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Houthis release 200 soldiers and promise to release civilians

By: **Mohammad Bin Sallam**

SANA'A, August 1 — A mediator between the Houthis and the Yemeni government announced on Saturday evening that the Houthis had released the more than 200 soldiers they had arrested two weeks ago.

Two weeks ago, Houthis are said to have arrested more than 228 people.

The mediator, who requested that his name not be mentioned, said that the leader of the Houthis, Abdulmalek Al-Houthi, is determined to release all prisoners and detainees both soldiers and civilians, in the coming days because Ramadan is approaching.

On the same topic, Sheikh Saleh Habra told the Yemen Times on Sunday that the Houthis will release more than 100 military prisoners, among them a number of wounded soldiers.

He said that the prisoners will be submitted to the head of the mediation committee, Sheikh Ali Nasr Qarsha.

However, the Houthis are still controlling two military sites: Al-Labda and Murshid Mountain. They also blocked the road from Sa'ada to Sana'a.

Ahmad Saleh Habra, a Houthi leader, told the Yemen Times that the Houthis won in their last clash with security forces in Harf Sufian, when they arrested Bin Aziz's father. After mediation, they released him.

According to tribal sources near Sa'ada, the security forces in Al-Malaheth withdrew to the region of Haradh near the Saudi border.

They added that security forces left all the sites near Al-Malaheth two weeks ago where they had confronta-

tions with Houthis during the sixth war.

The security forces also withdrew from the districts of Shatha, Razeh, and Al-Dhaheer on Tuesday after signing the new peace agreement.

According to security sources, the withdrawal was an implementation of the orders of President Saleh, who is the head of the Supreme Security Committee.

Local authorities said that the clashes between Houthis and the tribes are not connected to the army. They accused the Houthis of simply taking revenge because these tribes had assisted the security forces in the sixth war.

"In order to create peace, those who want to make war must be removed from Al-Za'ala and Al-Labda'a," said Mohammad Abdulsamam, the Houthis' spokesman to Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel.

Abdulsalam said that Houthis must listen to calls for peace and settlement.

Saleh accuses Houthis of having foreign agents

President Ali Abdullah Saleh said last Saturday that the Houthis have foreign agendas.

The government accused Houthis of violating the ceasefire several times in Sa'ada and Amran, and this comes during a time of increased tension between the two sides since confrontations took place last week in Harf Sufian.

The president demanded Houthis to be committed on the six conditions laid out by the government, claiming that the state's option is peace, whereas the Houthis' choice is war.

Saleh made these statements on Education Day at the University of Sana'a on Saturday. He said that despite the state's announcement of the ceasefire four months ago, Houthis have still been violating the ceasefire truce.

Saleh expressed his interest in the role of Qatar's mediation to push Houthis to apply the Doha agreement.

"As our brothers in Qatar are in contact with the Houthis, we are looking for Qatar to convince the Houthis to apply what has been agreed upon," Saleh said.

The statements by the president came one day after an official from the Supreme Security Committee accused the Houthis of many ceasefire violations in a statement to Saba News Agency.

Saba News Agency quoted the official as saying that the Houthis' ceasefire violations have resulted in many deaths, injuries, kidnappings, road blocks, robbery, and the destruction of homes.

The siege has resulted in the deaths of 12 persons, the wounding of 55, and the kidnapping of 228 others from the military units in Sa'ada and the tribe of Sheikh Sagheer bin Azeze.

Despite the president's statement against Houthis that they have foreign agendas, he did not make any specific accusations of anyone supporting Houthis, but political analysts think that he meant Iran.

The Yemeni government has previously accused Iran of supporting Houthis, but not officially. It accuses some influential religious figures of twelve Shiites, a Muslim sect, of supporting the Houthis.

Top students neglected



Top students demonstrated last week protesting the negligence of the government. They were promised jobs but since their graduation two years ago they remain unemployed. Today another top students' batch graduates with a promise of disappointment like the ones before.

By: **Sadeq Al-Wesabi**

SANA'A, August 1 — About 444 top students resented being marginalized last Saturday by President Saleh who didn't honor them or give them any promise of positions as planned during the National Science Day.

National Science Day has been held annually in the capital Sana'a and aims to honor top students from public universities. But last Saturday no student was honored by the president or any other official. Furthermore, they didn't receive any assurances that they will be provided jobs as they were previously informed.

Most of the top students came to Sana'a from other governorates with their families who were crowded around the big hall for long hours.

"I didn't benefit from my coming here from Taiz with four of my family," said one top student angrily.

Top students were waiting for good news about their future and jobs from the president as they expected, but the president focused in his speech on the conflicts in Sa'ada and other political problems.

The top students' families were also angry, with some of them waiting without a seat for a long time. When the event finished, a mother of one of the top students wondered why the president didn't talk about jobs for these

students and why he didn't honor them although they came for this purpose.

The president left the hall immediately after his political speech and chaos erupted among the attendees.

"All top students will receive their certificates from their colleges," said an official by microphone when the president had left.

However, students said that they came from remote places to Sana'a to be honored but they didn't receive anything.

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Microfinance network to decrease poverty and unemployment



By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, August 1 — Ten years ago, Fatima Fadhel had only one stove to bake puddings and sweets to support her family. She went to Al-Awael Microfinance Company and asked for support to start her own business.

Al-Awael Microfinance Company in Taiz, funded by the United Nations Development Program, UNDP, is an example of 11 non-profit microfinance institutions in Yemen that support poor people of both sexes to start their own private businesses all over the county, especially in urban areas.

One commercial bank, one foreign exchange company that has now become a microfinance bank, six non-governmental organizations, one company, and two foundations make up these 11 institutions.

The Yemen Microfinance Network YMN was launched officially on August 1st in Sana'a under the patronage of the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi and the Director of the Yemen Social Fund for Development, Osama Al-Sami.

Fatima, who is now 53, expanded her business with the help of more than ten loans from the Al-Awael Company. Now she runs two ovens and employs five workers in her business.

"We have been supporting Fatima Fadhel and 12,000 others to start their own businesses since 2000," said

Mohammad Attya, the Chairman of Al-Awael Microfinance Company.

He added that they have five branches in Taiz, four of which are concerned with supporting women.

"Most of our agents are women in Taiz city. 98% of the 132,000 loans in our institute go to women. They have proved to be successful, and they helped decrease poverty because their small projects involve other poor people, like Fatima's project does," he explained.

YMN is a member-based association registered in August 2009 under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. The YMN project consists of the microfinance member institutions.

The UNDP Resident Representative Pratibha Mehta said that the project aims to build supportive infrastructure to enhance the capacity of local institutions to provide a range of financial services and products to the entrepreneurial poor.

She said that the project also helps widen the scope for participation of youth and women in economic activities and creates job opportunities.

Mehta also stressed the fact that the project not only helps decrease unemployment but also creates confidence and dignity among those who are assisted.

However, she said that the project needs the fertilization of new ideas because it is still only in its first stage.

Sharar Al-Muliki, the YMN

Managing director, said that the project faces challenges in Yemen. Some people believe that taking a loan is a form of usury, which is forbidden in Islam.

Therefore, he said that the project offers two kinds of loans, conventional loans and Islamic loans as a way to encourage people to join the project even if they believe that only Islamic loans, which do not require the payment of interest, are appropriate.

As one of the challenges facing YMN is a lack of human resources, they will be organizing 'training of trainers,' TOT, sessions to train new people who will be able to instruct those who take loans.

In Yemen, where 42% of people suffer from unemployment and poverty, according to the World Bank, microfinancing began in 1997 in cooperation with the Social Fund for Development.

YMN is a partner of Sanabel, the Microfinance Network for Arab Countries, which was established in 2002 in Tunisia to launch a network designed to serve microfinance institutions in the Arab world. In 2002, Yemen had two representatives in the Network, out of a total of 17 representatives from seven Arab countries.

Currently, in 2010, Yemen is one of 13 countries that are members of the Sanabel network. The other twelve countries are Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia.

New water project in Al-Dhale'



The water project in Al-Aghbari village in Al-Dhale' cost about 133,000 USD. It was funded by the Qatar Charity and implemented by CSSW.

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, July 31 — The Islam Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) has completed a water project in Al-Aghbari village, Damt district, in Al-Dhale' on Saturday with funds from the Qatar Charity.

Ibrahim Osman, the head of the project's administration at the CSSW said that the project cost about USD 133,000 which was funded by the Qatar Charity with the project being implemented by CSSW.

Al-Aghbari village with more than 3000 nearby people benefit from the project which took about one year to construct. The project included digging a 326m well, a water pump, a water tank as well as network piping.

"Yemenis from the Damt district that live in Qatar helped look for support for the project until the Qatar Charity

agreed to fund the project," said Osman. He added that the area has been suffering from water insufficiency.

The Qatar Charity is a Qatari non-government organization established in 1992 to support Qatari society and other needy communities abroad. It is one of the largest charities in the Gulf, and has activities in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Its mission is to support the needy in cooperation with local partners.

Yemen is the least developed country in the region, and one of the world's most water poor countries, where per capita availability of water is only two percent of the world average, according to the World Bank. The country's water crisis has not only delayed the efforts for developing the country, but has also resulted in social and tribal disputes over water wells and land ownership as demand for water supply only

increases.

