

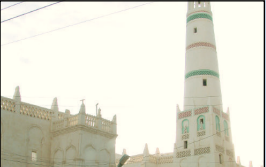
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Yemeni fishermen detained for entering Eritrean waters

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

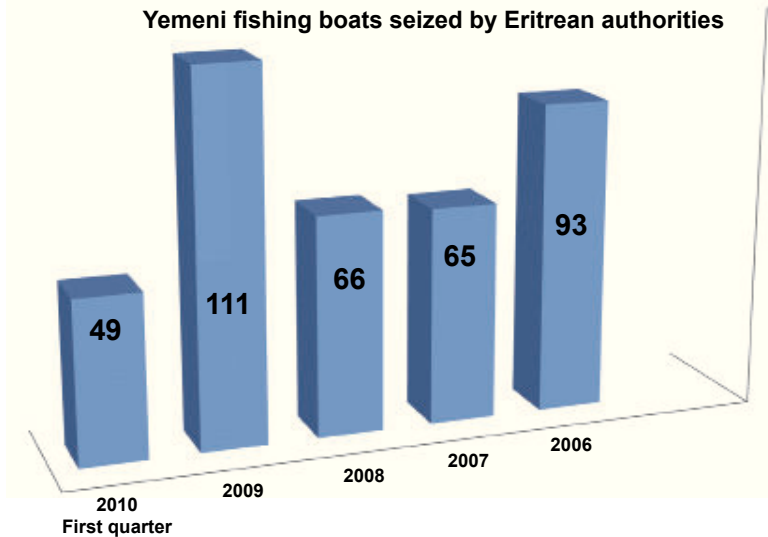
SANA'A, July 7 — Fourteen Yemeni fishermen have arrived back in Hajja governorate after being detained in Eritrea for 10 days.

According to the Ministry of the Interior's media center, the fishermen said that they were arrested by Eritrean authorities at gunpoint while they were fishing about 15 nautical miles to the west of Yemen's Sawab Island.

They added that their two boats, fish and equipment were confiscated and were not given back to them.

Last week, a group of Yemeni fishermen arrived on two boats in Hodeida, after they being released by the Eritrean authorities who had seized eight of their fishing boats, according to the Interior Ministry media center.

The fishermen said that they were brought into detention at gunpoint from the sea last Friday in international waters. Their fishing boats and equipment were confiscated. Of all the ten boats seized, fishermen said the Eritrean authorities left only two of them to be used



for sailing home. "Some Yemeni fishermen insist on fishing in Eritrean waters without Eritrean permission," said the Eritrean Ambassador to Yemen, Mousa Yasseen. "Every other month or week, Yemeni

fishermen enter Eritrean waters to fish and the authorities have to detain them," stated Yasseen. "They seize their boats only for a limited time and then they are released."

Continued on page 2

New progress in state reform plans

As a response to international pressure and advice, the Yemeni government has started several reform processes to prevent the country from sinking deeper into economic and political crisis.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, July 7 — A promising strategy for what is referred to as the "Top 100" is seeing gradual progress as it is being advocated for behind the state's closed doors. The Top 100 refers to identifying and empowering 100 highly qualified, professional and patriotic Yemeni men and women, and putting them in decision making positions in the most crucial development related ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, Civil Services, Planning, and Health and Education.

The Top 100 is in essence the first point of a 10-point reform plan piloted by Deputy Minister of Finance, Jalal Omar Yaqoub. Behind Yaqoub stands a group of high level supporters and co-

authors within the Yemeni government, from the private sector as well as from the international community in Yemen.

Currently intense coordination is taking place to make the Top 100 happen. As Yaqoub explains it, the first issue that needs to be dealt with is finding the right people to implement the plan. Around one third of the one hundred new recruits have already been found and agreed upon, and the search is ongoing to complete the list.

The head hunting is taking place very quietly. Along with efficiency and professional capacity, the new recruits have to be approved by senior figures supporting the plan including the president. Yaqoub confirmed, however, that the recruitment is taking place through a transparent and merit-based selection

process.

In February this year, Yaqoub flew to London to introduce this plan to the Yemen's Unit at the Chatham House Think Tank. The plan highlights three main priorities for Yemen to tackle urgently: Job creation, public services such as water and power, and the rule of law.

"The problem with Yemen is the way it is managed. We are so used to doing things in a certain manner that is rigid and time consuming. This is why we need fresh creative people who can work in a more effective way, but we need to give them authority and support so that they can perform," said an official supporting the new reform plan who asked to remain anonymous.

This is not the only reform plan currently being processed. Another plan with a different approach is currently being discussed in the cabinet under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning, Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi.

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Workfare helps Yemen cope with food crisis

SANA'A, July 6 — High in the hills of rural Yemen, Ghaleb Ahmed sat his young daughter on his knee and prepared to eat lunch. He was taking a break from his job building a new rock and cement road in the village of Hababa—one of many places in the country where jobs are scarce and people struggle to put food

on the table. Now, that struggle would be a less difficult, at least for a while. "The village was in need of a road, and when the project came we got a road and we also got money for building it. So, we are able now to buy household basics like flour," Ahmed said in December. The project was among several in the coun-

try designed to help poor communities cope with higher food prices by employing large numbers of people to build or repair local infrastructure. As of March 2010, Ahmed was one of 41,000 people to get such a temporary job. The projects, supported by a special World Bank fund to help countries recover from the global

food crisis, have so far benefited 17,000 households and paid out \$6.7 million in wages.

Job creation eases food crisis

Globally, the World Bank helped ease the food crisis by supporting job-creation programs in a number of countries. More than 101,000 people are employed as part of job creation programs in Guinea, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Yemen; and 550,000 have benefited from cash-for-work programs in Ethiopia. Those are relatively small numbers in a country of 23 million people, where 40% of the rural population lives below the poverty line, acknowledges Afrah

Alawi Al-Ahmadi, a senior human development specialist at the World Bank working on social assistance programs in Yemen. But the success of the first phase of the cash-for-work program (workfare) is leading to more expansive efforts for helping the poor through workfare programs and other social assistance, such as direct cash transfers, she says. "Given the need and the trend and the level of poverty, the advantages of the workfare program are clear. Now we want to be more expansive and to hone the design of the program to address chronic poverty and at the same time have the flexibility to respond to shocks when they arise."

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Yemen struggles to recover

Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world, is still struggling to recover from the 2007-2008 global food crisis, which saw a dramatic rise in the price of such staples as corn, wheat and rice. Yemen now faces food shortages and high food prices resulting from recent drought and sharply rising prices for imported food and fertilizers, in particular grain. The Yemeni government initially tried to control wheat prices in 2008 through doubling the government's portion of the wheat imports, but a drop in the price of oil—Yemen's main source of export income—later that year forced the government to cut its spending on social sectors, says Al-Ahmadi.

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Government and Houthis sign new agreement

By: **Mohammad Bin Sallam**

SANA'A, July 7 — The government and the Houthis revealed this week that they have signed a 22-point agreement which involves the Houthis carrying out the six steps that the government decided upon earlier to stop the war in Sa'ada and Harf Sufian in Amran.

The Minister of Local Administration and the Deputy of the Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs, Rashad Al-Alimi, visited Sa'ada governorate last month and approved the agreement.

The agreement included requirements such as the Houthis' consent to carry out the six points implemented by the government.

The government asked Abdulmalek Al-Houthi to make his supporters return to their own areas and promised that security forces would not stop them. It also stipulated that Houthis

must not hide in mosques, schools and governmental establishments.

The government demanded that Houthis not intrude upon the local authority's affairs and stop arresting people.

Both the Houthis and the government promised to release all of Sa'ada's war prisoners and to stop creating road barriers. For their part, the Houthis agreed to stop digging trenches, hiding in the mountains, and creating checkpoints.

The Houthis agreed to submit the weapons and evacuate all public establishments and private buildings, including people's houses.

The agreement also mentioned that land mines should be removed from Sa'ada, Al-Malaheet and Harf Sufian.

The government said that it will return all suspended teachers and will give them their suspended salaries as well. In addition, it said that it will al-

low IDPs, internal displaced persons, to return to their homes and will compensate all victims of Sa'ada's war.

The agreement was signed by the mediator Sheik Ali Naser Qarsha, the representative of the Houthis, Yosif Abdulla Al-Fishi, and the government representative, Colonel Ali Bin Ali Al-Qaisi.

However, clashes are still ongoing. Last Friday the Houthis' gunmen and government supporters exchanged fire in Al-Mishat and Al-Za'ala districts, to the north of Harf Sufian in Amran. The gunmen are said to be followers of parliamentarian Bin Aziz.

According to the Houthis, soldiers were sent by the government to support Bin Aziz during second week of clashes. However, the mediator was able to stop them so that the conflicts would not increase.

The clashes are still ongoing, according to the locals.

The Houthis' spokesman, who is a member of the committee responsible for supervising the carrying out the truce in Sa'ada, said that the responsibility falls on President Saleh's shoulders because he is the one who holds the cards for war or peace.

He told Al-Sahwa Net, the Islah opposition party's website, that the most recent agreement signed by the government and the Houthis supersedes the first agreement which included the six steps toward a ceasefire.

He added that the government is avoiding releasing the war prisoners, but the Houthis will be submitting all weapons and equipment.

"Although the government promised to send all the prisoners of the war to Sa'ada and release them all there, four days have passed now, and the government has only six more days to release them or it will break the deal between us," Abdulmalek said.

He accused the state of trying to start the seventh war in Sa'ada by sending soldiers to confront Houthis. He said that the security forces block roads in order prevent Houthis from getting food and medication supplies.

Abdulmalek called on the state to rescue those who are starving and homeless in Sa'ada.

He claims that the government says that the Houthis are not united and that they may split, but he denies this rumor. He stresses that Houthis wish to close the book on war forever and to implement peace.

Abdulmalek called on all opposition parties and civil society organizations to stop the government from doing anything that may create war again in Sa'ada.

JMP calls on people to end actions that stir up unrest

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) expressed last Monday their concern

about the possibility of renewed war in Sa'ada and Harf Sufian in Amran as clashes sometimes arise between tribes supporting the government and the Houthis.

The JMP stated that the government and the Houthis are both equally responsible regarding the outcome of the war and that they should work to carry out all the commitments they made in the agreement.

They also said that the IDP situation must be dealt with, Sa'ada governorate should be re-established, and all Sa'ada's war prisoners should be released. They added that Yemen is in need of peace and security, not war and fighting.

According to non-official statistics, the sixth phase of the war in Sa'ada, which started in August 2009 and ended in February 2010, killed more than 12,000 and caused more than 350,000 to flee their homes.

Opposition leader's life still in danger

By: **Khaled Al-Hilaly**

SANA'A, July 6 — The medical condition of Abdulqarib Al-Qurashi, an opposition leader, who was subjected to an assassination attempt on June 25, is extremely serious. He has not passed the stage of danger yet, an anonymous source at Police hospital told Al-Shari' newspaper.

It is expected that Al-Qurashi will remain in intensive care for the time being. The right part of his brain was badly damaged by the bullet. Arrangements to send him abroad for treatment are being processed, the source added.

