

By: Ali Saeed

On Saturday, Refah was released after the political security looked into her case

“Al-Qaeda members are in Shabwa, Abyan and Marib, and the Yemeni government negotiates with them, while

The actions also made landlords in Sana'a more reluctant to rent out apartments to foreigners, according to Barman, as Refah could not stay the last night at apartment where she was held and the landlord kicked her out immediately after security announced her release, according to Al-Barman.

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

He said that handing over the land was a testimony to the Houthis' good intentions to fulfill their promise to enhance peace in the governorate after the sixth war between the government and the Houthis in the area since 2004.

On May 22, President Saleh

According to the Houthis, an armed group belonging to the tribe of parliamentarian Sagheer Bin Aziz, which supports the government, planted the land mine on the 'Amshiyya road, Harf Sufian, Amran. They said that the land mine bore marks of the Yemeni military.

Also last week, clashes between Houthis and tribesman supporting the government killed and injured dozens, according to tribal sources. They added that if the clashes continue and the government does not stop them, the ceasefire would end, especially in Sa'ada and Amran.

In related news, an armed group that calls itself the People's Army blocked the road from Haradh to Hodeida in protest for not giving them their salaries.

Tribal sources said that members of the army participated in the sixth war with the Yemeni army against Houthis.

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Ongoing violence in north hinders IDP returns

SANAA, 7 June 2010 (IRIN) — Hundreds of internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in the Yemeni capital Sanaa fear returning home because of recent violence in the northern Amran governorate's Harf Sufyan district that left several people killed and many injured.

"We were about to collect our stuff and return home, but this plan was cancelled after clashes erupted in Harf Sufyan," Hamid al-Merrani, an IDP from the district, told IRIN. "If we return, we will be killed or forced back," he said.

Al-Merrani and his family are among some 3,000 IDP (about 19,000 individuals) families sheltering in Sanaa and receiving food aid from the distribution centre in north Sanaa run by the UN World Food Programme (WFP), according to Abdussalam al-Sharaabi, an aid worker from the Social Security Fund working at the centre.

Al-Sharaabi said the number of displaced families receiving food aid continues to increase even after the 11 February ceasefire agreement between Houthi-led rebels and Yemeni army.

"More food is needed to meet the growing needs of IDPs," he said. "Each family [of seven people on average] gets two sacks [100kg] of wheat, 5kg of beans and 5 litres of cooking oil," he said. "We don't have sugar to give them this month."

Thousands of families displaced by the six-year-old fighting live on aid

provided by humanitarian agencies whose operations are threatened by a critical funding situation. Very few have returned to their homes since the ceasefire.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), due to insecurity, landmines and heavy damage to infrastructure and loss of livelihoods, the initial voluntary return of families has been slow.

Clashes

A local news source quoted the office of Houthi leader Abdulmalik al-Houthi as saying that fierce clashes erupted on 5 June in Harf Sufyan district, killing nine people and injuring many others.

According to the website, the Houthis set two ambushes against pro-government tribesmen in the district's Maftoula area, killing seven. Houthi said two of their followers were killed.

Another website reported that up to 30 gunmen, including Sheikh Mohsen bin Maaqal, secretary-general of the district's local council, were reported missing, and two tribal sheikhs, Saleh Muslih Qazwah and Radfan al-Qaood, have been confirmed killed.

It said the Houthis denied they had killed or held captive the 30 people, adding that the ceasefire implementation committee moved immediately to the area in an attempt to contain the situation.

The escalating violence, which is en-

tering its seventh day, is an extension of fatal clashes that broke out between Houthi gunmen and pro-government tribesmen in Bani Awair area of northern Saada governorate.

Seventh round

Parliamentary member Mohammed Thabet al-Asali from the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization, an opposition party, warned that the seventh round of clashes may erupt very soon.

"No official efforts have been expended to persuade Houthis to lay down their arms as per the ceasefire agreement, and there are certain individuals in the government who want the seventh round to erupt to serve their own interests," he said.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qerbi said that ongoing confrontation in Saada and Amran governorates had been expected as Houthis refused to abide by all the conditions of the ceasefire agreement.

"The government is attempting to convince Houthis that peace is the only way to meet any legal demands and reconstruct Saada," he said during an interview with the Egyptian Eghram daily.

Houthi field leader Abdulmalik al-Houthi demanded that the government immediately release his jailed followers and turn what he called "the 22 May Declaration" (presidential amnesty) into real action on the ground.



Hundreds of IDP families who fled the sixth war in Sa'ada with their children are still unable to return home, because of the lack of stability in their villages.

Survey reveals violence in schools

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, June 12 — A recent survey conducted by a local council for children and youths for 22 schools in Sana'a stated that 38 percent of students are exposed to violence from their teachers, while 53 percent of students said that they are sometimes exposed to violence.

The survey, which covered 22 schools and 1,920 students, indicates that teachers use collective punishment when anonymous students behave badly. Moreover, some teachers punish students by not explaining the lessons because of misbehavior from one or more students, according to the survey.

Despite the fact that most students suffer from poverty, the survey indicated that 44 percent of students said

that the school administration sometimes asks for money from the students for buildings' renovation and cleaners' wages.

According to the survey, 22 percent of students said that they do not receive their books during the school year, while 33 percent said that they sometimes they do not receive their books.

The survey also asked students if they have to take their examinations before their teacher has taught all the lessons in the necessary curricula, and 44.4 percent of students said yes.

Seventy-one percent of students indicated that there are no corridors for disabled students. In addition, schools do not provide assistance programs for poor students, according to 40 percent of students.

The survey confirmed that there is

discrimination against some students by teachers, administration, and other students. Thirty-nine percent of students indicated that the school does not help them when they have grievances, whereas 33.7 percent of students said that the school sometimes provides this assistance.

The survey also asked students about who helps them with their problems, and 34 percent of them confirmed that they have been helped by school psychologists and sociologists, while 31 percent said they had been assisted by the school principal.

A lack of entertainment and sports in schools is a problem that many students complain about. According to the survey, 80 percent of students said that there is no physical education in their schools.

Other activities are absent from schools. The survey confirmed that 89 percent of students said there are no musical activities, and 81.5 percent of them said there are no housekeeping classes. Besides this, schools lack libraries, recreational and scientific activities, and other important educational enterprises, according to a high proportion of students.

The survey stated that 43.5 percent of students indicated that their schools are not attractive to them in continuing their studies.

The survey pointed out that there is discrimination in how teachers deal with students and distribute marks, according to 47 percent of students.

This discrimination occurs because of the economic and social situation of students.

French classic to be performed in Yemeni costume

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, June 13 — Moliere, a prominent French playwright, had no idea that his 'Le Malade Imaginaire' or 'The Imagery Invalid' would one day be played in Yemen three hundred and thirty years after he wrote it.

This is the first French-Yemeni work of its kind. Six months ago, the head of the French Cultural Center, Joel Dechezlepretre was the first to have the idea of performing a French play in Yemen.

It was also his idea to make Moliere wear the traditional custom in a way to blend the two countries in one character.

"Theatre is a crazy adventure," Dechezlepretre told journalists at a press conference on Sunday.

The director of the play, Adel Hakim, said that Dechezlepretre chose this play over two other plays by the French playwright.

In the play, human beings have two points in common: fear of death and the need to be loved. Everyone in this world is the protagonist Argan, who fears death and searches for love, according to the brochure for the play in Yemen.

The play was the last of Moliere's works. It was first performed in 1673, and during the fourth performance, Moliere collapsed while playing the character of Argan. Soon after, he died.

It took six months for director Adel Hakim to direct his actors and actresses to perform the Yemeni version of the play in Modern Standard Arabic. The Franco-Yemeni cooperation is to



enhance creativity and understanding between two different cultures, according to Dechezlepretre.

The play will be held on Wednesday will be performed later in other Yemeni governorates.

The play was financed by the Yemeni Cultural Ministry, the French Cultural Center in Sana'a and the French National Center for Drama.

4U

If you would like a ticket for Tuesday's performance, contact the French Cultural Center on 733 75 10 00. Entrance is free but tickets must be picked up in advance.

Armored vehicles made in Yemen

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, June 9 — Yemen has announced that it has joined the weapons manufacturing field by launching the first batch of 300 Yemeni-made armored vehicles last Thursday.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Supreme Commander of Military Forces, announced last Thursday that Yemen has "practically" started military manufacturing, as reported on the Yemeni Ministry of Defense website, www.26sep.net.

The announcement came while President Saleh was addressing the graduates of the 14th batch of police in Dhamar last week.

"God willing, security forces will be supplied with modern and updated war equipment of Yemeni manufacturing in 300 armored vehicles with South African and European expertise," said the president.

These vehicles are being produced in the Central Repairing Base (CRB), inside the Ministry of Defense, in the capital Sana'a.

The Director of CRB, General-Brigadier Salem Saleh Al-Qutaish, told the Yemen Times that the materials for producing these vehicles are brought from abroad and assembled here by Yemenis, with the help of South African experts.

He also said some parts were made in Yemen at the base that has been producing and repairing medium-size weapons since its establishment in 1990.

He said that the production of the first generation of armored vehicles, called "Humaiza" after the former head of the CRB, was produced in 2000. The base can produce more than 200 vehicles a year.

He added that Yemen's production of



armored vehicles would eventually expand to join the world market.

"We have plans in the future to expand manufacturing to update arms and artillery," said officer Al-Qutaish.

But he said producing tanks is costly, adding that they had plans to produce them in the future.

Furthermore, this breakthrough will provide a chance to military personnel to promote their creativeness in this field and will save a lot of hard currency. It also helps in including graduates

of technical institutes.

On a security field, Al-Qutaish said that the war manufacturing will help the military and security forces to carry out their security duties, fighting terrorism, combating crime, and ensuring greater security across the country.

Yemen started producing the first generation of armored vehicles called "Qutaish 1" in 2009, and by the advent of 2010 had started producing the second generation "Qutaish 2".

The vehicles were named after Al-

Qutaish and his son Mohammad Al-Qutaish, the supervisor of the manufacturing.

Eight people can ride Qutaish 2. It runs on a diesel six-cylinder engine with 210 horsepower and with 30 horsepower to every ton.

While observers say that Yemen must focus on civil industries to help the unemployed find work and support the economy, military experts hailed war manufacturing as a breakthrough for the military and security forces.

Parliamentarians question government

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, June 13 — In the Sunday session of parliament, attending members refused a proposal by the Ministry of Expatriates' Affairs to establish a care fund for Yemeni expatriates.

During the same session, members of the ruling party threatened to publish the names of members who have not been attending sessions for a long time in the press. This threat was a response to a request by Sultan Al-Barakani, head of the ruling party in the parliament.

But a source at the parliament said that the members are attending nowadays to discuss constitutional amendments.

For his part, Mohamed Al-Hazmi, a parliamentarian from the Islamic Islah party, demanded that his colleagues support him in his effort to push forward his proposal for a law that criminalizes relations with Israel, but parliamentarians have not responded to him.

Parliamentarians in Sunday's session questioned officials in government over issues of concern to them.

Ji'bal Tu'aيمان, a parliamentarian from Marib, asked the minister of oil and minerals about the oil revenues that were allocated for development in Marib by oil companies in 2004. No project has yet been implemented, except the Saleh Hospital in the governorate.

Abdullah Al-Maqtari, another parliamentarian, wondered what efforts the state has made against the networks that smuggle Yemenis' organs to Jordan and Egypt.

Abdulkareem Jadbani, parliamentarian, requested the deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs to clarify the issue of arresting a Muslim Australian woman.

For his part, the speaker of the parliament, Yahya Al-Ra'ee, led other parliamentarians in denouncing the detention of fellow parliamentarians Ahmed Saif Hashed and Abdulkareem Jadbani by the police.

Their News

Minister of Industry & Trade inaugurates Al-Saeed Vegetable Oil Factory



By: Imad Al-Saqaf
Yemen Times
Taiz

Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakel, Minister of Industry & Trade accompanied by Mr. Abdul Wasee Hail Saeed, member of Al-Saeed board of chairmen, had inaugurated the vegetable oil factory, an affiliate of the Yemen Company for ghee and soap.

His Excellency the minister of Industry had complimented the advancement level achieved by Al-Saeed group in the industrial field. He indicated that the inauguration of the vegetable oil factory reflects the level of industrial advancement reached by the group's pioneering factories.

"The inauguration of the factory comes in coincidences with the inauguration of 'made in Yemen' program organized by the Ministry of Trade to reflect loyalty to the national products that compete and are in the same level of quality with imported goods" the minister added.

The minister expressed his happiness and impression of the high level of professionalism in the industrial field that Al-Saeed Group has achieved which is considered a support for the national economy. He wrote a letter of appreciation in

the visitors record in which he thanked the Group and all employees for the efforts they exert to make the national product excel and strongly compete in the international market.

On his part, Mr. Hisham Ali Mohamed Saeed, the director general said that the inauguration of this factory comes in line with the company's expansion plans to widely engage business in vegetable oils. The company will put new types of oil to meet the requirements of consumers on the light of the results of studies and researches conducted by the company.

