

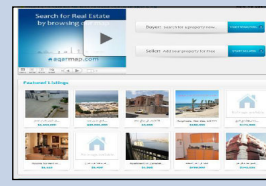
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Tribes: Government must surrender air strike maestro, or else

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori and the Yemen Times

MARIB, May 26 — On Monday, an air strike targeting Al-Qaeda members killed by mistake killed a prominent sheikh from Marib. This has caused massive wrath in Marib and the neighboring governorate of Al-Jawf.

"The government has two days to surrender the person who authorized the attack and killed my son along with four of his escorts, or else we will take matters into our own hands," demanded Ali Al-Shabwani, the angry grieving father of Sheikh Jaber Al-Shabwani, Secretary General of the Marib local council.

Since the air strike, government security forces have fended off many tribal attacks targeting the airbase in Marib and the military defense camp in the area. There have been many fierce armed clashes between the state and angry tribes. To date, only one person has been reported dead and dozens have been.

Tribes from Marib have called for tribes in Al-Jawf to join its battle with the government. Al-Jawf has also recently witnessed tension. The day of the air strike, four ministers escaped an assassination attack while attending a unity celebration. The attack, which targeted government premises, is said to be organized by Houthi rebels from neighboring Sa'ada governorate. A conflict between the state and the Houthis has been ensuing in Sa'ada since 2004.

Angry tribes from Marib have already bombed an oil pipeline passing through their region. They have also cut power cables connecting the Marib power station with Sana'a, hence the recently frequent power cuts in Sana'a and surrounding areas.

There are rumors that the tribes attempted to attack the presidential residence in Marib, although this has not yet been confirmed. All government offices have been closed in case of further attacks. Moreover, 16 foreigners working in the oil sector in Marib have

fled the area due to concerns for their safety.

As a consequence, the president himself called tribal leaders and tried to calm them down with money and cars. The day after the air strike, the Deputy Prime Minister for Defense, Rashad Al-Alimi, was sent to mediate along with another influential local, Sheikh Rabish bin Ka'aln, among others.

A mediation committee was formed from government and tribal figures including Al-Alimi bin Ka'aln, the National Security Deputy, and Sheikh Mufrih Bahiah.

However, the mediation attempts have so far only managed to produce a two-day ultimatum and a promise from the tribes not to carry out further attacks against the government until Friday May 28. However, the victim's

father is still demanding the responsible person(s) be surrendered and armed tribal men remain on stand-by along area entry points in Marib and are stationed on the road leading to Sana'a.

Earlier, President Saleh had asked the deceased Sheikh to mediate with Al-Qaeda members in the area to surrender themselves to the state. However, a mysterious air strike hit the meeting location on Monday night killing the mediator and injuring the Al-Qaeda member, Mohammed Saeed bin Jardan, who ironically fled the scene.

To smooth over the incident, Saleh labeled the deceased sheikh as "the country's martyr" which is a kind of honorary labeling. However, the victim's father did not seem impressed and has been making it very difficult for the government who is now in a very awkward position.

ward position.

On the one hand, the Yemeni government had requested the mediation skills of the late Sheikh, yet on the other hand the government cannot admit that the air strike took place without its knowledge, as is rumored.

According to locals in Marib, the strike was carried out by a drone, a weapon that Yemen is not believed to have in its possession. The Human Rights and Freedoms Defense Organization, known as HOOD, claimed that the strike was carried out by US forces, although the embassy has not confirmed or denied this accusation.

Yemen and the US military targeted Al-Qaeda figures in Yemen after the September 11, 2001 attacks. A CIA drone fired a missile that killed Al-Qaeda's leader in Yemen in 2002.

Pentagon officials confirmed, on Tuesday, May 25, that General David Petraeus, the head of US Central Command, signed an order in September to broaden the scope of surveillance and other undercover work in the region. According to the Guardian, this order opens the way for clandestine operations more extensive than those approved under the Bush administration. There are few details about specific operations, but US military teams have been reported to be active in Iran, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

For example, after the failed Christmas bombing plot, the Pentagon has taken an increased interest in Yemen, increasing aid from USD 67million to USD 150 million to help Yemeni forces take on Al-Qaeda.

Four Yemenis accused of spying for Iran

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, May 23 — The Specialized Penal Court is reviewing the file of four Yemeni men accused of spying for Iran and of attempting to promote the Twelver Shiite doctrine in Yemen.

The accusations are against Waleed Sharaf Al-Din, Mumar Al-Abdali, Sadeq Al-Sharaf and Abdullah Al-Dailami.

Their doctrine is the Twelver Shiite doctrine, which is not popular in Yemen, Ali Al-Dailami, Executive Director of the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms told the Yemen Times.

The defendants were arrested in 2007 under the accusation of being Houthis. They were detained for seven months and then released, according to Al-Dailami.

Seven months ago, they were once again arrested arbitrarily and transferred to the General Prosecution and then to

the Specialized Penal Court, according to Al-Dailami.

He said that the defendants also are accused of participating in the peaceful "Together against the War in Sa'ada" campaign organized by Yemeni activists at the end of 2007 during the fourth war in Sa'ada.

Ibrahim Sharaf Al-Din, Waleed Sharaf Al-Din's brother and lawyer, told the Yemen Times that the men's arrest had been against the law.

The police broke the criminal procedures code in arbitrarily arresting and holding detainees for a long time without trial, and this makes the accusations false, said Sharaf Al-Din, who is also a lawyer at the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms.

"It is not allowed to prosecute anybody even with accusation without applying the criminal procedures code," he said. "Based on that, the accusations are void as the procedures taken

by the police and prosecution were all wrong."

He explained that the arrest was a form of kidnapping followed by arbitrary disappearance as the police denied its responsibility in the kidnapping. The general prosecution claimed that it did not know anything about the procedures taken by the police.

The defendants remained in arbitrary custody for around four months, according to Sharaf Al-Din.

After that, the police announced its responsibility for the kidnapping when they were transferred to the prosecution, according to Sharaf Al-Din.

At the prosecution, files of the case were found containing orders to arrest the four mentioned men with the date of the defendants' disappearances, he said.

The police were supposed to transfer them to the prosecution within 24 hours of their arrests, but this never happened and the prosecution knows this, accord-

ing to Sharaf Al-Din.

During the four months in custody, the four persons were tortured physically and psychologically, according to the organization.

Now the case is in front of the Specialized Penal Court which is an exceptional court for security issues.

Evidence of the accusations is confined to confessions from the defendants during investigation, which shows the lack of integrity in investigative procedures, according to Sharaf Al-Din.

Al-Dailami demanded that the state investigate the issues of arbitrary disappearances and torture, and carry out trials in front of a normal judge not at an exceptional court.

With the president's recent amnesty on Sa'ada and Southern Movement detainees, the lawyer hopes that the four men, whose case is still at the court, will be released and their files closed completely.

Southern Movement detainees on hunger strike

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 26 — On Tuesday, Southern Movement detainees in Sana'a started a hunger strike demanding their release, as promised by President Saleh last Friday for the 20th anniversary of the Yemeni unification.

The Supreme Security Committee headed by Saleh on Tuesday released

98 Southern Movement activists, but hundreds reportedly remain detained.

Among the strikers are university professor Husain Al-Aqel, previous ambassador Qasem Askar, Salah Al-Saqladi, Fuad Nasher and Ahmad Al-Zubairi, according to informed sources.

The prisoners said that they would continue the strike until they are released or die.

They claimed that the charges against them are unfair and described their activities within the Southern Movement as peaceful.

Saleh called on all recently released prisoners to make use of the presidential pardon and be good citizens. He asked them to follow the law and constitution when demanding their rights.

Those detainees who have not been released ask why they have not been released yet, according to a Southern Movement member who preferred to be anonymous due to the sensitivity of the subject.

In Lahj, in the south of Yemen, the mediation committee for Radfan and Al-Habeelain has said that it hopes to lift the army siege on the area.

The army will stop surrounding the

areas as soon as the armed men believed to be Southern Movement supporters ungroup and return to their homes, hopefully by the end of this week.

A source at the presidential committee following up on the situation in Radfan said that local council members had agreed with sheikhs from neighboring Al-Habeelain to make the armed group leave the area.

Sources told the Yemen Times that, as a result of the siege, there is no food or fuel in the area.

A local from the district told the Yemen Times by phone that the armed group had started leaving the area.

Local sources in the Al-Karash district in Lahj said that unknown armed people from the Southern Movement on Monday in the middle of the night attacked a police station on the general road connecting Aden with Taiz.

The attack was the second on the same station in a little over a week.

Armed groups from the Southern Movement are said to have been attacking police stations and converting the movement form a peaceful one to an armed insurgency.

On Tuesday morning, Southern

Movement supporters exchanged fire with the security force in Al-Dakm in the same governorate after the former held up flags of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on the road between Aden and Taiz.

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) held a celebration supporting the Southern Movement on Tuesday in Damt, Al-Dhale'.

The JMP said that the state was following a wrong policy toward its people in increasing the price of more than 71 commodities and suppressing all its opponents.

Those who attended said that they support the Southern Movement's demands and described it as being fair.

They called on the state to approve of the Southern Movement as this would be the key to solving all the problems after the 1994 war.

They also asked the state to end the siege imposed on many southern areas such as Radfan and Al-Dhale'.

Political sciences professor at Sana'a University Abdulla Ali Al-Faqee recently told Al-Jazeera that Saleh's speech regarding the Southern Movement was of a quiet tone and did not attack the movement at all.

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Kidnapped American couple freed

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, May 26 - The American couple that was kidnapped by tribesman last Monday was released on Tuesday evening, Ahmed Sherda, the kidnapper told the Yemen Times.

The couple were tourists and they were abducted in Bani Mansour market, 70 km west of the capital while on their way to Hodeida. The abductor took them, along with their Yemeni driver and translator, to his village in Al-Hayma, 50 km west of the capital.

Sherda said that he committed the abduction to pressure the state to release one of his relatives, Hameed Sherda, who was being detained in the Central Prison in Sana'a.

The abductor's detained relative is also a member of the local council in his village and was arrested by security from a private hospital in the capital for his links in a murder case, according to the Ministry of the Interior.

Mohamed Al-Qadi and Rabish Al-Ali, two tribal leaders who are also members of the parliament, resolved the case with the kidnapper and guaranteed him that his relative would be released from prison, according to Sherda.

The kidnapper denied any link between his relative and any murder, accusing the head of security in the capital of escalating problems.

The ministry, on its website, said that the kidnapper handed over the hostages after the police arrested a large number of his relatives to pressure him to free the foreign hostages.

It added that the police in Sana'a immediately sent ten military vehicles along with the head of security in the governorate, to the kidnapper's village and surrounded the kidnapper's house.

The ministry also said that it did not give any guarantees to the kidnapper about the release of his relative who is suspected of crimes.

However, the kidnapper denied this, saying that he handed over the hostages through cooperation with a mediation committee that pledged to him that his relative would be freed.

The state has warned that it will stand firm against anybody involved in kidnapping.

"There will be no tolerance with kidnappers or those involved in kidnapping, the police will keep on following them and bring them to justice," said the ministry on its website.

The Yemeni escorts with the American couples, the driver and the translator also have been freed, according to the Ministry of the Interior.

Last week, two Chinese engineers working for an oil company were kidnapped in Shabwa, eastern Yemen. They were released the following day.

During the last 15 years, around 200 foreigners have been kidnapped and most of them were released unharmed.

Expert: Yemen's management lacks vision

There is no accurate vision in the country's management. And instead of admitting its mistakes, Yemeni officials tend to find excuses for their bad performance. These were the conclusions from a presentation given by renowned economist and former finance minister Prof. Saif Al-Asali at a symposium organized by Al-Afif cultural foundation last Tuesday.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, May 26 - Yemen's national plans including the five year development plan are irrelevant to its real situation and the country's priorities, says Prof. Saif Al-Asali.

Revenues from the oil explorations which make more than 70 percent of the country's national income were not invested in developing infrastructure or priority fields such as education, healthcare and tourism.

"We keep having one five year plan after the other, and every time we never achieve our objectives. Moreover, in any of the government's plans there is no accountability and no monitoring system to review our successes and failures," he said.

Al-Asali reflected on his own experience when he was minister of finance and how he had a vision to empower vocational trades which would accommodate the potential human resources of Yemen. Because he was disappointed at the lack of strategizing, he resigned from his post as minister in less than a year.

He urged the current government to reward success and encourage thinkers and reformists instead of punishing those who want to plan correctly.

Yemen's political system is characterized by one dominating party and a long standing leadership for more than three decades and according to Al-Asali this is not a reflection of a real democracy.

Even achieving the country's unity was not carried through strategic planning and "this is why we keep having the secessionist movements in the southern governorates," he added.

Engaging other political parties and civil society and all stakeholders in decision making will yield better management for the country's development.

Al-Asali accused leaders of taking advantage of the public's lack of awareness and that the leaders give them false hopes and promises without discussing the country's issues rationally.

"You find this politician coming on TV saying: we will develop the country and within six months you will see improvements. But he knows it is not possible, yet it is easier to say this than educate people and make them involved," said Al-Asali.

There is no lack of funding or resources in Yemen.

For example, the Social Fund for Development, which is a government



development agency has just approved its budget for the five year term 2011-2015 at USD 1.1 billion.

Moreover, thirty years ago or so, Yemen was almost at par with other countries in the region such as UAE in the early seventies. It was only because UAE country's leadership had vision, UAE enjoys is considered a developed country today.

In order to carry Yemen out of its repeated crises we need to tie strategic planning with democracy. There is no democracy with poverty and vice versa, according to Al-Asali.

He said that Yemen lives a tribal democracy, which in essence kills the real meaning of democracy.

"Look at the recent incident in Marib. When the airstrike killed one of the local sheikhs, the tribes moved much faster that the state and were more influential. Therefore, let us not talk about an institutional state, rather let us admit, Yemen is a weak state," he concluded.

Three suffocate to death after inhaling carbon fumes

Yemen Times correspondent

DHAMAR, MAY 24 - Three men died and two were saved at the last minute after the five inhaled carbon exhaust fumes from a water pump in Dhamar governorate. The pump, which was manually operated to irrigate a qat farm in Wisab Al-Ali, was located near the bottom of a 40 meter deep well.