On Friday, June 25, unidentified gunmen opened fire on the former military Nasserite leader, Al-Qurashi, as he was returning from the Friday prayer, accompanied by three of his sons and personal bodyguard. He was shot in the head before entering the Sheba hotel in the Tahrir district of the capital Sana'a.

According to Al-Wahdawy net, the mouthpiece of the Alwahadawy Nasserite party in Yemen, Al-Qurashi's son Moataz said that his father came home under the protection of President Saleh and «we did not expect [the assassination attempt] to happen.»

On the day of the accident, the Ministry of the Interior listed 3 Yemenis as wanted and accused them of shooting Al-Qurashi. The suspects' names were Abdulsallam Al-Bahr, 20, Fahd Abfulaziz, 37, and Mohammad Nasser (Al-Hamadani). The ministry made orders for their speedy arrest.

The Ministry of the Interior declared one day after the accident that its intensive investigations had led to the identification of the suspects who opened fire on Al-Qurashi, and that the authorities were on their way to capture them.

Al-Qurashi, 65, returned home in late May at the invitation and under the protection of President Saleh after

32 years in exile in Syria.

Al-Qurashi and his relative Abdul-Ahmed, who is in exile in Syria, were involved in the movement against Saleh in Taiz in 1978. The movement's leaders were then accused of killing a number of shai-khs in Taiz. After being sentenced to imprisonment and execution, Abdul-Ahmed and Al-Qurashi, along with another 31 members of the movement, left the country. Al-Qurashi and Abdul-Ahmed went to Syria and remained there.

After the arrival of Al-Qurashi, a press release was signed by a number of sheikhs from Taiz, the relatives of the victims of the 1978 movement, demanding Al-Qurashi's arrest and appearance in court. They confirmed their determination to punish the people whose names were listed for execution in the trial of 1978, who in their view are criminals. They added that they would not accept any negotiation or pressure.

MP and human rights activist continues hunger strike

By: **Khaled Al-Hilaly**

SANA'A, July 7 — Independent member of parliament and human rights activist Ahmed Saif Hashed continued his hunger strike inside the parliament for the fourth consecutive day.

Hashed, 55, began his hunger strike and sit-in inside the parliament Sunday morning, protesting against what he calls the violation of his constitutional and parliamentary rights by the leadership of parliament.

Hashid is protesting because parliamentary leaders have prevented him from visiting prisons, particularly the political security prison (PSO), and has ignored his request to question some ministers within parliament. He also feels that his parliamentary immunity was violated when, he claims, the Specialized Penal Prosecution ordered the PSO to spy on him.

Other MPs criticized the leadership for depriving Hashed of his constitutional right to question ministers, referring to the Yemeni constitution,

which allows ministers to be questioned within one week of an MP's request.

In the session on Tuesday, Aidarous Al-Naqeeb, a member of parliament from the opposition Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) accused the parliamentary leadership of preventing the government from being accountable, adding that by doing so the parliament is allowing corruption to continue.

He threatened to join Hashed in his sit-in inside parliament unless the government is investigated for the lack of stability in national security and increases in prices.

Dozens of human rights activists protested on Tuesday in front of the parliament in solidarity with Hashed. They held the parliamentary leadership responsible for any negative consequences in Hashed's health resulting from the strike, because they did not allow Hashed to contact his physician.

Protesters demanded that parliament respond to Hashed's sit-in by allowing

him to visit prisons and giving him permission to question both Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs Rashad Al-Alimi and Minister of the Interior Motahr Al-Masri.

Hashed has requested to question Al-Alimi and Al-Masri on the failure of security forces to arrest the people accused of killing three citizens in his constituency in Lahj during July 2009.

Hashed has reportedly been attacked at the entrances of both the PSO and the Passports and Immigration Authority prisons and was prevented from inspecting the living conditions of prisoners as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Rights and Freedoms.

Earlier last month, Hashed, along with Tawakull Karman and Abdul Bari Taher, resigned from the National Committee of Dialogue as a result of what they felt were the individualistic interests of the general secretary of the committee, according to their resignation letter.

Continued from page 1

Yemeni fishermen detained for entering Eritrean waters

Not only are Yemeni vessels detained by Eritrean authorities, but also Saudi, Egyptian and Sudanese fishing boats are seized, according to Yasseen.

"It is not true that the Yemeni fishing boats were seized in international waters, as the media says," said Yasseen.

He added that Eritrean coast guards do not have sufficient resources to seize boats in international waters. They only have enough facilities to protect Eritrean waters.

Yasseen denied receiving any official complaints recently from the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding fishermen.

The Ministry of the Interior called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss attacks on Yemeni fishing boats and to persuade the Eritrean government to release detained fishermen and return seized boats.

Last week, another group of 25 Yemeni fishermen arrived in Hodeida after being detained by Eritreans, according to the Ministry of the Interior.

Yemeni Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Abdullah Ba Simbel said last week in a statement to the 26th September, a newspaper related to the Ministry of Defense, that about 70 Eritrean attacks on Yemeni fishermen had been registered. He pointed out that this was the result of a lack of commitment from the Eritrean side in international arbitration regarding traditional fishing and allowing Yemeni fishermen to enter specified areas.

Eritrea has confiscated 384 Yemeni fishing boats since 2006, according to Fisheries Cooperative Union statistics. The cost of boats and equipment seized during that period was about YR 780.5 million, approximately USD 3.5 million. About 3,700 Yemeni fishermen were affected including boat owners and crews, according to the same source.

In 2008, the Yemeni government called the Eritrean Ambassador in Sana'a and objected officially about the attacks

by Eritrean authorities on Yemeni fishermen in international waters and called for the release of Yemeni fishermen detained in Eritrea.

Only two weeks ago, an Eritrean navy ship opened fire on Yemeni fishing boats 11 nautical miles from Haneesh Island, killing Abdullah Qareem, a 23-year-old fisherman, and injuring another, according to the Ministry of the Interior.

Yemeni Fishermen said that their government does not back their claims that Eritrean authorities regularly subject them to violence, unlawful detentions, and extortion when their boats are seized in what they call international waters.

Former presidential legal advisor Hussein Al-Hubaishi told the Yemen Times that the Yemeni government is not being passive. In fact, it frequently complains to the Eritrean government and as a consequence Eritrea releases some boats from time to time.

"Yemen and Eritrea have a normal political relationship... however, the traditional fishing issue has not yet been solved," said Al-Hubaishi.

He explained that Eritreans accuse Yemeni fishing boats of fishing near Eritrean shores and islands. Therefore, he suggested that the Yemeni Ministry of Fisheries help Yemeni fishermen avoid entering Eritrean waters by agreeing on a comprehensive policy for traditional fishing that specifies fishing areas and times, as well as the kinds of boats that can fish there.

New progress in state reform plans

According to this plan's proposal, the number of Yemeni ministries will be decreased as some of the 30 existing ministries will be merged together while others will be demoted to the level of government agency rather than a full ministry. Moreover, some of the existing government agencies will be closed down altogether.

"This is the trend in the international arena. Through this process duplication

of work as well as authority conflicts will be minimized," said a source at the Ministry of Planning. When asked what the consequences to the workforce in the current government structure will be, he said it is unclear as yet.

However, officials behind the Top 100 reform plan clearly indicated that at least 40 percent of the staff in the chosen ministries to pilot the reform process will be forced into early retirement. Some of the potential recruits for the plan may be promoted from within current ministries after testing for their qualifications, but it is likely that many of the Top 100 will be Yemenis coming from the private sector or even abroad.

Although initial indicators show that there is no direct link or coordination between the two reform plans, it is likely that eventually they would have to either merge or accommodate each other because they are targeting the same ministries.

The focus of the two plans is, however, different. The first plan focuses on qualified human resources, or rather, bringing in professional management who will eventually reform the processes once they are instated and given sufficient authority to actually create change. The second plan focuses more on structural change and internal legislation.

Friends of Yemen syndrome

In February 2010, senior officials from 20 countries met in London to discuss Afghanistan across a two day conference. A side activity to the conference was a two hour meeting dedicated to Yemen. During the discussions, world powers urged Yemen to urgently carry out reforms and tackle its various challenges mainly in security and the economy. In order to show their support for Yemen, an Italian prompted initiative, the "Friends of Yemen" was created.

Since then, other meetings were held in UAE and Germany to follow-up on Yemen's reforms, especially since Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula recently declared Yemen as its base.

Western and Gulf Arab donors want to help Yemen escape the poverty on which Al-Qaeda thrives, but new aid will not flow unless President Ali Abdullah Saleh enacts reforms and tackles corruption, diplomats and analysts say. According to the Yemeni government, it was able to disburse only ten percent of the USD 4.7 billion pledged by donors in 2006. This delay was caused mostly by bureaucratic procedures and complicated processes for tenders. According to Vice Planning Minister, Hisham Sharaf, the Yemeni government is turning a new page and is trying to overcome the bureaucracy through outsourcing projects to the international private sector.

Until this new way of operating becomes clearly visible, donors continue to shake their heads in disapproval. This is especially true of those from the Gulf Council Countries who are essentially the primary donors to Yemen.

In order to appease donors and not lose out on the money already pledged, the Yemeni government is attempting several reform policies even if the opposition parties claim that these reforms are superficial. And soon the ruling party's bad management practices will backfire on them, especially since oil exports fell 70 percent in the first 10 months of 2009.

"The situation in Yemen is very serious and I am afraid because of bad policies the country has reached a level that what it needs to get out of this mess is cash and lots of it. The Gulf seems the best possible source for this cash, especially KSA [Kingdom of Saudi Arabia]. But we know Saudi Arabia will not help Yemen unless it sees that the state is serious in dealing with its problems," says a European diplomat in Sana'a.

Emergency situation

According to the UN World Food Program 2010 Report on Yemen, one in three Yemenis suffer from chronic hunger and more than one in 10 Yemeni children are acutely malnourished.

Recently, the Yemeni government has increased fuel prices to ease the burden

of diesel subsidies which according to the Central Bank of Yemen have reached \$2 billion a year.

Economists predict that inflation will increase even further as the YR-USD exchange rate gets higher. The Yemeni riyal's value has decreased by 12.5 percent since the beginning of the 2010, and it is predicted that by the end of 2010 one US dollar will be equal to YR 250 if the country's monetary policies remain the same.

In 2009, the government ran a current account deficit of 9.3 percent of GDP — around USD 2.2 billion. According to this year's forecast by the Finance Ministry, the current account deficit will drop to 7.7 percent of GDP for 2010, yet economic experts say that this decrease is unlikely given that there is not enough economic growth to support this forecast.

Workfare helps Yemen cope with food crisis

The cuts and high food prices have led to further economic hardships and a surge in poverty, especially for the majority of rural residents. Today, about 32% of Yemen's population is considered undernourished and food-insecure as prices remain elevated. And prices will likely continue to rise as the government gradually abandons unsustainable energy subsidies, worsening the problem for the poor in the short-term, Al-Ahmadi says. "It's very simple — people eat less when they have less money," she says. "In a country where you already have a fairly high level of malnutrition, it means there are fewer meals, and within a meal, less on your plate. A safety net at scale is highly needed now," she says.

