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Special house to rehabilitate juvenile delinquents in Hodeida



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A different perspective on women in Islam

## Opposition leads civil disobedience in Taiz

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, August 8 — Mohsen Noman is a building constructor with four children. He finds it hard to get a job and has been looking to work for two months in vain. He said that he cannot afford to support his children as prices increase rapidly.

He participated in a protest in Taiz governorate with thousands of other people feeling the same.

On Thursday the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) organized a protest in which thousands of people participated demanding the state to stop what they



called the policy of causing poverty and hunger against the people.

They also demanded the government immediately treat the deteriorating value of the Yemeni rial and to decrease people's sufferings. Among the protesters were soldiers, governmental employees and people from parties other than the JMP.

Continued on page 2

## 900 violations against children in 2009, says report

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, August 7 — The SEYAJ Organization for Childhood Protection, which is a local non-government organization working in child rights in Yemen, has revealed 900 violations against children during 2009 in its first report.

"The report aims to monitor and document violations as well as provides indicators of crimes to contribute in developing policies and treatments that reduce violence and crimes against children," reads the report.

Violations that the report documented are murder, arrest, detention, imprisonment, physical torture, kidnapping, rape, early marriage, sexual exploitation, displacement, neglect, harassment and other kinds of violations.

However, the organization analyzed only 257 cases, documenting and confirming all their details, out of the total number of monitored

cases. The report cited a statement by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Dr. Amat-Alrzaq Ali Humad, who revealed that 400 children, boys and girls, were smuggled in 2009 as compared to 900 in 2008.

SEYAJ was able to collect information on about 200 out of the 400 children who were victims of smuggling and drug trafficking. The 200 cases that the organization were able to follow up were in Hajja and Hodeida governorates. Most of the victims were boys.

SEYAJ revealed to the Yemeni government and public the exploitation of ten Yemeni children whose kidneys were to be sold outside of Yemen. The organization also revealed a large gang of human organ traffickers.

SEYAJ attributed the main reason behind the incident of child victims of organ traffickers was the parents' illiteracy. It explained that illiteracy among mothers in Yemen could reach 96 percent in some areas and among fathers about 65 percent.

The organization also explained that children dropping out of schools and low enrollment to basic educa-

tion were key factors in the increase in violations against children.

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## National campaign against child labor

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, August 8 — The Child Foundation for Development, a Yemeni foundation, called for combating the worst forms of child labor in its consultative meeting last Monday.

The Child Foundation for Development has developed a new national campaign to combat the dangers of child labor. The meeting organized by the foundation to discuss its new campaign was attended by several international and domestic organizations.

The foundation indicated that a half million Yemeni children work in dangerous jobs, and 60 percent of these children have been exposed to injury, while 20 percent of them have been subjected to sexual exploitation.

These children face physical violence and reproach from society. Moreover, they feel disappointment due to how they are viewed by society, according to the Foundation.

The campaign to combat child labor aims to raise awareness about the dangers of such work among families and employers. The campaign also aims to rehabilitate these children psychologically and educationally.

Mahmood Al-Amawi, the general secretary of the Child Foundation for Development, said during the meeting that the campaign will focus on creating messages of awareness for the media and will hold awareness courses for the families of working children.

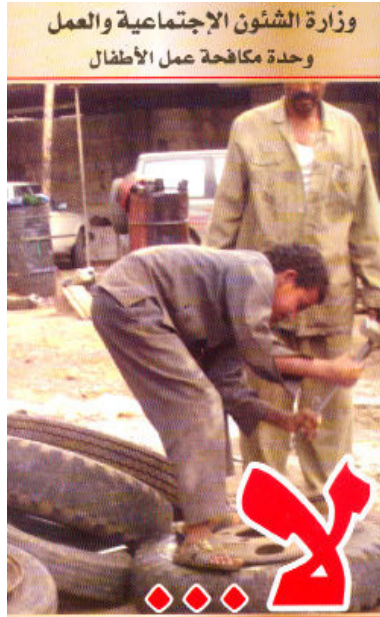
Al-Amawi indicated that the foundation will also organize an open day for fundraising by decision-makers, social leaders, and commercial companies.

The foundation listed the kinds of child labor that are banned in Yemen. These jobs include electrical work, working in public toilets, collecting garbage, and other occupations.

"It's impossible to solve the problem of child labor in Yemen in a short time due to poverty," said Mona Salem, the head of the Child Labor Unit in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Salem said the Ministry has strong motivation to combat child labor: this labor can cause crime to spread and childhood gangs to form in Yemen.

She urged society and families to push their children into schools instead of the streets. "Some employers exploit the children, who are in need of money, and subject them to very hard and dangerous work," she added.



"No to the worst kinds of child labor," says this poster produced by the Anti Child Labor Unit at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

## Alleged weapons dealer launches peace organization

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, August 8 — During the launch of his new organization called the National Peace Conference last Sunday, former head of the mediation committee in Sa'ada and alleged arms dealer Sheikh Fares Manna' called on Yemenis to work together for peace in the northern governorate.

The move has been seen as controversial from a man who, last January, was arrested on charges of smuggling weapons to the Houthis fighting the government in Sa'ada. Manna' was released in unclear circumstances last June.

Manna' indicated that the conference was to help the displaced people in Sa'ada through returning them to their villages and houses, bringing peace to Sa'ada and reconstructing the war-torn governorate.

This process of helping the affected people from the Sa'ada wars is not easy and requires great potential, according to Manna'.

"We will reveal our practical programs and activities in next days," he said.

He stated to the press that the campaign for children's education would start during the coming days under the slogan "Let me learn." This campaign



will include a children's march into schools holding up this slogan, according to Manna'.

"I'm not a weapons dealer. I'm a peace dealer," he told a journalist who asked him about his past.

"Nobody can evaluate extent of loss and damage in Sa'ada," he said.

Manna' denied that he was released under an agreement with the government confirming that there were no charges against him. "The conference is unbiased and doesn't relate to any political party. The conference is a social institution for the affected people from wars in Sa'ada," he said.

He showed his willingness to organize a convoy to Sa'ada for journalists to show them the extent of damage in the governorate, and said that he would ensure their security.

"We endeavor to achieve peace. I'm one of the people from Sa'ada who were negatively affected by wars," he said.

Manna' urged all organizations and sheikhs to cooperate with this conference to achieve peace in Sa'ada.

All parties including President Saleh and the Houthis welcomed this conference and encouraged it to push the peace process, according to Manna'.

reported violations, followed by physical torture, rape, murder, deprivation of rights, child marriage and murder attempts.

SEYAJ filtered the violations against children during 2009 into crimes against life, crimes against honor, crimes against freedom and crimes against extra rights.

Crimes against life accounted for up to 87 out of the 257 cases. This kind of crime includes physical torture, murder, murder attempts and murder threats.

Crimes against honor accounted for 68 cases and included rape, kidnapping, rape and kidnapping attempts, and sexual harassment.

Crimes against freedom accounted for 54 cases and included arrest, imprisonment, detention and arbitrary disappearance.

Crimes against extra rights accounted for 48 cases and were in the form of child marriage, arbitrary displacement, deprivation of rights and deprivation of the freedom of movement.

The lack of awareness about child rights in society played a significant role in the increase in violations against child rights and the low reporting of abuse cases, according to the report.

The report said that abusers of child rights often are not brought to justice due to many factors. Difficulty in proving crimes against children, especially sexual crimes, a lack of sufficient courts specialized in juvenile issues - there are only five juvenile courts in the whole country - low family and community awareness and poverty.

The report was conducted by volunteer researchers from SEYAJ using special forms as documenting tools designed specifically for child rights violations that were distributed nationwide, according to the report.

## Al-Qaeda behind two attacks in Shabwa

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, August 8 — The Al-Qaeda wing based in Yemen announced responsibility for two attacks that killed at least 11 soldiers in Shabwa governorate.

Al-Qaeda threatened that government establishments would be within their coming targets. The last two attacks in Shabwa governorate were among five attacks against government establishments since last June.

The News Yemen website obtained a statement from Sheikh Mohammad Omair's phalanx which claimed they committed the attacks after the dawn prayer.

Osama Al-Sana'ani from Sana'a and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Dhaghari from Shabwa were two men from Sheikh Omair's group who were killed in the attacks.

The statement said that the soldiers were attacked because they attacked citizens' houses and killed their women and children just because they participated in protests against the state in Aden, Al-Dhale', Lahj, Abyan, Shabwa, Al-Mukalla and Sana'a.

The Al-Qaeda based wing in Yemen

said that all those who stand by President Saleh, his government and the crusade are our enemies and we shall be at war of them.

Al-Qaeda used to fiercely attack foreign establishments in Yemen but has recently been targeting Yemeni establishments as a reply to Yemeni-American cooperation, especially regarding the air raids against Al-Qaeda in Yemen.

In the same context, a group of unknown men shot a soldier last Friday. He died hours later after being moved to a hospital in Ataq, Shabwa governorate, according to the Ministry of Defense website.

On Thursday, three unknown men on motorcycles attacked policemen who were posted in Zunjubar, Abyan governorate. They killed three soldiers and injured 13 using grenades and light weapons before escaping. The policemen were standing a few meters from the political security headquarters.

The security forces closed the area with fences and searched for suspects.

The Ministry of Interior announced that last Tuesday two soldiers were seriously injured in a suicide attack in Al-Dhale' governorate, and that they

are now in hospital in Sana'a. Another nine soldiers and a boy were also injured.

### Houthis issue

President Saleh accused the Houthis, the Al-Qaeda based wing in Yemen and the Southern Movement of creating security tensions and barriers that block Gulf countries from investing in Yemen.

He said last Saturday in a meeting with a delegation of businessmen from Saudi Arabia that the tensions are caused by Marxists in the south and closed minded people within the Houthis.

He added that he had talked to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz, about encouraging Saudi businessmen to invest in Yemen. He reported that the king had said he would encourage Saudi businessmen to invest in Yemen.

Saleh welcomed Saudis investing in Yemen and said that they would get all the attention and guarantees required to meet investment targets. Foreign investment has receded during the past five years to be less than USD 10 million. It was USD two billion in 1990.

## Yemen's response to Al-Qaida in 2009 'intermittent,' says US report

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, August 8 — The security situation in Yemen continued to deteriorate during 2009 after the formation of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which continued operations throughout the peninsula, according to a recent report by the US State Department.

The report issued this week about counterterrorism efforts around the world described Yemen's response to Al-Qaida's threat as "intermittent" and reported that its ability to pursue and prosecute suspected terrorists "remained weak throughout most of the year."

It ascribed the government's weak response to the group's threat to internal security challenges in the country including the "sixth war" with Houthis which still not ceased "which often diverted it from broader counterterrorism activities."

Although the report reported fewer attacks carried out by the group in Yemen due to the Yemeni security forces' disruptions of the group, it highlighted fear that Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula would use the tribal regions which are not under the government control as a safe haven to launch future attacks.

Terrorist attacks in 2009 which the government failed to curb included three attacks against foreign interests in the country, including the killing of South Korean tourists and a failed at-

tack against Korean officials on their way to the airport in March, and the kidnapping of nine foreigners and killing three of them in June.

The report however noted that the Yemeni government heightened the pace of its counterterrorism operations after the December attempt by Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab to blow himself up on a flight to Detroit.

The report listed the terrorist attacks against Yemeni interests, particularly Yemeni security and military targets in Marib and Hadramout in June, July, October, and November. Among these incidents was the assassination of three high-level security officials.

The report indicated that Al-Qaida showed signs of financial strain, and Yemeni authorities suspected them to have conducted the sophisticated robbery of a Yemeni bank truck in Aden on August 17 that resulted in the theft of USD 500,000.

Despite these security challenges, there were counterterrorism successes in 2009, according to the report. These successes including a raid on an Al-Qaida cell in Sana'a which resulted in the death of two suspects and the capture of another suspect and a weapons' cache.

It talked about government efforts to combat terrorism such as enacting new laws enabling the courts to prosecute terrorists, anti-money laundry legislation and legislations that criminalize

the activities of those engaged in planning and facilitating terrorism.

However the report criticized some aspects of weakness in Yemen as the government lacked a secure facility to house Guantanamo returnees, a plan for rehabilitating the returnees, or the legal framework to hold returnees for more than a short amount of time.

The government's monitoring program of released Guantanamo returnees remained largely ineffective. Yemen's porous borders have allowed many terrorists to seek to base their operations within Yemen.

It argued supporting Yemen to boost its security to face terrorism: "The government lacked a strong security apparatus outside major cities and its Counterterrorism Unit and Yemen Special Operations Force, the state's two premier counterterrorism entities, required additional training and funding in order to effectively target terrorist elements."

While the report revealed many areas of weaknesses in Yemen's performance in combating terrorism, it spoke at great length about Saudi Arabia's successes and efforts in combating terrorism, and mentioned Yemen as an obstacle to its neighbor as it provides a safe haven to terrorists.

It ascribed the government of Saudi Arabia as having upgraded infrastructure and tightened procedures to strengthen its borders.

### Continued from page 1

#### JMP leads civil disobedience in Taiz

The JMP distributed a statement among the protesters that they refuse the commodities price hikes. They also called on the government to implement the wages strategy for employees and soldiers, provide people with basic needs such as water and electricity, to reform the electoral system and to hasten conducting the national dialogue.

The JMP statement called for people to work collectively for the sake of the country against what the statement called corruption. It also called people to leave aside what creates tensions among them.

They also call for establishing a united base group of people for creating positive change in Yemen, and called for conducting the national dialogue in the name of the united Yemen to save the country from any possible threat.

"We are receiving Ramadan with hungry people who cannot afford the simple basics of life," Abdulhafedh Al-Faqih, the chairman of the executive authority in the JMP's branch in Taiz, told the Yemen Times.

