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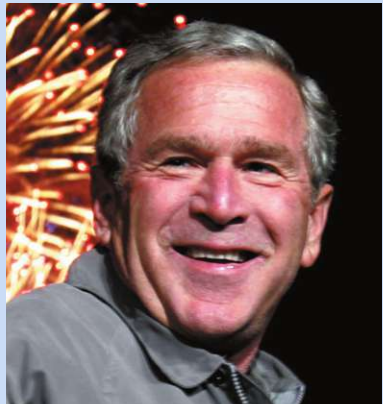
**Bush? Kerry? Many Yemenis feel they're the same**

## Who wins? Who cares?

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

US President George Bush and Democratic candidate John Kerry are running neck-and-neck as the presidential election on November 2 approaches. In a CNN poll carried out last week, Bush held a narrow three per cent lead over Kerry, and analysts believe that up to eight states could turn to either candidate on the day of election.

Some Yemenis that spoke to Yemen Times concerning the effects on Yemen and the Middle East region following the election have placed some hope on Kerry. Some expressed fear that Bush may continue to carry out military action in the area follow-



Fireworks light up the sky as U.S. President George W. Bush smiles for supporters at a campaign rally in Yardley, Pennsylvania, Oct. 28. REUTERS



Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry speaks at a campaign rally in Appleton, Wisconsin Oct. 30. REUTERS

ing the US invasion in Iraq. "Bush might be worse because he appears to be an aggressive military leader, and he will not have to worry about being re-elected," said Yahya, a student at Sana'a University. "Kerry seems to be more logical while Bush is rash. Kerry might be more cautious carrying out actions abroad." Others are betting on Kerry to follow the footsteps of the last Democratic president Bill Clinton. Clinton made an attempt of bringing peace to the Palestinians and Israelis and establishing a Palestinian state while Bush has shown little effort to end ongoing clashes.

Continued on page5



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## Stop the media abuse!

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An assault that took place Thursday against a number of prominent Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) members at the Central Prison in Sana'a has raised

eyebrows and concerns of diplomats and others in the international community.

Mr. Hani Sabra, of the well-respected New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, condemned this assault and called upon the Yemeni Authorities to ease the growing pressure against the press community. "I am truly concerned about the deteriorating level of press freedoms in Yemen and fear that this is bringing a negative reputation to the country

that pledged to start a democratic process after unity in 1990," he told Yemen Times.

This comes after the YJS issued a statement condemning the assault by the authorities of the Central Prison of Sana'a when five of its members were subject to harassment and were prevented from visiting their colleague Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani, who is still in jail and suffering from poor prison conditions.

The syndicate expressed its concern about the incident and called upon the authorities to act decisively in this respect.

"The YJS condemns such action and exposes it to the general public. It also demands from the Minister of Interior and the General Attorney to swiftly investigate this incident, which raises the concern about the motives behind such action especially as prison conditions of Abdulkareem AL-Khaiwani are in doubt, and he may be suffering from harsh prison conditions," the YJS said.

This comes as the conditions of Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani are said to have deteriorated, especially in terms of his psychological conditions, due to the fact that he is spending the holy month of Ramadan away from his family and friends and is probably going to spend the Eid in prison as well.

The attack is another development demonstrating a step back in freedom of the press, and another indication of the supported belief that there is now a pattern of violations against the press that is not explainable or justified.

"The international community, including embassies and international organizations in Yemen are urged to step up their pressure on the government to stop this aggressive campaign against the media. This development is certainly not helping Yemen's democratic transformation; it is in fact damaging the country's reputation, which has been steadily improving until recent years as the authorities starting limiting freedoms of the press in an unprecedented way," said Hafez Al-Bukari the General Secretary of the YJS.

"The YJS would like to reaffirm its commitment to exert its best efforts to protect its members, calling upon all those concerned with the protection of the liberties and freedoms and pro-human rights activist to express solidarity with the syndicates opposing such brutal and unexplainable action that violates the constitution, the law and even human values."

It is expected that this action will trigger more negative reporting on Yemen's already deteriorating record in freedom of the press. However, the Yemeni government is still working to ensure that Yemen's democratization efforts are appreciated, and it is also hoped that it would take action to stop the escalation of the attack against the press any further.

• Related story on page 3  
• Details of assault in Viewpoint on page 8

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*President Saleh says file is made*

# Al-Houthi sympathizers to be brought to justice

By Hassan Al-Zaidi  
Yemen Times Staff

President Saleh recently confirmed a file of those involved in Sa'ada events is being prepared. This file includes political party leaders and prominent politicians from the Opposition.

The president made comments in a speech after an official dinner party to which a number of government dignitaries, political party leaders and important social personages were invited.

The president said, "We have a file concerning those involved in Marran events to be distributed, published and then referred to justice. It includes the prisoners, those who served their sentences and other instigators supporting the rebellion. The file of Al-Houthi's case started on August 22nd; a few

weeks after quenching the insurgency."

The president declared positive results reached after negotiating with some detainees of Al-Houthi supporters who have been released, while many others are still serving in prison.

This speech comes just one week after President Saleh met with the mediators and two of Al-Houthi prominent followers, one of them his younger brother, sources told The Yemen Times.

The negotiations held by the mediation committee have been presided over by Sheikh Ibn Shaj'a, and aim at settling down the current crisis.

The same sources said military authorities in Sa'ada arrested persons and seized their 30 anti-armored-vehicle mines in Dhahan town in Sa'ada. They were plotting to carry out operations with such mines.

The mediation committee the Yemen Times contacted confirmed that the recently captured elements are not grouped among Al-Houthi followers; however, they are elements intending to end the truce and resume the crisis between the government and Al-Houthi followers.

The government started to give the teachers their salaries after they were suspended during the period of Sa'ada events, while the government was exerting efforts to crack down on Al-Houthi influential supporters.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Rezami is still keeping his stand by chanting the slogan "Death is for the U.S. and Israel". He, along with Al-Houthi's father, refused to meet with the government officials. The sources mentioned that the extremist Al-Rezami stands up against the govern-

ment and refuses to negotiate with the mediation committee, but he committed to abide by the truce and not to mastermind any insurgency.

The authorities succeeded in disbanding the remainder of Al-Houthi followers, but the crisis of the detainees still constitutes a threat to the government, especially the elements with whom the negotiation committee, which is formed of some government seniors presided over by Judge Hamoud Al-Hitar, could not reach any solution in its fifth round.

Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, who is responsible for the file of detainees and manipulating the crisis, returned from Saudi Arabia last Sunday after his visit, through which he met with Saudi officials.

Press resources mentioned that Al-Ahmar visited the K.S.A in order to discuss with the Saudi officials the extent of Sa'ada events, in which some Saudi elements belonging to the Hamidaddin dynasty were convicted for their involvement in supporting Al-Houthi.

## To assess the damage, UN delegation visits Sa'ada

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A UN delegation visited Sa'ada City on Tuesday October 26 to assess the size of damage that resulted from the Al-Houthi's insurgency for the purpose of reconstructing the area. The delegation is expending efforts to assess the urgent needs of the population, particularly in rehabilitating the main infrastructure and education and health services in the area.

The monitoring team is formed of a number of officials working for the UN in Yemen in the field of social and child development, health monitoring to pre-

vent the spread of infectious diseases and the human nutrition. Depending on the preliminary assessment adapted by the team, the UN will search for better ways to help the area recover from the disasters it experienced during the fight against the rebellion and bring stability back to the area.

During the visit, the team met with a number of Sa'ada government officials and non-governmental organizations. The team members also paid a field visit to Sa'ada hospital and the village of Qawhaza, where many refugees stay because of the events that took place during the clashes.

## New pressure on domestic gas

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ BUREAU

The markets in Taiz city are witnessing a new pressure, created for the domestic gas cylinders that lead to an increase in its price in the black market, as it has reached to YR 300 per cylinder instead of YR 250, in addition to transportation charges etc.

So, the status in the rural districts is reflected by more burden on the shoulders of the citizens as there is much

monopoly on this state purposefully done by the sole investor in Taiz Governorate due to in-existence of other local companies competing in the same line, in the market.

Therefore, if any misunderstanding or disputes take place between the monopolizing company and the Ministry of Petroleum & Minerals, or the Yemen Petroleum Company, the results will soon affect the consumers directly, either in price rise or by its scarcity in availability and its being sold in black market.

## UNDP – Yemen Project on Strengthening National Human Rights Capacity Request for Proposals for Training of the Yemeni Police on Human Rights



As part of the joint agreement between the UNDP and UK Government's Global Opportunities Fund administered through the British Embassy in Sana'a, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights, UNDP Yemen calls for proposals from Yemeni Human rights NGOs, hereinafter referred to as the Consultant to organize a nation-wide comprehensive training for Yemeni Police on human rights and the rights of those who encounter their services.

### I. Specific Results:

Under the supervision of the Minister of Human Rights, UNDP and the Project's Chief Technical Advisor, the Consultant will be responsible for the following **five separate and consecutive tasks**:

- The development of a training manual** (to be first used and tested in the second activity, i.e. training of trainers (TOT)) using high level regional and local expertise.
- Training for trainers (TOT)** involving the participation of a maximum of 15 trainees (a maximum of 10 from law enforcement, 1 from Ministry of Human Rights and 4 from Civil Society Organizations). The trainees will be used (although not exclusively) in the delivery of the following 8 set of training.
- Organizing 8 sets of training, 2 in Sana'a (preferably the first and the last) and the rest in 6 different provinces** on general notions of human rights under both the Yemeni Constitution and under Yemen's international human rights organizations; on Yemeni legal standards and other regulations organizing the work of the police and relating to their work; and on some practical instances to better demonstrate the first two parts.
- Evaluation of the entire training and discussion and feedback on the manual and training materials.**
- Publication (electronic and print) of the training manual.**

### II. Deadline for submission of proposals:

Interested consultants are expected to submit proposals preferably in English by **November 4, 2004** to the following address:

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**Only successful applicants will be contacted no later than November 8, 2004.**

To request a full copy of the terms of reference and further information, please contact **Mr. Hani al-Othari** at telephone number **444-826 or 73204420**

## An introductory session on US elections held in Sana'a

By MOHAMMED BIN SALAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Deputy director of the American mission, Dr. Nabeel Khuri, with Timothy Fingarson, assistant of the cultural and information attaché in the embassy, and Faris Asad, the economical and political attaché, held an introductory session on Saturday focusing on the US elections that are to be held tomorrow. The meeting was attended by a number of the local press representatives who gained some knowledge about the system of the American presidential elections.

Timothy Fingarson talked about the political parties and the way they operate. He noted that the political system in the US had improved tremendously since the beginning of the 19th century and became a feature of the American democracy. He pointed out that the sustainability of the American government is based on the fact that the two parties, Republican and Democratic, have been dominating the government for more than a century.

He talked about how elections are carried out and how their integrity is maintained. He also briefly described



From right to left: Dr. Nabeel Khuri, Timothy Fingarson, and Faris Asad

the processes of registering the electors' names, counting votes and preparing the elections' cards are carried out.

It is worth mentioning that the American presidential elections are accompanied with the election of 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 senators besides electing directors of the municipal and legislative councils in each state.