Food crisis grants help communities

When the food crisis hit, the World Bank's Global Food Price Crisis Response Program (GFRP) allocated \$10 million to Yemen. The money was a grant from the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries, the International Development Association (IDA), and was used to fund

the Hababa road and other labor-intensive projects in 2009. The cash-for-work projects were designed to employ people for 50 to 60 working days, so that each worker would earn \$300 to \$400—enough to cover gaps in earnings over a year to meet the extra cost of basic food staples and to help pay debts amassed during the food crisis. Because wages are set below the market rate, the projects draw mostly poor applicants. The success of the program so far has led to a call to cover more families and areas, says Al-Ahmadi, team leader of a second project funded by a GFRP grant of Euro 17.5 million from the European Union. That project will assist around 14,000 poor households through the workfare program, and deliver unconditional cash transfers to another 41,000 households over 12 months.

\$60 million for Yemen's Social Fund

Both GFRP grants were implemented by Yemen's 13-year-old Social Fund for Development, a government program supported by 15 donors including the World Bank. The fund, known for its community-driven development approach in which communities determine how to help themselves, has successfully delivered social services in an environment where government and nongovernmental capacity is low. The fund was therefore seen as the quickest, most effective way to channel GFRP assistance to people in rural areas, says Al-Ahmadi. In March 2010, the Bank approved \$60 million in new IDA grants for the Social Fund for Development, including \$25 million to improve access to basic social services, \$15 million to strengthen microfinance providers, and \$5 million to increase the capacity of local and central government to run the programs. Another \$25 million will be used for cash-for-work programs that will likely run for several years in selected hard-hit communities. The goal will be to create a safety net to protect 100,000 people initially, and eventually 300,000 people, from economic shocks and agricultural shortfalls.

In Brief

SANA'A

Yemen, Kuwait over legal cooperation Minister of Legal Affairs, Rashad Al-Rasas, met on Monday with the Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs, the Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs adviser, Rashid Al-Hamad.

During the meeting, Al-Rasas acquainted the Kuwaiti minister and the accompanying delegation with the tasks of the ministry in preparing and issuing legislation, and in legally defending state issues both internally and externally.

For its part, the Kuwaiti delegation affirmed readiness to improve bilateral cooperation in legal affairs between the two countries through programs to exchange expertise.

The two sides also raised the possibility of preparing a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the legal and social fields.

DHAMAR

Dutch support of health services in Dhamar discussed

The Secretary-General of the Local Council in Dhamar governorate, Mujahed Al-Ansi, recently met with the First Secretary of the Dutch embassy to Yemen drs. B.J.S. Smeding.

Al-Ansi discussed with the Dutch diplomat areas of support offered by the Dutch government in health and promoting of the level of health services provided in the governorate.

The Dutch official reviewed areas of support provided by the Productive Health Program carried out in Dhamar governorate which is supported by the Dutch government within the framework of bilateral cooperation between Yemen and the Netherlands.

Al-Ansi pointed out the successes achieved by the Productive Health Program in promoting the provision the health services to mothers and children in the governorate and its contribution to training, infrastructure and supporting the government's efforts.

LAHJ

Security plan in Lahj discussed

The Security Committee of Lahj governorate discussed on Monday the level of implementation of security plans in the governorate.

Headed by Secretary General of the Lahj Local Council, Ali Hidar Matar, the committee also discussed the efforts of security bodies to enhance the security and stability in the governorate, especially in four districts of Radfan.

The committee affirmed the impor-

ance of increasing efforts to arrest outlaw elements and bring them to justice, highlighting the cooperation of citizens with the security forces to enhance stability and security in Radfan.

The security committee approved several measures to boost security and public peace in the governorate.

TAIZ

Seven killed in fatal crash

Seven Yemenis were killed on Sunday evening in a fatal accident between a bus and a taxi that took place on a highway in Taiz governorate, south Yemen.

Eyewitnesses said that the seven killed were in the taxi, while the bus overturned wounding several passengers. 50 people were onboard the bus traveling from Hodeida governorate to Aden city.

In March, 73 people were killed and 214 others wounded in 258 road accidents throughout the country. The accidents caused material losses estimated to be YR 38.5 million.

A report issued by the Traffic General Administration noted that the capital Sana'a and Taiz governorate had the highest number of incidents with 35 accidents each.

«The reasons behind the accidents were speeding, neglect, and technical faults among others,» according to the report.

MUKALLA

Hadramout electricity generators' fire put out

On Sunday, the civil defense corps put out a massive fire which overwhelmed electricity generators at the Rayan Electricity Plant in Hadramout governorate.

Secretary General of the Local Council in Hadramout, Khalid Al-Dainy, told Saba News Agency that an investigation is underway to find the causes of the incident.

He noted that the fire caused a complete blackout in Mukalla city and neighboring areas.

Al-Dainy expressed thanks to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, on behalf of the governorate's citizens, for his orders to quickly provide electricity generators

Total acquires an interest in Block 72



Total announces the acquisition of a 36% interest in the Block 72 production sharing agreement in Yemen. Operated by DNO Yemen AS (DNO), the 1,821-square-kilometer license is located in the southern part of the Masila Basin. The acquisition is subject to the approval of Yemen's Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources.

Total and the original partners - DNO, TG Holdings Yemen Inc., Ansan Wikfs (Hadramaut) Limited and the The Yemen Company (TYC) - plan to drill and exploration well in

the fourth quarter of this year.

With this acquisition, Total pursues its exploration and production activities in Yemen, in high-potential geological basins that offer a close fit with existing projects.



International Labour Organization

The International Labour Office (ILO) is the United Nations specialized agency that works to advance opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

Within the framework of the ILO programme of support to Yemen for the project for promotion, implementation and monitoring of the National Employment Strategy, the ILO has a vacancy for the following position:

Economist (National Officer NO-B)

Application deadline: 18th July 2010

For the detailed job description, including details of terms and conditions and how to apply, please visit our website:

www.ilo.org.lb and send your CV to: RECRUIT-ARABSTATES@ilo.org

Sabafon celebrates wedding of 52 employees

Sabafon, the first Yemeni GSM Telecommunication Company, will be holding a wedding celebration for 52 of its employees this coming Friday July 9.

Sabafon organizes and sponsors annual mass wedding celebrations for its staff as a gesture of support for the employees and to help them with the wedding expenses.

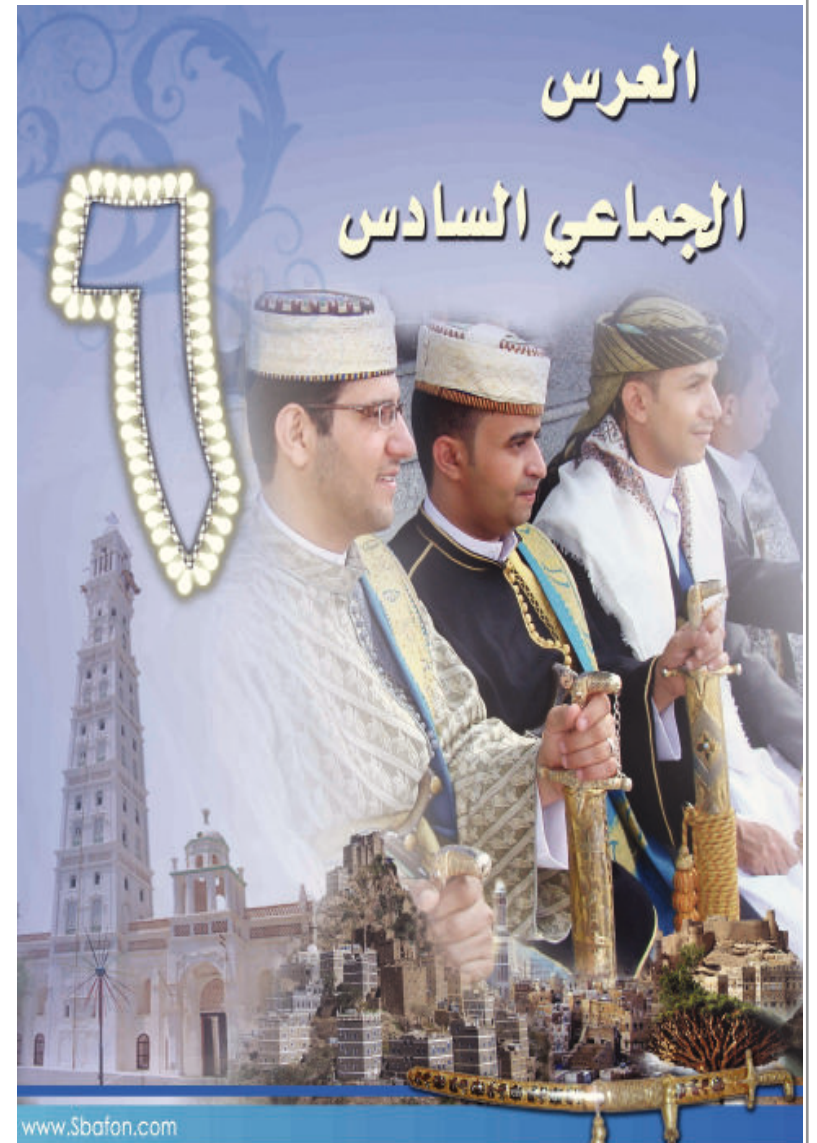
This will be the 6th annual mass wedding celebration by Sabafon and it will take place at El-Kubra hall located in 50th street in the Yemeni Capital city Sana'a.

On this occasion, Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar, Chairman of Sabafon expressed his immense happiness and congratulated the grooms and brides to be. He said that the success of the company comes from the satisfaction of its employees and that this annual event is one of the activities which Sabafon does to support its staff every year.

«It is important to help the young men and women start their marriage life without having to go through a lot of expenses and be burdened with loans. We know that it means a lot to our employees and this event also spreads harmony among the staff,» said Al-Ahmar. He added that holding such events is a part of the company's social corporate responsibility of the private sector towards the community.

Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar emphasized the important role played by Sabafon in the social services, especially in the sponsorship of youth issues through supporting many mass weddings organized by different charities. Sabafon recently contributed to sponsoring Al-Afaf Festival for mass weddings.

It is worth mentioning that Sabafon pays all the expenses of wedding ceremony, in addition to providing financial assistance and valuable gifts for each couple.