He said that people keep asking about the reason behind the 50 percent increase in electricity and water bills and cooking gas prices.

"My salary is not enough to afford my family. The prices keep increasing. The President promised that prices would not increase. I was waiting for the opening Ramadan commodities exhibitions. However, I visited the exhibition as a spectator not a buyer," Qaed Suliman, an employee, told the Yemen Times in a very angry tone.

Musta Al-Aghbari, a car technician, said that he did his best in order to participate in the protest to raise a voice of

objection.

"I had a car workshop for 15 years but closed it as the taxes were a burden on me that I could not get rid of. What can we do when a 50kg sack of sugar almost doubles from YR 7,000 to 13,000?" he said. "When the government fails to combat corruption, they add more taxes or increase prices," he added.

In spite of the fact that security forces tried to prevent people from adjacent villages participating, the protest grew even bigger as many people joined it spontaneously.

#### 900 violations against children in Yemen in 2009, says report

It quoted a statement by the Prime Minister, Ali Mujawar, during his speech in front of the Partners and Friends of Yemen meeting in London 2009, where he stated that more than three million children have dropped out of school.

Another key factor in the increase of violence against children is the lack of social services. The prime minister at the London conference also said that half of the population are still lacking some basic services, especially electricity which covers the needs of only 42 percent of the population. 26 percent of Yemenis have no water service and 32 percent of Yemeni families are facing a serious shortage of food.

"These figures are shocking because it could result in increasing crimes and violence especially against the vulnerable groups in society, children and women," said the report.

After documenting 900 violations against children, SEYAJ found that illegal detention of children is at the top of



In Brief

SANA'A

Parliament approves draft law on higher education

Parliament approved on Monday a draft law on higher education which aims at organizing the tasks of higher education between government and domestic corporations of higher education. It also would enhance cultural and scientific cooperation with other

countries.

It emphasized that Arabic language is the teaching language in all higher education corporations and that the councils of these corporations have the right to determine whether other languages are required in a number of specializations.

Yemen and Germany review Yemen's security challenges

On Monday Yemen and Germany reviewed the efforts exerted by security bodies to tackle security challenges in Yemen.

Minister of Interior, Mutahir Al-Masri, and Undersecretary of the German Foreign Ministry for Crisis Management Affairs discussed aspects of security cooperation between the two countries and ways of enhancing them.

The Minister talked about the role the security bodies play in countering terrorism, including the strong strikes against Al-Qaeda and outlaw elements in some districts of the southern governorates.

He also briefed the German official on the security measures in place to handle the breaches made by Al-Houthi's loyalists in Sa'ada governorate and Harf Sufyan district. He affirmed the government's choice for Sa'ada is peace, as President Ali Abdullah Saleh has said on many occasions.

For his part, the German official hailed the role of the security bodies in enhancing security and stability in Yemen as well as in facing the different security challenges. He pointed to the German government's appreciation of the efforts in obtaining the release of kidnapped German and British people.

Organizing movements of humanitarian assistance discussed

Mechanisms for organizing the movement of humanitarian workers and assistance to internally displaced people (IDP) from Sa'ada and Amran governorates were discussed on Monday.

The Minister of State for Parliament and Shura Council Affairs and head of the executive unit for running IDP camps, Ahmed Al-Kohlani, held a meeting with representatives from humanitarian organizations. They discussed the mechanism prepared by the unit to ensure safe access for workers and assistance from these organizations to displaced people.

According to the mechanism, the organizations should submit their requests to the operations rooms at the Interior Ministries of Amran and Sa'ada governorates. They need to submit the names of workers who will provide assistance, the targeted regions and the date as well as means of transportation.

The representatives of the United Nations office in Sana'a expressed their readiness to bring its mine clearance team from New York to help the national team to clean regions of landmines in Sa'ada and Amran governorates.

Yemen and UNESCO discuss education cooperation

Minister of Education Abdul-Salam Al-Jawfi held talks on Monday with the Regional Director of the UNESCO Office in Doha on areas of cooperation in education and ways of enhancing them.

The talks dealt with the Capacity Building Program from Illiteracy Eradication and Adults Education. The project deals with those who have dropped out from basic education, and supports education in the governorate of Sa'ada, particularly in areas affected by conflict.

During the meeting, they reviewed capacity building in the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, and the successful experiences in capacity building in a number of other Arab countries. They also discussed supporting the University of Ibb in the field of information technology.

Al-Jawfi praised the efforts of UNESCO in supporting education programs in Yemen, in addition to the preservation programs of ancient cities and historical sites.

TAIZ

Over 30 Somalis reach Taiz coast

About 32 Somalis, including eight women, have arrived on the Thubab coast of Taiz governorate, the Interior Ministry reported on Sunday. The security authorities sent the Somalis to refugee camps in cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent.

In July, a total of about 500 Somalis, including 175 women and a number of children, arrived along the Thubab coast.

IBB

Ibb University to host international conference on environment

Ibb University will host on Sunday activities of the International Conference on Environment titled "For the Sake of Sustainable Development of the Environment". More than 170 researchers and scholars from Arab and foreign countries will be participating.

The three-day conference will address environmental problems in Yemen in general, with a particular focus on Ibb. It will review scientific research in addition to exploring mechanisms of preserving local sustainable development and exchanging expertise in the field of environment. The conference is hoped to announce a number of recommendations.

HODEIDA

Eritrean pirates hijack 26 Yemeni fishermen

In the last two days Eritrean pirates

have seized four Yemeni fishing boats from international waters with about 26 fishermen onboard, almotamar.net reported on Saturday.

Yemeni coastguards in the Red Sea sector reported that the Eritrean pirates used a Yemeni boat from a previous hijacking for the purpose of camouflage.

The Yemeni boats were driven at gunpoint to the Massawa area of Eritrea, where the boats and the fishermen's belongings were confiscated.

According to the source, the pirates have sent five Yemeni fishermen back to the Medi port of Hajja governorate, while the rest of the fishermen are still being held by the pirates.

Emergency project to strengthen social safety discussed

Yemen, the European Union (EU) and the World Bank discussed in Hodeida governorate on Saturday mechanisms to implement an emergency project to strengthen the social safety network.

Hodeida governor, Ahmed Al-Jabali, discussed with an EU representative and the World Bank's representative, Afrah Al-Ahmadi, the goals of the 17.5 million euro EU project that is under the bank's supervision.

It targets 58,000 families in 14 governorates and includes two main components. One is labor-intensive employment, which is to be carried out by the Social Fund for

Climate action - an opportunity for youth

Have you been waiting for an opportunity to begin to change the world? This could be one chance for you! In 2009, through the Solferino Youth Declaration, you called the international community to action, to work with you. The IFRC has heard your call and wants to help to provide you with tools, training and opportunities that you will need to become the strong advocates and activists that are needed for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement of tomorrow.

Climate change is one of the key issues that you identified in your declaration, and our two-year climate

change initiative is designed to promote youth involvement in this field and to empower your voice as Red Cross Red Crescent spokespeople advocating on climate change related issues. Through an online competition, we will identify and select 10 young volunteers from across the world to act as spokespersons for the Red Cross Red Crescent at the UN climate conference in Mexico this December.

From 15 July, we are eager to receive submissions from individual young volunteers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent who wish to take part in this initiative and advocate for positive action in response to climate change on behalf of the world's most vulnerable people. Participants must be between 18 and 25 years old. We seek young volunteers who are aware of the climate change challenge and are already taking personal action to respond.

You can take part in many different ways: sending us photos with captions (no more than five per entry), a short video (less than five minutes) highlighting the difference made in your community, or a written account (max 600 words) of what you are doing. To speak on behalf of the entire Red Cross Red Crescent you will need a strong voice and message, so think carefully before you prepare your submission, which must be sent digitally to youth.climatechange@ifrc.org before 15 September. Those selected will need to be available to attend training in November and the UNFCCC COP in December.

We will be adding further information, tools, resources and ideas to this page in the weeks to come. Currently, this page is only available in English, but we will shortly be adding versions in French and Spanish, as well as making key information available in Arabic. We are also happy to accept digital submissions in each of these languages. You can already download the briefing note sent to National Societies available in English, French, Spanish from the attachment. For more info please visit: <http://www.ifrc.org/youth/climatechange/>

Opportunities

Erasmus Mundus-EMSRHS Scholarships

European Master in Sustainable Regional Health Systems aims to fill the gap in Health Management by approaching the theme of health system management and planning on a regional level. This Master promotes the benchmarking of the different health system models helping to construct the comprehensive health system management and planning, including both, health care and promotion, as well as the interrelation between health and socio-economic areas. It aims to spread out the European model of health promotion and health planning, sustainability and the role of health system in social cohesion and strengthening of social capital.

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- Monthly allowance: € 1000 / month

Admission

Admission may be granted to applicants who meet the following common admission criteria:

- A university degree in Sociology, Psychology, Law, Political Science, Anthropology, History, Medicine, Social Work, Social Education, Nursing, Public Health etc, that they want to

specialize in the scope of the health.

- Candidates are required to have a recognized qualification in the language of instruction of the university that they plan to attend. Knowledge of languages of the place of study is an asset.
- A sufficient score of one of the following English language certificates (TOEFL, First Certificate, IELTS).
- Statement of intent. Applicants must submit a statement of intent indicating why the Master's is relevant for future carrier.

Contact detail: [gintautasbutkus@gmail.com](mailto:gintautasbutkus@gmail.com), [jaozamiz@ej-gv.es](mailto:jaozamiz@ej-gv.es), [agarido@relint.deusto.es](mailto:agarido@relint.deusto.es), [norbert.kiss@uni-corvinus.hu](mailto:norbert.kiss@uni-corvinus.hu), [aldo.polettini@univr.it](mailto:aldo.polettini@univr.it)

Moreinfo: <http://erasmusmundus.tprs.vu.it>

Arabic (Yemeni-Adan dialect) Positions in Maryland

Language school seeks Arabic language (Yemeni-Adan dialect) instructors. Positions are located in Maryland.

Ideal candidates will have:

- minimum of 5 years teaching the Yemeni-Adan dialect of Arabic to adults (1 year of teaching a related subject may be substituted.)
- B.A. in the Arabic language; in linguistics or second language study; or in the history, culture, or literature of the area in which Arabic is spoken
- familiarity with educational technology

Advanced degrees and publications are a plus.

Compensation is very competitive, based on credentials, and may include a relocation stipend. This is a long-term position. Full benefits.

If interested, please send your resume to: [lrhodes@academiaschool.com](mailto:lrhodes@academiaschool.com)

Vacancy Announcement

Sabeha Trading Company, the authorized distributor of Suzuki automobiles in Yemen, needs to fill in the following positions:-

Position Title: After Sales Manager

Position Requirements:

- College/University Degree in Mechanical Engineering or its equivalent
- Age cannot exceed (40) forty-years
- Proficiency in both Arabic/English languages (Arabic/English) is preferable
- Capable of using computers and the internet
- Minimum (10) years of experience in the same field with a reputable automotive company
- Leadership skills is a must
- Interpersonal/social skills is a major plus
- Ability to accept, learn, and be innovative
- Attractive pay commensurate with experience and meeting the above criteria

All interested applicants need to send their detailed CV to the following email: [sales.service@sabehagroup.com](mailto:sales.service@sabehagroup.com) Or deliver a detailed CV to the head office located near the Ministry of Oil on Zubair Street, over Daqdaq



شركة سابهة للتجارة  
SABEHA Trading Company

Vacancy Announcement

Sabeha Trading Company, the authorized distributor of Suzuki automobiles in Yemen, needs to fill in the following positions:-

Position Title: Mechanical/Electrical Technicians

Position Requirements:

- College Degree or Diploma in Mechanical Engineering or its equivalent
- Age: Between (24) twenty-four and (35) thirty-years
- Proficiency in both Arabic/English languages (Arabic/English) is preferable
- Capable of using computers and the internet
- Minimum (5) years of experience in the same field with a reputable automotive company
- Must pass an entry examination
- Leadership skills
- Interpersonal/social skills is a major plus
- Ability to adapt, learn, and innovate
- Attractive pay commensurate with experience and meeting the above criteria

All interested applicants need to send their detailed CV to the following email: [sales.service@sabehagroup.com](mailto:sales.service@sabehagroup.com) Or deliver a detailed CV to the head office located near the Ministry of Oil on Zubair Street, near Daqdaq



شركة سابهة للتجارة  
SABEHA Trading Company

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الختم الجديد



الختم القديم





### DOCUMENT EXAMINATION TRAINING (DET)



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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# Special house to rehabilitate juvenile delinquents in Hodeida

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Juvenile delinquents in Hodeida now have a special house to be rehabilitated in and to change their bad behaviors into good manners.

The House of Social Guidance for Caring Juveniles was recently established with the purpose of educating juvenile delinquents and caring for them through providing them with housing, food, clothes and entertainment.

Juvenile delinquents serve their sentence in a safe place with many activities and programs with the aim of changing their bad behavior.

All the juveniles were watching TV when the Yemen Times visited them with the manager of the house, but they suddenly stood up to greet us wondering about the new guest.

Before the establishment of this house, juveniles in Hodeida were sent to central prison with adult criminals or to an orphanage, but the Ministry of Social Affairs in Hodeida signed an agreement in collaboration with UNICEF and the prosecution in Hodeida to build a special place for these children.

The juvenile delinquents were happy but preferred to be out of the house meeting their families and friends.

The house was tidy and the beds, bathrooms and all the rooms were arranged in a wonderful way.

A juvenile M.F, 14, serves his sentence in the house watching TV, playing with his friends, and studying his lessons.

