposition and only report their side of the news. We are the first truly independent radio station of Eritrea. This was our second challenge because the people didn't know whose side we were on. We are not on anyone's side. We only report the news. We had to explain this kind of reporting to our listeners.

Our third challenge was when the government started imprisoning people who listened to our radio station. They were eventually released, but it was still concerning for us as we didn't want to scare people from listening to our radio station. The government has stopped imprisoning people for tuning in to Radio Erena for the moment, but I'm sure things could change.

The government regularly jams the radio frequencies of alternative media, but we have escaped this so far because we broadcast through satellite, not short wave radio like the others. We've now heard they want to block our satellite. We know they've hired technicians to find a way to stop the satellite.

What is your message on World Press Freedom Day to those who might not appreciate the difficult circumstances in which journalists in Eritrea operate?

We are in a different world. Some people just don't believe you when you tell them what our country is like when it comes to freedom of speech. They say, "It cannot happen in today's world!" But I say, "Yes - it happens in Eritrea".

I think many people take press freedom for granted and it's only when they lose this freedom they realise what they had. People need to fight every day for press freedom.

What we need for the people of Eritrea is basic human rights - the freedom of speech, the freedom of thought. That's it. That's all we want. Other political things can come later. But we need to think freely and talk freely.

I am proud of what we have created, but I will be even more proud when we achieve our aims, which is to have human rights in Eritrea.

They said to stay home but I couldn't: a WAN-IFRA interview with exiled Iranian photojournalist Ehsan Maleki

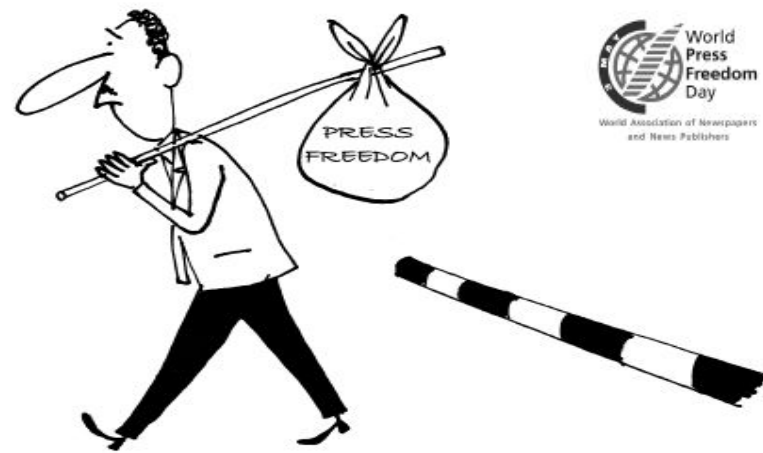
Born in 1980 and educated at the University of Art in Tehran, Ehsan Maleki is an Iranian photojournalist who was arrested and forced to flee his country in the aftermath of the disputed 2009 June elections. Working for the SIPA news agency, he was advised to stay at home after the Iranian government banned the reporting of post election protests, but his passion for photography and a desire to capture this moment in his country's history saw him ignore the pleas from his editors and take to the street.

You knew you wanted to be a photojournalist from the moment you picked up a camera. How do you reconcile your passion for the news with putting your own personal safety at risk, and ultimately, forcing you to live in exile in France?

"Before the 2009 election, I spent most of my time following the two candidates who were reformists. People were really happy and hopeful that there would be change in the country. Everyone in Iran had energy and I had this energy too, following the candidates and capturing this energy on camera. There was a big will from the people to make this change, but it didn't happen - the Government remained in power and people began to protest in the street.

"After the election, the ministry in charge of foreign media correspondents officially banned us from reporting the protests, and my editor advised me to stay at home as it was too dangerous for photographers. There were 3 photographers who were attacked and stabbed. They said stay at home, but I couldn't.

"I felt this was a very important moment in my country's history and thought I'd better not lose this moment by staying at home, even if they didn't publish my pictures. The only thing I could do was to go out so I did not regret it later."



World
Press
Freedom
Day
World Association of Newspapers
and News Publishers

Why were you forced to flee?

"I didn't know I was in such big danger. We were getting ready to have a new reformist government and an open atmosphere for reporters and photographers so I was getting ready to re-open our office. But after the election, I didn't know that people would get killed and there was a huge depression in the country.

"The government wrote an article about SIPA being the enemy and that anyone who worked for SIPA was a spy. I had two other colleagues working for SIPA who were arrested along with many other photographers.

"I got arrested in the street. Luckily I didn't have my camera on me at the time, if I did, I would be in jail now. I hid my camera before they could find me. After I was arrested I never went back to home. I called my neighbour and they said government agents had come to my house and had gone through my things. I thought, I will hide and spent time at a safe house, but after some time I felt the owner might report me so I left.

"I then heard that one of my colleagues who had been arrested was tortured and appeared on television confessing he was a spy. I said to myself, 'I had better not stay'."

There are many Iranian journalists who have been forced into exile and are living in Iraq or Turkey. Tell us about your journey to France and what the future holds for you now.

"On 3 August I fled to Iraq. I had a backpack with a few pieces of clothing, but not my passport or my computer because the Government had taken them. I got in contact with an alcohol smuggler and he helped me to cross

the Iran/Iraq border on foot. It took 17 hours.

"I thought I would go to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) but I was arrested by Iraqi security. They thought I might be an Iranian spy. After 7 hours of interrogation they took me to the UNHCR and I was registered as an asylum seeker on 5 August. For two weeks I slept in the street.

"Through Reporters Sans Frontiers and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I was able to enter France on 6 November 2009.

"Right now, I'm living only in the moment. The future seems too dark. The job market has changed for photojournalists all over the world. I was a good photographer and was represented by agency. Here I am just a number until I get permission to stay. I cannot work; I cannot do anything. I just edit my old stories.

"If I went back to Iran they will catch me and lock me up. Maybe they will release me but I will not be allowed to work.

"I hope the political situation will change so I can go back and use all the skills I have gained over the years."

Why is press freedom important to you? Why is it important for photojournalists to report what they see?

"I can write a book about this! People who cannot be in the field need information and it is our role as journalists to provide that information. So we must be free to express what is happening. Otherwise people will lack information and not be able to judge what is really happening. This is not just in Iran; this is everywhere."

Tender Advertisement No. (10) of 2010

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation –head office- Hodeidah port- here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender No. (10 / 2010) for carrying out the Development of Mokha Port (Construction of a new wharf with a quay wall 217 meter long and 10 meters draft) which will be financed by government . Bidders who are interested in participating in this Tender must submit written applications to the Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation – Hodeidah port - Administration of Purchasing Department to receive Bidding Documents for an amount of YR30,000 or an equivalent in US Dollars currency non-refundable. The deadline for selling BDs will be on Wednesday 16/6/2010.

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- Bids will be opened in the office of financial Dept. and in the presence of Bidders or their legally appointed representative. Bids received after this date of will not be considered.
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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

Profiling the terrorist, did we get it all wrong?

As the profile of the young man who targeted the British envoy in last week's suicide bombing becomes clearer, my presumptions about his background have been turned upside down. Before knowing the details of his background, I assumed he was another poor unemployed Yemeni who did not get enough family support to become a productive citizen. However, when the details came through, it turned out that I could not have been more wrong.