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JOB VACCANCY

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Medical Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, regardless of race religion and political believe. Currently, MSF operates in more than 70 countries. For more information, visit our Arabic website, www.msfuae.ae

MSF is recruiting staff to take part in its project in Sana'a:

<p>DRIVER (4 POSTS)</p> <p>Specific qualifications and experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ More than 3 years driving license ➢ Minimum age of 25. ➢ Able to travel in all the country and to stay in the project site in longer period ➢ Literacy & ability to communicate in English is a must ➢ Able to cope with stress & Flexible and willing to accept new tasks/responsibilities ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable 	<p>GUARDS (3 POSTS)</p> <p>Qualifications and experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ To guard and protect MSF buildings and goods and restrain the entry to the MSF compound of any external person. ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable ➢ Minimum of knowledge in English is required ➢ Able to cope with stress & Flexible and willing to accept new tasks/responsibilities ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable
<p>CLEANER (1 POST)</p> <p>Qualifications and experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Responsible of cleanliness and the hygiene of the office and house ➢ Minimum of knowledge in English is required ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable ➢ Able to cope with stress & Flexible and willing to accept new tasks/responsibilities ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable 	<p>COOK (1 POST)</p> <p>Qualifications and experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ cook daily for the expatriate team and respect a strict hygiene for the food ➢ Minimum of knowledge in English is required ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable ➢ Able to cope with stress & Flexible and willing to accept new tasks/responsibilities ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable

DEADLINE: July 20th, 2010

<p>IEC (1 POST)</p> <p>Specific qualifications and experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Experience in HIV/AIDS programs ➢ Experience in HIV counseling ➢ Experience in community working group & education ➢ Desirable experience working with People living with HIV ➢ Good skills in training preparation and targeting groups ➢ Good knowledge of computers and programs use: Word & Power Point ➢ Excellent communication skills, organization and team player ➢ Good spoken and written English (native Yemeni) ➢ Flexible, committed and able to work independently ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable 	<p>DOCTOR (1 POST)</p> <p>Specific qualifications and experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Experience in HIV/AIDS programs ➢ Experience in Voluntary Counseling Testing ➢ Experience in Prevention Mother to Child Transmission ➢ Experience in Community Health Education is an asset ➢ Good skills in team supervision and team player ➢ Good knowledge of computers and programs use: Word, Excel, Database systems ➢ Good spoken and written English (native Yemeni) ➢ Flexible, committed and able to work independently ➢ Previous work for other NGOs is desirable
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DEADLINE: July 31st, 2010

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter at msf-sanaa@barcelona.msf.org

Médecins Sans Frontières - Spain
Sana'a - Yemen
Only short listed candidates will be contacted

The historical and religious position of Tarim

By: Jauda Jafar Lhmay Hadhramout University Faculty of Education- Seiyun

Tarim is a Yemeni city with a deeply rooted history. It is northeast of Seiyun city in Hadhramout valley, where Al-Maseelah valley begins. The distance between Tarim and Seiyun is about 34 kilometers, and between Tarim and Al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadhramout, is about 356 kilometers.

Tarim appears in an ancient engraving in which it is written that it was besieged by Al-Sabaieen at the beginning of the fourth century. Tarim was the capital of ancient Hadhramout and carried the name of its king "Tarim bin Hadhramout bin Saba'a Al-Asghar." It was the center and capital of Kindah, the tribe of the well-known Arabic poet Omrao Al- Qaees.

Tarim is in a very important location for trade, defense, and civilization. Tarim has been a crossroads for trade since the period before Islam. Huge loads of incense came to it in caravans for storage and exportation. Also, the products of Hadhramout valley, like grain, dates, and fabrics passed through it. In this way, the incense trade was founded, which is known as one of the most famous trade routes in history. However, the military importance of the location of Tarim comes from the highlands which surround the city on almost every side.

Tarim has many different names. It is named "Al-Ghanna" because of the huge number of blooming shade trees and gardens. It is also named Madinat Al-Siddeeq,

the city of the orthodox caliph Abu Bakir Al-Siddeeq, the close companion of our Prophet Muhammed (PBUH). It was named this because Abu-Bakir Al-Siddeeq (May Allah be pleased with him) said three prayers to Allah for Tarim: that Allah would increase its water, increase its scholars, and that the city would be inhabited and flourishing forever. Also, it is named Madinat Al-Tib or "the city of medicine," Madinat Al-Huffadh or "the city of the keepers of Qur'an," Madinat Hadhramout or "the city of Hadhramout," and Madinat Al-Masajed or "the city of mosques" because of the large number of the mosques in Tarim, which once reached 360. It is also called Madinat Al-'Ilm or "the city of knowledge," especially religious knowledge.

When Islam emerged in Yemen, Tarim embraced Islam as did the rest of the Yemeni cities. Labeed bin Ziyad Al-Ansari was appointed as the ruler of Tarim by the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and the orthodox caliphs after him. Then Labeed made it his main residence before and after the battle of Al-Najeer. Tarim shared the leadership of Hadhramout valley with the city of Shibam until (203 AH) when Al-Ziyadiun came to Hadhramout, and it submitted to them. Then Tarim was ruled by many other groups.

When Islam was introduced to Tarim, some of the companions of our Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) traveled here. However, there was some backsliding in Tarim and conflicts occurred. In these wars, some of the companions of our Prophet (PBUH) were killed and buried in Tarim. In Al-Lasik village, which is locat-



ed to the east of Tarim, there is the grave of the great companion "Abbad ibn Bisher," may Allah be pleased with him.

Since the time that Islam knocked on the doors of Tarim, the city has opened its

arms to embrace this religion. It has adopted the Holy Quran and Islamic legislation. In its history, Tarim has given birth to many Islamic scholars and proponents of Islam who have played important roles in the spread of this religion in the world's countries, especially the countries in Asia and eastern Africa.

From that time, Tarim has preserved religious knowledge. Once, there were more than 300 families who could give people religious and legal judgment. This religious and scientific environment made the city a great scientific center. Many institutions, mosques and other places for learning, such as the houses of scientists and scholars, were built. Tarim became an important center for religion. In fact, people set out from Tarim at the end of the fifth century and the beginning of the sixth century AH in order to spread Islam. Some people from Tarim traveled to India, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines and other countries to spread Islam.

Al-Ahqaff library is the most famous library among all the libraries in Tarim. The foundation of this library was necessary because of the huge number of manuscripts in Tarim city and the surrounding cities. There were some famous families

who loved gathering and buying manuscripts and books in different fields of science and know

edge. Therefore, Al-Ahqaff library was established in 1970 after an expert Egyptian delegation researched how to gather the manuscripts in it. Today this library contains about 5300 books and manuscripts in different fields of science and knowledge, such as interpreting the Glorious Qur'an, doctrine, Hadith (sayings of the Prophet Mohammed PBUH), language, conjugation, literature, history, the prophetic biography, medicine, mathematics, astronomy and other sciences. These books and manuscripts are considered rare masterworks: their value comes from their rarity, antiquity, or because they are original manuscripts.

In addition, Tarim is famous for its architects. The city can compete with the eastern and western schools of arts and architecture because of its rare architectural masterpieces. The most prominent thing in Tarim architecture is that its buildings are built of mud mixed with straw and painted with Al-Noorah, a white substance made of burned stones. These special materials help to create palaces, castles, and houses which dazzle visitors with

their unique style and resistance to deterioration throughout history.

The unique architectural movements of Tarim resulted in ancient landmarks which are sought after by visitors and tourists. Al-Rinad Castle, Al-Eir Castle, Al-Nogeer Castle, Gharamah castle, Mutahar castle, Nafi-Dammooon castle, Awad castle, Fllugah- Tareem, Bin Dhuban-Arrudod castle, Mugaddam Al-Yemaani castle, Al-Gubbah palace, Tareem palace, Eshih palace, Assalam palace and Al-Kaff palace are some of these architectural landmarks.

To honour Tarim, which is considered one of the sources of ancient Islamic thought, and to reveal Tarim's superiority when compared to many Islamic cities, the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) selected Tarim to be Capital of Islamic Culture 2010. This selection is like a medal on the breast of Tarim and honors both its older and more contemporary scholars for the enormous and blessed efforts they have made to serve and spread Islam. It rewards Tarim for its Islamic history, which is full of scientific and intellectual achievement, as well as for its distinguished Islamic architectural landmarks.

Head of the English Department in the Education Faculty of Dhamar University to the Yemen Times: "Students should concentrate on their studies."

By: Abdulkareem Al-Sharhee Alsharhee@gmail.com

Abdullah Al-Eryani works exceedingly hard, yet he always welcomes everyone with a big smile and open arms. He is very helpful to his students and exudes energy in the classroom. Here he speaks to the Yemen Times.



Where were you born and raised?
I was born in Eryan (village in Ibb governorate) in 1976 and grew up there.
What prompted you to study English?
Before I joined Dhamar University, I spent plenty of time thinking about my future and learning English was the most encouraging field offered to me.

What did you do after graduation?
After I graduated from the English Department in Dhamar University, I had the opportunity to be appointed as an instructor there. Hence, I was sent by the university to do my higher studies in India through a scholarship program from the Indian government.

What was your first impression of Indian people?
Well, Indian people are very friendly and very hard working.

How did you find the teaching English in India?
India has a long history not only of teaching, but also in English. English is the language of most aspects of life there. There is even an increasing claim for a distinctive Indian English. English is after all that nation's second language.

Did you face any difficulties there?
Of course, there are always difficulties. One of the biggest was the educational and scientific gap between Yemen and India. One needs to work hard to bridge that gap.

How did you cope with life as an expatriate?
Life, in my opinion, is an endless school. As you finish one stage, you move on to another. You learn from the past, reflect in the present and then think wisely for the future. It is true that I was away from my country but it was still a wonderful opportunity, giving me many good memories.

Since you were appointed as the Head of the English Department, what have been your priorities and what have you achieved so far?

I have not long been appointed as the Head of the English department. Therefore I can't point to any achievements yet. However, the department is in need of much improvement. We lack the basic means for teaching English.

What difficulties do the staff in the

English Department face?
Unfortunately, the problems are quite widespread. A few examples are overcrowding, lack of resources and unavailability of equipment.

What do you do if a student complains of being unfairly treated by a marker?
In such cases we try to show the student their errors along with answer papers. This is in accordance with the regulations of the faculty.

What do you and this department aim to achieve in the next few years?
Within the next few years, we hope to change the current status of teaching and learning English in the department. We want to provide the teachers with the necessary equipment and resources to deliver the program in a modern way.

What do you think of parties that distribute their newspapers on campus and what would you say to those who criticize their teachers in these papers?
Everybody in this faculty should exercise self-control and everyone has a duty to behave according to their role here. As such, students should concentrate on their studies. As for those who criticize their teachers, it may be that they are forced by circumstances to register their dissatisfaction using any means they can find.

What is your last word to your students?
Through this interview with the Yemen Times, I would like to encourage my students to keep on learning and speaking English. I hope that they will share their knowledge and help others to learn in all the various aspects of life in which they are involved.

Given the great occasion which is May 22 and the 20th anniversary of the opening of this faculty, I present my warmest congratulations to the pioneer of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh and to all Yemeni people who wish to see progress and prosperity in our precious country.

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Parad Shows

The untold story of slavery in Yemen - Part 1



One of the huts where slaves are kept to multiply and raise children



Qannaf



Masua'aya

A number of human rights activists have discovered that despite being in the 21st century there are still men and women known as slaves in some regions of Yemen. Some were poor, some were not, some were more educated than the others, but all of them had one thing in common: they were not born free.

By: Omar Al-Omqi

They are born as slaves. They don't even have a full name as they are referred to by their mothers' names, who are also slaves.

Qannaf does not know when he was born. Yet he knows that he, together with most of his enslaved siblings, were born and raised in the yard underneath the house near the animal shed.