"I watch useful programs on the



These three newly established buildings represent the entire life of the juveniles. They include accommodation, canteen and the court house.

TV. I have learnt to study hard in this house, I'm happy here but it's better to exit from here" said another child in the house.

A juvenile S.H, 16, found guilty of sexual harassment told us that he

has learned to pray and several ethical principles since entering the house.

"When we receive those juvenile we noticed that they have very bad behavior and use abusive words. Sometimes we face difficulties in dealing with them," said Aisha

Ali, psychological specialist at the house.

"We aim to instill confidence and discipline into juvenile delinquents," she said.

Ali indicated that the behavior of those children change for the better day by day.

"Juvenile delinquents are victims of an awful environment, bad men and ignorance," said Abdulsalam Al-Enabi, social defense officer in Hodeida.

Al-Enabi stressed the importance of protecting children who are vulnerable to abuse, confirming that children in Hodeida don't know their rights for decent living due to poverty.

Most children in the house are clever, but the low social level and absence of encouragement make them behave like criminals, according to Al-Enabi.

"When juveniles come to us we provide them with psychological counseling then we assess their actions

to modify their bad attitudes," said Azza Mashlool, the head of the House of Social Guidance for Caring Juveniles.

Some juvenile delinquents leave the house and return to their bad behaviors because they return to their bad environment, according to Mashlool.

She criticized the society that doesn't provide a good atmosphere for children and called for protecting them.

"The house holds contest among the children in drawing and theatre and we discovered great talents in these arts, furthermore, there are cultural symposiums and sport activities for these children," according to Mashlool.

"We should punish the parents of



The juvenile center's accommodation consist of three rooms, each accommodating around eight children.



This is the classroom where the juveniles receive education, sometimes even better than what they would have received in the outside world.

juvenile delinquents because they caused troubles for their children," she said.

Some of the families of the children in the house don't visit their children, which leads them to be more aggressive and violent, according to Mashlool.

Juvenile crimes in Hodeida include theft, sexual assault, murder and other issues. Some children were found guilty of theft because their fathers push them into this action, according to Azza.

## Before the establishment of this house, juveniles in Hodeida were sent to central prison with adult criminals

## Some children were found guilty of theft because their fathers push them into this action

# Stories from Real Life

## Divorced woman in our society

By: Nawal Zaid  
For the Yemen Times

### Moving on from divorce

Arwa Ahmad, 30, is divorced and has had a son. She is a student and takes care of her family's house. She lives with her brothers as a divorced woman. She married a man and stayed with him for three years. When she had a child and it reached the age of one, her husband divorced her and took her baby from her.

Her father went several times to take the baby from his father, but he refused and banned the mother from seeing her baby for two years. Arwa remained in between her suffering from being separated from her son who needed her kindness and care, and the problems with the ex-husband and his threats against her.

But then she decided to forget the past and even her son and start a new life. She started studying languages and computer programing in educational institutes. Her family members are educated and civilized. They never objected to her freedom in choosing her life despite the many suitors who came to engage her.

She prefers study and success to marriage. She does not want to repeat her previous experience. She always studies hard with the help of her brothers and their

encouragement. A long time after the divorce, her son returned to her arms. Arwa felt very happy and doubled her dependence on herself.

People see her as divorced and think that she should not leave the house, study or carry a mobile in her hand. They believe that this harms her reputation and makes her attract people's attention. But Arwa does not care what people say or that they think these false thoughts.

"I have more confidence in myself and do not care about what anyone says. I will not compare myself to their level," Arwa always says. Even her relatives do not care about what people say.

Arwa is happy and content in life. She never feels that she is divorced and the past for her is a closed book.

### The university professor

Asma Ali is 40, a divorced woman and has a son. She is a professor of Arabic Language at the College of Education in Sana'a. For a long time since her divorce, Asma'a has lived with her mother.

She completed her university education and at the same time she has brought up her son Husam. After finishing university, she worked as a lecturer at the university while she was writing poetry. She is active and

participates in many activities.

Asma comes from an urban area. She was able to stand up again after the divorce and proved her existence by forgetting the past. She studied and worked until she decided to travel abroad to finish her studies, leaving her son with her mother. She spent four years at a college for women.

People in our society said that it was not good for her to travel alone, especially after being divorced. They said she must not leave the house to work here and there.

Unfortunately, there are still so many people who are illiterate, with closed minds and limited thinking. They always repeat that a woman has only her husband or her tomb. But Asma never cares about what they say even though she does not socialize much with other people, only with her friends and relatives.

After she came back from studying overseas, she was appointed a professor at the university. She now teaches and writes poetry and articles.

### All eyes on her

Nabila Al-Sane' is 40, uneducated and stays at home doing housework. She only finished primary school and could not go on with her study. Nabila married her cousin four years ago and lived with him in his village. She gave a birth to a daughter.

When the daughter reached

the age of one, her husband Ali divorced her and she returned to her family's house and took her child with her. Nabila's father is dead and she lives with her mother and brothers, Mohammad and Salim, and her brother's wife.

Nabila now suffers from more grievances and problems than in the past because she is divorced and all eyes are focused on her, watching her wherever she goes. If she wants to go out, she must go with her mother, and if she is late her brothers scold her.

Nabila does everything including all the housework to satisfy her family. She cannot express her admiration of anything, fearing her family's reaction and people's talk. Her relatives want her to always be submissive and follow their directions.

As she needs money to spend for herself and her daughter, she decided to take any kind of work, but her brothers refused because she is divorced and this makes people talk badly about her.

She did not give up, however, and started handiwork and practiced ironing in the house and really succeeded in this. When her brothers go to Hadramout, where they work, she can go out to do some work without their knowledge. But when they come back, she can never go out and remains imprisoned in the house. If she opposes their directions, they beat her and blame her for being divorced.

Nabila suffers a lot in her life but she is waiting patiently until a suitable husband comes to take her away to the life she wants.

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## Job vacancy

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for an immediate job opening within its organization:

### “Economic Growth Team Leader”

The USAID/Yemen Economic Growth (EG) Team leader manages the EG portfolio within the Mission's Office of Technical Programs. S/he provides overall leadership, strategic, and technical direction for the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the USG-funded Economic Growth and Agriculture portfolio in Yemen. The position serves as part of a team that includes both Foreign Service National (FSN) personnel, US-direct hire specialists and advisors to Mission senior management. The EG Team Leader also serves as a key member of an extended team that includes other US government agencies, the Government of Yemen (ROYG) counterparts, implementing partners and potentially other donors. The position requires travel, security permitting, to activity sites to monitor and evaluate progress and to identify and solve problems.

The incumbent will be expected to work independently, take initiative, and be responsible for advising on all aspects of USAID and some U.S. Government (USG) supported development activities across all EG and Agricultural areas to include programs and activities linked to the water, infrastructure, agriculture and business development sectors. In carrying out specific assignments, the incumbent will collaborate and liaise with representatives from the USAID team, ROYG, international donor organizations, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and USG officials at the US Embassy/Sana'a, USAID/Egypt, and USAID/Washington as required. S/He also will be expected to coordinate and collaborate with a number of interagency colleagues, including but not limited to the U.S. Embassy's Public Diplomacy section, POL/ECON, US department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). The Economic Growth Team Leader reports to the Technical Office Director and directly supervises the Economic Growth Specialist. Besides functioning

well independently as a self-starter, the incumbent is also expected to function well as part of a team and can be expected to effectively prioritize and manage multiple tasks concurrently.

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND CRITERIA

- Education:** Possession of a minimum of a Masters level degree in Economics, Business, Agribusiness, International Economic development, or related field is required. (10%)
- Prior Work Experience:** At least 10 years post-graduate experience in economic development with demonstrated increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, and coordinating projects. Demonstrated ability to design and manage complex EG projects and activities is essential. At least four years working in a developing country addressing EG and/or conflict mitigation issues is required. Significant experience with USAID or another major international development/donor organization is preferred. (20%)
- Language Proficiency:** English: minimum level four (4/4) in reading, writing and speaking. Yemeni Arabic: fluency (4/4) in reading, writing, speaking. (20%)
- Knowledge:** As a demonstrated EG expert, candidates are expected to be knowledgeable and proficient in relevant sub-sector issues, including but not limited to: business development, integrated rural development, economic growth, agriculture, agribusiness, and water conservation. Candidates are expected to understand well the processes of EG strategizing, program design and development, EG program management and oversight and fundamental approaches to EG program monitoring and evaluation. Candidates should demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the economic growth and agriculture-related challenges, opportunities, socio/political/economic/cultural environments within Yemen. Candidates who understand and have worked with USAID policies, procedures, regulations, and reporting requirements are highly desirable. (30%)
- Skills and Abilities:** Demonstrated financial, personnel, and program management skills are required. Requires strong interpersonal skills to work effectively with senior officials

in the ROYG, Embassy, donors and NGOs. Excellent verbal and written communication skills in both Arabic and English are required as are effective presentation capabilities. In providing strategic guidance and program management oversight, including financial, candidates are expected to possess good analytical skills. The successful candidate is expected to demonstrate functional skills in word processing and spreadsheets (i.e. Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint). As a program manager, the successful candidate must be familiar and comfortable working with numbers and budgets. Familiarity and experience with databases is desirable. (20%)

**\*For detailed Position Description and requirement of qualifications please go to our website**

<http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/vacancies.html>

**Grade/Salary:** \*Ordinarily Resident:

- FSN - 12 (Full Performance Level) US \$ 26,918 per annum Starting Salary plus \$6,000 in kind of benefits and allowances

### How to apply:

Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) and also three references. All applications also must include a letter which explains the candidate's past experience and how it relates to the required qualifications, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa or via Fax No. 303-182 or through e-mail address: [HYPERLINK «mailto:hrosanaa@state.gov»hrosanaa@state.gov](mailto:hrosanaa@state.gov) no later than August 22, 2010

*Please note that only qualified candidates will be called for interview.*

**\* NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**



## Job Vacancy

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for an immediate job opening within its organization:

### “Democracy and Governance Team Leader”

The USAID/Yemen Democracy and Governance (DG) Team leader manages the DG portfolio within the Mission's Office of Technical Programs. S/he provides overall leadership, strategic, and technical direction for the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the USG-funded DG and Conflict Mitigation portfolio in Yemen. S/he provides recommendations to the Technical Office Director and, when required, to the USAID/Yemen Mission Director.

The incumbent will be expected to work independently, take initiative, and be responsible for advising on all aspects of USAID and some U.S. Government (USG) supported development activities across all DG and Conflict Mitigation areas. In carrying out specific assignments, the incumbent will collaborate and liaise with representatives from the USAID team, Republic of Yemen Government (ROYG), international donor organizations, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and USG officials at the US Embassy/Sana'a, USAID/Egypt, and USAID/Washington. S/He also will be expected to coordinate and collaborate with a number of interagency colleagues, including but not limited to the U.S. Embassy's Public Diplomacy section, POL/ECON, the Department of Defense teams, Department of Justice, and the Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). The Democracy and Governance Team Leader reports to the Technical Office Director.

- Education:** Possession of a minimum of a Masters level degree in Political Science, Social Science, Humanities or related field is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** At least 10 years post-graduate experience in democracy and governance development with demonstrated increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, and coordinating projects. Demonstrated ability to design and manage complex DG projects and activities. At least four years working in a developing country addressing DG and/or conflict mitigation issues. Significant experience with USAID or another major international development/donor organization is preferred.
- Language Proficiency:** English: minimum level four (4/4) in reading, writing and speaking. Yemeni Arabic: fluency (4/4) in reading, writing, speaking.
- Knowledge:** As a demonstrated democracy-governance expert, candidates are expected to be knowledgeable and proficient in relevant sub-sector issues, including but not limited to: local governance, anti-corruption, DG policy, conflict, and civil society. Candidates are expected to understand well the processes of DG strategizing, program design and development, DG program management and oversight and fundamental approaches to DG program monitoring and evaluation. Candidates should demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the DG-related challenges, opportunities, socio/political/cultural environments within Yemen. Candidates who understand and have worked with USAID policies, procedures, regulations, and reporting requirements are highly advantageous.
- Skills and Abilities:** Demonstrated financial, personnel, and program management skills. Requires strong interpersonal skills to effectively with senior officials in the ROYG, Embassy, donors and NGOs. Excellent verbal and written communication skills in both Arabic and English are required as are effective presentation capabilities. In providing strategic guidance and program management oversight, including financial, candidates are expected to possess good analytical skills. The successful candidate is expected to demonstrate functional skills in word processing and spreadsheets (i.e. Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint). As a program manager, the successful candidate must be familiar and comfortable working with numbers and budgets. Familiarity and experience with databases is desirable.

**\*For detailed Position Description and requirement of qualifications please go to our website <http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/vacancies.html>**

**Grade/Salary:** \*Ordinarily Resident:

- FSN - 12 (Full Performance Level) US \$ 26,918 per annum Starting Salary plus \$6,000 in kind of benefits and allowances

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*Please note that only qualified candidates will be called for interview.*

**\* NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

## Vacancy

**Shumaila Hary Company announces its need for a female secretary with the following conditions:**

- 1. A bachelor in English Literature or Business Administration degree.**
- 2. English & Arabic typing and speaking**
- 3. Experience in secretary skills**
- 4. Good looking, ( height not less than 165 cm)**

**Please send your contact the main headquarter of Shumaila Hary Company in Hadda Street, the Administrative department.**

**Manarat Sana'a International School & Kindergarten is looking for English teachers. Must have good English, a pleasant and open manner to deal with children and a variety of stakeholders and previous work experience in education in a similar role. Female candidate preferred.**

**A Curriculum Vitae and Letter of Application must be received by Sunday August 15, 2010 and should be sent in care of Balkees by:**

- \* Email to: [manarat@yemenunist.net](mailto:manarat@yemenunist.net)
- \* Fax to: (91)41 01 52

**For questions please contact Balkees at: (91) 41 00 11.**





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Words of Wisdom



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

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

An 'internationalizing' Yemen

By: Samir Salha Today's Zaman

Following the confession by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the accused would-be bomber of the American airplane heading from Amsterdam to Detroit in the last week of December, that he received training at al-Qaeda camps in Yemen, US President Barack Obama, who pledged to focus more on dialogue and cooperation in the fight against terror in his first days in office, has given signals that he might return to the Bush-era policies he persistently criticized during his election campaign.