When the farmer, Mohammed Abdu, realized the pump was not working he asked his neighbour Bandar Ali to go into the well and investigate the fault. Black smoke was coming from the well yet Bandar did not hesitate to climb down after tying himself to a rope. However he soon choked on the smoke and lost consciousness.

The farmer suffocated while trying to save Bandar and fell into the well. He got stuck midway through the well as his unconscious body slammed into some wooden sticks which eventually

saved his life, although his head was badly injured.

Hearing the commotion, Bandar's brother Tawfeeq, rushed to the rescue and managed to untangle the farmer and carry him out of the well with the help of locals who had gathered around the scene. Unfortunately, the brother lost balance and fell deep into the well and died next to his brother Mohammed.

Frenzied efforts from locals to rescue the two brothers caused one more death as Abdu Alwan, 24, also suffocated to death taking the total deaths caused by the malfunctioning qat field pump to three.

It was only after efforts that lasted more than ten hours that someone thought about using an oxygen cylinder which they brought from the local health unit. However, Kamal Al-Morki, 22, who volunteered to carry the cylinder down to the three men failed and started to choke. He was quickly taken up after he lost

consciousness.

Eventually, the three men were carried out but it was too late, their funeral was carried out the next day.

Hafez Al-Shawaf, head of the social affairs committee at the local council, said that more than ten people have died because of similar incidents in the last few years. The most recent case was of two men who suffocated three months earlier also after inhaling fumes from a water pump generator.

"There is almost no awareness of the risks of such generators. Most farmers can't afford to buy the more advanced automatic pumps so they use smaller machines placed at the bottom of the well and supported by additional machines to pump water into the field," said Al-Shawaf.

The area where many of the suffocation incidents take place is Wisab Al-Ali, a fertile area where various crops used to be planted until recently when they were replaced by qat.

Amnesty welcomed, but "not enough"

SANAA, May 24 (IRIN) - In a televised speech on the eve of Unification Day, commemorating the merger of northern and southern Yemen on 22 May 1990, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced an amnesty for all imprisoned southern separatists and Houthi rebels in the north.

"On this immortalized national occasion, we order the release of all those detained on charges of rebellion in Saada and outlaws [southern activists accused of secession] in some districts of Lahj, Abyan and Dhalea governorates. We hope they benefit from this amnesty and be good citizens," he said, without clarifying when it would come into effect.

The move was welcomed by Houthi rebels and southern activists, but analysts say it is not enough to end unrest in the country.

"The amnesty does not mean everything will be fine," senior Yemeni journalist Nasser al-Rabee told IRIN. "To end the conflicts, the president needs to solve the other main issues. The most important for the south is restoring the genuine partnership between south and north politically and economically. For the rebels [in the north], they must be reintegrated into society and political parties."

Saleh's government is battling several issues, including political unrest in the south, rebellion in the north, armed tribesmen who periodically kidnap foreigners for ransom or to blackmail the government, and al-Qaeda operatives who target national and foreign staff and interests.

3,000 detainees
A security source told IRIN on condition of anonymity that nearly 3,000 people were in undisclosed jails on charges of links with the northern rebel-



Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh

lion or southern secession attempts.

"The figure includes journalists, whom the government accuses of supporting either the rebellion or secession through their writings," he said.

Officials of the General People's Congress (GPC), the ruling party, described the amnesty as a turning point in the country's political life.

"On this occasion, President Saleh wanted to turn over a page of the past, open a new page, and move to a new stage of constructive national partnership," Tariq al-Shami, GPC spokesperson, said.

Northern welcome

Houthi supporters in the northern governorate of Saada, where a fragile ceasefire between the army and rebels has held since 11 February, welcomed Saleh's initiative, which they said would contribute to restoring peace and stability and bring final closure to the intermittent war that began in 2004.

Mohammed Abdussalam, spokesman for the Houthis, said that while many

detained rebels were released immediately after the 11 February ceasefire was announced, more than 1,000 Houthi followers were still in detention, some since 2004.

"We hope the authorities demonstrate real intents and release the rest of the detainees," Abdussalam said.

Southern hopes

In the south, where most of Yemen's oil facilities are located, residents complain about revenue-sharing, corruption and political rights. This has led to a rising southern separatist movement that has grown increasingly violent.

Tareq al-Fadhli, a senior Southern Movement leader, also welcomed Saleh's amnesty, but said it is not enough to address southern concerns.

"The government must undertake to stop quelling any peaceful protests by citizens against poor living conditions. It should return plots of land grabbed by influential officials to their real owners in the south," he told IRIN.

On 21 May, former vice-president Ali Salim al-Biedh, who has been in exile since Yemen's civil war in 1994, urged the UN to send a fact-finding committee to southern Yemen, as he accused the government of trying to cleanse the Southern Movement.

The Yemen Post quoted him as saying: "It is the responsibility of the UN and the international community, particularly the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, to take serious action towards the case of south Yemen based on respecting the will of the people for independence and recovering their sovereign state."

Race against smoking

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 26 - More than five hundred runners will compete in a seven kilometers race planned to take place next Monday, May 31.

The race is organized by the Sabafon Mobile telecommunication company in cooperation with Ishraq Smoking Awareness Association on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day. Runners will start at nine A.M. at the Apollo Center on Sitteen Road and will run across the Zubairi street to the Police Officers' Club where the finishing line will be.

Following the race a number of events will take place at the club including presentations on smoking risks and awarding the winners of the race. The first three winners will receive monetary prizes while the first fifty winners will receive in-kind prizes and gifts.

The traffic authority will place barriers and signs to direct the traffic and pedestrians to clear the runners' path.



Participants in the race are all men and they are either athlete members of sports clubs or military men from the army and republican guards.

A 2009 report by the World Health Organization has revealed that Yemen has the second highest national rate

of smokers in the whole Arab region, after Tunisia.

There are 3.4 million total smokers in Yemen, 29 percent of who are between 17 and 24 years old, according to the National Tobacco Control Program at the Ministry of Health.

A cigarette in Yemen can be as cheap as YR 10, less than a piece of Lebanese bread, which is YR 20. Yemenis consume around 6.4 billion cigarettes a year, and spend about YR 21.3 billion on them.

An astounding 86 percent of adult Yemeni males are smokers, found a 2007 paper by researchers at the University of Edinburgh. However, the Ministry of Health has said that this figure is too high, pointing the results of its last survey in 2003, which concluded that only 34.5 percent of Yemeni men and 12.8 percent of Yemeni women were smokers.

Yemen struggles to maintain its unity alive amid challenges

By: Mohamed al-Azaki

SANAA, May 23 (Xinhua) - Despite a long-running conflict in the north and growing popular separatist movement in the south, officials and experts say al-Qaida threats and economic deterioration are key challenges threatening the stability of the fragile unity of Yemen.

On Saturday, Sanaa marked the 20th anniversary of unity between its troubled northern and southern parts, amid rising voices in the south calling for disengagement and establishing an independent state.

The south and north were unified in 1990 according to a deal between the People's General Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party. Recently, political unrest has gained momentum and developed more violent since 2007, with a series of armed confrontations and protests that have left hundreds dead and injured, according to local observers.

"The five-year war of government troops against northern rebellion that costs the country's treasury a lot, as well as the decline of the government's revenues have both impacted the development in the south and triggered off a wave of riots in some southern provinces," said Anwar Salim, a security analyst at the information center of the Interior Ministry.

But those challenges are not the key threat that "jeopardize the stability" of the country, Salim told Xinhua, adding that the "government can manage them."

"The government is still able to keep its fragile unity (alive) amid an on-off war with Shiite rebels in the north and a growing separatist movement in the south, but its unity could not withstand al-Qaida threats and economic deterioration for long time," said Salim.

Yemen has witnessed since 2004 sporadic battles between government

troops and the Shiite Houthi rebels whom the government accused of seeking to re-establish the clerical rule overthrown by the 1962 revolution which yielded the Yemeni republic.

The conflict with northern Shiite rebels also drew in Saudi Arabia. The Sanaa government has managed to end an almost five-year conflict against its armed forces in the north after striking a truce deal with the Shiite rebels on Feb. 11. However, both sides repeatedly trade accusations of breaching the truce which still holds so far.

"The long-running conflict with the Shiite rebels -- known also as Houthis, has cost the country hundred of millions U.S. dollars," said Salim.

"Those government expenditure severely affected the process of development in the south and improving the economic situation there," he added.

Abdullah al-Faqih, a professor of

political studies at Sanaa University, said Yemeni government depends mainly on oil revenues, which fell dramatically over the past year due to the world financial crisis and sharp drop in crude oil prices.

"Oil revenue helps the state to stay afloat as it accounts for 80 percent of the government's budget," said al-Faqih.

He said the government use oil money to pay state employees salaries, creating new job opportunities for youths and subsidize essential goods, "poor living conditions and poverty made southerners dissatisfied with the situation."

"The southerners want to live at least a little bit above the poverty line, the south is the home of most oil facilities, so no wonder they accused northerners of seizing their wealth," al-Faqih said.

"The southern movement is seeking to secede the south from the north and re-establish their own indepen-

dent state, but in fact they do not have a program to establish that country, they just want the government to improve their livelihood," he added.

Abdul Elah Haider Shaiee, a Sanaa-based expert on security and terrorism, said the southerners do not pose a real threat to the unity.

"They want jobs for their sons and better economic situation, unlike the northern Shiite rebels who by arms sought for more than five years to break away and establish their own state," Shaiee said.

"So do al-Qaida, it has its plan and program to control the south and extends its domination to the north and beyond," he added.

The Sanaa government has come under mounted pressure from Washington and international community to solve its internal conflicts and focus on fighting al-Qaida militants after its Yemeni wing boasted that they were behind a botched

attempt to bomb a U.S. passenger jet last December.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is exploiting the economic woes the government suffers. According to Shaiee, the Sanaa government is about to lose the loyalty and cooperation of armed tribes, whether in the north or south, unless it pumps a big amount of money.

"Powerful armed tribes are sheltering al-Qaida militants and fugitives, and the only way to capture or kill those terrorist operatives who live inside the tribes is through the money that lead the chieftains and dignitaries to cooperate with the governmental authorities," said Shaiee.

"In case the central government lost the tribes' cooperation and loyalty.. the extremist groups will continue their activities in establishing training camps and preparing plans that led them eventually to control wide remote areas and set up a Somali-like Islamic state," he added.

Their News

Jefferson Fellowships

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Study Tour Destinations: Palo Alto, California; Sacramento, California; Beijing, China; Shenyang, China

Who Can Apply: Working print, broadcast, and online journalists in the United States, the Pacific Islands, and Asia with a minimum of five years of professional experience. Applicants must have the ability to communicate in English in a professional, multi-cultural environment.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Funding:

The Jefferson Fellowships are supported from a grant from The Freeman Foundation. The grant funds economy class, roundtrip airfare to and from Honolulu, Hawaii as well as program-related air and ground transportation, lodging, and meals for participating journalists. A modest per diem is also provided. Participants are responsible for all applicable visa fees and any additional visa-related expenses.

News organizations are also asked to support their employees' participation by cost-sharing whenever possible. An "Employers Statement of Support" is a required part of the application. While financial assistance from the employer is not required, employers are encouraged to provide support to their Jefferson Fellows as a demonstration of their commitment to the program.

How to apply

- Applicants must submit the Jefferson Fellowships application form and
- A maximum three-page letter outlining your issues of interest, a brief description of your news organization, what you expect to accomplish if an award is granted and topics you propose to address in your paper and presentation at the East-West Center. It should be a topic that represents a perspective from your country/community related to the program theme.
- A letter of recommendation on official letterhead from your supervisor describing your suitability for the Fellowship and the benefit the organization hopes to derive from your

participation in the program.

- Names, addresses, phone/fax numbers and e-mail of three people who may be contacted by the Center as references. Two of these references should be people outside your news organization.
- The "Employer's Statement of Support" form completed by your employer (form is included in the 3-page application).

NOTE: Samples of your work are not required. If you wish to include samples, please do so via web links to articles.

Program and Application Downloads:

- Application Instructions (1 page)
- Fillable Adobe PDF version of application form (3 pages)
- Fillable MS Word version of application form (3 pages)

Application deadline is Wednesday, June 16, 2010. Incomplete or late applicants will not be considered.

Applications may be sent by e-mail, fax or post as follows:

Email: jefferson@eastwestcenter.org

Fax: 1-808-944-7600 (ATTN: Jefferson Fellowships)

Post:

Jefferson Fellowships Program
East-West Seminars
East-West Center
1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96848-1601, U.S.A.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact us at: jefferson@eastwestcenter.org or 1-808-944-7682

for more information

Ann Hartman
Seminar Specialist, Seminars
East-West Center
1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601
Phone: (808) 944-7619
Fax: (808) 944-7600
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Moreinfo:

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/seminars-and-journalism-fellowships/journalism-fellowships/jefferson-fellowships/>

[fellowships/jefferson-fellowships/](http://www.eastwestcenter.org/seminars-and-journalism-fellowships/jefferson-fellowships/)

First Euro-Arab Youth Conference

The Social Sector / League of Arab States (LAS) in collaboration with the Council of Europe, European Youth Forum, Italian Youth Council and the Tunisian Union for Youth Organizations, organizing the First Euro-Arab Youth Conference and the Third Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting for Youth Organization "EACMYO".

The Conference represents a unique event as it will be held between two countries on the shores of the Mediterranean. The Conference will start with the Third Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting for Youth Organizations "EACMYO" in Tunisia from 22nd-24th July 2010. Then all participants will travel by boat to Sicily - Italy to start the First Euro-Arab Youth Conference during the period 25th- 30th July, 2010. The conference is going to express a symbolism image of Cultural Continuity between the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Agenda:

- Tunisia (22nd-24th July 2010): The Third Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting for Youth Organization "EACMYO";
- 24th July 2010: All Participants Travel to Sicily - Italy (by boat);
- Sicily- Italy (25th- 30th July 2010): The First Euro-Arab Youth Conference.