He came from a well-off family. He was enrolled in an engineering Institute and he was the top of his class. He was engaged to be married and he had personally invited people to his wedding. Moreover, he had a very concerned and respectable father who gave him support and tried to keep him on the right track.

So what went wrong? What makes a bright 22 year old student, and future husband, kill himself?

The answer probably lies in the three years he spent attached to radical groups in Mareb governorate during his late teens. Yet, can three years turn a person's psyche from that of a normal ambitious person to a suicide bomber?

Othman, the suicide bomber, also spent two years in prison and underwent many sessions in the political security's correctional facility. Why did those two years not correct the work of the Mareb radicals? Moreover, how could a person look so happy and normal to his friends and family and the next month tie explosives around his waist and pull the trigger?

The Nigerian caught in the Christmas day flight in Detroit was also from a rich background. Osama bin Laden himself comes from a very rich, almost royal background.

A political analyst once told me that most terrorists lack an interest in life because they are poor and feel worthless. "If you would have given this person a hundred dollars and told him to come tomorrow for another he would have never have blown himself up," the political analyst told me.

However, Othman did not fit this profile and I don't think it was about money, or, the lack of it.

And what about Mareb, or rather, what's in Mareb? The latest news coming from the region is that USAID is working on a community project that would directly help the locals and improve their livelihoods. According to a source who works in the area, this comes in the light of claims that Al-Qaeda is also drilling wells for farmers who have no more water to sustain their fields.

What is it with terrorists in Yemen? If it is not poverty and unemployment, then what is it? How can radical extremists get to the heads of young boys and make them want to kill themselves? Why are the educational and family systems so weak that someone from outside can make a person turn against everything his family and society stands for?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen: Challenges of counter-terrorism

By: Roland Popp
Atlantic Community

Counter-terrorism operations in Yemen have proven to be difficult. While the West has recognized that a broad civil-military strategy for Yemen is required, strengthening the central government in Sanaa does not lead to a diminished terrorist threat. Western governments should prioritize the country's regional integration and mediation efforts.

Since the failed terrorist attack on a passenger aircraft approaching Detroit airport on 25 December 2009, international attention on the situation in Yemen has been increasing. The young Nigerian would-be bomber had apparently been trained in Yemen. Against this background, Western governments in particular have referred to the growing importance of this southern Arabian country as a base and safe haven for the al-Qaida network. Accordingly, the question of counter-terrorism in Yemen has become an important issue in international security policy, at least for the time being.

The US government immediately announced its intention to increase economic and military aid and to intensify counter-terrorism cooperation with the Yemenite security forces. In a conference called at short notice at the end of January 2010 in London, it was decided to create an international grouping, called "Friends of Yemen". Its mission is to assist Sanaa in addressing the range of challenges facing the country.

The emphasis on reform and assistance for sustainable development indicates that the West has, to some extent, learned from its earlier mistakes in counter-terrorism efforts

and no longer places a one-sided emphasis on military and intelligence-based measures. The initial overblown rhetoric identifying Yemen as a third front in the so-called "War on Terrorism", together with Afghanistan and Iraq, was quickly dampened. Demands for deployments of US troops against "terrorist bases" in Yemen were voiced in Congress, but quickly rebutted.

Nevertheless, doubts remain as to whether the strategy pursued by the Western governments will improve the situation in Yemen. The country's diverse domestic political interests are a complex affair, marked by conflicts in north and south as well as by socio-economic challenges. The core dilemma of the West is that close cooperation with the central government in Sanaa, which is a near-indispensable part of its counter-terrorism efforts, threatens to aggravate the very same domestic constellation that facilitated the expansion of al-Qaida in Yemen in the first place. Furthermore, the unstable situation in Yemen is due to regional factors that must be taken into account in international crisis management.

Unless the local conflicts in Yemen are peacefully resolved and the threat of terrorism is contained, the strategically important region encompassing the Horn of Africa and the south of the Arabian Peninsula is in danger of further destabilization. For the West, the future of Yemen is linked to important security, energy, and business interests. Ignoring the Yemen problem is therefore not an option. Instead, the core challenge is to formulate a strategy that takes the specific local and regional conditions into account.

Roland Popp is a senior researcher at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) in Zurich.

The US wants its allies to support themselves

By: Djörn Eversteijn
Atlantic Community

The new US Quadrennial Defense Review marks a shift away from previous views on international security and warfare. A major objective of the review is to develop the capacity for US partners and allies to solve their own conflicts and security issues. It remains to be seen if this will be an effective approach in combatting security threats.

The recently published review of the United States' defense strategy illustrates the ongoing strategic shift away from conventional thinking on warfare and international security challenges. One of the main priorities mentioned in the 2010 review report, aside from achieving "victory" in both Afghanistan and Iraq, is to enhance other states' abilities to solve international security problems and counter challenges posed by ongoing conflicts, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the technical equipment that enables the production of these weapons and ballistic missiles by financing, equipping and training their security and defense forces. The emphasis on enhancing its partners' and regional allies' capabilities within the security realm is understandable as the United States finds its own defense capabilities stretched thin due to demanding conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan-Pakistan. But it remains to be seen whether this approach will bring a long-term solution to the hybrid challenges in complex societies as the ones mentioned above.

On February 1st of this year, the United States' Department of Defense issued a new defense strategy, outlined in the new Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). The document demonstrates a clear strategic shift from the previous review report from 2006, which still hinged upon the strategic principle that the United States' Defense apparatus should be capable of conducting two major conventional combat operations simultaneously, even if in distant regions of the world. Prior to the publication of the report, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates stated on various occasions that this strategic framework had become both outdated and inadequate to defend the United States and its interests in an era that is characterized by what Philip Bobbitt referred to as the epic struggle between terror and consent.

The new defense review emphasizes that the United States "must prepare for a broad range of security challenges on the horizon - ranging from military modernization programs of other countries to non-state groups developing more cunning and destructive means to attack the United States and [its] allies and partners." The challenges of the 21st century are

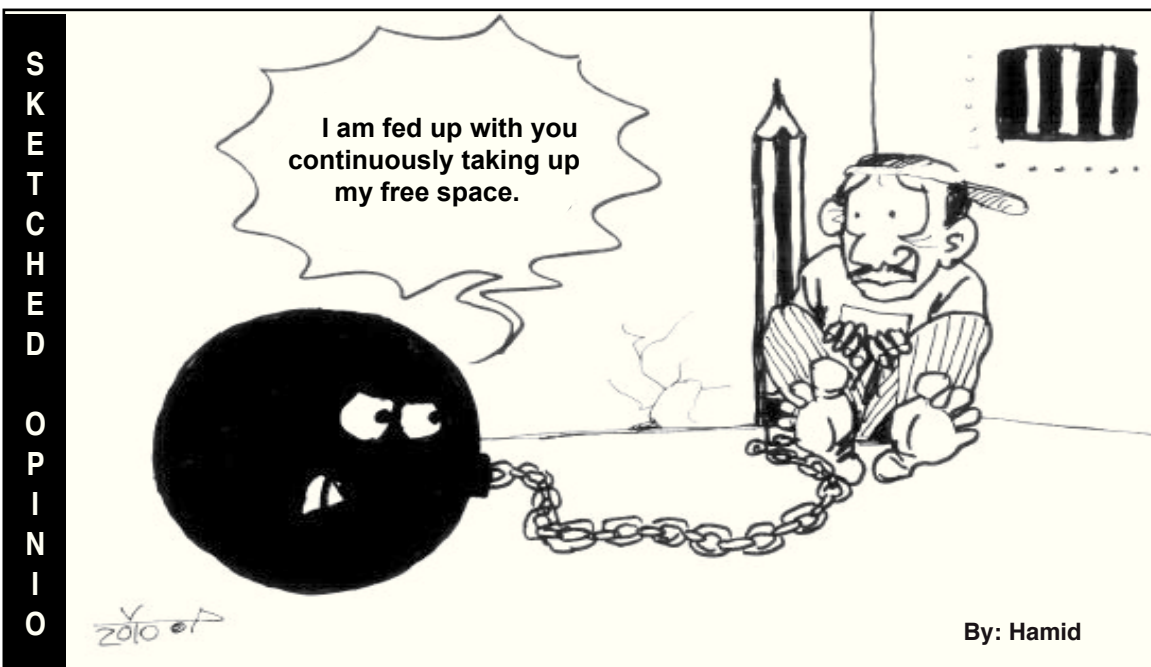
expected to be increasingly complex and hybrid in character (a combination of traditional, irregular and disruptive challenges) and aimed at specific vulnerabilities of the so called states of consent, an expectation that is seemingly affirmed by current developments in countries like Mexico, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen and Somalia.