Concerns that the Gulf of Aden will be the region's new center of conflict emerged when Obama started pointing his finger at Yemen.

A majority of the Arab-Muslim world didn't react when Washington called for the development of urgent alternative policies against al-Qaeda camps in Yemen. Some Arab regimes even supported the White House. The US administration announced that it would increase its financial and logistical support, which is currently \$150 million, to the Ali Abdullah Saleh administration to use in the fight against al-Qaeda. The Sa'ada and Houthi groups in the north of Yemen are engaged in a prolonged armed fight against the central authority, and Saudi Arabia opened a new front against these minority groups on grounds that they violated border restrictions, making the situation even worse. For the people in the north, the south is just a gateway for income. But reactions in the oil-rich south, which does not get a share from the budget that is proportionate to its investments, reached their highest point last weekend when the leaders of political parties in the south called for civil disobedience and a general strike. Worried about the increasing power of al-Qaeda, which had organized in the most southern parts of Yemen long before the first attack against the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, the West has started to develop new strategies that include the prospect of military intervention in order to end this situation. All of these are indications of developments that will place the entire region at risk via Yemen.

From this perspective, the implicit messages in Yemeni President

Saleh's statement that they are ready for peace if al-Qaeda and the Houthis surrender their arms or that otherwise they will continue to fight against components that threaten world peace and safety until the very end must be read very carefully. For this statement reveals that Saleh is searching for ways to protect his authority even if it means opening the way for Western intervention. The subject of curiosity for the upcoming days is whether the solution against the Yemen-centered problem will come from the Saleh administration or from plans to divide the country, which was split into two prior to 1990.

Focusing on solutions

It is not surprising that a London meeting to take place on Jan. 28, which was initially planned to discuss development in Yemen, will focus on counterterrorism instead of policies to enable development in the country. A similar meeting was organized in London in 2006 to talk about development in Yemen; it was decided during the meeting to provide \$5 billion to the country for structural support. But only 1 percent of that amount was given to Yemen, strictly on the condition that it be used to fight against al-Qaeda. If the West is determined to support Yemen then they must realize the error of their ways, look beyond military alternatives to fight terrorism and lead the way in the implementation of projects that will develop the country. Therefore, in order for the Yemenis to obtain peace and stability England, France and Germany especially must escape the US's influence and focus on solutions that will eliminate social injustice and poverty, which fosters terror, and not just on military options to fight against al-Qaeda, and stop making decisions that cause disappointment, such as the decision to close down the embassies in Sana'a.

In particular, the words of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who said: "The instability in Yemen is a threat to regional stability and even global stability, and we're working with Qatar and others to think of the best way forward to try to deal with the security concerns. And certainly, we know that this is a difficult set of challenges, but they have to be addressed," have meant that the moves that started with Lebanon under the name of change and that aimed to internationalize the crises in Pakistan,

Afghanistan and Somalia so as to control these countries are now targeting Yemen. However, for Clinton to see a real solution to the problem, it was considerably important that she lent an ear to her German counterpart, Guido Westerwelle, who said Germany had "great interest in a stable Yemen, which does not become a retreat area for terrorists" and noted that as a country that contributes the largest amount of development aid in Europe, Germany is deeply concerned about this matter and supports international efforts to increase for the country's stability.

Nevertheless, the most important question remains whether the West's remedies aim to cure the al-Qaeda gangrene or to send the Yemeni people into a coma. More importantly, we will soon see whether al-Qaeda was luring the West into its trap in Yemen or if the West is trying to control strategic routes through Yemen under the pretext of fighting against al-Qaeda.

While the international public discusses these developments, Turkey should act very carefully. First of all, our country must not become part of any plans to send NATO forces off the coast of Somalia to participate in the armed conflict in Yemen. As it did in Afghanistan, it should opt for helping the country improve its economic and social development. In this context, our government should support the initiative to strengthen the central government and national unity and territorial integrity as a primary tool in counterterrorism.

In conclusion, while the problem is a top concern for the West, the primary factors in the settlement of this problem are the Arab League, of which Yemen is a founding member, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which it joined in 1969, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which Yemen is currently in membership negotiations with. Countries that are active in these organizations and that are leading countries in the region, such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, must urgently hold a regional meeting in Yemen and strive to secure an immediate cease-fire and attain a national consensus to find a way to establish a fund for the development of this country. Such a solution will be much more realistic than the West's artificial military recipes.

\*Professor Samir Salha is an instructor at Kocaeli University.

COMMON SENSE

On Sa'ada, Al-Qaeda and other taxing issues for Yemen

A seventh round is unwarranted in Sa'ada



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

For a while there was a frightening moment of a threat that a Seventh Round was about to break out in Sa'ada. In fact, it actually did commence and as usual both the Houthis and the Government declared the other to be the violator of the truce that ended the Sixth Round in March of this year. Frankly speaking, the Yemeni people are the least of caring about who is to blame and who should be reprimanded for this scary moment when again, the guns did the talking and the war merchants had another chance to scrounge off out of the state treasury. The Holy Month of Ramadan was coming and the feeling was that another 200,000 or so people were going to enter the rolls of UNHCR Internally Displaced People, especially if the Saudis also decide to try to see what new territory they can attach "for security reasons" to their already exaggerated territorial expanse at the expense of overcrowding, deprivation and perpetual poverty from which Yemen already suffers. In the last round of the Sa'ada War, the number of IDP's rose from 115,000 to over three hundred thousand on account of the Saudi moronic bombardment of civilian habitats, which frankly speaking, the Yemeni gunners and bombardiers were not too interested to aim for. Their Saudi counterparts were not at all reluctant to present a formidable display of wanton desire for destruction and blood, which the Saudis were unabashed in projecting.

Thanks to Allah, it seems that the Seventh Round in Sa'ada has been put on hold for now. Perhaps, it was the rather powerful display of awesome force that the Houthis still displayed recently in Harf Sufian, Amran Governorate, which let reason prevail over the desires of those who thought that Yemen was a stage for perpetual profiteering from the blood of their own citizens and the fallen roofs over children's heads. Perhaps it was the very unbending affirmation of the desire of the Government of Qatar to see lasting peace prevail in Yemen, which put a halt to the fighting in the Northern provinces in due time, before it spread to uncontrollable levels and before it spread to other governorates beyond Amran. Perhaps it was the allies of the Yemeni Government's more recent newly declared commitment to fight terrorism, who told their Yemeni partners that the War against the Houthis will limit the ability of the Government to confront the enemy that interests them the most, namely "Al-Qaeda", which has been surfacing on more than one occasion as a "menace" that to the West is scarier than the Houthis could ever be. Perhaps, it was President Ali Abdullah Saleh's great knack for political common sense that all the above cited reasons put together make good political reasoning for not allowing the conflict to get out of hand in the North and thus the declaration of the Houthis to release the prisoners they recently captured and participate in the proposed political dialogue was enough for the President to again ensure that the country does not fall apart now. Surely a Seventh Round of fighting with the Houthis would not have been at best a good display of security and stability, which Yemen needs to show, if it is to hope for any relief from the very depressive conditions of Yemen's economy.

On the farce of "Al-Qaeda"

The observer is nevertheless not at a loss to find explanations for the unusual resurgence of "Al-Qaeda" activities in Yemen and elsewhere, especially at this time. One is not convinced that AQ represents a genuine political denomination that caters to the demands of any Moslem constituencies in any of the countries where it operates. Furthermore, the "returns" of its activities are all but for the advancement of Moslem interests or even serving the causes to which Moslems are more emotionally, if not morally attached. Who are they fighting? Shiites, Moderate thinking Moslem scholars, artists and philosophers, and any rendition of modern Moslem institutions. Now they are even threatening Turkey! Why Turkey and at this very moment? Surely, this must have raised the eyebrows of many an astute observer of the regional scene. If anything, "Al-Qaeda" has shown itself now more than ever that it is really subservient to a Zionist agenda. The recent positions of Turkey on more than one of the problems that beset the Middle East are far from being helpful to Zionist designs for the region and the world at large. More on this in future Common Sense articles. This may reveal much of the mysteries that cloud Al-Qaeda and the so called "War on Terror".

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

OUR OPINION

Devaluing our currency

The speedy devaluation of the Yemeni riyal reminds me of the story of the Zimbabwean dollar which was abandoned around a year ago in February 2009 after it was deemed worthless.

In 1980, the Zimbabwean dollar was introduced at an exchange rate of ZWD 1 = USD 1.47 at the time. However, poor economic policies and corruption led the country's national economy to a disastrous state so that by 2006, the Zimbabwean government had to reevaluate the currency and introduce a new currency with the same name. In August 2006, one new Zimbabwean dollar was worth 1,000 of the old dollars. But this did not do the trick and in June 2007 another revaluation was made so that the new dollar equaled one million of the old ones. But still the new dollar was still very low in quality and one American dollar was equal to ZWD 600,000 on the black market.

By 2008, a third ZWD change was introduced and the new dollar was equal to 10 billion of the old ones. What the government kept doing is printing more and more money and adding new bills to the extent that a time came when there was a note of ZWD 100 trillion. People had to pay huge sums of money for very simple commodities, for example ZWD 100 billion for just three eggs.

In January 2009, the government legalized the use of other currencies and immediately the people abandoned their national currency. Almost all government employees left their jobs because the salaries they were receiving were worthless. A January 2009 BBC news report told a story of a school teacher whose monthly government salary was worth USD 1 although it cost USD 2 to travel to work every day.

Now the IMF has come up with a plan for Yemen. Although in financial terms, the support the IMF is offering is not that significant, which a USD 370 million loan -not even a grant- to be given over a period of four years. Yet the idea is to push the Yemeni government into carrying out a number of hard economic reforms which include removing subsidies.

Here lies a very urgent problem, and this is that most Yemenis have no idea what is in store for them or why. There is no communication between the state and the general public in terms of preparing them for the very hard times to come and asking them to toughen up and bear it because supposedly these strategies are for the long term good of the country.

My concern, in addition to the lack of communication that would lead to acts caused by misunderstanding, is that we don't see the people in high level positions toughening up in solidarity with the common man. The impacts of the deteriorating economy affects those at the lower side of the economic scale and those are more than half of the population.

The lack of transparency on how the country's important policies are made, and lack of equality in terms of a common fate or common standing of the people is what really concerns me, and this is what our leaders should try to fix alongside the technical economic issues.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Arming Yemen Against Al-Qaeda

By: Sheila Carapico The Register Citizen -Minuteman Media

Americans got a crash course on Yemen for Christmas.

That's because we've wanted to know more about the little-known, dirt-poor country in southwestern Arabia where the "underwear bomber" who tried to blow up a plane—bound for Detroit from Nigeria on Christmas Day—says he was trained. President Barack Obama says, correctly, that "large chunks" of Yemen "are not fully under government control." So it seems to make sense to strengthen the Yemeni government, to get at "al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula," as the local gang of Islamist extremists is known.

The State Department has duly doubled aid to Yemen, pledging \$63 million in 2010, \$12.5 million of which will buy military equipment. And there will be more from the Pentagon: Yemen received \$67 million for its armed forces from the Defense Department in 2009, an amount set to increase this year.

But what kind of government rules Yemen, and how is it using these boatloads of Pentagon boodle?

Its elected parliament makes Yemen a democracy in name only. Its president, Ali Abdallah Saleh, has held office longer than any other Arab ruler except Lib-

ya's strongman, Muammar Qaddafi, and is grooming his son to take over.

Salih's regime has battled rebels in the far north since 2004, and today it also faces a very disaffected population throughout the south. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is a tertiary concern at best. In fact, Salih has a history of strategically enlisting radical jihadis to keep his political opponents in check.

In combating threats to its power, moreover, the regime has violated international human rights standards galore. The army has fired indiscriminately on villages in the northern highlands, contributing greatly to the displacement of some 150,000 people. The scale of these civilians' suffering is unknown because the regime enforces a news blackout on the area, but it's certainly severe since Yemen's government also blocks the inflow of humanitarian relief.

To curry favor with Washington, Salih and his cronies promote the notion that the northern rebels, who belong to a Shiite sect, are on the dole of the Islamic Republic of Iran. But the guerrillas are homegrown, and they are making inroads against both the Yemeni army and its allies from Saudi Arabia. The army's blatant disregard for civilians hardly boosts the government's popularity in the north.

With similar ineptitude, the Yemeni military has mounted widespread raids on proto-militias in the south. Some

of the attacks, in thickly settled areas, probably verge on war crimes. Again, the details are vague: The independent Yemeni newspaper that filed the richest reports from the south was shut down by the regime last May. In recent days its offices were literally besieged by riot police. Since some al-Qaeda operatives hide out in the south, the situation there could worsen.

In the week before Christmas, reportedly with U.S. assistance, Yemen bombed two southern villages. The radical Yemeni-American cleric who is said to have schooled Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (the underwear bomber) was supposed to be there, but he wasn't. The operations killed more civilians than militants.

If the Yemeni state is "failing," it's largely because it rules increasingly by brute force. The last thing Yemen's people need is more weapons. And the last thing America needs is to help another Middle Eastern government to become a more effective military dictatorship.