Objectives:

- To promote dialogue and partnership between Europe and the Arab world
- To further develop the EACMYO structure toward a better institutional cooperation in the Euro-Arab context.
- To activate the dialogue between youth policy makers, youth leaders, and representatives of regional and international organizations concerned on youth issues.
- To support and sustain youth cooperation projects in Euro-Arab context.
- To promote and activate the role of youth organizations in migration and intercultural dialogue.
- To strength the capacity of youth organizations through developing joint capacity building programs in the

Euro-Arab context.

- To introduce best practices for National Youth Councils for Youth Organizations.
- To follow-up on the outcomes of the Third League of Arab States Youth Forum in Assilah - Morocco.
- To develop follow-up projects within the framework of the EACMYO.

Participants must:

- Representative of active Youth Organization (Kindly attach a letter of support from your organization).
- Has leadership role in his organization.
- Have awareness and commitment to develop the youth cooperation in the Euro-Arab region.
- Have experience in the field of youth policies and in the regional and international youth work, with a special focus in migration and intercultural dialogue issues.
- Be able to attend the whole duration of the conference 21st-30th July 2010.
- Be able to work in Arabic and English
- Age between (18-35) years.

You must submit a supporting letter from your organization with the application form.

Deadline to Apply is Friday June 11, 2010

To apply, fill and submit the online application form at:
<http://www.lasyouthforum.org/2010>

World Summit Youth Award 2010

Young People Using Internet and Mobile to put the United Nations Millennium Development Goals into Action!

The World Summit Youth Award (WSYA) invites young designers, writers, journalists and e-Content creators to participate in this year's international competition - using internet and mobile contents to create awareness of the MDGs.

If you rely on the web for creating culture, overcoming gender inequality, lack of education and access to clean water or to address hunger, poverty, disease and environmental degradation, then you

should take part!

The World Summit Youth Award showcases you as young developers and serves as a platform for people from all UN member states to work together on the efforts of reaching the Millennium Development Goals!

The rewards are global recognition within the United Nations, invitations to the WSYA Winners events in NY and networking contacts on a global scale.

We invite you to develop inspiring Internet Content to promote and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations to create a humane, just and liveable world.

An application form available from April 19, 2010 till June 20, 2010 online for all young people under the age of 30.

Participate Now!

<http://www.youthaward.org/>

The OPEC Fund for International Development Scholarship

The OPEC Fund for International Development is pleased to announce that qualified applicants who have obtained or are on the verge of completing their undergraduate degree and who wish to study for a Master's degree are welcome to apply for the OFID Scholarship 2010/2011. The OFID scholarship will be awarded to support one student or candidate for Master's degree studies. The applicant may be from any developing country, and he/she must first obtain admission to pursue a Master's degree studies in a relevant field of development, in any recognized university/college in the world. Through its scholarship scheme, OFID aims to help highly motivated, highly-driven individuals overcome one of the biggest challenges to their careers - the cost of graduate studies. The winner of the OFID Scholarship Award will receive a scholarship of up to US\$100,000. The funds will be spread over a maximum of two years, toward the completion of a Master's degree, or its equivalent, at an accredited educational institution, starting in the autumn of the academic year 2010/2011.

Readmore:

<http://cambodiajobs.blogspot.com/2008/11/opec-fund-for-international-development.html>

TOTAL In Yemen**Sustainable Partnership ... Sustainable Development**

With decades of productive presence in Yemen, Total has strategically built uniquely exemplary relations with the Government and people of Yemen.

At the level of the petroleum industry, Total is today a recognized leader and is indeed the major foreign investor in Yemen. Total operates Block 10, one of the few blocks in Yemen where production is steadily increasing, thanks to the technology and expertise Total is investing on this block. Production of Block 10 is now more than 60,000 barrel per day, a production that has doubled in 3 years time. More than 3,000 direct and indirect employees today work on Block 10 in order to install new oil & gas facilities. Total has allocated \$1 billion to invest in strategic projects within Block 10 within the years of 2009-2011. This huge investment demonstrates, on one hand, the company's commitment to contribute effectively to industrial projects that help advance the petroleum industry in Yemen. On the other hand, this investment will significantly boost the operations and production in Block 10.

Building on this success, Total has become a strategic partner in a number of other blocks in the country. These include the producing Block 5 and more recently exploration Blocks 69, 70, and 71. In addition to its upstream activities, Total has technically led and built the first-ever LNG project (Yemen LNG) in the country. Yemen LNG is today the largest industrial project in Yemen. In addition to monetizing its gas reserves, Yemen LNG Project has further allowed the country to diversify into the world's gas business.

Aside from its business activities, Total has soundly established long-term relations with the Government of Yemen and local communities surrounding its work sites through its various sustainable development initiatives. The company has sponsored a number of projects in fields of education, health, and culture. Its socio-economic programmes, which are developed in collaboration with local communities, are specifically tailored to meet the needs of their beneficiaries. The Human Development Center in Sah District, adjacent to Block 10, is one example that translates Total's strong commitment towards educational development. Equally significant is the current Scholarship Programme that Total solely sponsors in order to send abroad Yemeni scholars to pursue their higher education in leading European universities. The Visiting Medical Doctor programme in the Wadi Hadramout region is another example which emphasizes Total's interest in contributing to the well-being of the local population. Total is also actively involved in the preservation of Yemen's unique culture, heritage and history, as exemplified by recent restoration projects jointly executed with the Louvre Museum in Paris to rehabilitate bronze antiquities like the Bronze Man Statue, currently on exhibit in Sana'a National Museum, and more recently the two Bronze lions.

Total has also a commitment to promptly respond to its neighboring community's emergencies. In October 2008, the flash floods swept Wadi Hadramout leaving displaced people, dead animals, demolished houses, and devastated farming lands. Total, well appreciated for its emergency efforts at the time, responded effectively and provided emergency, medical, and food aids to the people affected by the floods. Total and its joint venturers on Block 10: Oxy, Sinochem and Kufpec have allocated late 2009 \$850,000 for post-floods efforts of agricultural lands restoration and cattle distribution to those who lost theirs during the floods.

More recently, Total has partnered with the Government of Yemen in order to utilize the gas associated with oil production on Block 10. Total realizes the value of this important resource in Yemen. For that, a gas-fired power plant was built in Block 10 to generate electricity at the capacity of 25 MW for Wadi Hadramout region. The power plant was launched by H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of Yemen, on 10 April 2010.

Total has also established strong partnership with local NGOs in order to carry out projects that are dedicated to poverty reduction amongst local population. Total has lately partnered with Al-Nahda Social Association, based in Seyoun, in order to execute a micro-finance businesses program that targets people desperately in need for funds to implement their own income-generating projects.

With such a strategically solid and economically important presence, Total will continue to invest in Yemen's industrial and human resources and build for more acceptability with the Government and people of Yemen.



TOTAL

Yemenia honors current and retired employees



After a week of honoring its current and retired employees on the occasion of the World Labor Day, Yemen Airways honored its employees who retired last year.

It also honored the departed people who were in the unfortunate plane crash last year.

The celebration comes within the context of the airways appreciating efforts by the retired employees during their work life.

The distinguished performance by the Ground Services Company

Abdulkhalik Al-kathi, the head of the Yemen Airways welcomed the guests and thanked their efforts. He valued the role of employees play at the Ground Services Company, which belongs to the airways.

"We are proud of the role played by the new established company. Everybody witnesses its success. Although the role it plays was supposed to be other foreign companies' duty, the Ground Services Company conducted important and effective procedures and raised the local company's credibility to the level of the international ones," Al-Kathi said.

"Yemen Airways holds talks with international airports to better the Ground Services Company." He added.

Extra privilege for retired employees

Al-Kathi thanked the head of the General Authority for Insurance and Salaries Ali Al-Sha'oor for his cooperation with the company to execute the fee strategy for the employees.

Yemen Airways extended the travel and medical treatment services for the retired employees from five years to eight years. Nevertheless, in order not to misuse such services, the company stipulated that applicants for such services must submit a request form to the company first.

Hussein Al-Ahjory, the deputy of the Minister of Civil Services and Insurance, praised the amendments strategy conducted regarding the company services.

He added that Yemen Airways is a strong contestant of the private sector.

The Chief Executive Officer for the Yemeni Ground Services Company Taha Al-Thawr said that honoring employees on the occasion of the World Labor Day is important to express appreciation for all employees. He said that this celebration is significant because it synchronizes the anniversary of the Yemeni unification.

During the celebration, the leadership of Yemen Airways and the Ministry of Civil Services and Insurance were honored.



Captain/ Abdulkhaliq Saleh Al-Kathi



Taha Al-Thawr



Ali Al-Shaoor



Husain Al-Ahjory



Vice Minister of Planning and International Cooperation to the Yemen Times: “Yemen is not a fragile state, it is an emerging democracy and should be treated this way.”

Many international reports claim that Yemen is on the verge of failure. Hisham Sharaf, Vice Minister of International Relations at the Ministry of Planning, has a different opinion. Here is what he says today about Yemen and its future.

Interviewed by: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

We keep reading those international reports and analysis about Yemen predicting a near future doom for Yemen. These reports are based on qat chewing sessions and speculation, and it is not true that Yemen is a fragile state or will turn into a failed nation.

My understanding is that international politics work in a way to create an international public opinion about a certain country in order to manipulate its leaders into moving towards a specific direction or taking decisions based on recommendations from the outside.

You must understand a few things before you jump to a conclusion about Yemen. First of all, the information one gets from qat chewing sessions is usually the non strategic kind. Our problem as Yemenis is that we talk about everything without hesitation in those social gatherings. If there is a law coming out or if a minister signs a certain document, you will find information about these in the same day in a qat chewing session where the staff working on these issues attends.

Another issue I want to remind you is that Yemen is so far ruled by

Yemenis, despite what is being said about international influences. In fact, this is why there are so many regional and international players trying to be involved in Yemeni politics, because our leadership has its own mind and is not following policies cooked in external kitchens.

Yemen is an emerging democracy and it is really unfair to judge the country's progress while it has not had adequate time to develop. Our revolution was in the sixties and the multi-pluralism experience just started in 1990. Countries need at least 50 years to develop their experience and reach into a state of maturity and this is what Yemen needs.

Also don't forget the challenges Yemen is facing in its move towards modernization. We have more than 50 percent illiteracy in Yemen. It is only when the third generation has gotten its chance to make decisions that you can judge Yemen's development and this will only happen in another ten to twenty years.

Today we have to admit that Yemen is going through a lot of tension, perhaps like never before although the country has - always had its share of problems. But this time the problems are coming together at the same time and there is a lot of international "involvement," unlike previously when we used to have only one coun-

try or two at most interfering in our international affairs.

I want to assure you and anyone who loves Yemen that the country is picking up pace now towards the future and is gradually rising from the down turn. You can say that we have reached low bottom and are now on the up rise starting from this year onwards. And we are doing this with the help of our friends in the Gulf and other countries who believe in Yemen.

Creating national loyalty

What we need to do now is to encourage Yemenis to take responsibility for their own issues and start taking initiatives, instead of just wanting the government to come and solve their problems because the government cannot solve all the problems.

We need to create a public opinion that the future of Yemen depends on all of us, and that it is our collective responsibility to preserve this nation and keep it safe and secure.

To create this public opinion, we need to work together to get these investors to come to Yemen, and at the same time ensure their safety and through the public and the local councils and the political parties and the NGOs.

In Dubai, there is a slogan they use "Al -Ameen" meaning that the safety and security of the whole nation means the safety and security of each individual. The signs are put up everywhere telling the people to report any suspicious acts so that they keep the city safe.

Awareness is growing in Yemen and one of our jobs as intellectuals in the Yemeni government and society is

to let the people know that our fate in the republic is one. That we are all in the same boat and we have to keep the boat safe and sail to prosperity.

Every night has an end and the sun will rise again and people have to have ambition and hope because once we give up hope, it will all be over.

We expect to receive more support from our friends in the Gulf countries and with more money and through the outsourcing system of implementing projects we aim at creating much more development soon and on a large scale.

Law, order and security

What Yemen needs today is implementing the law, instating order and making security prevail all over the country. The state should work with citizens together to make this happen. And decentralization needs to be fully endorsed in the whole country. Authority must be delegated to the local levels and through building the capacity of the local councils and authority at the district levels so that when the time is right they are able to handle the responsibility.

Through decentralization authority and with giving local authority resources and capacity, we can overcome instability as the locals take ownership of their fate and make sure terrorists and trouble makers are not



not the problem in Yemen. In fact Yemeni tribes are the country's guarantee that it will never become another Somalia or failed state because they allow a sort of governing structure over the country. The tribes are generally working in harmony with the state. It is a matter of a few individuals in the tribes and we are working with their communities to handle their outlaws. Otherwise we will use the state's might and strong fist, but we keep this as I said earlier as the last resort.

Now we are moving in a more civilized way, and president Saleh has mentioned on several occasions that elections will happen and the ballot boxes are the point at which all will be finalized.

The opposition should come to dialogue and implement the February agreement clear it and move forward to other issues after elections. Yemen does not need any more confusion now.

We need to put our act together and have a one united strong Yemen with purpose and importance in the world and never become a number of small nothing states. Yemen will stay a one big united Yemen and will further grow and prosper.

welcomed in their communities.

We need hard security but only to an extent, and let me assure you that the state has not yet displayed its full strength in dealing with outlaws and terrorists. It is trying to identify less violent channels and allowing space for mediation and negotiation. But if this does not work Yemen is very much capable of acting strictly and revealing its claws and sharp teeth.

Also, despite what is being said, you must understand that tribes are

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Selection of Consultants

Request for Expression of Interest in Providing Consultancy Services to prepare Tender documents and contracts, assist in negotiation and Supervise Execution of Deepening and widening the access channel in the Port of Aden

The Republic of Yemen has obtained a grant from the Abu Dhabi Fund for development for the purpose of financing " deepening and widening the access channel in the Port of Aden" project with an amount of US\$ 40,000,000. The Ministry of Transport, represented by Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation – intends to utilize a portion of this assistance in consultancy services of the project mentioned above, for which this announcement was issued.