Rainfall represents the main source of water needed for agriculture and households, and nearly all of the rainfall evaporates. Overall supply is 5.1 billion cubic meters, but the renewable supply is only 2.5 billion cubic meters while demand is 3.5 billion cubic meters. Only about 56 percent of the population has access to the network water supply in urban areas and about 45 percent has access to safe water in rural areas, according to the World Bank.

About 90 percent of the country's ground water in Yemen is used for irrigation. In a recent official report it was stated the Yemenis use about 30 percent of the ground water for growing qat. Landlords and private companies have also been drilling unauthorized wells that have further depleted Yemen's groundwater.

Ministry of Interior changes security leadership in five governorates

By: The Yemen Times correspondent

DHAMAR, August 1 — The Minister of the Interior, Brigadier Mutahar Rashad Al-Masri, issued a decree on Saturday to change five chiefs of security in five governorates.

The decree appointed Colonel Ahmed Ali Masaud Al-Waleedi to be the security chief in Dhamar governorate, Abdulkarim Al-Udaini to be the security chief in Taiz, Jameel Ahmed Aqlan to be the chief of security in Lahj, Ahmed Saleh Alaw to be the security chief in Al-Jawf and Mujahed Ahmed Al-Hazwara to be the chief of security in Hajjah.

The decree was not only confined to security chiefs. It also appointed Dr. Alawi Qara' to be the general director of training and qualifying and the colonel Saleh Hussein Qasim to be the general director of human resources.

These changes in the security leadership and officials at the ministry coincide with security problems in those governorates, especially in the governorates of Al-Jawf, Dhamar and Lahj.

Security sources in Dhamar governorate explained that the elimination of Colonel Najm Al-Din Harash as security chief in Dhamar came after repeated requests from Harash to the minister to discharge him from his post. He had held his position for more than eight years.

The sources added that the elimination of Harash also came after the governorate witnessed a lot of security problems between tribes in



The Ministry of the Interior has changed chiefs of security in governorates of Dhamar, Taiz, Lahj, Al-Jawf and Hajjah.

Dhamar in different districts.

The source explained that recent disputes between tribes have resulted in the killing of two persons and the wounding of two others.

The source went on to say that there are some influential persons from Dhamar who work as security chiefs outside of their governorate and work against security efforts.

People in the governorate are hoping that security chiefs who are from Dhamar but working outside their governorate will not interfere with the tasks of the new security chief and will let him maintain security in their area.

"We hope that security chiefs who are from Dhamar will not interfere in the duties of the newly appointed

security chief in our governorate," said

Hussein Naji, local citizen in Dhamar.

Zeyad Abdulwahab, another local citizen in Dhamar, told the Yemen Times that allowing the relatives of security chiefs in Dhamar to carry weapons in the city contributes to insecurity.

"It is shameful to see the relatives of security chiefs wondering in the streets carrying Kalashnikovs and grenades in their cars," he added.

"We hope that the security leaders will not be factors of insecurity in the city," he said.

Abdulmajeed Salah, another local citizen, said that the entry of arms into the city is a key factor of the insecurity in the city of Dhamar.

PM: Corruption a challenge to governments and societies

By: Mahmoud Assamie

SANA'A, July 30 — Corruption has become a challenge to the governments and societies in different parts of the world, it eats the wealth of peoples, hinders investment and weakens the rule of law, said Prime Minister Ali Mujawar.

In the opening ceremony of the second conference of the Arab Anti Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) held on Monday, Mujawar added that corruption is the main source of failing development efforts, increasing poverty and the deepening gap between the rich and the poor.

"Cooperation in protection against corruption has become a core matter to eradicate it," he argued, indicating that the government of Yemen has made fighting corruption the top of its list of priorities, and that the government has committed itself to support the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC).

Meanwhile Qatari General Prosecutor Ali Al-Marri, the head official who is charged with combating corruption in Qatar, said that corruption has become a tumor and must be eradicated.

"Talking about corruption was prohibited until recently, but today it has become accepted," he said, stressing that fighting corruption needs strong political will.

During the two-day conference, SNACC launched the National Strategy for Combating Corruption. The strategy deals with all facets of corruption in Yemen: its essence, reasons, magnitude, consequences and trends in fighting it.

The strategy includes the interconnected methodical framework for the national system of transparency and fighting corruption. Additional components that aim to coordinate efforts in the strategy include measures to protect against corruption and stopping its practice, rescuing the law and judicial follow-up, and promoting awareness and social participation.

The strategy has two main aims: To enhance the principles of integrity and transparency and to improve administrative and institutional mechanisms to boost accountability and protect against corruption. The strategy also aims to promote awareness.

The strategy is based on Islamic religious values, national legislation, political willingness, the national agenda for inclusive reforms as well as drawing from Yemen's international commitments with its development partners and the international legislation represented in the United Nations' treaties in combating corruption.

Chairman of SNACC, Ahmad Al-Anesi, said Yemen is like any other country and sensed the danger of corruption, so it established the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption in 2007.

"The authority has tackled a number of corruption issues. It referred 24 corruption issues to prosecution and sent the files of 25 officials to the prosecution. These officials did not submit their financial statement disclosures," he said.

The conference aimed at reaching a joint vision on the importance of anti-corruption strategies, discussing

significant experiences on enacting national strategies and establishing consistency in working out mechanisms to implement anti-corruption strategies. It also aimed at encouraging a realistic approach considering the comprehensive ruling and merging sector challenges, and encouraging an approach that takes into consideration the role of the private sector and civil society.

The conference discussed in its six work sessions the United Nations anti-corruption agreements, tools for supervision and evaluation on implementing national anti-corruption strategies, successful experiences in drafting the national anti-corruption strategies and also successful experiences in implementing these strategies.

The sessions also discussed relations between national strategies and reforms in parliamentary management, boosting supervisory jobs in the parliament, boosting transparency and integrity in public purchases, financial fraud and corruption in the tax system, enhancing integrity in the public services and building confidence and coalitions to combat corruption.

The conference finished with giving Yemen the presidency of ACINET and Morocco was appointed as the deputy. A work program for the second round of the network has been approved for the period 2010-2011.

ACINET was established in Jordan on July 30, 2008. It is a regional forum for Arab countries to promote their aims in the fields of transparency, accountability and implementing international and regional treaties on combating corruption.

Continued from page 1

Top students resent being ignored by the president

"The organizers of this day aimed to satisfy the president to obtain positions, and didn't show any interest in the top students," said Redwan Masood, head of Yemen Students Union.

Masood told the Yemen Times that he was prevented from reading his speech at the National Science Day because he wanted, as he said, to send important messages to the president

about the top students and the situation of universities.

"The organizers wanted to amend my speech to be compatible with their politics and when I refused that they didn't allow me to read it on the day," he said.

According to Masood, the event was a mere carnival to show off fake achievements, moreover, the event was irrelevant to top students although it had been held for them.

Masood criticized Sana'a University officials who spend large amounts of money to hold such useless events but barely spends any money on scientific research.

Hundreds of top students who graduated in 2008 protested last week at the Presidency Office against being unemployed for over two years. They had been promised positions by the president at last year's National Science Day.

Exceed language center celebrate another batch graduation

Under the patronage of the Japanese Ambassador and Tareq Sabiha chairperson of the board of directors Exceed Language Center celebrated the graduation of a new batch of 15 students.

During the celebration the graduates celebrated their success with their friends and families while certificates and awards were distributed to the distinguished students.

Exceed Language Center has been founded on the principle of providing excellence in English language teaching and learning and we are dedicated to the task of helping students succeed in gaining the proficiency in English necessary to helping

them in their academic and career pursuits. Both our teaching and management staff have a great deal of experience in operating successful education programs in Yemen (and elsewhere) and all of us share a common vision for creating a productive and comfortable learning environment.



CSSW prepares for Ramadan

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare is preparing its Ramadan assistance projects which benefit hundreds of thousands of poor people around the country.

Yahya Al-Daba Assistant General Secretary of the society said that this is the society's 18th year in which it distributes aid to the poor. Every year the number of beneficiaries increases and this year the society aims at helping 120 thousand families with a total of 800,000 members.

One of Ramadan projects is the Iftar (fast breaking) meals provided in

mosques across the republic. Another project includes distribution of food items and dates to needy families. A third project is giving dates and juice to travellers on cities entry points.

Closer to the Eid Al-Fitr holiday the society will start distribution of clothes and presents for children of the poor. It will also distribute meat to the needy families to enjoy on the Eid day.

Al-Daba called on philanthropists and kind people to donate to the charity in order to make this projects more effective and reach more people.

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At the request of Yemenia (Yemen Airways) the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided Expert Training in Travel Document Examination at the Yemenia Training Centre on 12th and 13th July 2010 which was attended by over 16 participants. The trainees invited for this course were not only from Yemenia and Yemen Ground Handling Turkish Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Gulf Air.

The participants greatly appreciated the training as it provided them with detailed, up-to-date and useful information relating to travel document security and abuse. The IOM training forms a part of the implementation of a European Union funded project entitled "Empowering Government and Civil Society in Yemen to Address Mixed Migration".

The Opening and Closing sessions were attended by Mr. Fawzi Al-Zioud the acting chief of IOM Yemen and Mohammed Y. Aljadabi Director Training along with Mr. Ali Jaffer Director Customer Service and Ground Operations.