When the grand master died, the inheritance had to be distributed, including the slaves who were the propriety of Sheikh Jubran. The children carried out a draw to decide who got which slave.

Qannaf's mother was allotted to one of Jubran's daughters who did not believe in slavery and set her free at once. However, the rest of the inheritors decided to keep their slaves who followed their new masters to their new homes.

"There are two kinds of people. Those who obey God that created them, and those who obey God, and also have to obey their earthly masters. We are of the second kind," said Qannaf to Al-Masadr newspaper.

Qannaf's fate was worse than his siblings because he was the property of a vicious master. His master used to beat him and humiliate him regularly. He even forbade him from meeting his mother and siblings.

One day Qannaf decided to run away from his master. He told his master that he would buy the weekly goods from the market, and upon getting YR 4,000 he ran as far as he could from the only place he knew.

He had heard of Saudi Arabia, the dreamland of many Yemeni men who go there legally or illegally to earn money.

After walking for hours on end, he met with an officer who asked him where he thought he was going.

"I want to go to Saudi," answered an oblivious Qannaf. But it seems that his fate was finally looking up, as the officer felt sorry for him and facilitated his entry into Saudi Arabia. The officer actually gave Qannaf 50 Saudi Riyals and directed him where he should find a job in Najran village across the border.

In his new home, he worked for an old Saudi woman as a shepherd and for the first time in his life he was paid for his work.

After working in Najran for two years, Qannaf believed he was a free man. He decided to go home and visit his family, and now that he had some money of his own, he would also get married.

He found his family and quickly arranged to marry a girl, but just one day before his wedding his former master found him and demanded that he re-

turn with him to his house and work for him as a slave.

Yet Qannaf who had tasted freedom refused furiously and literally fought for his freedom.

He eloped that night with his bride and travelled to another village. There a local sheikh heard his story and decided to buy him from his original master and then set him free. Qannaf was bought for YR 500,000. He is now a free man.

Qannaf under threat

Qannaf bin Syiara confirmed that he has been threatened by powerful figures in Ka'aydina province because of his cooperation with Al-Masadr newspaper that first published his story to expose the tragedy of slavery in Yemen.

Qannaf bin Syiara said that he has received many threatening calls from people who introduced themselves as close associates of Sheikh Ahmed Suhail. He added that on the 21st of May he heard that one of the most powerful figures in Kaidnah province, Hajja governorate, ordered Halifah Al-Shami, who is known for his power in Alzahra province, Hodeida governorate, to deport Qannaf from the province in which he has been living since he became a free man in 2008.

He had been freed by Adulrahman Suhail, the son of Sheikh Ahmed Suhail, who freed him as an act of atonement for the manslaughter of a man in a car accident.

Qannaf bin Syiara called the Ministry of Interior to protect him and his family from these powerful figures who limit their freedom and do not want the slaves in the Tihama area to be freed.

I have no idea who my father is

"I don't know my father," said Masua'aya, a slave, who looks like she is in her forties. She doesn't know anything about her father. She doesn't know his name, how he looks, if he was happy with his life, whether he was poor or rich, or even whether he is alive.

She has many questions, but it doesn't matter anymore in her opinion. The rough life she has experienced has been enough to make her forget these thoughts, especially since she didn't ever have a chance to get used to a family atmosphere.

When she was two, her mother was sold. Afterwards, one of the female slaves took care of her and prepared and trained her to obey her masters.

She was prepared for all the roles of female slaves by the age of ten and had become attractive to prospective masters, who scrambled to own her.

As days went by someone had a successful deal with a leader of a local tribe, so Masua'aya became his slave.

After thirty years in slavery, Al-Masadr met Masua'aya, who was working

in her master's field. "I have been a slave of Majed Lutf for 15 years, and before that I was his father's slave, until he died."

I looked at her rough hands, and she said proudly, "I have harvested 80 bundles today." In less than two hours, she was able to accomplish this task. I could barely hold three bundles of feed in my hands and lift them into her master's truck, which was beside the field, but the task seemed very easy to her.

If you had the chance to meet her, you would be amazed by her strength, endurance, patience, and her ability to complete all of the difficult tasks that she has to do. She does all this with a smile and a sense of humor.

I asked her about this and she answered, "I'm a true citizen. Do you want more than this? I work for the welfare of others. I harvest the feed for cows and they sell it in the market." This is how she answered, making me wonder what citizenship in Yemen really meant to those who are supposedly free.

Before she turned twenty, she married a man whose name she did not mention. She had four children from him: Mohammed, Abdullah, Afrah and Foziah. "One of my daughters is married and the other children live with their father," she explained.

"Why? I serve my masters and my children serve theirs," she continued. Her sons' lives are the same as her own life when she was away from her parents.

"My mother lives near the sea. She is blind, her masters abandoned her when she became of no use to them, and nobody asks about her or cares for her," she said.

Her mother, Sharka bint Kaloka, is living out her last days, and no one takes care of her or pays attention to her, even though she served her masters for about 50 years. Her masters abandoned her 10 years ago, after she became very old and unable to work in the fields or to do housework.

She says of her master who is called Majed: "Everything in my life is Majed. I call him Majed Lutf. He is going to be married on Thursday. I was with his father and when he died, his son inherited me. Majed is the one who gives me clothes and food."

Why couldn't Sha'eah tell us her story?

Sha'eah is the only sister that Qannaf has, and she has been suffering under slavery ever since she was born. She suffers along with her two brothers, Fahd and Faisal, who couldn't get their freedom like their younger brother did.

Sha'eah is pregnant with her fifth child and might deliver within the next few weeks, said her husband, Jahar Al Harthy, who still goes to her master's farm every day.

"I don't have a wedding contract.

Ibn Jabran, Sha'eah's master, wedded me to her eight years ago," Al Harthy said.

"We didn't know about the wedding. In fact, they chose an enslaved man to be her husband, so that she would not get her freedom," her brother Qannaf said.

In other words, Sha'eah's brothers were surprised about the sudden marriage and about the choice of the husband. If she were to marry a free man, she would in turn receive her own freedom, according to Qannaf's mother Sayarah.

Last Friday evening, Qannaf and I arrived at the village where his sister lives. Sawakh village is in the Ka'eddannah directorate of Hajja governorate. We had hoped that Sha'eah might be able to meet with us.

Sha'eah usually returns from her master's farm before the sun sets. We began waiting for her at around 4:00 p.m., and when she came, Qannaf

went to talk with her privately at quite some distance from us.

They talked for nearly five minutes. As he returned, I was afraid that his sister might refuse to talk to us. However, Qannaf assured us that she had agreed to talk to us and was simply going to change her clothes and come back.

After a while, Qannaf felt that our investigations were causing trouble for his sister Sha'eah, so we decided to go back to Hodeida, which is about 180km to the west of Sana'a.

We got into Abdullah Hajji's car, and I thanked him heartily because I felt a large amount of gratitude towards him for providing me with transportation on my two visits to these areas.

A young man named Jalal stopped us on our way out of the village and kept accusing us of something. I didn't pay attention to it, and I let Qannaf deal with him. Qannaf convinced the young man to step aside and let us go on our way. Afterwards, I asked him about the

man, and he said, "He is Jalal Ahmed Shiekh, one of my sister's masters."

We started out again in Abdullah's car, but Jalal came back and stopped us, this time with two of his brothers, Ali and Hamdy. They asked us to go with them and meet Sheikh Fawaz Jabran. As you may know, 'Sheikh' is a title given to the head of a tribe or another powerful man in the tribe.

This difficult situation was dealt with by Mr. Muhammad Ali Jabran, an influential educated person from the area, who made a phone call ordering the men to let us go. He apologized for the behavior of the young men.

I don't know if Sha'eah was harmed in any way by her masters after she decided to talk to us, and even now I can't forget Qannaf's voice when he asked for our help after he was threatened.

This report was first published in Al-Masadr newspaper in Arabic

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Yemen exposed

Gulf states may need to get involved to prevent fighting from spreading

By: Francis Matthew, Editor-at-Large

For many decades, the political story of the Gulf states has been one of steady progress towards greater stability and social cohesion. All of these states are relatively new, with their territories only really taking shape in the last half of the 20th Century and their boundaries only being finally defined very recently. It is a mark of the success of the leaderships in the six GCC states that the different tribal and social groups now accept and actively support their nations.

But stability is not just about having secure nations. It is also about social cohesion, and in Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf states there was a lingering minority support from a few of the more conservative and religious sections of society for some of the ideas behind the more violent, radical Islamist groups.

So it was a very important development when Al Qaida bombed several sites in Saudi Arabia in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and killed many Saudi citizens. This in turn led to the long-established official policy against the violent extremists of Al Qaida and their like being unequivocally matched by popular opinion.

Political and social progress has been at

the national, social, and individual levels as the millions of Gulf citizens slowly accepted the deep and irrevocable changes. But this progress did not happen by chance, and is due to continual and careful leadership.

This is why the ongoing fighting in northern Yemen is attracting so much attention around the Gulf. The Al Houthi tribal federation and their allies are seeking independence from the Yemeni state, which naturally refuses to give it. The issues that have arisen are ones that all Gulf states have had to deal with in the past: tribal loyalty, suspicion of central government, religious conservatism and a fierce independence.

Yemen is very different from the six GCC states as its government has only relatively weak security control over the huge country of 26 million people. North and South Yemen only became one country for the first time in 1990. The former royalist north was ruled by the Zaidi Imams for centuries and endured a brutal civil war in the 1960s as the Egyptian-backed republicans took over. The South was a British colony for most of the 1800s and 1900s until a Marxist revolution forced a British withdrawal in 1967.

So the Yemeni government has to deal with the active revolution in the conserva-

tion north by the Al Houthis, the continuing murmurs of succession by some of the disgruntled southern leaders and with Al Qaida setting up bases in the more remote parts of Yemen, where they can operate without much interference. This would be a tough ask for any government, and Yemen needs all the help that it can get to keep the situation under control.

The Iranians are delighted with what is happening. They have been working hard over the past decade to spread their political message through the Arab world and they have been nurturing groups who seek their support. Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Palestine and several Shiite parties in Iraq are the more obvious examples. So the Iranians have leapt to support the Al Houthis, claiming them as fellow Shiites and seeking to promote their cause.

Opportunistic

But this Iranian espousal of the Al Houthi cause is opportunistic. There are no religious or cultural links between the mainstream Twelver branch of Shiism, which Iran has made its own and is trying to export around the region, and the very conservative Zaidi branch of Shiism that is limited to northern Yemen.

The Zaidis make up the majority of the population in north Yemen, and are mostly conservative tribal people living in the countryside, or have become urbanised and more secular in the cities.

The only real link was that Hussain Al Houthi, the original leader of the rebel-

lion, spent some time in South Lebanon and admired what Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was doing. But this personal link has not yet led to Iranian armed support; the limit of what Iran has given the Al Houthis is some finance, and a lot of favorable publicity.

But even this interference in Yemeni issue has been sensitive for all Gulf states and has set alarm bells ringing. No Gulf state wants the Iranians training the Al Houthis, bringing to bear the military skills and abilities honed in the tough wars in Lebanon, and indoctrinating them with their particular Iranian political and radical outlook on life. The possibility that the fighting might spread beyond Yemen is frightening.