Dr. Nabeel al-Khuri concluded the meeting by saying that what makes the elections in the American system interesting is possibility for a party to have the presidency of the White House while the other party can dominate the congress. In contrast to the elections of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the legislative and judiciary authorities are elected independently in the United States of America.

## What needs to happen to . . .

# Free the Arab Nation

By MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

TAIZ - The Human Rights Information & Training Center (HRITC) organized last Tuesday a special symposium entitled "Freedom of expression in the Arab World" in collaboration with the Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate (YLS) and the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS).

The symposium reviewed issues of freedom of expression in the Arab Region, and its deterioration and backwardness realized in many different Arab countries. The current situation of the freedom of expression leads to the continuing attempts to cancel any expression before the Arab press and the civil society institutions.

The symposium also reviewed the detention of Abdulkareem Al-Khawani, Editor-in-chief of al-Shura newspaper, who is jailed in the Sana'a central prison owing to a preliminary verdict sentencing him to one year in prison and suspending the newspaper for six months.

The prosecution of the journalistic

writer Abduljabbar Sa'ad and sacking him from a government job at the Customs Authority without any proof over his journalistic writing was also discussed in the symposium.

The participants (both males and females) stressed that the miserable situation of the freedom of expression among Arabs further gets exacerbated owing to the passive role of media in the Arab Capitals. Suppression and detention cases and imprisonment related to the issues of expression multiply without any proofs. They aim at stopping any function concerning the dignity of the Arab man and freeing him his worst situation.

The participants affirmed democratic moves and the enhancement of human rights as key issues.

They claimed that the crisis of the Arab nation demands us to reopen the doors of the freedom expression and cancel some legislations that restrict it.

The political participation, followed by the freedom of expression and the independence of media and its role in the enlightenment of the society, topped

the agenda of the workshop.

The participants urged the Arab governments, primarily the Republic of Yemen, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Tunisia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to release the detainees of expression as soon as possible.

They also demanded the Arab Regional organizations mainly Arab Lawyers Union (ALU) and Arab Journalists Union (AJU) to adopt a law to guarantee the release of the detainees of expression and stop jailing them.

The symposium came out with some recommendations to manipulate the current workable legislations exercised by the Arab regimes and to end the previous penalties against journalistic writers as well as not to suspend the newspapers.

The symposium pointed out the monopoly of media and television broadcasting practiced by the Arab governments, insisted on encouraging the press establishments and offering them every sort of support as well as to provide social guarantees for media and press workers.

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Yemen's press is now less free than in Afghanistan and Somalia

New calls for Yemen to respect press

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Reporters sans Frontières (RSF) (Reporters Without Borders) urged the Yemeni authorities to release Abdulkareem Al-Khawi, Editor-in-Chief of the Opposition weekly al-Shura, jailed since Sept. 5. In a press statement issued Thursday, the RSF accused the Yemeni authorities of "arbitrary censorship," urging them to reinstate the licenses of two newspapers, Al-Neda and Al Hurriye, which have been unable to publish for the past few weeks.

"The authorities should keep their promises to respect press freedom," the organization said, recalling that President Ali Abdullah Saleh pledged in June to "work to put an end to prison sentences for press offences, which would be a big step forward for press freedom in Yemen."

The statement said that RSF's appeal followed a press release by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS)



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THIRD ANNUAL WORLDWIDE PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

East Asia and Middle East have worst press freedom records

PRESS FREEDOM

26 October 2004

Wednesday criticizing "the government's lack of sincerity" and deploring an "unprecedented wave of press freedom violations that is likely to ruin all the progress accomplished since unification in 1990."

The YJS's statement also deplored the impact of Al-Khawi's imprisonment, saying it had created "a dangerous environment for all journalists with governmental, party and privately owned media."

The offices of the new weekly Al-Neda were closed on Oct. 15 by the information ministry on the grounds that it was two days late in bringing out its first issue, which was meant to appear on Oct. 13. Editor Sami Ghaleb told the Yemen Times last week the

closure was a "major aggression" and discriminatory as many other newspapers come out irregularly in Yemen.

"It seems the real reason for its closures was the fact that the first issue tackled sensitive subjects such as the international campaign for Al-Khawi's release and the splits between the different wings of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC)," RSF statement said.

A few days earlier, the information ministry suspended the license of the Al Hurriye newspaper for an indefinite period on the official grounds that it had changed its logo without permission.

Editor Akram Abdulkarim Sabra told Reporters Without Borders the news-

paper wanted to change its format and logo to mark its 25th anniversary. "We were amazed and outraged by this totally disproportionate decision, which was just a pretext for punishing the newspaper," he said.

Meanwhile, Al-Khawi's newspaper, Al-Shoura, was suspended for six months when Al-Khawi was sentenced to a year in prison for allegedly libeling President Saleh.

The recently published annual worldwide press freedom index showed that Yemen's position has dropped from 103 in 2002 to 136 this year. Yemen's position has not improved since 2003 as both 2004 and 2003 witnessed a radical decline in the level of freedom of the press in the country according to the index.

The organization issuing the index, RSF, has already expressed concern over negative developments in Yemen's record freedom of the press, which have contributed to listing Yemen even after Afghanistan (97), and Somalia (130) in terms of its attitude towards press freedom.

The 59th anniversary of the UN marked in Sana'a

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mrs. Flavia Pansieri, Resident Coordinator of the UN System's Operational Activities for Development in the Republic of Yemen, held a reception celebration and Iftar on Sunday Oct. 24 at the Police Officers Club in Sana'a to mark the 59th UN day. The celebration was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Sofan along with hundreds of Yemenis, officials and citizens, and tens of the diplomats and representatives of a number of international and regional organizations working in Yemen.

During the celebration, Mrs. Flavia delivered a speech in which she described the aims and programs of the UN in Yemen and in the world, maintaining "peace and security." She said that, "leaders from 189 countries met



four years ago at the Millennium Summit and issued a declaration which contained clear and specified development targets to be achieved by 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (or MDGs). The UN System is helping developing countries such as Yemen produce tangible results in terms of its development agenda." She highlighted some of Yemen's key development challenges, such as health, education, humanitarianism, democracy, combating poverty and other basic development issues."

Mrs. Flavia confirmed the UN commitment "to save succeeding genera-



tions from the scourge of war" and "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

"Yemen has been polio free for the past four years," she said about health, "continued effective collaboration between the National Malaria Control Programme and WHO has reduced infection rates from 48% to 7% in the Tihama and from 61% to less than 5% in Socotra.

About humanitarian she said, the "efforts by UNHCR, along with the EU, UK, and the Netherlands, in addressing local integration initiatives through a Comprehensive Action Plan for Somali refugees is a positive and important development."

She talked about the situation of education expressing the contribution of UNICEF that "has been involved in rebuilding and constructing primary schools in 30 most deprived districts, with more than 500 classrooms built in the last three years."

Her speech was concluded with an emphasis on the efforts that "will be

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the press and fair access for all to services."
Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, said that Yemen is aware of the need to implement and activate the decisions and recommendations of all UN summits and events. "It is a national commitment with high priority," he said. He also noted that there are also several programs of international cooperation with the other partners of the UN.
Justice, respect
He stressed on the significance of justice and respect of national sovereignty of states, especially in a time some countries are occupied in the Middle East. He also emphasized Yemen's need to cooperate with other countries bilaterally and through the UN to achieve peace and development and combat challenges that require serious steps in political and economic reform. "We need to take steps to implement cooperative programs, transfer information and knowledge objectively and work closely with other nations to achieve the millennium goals that focus on alleviating poverty, disseminating education, improving motherhood and childhood services, and many other topics," he explained.
Sofan concluded his speech by repeating the final words of Mrs. Flavia concerning the noble mission of the UN to achieve peace and harmony throughout the world, and also greeted UN personnel on the anniversary and also thanked the UN coordinator personally for her efforts in helping Yemen develop and prosper.

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*The House of Peace and its work*

# Curbing the proliferation of guns

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**D**ar Al-Salaam – The House of Peace – has been working hard to fight against Yemen being awash with weapons since it was established in 1997. According to Abdul Rahman Al-Marwani, Head and Founder of Dar Al-Salaam, the organization aims at reducing the availability and use of weapons.

“We are working on peace and tolerance and how to spread it,” said Al-Marwani. “Our most important activities are to spread peace and tolerance, and it has started with social awareness.”

This year, Dar Al-Salaam began a campaign putting up billboards in most of the major cities calling on the people to not carry guns and using them for revenge. Around 959 signs have been put into place up to now, with another 450 expected to be standing by the end of the year. The anti-weapons organization has had over 20 demonstrations since it started, including one in Dhammar last spring with a turnout of over 50,000 people.

Dar Al-Salaam, which has 400 members and 1,000 volunteers doing field work, has stepped in to mediate in trib-

al disputes. Up to now the organization has settled 197 cases of revenge using peaceful solutions that helped tribes avoid clashes that would have cost lives.

But Dar Al-Salaam and many Yemenis that want to see the eradication of guns being carried in public and the availability of weapons nationwide may have to wait until important steps are taken.

Many believe that one important step that needs to be carried out by the government is the full development of a judicial system. According to Dar Al-Salaam, the official death toll resulting from revenge between tribes averages around 1,250 a year but is estimated to be much higher. Some say that if the Yemeni court system can handle disputes, tribes reaching for their guns for a solution will diminish.

“It is very difficult to solve the problem of the use of guns and tribal revenge. It will only happen when people feel there is law and order. In other words, when there is a real judicial system,” said Mohammed Al-Muttawakil, Professor of Political Science at Sana’a University and Assistant Secretary General of the Popular Forces Union party. “Sometimes people ask for a judicial system from the government, but without it they will fight.”

Along with a justice system, some think that the central government must strengthen its position and enforce law across the country.

“The government needs to build an image for itself as a national government and not a government controlled by certain tribes,” said Abdullah Al-Faqih, Professor of Political Science at Sana’a University. “It also needs to restructure military and security institutions in ways that make them representative of the political landscape in Yemen. People use guns because they have nobody to defend them when they are attacked, nobody to give them justice when they are victimized, and nobody to hold them accountable when they are the victimizers.”

Economic growth and more job opportunities could help reduce the interest in guns. It is estimated that as many as 40% of the Yemenis are out of work. Forty-two percent of the Yemenis live below the poverty line, while 25% are hovering just above being labeled as poor. Economic growth is not keeping up with the rise in population. The population growth rate is estimated to be as high as 4% annually, while the GDP growth rate fell below 3.6% last year and may not exceed 3.3% in 2004.

“Large unemployment and poverty

in Yemen gives a boost to people wanting to stick to the tradition of owning and carrying a gun,” said a Yemeni analyst. “It would be easier to convince them to lay down their weapons if they had a chance of getting a good job.”

Recent developments in the Middle East, such as US occupation of Iraq and ongoing conflicts between the Israelis and Palestinians, might make it more difficult to persuade the public that it is not important to bear arms. According to government officials, between 60 and 80 million weapons are owned by around 20 million people, which is at least three weapons to each Yemeni.

Other figures by the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey, the authoritative voice on what’s happening with weaponry worldwide, say that of 639 million firearms on Earth, Yemen, in fact, has 10 million at most, one gun for every two Yemenis.