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Brief About the 108th Session of the Canton Fair

China Import and Export Fair, renowned as the "Canton Fair", is an important channel of China's foreign trade and a key window of opening up, playing a key role in promoting the development of China's foreign trade and economic communication. It is reputed as "China's No.1 Fair".

The Canton Fair is hosted by Ministry of Commerce of P. R. China and People's Government of Guangdong Province and organized by China Foreign Trade Centre in Guangzhou, China in every spring and autumn. Since its establishment in 1957, the Canton Fair has enjoyed the longest history, the largest scale, the biggest buyer attendance, the broadest buyer distribution, the most complete exhibit variety, and the best business turnover for 107 sessions. The 107th session of the Canton Fair attracted 203,996 buyers from 212 countries and regions, 15,827 more than that of last Autumn Fair, up by 8.4%. The total export turnover reached USD 34.3 billion, increased by 12.6% over last Autumn Fair. This session of the Fair did pretty well and operated smoothly, which contributed to growth rebound both in overseas buyer attendance and export turnover.

Chinese exhibitors of the Canton Fair are credible and highly competitive. About 20,000 domestic enterprises participate in each session, which are selected from hundreds of thousands of Chinese enterprises and representing the highest industry level.

The Canton Fair is a great trade event which is comprehensive and specialized. Depending on the advantage of Chinese manufacturing industry and oriented by international demand, the Canton Fair collects over 150 thousand kind of Chinese and overseas products. And in each session, the new products account for over 40% of the total.

Chinese government makes great efforts on balancing the import and export. Accordingly, the Canton Fair started to set up International Pavilion since the 101st session in 2007 and invited overseas enterprises to participate. The last 7 sessions have welcome over 2,000 enterprises from more than 50 countries and regions.

The Canton Fair has always attached great importance to IPR protection, and it is the earliest exhibition that implements measures to protect IPR. As early as the 85th session in 1999, it set up a complaint reception center. So now it has a complete and adaptable IPR protection system.

The world economy has turned better this year. External

demand witnesses a trend of turnaround, and foreign trade shows signs of growth recovery. However, the foundation for the world economic recovery is not yet stable. With increasing pressure and numerous uncertainties, situation for China's foreign trade is more complex than expected. As the weather glass and vane of China's foreign trade, the upcoming 108th session of the Canton Fair will attract more attention from the world. It will be held in China Import and Export Fair Complex from October 15 to November 4, 2010. The fair will be arranged into 3 Phases, namely, Phase 1: October 15-19, Phase 2: October 23-27, Phase 3: October 31-November 4. Intervals: October 20-22, October 28-30.

The 108th session of the Canton Fair will accommodate about 57,000 standard stands, with a gross exhibition area of over 1,100,000 square meters and over 20,000 domestic and overseas enterprises. To encourage more overseas enterprises to explore Chinese market, we will continue to set up the International Pavilion and further improve various services.

As the organizer of the Canton Fair, China Foreign Trade Centre shoulders the responsibility of serving Chinese and overseas Enterprises and upholds the concept of "Put People First and Customer-Oriented". Introducing service concept and system of Specialization and Marketization, the Canton Fair fosters an experienced service team and improves its exhibition service. Beside a series of supportive services including catering, interpretation, multi-nationals sourcing, E-commerce, consultation, conference, custom, transportation, postal services, the Canton Fair spare no efforts in establishing tailored business and commercial services such as Overseas VIP Lounge. With improved software and hardware that provide more facilitation to exhibitors and buyers, the Canton Fair establishes a better platform for trade cooperation and communication.

Friends from all walks of life have given great support and care for the Canton Fair for a long time. The 108th session of the Canton Fair will be held in Guangzhou, China this October. We cordially invite friends from world industrial and commercial communities to visit, exhibit and source in the 108th session of the Canton Fair, and welcome journalists to visit the 108th session of the Canton Fair.

China Foreign Trade Centre
June, 2010

Stories from Real Life

Reasons behind spinsterhood

By: Nawal Zaid
For the Yemen Times

Victim of an accident during childhood

Altaf Ali is 36, unmarried and a housemaid. When she was seven, Altaf accidentally struck her vagina with a piece of wood whilst playing with her sisters and neighbor's daughters. Seeing blood flow from Altaf, her sister went to tell her mother what had happened.

The mother Fatima felt very scared for her daughter and at the same time she felt scared to tell her husband fearing his reaction. She kept the event secret and fixed in her mind and her sister's mind that Altaf had lost her honor (virginity).

The mother remained unable to do anything but cry. In her very limited thinking and lack of awareness she told her daughter "you have lost your honor and if your father knows about this, he will kill you. From now on you will not go out of the house." Then she beat her violently and informed her children about the incident.

As a child, Altaf still didn't know anything about what all this meant. All she knew was that her father

would kill her. She felt frightened and worried a lot, which eventually led to a psychological complex. She lived her childhood strangely, always living alone and fearful of everything. Her conduct became strange.

Even in school, she spent most of her time thinking of her fate and what her mother had told her. She was not able to concentrate on her studies or do her homework.

When people or guests came to the house, she ran away and hid herself so as not to be seen by them. Altaf remained this way for many years until she grew up and began to understand. Her concern and fear of the unknown was all the time increasing.

When suitors came to engage her, she refused them vehemently without thinking or hesitation and simply cried. Time passed and nothing changed. Her brothers were always making her feel that she had done something wrong and was impolite.

She lived hard times. She hoped that someone would come to engage her and, in understanding her problem, would accept to marry her. She is a good girl and everybody loved and respected her.

Once a man saw and admired her and later he came to ask for her hand. But she felt frightened and tried to run away from marriage. But when she reached thirty she found a man

at her work called Nader, who loved her more and told her he wanted to marry her. This time she felt strong and decided to tell him frankly about everything that had happened to her.

After she told him her story, he understood her condition and promised not to leave her. When Nader decided to engage her, she went to a doctor to investigate her case. This was the first time she had been to a doctor. After the doctor inspected her, she told her that she was okay and that her virginity was not harmed at all.

Upon hearing this, Altaf felt that she was dreaming and barely believed what she had been told. She felt she had been born again at that moment. She was very happy, walking the streets as if blind from her happiness. She felt that she owned the whole world after years of suffering and ignorance.

Altaf decided not to tell anyone about this except her close friends. Time passed until the engagement appointment. On that day, her mother strongly refused and created problems in the house to make Nader leave even after they had agreed on all things.

Altaf felt very sad and returned to the same corner in the house where she had suffered sadness and loneliness in the past. When anyone came to engage her, her mother objected strongly and made her husband also refuse by creating

various justifications.

All her brothers eventually got married and had children. While they are enjoying their lives, poor Altaf, who is now 36, lives with her family serving them and taking care of her brothers' children. She still hopes to marry and settle in her own house. She always suffers when she sees the children of her brothers. When she looks at her mother's face, her hatred of her increases and she wishes that she had never been the daughter of these bad people.

Kept at home to work

Sabah Yahya is unmarried and doing housework and working as a tailor at home. Sabah lives with her mother, brother and sisters after the death of her father. The two sisters work as teachers. They are also unmarried because they are employees and cannot leave their work. The suitors who come to ask for their hands precondition that they must leave their jobs.

Their father refused anyone who came to engage any of his daughters under the pretext that he would not give his daughters to unknown people. The years passed and he kept refusing suitors until the daughters were over 30 years old.

Sabah is now 40, works at home and takes care of younger children in addition to her work as a tailor. Men, especially younger men, refuse to marry women over 40 years old.

Sabah suffers from spinsterhood and loneliness more than her sisters because she has not finished her education, and has not been given a chance to work like her sisters outside of the house. Her sisters, however, think more and more about collecting money to build houses and buy gold to secure their future.

Scared to marry someone like her brothers

Amel Naji is 35 and unmarried, her education is at primary level. She is taking care of her family's house and younger children. She lives with her family and hopes to marry anyone she is satisfied with and who is not chosen for her by her family. Suitors always come to her family asking for her hand and she refuses, fearing that they will be like her brothers, not one of which is aware or has any positive ideas.

Amel refuses any proposals that come through her family, steadfastly refusing an arranged marriage. She prefers that the suitor chooses her himself and that she is not chosen

by his family for him. But if any suitor chooses her for himself and she is satisfied with him, her family refuses him.

Years have passed and her brothers have started to call her a spinster and make fun of her. Even suitors who knew her family have stopped coming to ask for her hand. Only foreigners now come and her family refuses them under the pretext that the family is afraid for her being with a foreign man.

She lives with her family and suffers a lot from their harsh ways and considers marriage the best way to get rid of them. But unfortunately, they will not let her do what she likes, especially in recent times when she thinks of marrying anyone who comes asking for her hand.

Her sisters fear that if she gets married and leaves the family house, they will have to take on her role and take responsibility in caring for their parents and the rest of the younger brothers and sisters.

All of Amal's married brothers also live in the house with their wives. They also fear that their wives will have to take responsibility for their parents, brothers and sisters if Amal leaves the house.

Now, everyone opposes her marrying because everyone is afraid of taking over her responsibilities if she leaves home. Amal has become the victim of her family and she is spinster.

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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



OUR OPINION

Yemen does not need a quick fix

What many officials in the Yemeni government are calling for now is supporting the national budget with lots of cash in order to overcome the deficit which reaches up to one quarter of the budget.