The project aims to deepen and widen the access channel in the Port of Aden, which will enable the port accommodating the new generation container vessels, and making the port a Hub port for transit cargo services in the region.

Hence, YGAPC – Port of Aden invites the qualified consultants companies/firms to interest and wish in the participation of submitting the required consultancy services, The wising companies /firms have to submit all the data and documents that confirm its competence may inter into coalition or alliance in order to improve their qualification opportunities. the consultant services include the following phases:-

PHASE I:

1. Preparation the tender documents,
 2. Preparation a contract model in accordance with established international commercial standards,
- Period of phase I of the consultancy services is SUPPOSED to be estimated by consultant depending on their expertise.

PHASE II:

1. Assist in evaluation of bids and in subsequent negotiations with the winner till the conclusion of the contract.
2. Supervise the execution of the project.

The consultant shall include the following information:

1. Qualifications in the field of the task,
2. Financial, technical and advisory status,
3. Its major business, years of relevant experience,
4. Qualification of key staff of the firm,
5. Entities that may confirm and verifying the implementing of similar previous project.

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

The selection of the consultancy company/firm will be carried out according to the bases and criteria stipulate in the guide book of procurement and consultancy services issued by the Tenders High board effected in the Yemen of Republic, and also the instructions issued by the grant entity, the concerned companies / firms may obtain additional data from the address below during the official working hours from **09:00 am up to 14:00 pm**.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by 21 June 2010

Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation
Headquarters - Port of Aden
Project implementation unit
Ministry of Transport – Republic of Yemen
Tel: 00967 -02 - 204638
Fax: 00967 – 02 - 205805
Email: salehmwane@yahoo.com
ygapc@y.net.ye

Deadline for submission is 12:00 hours noon on Monday 21 June 2010. No submission after the date above will be considered.

Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Opening of applications will be at the meeting room of the headquarters –Port of Aden at the same time mentioned above with the presence of the consultant firms or their representatives.

اختيار استشاريين

إعلان للتعبير عن الاهتمام

لإعداد وثيقة المناقصة والعقود والمشاركة في التفاوض والإشراف على التنفيذ لمشروع توسعة وعميق القناة الملاحية في ميناء عدن

حصلت الحكومة اليمنية على منحة من صندوق أبو ظبي للتنمية وذلك لتمويل مشروع تعميق وتوسعة القناة الملاحية لميناء عدن بمبلغ /- ٤٠,٠٠٠,٠٠٠ دولار أمريكي وتتوي وزارة النقل ممثلة بمؤسسة موانئ خليج عدن اليمنية (الوحدة التنفيذية للمشروع) استخدام جزء من هذه المساعدة في الخدمات الاستشارية للمشروع المذكور أعلاه التي من أجلها صدر هذا الإعلان.

ويهدف المشروع إلى تعميق وتوسيع القناة الملاحية في ميناء عدن، حيث سيتمكن ميناء عدن من إستقبال سفن الحاويات العملاقة (الجيل الجديد)، وخدمة حركة الترانزيت لجعل ميناء عدن ميناء محوري في الإقليم، بالإضافة إلى رفع مستوى التنافس للميناء مقارنة بالدول الإقليمية، وتشجيع الإستثمار في مجال التبادل التجاري.

وعليه تدعو وزارة النقل ومؤسسة موانئ خليج عدن اليمنية (الوحدة التنفيذية للمشروع) الشركات الاستشارية المؤهلة للتعبير عن اهتمامها للمشاركة في تقديم الخدمات الاستشارية المطلوبة، وعلى الشركات الراغبة تقديم كافة المعلومات والوثائق التي تؤكد أهليتها لأداء الخدمات ويمكن للشركات الاستشارية الدخول في إتلاف لتحسين فرص تأهيلها .. وتشمل الخدمات الاستشارية المراحل المطلوبة:-

المرحلة الأولى :-

- ١- إعداد وثائق المناقصة.
 - ٢- إعداد نموذج للعقد وفقاً للمعايير المتفق عليها تجارياً على نطاق عالمي.
- إن الأدة المتوقعة لتنفيذ المرحلة الأولى من الخدمات الاستشارية (تقدر من قبل الشركة الإستشارية حسب خبرتها) .

المرحلة الثانية :-

- ١- المساعدة في تقييم العروض والمفاوضات اللاحقة مع المتقدم الفائز وحتى إبرام العقد.
 - ٢- الإشراف على تنفيذ المشروع .
- على أن يتم تقديم المعلومات التالية:-
- ١- المؤهلات في مجال المهمة المطلوبة .
 - ٢- وضع الاستشاري الفني والمالي والإداري .
 - ٣- مجال العمل الرئيسي وسنوات الخبرة في مجال الدراسة المعنية .
 - ٤- مؤهلات الكادر الرئيسي بما في ذلك الكادر القانوني.
 - ٥- الجهات التي يمكن الرجوع إليها للتأكد من تنفيذ الأعمال السابقة .

يجب تسليم ثلاث نسخ ورقية ونسخة الكترونية (CD) من وثائق إبداء الرغبة إلى العنوان الموضح أسفل الإعلان .

وستتم اختيار الشركة الاستشارية للقيام بالخدمات المطلوبة وفقاً للأسس والمعايير في الدليل الإرشادي للمشتريات والخدمات الاستشارية للجنة العليا للمناقصات والمزايدات المعمول به في الجمهورية اليمنية وإرشادات وإجراءات الجهة المانحة ويمكن للشركات الراغبة الحصول على معلومات إضافية من العنوان أدناه وذلك خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي من الساعة (التاسعة صباحاً) صباحاً حتى الساعة (الثانية ظهراً).

تقدم وثائق التعبير عن الاهتمام إلى العنوان أدناه في موعد أقصاه ٢١ يونيو ٢٠١٠م. مؤسسة موانئ خليج عدن اليمنية المركز الرئيسي - ميناء عدن الوحدة التنفيذية للمشروع وزارة النقل - الجمهورية اليمنية تليفون :- (٠٠٩٦٧-٠٢-٢٠٤٦٣٨) فاكس :- (٠٠٩٦٧-٠٢-٢٠٥٨٠٥) بريد الكتروني :- salehmwane@yahoo.com ygapc@y.net.ye

وأخر موعد لاستلام الوثائق هو الساعة (الثانية عشر ظهراً) من يوم الاثنين الموافق ٢١ يونيو ٢٠١٠م. وإن تقبل الوثائق التي ترد بعد هذا الموعد. كما لن يلتفت إلى الوثائق الغير مستوفية للشروط المحددة أعلاه.

وستتم فتح الطاريف بالمركز الرئيسي - ميناء عدن في نفس الموعد أعلاه بحضور ممثلي الشركات الاستشارية أو مندوبيهم.

Vacancy announcement

Ministry of Education (MoE)
Basic Education Development Project(BEDP)
Secondary Education Development and Girl Access Project (SEDGAP)
Fast Track Initiative (FTI)
Project Administration Unit (PAU)

Technical Assistant (T.A)

The Ministry of Education (MoE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and Multi-Donors towards the cost of the BEDP, SEDGAP and FTI and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above-mentioned post.

Responsibility:-

The technical Assistant will be responsible to the Project Director and work in collaboration with the Procurement manager (In charge).

Job Description:-

1. T.A will provide technical support to all PAU staff as needed.
2. T.A will be responsible to work in collaboration with the MoE sector staff in preparation of Terms Of reference (TORs) and Training Program under BEDP, SEDGAP and FTI.
3. T.A will format TORs under guidance of Procurement Manager (In charge) to ensure that TORs are formatted in accordance with the World Bank Procedures.
4. T.A will prepare draft communications for consultancy work to signed by the Project Director.
5. T.A will assist Procurement Manager (In charge) in the processing and finalization of consultancy services/ training contract prepared in accordance with the Word Bank Guidelines.
6. T.A will be in touch with the consultants and supervise closely implementation of consultancy contract in collaboration with the appropriate sector specialist of MoE.
7. T.A will be responsible for arranging Technical meetings/ Seminars and Workshops in connection with Technical Assistance / Training components of BEDP, SEDGAP and FTI.
8. T.A will be responsible for arranging translation services (English / Arabic) for all relevant documents to be presented to the ministries in Arabic and to the World Bank and other donors in English.
9. T.A will provide any assistance to the Procurement Manager and Project Director as needed.

Qualification:

- Bachelor's / Master degree in education and or other disciplines.
- At least 5 years experience with project funded by IDA and donors.
- Experience in office management.
- Demonstrate familiarity with computer knowledge and skills with MS-OFFICE applications.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing Arabic & English.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Good record keeping of all relevant documents, including electronically transmitted documents.
- Familiarity with E-mail correspondence.

Interested applicant may obtain further information during working day Sat.-Wed. from 09:00 to 15:00 hours at the address below to which the application along with the CVs must be delivered and the deadline for submitting application and CVs by June 15, 2010.

Basic Education Development Project
60 M Southern Rd.- Bait Mayad
Tel: 00967-01-619164, Fax : 00967-01-619219 or to
Email: The Project Director: a.a-arashi@y.net.ye



JOB OPENINGS

SAFER EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION OPERATIONS COMPANY (SEPOC)

SEPOC is the Republic of Yemen's leading national Oil and Gas Company. It is the upstream Operator of Yemen's premier North Block (18) .

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1. Job Title: Marine Materialman

Description:

Issuing Purchase requisitions, warehouse material receiving, labeling, storing, distributing and inventory update.

Requirements:

Academic:	Secondary school or above.
Additional Training:	Computer skill in data base, Oracle, material handling and store keeping
Related Work Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of three years experience in a large commercial warehouse. • Willing to work independently and at remote stations. • Good knowledge in material handling, labeling and storage. • Understanding MSDS • Must possess a strong work ethic with a "can do" attitude. • Must have good knowledge of safe work practices
Language & PC Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good reading and writing of English and Arabic. • Proficient in using computers including Microsoft office applications and data base.

2. Job Title: Marine Office Administrator

Description:

General Marine office administrator, coordinating with FSO Master, pilot, shipping agents, helicopter, local authorities, standing watch at weekends and holidays as duty administrator for the support of the FSO SAFER. Processing invoices and general clerical work, typing, etc.

Requirements:

Academic:	Business related Diploma after Secondary school or above.
Additional Training:	Computer and accounting skills.
Related Work Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two + years experience in administration and Accounting related work • Willing to work independently and at remote stations. • Good knowledge in shipping activities • Must possess a strong work ethic with a "can do" attitude. • Must have good knowledge of safe work practices
Language & PC Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good reading and writing of English and Arabic. • Proficient in using computers including Microsoft office applications and data base.

3. Job Title: HSE Supervisor

Description:

HSE Supervisor scope includes safety related activities of all production operations facilities, drilling and work-over rigs, O&G workshops, Pipelines and pump stations, and contractors.

Requirements:

Academic requirements & Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree or diploma in engineering, science or safety. • Minimum 7 years work experience professionally in oil and gas industry.
Job Knowledge and Skill Requirement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE Policies and strategic objectives. • Elements of HSE Management system, safety rules and procedures. • HSE in oil and gas exploration and production activities. • Hazards and risk management. • Crisis management. • Permit to Work system. • Job Hazards Analysis (JHA) and Hazards and Operability (HAZOP). • Incident investigation and reporting. • Emergency response planning. • Environmental and waste management. • Interpersonal communication and leadership skill. • Knowledge of gas plant operation related to process safety such as emergency shutdown etc. • Proficiency in English and report writing. • Strong knowledge of computers and soft ware applications. • Defensive Driving
Competency Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the Trainer competency certificate. • Incident investigation certificate. • Risk assessment & management. • HSE audits. • NEBOSH International certificate of safety competency

Other Job details of the above positions are posted on 'Careers' at SAFER'S Website:

www.sepocye.com . To apply and process your applications and CVs for the above positions, please visit SAFER'S Website.

Applications must be submitted online no later than June 11th, 2010. Faxed, mailed, or handed applications will not be considered.

ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Semantic minefields

By: CLARK HOYT
E-mail: public@nytimes.com
The New York Times

If the Obama administration takes out a radical Muslim cleric hiding in Yemen, would it be a "targeted killing" or an "assassination"? Was the flooding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina a "natural disaster" or a "man-made" one? Should new construction authorized by Israel in East Jerusalem be called Jewish "housing" or "settlements"?

Times journalists juggle such questions daily as they try to present the news in clear and evenhanded language. Depending on their choices, advocacy groups or individuals of one political persuasion or another accuse them of being inaccurate, retreating into euphemism or taking sides. In the war of words, there is sometimes no safe middle ground.

Stuart Gardiner of San Francisco was incensed last month after The Times reported that the administration had authorized the "targeted killing" of an American citizen, Anwar al-Awlaki, who it believed was plotting attacks on the United States. Gardiner said the paper had resorted to "a euphemism for assassination," reducing the decision to kill a person without due pro-

cess to a term implying "something almost sanitary about the act, bureaucratic and bloodless."

Scott Shane, the Washington reporter who wrote the article, said he chose his words carefully because there is a political and legal debate over whether killing Awlaki would fit the definition of an "assassination" by the government, which is prohibited by executive orders signed by three presidents — Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. "To adopt the very term that's in dispute as our own seems highly unwise," he said.

Indeed, had Shane used "assassination," he would have stepped into an imbroglia that has been long unresolved. The executive orders did not define "assassination," and the Congressional Research Service said in 2002 that the word may have been intended to apply only to foreign officials or heads of state. Ford issued the first order in 1976 after Senate hearings into allegations of U.S. plots against such figures. But the research service said it could be argued that the ban, still in force, applies more broadly.

Shane, whose article followed similar reports by The Los Angeles Times and Reuters, said he regarded it as a first step: getting in the paper the fact that Awlaki was on the list. He fol-

lowed it up last week with a front-page article on the legal debate.

Dean Baquet, the Washington bureau chief, said he did not regard "targeted killing" as a euphemism like those routinely used by governments "to obfuscate and conceal the true meaning." You might wonder about those "proximity talks" sponsored by the United States in the Middle East, but there is no doubt what targeted killing means. I don't think it is euphemistic, either, though it does, as Gardiner argues, sound bureaucratic. Under the circumstances, I could not think of a better term.

