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**Inside:**  **4** Windows into international development work in Yemen: USAID  
 **9** Around the world in pictures  
 **12** Cosmetics and herbal medicine made in Yemen

## Detained Yemeni journalist freed by his tribe

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, July 14 — When intelligence officials arbitrarily detained Yemeni journalist Abdulrahman Haidar Shaiji on Sunday, it was only after high profile tribal sheikhs intervened that he was released.

"I was interrogated for six hours, they tried to pressure me to reveal my sources for statements I gave to the media about Al-Qaeda," Shaiji told the Yemen Times.

"While I was on a side street in Hadda, two civilian vehicles without plates stopped and they were carrying eight armed men in civilian uniforms. Three of them got off and forced me to go with them after covering my eyes," Shaiji said.

He added that he was taken to a nearby basement in what seemed to



Abdulrahman Haidar Shaiji, journalist and analyst specialized on Al-Qaeda and Islamist groups.

belong to an intelligence building. He was released early Monday morning, but his laptop and notes were not returned to him.

He said that he informed his interrogators that his only sources are Internet forums and websites, but they insisted that he had his own special sources and they wanted to know them. He added that he really doesn't know the sources, but information comes to him.

He was released after six hours when a group of tribal sheikhs met and pressured the government to release him if there was nothing the government accused him of. He believes that he was released only because of pressure by tribal sheikhs on the presidential office.

"I am from the Arahab tribe," he said. "High profile sheikhs and officials kept contacting the presidential office all

night."  
"If the government has something against me, it can just charge me," he said.

Shaiji is a freelance journalist and also works for the Saba News Agency. He is an analyst specializing in Al-Qaeda and Islamist groups, and has recently published interviews with local Al-Qaeda leaders including the US-wanted Yemeni-American preacher Anar Al-Awlaqi.

He has appeared frequently in local and international media as an expert on Al-Qaeda, and he has close relationships with prominent Yemeni tribal sheikhs in different parts of the country.

The Yemen Press Syndicate was present at Sana'a Police Headquarters, and intensively followed up with the Ministry of Interior, according to Shaiji, who was satisfied with their

efforts to have him released.

In its press release, the syndicate called on the Ministry of Interior to speed up its investigations to disclose the kidnapping incident.

The National Organization for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms, also known as HOOD, promised to follow his case and prosecute the kidnappers before a court.

Shaiji believes that intelligence has had a long-standing plan to detain him, and immediately after Al-Qaeda announced responsibility for targeting the Yemeni intelligence agency (at the political security headquarters in Aden), they decided to act upon that plan.

On June 19, the intelligence building in Aden was attacked and at least 11 people were killed. The attack came a day after Al-Qaeda threatened to respond to a state crackdown against its

militia in Marib, 130 kilometers east of Sana'a.

"Although we are pleased that Abdulrahman Shaiji has been released, we are concerned at the manner in which he was abducted — particularly since it appears that he was seized by intelligence officials because of comments he made about Al-Qaeda to the Al-Jazeera broadcaster," said David Dudge, the director of the International Press Institute (IPI).

"We urge the Yemen authorities to respect the important role that journalists like Mr. Shaiji play in informing the public about sensitive issues, including Al-Qaeda's activities," said Dudge.

"Mr. Shaiji and all other Yemeni journalists should be protected in their efforts to present a diversity of opinion and information to the local and international public," he added.

## State sentences Tarim cell tourist attackers to death

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, July 13 — Four of the 16 convicted terrorists who are members of the Al-Qaeda Tarim terrorist cell in Yemen were sentenced to death last Sunday.

The court had begun its first trial of the suspects in March 2009 for their involvement in several attacks targeting local and foreign nationals and interests, as well as oil facilities in Hadramout, Aden and the capital Sana'a.

Some of the other members received lighter sentences. Five men had their sentences reduced from 15 to 8 years, while another two received 12 years in prison instead of the death sentence.

The state security court explained the variation in sentences by reference to their involvement in terrorist acts, and that some of the culprits — especially the younger ones — were deceived youth misled into joining terror groups.

The terrorist cell includes 11 Yemeni, four Syrians and a Saudi. They were accused of forming an armed gang targeting vital installations and foreign tourists in 2007 and 2008.

The group was implicated in several terrorist operations in Yemen including failed attacks on the US embassy and a

residential complex housing foreigners.

The group was also charged with carrying out an attack in Dawan district of Hadramout governorate on January 18, 2008, in which two Belgian tourists and a Yemeni were killed, and two Yemenis and one Belgian wounded.

The group claimed the suicide attack on a military camp in Sayoun on July 25, 2008, in which one soldier and the bomber were killed and 17 others, including 7 women, were wounded. They also claimed attacks on several security checkpoints in Hadramout.

The group was also charged with carrying out a mortar attack in 2008 that targeted the US embassy in Sana'a but missed and instead hit an adjacent school, injuring three police officers and four girls.

The cell was also behind the attacks on the oil refinery in the city of Aden and on the Chinese oil company in Al-Khasa'a district, and on the custom authority in Sana'a on April 30, 2008.

Intensive clampdown against terrorists  
The Yemeni Interior Ministry said on

Wednesday that it had captured a fugitive Saudi man, who is on Saudi Arabia's most wanted list.

In a statement posted on its website, the ministry identified the wanted Saudi man as Abdullah Faraj Mohammed Mahmoud Lujoubar, saying that "he was a member of an Al-Qaeda cell which was raided by security forces on Monday in Fuh area, west of the capital city of Hadramout governorate, Mukalla."

"According to the documents seized in the terrorist den on Monday, the group was plotting to launch attacks targeted on the security headquarters and vital economic and oil facilities in Hadramout," the statement said.

It added that the documents also contained very important information that would help security agencies to dismantle several other Al-Qaeda cells and to arrest other Al-Qaeda affiliates in Yemen.

"Besides the documents, the police found an explosive belt, grenades, a laptop, a number of SIM cards and video tapes inside

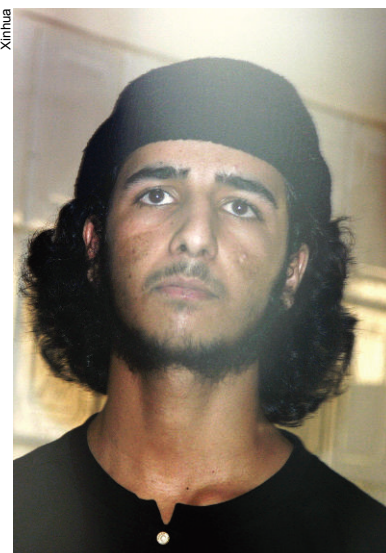
the hideout of the cell," said the statement.

On Monday, a four-member group of Al-Qaeda opened fire on security forces in an attempt to flee a cordon setup by the police around the group's hideout in Fuh area, killing two soldiers, said a statement posted on the defense ministry's website.

"The security forces captured two members of the Al-Qaida group and are now tracking the pair who managed to escape the security siege," the statement added. The recently captured Saudi fugitive has been identified as one of the two who initially escaped.

Security forces detained eight other terrorists from the cell in several other security operations in Hadramout governorate, east Yemen, the Ministry of Interior said on Sunday.

Yemen has intensified security operations and air raids against terrorist groups, after the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda wing claimed responsibility for a failed Christmas day attempt to blow up a U.S. passenger plane bound for Detroit last year.



Mansour Saleh Dalil suspected of being a member of the Al-Qaeda accused of involvement in three attacks against the military, stand behind bars after being given the death sentence by Yemeni Specialized Criminal Court, in Sanaa, capital of Yemen, July 7, 2010.

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## Dengue Fever lays Yemen low

By: Jane Novak

HADRAMOUT, July 12 — A report by the Yemeni government today said that Dengue Fever claimed twelve lives in

Hadramout governorate and 1142 others were infected with the disease.

Seven children died of the epidemic in Hajjah last week and 200 people are afflicted with the epidemic, medical sources in Hajjah said.

Over 1100 cases were reported in Shabwa. Al-Jumhoori Hospital in Taiz earlier reported 525 cases, but numbers are likely higher now. Other governorates suffering from the outbreak include Aden, Abyan, and Lahj.

A team of Saudi medical experts visited Hadramout in June and said the lack of modern testing equipment complicates diagnostic efforts. "A diagnostic machine that can trace the virus in the blood from the first day of infection is not

available in Hadramout. Doctors depend on the count of antibodies in the blood, which appear only after seven days from infection."

Doctors and residents in affected areas have complained about the Health Ministry's lack of attention on the outbreak. The Ministry is riddled with corruption and often ineffective and negligent during public health crises.

In April, a hospital director in Taiz died from the disease, two months after the outbreak was reported to the Health Ministry. The Health Ministry made no efforts to prevent the spread of the disease in Taiz, generating public protests which were broken up by police.

Continued on page 2

## 10 police killed in gunmen attacks on Yemeni intelligence HQ

ABYAN, July 14 (Xinhua) — Two coordinated gun attacks targeted the intelligence headquarters in Yemen's southern troubled province of Abyan on Wednesday, killing at least 10 intelligence personnel and wounding 13 others, a provincial security official said.

The official said the assailants carried out coordinated attacks against the two neighboring buildings of the intelligence office and the general security camp in Zinjubar city of Abyan early Wednesday.

The attackers launched serious shootings by heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades from four cars and broke into the two buildings.

The dead and injured were rushed to a nearby hospital, said the official.

The attackers managed to flee while backup security forces were sent

immediately to the scene.

"The pair attacks were spectacular, it's al-Qaida again, it's the second of its kind in less than one month against the Yemeni southern intelligence headquarters' buildings," said the official who asked not to be named.

Meanwhile, the top army official ordered to launch an air raid against al-Qaida hideouts in Abyan province, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

On June 19, militants raided the intelligence headquarters in the southern port city of Aden, killing at least 11. Al-Qaida later claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it killed at least 24 people.

Yemen, the ancestral homeland of al-Qaida network leader Osama bin Laden, has intensified security operations and air raids against terrorist groups, after the Yemen-based al-Qaida wing claimed responsibility for a failed Christmas Day attempt to blow up a U.S. passenger plane bound for Detroit last year.

Continued on page 2

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## Disagreement over Yemeni-Qatari truce

By: **Mohammad Bin Sallam**

SANA'A, July 14 – President Saleh and the Qatari Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, announced the revival of the Qatari-mediated peace agreement between the Yemeni government and the Houthis last Tuesday in Sana'a.

Although President Saleh said during a press conference that a sixth point was added that would allow Saudi Arabia to interfere in the talks between the Yemeni government and the Houthis, Al-Thani objected and said that the original agreement, which consists of five points, was revived. "We, Qatar and Yemen, agreed upon reviving the Al-Doha agreement, which consists of only five points," said Al-Thani.

"We agreed to revive the agreement with its five points with the Qatari side and added a sixth point regarding Ye-

men and Saudi Arabia," Saleh said in the conference.

Saleh denies seventh war with Houthis

"Our goal is not a seventh war with the Houthis. We refuse any new war," Saleh answered when asked about the possibility of a seventh war in Sa'ada.

Saleh said that the current clashes are just temporary problems between Houthis and people supporting the government. The committee supervising the situation in Sa'ada is doing its job to stop the clashes. "Everything is going well," Saleh added.

For his part, Al-Thani said that Qatar has always supported Yemen. "We are supporting Yemenis and we will be glad to find solutions for problems in Yemen," Al-Thani said.

Al-Thani visited Yemen one day after receiving a letter from Saleh conveyed by the Political Consultant Abdulkar-

eem Al-Eryani.

Political analysts who asked to remain anonymous told the Yemen Times that the Qatari Emir was disappointed to find that a sixth point was added to the agreement.

They added that the first condition created by the Houthis' leader Abdalmalek Al-Houthi to end the war was to activate the Doha agreement. In the opinion of these political analysts, the Houthis have now won the war because of Saleh's reactivation of the Doha agreement.

They said that Saleh had announced before that no second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth war would occur, but they did happen.

King Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz, King of Saudi Arabia, called Saleh a day before Al-Thani visited Yemen. The analysts said that the Saudi king may have told Saleh about adding the sixth

point, which allows Saudi Arabia to interfere in any new agreements with the Houthis.

