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Women demand equal blood money

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - A number of Yemeni religious scholars unanimously agreed that there are no clear-cut legal evidences that prevent making blood money of women equal to men's in case of their death.

They all pointed out the matter is controversial and no clear-cut evidence was mentioned in Quran or Hadith to prevent women's blood money from being equal to men's.

A number of religious scholars and researchers, who attended the forum that was organized last Monday by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar, Parliament Speaker in his house, stressed on the importance of the intellectual and scientific meetings to promote dialogue and heated debates on the woman's blood money.

A controversy was provoked by the article forwarded to the specialist committee at the Parliament within the frame of the law of penalties and crimes stipulating the woman's blood money should be half the man's.

The attendants have shown their opinions on what was included by a number of papers presented on the matter, but they did not agree on a unified decision and considered it a controversial issue due to the multiplicity of sects in Yemen.

Objectors to the amendment of women's blood money have not shown any evidence to support their objection either from the Quran or the Sunna (Sayings and acts of Prophet Mohammad peace be upon him).

Mosque preachers at the capital waged a campaign against efforts expended by some human rights organizations to amend the law article forwarded to the Parliament in this respect. They considered the woman's blood money being half the man's is one of the principles of Islam that can never be amended.

Additionally, the new law draft presented to the Parliament for amending the woman's blood money encouraged women activists to discuss with their col-

leagues all what is relevant to women rights in the Holy Book.

After a series of studies, symposiums and lectures, some religious hardliners waged a media campaign seeing the matter to contradict the Islamic Shari'a and violate conventions signed by Yemen, most important of which is the convention of fighting discrimination against women.

This legal file created a chance for talking about different sects that do not agree on a specific woman's blood money. Al-Shafia, al-Hanafia and al-Malikia made the blood money of the Muslim woman equal to that of a Jewish citizen and said that it should be half the free man's.

Regarding the ongoing controversy on women's blood money, Dr. al-Mortadha Zaid al-Muhawari told the Yemen Times that al-Zaidia Sect has a similar view to other sects on the matter and the woman's blood money is half the man's.

There are many contemporary religious sheikhs including Mohammad Abdu, Rashid Ridha, Mahmoud Shalton, al-Azhar Preacher, Mohammad al-Ghazali, al-Qaradawi and Dr. al-Muhawari who support making

woman's blood money equal to the man's.

The supporters claimed that consensus made by some religious scholars is not based on any Quranic verse or Hadith, but they based their claims on inherited narrations.

Al-Muhawari added that making discrimination between souls is a taboo and the Quranic verses reveal that any soul is 100% equal to other soul.

With respect to the blood money of a Jew or a Christian, al-Muhawari argued their blood money is equal to that of Muslims unless they are conquerors, and if a Muslim killed a Jewish subject, he must be executed unless he pays the blood money.

On her part, Rahmah Jujairah, Chairwoman of Yemeni Presswomen Forum mentioned: "I never bear in mind that Islam makes a discrimination between human beings, and all human beings, males females are equal in the eye of Allah.

She added: "it is illogical to turn a blind eye to discrimination issues and violence against women and considering them unequal to men since it is women who bread men and care for them.

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Regional workshop on transparency and accountability in Yemen

By FATIMA FOUAD
 FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The National Democratic Institute in Yemen (NDI) held a Regional Workshop on Transparency and Accountability as a part of their series of discussion forums in Good Governance. The workshop was held in Hadda Hotel last week on the 22nd and the 23rd of June. The event was chaired by Sheikh Abdulla Al Ahmer who has emphasized on the role of the parliamentarians in the protection of public good and the importance of focusing on good governance systems that will empower the people. The workshop hosted a number of parliamentarians from Yemen, Bahrain, and Kuwait. There was also a representative from the various political parties in Yemen, local news agencies and human rights activists.

The contributions from the parliamentarians emphasized the importance of Transparency and Good Governance in the region. The crowd agreed on unifying the efforts of all the political parties in the parliament in order to achieve consensus on issues that will be beneficial to the Yemeni citizen. They have also emphasized on the importance of sharing experiences between the parliamentarians in the region. One



of the recommendations that emerged was the suggestion of creating a parliamentarians network in the Arabian Peninsula to facilitate experience exchange and increase the parliamentarians ability to engage with constructive dialogues among each other and

towards the citizens. This workshop is one of many NDI works in the field of enhancing the capacity of parliamentarians and bridge understanding between the Parliamentarians and the citizens by fostering an open transparent dialogue.

Towards achieving the millennium development goals

(Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen—30 June 2005)—Prof. Jeffery D. Sachs, the Director of the UN Millennium Project, Director of the Earth Institute at Colombia University and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General, is arriving Sana'a on Friday, 1 July 2005, on an official mission to discuss progress on Yemen's preparation of its scaled up, five-year Third National Development Plan for Poverty Reduction 2006-2010.



Prof. Jeffery D. Sachs

The mission comes in the context of Yemen's selection as one of eight countries worldwide and the only country in the Arab world to benefit from the technical support of the UN Millennium Project to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The visit also takes place prior to the G8 Summit in Scotland and before the UN General Assembly's Millennium Summit +5 in September and presents an excellent opportunity to provide an additional high-level visibility to Yemen's commitment to achieving the MDGs. During his visit, Prof. Sachs will meet with the highest ranked Government officials, UN System organizations, the donor community as well as the technical thematic working groups that worked on Yemen's needs assessments which aim to identify the investments that need to be in place for Yemen to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Professor Sachs is a senior international economist known for his work with international organizations on

issues related to poverty reduction, debt relief and fighting diseases, particularly for the developing world. Sachs' research interests include the links of health and development, economic geography and globalization. He has also conducted research on transition to market economies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, international financial markets, international macroeconomic policy coordination, emerging markets, economic development and growth, global competitiveness and macroeconomic policies in developing and developed countries.

He was named as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by the Time Magazine in 2004 and 2005. Moreover, the World Affairs Council of America identified him as one of the 500 most influential people in the United States in the field of foreign policy. In February 2002 Nature Magazine stated that Sachs "has revitalized public health thinking since he brought his financial mind to it." In 1993 he was cited in The New York Times Magazine as "probably the most important economist in the world" and called in Time Magazine's 1994 issue on 50 promising young leaders "the world's best-known economist." His syndicated newspaper column appears in more than 50 countries around the world, and he is a frequent contributor to major publications such as the New York Times, the Financial Times of London, and The Economist magazine.

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Yemen demands prosecution of 21 suspects including 8 Saudis

SANA'A- A security source doubted the authenticity of the information exchanged by different media means about the involvement of a Yemeni suspect in the list of 36 Saudi suspects wanted by the court on suspicion of terrorist acts.

An official source told 22 May weekly last Thursday that the Yemeni Ministry of Interior does not have any documents carrying the name of Hassan Mohammad Hamid whose name was announced in an Interior Ministry's statement last Tuesday.

The source clarified there is still an ongoing contact with Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to know whether the travel documents alleged to be possessed by a Yemeni national are forged or authentic, according to what was published last Wednesday by Saudi Arabia's al-Watan Newspaper.

In the same context, the source revealed to al-Watan Newspaper the list of the wanted suspects including 21 fugitives who fled the country. The Yemeni authorities claimed that these suspects should appear before the court for committing different crimes inside Yemen.