He also indicated that the factory consists of production sections and warehouses in accordance with international standards. The factory further emphasizes safety and environmental conditions that meet the international standards in this regard. The company's products meet the standards of the Yemen Standardization and Quality Control and standards in the GCC countries.

The Yemeni Company for Ghee and Soap is the first Yemeni company specialized in the production of ghee, vegetable oil, butter, washing powders and all types of soap. The ghee and oil production unit was established in 1975 which formed

the core of the company. In 1982 the toilet soap unit was established, then in 1984 it was followed by the inauguration of washing powder filling unit. The company has developed its production mechanism during the past decades in order to achieve mass production that can meet the local market and exports needs and at the same time acquire technologies that would uplift the quality of its various products. This expansion and advancement go in bar with similar developments in administration systems that ensure the company's development in all fields. The company's administration focuses on continuous training of staffs as a means to cope with advancements in the industrial business. The company also follows strict policies with regard to quality and has exerted great efforts to establish quality control systems. This resulted in achieving the international quality certification 9001. As a result of this the company is the first one in Yemen to receive this certification. Not only this, it is also steadily moving forward to achieve more advancements and modernization. The company has received ISO 14001 in environment, safety, health and professionalism, OH-SAS 18001/2007.

In Brief

SANA'A

Press court drops lawsuits for 8 cases involving 33 journalists

The Court of Press and Publications dropped on Tuesday lawsuits for eight cases involving 33 journalists.

This came within the implementation of the presidential pardon decision on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Unification Day.

Minister of Justice Ghazi al-Aghbari told Saba that this decision included 33 journalists, who have been brought to trial before the court on charges of harming the national unity, inciting regionalism and insulting statutory bodies and disseminating false information to weaken the armed forces.

"All legal actions have been taken with regard to the sentences issued against the journalists to drop these sentences according to the decision of the presidential pardon», al-Aghbari added.

He explained that the procedures for the implementation of the presidential amnesty include the facts alleged to the reporters before May 22, 2010, calling on journalists to invest this amnesty and to adhere to the constitutions and laws in force in the performance of their duties and obligations towards their homeland.

Education minister meets Islamic, Arab diplomats

Minister of Education Abdul-Salam al-Jawfi met in here on Monday separately with the ambassadors of Jordan, Palestine and Pakistan to Yemen.

The minister discussed with each of Jordanian ambassador Ahmad Jaradat and Pakistani ambassador Syed Khawaja means of enhancing the educational cooperation between Yemen and each of their countries.

On the other hand, al-Jawfi discussed with the Palestinian ambassador to Yemen Bassem Al-Agha the situations to the Palestinian teachers working in Yemen.

The minister affirmed providing all facilities for the Palestinians and the means to ease their missions as teachers.

ADEN

UNICEF networking meeting in peer education held

A networking meeting of UNICEF partners working in peer education was held in Aden

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province on Monday.

The meeting entitled "Together for children, together against Aids» has been organized by the Inclusive Social Service Center in coordination with the UNICEF.

The meeting focused on raising the awareness on Aids and means of spreading awareness on Aids among children.

It also reviewed activities presented by the UNICEF partners including awareness training courses on Aids infection and preventive ways.

Deputy FM gets acquainted with refugees' situations

Deputy Foreign Minister and head of the National Supreme Committee for Refugees

Ali Muthana along with representatives of the European Commission and the UNHCR got acquainted on Saturday with refugees' situations in a number of camps in Aden and Lahj, in addition to services provided by the Yemeni government and the international humanitarian organizations.

They also inspected implementation process of renovation of the Industrial Institute in Aden funded by the EC at a total cost of \$110,000.

Deputy Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Abdul-Qadir al-Albi told Saba that the visit to the institute comes to further expand study specialties and hold specialized training courses to help students and refugees benefit from them.



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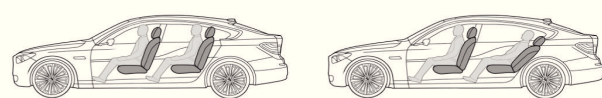
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Interview with Helen Thomas

Source: <http://www.viceland.com>

This interview with Helen Thomas was conducted in March. We were holding it for an upcoming issue of Vice magazine, but in light of what's going on with her now, we've decided to run it online today.

“Uh, wait, what's going on with her now?” you say. Oh, you live in a cave. OK then. Helen Thomas just made some comments about Israel that Israelis, President Obama, and a lot of other people vehemently didn't like. Not to put too fine a point on it, she pretty much said that Jews need to “get the hell out of Palestine” and go home to “Poland, Germany and America.” A tad indelicate, yes. But not surprising given her reputation for being headstrong and outspoken. And has Helen Thomas ever made her position on Israel and its actions a secret? Nope. Besides, if we were 89 years old and had spent the last five decades watching a steady flow of spin and doubletalk issuing forth from the mouths of countless men (and a select few women) standing behind a podium with the White House seal on it, we might be getting a little grumpy by now too.

“But hold on a minute,” you say. “Who's Helen Thomas again?” Really, kid? Lebanese-American member of the White House Press Corps since 1960. Pioneering female journalist. The little old lady who sits in the front row at Presidential press conferences and asks the questions that the other reporters are too scared to ask. A journalist who truly challenges politicians, who wants them to be able to explain and justify their decisions and positions, whose most valued question is “why.” Now she has been hounded into quitting the job that was her life. Her agent for speaking engagements has summarily dropped her. She is being vilified by many and lauded by others but no matter what, we believe that she is owed a huge debt of respect and gratitude for the work she's done in the name of true democracy. We fear that the White House Press Corps has lost its conscience in losing Helen Thomas. Whether anyone has the balls to carry on what she has started remains to be seen.

PS: Yes, she does discuss Israel in this interview, if you're curious about whether there's a timely money shot to sink your teeth into. But there's a lot more going on here. Don't let Helen Thomas's views on Israel alone define her for you.



Interview by: Steve Lafreniere
Photos by: Richard Kern
Interview edited by: Jesse Pearson

Vice: When I watched you at press conferences during the George W. Bush years, you seemed pretty disgusted with your fellow journalists.

Helen Thomas: In the run-up to the Iraq War, no one asked for proof of weapons of mass destruction. It was very, very clear that President Bush wanted to go to war at any cost. And he would not go back to the UN and allow them three more months to look and see if it was really true. We went to war on lies. I think 9-11 was definitely used to terrorize the people away from taking any stand against the government, because they felt it was a real crisis and I guess they—halfway at least—believed the government. Using terrorists is a very effective propaganda weapon.

Is it just me or did the mainstream press seem particularly flabby after 9-11?

They were afraid of not being considered real patriots, and I'm sure the big communications corporations got orders from on high. So they played ball.

In your decades at the White House have you witnessed this kind of complacency before?

Well, the Watergate scandal was the turning point in the White House in modern times. We took all the [Nixon administration's] denials, and when they turned out to be absolutely wrong, when it turned out to be disinformation, it made reporters much more wary in that brief interval that followed. But of course 9-11 made everyone into a prime citizen again, and afraid to ask. The Pentagon was also very effective in propagandizing, as was the State Department, as was the White House. So, again, I think that journalists became afraid to be called unpatriotic if they didn't support a war, even one that was obviously not true.

You were surprised by this?

I certainly thought, after the Watergate scandal and all the lies, that reporters had awakened. And they did for awhile, a very short time. But the government always prevails, because there's always the feeling that we should believe what the government says. Even though I thought they didn't have any credibility, people did go along. The reporters were very gung-ho about going to war. It was going to be two weeks. Everybody was going to be there a short time, come home, and live happily ever after. It's been seven years now.

I notice that you're the only White House reporter that questions why an event has occurred. You did it several times regarding 9-11.

That's the reason we're so easily led

down the garden path—nobody's asking “why?” The question “why?” should always be there. What is the reason this other government or these people would do this to us? But I had the impression that throughout the whole country, truth took a holiday. There's been very little search for truth, except for a few people who have spoken out.

When you were sitting just a few feet in front of him at news conferences, could you tell that Bush was lying?

Not really. But you could tell by the answers there was no real answer that he wanted to tell you. Why did we go to war? “9-11.” Well, there were no Iraqis involved, and so forth. To this moment we have not heard why we went in. There's been all of the speculation—daddy, oil, Israel, whatever—but still nobody has spoken the truth from the government's side.

Would you go so far as to say that your colleagues are in some ways responsible for the Iraq War?

I think that's very true. Everyone rolled over and played dead at a time when they should have been really penetrating. They were there for Watergate. But in this case they bought all the propaganda. Or, whether they bought it or not, they took it and spouted it.

Why do you think this is happening now more than ever before?

I think it's the whole business of communications, the stranglehold of the ultra-right on propaganda. It's scaring people. Three or four hours every afternoon they have these very ultra-right people on the air, who I think are using the government and using the American people, betraying them and destroying our whole sense of honesty.

The usual argument here is that the FCC, under Bush, allowed the consolidation of media into megacorps which are generally owned by conservatives, nay, right wingers.

There's no doubt they've broken down all the curbs. I don't believe in any censorship, frankly. But I do think it is getting so far out now. It's a dangerous time.

What's the remedy?

I think that the president has to get out there and denounce the racism and the epithets. We have a big vocabulary. People can use it to talk to everyone. He has to restore some faith in true democracy, and the search for truth.

It should come from on high?

Yes. He can use wit, humor, or anything. But a good weapon is to put these people to shame.

Otherwise?

People are wandering around wondering what is really happening. And the atmosphere goes back to the 1930s. I cannot believe the violence that is being incited. The economic depression is in large part the cause of it. Everyone is unhappy and looking for a scapegoat. All of this contributes to bigotry, racism, and a sense of violence.

Are you talking about the Tea Partiers?
Not only them, but the whole atmosphere in the country that is aided and abetted by the ultra-right.

I guess that what I want to know is whether you've seen this before.

In the 1930s we had the same kind of repression, and riots, too. There were a lot of terrible times before World War II. We had Father Coughlin. We had Gerald L.K. Smith. So, yes, we had a certain amount of this back then. The country was very, very divided at that time. Should we go to war or not go to war? But in our current atmosphere—and of course I can't compare it all the way back to George Washington—it's inconceivable to have so much hatred and anger.

I can't tell if the blogosphere is provoking or placating all of this.

Everyone with a cell phone thinks they're a photographer. Everyone with a laptop thinks they're a journalist. But they have no training and they have no idea of what we keep to in terms of standards, as in what's far out and what's reality. And they have no dedication to truth.

As a professional muckraker, do you ever feel unsafe yourself?

I can't say I'm a model of courage. But I do think you have to go on living. If you're afraid to speak up, you've let democracy down.

But as a ranking member of the liberal press?

Where is the liberal press? It doesn't exist. Read the *Washington Post*, read the *New York Times*. I mean, sure, a couple of columnists. But the weight of the editorials is toward the conservative side. For one thing, does anybody ever denounce aggression? No.

Yes, I've noticed that Obama and the Democrats don't even bring up the wars anymore.

Well, I'd like to see more courage in all aspects. Speaking out. What have [the Democrats] got to lose? They're at the top of the mark. Just do the right thing by the American people and by the world, even if you lose the next election. So what?

During the campaign, Obama talked about issues from what seemed like an authentically progressive viewpoint.

Whatever happened to that guy?

In the beginning, he was very political. He had his advisors saying, “you can't do this, you can't do that.” For one, he gave no place at the table for those who believed in a government health care plan with Medicare for everyone or single payer, which is the only way to have universal coverage. He treaded so lightly. But I think more and more he began to see that his search for bi-partisanship was baloney. It doesn't exist. All you've got to do is take a stand yourself. Great presidents take stands, and they fight off these people who really are so far to the right. I don't want to call them names, even though they would call me names.

Did bi-partisanship ever exist?

Of course it did. If it didn't, we would not have any of the legislation we've had. But in this case, when every Republican votes against the health care plan? Surely there was something in the plan that they liked. But they brought the whole house down, like Samson.

Have you seen this kind of unanimity in the Republicans before?

Not in such a solid plank. It's totalitarian, all of them following orders. Lockstep. And when McCain said he was going to oppose everything that Obama proposed? How can you even say that? “I'm going to be against everything.” If they started the Third World War, is he going to be against it? The Republicans enjoyed the power that they had, having the White House. They could do anything. Now they can't suppress their anger and they want to destroy anything Obama represents. They're trying to deny him a second term.

Is there somewhat more honesty with the Obama White House than there was with Bush?

No.

You're getting the same amount of dissembling from Robert Gibbs that you got from Tony Snow?

[laughs] It isn't Gibbs' fault. He's getting orders. I asked the president last year, “Do you know any country in the Middle East that has nuclear weapons?” He said, “I don't want to speculate.” And I asked Hillary Clinton very recently, “In view of the pressure on Iran concerning nuclear weapons, do you know any country in the Middle East that has nuclear weapons?” She said, “We're for non-proliferation.” She kept talking, but of course she wouldn't answer the question. So I don't see much difference in terms of credibility or reversing the decision to ignore certain truths.