In February 2008, Al-Thani helped the Yemeni government and Houthis to sign a truce of arbitration, although this truce was never successfully carried out.

In the document, both the Yemeni government and the Houthis agreed to stop military operations and release all prisoners one month after signing the agreement.

The Yemeni government also agreed to give amnesty to all Houthis, including withdrawing its request from Interpol to submit Yahya Al-Houthi.

The two governments of Yemen and Qatar would work to end prosecution cases regarding the Sa'ada war.

In the same agreement, both the Yemeni government and the Houthis agreed to look for the bodies of the vic-

tims and submit them to their relatives.

The Yemeni Red Crescent Association and the Qatari Red Crescent Association, the directors of districts, dignitaries of Sa'ada, and Sheik Saleh Habra agreed to help return daily life to what it was before the war.

The Houthis agreed to submit the weapons to the mediator, who in his turn will submit them to the government.

It was agreed that the check points would be like all other check points in the rest of the country, and the locals would be allowed to keep their personal weapons without feeling threatened because they owned them.

The government would allow Abdalmalek Al-Houthi, Abdulkareem Al-Houthi, and Abdullah Aidah Al-Ramizi to leave for Qatar and come back after six months.

The last point of the agreement was

to keep it confidential unless it would be successfully carried out, but an unknown source later published the information.

The agreement was signed by Abdulkareem Al-Eryani, the Yemeni Political Consultant, Saleh Habra, the Houthis' representative, and Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, the Qatari Exterior Minister.

However, clashes continued between the government and the Houthis, and the last phase of the most recent war in Sa'ada stopped in February 2010 after the Houthis signed a new truce with the Yemeni government.

This truce consisted of a cease fire, opening the roads, Houthis evacuating all official and public offices they occupied during the war, submitting weapons, releasing both Saudi and Yemeni prisoners, respecting the law, and not penetrating into the Saudi border.

## Dicing with death to reach Saudi

SANAA, July 10 (IRIN) Ali Hassan Salem was 10 when he was trafficked to Saudi Arabia. "When I grew up I did not go to school, but cleaned cars," he said. Earning very little money in Yemen and having heard of the opportunities in Saudi Arabia, Ali decided to try his luck there.

"No-man's-land between the borders is a harsh place," Ali said. "There are wild animals and criminal gangs. I was lucky that nothing happened."

In Jizan across the border he found work at a construction site. "I didn't earn much and after expenses for food I only managed to save 200 SAR [US\$55]," he said. "It was hard work and the Saudis mistreated us and called us dogs."

After a month of hard labour and sleeping in an abandoned house with some men from Egypt and Somalia, Ali wanted to go home. "I was scared all the time and I missed my family."

However, Ali was stopped at the border by Saudi police. "We tried to run away, but we were beaten with belts and batons and I spent three days in a detention centre," he said.

Today Ali has this advice for any Yemeni children trying to go to Saudi Arabia to find work: "Don't go. It's

dangerous and many come home damaged."

However, with growing poverty and a shaky ceasefire in the north, there are fears that child trafficking may increase.

### Border patrols

There are no reliable figures on child trafficking from Yemen. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL) says the number of children trafficked to Saudi Arabia are down from 900 in 2008 to 602 in 2009 due to awareness campaigns and collaboration between the Yemeni and Saudi authorities.

However, others say the dip in numbers is due to enhanced Saudi border patrols as a result of the conflict in the north. "If the restrictions [on the borders] are lifted the numbers will go up again," said Jamal al-Haddi of The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), a local NGO.

Mona Ali Salem of MOSAL's Child Labour Unit worries that when internally displaced persons (IDPs) start returning to their homes in Saada, poverty will force many to put their children to work. "I am worried that children will be sent to work in the big

cities and Saudi Arabia," she said.

According to al-Haddi, child trafficking is linked to poverty. "The economic situation is bad in Yemen... Many have lost their homes and livelihoods because of the war [intermittent fighting between government forces and Houthi-led rebels in the north since 2004]," he said.

A 2008 study by CSSW entitled Situation Analysis of Child Trafficking said 70-80 percent of families interviewed sent their children away because of poverty.

"When people return many will have no choice but to send their children to Saudi Arabia or start smuggling. There is no other work," said al-Haddi. "In many instances they will rely on their children for money."

### Children exploited

Children are both smuggled into Saudi Arabia to find work, and themselves also smuggle goods across the border, al-Haddi said, adding that while there were no accurate figures, it was estimated that two thirds of children living in the border areas of Harradh were involved in smuggling. While adults can face long prison sentences

if caught, children do not.

But it is a dangerous business and often leaves children without much of an education in Yemen. "Many children leave school, as they work at night," said al-Haddi. "Sometimes the Saudi authorities crack down on smuggling. Often children will try to run away, which results in them sometimes being shot at and wounded or killed," he said. On a visit to the Yemeni border village of al-Khadour in 2008, al-Haddi was told there were hundreds of children with disabilities as a result of gunshot wounds or having been hit by Saudi border patrol cars whilst trying to flee. According to a report by CHF International (a US-based NGO working for "long-lasting positive change in low and moderate income communities around the world"), over 60 percent of children who had worked in Saudi Arabia were exposed to physical abuse, and over 10 percent reported sexual abuse. More than 80 percent of children were pushed by their parents into smuggling. Education aid To help reduce trafficking, CHF - in cooperation with CSSW, through their Access Plus Programme - is looking to work with five government schools near the three al-Mazraq IDP camps in Haradh

District, Hajjah Governorate, to reach IDP children, as well as children vulnerable to trafficking in host communities. The plan is to provide primary education for at least 2,000 girls and boys aged 6-14, of whom about 70 percent are IDPs and 30 percent local. There are also plans to provide employment for 500 young people aged 13-17, of whom 30 percent are local and 70 percent IDPs, through informal education and vocational training. To further help curb and counter child trafficking and smuggling, the UN Children's Fund is assisting Yarmouk Mazraq School (near the three al-Mazraq IDP camps) where some 1,250 IDP children are currently enrolled. The local authorities have enrolled 299 IDP children in other schools in Haradh District.



Trafficking is a dangerous business. Often parents encourage their children to smuggle or be smuggled across the dangerous Yemeni-Saudi border.

## Government increases diesel prices

By: **Mahmoud Assamiee**

SANA'A, July 14 - The government has implemented a new increase on oil derivatives, this time adding five rials per litre to diesel, causing the price to jump from YR 40 to YR 45 per litre.

The new increase is the third in oil derivatives since the beginning of 2010. The government had previously increased petrol prices twice by the same amount as that now imposed on diesel.

The first increase was last February when the government added an extra YR 100 on 20 litres of petrol. The second increase was applied last May where the government raised the price of petrol by another YR 100 per 20 litres.

"The decision to increase prices will lead the country into a catastrophe because citizens will not be able to endure

the effects," said economist Arsilan Mohammad Ahmad. He added that these decisions are taken by a group of qat chewers who control decision makers in Yemen and lack studied and responsible policy.

He also said that there are many alternatives the government could adopt to fill the gap in the state budget deficit, like oil and gas incomes, taxes and income from fisheries. He argues that prices should not be increased at all. "We have a plenty of oil and of gas but petrol and diesel are smuggled," he said, adding that if these policies are continued "we are heading towards destruction."

He said that economists have been advising the government since 1995 to pay attention to the economic problems, when the government started implementing a policy of increasing

prices which has been called "economic doses." "We have been advising the government not to do so and told them that improving the economy is the real challenge but they did not hear."

He said Yemen is in need of someone like Ahmad Nadhif, the Prime Minister of Egypt, to improve the economy of the country. He explained that the price of oil derivatives never increased in Egypt over a long time despite their limited oil resources and their large population estimated at about 80 million.

He stressed that the government and decision makers in Yemen are destroying the country by these decisions.

Parliament member, Dr. Abdul-Bari Dughhaish, who has been observing the government policies of increasing prices said "what has happened is that the government has removed part of its subsidy of oil derivatives, not increased

the price of them, and this decision [to reduce subsidies] has led to increases in the price of these items."

He said that the government supports oil derivatives by YR 600 billion each year, and each time it reduces subsidies, the street price of oil products increase. "If the revenues saved from reducing the subsidies are employed towards increasing the salaries of employees - whose salaries are not enough to cover their basic needs - creating work opportunities and development, the decision is positive," he said.

But he claimed that 80 percent of the revenue gained from reducing subsidies

goes into the pockets of the corrupt, and only 20 percent goes to poor and needy people.

Regarding the parliament's role, he said some members of the parliament oppose the decision and that the parliament has tried to summon the government to question it about the new increases. But due to differences between members from different parties, the government has not yet been summoned to account.

The government has removed all subsidies on food products and is now removing subsidies on oil derivatives step-by-step within its policy to fight

corruption and improve the economy, according to Dughhaish. This policy started in the late 1990s.

Dr. Saif Al-Asali, Professor of Economy at Sana'a University and the former Minister of Finance said Yemen's economy is suffering many dangerous diseases which like cancer will destroy it if it is not cured.

He said these measures taken by the government to cure the economy are policy failures. "All that is happening indicates that the economy has become very ill and is in critical condition that requires it to be put in an intensive care unit," he said.

## Gitmo detainee coming home, 58 waiting

By: **Yemen Times Staff and Agencies**

SANA'A, July 13 – Of the 180 detainees in Guantanamo Bay Prison, 58 Yemenis have been cleared and are awaiting their turn to be sent home as was Mohammed Odaini, 26, who has just returned to Yemen.

Odaini has never been charged since his arrest in one of Al-Qaeda hide outs in Pakistan in 2002. He was 17 years old at the time and claimed that he was there because he was studying the Quran. He was acquitted in May this year and the District Court of Washington declared that he was unlawfully detained in Guantanamo.

Odaini's lawyer, David Remes, hoped that the remaining 58 Yemenis who have also been cleared of charges would find their way home.

National US security explained that

the delay in releasing Odaini was because of the lack of security in Yemen. America's worries about Yemen's ability to fight Al-Qaeda heightened last year after several Yemeni detainees who had been released from Guantanamo Bay in Cuba resurfaced as leaders of an Al-Qaeda offshoot. Those concerns deepened in the wake of the failed Christmas day attack.

Not all Yemeni detainees were as lucky as Odaini: a federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld the detention of Mohammed Al-Adahi and stated that he "was, more likely than not, part of Al Qaeda."

The District Court judge ruled that there was insufficient evidence to prove that Adahi was a terrorist, although he confessed to knowing and being related to terrorists in Afghanistan and even attending a training camp for a short period before being expelled because he was smoking. But

he also said that he never agreed with Al-Qaeda's ideologies and in fact had broken all ties with them even before the 9/11 attacks.

However, the US government's statements in the federal appeals court, which included several other accusations, argued that such facts were enough to prove that he was a member of Al-Qaeda.

Until now, US courts have upheld the detention of 15 Guantanamo detainees while ordering the release of another 36 detainees, one of whom was Odaini.

According to US security, the delay in releasing detainees or transferring them from Guantanamo is caused by instability in the destination countries and political and legal issues. United States President Barack Obama has vowed to close down the Cuba-based prison, but so far the closure process has been happening very slowly.

## Continued from page 1

### 10 Police killed

Moreover, two soldiers were injured last night by a gunman in a public market in Al-Khoka, in Al-Hodaida governorate in western Yemen.

According to a source within the security forces in Al-Hodaida, the two soldiers are badly injured and security forces are looking for the culprit, Mohammad Ahmad Oraj, who has been previously accused of murders, closing the roads, smuggling, and forming an armed gang.

The source added that Oraj escaped to Al-Mahjar district, Mocka, in Taiz. The security forces in Al-Hodaida and Taiz are still working to find and arrest him.

According to Al-Sahwa Net, the Islah opposition party's website, people in Al-Khoka district in Al-

### Dengue Fever lays Yemen low

The district of Milhan has 100,000 residents and 16 medical facilities that are woefully under equipped. Only four have generators, one

has microscopes and the rest lack electricity and a basic laboratory.