The state supports around 1.5 million Yemenis who are government employees, including those in the army and security apparatuses. The concern is that Yemen will not be able to pay these salaries and this will cause violent street protests.

I don't see this happening. Not because Yemenis will not be angry, but because the majority of Yemenis income is not from the state. Of at least 7 million working Yemenis only 1.5 million receive their salaries from the government, and in many cases because of job duplication, names among those government workers are repeated.

The officials demand urgent money from donors in order to stabilize the deterioration in the currency and protect the national budget from collapse. They argue that there is no money in Yemen. I don't believe this is true.

First of all, the argument that we need to infuse cash directly to the budget translates into giving money to the very people whose financial policies led us to where we are today and allow them to continue dealing with matters the same way. Secondly, I don't believe at all that there is no money in Yemen. Money can be found with proper taxation holding accountable those who embezzle money through their position of authority.

The argument that Yemeni government employees who supposedly will not get their salaries will revolt is quite absurd. We did not argue when power cuts happened frequently, and when we did not and continue not to receive the basic services any citizen is entitled to such as adequate healthcare, policing, education and so on.

Yemenis do not know their rights and most of the time are not concerned in citizenship issues. Yemen, unfortunately, is a country with no national identity and no understanding of the concept of state. Even those Yemenis who work with the government are not loyal to the government.

Yemen does not need another quick fix. It needs a studied long term solution that should come from within. Neither the friends of Yemen nor the IMF can help us at this stage if we do not help ourselves and take ownership of our problems. A friend was telling me that the electricity problem Yemen is suffering from would be solved if no one, especially the officials, were allowed to use personal power generators. Then they would understand what it is like to not have power and start doing something about it.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

How US-UK Create 'Terrorist' States: Yemen as a Case Study

By: Tim Coles
Redress, Al-Jazeera, CCUN

How to create your very own terrorist state
Tim Coles takes us through 11 steps necessary to create a "terrorist state". Using Yemen as a case study, he argues that these steps precisely match US and British policies in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran as well as Yemen to grow "very poisonous seeds", some which have ripened while others are ripening.

So, you want to create your own terrorist state, do you? Follow these simple instructions and you will be able to grow "very poisonous seeds. These seeds are growing now. Some have ripened and others are ripening," as Eqbal Ahmad explained.

In 2002, the Bush administration's National Security Strategy (NSS) made it clear that America, with Britain's help, intends to increase terrorism by chasing terrorists around the world instead of capturing them, or, better still, addressing their grievances - this is the real world, after all, which is dominated by financial interests, so there's no time for rational solutions here.

The NSS reads: "The United States and countries cooperating with us must not allow the terrorists to develop new home bases. Together, we will seek to deny them sanctuary at every turn."

The policy of giving terrorists no "haven", rather than working to end terrorism, gives the US and Britain the excuse to "fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theatre wars" by chasing terrorists around the globe and, more worryingly, to actually cause terrorism.

When terrorism occurs, Britain and America then have the perfect excuse to invade, isolate, impose sanctions on and/or corrupt the given country, as we see in Pakistan, Iran and elsewhere. Under Obama, this horrendous pretext to achieve "full spectrum dominance" was expanded.

So, here is how to create your own terrorist State, using Yemen as an example. This will come in handy as a pretext to invade or impose sanctions on the country of your choosing later on as a continuation of your plans for "full spectrum dominance".

Step 1:
Make sure you have a media and an education system sophisticated enough to omit what your country does to others, but emphasize what other countries do to you.

This will enable your domestic population to hate the people of the other country, allowing you to pursue your agenda without the risk of being overthrown by your own population. In 2002-03, unprecedented numbers of protestors demonstrated in London against the Iraq war. This could be dangerous for future wars because the public might one day try to overthrow you. Therefore, domestic subversion is also a good tactic if you can do it.

Step 2:
Select a country that has suffered under your colonial rule in the past. Aden, now Yemen, was occupied by the British in 1839. In 1947, the Amir of Dhala's son, Haidan, led an uprising which was crushed with overwhelming firepower from Britain's Royal Air Force. In a study for the RAND Corporation, Bruce Hoffman explained:

"No sooner than the threat from Haidan been neutralized than trouble erupted from another tribe, in the nearby village of Al Hussein... Once again punishment was applied from the air. Four Mosquitoes and three Tempests from No. 8 Squadron were ordered to destroy the village. The rocket and cannon air strike, the after-action report stated, "was most impressive and awe-inspiring, and the attack undoubtedly made an impression not easily forgotten."

Step 3:
Make sure that your selected country has a neighbour across the sea, or on its border, which has also suffered under your colonial rule. You will need to do this for Step 7 later on. In 1925, the colonial administrator, Douglas Jardine, not to be confused with the cricketer, explained the geostrategic importance of Aden and British Somaliland, now Somalia:

"Berbera, the capital [of Somaliland], is but 160 miles across the Gulf from Aden, and is, therefore, but 12 days distance from London and six from Bombay. It cannot be said that

this proximity to our main imperial trade route has been of much benefit to the protectorate in the past; but it might prove at any time to be of incalculable value."

Indeed, it turned out "to be of incalculable value". Another colonialist, H.B. Kittermaster, explained: "The dry coastal climate makes the [Somaliland] Protectorate as good as Aden for the production of salt. This is already being done in a primitive way by the natives, and negotiations are now in progress with a British syndicate to develop the industry scientifically."

Today, the countries are more generally used along the oil trading routes.

Step 4:
Now that you have chosen a country, in close proximity to its exploited neighbour, you'll want to ensure that the suffering inflicted upon it had continued throughout the course of, say, one hundred years. This is long enough to foster intergenerational resentment and hatred of your own country. Britain's "establishment of the Middle East Command (MEC) headquarters in Aden in 1960 helped fuel the fires of revolution", Stephen Dorril explained in his history of MI6.

"The 1962 Defence White Paper, "The Next Five Years", stated that Britain would continue to back the local sultans in South Yemen and the Gulf, and that the Aden base would be the permanent headquarters of this strategy... Aden was to be one of the three key points in Britain's global military deployment... Fifty thousand Lee Enfield rifles were shipped from the UK to Yemeni royalists. According to the 21st SAS Volunteers Commander Richard Pirie, the mercenaries deployed in Yemen were paid GBP 250 per month from the Foreign Office and from the MoD [Ministry of Defence]."

British and Scottish mercenaries were paid GBP 100,000 a year to launch a chemical war against the population which resulted in the slaughter of 200,000 Yemenis, largely in defence of what was then an oil refinery run by the British.

Step 5:
Now that you have fostered enough resentment and ruined a country's chance of socio-economic recovery, you might want to try betraying even the mercenary elements of that country attempting to side with you. In 1979, America and Britain began funding, arming and training the Afghan mujahideen in order "to draw the Russians into the Afghan trap", to quote US President Jimmy Carter's national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

This worked. Russia and the mujahideen ruined Afghanistan - and out of the ashes rose the Taliban, whom Britain and America supported almost up to 9/11. Britain's leading independent terror specialist, Jason Burke, documented how many of the more fascist elements of the mujahideen were Yemenis who "had distinguished themselves at the battle of Jalalabad in 1989". By 1992, however, the US had not supported those factions who were outraged by the intricacies of the unification of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Step 6:
Capture and torture people from all over the world in a prison such as Guantanamo Bay. Deny them habeas corpus: no charge; no trial; no representation; no right to a lawyer; no right to visits from friends, relatives or the Red Cross; and do so for an indefinite period.

Select people whose religion is the same as those in the terrorist state you are looking to create (in this case Islam). This will create a sense of kinship among those you are turning into enemies. This will make the enemies seem more closely knit, yet from varying countries, giving your country the excuse to invade country after country. Also, use your media to dehumanize the captives, making them seem guilty without evidence.

Once you have traumatized those prisoners of the same religion - which your education system regards as incompatible with modernity - release them to the country you wish to turn into a terrorist state. They may all get together and plot revenge which you can then use to justify attacking the country. In 2009, Barack Obama began releasing former Guantanamo Bay hostages to Yemen.

Step 7:
Destroy the stabilizing government of the

neighbouring country. In 2006, Britain and America supported Somali warlords, such as Abdullah Yusuf, who invaded Somalia in order to overthrow the emerging government (the Union of Islamic Courts) and replace them with a fascist government nobody wanted (the Transitional Federal Government, or TFG). The TFG then launched a campaign of famine, torture and violence so extreme that hundreds of thousands of Somalis fled across the sea to seek refuge in Yemen, with tens of thousands fleeing each year.

Once you have ruined the neighbouring country, poor, displaced, oppressed, Muslim refugees will flock to the country you are trying to turn into a terrorist state (Yemen). Here, clerics in madrassas [religious schools] will have a constituency of desperate people whom they can radicalize and turn into future terrorists, as happened in Pakistan in the 1980s when millions of Afghans fled from Soviet troops and the mujahideen (as we saw in Step 5), many of whom became the Taliban in the early 1990s.

Step 8:
Murder people without charge or trial in both countries with new, super-weaponry, such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (drones). This will terrorize and radicalize the population of the country you are trying to turn into a terrorist state. Hopefully, your media will attempt to vindicate the drone attacks by either not reporting them or else uncritically quoting officials who claim that the drones target terrorists. Without journalists challenging these official statements, the public may assume that they are correct. (This is happening in more and more countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Somalia and possibly even Haiti).