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## Balancing China's high savings

By: Fan Gang

China's national savings rate has been very high in recent years, amounting to 52% of GDP in 2008 (the most recent year for which statistics are available), and is often blamed for today's global imbalances. Countries that save too much export too much, according to conventional wisdom, resulting in high trade surpluses and growing foreign-exchange reserves.

But this is not always true. For instance, if I save \$100, but at the same time I invest \$100 in my factories' fixed assets, I am "balanced domestically" and not running an export surplus with anyone.

Such an example captures China's recent economic situation. In late 2009 and in early 2010, China's savings rate might well have remained at 50% of GDP had its trade surplus not narrowed significantly compared to previous years. Indeed, China recorded a trade deficit in part of this period, as high investment in fixed assets (owing to government stimulus policies enacted in the wake of the global financial crisis) fueled domestic demand for goods in the same way that higher consumer spending would.

Only when a country invests less in fixed assets than the amount that it saves will the "surplus savings" show up in the trade balance. The same logic can be applied to the US economy, but in the opposite way: even if the US wants to consume a lot and does not save, it may not run trade deficits if it does not invest much. It runs a trade deficit only when it invests a lot while simultaneously not limiting consumption.

Savings are, of course, no bad thing. If Americans and Europeans had saved more, they might not have created the global imbalances that fueled the financial crisis, or the worldwide sovereign-debt problems that have since emerged. And savings are particularly good for developing countries. One of the most daunting challenges for poor countries is the need to accumulate investment capital under conditions of low savings without incurring too much

foreign debt.

Even for a developing economy with per capita income of \$3,000, such as China, building wealth in the middle classes remains a central issue. Spurring faster growth of small- and medium-size enterprises through relatively high investment in physical assets and R&D programs, improved infrastructure, and more rapid urbanization, all of which require a lot of savings to invest, is vital.

In any meaningful international comparison, China's per capita stock of physical capital is still 8-10 times lower than in advanced countries like the United States and Japan. Without relatively high savings, a developing country like China may never catch up.

If a developing country has high savings (despite efforts to increase current consumption) as a result of structural factors, the best strategy is not to reduce savings through short-run "external shocks," such as dramatic exchange-rate appreciation, which may kill export industries overnight. Rather, savings should be channeled even more – and more efficiently – to domestic investment in order to avoid large external imbalances.

For example, China should use its current high savings to build up the country's infrastructure and speed up urbanization, thereby laying a firmer foundation for future development. Savings could remain high, even as current consumption grows slowly, while the trade balance would be held in check by higher demand for imported capital goods.

Moreover, investment in public infrastructure and urban facilities will not create industrial "over-capacity"; instead, it will provide long-term public consumption durables that households and companies will use for years to come. If China continues on this path, its external surplus will decrease further, other conditions being equal.

Of course, a country must deal with a savings rate that is "too high" even if it is not necessarily the main cause of external imbalances. That is certainly the challenge for China in the long run. A savings rate of 50% of GDP is too high

under any circumstances, and household consumption equivalent to 35% of GDP is too low.

But this can and should be addressed by domestic policies aimed at bringing about structural change, not by external policies like exchange-rate appreciation. Without domestic structural change, currency appreciation would not only undermine exports, but might also decrease imports, owing to higher unemployment and lower income.

China must recognize that high savings will not provide stable growth over the long run. High domestic investment may for the time being prevent "surplus savings" from creating too much upward pressure on the external balance, but, given trends in China's terms of trade, growth without an increase in domestic consumption is unsustainable over the long run.

High investment may cause economic overheating and increase the price of capital goods in the medium term, eventually triggering inflation. So bringing the savings rate down is necessary if domestic and external balances are to be achieved.

Meanwhile, China's so-called "export-oriented growth policy" itself may not be wrong for a developing country, because international trade in general creates more jobs and brings more income. But if exports continue to grow in the absence of consumption-led import growth, distortions occur and the trade surplus and foreign reserves increase.

China has adopted some policies to reduce its trade surplus, such as lowering import tariffs, withdrawing tax rebates for exported goods, and gradual exchange-rate appreciation. But what China really needs is a greater effort to promote domestic consumption and lower the savings rate.

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## Rating the raters

By: Lucian Bebchuk

In the new financial order being put in place by regulators around the world, reform of credit rating agencies should be a key element. Credit rating agencies, which play an important role in modern capital markets, completely failed in the years preceding the financial crisis. What is needed is an effective mechanism for rating the raters.

There is widespread recognition that rating agencies have let down investors. Many financial products related to real estate lending that Standard & Poor, Moody's, and Fitch rated as safe in the boom years turned out to be lethally dangerous. And the problem isn't limited to such financial products: with issuers of other debt securities choosing and compensating the firms that rate them, the agencies still have strong incentives to reciprocate with good ratings.

What should be done? One proposed approach would reduce the significance of the raters' opinions. In many cases, the importance of ratings comes partly from legal requirements that oblige or encourage institutional investors and investment vehicles to maintain portfolios of assets that have received sufficiently high grades from the recognized agencies.

Disappointment about the raters' performance, and skepticism about the effectiveness of regulation, has led to calls to eliminate any regulatory reliance on ratings. If ratings are not backed by the force of law, so the argument goes, regulators need not worry about rating quality and can leave the monitoring of raters to the market.

Even if ratings were no longer required or encouraged by law,

however, demand for ratings – and the need to improve their reliability – would remain. Many investors are unable to examine the extent to which a bond fund's high yield is due to risk-taking, and would thus benefit from a rating of the fund's holdings. Given past experience, we cannot rely on market reputation to ensure that such ratings will be reliable.

Another approach would be to unleash the liability system. On this view, if investors were able to take raters to court, raters' incentives would improve. But, while such judicial scrutiny may be effective in eliminating some egregious cases, it cannot ensure that raters do the right thing when courts are not expected to be able to tell after the fact what the right thing was.

There is thus no substitute for providing raters with incentives to provide as accurate a rating as they can. This can be done by making raters' profits depend not on satisfying the issuers that select them, but on performing well for investors. If raters' profits depend on such performance – on the accuracy of their ratings – the profit motive would turn from a source of perverse incentives to a provider of beneficial incentives.

The US Senate voted this month to incorporate such a mechanism into the financial reform bill that will now have to be reconciled by the bill passed by the US House of Representatives. Under the Senate's approach, regulators would create rules under which an independent regulatory board would choose raters. The board would be allowed to base its choices on raters' past performance.

For such a mechanism to work well, it must link the number of assignments won by raters, and thus

their compensation, to appropriate measures of their performance. Such measures should focus on what makes ratings valuable for the investors who use them – their accuracy in forecasting financial health.

Once developed, such a mechanism should not be limited (as, unfortunately, it is in the Senate's bill) to ratings of structured financial products. It should apply to all products that rating agencies evaluate. All ratings of financial products raise the same incentive problems and could benefit from reform.

Predictably, the Senate's bill encountered stiff resistance from the dominant rating agencies. Standard & Poor argued that such a mechanism would provide credit rating agencies with "less incentive to compete with one another, pursue innovation, and improve their models, criteria, and methodologies."

Well, such a mechanism would indeed reduce raters' negative incentives to compete with one another to please issuers of securities, and to pursue innovations and improvements that enable raters to serve issuers better. But it would strengthen raters' positive incentives to compete with one another to produce accurate ratings, and to pursue innovations and improvements that enable raters to achieve that far more socially beneficial goal.

Rating agencies have been and should remain an important aspect of modern capital markets. But to make ratings work, the raters need to be rated.

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## Kuwaiti bank to open trading hall for women

**Kuwait Finance House plans to set up a hall exclusively for women traders at the local stock exchange.**

By: Adam Gonn  
The Media Line

**Women will now be able to personally trade on Kuwait's stock exchange.**

Accommodating the growing number of Kuwaiti women wanting to trade, as well as Kuwaiti cultural tradition, the Kuwait Finance House is opening a trading hall exclusively for women at the local stock market exchange.

"Women's banking is no longer limited to deposit and withdrawal," Tahani Saleh Al-Khamis, an area manager with the bank Kuwait Finance House told The Media Line. "[Women's banking] has expanded over and beyond to include the demand for diversified products such as participation in investment funds and portfolios, particularly new and existing [ones]."

"We, in turn, offer them a complete package of data about the new and existing funds and portfolios in addition to the advice and consultation," she said.

A statement from the bank described the new hall as being equipped "with the most modern means of technology and information including state-of-the-art computing and communication facilities providing an environment [with] speed and flexibility while highly private and secure, befitting women clients who wish to trade outside the official stock market building."

The bank also said it is trying to produce a modern concept in banking services that allows women to take on a growing role and to develop their aspirations in the business community.

Hakim Al Fasulait, public relations manager at the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange said there are already women at the stock exchange.

"[There are] about 30,000 [female] traders that have an account," Al Fasulait told The Media Line. "But there is not much trading now. The market is not strong," he said. "We used to trade for

\$350 million every day, now is about a quarter, \$120 million," he said.

A recent study showed that Kuwaiti women are very familiar with new technology as 53 percent spend more than seven hours a week online outside of work and 68 percent have an account on the social networking site Facebook.

In addition, Kuwait is one of the most politically progressive countries in the region. Women can vote (a right they won in 2005), and women can be elected into parliament, with four seats out of 50 being won by women in the last parliamentary elections in May 2009.

Some analysts, speaking to The Media Line off the record, said it still remains unclear if the latest move by Kuwait Finance House prove beneficial for the women of Kuwait.

Since the country's financial sector remains very traditional and conservative. For instance, all women who work wear the Hijab (the Islamic headscarf that covers the hair). The new hall could be an attempt by the bank to attract more female customers without forsaking the bank's Islamic values.

**Saudi media giant Rotana signs with Yahoo! Middle East for common distribution.**

By: Adam Gonn  
The Media Line

**American Internet services giant Yahoo! has signed a distribution agreement with Saudi media conglomerate Rotana, the largest media company in the Arab world.**

The deal, one of the largest-ever cooperation agreements between U.S. and Arab communications providers, means that Arabic speakers across the globe will now be able to watch Rotana's music, film, TV and radio channels via Yahoo!'s various Internet services.

"This is an exciting and important development for Yahoo! Middle East as we continue to strengthen and support Arabic content on the Internet, and introduce more innovative and locally relevant content and products for our consumers in a highly engaging platform," Ahmed Nassef, VP and Managing Director of Yahoo! Middle East told The Media Line.

The deal is Yahoo!'s second major Middle Eastern media acquisition, made

just one year after Yahoo! purchased Maktoob.com, the Arab world's largest online portal.

Yousef H Mugharbil, President of Digital Media at Rotana, said the Yahoo! deal will expand opportunities for the company.

"As the region's largest entertainment company for quality Arabic content, we are always looking to sustain a healthy growth in our audience numbers," he said in a statement. "Yahoo!'s entertainment network is the ideal platform to utilize for the ever-growing Arab online world."

While films and music videos might be forbidden by Saudi Arabia's strict religious establishment, Rotana has managed to grow into the largest Arabic media company in the world, with a number of TV and radio stations, a record label with more than 100 Arab artists, and film operations across the Middle East and North Africa.

Some pundits attribute the relative freedom enjoyed by the company to the political influence of its owner, Saudi Arabia's richest man Prince Waleed bin Talal. With an estimated net worth of USD 19 billion, the prince is ranked by Forbes Magazine as the 16th richest person in the world.

Saudi media analyst Ahmed Egal told

The Media Line that the deal meets both parties' needs.

"It make sense because Rotana has been looking for an Internet platform and Yahoo! gets access to Rotana's client base, which is young and tech savvy," Egal told The Media Line.

The Rotana deal is likely to help Yahoo! launch a number of value added services such as mobile-friendly content and increased TV-over-internet content.

"Rotana already has a strong following via satellite TV across the region," Egal added, pointing out that Rotana's material will now be available to a wider audience.

According to Rotana, the company's satellite channels hold 20 percent of the market in both Saudi Arabia and Egypt, generally considered to be the two most important media markets in the Middle East and North Africa.

After signing a deal with Disney in December 2009, Rotana hoped to boost its market share to 30 percent. According to the deal, Disney movies and programs were made available to Middle Eastern viewers on Fox channels.

Both Fox and Disney are owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. The owner of Rotana, Prince Waleed Bin Talal, holds a major stake in News Corporation.

## Running in place on trade

By: Jagdish Bhagwati

Meetings of G-20 leaders regularly affirm the importance of maintaining and strengthening openness in trade. June's G-20 summit in Toronto, although not very effusive on trade, did not back away from it. Yet talk is cheap, and the open-mouth policy of (generally pro-trade) pronouncements has not been matched by action.

The paradox is that this has been good for holding the line on protectionism. After all, actions are also necessary to "roll back" open trade. So we have largely stood still, in trade jargon.

But lack of trade activism has also meant that we are not moving forward with trade liberalization. The long-standing Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations seems to have been put on indefinite hold.

That governments did not break out into protectionism after the global

financial crisis hit surprised many. In retrospect, it is easy to see why. Policy is driven by three "I's": ideas, institutions, and interests (i.e., lobbies). On all three dimensions, protectionist policy was hemmed in.

Progress in economic thought after 1929 initially led to the argument that, in a depression, tariffs are justified because they would divert insufficient aggregate world demand to one's goods at the expense of others. But all could play this game, saddling the world economy with tariffs that would likely hurt all while failing to revive growth. The solution was obviously to forgo protectionism and increase aggregate demand instead. This lesson has been well learned.