Iran is delighted to support the cause, and cause serious problems for the Gulf states. It is a classic opportunity to foment fighting and civil discord, which might allow Iranian-backed forces to creep in and take advantage of what is going on.

Meanwhile, the Al Houthis are delighted to find an ally. They have launched six rounds of fighting with the Yemeni government since 2004, and the present seventh round does not look like being the last.

The Yemeni government needs substantial support to bring this rebellion to an end. It cannot do this by executing everyone who took part, so it needs a military victory followed by a political program to absorb the rebels back into the Yemeni mainstream.

Al Qaida isn't the only problem

Those who truly wish to help Yemen would do well to focus on the country's overall issues, rather than solely on the terrorist group

By: Walid Al-Saqaf
Gulf News

Yemen may never have made it into the news if it were not for the confession of would-be terrorist Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab that he received training in the lawless tribal areas of the country.

Although the poor Arab state made it into the headlines of major global media, the sudden interest in Yemen did not address the real problems that led to Al Qaida's presence there. Mostly, they talked about the need for bold retaliatory action in the form of air strikes and support for Sana'a to crush the terrorists.

It is feared that this failed terror plot will lead to retaliation that could result in more civilian casualties in Yemen. Just a few weeks ago, many Yemenis were angered and dismayed by the air strikes on Abyan in which several civilians, including women and children, were killed. The attack was allegedly carried out by US drones, or at least with some logistical support from the US, and was aimed at key Al Qaida elements in the south of Yemen. Though the reasoning is correct, the approach, I believe, is wrong.

The US is repeating the same mistakes it made in Afghanistan; killing civilians under the pretext of fighting Al

Qaida. Though some suspected terrorists may be killed, many more are inspired to seek revenge against the US. With every attack it carries out, the US creates a more negative impression of itself in the minds of Yemenis.

Retaliatory attacks create the right environment for radical elements to be lured to join Al Qaida to attack US interests within and outside the country. If we could only learn from history, we would see why the insurgency in Afghanistan has been growing every year since Operation Enduring Freedom started in 2001.

Contributing factors

If we examine Al Qaida's presence in Yemen, we can easily identify some of the factors that have helped to boost the organisation's ability to work effectively and gain a strong foothold in the country.

Among these are a weak central government infested with corruption and inefficiency and led by a president who has remained in power for more than three decades, a high level of illiteracy in a conservative society where the invitation to join an extremist group is quite appealing, crushing poverty that has only gone from bad to worse in recent years, a collapsing economy that is heavily reliant on dwindling natural resources, a

disappearing sense of security with the judiciary unable to protect democracy or free speech and failing to hold powerful individuals accountable for crimes they have committed against civilians, depleting water sources, a war against the Al Houthis in the north and a growing secessionist movement in the south.

It has been concluded many times in recent years that if the status quo continues, Yemen is destined to become a failed state just like Somalia, if not worse. Even if all Al Qaida's operatives are killed by a series of air strikes and other operations against them, in a failed state it is only a matter of time before they regroup and pose an even greater threat.

If we are to end Al Qaida's presence in Yemen, we cannot overlook the reasons why they flourished in the country. Hence, we cannot allow Yemen to crumble and turn into a failed state.

It dismays me to see that many US programmes airing information about Yemen and its Al Qaida links never mention any of the country's enormous economic, environmental, social and political problems.

It is also disturbing to realise that the Gulf region has been watching Yemen slowly and steadily failing without taking any tangible actions, as if pretending that its problems are its alone.

In fact, some countries may have worsened the situation. An example is Saudi Arabia, which in many ways has acted to weaken Yemen's central government. Such acts have created greater dependencies on Yemen's oil-rich neigh-

bour and lessened respect for the government, which in turn has resulted in more lawlessness across the country. These are the ingredients for a failed state on the Arabian Peninsula; a nightmare that will haunt the region for decades.

The Arab League is guilty by association as it has remained a spectator, repeatedly emphasising the need to respect Yemen's sovereignty and not meddle in its domestic affairs. Well, today, we see the results of such deafening silence and we will yet see the country become a failed state if the inaction continues.

Long-term reform

Though the US and others can continue working with the Yemeni government to track down Al Qaida elements, they ought to work harder to save the country from collapse by meeting with all the stakeholders and brokering deals to tackle the inner conflicts, end the war in the north and address the grievances of people in the south. There must also be a long-term reform programme to heal the country and reverse the course from deterioration to progress.

I strongly believe that saving Yemen from collapse is what is urgently needed and ought to be tackled without isolating Al Qaida from all the other problems the country faces. There is simply no other option, because another failed state located opposite Somalia would gravely endanger the region and the world.

Walid Al Saqaf is the administrator of YemenPortal.net and a Phd candidate at Örebro University in Sweden.

Why radicalised

By Walid M. Sadi
The Jordan Times

Many peoples, including Muslims, wonder why so many Muslims around the globe are now radicalised and militant in the pursuit of their rights and the resolution of their conflicts and grievances with others.

Most observers and scholars attribute this upsurge in extremism to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, since it was, and still is, the primary factor that spurred Arab and Muslim animosity towards not only Israel but all other nations that are perceived as having contributed to the dispossession of the Palestinians and deprived them of their national identity.

Yet the Palestinian case does not answer all the questions about the rise of Arab militancy. It will be noted that Islamic militancy took a sharp turn upwards during the armed conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo when thousands of Muslims were systematically killed.

The horrific massacre of 1995 in Srebrenica, which took the life of 8,000 Muslim boys and men for no reason other than they were Muslims convinced the Muslim world that other religions and civilisations were ganging up against them.

The genocide and ethnic cleansing committed then left deep scars in the minds and souls of Muslims everywhere, and they cannot forget those days easily.

Still, the devastation and untold suffering caused to the Palestinians, Bosnians, Kosovars and Chechens do not alone justify the rise in violence by Muslims. There is still more to this phenomenon.

In Afghanistan, for example, the So-

viet Union occupation was perceived by many Muslims as a determined communist attempt to uproot Islam in that country and replace it with communism.

The Soviet Union's defeat in Afghanistan and the withdrawal of its armed forces in 1988 did not end the fighting in the country but turned it, instead, into armed political, economic and social contests between Muslim extremists and reformists.

This conflict in the Muslim ranks is the direct result of the perceived dangers to Islam from the outside world.

The war among Muslims, whether in Afghanistan, in Iraq, Yemen, Algeria or Somalia, to name but a few, is what should concern Muslims and non-Muslims alike, not only because it has turned bloody, violent and nasty, but also because its wider, almost global, implications.

The conflicts within Islamic nations between the so-called fundamentalists and the moderates can be explained, in part at least, by the proposition that all religions oscillate from one extreme to another.

It would seem that the Muslim world is going through these cycles as well, with the hardliners appearing to have the upper hand, at least for the time being.

There is no doubt that once this upheaval runs its full course, the tide will shift in favour of the more enlightened school of Islam.

Islamic history vindicates this interpretation, but only time will tell whether history will indeed repeat itself in the Muslim countries as well. Resolving the grievances of the Muslim peoples would accelerate the process of healing and help restore the dominance of moderates and the enlightened in the Muslim world.



A UN army to end terrorism

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

The world should not be an open field for terrorism, killing innocent civilians and using terrorist operations as a political tool. We cannot remain silent about countries which offer financial assistance to terrorists and harbor terrorist cells. Terrorist attacks should not be registered in the name of unknown organizations and the world cannot afford to cover in the face of terrorism and hide in dark corners. The world is capable of ending terrorism and reining in countries which support and harbor terrorists and use them to

blackmail the international community. This month many countries in the world faced terrifying attacks by extremists. While Iraq continues to be plagued by terrorists, religious fundamentalist have occupied the Red Mosque in Islamabad. Terrorist attacks have been staged in London, Glasgow and an ancient temple in Yemen, which was built in the days of Prophet Suleiman (PBUH). Recently Morocco has turned into a military camp which is on a high security alert.

Terrorism would not have assumed such dangerous proportions if we had an international military force dedicated to fight terrorism in the name of the whole world. It is obvious individual countries - including the world's sole superpower

the United States, Britain and Spain - have failed to fight terrorism individually. It is time the UN Security Council called for an emergency meeting to come up with some strong decisions, such as the formation of an international army to fight terrorism all over the world. Such a force should be equipped with the most modern weapons and supported by the latest fighter jets and naval vessels. It should have a high level of logistic ability to achieve its goals.

Globalization and open markets have linked the interests of all countries. As a result ensuring security has become the responsibility of all countries. This is reason enough for the creation of an international army which should be un-

der the command of the UN Security Council.

The United Nations should immediately call for an emergency conference to form the international army against terrorism. Any country which refuses to support this army or harbors terrorists should be the target of military action until their leaders are thrown out. We can never allow the world to fall prey to terrorism. The United Nations should call for an international conference as soon as possible to provide security and stability to counties, which are being stalked by terrorism. The whole world is tired of being blackmailed by terrorism and is looking forward to being rescued by the international army.

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Two policemen guard skulls at a secret cemetery on northern hillside of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 3, 2010. It's estimated that the cemetery was used by criminal gangs for burying the bodies of victims



Citizens ride on a waterlogged road in Xiangfan, central China's Hubei Province, July 3, 2010. A heavy rain hit the city Saturday.



Lebanon's top Shi'ite cleric Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah speaks during an interview with Reuters in al-Hasanein mosque in Beirut January 10, 2007



The wreckage of a passenger bus is seen after it crashed into a concrete fence killing 15 passengers and wounding 48 in Lutopan Toledo City, Philippine, July 4, 2010.



Palestinians take part in a rally calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails near Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza Strip, July 5, 2010.



Oxherds parade during the annual oxherd festival on the outskirts of Madrid, Portugal, July 4, 2010. The three-day festival will also stage activities like bull running and bullfight.



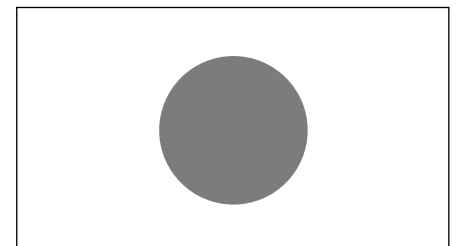
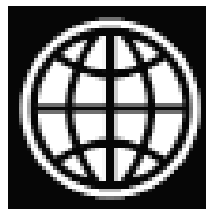
U.S. General David Petraeus, new military commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, speaks during a change of commander ceremony in Kabul July 4, 2010.



Protestors burn tyres in Bihar state of India, on July 5, 2010. Parts of India Monday got paralyzed by a daylong nationwide strike called out by opposition political parties against the recent hike of fuel prices and the spiraling prices of essential commodities.



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden (L) meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki (R) in Baghdad July 4, 2010.



Vacancy Announcement Yemeni Women Union

Yemeni Women Union is looking for a Project Manager and an Accountant for its **Strengthening the Powerless Groups through Family-Community Led Programs** project. The project aims to improve the quality of life of the poor and vulnerable groups (especially women, youth and children), including the issues of environmental degradation and health risks of having qat. The project is a grant from the Japanese Development Social Fund through the World Bank to be implemented in seven governorates.