Step 9:
Omit as much of the previous steps as you can from public knowledge via the media and education system of your own country. This will make any action from the country you are trying to turn into a terrorist state seem unprovoked, giving you the chance to invade as an act of self-defence. It will also allow you to carry on without your public overthrowing you (as mentioned in Step 1). Also, get your media to make meaningless statements about the country you are trying to turn into a terrorist state, such as "Osama Bin Laden's grandfather was born there", or "the failed Christmas underpants bomber (Umar Farouk Abdulmuttallab) was radicalized there by the cleric Anwar Al-Awlaqi" - even though Abdulmuttallab's father informed the FBI of his son's radicalization months before, which the FBI ignored - or, "Nidal Malik Hasan, the major who killed several of his colleagues at a US base, was radicalized there" - even though this was not terrorism because they were military targets.

Step 10:
Wait for a terrorist attack to occur, in the country itself, against a British national stationed there, such as an ambassador who had previously worked in another country you helped to destroy.

When the British ambassador to Yemen,

Tim Lorlot (who had worked for the British government in Iraq) was attacked in April 2010, the "left" and "right" media leapt at the chance to emphasize how dangerous Yemen is to Britain (for which we planned in Step 1).

Careful reading shows that few newspapers actually revealed their sources. The Independent revealed a source, namely that the Yemeni Interior Ministry said the attack "bore all the hallmarks of Al-Qaeda", but as Britain and America are training and funding the Yemeni government and secret services, any information provided by them is biased. The Independent also revealed that the primary sources for the incident are "Yemeni newspapers [which] cite anonymous security sources" to name the bomber as Osman Ali Noman Asaloi. In other words, it could be a total fabrication.

The Guardian alleged that some Al-Qaeda members fled Yemen to Somalia via Aden. Perhaps they bumped into the tens of thousands of refugees fleeing from the Western-backed Transitional Federal Government?

The Times reported that "no group claimed responsibility for the attack", yet the press, basing their information on the Yemeni government, blamed Al-Qaeda. The Times also admitted that "terrorism is merely a symptom of Yemen's overwhelming problems", but did not mention that they began in 1839, when Britain invaded, and continue up to the present. This emphasizes the importance of Step 2.

The Telegraph reported: "The Interior Ministry later stated: "This operation reflects the state of despair which has hit the terrorists after the painful pre-emptive strikes which they received in their hideouts at the hands of security services", which are being trained and funded by the US and Britain, one might add, but this offers no evidence that the victims are "terrorists".

Step 11:
Now sit back and wait for the country to boil over into extreme violence, making sure you poke the bear with sticks, such as increased drone attacks and security raids by the puppet government being armed and trained by your own.

After a few years, you will have yourself a nice terrorist state. Later, academics can refer to the country as a "failed state", perhaps even invoking your "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P), omitting, of course, exactly why it has become a "failed state" and why one needs to exercise R2P. While your domestic population assumes that you are either incompetent or out there to combat terrorism, you can secure energy routes or raw resources. As Liam Fox, the defence secretary of the 2010 Liberal Democrat-Conservative "coalition" government, explained:

"In the years ahead energy security, economic security and national security will be inextricably linked. If we want to ensure that we can keep the lights on in Britain then we need to develop a comprehensive energy strategy. It is simply a matter of risk management. Such a strategy will need to have three components: diversity in the type of fuels we use; diversity in the geographical sources of those fuels; and the security structures that will guarantee the safe transport of these fuels."



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Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

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Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
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Vacancy Announcement

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Deadline for applying is 15/08/ 2010



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UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the Posts of:

Communication Officer

Unit Programme

Under the guidance of the UNFPA Representative, the Communication Officer will contribute to the UNFPA visibility, promote the mandate, manage the info content of the organization, participate in advocacy initiatives and will help the CO to improve communication and information processes and activities. It will develop a national UNFPA communication strategy based on UNFPA's Global Communication Strategy, regional strategy and priority themes of Yemen's Country Programme, and the political context in Yemen. The Officer also provides strategic guidance to the CO management and projects on communication related issues and considerations. It will also promote UNFPA's policy, programme implementation and work among partners, civil society, international and local media and in public.

The Communication Officer will be fully- in charge of internal and external office communication to ensure communication flow, to increase UNFPA visibility among national partners, UN agencies, ASRO, HQ, donors community, and all media. On a regular basis, the Communication Officer will collaborate with the Regional Communication Advisor/RCA on all strategic information in the context of the UNFPA Country Programme, major events, political and social trends, breaking news, newly established population policies, gender and reproductive health and rights etc...

Under the direct supervision of the UNFPA Representative, the incumbent will:

1. Identify possible feature and news stories on UNFPA projects, policies and achievements in Yemen. Document, develop and write the stories; Supervise the production of public information materials on the work of UNFPA and assist projects in maintaining effective communications plans and media relations
2. Prepare press releases and other information materials aimed at sensitizing the public opinion at large to UNFPA priorities and highlighting the work of the CO and projects in the different programme areas
3. Write press and information materials as needed, including fact sheets, speeches, talking points for Representative and/or Deputy Representative;
4. Produce content and narrative for visibility and promotion materials, including UNFPA briefings, brochures, etc.;
5. Coordinate the designing of the Country Office Website and ensure regular updates of its content in close cooperation with Programme Officers and

SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

- the IT team.
- 6. Regular and systematic contribution to UNFPA in the News, UNIC News Letter, YFCA Newsletters, and others;
- 7. Ensure visibility of interventions in UNFPA publications at national and international levels;
- 8. Maintain good media relations with local, regional, and international reporters, to enhance UNFPA visibility by educating the media about the organization's principal themes and the Yemen Country Programme;
- 9. Assist Yemen Country Office in developing a communication strategy;
- 10. Assist the Yemen Country Office in organizing visibility events: UNFPA and UN days, media events, report launches, media breakfasts and media tours to project sites;
- 11. When necessary, provide daily updates to Regional Communication Advisor and Headquarters on major national events;
- 12. Monitor media coverage of UNFPA in Yemen and report findings to Regional Information Officer and Headquarters;
- 13. Represent UNFPA in the national UN Communications Group/UNCG, contribute to its working plan and activities, and supply information to UNIC;
- 14. Search for population and other related trends, especially opposition and non favourable ones and report on them;
- 15. The Communication Officer should build a database for media and partners to be shared and used, when necessary, by the Yemen Country Office team, as well as the RCA. The Communication Officer could build a news archive to help document and can be used to search for references, since most local media do not have a sophisticated archive search, if any;
- 16. Ensure optimal communication flow and coordination between the Yemen Country Office, partners, ASRO, RCA, CST, GD and IERD-HQ with respect to strategic regional information;
- 17. Conduct research, collect requested information and organize materials to meet supervisor's needs. This includes preparation of information and/or briefs, power-point presentations, summaries and background documentation required by the supervisor for dissemination to the partners or media;
- 18. Format, proofread and disseminate press releases and other information materials;
- 19. Organize and maintain up-to-date filing system of general media reference materials, including UNFPA directory, and electronic mailing lists for internal use;
- 20. Ensure improved dissemination of information on UNFPA's activities in Yemen; prepare information and advocacy materials on UNFPA mandate and the MDG; develop regular reports and documentation with a publicity value capturing UNFPA Yemen

results; prepare briefs and ensure its dissemination through most relevant means of communication, i.e. press kits on launches, press conferences, seminars, etc.;

21. Make media arrangement for UNFPA's activities and provide guidance to projects on ways to approach the media on their work and activities
22. Establish and maintain frequent contact with media leaders in the country to enhance their understanding of what UNFPA is working towards in Yemen and globally
23. Provide programme information/stories to RBAS SURF as well as UNFPA Headquarters, the UN Department of Public Information in New York, and the network of UNFPA Communications officers in the Arab region.
24. Ensure provision of strategic advice to senior management, programme analysts and projects on means to enhance their communications plans and provision of feedback on key news/articles that require action or future review.
25. Assist in arranging field trips for journalists and training workshops for the Country Office staff and partners;
26. Contribute substantively to the advocacy efforts undertaken by Country Office Yemen.

The Communication Officer will be part of UNFPA's global communications network, working closely with the Regional Communication Advisor, to promote UNFPA at the regional and global levels.

Requirements:
The Communication Officer should possess in-depth (or good) knowledge of media and media relations. He/she should be proven team player with excellent interpersonal communication skills; advanced oral and written communications and editing skills both in English and Arabic; a thorough understanding of the UN system in general, and most particularly of UNFPA mandate, its policies and operations and current development topics and political issues; an ability to work well under deadline; keen understanding of Yemen's culture, history and political context; familiarity with or knowledge of communication approaches in strategy planning, development, execution, and M&E; advanced computer skills.

We are looking for candidates who have:

- Master Degree or equivalent in Communications, Journalism, Business Administration, or social/economic related field.
- 5 to 7 years of relevant experience at the national and/or international level in providing information, communication services and hands-on experience in launching and implementing awareness campaigns and advocacy work. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages.

Experience in handling of web based and electronic management systems, including the website and internet.