According to that group, the United States has about 250 million. That’s almost one per person. Finland takes third, and South Africa has, by far, the most gun murders.

“There has been an effect from the war in Iraq on Yemen,” said Khaled Al-Akwaa, Professor of Public Policy at Sana’a University. “The Iraqi government was not able to stand up against US forces, but some people have. Therefore, the Yemeni people do not want to be disarmed, so it will be difficult for the Yemeni government to pass and enforce a law on gun control.”

Some hold that those with vested interests in the sale of weapons are reluctant to relinquish their profitable trade.

“It will be difficult to pass a law with

big players making money doing business in the sale of arms,” said Majid Al-Fahed, Executive Director of the Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation. “This is true in any country where people have the right to own arms and businessmen have the right to sell arms.”

Although the Yemeni government has been successful clamping down on terrorists since it joined the United States on the war on terror after the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001, there is concern that the availability of weapons will continue to be a threat to national security. Some argue that if weapons were not easy to be acquired at markets, the fighting between supporters of Hussein Al-Houthi and government forces which lasted for three months may not have happened.

“The reason Al-Houthi was able to create an armed militia was because all they had to do was go to the markets and buy weapons,” says a Yemeni analyst. “With weapons this easily available, there might be more conflicts in the future if other rebel groups are formed.”

With numerous obstacles ahead for



Abdul Rahman Al-Marwani, head and founder of Dar Al-Salaam. (Yemen Times photo)



Tribesmen in the city of Rada. (Yemen Times photo)

## Census is vital but needs the public's help

BY SHAKER AL-MOLISI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**S**ocial, cultural and economic development is the main concern of the Third World, to catch up with the countries of the northern hemisphere. Therefore, basic services are vital being a reflection on the living standard of a society. They bolster investment and develop human resources. But we cannot know the amount of services and amenities the society has without a census.

### Why census?

Census is the process of collecting demographic and social data of people residing in a particular country during a specific period. The census will count individual persons, establishments and enterprises. The purpose of the census is to come out with information on numbers of school-age students and their distribution in urban and rural areas, for example, and those who require certain services. Censuses give indicators about basic services and their coverage: rate of asphalt roads, telephone lines, postal services, etc. Then, the assigned governmental bodies are supposed to make use of the information in arranging priorities of projection.

For the census to succeed, people should be aware of its importance for the whole country. Official and private media means are responsible for intensively educating the whole community

on their vital role in the process.

### A false notion

There is some sort of misunderstanding on the part of some people who feel that their privacy is encroached on if they give out some of their personal data. On the contrary, they should pride themselves on such an act, for it is in their sole interest to provide the census operators of the needed information. It is out of ignorance when they withhold, for instance, the true number of their children.

Due to lack of awareness, the 1994 census results were not accurate enough, the fact which has had its own negative effects on Yemen. The government has been using a database that does not actually reflect what is there.

### December 16, 17

A huge budget has been allotted to the census. The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has been conducting a series of activities including training courses for information collectors and dividing areas into blocks. The CSO will conduct the General Population Housing and Establishment Census in all governorates of Yemen on December 16/17. About 25,000 applicants to the Civil Service Ministry will take part in the event. These efforts and expenditure will not yield fruit if citizens don't react positively and help make the census successful. They must know that their reservedness will exacerbate the situation, leading to ill-studied development plans and, therefore, hard economic and social conditions.

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# Ailing Arafat undergoes tests in French hospital

CLAMART, France, Oct 30 (Reuters) - Yasser Arafat underwent medical tests on Saturday as French doctors investigated whether the ailing Palestinian leader was suffering from leukaemia or some other potentially life-threatening blood disorder.

Palestinian officials said the first of a battery of tests for cancers and other illnesses showed there was no immediate risk of the 75-year-old dying.

"President Arafat is receiving serious treatment, the tests are comprehensive and the French doctors are looking at all the possibilities," said Mohammad Dahlan, a member of the delegation that accompanied Arafat to France.

"By tonight or tomorrow morning we will know much more."

A body and brain scan showed up nothing, a Palestinian aide said. "The doctors say it is serious but they do not feel there is an imminent threat to his life."

Arafat was stretchered into a French military hospital in the Paris suburb of Clamart on Friday, after arriving by helicopter at the end of a gruelling six-hour journey from his shell-battered compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The Palestinian president, effectively confined to his offices by Israeli forces for the past 2-1/2 years, only agreed to fly to France after Israel promised to allow him to return to the West Bank following treatment.

Arafat went into the French hospital with an abnormally low count of blood platelets — a condition that can be caused by leukaemia — but the number of platelets had since doubled, a Palestinian official said.

"Most of the time he is asleep but he is



Mr. Yasser Arafat

not in a coma and when he wakes up he is aware of his surroundings," the official said.

Doctors have not yet spoken to the media.

## Future

Leila Shahid, the Palestinian Authority's envoy to Paris, said on Friday Arafat had had intestinal flu for at least three weeks, "but obviously there is more to it than that".

Arafat's wife Suha was at his side in the modern Percy Army Teaching Hospital, which has a reputation for treating blood disorders including cancer. His daughter Zahwa had arrived from Tunis.

Supporters of Arafat were expected to hold a rally outside the hospital at around 1230 GMT.

About 2,000 Palestinians marched late on Friday in Gaza City and in Rafah, in southern Gaza, to pray for the recovery of Arafat, a longtime symbol of the



Supporters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat gather at the Percy military hospital near Paris, Oct. 30. Palestinian Authority representative in France, Leila Shahid said today 'Doctors examining Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ruled out the possibility for the time being that he has leukaemia'. Arafat arrived in France for medical treatment yesterday after leaving his besieged West Bank headquarters where he had been pinned down for the last two and a half years. REUTERS

Palestinian struggle for statehood.

Washington has tried to shut Arafat out of the picture in the Middle East, although U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said he was "pleased" he was being treated at a sophisticated medical facility.

Arafat was fetched by France on orders from Chirac, whose line is that peace will be hard to achieve without Arafat.

Arafat's state has raised fears of chaos among Palestinians.

Leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation met on Saturday for the first time since the 1960s without Arafat, con-

vening at his battered headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

PLO member Yasser Abed Rabbo said the session would "ensure the function of Palestinian institutions".

The death of a leader regarded by Israel and its U.S. ally as an obstacle to peace could also shuffle the cards in the Middle East conflict as the United States heads into a presidential election on Tuesday.

Washington says Palestinians would be better off governed by a prime minister with control of all the security forces.

"That individual, so empowered, would give the Israelis a partner for

negotiations," Powell said. Arafat might then take on another role within the Palestinian community.

Arafat has neither named a successor nor appointed an acting president to cover for him during his treatment.

Officials in the West Bank said Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie would run the day-to-day affairs of the Palestinian Authority. Former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas will run the PLO.

Should Arafat die, parliamentary speaker Rawhi Fattouh would replace him as Palestinian Authority president for a 60-day period, during which elections would be held.

## Iraq's electoral body gets Zarqawi death threats

BAGHDAD, Oct 30 (Reuters) - Iraq's Electoral Commission has received death threats signed by militants using the old name of a group led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a spokesman for the commission said on Saturday.

Spokesman Farid Ayar said type-written letters in the name of Tawhid wal Jihad (One God and Holy War) Assassinations Squad had been sent to the commission's offices in Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul this week.

The letters said members of the commission would be killed, along with their families, if they stayed at their posts.

The Electoral Commission is leading preparations for Iraq's national assembly elections due to take place in January.

Zarqawi's group announced earlier this month that it had changed its name from Tawhid wal Jihad after allying itself with Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. The group's new name translates as al Qaeda Organisation for Holy War in Iraq.

Ayar said the warnings attributed to the Jordanian militant's outfit would not deter commission members.

"We will continue to work until the end of the elections because we are not afraid of these terrorist threats," he said.

# Car bomb kills 7 at Al Arabiya TV in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Oct 30 (Reuters) - A car bomb at the office of Al Arabiya television in Baghdad killed seven Iraqis on Saturday in the biggest attack yet on media in the country.

Another 19 people were wounded by what Iraq's Interior Ministry said was a booby-trapped car parked outside the Dubai-based network's bureau in the Mansour district that is home to embassies, foreign firms and Iraqi politicians.

The attack underscored the dangers the media faces in Iraq — the world's most dangerous country for journalists.

Veteran Al Arabiya correspondent Najwa Qassem said some of the dead were too badly burned or mutilated to be identified but were mostly thought to be Iraqi guards, gardeners and cleaners working for the station.

"We were in a meeting when the bomb exploded. We staggered out covered in blood. The destruction was total," said Qassem, who was slightly wounded.

Scores of journalists, along with their translators, drivers and assistants, have been killed, wounded or kidnapped in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion last year. Three Al Arabiya journalists have already been killed by U.S. fire in Iraq.

A group calling itself the 1920 Battalions, after a Shi'ite Muslim uprising against British control of Iraq, said it was behind the bombing.



A T.V. producer walks away from the scene after a bomb exploded in the parking lot of the Arab satellite television news station Al Arabiya's bureau in Baghdad October 30. A little-known Iraqi group said it was behind a car bombing of the office of Dubai-based Al Arabiya television in Baghdad which killed seven people, according to a statement posted on the Internet. "Thank God, the building of the Arabic-speaking Americanized spy journalists was destroyed," said the statement by the group calling itself the 1920 Battalions, posted on Web sites used by Iraqi militants. The message of the group, named after an uprising against British control of Iraq, could not be independently authenticated. REUTERS

"Thank God, the building of the Arabic-speaking Americanized spy journalists was destroyed," it said in a statement on Web sites used by Iraqi militants.

The message could not be independently authenticated.

Al Arabiya, which is majority Saudi-owned, has often been attacked on Web sites used by Islamist militant groups for its perceived pro-Western reporting.

The satellite channel, which has good access to Iraq's U.S.-backed government, said it was being punished for its objectivity.

"(Al Arabiya) has already lost three of its reporters to fire from American forces and now it is being targeted by fire from

the other (side)," the network's Baghdad Bureau Chief Haydar al-Wattar said in a statement.

Al Arabiya said one of its producers and a technician who was eight months pregnant were seriously wounded. A journalist from Iraqi news channel Al Ikhbariya, one of three other Arab networks that used the building, was also seriously hurt.

Unlike most Western media in Iraq, Al Arabiya's office lacked the blast walls and stringent security measures designed to protect against such bombings.

Visitors to hotels where journalists and foreign businessmen live go through layers of security checks — often including metal detectors and frisking.

## Continued from page 1

### Who wins? Who cares?

"Kerry may see the benefits Clinton saw in ending the struggle in Palestine," said a Yemeni businessman. "It would help improve the image of the United States in the Arab world."

But many believe that the outcome of the election will not change US foreign policy in the Middle East.

"My opinion is that whether Kerry or Bush gets elected, no significant change would occur on US policy towards the Middle East," said Saad S. Khan, an author and widely read analyst on governance and policies in the Muslim world.

"Kerry would not be able to extricate his forces out of Iraq, for instance,

better than Bush. Support for Saudi Arabia and other Middle East monarchies, as well as unstinted backing of Israel, would continue. Change of face at the White House may not and cannot change the nature of US interests in the region."