Institutions have also helped. Following the passage of America's Smoot-Hawley Tariff in 1930, countries raised trade barriers in a tit-for-tat frenzy, with no rules to constrain their behavior. The architects of the postwar global order therefore established the

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947, which embodied such rules – as does the World Trade Organization, which absorbed and expanded the GATT in 1995. Indeed, no country has defied WTO rules in the current crisis.

Of course, we might still have yielded to pressure for protectionist measures, especially as WTO rules leave open the possibility of such a response. Thus, for instance, bound tariffs (i.e., agreed ceilings) allow countries to raise actual tariffs, which are often lower, without restraint. What has prevented the eruption of WTO-compliant trade wars has been the changed structure of the world economy, which has created strong anti-protectionist interests.

Thus, when the United States Congress enacted "Buy America" provisions for public procurement, many US firms, such as Boeing, Caterpillar, and General Electric – all fearing retaliation in their foreign markets – lobbied successfully to moderate the legislation.

The Doha Round ought to profit from some of these fundamental forces that favor open trade and impede protectionism. Indeed, conventional wisdom holds that, during a depression, citizens become risk-averse and will not support liberalization. But, with many people now aware that their jobs depend on trade in a closely integrated world economy, polls in the US and elsewhere show continued majority support for free trade.

While the Doha negotiators have settled many important issues, the final negotiations first stalled last year, owing to America's refusal to cut its agricultural subsidies further and India's insistence on special safeguards to prevent exposing its millions of subsistence farmers to unfairly subsidized US competition.

Today, domestic politics in the US and India has left America as the only stumbling block to progress. The last election freed India's Congress Party of its coalition with the Communists, who

opposed trade, and thus increased the flexibility of pro-trade Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. But the last election in the US ushered in a Democratic congressional majority that is indebted to trade-fearing unions, thus constraining the pro-trade President Barack Obama.

Obama also faces falling support from business lobbies in manufacturing and services – sectors that are demanding more concessions from other nations. Were he to opt to close the Doha Round as it has been negotiated to date, he could become a general without any troops. His silence on Doha at the recent G-20 summit was deafening.

So, how do we move forward on trade? One solution, favored by some Washington think tanks, is to go along and ask for more. But that would mean several years of re-negotiation. The Doha Round would then be de facto dead.

The other option is to close the Round by resolving the US-India discord on agriculture. Mutual concessions can be

crafted that ensure negligible political fallout for both leaders. This would also require marginal improvements in concessions by the major developing countries, and by the US and the European Union on services.

The problem is that lobbyists in Washington would reject this modest solution if the Doha Round were the end game. So, part of the solution would have to be declaration of another Round to negotiate new aspirations and demands. We could even call this the Obama Round. After all, Obama should have to live up to his Nobel Prize as a multilateralist!

*Jagdish Bhagwati, Professor of Economics and Law at Columbia University and Senior Fellow in International Economics at the Council on Foreign Relations, is the author of Termites in the Trading System: How Preferential Trade Agreements Undermine Free Trade.*  
[www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)









## JOB VACCANCY

*Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, regardless of race, religion and political beliefs. In 1999 MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its work. Currently MSF works in more than 70 countries. For more information, visit our Arabic website, [www.msf.org/ar](http://www.msf.org/ar). Due to openings of emergency projects in different governments, MSF is urgently recruiting staff to take part in the project in the field.*

### MEDICAL DOCTOR

#### Qualifications and experiences

- Bachelor Degree in Medicine from a recognized university
- Minimum of 2 years of working experience as a medical doctor, preferably with an NGO
- Good communication skills and ability to provide patients with information
- Able to cope with stress
- Flexible and willing to accept new tasks/responsibilities
- Team player
- Experience in emergency and/or paediatrics is essential
- Able to speak and write both English and Arabic

### REGISTERED NURSE

#### Qualifications and experiences

- Diploma in General Nursing from a recognized college
- Minimum 2 years of experience working as nurse, preferably with an NGO
- Good communication skills and ability to provide patients with information
- Able to cope with stress
- Flexible and willing to accept new tasks/responsibilities
- Team player
- Experience in emergency and nutritional project is desirable
- Previous work experience in registration and medical records
- Basic level of English that allows proper communication with expatriate staff

### MIDWIFE SUPERVISOR

#### Qualifications and experiences

- Female
- Qualified midwife from recognized institute
- Minimum 1 year experience working as a supervisor midwife
- Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery
- Good communication skills and ability to provide patients with information
- Able to cope with stress
- Flexible and willing to accept new tasks/responsibilities
- Team player
- Basic level of English that allows proper communication with expatriate staff

Place of work: OIC Hospital in Haradh.  
Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact  
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You can apply for this position by FAX: 02572411/ 01454078



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Please note that only candidates who fulfill requirements will be considered and notified. Deadline for receiving cvs will be ten days from this advertisement date.

For any enquiries contact Ms. Aleena

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# Announcement

Ministry of industry & Trade the general department of agencies and foreign companies branches announces for the general managers of working foreign companies branches in Yemen which are not registered or have not renewed their Licenses to present to the general department of agencies And foreign companies branches for registration or renewal of their license within 30 days from the date of this announcement in accordance to law No .(23) 1997.



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its Humanitarian Programmes.

### **Emergency Food Security and Livelihood Project Officer – (Based in Haradh)**

**This post is for 6 months**

We are looking for a experienced project officer to support in livelihoods programme activities at the community level, facilitate building organizational capacity of women's groups, partners and allies within the formal and informal sector, and ensure monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of livelihood programme.

With at least a 2 years experience in Livelihoods programmes and proven understanding of small business development; understanding of gender equity, development and poverty context in Yemen, ability to network and link widely with CSOs and government bodies, strong understanding of local socio-economic development issues, institutions and communities, excellent written and verbal communication (in English and preferably in Arabic) including representation skills, and report writing skills.

#### **To apply:**

If you believe that you have the qualification to work on the above-mentioned field, Please send a copy of your CV clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for to [yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk) or Fax no: 01 450170.

**Closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010**



# Challenging Islamic traditions: A different perspective on women in Islam

Amina Wadud is probably one of the most internationally well known reformist Muslim women. Since her early years she had been on a search for answers and has broken many traditional conceptions in her life journey. She is also known as the Muslim woman who led a mixed Friday prayer congregation in a church in New York in March 2005.

She has contributed to Islamic literature with two books: "Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective", published 1999, and "Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam", published in 2006. Her first book contributes a gender-inclusive reading to one of the most fundamental disciplines in Islamic thought, Qur'anic exegesis, which was followed by a more personal approach to the same topic in the second book.

She is currently teaching as a professor of religious studies at the Virginia Commonwealth University in the United States where she lives.

Interview by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

**What were you looking for, and found, in Islam? Are you disappointed?**

I suppose at that age [20] I was looking for what anyone is looking for: understanding of the big questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What is my destiny? I had done a little bit of reading about Islam because prior to that time I knew nothing of it in its grand and rich historical sense, and nothing of its diverse cultural inflections. So I read for the basics and for the world view (what we call *din*, the way). I also had a certain counter culture aspect of my life, like I did not wear short clothes any longer and had recently started covering my hair.

I think it was the latter that persuaded the men at the mosque where I went just for information (on Thanksgiving day 1072, near my mom's house in Washington DC) to say, if you believe there is no god but Allah and Mohammad is His messenger, then you might as well say the Shahada. They gave me a how-to-pray book and I went back to the university and tried to learn the steps and words to the prayer. I also visited other mosques closer to my school. But mostly I just read and read with no system for discerning the merits of what I was reading. I remember coming across an orientalist biographical portrayal of the prophet that sounded just horrible.

Anyway, in March 1973, a neighbor

of mine in my mom's neighborhood had a spare copy of the Qur'an which had been given to her by those same brothers who gave me Shahada and a prayer book, and that's when I fell in love with the religion of surrender: Islam.

After that everything I might possibly need or want was available to me through learning more and more about Islam. Of course I had to learn Arabic so I could further decipher the keys. But every word that I learned was enhanced by my having found the same in the Qur'an.

So here we are more than three and a half decades later and I still have the same questions: who am I etc., but I also have a set of answers that extends beyond the ego, beyond the particular and they make sense to me. I also have a system of the entire universe, Tawhid, that rectifies the fact that the answer to this question is not once and for all.

**The prophet (mpbh) installed practices that promoted women as equals. In the times after the prophet many women excelled in public life. Reflecting on your research, when in history did the twist happen disadvantaging women and why do you think it happened?**

I would be guessing based on secondary knowledge as I have never researched it myself. But I will say this with regard to the history that I have researched: we



Amina Wadood at the Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) conference in Malaysia 2009.

have NO record of women's responses to the Qur'an until the 19th century. How that can be is both a reflection of patriarchy and convenience. The convenience is simply that one can follow the Qur'an, memorize the text, pray with those words from the Qur'an, without ever thinking to write extensively about what one believes with regard to the text. Literacy for women has always been behind men until this century. I am sure that women read and had thoughts about the Qur'an but they did not leave us a record. Or those who wrote history did not think to include what these women might have said. That is the patriarchal part: how can it be that women's voices regarding the meaning of the Qur'an should pass for nearly 14 centuries un-

recorded?

**In your view, what are the global trends of Muslims around the world? In other words, are they becoming more religious or more secular? Are they making an effort to understand the essence of Islam or finding strength behind the strict traditional scholars? Is this different from men to women?**

I do not see ONE trend, but rather a combination of trends depending upon a number of factors.

On one hand, it appears that some have become more religiously conscientious, but unfortunately of the more banal religiosity: more hijab and beards, but not of the greater profundities of

faith and virtue, like more embracing of the other, especially the religious other. To me the closer we get to the truth of our particular path the more we see that all roads lead NO WHERE and it is about the experience of faith not the particulars.

In the US the more mystical movement is both on the increase but also a lot more commercialized. And as the saying goes, not every turbaned head is enlightened. We seem to be seeking more of the form of Islam and are lost to its essence.

I also do not think that traditional scholars were necessarily more reliable. In some ways and in some things, BUT very few of them moved beyond the patriarchy of their own time and I find this

a failing that I hope this generation's paradigm shift will avoid.

As far as the differences between women and men, I would say there are actually more enlightened men than at other generations. This in terms of the realization of the limitation of sexual preference in reference to relationships with the Sacred.

According to certain predictions, the human race is moving into the age of Aquarius and some of that which limited us by linear thinking and even language will be transcended by new modes of communication, and I don't mean technology, but rather a higher level of consciousness. I don't see Muslims particularly ahead or behind in these terms.

**What would you do differently if you had the chance to turn back time?**

Actually, I have only one regret and it is of a private nature regarding a relationship I had, which did not resolve itself or lead to marriage. If I had one thing to do over it would be to avoid that person for eternity which is what I do now. I don't think that would be very helpful for your article...

Everything else, even for example that my five children some times did not have as much space between their birth as would have been easier, I just would not do without any of them and so have no desire to change even the slightest bit about the dynamics. I would still have married whom I married, I would still have visited where I lived and visited, and I would still have THOUGHT the thoughts and participated in the actions that I have been privileged to experience.

Oh yeah, and in 2008 after I had a minor medical procedure, I would have watched what I was eating more carefully because now I cannot seem to lose that extra weight. But again these are personal vanities, and count very little against the great cosmic order of my real life.

## Arabian woman - A wake-up call

By: Sisters in Islam  
[www.sistersinislam.org.my](http://www.sistersinislam.org.my)

When the call to prayer was sounded, people of the Muslim faith heeded. But this was no ordinary call. It was one for the first *salat* (prayer) sounded by a woman, the courageous Amina Wadud.

A highly-criticized move, she was repeatedly turned down by the different mosques they approached, before finally settling on holding the prayer at an Anglican Church.

On March 18, 2005, over a hundred men and women, dressed in head scarves and robes attended the traditional Muslim form of prayer, *salat*. The group included activists, scholars and journalists, but that was not what was special about it. What set this day apart from the rest was the fact that, for what is probably the first time in history, a woman sounded the call and led the prayers.

With an aim to renew and encourage discussions about the age-old Muslim tradition of separating men and women during prayer, as well as the sole right of a man to be a prayer leader, the group drew angry responses. Even though they were in the United States of America, the land of the free, who has etched "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" on their doorway, the move was met with much protests. One of protesters even went out to say that if the prayer was held in a Muslim state, Wadud would have been hanged.

With such extreme and violent reactions, one can be forgiven for assuming that this is the first time in history that a woman has dared to voice the 'salat'. Historically though, female imams, or prayer leaders, are allowed if the congregation is also composed of women or a small group of family members. However, some argue that the restric-

tion on women has been put in place not because of the spirit of the Qur'an or the true meaning of Islam, but because of the sexism in a previous medieval environment.

Wadud is one of those to express and fight for this belief. "The issue of gender equality is a very important one in Islam, and Muslims have unfortunately used highly restrictive interpretations of history to move backward," she said in a BBC report. "With this prayer service, we are moving forward. This single act is symbolic of the possibilities within Islam," she asserted.

In October last year, Wadud recreated the event and became the first female in the United Kingdom to hold the Friday prayers. The event was attended by a handful of people, and like in the US, was met with protests. Yet, the medieval scholar and Qur'an commentator Al-Tarabi, who maintained that he is a traditionalist and never an innovator, also believed that it is permissible for women to lead optional prayers. His belief is shared by other scholars such as Ibn Arabi, but not by the majority of Muslims today.

Kia Abdullah of the Guardian.co.uk wrote after Wadud's UK prayer, "Instead of tempering the verses of the Qur'an with good judgment, some men use them as a vehicle for controlling women. The fact that Islam allows room for this type of behaviour is a problem, yes, but rampant sexism is more a product of patriarchal ideology than religion itself. Men can practice Islam and treat women as equals—the two are not mutually exclusive."