Dengue Fever is a mosquito-borne infection and education campaigns should highlight the danger of stagnant water, open

liquid containers and standing rainfall in areas where mosquitoes breed. Yemen is suffering from severe water scarcity. Rural women can spend up to seven hours a day hauling water







What is life like in a madrasa and why are young western women drawn to a life of strict religious discipline?

# My journey to the heart of Islam - Part 2/5

By: Rachel Aspden

On my flight from Dubai to the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, every other woman is wearing a black face veil. After the glitz and hustle of Dubai, Sanaa's mud-brick old city feels dark, quiet and ancient. It is the summer monsoon and in the late afternoon the sunken street past the old city is suddenly waist-deep with rushing grey water, submerging a taxi. Four men with curved daggers thrust into their wide, gold-embroidered belts hitch up their white robes and wade in to heave it out. A crowd gathers, but the few women hurrying past, draped in black, do not stop. In Yemen the streets overwhelmingly belong to men.

Tarim is remoter still, 300 miles south-east across the desert in a vast canyon, the Wadi Hadhramaut – the tribal home from which the father of Osama bin Laden migrated to Saudi

Arabia, where Osama was born. Descending towards the canyon's little airport, the plane plunges into a landscape of tiny emerald-green fields set with date palms and crumbling mud-brick towers. Where the irrigation stops, the valley sides are dotted with the whitewashed tombs of local saints. The Hadhramaut converted to Islam around the time of the Prophet's death and it has been famous for its scholars and holy men ever since. The Habibs are their newest incarnation.

The "place of miracles" turns out to be a nondescript grid of square concrete buildings under the high canyon walls. One of them conceals a tall, galleried white courtyard, where a dark-eyed Briton in black robes, Asma, is waiting for me.

"Assalaam aleikum, welcome to Dar al-Zahra," she says, taking my hands. Little girls in coloured gowns bring metal cups of iced water and wave palm leaf fans while the older students, all in black, press round to

wish me peace. They have been sent from Indonesia, East Africa and the Arab world to complete their years of Islamic study. But I have come to meet the "Dowra girls", western Muslims on a 40-day programme introducing them to a beginner's version of life in the madrasa. In the windowless hallway of their separate home, a dozen twentysomething women in bright ankle-length house-gowns and headscarves are sitting on thin mattresses with their textbooks. They look tired and hot.

"This is Rachel, our guest," says Asma.

The warmth of the girls' welcome surprises me. They jump up, smiling, to wish me peace, hurry to bring tea and carry my bags – earnestly striving to live up to the Islamic virtue of hospitality. Aziza, a lively girl from Manchester with heavy kohl rings around her dark eyes, introduces me.

Many of my new housemates are, like Aziza, from Urdu-speaking Brit-

ish-Pakistani families, but there are also a handful of converts, including a South African lawyer called Samira, a Canadian student, Sara, and a blue-eyed English girl who has taken the Muslim name Nur, "Light". When they head off, chattering, to the afternoon prayer, I explore the Dowra house. It is less like an austere Islamic retreat than an English boarding school: it smells of shampoo, perfume and sweaty nylon, and the shared bathroom is a cheerful girly clutter of pink razors and make-up. But on the door someone has stuck a note in felt-tip pen: the duas – or special prayers – to be repeated before and after using the shower or toilet.

It is not unusual for British Muslim men to travel abroad for religious education, particularly to the Deobandi madrasas of Pakistan. But, partly because of the restrictions on female travel prescribed by many scholars, it is far less common for women to do so. Dar al-Zahra, a traditional Islamic

school that actively encourages western women students, is a rare thing. The Habibs are Sufis, followers of Islam's mystical tradition, and many of their western students are drawn to Tarim by their charisma and emphasis on personal, rather than political, spiritual goals. Their philosophy and practices – reverence for the graves of holy people, devotional singing, the great respect paid to the Habibs – are anathema to more conservative scholars. Most Yemeni madrasas are influenced by hardline clerics from neighbouring Saudi Arabia and the government is so nervous that they will harbour or indoctrinate al-Qaida sympathisers that – spurred on by the US – it has closed many of them down.

Despite the Habibs' liberal reputation, life in Dar al-Zahra turns out to be one of strict discipline. The day begins at 3am with individual pre-dawn prayers, then continues through the set dawn prayer; classes in Islamic juris-

prudence, hadith; the Sufi disciplines of adab, spiritual etiquette, and "sciences of the heart"; and Qur'anic recitation, punctuated by more prayers, lectures and homework. The girls sleep only a few hours a night. On Fridays there might be a trip to a saint's shrine or to the ancient graveyard.

We have been sitting cross-legged and barefoot on the floor for two hours and my knees and back are burning. Even the other girls are wincing.

"Is it too strict?" I ask.

"No, no," says Aziza. "And the more you suffer, the more it proves your himma." Himma is the Islamic virtue of spiritual aspiration, and the girls are keen to encourage each other in its feats.

"When we're really tired, I say, 'Come on, girls,'" explains Aziza. "Remember that the darkness on the way to the mosque in the morning will be repaid with light on Judgment Day, when everyone else is in the dark."

Source: *The Guardian*

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites talented individuals to apply for the following volunteering positions with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

**Post Title:** Climate Change Officer (UNV)  
**Location:** Sana'a

**Responsibilities:**

- Under the supervision of Project Managers, the UNV volunteer will be responsible for:
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  - Conducting and providing information and support to national and international climate change policy events within the overarching UNDP climate change policy framework.
  - Supporting a UN-wide approach to climate change and providing UNDP's role, including policy and programme initiatives, ensuring consistency and integration with regional and global approaches, methodologies, and indicators.
  - Providing technical support to national governments, UN agencies, and other development partners within UNDP as well as within the UN system.
  - Supporting climate change policy and knowledge management.
  - Assessing global, regional, national and sub-national policies, programmes, activities and funding actions for national development.
  - Providing support to national and international climate change negotiations and providing technical support to the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.
  - Providing support to national and international climate change negotiations and providing technical support to the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.

**Qualifications:**

- Master's Degree or equivalent in related disciplines, i.e. climate science, environmental science, public administration, natural resource management, political science or related social sciences.
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience as demonstrated by climate risk, vulnerability assessment and adaptation.
- Experience in working with government, donors or UN particularly in an event.
- Proven track record in policy analysis, development work in the area of climate change and related issues.
- Ability to engage in and contribute to high-level policy dialogue and advisory functions involving high-level government counterparts and other stakeholders.
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of the global debate on climate change and experience in environmental environmental science and dialogue and processes.
- Experience in advising climate change strategies and policy development a major asset.
- Proven experience and knowledge of the country's institutional framework and policies of Climate Change in an event.
- Knowledge and experience with GEF and adaptation funds is desirable.

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and CV to [msjsb@sungroupye.com](mailto:msjsb@sungroupye.com) Email Subject: Climate Change Officer -Sana'a

National UN Volunteers are not paid a salary for their services. Instead, they are provided with volunteer living allowances, \$ 600 per month in addition to board allowances.

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply. Deadline for receiving applications is 24 July 2010.

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وعلى من يجد في نفسه الرغبة إرسال السيرة الذاتية إلى عنواننا البريدي: [msjsb@sungroupye.com](mailto:msjsb@sungroupye.com)

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Windows into international development work in Yemen: USAID



Schools and Desks Improve Marib Schools

**O**n a bright morning in the sandy plateau northeast of the capital Sanaa, in a sparse region of rugged Marib Governorate, Ali Benzaid Abdelhadi tightened his belt and leaned over a new school bench and desk taking shape under his busy hands.

Plywood and iron were bolted together with care as Abdelhadi, chairman of the Parents Council at the Al-Jafr school, spent yet another of his spare mornings working to improve the local education system.

Abdelhadi and other parents supply the muscle, U.S. aid projects are supplying the wood, tools and a small electric generator that powers an electric saw, welding torch and electric

drill, making the work fast and fruitful.

"I love this school," said the grey-



Ali Benzaid Abdelhadi, chairman of the Parents Council at a school being expanded and refurbished by U.S. aid, assembling desks in Yemen's Marib Governorate

bearded Abdelhadi, "and I come here every morning till noon - without pay. In the afternoon I do my own work as a farmer."

Asked why he comes to volunteer each day, he said: "So that our students are successful and learn."

The new classrooms and desks at the Al-Jafr school are part of a \$10 million U.S. program over three years to renovate or rebuild 77 schools in 2006 serving 17,000 students. To improve staffing at those schools, 1,500 teachers and administrators have been trained in modern teaching methods and administration.

Since most adults in the region have never had a chance to learn to read and write, special literacy programs have also been carried out in 80 communities. In some families, children

and parents are both learning to read at the same time.

A 10-year old boy at the school that was getting new desks and classrooms, Mufarg Abdallah Hamit Arai, tried out one of the new desks in a sparse new classroom still under construction -- iron rods stuck out of the cement posts as if in need of a haircut.

"Last year I had to sit on the floor while learning Arabic and Koran," he said.

The U.S.-funded project at his school is also building new latrines and washrooms for both boys and girls, to improve health and provide privacy that might encourage families to send their girls.

The school has 180 students in the first to 12th grades. Most will end

up farming in the arid surroundings. Many of them also will keep goats, sheep, cattle and possibly camels.



Mufarg Abdallah Hamit Arai, 10, leans on a desk in his school which is being expanded through a U.S. grant in Marib Governorate, Yemen, Ben Barber/USAID photo; June 2006

Like most U.S. assistance projects in Yemen, the education program is focused on the four governorates that are in greatest need and - at the same time - most likely to be infiltrated by terrorism. This includes Marib.

The difficulty of providing aid to Yemen, where tribal rule may be stronger than that of the central government, is that tribal jealousy and conflict can interfere with the best of intentions. There are 4,000 schools in the five target governorates so although 77 get U.S.-funded renovations, the rest remain in need of improvements. And the pressure on schools is huge given that enrollment in grades one through nine has increased 1,000 percent in the past 15 years.

Other donors such as Japan and the World Bank also assist education.

Nurses and Doctors in Marib Hospitals Get Equipment and Training

**D**roula Ali, 25, had traveled 30 kilometers with her child by car across the sandy reaches of Marib Governorate to reach the district hospital so her child could get a vaccination and she could get information about family planning. Six months ago she was treated here successfully for a burning pain that turned out to be a urinary tract infection.

"I know the United States supports this hospital," she told a visitor. "I am happy for it and want more support."

A U.S.-funded project has supplied the hospital with laboratory and ultrasound equipment, training for nursing and other staff, and medical supplies.

Sitting in his office at the 7th of July Hospital in Majzer district, Somali-born internist Abdul Rashid Mahmoud Ali told a visitor that modern microscopes and ultrasound machines are extremely welcome and useful. However he noted that traditional problems continue to

trouble health care in Yemen.

"Eighty-five percent of women will not accept a male health provider," said Dr. Ali.

"I have to treat women through dialogue with her husband, then external touch then lab tests leading to a diag-



Somali-born internist Abdul Rashid Mahmoud Ali told a visitor that modern microscopes and ultrasound machines are extremely welcome and useful.

nosis."

The illnesses he sees nearly every day in the hospital include malaria, typhoid, anemia, malnutrition - especially in children and pregnant women-- , diarrhea and respiratory infections, the doctor said.

But poverty is at the root of many problems: "This is a very poor community," he said. There is a lack of clean water so many people develop bilharzias, hepatitis, dysentery and cholera. "We need to train health workers to educate people on family planning, vaccinations and pre-natal care," he said. "We need public toilets so when it rains we don't have dirty water spreading disease."

Nurse Guma Hajir was trained to work on nutrition through a U.S. project. "Meat is cheap," she said. "But maybe the father or mother eat the meat and don't know its importance for their children." She travels on foot to reach villagers and educate them on sound nutrition.

The 7th of July Hospital serves about 13,000 people dispersed over a large, arid region.

At the nearby Medghal District Hos-



Doula Ali brought her baby 30 kilometers by car to the hospital in Yemen's Marib Governorate. She came for vaccinations for the child and to discuss obtaining family planning. She said she knows the hospital is supported by U.S. assistance and hopes there will be more.

pital, U.S. aid has also provided ultrasound equipment to diagnose problems during pregnancy and other issues. It also gave microscopes and other lab equipment to identify malaria parasites in blood and other problems.