One Yemeni believes that the Jewish lobby group in Washington, D.C., will have influence on either candidate that wins which will keep the United States in the position of supporting Israel.

"It doesn't matter who wins the election. Jewish influence in Washington will go on, no matter who is the president," said the Yemeni.

And as security in Iraq continues to

deteriorate, few believe that neither Bush nor Kerry will be able to withdraw US troops in the near future.

"It's now impossible for the United States to leave Iraq because it is in chaos," said Yahya.

He added that he has doubts about Bush wanting to leave the war-ravaged country but hopes that if Kerry wins he will plan to withdraw as soon as possible.

"I think Bush wants to occupy Iraq to control the oil and use the country as a strategic location to strike other countries whenever he wants to," said Yahya. "I think that whether the United States has a Republican or a Democratic president, the US policy in the Middle East will not change. But Kerry might realize that leaving US soldiers in Iraq will be too dangerous and will cost a lot of lives."

As the election gets closer, the two

candidates on the campaign trail have been focusing on a wide range of issues, including the economy, health-care and social security. The heated debate, however, still rests on the war in Iraq and the war on terror.

Kerry continues to accuse Bush that he mismanaged the war, misled the US public to support the invasion and the war, with no end in sight, made America more vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

Bush has come back by claiming Kerry is not equipped to fight the war on terror and that he has changed his position on the war in Iraq which makes him appear to be indecisive.

But while US actions in the Middle East are the center of attention leading up to the election, many in Yemen believe that US policy in the Arab world is not likely to change regardless of who wins

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# Afghan group threatens to kill foreign hostages

KABUL, Oct 30 (Reuters) - Militants who say they kidnapped three foreigners working for the United Nations in Afghanistan have provided proof they are holding them, diplomatic and security sources said on Saturday.

A breakaway faction of the Taliban, the Jaish-e-Muslimeen (Army of Muslims), gave Reuters what they said were identification numbers for two of the hostages, and sources said one matched a credit card held by one of them.

"The other number is being checked out, but it seems clear now that the claim is true," a diplomat involved in the case said on condition of anonymity.

The three - Filipino Anjelito Nayan, Annetta Flanigan who holds dual British and Irish citizenship and Shqipe Hebibi from Kosovo - were snatched from their U.N. vehicle in rush hour traffic on Thursday. They had been helping organise Afghanistan's first presidential election, held on Oct. 9.

The kidnappings have sparked fears that militants from the Taliban regime, ousted in November 2001 by a U.S.-led coalition for sheltering Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda followers, could be copying the tactics used by insurgents in Iraq.

The group's spokesman reinforced those worries. "We will not only behead them, but will chop them up as is being done in Iraq," Mullah Ishaq Manzoor told Reuters.

The group has demanded the release of all Taliban prisoners held in

Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, the withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan, and for Kosovo and the Philippines to stop backing the government and the U.S.-led coalition.

## Group says call off hunt

It has also insisted that authorities call off the hunt for the kidnappers and hostages.

"These people are with us. They have difficulty in eating our foods but they will soon get used to it," Manzoor said. One of the two women had been ill but recovered after being given

medicine.

A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security and Assistance Force for Afghanistan (ISAF), tried to reassure the estimated 2,000 Western diplomats and aid workers in the country.

"We all need to be vigilant, especially if we are to help find the kidnappers, but ISAF does not believe this is an indicator of a worsening security situation", Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Poulain told a news conference.

The vote count shows that U.S.-

backed President Hamid Karzai won the election, but official results have yet to be released.

Taliban remnants have killed more than 1,000 people, most of them Afghans, over the past year, but U.S. President George W. Bush, seeking re-election on Nov. 2, hopes a successful Afghan election will give him a foreign policy fillip. The nearly 28,000 U.S. and NATO troops in the country are expected to remain for several years to support the new government and help build a new Afghan army.



An Afghan police disperse the crowd at the site where three foreign worker were kidnapped in Kabul October 28. Three foreign election workers were kidnapped by armed men in the Afghan capital Kabul on Thursday, government officials said. REUTERS

## Liberians venture back onto streets after riots

MONROVIA, Oct 30 (Reuters) - Liberians ventured back onto the streets of Monrovia on Saturday during a temporary lifting of a round-the-clock curfew imposed after at least seven people were killed in religious riots.

Mobs of stick-wielding youths rampaged through the streets on Friday after a dispute between Muslim and Christian residents in a suburb escalated into a full-scale riot, prompting the government to impose the curfew to quell the violence.

Interim leader Gyude Bryant said the curfew was lifted temporarily to allow residents to buy food, although most shops in the Paynesville suburb in the east of Monrovia where the trouble started remained closed.

"The curfew imposed yesterday is temporarily lifted from 10 a.m. (1000 GMT) this morning, till 4 p.m. this afternoon," Bryant told national radio.

"This measure is to enable our people to get food, medicine and other household items," he said. "The curfew will come back into force at 4:01 p.m. this afternoon, and will last until 7 a.m. Sunday morning."

Residents, who endured almost 14 years of civil war until former president Charles Taylor was forced into exile last year, emerged to inspect the damage



Flames rise from petrol station set ablaze by youth in Paynesville, Liberia. A woman stands near a burning petrol station set ablaze by youth in Jacob Town, an area of the suburb of Paynesville in the east of Monrovia, Liberia, October 29. REUTERS

caused by the riots.

Mussa Dolley, 37, the owner of a petrol station set ablaze during the violence, despaired of finding money to rebuild.

"This morning when I came on the road and saw my station, I wept," Dolley said. "I'm only depending on God to help me restart my business."

## RESIDENTS FEAR REVENGE ATTACKS

U.N. troops from a 15,000-strong peacekeeping force (UNMIL) - the world's biggest - mounted patrols in armoured vehicles as helicopters clat-

tered overhead to deter troublemakers.

Residents feared the killings might spark revenge attacks in the suburbs, where they said they had seen armed fighters from the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy rebel group, which joined a coalition government last year.

"I saw the fighters with AK-47s and pistols in their hands. UNMIL must act now so that this thing will not get out of hand," said resident Jerry Tucker.

More than 80,000 fighters have been disarmed under a peace deal signed last year, but many guns remain in circulation and jobless ex-combatants sometimes vent their anger by rioting.

Witnesses counted three more bodies of victims who had been hacked to death or doused with petrol and set alight, bringing the toll from Friday's violence to at least seven. At least 17 people were wounded, an aid worker said.

Residents said at least six churches and four mosques had been burned during the sectarian clashes, rare in a country where battle lines have usually been drawn along loose ethnic or regional lines, rather than religious ones.

About 20 percent of Liberia's population is Muslim, 40 percent Christian and 40 percent follow animist beliefs.

## Vacancy Announcement

For the project "Advisory Service on Conflict Transformation and Poverty Alleviation" of the GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH) we would like to announce the following vacant post needs to be filled:

### Project Assistant for Monitoring and Evaluation

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- Short listed applicants will be invited for interviews as of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004 at the above address.

## Vacancy

### Procurement Officer

#### for the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of Procurement Officer. Under the general direction of the Project Director, the Procurement Officer will be responsible for the entire procurement management of the Project and will also assist and cooperate with MOE in overall procurement issues. The Procurement Officer will report directly to the Project Director and will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

**Main Tasks:** The Procurement Officer main tasks would be:

#### i) Planning functions

- Preparing and updating the Project procurement plan for each year of the Project and ensure its distribution to all sectors/units involved in the Project implementation.
- Itemizing and listing all goods required for the Project; grouping goods in packages and determining the procurement method: ICB, NCB, IS, NS.
- Preparing and/or organizing and supervising the preparation of bidding documents and requests for proposals; and
- Working with relevant sectors in developing TORs for the selection of consulting firms.

#### ii) Procurement Process

- Preparing and ensuring the publication of Specific and General Procurement Notices for goods, and requests for expressions of interest for consulting services.
- Ensuring that documents have received appropriate approvals in accordance with the Development Credit Agreement (DCA).
- Systematically attending on behalf of the BEDP all bids opening, evaluation, and contracts award sessions and preparing minutes of bid opening and evaluation reports, in accordance with IDA guidelines.
- Preparing contracts and ensuring they are timely approved, signed and notified, in accordance with the procedures described in the Procurement Manual.

#### iii) Contract Management

- Inspecting and receiving goods, to ensure compliance with specifications and quantities with the purchase orders/contracts.
- Arranging for safe custody and the proper delivery of goods to the Project institutions, if necessary, and installation in accordance with the contract and the target dates in the implementation schedule.

#### iv) Relevant Tasks

- Acting as a focal point for any dialogue on procurement management matters relating to the Project as may be required by the Project's financiers.
- Systematically reporting and updating the Project's Management on the status of procurement activities and issues, and follow-up with MOE and other related Ministries and Institutions on procurement and other Project's issues as may be required by the Project's Management.
- Contributing to quarterly Financial Monitoring Reports.
- Ensuring that procurement procedures provided in the DCA are respected at all stages.

#### Qualifications:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in commerce, business administration, engineering, or equivalent qualification.
- At least 10 years experience in a procurement management position.
- Familiarity with the government and IDA's procurement guidelines and procedures.
- Computer literacy and proficiency in both Arabic and English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **Wednesday, November 10, 2004** at the following address:

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## Somalis to benefit

# UNHCR to boost its help for refugees

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is developing a plan that should help the organization assist thousands of Somali refugees who fled their country during the 13-year civil war.

The Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), which is expected to be implemented in the first half of next year, aims at improving UNHCR's policy to assist refugees determining where they will live in the future.

"It's a comprehensive project to improve the lives of the Somali refugees," said Francesco Ardisson, Head of the UNHCR headquarters in Sana'a. "It will be a comprehensive effort to be put into place and carried out in order to resolve the dispersing of Somali refugees which has taken place for the last 13 years."

It was reported last week that the UNHCR and the Yemeni government planned to deport Somali refugees to their country of origin over the next two years. UNHCR denied that there will be pressure put on Somalis to leave Yemen and that the CPA will fall under the guidelines the organization follows working with refugees worldwide.

Its policy is to assist refugees attempting to find a "durable solution." They can try and be repatriated back to their countries, integrated in the country they reside in or attempt to be resettled elsewhere.

"We are not pressuring anybody," said Ardisson. "We are just helping those concerned to make a choice for repatriation or the other options of local integration and trying to be resettled in another country. It's on a purely voluntary basis if they decide to be repatriated."

The pilot project of the CPA will be for UNHCR to work with Somali refugees before taking the program to

other refugee groups. According to the UNHCR Yemeni headquarters, 47,000 Somali refugees live in Yemen today. It is estimated that 430,000 Somalis live outside of Somalia who left the country as fighting continued between clans after Said Barre's regime was ousted in 1991. Up to 206,000 Somali refugees reside in Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia.

Ardisson believes that the pilot project focusing on Somali refugees may be coming at a good time. He said that two areas in Somalia, Somaliland and Puntland, are stable and have a good environment for those who wish to repatriate. Since the early nineties, over one million Somalis have returned to their homeland. UNHCR has assisted 470,000 refugees repatriate mostly to Somaliland.

Ardisson also said that Somalia's new president, who was sworn in earlier this month, may bring unity and stability to the war-torn country.