If some readers feel The Times sometimes softens the truth, others believe journalists use shorthand that sometimes distorts it.

Sandy Rosenthal of New Orleans recently got more than 1,000 signatures on a petition asking The Times to issue a style memo requiring that news articles use "man-made disaster," not "natural disaster," when referring to Hurricane Katrina's impact on New Orleans. Rosenthal, a co-founder of the advocacy group Levees.org, told me that had the Army Corps of Engineers designed and built the levees in New Orleans properly, there would have been minor flooding, not the deluge that killed some 1,800 people. She said that describing Katrina as a natural

disaster suggests that nobody has to be held accountable and relieves the urgency for fixes.

The article that set off the petition effort — a "White House Memo" by Helene Cooper about President Obama's response to the big oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico — called Katrina a natural disaster but said nothing about New Orleans. However you want to define what happened in that city, the hurricane certainly was a natural disaster for residents further east, along the Mississippi coast.

But in other articles, The Times has said Katrina "devastated" New Orleans, and used other similar language. Philip Corbett, the standards editor, said, "We have repeatedly in our coverage over years dealt in great detail with all the factors that led to the catastrophe in New Orleans." Readers, he said, "will understand you are talking about the whole event: the natural disaster that was the hurricane and the various problems, man-made, and the government response that exacerbated the problems."

Corbett will not issue the edict Rosenthal seeks, and I don't think he should. Joseph Treaster, now a professor at the University of Miami, was a Times reporter who was in New Orleans when Katrina hit. He said that mistakes by people made things worse,

but, "No hurricane, no damage."

Like it or not, "Katrina" has become shorthand for a lot: the hurricane itself, the failed levees, the neglect that followed. Maybe The Times should just call it a "disaster," without modifiers, and be as specific as possible when needed.

No subject arouses reader passion more consistently than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and The Times navigates a semantic minefield with almost every story on the subject. When Cooper wrote this month about a lunch that Obama had with Elie Wiesel, the Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor, she said the president was trying to mend fences with American Jews upset at the administration's stance against construction of "Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem."

Nathan Dodell of Rockville, Md., said it was "tendentious and arrogant" to use the word "settlements" four times in the article when the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has explicitly rejected it in relation to East Jerusalem. Obama has used the term himself to refer to construction in East Jerusalem, and Cooper told me, "I called them settlements because that's the heart of the dispute between the Israelis and the United States: settlement construction in Arab East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want

for an eventual Palestinian state."

But to Dodell, she was taking sides. He asked why she didn't use a neutral term like "housing construction."

Settlement is a charged word in this context, because it suggests something less than permanent on someone else's land. Israel argues that all of Jerusalem is its undivided capital, a claim not recognized by the United States and most of the world. Articles by Times reporters in Jerusalem do generally use words like "housing" instead of "settlement." Still, Ethan Bronner, the bureau chief, said it would be unwise to adopt a hard and fast rule, because some areas of the city taken by Israel in 1967 had long been Jewish neighborhoods while others, built more recently, had the feeling of settlements.

I think Cooper should have found a more neutral term. As with Katrina, it is best to use language as precise as possible. But like Bronner, I don't think a rigid rule is the solution.

Corbett said, "I try very hard to avoid issuing a lot of unbreakable edicts." I understand why. They may satisfy readers who want one point of view or one set of facts always emphasized, but they can get in the way of nuance and real understanding. That is what a newspaper is supposed to be about.

Revolutionary stirrings in the Arab east

By: Raza Naeem
Daily Times

The revolution in south Yemen astonishingly instituted the greatest popular participation and the most radical political and social programme of reforms

Despite the profusion of recent ahistoric and utterly reductive phrases like "the Arab Afghanistan", "the next failed state", "the next biggest worry for the West" and Professor Joe Lieberman's slightly more adventurous, if scarcely more helpful, "theatre for tomorrow's war" in the wake of the Nigerian Christmas bomber's Yemen sojourn, Yemen is a country with a past and a unique recent history that have conspired to place it in the predicament it is in today. Therefore, to view it solely through the prism of its formerly most illustrious citizens — the Bin Ladens once had a Yemeni domicile — is a tragic mistake.

Yemen was a chessboard for both the Ottoman and British empires in the 19th century, the latter occupying Aden in the south and the former becoming dominant in the north. Prior to this, it had remained one of the oldest ancient undivided states along with Egypt, Persia and China. After the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire, a feudal anachronistic imamate took hold in the north,

which ruled with an iron hand sanctioned by the hammer of the Zaidi sect. The British consolidated their rule in the south of the country, using a vicious pacification campaign, which involved the use of mustard gas (no doubt a dress rehearsal for their later atrocities in Iraq). In a palace revolution that was to shake not only the feudal order in the Arab east buttressed by the al-Sauds in Riyadh, but British colonialism in the region, nationalist military officers inspired by Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrew the hated imam in the north in September 1962, thus completing a remarkable hat trick of revolutions in the Arab world within a decade — Egypt (1952), Iraq (1958) and Yemen.

It was natural that such intransigence against the moribund old order in Sana'a would not go unpunished, especially after the revolutionary contagion in the north infected the south, where a full-scale guerrilla war — one section of the revolutionaries more Nasserite in orientation while the other, more radical Marxist-Leninist wing inspired by the Cuban, Chinese and Palestinian struggles — erupted in 1963, complemented by a militant trade union movement. Those who would hurriedly dismiss Yemen as a stronghold of beards and burqas would do well to study this revolutionary upheaval in the heart of feudal Arabia that shattered all previous stereotypes about desert societies

floating on a sea of oil with passive and benighted citizenries bought off by decades of oil largesse. In a counter-revolutionary aggression reminiscent of the tripartite aggression by Britain, France and Israel against Nasser in 1956, the Yemeni revolutionaries were ranged against another foreign alliance comprising monarchical Saudi Arabia, Iran and Britain and initially, Zionist Israel. Nasser's support of the guerrilla struggle in south Yemen with a commitment of 70,000 troops (until his own forces were called away and then defeated in the catastrophic 1967 Arab-Israeli war) did much to bolster this most radical of Arab revolutionary forces.

The popularity of the People's Wars in the north and south led to the British withdrawal from the south in November 1967 and victory for republican forces in the north in July 1970. At one stroke, one of the oldest feudal orders in the Arab east had been dismantled, alerting pasha, emir and colonel to the need for vigilance if they were not to lose their own caps and crowns. While the north soon reverted to a military-populist regime typical of other radical Arab regimes and in confrontation with socialist guerrillas opposed to them, it was in the south that the revolution was really consolidated, first by the newly victorious guerrillas of the National Liberation Front and from

1978, as the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

Analogies of south Yemen as the Cuba of the Arab east were not far-fetched, as the new revolutionary regime set about emancipating women, distributing land to the peasants, nationalising the nascent industries and eliminating illiteracy and disease. The revolution in south Yemen astonishingly instituted the greatest popular participation and the most radical political and social programme of reforms, more than all the radical colonels in Cairo, Baghdad, Damascus, Tripoli and Khartoum put together. However, because it was a popular revolutionary regime unlike its other Arab counterparts, the radical reforms of the south Yemeni revolutionary regime were quarantined and checked by harsh opposition from the counter-revolutionary north and conservative Saudi Arabia on the one hand and its dependence on the Soviet Union on the other. Add to that the consistent ideological and personal battles between the leadership of the YSP and the leaders in power in Aden that ate away whatever revolutionary gains had been made in this tiny Arab revolutionary outpost.

By the 1990s there was no real ideological difference between the regimes in power in Sana'a and Aden, and this difference reflected the general turn in the Arab world towards family dictatorships or monarchies in thrall to Washington and tamed by Tel Aviv. Still, the threat of a communist Arab state amidst a sea of dictators and autocrats alarmed the Saudis, especially in the aftermath of another revolutionary upheaval in Tehran in 1979. Therefore, with Saudi money and blessings, the unification of Yemen was brought about in 1990.

However moth-eaten and isolated from the people the aging leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party have become, one thing is certain: Yemen is a country where the memory of revolution and resistance remains fresh

Although Yemen's unification snuffed out the only real revolutionary alternative in the post-1967 Arab world, it was hoped that the former, in the form of a new democratic state, would enable a hitherto passive citizenry in the petrol stations of the Gulf to put pressure on their own autocrats. Not to be. Since the unification, Yemen itself has become a byword for the same malaise afflicting the Arab world that the revolution and then the unification was intended to solve — a per-

sonalistic family-owned dictatorship under president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

An attempted secession of a disgruntled south in 1994 was dealt with with an iron hand. The pacification of the south meant extending northern control over southern property, British colonial villas in Aden, and southern trade. The Salehisation of the whole country has also meant that whereas once women used to work and move around the streets of the south unveiled, the beards have once again taken over. This is a legacy of the ugly compromises the Saleh kleptocracy has made with the religious Islam Party in order to keep the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) out of the power structure.

What is really happening in Yemen today is the unfolding of unfinished historical baggage from Yemeni unification. The Huthi uprising in the north is led by former allies of Saleh who were used as mercenaries in the reconquest of the south in 1994 and have now fallen out with the ruling elite. Far from being a religious revolt, the aim of the rebellion in the north is not the establishment of a heavenly kingdom on earth as the alarmist media would have us believe; in fact, what started as an old-fashioned bar-room brawl over resources and political influence has now taken on greater proportions because of Saleh's vicious military campaigns against the rebels, midwived since last year by the US and now by its chief proxy in the peninsula, Saudi Arabia, whose interventions in the country (as everywhere else) have always been self-serving and expansionist.

The revolt in the south mainly comprises former socialist military officers who have seen whatever little revolutionary gains they fought for in the revolution being dismantled by the grotesque combination of military officers and clerics imported from the north (and quite possibly Riyadh). So what are the alternatives? Saleh, unlike Musharraf, Saddam and the Taliban, is a wily dictator, who has managed to keep power only by juggling amongst the US, Saudi and his own cynical interests on the one hand and by doling out oil money to buy off a pliant opposition on the other. Of course what has also helped is the ease with which a passive civil society has accepted the neoliberal programmes shoved down their throats by the aging dictator. But that has not stopped the people from taking risks. Jarallah Omar, the charismatic and courageous former secretary-

general of the YSP, was assassinated a few years ago for advocating an end to capital punishment.

However moth-eaten and isolated from the people the aging leaders of the YSP have become, one thing is certain: Yemen is a country where the memory of revolution and resistance remains fresh. The mood in the south remains especially militant: just two months ago thousands of people came out in the streets in Aden to commemorate the anniversary of the British withdrawal, which quickly became a protest against the misery of the present. The rebellions in both the north and the south are thus a continuation of the old revolutionary movements in the 1950s and 1960s that shook the British Empire and the forces of reaction; and like the struggles of old, they have no truck with religion. Only a jaundiced vision would fail to see them as such and ascribe to them the views of a fanatical minority. For the rebellions reflect not only a sharp memory of the country's revolutionary history but also a desire for a break with whatever the unification entailed — much of which has not been tangible to the people at large.

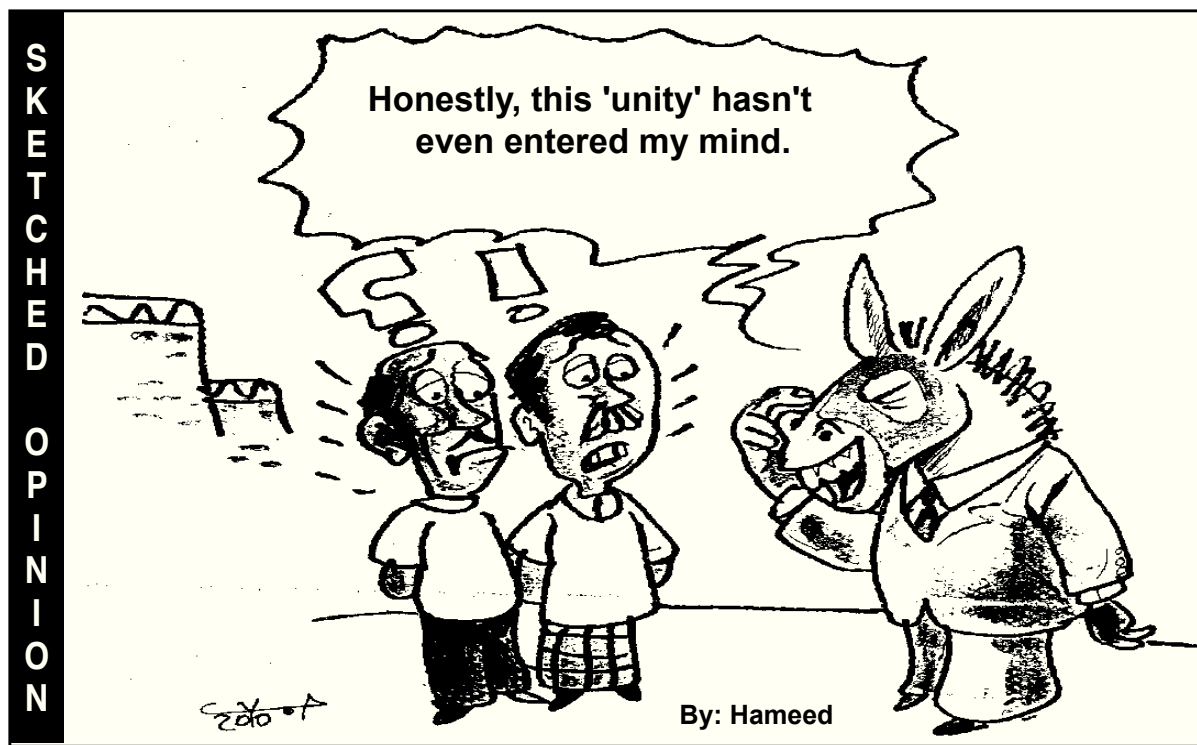
That is the history that Yemen's would-be occupiers in Washington and their equally spineless satraps in Sana'a and Riyadh want to deny and white-wash, acts that are not serving them well in the occupations in Afghanistan and Iraq. As one of the songs of the revolutionary wolves of Radfan (the south Yemeni Yunnan) from the early 1970s reminds us:

"We must support the workers,
We must support the peasants,
We must support the fishermen,
And the Bedouin and nomads,
We must eliminate illiteracy,
We must liberate women,
We must arm the women,

And we must eliminate illiteracy!"
It would be comforting to believe that such infectious enthusiasm extends equally towards combating foreign occupation and its hired quislings; for those who did not tolerate a British occupation will certainly not be content with a possible American one.