And since educated health workers such as doctors and nurses would find it hard to live in the mud and stone houses of the poor region, U.S. aid built a small house with apartments for the medical staff. The hospital also has a four-wheel drive ambulance to take patients to the bigger hospitals of Marib City or Sanaa.

One woman patient told of coming 15 kilometers to the hospital, accompanied by her brother. "This is a good place," he said, and he will allow his sister to be treated by the doctors.

The hospital has a delivery room for safe delivery of babies, an autoclave to sterilize instruments and suction machines - all supplied by a U.S. aid program.

Because of the hospital's reputation

for cleanliness and good care, two thirds of the district's babies are born in the hospital and one third a reborn at home. This is far better than the national average for Yemen where only 16 percent of babies are born in hospitals.



To provide doctors, nurses and other skilled medical workers with safe and healthy accommodation in a remote hospital in Yemen's Marib Governorate, U.S. aid has built housing and supplied an ambulance to transport critical patients.

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On Behalf of the Royal Thai Government, Thailand's Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, presented **METCO** [ One of the trading arms of Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies ] with "Thailand's Best Friends 2010" certificate as acknowledgement for its efforts in sustaining good business relations with the country.

Mr. Wael Abdulla Abdo Saeed, General Manager of the company, represented **METCO** and attended the ceremony with 150 of the top importers of Thai goods from 43 countries .

"Thailand's Best Friends" is one of the Thai Ministry of Commerce's policies that aims to stimulate and revitalize the economy in Thailand. As a part of the program, many investors around the world have been awarded the title "Thailand's Best Friends" for their trust and confidence in the quality of products from Thailand.




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التسجيل والتسويق



# Sabafon impresses JiTCOM 2010 expo visitors

Yemen's pioneering telecommunication mobile company Sabafon surprised visitors of the JiTCOM 2010 Expo for information technology and communication services. The Expo which was organized by Apollo Exhibitions Center between 8 and 13 July aimed at introducing the public in Yemen to the latest technologies in the fields of telecommunication and information technology.

Several Arab and international companies participated in the Expo which was supervised by the Yemeni Minister of Telecommunication.

Shaikh Hamid bin Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Head of the Board of Directors of Sabafon company, said that their participation in the Expo is part of Sabafon's continuous involvement in the latest telecommunication technology fairs that connects technology to the consumer.

"We take pride in the fact that not only do we provide our clients with the latest technology in the field of mobile telecommunication but also that our services are

mostly provided by qualified Yemeni staff whose utmost desire is customer satisfaction," said Al-Ahmar.

Information Technology Manager Fahd Al-Ariqi said that Sabafon participates annually in JiTCOM's technology fair so as to remain in the forefront of the telecommunication technology industry and present clients with the best of the best.

"We also consider our participation as a chance to inform the public in Yemen about the latest in this field and keep them up-to-date," he added.

Sabafon Deputy Marketing director Haythem Al-Shami said that there was much interest in the company's section at the expo and many visitors were greatly impressed by the technology displayed. The company linked technology with services and allowed the visitors to experience for themselves the delights of modern technology and encouraged them to ask questions and understand more about the possibilities offered by Sabafon.









# The growing power of Al-Qaeda in Yemen

**Racked by political chaos and tribal feuds, Yemen is one of the Middle East's poorest countries. It's also increasingly a base of operations for al-Qaeda propaganda and attacks on the U.S. and other nations. New York Times reporter Robert Worth talks about why Yemen may be the next.**

Transcripts of the NPR interview by Neal Conan

**O**n Christmas Day, the attempt to blow up an airliner over the city of Detroit focused attention on a country most of us know little about, Yemen, and an organization most had never heard of, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

Tucked away on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab world and about to run out of oil. It's home to feuding tribes, a secession movement, a civil war, increased violence and more and more to an offshoot of al-Qaeda with, as we learned on Christmas, wide-ranging ambitions.

In the cover story of the most recent New York Times magazine, reporter Robert Worth writes that Yemen offers al-Qaeda the perfect combination of tribal hospitality, political chaos and military opportunity.

**Robert Worth is a reporter for the Times and joins us here in Studio 3A. Nice to have you on the program with us.**

Mr. Robert Worth (Correspondent, The New York Times): Nice to be here.

**CONAN: And your article paints a**

**picture of an increasingly floundering Yemeni government. How much of the country does the government actually run?**

Mr. WORTH: Well, it's certainly in control in the major cities. I think sometimes people exaggerate slightly the sense that they're out of control. But in rural Yemen, which after all most of the population - and it's unusual in that way - does live in rural areas, there's very little presence of a government.

And especially in some of these areas where al-Qaeda is said to be, which form basically sort of a belt to the east of the capital - there's very little presence by the government, no - very few working schools, very little police. It's mostly governed by tribes.

**CONAN: Were you able to travel in those areas?**

Mr. WORTH: No. I've traveled pretty extensively in Yemen over my five or six trips there. But I have not been to those governorates.

**CONAN: And that is because it's just too dangerous?**

Mr. WORTH: It's too dangerous and the government is very keen to prevent people like me from going there out of fear that they'd get kidnapped or whatever.

**CONAN: And that is not an unjust**

**ified fear.**

Mr. WORTH: No, it's not.

**CONAN: There are stories of people who've been kidnapped and held for political purposes but much more often held just for ransom.**

Mr. WORTH: That's right. And in the past, actually, especially during the 1990s, it was quite common for tribes to kidnap people. And in fact, it wasn't really such a dangerous thing. Some people - European tourists apparently - wanted to get kidnapped because usually it was the tribe that wanted something.

They wanted a new school. They wanted money from the government, whatever.

And they would treat the hostages very, very nicely and give them whatever food they wanted and so forth. Never I don't think any of them never came to harm, really. That changed with the advent of militant terrorists about 10 years ago.

**CONAN: And the country, as you describe it, the government - 30 years has been in place, what, 30 years, but nevertheless his tribal policies and how he deals with the various tribes there seem to be absolutely central to the whole idea of the country.**

Mr. WORTH: That's right. That's right. A lot of people give him enormous credit for that in the sense that he knows how to work with the tribes. He knows how to get what he wants from the various different groupings there. And he knows how to play people off against each other, which is - certainly it's not something he invented.

That's been a way of dealing with - a way of ruling countries in the Middle East for a long, long time. He just happens to be much better at it than his predecessors, and that's why he's been in power for 32 years.

**CONAN: And you had the opportunity to interview him, to meet him at one point.**

Mr. WORTH: That's right. I met him in June 2008.

**CONAN: And what kind of a guy was he?**

Mr. WORTH: Well, he certainly comes off as sort of tough. He grew up in the military. He's sort of a little bit brusque. When the subject of the United States came up, he was defensive because he feels that they're trying to push him around. I think you'd probably get the same response from a lot of different rulers in the Middle East.

**CONAN: And the situation is that the United States probably is trying to push him around.**

Mr. WORTH: Well, yeah, to some extent, absolutely. They - there are some people who are wanted by the FBI on terrorism charges, and he is reluctant in some cases to turn them over for very good domestic political reasons, and it doesn't play well for him to just give the United States

what it wants.

**CONAN: Nevertheless, there are people in the country that, as you describe it, he has come to see as a threat to his rule.**

Mr. WORTH: That's right. That's right. And that's increasingly true. The American officials came to him last fall and presented him with, as I understand it, with all kinds of evidence, making clear that al-Qaeda was not just blowing up the occasional, you know, outpost here and there or the occasional embassy, that they were actually targeting him and his family.

And his family holds all kinds of positions of importance in the country. So he - starting about that time, he began to cooperate - this is what American officials tell me - much more closely and became much, much more serious about fighting al-Qaeda.

**CONAN: Your story is structured around an airstrike which hit a house that was being used by al-Qaeda, five young men were killed. And from your description, there appears to be no doubt that they were members of al-Qaeda, but very junior members of al-Qaeda.**

Mr. WORTH: That's right. That's right. As far as we knew, they were not planning operations, but they seemed to be members. And the best known person in the area was not killed by the strike.

**CONAN: And he is the subject of a lot of controversy because the tribes say, well, we have a decision to make here. Do we welcome these people as guests, which is the tradi-**

**tion not just in Yemen but throughout the Arab world? Do they continue to protect them? Or are they causing too much trouble for us to continue to harbor them?**

Mr. WORTH: That's right. And in this case, they decided to eject him. I think the truth is that probably most tribes in Yemen do not want anything to do with al-Qaeda because they're too dangerous, that they realize, especially now, that they may end up, you know, with an airstrike if they do that.

But there are some - I think there's a minority of tribal groups or individuals in rural Yemen who realize that dealing with al-Qaeda can, at the least, be a kind of bargaining chip. That if you go to the government and say, look, I can get rid of this guy but for a price, that's a deal they're willing to make.

**CONAN: Another situation that you also describe is this guy says, I can bring in 30 teachers to open a school here. You've not had a school here. Yes, of course, they're going to be taught what we would like them to be taught, but nevertheless, it would be an opportunity to educate your children.**

Mr. WORTH: Absolutely. Most Yemenis live, as I understand it, on less than \$2 a day. And rural Yemen is just extraordinarily poor all the across the country.

And so, there's a terrible, terrible need for schools, for teachers, for basic services. I mean, you know, Yemen is running out of water in a way that I believe no other country in the world is. So there's - they'll take anything they can get.

## JOB VACANCIES

**RTI International, a US-based not-for-profit organization, is one of the implementing partners of the Yemen Responsive Governance Project (RGP). RGP is a USAID-foreign assistance project endorsed under Assistance Agreement by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to promote long-range economic and social development in Yemen. RTI is seeking qualified Yemeni candidates to fill fulltime positions based at the RGP Headquarter Offices in Sana'a but subject to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time:**

### Senior Governance Manager

The Senior Governance Manager will provide overall technical leadership on governance, decentralization, accountability and transparency program activities and will oversee initiatives that strengthen local governance, decentralization, public financial management and government procurement capabilities. S/he will provide regular visits to all implementing sites and provide technical support to technical officers. S/he will identify training needs and design training programs for Yemeni officials in local governance, decentralization, public financial management, procurement, audit and other accountability-related disciplines and will be responsible for the development and compilation of monthly, quarterly and annual work plans, budgets and reports as relevant to the Governance, Decentralization and Transparency components, and will participate in reviewing and developing training manuals, protocols and operational procedures for local governance and national accountability institutions and staff. Applicants should have a Master's degree in public administration, law, political science or other related field, CPA or Bachelor's degree in auditing, accounting or finance and at least six (6) years experience in local governance, decentralization, public sector auditing and accounting experience with supervisory and managerial responsibilities. S/he should have skills in planning, budgeting, supervising, mentoring and training of staff in addition to good interpersonal communication skills and willingness and ability to work around the country. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required. The Senior Governance Manager will report to the Program Policy Director and will supervise a 4-team member of Transparency Technical Officer and Assistant and Decentralization/ Local Governance Officer and Assistant.