Title: Project Manager
Location: Executive Office of the Yemeni Women Union- Sana'a, Yemen
Contract: Start August 2010 - 12 month full-time contract, with option of extension.

Core Responsibilities:

- Overall project management, coordination of activities and delivery of objectives.
- Coordination of training activities including assessment, design, implementation and monitoring.
- Facilitate regular meetings and communication, and responsible for reporting.
- Smooth coordination with project partners and develop strong relationships with key stakeholders.
- Assess and negotiate capacity development plans with partners.
- Assist with recruitment and orientation of staff, and conduct performance management of project team.
- Ensure that financial procedures are met and maintain budget in liaison with Project Accountant.

Required Qualifications & Experience:

- Degree in public health, social work, development, social science or related discipline.
- 3-5 years managing project and staff in development or humanitarian context, including; Managing partnerships and capacity building.
- Design and implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Report writing and communication tasks.
- Knowledge and experience in women, children and youth programming.
- Fluency in Arabic and good English language skills (written and spoken).
- Excellent leadership, team, communication and negotiation skills, and ability to manage stress, problem solve and make decisions.

Note:

- Women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Title: Accountant
Location: Executive Office of the Yemeni Women Union- Sana'a, Yemen
Contract: Start August 2010 - 12 month full-time contract, with option of extension.

Core Responsibilities:

- All financial transactions are properly recorded, to a level satisfactory for auditing purposes.
- Regular financial statements are prepared and submitted to the Project Manager, as required, for onward transfer to the World Bank.
- Periodic detailed financial reports are prepared for consideration as part of the standard reporting process to the Project Manager.
- Disbursement of per diems and similar payments to project staff and training participants are carried out and accounted for methodically and in accordance within organisational standards.
- Regular cash counts are carried out.
- All project book-keeping is kept up to date.
- Process all locals' vendors' payments.
- Check invoices, activity and account coding and prepare vouchers.
- Maintain filing system and assets and inventory lists.
- Maintain office equipment and ensure regular service check and repair.

Required Qualifications & Experience:

- Degree level qualification in Accounting or similar.
- 2-3 years of substantial previous professional experience in a similar role with an (INGO).
- Fluency in Arabic and good English language skills (written and spoken).
- Working familiarity with computerised accounts packages, Excel and Word.
- Excellent leadership, team, communication and negotiation skills, and ability to manage stress, problem solve and make decisions.

Note:

- Women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application Procedure: Interested applicants are required to provide a letter of motivation and copy of their CV (English) by **July 17, 2010** by email to: Nojodywu@Yahoo.com, or by Fax: 480490 with the subject heading '**Strengthening the Powerless Groups project**' and the position title. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Unregistered public sector workers still waiting on promise of positions

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Fathi Al-Dali, 26, works at Sana'a University as a secretary, public relations practitioner, and in other roles. His work requires him to go to all the offices in the Faculty of Mass Communication in which he works, and to travel outside to purchase materials for his employers, professors, and other employees.

When the Yemen Times visited him at the faculty, he was sweating profusely from his hard work. He usually hours are from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. He has been working at Sana'a University for 8 years.

"I receive only YR 9,000 a month and I don't get any allowance for working overtime, besides, there are workers who came after me but have obtained positions because they have relations with officials or they are relatives to sheikhs," he said sorrowfully.

"I'm inundated with debt. I cannot afford the cost of living, especially since I'm responsible for five brothers," he said.

More than 600 unregistered workers at Sana'a University have been working for a long time and earn between YR 6,000 and 13,000 a month, according to the Workers Union at the University.

"Unfortunately, for a long time the university hasn't cared about us but we won't give up, we will struggle to get our lost rights," he said enthusiastically.

There is injustice and inequality in job distribution at the University, according to Fathi.

J.H, 25, goes every morning to his work at Sheba TV. He works as an announcer but he does not have a regular salary. Instead, he is paid a small amount irregularly.

He declined to be named because he is afraid of being fired from his work. "We cannot even express our opinion, if we do, we will be fired immediately," he said.

"I'm depressed because I am not a registered worker and have no rights, although I'm a graduate and have a very good certificate from the Faculty of Mass Communication," he said.

Hard work with very low salary

Although her work requires handling heavy dusty books and classifying them, Ishraq Bayones, a female worker in the central library at the University earns only YR 13,000 a month.

"Our skins are damaged by old-stacked books and there is no one who appreciates our efforts and give us what we deserve,"

she said sadly.

She has been working here for six years and her workmates in the same office express the same suffering.

Nashwan Mosfer was 22 when he died of asthma during his work at Sana'a University three years ago. Nashwan's family didn't receive any compensation or even help from the University. Nashwan was an orphan and provided the only source of income for his family, according to Mohamad Abdulqawi, rights activist at Sana'a University.

Abdulqawi also works at the University but he is a registered worker. He works for the Workers Union at the University and is known as a defender of unregistered workers' rights.

He told the Yemen Times about the oldest unregistered worker at Sana'a University, named Fat'hiya Al-Jaki, who has been working at the University for 14 years on only YR 12,000 a month.

She is waiting for a registered position and every year hopes that her name will be registered at the Civil Service Ministry, according to Abdulqawi.

Abdulqawi indicated that she has had chances for better jobs in the last 10 years, but she preferred to stay at the University because she was promised by them that

her job situation would improve.

"Sana'a University's administration insults their unregistered workers and enslaves them," Abdulqawi said.

Abdullatif Maqhat, 25, works for Yemen News Agency (Saba) and earns only YR 25,000 a month, although he has a bachelor's degree.

He still waiting for his name to be registered at the Civil Service Ministry so as to become a registered worker, something he was previously promised.

"My salary is not enough to live well, especially in light of these difficult circumstances and high prices. We live in a really tragic situation," he said.

Abdullatif's salary is better than other unregistered workers who earn between YR 7,000 and YR 20,000 a month without any allowances.

"I submit a monthly report about unregistered workers in my department to accelerate the registration procedures for them at Civil Service Ministry," said Badr Al-Sharafi, manager of press office department at Yemen News Agency.

Al-Sharafi said he has no power to register those workers but he confirmed that the priority goes to workers who have been there the longest.

The minimum salary for workers should



The Yemeni Workers Union at Sana'a and Aden Universities went on strike in April this year demanding better compensation. Many similar strikes organized by unions took place over the last two years as a reaction to deteriorating economic conditions.

not be less than YR 20,000, according to the work laws in Yemen. Article (69) in the law also stipulates that employers must provide their workers with transportation from their home to their work or give them allowances for this purpose.

Four years ago, the Civil Service Ministry issued a notification preventing any new public service contracts being issued, and that all unregistered workers should

be registered.

"There is a big contradiction between government's decisions and what is happening on the ground," Abdulqawi said.

The Yemeni Workers Union called for strikes last March. Public service workers at the University of Sana'a heeded that call and went on strike for five weeks over the rights of low paid employees. Their demands remain unresolved.

How to bail out good banks and let bad banks fail

By: Roger Farmer

How should large-scale systemic failures of a country's financial system be addressed? Nobody wants to bail out banks that make bad decisions. But to save a financial system from collapse requires preventing all banks from failing at the same time. We need a way to bail out good banks but allow bad banks to fail. But how can we distinguish good banks from bad?

When markets panic, as they did in 1929 and again in 2008, supporting the financial system is essential. The alternative would be a 1930's-style depression. But that does not mean that we should bail out individual banks.

Recent economic history is replete with examples of financial crises: the United States in the late 1980's; Sweden, Finland,

and Norway in 1992; Japan in 1998; and much of the world economy in 2008. The ways these crises were handled offer important lessons.

In 1992, Sweden's central bank, the Riksbank, allowed private bank equity holders to be wiped out, but it rescued depositors and creditors by buying up risky assets of failing institutions. Sweden recovered.

Japan recapitalized its banks in 1998, but did not wipe out equity holders. Because insolvent banks were kept alive through government bailouts and guarantees, Japan provided the wrong incentives to its financial institutions. As a result, Japan never fully recovered from its recession.

So the lesson is that we must allow equity holders to lose money sometimes in order to maintain a healthy financial system.

An important role of central banks is to

provide cash to potentially insolvent banks in times of panic, when all other sources of capital dry up. The central bank is the "lender of last resort." But if bankers know that they will be bailed out in bad times, they have an incentive to make risky loans. These loans earn the banks a high return when the economy is strong, but are protected from losses by government bailouts when the economy weakens.

In 2007, Lehman Brothers, AIG, and most other players in the financial markets were earning huge returns by trading derivatives backed by very risky mortgages. When US housing prices fell, some of these players should have gone bankrupt. But when the Federal Reserve allowed Lehman Brothers to fail in September of 2008, there was widespread panic, leading the Fed to intervene to prevent the collapse of every other major player. How could things have been managed differently?

As Simon Johnson suggests in his book 13 Bankers, we should break up the mega-banks into smaller parts that can comfortably be allowed to fail. But it is not enough to have many small banks. We must also find a way to support the system as a whole.

I propose a new policy solution that would support the whole but not the parts. Central banks should put a floor under the value of a country's banking system by committing to buy shares in an index fund of bank stocks at a predetermined price. This price commitment would take effect in times of financial panic. By guaranteeing to buy shares of a mutual fund, the central bank would provide an incentive for private investors to channel money to the stronger parts of the banking system while allowing the weaker parts to fail.

The index fund would be similar to the ones held by so many workers today in

private pension plans. Individual banks would rise or fall in importance based on their value relative to the market index of all banks in the fund. By offering to buy shares in the mutual fund at a minimum preset price, the central bank would provide a way of channeling funds into the financial system in times of crisis. Although this plan would prop up the value of the financial system as a whole, it would still allow market forces to determine relative share prices of individual banks.

If this structure had been in place in the US in 2008, when house prices collapsed, banks that held large portfolios of underperforming toxic assets would have started to drag down the value of the index fund. But these banks also would have fallen in importance in the total index. The Fed's commitment to buy shares of the mutual fund at a preset price would have caused investors to put new capital into

the stronger banks to take advantage of the central bank's price support.

This scheme for recapitalizing banks has three advantages over others that have been suggested by economists and politicians. First, it does not require government regulators to decide how much individual assets are worth, because private markets value toxic assets.

Second, it removes the incentive for banks to make bad decisions. By allowing bad banks to fail, it solves the moral-hazard problem.

Finally, by offering to buy shares in a mutual fund of bank stocks, the central bank gives private investors the incentive and the confidence to recapitalize the banking system. This plan would allow us to bail out good banks and allow bad banks to fail – without costing the taxpayer a penny.

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Government of Yemen Inter Ministerial Program Committee WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM Coordinating Secretariat

Expression of Interest for ACAP short Term Consultants

The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is a multi-donor initiative designed to support the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). WSSP will provide funds of about US\$140 million on a Sector-wide basis over a five year period (2009-2014) to be financed from the Government of Yemen and their Development Partners (WB - Germany - Netherlands). Under the WSSP, the Government has prepared an Anti-Corruption Action Plan (ACAP) to help ensure the funds provided under this program are used for the intended purposes, and contribute to the achievement of the development objectives of the NWSSIP.