She believes that Wadud is the catalyst that will bring about changes and modernism to the religion. "We do need women like Wadud who are willing to take dramatic action and face protest in order to change established practices," she adds.

So who exactly is this woman creating an uproar within the Muslim and feminist world? Amina Wadud is re-

tired professor of Islamic Studies at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). She is considered by many as a controversial Islamic feminist, a form of feminism that deals with the role of women in Islam and promotes equality among all Muslims regardless of gender, in both public and private life.

Before VCU, Wadud was based in Malaysia as an Assistant Professor at the International Islamic University. Her research specialties include gender and Qur'anic studies. She wrote 'Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective', a book, which when AW checked with booksellers a few months ago, was banned in the UAE. This book however, is being used by Sisters of Islam in Malaysia as a basis of both activist and academic study. Her second book, 'Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam' was published 2006, and details the experience of a Muslim woman in all aspects of her life-as wife, mother, daughter, activist and scholar.

"The Qur'an is emphatic that since Allah is not created, then He/She/It cannot be subject to or limited by created characteristics, like gender. That Arabic grammar carries gender markers has led even the best Arab grammarians to erroneously attribute gender to the things referred to therein. Modern feminist studies have analyzed this gender bias in language," she explains in an article she wrote with Newint.org.

With such strong convictions, it's easy to imagine Wadud being born and brought up in a liberated, albeit religious Muslim family. Yet, her family is of mixed faith. Her father is a Methodist minister and her mother is a descendant of Muslim slaves of Arab, Berber and African ancestry. Not really fully knowing her maternal ancestry, she turned to Islam, and converted in 1972, when she uttered 'na shahadah' and accepted the religion into her heart.

"I converted to Islam during the



second wave feminist movement in the 1970s. I saw everything through a prism of religious euphoria and idealism. Within the Islamic system of thought, I have struggled to transform idealism into pragmatic reforms as a scholar and activist. And my main source of inspiration has been Islam's own primary source—the Quran," she relayed in her paper 'A'ishah's Legacy' published in Newint.org.

"It is clear to me that the Qur'an aimed to erase all notions of women as subhuman. There are more passages that address issues relating to women-as individuals, in the family, as members of the community—than all other social issues combined. Let's start with the Qur'anic story of human origins. 'Man' is not made in the image of God. Neither is a flawed female helpmate

extracted from him as an afterthought or utility. Dualism is the primordial design for all creation: 'From all (created) things are pairs' (Q 51:49)," she explains.

Wadud's views are indeed supported by groups and individuals, both men and women, all over the world. But as can be seen by the violent reactions against her call to 'salat', she definitely does not lack detractors either. Maryanne Ramzy, one of the protesters in last year's prayer, told BBC News Online that, "what she is doing is against Islam".

Some have also claimed her fight for a female imam as a mere frivolous activity in the face of more serious issues concerning the sisters of Islam. A blogger who calls herself Sister On a Mission wrote, "Wadud and her cohorts

might really believe that women leading prayers would somehow improve women's status, but that's because for all their advanced degrees, they lack a basic understanding of Islam. They are chasing after the feminist dream of erasing gender roles—but that's not a Muslim dream. Not because Muslims are backward, but because it's not a healthy goal. It is a dream born of a sick society where only men and men's roles were valued. Their answers are not our answers."

The assembly of Muslim Jurists in America has reportedly declared that women cannot lead the Friday Prayers, and that anybody who partakes in such a prayer will have their prayers nullified. Wadud's call to prayer has clearly been heard. Yet whose voice in response will be great is yet to be seen.



# YMN Officially Inaugurated

**ymn**  
Bridging the Gap

The Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN) official inauguration was held on Sunday August 1st, 2010 at the Mövenpick Hotel in Sana'a.

The official launch was held under the patronage of H.E. Abdul Karim I. Al-Arhabi (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Planning & International Cooperation and Managing Director of the Yemen Social Fund for Development).

"By inaugurating YMN, we now have the infrastructure system needed to raise the microfinance business in Yemen," said Al-Arhabi. "Thanks to Allah, and then to the Social Fund for Development. Representing the government, SFD assisted in establishing and regulating the microfinance law," added Al-Arhabi.

According to Al-Arhabi, poverty in Yemen concerns many sectors of society such as the youth, gender issues as well as rural areas. Small business owners do not have adequate financial services; these issues are unstudied and necessary to productivity. The YMN will be a basic provider of knowledge in the field of microfinance. The YMN aims to provide over 300 Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) employees from the credit officer to the board members with customized training.

## What is Microfinance?

Microfinance is the provision of financial services to low-income clients, including consumers and the self-employed, who traditionally lack access to banking and related services. Microfinance which includes credit, savings and insurance helps clients to engage in productive activities or grow very small businesses. This is considered as one of the most innovative and effective ways to reduce poverty and unemployment, increase income and contribute in supporting the state's economy. More broadly, it is a movement whose object is "a world in which as many poor and near-poor households as possible have permanent access to an appropriate range of high quality financial services, including not just credit but also savings, insurance, and fund transfers." Those who promote microfinance generally believe that such access will help poor people out of poverty.

In 1974, an economics lecturer at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh lent \$27 to a group of impoverished villagers. Thirty years later, the lecturer, Muhammad Yunus with Grameen Bank, won the Nobel peace prize and microfinance became the world's favorite development idea, the silver bullet that will cure world poverty and spread the wealth-creating force of capitalism across the globe. Microfinance has a beguiling simplicity and a record of success not just in promoting financial resilience but in achieving other social objectives - reaching the excluded, empowering women and developing the capacity of small groups of people to take control of their own lives.

In Yemen, Microfinance began in 1997 with the Social Fund for Development (SFD) who is considered the pioneers of

microfinance in Yemen. Represented by the Small and Micro Enterprise Development (SMED) unit, SFD with the aid of different donors began microfinance with the initiation of small programs in different governorates. Successful programs later transformed into MFIs. Currently there are 11 microfinance institutions comprising of one specialized microfinance bank, one commercial bank, one foreign exchange company (transformed into a microfinance bank), six NGO programs, one company and two foundations.

## Yemen Microfinance Network

The YMN is a member based association registered on 31st August 2009 under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor as a non-governmental organization (NGO), having its own board of directors consisting of microfinance member institutions.

To support to a more "inclusive finance sector" in Yemen and to address the issue of capacity building and transparency to increase the outreach of microfinance services in the country, the government of Yemen represented by the SFD and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) initiated a joint 3 year project to establish the first National Microfinance Network in the country, the YMN.

The project aims to build supportive infrastructure necessary to enhance the capacity of local institutions and provide a range of financial services and products to the entrepreneurial poor, in a cost efficient manner, thereby increasing sustainable access to finance and enhancing the scope for participation of youth and women in economic activities.

## YMN Core Activities

### Training & Capacity Building

Training and capacity building is considered one of the core activities of YMN. The training unit focuses on delivery of customized training to the staff of member microfinance institutions. To add value to training YMN has conducted a very detailed and comprehensive assessment study to identify the full training and technical assistance needs of its members. Based on the assessment's outcomes new/updated training modules will be developed and customized training will be delivered for each tier of staff from the credit officer up to the board, in addition new innovative training methods based on the request will also be introduced.

To develop high quality local trainers to deliver customized trainings in local language, YMN will be organizing training of trainers (TOTs) events. Other than trainings which fill human capacity gaps within our members MFIs, based on the assessment study, YMN facilitates for technical assistance



of its members to ensure the institutional strengthening of the MFIs, as both human & institutional development are mirrored together.

## Transparency & Information Exchange

YMN has adopted the Small Enterprise Education Promotion (SEEP) framework for all its members, which is the global industry accepted reporting standards used. Members report on a monthly basis to the network, for transparency these reports are regularly published and uploaded on the website, sent to the members, the regional Arab network, the MIX MARKET, donors, included in quarterly newsletters and annual report.



A big part of transparency, is allowing the ease for information exchange between our members. YMN is establishing an exclusive website and information exchange centre for this. This is a member-driven dynamic website, where the members outline and determine key issues and areas for information exchange in the form of on-line discussions, forums, peer learning and exchange. In addition YMN allows for its members to be exposed to outside experiences and learning's via sharing of materials, case studies, new developments, bringing experts and speakers etc.



## Governance

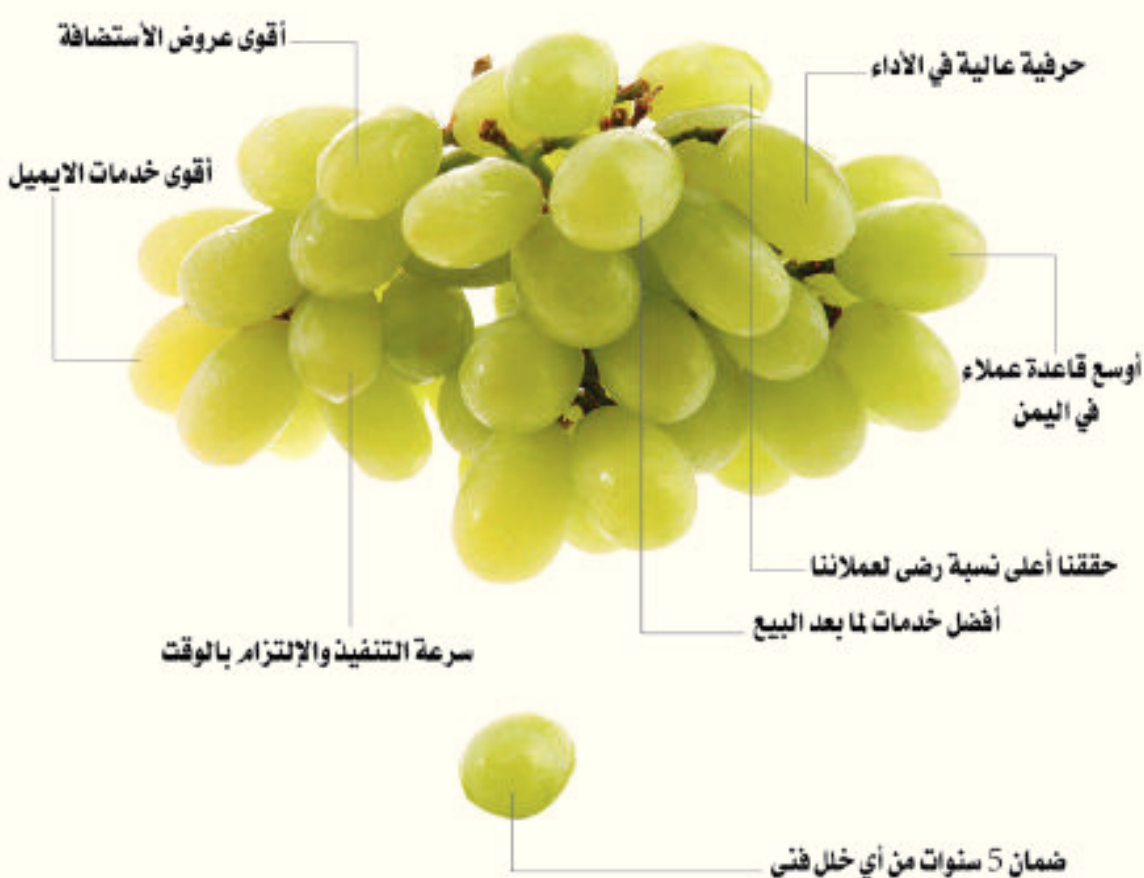
One of the major success factors for any organization, in particular for our member MFIs, is good sound governance. In this area YMN will be facilitating with its members to strengthen and activate its board by promoting and creating mass awareness on good governance practices via a number of mediums. This will include producing guidelines and handbooks on good governance, importance of code of conducts for boards, trainings for board members and managing directors, workshops and conferences, marketing materials in the form of brochures and columns in the networks website and quarterly newsletters.

## Promotion of the sector

The network which serves as a gateway to the country microfinance sector represents the sector on both a national and global platform at both the private and public level. It does this through its website, quarterly newsletters, the press & Media, represent at regional & global conferences, circulate industry information, produce annual, reports, brochures, booklets, workshops, conferences, educate government officials and create awareness to donors and service providers.

Yemen Microfinance Network, Building 3, 4th Floor, Commercial Complex, Hadda Street, P.O.Box 16072, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. Tel : +967 1 265 870. Fax: +967 1 265 868  
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# A center to stimulate pressure points

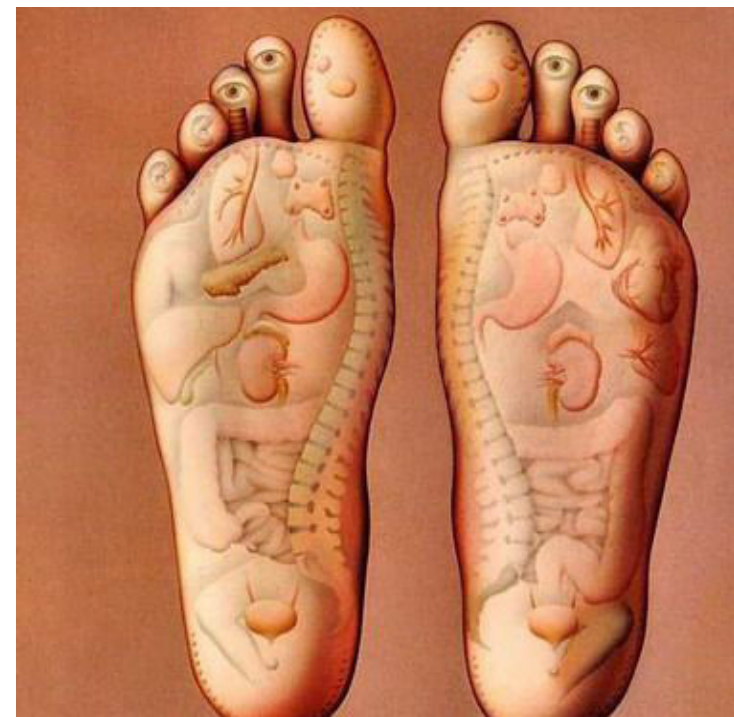
By: Nadine Ibrahim  
For the Yemen Times

On the third floor of a natural remedy center in downtown Sana'a, around ten women wait for their appointments behind three doors marked «check-ups», «natural treatment» and «reflexology». Men are treated downstairs.