I'm wondering if you're ever accused of being pro-Arab because you're Lebanese-American?

A man asked me yesterday, “Do you think your background has anything to do with your views?” I said, “Absolutely. Of course.” I think I know more about it in terms of human society. But how about the Zionists? Do they have a background that would influence their opinion?

Well, do you think there's been any real change with the Obama administration regarding American policy toward Israel?

No, I really don't. It's a facade. The administration wanted to take it as a personal insult when Biden was in the Middle East and Israel announced all this new housing in occupied territory, which is absolutely against international law. You cannot annex occupied land, at least under the rules of Geneva. Haaretz said it was 50,000 housing units. Well, certainly Washington had to react in some way. But I don't think it's lasting.

You don't think Obama's going to keep any pressure on Netanyahu?

I don't think he can. I've seen moments like this before, when there was a real rift with Israel. Like when, under Bush 41, James Baker said, “They have my number, they can call me.” They say that, but then the State Department and American officials always go back. I mean, they have a guy like Dennis Ross at the White House now, who's always been a part of the Israel lobby. They put him in charge of the whole Muslim world.

Is there a chance that the wishy-washiness of Obama and the Democrats might change?

Actually, I think they're finally getting some guts. I really do. I think there's some courage now being shown. They're finding you can enjoy doing the right thing once in a while.

Was the health care bill the right thing?

I think anything is the right thing when you help people. I didn't like this particular legislation, but I wanted him to get something. I wanted a government plan,

Medicare for everyone, availability, and single payer. I'm on Medicare and I'm on Social Security. They work.

You were around to see those enacted.

Yes. 1935 for Social Security. 1965 for Medicare. I was in Independence, Missouri when Johnson signed the Medicare bill, with Truman standing there. Truman had first proposed Medicare, but couldn't get it through.

But Obama's bill doesn't contain the things you just listed. The political wisdom is that it's not going to be easy to add them in later.

That's baloney. As long as we have to accept what they've passed, it's a framework. There'll be new things added on out of sheer need. Social Security is a good example. In the first place, it was for the elderly who had no place to go during the Depression. Then they added on orphan kids, who had to have some support. Then they added on the people who were handicapped and couldn't work. Everything was added on later. And that's the way this health care bill will go, I think.

When you came to Washington from Detroit in the 1930s, Roosevelt was president. Even as progressive as he was, Washington was still segregated.

Real segregation. Of course there had been discrimination in Detroit too, but not to this extent. It was in schools and restaurants and movie theaters and hotels. Blacks couldn't even go into a snack bar and sit down. They could get a cup of coffee, but they had to leave. Snack bars!

There was discrimination against female news reporters as well. Couldn't Roosevelt do anything about it?

I didn't go to her. I was a low person on the totem pole. But Eleanor Roosevelt responded by having news conferences with only women reporters in attendance.

Wow. The White House press room is considerably more even now. Is it, what, maybe 40 percent female?

That's true. Certainly we have grown in numbers and power. World War II was a turning point, when they were drafting any young man that had a pulse. If he was breathing, he was going to war. And so women got big breaks in professions where they had been very few and far between before. Medicine, law, journalism and so forth. After the war the publishers of newspapers had no concept, no understanding of the growing pains of our country. I worked for UPI, and eight women reporters in our office who had been covering the State Department, the Pentagon and so forth, were fired on the basis that these young men that had gone off to war, and usually had a college education, now wanted to come back to their \$24 a week job. Well, this turned out not to be true. They had come out of the war as captains, majors, colonels. They were not about to go back for so little a week. So they went into the Rand Corporation, and so on. Because of all the high-tech innovations of the war, they knew the US was going to come out on top and prosper.

So were these women hired back?

Yes. Not the same ones, but some of them. I was writing radio news at that time. I had to get up at 5:30 in the morning, so nobody wanted my job.

You joined the White House press pool when Kennedy got there in 1960. What had you been covering in the intervening years?

Sometimes the Justice Department. Sometimes Treasury. Health, Education, and Welfare. Basically the Cabinet. I got into the Kennedy White House because at the time I was president of the Women's National Press Club, and they assigned me to cover the early days of the Kennedy campaign. Jackie especially. Everyone was interested in the family. You see, once you're assigned to the White House you cover men, women, children, and animals. If they're breathing, you cover them. Especially if you're working for a wire service.

That's all you do.

Yeah. It's called the Body Watch. Once I started there, I could then belong to the White House Correspondents' Association, whose dues were a munificent two dollars a year. But as a woman I couldn't go to the one annual function of the Correspondents' Association, which was a dinner in honor of the President of the United States. We few women covering the White House couldn't go, so we protested. We went to Kennedy himself via Pierre Salinger, his press secretary. We said, “We don't think the president should go to this dinner if we can't go.” He agreed, and for the first time we were allowed to cover the dinner.

Amazing.

We had already tried this once before during the Eisenhower administration, when Khrushchev was coming to town and there was a luncheon planned. We said, “We should be allowed to go there. We are covering history. We don't think you should have it at the National Press Club.” That was where Khrushchev was going to make his one speech to the press. They finally agreed to allow thirty women for the first time in history to cover a major figure at the National Press Club, and eat lunch with them. I sat at the head table, because I was head of the Women's Press Club. That was 1959. We were still not allowed to be full members until 1971.

1959, is that when Khrushchev made his speech about...

“We will bury you.” In his speech he was framing all the great things about communism, and he said ‘we're going to bury you.’ But we buried them.

Kennedy was early to use television to his advantage.

He held the first live news conference on TV.

Were you there?

Yes. You know, it's funny. You can write for a newspaper for fifty years and nobody knows who you are except for your friends and your family. But one shot on television and you become well known. Walk down the street and everyone recognizes you.

I hope that's been okay by you. (laughs)

Yeah, I love it.

Kennedy's administration is also credited as being the first to practice news management.

Oh, no. I mean, that goes back to George Washington. Every administration has tried to mold the news. Kennedy was the first to give it a name, but it became state of the art with Reagan. It became spin.

Lyndon B. Johnson is starting to come into focus, with several biographies in the last decade. You've written about his obsession with knowing every detail about everyone in Washington. Didn't he run a background check on you once?

He had a love/hate relationship with the press. He knew me for a long time—from when he was a congressman, although I didn't cover him regularly then. He may have run a background on me. I don't know. All I know is that he had a very good grasp of everyone and he wanted to know everything. He worked 14 hours a day with a siesta in between. All of his staffers were completely burned out.

You traveled with Nixon to China. They say it changed him.

I think he knew he was making history, taking a giant step. But he had been traveling all during the hiatus from when he held public office in 1960 until '68, when he ran for president. In that time he learned that communism was not monolithic. He went from country to country, enjoying these grand welcomes, but his philosophy was divide and conquer. That never changed. The Chinese and the Soviets had thousands of troops on the border, and they hated each other at the time. So, he played them against each other.

Is there a universal truth about all the presidents that you've watched up close?

There's no such thing as an instant president. The best ones learn on the job, very quickly. Kennedy did, from the Bay of Pigs to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Both he and Khrushchev had nuclear arsenals large enough to blow up the world. But they had been in war, and they understood humanity. They were men of peace, basically, and each stepped back from the brink. Khrushchev lost his job very quickly after that. But they were both courageous enough to be cowards.

Which presidents best integrated their beliefs and their actions?

Kennedy and Johnson. And I think Carter, too. Johnson watched Roosevelt. He had great ideals. The Great Society was great, in terms of learning from the Depression and feeling people's suffering. Kennedy learned from war and was someone who knew Europe. I think they were both great in their way. Johnson made a terrible mistake with Vietnam, and it cost him his job. But at the same time on the domestic side he was wonderful. I know he lost a lot of his credibility, but still he came across as sincere. He would walk us around and around the South Lawn of the White House—we called them the Bataan Death Marches—and he would really let his hair down and tell us how he felt about Vietnam. He felt trapped. I think we learned so much from him. We learned the agony of the presidency.

التسمية السابقة: ترمز في الجايز ويداو القمصان من قبل: 2810 / T + م.

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جنوب أفريقيا

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مع
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 والطباخات وتلفزيونات LCD
 والكيفات والسجلات
 والعديد من الجوائز الأخرى

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The Embassy of the United States of America announces for immediate jobs opening within its organization.

"Residential Security Coordinator"

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

This subordinate Locally Engaged Staff (DPSS) member is the focal point for the residential security program and issues and is responsible for developing the residential security plan, conducting residential security surveys and ensuring official residences are in compliance with OSPB standards; for management of the residential program; for coordinating residential security maintenance and repair; and assisting with the development of the residential security logistical and financial plans. The RSC also assists the Regional Security Officer (RSO) and Defensive Security Coordinator (DSC) in providing residential security guidance to the Inter-Agency Housing Board and with residential security training and briefings for Mission employees.

Required Qualifications:

- A. **Education:** B.A. Degree in Possession of a bachelor's degree or the host country equivalent is required. Where substitutions are made, the Senior RSO and HR officer at post must jointly concur in such substitution and certify in writing that the experience to be substituted for academic experience is relevant.
- B. **Prior Work Experience:** Minimum three years of progressively responsible experience in the commercial security guard business, civilian or government police, or military. It is desirable to have experience in the budget and fiscal process and U.S. government contracting.
- C. **Language Proficiency:** Level 4 (fluent) English and level 4 (fluent) Arabic is required.
- D. **Job Knowledge:** A strong knowledge in physical protection, standard security practices and procedures, developing security plans, and good working knowledge of standard security equipment as it pertains to residential security. Contract management, budget formulation and tracking, and a thorough knowledge of host-country operational environment, language, law and security entities, and historic criminal and terrorist threats and operational tendencies are required.
- E. **Skills and Abilities:** The work requires keen analytical abilities, originality of ideas, creative solutions, and the exercise of sound, independent judgment, must be able to make independent judgments on institutional capabilities and the adequacy of security systems and controls. Writing skills encompass critical analysis of defensive operations, the preparation of complex reports and plans, preparing written justification statements for the residential security program budgets, drafting requests for work order requests or services and answering and preparing guidance about program performance, funding, or other issues. Must be able to collect and present facts and recommendations in a clear, concise manner.

Detailed Position Description is available at the
<http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/vacancies.html>

Grade/Salary: *Ordinarily Resident:
 FSN-09 Step 1 (Full Performance Level) US\$ 16,103 per annum plus \$4,000 allowances

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. with a covering letter of application to the Embassy Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Fax: 303-182 e-mail address: hrosanaa@state.gov not later than close of business June 20, 2010.

***Note:** All ordinarily resident applicants must be residing in YEMEN and have the required work and residency permits to be eligible for consideration.

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Organisation: National Microfinance Fondation
Location: Sanaa
Duration: Full time, including 3 months probationary period
Closing Date: June 24, 2010

Background

The National Microfinance Foundation was established by the **Social Fund for Development** in 2004 as a non-governmental organization that aims to improve the economic and social conditions of low and limited income micro entrepreneurs, by providing them with a variety of financial services they cannot usually obtain from the mainstream banking sector. The National Microfinance Foundation is currently looking for a full time Financial Manager to fulfill the duties specified below

Financial Manager (Post 1 . Gender : Any, preference will be given to the female candidates)

The main responsibility of the Financial Manager is to manage the operations of the finance department, including planning and reporting, accounting and costing.

Specific responsibilities:

The Financial Manager will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Prepare the budgets and work with the senior managers to develop the financial side of the strategic plans.
- Manage the liquidity and control the cash flows.
- Responsible for ensuring appropriate and accurate recording of all financial transactions with current accounting procedures.
- Preparation and analysis of financial performance indicators.
- Direct and coordinates periodic audits of accounts and financial transactions to ensure compliance with current accounting procedures.
- Take the necessitated corrective and preventive actions to avoid any violation in the financial policies.
- Review, amend, and develop the procedures and the financial policies.
- Supervise the staff in the financial department, direct them, and make sure they achieve the plans.
- Prepare and verify all financial statements.
- Periodically submit the financial reports to the Margining Director.
- Perform all duties in a professional, effective and confidential manner.
- Perform all other duties as required or assigned.
- Traveling across the country and abroad will be required.

Qualifications and skills

The Financial Manager must have the following qualifications and skills:

A bachelor Degree as a minimum (Masters Degree preferred) from a reputable university in finance, or accounting (CPA / CA or CMA preferred)

- Four years of experience in a financial management position.
- Ability to collect and analyze financial and operational data.
- Adequate knowledge of accounting systems and soft wares.
- Strong communication, organizational, and leadership skills.
- Good command in written and spoken Arabic and English.

Submission guideline:

The application should comprise of a **one page** cover letter explaining the applicants' interest and suitability for the position, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and a **CV** with at least two significant references

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: vacancynational@yahoo.com before June 24 , 2010. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.