In order to adequately address these composite challenges, the QDR emphasizes the importance of further institutionalising the concept of irregular warfare, in which protecting the populace is pivotal. Recognising the complex nature of multidimensional warfare as well as the fact that the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan-Pakistan and Iraq have stretched American capabilities thin, the QDR furthermore underlines the importance of improving the security capacity of its partners and regional allies in order to "enhance other states' abilities to solve global security problems, and to address... ongoing conflicts" as well as other security challenges. The recent agreement to provide the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, with Patriot systems, reportedly to contain the Iranian regime, is an example of this conceptual thinking.

The emphasis on enhancing other states' capabilities in the security and defense realm is at least partially generated by the prevalent perception within the United States that combined challenges to international stability and security cannot be addressed by what still remains to be the world's dominant superpower alone. Moreover, the concept of training, financing and equipping allies and regional partners is likely to reverberate within the modus operandi of the North Atlantic Treaty Association as well. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the Atlantic Alliance has established a solid reputation with its endeavors in the realm of Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Security Sector Development (SSD), initially through a range of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programmes in the former Soviet sphere of influence, and more recently with its training missions in both Iraq (NTM-I) and Afghanistan (NTM-A).

Although the reintegration efforts in the more conventional former Communist bloc proved ultimately successful, it remains to be seen whether the partners and regional allies, financed, trained and equipped by the United States or NATO personnel, will prove to be the willing and capable long-term partners of consent in the complex security challenges of the 21st century as is envisioned in the recently published defense strategy of the United States.

Djörn Eversteijn is a researcher at the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies.



By: Hamid

COMMON SENSE

The Zionist Lobby: America Disowned



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

In 1776, thirteen heretofore former British colonies in the eastern periphery of what is now known as the United States of America declared independence from the United Kingdom for the latter's imposition of a couple of taxes, which the "settlers" thought to be unjust and lacking in returns ("No taxation without representation", etc). A war then ensued that took the lives of thousands of British troops and fighters in the Continental Army (the organized popular paramilitary force led by General George Washington that took on the bulk of the fighting against the British imperial forces) and some other loose militias, not to mention the lives of some of the original indigenous "Indian" inhabitants of the land, who "got caught in the crossfire - collateral damage". It is not to anyone's concrete knowledge that any Zionists or pre-Zionists influenced events in this important turning point in American history [Some wishy washy efforts are found to point out otherwise (e.g., <http://www.aish.com/jlh/48955806.html>). However, if we assume that the number of Jews in the colonies, around 2000 as the website linked claims, is correct, it is almost unbelievable that the role such a small number of Jews played could have been of any significant influence. In fact, one of the founders of the United States of America had warned of dangerous times to come. He insisted that the Constitution of the new republic, which arose out of this struggle for liberty and the "Taxpayer is Always Right" principle to sound governance, should single out a community as requiring specific controls lest the country be taken over by the "this community two hundred years later", or something to that effect. The founding father was no other than Benjamin Franklin (see this link: <http://libreopinion.com/members/standartesc/jewishquestion09.html> - to which there are some doubts raised here and there as to the timing of the publication thereof) and he was referring to the Jews, who hardly numbered anything of significance then. Of course, the observer categorically deplores such legislative thinking and the concept of discrimination in all its manifestations. Needless to say, there are American Jews, who have indeed also played positive roles in more recent times in the development of civil rights and civil liberties in the United States as well and who have even advocated for Palestinian human rights.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is absolutely unbelievable that the citizens of the United States as hardworking taxpayers should see this struggle for liberty and independence being washed aside so recklessly. A few bigoted Zionists (like the commentator "Jo" in last week's Common Sense article) have captured all the political weight of the American taxpayers and continue to manage to funnel a sizable chunk of the taxes to an ongoing and illicit and unforgivable human sin of displacing an entire indigenous population from their native homeland. In addition, the latter have also imposed their own renditions of what should constitute United States foreign policy - Israel, Israel, Israel and only Israel!

This is really an amazing phenomenon, when viewed in a historical context and in a humanitarian venue. Here we have a nation born on the predilection that all citizens should have a say as to where their taxes should be directed and for what causes they should be used. However now it would be completely unthinkable for any citizen or taxpayer to even suggest that their taxes are being directed to a cause that in the end not only not only does not serve the interests of the United States, but in fact goes on to endanger the very security of the United States. This is not being said by Hassan Nasr Allah of Hezbollah or by Khalid Mesh'al of Hamas, but by the leading US professional military experts who are directing America's military adventures in the region. Never mind that these same adventures are actually the product of endless Zionist lobby prodding and menacing agitation by Israel and her fussy friends in the United States Congress and the US mainstream media, who have forgotten who are their real constituents and audiences respectively. The failure of these adventures have yet to convince the American taxpayers that the resulting unduly waste of human lives and American resources for the sake of a devious concoction clothed in diabolical mythology and laced with uninterrupted unforgivable human suffering (see this: <http://www.middle-east-online.com/English/Default.pl?id=38680>) is out of tune with the principles upon which the founding of the United States of America rests.

No, this is not the America envisioned by all those thousands of people who died hoping for the creation of a nation that is to be a model of respect for human rights and equal treatment for all, notwithstanding their religion, color, creed or national origin. Surely the American taxpayers have not forgotten their history and the importance of their representatives in Congress being subject to accountability as the latter continue to insist that the interests of a few thousand Zionist trespassers in the Holy Land are more important than the national interests of the United States or even the security of the latter.

The observer is inclined to believe that hate filled rhetoric is not representative of the American mindset (see the second comment, which we publish to show that we are not at all intimidated by typically irresponsible Zionist rhetoric - and of which we in the YT also know the Jewish faith and a good portion of the Jewish people are completely innocent): http://www.yementimes.com/defaultdet.aspx?SUB_ID=33943.

This observer rests his case and suggests that the YT end the publication of such derogatory comments that are far too low to deserve wasting the ink of the YT printing press on, as they are inflammatory to our religion and our beloved Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH) and the YT readers understandably absolutely abhor such typical systematic Zionist filth disguised as public opinion.