Since 2005, the Socotra Center for Natural Treatment and Alternative Medicine has been one of the only cen-

tered in Yemen where Yemeni specialists offer reflexology.

According to the owner of the Socotra Center, the only obstacle to ensuring his practice's success was people's initial skepticism with what, to them, was a new and unfamiliar form of medical care.



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«Many people didn't believe in reflexology, they thought that it was hokey-pokey.» Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Sa'ra told the Yemen Times, «but now there are many patients who have turned to treatment by reflexology.»

Reflexology is a form of medical care in its own right, said the doctor.

«When the center opened in 2005, people didn't believe that reflexology could cure illnesses such as hepatitis, kidney failures, and so on, but now people have started to take interest in this method,» he said. «Since then, a lot of them have started coming for reflexology, such as people with brain damage and nervous diseases.»

Reflexology is a therapeutic method of relieving pain by stimulating predefined pressure points on the feet and

plained the Yemeni doctor.

Reflexologists work from maps of predefined pressure points that are located on the hands and feet. These pressure points are reputed to connect directly through the nervous system and affect the bodily organs and glands.

The reflexologist manipulates the pressure points according to specific techniques of reflexology therapy. By means of this touching therapy, any part of the body that is the source of pain, illness, or potential debility can be strengthened through the applica-

tion of pressure in the respective foot or hand location.

At the Socotra Center, many patients of reflexology said that this method worked with them. One elderly lady told the Yemen Times that reflexology had cured her from a kidney failure that might otherwise have killed her.

According to Dr. Al-Sa'ra, there is now a new branch of the Socotra Center in the Bainoon Street in Sana'a.

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modern history is rooted in research into reflexes in Europe and Russia in the second half of the nineteenth century, according to an online extract from Understanding the Science and Art of Reflexology, by Kevin and Barbara Kunz, 1995.

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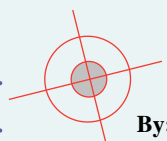
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## HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva



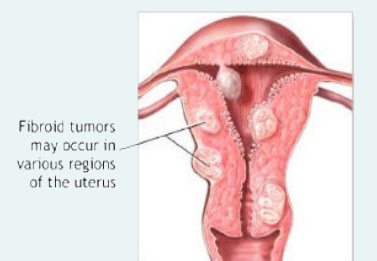
This weekly column is to disseminate health information to the readers in Yemen and outside. Dr. Siva is currently working at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Life style diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

## Uterine fibroids to treat or ignore?

- Anisa is forty years old and working as a secretary in a private company at Aden. She is happily married. Her three children go to school. Her friend Arwah is a cashier in the same company. She has been married for three years. She always has painful periods lasting for five days. Further, she was very worried that she did not conceive.
- The organization for which they are working is very concerned about the welfare measures of the employees. Every employee can have a yearly medical checkup and can have treatment if necessary at the expense of the company.
- Anisa visits her gynecologist annually with her friend Arwah. During her last visit she told the gynecologist that she had some discomfort and fullness in her lower abdomen. The gynecologist (a doctor who deals with women's health problems) after a thorough clinical examination, did an ultrasound of the abdomen.
- Anisa has a large fibroid. Her gynecologist reassured her that no treatment is required since she has no symptoms.
- Arwah on the other hand, wants to have a child and has been investigated for the last two years to figure out why she has not conceived. She too has a fibroid growing into the uterine cavity. She has been advised to have the fibroid removed.

### What are fibroids?

- Fibroids are muscular tumors that grow in the wall of the uterus (womb). Another medical term for fibroids is "myoma". Fibroids are almost always benign (not cancerous). Fibroids can grow as a single tumor, or there can be many of them in the uterus. They can be as tiny as the seed of an apple or as big as a grapefruit. In unusual cases they can become very large.



### Management

The treatment options for uterine fibroids are varied. To decide what is best for a particular woman, certain questions need to be answered.

- What are the symptoms and how do they affect the quality of your life?
- Do you plan to have children in the future?
- Are there risks associated with the treatment chosen?
- What are the costs involved?

There are various situations that may be present in women with fibroids. Each scenario requires a different approach.

### For women with no symptoms and who are not planning to become pregnant

These women could be monitored. No treatment is required. Depending on the size of the fibroid, these women can see their gynecologist every 6-12 months. As long as a woman is reassured that the large size of the fibroid is not going to interfere with her health, she will more often than not, choose to watch and wait.

### For women with heavy bleeding but who are not planning a pregnancy

In these women, there are several options. Oral contraceptive pills may be used to control the flow as well as provide contraception. Women, who have fibroids and a normal size uterine cavity, may get relief from heavy bleeding by using a progestin-releasing intra-uterine device (IUD). The hormone in the IUD thins the uterine lining. The menstrual flow will progressively decrease and within 6 months there will be negligible bleeding during the periods. One scientific study showed that by 3-6 months, 85 per cent of women returned to normal bleeding.

### For women with heavy bleeding but who are interested in future pregnancy

In these women, there are several options depending on the position of the fibroid.

Tranexamic acid tablets taken during menstruation may help control the bleeding. In case the fibroid is distorting the uterine cavity, a myomectomy (removal of the fibroid) may be done.

### Myomectomy

A myomectomy is a surgery where the fibroid or fibroids are removed and the uterus is preserved. This allows the woman to go ahead with a pregnancy in the future. It is also done in younger women who want to continue to have periods and are not emotionally prepared to undergo a hysterectomy. There are three types of myomectomy.

- The more conventional method is to surgically open the abdomen and remove the fibroid.
- The next method is laparoscopic myomectomy. In this case, a thin, lighted scope is introduced through a small opening in the abdomen and special surgical instruments are used to excise the fibroid.
- This method is called hysteroscopic myomectomy. Submucous fibroids (fibroids underneath the mucous membrane of the uterus) can often be removed with a hysteroscope, which is a telescope placed through the cervix and into the uterus. A hysteroscopic myomectomy does not require any cuts to be made since the instrument is introduced through the cervix. Only fibroids less than 5 cm in size can be removed by hysteroscopy.

### Medications to shrink fibroids

Unfortunately, there are no effective medications currently available that either prevent the formation of fibroids or permanently shrink them once they occur.

However, medicines are occasionally used to shrink the fibroid so that it can be removed with greater ease, either laparoscopically or through the hysteroscope. The effect is however temporary.

Leuprolide injection is an expensive medication that needs to be given every month for 3 months, to cause a 35 per cent decrease in the size of the fibroid. It acts by suppressing the hormones estrogen and progesterone. Due to this, women may face severe menopause-like symptoms. Unfortunately, once the effect of the medication wears off, the fibroids will grow back to their original size.

Fibroids are benign tumors of the uterus and up to 75 per cent of them do not require any treatment.

**Fibroids do not automatically mean a hysterectomy!**

## Food security in Yemen

### How big an issue is it?

Without any doubt: It is a big issue. Many families in Yemen cannot afford to eat enough even though food is the most basic and essential need of every human being. Food security is a condition where all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. Poor families usually spend 50 - 70 percent of all they have on food. Even small income losses or small increases of food prices hit them hard. Many families in Yemen are so poor that rising food prices put them in trouble immediately. This happened two years ago, when food prices in the world market exploded. Some families were even confronted with the choice to buy either food or essential medicine. They had to choose between hunger and illness, or were caught by both.



Many families in Yemen are so poor that rising food prices put them in trouble immediately

So is anyone doing something about this? Yes, the government and many others are trying to improve the situation. A national food security strategy is in the making and will hopefully become available before the end of the year. But the strategy will not suffice. Capabilities for policy design and program implementation are insufficient. All strategic options to improve food security come with serious trade-offs. There are no miracle technologies and no silver bullet solutions that would guarantee easy success. In other words: There is no free lunch.

In January 2010, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation organized a high-level workshop to review the progress toward a national food security strategy for Yemen. All the relevant ministries and national agencies were present, as well as many international partners who are interested in improving food security. Scientists from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington have analyzed the data of the household budget survey conducted in 2005/06 and presented their findings of the food situation in Yemen.

that Yemen will need about three times the amount of food it consumes today in only 20 years from now.

Some of the additional food can be produced domestically because crop yields in Yemen are still low and can be increased. With proper investment in agriculture, it should be technically feasible to increase domestic production by

2-3 percent per year and maintain that trend over 20 years. This, however, will need much more appropriate investments in agricultural research and extension, input supply, marketing, and soil and water conservation. The financial return on such investments is likely to be lower than in other sectors but there could be significant political, social, environmental, and even security benefits from accelerated development in rural areas.

Water availability will limit the increase of domestic agricultural production because groundwater is already overexploited and domestic and industrial demands will further reduce the share of water that is available for agriculture. But with a deliberate policy and commensurate innovations, agriculture could possibly maintain its percentage share in national consumption for two decades or so. It is important to note, however, that the total quantity of food imports would continue to increase, even in this optimistic agricultural scenario.

From the perspective of the consumer, all he needs is money to buy food. This is true for individuals, households, and even countries. Here lies a big problem for Yemen. About one quarter of the foreign exchange earnings are already spent on food imports, a much higher percentage than what other countries spend for the same purpose. Moreover,

foreign exchange earnings are stagnating because oil and gas exports are declining. For families alike, they need income to buy the food they cannot produce from their own resources. This usually means jobs. But decent jobs are rare in Yemen. To put it clearly, the country needs to create at least 250,000 new jobs each year just to stagnate economically. If food security and other dimensions of human development shall improve, half a million new jobs each year is a much more reasonable ambition.

It is hard to imagine all these jobs without massive economic growth, even though much more than economic growth is needed, such as peace and security, effective and efficient public services, better education, capacities to nurture social capital and cooperation. With 3 percent of annual per capita growth, the average Yemeni can expect to enjoy Egypt's current gross national income (purchasing power per capita) in about 30 years.

Several conclusions can be drawn. First, to achieve sustainable food security, Yemen will need massive economic growth to provide the jobs and the foreign exchange for financing food imports. Second, there is some potential to increase domestic agricultural production and to use the country's natural resources more efficiently, which should be used because of its many positive effects on rural areas. Third, without significant reductions in fertility rates, per capita income gains and improvements in food security are likely to remain modest. Much can be done, however, with common sense, even though the trees will not grow into the sky. A sense of urgency and ambition is a good start. Rational decision making, professional creativity and competence, and hard work will do the rest.

*This is the first in a series of articles on food security in Yemen. The author is a senior food security advisor with the German Technical Cooperation. Every month, he will present a different perspective on food security in Yemen.*







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## Nexen and Yemen: Over three decades of partnership

**W**ith a partnership history of 34 years, Canadian Nexen is one of the very first international oil companies to invest in Yemen. In 1987, Canadian Nexen formed a partnership with the Government of Yemen to develop the Masila Project, one of its most significant international projects. Since this time, Nexen has produced about a billion barrels of oil.

In 2007, its share of production from Masila was 57,000 bbls/d before royalties, and 29,900 after royalties. Additional production from the East Al Hajr block brought Nexen's total production in Yemen in 2007 to 71,600 bbls/d of oil before

royalties (39,800 after royalties). This represents 28 percent of Nexen's total global production today.

To endorse this relationship Canadian Nexen's President and CEO Marvin Romanow visited Yemen and met with President Saleh and other stake holders to review the progress of the company and potential new partnerships between Yemen and Nexen.

The relationship Nexen has with the Yemeni people, from the highest levels of government to residents in local communities, is critical to the company's success and sustainability in Yemen. Nexen has a firm commitment to playing a role in its development. Through partnering with the Government of



Yemen and the Yemeni people, the company is investing in the country's human resource potential, its physical infrastructure and progress.

Moreover, as a reflection of friendship and commitment to assist in Yemen's human resource development, Nexen Inc. announced an additional 10 scholarships for post-secondary studies at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Canada.

Nexen's Yemen Scholarship Program was originally initiated to celebrate the company's 10th anniversary in Yemen. A total of 110 scholarships have been awarded to deserving Yemeni secondary school graduates to date. The ten scholarships will be awarded by Nexen Inc. and the Scholarship Steering Committee in January 2010.

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Yemen and Yemenis has ultimately been a reciprocal one. The country and the people have helped to build our company and the company has helped to build the community. We are proud to announce we will continue our scholarship program to award an additional 10 scholarships in January 2010." — said Marvin Romanow, President and CEO.

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## Japanese day in Sana'a

By: YemenTimes Staff

**T**he Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Association in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency held a celebration recently at the association's premises in Sana'a. The event is one of the summer activities carried out by the association to introduce Japanese culture to the Yemeni public.

There were various activities including sessions on Japanese language and writing, Japanese games, dances and cultural habits and on Japanese cuisine includ-

ing a live demonstration of making tempura. A Japanese meal was then offered to the audience along with chopsticks so they could try to eat in a Japanese way.

The Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Association was established in 1990 to promote Japan-Yemen relations on a societal level. It is managed entirely by Yemeni and Japanese volunteer staff. It has four main clubs: the Japanese language club, martial arts club (Kendo), Japanese songs club (Atawa), and the traditional dance club (Yosakoi).

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