According to the source, the list of the wanted suspects involve 8 Saudi nationals accused by the Yemeni security authorities of committing various crimes in Yemen such as money laundering, murder cases and drug trafficking.

It pointed out one of the wanted Saudi nationals, Hassan Mohammad al-Sahari, was sentenced by the Yemeni judiciary to five years in jail for being involved in drug trafficking.

The list covers 10 Yemenis suspected by the authorities of bombing police stations to the north of the country, attacking security forces while on duty and committing other crimes.

The list also includes 3 suspects holding the UAE citizenship and a Colombian who are facing the charges of murdering Yemenis and smuggling Yemeni antiquities, the source added.

The same source ascertained all the wanted suspects are fugitives outside the country while the preliminary information indicates the existence of 14 suspects inside the Saudi lands.

The source mentioned that Yemen urged Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, and the U.A.E. through their interior ministries to hunt all the wanted suspects and capture them, but up until now all these countries have never provided information whether they did so according to the Yemeni government request or not.

For its part, the Yemeni Interior Ministry denied last week in a statement distributed by Saba News Agency all what has been published by different media means that the Yemeni authorities set a list of wanted people on charge of terror cases, and the suspects, Arabs and foreigners, exist outside the country.

7 Star Prison

Under the auspices of Dr. Rashad AL-Aleemi, the minister of Interior, with cooperation of Mr. Yayah AL-Habbari, businessman, a unique project for the prisoners in the Central Prison in Sana'a is being inaugurated today Monday 3 July.

Marshal Motahar Ali Naji, the general manager of the Central Prison, pointed out that the project consists of a full well-furnished four rooms where the prisoner can spend time with his wife. Every room has its own bathroom and small kitchen. Besides there is a yard with some entertainment games for children.

He further said "The project is mainly to enhance and strengthen the social relationships and the structure of the family to enable the prisoners and their wives to meet and spend a night together. The project also prevents the moral deviation among the prisoners and their wives. There will be system through which every married prisoner can take his turn to spend a time with his wife in one of these wonderful rooms.

In fact it is one of the steps to improve the prisoners' situations in Yemen."

It is worthy to mention that there are more than 2100 prisoners in the Central Prison among them 70% are married.

Exploiting silence of concerned authorities

Gangs destruct ancient Marib building

MARIB- An official source at Marib Antiquities Authority revealed that organized gangs keep on demolishing ancient sights in an old Marib village.

Director General of Marib Antiquities Authority Sadiq al-Silwi told 22May weekly last Thursday that the gangs destructed al-Nasria ancient building located near Slaiman Temple in old Marib, in addition to looting its gates and decorated stones.

The gang started to demolish the ancient sights a few days ago and is still doing so without an intervention

of any of Marib officials.

The same source signaled out these elements use tractors to demolish the ancient buildings that show pride and glory of Yemen's history as they date back to times of Sheba kingdoms, which ruled Yemen in the 7th century B.C.

The source requested the parties concerned to protect such ancient sights from enemies of Yemen's history, and that he has the names of people involved in destructing the ancient sights in Marib.

Rare creatures explored in Hadramout and Shabwa

Hadramout- A technical study, prepared by an environmental team and some researchers from the Marine Sciences Research Center in Aden and the Project of Protecting Sea and Land Protected Areas, explored two sites in the governorates of Shabwa and Hadramout, B'er Ali and Sharma.

In these natural sites, there are several species of rare sea birds, turtles and coral reefs.

The study showed the availability of the environmental components required for the living of birds in both sites, in addition to exploring places where turtles abundantly exist.

The study was conducted under the supervision of the General Authority

for Environment Protection (GAEP) and funded by one of the British companies concerned with environment protection, in cooperation with the Scientific Council for Information System and Scientific Programs, part of the GAEP

A workshop for discussing plans of administering the two important sites is expected to be held this month in the capital city of Sana'a.

The workshop is due to be attended by a number of academics and Arab researchers, as well as some officials from the Regional Authority for the Aden Gulf and the Red Sea Protection, located in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah.

21 Sa'ada charitable societies shut down

SA'ADA- The Yemeni authorities last month closed 21 charitable and private societies in Sa'ada on charge of exploiting their activities in supporting al-Houthi's insurgency.

Mirran Charitable Society, which was led by slain cleric Hussein Badraddin al-Houthi before he was killed in September last year, topped the list of the targeted societies.

The Yemeni authorities accused people running these societies, some of whom were arrested, of exploiting

activities of their societies to spread political and sectarian thoughts against the law.

According to the government, these people practice illegal activities and collect money for supporting al-Houthi's rebellion in the guise of charitable works.

The Sa'ada security forces stormed all the head-offices of these societies, shut them down, invalidated their permissions and froze their assets and financial accounts.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

It is debatable in many sectors now that a woman should be equal to a man, and there is also a demand that the same blood money paid for a Muslim should be paid for a Jew. Do you agree that the same blood money paid for a man should be paid for a woman and a Jew?
Yes
Now
I have no idea

Last edition's question:

Do you think that Islamic conferences will strengthen the position of Islamic countries?
No, I don't 70%
Yes, I do 30%

Go to our website at:
yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

Versailles Suites inaugurated

SANA'A- Minister of Culture and Tourism Khalid al-Rawaishan inaugurated on Saturday July 2 Versailles Suites Hotel. The hotel consists of 9 stories and includes numerous apartments and special luxurious rooms.

The hotel is considered as one of the modern and technologically equipped hotels and offers distinctive tourist services.

Minister of Culture and Tourism considered this project as one of the significant factors for boosting the Yemeni tourism that witnessed a rapid progress over the last few years.

He said the government promotes the establishment of such projects that can accommodate large numbers of tourists.

For his part, Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Kotary, General Manager of the Hotel confirmed the hotel is well furnished and offers unparalleled services that help attract tourists. Services offered at the hotel include receiving guests and providing transportation means as well as booking air tickets.



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Supplies of hotel and school furniture, computer and training equipment for the NAHOTI (National Hotel and Tourism Institute) in Sana'a, Yemen

The tender dossier can be downloaded from the following web page:

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The contract includes supply and installation of furniture and training equipment for NAHOTI (National Hotel and Tourism Institute). The future NAHOTI will provide both theoretical and practical training facilities for six occupational skill areas: Front Office, Food and Beverage Service, Housekeeping, Food production, Travel Agency and Travel guidance. The institute includes a training hotel, as well as a dormitory for the students.

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- Lot 4: First aid, security and fire protection
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Meeting at the PMU in the MOTEV at 10.00 am

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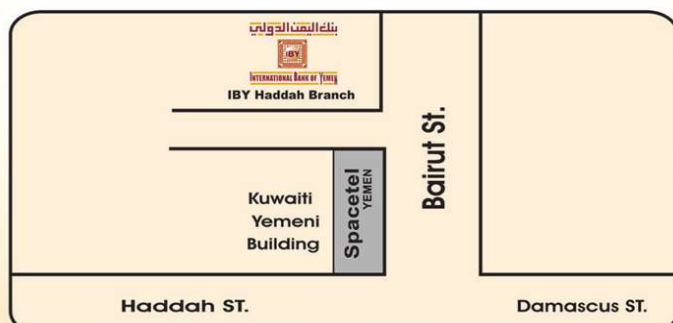
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خالية من مادة التيتانيوم المبيضة



اجعل جسمك نشيطاً وخالياً من أمراض القلب والسرطان

إعلان تحذيري

أخي المواطن ... أختي المواطنة :-

إن مصنع الأمل يمن للمنتجات المتنوعة مالك العلامة التجارية الخاصة بمنتجاته الأصلي (بودرة العائلة) ذات المكونات الضعالة والتركيبية الضريدة لمكافحة وعلاج كافة مشاكل (حرارة الصيف اللاذعة) إن هذا المنتج ذو المواصفات العالمية والمسجل في وزارة الصناعة (إدارة حماية الملكية).