USAID
 من الشعب الأمريكي

VACANCY

A full time position is now available at the Basic Education Support and Training (BEST) Project funded by USAID as **Administrative Assistant**. Under direct supervision of the Operations Manager, the Admin Assistant will aid in providing program staff with administrative support. The Admin Assistant will be tasked on a daily/ weekly basis and he/she will be responsible for general office duties that include but are not limited to the following:

1. Translating documents for field staff and contractors as necessary
2. Preparing Purchase Orders and all accompanying documents according to company policy
3. Preparing travel arrangements for staff including hotel reservations
4. Maintaining files and databases as directed
5. Collaborating with staff on other duties such as photocopying and faxing documents

General Requirements:

1. High School Diploma
2. Minimum of two (2) years previous office experience
3. Excellent Arabic/English
4. Minimum of one (1) year experience working with Windows 2000/XP
5. Minimum of one (1) year experience of Microsoft Office especially Word and Excel

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Words of Wisdom



Many countries hold elections. Even when these are not rigged, they tend to cement the old patron-clientele relations in a new grab. The reason is that the people in power use their connections (and state funds, media, bureaucracy, etc.) to achieve the election results they want. The result is that they create docile parliaments. Elections thus end up enabling those in power to hold on to it.

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



OUR OPINION

The universality of human rights

If there were a concept that, if implemented, had the potential to make all societies happy, it would be human rights. The concept of human rights is a vision of what a good society would look like. This happens through a certain set of values but always involve: dignity, achievement, protection, safety and respect.

But what does a good society look like?

It is where entitlements meet rights and freedoms, along with the state's commitment to deliver an environment where these three issues are maintained.

This is why the Universal Declaration of Human Rights exists, and should be read and compared to daily life.

This means that a good society is a concept that could be implemented anywhere, and that human rights are universal. This also means that these rights are applicable to every person in every society equally. No matter where you are, by virtue of being a human you should be free to exercise these rights.

Critics say that no one set of values can apply to all cultures or that it is a concept to serve western interests. They also say that it is a matter of luxury and that we don't have time to discuss, for example, the right of people of the same sex to get married when there are people dying of starvation.

But if we consider the critics' point of view, we realize that it almost always rotates around very personal issues such as religion, gender and sexual orientation.

Gender is used as one of the strongest defenses against the universality of human rights. It is often the key battleground for conservatives. They don't argue about televisions or mobile phones or a suit and tie, but they use the local culture to argue about women's roles.

"Why is it so hard for women to be able to control their body, to choose their partner and how many children and when to have them - of what and where to work?" argues Dr. Purna Sen, head of the Human Rights Commonwealth Secretariat.

She explains that the conservatives or those who don't want human rights to be implemented everywhere or all rights to be implemented are concerned about their power or authority. She says that the laws set down by the ones in control decide the dominant religion or the acceptable behaviors. And so when their decisions are challenged by human rights, they launch on an anti-campaign saying that "this is not for us."

What we should do, to endorse a global culture of human rights, is fight back. And whenever a person argues with us that this gender or freedom concept is a western one, that we should not accept, we should ask him or her to try a little role play and pretend things were the other way round.

For example, if the person is saying that we should not allow Christians to have churches in Muslim countries, then ask them if it is ok to have mosques in Christian countries. If they don't like the fact that women can decide when they should be married, then ask them how they would feel if they were women or if it was men who were forced into early marriages and had to undergo pregnancy and delivery.

An American friend of mine said that to teach her husband what it is like to carry a baby for nine months they agreed that he would carry a similar weight around his belly. In less than two hours, he was raising the white flag.

A lot of our problems would disappear if we had empathy, when we walk a mile in the other person's shoes. After all, it is even in the Muslim tradition that the Prophet says "Do unto others what you accept to be done unto you."

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

What's the matter with Yemen?

By: Isobel Coleman
The Washington Post

The attempt by underwear bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab to bring down a fully loaded American airplane on Christmas Day 2009 thrust Yemen into the international spotlight. The would-be bomber had attended training camps in Yemen and received instructions from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. There was an immediate outpouring of demands to "do something" about Yemen to prevent it from becoming another failed state. These two books leave no doubt that Yemen is indeed a dangerous basket case, unfortunately one with no easy fixes.

Victoria Clark's "Yemen" combines a sweeping history of the country from the 16th century until today with a travelogue and journalistic ruminations. A freelance writer based in London, Clark was born in Yemen; her father was a BBC correspondent stationed in Aden in the early 1960s, when it was still a British protectorate. Clark describes a Yemen composed of competing societies rolled into one very uneasy state: the tribes in the northern highland, where religiously conservative, parochial and isolationist traditions hold sway, and the more liberal, progressive and entrepreneurial urbanites along the southern coast who once dabbled in Marxism but now seem to want just a functioning government.

Clark's history of the country is not for the casual reader. The first part of the book labors through a succession of greedy, corrupt rulers, from Ottoman pashas who overtaxed and extorted the locals, to qat-chewing imams who micromanaged the country with singular brutality. Yemen peaked in the early 19th century, when the fabled port of Mocha was exporting some 20 million pounds of coffee a year. Foreign countries could not resist meddling, and Clark makes clear that these interventions never ended well. The Ottoman Empire's efforts to colonize Yemen needlessly cost Turkish money and lives. Clark characterizes then-Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's foray into Yemen in the 1960s with 55,000 troops as his country's Vietnam.

Yemen's own rulers take the lion's share of the blame for the country's backwardness and poverty. For de-

acades, they have begged for international aid while spending what little money they have--and, perhaps more important, what little water--on growing qat, a thirsty shrub whose leaves, when chewed, provide a stimulant. Clark estimates that one in seven Yemenis is involved in the cultivation, distribution or sale of the plant, and that three-quarters of Yemeni men and a third of Yemeni women are spending 10 percent of "their meager incomes on it."

Yemen muddled through the Cold War years as the United States and the Soviet Union vied for influence with military and financial largess. Meanwhile Saudi Arabia, eager to prevent the spread of godless communism, funded Wahhabi schools in Yemen as an ideological counterinfluence to Soviet Marxism. Remittances sent home by Yemeni expatriate workers around the gulf kept the country afloat. This pattern ended with the outbreak of the 1990 Gulf War, when Yemen disastrously sided with Saddam Hussein. The furious Saudis sent 800,000 Yemeni workers packing. Hundreds of hard-core jihadists returning from the Afghan war added to this combustible mix.

Clark is best when she focuses on the mix of unsavory characters jostling for power in Yemen today. She says that the country's long-serving president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, is "neither temperamentally inclined nor sufficiently powerful to confront the jihadists head on by declaring all-out war on them." More concerned with tribal rebellion in the north and a secessionist movement in the south, Saleh fights the jihadists half-heartedly. In a warning to those who want to do something about Yemen, Clark insists that Saleh is more than happy to take other people's money as long as there are no strings attached.

Beyond the jihadi threat, Yemen's biggest problem is its inexorable demographics. It is the poorest Arab country, with one of the highest birth rates and lowest levels of female literacy in the world. (Those two facts are of course linked.) The population is set to double by 2050. It may be the first country in the world to run out of water.

"I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced" is a shocking book that captures the social challenges facing Yemen better than any scholarly work could hope to do. It is the real-life story of Nujood Ali, who at the age of

9 was married off to a much older man by her poor father in exchange for \$750. Although the groom promised not to consummate the marriage until a year after Nujood's first period, he forced himself upon her the very first night. Terrified, Nujood screamed to her mother-in-law and sister-in-law, who were sleeping in a nearby room. Silence. Not only did her husband rape her that night, but he started to beat her regularly as well. Somehow, Nujood summoned the courage to flee by taking a taxi to the courthouse. "I want a divorce!" she announced to an astonished judge.

Although child marriage is common in Yemen--by some estimates, half of all Yemeni girls are married by age 15, and brides under age 12 are not at all uncommon--no young girl had ever before demanded a divorce. "You're a very brave girl," replied the judge to Nujood. "Other girls before you have had the same problems, but unfortunately they didn't dare talk about them. We'll do everything we can to protect you." True to his word, the judge arranged for Shada Nasser, a stylish, unabashedly feminist human-rights lawyer, to represent Nujood. The media picked up the story, and it became an international sensation. Having secured her divorce, Nujood was named a Glamour magazine Woman of the Year in 2008. Her book, ghostwritten by a French woman, became a bestseller in France. Today, Nujood is back in school studying and dreaming of becoming a lawyer herself. Her case has inspired other young girls to demand an end to their oppressive marriages, both in Yemen and in neighboring Saudi Arabia. In 2009, the Yemeni government passed a law raising the legal age of marriage to 17 for both girls and boys - a start, although it could be generations before such laws are regularly enforced.

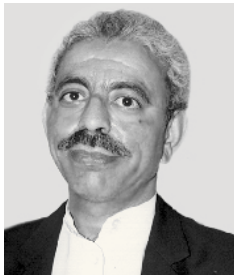
Together, "Yemen" and "I Am Nujood" are cautionary tales for those who want to fix Yemen. The country's problems run deep, and we ignore them at our own peril. But constructive engagement requires long-term thinking, patience and a reliance on local partners who undoubtedly will not share our sense of urgency.

Isobel Coleman, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, is the author of "Paradise Beneath Her Feet: How Women Are Transforming the Middle East."

COMMON SENSE

In the wake of the Gulf of Mexico oil nightmare: Irresponsible exploitation must be criminally dealt with

For over a month now, the world has been watching thousands of barrels of oil spew out of the Earth's belly to produce an environmental and aesthetic nightmare that truly shows that man has gone beyond all reasonable limits to fill his pockets. Has man forgotten that before worrying about filling his pockets, he should consider, first of all, saving all the elements essential for filling man's belly. Should mankind put nature and all the natural elements essential for life in the back of his mind, so some sleazy exploiters of the earth disregard that they too are responsible for the sustainability of life (human, marine and animal). Economic enrichment should never be at the cost of maintaining a viable Earth environment that shows how grateful we are for God's wonderful grace and bounty to mankind.



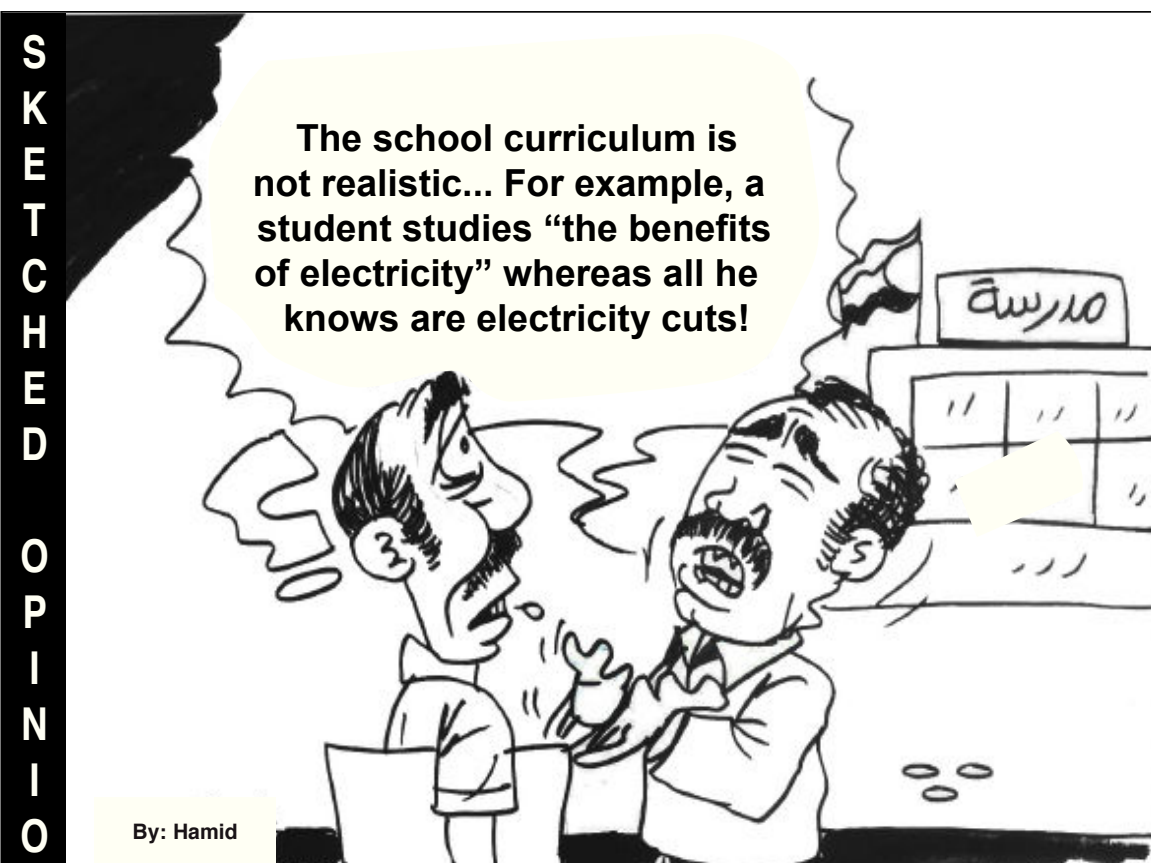
By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Of course, we needed energy and fossil fuels have become as essential to human life almost as the air we breathe. Mankind has been able to seek and find substantial sources to fulfill the energy needs of modern life, going as far as the deep and almost unreachable depths of the sea. However, the recent failure of the Gulf of Mexico oil rig to keep that gushing oil in the pipes and not the sea surface and the surrounding landscape does indeed indicate callous attention to the safety needs of the environment and the millions of people who depend on the Gulf of Mexico for their livelihoods and their leisure. The Gulf of Mexico as most geologists will tell us is the source of the Gulf Stream - that wonderful breeze of warm air that brings warmth to the European and Mediterranean Basin (which includes Great Britain), the original home of British Petroleum). In other words, the awesome damages that will arise out of this gross evidence of negligence and irresponsible exploitation is bound to hit the British and other stockholders of this huge enterprise with thousands of wells of oil gushing out throughout the world. This observer could not find much assurance that the management of BP is really impressed with the level of discontent most people feel at the criminal neglect that the company has shown in making sure that one of its important operations in the world is running to the highest of international standards recognized for the industry. There could be no assurance of the existence of sound management at BP if its Chairman or President could appear before the television cameras to tell the world that well folks you still have two months of filth to destroy the Gulf of Mexico once and for all. Amazingly, this is further made the more unbearable when the face of the BP official carried a careless smile that stretched the width of his face!