"The future in Somalia is more favorable with the new president," said Ardisson. "We hope that the Somalis will have a chance to return to their country of origin if they wish to do so. It will be based on the conditions in Somalia, depending on the ability of the new government. If they start fighting again, the repatriation will be brought to a standstill. But we believe that the future of Somalia will be more positive because of the creation of the new government."

UNHCR also plans that once the CPA is implemented, the organization will promote repatriation.

"Up to now, we have not been promoting repatriation," said Ardisson. "We have been facilitating refugees. If the situation gets back to normal in Somalia, we will be able to promote repatriation while the CPA strengthens the three durable solutions."

Ardisson added that "if they feel they are integrated and wish to stay where they reside, including Yemen, they will be allowed to do so."

UNHCR is preparing the CPA by

analyzing their procedures working with refugees in different countries. Along with developing a more comprehensive approach to assisting refugees to deal with the durable solutions, the analysis also focuses on UNHCR looking into the protection of refugees and assisting them in health-care, education and services.

If Somali refugees decide to try and resettle in another country, they will face obstacles. There are roughly 22 million refugees around the world, and only 3,000 are able to be resettled each year.

On October 14, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed was sworn in as Somalia's president in Nairobi, Kenya. Under the

supervision of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, Somalia's interim parliament chose Ahmed as the country's leader after a two-year peace process. In the weeks ahead, Ahmed will create the country's new cabinet, followed by the new government moving to Mogadishu, Somalia's capital. Many Somali refugees in Yemen are

optimistic about the future in Somalia. "I believe they chose the right man to lead the country," said Yusuf Omar, a Somali refugee who has lived in Yemen since 1995. "He will bring peace to Somalia, and most Somalis support him. I'm sure many will have the desire to return after there is peace in our country."

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## تدشين العمل بالفرع الجديد في كريتر محافظة عدن

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في كريتر محافظة عدن

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- فتح الاعتمادات المستندية .
- إصدار جميع أنواع خطابات الضمان المحلية والخارجية .
- إصدار واستقبال الحوالات المصرفية الداخلية والخارجية .
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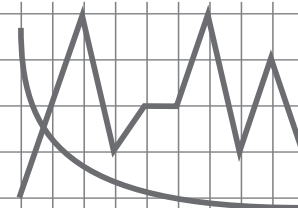
أهم الدعائم الرئيسة للتنمية  
في الجمهورية اليمنية







# YT Business



## Yemen, GCC cooperate in commercial arbitration

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
mkmal@yahoo.com

In a move aimed develop bilateral relations, The Yemeni Chambers of Commerce has agreed with the center for Commercial Arbitration of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on activating the joint protocol signed by the Yemeni Center for Arbitration and the Gulf Commercial Arbitration Center.

The agreement will result in more exchange of information and participation in workshops of work and training and other areas of cooperation.

The original joint protocol was signed by the two parties in 1998.

The agreement came in a meeting between director-general of the Yemeni Chambers of Commerce Khalid Ahmed Afif and the secretary-general of the Gulf center for Arbitration Dr Nasser al-Zaid held in Salala, Oman recently.

The Gulf side to the talks announced it had found an understanding from the Yemeni side about the importance of activating the protocol and setting up a mechanism for its development.

The protocol includes six items. The first item stipulates the two parties' cooperation for rendering the commercial arbitration a means for

settling disputes resulting from international trade deals, in conviction by the two sides that resorting to arbitration through speedy, fair and economic measures would grant trust and stability to international trade. According to this article the two sides would work for encouraging the broader use of arbitration under their auspices by means of lectures, conferences, symposiums and other available means.

The second article of the protocol stipulated that the other party should offer administrative services and facilities and take steps wanted from it regarding procedures of arbitration, while the second party asking for those facilities would bear expenses and costs entailed by those facilities

and services.

As for Article 3 of the protocol, there would be an exchange of publications, rules and regulations relevant to the two centers' activities, as well as exchange of visits to be acquainted with each other's experiences. The fourth article stipulates that the party organizing conferences or symposiums connected to issues of reconciliation and arbitration or those related to trade, banking and financial disputes, or disputes concerning investment, would ask the other side to take part in those events.

As part of endeavours aimed to develop cooperation between the two centers, the Yemeni center is interested in benefiting from courses and symposiums held by the Gulf Center.

In this regard the fifth article mentions that the two sides should coordinate for conducting necessary procedures for each activity separately provided that the Yemeni center would bear the cost of travel and residence of Yemeni trainees and the Yemeni center shall be informed on dates of those activities programs.

The sixth article of the protocol says the two parties have agreed to hold consultations between the two centers for coordination and unification of their vision versus what occur in the Arab and international conferences.

For this end, Yemen has embarked on revising a number of policies aimed at preparation for the adoption of the system of unified qualifications

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.9200	185.1400
Sterling Pound	338.1100	338.5100
Euro	233.2900	233.5600
Saudi Rial	49.3100	49.3700
Kuwaiti Dinar	627.4900	628.2300
UAE Dirhem	50.3500	50.4100
Egyptian Pound	29.6200	29.6600
Bahraini Dinar	490.5000	491.0800
Qatari Rial	50.8000	50.8600
Jordanian Dinar	260.8200	261.1300
Omani Rial	480.3400	480.9100
Swiss Franc	151.8700	152.0500
Swedish Crown	25.7000	25.7400
Japanese Yen	1.7194	1.7214

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

and tests approved by the GCC countries in order to enter with them in a unified working policy.

The ministry of social affairs and labour would reconsider the situation of the labour market in Yemen in cooperation with the International Labour Organization to activate the national strategy for employment that has recently been held in Sana'a.

## Budget for January to June 2004

# Yemen's payment balance achieves surplus

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An official report indicated that the Yemen payment balance achieved a US\$122.5 million surplus (2 per cent of the gross domestic production) in the first half of the year 2004, while it was US \$299 million (5 per cent of the gross domestic production) in the same period of the last year 2003.

The report ascribed the surplus to the payment balance to the flow in the current account that reached \$123 million in the first half of this year comparing with the \$112 million of the same period of the last year. A 2 per cent surplus in the current account was

achieved in the gross domestic production in the first six months of this year. It is nearly the same average registered in the same period of the last year.

On one hand, there's a \$164 million surplus in the commercial balance in the first half of 2003 and \$ 287 millions in the first half of this year and, on the other, the net current remittances receivables, governmental and non governmental, raised by 3 per cent. The deficit in the services balance increased by 8 per cent during the same period as a result of the rise in transportations, insurance and constructions payments.

The report of Central Bank of Yemen pointed out that the deficit in the income account made a 3 per cent rise

reflecting the increase in the payment of the direct foreign investment revenues and the decrease of the other investments' revenues. The capital account was transferred from a \$118 million surplus in the first half of 2003 to a \$45 million deficit in the same period of 2004. That's basically the outcome of the rise in the commitments of paying the loans' installments and the increase of the oil commercial facilities that are presented in a short termed way.

The payments balance achieved a \$335 million rise (3 per cent of the gross domestic production) in 2003 though the international conditions were suitable to bring about big rise because of the high oil prices that were

influenced by the American occupation of Iraq. But it is noticeable that the surplus in the last year in less that those of the previous years.

According to the report of the economical expectations and studies sector in the ministry of planning and international cooperation, the surplus in the payment balance is getting worse every year. Instead of \$1.4 billion in 2000, it became \$653 billion in 2001, 597 billion in 2002 5.8 per cent of the gross domestic production), and 335 billion in 2003. The report stated that the decrease of the surplus in a number of the balances that are related to it, which are the commercial balance and the current account besides the effect of the big rises in the transportations,

insurance fees of the goods that arrive in the Yemeni ports on the services balance.

There are a number of factors that contribute to deteriorating the surplus in the payment balance and its components: relying on importing to satisfy the local demand for the majority of goods and services, the weak economy to export, the international rise of the consumption goods and the increase in the revenues of the oil companies working in Yemen the are transferred abroad.

The report that was issued in the middle of the five-year plan (2001-2005) indicated the effect of the frequent lowering of the real gross domestic production on increasing the

income in making the policy of free trade on the economic condition. The rise in oil prices is the main factor for the deficit. Besides that, the transfers of companies from and to Yemen as well as the interests of these transfers have an effect on the payment balance. This is what makes us induce that the factors having an external dimension control the state of the payment balance. As a result of that the national economy becomes highly sensitive for the external changes making it negatively influence the sustainability of development. These indications confirmed the success of the Yemen economical reforms and the monetary policies they are followed by the government in spite of the challenges it faces.

# VACANCY

## Monitoring and Evaluation / Information System Specialist (MISS) for the Basic Education Development Program (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of Monitoring and Evaluation / Information System Specialist. The BEDP plans to establish an EMIS that will provide MOE and BEDP with an effective information system for the formulation of policy and the management of planned education change and strengthen managerial capability at all levels by improving communication that facilitate decision making. Under the general direction of the Project Director, the MISS will work closely with the BEDP & MOE staff to make sure that the EMIS is operational and efficient to better serve the strategic management purpose of the Yemen Education System. In addition, he/she will be responsible for establishing a Monitoring & MIS unit at the BEDP, designing, installing and administering the office network, specifically, he/she will:

- Design the BEDP -MIS hardware network system;
- Carry out the installation, configuration of updated software and formulating information of necessary user training plan;
- Select the MIS platform ( database and programming language );
- Assess other software requirements of the BEDP staff (word-processing, electronic spreadsheets, visual presentation, drawings...etc);
- Work closely with MOE to make sure that the EMIS is operational and efficient to better serve the strategic management purpose of the Yemeni education system;
- Determine the organization of the Monitoring & MIS unit;
- Prepare documentation to acquire the necessary hardware, database software, and specific software applications;
- Work closely with end users in establishing a computerized suitable system;
- Identify and implement IM practices that enhance cooperation between all departments and ensure optimum use of information technology communication system;
- Manage the construction of BEDP Web site and internal e-mails, and ensure that the information contained in the Web site is updated regularly;
- Advise the management on IT strategies, develop office IT plan on program and implementation;
- Identify staff training needs and prepare an annual plan of staff training on application and information topics;
- Maintain the project data base and update the monitoring data;
- Contribute to the progress report;

### Qualification:

- Advanced University Degree in Computer sciences, software engineering, IT or equivalent degree;
- At least five years experience in IT position;
- Experience in using friendly report generator;
- Knowledge of Web site design and development;
- Experience in hardware installation (networks, servers and working stations);
- Good knowledge of English and Arabic languages.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by Wednesday, November 10, 2004, at the following address:

Basic Education Development Project  
Nouakchott St. South of the Supreme Commission of Elections and Referendum  
Tel.: 200472/470271

## Letter of invitation for Pre-qualification

The Ministry of Public Health and Population in Sana'a is seeking assistance for the following task to be funded by the German Financial Cooperation with Yemen.

**Data of Publication:** 2.11.2004  
**Country:** Yemen  
**Project:** Productive Health and support to Basic Health Services  
**Subcomponent:** Social marketing Program of Contraceptive through the Private Sector.  
**Project-executing Agency:** Ministry of Public Health and Population, Sana'a  
**Finance:** Federal Republic of Germany through KFW

**Object:** Pre-qualification for consulting services for a Social Marketing Program of contraceptives through the private sector in Yemen.