### Transparency Technical Officer

The Transparency Technical Officer will provide strategic technical and coordination support to the district,

regional and national authorities where RGP will be implemented. S/he will provide technical oversight to RGP's accountability and transparency activities, support the initial technical assessments in target sites, and will conduct training workshops based on identified needs. S/he is expected to assist in developing, compiling and submitting weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports. Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree in public administration, political science, law, or other related field and a minimum of six (6) years experience in Accountability and Transparency work. Knowledge of Financial Management, Procurement and Auditing is preferred. A master's degree plus three (3) years experience would be an added advantage. Applicants should have strong organizational and interpersonal communication skills with the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously, competence in program management and proven ability to work in effective teams. Previous experience of working in a USAID-funded program is preferred. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required as well as willingness to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time. The Transparency Technical Officer will report to the Senior Governance Manager and will supervise the Transparency Technical Assistant

### Gender and Youth Advisor

The Gender and Youth Specialist will ensure that women and youth - are integrated in the planning of policy reform and interventions in the RGP Program in a culturally sensitive manner S/he will: conduct a rapid assessment of the current role of women and youth in the decision making process and identify their needs improve participation; , review and assess the Government's gender and social inclusion policies; ensure that policy development programs address gender and youth concerns starting at the design phase of the project; and prepare a gender and youth development plan for the project. S/he will develop, compile and submit weekly, monthly, quarterly, and

annual reports as required. Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree in social development, psychology, political science or other related field and a minimum of six (6) years experience in civil society development, gender and youth activities or related field. A master's degree plus three (3) years experience would be an added advantage. Applicants should have strong organizational and interpersonal communication skills with the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously, competence in program management and proven ability to work in effective teams. Previous experience of working in a USAID-funded program is preferred. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required as well as willingness to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time. The Gender and Youth Advisor will report to the Program Policy Director

### Senior Sectoral Policy Manager

The Senior Sectoral Policy Manager will provide overall technical leadership and management of the Policy components of RGP namely: Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth. S/he will oversee initiatives that strengthen ministries' policies and will provide regular visits to all implementing sites and provide technical support to the Sectoral Policy Technical Officers. S/he will work with the Sectoral Policy Technical Officers to identify training needs and design training programs for Yemeni officials in public policies, will be responsible for the development and compilation of monthly, quarterly and annual work plans, budgets and reports as relevant to the policy component and will participate in reviewing and developing training manuals, protocols and operational procedures for policy development. Applicants should have a Master's degree in public administration, political science or other related field, and at least six (6) years of experience directly working in the public sector on policy programs with managerial and supervisory responsibilities. S/he should have skills in planning, budgeting, supervising, mentoring and training of

staff in addition to good interpersonal communication skills and willingness and ability to work around the country. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required. The Senior Sectoral Policy Manager will report to the Program Policy Director and will supervise a team of 3-4 Sectoral Policy Technical Officers in Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth.

### (3-4) Sectoral Policy Technical Officers (in Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth)

The Sectoral Policy Technical Officers will provide strategic technical and coordination support to the district, regional and national authorities where the project will be implemented as relevant and specific to their respective technical areas in Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth. The Technical Officers will provide technical support function to the project's policy development activities including initial technical assessments, designing and conducting training workshops, supporting capacity building activities and preparing technical reports as required. Applicants should have at least a Bachelors degree in health, education, agriculture, public administration, political science, or other related field with a minimum of six (6) years experience in policy development in the relevant sector. A master's degree plus three (3) years experience in relevant sector would be an added advantage. Applicants should have strong organizational and interpersonal communication skills and proven record of competence in sectoral policy development. Previous experience of working with USAID-funded programs is preferred. Good knowledge of English (written and spoken) is required. Willingness to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time is required. The Sectoral Policy Technical Officers will report to the Sectoral Policy Manager.

**Qualified and experienced candidates could apply, including copy of their resumes, to [RGP-jobs@rti.org](mailto:RGP-jobs@rti.org) Deadline for accepting applications is 2 weeks from the date of this advertisement.**

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## Inspire: beyond the pale

By: Ian Black  
Guardian Newspapers Limited

Like many new publications it has a vivid mix: news, features, celebrity opinion pieces and a smart digital-era commitment to interactivity — keeping in close touch with the readers. But for the casual browser of the internet, Al Qaeda's new English-language online magazine may prove a step or two beyond the pale.

Entitled Inspire, and designed for aspiring jihadis who cannot read Arabic, it offers tips on bomb-making and encryption for beginners as well as heavyweight Koranic commentary and crude propaganda.

Inspire appears to be the brainchild of Anwar al Awlaki, a fugitive U.S.-born radical preacher and key figure in Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (Aqap), based in Yemen's remote tribal areas — and suggests a drive to recruit terrorists.

But the launch of its summer 2010 edition has so far been troubled. It advertised an article by Awlaki — "May our souls be sacrificed for you"

— that failed to appear, as did all but the first three pages of the entire 67-page magazine. The rest of a PDF file posted on friendly websites showed only garbled computer code.

Other missing items, according to the contents index, included a "detailed, yet short, easy-to-read manual" entitled "Make a Bomb in the Kitchen of Your Mom," wittily bylined "the AQ chef." Another article, by "terrorist", was about "sending and receiving encrypted messages". Nor was there a promised "exclusive interview" with Sheikh Abu Basir, aka Nasser Al-Wahayshi, Aqap's leader.

Outside talent should have been represented by an Osama bin Laden piece on "The Way to Save the Earth."

Prompts suspicion  
Inspire's partial appearance prompted suspicion in the jihadi community. Al-Qimamah, a website linked to the Al Qaeda-affiliated Al-Shabab movement in Somalia, warned anyone who saw the magazine to delete it — without explanation.

It also alerted readers that Al-Falluja, a popular jihadi forum,

had been taken over — an apparent reference to cyber-manipulation by hostile intelligence services. Inspire's problems could well have been caused by deliberate disruption such as infecting it with a virus.

Inspire looks similar to Aqap's slick Arabic-language webzine Sada al—Malahim (Echoes of Epic Battles) — and is also published by Malahim Media. It is subtitled: "Inspire the Believers." Its authenticity could not be confirmed, but it was not being treated as a spoof by experts.

It appears to have taken on board cutting-edge thinking about the media, urging readers to submit articles, comments and suggestions. "It is our intent for this magazine to be a platform to present the important issues facing the ummah [Islamic nation] today to the wide and dispersed English-speaking Muslim readership," its unnamed editor promised.

Inspire promotes itself as "the first magazine to be issued by the Al Qaeda organisation in the English language", although Jihadi Recollections, published in the U.S. last year, was a polished effort.

Awlaki, famous for his online sermons and video messages to Americans — in fluent English — is an official target for assassination by the U.S. government because of his links to Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the Nigerian "underpants bomber" charged with an attack on a Dutch airliner over Detroit last Christmas Day, and to the Times Square bomber, Faisal Shahzad.

Other foreigners are said to have joined Aqap after studying Arabic in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

"This magazine is clearly intended for the aspiring jihadist in the U.S. or U.K. who may be the next Fort Hood murderer or Times Square bomber," said Bruce Riedel, a former CIA officer now with the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Yemen expert Gregory Johnson said: "The idea is that Aqap can reach, influence and inspire other like-minded individuals in the West. No longer do these individuals need to travel to Yemen or read Arabic in order to take instructions from Aqap. Now they can just download and read the magazine in English."

## Baroud submission: Cluster bombs and civilian lives

By: Ramzy Baroud  
Atlantic Free Press

Cluster bombs are in the news again, thanks to a recent report from Amnesty International. The human rights agency has confirmed that 35 women and children were killed following the latest US attacks on an alleged al-Qaeda hideout in Yemen. Initially, there were attempts to bury the story, and Yemen officially denied that civilians were killed as a result of the December 17 attack on al-Majala in southern Yemen. However, it has been simply impossible to conceal what is now considered the largest loss of life in one single US attack in the country.

If the civilian casualties were indeed a miscalculation on the part of the US military, there should no longer be any doubt about the fact that cluster munitions are far too dangerous a weapon to be utilized in war. And they certainly have no place

whatsoever in civilian areas. The human casualties are too large to justify.

Yemen is not alone. Gaza, Lebanon and Afghanistan are also stark examples of the untold loss and suffering caused by cluster bombs. Meanwhile, the unrepentant Israeli army will not consider dropping the use of cluster bombs in civilian areas altogether. Instead it is pondering ways to make them 'safer'. The Jerusalem Post reported on July 2 that the army "has recently carried out a series of tests with a bomblet that has a specially designed self-destruct mechanism which dramatically reduces the amount of unexploded ordnance." During the Israeli onslaught in Lebanon in the summer of 2006, Israel fired millions of bomblets, mostly into South Lebanon. Aside from the immediate devastation and casualties, unexploded ordnance continues to victimize Lebanon's civilians, most of whom are children. Dozens of lives have been lost since the end of this war.

In Gaza, the same terrible scenario was repeated between 2008 and 2009. Unlike Lebanon, however, trapped Palestinians in Gaza had nowhere to go.

Now Israel is anticipating another war with the Lebanese resistance. In preparation for this, an Israeli PR campaign is already underway. It seeks to convince public opinion that Israel is doing its utmost to avoid civilian casualties. "As a result of the collateral damage and international condemnation, and ahead of a potential new conflict with Hizbullah, the IDF has decided to evaluate the M85 bomblet manufactured by the government-owned Israeli Military Industries (IMI)," the Jerusalem Post reported.

Of course, Israel's friends, especially those who are yet to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions, will be pleased by the initial successes of the Israeli army testing. Under pressure to ratify the agreement, these countries are only too eager to offer a 'safer' version of current cluster bomb models. This would help not only to

maintain the huge profits generated from this morally abhorrent business, it would also hopefully quell growing criticism by civil society and other world governments.

In December 2008, the United States, Russia and China, among others, sent a terrible message to the rest of the world. They refused to take part in the historic signing of the treaty that banned the production and use of cluster bombs. In a world that is plagued by war, military occupation and terrorism, the involvement of the great military powers in signing and ratifying the agreement would have signaled — if only symbolically — the willingness of these countries to spare civilians' unjustifiable deaths and the lasting scars of war.

Fortunately, the refusal didn't completely impede an international agreement. The incessant activism of many conscientious individuals and organizations came to fruition on December 3 and 4 in Oslo, Norway, when ninety-three countries signed a treaty banning the weapon.

## Spotlight on Al Qaeda's new leaders

By: Jerome Taylor  
The Independent

The uncovering of the latest global terror plot has shone a fresh spotlight on the new crop of leaders thought to be running the Al Qaeda network now that the majority of its founding members have been killed or captured.

It has also forced Americans to confront the reality that many of the key players leading the next generation of extremists are individuals with strong ties to the United States, including American citizens.

One name above all stood out on the indictment unsealed last week in New York detailing an attempted attack on the city's subway system. Adnan Gulshair al-Shukrijumah is one of Al Qaeda's most elusive lynchpins, a man with a \$5m bounty on his head who was last seen two weeks before the September 11 attacks in the Caribbean.

Rumours of his whereabouts have kept investigators chasing shadows for much of the past decade, with reports of limited credibility spotting him meeting gangs in Honduras, trying to buy radioactive material in Ontario and becoming a teacher in Morocco.

Investigators believe that the 34-year-old is most likely located in the tribal areas of Pakistan, the only place he could operate with relative impunity.

Over the years his name has been linked to a string of plots, most recently the attempted attack on the New York subway last year.

Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn say al-Shukrijumah was part of a panel of three Al Qaeda figures who oversaw the subway plot that has so far led to arrests in the States, Britain, Norway and Germany. The two other men, Saleh al-Somali and Rashid Rauf, a Birmingham-born Al Qaeda operative, are believed to have both been killed by drone strikes.

What particularly concerns counter terrorism officials is that many of Al Qaeda's younger leaders are much more familiar with life in the West than their predecessors.

Al-Shukrijumah was born in Saudi Arabia but grew up in Florida and has US citizenship. His friends remember him as a quiet asthmatic who was tech-savvy and spent increasing amounts of his time overseas. Investigators believe he trained at Al Qaeda-run camps in Afghanistan before September 11 and was picked by Khaled Shaikh Mohamed, Al Qaeda's number three before his capture in 2003, to become the next generation of street-smart terror leaders.

Two key Americans with similar Islamist career paths to al-Shukrijumah include Adam Yahye Gadahn, a Jewish-born covert to Islam who has pioneered Al Qaeda slick media wing, and Omar Hammami, a 25-year-old Alabamian who is now a senior figure within the Al Qaeda-linked Somali militia al-Shabaab.

Meanwhile Anwar al-Awlaki, a US-born imam, has become one of the most charismatic English preachers of extremist dogma online and is regarded as the spiritual leader of Yemen's growing Al Qaeda network.

Before his retirement in 2005, Pasquale "Pat" D'Amuro was the FBI's senior counter terrorism official and a veteran tracker of Al Qaeda lieutenants. He believes the new crop of Al Qaeda operatives pose particularly significant threats because of their intimate knowledge of the West.