If man is going to live at peace with himself and with nature, it is time that the big corporations of the world start to behave responsibly when it comes to exploiting the depths of the sea or the interior of the remaining forests that still struggle to exhibit their lush greenery to remind us that Mother Earth deserves a lot more care from the inhabitants of the Earth, be they individuals or large blood-sucking corporations that have given themselves a green light to destroy all the elements that will guarantee mankind's sustainable existence.

To simply view the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico as a mere "accident" and cover up this heinous crime by the sheer demand of paying the cost of the cleanup is in itself a sign of great unforgivable irresponsibility. It is time we treat irresponsible exploitation as a crime against humanity.

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



By: Hamid

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Lame ducks in love

By: Harold James

Fears about sovereign debt and doubts about the euro rescue package have pushed the question of international reserve currencies to the fore. Until this spring, most observers had assumed that the share of the dollar in international reserves would gradually fall, while that of the euro would rise, and that the world would gradually and smoothly make a transition to a multi-reserve regime.

Up to now, the global financial crisis was historically remarkable in having no major impact on foreign-exchange markets. The shares of the major reserve currencies were stable, with the dollar accounting for 62% of foreign-exchange reserves in 2009 and the euro 27%. Any major changes came not from deliberate decisions by central banks to reallocate reserves, but rather from the simple arithmetic of changing exchange rates: a stronger dollar raised the dollar's share in total global reserves, while a weaker dollar reduced it.

In fact, a sort of balance of terror obstructed any major reallocations by the big holders of reserves. An effort to diversify by selling a particular asset would have such a large impact on markets that it would produce large losses for any central bank that tried it.

The euro crisis has challenged the view that the transition to a multi-reserve regime will have a smooth dynamic. Asian and Middle Eastern central banks with large euro reserves have become jittery about the euro's political underpinnings. But America's large fiscal deficit, along with continuing uncertainty about its financial markets, mean that the dollar is also potentially vulnerable.

There are some historical precedents for this situation. In the 1960's, the British pound was the world's second reserve currency. American policymakers expended considerable effort devising ways to support the pound, because they knew that the same factors that made the pound vulnerable also threatened the dollar. The pound was thus seen as part of the

dollar's perimeter defense. Critics saw it as a case of two lame ducks propping each other up.

The recent frenzy of high-level telephone diplomacy, in which US President Barack Obama pressed European leaders to act to rescue the euro, showed this dynamic to be alive and well. It was an extraordinary demonstration not only of how difficult European leaders found coordinating their response to the crisis to be, but also of the strategic importance of a second reserve currency for the largest reserve currency. The US economy would be highly vulnerable in the case of a euro collapse, so today's lame ducks need to embrace each other.

The 1960's analogy raises the question of whether and when a new major international currency could emerge. Within the space of a few years, the pound's reign as a trusted international currency was over. The yen and the Deutschmark emerged as new potential reserve currencies, although the Japanese and German governments and central banks were profoundly worried about this new role for their currencies and the volatility that it might entail.

In retrospect, many people have cast the shift as inevitable, but at the time it seemed wildly improbable. The rise of the yen and the Deutschmark occurred only 20 years after the catastrophic devastation of World War II, which had inevitably been accompanied by inflation. During the immediate postwar occupation, US military planners had to impose new currency regimes and central banking institutions.

Even more extraordinarily, when these new currencies emerged as the new claimants to reserve status, they had only recently become convertible for current-account transactions, and capital flows were still restricted. Germany had moved to current-account convertibility in 1958, but Japan only in 1964. More over, Japan in particular was not especially wealthy in an international comparison, and neither country had deep or well-developed capital markets.

Only one fact really mattered: powerful export performance, with

both countries maintaining large trade surpluses over several years and through different stages of the economic cycle. This made them appear a source of greater currency stability than the the US and Britain. The buildup of assets associated with external surpluses, together with continuing export strength, looked like a guarantee of their currencies. Unlike the dollar and the pound, the yen and the Deutschmark did not depend on attracting foreign inflows.

Of course, developing as a potential reserve currency created a substantial vulnerability. Both Japan and Germany were slow in liberalizing their domestic financial systems as they tried to limit capital inflows for a substantial period of time in order to avoid rapid currency appreciation and the consequent erosion of their export competitiveness.

China moved to current-account convertibility in 1996, but retained a substantial number of controls on capital movements, which have served as a shield against financial contagion. Are these still needed?

The lesson of the 1960's suggests that a fully convertible renminbi could rapidly become a major international reserve currency. It would be attractive not simply because the People's Bank of China and other major Chinese institutions have massive overseas assets, but because China produces goods that the world's consumers continue to want. The historical experience of Germany and Japan, and the recent financial turmoil of the big industrialized countries, seems to warn against such a policy shift.

But, as a big country, China would not have the vulnerabilities of smaller strong currencies (the Norwegian krone or the Swiss franc, for example). And, as a provider of a reserve currency, China would not need to continue its own quest for reserves, which has been a major contributing factor to global financial instability. The addition of the renminbi as a possible reserve option would free today's lame ducks from their forced marriage.

www.project-syndicate.org

The making of China's trade deficit

By: Fan Gang

China registered a monthly trade deficit of \$7.2 billion in March 2010, its first since April 2004. And yet, at around the same time, the United States Congress issued its loudest call ever to classify China as an exchange-rate manipulator, accusing Chinese leaders of maintaining the renminbi's peg to the dollar in order to guarantee a permanent bilateral trade surplus.

China's March trade deficit indicates, first of all, that it is incorrect to claim that Chinese economic growth depends mainly on exports. Exports are an important part of the Chinese economy, and any global market fluctuation or external shock will certainly have an impact on overall growth. But, like any other large economy, China's economy is driven by domestic consumption and investment.

Indeed, China's exports fell by 16% year on year in 2009, owing to the global financial crisis and recession. Nevertheless, annual GDP grew by 8.7%, thanks to 16.9% growth in consumption (measured by gross sale of consumer goods) and a 33.3% surge in fixed-investment demand.

Moreover, although China's "trade dependency" is now reckoned to be 70% of GDP, that figure is greatly distorted by the fact that Chinese exports require massive imports of materials and parts. The net value added of total Chinese foreign trade accounts for only about 15% of GDP.

Thus, net exports contributed 10.8% to China's overall GDP growth rate, or only about 1.1 percentage point of 9% growth in 2008. Compare that figure to Germany, where net exports accounted for 64% of growth in 2008. Similarly, the figure was 33% in Japan, 28.6% in Korea, and 20% in the Philippines. Clearly, China is nothing special in this

regard.

To be sure, China's domestic consumption is not as high as it should be, standing at 49% of GDP in 2008, with household consumption accounting for only 35%. Such figures have led many observers to believe that overall domestic demand must be low, leaving China dependent on external markets for growth.

But domestic demand, which determines imports, consists not only of consumption, but also of fixed-asset investment. Indeed, rapid growth in investment may translate into high import growth and trade deficits.

That is exactly what is happening in China now. Some people may argue that investment growth without consumption growth will result in overcapacity and eventually lead to recession. Perhaps. But we need to remind ourselves that housing investment accounts for about 30% of China's total fixed investment, with much of the rest directed toward infrastructure – that is, long-term, durable public infrastructure investments – including subways, railways, highways, urban public facilities, and the national water system.

Moreover, one can easily imagine that import demand would soar further if the US and the European Union lifted their bans on exports of high-tech products to China. In that case, the trade deficit recorded in March could be at least 40% higher.

The renminbi's exchange rate, then, is really a secondary factor in China's external account. Put another way, the global imbalance could be corrected more efficiently by addressing other, more fundamental factors. The fundamental factors underlying the US external imbalance are large fiscal deficits and low household savings, owing to excessive financial leverage. The fundamental factors on the Chinese side are high corporate and household savings, together with some distortion of resource/utility prices.

Indeed, the current situation indicates that a significant adjustment in exchange rates may not be needed at all in order to redress global imbalances. If that is true, and China shouldn't worry about the renminbi's exchange rate, should it worry about its economy overheating? After all, its previous trade deficits in the era of reform – such as in 1992-1996 and 2003-2004 – all occurred at times of overheating.

But there are differences between now and those earlier periods. For example, when rapid investment growth in 2004 led to overheating, world markets were booming. At that time, both domestic investment and exports required immediate tightening. Today, by contrast, although domestic investment is growing very strongly, external demand has not recovered to its previous levels.

The result is the March trade deficit, caused mainly by exceptionally high annual import growth (65%) coupled with relatively low export growth, which reached a nominally impressive 24% only because of the sharp decline recorded in the base period. Such a single-factor situation is easier to deal with than the double-factor situation of 2004, and because the high investment demand has been mainly stimulus-related this time, policymakers can handle it in a more timely fashion if they perceive a problem.

That said, the ratio of capital formation does require careful monitoring. The last time China saw such high growth in domestic investment, the savings rate was not as high as it is now. The problem currently is that a trade deficit has emerged at a time when the national saving rate is as high as 51%. That means that investment is extremely high – and that, despite the high share of infrastructure investment, there is an urgent need to manage the potential risks.

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Haiti's state-building challenge

By: Shlomo Ben-Ami

The \$5 billion in short-term aid for Haiti, and the \$10 billion pledged for its long-term reconstruction at the International Donors' Conference on March 31, is a vote of confidence in the potential of collective international action. The question, however, is not only one of money; it is about whether Haiti's agony is to be addressed as just one more humanitarian crisis or as a structural problem of state building – a long-term quest for institutional stability and sustainable development.

Conspicuously, Haiti's Dominican neighbors were the first to gauge the magnitude of the problem and the global nature of the required solution. The Dominican government's decision to hold a summit on Haiti's future has the objective of securing the international community's ongoing commitment to Haiti, beyond the generous response to the catastrophe produced by the earthquake in January.

In addition to harmonizing the flow of donations and an agreed-upon list of development projects, Dominican President Leonel Fernandez seeks to make clear that the task is a long-term enterprise: re-founding the failing Haitian state. A believer in the essentially political nature of Haiti's tragedy, Fernandez rightly aspires to turn the current crisis into the lever for state-building, Haiti's extraction from political isolation, and its maturation into an active member of the regional and world community.

It is to be hoped that the current global economic crisis does not undermine the reliability of the world's commitments to Haiti. After all, even in times of prosperity, the international community has been notorious for making grand pledges, only to renege when it comes to following through with the money.

Keeping alive the international community's commitment – that is,

seeking an international solution to Haiti's tragedy – is a vital necessity for the Dominicans. Their initiative is essentially driven by the fear that once Haiti's immediate humanitarian crisis is addressed, the country's underlying problems could be left at the door of the "prosperous" neighbors across the border.

A case like the island of La Española (Hispaniola), where a simple border can reflect such vast differences, is not very common. On one side of the border is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, a place where 56% of the population survives on less than one dollar a day. On the other side of the island stands a stable democracy with a promising outlook for a reasonably prosperous future. For Dominicans, helping Haiti develop and become politically stable is the best way to safeguard their own stability.

That was also the logic of the Barcelona Process in the late 1990's, whereby the European Union worked to promote the development and democratization of the countries of the Maghreb as the best way to stem the uncontrolled tide of illegal immigration into Europe. But, unlike the EU, the Dominican Republic is not an economic giant that can assume exclusive responsibility for extracting Haiti from its Biblical destitution.