ونحن إذ نحرص على سلامتكم وسلامة أفراد عائلاتكم وأطفالكم نحث ربانه ظهر في الأسواق منتج مزيف ورديئ وغير مطابق للمواصفات الصحية العالمية ويحمل اسم (بودرة جونسون) ولاصق يحمل صورة منتجنا مع كافة التعليمات الخاصة به ... دون أن يحمل شعارا لامتيازنا الخاصة بمنتجاتنا (الاصلي)

أخي المواطن ... أختي المواطنة :-

احذر التقليد وتأكد عند الشراء من الفروق التالية



المزيف

يحمل اسم (جونسون).
المصدر / مجهول الهوية ولا يوجد على العبوة
بلد الصنع / إنجلترا وهذا غير صحيح ويعتبر تضليل للجمهور.



الأصلي

يحمل اسم العائلة Family مسحوق بودرة طبي للأطفال.
شعار الامتياز مطبوع على العبوة في الأعلى والأسفل.
المصنع / مصنع الأمل يمن للمنتجات المتنوعة.
بلد الصنع / الجمهورية اليمنية.

إن التأكد عند الشراء من المادة الأصلية ضمان لك ولأفراد اسرتك من مخاطر المادة المزيفة والمقلدة للمنتج الأصلي.
بودرة Family وبعلمة الامتياز الأصلية رمز الجودة.

للاستفسار / مصنع الأمل يمن للمنتجات المتنوعة - الحديدية - تلفون ٢٦٦٣٩٦٩ - ٢٦٦٣٩٦٨ - ٣

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NBY New Soqatra's Branch opened

البنك الوطني اليمني National Bank Of Yemen

As part of the long series of Yemen Unity's achievements on the 15th Unification Anniversary of 22 May under the leadership of HE The President of the Republic Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Soqatra Branch of NBY was shifted to a new sophisticated building which was inaugurated by Staff Brig. Hussein Naji Khairan, Commander of First Marines Division and Ahmed al-Awadhi, Director of Hadibou District, and Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Kuhali, Chairman of Board of Directors and General Manager of National Bank of Yemen in the presence of a number of personalities of social distinction and local officials.

The ceremony commenced with drawing of the curtain on the monument of the founding stone of the building followed by cutting of the ribbon at the entrance of the building, and Mohammed Salem Ba Hareth, Manager of National Bank of Yemen Soqatra Branch welcomed the Chief guests and other guests into the building premises introducing the different departments of the bank. He briefed the guests of the services and products provided by NBY and its commitments to serve the islanders, settlers and

visitors being tourists or on mission. At the end of the ceremony the guests noted their remarks in the visitor's register expressing their admiration of the outstanding economic and banking establishment.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Staff Brig. Hussein Naji Khairan, commander of the local military, said, "This project is the result of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's interest in the island of Soqatra. It is his constant concern to develop the island economical and infrastructural in order to boost and vitalize trade and tourism on the island." He added further that the new office is one of the fruits of the Unity which has bestowed on the island economic and infrastructural projects. He thanked all those who contributed to this achievement.

On the other hand, Ahmed Jawnah Al-Awadhi explained how the island would benefit from "this great achievement is the blessing of Unification! NBY is the first and only bank to establish a branch on the island of Soqatra and serve investment projects, business, tourism government and the public. The new branch equipped with latest banking technology would enhance

all economic and social activities." He said that all this is due to the orientation of the political leadership represented in President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Leader of the Yemeni Nation and Achiever of Unification, under whose reign Soqatra was privileged several service projects with the National Bank's new branch meeting a very important need in terms of investment and banking.

Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Kuhali, Chairman and General Manager of National Bank of Yemen indicated that the Bank's policy aims to serve the people of the island and settlers by providing the most modern banking techniques. "We aim to support investment and tourism for foreigners visiting Soqatra by opening the second branch at Soqatra Airport," he added. "however, our new branch would be oriented to activate the trade and investment on the island as well as the tourism.

Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Kuhali illustrated of the various types of services provided by the Bank both to its customers and visitors. He praised the spirit of teamwork of all those who contributed to the achievement of the project- a tribute to Yemen's Unification under the leader of Unifier



Mr. Ahmed al-Awadhi



Mr. Hussein Naji Khairan



Words of Wisdom



One of the key differences between a dictatorship and a democratic system is the role of the media in general, and that of the official media, in particular. If those individuals in charge of the media feel they are more responsible towards the public than towards the politicians, and perform their job on that basis, then that is a sign of a democratic structure.

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

OUR
OPINIONVanity or
stupidity?!

For the second time Yemen hosts an international high level event. The Organisation of Islamic Conferences known as the OIC held its 32nd Foreign Ministers Conference in Sana'a between 28th and 30th of last month. The 31st conference took place in Turkey in May last year, and many Islamic countries attended last year's conference as well as this year's. When intending to do the coverage of this year's conference a massive hurdle faced us; there was no information available. Not only to media but the participants also did not know the program and the details of the three-day conference until the end of the first day. Yemen opted for hosting this conference since May last year and it was embarrassing how it was not prepared. What was more unnerving was how the media was ignored and shoved around from one place to another without any consideration or respect. This is not the first time such harassment takes place yet it was really embarrassing for us as Yemeni media to face the correspondents from foreign newspapers and TV stations who have come all the way to cover the event, and try and explain why there is no information available and why the media are forbidden from meeting with any of the participants or the delegates at the conference.

What our government must understand is that it is media that highlights success or failure of any event whatsoever. If an important event takes place and there is no adequate media coverage then to the public it is as if this event didn't even take place at all. The media has the right to know the details of the event so as to comment and evaluate. From the only press release on the event on the OIC website only the outlines of the agenda to be discussed were revealed. If this is all the information available then might as well look at last year's event and analyse it because many of the items in the agenda did not change and we would certainly say that this conference was simply a waste of time. The media had to depend on luck and keep visiting the hotels where the delegates stayed to try and get some statements.

In view of the current political circumstances such conferences are very important and it is critical that practical results are concluded. Have we reached a level where leaders meet for the sake of meeting? If this is not the case then why was such an important event not organised and prepared for well? If it was an interesting and rich conference then how come the media did not know much about it? Every citizen has the right to know why those leaders are meeting and what they are discussing. It is the media's role to convey this information and give further insight to the event.

Were the organisers too proud to reveal any information and thought that media was not a stakeholder or were they stupid enough not to understand the importance of getting a good objective coverage for the event? The treatment the media got reflects on what they say and how they comment about the event. We cannot comment objectively because we have nothing to work on. If this is really what the organisers wanted then here's to another failure of the Islamic world!

The Editorial Board



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion and Op-Ed pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name and signature, address and telephone number. Letters should not exceed 2,000 characters in length. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer under any circumstances.
- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

General observations on new journalism draft law

Law of press and
publication (PART 3)

SECTION TWO

Financial censorship on newspapers, magazines and press institutions

This chapter contains three articles. The first article prohibits accepting contributions, aids, donations or any special merits, from any none Yemeni party for any purpose.