**Bidders:** The pre-qualification documents must give a clear picture of the consultants general and financial capacities and of his experience. The documents will show his sector specific and regional Know-How and adequate staffing. The process of selection and awarding of contracts for consulting services is based on KFW's Guidelines for the Assignment of Consultants in German Financial Cooperation from June 2004, available on the KFW web page [www.KFW.de](http://www.KFW.de): Development Cooperation/Information for industry/ Business opportunities/ Tenders for consulting services / Guidelines for the Assignment of consultants in German Financial Cooperation.

Joint Ventures between consulting firms are allowed. For purposes of pre-qualification details have to be submitted in respect f both the international consultant and the Yemeni counterpart structure as defined below.

**Submission Requirements:** Applications with the following information and documentation are requested:

- Corporate profile and status (international consultant and Yemeni counterpart)
- Evidence of financial resources i.e. balance sheets and profit and loss accounts for the last three years, confirmation of guarantee line given by company's bank (International consultant only: for Yemeni counterparts this will be required at tender stage).
- Declaration of undertaking (Appendix 1 of KFW's Guidelines for the Assignment of Consultants under German Financial Cooperation. This can be found on the KFW website: <http://www.KFW.de>
- Relevant references from the last 10 years demonstrating technical qualifications and experience in similar surroundings and countries.
- If a cooperation with other entities is planned, relevant declaration of intent specifying the leading entity.
- Biographical data on long-term consultant envisaged to undertake assignment as well as back-up services from the home office; specifically competence in social marketing activities needs to be documented.

Please note: applications shall be as brief as possible, yet as comprehensive as necessary. They shall be well-structured and project-specific. Submissions with irrelevant or unspecific data and which are overly voluminous shall be penalized during evaluation.

**Addresses:**  
Ministry of Public Health and Population  
Deputy Minister of Planning and Development  
Deputy Minister of Population and reproductive Health  
P. O. Box 299  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

KFW Entwicklungsbank  
Attn: Mrs. Francisca Vongviyavit - L II c3  
Postfach 11 11 41  
60046 Frankfurt am Main  
Fax: 0049 (69) 7431-3279  
Email: [Francisca.Vongviyavit@KFW.de](mailto:Francisca.Vongviyavit@KFW.de)

**Submission date:** The pre-qualification documents (hard copy in English language) will have to be received by the MHP at the above address (original and 1 copy) no later than 12.12.2004. All application are to be placed in a sealed envelope and clearly marked "Application to Pre-qualify for the German Financial Cooperation social Marketing Program of contraceptives through the private Sector". The bidder will simultaneously send 1 origin and 1 copy of the pre-qualification documents to KFW, Frankfurt.

**Further information:** Please refer to MHP or KFW asking for the prequalification information on the said program.



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East Al Hajr Ltd.

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طريق:

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شركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم  
شرق الحجر المحدودة

<u>New Name</u> <u>الاسم الجديد</u>	<u>Old Name</u> <u>الاسم القديم</u>
شركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر المحدودة Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr Ltd.((CNPE))	شركة كنيديان نكسن يمن ليمتد Canadian Nexen Yemen Ltd. ((CNYL))

Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr  
Ltd. looks forward to Continued Success in  
partnership with the Government and  
people of Yemen.

تتطلع شركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر  
المحدودة لإستمرار نجاح شراكتها مع حكومة  
وشعب الجمهورية اليمنية.

Many are hundreds of years old

# The glory of Yemen mosques



By ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Al-Rawdhah Grand Mosque was built by Ahmed bin Imam Al-Qassem bin Mohammed who lived from 1007-1066 Hejri. He was known as Abu Taleb from whom descend the clan of Abu Taleb now dwelling in Al-Rawdhah.

The mosque is located in the center of the town. Work started on it in 1044 Hejri and was finished in 1049.

Mosque planning: The mosque forms a rectangle extending from the south to the north. It has three doors in its western wall, three in the southern, and one in the eastern. A yard lies to the south adjacent to

20th century. They are made up of well-shaped stones.

However, the most important landmark of Al-Rawdhah is the Grand Mosque which is still in a good condition.

**Al-Abbas Mosque**

Located in Asnaf, Khawlan district, it is 20 kilometers to the southeast of Sana'a, exactly two kilometers to the south of Asnaf village.

The mosque dates back to the 6th Hejri century. Being also a shrine, the mosque is named after an Abbas whose identity could not be detected in books of history and biographies.

His name is also not written in the inscriptions on the mosque's interior. The inscription tells us that the mosque was ordered to be built by Sultan Mosa bin Mohammed Al-Ati who himself is not mentioned in history books.

The inscription tells us also that the roof

himself to worshipping God. Many people visited him, seeking knowledge.

**Description of the mosque:**

It is rectangular in shape (7025 meters long and 6030 meters wide). It has two entrances in the western and southern walls. Each entrance is rectangular in shape and has a stone bridge over it. Small pointed arches are seen above the entrances. In the middle of the arch there are windows with decorations around. Two steps lead up to the wooden-door entrance of the mosque. There are four windows in the eastern wall to ventilate the mosque and allow sunshine in.

The stones of the mosque had been used in building a pre-Islamic temple. This is evident by the inscriptions on the stones, which reveal that the ancient building was a temple for one of the Yemeni deities. The lower portion of the mosque is built with huge finely-chiseled stone blocks. A mixture of plaster and noorah was used for cementing the stones. The upper portion is built of baked bricks.

Prominent pieces sticks at the roof. Each has five teeth varying in length. They provide ornaments for the mosque. They are modelled after architectural elements popular during the Fatimi State, in Egypt.

The gutters are made of plaster and noorah so as to drain rainwater without damaging the internal decoration of the mosque.

The mosque is entered by two doors. The interior is a rectangular hall (6.25 meters long and 5.30 meters wide). It contains three rows of columns each of which contains two. This planning is characteristic of small mosques which are unlike the Prophet's Mosque that contains wings surrounding a yard.

The bricklayer made use of the bricks and columns of the temple. There are cylindrical and multifaceted columns which have differently-shaped crowns. The columns and crowns resemble those found in temples in Mareb and Jawf provinces. The columns-without arches-support the ceiling. Wood posts horizontally link the columns to each other and to the walls forming square areas decorated with manifold patterns.

**The mihrab:**

The northern wall (kibla wall) has a rectangular mihrab in the middle. It consists of two sections: the inner one has small decorated haniah over which there is a pointed arch supported by two columns; the outer section contains also a decorated haniah. There are two columns on both sides with rectangular crowns. A verse from the Holy Quraan covers the mihrab edge written in kufi calligraphy. A strap of decoration runs along it. The craftsmen have signed their names.

**The tomb:** it is located in the south-eastern corner of the mosque close to the southern entrance. When you enter the mosque, it is on your right hand. It is 1.75 meters long, 1.25 meters wide, and 25 centimeters high. The tomb is marked by crowns of ancient columns so that people know its location and do not tread or pray on it.

The walls of the mosque are 5 meters high. Up on the walls, there are about 15 straps of decorations in the form of inscriptions and floral patterns.

**The Ceiling:** Perhaps the most fascinating part of the mosque is its ceiling which is made of wood with floral engravings in it. They are pointed with different colors especially gold. A French team worked on maintaining the ceiling for about 12 years, and finished the task in 1997.

**Thula Grand Mosque**

It dates back to an early period in the Islamic history. The date is not accurate because of the additions to the original building. The walls of the mosque and its annexes are indistinguishably mixed.

The mosque lies on a high hill in the town center. It is accessible through a climbing path. Its southern side opens onto a spacious yard. To the west, there is a rectangular hall with two semicircular arches serving as entrances. The southern entrance is decorated with a big pentagonal artificial leaf over which there is a circular opening. The hall might have originally formed a construction unit within the main body of the mosque. It might have been used for teaching. Some pieces

of writing on its walls add importance to the hall. They include verses from the Holy Quraan, the foundation statement, and poetic verses. The foundation statement indicates that the mosque was completed in 797 Hejri.

The front of the mosque faces the southern plain

aspect of the aforementioned yard. In the middle, there is the main entrance of the mosque on line with the mihrab. There is another entrance on the western side. The interior of the mosque reveals old and new mixtures of architecture. Confusion is apparent in its components.

The mosque is rectangular in shape. It is 28 meters long and 20 meters wide. It contains rows of columns carrying semicircular and pointed arches. This area can be divided into two halves:

**The northern and southern sections**

The northern section has a length of 18.90 meters from the east to the west. The arches between columns are in parallel to the kibla wall except for a few of them. The number of columns in the first three rows towards the kibla are five each. The fourth row however comprises seven

columns while the last one four columns beside a thick wall. The difference in the column number is due to changes to the mosque.

The kibla wall has a mihrab in the middle with an arch and inscriptions above. Two circles in the form of multifaceted flowers are impressed on the arch. The mihrab is surrounded by verses from the Holy Quraan with floral decorations as a background. This section of the mosque may date back to the eighth Hejri century.

The southern section stretches from the east to the west. It can be divided into two units.

1-The Eastern unit is an extension of the northern section and seems to be a later addition to the mosque. The semicircular arches are pointed and in parallel with the kibla wall. It has a wooden ceil-

ing that was renewed recently.

2-The western unit forms a self-contained small mosque within the overall structure. It dates back to the Ottoman reign. Its columns are closer to each other carrying pointed arches. The roof has small domes and a big one in the middle. This mosque is characterized by calligraphic inscriptions as well as plaster geometrical and floral patterns. They represent an appreciable artistic work. Decorative elements are seen on domes. This mosque has a small mihrab.

The minaret is situated to the southwest. It is a new cylindrical minaret with a body getting narrower as we climb ending in a pointed conical peak. The bathrooms are on the southern side and reached through a small door on the western side of the mosque's southern wall.



Mosque al-Abbasa

the bathrooms. In the southern corner does the minaret stand beside which there are two tomb-enshrining halls.

The mosque building contains four wings and a prayer yard in the center accessible from different directions. The southern yard has no doors, however.

**The northern wing (the kibla wing-prayer house):**

The wing is rectangular in shape. It contains columns connected by arches. The columns are cylindrical and multifaceted. Some of them have lotus-shaped crowns and others are multifaceted. In the middle of the kibla wall, there is the imam mihrab, and a pointed arch overhead supported by two decorated columns. Each of them has a crown. The arches have repeated hexagonal patterns on them. The lower parts of the mihrab threshold are covered with floral shapes.

The kibla wing has three doors opening into the prayer yard, and Ottoman style arches stretch over the doors.

**The wings:**

The eastern wing contains a row of seven columns carrying pointed arches that meet vertically with the kibla wall. On the eastern side of the wall, a door leads out of the mosque and another into the library. A southern door leads into the prayer yard.

The western wing resembles the eastern wing. However, its western side has several doors leading out of the mosque as well as four windows.

The southern wing consists of eight columns carrying pointed arches that go in parallel to the kibla wall. There are three doors in its southern wall leading into the eastern wing and two others into the western wing. In the middle of the southern wing, there is a decorated mihrab. The wing's southern wall opens three doors onto the yard.