Competencies and Critical Success Factors

- Corporate Competencies:**
- Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN's values and ethical standards
 - Advocates and promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of the UNFPA
 - Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability
 - Treats all people fairly without favoritism

Functional Competencies:

- Knowledge Management and Learning**
- Shares knowledge and experience
 - Develops deep knowledge in UNFPA Practice Areas including Delivering as One concept
 - Actively works towards continuing personal learning and development, acts on learning plan and applies newly acquired skills
- Development and Operational Effectiveness**
- Ability to implement communications and publications strategies
 - Ability to advocate effectively
 - Communicates sensitively and effectively across different constituencies
 - Demonstrates excellent ability to write and communicate orally with accuracy and professionalism
 - Good knowledge of current development issues
 - Ability to conceptualize issues and analyze data
 - Demonstrates strong IT skills

Management and Leadership:

- Focuses on impact and result for the client
- Leads teams effectively and shows conflict resolution skills
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude
- Builds strong relationships with clients and external actors
- Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience. Please send your application with a covering letter to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a. Or to vacancies.yemen@unfpa.org Note: Any application sent to a different UNFPA email account other than the above will not be considered. Deadline for application: 15 August 2010 Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified.

The concept of Hima: Protecting the environment in Islamic culture

Hima, an Arabic word for protection, is an Arab-Islamic practice dating back about one thousand four hundred years. It aims to form a traditional environmental practice through which the tribes, the Arabs, and Islamic societies can string on traditions and values for the protection of the Earth, to sustain the use and utilization of natural resources in accordance with strict principles and traditions.

By: Yemen Times Staff

According to Asaad Serhal, Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon the concept of conservation started in the late nineteenth century initially with the approach of strict conservation for the sake of biodiversity.

He states that there are four main

rules that have been set by the Islamic law which improved on the concept of environmental reserves as they are known in today's world. These are: Himas should be constituted by the "Imam" – the legitimate governing authority, Himas should be established in the way of God, for purposes pertaining to the public welfare, Himas should not cause undue hardship to the local people – it should not deprive them of resources that are in-

dispensable to their subsistence, and Himas should realize greater actual benefits to society than detriments.

"There are regulations known from the Islamic regions from former times that one could describe as instruments for nature and wildlife conservation and attempts are now being made to try to revive these. Among these are the so-called harim and hima zones, for example. They include the idea of having protective zones around springs and watercourses, where, for example, no settlements are permitted, so as to keep the water from becoming polluted," said expert Sigrid Nökel to Qantara.

Nökel said there were also meadow or forest areas, where people were allowed to go at certain times only – after the pollen harvest, for example, or when dry periods were threatening. With privatisation of land, intensification of agriculture and increasing building these practices have been forgotten. There have been attempts at their reintroduction going on for a number of years now as part of water, riverbank restoration and species conservation projects.

The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has carried out several projects in the Arab World to revive this concept and encourage Arabs to protect their environment through reviving their heritage.

In pre-Islamic times, access to himas was declared forbidden by the individual or group who owned it. Later its meaning evolved to signify a rangeland reserve, a piece of land set aside seasonally to allow regeneration. Hima is considered to be the most widespread and long lasting indigenous/traditional conservation institution in the Middle East and perhaps on earth.

"Reviving local knowledge and wisdom through the Hima system inspired from Arabic culture as a means for effective community-based resource management can inform new models for adaptive and responsive management. IUCN is keen to operationalize the Hima concept in West Asia through working with members," said Dr. Odeh Al-Jayyousi, IUCN West Asia Regional Director.

Hima in Yemen

In Yemen, it was reported that the system was effective and widespread until the first part of the second half of the 20th century, when it began to decline in some areas, because of socio-economic factors.

According to Lutfallah Gari an environmental expert from Saudi Arabia, there are four traditional grazing

management systems practiced in the Central Highlands of Yemen and are also found elsewhere; they are:

- Temporary mahjūr [himā]: a sort of short-term reserve consisting of a slope or grazing area adjacent to cultivated land, which is declared protected. The protected area is closed to grazing from sowing time until harvest each year.
- Temporary village mahjūr: part of a village's communal grazing land can be declared as protected for a specific period for the purpose of reserving forage to be used in the dry season.
- Permanent mahjūr: the area of a hill or mountain slope of variable size opened for common grazing use during dry season and the period needed. It is privately owned usually by more than one family. Trees in mahjūr areas are always privately owned and are utilized by owners only.
- Semi-Rotational system, which is found in the desert plain and practiced by Bedouins. In this case their grazing land comprises many sites that are used at different times each year. Their use depends on vegetation re-growth and rainfall.

In 2002 a study was conducted in Kohlan-Affar by M. Bounejmate, B. Norton and A. Gruggeman, in the northern mountains of Yemen, where rangelands are the principal feed resource for livestock. They provide a major source of income to farmers, as well as wood for fuel, charcoal production and construction. Covering about 30percent of the area, they include woodland, bare rocky ground, steep slopes unsuitable for cultivation, and collapsed terraces. The investigation assessed plant cover, biomass and species composition under various systems of grazing, in the mid-slopes and highlands in the spring and summer of 1996.

The results showed that the various systems of grazing lead to varying degrees of degradation: communally owned ranges showed all signs of overgrazing, while restricted, privately owned range had a high density of palatable plants. The impact of different systems of grazing was clear on the mid-slopes. There, the richest vegetation was in a site where grazing was restricted by the range owners during the growing season. Grasses are harvested first by the owners before the range is opened for grazing.

Gari explains that Yemen being of a mid-altitude site, the community generally allowed open access, but periodically chose to restrict grazing to permit regeneration. Unpalatable species covered 60percent of this land, and palatable plants only 6percent. This pattern was repeated in the highlands. An open range was exposed to erosion, with just 30percent of total plant cover (66percent of which was unpalatable species). In comparison, a restricted rangeland, where the community decides which slopes shall be grazed each year, had twice the plant cover, 60percent of which was palatable grasses.

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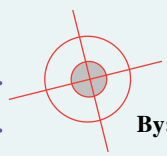
The Qatari Hima Fund

The Association started in Lebanon prior to the revival of the Hima tradition, applying it successfully, and prompting the World Organization for the Protection of Birds to adopt this ecosystem. It was developed as appropriate to the values and concepts of the Arab and Islamic countries, and encouraged Qatar to adopt the idea and turn it into a financial fund (The Hima Fund).

It aims to protect birds according to international standards of environmental degradation and extinction, not only in Qatar and the Arabian Gulf, but also across the Middle East as well. It also provides assistance to countries and regions that need support groups, in accordance with the importance and priorities agreed upon by the Board of Directors of the Fund.

For more information go to: www.fec.org.qa

HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva

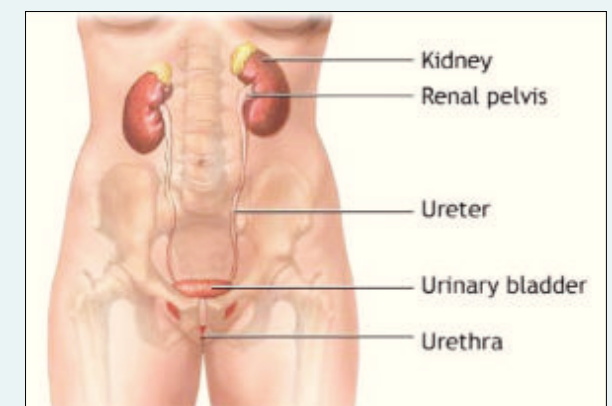


This weekly column is to disseminate health information to the readers in Yemen and outside. Dr. Siva is currently working at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Life style diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

Blood in the Urine

Khadiga developed colicky pain in her loins and severe nausea. She had never experienced this before. She had an urge to pass urine. She went to the toilet but could pass urine only with difficulty. She had a severe burning sensation while passing urine and was startled to see it red with a few streaks of blood in it.

Seeing blood in urine can cause anxiety. Yet blood in urine—(Hematuria) — isn't always a matter for concern. For instance, strenuous exercise can cause blood in urine. So can a number of common drugs, including aspirin. However, urinary bleeding can also indicate a serious disorder.



There are two types of blood in urine. Blood that you can see is called gross hematuria. Urinary blood that's visible only under a microscope is known as microscopic hematuria and is found when your doctor tests your urine. Either way, it's important to determine the reason for the bleeding.

Treatment depends on the underlying cause. Blood in urine caused by exercise usually goes away on its own within one or two days, but other problems often require medical care.

Symptoms

The visible sign of hematuria is pink, red or cola-colored urine which is due to the presence of red blood cells. It takes very little blood to produce red urine, and the bleeding usually isn't painful. If you're also passing blood clots in your urine, that can be painful. A lot of times, though, bloody urine occurs without other signs or symptoms. Although many cases of hematuria aren't serious, it's important to see your doctor any time you notice blood in your urine. Remember certain foods, such as beets, rhubarb and berries, can cause your urine to turn red. A change in urine color caused by drugs, food or exercise usually goes away within a few days. It's best to see your doctor any time you see blood in your urine.

Causes

The urinary tract is made up of the urinary bladder, a pair of kidneys and ureters, and the urethra. The kidneys remove waste and excess fluid from your blood and convert it to urine. The urine then flows through two hollow tubes (ureters) — one from each kidney — to your bladder, where urine is stored until it passes out of your body through the urethra.