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>

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رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

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Climate Change in Yemen: Drastic changes in the coming 50 years

Residents in various cities of Yemen complain that the rate, and the amount, of rain last month were unprecedented. Seasonal-rain falls during the summer usually start in May, however, this year the rains came a month early and were much stronger than usual. One explanation, which might also be linked to other weather changes in Yemen and around the world, is climate change.

**By: Akram Al-Tholaya
For the Yemen Times**

According to a 2009 report in the Current Science Journal, developing countries are in a difficult situation. Despite having one sixth of the per capita energy consumption and CO2 emissions of the industrialized world, they are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of their limited resources to deal with, and adapt to, climate change.

The disastrous floods in Hadramout at the end of 2008 and the tsunami in Southeast Asia are a few examples of the impact of global warming on developing countries.

During the first Earth Summit in 1992, Yemen became party to the United Nations Committee on Climate Change. The Convention was internationally implemented in March 1994. Yemen has been part of the convention since May 21, 1996 and the presidential decree no.32 2004 approved the accession of Yemen to the Kyoto Protocol in September 2004.

According to the Director of the Climate Change Unit at the General Authority of Environmental Protection, Engineer Anwar Abdul Aziz No'man, studies conducted in the field of climate change in Yemen are still basic.

The first was a government study conducted in 1999 in many areas in Yemen; however, the entire country was not covered due to capacity constraints.

years in Yemen requires first obtaining accurate information on the past 30-40 years. "The past will give an indication of what changes are happening today. Understanding these trends would allow scientists to be able to predict the future climate. The problem is that we don't have sufficient information about the climate map of Yemen. Even we, at the General Meteorology Authority, do not have data covering the whole geographic area of Yemen."

Mohammad Mahdi Abu Baker, a professor at the Geosciences Department at Sana'a University, said that global warming affects the Yemeni environment in diverse ways. The floods in Hadramout in 2008, desertification as well as the scarcity of rain in some areas compared to deluges in others are a few examples.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), coastal cities such as Aden and Hodeidah are particularly vulnerable. The IPCC ranked Aden 6th among twenty five cities vulnerable to danger due to rising sea levels.

Abu Baker excluded the possibility of a tsunami on the Yemeni coasts arguing that the tsunami in Southeast Asia had nothing to do with the climate change. "The tsunami was caused by a geological operation caused by a movement in the internal layers of the ocean. However, this does not mean that we are far away from tsunamis" he said. For example, rains or tsunamis in Indonesia, which is six thousand kilometers away, affect the Yemeni and African coasts.



Between October 23-25, 2008, Yemen was faced with heavy sustained rains as a result of a level-three tropical storm that hit the country. The storm caused widespread flooding in several locations in the two eastern Governorates of Hadramout and Al-Mahara.

climate of Yemen is expected to change significantly over the next fifty years. It is expected that the temperature will increase between 1.4 and 2.8 Celsius degrees by the year 2050. Rainfall will either decrease by 24% or increase by about 50% over the same period.

However, many scientists have argued that these estimates relied on inaccurate and incomplete climate data on Yemen. Therefore, any study on climate change in Yemen needs to build a database of accurate data and rely on reports that have compiled complete information about the situation in Yemen.

Abdulla Ahmad No'man, a member of the Water and Environment Unit at Sana'a University and a professor at the College of Science, said that Yemen issued an environmental report about climate change in 2001. This was the First National Report, which included predictions about climate change in Yemen and reported on issues affecting the environment, fisheries and agriculture. It was suggested in the report that the positive aspects of climate change can be used to tackle the negative sides.

Dr. Mohammad Mahdi professor at the Earth and Environmental Sciences department at Sana'a University said that the melting of ice in polar areas will result in climate changes in both the seas and the air. Moreover, coastal areas will definitely sink, causing adverse effects on the environment and on coastal infrastructure.

"We recommended three years ago that construction should be prevented in areas which are 500 meters or less from the coastal line because the IPCC had announced that the sea level would rise by 60 meters during this century," Mahdi said.

The head of the National Distance Observatory, Engineer Abdul Rahman Al-Mesbahi said that the center aims to develop studies conducted by distance sensing which would allow them to understand phenomenon from a distance without actually touching them directly.

He said that the center has already conducted many studies on the environment and on the weather patterns but that they still do not have adequate facilities to properly study climate changes in Yemen.

He added that the center is not a source of specific information in the field of climate change. Currently, the center uses methods which study vegetation and floods in an attempt to gather national data for a combined digital map of Yemen which could eventually be used to help observe climate change.

Al-Mesbahi noted that observing climate change is the responsibility of the General Meteorological and Aviation Authority because they must help protect the environment by collecting data and working in partnership with researchers who study the environment.

Khaled Al-Khanbari, the deputy of the National Distance Observatory, noted that satellites can now take clear 60x60 cm pictures through repetitive imaging techniques and that this can be used to observe coastal erosion.

Man and nature

Beginning in the eighties, climate change scientists began to observe that the phenomenon of global warming was occurring at extraordinary rates and that this drastic increase in a natural process might be caused by human activity.

In the nineties, ecologists confirmed that global warming was occurring because of human activity. For example, the global surface temperature increased

by 0.6 degrees Celsius between the start and the end of the twentieth century, an extremely high increase.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it is likely that the global temperature may increase by 1.4- 4.5 degrees Celsius over the next 50-100 years due to gas emissions. The increase in global temperature will cause sea levels to rise by 9-88 cm causing many islands and coastal areas to sink.

Dr. Najat Saem, a Social Psychology professor at the Faculty of Arts at Sana'a University, said that there is a relation between man and the environment, one of which is climate change.

He argues that climate change is partly caused by inadequate human reactions to disasters. For instance, Muslims usually do not react in a positive way after a disaster like an earthquake or a flood; they explain such disasters in terms of destiny that cannot be escaped from. However, they must begin to think critically to understand that such phenomena are related to human activity and that citizens must change their behavior in order to counter the negative impacts their actions have on the environment. This can be done by conducting awareness campaigns.

There will be many problems in the coming years due to climate change; the amount and patterns of precipitation will change, water sources will dry up and agricultural activities will be hampered causing food shortages around the world.

The summer will be hotter and the winter will be colder. The rainy season will also change as it will rain heavily in a very short span of time causing soil erosion and the deterioration of agricultural terraces. In addition, subtropical deserts will expand in Yemen.

Engineer Belquees Al-Kawkabani, a specialist at the Faculty of Agriculture at Sana'a University said that climate change will have direct effects on the environment and on agriculture in Yemen, including the dwindling of vegetation and increasing rates of desertification in addition to a shift in the rainy season. As a result, the growing of traditional crops will stop being viable.

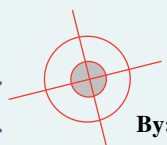
Reusing and treating water, using clean energy, reforesting tropical palm trees so that they can adapt to rising sea levels and using traditional and the new techniques to exploit rainwater are some of the solutions that must be used to tackle the effects of climate change.

Al-Kawkabani added that there are other precautions to reduce the dangers of climate change such as coordinating with the concerned authorities and encouraging citizens to have personal gardens in their homes. In addition, other solutions can be applied such as researching drought resistant crops as well as designing a strategy to end desertification and soil shifting.

One positive project started by The Agriculture College at Sana'a University is entitled "Together to face climate change and it's effects", a community project working in cooperation with the Volunteer Youth of the Capital Secretariat, a civil society organization.