The prohibition is of course unfair, because it deprives the press from an aid that is basically permissible. It is sure to hinder specialized magazines and newspapers like those of lawyers, journalists, engineers or doctors that have commitments towards Arab or foreign bodies. Their cultural or intellectual activities could cover many areas. This prohibition ignores the transparency and over vest which should be the base of rights, for legal persons who have the right of the individual.

SECTION THREE

The Draft prohibits the circulation of any papers or publications if they don't contain certain things. It also stipulates for those who want to deal in press to have a prior written warrant from the ministry. This contradicts the spirit of the law and reflects a desire to demote the commercial, cultural, and liberty of creative works.

SECTION FOUR

The Draft binds the paper's owner to publish any reply but the right thing is to tackle the debatable matters with transparency. The Draft obligates the chief editor to publish the government authority and Ministry's bulletins, communiqués of the Ministry without pay.

The Draft here confuses the partisan papers for the independent ones. If the draft means to give the right for replying, this one thinks has already been catered for in a separate article, but the problem is that the ministry is obsessed with pluralism and doesn't recognize independence of press.

In case a paper refuses a reply, The Draft gives the right to those whose replies are refused to appeal to the minister. The Minister has nothing to do with that according to the constitution. Here the draft treats the press as if it is part of the empire of the ministry.

Advertisement (chapter five)
The draft associates opening advertisement offices with written licenses, and compels the paper's owner to fix the prices, in coordination with the ministry, justifying this with price control. This is justification is worst than the article itself.

Fixing the price is the paper's affair. All he that is committed to is transparency. The Ministry's intrusion in that matter is suspicious.

The Draft states that food advertisements should not be published without prior permissions. The logical thing is to indict the paper in case of violation and not to impose an article that makes the legislation overstep its jurisdiction. There are repeated articles in this chapter that contradict each other. Some give the Minister the right to issue regulations to obtain and cancel the license of work in advertisement advertisements, and to set the terms of attaining this license. One wonders, if these are the restrictions in the advertisement, what is to become of the commodities themselves?

CHAPTER SIX

This chapter is on press and publication houses.

This article relates starting a press with obtaining a license. It explains the procedures and the necessary terms that should be available. It sets several conditions for that. Among these are: - The owner is to be 25 year old - and not to be in charge of another press.

The Draft authorizes the minister to cancel the license. This reflects the spirit of domination in the Yemeni laws that undermine the investment freedom. Every for-



By ABDULBARI TAHIR

mal institution has an inclination to have an upper hand on even the smaller details. It has the same mentality of the US towards the Iranian nuclear program. They want to know everything about the press and they look upon it as a threat that precautionary measures should be set upon, in order to curb it. One thinks this would only open the door for corruption. The Draft demands that the publisher should have a stamped file, from the ministry, that should be put at the beginning and the end of each publication to denote the number of pages, with the date of application, and the name of the press house. To the end of those numberless hindrances. It also prohibits the printing house to publish any paper without a valid license registered in the ministry. It holds the owner accountable for any publication.

SECTION EIGHT

Publication houses

In this section, applying for a license is a common recipe between the writer, the owner of the press, etc. it starts with the name, birth and then stipulates a consultant body of experts in publication matters. It ends up with a warning from violation of the law. It is clear that the violations are the corner stone through out this draft. It adds here another term that gives the minister the right to issue additional terms for the control of the issuance of the license as if the above constrictions are not enough.

The draft prohibits defaming or any other slanderous harm to the president. It also prohibits the defaming of the kings, presidents or chief editors of friendly countries. The danger is not in Defaming the president and the other heads of states, but it lies in the interpretations of what is thought to be a slander. One still remembers the sufferings of press for publishing criticism of the regimes. Any criticism is construed as a slander.

Section seven contains transitional terms with several prohibitions, speaking of disclosing the State's documents, security and military secrets. It is a good thing that the draft speaks of the prohibition of insisting violence, but what are the dimensions of those instigations? What is the guarantee that they will not be an excuse to protect corruption, and prevent the exposer of tyranny?

The draft prohibits censorship except in exceptional cases. Yemen has been living in extraordinary case for a long time now. This term will pave the way for continuous censorship. The provisional terms are concluded with a number of prohibitions; like the observance of the honor and the ethics of the profession, in addition to many confusing indefinite principals that will do nothing more than wronging the press freedom.

The draft did not cancel the prison penalty, but mentioned the prevention of indefinite detention- (chapter eight, publication liabilities, in section one).

Cancelled jailing those who hinder the journalists' work. They are only to be fined (article two)
The draft gives the court the right to close down the paper/ magazine, the press establishment or translation offices "or the likes" if they are opened without the mentioned license. It is to be noted that the law itself is contradicting the constitution and human rights declarations, that Yemen is signatory to.

While the journalist is jailed, those who obstruct his work are only fined.

The paper is to be charged with twice the amount of any contribution it accepts. The fine is to be deposited in the syndicate's fund.

The court is authorized to suspend practicing journalism, dealing in or circulating publications for not more than six months. The penalty is not restricted to a certain violation, which makes it a complimentary penalty, left for the judge discre-

tion.
The draft calls for special courts. That is a dangerous issue. The call should be for independent judiciary. Lawyers have been striving for a long time to cancel special courts. The special judge is formerly chosen through the intervention of the security. The Yemeni constitution prohibits special and extraordinary courts; in chapter 148. It also contradicts Human Rights declarations.

The Human Rights Ministry refused the draft's article that contain the financial constrictions on the chairman or the capital of the paper, be it on individual or an institution, and asserted that the government should not go so far in imposing unnecessary restrictions like those financial restrictions, which are needless in this law. It went on saying that, the establishment that can not meet its requirements will vanish away gradually.

The Ministry also demanded the liability of the chief editor because he/ she can not know all the details of all that is published, besides he/ she can't be liable for that he/ she didn't commit. This is what the elite lawyer Nabil Al-mohamed revealed in his elite comments.

The Human Rights Ministry has also pointed to the secret sessions of courts. According to it, it is difficult to know what happens inside these sessions unless it is revealed by those concerned in these types of sessions. This won't give the defendant a good chance to refute false allegations. The Ministry also sees the mater of closing down the papers, institutions or translation offices, as a collective punishment that will hurt other people. Lawyer Nabil al-mohamed also noticed that the draft adds more constrictions to those already found in law (25) of 1990, with constitutional jurisdictions for the minister and his Ministry. It is also badly phrased with overlapping repeated articles. The Ministry leaders boast of their clever law in that it doesn't mention restrictions, but the truth is that these restrictions are dispersed all over its articles, even in the definitions, principals and the conclusion.

It is remarkable in chapter seven (provisional terms) that it imposes censorship on papers /magazines in case of war or emergency. This article depends on the former Arab Republic constitution of Yemen of 1971, which was repealed again in May 1990 constitution. It was again cancelled in September 1994 constitution.

Another issue of concern is the exposition of the news recourse which is an important press principal. It was mentioned in article four chapter two (the journalist should not disclose his news recourses). The draft mentioned again in article two (rights and obligations) of journalists in which it said (the journalist has the right not to reveal his recourse) and should not be forced to expose his recourses. There is an exception in the case of a court decision that necessitates the disclosure. In article three, of chapter three of arrangements of ownership, the Minister has the right to ban the distribution of any paper if its contents are contradictory to the law. Here the minister will be the judge and the prosecutor. The second article gives the chief editor the right of appeal, but foreign editors will not be inclined to indict in Yemeni courts. This will victimize the reader and deny him the right of follow up.