The minaret is located in the southwestern corner. It collapsed sixty years ago and was rebuilt in 1343 Hejri. The minaret has a large square stone base. There is a door leading up the minaret. The minaret is mainly built of baked bricks decorated with a multitude of floral patterns.

**Current condition:**

Al-Rawdhah is a small town and enjoys many tourist potentials. It is surrounded by gardens and vine farms. It features two distinctive types of Yemeni architecture:

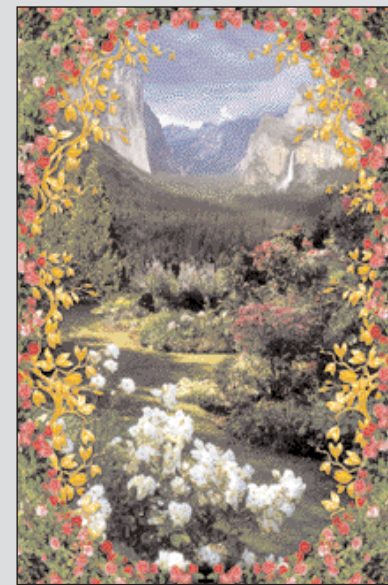
The first one is consisted in buildings, forts and walls which are made up of clay mixed with hay. The second covers palaces, and buildings dating back to early

## The Prophet Muhammed (Saas)

### He Who Obeys The Prophet (Saas) Also Obeys Allah



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Allah charges everyone with obeying the prophets He has sent. These messengers were blessed men who abided by Allah's commands, communicated His revelations, represented the human model most pleasing to Allah by means of their words and actions, in short by their whole manner of living. Allah reveals in the Qur'an that those who abide by His messengers will be saved. For that reason, obedience to the Prophet (saas) is an obligation of the very greatest importance.

Allah reveals the importance of obedience in the Qur'an:

We sent no messenger except to be obeyed by Allah's permission. If only when they wronged themselves they

Most Merciful. (Surat an-Nisa':

64) In several verses of the Qur'an, Allah states that those who obey His messengers are in truth obeying Allah. Those who rebel against these messengers, on the other hand, rebel against Allah.

One of these verses is: Whoever obeys the Messenger has obeyed Allah. If anyone turns away, we did not send you to them as their keeper. (Surat an-Nisa': 80)

The Prophet (saas) has also stressed the importance of obedience in the hadiths:

"Whoever obeys me, obeys Allah, and whoever disobeys me, disobeys Allah, and whoever obeys the ruler I appoint, obeys me, and whoever disobeys him, disobeys me." 1 (For further reading about the attributes of the Prophet (saas), see "The Prophet Muhammad (saas)" by Harun Yahya.

**NOTES**

1- Sahih Bukhari, Book 9, Number 251

# VACANCY

## Accountants For the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The IDA and Multi-Donors financed Basic Education Development Project seeks applicants for the positions of two accountants to assist the Financial Officer in the Project financial matters.

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- fi Record transactions in the computerized accounting system of the financial activities of the Project:-
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## U.S. presidential race ignores Israel-Palestine

## The clock is ticking for a two-state solution

BY ERICA SILVERMAN  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Amidst the series of heated presidential debates between President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry, in which few words regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have been uttered, Palestinian and Israeli leaders Ziad Abu-Zayyad and Yossi Alpher have concluded the United States will be consumed with Iraq for the next months, or perhaps the coming year.

On the fourth anniversary of the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the two leaders are engaged in a speaking tour, visiting non-partisan organizations and universities, discussing the prospects for conflict resolution and conflict management between Israel and the Palestinians.

Yossi Alpher, former senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, warned that "the clock is ticking for a two state solution and the chance for a renewed peace process is very low." He believes the best strategy at this point is to discuss "conflict management" with "conflict resolution" as forethought. Ziad Abu Zayyad, representative of the Jerusalem District to the Palestinian Legislative Council, stated that planting Jewish settlements in the West Bank undermines the prospect for a two-state solution, and that it is in Israel's best interest to withdraw from the settlements.

Mr. Alpher and Mr. Abu Zayyad agreed that a Palestinian state appears to be a distant goal, and that losses are mounting for all parties involved. They lamented that the Palestinians have suffered an increasing number of casualties and fatalities, the Israeli peace camp has dwindled, settlements have continued to spread, and it is unlikely the "Road Map" can be renewed with Arafat and Sharon in power. Mr. Alpher cautioned that the mounting fear on both sides, the lack of a realistic solution, and an inactive leadership will result in a "South Africanization of this Conflict...without a South African solution."

On October 12<sup>th</sup> Mr. Alpher and Mr. Zayyad held a briefing hosted by the American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP) and Americans for Peace Now. ATFP, a not-for-profit corporation that aims to educate the American people about the national security interests of the United States in establishing a Palestinian state, is

particularly adept at articulating the Palestinian viewpoint to the Washington community. Arab and American journalists, representatives of non-governmental organizations, businesspeople, and academics, were amongst those in attendance.

## American Foreign Policy

Mr. Abu-Zayyad and Mr. Alpher described a radical change in American foreign policy toward Middle East politics and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Mr. Alpher argued in a post 9/11 world, Arafat's statements have placed the Palestinians in the camp of US described "bad guys." He explained the United State's perception of the Middle East is that of a failed region, exporting violence, and warranting pre-emptive invasion of parts of the region in order to reform them.

Mr. Abu-Zayyad referenced Bush's April 14<sup>th</sup> speech on Iraq as an example of the administration's current ideology. In his speech President Bush proclaimed, "A free Iraq will stand as an example to reformers across the Middle East. A free Iraq will show that America is on the side of Muslims who wish to live in peace, as we've already shown in Kuwait and Kosovo, Bosnia and Afghanistan."

## Sharon's Plan of Disengagement

Mr. Abu-Zayyad and Mr. Alpher concurred that Sharon's Disengagement Plan is seriously flawed, yet deserves support by default. Mr. Alpher believes that Israeli Prime Minister Sharon sees disengagement from Gaza as a way to hold onto settlements in the West Bank and prevent a peace process. However, Alpher sees the disengagement plan as an incentive for additional disengagement.

Mr. Alpher enumerated four central issues that will determine the success of the plan. First, the political will must reflect the public's will. Al Jazeera, The New York Times, and Haaretz have all published reports that estimate 70% of the Israeli public supports the withdrawal from Gaza; hence Israeli's plan of action must reflect this consensus. This 70% of the population is politically inactive and the 5% of the population that vehemently opposes disengagement is highly active, creating a misperception of Israeli public will. Second, settler participation in the Israeli Army and security forces has become increasingly common, exhibited by the growing number of

religious units. There must be careful coordination between the Israeli Army and the Israeli police to withstand settler resistance. Third is the necessary leadership of a determined, articulate Prime Minister to mobilize the 70% of the Israeli public that supports the plan. Thus far Sharon has been unable to garner active support from this large sector of the population. Fourth, the absence of American pressure makes it harder for Sharon to mobilize the population in favor of disengagement. Historically it has been fairly easy for an American president to influence Israeli politics. Israelis want their leader to be accepted by Washington and Sharon is well aware of this.

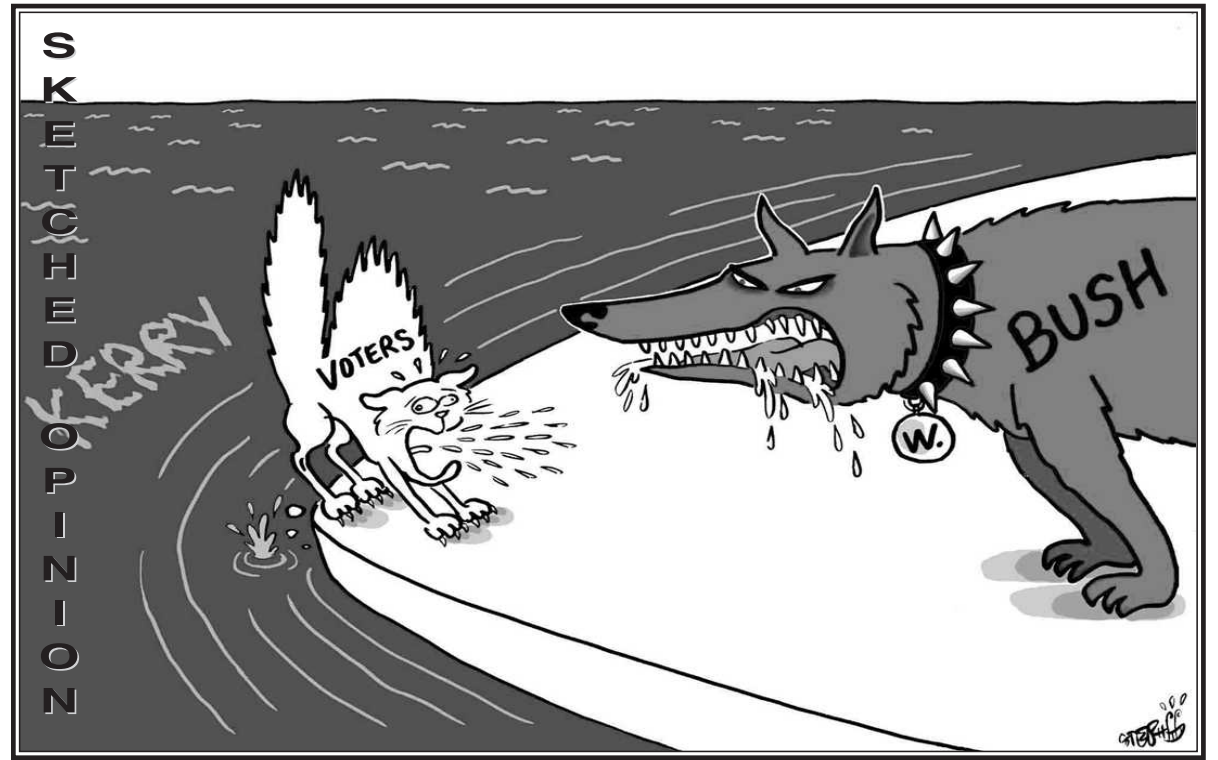
Mr. Alpher asserted the plan has a 50% chance of passage, and furthermore a pullout from Gaza does not mean Israel will earn Washington's full approval. He reasoned that the Israelis will need to continue disengagement beyond Gaza and through the West Bank for this to occur. Alpher concluded that Sharon has been unable to articulate this message out of fear of losing the little right-wing support he has.

Mr. Abu-Zayyad underlined that Palestinians view the plan with skepticism, fearing a possible hidden agenda or that it may simply be a redeployment of Israeli troops. Abu Zayyad noted that the instability in the Israeli decision making process has not generated confidence amongst the Palestinians that the Israelis will successfully execute their plan.

In the section of the Disengagement Plan titled, "Security Reality After the Evacuation," under the subsection, "The Gaza Strip," the plan reads, "Israel will supervise and guard the external envelope on land, will maintain exclusive control in the air space of Gaza, and will continue to conduct military activities in the sea space of the Gaza Strip." Mr. Abu Zayyad emphasized that Palestinians must control points of entry and exit, and airspace before Israel can renounce responsibility for the Palestinian population. Both leaders believe this transfer of power is scheduled in phase two of the plan.