The project has urged the private sector in Yemen to fund a program that aims to ring the city with trees, creating a green belt of trees around Sana'a. However, Al-Kawkabani lamented that since its creation the project has not received any financial support from the private sector owing to its lack of concern about climate change and the environment in general.

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.

Know about dengue fever

Ahmed's parents were worried when he developed high fever. They already knew from newspapers and television that there are a lot of cases of Dengue fever in Yemen and some deaths due to it. They took Ahmed to a doctor who, after examining him said that he has septic tonsillitis which could be the possible reason for the fever and prescribed antibiotics. They were relieved.

Dengue, the 'break bone' fever

Official reports claim that there are many suspected cases of dengue fever in several districts of Yemen, following the outbreak of the disease in early June, last year. According to media reports, few have died from the disease since the advent of this year. Experts believe that ignorance, lack of awareness and treatment methods are responsible for the increased number of cases.

Dengue (pronounced as den' gee) is a disease caused by any one of four closely related dengue strains of virus (DENV 1, DENV 2, DENV 3, or DENV 4). So, there's possibility of getting dengue again with another strain of dengue virus. Dengue cannot be spread directly from person to person by means other than the bite of an infected mosquito.

Female Mosquito is the 'villain'



One gets the virus into his body by the bite of an infected female mosquito belonging to Aedes family. These mosquitoes bite during the day time. After its entry the virus multiplies in the lymph glands in the body. When it has multiplied in sufficient numbers it causes symptoms. This happens generally about 4-6 days after getting infected with the virus.

Danger signals

Occasionally the patient suffering from dengue may develop bleeding (Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever or DHF). The unlucky ones may develop shock and collapse (Dengue Shock Syndrome or DSS). Common sites for bleeding are nose, gums or skin. Sometimes, the patient may have coffee ground vomiting or tarry black stools which indicate serious gastro intestinal bleeding. It can be fatal if unrecognized and not properly treated on time. With good medical management, mortality due to DHF can be less than 1%.

Dengue Vs other fevers

Dengue should be suspected whenever there is sudden onset of high fever. The mercury may touch 103-105 degrees F. It is accompanied by severe headache (mostly in the forehead), pain behind the eyes, body aches and pains (break-bone fever), rashes on the skin and nausea or vomiting. The fever lasts for 5-7 days. In some patients, fever comes down on 3rd or 4th day but returns. All the above symptoms and signs may not be present in the patient.

Laboratory tests

Tests are available in Yemen to detect direct or indirect evidence for dengue fever (IgG and IgM). Additional tests can help to identify the type of dengue infection. Blood tests can be of little help. Like in many viral fevers, there are reduced platelets or an increase in blood thickness (hematocrit), if the patient is not already anemic.

Treatment

Most patients with dengue fever can be treated at home. They should take rest, drink plenty of fluids that are available at home and eat nutritious diet. Whenever available, Oral Rehydration Salt/ORS (commonly used in treating diarrhea) can be given. Sufficient fluid intake is very helpful. It is important to look for danger signals and contact the doctor as soon as any one or more of these are found.

Like most viral diseases there is no specific cure for dengue fever. Antibiotics are not needed. Paracetamol is the drug of choice to bring down fever and joint pain. Aspirin and Brufen should be avoided since they can increase the risk of bleeding. (Aspirin can cause fatal Reye's syndrome in children). High doses of Vitamin C and Multivitamins can facilitate early recovery. Patients should be encouraged to take plenty of oral fluids.

A person who is suspected to have dengue fever requires constant vigilance. All may look well and the fever may tend to decline. However, one should not be complacent that the patient is heading towards recovery. Rarely, the disease may progress towards dengue hemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome. This is recognized by signs like excessive thirst, pale and cold skin (due to very low blood pressure), restlessness and a feeling of weakness. There may be damage to the blood vessels, causing leakage of blood or plasma into various organs or frank bleeding. The patient may develop severe pain in the abdomen, persistent vomiting, skin rashes, nose bleed, bleeding from gums, and passage of tarry stools. In such events, he should be rushed to the hospital.

Many who suffer from dengue fever recover in 1-2 weeks time. Some may feel tired for several weeks. However, if symptoms persist after this period, consult a doctor.

A vaccine has been developed to prevent dengue fever but it is still under trial.

Keep the 'villain' away

The success of preventing dengue lies in keeping the environment clean and free from mosquitoes. Mosquitoes breed in stored, exposed water collections. The female mosquito lays her eggs in water containers in and around the homes, and other dwellings. These eggs will develop, become larvae, and further develop into adults in about 10 days. Destroy discarded containers in which water collects e.g. bottles, plastic bags, tins, used tyres etc.

The highly domestic mosquito Aedes aegypti rests indoors, in closets and other dark places and even inside of your cars. Outside it rests where it is cool and shady places.

Protect yourself

There is no way to tell if a mosquito is carrying the dengue virus. Therefore, people must protect themselves from all mosquito bites.

Personal protection in the form of wearing full sleeve shirts, trousers and abayas, applying mosquito repellent creams and liquids, using mosquito coils, and electric vapor mats inside the house can keep mosquitoes away. Resting or sleeping inside mosquito nets during the day in endemic areas is another good way of preventing dengue



The storm and floods led to devastating consequences, including 73 dead persons, 17 missing persons, scores of injuries, close to 4,600 houses fully or significantly damaged.

Aden University has just carried out a survey in Aden governorate to measure sea levels and compare them to levels in previous years. The study concluded that the coastline is now lower and that the sea has taken over space in once dry land. Accordingly, construction in coastal areas will have to adhere to new construction codes in order to adapt to the changing sea level.

Moreover, between 1998 and 2001 local research was carried out with international funding to define Yemen's situation in regards to climate change. The name of this research paper is the First National Report.

According to No'man, speculating about climate changes for the coming

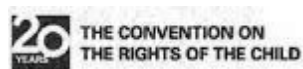
"The meteorological authorities must observe climate changes and measure the changes in temperature and rainfall," he added. "Unfortunately, the General Meteorological Authority does not focus on this data and only carries out its ordinary jobs such as measuring wind and cloud movements, and even this information is kept confidential and we are not allowed to use it in our work."

Drastic changes in climate in the next 50 years

The First National Report estimates that were handed over to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework for Climate Change in 2001, claim that the



Some 25,000 persons were displaced because of the floods, and losses to livelihoods affecting an estimated population of about 600,000-700,000 persons (approximately 50% of the total population of both Governorates).



EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04/10

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:

Title	:	Child Protection Officer
Level	:	NOA
Type of Contract	:	Fixed Term
Duty station	:	Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Under the supervision of the Chief of child Protection and HIV/AIDS, the incumbent will perform the following main responsibilities:

- Collect and ensure availability of accurate, complete and up-to-date information required for child protection programme for effective budget preparation, programme and project design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation.
- Follow up and monitor the implementation of project activities, including monitoring UNICEF inputs, local conditions and resources, flow of supply and non-supply assistance and Child Protection project status, ensure that activities are aligned with annual work plan and to the required quality and recommend courses of action to the supervisor if needed to enhance project efficiency and effectiveness.
- Analyse collected data and information related to child protection and prepare progress reports, advocacy messages and updates; draft changes in Child Protection project work plans, draft sound Child protection programme budgets for review by the supervisor and assist in identification of required supplies and equipment as well as in the drafting of Country Programme Recommendation and other project documentation, assuring accuracy and consistency with established rules, regulations and plans of action.
- Ensure the appropriateness of financial, administrative and supply documentation; verify that Child Protection project expenditures are within allotments and that data is consistent with the project information and database (e.g., ProMS). Follow up on queries or initiate corrective action on discrepancies.
- Compile Child Protection project implementation training and orientation materials to promote knowledge sharing with donors and media. Prepare tables, graphs and other statistical data for technical review and monitoring purposes as required.
- Develop and maintain effective communication and networking through partnership and collaboration internally and outside the organization. This includes collaboration with Operations staff to implement internal controls systems and resolve day-to-day issues or discrepancies in financial or supply management. It also includes team with local Government counterparts to exchange information on Child Protection project implementation and status as well as movement and distribution of supplies. In addition, it also includes collaboration with NGOs, UN and bilateral agencies in the exchange of information relating to Child Protection sector.
- Undertake on-going field visits to UNICEF project sites for the participation in, or observation of project activities and local conditions. Prepare routine information on results of visits and project progress and ensure adequate and timely follow up.
- Arrange visits to project sites for government and other partners, which include providing information and briefing on project activities and status.
- Draft briefing notes, advocacy messages, sections of donor, annual and other reports as required by the Office, Regional Office and Head Quarters.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- Master Degree in Law or any social sciences. Specialized training in child protection is desirable.
- Fluency in English and Arabic is required
- Five years progressively professional work in Project Administration, including data collection and analysis in the area of child protection. Experience in advocacy and social mobilization an asset.
- Ability to research, analyze, evaluate and synthesize data and information and to make rational
- Proven organizational, planning, negotiation, networking and communication skills, including ability to express clearly and concisely, ideas and concepts in written and oral form.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae and copies of the performance evaluation report (most recent two reports) to yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after 15 May 2010 will not be considered.

"UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non-smoking environment."



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancies for its Development Programme.

Gender Programme Officer – (Based in Sana'a)

You will have proven track record experience in project development and delivery, assessing outcomes and impact of the programme components, and managing the project's planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning processes. You will ensure project budget preparation and monitoring, and assisting in fund raising and proposal writing for new initiatives.

We are looking for someone with a 5 years an experience in working in gender programme with a degree in social sciences or related discipline, good knowledge in project management, an understanding of, and experience of, working in the development sector, particularly with regard to women rights and legal protection issues, and n understanding and sensitivity to poverty, gender and diversity, demonstrated capacity of social and communication skills with the ability to work with others and as part of a team, excellent oral and written communication and writing skills in English and Arabic, knowledge and skills in computer usage

Partnerships Officer – (Based in Sana'a)

You will be promoting participation of beneficiaries/audiences in all activities implemented by the project and its partner organizations, providing intensive needs-based technical support to partners with a special focus on organizational capacities, planning, reporting, and monitoring, and leading on the implementation of project's activities with a special emphasis on partner contracts.

We are looking for someone with a 3 years experience in working in development field at local levels and with CSOs; demonstrated capacity of social and communication skills and ability to work with others and as part of a team, excellent written and verbal communication (in English and preferably in Arabic) including representation skills, report writing skills and negotiation and influencing skills.

To apply:

If you believe that you have the qualification to work on the above-mentioned field, Please send a copy of your CV clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or Fax no: 01 450170.

Closing date for applications is **14th May 2010**



Reading the body gestures of Yemenis

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Photos by: Hoor Abdulkarim Al-Saidi

Every nation has its own body language comprising of a number of gestures people use to convey specific messages. Here are some gestures used in Yemen, together with their description and meanings.

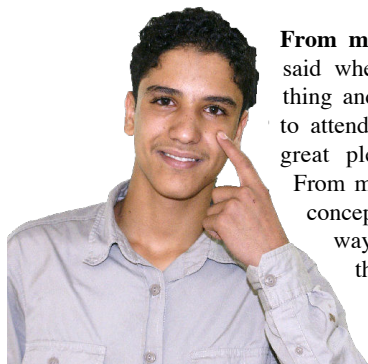
Welcoming gestures

These are some moves Yemenis use to display their affection and hospitality. The moves often include the hand and head such as:



Mohammed Abdullah

Welcome on the head: "Ala alras" is often said while placing the palm of the hand on the head, to signal that that you are most welcome and will be placed on the heads of people in priority. It is sometimes said that if there is no space for you, the host or welcoming person will place you on the top of their heads.



Amr Faisal

From my eye: "Min aini" is said when you request something and the person promises to attend to your request with great pleasure and attention. From my eye refers to an old concept that if there is no way to fulfil this request, the person asked will give up his or her eyes to answer the need of the person doing the asking. The gesture requires placing the

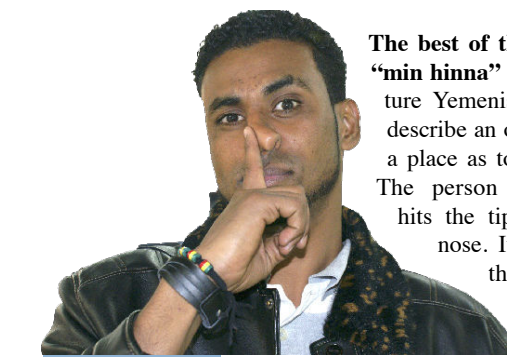
index on one eye and sometimes on both eyes one eye after the other.



Mohammed Abbas

Even if it means sacrificing my neck: "ala alraqaba" is an expression made by slapping the hand gently on the neck indicating that the person will do the job/request even if it cost his/her life. It is used when there is a

task containing risk or when there is an urgent need to do something and by not doing it, would sadden or harm the asker. Another expression for this is "raqabti sadada" which is the same hand-neck gesture but it means the person will take the full responsibility for the issue or promise.

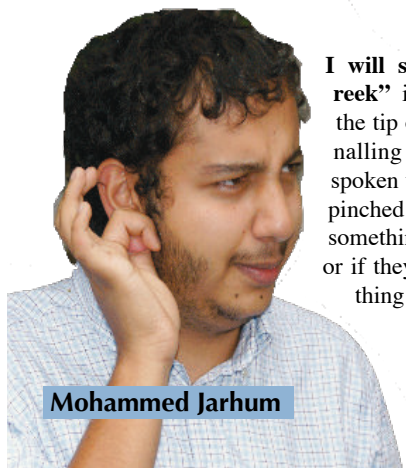


Sadeq Nasher

The best of the best: "min hinna" is a gesture Yemenis use to describe an object or a place as top class. The person quickly hits the tip of the nose. It is said that this expression

comes from the fact that holding the nose high signals top level and so this praised object is relative to holding the nose high.

Warning gestures



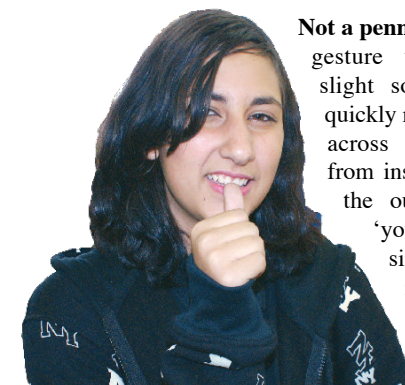
Mohammed Jarhum

I will show you: "lawareek" is said by holding the tip of the ear as if signalling that the person spoken to will have his ear pinched, either because of something he/she has done, or if they dare to do something.