"What gives you concern is that we have citizens who affiliate with known terrorist organisations," he told The Independent. "Their ability to train or come in and out of the country is a problem. We know Al Qaeda has been trying to identify individuals that they think they can get in and out of the United States to carry out terrorist attacks. That's why these individuals are even more threatening."

## What do we lose if we "lose" in Afghanistan?

By: Allan Goldstein  
opednews.com

Our mission in Afghanistan is doomed. Another thousand American soldiers will die but their courage and sacrifice won't change the terrible truth: That war is lost.

If even Michael Steele stumbles to that conclusion, you know the game is up. It's all over, over there.

When we finally leave Afghanistan, we'll count up the cost in precious blood and wasted treasure and the price will be very high.

But the cost of losing? Not much. Our enemies left Afghanistan nine years ago; the fight's not there anymore. And here in America things will be pretty much the same, win or lose.

Here's a rule of thumb: Don't worry about losing a war, unless, if you lose the war, you lose. Anything less isn't a war. It's an expensive hobby.

I can hear the screams of those who make a fetish out of "supporting our troops" from comfortable couches in the suburbs and comfortable seats in Congress. "Are you saying they died in vain?"

Well, of course I'm not. Only a heartless idiot would denigrate their valor and the unending pain of their amputated families. But "did they die in vain?" is the wrong question.

The right one is, "Did they fight in vain?" That's the question our leaders need to ask before shipping the body bags overseas. What happens if we don't fight this war? What happens if we fight and lose? Will America be hurt, invaded and occupied, or merely embarrassed?

Here's another rule of thumb: Never wage a war unless the cost of losing it exceeds the cost of fighting it.

Isn't that the true lesson of Vietnam? We "lost" that war, but what did we lose? It was hard on the vets and the Viets, but those were self-inflicted wounds; they wouldn't have happened if we'd never gone there. When the dust cleared our defeat brought us a lot of nice Vietnamese restaurants, a few good movies, and an "enemy" that was too busy trying to feed itself to cause us any problems. And now we're buddies. That was the cost of losing the war in Vietnam.

The cost of fighting the war in Vietnam was 58,000 American and millions of Vietnamese lives. The cost in money was steep, the cost in morale severe, and the cost in cynicism incal-

lable. In many ways we've never recovered.

War is killing people and breaking things. That's the stark truth we can no longer face, since the trauma of Vietnam. Now, when we fight, we have to fool ourselves with humanitarian fantasies.

Like how we're going to bring a decent government to Afghanistan on backs of the 10th Mountain Division.

It would be noble, what we're trying to do in Afghanistan, if it wasn't so foolish. Making that country whole and even minimally democratic is impossible. As far as their leaders are concerned, the war can go on forever, with pallets of American cash flying from Kabul airport right into their Swiss bank accounts.

We have to get over our humanitarian fantasies about war. War is killing people and breaking things, and it's a perfectly rational, even moral, response to unprovoked attacks, like Pearl Harbor, or 9/11.

Japan attacked us, not just in Pearl Harbor, but all around the Pacific in December 1941, and they kept on doing it until we stopped them by killing people and breaking things until they couldn't fight anymore.

Al Qaeda attacked us before, during and after 9/11, and they keep on trying. When we use special ops, bombs and allies to kill their people and break their camps we do the right thing.

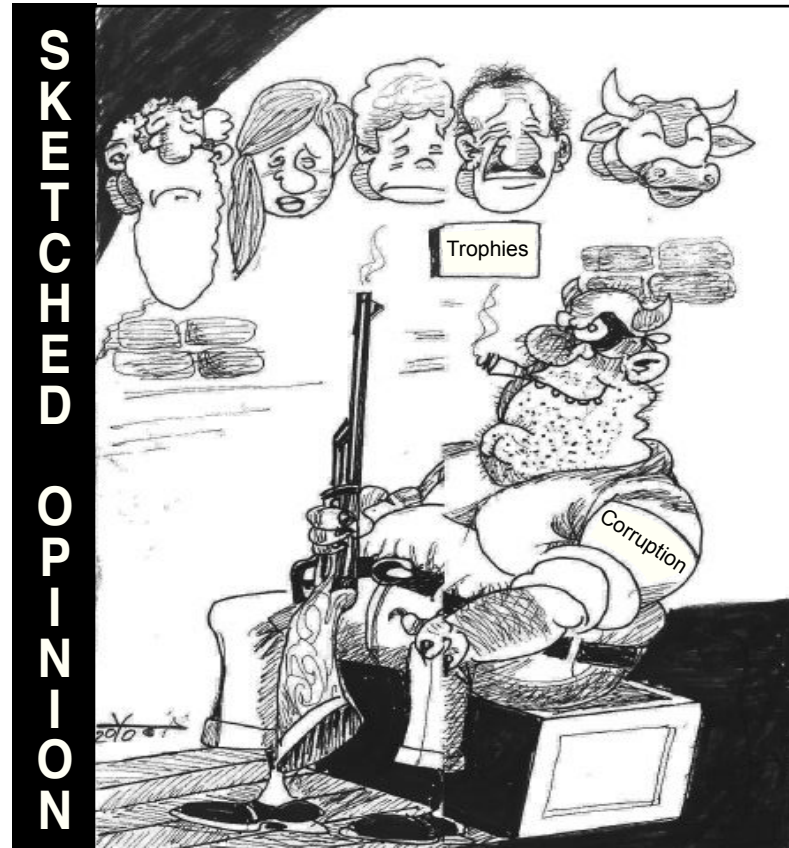
But our humanitarian fantasy of replacing the Taliban with a tolerant Afghani democracy cannot be achieved by killing people and breaking things. It cannot be achieved at all, in my opinion, and certainly not by military power, because it's not a military problem.

Afghanistan isn't critical to Al Qaeda anymore. Pakistan is, Yemen is, Somalia is, Afghanistan isn't. So why do we have 100,000 troops in Afghanistan and only tiny groups of covert soldiers and the odd drone in the others?

Because we're caught up in a humanitarian fantasy. We're going to make America safer by making Afghanistan better. But we're trying to do it with the military, under the lunatic delusion that we can somehow kill only the right people and break only their things.

We can't. We won't. We'll lose. And when we lose, we'll lose nothing. Other than the lives we've thrown away. In Afghanistan, we fight in vain.

Allan Goldstein is writer living in San Francisco. His op-ed column, "Caught off Base," has appeared in the West Portal Monthly for the past decade. Satire and invective are specialties.



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Obama signs new sanctions against Iran.



Chinghai animations exhibition launched.



Lebanon holds funeral of religious scholar Mohammed Hussein Fadhl Allah.



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A bomb explosion at a car show room in Pakistan.



Elections of the Japan Upper House of Parliament.



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Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned). All applications also must include a letter which explains the candidate's past experience and how it relates to the required qualifications, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa or via e-mail address: [hrosanaa@state.gov](mailto:hrosanaa@state.gov) no later than July 25, 2010.

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العظيمة

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابُوا مَصِيبًا قَالُوا إِنَّ الدَّيْمَانَ أَنَا وَإِلَى اللَّهِ جَعَلْنَا

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ببالغ الحزن والاسى وبقلوب مؤمنة بقاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة القلبية إلى

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رئيس مجلس إدارة بنك التضامن الإسلامي الدولي

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إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

أ / خير الدين النسور  
المدير العام التنفيذي

أ / نادية السقاف  
الناشر ورئيس التحرير





4<sup>th</sup>  
Group  
Wedding



## MTN Yemen celebrate its 4<sup>th</sup> Group Wedding for its employees

**MTN** Starting a family is an important milestone for youth in Yemen. But for many Yemenis this is a difficult bridge to cross, due to the high cost of weddings. MTN, being one of Yemen's major telecommunication companies, with a large number of young men and women among its employees, is conscious of its obligations towards society. To pave the way for these employees to start their family lives with the least burden possible, MTN organized the 4th MTN group wedding festival, in which a large number of its employees were given the opportunity to celebrate their wedding night with family members, friends, relatives, and colleagues. Held on July 25 in one of the biggest wedding halls in Sana'a, the event accommodated over four thousand individuals.

**MTN** In his speech during the event, Mr. Raed Ahmed, MTN Yemen Chief Executive Officer, paid tribute to all those who participated in making the event a success, and dedicated heartfelt wishes and congratulations to the 30 grooms.

**MTN** Mr. Ali Abdulwareth, MTN Yemen Deputy Chief Executive Officer, directed his congratulations to the newlyweds and wished them a prosperous life with their partners. He also added: "Modern organizations call for

investing in human capital to achieve both success and profits. This cannot be accomplished without adding to the employees' personal lives."

**MTN** Mr. Mohammed Nasher, General Manager of Human Resources, also addressed the importance of the event in sustaining the spirit of family togetherness. He added that MTN Yemen is making incessant efforts to become a leader in social responsibility; this strategy is realized through the partnership of the company with both its employees and the broader community.

**MTN** As a reward to the attendees, MTN Yemen announced special gifts that will be awarded to all 30 grooms, including financial support directed towards the cost of the marriage celebration. The glamorous event featured all aspects of Yemeni culture, such as traditional music, dances and unified traditional Yemeni customs.





# Cosmetics and herbal medicine made in Yemen

By: Ibrahim Aljaadi and Ismail Sheikh  
For the Yemen Times

**H**erbal medicine, also called homeopathic medicine or phytomedicine, signifies the use of seeds, berries, roots, leaves, bark, or flowers for medicinal purposes. The traditional use of herbal medicine extends far into the past in Yemen, and today there are still many herbal shops in Yemen, especially in Sana'a.

The Yemen Times asked customers at herbal shops about their opinions of cosmetics and herbal medicines made in Yemen. Most of the customers we met said that they have suspicions about the contents of these products.

Fahad Attayar, a customer, said, "I cannot trust these products for a simple reason, that these products are not approved by the Yemen Food & Drug Administration. These shops might have a license, but the products themselves are not examined in laboratories."

Hayel Saeed agreed with Fahad and added, "I know a person who creates these herbal products. He said that in Yemen we don't have scientific references about how to mix these products. Any mistake when mixing them might harm the users."

Another customer, Abdullah, said he would prefer to buy chemical products rather than unapproved

herbal products. He asked, "Who guarantees that these herbal products are harmless?"

However, the makers of these products defended their methods and said that herbal remedies are made from natural elements: if they don't help, at least they will not cause harm.

Khaled Ahmed, a seller, said, "The effectiveness of herbal products depends on the reaction of the body. The results differ from person to person."

Khaled added, "We (Al-Shifa for honey and herbal products) have our own laboratory. We have a specialist who creates these products. Every single product is approved by the Ministry of Health."

Esam Al-'Osaimi (Albaraq shop) said that they don't have their own laboratory, but they import herbal products from specialist centers such as: Soqatra Center, Al-shifa and Jebal Alyemen.

"I have been working as a seller of these products for a long time. I cannot guarantee to any customer that all herbal products are effective. Some of them are effective, but I cannot guarantee that they will be 100% effective," Esam Al-'Osaimi explained.

Abdullah Alhury (Manahel Ala'asal shop) said, "we have a lot of customers from both genders and from different age groups. Sometimes we get feedback from our customers.



Abdulrahman Al-Jobi



Abdullah Al-Hury



Many created products advertise that they can give users clear complexion and treats excessive sun damage.

Sometimes we get positive feedback and sometimes negative."

Another seller named Abdulrahman Al-Jobi said that their products are well known for their benefits, and he knows several customers who come to the shop for that reason.

"Customers come to us asking for products that they heard from friends would be helpful for their illnesses or other purposes," explained Al-Jobi.

He said that most of the customers come to them asking for herbal products because herbal products are cheap compared to chemical medicines. For example, one can buy

medicine for liver ailments from them for YR 500, but a chemical-based medicine from the pharmacy would cost a lot more.

We met Abdullah Yareem, who owns a laboratory for making herbal mixtures. When we asked him about the products and the process of making them, he said that the creation of herbal remedies must be handled by specialists because any mistake might damage bodily organs or even lead to fatal results.