(Concluded)

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- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices



An earthquake in east China derailed a train, killing 19 people and injuring more than 70 others on May 23.



Newly-elected British Prime Minister David Cameron visits Germany and answers questions at a press conference.



The 55 international book fair is launched in Warsaw, Poland, with 299 publishing houses from around the world participating.



Turkey sends aid and supplies worth USD 20 million to Gaza on May 22.



A Saudi folklore group dances in the Saudi section of the Shanghai international exhibition. This is the first time in thirty years of Saudi participation that dancers were part of the country's program.



The finals for a teenage inventors' contest are held in China. The themes are environment protection and green economy.



An Air India Express plane crashes in south India with 169 people on board.

Pan-Arab TV: Big on audience, lop-sided on advertising

By: Magda Abu-Fadil

Arab TV viewers enjoy more free satellite channels than their counterparts in developed countries or emerging markets, and although 95% of TV households access free programs, only 70% of television revenues come from advertising. That, according to the "Arab Media Outlook 2009-2013" survey, published by the Dubai Press Club.

The study also found that while the top 15 pan-Arab channels claim 64% of audience share, they make up 80% of the nearly \$900m pan-Arab advertising revenues. Translation: those leading channels with the highest audiences are able to command a premium on their advertising.

"In turn, these channels are held by a few groups from the (Arab) Gulf, namely MBC, Rotana/LBC, Abu Dhabi Media Company, Dubai Media Inc., and Al Jazeera," the report said.

Other media owners, like Egypt's

Melody and Dream TV channels, are within the top 10 media groups in the region in terms of advertising revenues, it added. The report explained that the relative importance of each pan-Arab channel varied across the region, given the distinctive features of the Arab Gulf states, the Levant countries of Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Jordan, and, North Africa, respectively. The MBC group, with its bouquet of entertainment, sports and news channels like Al Arabiya, dominates Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, for example.

While the MBC Group offers only one pay-TV channel in its current bouquet, its FTA channels have historically acted in many ways like pay channels, the report said. This contrasts with Western markets where premium content, such as Hollywood movie regional premiers and premium sports, tend to be available only via subscription services.

Moreover, industry experts suggest viewers in the Arab region are less sensitive to new releases than in other markets,

according to the survey, with viewers less likely to pay a premium to access very recently released Hollywood movies. Instead, they wait for several months to watch the content for free, impacting the traditional business model of pay-TV operators, the survey found.

"Thus, FTA players, such as MBC, are able to secure deals with Hollywood studios to acquire rights for movies that are three to five years old, which are very popular with viewers," it explained.

Other major broadcasting groups, including government-owned organizations, are also increasingly catching up in terms of quality and breadth of content, the report noted, leading to some market share being transferred their way. In Egypt and the rest of North Africa, national terrestrial channels and some satellites take precedence in viewership. North Africa's TV landscape is no longer dominated by state-run channels, and markets have incrementally opened up to new private networks that now challenge historically dominant broadcasters. So the region is

emerging as a key market in the free-to-air TV sector, the survey found.

"Egypt's Al Hayat TV, Melody TV and Dream TV are all success stories in their country, and even beyond," it said.

Tunisia's Nessma TV and Morocco's 2M further west are both popular channels that could potentially become significant pan-Arab players, at least in North Africa, the report said. These channels will make strides by investing further in content and generating interest from across the region, it added.

In Lebanon, and to some extent the surrounding Levant countries, Lebanese channels dominate. The most popular being the LBC Group and Future TV channels with their mix of very popular entertainment programs, local and imported soap operas, game shows and newscasts tailored to various segments of the viewing audience. LBC's newscasts, for example, cater to a large Lebanese diaspora scattered across the globe, as well as a captive audience in the Gulf region and local viewers in Lebanon -- resulting in

clear segmentation based on regional preferences.

Interestingly, the survey stressed that FTA channels suffered from low advertising revenues relative to the large audiences they served. It attributed it to factors finally being taken into account by regional TV executives, including pan-Arab audiences fragmented across nearly 600 channels: "This fragmentation limits the market both at the top and the bottom."

The top five FTA satellite channels make up 47% of total viewing share, leaving hundreds of other stations with extremely low viewing shares, thereby bringing their commercial viability into question, it said.

Another key factor related to audience fragmentation is that not all channels in the region are run for purely commercial reasons, it explained. "This puts severe pressure on any channel, which is trying to operate commercially, since competition for content and, therefore, viewers is extremely stiff," the report said. This unusual business model means there is

little pressure from the industry to increase advertising prices when TV channels have other sources of funding, it added. Add to the mix the lack of accurate and widely accepted audience measurement systems in the Arab region, with broadcasters relying instead on consumer surveys carried out by market research firms with ties to the broadcasters themselves.

A further stumbling block: pan-Arab satellite TV does not offer targeted advertising by country, so it's difficult charging appropriately high rates for the size of the audience.

"This challenge is compounded by the fact that the average demographic of the Arab audience is relatively low income, which has traditionally turned off global advertisers," the study found, adding that the highest proportion of advertising on pan-Arab media came from hygiene and house care products.

M.A.F is director of Journalism Training Program at the American University of Beirut

What Kind of Relations Does Egypt's Islamic Group Seek With Cairo's Al-Azhar?

By: Hani Nasira

Since opening its doors to academic studies in 975 CE, Cairo's al-Azhar University has become the Islamic world's preeminent institution of Islamic studies and its Shaykh (or leader) has been traditionally regarded as the Sunni Islamic world's most authoritative voice. However, since the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, al-Azhar has lost much of its independence to the Egyptian government. In the process the university has become a symbol of secular interference to radical Islamists in Egypt and elsewhere.

Despite this antipathy, Egypt's al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (G.I. - Islamic Group) issued a statement in March regarding the appointment of new al-Azhar Shaykh Ahmad al-Tayeb, entitled, "We Welcome Dr. Ahmad al-Tayeb as al-Azhar's new Shaykh." [1] Before its renunciation of violence in 2003, G.I. was one of Egypt's most vicious terrorist organizations and a fierce opponent of al-Azhar. The new statement came only two days after the presidential decree

appointing al-Tayeb to the highest religious post in the Sunni Muslim world. The statement emphasized the ability of al-Tayeb to shoulder the great responsibility and challenges ahead as the most senior Sunni authority (Al-Masry al-Youm, March 12).

The statement came in clear contradiction to the G.I.'s constant demand for the election of the Shaykh al-Azhar by fellow scholars of Sunni Islam. Since 1961, the Shaykh al-Azhar has been appointed by a presidential decree. Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri's description of al-Azhar as a "government agency" is typical of Salafist views of the institution (As-Sahab Media Production, November 27, 2008). Until his resignation following his new appointment, al-Tayeb was also a member of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) of Hosni Mubarak.

G.I.'s relations with Al-Azhar's former director, the late Shaykh Muhammad Sayid Tantawi (who died in Riyadh on March 10), have long been unfriendly, as Tantawi was criticized by all Islamist groups and individuals. Many saw his various stands as diminishing the role of Sunni Islam's

biggest religious institution. G.I. demanded his firing following the famous niqab (face veil) case in October last year, when he told a middle school student in a class he was visiting to take off her niqab while in school. At the time, a G.I. representative accused Tantawi of taking stands inappropriate for the Shaykh al-Azhar and demanded his dismissal (al-Quds al-Arabi, October 13, 2009).

On the other hand, G.I. has seen al-Tayeb's appointment as a good omen, promising a better era for al-Azhar and better relations with Islamists. That was reflected in G.I.'s welcoming statement, in which they called for opening bridges between al-Azhar and the youth of the Islamist movement in a bid to make use of their potential in the service of the country and faith. The statement also highlighted al-Tayeb's support for G.I.'s so-called "Revisions" of its methods and ideology in recent years (see Terrorism Monitor, December 6, 2007; January 9, 2008).

Al-Tayeb's recent declarations have been encouraging for G.I. and other Islamists, especially in decisive matters such as not

allowing a Copt to be president, his promise to reinstate the teaching of the four Sunni schools of jurisprudence (Hanafi, Maliki, Hanbali and Shafi'i) in preparatory and high schools and his pledge to reduce the Shaykh al-Azhar's authority in matters such as establishing religious schools and gathering donations for such projects. Al-Tayeb also welcomed the discussion on electing the Shaykh al-Azhar and declared he would not resent a non-Egyptian occupying the post. Such issues have always provided fuel for al-Azhar critics, but al-Tayeb's statements have defused much of their criticism.

Nagih Ibrahim, a member of G.I.'s Shura Council, sees the necessity for bypassing past mistakes by both parties, most notably in the following areas:

- Al-Azhar always saw the demerits of the Islamist movement, ignoring its merits as a vital tool in pushing the Islamic call forward.

- The Islamist movement also focused on attacking al-Azhar and smearing its scholars, ignoring its great role as the highest Sunni seat of learning around the

world.

- The Islamist movement always believed that it has among its ranks the best scholars, ignoring the fact that most of them were graduates of al-Azhar.

- Ibrahim rejects Salafist denunciations of al-Azhar scholars and the Salafist assertion that al-Azhar is an Asha'ri institution rather than a Salafi institution. [2] He describes such attacks as "a grave mistake." Al-Tayeb belongs to the Khalwatiya Sufi order of Upper Egypt (al-Khaleej [Dubai], March 20; HYPERLINK "http://masrawy.com/" "http://masrawy.com, March 20). He has always been a follower of the Asha'ri theology and is a vocal critic of Salafism in Egypt.

Al-Azhar has not yet replied to G.I.'s statement, which may be due to al-Azhar's awareness of the Islamist movement's perception of historical religious institutions in general. The Islamist movement seeks to penetrate and utilize religious institutions without submitting to them. According to Ibrahim, dialogue between both parties should not focus on who is leading or whose flag they follow. Islamists have

therefore always welcomed alternative institutions like Yusuf al-Qaradawi's International Union for Muslim Scholars (IUMS).

While Nagih Ibrahim, G.I.'s spokesman, criticizes the Salafist attacks on al-Azhar, he ignores the fact that these are the same arguments G.I. has always made, even after their historical "Revisions." G.I. has always been hostile towards Sufism and the Asha'riya doctrine (aqida) followed by al-Tayeb.

The welcoming statement by G.I. is part of their attempt to legalize their existence, in social and Islamic terms, after being confined to cyberspace for a long period. They are also trying to open up with the intention of increasing the probability that their strict theories in issues like citizenship, the civil state and various freedoms may gain support, despite the self-criticism they have practiced or their intellectual attacks on al-Qaeda.

Hani Nasira is a Dubai-based Egyptian expert on militant movements in the Middle East.

Vacancy Announcement Strategic Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Individual Consultant Request for Expressions of Interest (Procurement Specialist)

The Government of Yemen has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of Strategic Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for hiring services of a Procurement Specialist (PS) to be based in Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and with experience in donor-funded programs.

The objectives of the Strategic Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR), are to:

- Pilot and demonstrate ways to integrate climate risk and resilience into development planning
- Scale up and transformational change by integrating consideration of climate resilience into national development planning
- Should complement, build upon and leverage through other ongoing activities
- Country led and country specific - there are no blueprints
- Beyond Business as Usual (not sector-by-sector and project-by-project approach) - upstream climate resilience in development planning, core development policies and strategies. Focus on long-term needs, cross sectoral dialogue
- Learning by doing and capture and disseminate lessons

The Procurement Specialist will be contracted by The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and will report to the Director, PCU. Specific responsibilities of the procurement specialist would be (but not limited to) as follows:

Planning Function - establish systems for procurement of goods, work and consultant services; prepare and update procurement plan; prepare bidding documents and requests for proposals; develop TORs; and maintain MIS to track procurement activities.

Procurement Process - publish expressions of interest and procurement notices; attend to bid opening, evaluation and contract awards in accordance with procedures agreed with IDA.

Contract Management - ensure compliance with specifications and other contract conditions and delivery of goods to the consignees.

Others - act as a focal point for any dialogue on procurement management matters; update PCU on status of procurement activities; ensure that procurement records are maintained and produced for reviews and legal agreements with IDA are complied with; and attend to other procurement related activities as decided by the director, PCU.

The Procurement Specialist (PS) shall have (i) at least a bachelor degree in engineering, commerce, economics, business development or equivalent; (ii) at least 5 years of procurement experience, of which at least 3 years on world bank procurement; (iii) familiarity with GoY procurement law; and (iv) computer literacy and proficiency in Arabic and English. The position will be initially for one year and shall be renewable upon satisfactory performance. The selected candidate is expected to commence the assignment by **June 2010**.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) represented by the *Project Coordination Unit (PCU)* invites eligible national individuals to indicate their interest in providing the services and furnish their curriculum vitae (CV) and application (**electronically to the email below**) indicating that they are qualified and would be available to perform the required services. Individual consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures for selection of individual consultants as established in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, dated May 2004 and revised May 2010*. Interested individual consultant may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Saturday through Wednesday. Please apply to the address below within ten days from the date of this announcement.

Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR)
Environment Protection Authority
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Mobile: 734383838
Tel: 207717
Fax: 207327
E-Mail: PPCR.Yemen@Gmail.com

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Yemen Preparation of a Strategic Pilot Program for climate Resilience Project VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Project Financial Manager

Duties and Responsibilities

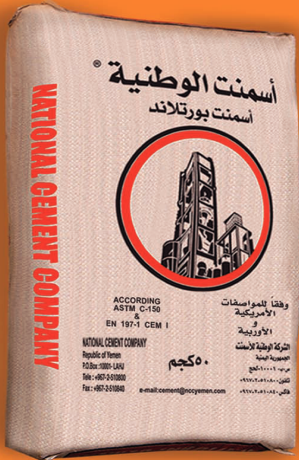
1. Under the general direction of the EPA Chairman, the Financial Manager (FM) is responsible for the financial management of the project. He/she ensures that an appropriate financial management system is in place, with internal control, records, and books of accounts; and that the procedures and reports are reliable, timely, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and donor and government requirements; and that financial and other reports as needed are maintained and prepared on a timely basis, communicated to the appropriate users, and properly filed at the Authority. He/ she is also responsible for training and building the capacity of two accountants of the EPA and the oversight of the accountants work.
2. The FM will be responsible for developing the Financial and accounting policies and procedures manual of the Project. The FM will ensure full understanding of the manual and provide technical training to the Accountants. The FM will be responsible for proposing any necessary amendment to the manual during the life of the project and ensuring timely update.
3. Key responsibilities of this position will also include:
 - a implementing and managing the financial and accounting system of the Project;
 - b preparing the quarterly interim and annual financial reports of the project and interpreting the variances when compared to the project budget;
 - c regularly reviewing the internal control system to ensure compliance with the agreed mechanisms, procedures, and systems;
 - d preparing disbursement schedules and financial forecasts for the project;
 - e verifying payments to ensure that the expenditures have been properly budgeted, authorized and recorded;
 - f managing the cash accounts designated for project use to ensure the efficient use of funds, through following up on the signed contracts and all committed funds;
 - g verifying withdrawal application for the disbursement of the Grant funds on direct payment and reimbursement basis;
 - h performing any other project-related duties requested by the EPA Chairman.

Qualifications:

4. Qualifications for this position include:
 - a A Bachelor's degree with preferably Yemeni CPA/CA designation;
 - b A minimum of five years of private and public sector financial management experience, preferably with an auditing firm and/or donors funded projects;
 - c The ability to supervise accounting and other financial functions and report financial information useable to the various concepts;
 - d Proficiency in the use of procurement concepts;
 - e Acceptable English skills.

The Environment Protection Authority [EPA] invites eligible national individuals to indicate their interest in providing the services and furnish their curriculum vitae (CV) and application (**electronically to the email below**) indicating that they are qualified and would be available to perform the required services. Individual consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures for selection of individual consultants as established in the World Bank's Guidelines. Interested individual consultant may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Saturday through Wednesday. Please apply to the address below within ten days from the date of this announcement

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Concluding release on the Banking Seminar of the National Bank of Yemen held in Mukalla through 18-19 May, 2010



Mr. A. Rahman Al-Kuhali, Chairman and General Manager of NBY

Under the motto (our Power lies in our Unity) and under the sponsorship of His Excellency the President of the Republic, National Bank of Yemen concluded into banking seminar on Wednesday 19th May, 2010 held at Holiday-In Hotel in Mukalla through 18-19 May, 2010.

The participant raised a congratulating telegram to His Excellency the President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Unification Day expressing their gratitude and thanks for his patronage and concern toward the banking sector assuring their commitment to execute the President's election programme towards effecting the qualitative transmit in the field of comprehensive economical development / raising the living standard of the citizens/ stabilizing unity principles among the youth/ NBY actions and contributions in rendering complete facilities to the investors.

At the conclusion, Mr. A. Rahman Al-Kuhali, Chairman and General Manager of NBY gave a speech in which he stressed the necessity of benefiting from all the resolutions and suggestions of this seminar by taking needful steps in executing and following them from every staff to keep up the high position and best reputation the bank entertains locally, regionally and globally. He expressed his gratitude and thanks to the local authority in Hadramout Governorate for their assistance and patronage to make this seminar successful. He also thanked the participating staff members and the valued customers of the bank for their faith and trust

in the bank.

The seminar reconfirmed in its resolutions and suggestions the opening speech of the Chairman and General Manager and all the working papers submitted by the participants to the seminar.

The resolutions and suggestions include:-

- Improvement of the performances and rendering to present a sophisticated and modernized banking services to the bank's customers.
- Accompanying every new technology in banking field.
- Increasing the activities of banking credits and marketing.
- Qualification of bank cadets to develop high performance.
- Giving opportunities to the young members.
- Increasing the supervisory posts in various departments to accomplish the progress and development of NBY.
- Confirmation to rendering higher authorities to some of the managers of main branches toward specializing the transactions and services of the needful customers.
- Quick commencement of Islamic dealings.

It is worth mentioning that during the sessions of the seminar a number of excellent staffs and retired members of NBY were honored by Excellency Certificates and financial incentives for the occasion of labor day and the 20th anniversary of the Unification Day.



Taking the real-estate business online

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

When he had finally managed to gather enough money to buy his dream house, Faisal Mohammed put his life savings into a deal that turned out to be a scam. The property had many problems attached to it and he discovered that the house he just bought was sold to more than one person at the same time. He took the matter to court and has been paying for lawyers and trial fees for the last four years.

"I am tired and fed up. What used to be a dream is now a nightmare. Now I am negotiating with the person who sold me the house and the other owners just to get at least half of the money I paid," said Faisal with bitterness and disappointment.

Faisal is not the only one who has faced a problem with the real estate business in Yemen. And because of these problems, a young Yemeni entrepreneur called Amad Al-Msaodi, with an MBA

in Technology and Innovation Management, decided to create a new venture based on new technology to contribute to solving the problem, which he called AqarMap.com.

Amad is leading a virtual team of three. He is managing the company from the US, and his team includes Ahmed Abdulmoula, with a bachelors' in Information Technology, as the technology manager and Mohamed Hareth, who brings to the team 7 years of e-marketing experience as the marketing manager.

After their success in the Yemeni market with goyemen.com, the team decided to take the next challenge and move into the regional market, the Middle East market. "We started Go Yemen in 2004 and there were five competitors who had the first mover advantage. Today we control about 90 percent of the Yemeni e-marketplace sector. We felt that the growth room in Yemen was not sufficient, so we decided to expand into a bigger market. We know that we can repeat the success

story, but this time we decided to use innovation as our competitive edge," said Al-Msaodi.

AqarMap.com is an online real-estate marketplace that makes buying, selling, and renting properties in the Middle East easy and convenient. AqarMap.com offers an innovative platform that matches sellers with buyers based on the most important factor – location through an online site. It allows sellers to showcase their properties using satellite maps. The use of satellite maps is because in many places in Yemen urban planning does not exist and so the owners find it difficult to explain precisely the location of real-estate.

At the same time, potential buyers can search the market by browsing an interactive map instead of using keywords. When any transaction takes place, it happens directly between the seller and the buyer, eliminating the commission that is usually given to the agent and which usually reaches five percent of the sale.

The advertisers only pay for listing

their property in the website, and it differs according to the length of posting and the position in the site.

"We built our marketplace by capitalizing on the real-estate golden rule: Location, location, location. The price of a property is irrelevant if it is not in the customers preferred location. Customers can now search by location and find the nearby points of interest, such as: parks, schools, public transportation, etc.," explains Al-Msaodi.

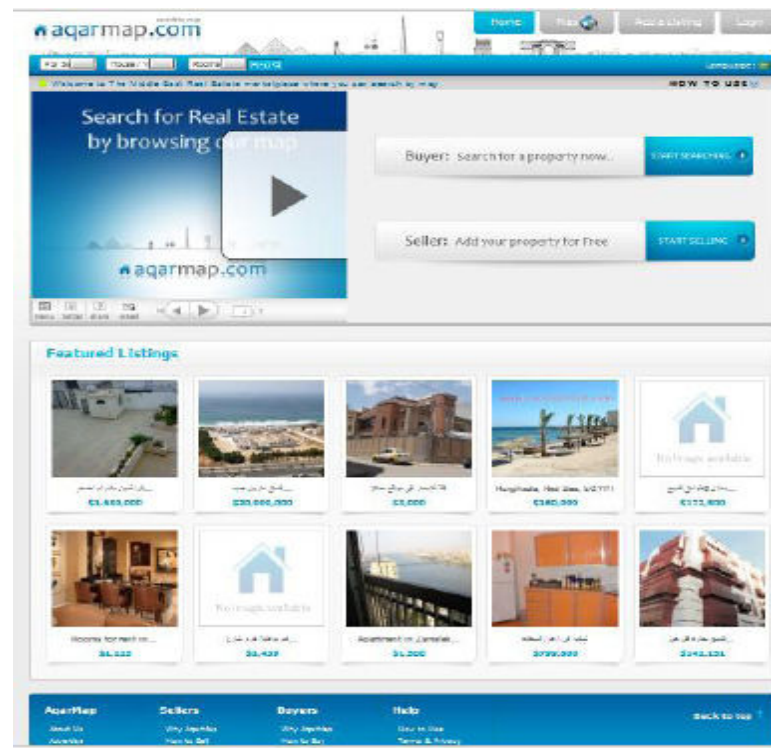
Property owners can post their listings on AqarMap.com for free, and for a small fee they can promote their listings to gain higher visibility on the map.

"Our sophisticated advertising technology enables our customers to geographically target their potential clients. This seamless integration with our map produces more leads than the typical banner or text ads," said marketing manager, Mohamed Hareth.

AqarMap.com uses Google Maps for identifying the location, Youtube for the property tour, Twitter and Facebook for sharing the listing in the social web, and a set of other technologies to translate the content and convert numbers and currencies.

The team developed their technology from scratch, which is the edge they offer over other sites as they did not use an off-the-shelf solution that was designed for other markets. First they researched the market, evaluated competitors, looked at best practices from all over the world, and created a solution that is tailored to the region's needs.

"We used the latest web technologies and a design theory called «web mashups» where you don't re-invent the wheel, but rather combine strong products and create a new value added ex-



perience. Also, during the development, we took into consideration our future growth plans, so our system is currently language and metric agnostic. This will enable us to expand into Africa, Asia, and S. America regardless of language, currency size measuring metrics," said Ahmed Abdul Moula, technology manager.

Not all listings are charged, as the project includes a free promotional service. The advertiser can highlight the site on the map and this link would be available in the advertiser's main account page.

The site's team verifies advertisements manually, as they call users if they feel that the content is suspicious. Moreover, there is always a safety point in the fact that buyers don't make the purchase online, so the only disadvan-

tage that scams could produce is wasted effort and time.

Although the advertising showcases the property in pictures and video, the information provided is the responsibility of the owners. The AqarMap team try to verify the authenticity of the information but they warn that it is impossible to check each and every listing.

"We ask all members to report any property that contains false or invalid information by clicking on the report to admin button in the listing page," says Hareth.

AqarMap.com has won several awards as one of the most innovative startups in the Middle East. Also, the founding team is excited about growing their language agnostic marketplace into developing markets such as Africa, Asia, and South America.



Ahmed Abdulmoula



Amad Al-Msaodi



Mohamed Hareth

Euro crisis scares off Gulf leaders, delays plans for common currency

By: Adam Gonn
The Media Line

Plans for a common currency in the Gulf are being put on hold while leaders study the development of the euro crisis.

As the Euro, the common currency for most members of the European Union, is being traded at record low levels against the dollar, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, are having second thoughts about the proposal for a common currency.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah was quoted in local media as saying that it would be irresponsible of the Gulf Cooperation Council to push ahead without studying the implications of the problems in Europe.

"Certainly, the euro crisis has alarmed



Gulf Cooperation Council decision-makers," Yadullah Ijehadi, Managing Editor at ABQ Zawya, a business information company, told The Media Line. "They will be keenly monitoring how the crisis unfolds in Europe and if there

is any lasting damage to the Euro," he explained.

"Until the full fallout of this crisis is fully examined," said Ijehadi, "I doubt [the] Gulf Cooperation Council decision-makers will be keen to push their own

monetary union agenda in a hurry."

The treaty for the common Gulf currency was originally signed in 2001 and given a 10-year deadline for its implementation, a date that has been postponed several times. Since then, both Oman and the UAE have dropped out.

While the effect caused by Oman's decision to leave was minimal, the loss of the UAE dealt a major blow to the common currency plans.

An official statement explaining why the UAE left still has not been issued, making its leaders' motives unclear. However, the announcement came only weeks after Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, was chosen as the headquarters for what would become the new central bank in June 2009.

"This crisis [with the Euro] would further dissuade the UAE and Oman; both have decided to sit out the current proposed monetary union for now. And if there were any hopes that Saudi Arabia will be able to bring them back to the

table, they have evaporated, at least for the time being," Ijehadi said.

"A monetary union seems further and further away for now, especially when a monetary policy framework is not in place either, and Gulf states are distracted by slow growth," he added.

The Euro was introduced as the common currency in 16 of the 27 member states of the European Union in 2002, replacing national currencies, and a European central bank was established to take charge of monetary policy for the Eurozone.

The first seven years of the Euro passed smoothly, as it corresponded with a period of global economic growth; however, as the effects of the international sub-prime crisis started to materialize in less wealthy European countries, such as Greece, the value of the Euro started to drop.

As the crisis escalated, the economy of Greece along with the political stability of the entire Eurozone began to

plummet and the EU and the International Monetary Fund offered a \$137 billion rescue package to Greece following intense discussions between leading euro nations France and Germany.

Jane Kinnimont, an expert on the Gulf with the Economist Intelligence Unit, told The Media Line that the two projects for a common regional currency have some similarities and differences.

"Like the Euro, it's a political project," Kinnimont told the Media Line.

"They are pegged to the dollar, but unlike the Euro, they will not have dramatic economic benefits from merging their currencies," she said, pointing out that now the value of the various Gulf currencies are not determined by the economic performance of each country, but by their value compared to the dollar.

Kinnimont predicted that within five to 10 years the Gulf currency – sometimes referred to as the Khaleeji – would be implemented.

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A college of girls in Hadhramout valley for a bright tomorrow

By: Jauda Lhmady
collejud@yahoo.com

While the Hadhramout valley is one of the strictest areas in Yemen against education for girls, blessed efforts have yielded fruit when a college for girls was recently opened in the valley. This college offers new horizons for women to share a role with men in achieving the development and prosperity of their country.

The results of a recent study, conducted in 2009, including all girls school in the valley showed that the rate of girls who drop out of education is almost 42%. This high rate has compelled educators to search an answer for the posed question, "What are the reasons behind the high rate of girls dropping out of school?"