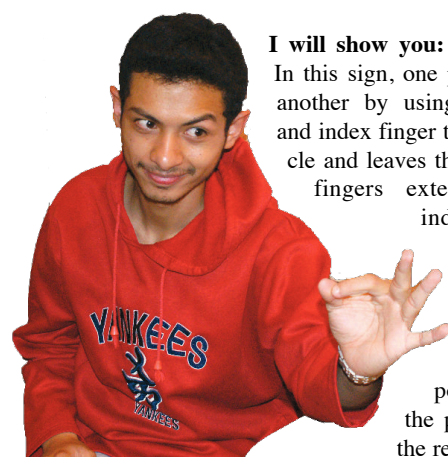
Aiman Bsaboxer

Shame on you: "Allah almusta'an" is a gesture made by holding the chin and often declining the head to one side signalling that "I did not expect this from you" or "shame on you". Allah almusta'an literally translates to 'God is the one we seek to bear the consequence of your wrong doing'.



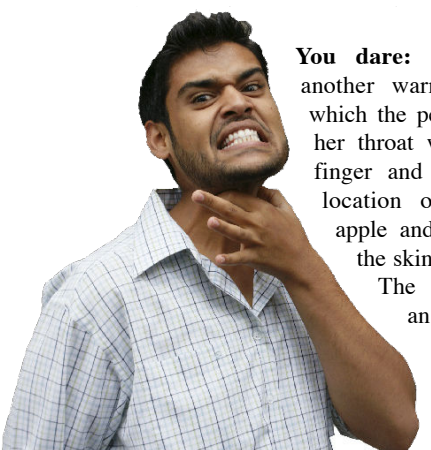
Ray

Not a penny: "wala fils" is a gesture that includes a slight sound created by quickly moving the thumb across the upper teeth from inside the mouth to the outside. It means 'you will not get a single penny from me'. It also is used to signal that someone is completely broke.



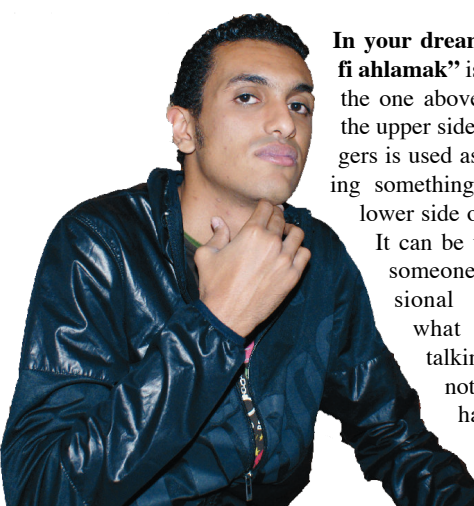
Ibrahim Al-Hemyari

I will show you: "lawareek". In this sign, one person warns another by using the thumb and index finger to make a circle and leaves the other three fingers extended as if indicting the number three while shaking the hand in this position with the palm towards the recipient.



Ismail Zabara

You dare: "athadak" is another warning sign, by which the person hold his/her throat with the index finger and thumb at the location of the adam's apple and slightly pulls the skin to the outside. The sign indicates an extreme threat, as if saying I will cut your throat if you dare do this or that.



Nizar Salem

In your dreams: "Wala fi ahlamak" is similar to the one above, but here the upper side of the fingers is used as if removing something from the lower side of the chin. It can be used when someone is delusional and that what they are talking about is not likely to happen, as in 'dream on'.



Haya Najeeb

Dare you: "A'ar" It is a gesture made by slightly tapping outwards the back of one ear with the index finger. It is used to dare someone and warn them that if they go ahead and do it, the consequences won't be good.

Grieving gestures



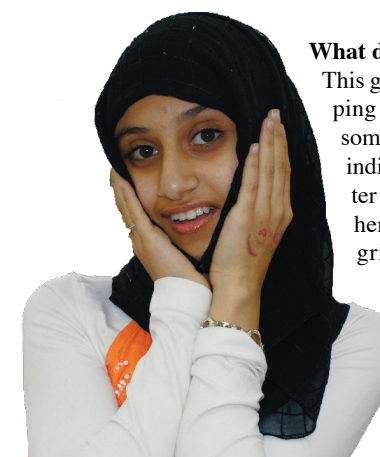
Buthaina Al-Mujahed

Oh my God: "ya waili" this gesture is common with many other cultures and is often used by women rather than men. The woman slaps her hand on her chest often while bending forward and back.



Seba Najeeb

What a catastrophe: "Ya musibatah" is very similar to the welcoming gesture on the head by placing a hand over the head but this has a totally different connotation. Also, when doing this move, it is often in a form of a slap on the head rather than gentle placing and is repeated more than once signalling what a disaster has befallen.



Salwa Al-Wazir

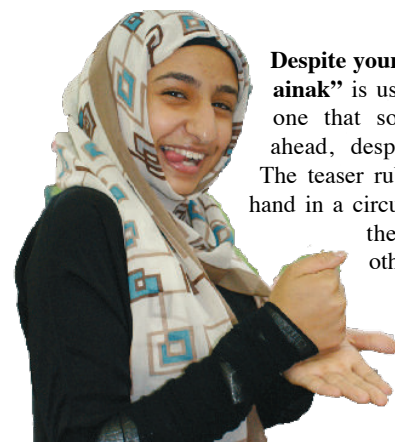
What do I do with myself: This gesture includes slapping one's cheek and sometimes both cheeks, indicating that a disaster has befallen him/her, and the person grieving does not know what to do about it. It is also known as "latm" which means 'slapping'.

Other gestures



Sala Abdulkareem

Quick: "fisa" this is a move made by snapping the index and thumb together and making a sound. It is usually done twice or more indicting that something must be done very quickly.



Hadeel Najeeb

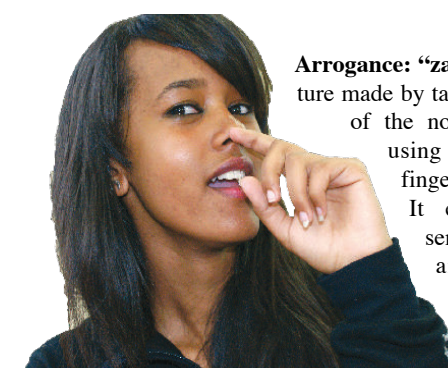
Despite your protest: "wa ala ainak" is used to tease someone that something will go ahead, despite their protest. The teaser rubs the fist of one hand in a circular motion across the palm of the other.



Faris Bokir

Shush: "ooh" this is almost a universal gesture, only in Yemen, instead of biting the fingers, the person bites the knuckle of the index finger from the thumb side, warning the other person not to say a

word about a certain topic, or not to 'spill the beans', i.e. let out a secret in front of anyone around. Sometimes it is done by biting the space between the thumb and the index finger, and this shows great regret, such as when someone forgets something very important.



Viv Mohammed

Arrogance: "zant" is a gesture made by tapping the tip of the nose upwards, using the index finger's knuckle. It expresses a sense of pride and arrogance, or "nose in the air."



Lamis Al-Haimi

Ignore it: "tanish tanish" It is a gesture made by moving the hand upwards to the right side as if waving something away, whilst looking towards the other direction.