The Dominicans are right to seek at least a more solid regional commitment. The Haitian refugee crisis in the early 1990's tragically showed that no country in the region – including the United States, which either repatriated most illegal immigrants or confined them to the hardship of open camps in Guantánamo Bay – was ready to absorb the Haitians who fled their politically torn country.

So long as the Haitian state remains fragile and the Haitian economy continues to decompose, the network of mafias living on illegal immigration into the Dominican Republic will continue to flourish. About one million Haitians now live in the Dominican Republic, but only about 10% of the


Haitian laborers in the country are there legally, a condition that invites their exploitation by greedy employers. Cheap Haitian labor has become a substitute for less-skilled Dominican labor in a way that increases income inequalities, and puts a special burden on the country's public finances and services, owing to lower tax revenues.

Though the Dominican Republic suffers from its own social and economic maladies – it is itself an exporter of emigrants to the US, Puerto Rico, and Spain – it certainly has a role to play in Haiti's reconstruction. But it must supersede the exclusivist attitudes held by many members of its political class, particularly given that much of its economic growth in recent years reflects the contribution of Haitian immigration.

The two countries are condemned by history and geography to develop civilized neighborly relations. Haitians should not be encouraged to seek a solution to their tragic plight simply by crossing the border, but Dominicans should not demonize Haiti as the source of all their problems. Both sides need to engage in the vital enterprise of turning the border that separates them into a benign space of transnational development and stability.

Precisely because developing a mutually beneficial border regime is, as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton rightly remarked in her 2009 visit to the island, a task that affects the two countries' stability and well-being, it also needs to be part of the current international reconstruction effort. But Clinton should be reminded that every free industrial zone that was built along the Israeli-Palestinian border eventually fell victim to political instability. Haiti's transition to effective and sustainable statehood is therefore also vital for establishing a prosperous border regime.

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Al-Amal Microfinance Bank was established by the law (23) for the year 2002, as the first Microfinance Bank in Yemen. The Bank was an outcome of the efforts of the Social Fund for Development (SFD), (AGFUND), and the contribution of the Private Sector.

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بنك الأمل للتمويل الأصفر بنك من لا بنك له

Whispers over street names



By: Sumaiya Alkebsi
For the Yemen Times

In the Yemeni capital, an ordinary street with a pharmacy, a couple of barbershops, a corner store and a carpet shop whispers controversy. A street formerly known as Iran Street has now been renamed in remembrance of a woman who died protesting against the Iranian government.

The inhabitants of Neda Sultan Street disagree with each other on the reasons behind the name change. The Yemen Times took a trip to the street to ask its residents why the street's name was changed.

Neda Agha Sultan was killed almost a year ago on June 20, 2009 in Iran. She was a victim of a sniper's bullet to



the heart during the protests that followed the presidential elections there. The video of her dying, recorded by a cell phone, became viral and her image became a symbol used in protests against the Iranian government around the world. Yemen named a street after her.

The change to Neda Sultan Street is official and there are road signs at the beginning and at the end of the street saying Neda Sultan. Next to an Iranian carpet store, a modest blue sign says Neda Sultan Street in Arabic.

In a city where streets have many names, Neda Street is, at least, the third name given to the same street.

Mohammed, a taxi driver, said that when Neda Sultan was killed, the street name was changed the same day. Apparently, the street was then



Photo by: Mawadah Mohammed

not even officially called Iran Street, but 24 Street.

"These days they change the names of streets to martyrs' names," he said.

According to Amjad, a worker in a corner store, the street was originally called Iran Street because Iran helped Yemen celebrate the 10th anniversary of the unity of Yemen and the Iranian president was there for the opening of the street.

Hilal, also a worker in a corner store, said that they changed the name for the third time three months ago, because of the conflict in Sa'ada between the followers of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi and the Yemeni government. He said that they did it in response to Iran changing Yemen Street to Al-Houthi Street.

Talal, a barber, agreed that the street name was changed when Iran renamed Yemen Street.

However, although in Yemen it is thought that the name change was a response to Iran's support of the Houthis,

a source in Iran says that Iran changed the sign because they thought that Yemen had chosen to support Sultan over the Iranian government first.

The source says that the issue began this January. Evidently, a group from the Basij militia, a paramilitary volunteer militia founded by the order of the Ayatollah Khomeini, covered the official Yemen Street sign, where the Yemeni embassy is located, with a sign that said, "Martyr Hussein Al-Houthi Street" in reaction to what they thought was a name change of Iran street to Neda Sultan.

Hussein Al-Houthi was the original leader of the Houthis before he was killed in 2004, and his father and then brother Abdulmalik Al-Houthi replaced him.

But, on Neda Sultan Street, one barber had a completely different idea.

Hassan told the Yemen Times that Neda Sultan Street was named after the daughter of Sultan Qaboos of Oman. He was chewing qat at the time.

Portrait of Sami Khedira: Origins are irrelevant in football

By: André Tucic

The professional footballer Sami Khedira holds a Tunisian and a German passport. Off the pitch, the 21-year-old midfielder from VfB Stuttgart supports integration projects. And it looks like we'll soon see him in the German kit. A portrait by André Tucic

At last Germany's dull winter break has come to an end. If it were up to Sami Khedira, it needn't have even started. The midfielder for VfB Stuttgart had an excellent first half of the football season. On the 17th day of Bundesliga matches, in a 2:2 draw against FC Bayern München, he played what was presumably the best game in his career to date, heading one goal and kicking another with a fantastic volley during extra time.

"It was a complete risk. With a ball like that, it either ends up in goal or in the river outside," Khedira said of December's goal of the month. A few days later, in a 3:0 home victory against Standard Lüttich in the group phase of the UEFA Cup, he scored



Khedira has a lot to offer VfB Stuttgart's midfield that it lacked in recent years: offensive playing, dynamics and aggressive tackling

again. From then on began the tire-some wait for the second half of the season – Germany's winter is too cold to play all the way through.

Model pupil with cups on the mantlepiece

Now that the season is finally kicking off again, Khedira can at last take up where he left off: impressing the whole of "football Germany" as the defensive midfielder player with the best statistics of the season – five goals to his name so far.

Khedira is an excellent tackle strat-

egist with great stamina and a portfolio of sly techniques. A home-grown talent from Stuttgart's own boarding school, he also has a reputation as a hard-working, ambitious and disciplined player. A model pupil, who played in the club's championship-winning B and A youth teams – and helped Stuttgart to the Bundesliga title in his very first season as a professional.

Soon on the German squad?

And his career looks pretty bright: Khedira has played for VfB Stuttgart in 60 Bundesliga matches, and the German Football Federation has had a watchful eye on his skills. He has played ten matches for the national Under-21 squad, scoring five goals.

And he may well soon play a key role with the big guns on the national team. He was supposed to have his first chance to shine in the German kit back in August 2007. Khedira was nominated for the England-Germany game but was injured shortly beforehand.

There followed a patch of bad form, the only low period in his career to date. But for Khedira, that's all part of maturing as a player. "My self-esteem doesn't depend on whether I get five slams at the ball on the pitch or three goals," he says with confidence.

The Tunisian option

If he had chosen to play for Tunisia, where his father comes from, he would have been on the national team for a good few years now. But Khedira never even thought about that option.

"Manners in Tunisia are much looser than in Germany. I always notice that when I see children there, who grow up more freely. They're raised differently and they're more cheeky. I can't really relate to their mentality."

And no wonder – Khedira grew up in sheltered Oeffingen in southern Germany.

Integration through sport

Off the pitch, Khedira occasionally adopts the role of a travelling salesman for integration projects, for example representing VfB Stuttgart in the campaign "Ball Work – integration through football". The player went to schools and talked with young people about his own experiences of integration during his career.

Nationality plays no role in the world of football, performance is all that counts – anything else is irrelevant, the campaign proclaimed. As the sport becomes increasingly international, there is no other way to deal with the issue. Some German clubs don't even field a single player with a German passport any more. In Khedi-

ra's club VfB Stuttgart, there are players from twelve different nations.

He himself has never had problems with integration, says Sami Khedira; he never had the impression he was treated differently to the others because of his ethnic origin. "It's always a question of your own attitude," he says. "If you want to integrate it'll work out."

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteering position with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under Project: Disaster Risk and Poverty Analysis.

Post Title: Disaster Inventory Specialist (UNV): Five positions

Location: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of Project Manager, the UNV volunteer will be responsible for:

- Establish national linkages of the 'Disaster Inventories' tool – DesInventar with other similar methodologies, government institutions/counterparts and other relevant organizations
- Support the collection of past disaster impact data from a range of information sources for the past 30 years utilizing the DesInventar methodology for the past 30 years
- Undertake field missions as required to governorates, cities administration, etc., to collect local data and validate information on disasters' history
- Validate the data and ensure its proper entry into the DesInventar system
- Liaise with UNISDR on the technical aspects of the database development and seek guidance where required
- Explore the potential for the technical expansion of DesInventar to be used as a tool for national 'post – disaster' assessments
- Institutionalize DesInventar (country specific applications) within partner government agencies

Qualifications:

- **Education:** University degree in a discipline relevant to Information Technology or environmental Science, or disaster management and/or development studies.
- **Experience:** Three years experience in a humanitarian or development field in information or knowledge management. Working knowledge and familiarity with information systems, databases in support of disaster risk management, development issues, emergency preparedness or other related area is an asset.
- **Language skills:** Arabic as native speaker, fluency in oral and written English will be an asset
- **Computer skills:** Working knowledge of Databases, SQL for one or more of the following databases: SQL Server, Oracle, MS Access, Progres or MySQL, Minimal proficient in HTML, JavaScript, and some experience with Photoshop or similar would be a plus. Proficient in Windows (XP or 2003).

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to unvyc.info@undp.org Email Subject: Disaster Inventory Specialist -Sana'a

National UN Volunteers are not paid a salary for their services. Instead, they are provided with a volunteer living allowance, \$ 800 per month in addition to hazard allowances.

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for receiving applications is 25 June 2010.



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Poet Fatima Al-Ashby to the Yemen Times: “We live in a male society, but it is women who give men the right to persecute and humiliate them.”

Yemeni poet Fatima Al-Ashby was recently elected to become head of the Sana'a branch of the Yemeni Writers' Union. But, she says, the previous head of the branch refused the result of this election. A few weeks ago, the new chairman and secretary-general of the Yemeni Writers' Union were elected and are expected to resolve the issue.

This trial was perhaps one of many is the poet's life. Married by force when she was young and later diagnosed with a tumor, she has often transformed painful personal experience into poetry. She has been writing since the mid-80s and has published three collections of poems, the third of which was in collaboration with someone else.

Al-Ashby says that she is a free person, not restricted by anyone but herself and not governed by anything except her own conscience and values. The poet answered Eman Al-Sharifi's questions.



tragic day, whenever he was about to beat them.

How did the government help you when you were sick in hospital suffering from tumors in the head and one eye?

No one was responsible for me when I was a patient but it doesn't bother me.

It bothers me only when I can't face it. Sometimes I live with it without dwelling on it, and other times with convincing myself that it is my destiny and I have to accept it. When death comes, it will be mostly welcomed, I'm not the one who feels frightened of dying. If I was of those who feel terrified of being sick and dying, I would be finished many years ago and I would not have survived until now.

How do you divide your time between your family and your work?

I have neither family nor home. Yemen is my home and the Yemeni people are my family. My work is the main source of my livelihood.

I'm happy as long as I have bread and don't need to stretch out my hand to others asking for help. I'm fine, proud of myself and of my simple life. It is a life free of hatred, envy, animosity, or false opulence.

You faced a lot of problems when you were elected to be head of [the Sana'a branch of] the Yemeni Writers' Union? Why?

My life is full of challenges, suffering, and triumphs, so I am used to facing such problems.

Yes, I was elected to be the head of the Yemeni Writers' Union, Sana'a branch, but I couldn't start my job there because of the previous manager. He is still in his job position, thinking that he has the right to be the head because of his previous experience. He is one of my dearest colleagues so I did not like to confront him. I felt really embarrassed about him and my other colleagues who elected him. As a result, I preferred to stop working until the general election was over in the union.

What is your advice to Yemeni women to obtain their rights and achieve their dreams of having a career?

We live in a male society, but it is women who give men the right to persecute and humiliate them. In this case, I don't criticize the men as much as I criticize the women.

Since childhood, mothers have instilled in their sons the idea of controlling their sisters, encouraging authoritarianism, as well as aggression and disdain toward the opposite sex.

This discrimination has continued for centuries and has rarely changed, with women continuing in their weakness to surrender to these ideas, thinking that it is their nature and that if they don't behave this way, they will not be desirable women.

What applies in the family applies at work, in the street and everywhere else.

Are you today the Fatima that you wanted to be many years ago?

I wanted to be more than this Fatima, but circumstances always impeded me from reaching my goals. Thank God I'm this Fatima now and she is better than nothing

Do you still have dreams that you haven't yet achieved and that you still really want to achieve?

I haven't achieved any of my dreams that I lived and struggled for. The only one I have achieved is my freedom.