Although poverty, early marriage and common unfortunate traditional and social beliefs are the main difficulties preventing girls from having an advanced social and economic life, some experts confirm that the main reason behind girls' lack of development in Hadhramout is due to an attitude among people that there is no importance attached to girls' education in

society. This misconception is a cause of parental and social discouragement towards girls' education.

A family who does not believe in the importance of their girl's education will directly or indirectly force her to drop out of school and stay at home. The family sees that the money paid for her education goes nowhere. The girl wastes years in education, gaining nothing by the end of elementary or secondary school and she cannot complete her studies because of social and economic considerations.

Asma'a, a mother of two children Ali and Fatimah, was asked why she was very eager to keep Ali in school, whilst Fatimah dropped out and stayed at home. She replied by saying: «I'm a woman who faces difficulties paying the cost for two schoolchildren. So it's better to keep Ali in school because he will be someone in future, but Fatimah won't be anyone except a housewife».

Such a reply represents the beliefs of most of people in the valley, and other places, concerning girl's education. According to this, we can understand that poverty is not the only reason behind this girl leaving school. The real reason is that her mother does not believe in the importance of her education. She only believes that her daughter will inevitably become a

housewife.

Some decision making educators in Hadhramout valley are aware of these real reasons behind the girls leaving school. They are trying to find a real solution to this common phenomenon. So, they decided to establish a girls' college in the Hadhramout valley.

Dr. Abdulqader Bajobair, Dean of Faculty of Education in Seiyun, had an important role in the establishment of the college of girls. He said, "After long discussions over the results of studies aimed to improve the position of girls' education in Hadhramout valley, and the effort to understand the reasons behind these girls dropping out of school, we found out that the establishment of a special college for girls would encourage enormous numbers of them to keep on studying. This college will encourage them and make it easy for them to have goals and contribute, to some extent, in helping their families to change their minds and see the importance of their daughters' education. Accordingly, the policy makers, represented by the president Ali Abdullah Saleh, directed those in charge to open a girls' college in Seiyun, one of the cities in the Hadhramout valley".

Now, more than 170 girls, in the academic year 2009/2010, have found

their way to university by joining this girls' college in Seiyun. Before opening, it was understood that those girls would not complete their study or be anything except traditional housewives. This college will discourage girls from dropping out of school and will give them good opportunities to complete their studies, especially for those who come from families who would refuse co-educational learning.

Dr. Nasser Omar Attamimi, Vice Dean of the College of Girls in Seiyun said, "I expect that this college will

contribute to some extent in solving the problem of girls leaving school and will offer good opportunities for them to fulfill their important role in society. This college, in its first year, accepted more than 170 girls distributed amongst three departments; Islamic studies, English and the Kindergarten departments. This is evidence of the expected success of this college in the future, especially if it is developed by the addition of other departments that are needed."

Although education is the essential

pillar of development for any country aspiring to progress and prosperity, school dropouts remain the most serious issue facing education in Yemen. The country suffers high illiteracy rates, currently standing at 29.8 percent for men and 62.1 for women.

All organizations, and society as a whole, should exert much greater effort in this respect, by finding workable solutions such as this girls' college, which was established after exhausting efforts on behalf of some educators in the Hadhramout valley.

Traditional weddings in Yemen

By: Khadija Ebraheem

A traditional wedding in Yemen is very interesting because it is simple. In the past, people were friendly and the cost of living was not high. Today traditional weddings are still celebrated.

Some people celebrate it over two days.

According to the customs of each particular area in Yemen, especially in Sana'a city, there is a particular way to celebrate the marriage ceremony.

For men the wedding lasts two days. On the first day, the groom goes to a traditional Yemeni bath with his family and

guests. Then they come back home and they eat traditional Yemeni food like salta, bint al-sahn, shafout, and meat. After lunch, they go to a specific place to chew qat and to listen to traditional songs.

Next day, they sing to the bridegroom traditional songs at the ziffa. They dance, sing, and -of course- chew qat.

On the first day of the celebrations, called the "green day," the bride and her family go to a traditional Yemeni bath house. The bride's guests eat lunch at her home. After that, the bride wears a green dress and covers her face with a piece of silk. There are many bridesmaids beside her to take care about her looks. They dance and sing all through the day.

On the next day, the bride wears a golden dress and covers her face too. The day

is called the "golden day" and the guests sing and dance till midnight.

The third day or the "white day" is the most important day in these celebrations. The bride wears a white wedding dress and does not cover her face contrary the previous days. Once again, all the family and guests enjoy the party till midnight.

When it is over, they carry her to groom's house with a lot of nice songs that are called ziffat al-wadaa' that are sung by a female singer. At that moment, her mother gives her a lot of advice to be able to deal with her husband and new life.

Finally, the bride and bridegroom meet each other inside a closed romantic room.

They start a new mortal life together.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam has been in Yemen for more than 25 years, working alongside government authorities, local communities and NGO partners to improve healthcare provision, access to education and the livelihoods of thousands of people living in poverty. Our emergency relief efforts and ongoing campaigning and development work have already made a positive difference in so many ways. But with your help, we know we can achieve a whole lot more.

Project Manager – (Based in Sana'a with extensive field travel)

A big part of our work in the Amran and Sa'ada regions is about providing Water, Sanitation and public health assistance to both the displaced and long-established communities living there. Heading up our Public Health operations across these regions, you'll oversee the development of water supply and sanitation systems to cope with the increased demands placed upon them. At the same time, you'll work alongside government authorities and other NGOs to promote the importance of good hygiene practices in the community. It is a tremendously diverse challenge. And one that involves leading and motivating a widespread team, managing considerable resources and building strategic relationships at a variety of levels.

A talented Project Manager, you'll need experience of working in complex humanitarian situations and a project management and WASH background with the ability to translate strategies into actions that make a difference on the ground.

Public Health Engineer – (Based in Haradh)

In this key role, you'll be working closely with the local and displaced people communities to identify, design and construct water and sanitation facilities that meet their individual needs. In some instances, this may involve recommissioning existing systems. But in many cases, you'll need to create everything from ground up including the means of abstraction, storage, treatment and distribution as well as excreta and refuse disposal, vector control and drainage. And the challenge doesn't end there. You'll also have an important part to play in training up other Oxfam staff, Oxfam partners, writing proposals and contributing to budget developments.

Qualified in any Public Health Engineering related discipline, you should also have worked with water and sanitation systems in the developing world and have a practical understanding of the challenges we face. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. Diplomatic and tactful, you'll be a sensitive and practiced communicator, able to keep a calm head and reassure those around you.

Logistics Manager – (Based in Sana'a)

In what is a highly strategic role, you'll supervise and support our entire logistics team across Yemen. Overseeing and coordinating the efforts of several warehouses located across the country, you'll have a big part to play in everything from sourcing suppliers and developing procurement plans to managing our fleet of vehicles. When we're looking into bigger development projects - establishing a new school or hospital, for example - your knowledge and experience will also enable you to provide invaluable advice when it comes to locations.

It's a huge (and hugely diverse) challenge which calls for a rather special combination of qualities. If you come to us from a role in logistics management, so much the better. But so long as you can bring us some real-world experience in a related field such as purchasing, warehousing, distribution or fleet management, you should be able to rise to it. Whatever your specific background, you'll need to be highly organised and an inspirational leader. Someone who can mobilise people and resources to achieve dramatic results.

To apply: To find out more about this role and to apply, visit www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs



Vacancy , nouncement

The Food and , griculture Organization of the United Nations invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:

Title: , dministrative Clerk
Level: G-4 (One Year with possibility of extension)
Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen
Closing Date for Applications: Wednesday, 9th June 2010 (14.00hrs)

Job Role, Duties and Responsibilities

The Administrative Clerk G-4 is responsible for a variety of routine administrative and financial support functions for the FAO Representative. He / she works under the overall guidance of the FAO Representative and the direct supervision of the Assistant FAOR (Administration). The incumbent performs the following duties:

- Retrieve, enter, select and analyse data from a wide variety of sources, including FAO's corporate system and data bases (e.g. the Field Accounting System (FAS), the Country Office Information System (COIN), Datawarehouse, etc.); verify accuracy of data documents; make necessary calculations.
- Maintain imprest accounts; reconcile expenditures, balances, payments, statements and other data; assist in the preparation of recurring and special reports by preparing and editing data in appropriate format as requested; monitor project, programme and general office accounts.
- Maintain detailed records of budget estimates, obligations and available balances; record receipts and disbursements (ledgers, cash books, vouchers, etc.); make disbursements from petty cash fund and balance accounts.
- Prepare routine correspondence of administrative nature; draft correspondence to verify data, answer queries, and obtain additional information on transactions and financial matters, as required.
- Maintain local inventory records with responsibility for proper recording of assets, their maintenance and safeguard.
- Maintain a filing system of administrative and financial documents.
- Maintain liaison with local banks and financial institutions to keep up-to-date with financial and regulatory information (exchange and interest rates, procedures and rules, maintenance of bank accounts, etc.).

- Support the administration of personnel and equipment.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualification Requirements

Education: Secondary school education or equivalent commercial school.

Work Experience: Four years of clerical, administrative or accounting experience.

Languages: Working knowledge (level C) of the FAO official language used for communication within the country (English) and working knowledge of Arabic.

IT Skills: Ability to effectively use standard office software, such as MS Office (Windows, Word, Outlook, Excel, Exchange) etc. Ability to use accounting software and other information systems and databases to insert data, make enquiries, retrieve/define ad hoc reports and analyses and edit results in appropriate format.

Office Management Skills: Systematic, well structured and efficient approach to work assignments. Analytical ability, accuracy and consistency. Exercise diligence and care in dealing with records and expenditures.

Interpersonal Communications and Teamwork Skills: The incumbent must possess a cooperative spirit, flexibility and openness to work in an international environment. Tact and courtesy. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with people of different national and cultural background.

Application (Curriculum Vitae & Letter of Application) should be submitted before deadline to:

The F, O Representative in Yemen
Food and , griculture Organization of the United Nations
Opposite Mr. , l-Salami Residence,
Faj , ttan, Hadda,Sana'a
P.O.Box 1867, Sana'a, Yemen
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Khokha: A simple people's lost paradise

The town's name means the small window or opening through which light enters the house. It is a small town on the Red Sea and has been used as a harbor through which the coastal region of Tihama connects with the rest of the world through the sea.

This is an ancient sea port that became a famous point in the Red Sea trade route in year 627 AD, and is considered one of the most beautiful coastal cities for its clean beaches and un-commercialized nature.

On the sea shore, you can rest under the many palm trees towering over the sea. This is probably one of the very few places in the world where you can find fresh water a few inches into the soil while being just a few meters away from the salty water of the sea.

Further into the town, there are also other agricultural products such as sesame, cotton, mango, pomegranate, and figs.



The great mosque in one of the town's most prominent landmarks. It was built according to a beautiful Islamic architecture design between 1249 and 1295 AD. It was renovated several times in history except for its 20 meters high minaret that stands high exactly as it was originally built centuries ago.

Another historic building in the town is Dar Al-Omaisi which is a 200 year-old architectural wonder. It was built by Sheikh Mohammed Ali Al-

Omaisi who built it as a fort. Today it is a home to one of the grandchildren of Al-Omaisi and is also used as a center for making handicrafts sold locally and to tourists. Some of the parts of the house are in bad shape and need urgent restoration.

Other historic sites in the town have also been destroyed or show signs of ruin such as the Dome Mosque and two forts: Al-Qahira and Al-Qishla.

The town has some signs of modern recreation as there are at least four spas varying in their degree of service.

The fishermen are limited by practice to certain areas on Al-Kokha's shore leaving most of the town's beautiful shore available for the public. Some of the areas in this coastal city appear as if never touched by man, and exhibit the natural harmony of sea

merging with land. There are also various interesting birds that fly peacefully in the skies and land quickly to catch a fish from the sea.

When you are in Khokha, you must not go without trying its delicious seafood. The town offers gigantic crabs and tasty lobsters in addition to the various kinds of fish. You can actually catch your own fish if you are interested, otherwise you can simply swim near the shore while observing fleets of fish passing by.

If you are adventurous you can also venture to any of the many small islands near the town, or go diving deep into the red sea.

Although Al-Khokha's population are no more than 40,000 people, the locals mark several occasions in the year with cultural events for themselves,



and their visitors. The events are either based on agricultural seasons such as the date harvesting season, or based on cultural events such as the poets' festival during which the town's long tradition of poetry is revived and the locals compete with one another reciting beautiful Arabic folklore poetry in public.

Source: Yemen Tourism Council



A treasure trove of photos at the National Museum

By: Ali Saeed

A photo gallery of Yemeni traditional life taken by Yemeni, Arab and foreign photographers was launched last week at the National Museum in the capital.

The European Union Delegation to Yemen took the initiative in organizing this exhibition in cooperation with the administration of the National Museum.

The gallery contains various photos of traditional life in Yemen from different areas across the country. Photographers from Yemen, the Gulf states and European countries took the photos in March and May last year during their travels in Yemen organized by the EU.

During a press conference at the gallery on May 18, the Ambassador of the European Union to Yemen, Michele Cervone d'Urso, said that this activity is part of an effort within the European Union to support the preservation of Yemen's national and cultural heritage.

Recently, the old city in Sana'a, which is a UNESCO world heritage site, has been at risk of damage because of bad upkeep. Many local and international intellectuals have called on the Yemeni government and concerned institutions to take action to keep the site from deteriorating.

In the conference, the ambassador noted that Yemenis are not aware of the value of maintaining their heritage.

"Yemenis should enjoy their national heritage and landscape and take care of it," he said. "International support to maintain the Yemeni heritage will not be effective unless Yemenis themselves are involved in this commitment."

The exhibition has already been shown in Dubai in the UAE by the Arabia Flex and Total Arts Gallery and has been quite successful according to the EU delegation to Yemen.



After Dubai last year and now in Sana'a, the exhibition will move to Brussels to show the world the treasure trove of Yemeni culture, according to the delegation.

Although the display of such photos of Yemen may promote tourism in Yemen and attract tourists to come see the country, Cervone d'Urso said that tourism promotion requires organized programs as well as stability and good security.



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