The draft holds the owner of the press accountable for an unlawful publication; this will make a censor out of the publisher. It is against press freedom, and imposes censorship on persons outside the press career.

The term of article three stipulates the consultant body of experts for the publication institutions. This no doubt repels investment in this sector.

Article three of chapter seven (provisional terms) which prohibits the publication and circulation of all that will harm the country's higher interests of the documents and secret information, and the disclosure of the secrets of defense. This sort of articles makes an intelligence officer out of the journalist.

Letters to the Editor

Women rights:
I need answers

As in Islam, the peace and love is given to human beings regardless of gender. But a priority is always being given to the man because of his capabilities in fulfilling the responsibilities as the leader of his family. The responsibilities of the man are as follows according to hadith and Quran:

There is a Hadith "A woman has to wait for her husband at least 7 years if his whereabouts is not known, then she can go for a second marriage or Nikah". But I have

a question. Nowadays the average age of a man & woman is 50 to 60 years, and women get married in their 20-30 years, sometimes above 30 years of age. The resources of communications are also fast. There is no way for a person to wait for 7 years of her life to be able for a second nikah. Think about it. This period should be reduced, not more than 3 years.

However, if a person is in contact, but he is neither fulfilling the responsibilities as a father of his kids nor for his wife. She is earning for herself and kids for the bringing up of her family. I believe that if he does so for 3 years continuously, the marriage should be broken. The money and property that is brought during mar-

riage period should be allotted to the wife. A woman should have a right to cancel this agreement so she can go for her next destiny if she likes. If both want to resume their relation, paying the money of all the expenditures of those years should penalize him.
Islam has preserved women dignity and interests but can men understand the self respect of an innocent, pitiable woman?

By Mrs. Nasira Alvi
nasira866@hotmail.com

The plight of the
youth of Yemen

I was very moved by the article "When terrorism hurts youth" by Mr. Yasser Al-Mayasi which appeared in issue No. 855 of Thursday

30th June, 2005.

Although it is true that such desperate and irresponsible acts of terrorism caused the country much suffering especially to the youth, all is not in vain. The youth should keep faith and have hope. All is not lost. Desperation, impatience and lack of faith are the main causes of such terrorist acts. My advice to Mr. Al-Mayasi and all the youth are 1) not to ponder on such negative acts which stagnate the mind, 2) approach life from a positive angle, 3) make attempts to be ingenious, 4) strive hard to earn a honest living and 5) maintain a strong will reinforced with optimism and imagination.

By Mohamed Alfarid
Sana'a

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

No hope
for the poor

As part of the Economic, Financial and Administrative Reform Program, the government is undertaking a parallel program to combat poverty and to meet Yemen's commitments to the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. This program is important, because it is recognized by both the government and the donors that executing EFARP is bound to lead to difficulties for the poor. However, notwithstanding the many merits of the Poverty Alleviation Programme, as the United Nations Development Programme calls it, or the Poverty Reduction Strategy, as the Yemeni Government and the World Bank call it, the truth of the matter is that the trend appears to be for an increase in the level of poverty, if not to remain at its existing level of 40-50%. No one is really sure of the present level of poverty in Yemen as estimates range from 30% to 50%, but judging from the rise in prices lately, it seems certain that the prospects are not good, at least for the near future. Already much of the middle class has found it difficult to grow or even hold on to whatever gains it might have made when Yemen did enjoy a certain boom in the mid and late Seventies. Incomes have dwindled to a fraction of their purchasing power, although they have seen some growth in numbers and now with the latest surge in price hikes, it seems that even the proposed Wage and Income Strategy will not be able to insure that government employees will be earning the incomes they need to keep up with the cost of living.

While Yemen should be enjoying the fruits of rising oil prices in the international market, many economic experts are at a loss to explain why there is a decrease in the exchange rate of the Yemeni Riyal in the open market. The current strong reserve position of the Central Bank of Yemen, is adding more to the difficulty in explaining why the YR position is weakening. Moreover, the lack of moves by the Central Bank of Yemen to ensure the stability of the Yemeni Riyal, at least temporarily, until a more durable solution can be contrived, is again raising questions about the ability of the government to react constructively to unfavorable economic developments. Even with the slight devaluation that the YR has witnessed over the last couple of months, where it declined to a low of YR 196 for each US Dollar, until CBY interference retracted the rate to around YR 192, the high rise in prices is beyond finding explanation in currency devaluation only.

Other justifications are being made in the possible General Sales Tax that has been moving in and out of different government chambers, but the GSA has yet to be implemented and the increase it should pose in prices should not exceed 10 - 20% in the worst of cases. Yet the prices have gone up as much as 50% in many commodities and goods and this is really impossible to understand, let alone absorb, especially as the government still has a number of doses to carry out under EFARP, many of which will certainly have an effect on prices, such as the reduction or elimination in subsidies for fuel products, especially diesel. Suggestions are also heard that the Houthi "Rebellion" is to blame, but the fact is that price increases became felt when supposedly the strife in Sa'ada has become to a certain extent contained, if not ended as the government claimed.

The observer can not fail to sense the hard times that the general public is beginning to gear up for, without really knowing what they can do, as they see their incomes dwindle and their ability to meet the ever increasing costs of living turn into a nightmare.

Over the past year alone, meat prices have gone up 50% and fruits and vegetables are fast approaching luxury item status left only for the affluent to enjoy. A little more than a year ago bananas could be found at 3 Kg for YR 100, but it is not uncommon to see them sold for YR 150 per Kg nowadays. Are the Yemeni people returning to an era of deprivation again, as not only are the amenities of life becoming further away from reach, but also the essential nutritional commodities that are needed for adequate nourishment. The lack of even the slightest attention to these perplexing economic developments is not helping the public becoming reassured that these are passing hues and the prospects for the future are for effective relief from the ever hardening challenges of meeting the needs for sustenance.

The situation is made the more difficult by the fact that those holding the reigns of authority are not feeling the strains that the majority of the people are facing as they endeavor to balance monthly budgets and assure that their families can at least prevent falling into the pit of perpetual poverty, if they haven't already, as a result of the previous doses that EFARP has brought on. We believe that the government has some very worthwhile programs in the fight against poverty (Social Safety Net, etc.), but even the officials of these programs and the donors behind them are skeptical of suggesting that they are sufficient to bring hope to an increasingly bewildered population. There is little stimulation of productive economic activity that can be harnessed by greater accessibility to resources by the general population, as the observer can not fail in noticing that most economic activity is still under the trusteeship of a relatively small element of the population: a mix of cutthroat merchants and government officials who have established strong niches in private capital control that leave little room for anyone else to have access to. Political stability can only be guaranteed by a reassuring economy and without such an environment, the future becomes far less predictable for both the well off and the increasing numbers of the poor.

Yemen Press Review

Presented by Nadia Al-Sakkaf



Headlines:

- Commerce chambers and civil societies form a coordination council against the sales tax law
- Doctors syndicate: will not put an end to the strike unless our demands are met
- The parliament: banning weapons in the capital, and demanding al-Makha port to remain civil and not military port

Features:

- Political security authority: between the right and wrong:

The newspaper publishes the internal charter of the political security

- Human Rights report review:

The review went through the report briefly and discussed the various issues that came in it such as the complaints and reports to the Ministry on violations in human rights that reached 1,232 between 2002 and 2004. It talked about status in Yemeni prisons, the civil societies, abduction of political opposition.