## Palestinian Reform

Mr. Abu-Zayyad disagreed with Mr. Alpher that "conflict management" is a better strategy than "conflict resolution" at this time, countering it signifies there is no solution to the conflict. Abu-Zayyad argued that within the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian institutions, and amongst



intellectual circles, there is a consensus that the Palestinians have been handling the conflict in the wrong way. "There is now pressure for real reform," said Abu-Zayyad, citing the proposed electoral reforms based on a system of proportional representation as a concrete example. He explained that local government elections in 38 constituencies in the West Bank and Gaza are scheduled for early December, in which the Israelis will not interfere. He suggested that elections would change the mood on the street and ameliorate international perceptions.

Although a bleak outlook was presented, the effort put forth by these two leaders to present their positions in conjunction to a multitude of audiences here in Washington suggests possibilities for peace in its own right. This effort follows on the heels of the PLO Negotiations Support Unit's week long tour of congressional offices and non-profit groups at the end of September, which highlighted the major issues endangering the prospects of a two-state solution.

The consensus was that new leadership for Palestine, Israel, the US, and Europe, will present new opportunities. In the case of Palestine, new leadership could potentially articulate the framework of the debate from a Palestinian perspective, which Arafat has been unable to do.

Ziad Abu-Zayyad previously served as Minister of State in the Palestinian Authority and is co-editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal. Yossi Alpher, formerly the Director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, is the co-editor and co-founder of bitterlemons.org, an internet forum for elite Palestinian, Israeli, and international perspectives, launched in collaboration with Ghassan Khatib, the current Minister of Labor in the Palestinian Authority.



## Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi  
alofji@hotmail.com

## The Bin Ladens of Yemen's internet service

## Yemen needs a Privacy Act

Our government has been bragging about being one of the Arab countries interacting with the times and the ever-increasing globalization which if the government is serious must be faced proactively not retroactively. Also, Yemenis have been complaining that Yemen has got fine laws, which if honestly, tolerably and carefully applied shall remedy many of the daily increasing setbacks.

We were taken aback when our government ventured all of a sudden to introduce Internet Service through PTC as a rival of the already sole service provider Teleyemen Company. The government represented in PTC established Yemen.net and has indeed offered the service cheaper than Teleyemen. The problem here is that, whenever there is something owned by the government, those appointed to observe and direct it tend to transform it arbitrarily in their own private interest, e.g. the municipality people should take care of the capital and do things reasonably but on the contrary they are kicking people about and using the governmental capacity to perpetrate criminal acts.

The same applies on the people in charge of endowment, taxation and other organs. But, to everybody's surprise Yemen.net has joined the rampage for instead of improving their service, they are spying on subscribers just to find an excuse in order to rip people off.

Nowadays, they disconnect some subscribers under the excuse that subscribers surf immoral sites and several months ago they raided Internet Cafés in order to get rid of the privacy curtains. Internet Cafés are still under attack and instead of offering Internet they have turned themselves into Play station nichés. The government here must be so stupid to offer the service if it is so keen about avoiding the immorality aspects.

Is it not funny and an extremely ridiculous excuse. Yemen.net can easily block immoral sites if they are really serious about it. So, Instead of service disconnection and the penalty they should reward those discovering new sites, which to them are considered immoral because they are doing their work for them and if these modern *Matawas* are indeed faithful, they can just block sites as they wish. The unwanted immoral, political and

atheist sites once discovered, can be easily blocked without resorting to the primitive method of disconnection and interrogation. Such miserable actions just show them acting like a man owning a brothel and then rebuking clients for drinking wine and courting the girls and that instead they should drink milk and avoid looking. The mere saying that a subscriber enters so and so sites means that such sites are open and easily noticeable by Yemen's new *Matawas*. The onus lies on Yemen.net to block them for if they are in a hidden mode they won't be able to notice them easily, given their mentally retarded nature albeit I doubt their piety. But, there is no wonder, as people here do not consider any public service good, if they cannot utilize it to intimidate and blackmail people.

Such silly actions must be stopped immediately because they are impractical and are a slander against all the responsible people in our government because the method used is pitiable and backward and is being utilized also to blackmail people. Ben Laden inducted himself as a custodian of Islam and has hurt Islam and Muslims more than anyone ever and these ignorant spies are inducting themselves likewise as the modern Ben Ladens of Yemen's Official Internet Service. Such actions are totally destroying the president's project to spread Internet and IT in Yemen. Such spies are harming the Telecommunications officialdom and the government's announced policies. The service contract formulation is also heinous and must be replaced by a more civilized version, because the current one is reclusive and idiotic.

It must not be understood that I am against intercepting those who constitute a terrorist threat but any bugging or interception should have some governmental legality and hence now more than ever before, arises the immediate need for a "Yemeni Privacy Act" dealing with all types of privacy violations whether that be Internet, Telephone or otherwise, taking into account that most reports against individuals are in most cases vexatious and intrusive. Again official tools must not be exploited for whimsical purposes, as is the case now with regard to many governmental properties, capacities and incumbencies. Will we ever wake up?

## Let him put out his own fires

## Another endorsement for Bush

BY GWYNNE DYER

Russian President Vladimir Putin wants George W. Bush to be reelected, Osama bin Laden undoubtedly wants him to be reelected, and the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council has just endorsed him for reelection, so it's hardly surprising that one of my sons has done the same. He must remain nameless, of course, but he has given me permission to quote his exact words on the subject of Mr Bush's candidacy: "He has sown the wind; let him reap the whirlwind."

This nameless offspring of mine has never worked for the KGB, planned terrorist attacks or been nominated as a member of the Axis of Evil, but he does share with the three gentlemen above a rather Machiavellian turn of mind. His point is that Iraq will go to hell and the US economy will run into heavy weather in the next four years no matter who is president. Those things are already practically set in stone—so let the man who actually caused them carry the can.

There is no way that Iraqi hostility to the American occupation can be turned around at this point, and the current outbreak of fiscal irresponsibility in the US—a huge budget deficit and a huge trade deficit, amounting to almost half a trillion dollars each—will certainly result in a great deal of economic pain and misery for ordinary Americans in the coming

years. We all know who got the US into Iraq and who created the budget deficit, but the man who is president when military defeat and economic crisis can no longer be denied will bear the political blame.

The main concern of Nameless was that a Kerry election victory, followed by a humiliating scuttle from Iraq and a crash in the US dollar at home, would generate a "Dolchstoss" myth on the American right. He was referring to the alleged "stab in the back" by the German left that was used to explain away Germany's defeat in the First World War. (In fact, the left had loyally supported the war, but had little say in its conduct until, after Germany's generals admitted irretrievable military defeat on the Western Front, the government was swiftly handed over to the Social Democrats so they could surrender and take the blame.)

The "Dolchstoss" myth, which denied that it had been a mistake to start the war and blamed Germany's defeat on a failure of will, poisoned all subsequent efforts to create a healthy democratic republic on German soil. No analogy is perfect, but similar myths already exist in US politics. Many on the American right still believe that the Vietnam war that could have been won if only the spineless traitors of the left had not weakened American "resolve"—and they say this even though President Richard Nixon, who was elected on a promise to end the Vietnam war and presided over the whole latter phase of it, was a Republican.

What could they do with a lost war on a Democratic president's watch?

The war in Iraq is unwinnable for the same reason as the Vietnam war, and all the other wars of the 50s, 60s and 70s in which Western armies tried to beat local resistance movements. The Western armies won almost all the battles and imposed casualties on the insurgents at a ratio of ten-to-one or even more, but the locals had an inexhaustible supply of angry young men who were willing to die.

The Western occupiers had to contend with voters at home who could not see why their children should be killed in far-away places in wars fought for imperial power, economic advantage, or obviously misconceived "strategic" reasons. As the casualty toll rose, eventually they would rebel at the cost of the war and force the government of the day to bring the army home. It will happen that way in Iraq, too—unless Senator John Kerry is lying and secretly intends to pull American troops out right away if he is elected.

That would minimise the humiliation suffered by the United States, but it would still be seen by most Americans as a humiliation, and the Democratic Party would pay a high price for it politically unless post-occupation Iraq miraculously turned into a Middle Eastern Switzerland. Staying longer would only make the eventual humiliation greater, so Senator Kerry has no good options. Except, maybe, to lose the election.

My son's point was that the mess created by the last administration cannot be fixed and forgotten before the 2008 election no matter who wins next month—so why not vote for George W. Bush to ensure that the blame is pinned on the right man? That way, there can be no "stab-in-the-back" legend to haunt the Democratic Party in years to come, and to fuel a drive by hard-right radicals flying the Republican banner to regain the White House in 2008.

The down-side of this, from a Democratic point of view, is four more years out of executive power, a Supreme Court packed with Bush appointees, and significant damage to both America's reputation and the US economy. The negative consequences from Iraq's point of view are even bigger: years more of violence and death before the insurgents finally drive American troops out, which would probably do major damage to Iraqis' long-term hope of living together in peace.

It is Hobson's choice, and I am almost glad I do not have a vote in this election: it saves me from the responsibility of choice. If I were an American, however, I suspect that I would probably abandon all these "tactical" voting calculations in the end. One look at Vice-President Dick Cheney, and you know that it's just not worth the risk.

\* Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

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## Just one-meter tall Hobbit-like human skull found

LONDON (Reuters) - Scientists in Australia have found a new species of hobbit-sized humans who lived about 18,000 years ago on an Indonesian island in a discovery that adds another piece to the complex puzzle of human evolution.

The partial skeleton of Homo floresiensis, found in a cave on the island of Flores, is of an adult female that was a meter (3 feet) tall,



Scientists in Australia have found a new species of hobbit-sized humans who lived about 18,000 years ago on an Indonesian island in a discovery that adds another piece to the complex puzzle of human evolution. The partial skeleton of Homo floresiensis, found in a cave on the island of Flores, is of an adult female that was 3 feet tall, had a chimpanzee-sized brain and seems substantially different from modern humans.

Reuters had a chimpanzee-sized brain and was substantially different from modern humans.

It shared the isolated island to the east of Java with miniature elephants and Komodo dragons. The creature walked upright, probably evolved into its dwarf size because of environmental conditions and coexisted with modern humans in the region for thousands of years.

"It is an extraordinarily important find," Professor Chris Stringer, of the Natural History Museum in London, told a news conference on Wednesday. "It challenges the whole idea of what it is that makes us human."

Peter Brown of the University of New England in Armidale, Australia, and his colleagues made the discovery of the skull and other bones, and miniature tools in September 2003 while looking for records of

### Descendent of homo erectus

The hominin family tree, which includes humans and pre-humans, diverged from the chimpanzee line about 7 million years ago. Early African hominins walked upright, were small and had tiny brains.

The new species, dubbed "Flores man," is thought to be a descendent of Homo erectus, which had a large brain, was full-sized and spread out from Africa to Asia about 2 million years ago.

The new species became isolated on Flores and evolved into its dwarf form to conform with conditions, such as food shortages.

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An artist's drawing sits on display at the Australian Museum in Sydney Oct. 28, of a newly discovered species of hobbit-sized humans, that adds another piece to the complex puzzle of human evolution. REUTERS

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