Do you think that Yemeni women will obtain their rights?

Yemeni women work in various governmental sectors, but they are only numbers that have no true accountability in the important and active positions. In proportion to those who are in important positions in government, they are a small unmentionable number having no effect.

The men who are decision-makers, placed these women in certain positions, but only to show the world that Yemeni men are the owners of civilized projects and that they have made men and women equal.

Are you interested in politics?

Every citizen has an interest in politics, whether he or she likes it or not. It is a real, imposed and most important part of public life...but I'm one of those who have a limited interest in it.

What do you think of democracy in Yemen?

Democracy in Yemen is a good starting point for a better future, but even in ten years' time - I still think it may be a poor and broken experience. However, perseverance is a sacred duty.

You have said about your mother that "her job is like the job of cows whose job is pregnancy and childbirth, throwing her previous children into the streets, even before they are able to walk, especially the females." Do you think this description is suitable for a person everyone respects?

(Laughs) I only describe the reality. I don't use satire. In the end, she is my mother and I love her just like any daughter loves her mother. She was married when she was seven years old to a man in his forties and she had 20 children. I don't remember calling her mother. My grandmother is the one who took care of me and my other brothers, so that is her reality and the reality of the rest of Yemeni mothers who think that they born just to give birth.

If you have the ability to change things in your community, what would you choose to change?

I want to change everything because everything needs to be changed. For example, education here in Yemen has become worse. I can't call it education but "half education." Great numbers of students graduate without being able to read and write properly. The disaster is that they consider themselves to be something!

There are so many things, like the health sector, the environment and chewing qat... There are so many things...

Do you chew qat?

(Smiles) I chew just a little when I need to concentrate when I'm writing.

What kind of relationship do you have between you and your family?

There is no connection between us and it is not an honor to me to know them.

Do you think that the time has come to forgive your father?

I do forgive my father and my mother, but not my brothers who refused to give me and my sister our inheritance. I think that my father raised his children in the wrong way. He used to be a cruel person. This kind of cruelty seemed a good way to rule people in our village but not good for children.

I loved him as I mentioned before. Unfortunately, my father was not an educated person. But despite this he did a lot of great things. He built the road in one of the most difficult geographical areas. He was one of first to bring television, not only to our village, but maybe also to Sana'a. At the time, television broadcasts were received from neighboring countries and because our village was in the highest mountains, we were one of those villages that used a generator. He wanted to set up a cable car system. I think my father would have undertaken many projects for civilization if the circumstances were different and if he were an educated person.

I wrote him an epic which describes all the great things he did and the many other things that he wanted to do.

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Herta Müller The 2009 laureate of the Nobel Prize in literature

By: Eyad N. Al-Samman
alsammanworld@yahoo.ca

The Romanian-born German novelist, poet, essayist and author, Herta Müller, was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Literature. The Swedish Academy described her as the writer "who with the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose, depicts the landscape of the dispossessed." Müller is the 12th female laureate who won this prestigious award in literature since its start in the late 1901.

Müller was born on August 17, 1953, in Nitchidorf, a German-speaking village in Timis county, western Romania. Her parents were members of the German-speaking minority in Romania. Her native language is German; only in grammar school did she learn Romanian when she was 15 years old. From 1973 to 1976, Müller studied German and Romanian literature at the University of Timisoara in Romania. During this period she was associated with Aktionsgruppe Banat, a circle of young German-speaking authors who, in oppression to the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu (1918-1989), sought freedom of speech. After completing her studies in 1976, Müller worked as a translator at machine factory from 1977 to 1979 when she was fired for refusing to cooperate with the Securitate, the Romanian communist regime's secret police, and serve as an informant. After her dismissal, she initially earned a living by teaching in a kindergarten and by giving private German lessons.

After a trip to the Frankfurt Book Fair, where she spoke out publicly against the Romanian dictatorship, her situations became more and more intolerable. Labeled as a "parasitic element", Müller became the target of repeated threats in Romania. After being refused permission to emigrate to West Germany in 1985, she was finally allowed to leave along with her husband in 1987 and settled down in West Berlin. In the following years, she accepted lectureships at universities in Germany, England, United States and Switzerland.

Müller writes short stories, novels, poems and essays which all deal with experience of persecution, of exile, of conforming to family and state and with the difficulties of being oneself. Müller's literary works have been translated into more than 20 languages. She is a highly prolific writer whose works portray the human destruction of the Romanian dictatorship, the history of the Germans in the Banat region in southeastern Europe and the persecution of Romanian ethnic Germans during and after the Second World War. Much of her fiction were written in poetic, metaphorical style, draws on her experience of growing up and living in the depressing atmosphere of a totalitarian state known as Ceausescu's Romania.

Her first book entitled "Niederungen" (Nadirs, 1982) in which Müller described life in a small dying village from a child's point of view. This collection of short stories was censored in Romania and after two years it was smuggled to Germany and published uncensored. In 1984, she wrote "Drückender Tango" (Oppressive Tango), a collection of short stories in which Müller depicted the hypocrisy of village life and its ruthless oppression on non-conformists. In 1986, Müller published her novel entitled "Der Mensch ist ein großer Fasan auf der Welt" (The Passport) which chronicled the efforts of a Romanian-German peasant family to get passports to leave the country. "Traveling on One Leg" (1989) portrays the problems of resettlement in the West and the feelings of alienation that plague the political exile.

Müller's novel "Herztier" (The Land of Green Plums, 1994) is her richest portrayal to date of life in the Romanian dictatorship. The work is about a group of young people whose friendship is destroyed by the harmful effects of a totalitarian society. Her novel entitled "The Appointment" (2001) tackles the life of a Romanian factory worker punished by the secret police for pinning personal notes into the pockets of outgoing clothing. In her essays "The King Bows and Kills" (2003) she discussed the importance of language as identity and exemplifies ways that language is used by the majority to brand immigrants and outsiders. In "Atemschaukel" (Everything I Possess I Carry with me, 2009), Müller depicted the exile of the German-Romanians in a former Soviet Union's gulag as an example of the fate of this minority in Transylvania after World War II.

Müller has published lectures on writing entitled "Der Teufel sitzt im Spiegel" (The Devil is Sitting in the Mirror, 1991) journalistic pieces "A Warm Potato Is a Warm Bed" (1992), essays "Hunger und Seide" (Hunger and Silk, 1995) and the collage poem entitled "Este sau nu este Ion" (Is He or Isn't He Ion, 2005).

Besides the Nobel Prize, Müller has received over 20 numerous literary awards among them are the Kleist Prize (1994), the European Union's Aristeion Prize for Literature (1995), the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award (1998), the Franz Kafka Prize (1999), the Literature Prize of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (2004), the Berliner Literaturpreis (2005) and the Franz Werfel Human Rights Award (2009). She is also a member of Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung (German Academy for Language and Poetry) in Darmstadt since 1995.

Müller's writings have an eerie attraction, a deceptive lightness of language, rich development of characters and social conditions, and profound evocation of a difficult period in recent European history. The writings of Müller are indeed the product of an intense obsession, a unique, paranoid terror of being followed, held in suspicion, and persecuted, of having to fight a pervasive and incomprehensible enemy, which is bent on defacing and on misrepresenting her. She once said about the art of writing: "Writing is very essential to me. It is existential."



What do you have to say about the history of women's literature?

Feminist literature is a discriminating term that I refuse to use and is accepted only by those with an inadequate view and limited awareness of women.

Literature is literature. It is a joint humanitarian product between both men and women, just like life and shared experience. Literature is a human story. If men have recorded stories and poems, that doesn't mean that women do not share the same understanding.

Let's take Yemeni women writers as an example. Yemeni women used to be marginalized. The economy, money - everything was in the hands of men. Women wrote a great many things - just like men - but Yemeni men took the women's literature and attributed it to themselves, because they felt ashamed to admit that it was the work their sister or their wife.

But in the end, literature is the eternal history of both men and women, whether the writers are known or not.

What is your opinion of Yemeni women's literature?

The literature of Yemeni women is controlled by their shy behavior. Yemeni women writers have tried to rid themselves of this as well as the familiarity in their writing, but to no avail, because Yemenis still have the same way of thinking. It is as if the times had not changed.

Yemeni women want to express their ideas and thoughts freely but they can't, and as a result Yemeni women writers can't continue their progress.

This obnoxious backwardness is the internal dictator that arrests dreams and restrains emotion, pointing a finger at the Yemeni women writers who have art, creativity and beauty in their writing.

But Yemeni women's literature is walking strongly towards self-assertiveness on the world stage because it is sophisticated, yet with a special Yemeni flavor.

What can we learn about women through their literature?

The problems of Yemeni women, their suffering and their attitude in refusing a backward reality, clearly appear within their writing and in their way of presenting their personalities even though there is still no social freedom.

Even if we assume that there is freedom, it is unmentionable as compared to the real meaning of the word. Despite all their surrounding circumstances, we can clearly see that Yemeni women's literature is still full of fear and caution.

Are there any specifications for Yemeni women's literature?

Literature is human and is therefore different from one to another, depending on the creativity and the genius of the writer, whether man or woman. It is dependent on the vision and cultural, psychological and environmental circumstances for both sexes.

We can see clearly that both Yemeni and Arab women writers in general, have the same circumstances, same obstacles and same goals, which is to liberate themselves. This goal was and will be one of the greatest concerns of women writers.

As we know, the cultural background of female authors is no different from that of their male counterparts. What is it that makes their literature different?

Men can express themselves with total freedom, especially in our community which is controlled by men, but this kind of freedom is forbidden for women. If they can't even talk about their secrets to the walls they live behind, how can women shout to be heard by the world?

Yemeni women writers have enough courage to prove themselves and prove their talent. Their literature comes out of

nothing, to be received with little interest and disdain, but Yemeni women writers have shown stability and excellence.

Do you agree that women have proved their ability to express sensitivity in their writing, better than men?

They could express their thoughts eloquently and subtly, especially if they could express their ideas freely, but they can't do this. They are very careful in terms of preserving themselves when they write because of being female. They also have to weigh up everything they create, to avoid being ridiculed.

Some say that both the title and content of your short story "Rape," which talks about you, are daring. What do you think about that?

First of all, this story does not talk about the story of my childhood. Yes, I am a bold person and I don't feel ashamed or afraid to talk about such sensitive subjects because they are real and ever present in our community.

On the contrary, I would feel ashamed of myself if I didn't talk about such important issues. I want the public to understand and I want them to open their eyes to avoid these crimes that happen because of being silent and hiding such acts.

There is homosexuality among youth. Rape happens almost every day, and there is a lot of kidnapping. Do you want me to see all these things around me and remain silent? I will not do what they want. Let them call me whatever they want, they are the ones who should be ashamed, not me.

I knew that you were source of your father's pride, especially when you memorized the Holy Quran. Later on, this feeling changed when he discovered that you wrote romantic poems. Can you tell us the story?

My father was very proud of me, especially when he discovered that I had started reading and writing by myself without anyone's help. I memorized the Quran when I was a little child, who nobody had time to notice or take care of.

At the time, my father brought me an Arabic teacher and a teacher for the different science subjects. He worked hard to teach me, spending time with me during the lessons until I became the source of his pride amongst everyone around. He taught me horse riding, archery and swimming. He used to take me everywhere to show me off. He even let me wear shirts and trousers, just like boys. All was great until he discovered that I wrote romantic poems and then tragedy ensued.

He forced me to marry one of his guards. He knowingly sent me to a rapist. I hated my father and that man who was unfortunately now my husband. I used to carry a gun with me to kill them both, as well as my brother-in-law. A lot of problems happened as soon as I became married. My father knew my intention was to take revenge on them.

Once, my father beat me violently. I could not feel parts of my body, both my legs were broken, and one of my hands too. He beat me around the head, so badly that I lost consciousness for a while. When I got up, I saw a grave beside me that my father had dug to bury me in... I saw blood all around the basement. Through this, I developed amnesia.

They sent me to Saudi Arabia to recover and to live with the person I hated, my husband. I tried to kill him so many times, but when I was about to kill him yet again, I asked him to divorce me and he agreed. As soon as my father heard about it, he came to take me back to Yemen. At the time, he promised that I could continue my studies and work.

I still remember my blood on the basement and my sisters refusing to clean it up. They used it to remind my father of that

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الطعم أحلى والجلسة تحلى

The last great cat of Yemen

Many years ago, when Arabia was connected to Africa, wild animals roamed the mountains of Yemen. According to the Greek writer Agatharhides of Cnidus who lived in the second century BC, the northwest of the country once abounded with lions, wolves and leopards. But now Arabian lions are believed to be extinct. Only a few of the great cats survive, and their existence is threatened with human settlement and the depletion of their natural prey.

In Yemen, the dark chocolate spotted Arabian leopard is thought to still live in the eastern and north western parts of the country. Its relatives have been shot by shepherds, killed for sport or for their skin, and caught for sale

The Arabian leopard has been Yemen's national animal since April 2008, says David Stanton, but so far its national status has not really been exploited, either to muster patriotism among Yemenis, or to put it at the center of a campaign to push for the protection of all the species in its food cycle.