The report also discusses the issues relating to the jurisdiction system and the corruption in it.

While there is great improvement in freedom of speech commanded by the report it still explained that many cases against media were reported and this was a set back. Socially the report talked about homes for social care and the issue of street children and child trafficking. There was a section on refugees and eventually a narration of what the Ministry has accomplished so far.

Opinions:

Violent opposition and rude official media

Isam alnahari wrote an opinion titled the violent opposition and rude official media. He talked about the deterioration of Yemeni media and how it has lost its dignity through lashing of verbal wars

among each other between the official media and the opposition and sometimes among the oppositions themselves.

He reminds us that the purpose of media is to inform and educate and that they should have some ethics and a code of conduct that must not be breached for anything. Especially because they represent the image of the Yemeni intellectuals and civilisation.

Women's rights and the advancing danger:

Abu akram alwashali attacks the proposition of women in leadership positions and says that they are crossing red lines and that if nothing is being done to stop this phenomenon ruin will take place.



Alrai al'A'am:

Headlines:

- Threatening Ba Jamal's government a mass anger because of the price hikes
- Discovering toxic chemicals . Because there are no national strategy 20,000 people vulnerable to becoming blind every year
- MP al-Barakani objects to improving the living conditions of the official media
- While journalists and lawyers intend to sue it, Ministry of Health admits to the spread of the Dengue fever in 6 governorates and 1500 people infected
- 50 juveniles in the states prisons

Features:

Financial violations paralyse the tourism council

About the ministry of Culture, Nabil Abduljabbar talks about the corruption taking place in the ministry of culture and how the minister spends 4 million and two hundred thousand in one week for travelling costs just for the tickets and the question is why is so much money spend on protocol and unnecessarily entertainment while there is so much to be done.

The Central Body for Monitoring and Accountability has revealed the amount

of financial violations in the Body's report saying that there is no internal auditing and that the tourism promotion council does not even have officially appointed cadre and charter to define their job and responsibilities.

Opinions:

Would the government dare?

Mohammed Hassan Sha'ab in the back page of the newspaper writes that according to a number of inputs from political observers and experts that the government in our country is indeed heading for lifting the subsidies on the oil products and this is a great amount exceeding 160 billion riyals. And this consequently means that all of the oil products such as petrol, diesel and gas would double in price if not more.

The opinion describes the impact of this raise on the people in the rural areas who are more than 70% of the population and how the prices there are much more than in the cities and these are the lowest income-generating group. The opinion gives some statistics and concludes that with a question as to when this amount is saved, where will it go?

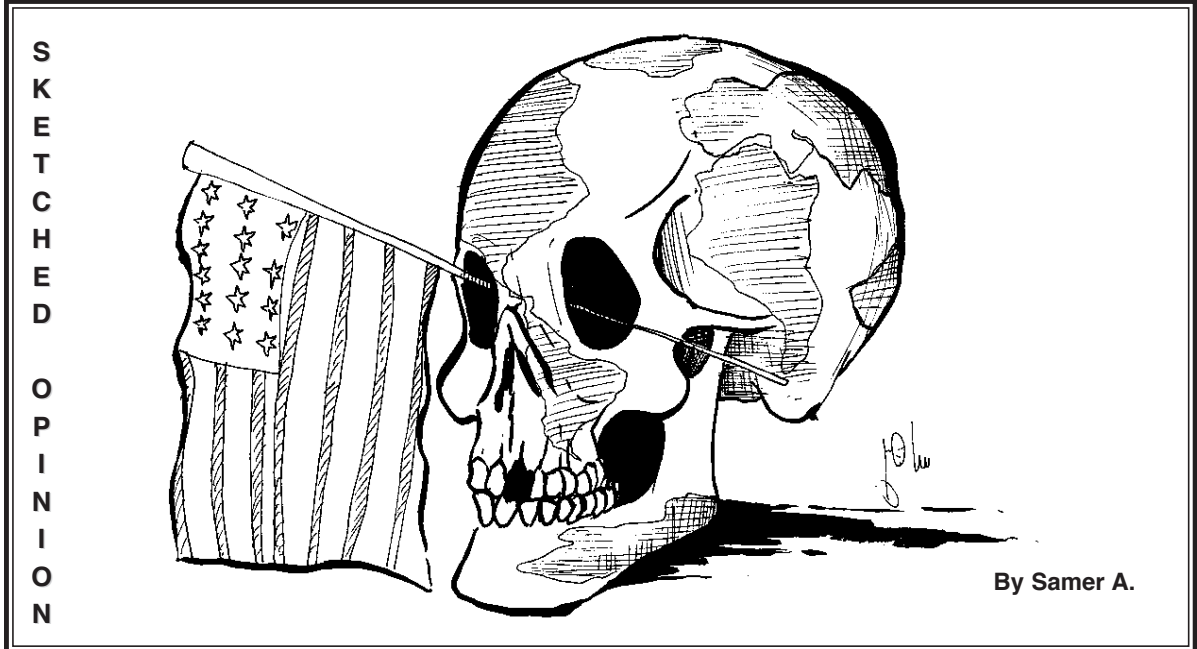
الوسط Al-Wasat:

Headlines:

- The Islamic conference conducted with the absence of many Arab foreign ministers, and president Saleh was not there
- An American report classifies Yemen among 10 failing countries
- Barabara' announces new discovers for natural gas in Hadramout
- Retired militants in Aden to go on strike on the 10th of July
- Students deprived from giving their secondary level exams and the investigation goes on

Features:

- The main feature of the issue was about the chamber of commerce and its demand to cancel the unconstitutional articles from the sales tax law, a petition was sent to the president along with complaints from the member of parliament.



By Samer A.



OIC conference: Much ado about nothing

The minister of the Islamic countries had a nice conference in Sana'a. The ministers delivered nice speeches, pinpointing the challenges facing the Islamic countries, expressing the need to come together. The outcome was also a nice final statement, calling for support of Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Nigeria and other Muslim states plagued with poverty and other ailments. The statement talked about several other issues but faintly talked about the need to reform which is the key element of any real change which Muslims aspire.

Our main plight as Muslims is not only lack of resources and money but also lack of the will to change and reform due to totalitarian regimes that usurped power for decades. The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was established during the 1996 of the last centuries after the burning of Holy Mosque in Jerusalem with the aim just to face that incident. What I mean is that there was no clear vision behind the OIC and how it can serve Muslims all over the world. In other words, it was just a passion behind the idea. I

believe that the OIC Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu is right when he proposed to first reform the OIC, change its name and upgrade its charter so that be run effectively, away from bureaucracy.

Now, the coalition of countries or even companies or organizations is basically economic. It is economy that drives the world rather than dogmas or religious beliefs. I am against such coalitions that have religious background because they will expand and widen the divide between the world countries rather than bringing them together.

Let us look at the European Union. Its main goal by the end is purely economic. I do not object that Islamic countries can come together in a union or organization but they should not be motivated just by the fact that they are all Muslims and therefore they should be brought together. They should, in fact, live up to the challenges facing their people and see how to overcome them. I think also that it is not right that Islamic countries call for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council. Then, we have to distribute seats on the basis of religions. What they can

do is to demand a seat for any Muslim country instead of the OIC. It will be chaos if the representation is made in accordance with religious factors.