In hematuria, your kidneys — or other parts of your urinary tract — allow blood cells to leak into urine. A number of problems can cause this leakage, including:

- **Urinary tract infections.** Urinary tract infections are particularly common in women, though men also get them. They may occur when bacteria enter your body through the urethra and begin to multiply in your bladder. Symptoms can include a persistent urge to urinate, pain and burning with urination, and extremely strong-smelling urine. For some people, especially older adults, the only sign of illness may be microscopic blood.
- **A bladder or kidney stone.** The minerals in concentrated urine sometimes precipitate out, forming crystals on the walls of your kidneys or bladder. Over time, the crystals can become small, hard stones. The stones are generally painless, and you probably won't know you have them unless they cause a blockage or are being passed. Bladder or kidney stones can also cause severe pain and hematuria.
- **Enlarged prostate (in men).** The prostate gland is located just below the bladder and surrounding the top part of the urethra. It often begins growing as men approach middle age. When the gland enlarges, it compresses the urethra, partially blocking urine flow. Prostate enlargement causes difficulty urinating, urgency and either gross or microscopic bleeding.
- **Kidney disease.** Microscopic urinary bleeding is a common symptom of kidney diseases like glomerulonephritis.
- **Cancer.** Visible urinary bleeding may be a sign of advanced kidney, bladder or prostate cancer. Unfortunately, you may not have signs or symptoms in the early stages, when these cancers are more treatable.
- **Inherited disorders.** Sickle cell anemia can cause blood in urine.
- **Bilharziasis** is caused by a parasitic flat worm infestation which can cause blood in urine. Untreated infection can lead to bladder cancer.
- **Kidney injury.** A blow or other injury to your kidneys from an accident or contact sports can cause blood in your urine that you can see.
- **Medications.** Common drugs that can cause visible urinary blood include aspirin, penicillin, the blood thinner heparin and the anti-cancer drug cyclophosphamide.
- **Strenuous exercise.** Runners are most often affected, although almost any athlete can develop visible urinary bleeding after an intense workout. It's not quite clear why exercise causes gross hematuria.

Tests, diagnosis and treatment

Urine tests can throw light on the presence of blood, any infection of the urinary tract, evidence of renal stones etc. Ultrasound abdomen will reveal presence of any congenital abnormality or malignancy of the kidneys and bladder, renal stones etc. X-Ray of abdomen and Intravenous Pyelogram are sometimes needed to visualize stones and assess kidney functions. A CT/MRI scan of the pelvis are performed rarely. Cystoscopy is another investigation where in a flexible tube is passed into the urinary passage to visualize it.

Occasionally, in spite of testing, the cause of urinary bleeding may never be found. In that case, your doctor is likely to recommend regular follow-up tests.

Hematuria has no specific treatment. Instead, your doctor will focus on treating the underlying conditions.

Prevention

It's generally not possible to prevent hematuria, though there are steps you can take to reduce your risk of some of the diseases that cause it. Prevention strategies include:

- **Urinary tract infections.** Drinking plenty of water, urinating when you feel the urge and as soon as possible after intercourse, wiping from front to back after urination, and avoiding irritating feminine hygiene products may reduce your risk of urinary tract infections.
- **Kidney stones.** To help lower the likelihood of kidney stones, drink lots of water and limit salt, protein and oxalate-containing foods, such as spinach and rhubarb.
- **Bladder and kidney cancer.** Stop smoking, avoid exposure to chemicals, maintain healthy weight, eat a healthy diet, stay active and drink plenty of water. All these can cut your risk of bladder cancer.



View of sunrise over the valley of Takhfa a himā in KSA.



View from Matāli' near Amra, in a himā region in the Arabian peninsula.

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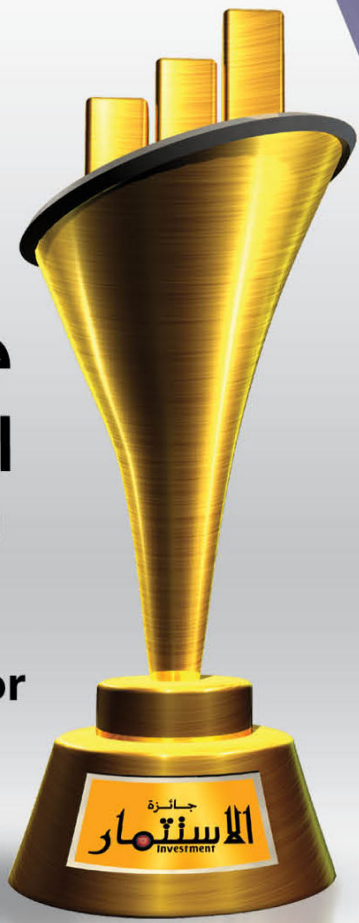
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Prime minister presenting the CAC BANK manager the Best Bank for 2009 Award

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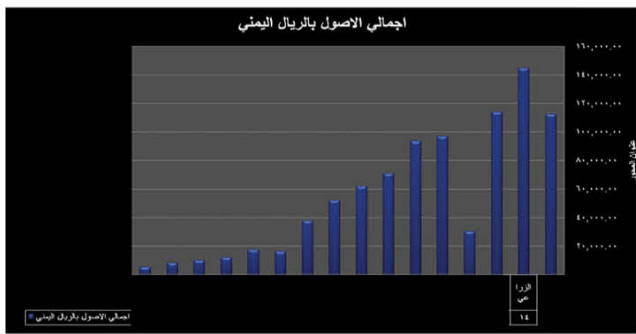
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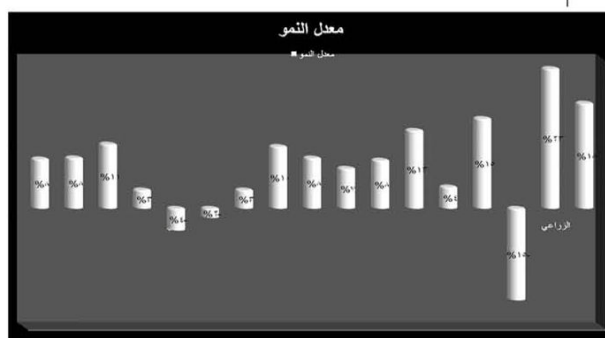
حقق (كك بنك) أعلى مستويات التقييم ومقاييس الأفضلية بين البنوك اليمنية مستحقاً وعن جدارة جائزة الاستثمار الأولى الممنوحة للبنك الأفضل بين البنوك اليمنية للعام 2009 ، حسب نتائج الدراسات التقييمية القائمة على الاستبيانات الاستقصائية .. بإشراف وزارة الصناعة والتجارة والهيئة العامة للاستثمار والاتحاد العام للغرف التجارية والصناعية ..

CAC Bank has taken the lead in banking business among Yemeni banks. According to investigative reports by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the General Investment Authority and the General Federation Chambers of Commerce, the bank was granted the best bank award for 2009.

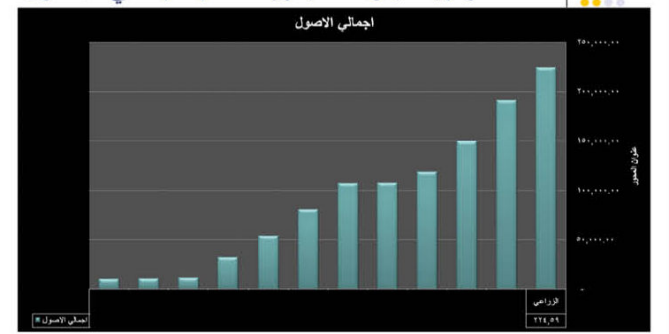
Assets increment in local currency
تطور إجمالي الأصول بالعملة المحلية



Total assets growth rate
معدل نمو إجمالي الأصول



Commercial banks ranking according to assets
ترتيب البنوك التجارية حسب إجمالي الأصول



The number one bank in credit and funding

CAC Bank has achieved the number one position among local and foreign commercial banks in the field of credits and funding services in both local and foreign currencies. The total credits provided by the bank have reached YR 69 million. The bank has also achieved the highest growth in the monetary sector at a growth rate of 25%.

الأول في الاقراض والتمويل

حقق (CAC BANK) المركز الأول في إجمالي القروض والتمويلات بين البنوك التجارية الأجنبية والمحلية بالعملة المحلية والعملات الأجنبية حيث بلغ إجمالي القروض المقدمة ٦٩ مليار ريال .. وحققت بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي أكبر معدل نمو في القطاع المصرفي بنسبة ٢٥%

The first choice for de- posits

CAC Bank has ranked first among local and foreign commercial banks in deposits which reached YR 134 billion. This figure is a YR 22 billion increment from last year 2009, which translates to a 19.7% increase in deposits.

الأول في الودائع

حقق (CAC BANK) المركز الأول على البنوك التجارية الأجنبية والمحلية في إجمالي الودائع بالعملة المحلية حيث بلغت ١٣٤ مليار ريال محققاً زيادة مقدارها ٢٢ مليار في العام ٢٠٠٩ بمعدل نمو ١٩,٧% .