Save something at the top of a food chain and you save everything underneath, he explains. To conserve Yemen's leopard, the water resources should be pure, the ecosystem should be intact, and the vegetation should be adequate to support the prey species that the leopard eats.

But the animal at the top of this food chain, a 'critically endangered' animal on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s red list, has not so far been the focus of a campaign run by the government's "easily moveable publicity machine."

Perhaps, says Stanton, conservation is not seen as a key priority when compared to health and education. Going on record and being seen as supporting the issue could be interpreted as being a political misdemeanor, he suggests.

Yet Yemen's leopard needs attention. The depletion of its natural prey - ibex, hyrax and gazelle - has led it to eat sheep, goats and calves instead. This has lead angry shepherds to kill it to protect their livelihood.

In one of the most heavily armed populations in the world, opportunistic hunting is also an issue, says Stanton. "If somebody sees a leopard, the odds are they're going to be toting a gun and they're going to try and shoot it. It's reflexive." Poverty is also a major factor, as a leopard skin has a cash value of up to USD 140 dollars.

But an even bigger threat is the live animal trade. "Yemen is surrounded by wealthy nations where people like to collect animals," says Stanton. There are lots of private zoos in the UAE, where it has become fashionable to have the Arabian leopard in one's collection.

There is however no data on how often these leopards are being captured and smuggled across Yemen's borders, because it is in contravention of both national law and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which was signed by Yemen in 1997.

So what has been done since April 2008, when the decree to make the feline Yemen's national animal should have, in theory, protected it from hunting and trapping?

A leopard in a cage

Yemen became famous for its leopards in the mid-nineties, says Stanton. There was a leopard from Wada'a, Amran, in a small cage in Tahrir. You could pay YR 5 and poke it with a stick.

The Arabian Leopard Trust based in Sharja in the UAE, was looking for

to private zoos. Weary of humans, it is believed to hunt in a large area including the governorates of Amran, Mahwit and Hajja.

Chances of seeing the leopard are reportedly similar to the chances of being struck by lightning, but one Sana'a-based organization continues to be determined to set up trail cameras to capture it on film. The organization is headed by David Stanton, formerly a teacher at the Sana'a International School, who two years ago became executive director of the Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen. The conservationist, who is also adviser to the Minister for Water and the Environment on the conservation of the animal, spoke to Alice Hackman.



Arabian leopards to start a captive breeding program, so they bought Arnold from Tahrir to be one of their founder population.

While the media exposure unfortunately brought the poachers' attention to the presence of leopards in Wada'a and soon after "quite a number" were caught to be sold in the live animal trade, it also localized any future efforts for the animal's conservation.

The Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen visited

protected area there because they don't understand the benefits to the community and think that they will lose their grazing rights.

Convincing the local community

Contrary to what some may think, a protective area in Wada'a would mean jobs, says Stanton - not for everybody, but it would generate interest in the area and push for some infrastructure to be developed, creating work for laborers, as well

of 2020. By 2050, Yemen has 50 million inhabitants. Maintaining that success is going to be impossible - Arabian leopards will probably only exist in captivity."

In the end, protecting leopards in captivity is better than not protecting them at all. "If you have a temple somewhere in the desert and people are robbing the graves, it's better to put those antiquities in a museum than to just leave them there where people can take them."

In this context, captive breeding is an insurance policy against extinction.

But this still has to be developed in Yemen, as the leopards in the Sana'a zoo do not breed and the 24 leopards in Taiz zoo are all inbred.

In the capital's zoo, Stanton says that he has only ever heard of two offspring, one of which died because of the zoo's "lack of veterinary capacity." When it became ill, it was given medicine for sheep and goats, and in inappropriate doses.

And although the Taiz leopards are "potentially useful animals if they could enter the regional equation," i.e. be crossed with leopards from the Sharja breeding center, Stanton notes that leopard cubs at the zoo are separated from their mothers at birth and suckled by dogs. This is because in captivity stressed mother leopards sometimes eat their offspring.

Christian Gross, a scientist who visited the zoo in 1991, reported online that "dog-raised leopard cubs may prove unsuitable for the breeding plan."

A national symbol

While it may be difficult to protect the Arabian leopard in the wild and captive breeding in Yemen is still developing, this does not mean that the animal in Yemen should not live on as a symbol of national pride.

If "great posters of proud eagles with American flags flowing in the background" boosted patriotism in the US after 9/11, then surely in Yemen the image of the Arabian leopard could be just as powerful, if not more so.

"A leopard is a far more charismatic symbol than a bald eagle, which is in fact a scavenger!" says Stanton.

"It is clear from the Quran that God did not create the earth and its inhabitants for man to despoil," he says. Sure, if a leopard eats your sheep, you will see it as an enemy. But if you look at it objectively it's an "exquisite piece of engineering."

"I can't imagine that any creator would come up with something like that only to destroy it," he says.



Wada'a four times in 2008: once to check it out, a second time to discuss a protective area, a third time to put up a trail camera, and a fourth to discover that it had been stolen.

The war in Sa'ada then stalled progress and, last April, the situation remained unresolved. The problem revolves around ownership of the land. In Wada'a alone, two groups consider it theirs, and neither want people trespassing or a protected area.

The camera removed in 2008 was stolen, Stanton says, "for political reasons." Not everyone is in favor of having a

as training for new park rangers.

But to do this, there needs to be an agreement with community leaders that the camera exists for the community's benefit, he says. If someone steals it, then no one will see the results or reap the benefits.

It is a long-term process. The foundation has allies in these areas, and they have two cameras in Mahwit, but complete consensus within the community is still missing.

A protected area in Wada'a would only be a beginning, as it is but part of a "large patchwork of interconnected areas in this wadi system where leopards roam" that includes Wada'a and Shahara in Amran as well as Wadi Shahis in Hajja and Jabal Milhan in Mahwit. "Really it's just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the area that should be protected," he says.

The foundation also aims to set up an international trans-boundary conservation area to link a protected zone in Mahara, eastern Yemen, with one in Jabal Samhan across the border in Oman. In April, both governments signed a memorandum of understanding with this intent.

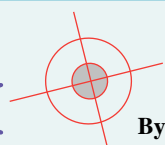
Preservation in a 'museum'

The future of the Arabian leopard in the wild is not certain, according to Stanton. There are only 6-8 leopards left in Palestine and the 50 leopards recorded in Dhofar, Oman, may not survive, according to experts there. Yemen is looking at a similar picture.

The foundation's goal of "a sustainable population of wild leopards living in harmony with local communities" may be difficult to maintain long term.

"Let's say we have success by the end

HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva



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

Some cancer symptoms men ignore

Human body can be compared to a car. When you attend to a problem as and when you notice, you'll safeguard yourself from a future breakdown. On the other hand, when you are complacent and ignore the simple warning signals of your body, you may end up with paying a heavy price.

A few months ago, a middle aged man approached me in my clinic for bleeding while passing stools. He was reluctant to subject himself for a detailed examination. He was not in any frame of mind to listen to me and insisted that I should give him some laxative and Anusol

cream which is used for hemorrhoids. I asked for some basic tests and suggested him to visit me the next day. I told him that he needed to see the surgeon who would perform a 'nadhoor' (sigmoidoscopy and gastroscopy) to visualize the source of bleeding.

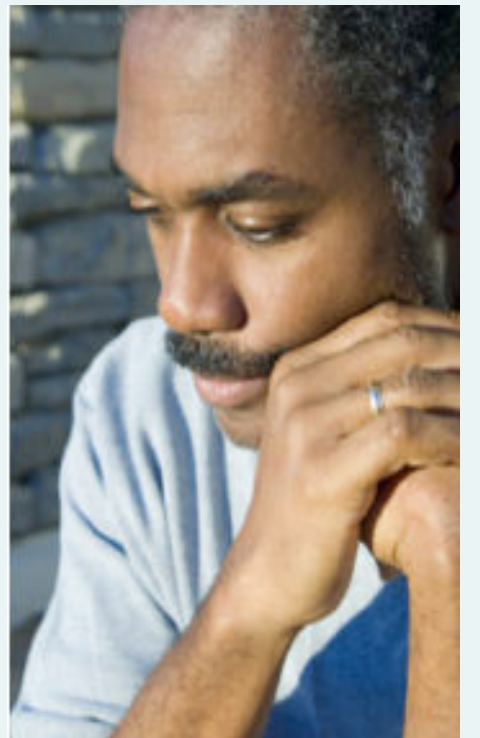
He said me that he was leaving for 'up country' and promised to come back to me after a month.

On a busy evening, I found him with his friends at the 'Banafa' market happily bargaining for a few bunches of qat. When I asked him why he had not reported to me, he quipped that he felt fine after using the medication. I insisted that he should have a thorough 'check up' since such symptoms at his age should not be ignored. Later, he faded away from my memory.

A couple of weeks passed. I was busy with my own patients and mundane work. One day, I made my usual visit to the surgical ward to follow up a patient whom I admitted in the morning. To my utter shock, I found this man lying down on the hospital bed in a corner, like a badly battered soldier in a war. He appeared weak and frail with an IV drip attached to his upper extremity. He was pale and sounded feeble and depressed. There was fear in his eyes and he appeared doomed. His relative standing beside him narrated what had happened. It seems that the old man spent the last month in his hometown. One morning, he started passing large quantities of frank blood, while defecating. He could not eat anything and felt very weak and dizzy, and they brought him to the hospital.

This time, he could not escape from the investigations. His hemoglobin was alarmingly low and he was given repeated blood transfusions. The treating surgeon performed a *gastroscopy* to visualize the stomach. It showed a suspicious patch gleaming with fresh blood on the wall of the stomach. The surgeon took out a bit of the tissue from that patchy area and sent it for histo-pathological examination. The sample revealed evidence of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which is a malignant cancer of the lymphatic system. A *sigmoidoscopy* showed a normal study. The patient is waiting to be sent to a cancer center abroad. I have observed that some men are very casual and complacent, especially when it comes to visiting doctors. This is very unfortunate. Some men proudly proclaim that they would never go to the doctor, except when their wives or children are sick. I try to impress upon them that they are wrong. However, I am sorry to say that only a few listen. A senior oncologist in Mumbai told me once that women are often the ones who push men to get screened for cancer. We can benefit greatly by being alert to certain cancer symptoms that indicate a trip to the doctor's office sooner rather than later. Some of those cancer symptoms in men are specific. They involve certain body parts and may even point directly to the possibility of cancer. Other symptoms are vague. It's often a mistake to assume blood in the stool is simply from a hemorrhoid. Rectal bleeding in middle or old age can be due to an internal malignancy, like cancer stomach, colon or rectum. The bleeding in our friend made him think of a common condition, a 'basoor'. It was natural that he took it casually and ignored visiting me again. Of course, he came to the hospital again, but this time the disease which was hiding inside has progressed further.

We tend to ignore simple symptoms thinking that they are not worth a doctor's consultation. Some postpone visiting the doctor till they get the symptoms again. There are many symptoms like sudden weight loss, unexplained body pain, loss of appetite, severe anemia, occurrence of any new swelling or mole or persistent cough that can mean something serious. These can be cancer warning symptoms and need urgent medical consultation. Some cancers occur very quickly and spread rapidly. When they are found early, there are more options for treatment and cure. Nipping in the bud is better than chopping a full grown tree.



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If you want to learn more about the work of the Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen, go to www.yemenileopard.org or send an email to david@yemenileopard.org.

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Yemenia launches new route from Sana'a to Guangzhou

Yemenia last week launched its new route from Sana'a to Guangzhou in China and officially opened its new office in the country.

"The new line will increase the number of travellers and boost the biggest Arab expatriate community in China which is the Yemeni community," said H.E. Engineer Abdulmalik Al-Mu'alimi, Yemeni Ambassador to China, expressing his appreciation for Chinese support in all fields, among which the field of transport.

Al-Mu'alimi renewed his invitation to Chinese companies to invest in Yemen and to benefit from the advantages of the Yemeni investment law.



vestment law.

Munir Gahoosh, Deputy Director of Commercial Affairs at Yemenia, said that detailed economic studies had indicated the need for a new route to serve the Yemeni community in China and boost trade between the two countries.

The launch of the Sana'a Guangzhou comes in the context of the company implementing its development strategy to make the company grow to the level of international air transport, he said.

He pointed to the successes of the company, as well as its services and benefits for its clients. In the near future, he said, the company would launch new routes to Dar Al-Salam, Nairobi, and Lagos in Africa, as well as to Amsterdam and Stockholm in Europe.

Li Shan, Deputy Director of the West Asia and North Africa Office at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the opening of the Yemenia office in Kwanzaa was an important event in the history of both countries, mentioning the depth of the friendship between the two countries.

He added that Yemen was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with China, and that his country was looking to enhance its relations with Yemen in all fields.

The launching event included folklore entertainment from both countries.

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