The OIC should not be just an institution to further propagate the rulers and their "achievements" as everybody in the conference was just delivering speeches, most of them are dedicated to the "achievements" of this or that ruler. The OIC should be an institution, able to address the problems these Islamic countries are facing. That is, its decisions should be implemented. I think Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi was right when he said that we do not need any more decisions. We are fed up. I think people in the street never build on such conferences or summits whose decisions and recommendations never see the light of day. I was talking the other day with a soldier standing at the gate of the conference hall, telling him that there had not been anything of importance. He told me that he already knew that nothing concrete this event would come up with. This is the general frame of mind of the people who lost hope of such meetings.



A few good parliamentarians

There is a common misconception that Yemeni parliamentarians do not know how much power they possess; stating this is not only naive, but it is a serious slap in the face of democracy. If the support of some thousand people who elected a certain parliamentarian as a representative is considered useless, then we ought to ask ourselves why we need elections in the first place.

In an impoverished country like Yemen where illiteracy prevails, many people do not have the assertiveness to tackle public officials and question them. They often see the parliament as a body that is loyal to the government rather than a true representative of the public. Although Yemeni citizens exercise their right to vote, few of them understand the mutual roles and responsibilities that need to be played post-elections.

The magnitude of the authority that can be exerted by the parliamentarians is significant; it is however limited and constrained for many reasons. The power of the parliament corresponds directly to the level of communication between the Members of Parliament (MP) and their constituencies. Currently, there is an absence of a strategic and clear agenda of the MPs that the wider public can follow and hold their elected officials accountable to.

There are also a number of other issues that prevent the parliament from reaching its full potential. Such concerns include unfocused and meandering legislative sessions and the ambiguity of parliamentarians' agendas. Additionally,

most MPs lack strategic communication with both the government and citizens and have limited incentives for parties to work together within the parliament. Furthermore, there is a lack of gender diversity.

In a perfect world the parliament would not simply be drafting, approving or opposing legislation, controlling the government's budget and making poor decisions. The parliament would move beyond these steps to communicating regularly and directly with citizens, demanding information from the various ministries and publicizing wrongdoing to hold the government accountable. The parliament would be a legislator, debater and scrutinizer.

To be fair, the Yemeni parliament has been able to challenge the government in some cases of corruption and publicize it to the media. However, it has failed to investigate a significant number of issues. The hurdles facing the parliament in this endeavor are constrained by the bureaucracy and the quality of administration in Yemen.


Another important issue that should not be overlooked is the fact that 80% of the parliament belongs to one political party. This is capable of causing a bias in some issues and undermines the efficiency of the parliament in holding the government accountable.

In a recent paper presented by MP Mr. Sakhr Al-Wageeh at the regional workshop organized by the National Democratic Institute, he mentioned that the delay in receiving requested data from various ministries hinders parliamentary committees from performing

their duties. He also indicated that more serious impediments arise when some ministers abstain from being questioned by the parliamentarians. There are a number of pending cases in the parliament that are ignored by the very people who are supposed to be responsible for implementing the law. Other MPs like Mr. Faisal Abu Raas have emphasized the importance of building a network with other parliamentarians in the region that can enhance the capacity of MPs to develop and expand their role.

However, the need for citizens to contribute to the mandate and strategies of their MPs is more often than not left unattended. This should not come as a surprise as the institutions that can challenge or empower the parliament such as the media and civic organizations do not play a strategic role in this political game.

The role of the Yemeni parliament is developing, but it remains undervalued. Yemeni parliamentarians are among the most qualified leaders in society and they hold substantial potential to further the aspirations of the people. However, the parliament should not expect to have any power if they fail to communicate effectively with the Yemeni citizens. The current parliament is under pressure not only to deliver results, but to build a shared vision and a civil identity among all the segments of the Yemeni society, putting aside political, social or tribal affiliations. The urgency of this task is one that the parliament has not yet been fully achieved but which there remains high hopes for.



USAID | YEMEN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

"Financial Analyst"

The incumbent serves as the USAID/Yemen Financial Analyst under the supervision of the USAID Representative. The incumbent performs a range of financial analysis functions, and is the primary backstop for the entire Mission portfolio consisting of four Strategic Objectives (SOs). The incumbent is the primary FM representative in USAID/Yemen and provides financial expertise and advice for all activities in the assigned portfolio. S/he also performs professional accounting duties of moderate scope and complexity in planning, designing, analyzing, evaluating and coordinating assigned segment(s) or specialized accounting functions(s) relating to the overall accounting system for AID technical programs. Furthermore, the incumbent is responsible for studying the existing technical program budget, accounting and reporting systems, identifying technical areas or processes which could be made simpler or improved, and devising proposed new and more effective technical methods of operating such systems for the more effective accomplishment of accounting objectives. The incumbent is responsible for accounting for the ESF and OE program funds reservation, obligation, recurring obligations and for coordinating all USAID/Yemen funds with Embassy/Sana'a FMO and USAID/Cairo. The incumbent's responsibilities include all aspects of program accounting including tracking reservations, obligations, preparation of MAARDS and funds availability for agreements, and reporting on obligations, accruals, and expenditures; and maintaining a constant current balance report of USAID/Yemen's annual OE budget and multi-year ESF program budgets by SO; and for FSN and PSC contracts.

Required Qualifications:
Education: Possession of a university degree in accounting, finance or business administration or its equivalent (i.e., at least four full years) in type, level of responsibility, scope and thoroughness of difficult and responsible public or private accounting practice.
Prior Work Experience: Four to six years of progressively responsible experience in professional accounting or auditing when in possession of a university degree. When substituting experience for education, an additional minimum of four years of experience is required if the person is without a university degree. At least two years of this experience should have been with a donor agency, government, non-governmental organization or other international organization working in the development field.
Language Proficiency: Level IV, strong oral and written proficiency in English and Arabic is required.
Knowledge: Knowledge and understanding of professional accounting principles, theories, practices and terminology as well as knowledge of laws, regulations and procedures governing USAID financial management is preferred. Understanding of USAID organization and operations and familiarity with USAID project policies and processes is preferred.
Skills and Abilities: Must be able to analyze accounting processes and identify practices and procedures which require correction or modification. Must be able to formulate recommendations for maintaining specialized segments of accounting systems in a high state of efficiency. Must be able to communicate effectively with non-accounting personnel in explaining accounting requirements and potentials. Must have supervisory skills.
The incumbent must be willing and able to travel within the region and to the United States for up to three weeks at a time for required USAID training, consultations, and field trips. The incumbent must also be able to pass a background investigation and obtain a visa for travel to the United States.

Grade/Salary: Ordinarily Resident: FSN-10 (US\$ 13,615)

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sanaa, Yemen, Tel: 755-2000., no later than July 17, 2005.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

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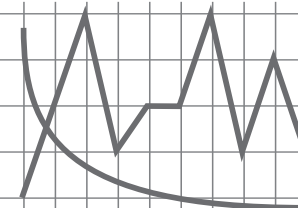
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YT Business



Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

The world's largest anti-poverty movement



By NADIA AL-SAKKAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

White Band Day marks global action against poverty

Some of the world's most famous landmarks were adorned with huge white bands last week on White Band Day include Australia's Sydney Harbour Bridge, Rome's Trevi Fountain, a huge mosque in Indonesia, St Paul's Cathedral in London, Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and a famous cotton tree in Sierra Leone as part of a curtain-raiser to a week of global action for an end to poverty.