First in assets growth rate

CAC Bank came first as the bank with highest assets growth rate in the local currency by passing the long list of banks in Yemen. The bank's assets are worth YR 144.5 billion which is an increase of YR25 billion since last year 2009 which is a 21% increase. The bank has also achieved a significant growth in the foreign currency assets which reached YR 17.7 billion, and this makes CAC Bank the highest in foreign currency assets growth among

الأول في نسبة نمو إجمالي الأصول

حقق (CAC BANK) المركز الأول في نمو إجمالي الأصول بالعملة المحلية متصدراً قائمة البنوك في اليمن حيث بلغت ١٤٤,٥ مليار بزيادة مقدارها ٢٥ مليار في العام ٢٠٠٩ وبمعدل نمو ٢١% وحققت (CAC BANK) نمو ٢١% في إجمالي الأصول بالعملات الأجنبية بزيادة مقدارها ١٧,٧ مليار ريال وبذلك يحقق (CAC BANK) المركز الأول بين البنوك التجارية من حيث أكبر زيادة في إجمالي الأصول بالعملات الأجنبية.

Al-Balda festival, colorful and interesting events in Hadramout

By: Majdi Ba Ziad

President Saleh inaugurated Al-Mukalla's seventh Al-Balda festival on July 15th in Balfaqeh Centre and Khor Al-Mukalla. The festival events where people gathered joyfully started in the afternoon and lasted until the late evening.

An annual event reflecting tourism, culture and Hadramout heritage
Hadramout Governor, Salem Ahmad

Al-Khanbashi, washed himself in Al-Mukalla's coastal waters as a way of starting the festival events. He said that the festival helps Yemen by encouraging tourism and activating investment opportunities as it attracts a large number of tourists. Al-Khanbashi added that the festival gave Hadramout governorate a special feeling in that it was active and different to what people were used to.

He said that the festival has become a social and economic event that people in Hadramout now expected every

year. The local authorities worked in cooperation with the private sector in organizing and preparing the festival. There were some obstacles that faced the festival such as the small number of sponsors and the frequent electricity cuts after Al-Rayan power station faced problems.

Sponsoring the festival locally next year

The governor stressed that the local authorities said that next year a budget will be allocated especially for

Photos by: Raheed Bin Sulaiman



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the festival to cover all its events and activities as the Ministry of Tourism did not sponsor it as one of the official annual festivals. He thanked the local authority in the governorate, the Khalilat Bakshan Development Authority and TOTAL Oil Company as they worked to make the festival successful.

Unique festival

The executive foundation is Bait Al-Khebra - the 'House of Experience' - that prepared the seventh Al-Balda festival. The head of the foundation, Mohammad Bader Ba Salma, called on people to exploit the festival.

He said that the foundation did its best to promote for the festival inside and outside of Yemen amongst tourists and all people coming to Hadramout. He said that Hadramout has many outstanding monuments and is rich in cultural places.

He added that the festival will help Yemen in its economy by bringing in investment opportunities and that tourism will flourish if the festival is well promoted. Ba Salma said that the managers of the festival are working in order to make it one of the official festivals in coming years and that the government should sponsor it.

The head of the House of Experience Foundation said that on the first night when President Saleh attended, about 400 dancers and a singer performed.

Ja'far Salem Ba Hoaireth, the head of the technical committee, said that the first and second Al-Balda festivals were organized on limited funds. However, the former governor of Hadramout Abdulkader Ali Hilal formed a special administration for the festival in 2006 and the festival was registered and became more

organized.

This year, the local authority decided to make the House of Experience Foundation for Studies and Consultations and the Stars of the Gulf Company responsible for the festival.

Preacher Al-Ja'fari

Zain Al-Abidin Bin Salam, a preacher for Islam, said that the cold sea water in the summer is a wonder that God gave to people. He told people to think of this phenomenon.

He thanked the people in Hadramout for their efforts in spreading Islamic principles and that one third of people converted to Islam were thanks to people from Hadramout. Bin Ali called on the youth to be responsible and not to be careless. He thanked the people financing the charitable associations.

An Indonesian band performed a Bedouin dance improved by introducing new techniques from Arab and Islamic countries. They also performed freak shows such as inserting a needle through the mouth or the neck.

In the festival, they also introduced a dance including sketches of war using swords and amour performed in acrobatic movements. In addition the dance famous in Hadramout, the Almrawess, was performed.

The Indonesian students from the University of Ahqaf in Hadramout sang prayers which made the audience applaud.

The heritage village at the festival attracted a lot of people. Many social associations participated in the festival including the Hawa for Development and Creativity, Al-Khair for Womens' Development, Al-Iman for Rehabilitating the Physically Disabled, Al-Shoroq Social Association for Women, Al-Nahdha Association for Women, Al-Hesn Association, Al-Aswad Lab for Sewing, and Protecting the Architectural Heritage Forum that includes the Traditional House and Bin Yamani Al-Tamimi Fort.

The girls from the Fine Arts Department at the Faculty for Science and Technology presented paintings, sculptures, and adornment accessories. In the festival, they sold traditional dishes from Hadramout.

The first event of Egyptian theatre at the festival was acrobatics on chairs performed by Ashraf Rashed and Adel Redha. In addition to this, there was theatre for children in which an Egyptian band performed acrobatic movements and presented magical games on the first day of the festival.

There were competitions for children in the Balfaqeh Center in which they could participate in general knowledge competitions and participate in games every afternoon during the festival.

The sports events were not absent and more than 30 contestants participated in the open seven kilometer marathon race. Mohammad Bader Ba Salma, head of the House of Experience, Ja'far Ba Houaireth, head of the events at the festival, Saeed Ba Mazira, head of the Yemeni Athletics Games branch in Hadramout, and Imad Al-Dini, the media person for the festival all honored the top ten contestants.

Singing and chanting celebration

With Hadrami beats mixed with a Hadramout valley flavor, Al-Ahqaf band from Tarim chanted for three hours that made the crowds cheer and clap throughout the night's celebration. In addition, they performed two monologues.

At the end of the celebration Ammar Jamal presented prizes for the contests had he held amongst the crowds. In a party organized by the Ministry of Culture in Al-Mukalla Khor, people danced along with Hadrami songs which were performed all night.

Directors of the Cultural Bureau at the ministry, Saleh Ba 'Aamer and Ahmed Bin Doais, attended the party in which Hadrami cultural songs were presented along with Al-Ommal group for folk dance, Fowah, danced all night with the people at the festival.

Mukalla's cleaning campaign, circus and acrobat shows

The Young Initiative Establishment conducted a cleaning campaign in Al-Mukalla during Al-Baldah Tourist Festival. The cleaning campaign was titled, 'towards clean and beautiful beaches.'

"A hundred men and women will head this afternoon from Khor Al-Mukalla towards Al-Siteen beaches to start the campaign with the cooperation of the Management of Al-Balda Tourist Festival to clean the beaches from rubbish, in order to beautify Al-Mukalla," officials said.

Nowadays, Al-Mukalla is being visited by tourists from all around Yemen and nearby countries to enjoy its cold sea in the morning.

Acrobat and circus performers continued at Al-Balda Festival, along with the continuous competitions for women and children at the Balfaqeh Centre.

The governor and the deputy director of the governorate, Omaid Mubarak and Al-Khanbashi inaugurated the cultural tent of the 7th Al-Balda Festival. The tent was arranged by the Ministry of Culture and the executive office in Tarim in cooperation with the local authorities in Hadramout.

This cultural tent is important as Tarim is the Capital of Islamic Culture 2010. The tent, which was open July 22-30, contained many exhibitions of traditional products and photos of Tarim's landmarks. Many civil organizations and other sectors participated in the event.

During his visit to the exhibition's pavilions, the governor stressed the necessity of saving Hadramout's traditions as well as showing new generations such cultural traditions as handicrafts, man-made products, traditional products and public dances.

He added that saving traditions comes through holding such festivals. He also said that the local government in Hadramout adopts and encourages all projects or initiatives to save people's culture and traditions.

He directed concerned sectors to adopt the projects of talented drawer Abdurahman Aljabri who participated in the event. He asked the plastic arts department at the Art College in Hadramout University to help Aljabri develop his talent.

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Teaching Dhamar, Marib and Al-Baidha tribes that carrying arms is not macho

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Dar Al-Salam organization has been active recently in three tribal areas as well as in the capital city pro-

moting peace and advocating against the carrying of arms.

The organization's director, Abdulrahman Al-Marwani, met with youth and leaders of the tribes and discussed

with them the negative impacts of carrying arms and revenge killings.

"I use our Islamic teachings and cultural heritage that promote peace and honor to convince them that using arms and violence are not part of our teachings or culture," said Al-Marwani.

Moreover, the organization distributed 1000 wall magazines to be put up in 1000 mosques in Sana'a governorate in cooperation with the Ministry of Endowment. The magazine includes sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) promoting peace and tolerance and words of wisdom on the issue. This is the first phase of a larger campaign which aims to distribute 10,000 wall magazines to 9300 mosques in 12 governorates.

These two projects are among the

organization's long term campaign to raise awareness among society's members as to the risks posed by small arms and violence. Since its establishment in 1997, the organization has worked on spreading the culture of peace and tolerance as well as combating revenge, a deadly practice in Yemeni society.

Furthermore, it has worked on creating long-lasting agreements between tribes who used to be involved in endless fighting. Over the next three years, the organization will implement over 29 programs in collaboration with international organizations aiming at showing for people the risks posed by small arms, violence, extremism, and revenge.

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