"There is a red line we don't cross when we mix these herbals. We utilize books and our experience to

avoid harmful or poisonous herbals," explained Abdullah Yareem. "I cooperate with pharmacists and doctors in every formula I make. I am a qualified practitioner with a diploma in Prophetic Medicine and in Herbal Medicine."

Testing the products they make is the tricky part. Abdullah Yareem claimed that there is no laboratory in Yemen that can test the effectiveness of the medicine they make. There are four ways to check if a medicine is effective or harmful, according to Yareem: its acidity, modern science, traditional science, and their extensive experience

in making these medicines.

"We don't have a license from the Ministry of Health because there is no law the license can be based upon," Abdullah Yareem said. "Because of this licensing issue we cannot export our products abroad to customers who live outside Yemen."

Yareem believes that if they were supported by the government and given this license they would be able to compete with chemical medicines. "It's well-known that herbal products are harmless compared to chemical products, many of which have long-term side-effects," he said.

Some of the products have interesting names such as this one: The Snake Cream, which treats skin cracks and makes the skin «smooth»



Energy herbals are among the common products. Sellers claim that they give energy enhances stamina and brain abilities especially concentration and memorization.

## Is speculating on food dangerous?

By: Denis Drechsler, George Rapsomanikis and Alexander Sarris

**T**he prices of many staple foods increased dramatically during 2007-2008, creating a food crisis for many poor and developing countries. International prices of maize, rice, and wheat, for example, reached their highest levels in 30 years, causing political and economic instability – and leading to food riots – in many countries.

Several factors contributed to the crisis, including high oil prices, high demand for crops from the bio-fuel

sector, falling global stockpiles of food commodities, and lower cereal production. Strong economic growth and expansive monetary policies further boosted the trend, as did protectionist measures, such as export restrictions.

While these factors undoubtedly placed upward pressure on food prices, they alone cannot explain the steep hikes. Some believe that the crisis was amplified by speculative trading in commodity futures, which have become an integral part of food markets.

Commodity futures are formal agreements to buy or sell a specified amount of a commodity at a specified future date for a specified price. They

thus provide an important instrument for hedging price risks in commodity markets. By entering into a futures contract, both buyer and seller gain certainty as to the price of their subsequent transaction, independent of actual developments in the market.

Commodity futures are generally traded before their expiration date. Indeed, only 2% of contracts end in the delivery of the physical commodity. Thus, the market also attracts investors who are not interested in the commodity, but in speculative gain. In fact, commodity futures have become increasingly appealing to non-commercial investors, as their returns

seem to be negatively correlated with returns on equities and bonds.

The growing presence of non-commercial investors has provided important liquidity to the market, as speculators assume risks related to commodity prices that hedgers wish to avoid. But their presence has also raised concerns that speculation in commodity futures could result in higher price volatility.

Economists generally consider commodity futures to be the solution to higher price volatility, not its cause. They argue that traders of commodity futures merely react to price signals that ultimately depend on market fundamentals. In this way, speculation accelerates the process of finding an equilibrium price and stabilizing the physical market.

But what about trend-following investors, or those with market power? In fact, in the short term, an investor might be attracted by the increasing price of a commodity, although the price is not based on any fundamental data. These speculative investments can further strengthen the trend and push futures price further away from market equilibrium, especially if many investors follow suit or those who invest have sufficient funds to influence the market.

Index funds are an example of such powerful investors. They have become key players in the market, holding about 25-35% of all agricultural futures contracts. Besides investing large amounts of money, they hold futures contracts for a long time, which might make them less likely to react to changes in market fundamentals.

Empirical evidence yields no clear answer concerning which hypothesis is correct. For each study that finds a significant connection between speculative trading and market volatility, there is at least one that claims the contrary. There are three main reasons

to believe that speculation was not the main driver of the recent food-price surge:

- Although index-fund investments are important compared to the positions of other futures participants, their behavior is predictable, as they publicly announce both their commodity portfolio and the timing of their transactions;
- Price volatility has also been high for commodities that are not traded in futures markets (copper, iron, and ore), or for which these markets are not important (steel and rice);
- As excess demand in well-functioning futures markets can easily be met by sufficient supply (i.e., by issuing new futures contracts), the effect of speculation on the equilibrium price is relatively small and short-lived compared to price swings of a physical asset, for which supply might be less elastic or even fixed in the short term.

Given these findings, trading in futures markets seems to have amplified price volatility in the short term only. Longer-term equilibrium prices, however, are ultimately determined in cash markets where buying and selling physical commodities reflect the fundamental forces.

Futures markets have evolved historically in response to market participants' need to manage price risks, and they are an indispensable marketing tool for many commodities. Limiting or even banning speculation in futures markets might therefore be costly and have unintended consequences.

Proposals to create an international fund to counteract price hikes in futures markets, for example, might divert speculators from trading and thus lower the market liquidity available for hedging purposes. Moreover, such a



fund would require exorbitant resources to be operational, not to mention the tremendous challenges in determining a price level that would trigger its intervention.

Given the important role that commodity futures play for many market participants, regulatory measures should aim at enhancing confidence in the functioning of the market. This can be achieved by increasing transparency and the amount of available information on futures trading. Recent initiatives by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission point in the right direction.

In order to counteract suspicious behavior – such as traders requesting permission to invest amounts that are above their speculative-position limits – the Commission lifted exemptions for two firms trading in maize, wheat, and soybean futures. Such measures will contribute to shaping a more stable market environment and ensure that commodity futures reduce risks and volatility.

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## The value of time - Part 1

By: Faris Mohammed Al-Shoabi  
farismohammed2010@gmail.com

**T**ime is life. It is irreversible and irreplaceable. To waste your time is to waste your life, but to master time is to master your life and make the most of it. Your fate will be determined at the end.

Nowadays, wasting time has become ordinary, particularly in our society and generally in our country. No one makes any effort to use time in useful things or even minimal time management. But what is worse is that their lives unravel randomly without any planning for the future. In this case, does what we call "life" exist? Or do people merely live for eating and drinking? As the saying goes, the person without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder.

Many people in Yemen spend their time chewing qat with their friends, gossiping about people or talking politics from daylight to midnight. They repeat this routine every day without achieving anything.

That may be referred to two reasons. The first is perhaps that they remember the pain of the past and fear the future. The second is that they perhaps not that they believe that they cannot be successful or make any change, but that they believe that their society will only remember them in failure. So and replace that by wasting the time.

Some people argue that qat chewers waste their time. They claim that they sit for five hours doing nothing but chewing. This is correct. Does time have any value in our society? Many non-qat chewers can also be found sitting in restaurants just smoking shisha and chatting, while others hang around the main streets for long periods of time. Moreover, many people watch too much television. Yet, even they waste their time too, they criticize qat chewers about their lack of time management.

The conclusion is that the vast majority of people here in Yemen

waste their time whether they chew qat or not. Watch out! We have to use our time wisely and not end up wasting it or spending it on projects that will go nowhere.

Otherwise, time will prove to those who don't manage it the consequences of their wrongs when they see others who have worked hard succeed in their personal and professional lives.

Qat is controversial among Yemenis. Some see no sense in life without it, while others object to it, however strongly. Among opponents, some see the leaf as a symbol of forfeit and self-destruction, while others argue that it is nevertheless less dangerous than other addictive substances like drugs. The latter joke about chewing qat, calling out to their friends, "Come on, let's go and waste some time."

Free time is spent differently according to character and interests. Some may like to spend their free time with their family, while others would relax entirely alone.

It is impossible to measure the influence of those leisure activities that lead to success, but here are some examples of constructive things to do. For instance, I like to browse the Internet whenever I have the time for two hours only. I keep in touch with my educated friends over the net. I also spend most of my spare time -at least five hours a day- studying English to improve my writing skills towards my goal of becoming an interpreter, translator, editor, or employee of an organization in which the English language is required. I believe that the English language is becoming the global medium of communication worldwide.

Sleeping or praying in the mosque contribute to my personal wellbeing, but I think that it is irrational to claim that leisure activities of any kind will be significant for the future, unless they are studying, reading or learning a new language.

Today, the pace of life becomes faster and faster every day. A man must hurry to utilize every moment of his life so as not to be left behind in the race of life, although some

leisure is necessary for the happiness of life.

The people consider that life is not worth living without leisure. Some must have enough time to enjoy the beauties of nature, play, and watch television, for example. Some must have time to sing, dance, and pursue other fine arts, for all such pleasures and activities are an essential part of life. If the life lacked these elements, it would be dull, boring, dry and unhealthy.

In short, although life would not be worth-living without leisure, many people don't know how to put their spare time to right use, which is why we often hear people complaining that they feel tired during the vacations. Such people misuse their leisure time, sleeping, playing cards or dominos, spreading idle gossip, chewing qat, listening to the radio or to music and watching television.

Merely to have time for leisure is not enough. One must use it wisely. Spending it correctly to use one's brain is an art. The correct way of passing leisure is to acquire culture, to make and contemplate beautiful things during holidays, to go out on picnics, as is done in the West, to enjoy the beauty and fresh air of the countryside.

Of course there are then many workers today who are forced into a perpetuity of free time as they are unemployed. But they fail to use the spare time for their own good and for the good of society.

The way in which a person passes his or her free time lies in education. An educated person would peruse useful books to develop their skills and knowledge.

We must take heed from those who have succeeded in life. There are many sayings about the value of using time wisely in life, notably from western personalities and from our religion of Islam.

*"Leisure is time for doing something useful; this leisure the diligent man will obtain, but the lazy man never."*

Benjamin Franklin (American Statesman, scientist, Philosopher,

Printer, Writer and Inventor, 1706-1790)

*"All intellectual improvement arises from leisure."*

Samuel Johnson (English Poet, Critic and Writer. 1709-1784)

*"Leisure is the Mother of Philosophy."*

Thomas Hobbes (English Philosopher, 1588-1679)

*"There is no such thing as lack of time. We all have plenty of time to do everything we really want to do well."*

Alan Lakein (Author on personal time management)

*"The great dividing line between success and failure can be expressed in five words, 'I do not have time'."*

Franklin Field

*"The right man is the one who seizes the moment"*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (Write and thinker, 1749 -1832)

*"The time is always right to do what is right."*

Martin Luther King, Jr. (clergyman, activist, and leader of the African-American Civil Rights Movement, 1929 - 1968)

*"There always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself."*

Andy Warhol (Artist, 1928 - 1987)

What western people have said about time shows the reasons of their progress, development, and success in their personal lives.

But, what about us? What comes first, the compass or the clock? Before one can truly manage time or the clock, it is important to know where we are going, what our priorities and goals are, and in which direction we are headed, or the compass. Where we are headed is more important than how fast we are going. Rather than always focusing on what's urgent, we should learn to focus on what is really important.

## Jihad!

By: Mikael Strandberg

**An Explorer Learning Arabic**

In a few days I will be leaving Sana'a and return to Sweden. It feels exactly like when the woman you love more than anything has just left you. Your heart aches, you feel empty, you look at pictures of her, you worry what will the future be like, you miss her profoundly and you ask yourself:

I will miss cruising the Old City passing places like this...a workshop....

"Will I ever see her again?"

Well, if the longing and ache is big enough, you will see her again, so YES! I will see Sanaa soon again. Inshallah!

The war planes are still leaving Sana'a, it seems like there is no end to the war, it just continuous and people have almost stopped talking about it. It has become part of the daily chores. Global media still writes about it, though, but still seems to lack profound insight and it seems just to be second hand reports. (Read this and a local point of view, this.) Ramadan is moving into its last week and soon the Eid festivities will begin, the same day I return to Sweden. I guess it is the right time to return, before the festivities. Why indeed enjoy life to its fullest....

**Well, I have had many questions about my studies...how have they fared?**

This is the house where I had my apartment in the Old City, see the lights...that is the mafrag....

Hmmm, I set out to become a scholar and ended up loving Yemen, but I guess, I have a good base when it will be time to set off on the Big Expedition! Problem is that most of the local Yemenis I have hanged out with have spoken English and that the plans for the big Expedition has taken most of my energy and time, trying to get the right contacts here in this lovely country. Which I believe I have. So, as it is right now, I do know a lot more Arabic than when I came here and the school where I have done my studies have been excellent in every way. Good program, excellent teachers and great staff! One thing is for sure, however, my choice to come to Yemen ahead of Egypt or Syria, was the best of choices!