Layan Omran

Give me your word: "etba' wajhak" is made by gesturing a line vertically across the cheek, similar to the "terribly awful" gesture, only with this, the signaller is hopeful and encourages the other person to make a promise or give his/her word to do something.



Alya Abdulghani

Terribly awful: "shamat" when describing something as horrible, a Yemeni uses one finger to draw a line vertically across the cheek. It could also describe feelings of great despair.

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Promoting Yemen through art

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Dominique, Nada and Rebecca were sitting on a September afternoon with their friend Jean-Baptiste Lopez in his "mafraj" in Sana'a old city, when they decided they have had enough of the negative publicity about Yemen. They agreed it was time to do something positive, yet creative. Jean-Baptiste, being an artist, motivated the group to carry out an initiative through art, and this is how Zean'Art was created.

Zean'Art is an arts association, founded in 2009 based in Yemen but active in both Yemen and Dubai. Although it initially promotes Jean-Baptiste's work, it is open to promoting artists from all around the world, interested in developing art about Yemen. It includes four people: Jean-Baptiste Lopez, Dominique, Nada Murshed and Rebecca Tustin.

Little-known corners of the world have always fascinated Jean-Baptiste. As a teenager, armed with his camera, he travelled extensively in West Africa. There he realized the great potential for his camera to be used as a window into the lives of others. Thus, he became deeply committed, not merely to seeing a country and taking snapshots to capture its aesthetic beauty and charm, but to acquire a deeper knowledge of the people and lands he pho-



Photo from Jean-Baptiste Lopez's first exhibition of art photography in Sana'a: 'Opposition' which was held in February 2010.

tographs.

"When we first got the idea, all Jean-Baptiste's photographs were on the walls of the mafraj so we were inspired to use his art to promote Yemen. Hence we came up with the name Zean'Art which refers to

his nick name when he was in West Africa many years ago," said Rebecca Tustin, who is now dedicating her time to spread the beauty of Yemen, through art, around the world.

Zean'Art has been working on finding exhibition space where Jean-Baptiste's art photography could be displayed.

In February 2010, Jean-Baptiste held his first exhibition of art photography in Sana'a, called 'Opposition'. This aimed to show the stark contrast between the traditional and the modern, as well as the visible and the invisible Yemen. He did this by displaying photographs of industrial sites alongside photographs of tourist sites. The common vein running through the entire series was his experimental technique of laying photographs of alabaster over the images, changing the viewers' perspective of what they were seeing.

Now Zean'Art team are working to exhibit Yemen to the outside world through his photography.

"We have been working for the last seven months to organize for our exhibition on Yemen and we have just had one in Dubai on the April 24. The next one will start in Dubai on May 8. Then we are coming back to Sana'a in June, for another exhibition at the National Museum. After that we go to Italy (July) and France (August) to show the beautiful side of Yemen to the world," said Nada Murshed, who is a member of the Zean'Art team and the Yemeni link in the group.

The exhibitions are intended to change the world's perception of Yemen and pose as an invitation to come and experience this unique country first hand.

"In big cities such as Dubai, people have a negative perspective on Yemen, not just the foreigners but also the locals. Since Dubai is a melting pot for cultures, we thought we should promote Yemen there and so our first two exhibitions were planned in the Club Hayat and the Alliance Francaise cultural centre," added Rebecca.

The Zean'Art group realizes that art has great potential in Yemen, especially since the recent exhibitions they were involved in were mostly attended by Yemeni youth. Nada remembers how many young Yemenis were asking questions about photography and art. Obviously, there is an increasing interest and people are excited about the idea of expression through art. Many Yemenis, living abroad for some time in their lives, were complaining that there were not many art related activities in Yemen and were thrilled with the idea of Zean'Art.

"There should be more opportunities, particularly for talented young people who want to study photography or art in general, because there is an interest and yet there is nothing to fulfil it. Artistic Yemenis need to polish their talents professionally, especially since Yemen has a rich landscape that inspires art, without the need to travel abroad," explained Nada.

Rebecca agrees, adding that art can be used as a tool for peace and there is an opening more initiatives of this sort in Yemen. Producing art itself can be used as an outlet to let out frustration and allows young people in particular, to express themselves in a constructive way. She remembers in 2009, when the Gaza invasion happened, someone organized an arts initiative in Bab Al-Yaman, in Sana'a, where the public were given space to paint their thoughts and feelings. There were drawings and paintings on posters and large sheets on the ground and people were very enthusiastic.

"I am always struggling to learn about photography and need to visit other countries. I studied at the American university in Cairo, but my family did not encourage me to follow Art as a profession. They didn't think it would provide much of an income. I wish there were more institutes



Jean-Baptiste Lopez's photo by Charles Debras

and initiatives to encourage all forms of art in Yemen. Then the attitude towards art would slowly begin to change and this is exactly what I am hoping for," concluded Nada excitedly.

Opposition

By: Julian Clec'h.
Translation by Rebecca Tustin
Zean'Art

Yemen was only a stage on his return from Eritrea to France. However, the photographer was so captivated by the charm of the Yemeni landscape and scenes of everyday life that he could not leave. Here he found a subject for his art and an outlet for his imagination. He was able to use his profession as a photographer to travel beyond the Yemen of postcards, to discover another Yemen. A Yemen of contrasts: from women carrying out their daily lives in the mountains and Somalis in the refugee camps of the south, to the oil sites of Hadramout and the gas terminals of the Indian Ocean... His exploration of the many facets of "Arabia Felix", as this restless country is known, has not stopped since he first arrived.

The two series presented to us by

Jean-Baptiste Lopez, are a reflection of his photographic and personal journeys through Yemen. By showing us the contrast between the accessible tourist landscape and the inaccessible world of industrial sites, he forces us to view Yemen from a different perspective. His artistic work alternates between these two worlds. He finds different ways to present the accessible, thus revealing the inaccessible.

Not only does he want to show us these two worlds, he wants to make us feel them, by drawing us into the image. The grain of the pictures, produced by a background of alabaster, is so particular that it sometimes accentuates the nuances of light, and sometimes underlines the curves of the lines formed by the subject matter. Alabaster, a noble material of Yemeni architecture, was once used as windows in Yemeni houses to make them impervious to wind and rain, allowing light to enter from outside without exposing the interior of the houses to the

eyes of others.

Jean-Baptiste has used this fine, luminous and naturally textured material to subvert the way in which we view clichéd images, blurring the boundaries between the visible and the invisible, the inside and the outside. The artist has both structured and disintegrated the images, by playing with patterns formed by the stone and using the mottled coincidences of the lines.

Through his two photographic series, the artist invites us to reflect upon the organisation of Yemeni society, which he has expressed by alternating between a visible outside world and a hidden inside world. By using the symbolism of the exploitation of natural resources, he is showing us a country which, although anchored in its traditions, is being propelled into modernity.

Jean-Baptiste Lopez ventures out to define Yemen: a country wedged between tradition and modernity, a country of shadows and of light, a country made of mysteries...



Photo from Jean-Baptiste Lopez's current exhibition 'Yemen Beyond the News'. In this exhibition Jean-Baptiste's final photographs demonstrate the strong power of tradition and its ability to bring society together, fostering hospitality.



Photo from Lopez's exhibition 'Opposition' which aimed to show the stark contrast between the traditional and the modern, as well as the visible and the invisible Yemen.

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For more information on Zean'Art or Jean-Baptiste Lopez's work visit: www.zeanart.com

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