The ACAP consists of six components, to be implemented over the five years of the WSSP, as follows:

- Procurement Reform and Capacity Development.
- Financial Management Reform and Capacity Development.
- Enhanced Information Disclosure.
- Education and Awareness.
- Community Participation and Consultation.
- An Anti-Corruption "Hot Line" Program.

The underlying principle of the ACAP is that this will be a learning-oriented exercise for everyone concerned on both the GoY side and the donor side. Most of these activities will be introduced on a pilot basis. Monitoring and evaluation of results on an on-going basis will be critical in order to adjust the program in real time to opportunities and constraints encountered during implementation of the Plan.

For the implementation of the Plan in each component short term Consultants are required to carry out surveys in the related agencies to gather the related practices in these agency.

Work to be carried out by the Consultants:

The consultants would work within the WSSP Coordinating Secretariat, and report to the ACAP Adviser. His/her primary responsibility will be to carry out detailed survey in the four subsectors and related agencies to gather the practices exercised in these subsectors and in the related projects entities (GAKWSP, SF, PW etc) Specifically, he/she will:

- Prepare Work Plan to carry out the survey.
- Initiating work including the preparation of the report detailing the findings.
- Filing the recommended successful practices and recommend the subsector recommended for implementation
- Prepare implementation plan for implementing the proposed pilot
- Present the finding to the Design and Advisory Group
- Incorporate the results and recommendations of the Design and Advisory Group in the report
- Any other issues that are deemed necessary in the component for the ACAP matters.

Those qualified individuals who are interested and have experience in any of the above components can express their interest to carry out the required work in writing including their qualifications and previous experience to Dr. Abubakr Mohamed – WSSP CS Team Leader West ring road opposite to MAM show room old residence of Dr. Abubakr Mohamed Alkayyami (Tel: +967 1 467581 / 288845 Mobile: +967 733725348 Email: abumohamed@yemen.net.ye)

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for submitting their proposals for the task work.



USAID

من الشعب الأمريكي

Financial Manager

A full time position is now available for a Financial Manager for a project funded by USAID. Under the supervision of the project's Chief of Party (COP), the Financial Manager will be responsible for the administration of financial transactions and will ensure that all records kept are in accordance with USAID regulations, as well as those of the implementing agency. This position will be located in Sana'a and may require travel to project sites across Yemen.

Among other duties the Financial Manager will, with oversight from the COP and Deputy COP:

1. Perform financial transactions, prepare computerized monthly financial reports using both financial software and Excel spread sheet applications, and disburse / monitor petty cash.
2. Engage in budget charging, cash flow management, budget, preparation, and other financial management tasks.
3. Ensure project compliance with requirements of the U.S government, Yemeni government, and implementing agency.

General Requirements:

1. Bachelors Degree in one of the following or related fields: Accounting, Business, Business Administration and Finance required; Masters preferred.
2. Related successful work experiences for a minimum of five years.
3. Demonstrated knowledge of financial management.
4. Bilingual proficiency in Arabic and English.
5. Previous experience with International NGOs is preferred. Knowledge of USAID or other international donor regulations, experience supervising staff, implementing the financial aspects of project activities, working with education organizations and providing financial oversight on large donor – funded activities is highly preferred.
6. Excellent writing and communication skills; proficiency in utilizing MS applications, Word, Excel, Outlook and Internet. Prior experience with QuickBooks or other accounting software is preferred.
7. Ability to work harmoniously on a team of host country nationals and expatriates.
8. Solid interpersonal communication skills.

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Living in Yemen

Part 2 - Dancing in Yemen

By: Lorraine Zamora Chamas
(Jalilah)

I had been to many Middle Eastern weddings before, but none were as visually impressive as the ones I attended in Sanaa, Yemen.

Yemeni women's wedding celebrations take place in the "mafraj," a spacious room with large rectangular windows on all sides. Small, jewel-like stained glass windows called "qamariyas" adorn the walls near the ceiling. During the celebration, the room is filled to overflowing with women sitting on cushions atop floor mattresses that border the room. Those who don't find a place to sit perch on the windowsills. The smoke of "bochor", or incense, fills the air. More smoke flows from the "madahs," water pipes measuring over a meter high that made me think of the hookah-smoking caterpillar in "Alice in Wonderland." Standing on a brass tripod, the "madahs" have several hoses attached, enabling a number of women to smoke at the same time. Water-pipe smoking is usually accompanied by "qat," branches of this plant, which has a mildly narcotic effect, are passed around. The leaves are chewed and then stored in a ball on the side of the mouth. Beverages, typically "gishar" (a drink made from coffee), soft drinks, and tea are served throughout the celebration.

As in other Arab countries, the bride sits on a throne-like chair for everyone

to admire. Although she doesn't usually leave her place for the duration of the wedding, she is allowed to converse with the guests. All of the attending women are decked out in their finest array. In their long, glittering, multi-colored gowns with high waistlines and puffy sleeves, and their crown-like headdresses, they far more resemble medieval European princesses than "I Dream of Jeannie" style harem girls. The women drape basil leaves and flowers over their ears and wear all the gold jewelry they own.

The finely fashioned silver jewelry, for which Yemen was once famous, is unfortunately now considered "baladi," or old-fashioned. Wearing gold is now preferred as a way to display one's wealth.

Traditional Yemeni wedding celebrations last four or five days. The bride wears a different color dress each day, choosing certain colors for the groom's family and others for her own. On Henna Day, which happens before the wedding celebrations, she traditionally wears a green dress. For the biggest celebration on the last day, the bride is usually dressed in a white European-style gown. Because of the enormous cost of a wedding celebrated over many days, most Yemenis now limit themselves to one large celebration day, with a small henna party the day before.

On Henna Day, female family members and close friends accompany the bride to the "hammam," or Turkish bath, where she is scrubbed from head

to toe and her body hair is removed with a paste made from lemon and sugar. Afterward, the group returns to the bride's house or wherever the Henna Party is being celebrated. A professional, called "Al Mouzayna" are hired to do henna and "nagsh," for all the ladies, as well as the bride's makeup. Nagsh, which is used for festive occasions, is a plant that Yemeni women make into a blackish paste and use to paint intricate designs on their hands, arms, feet, and legs, and sometimes even on their breasts, stomach, and buttocks. (I was told that Yemeni men find this particularly arousing!) Although henna is used to color the palms of the hands and also sometimes to fill in the designs, the designs themselves are usually done with nagsh.

Westerners often comment on the fact that Yemeni women put so much effort into dressing up for other females. Because the men, who celebrate separately at the groom's home, are strictly banned from the women's celebration, they only see their beautifully adorned mothers, wives, daughters or sisters when they return home. However, Yemeni women find it perfectly normal to dress up for each other and enjoy doing so.

This could, of course, have something to do with the fact that the mothers, not the fathers, choose wives for their sons. Young, unmarried women, hoping to catch the attention of prospective mothers-in-law, want to look their very best!

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Alkholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



Secondary examination process, let's see

Examinations are always a means of evaluating the students' educational level. This aim contributes to produce educated and qualified personnel who will, in a way or another, help to develop the country in many aspects. If the aim of examinations fails, that means there would be no educated or qualified personnel. As a result, there would not be any attempts to develop "our poor country".

The success of education is the stone foundation to develop the country. This stone foundation largely depends on success of examinations. The authorities try to achieve this, though sometimes, they do not. Every one of us, nevertheless, is also responsible for the success of the process of examinations.

In the previous years, using all the means of cheating was formal. That is to say, the education office, the security committees, the students, the families, etc work together to make students cheat in the examinations. What happened in the previous years is really a shame on all those who play a direct or indirect role in helping students pass by cheating.

In a seminar held by the Youth Developmental Organization (YDO) in Taiz, the education office was invited to survey the violations which were taken in the previous years and what are the mechanism and procedures of the education office to combat the phenomena of cheating. In the seminar, Dr. Abdulah Aldhaifany, a professor in education principles as well as the audience surveyed the violations that took place in the previous years.

One of these violations was the parents' and relatives participation in the examination process to make students cheat as much as possible. Actually this is done in coordination with the education office or at least with the directors of the examination centers. In response of this attack, the representative of the education office said this will not be done again and in case there is any violation, the office will immediately move the examination center to the city instead of the villages.

Another violation was the selection of the examiners. In the last years, the worst examiners were selected instead of any honest and serious examiner. Such examiners were selected because they pay something to those who run the selection process. This is an indication of how examination is a raping season for such examiners. In his role in the

seminar, the representative of the education office ensured that the examiners are well selected this year, and in case of any violation, the examiner(s) will be subjected to law.

Again, one of the attendees attacked the education office for paying little money for the directors of the examination centers and examiners. Actually such an amount of money is not sufficient at all even for the transportation. An examiner receives 250 YR a day. 250 YR is not enough even for taking a taxi from home to the examination center. In the previous year, actually such little money was not paid at all, justifying that a lot of money is collected from the students for examiners and directors of examination centers. Again, the education office representative claimed that the office has already found a solution for this problem. A bigger amount of money was specialized for examiners and directors of examination centers so that they do not need to take any money from the students.

The security committees are sent to the examination centers to secure the centers in order to guarantee the success of the examination process. However, they turn to be correspondents, leaking the question sheets to the teachers who are already waiting outside the centers to answer the questions. The security members, then, provide the students with answers samples. Such a favor is not free, but somehow costly. However, the students have to pay because it is the best way of getting all the answers.

Actually, there were many violations surveyed in the seminars. The education office was ready to reply and justify them all as if he was expecting the questions. The examination process is going on, and we are all watching and documenting any case of violation especially those which are discussed in the seminar held before the examinations. Let's wait till the examination-over, then there will be another seminar to survey how the examination process was going on and the scope of combating cheating by the education office and all the concerned parties.

I sit at my window this morning where the world like a passer-by stops for a moment, nods to me and goes.

—Rabindranath Tagore

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinion writer from Taiz. He holds an MA in English, and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

Help our sanitation workers

By: Adel Aklan
adelaklan@hotmail.com

We see them all the time: in the morning, afternoon, and even at night. They have long hours and work in the sun, the rain, and even severe cold. Their work protects us from germs that can spread and cause diseases for us and our children, and it also protects the environment. It is nice to see neighborhoods,

streets, and governmental facilities clean and shining.

The people who do this valuable work are our sanitation workers. We must help them, encourage them to do their best, and make them realize how important they are to our society. We should respect them and their jobs: they are like heroes who help to save our environment. We should decide to work with our sanitation employees to keep our city and our country smiling.

We must stop throwing our trash away in places where it does not belong. When

you see someone simply throw trash away on the street or in an inappropriate place, you should tell him or let him know by a gesture that he has made a big mistake. This is especially important for people who spit qat onto the street. It's not wrong to criticize them because we need to help our sanitation workers to create a better, cleaner environment. Alone, these workers cannot create a clean and healthy environment.

They need our help to succeed in their work.

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