The reason for this is many. First of all, if one wants to experience the real Arabia, Yemen is the place. If you come here to learn Arabic, the same applies, and this is due to that you learn so much more than just Arabic. Very few Yemenis do speak English. You really dwell into the Moslem world in every way! And you get this really important perspective on Islam and Moslems, which for me has been as important, since my upcoming Expedition has all to

do with education and understanding.

How to read the Quran...not at all easy...is kat forbidden, haram, or not?

So, I will try to give you readers some of this new perspective I have acquired. Let me first just state though exactly the same as my good friend, the worlds foremost female camel traveller, Aritha Baijens, who's spent many years travelling the Arab World, told me when I asked her:

**"Are you a Moslem?"**

**"Are you joking? I am a free spirit!"**

The same applies to me. I believe, but do not belong. So, let me continue, when you dive into the Quran you realise after awhile, that this religion in reality is a very just, fair, down to earth and that many of those holy words written in the Suras, Hadiths, well, they can after all be easily misinterpreted to suit people with conservative, non-educated and down right evil minds. Take for example the word Jihad, which in the West is interpreted Holy War and for most Westerners means armed fanaticism either blowing themselves up in crowds of innocent people or cutting heads of Western hostages, well, in reality it means effort. Which means that it in the beginning of Islam stood for a spiritual meaning, that the believer withstood all evil which surrounded him and instead fought the nasty thoughts of oneself. A war against oneself.

**Terreced fields outside Thilla....**

Another discovery when reading the Quran is that is far from as anti-woman as I see in the west believe, it is just again, once more, conservative men who has translated the words of the Quran to suit their own means to keep power...but, yes, there are many anti-woman quotations, as in the Bible and I think one has to try to see the Quran, and the Bible, also in its historical perspective and understand that one has to change with time and apply life to what the world looks like right now. To quote the Quran itself, in Sura 13:11 it states that Allah will not change the possibilities of humans, until they change themselves!

**So true! Have a changed myself during these ten weeks in San'a?**

Indeed, I have regained hope, joy of life, freed myself of a lot of worries and I am set for the Big Expedition!

However, as always, life is just not filled with joy, I am off back to Sweden to sort things out....in shallah, it will work out well.

From now on, all my blog work will be at <http://preparingforthenextexpedition.blogspot.com/>

But, please, do see this little slideshow from my Yemeni visit!

## Smoking

By: Khalil Farhan

**W**ithout considering the serious negative consequences, smokers around the world consume large amounts of tobacco to stimulate their bodies, but this consumption also paves the way to an early death. Since ever attested around the 9th century, the use of tobacco has created religious and ethical controversies. Not only were cigarettes controversial at that time, but they were also associated with bad morals. Over time, cigarettes be-

gan to be consumed so regularly that they became a routine part of smokers' lives.

Proven to be very addictive, just like other drugs, cigarettes cause both physical and mental illness. Cigarettes have addictive properties that make it difficult for a smoker to quit smoking. This is because of the toxic stimulant that cigarettes contain, called nicotine. When the lungs receive smoke from cigarettes, nicotine quickly produces a psychoactive effect. Although some people say to themselves "I will quit tomorrow," the impact of addiction makes it quite difficult for them to stop. Therefore,

physical therapy is usually required in order to stop smoking cigarettes. Cigarettes are in fact just as highly addictive as marijuana and other similar drugs.

Cigarettes also cause many damaging diseases. They are ranked as the main cause of heart disease, and they cause multiple types of cancer like leukemia and lung cancer. Respiratory disease, circulatory disease, birth defects (which include mental and physical disabilities) and emphysema can also be caused by cigarettes. Moreover, the impact of smoking extends to not only the smokers but also to the people around them.

## The good teacher

By: Mohammed Ahmed bin Shihab

**A** good teacher is like a candle, it consumes itself to light the way for others. This statement shows us one of the most important characteristics a teacher should have. The teacher must have a passion for his work. He must sacrifice his time and soul to transmit the correct information to his students. An excellent teacher should have the following characteristics: passion, adequate knowledge, and good communication skills.

A good teacher should have a passion for his job. The great teachers are those who teach from the heart and what emanates from the heart reaches to the heart, but what it produces from the tongue does not exceed the ears. These characteristics have a great impact upon the teacher. When you are distinguished by these characteristics, you will be creative in your teaching. The great teacher should not think about money

or promotion. When the teacher teaches for the sake of teaching, he will find a taste for his job. If he recognizes that he is the builder of future generations, he will enjoy his work.

The second trait of a good teacher is adequate knowledge. "Who dares to teach must never cease to learn" (John Cotton Dana). As a teacher, you should remember that there are no limits for seeking knowledge. Seek knowledge from cradle to grave. "Good teachers are those who know how little they know. Bad teachers are those who think they know more than they don't know" (R. Verdi). The only thing that our prophet asked his God to give him is more knowledge. "My Lord! Increase me in knowledge" (Taha:114). And be sure that whenever you are capable in your subject matter, you will be great in the eyes of your students.

And the most significant characteristic of a good teacher is good communication skills. The teacher may have a passion for his job and a great deal of knowledge,

but he may not have the ability to give information in a correct way. The best teacher is the teacher who understands the needs of his students and gives to them according to their level. The teacher should have good relations with his students, there should not be a gap between the teacher and the students. Some students are afraid to ask or discuss with their teachers, hence the teacher must break these boundaries, resulting in the teaching becoming more interesting.

Passion, adequate knowledge and good communication skills are the most necessary characteristics to be a good teacher. If you want to be a prestigious teacher, you should love your profession. Have in your mind that adequate knowledge is the title of a good teacher. Passion and adequate knowledge will not be effective if the teacher does not have good communication skills. As teachers, we should ask ourselves, are these characteristics present within us or not?

## Teacher

By: Abdunasser Al -Abdali  
Abdul\_nasser12@yahoo.com

Teacher

I love you so much  
You are my teacher  
I consider you my elder sister  
Today, tomorrow and forever  
This is a promise.  
I have said whatever  
Maybe you will forget me and never remember  
As you fly away farther and farther  
To Japan, "the land of beauty and politeness"  
The place where your father and mother live  
But I will be here in Yemen as your brother.  
And how about Hadi, who is your lover?  
Please remember that you are our teacher  
Everyone loves you so much  
Sono, forever.

## Blade Master

By: Liqa Al-Sarori

Rainbows and stars are tossed amid thy eye ,they bud.  
Among the renown troops, they bleed within my blood.  
A royal knight supreme, that came out of my dream.  
I'm soaked amid thy blades ,just stab away and thud.  
A beauteous response that leaks below that smile,  
and yet a vicious smile that drools on what's a while.  
Through the scent of twilight, neath the dusk of my beyond.  
I breathe the distant hope of thee and I could come alive.  
Riding the winds of dooms, chasing the heath of nights ,  
and cuddling thy soul that breathes me in thy breath.  
Endued my pensive heartbeat with beats beneath thine heart,  
Running away with my yen ,sublimed my ended start  
Chapters of his story tilting against my cheek,  
In every page of my books ,neath all the deadly sleeps  
Whey-faced a charm, a bless ,mercy, a curse, a blast  
Though everyday is goodbye ,he came a long at last.

## The guilt I breed

By: Liqa Al-Sarori

Strings of moonlights ,passions of the wind I bleed..  
What would I breathe now ?.Eat my heart and smash that greed.  
Hunger to sanity when craziness is sane and wise ,when would I lose my mind? When would I starve the greed?  
Blame me for the goodness of heart ,for pinks in darks ,for the perfect hopes of perfectness that lacks.  
Illusions I should betray for so lame, for so life is not what I claim so seal my heart with laughter don't seal my tears with shame .  
Accused of roads I never walked ,of mountains high I never climbed ,of me and I am not myself .  
Obtained by the secrets of the universe diving in my core, alone ,halos surrounding faith I creep .  
Seven lives and a half in me ,awaken and die along every time I blink my eye, and seven lives I weep.  
Take me to the wonders of discarding rhymes, and hum along with me ,until the day I sleep...  
Crucify my grave, slay my dusk and justify my goodwill it lies within me deep, I'll be there by dawn carrying my burdens and the guilt I breed.



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معهد أريكتك: ٢٤٠٨٢٢ - ٥١٠٦١٢ - فاكس: ٢٦٥٥٢٧

**شركات للتأمين**

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الوطية للتأمين: ٢٧٢٨٧٣/٢٧٢٨٧٣ - فاكس: ٢٧٢٩٢٤  
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الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين: صناع: ٢٨٤٩١٢  
عن: ٢٤٤٢٨٠  
تفرز: ٢٥٨٨٨١  
شركة اليمن للتأمين: صناع: ٢٧٢٨٠٦/٢٧٢٩١٢/٤٢  
عن: ٢٤٧٦١٧  
تفرز: ٢٥٠٢٤٥

**مدارس**

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سكاي للسفريات والسياحة: ٨٣ / ٥٢٥٠٠٠ - ١  
٢٧٠ ٢٧٠ - ٢٢١ ٢٧٠  
فاكس: ٥٣٥ ٠٨٤ - ١  
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العالمية للسفريات والسياحة: ٤٤١١٥٨٩/٦٠

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الإذاعة: ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون: ١/٢، ٢٢٢٠٠،  
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مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل: ٢٦٤٧٧٥، ٢٦٤٧٠٢، فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٢، ٢٦٤٧٠٢  
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بنك التسليف الزراعي: ١-٥٦٢٨١٢  
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ميرت لتأجير السيارات صنعا: ١-٤٤٠٣٠٩  
فرع شيراتون: ٥٤٥٩٨٥  
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الكلية: ٣٠٦٦٤١  
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والإلكترونيات - أبحاث عن عمل  
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للتواصل: ٧١١٢٩٤٣١١  
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# Shabwa's Secrets: Leather pouches for sesame oil and ghee

By: Nasser Salah  
 For the Yemen Times

In the past, Yemenis used pots made of stone, wood, or clay to store their food and water. But among these pots were also containers made of leather.

"As an old craftsman, I used to buy the [tanned] leather of goats to make differ-

ent objects for general use among which two containers were made of goat leather." Mubarak, an inhabitant of Shabwa in the south of Yemen, told the Yemen Times.

"Using threads of the same material, flat long strips of leather, a knife and a medium needle-like tool with a cartridge holder known as a (shifa,) I used to stitch them into sacks, then attach ropes to the

places where the animal's four limbs had been. This way, they could be hung to pegs attached to a wall in addition to strings to tie their openings."

"One container known as a (kara'e) was merely the leather of a small goat which served as a container for sesame oil or ghee, whereas the second larger one known as a (nahi) was the leather of a big goat leather and used only for

sesame," he explained.

Fatima, 95, said that, to the best of her knowledge, thick date syrup had been added inside to prevent the leather container from leaking. Furthermore, it gave the oil a fresh and sweet taste for a while.

Ben Bakoor, from As-Said in Shabwa, said that from the beginnings of his family's oil press in the fifties, they have been using two such containers.

"From 1950 onwards, my late father used two containers, with wooden tops and ropes around the neck for hanging them up," he said, when asked to describe them.

"I heard from my father that these two containers known as a (garreh) and a (botteh) were brought from Al-Qorafa, a place in Hadramout where they were made of horse hide," he continued. "They

were the main containers used to preserve sesame oil for sale in the shops or presses."

His uncle added that there were also other imported metal containers which were likewise used for sesame oil.

For example, people would use the 25-litre tins and lemon juice powder tins

provided with army rations at the time, the so-called Aden Protectorate Levies and later the Federal Regular Army.

Ben Bakoor remarked that today plastic containers are much more popular.

Ba'aadi, a shopkeeper, concluded that such things are no longer containers for sesame oil as they were before, but merely kept as objects to remember the past.

Today's generation consider them to be old-fashioned and prefer plastic containers. The leather pot is but one of many of Shabwa's local handicrafts that are dying out.



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