Simultaneous with the white band campaign 8 live musical concerts will be on going starting from Saturday this week in Johannesburg and in several cities around the world.

These campaigns come a few days before world leaders arrive at Gleneagles for the G8 summit in Scotland, hosted by Britain between 6-8th of this month. The G-8 Summit will be an event where leaders of the world's wealthiest countries will meet to discuss global economic challenges. Commenting on this event Mr Blair said earlier in a press statement: "A major part of the G8 at Gleneagles will be the work of the Africa commission, which we have established, hopefully then we will have a series of actions from the G8 in order to make progress there."

White band day, the concert and the GCAP campaign are attempts to urge world supreme powers to cancel the odious debt of the world's most impoverished nations and to significantly increase the quantity and quality of official development assistance. The campaign stresses on three main demands:

- Cancel debts
- Provide more aid
- Ensure fair trade

During this week the world will be uniting voices, demanding that world leaders make decisions that will benefit the world's poorest people.

What is the GCAP?

Today more than a billion people are trapped in extreme poverty. 104 million children do not have the opportunity to attend primary school and 860 adults, most of them women, are illiterate. Hunger is a daily reality for many and 1.4 billion people have no access to safe water. This poverty is a violation of human rights and human dignity on a massive scale.

In the year 2000, the heads of government of 189 countries signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This historic document set forth an ambitious agenda for improving the lives of the world's poorest citizens by 2015 through a joint effort of developing and developed nations. That agenda, is articulated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight measurable, time-bound objectives aimed at combating poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, environmental degradation and discrimination against women and for establishing human rights, good governance and democracy.

For the first time in human history we

have the means to put an end to abject poverty. The year 2005 can be the year when citizens around the world pledge to "make poverty history." The Global Call to Action Against Poverty launched at the World Social Forum is a worldwide alliance committed to helping world leaders keep the promises of the Millennium Declaration. It represents a coming together of hundreds of Non-Governmental Organizations, people of all faiths and political beliefs in a joint effort to end poverty that destroys lives and endangers our common security.

Internationally there are three events the campaign will be targeting:

- The G8 summit this week in Scotland
- The UN MDGs evaluation summit taking place in September this year, and
- The WTO ministers conference in December this year

The Millennium Campaign

The Millennium Campaign informs, inspires and encourages people's involvement and action for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. An initiative of the United Nations, the Campaign supports citizens' efforts to hold their government to account for the Millennium promise.

Between September 14 and 16 at a special high level session of the United Nations General Assembly, Heads of States and Governments will evaluate progress toward meeting the goals set for in the Millennium Declaration. While some progress has been made, the international community is falling short of meeting the 2015 target date set in the Millennium Development Goals. The purpose of this campaign is to encourage world leaders to renew their commitments and take concrete action to end poverty.

Ministerial Conference of the WTO

The Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) will meet in Hong Kong December 13-18 to discuss international trade regulations and standards. The establishment of just trade agreements have the potential to lift 300 million people out of poverty. The decisions made at the WTO can have significant impact on the poor. **Insist that regulations governing trade consider the concerns of those most in need.**

GCAP around the world:

White Band Day, an event being marked in 72 countries including Yemen demands that world leaders to fight poverty by giving more and better aid and cancelling debt. White band day is celebrated around the world and is symbolized by a white band on which one line is written to promote this campaign against poverty. According to news reports in Portugal, volunteers handed out white wristbands in front of government buildings in Lisbon.

And in Greece, the daily Ta Nea offered readers a plastic white bracelet emblematic of an effort to "make poverty history." The white-band operation was originally launched in January during the 5th world social forum in Brazil by aid organisations from every continent, including the

British group Oxfam, the Catholic charity Caritas and One World Africa.

Africa is slated to be at the top of the agenda of next week's summit of the Group of Eight industrial powers, when leaders of most of the world's richest nations will meet July 6-8 in Scotland at the Gleneagles golf resort near Edinburgh.

In northern Spain, that message was unfurled in a white banner outside Bilbao's famous Guggenheim Museum of modern art, declaring "2015: No excuses."

In Sydney, anti-poverty activists wearing white armbands, spread out a banner declaring "Let poverty become ancient history." That sentiment was echoed on the other side of the globe in London, where a banner around the dome at St. Paul's Cathedral declared "Let's abolish poverty."

In Vienna, a 300-metre white banner calling for one voice against poverty was draped across the city's historic center.

As one activist in Prague put it: "The world will not be free as long as people die each day from poverty," said Tomas Lebeda, an organiser for the group Glropolis

GCAP in Yemen:

In Yemen the slogan of the white band is: "Poverty is the enemy of humanity". This movement was mostly triggered by civil society organisations



Mr. Mujeeb Sultan

and international nongovernmental organisations in Yemen. Mr. Mujeeb Sultan Oxfam's coordinator for the Civil Societies Thematic Working Group (SC-TWG) talks about how this campaign was launched in Yemen: "Under the frame of the international campaign we started working in this context since January this year. That is when we had our first alliance of civil societies whether local or international organisations and we had presented letters to all the great eight country embassies. We had an event on 16th of January in the Yemeni Women's Union (YWU) who as you know is chairing the CS-TWG currently. At that time representatives of the USA and UK embassies attended that session and promised to convey our message or rather Yemen's civil society's message to their governments. Consequently, Japan responded positively and we are grateful to them as they actually cancelled Yemen's debt that reached 17 million dollars by then. The United States of America promised to reschedule the settlements and we did not get a clear response from the other countries." About the current work on

the campaign he continues: "After our Cairo conference in May we came back with a clear vision to form an alliance and promote this issue in Yemen. However practically only Sisters Arab Forum (SAF) and us were the ones active nationally in this promotion probably because we were both based in the capital Sana'a. The other organisations worked in their governorates and we gathered more than 100,000 signatures in less than 20 days from all around the country. For us it was remarkable how simple people responded and were passionate about this significant national issue."

Talking to some of the NGOs who came to participate in this campaign and



Ms. Khairiya

who were wearing the white band Ms. Khairiya from Khadija Association in Yareem explained Ibb governorate commented: "It is as simple as this: we want to cancel the debts on Yemen. We are working together because we understand that debts do not help in economic development. We appeal to the great eight in this upcoming conference to help Yemen, this is a humanitarian issue because the Yemeni people are only getting poorer. We will go to the prime minister to let him know of our work and to create a united stand with the government for the sake of our country. We hope that the prime minister will exercise pressure on the international community and we feel it is our job as civil society to voice the concerns of the people." She added while showing off her white band on her arm "Poverty is the enemy of humanity!"

It was amazing how people from all ages and levels were there on the launching of the Yemeni campaign last



Ayman Omar

Wednesday. After a pep talk by Rameiya alEryani head of the YWU the various activities went in groups to four directions. Ayman Omar PRSP program manager in Oxfam-GB explains: "Initially the plan was that the UK ambassador would be with us today and we would officially hand him the letter on behalf of the Yemeni civil society and he would carry our message through to the G8 meeting. Unfortunately, he could not make it although he wanted to. So we decided to lobby for this issue through a march to the UK embassy and hand our letter there. Then Ms. Ramzya came up with the suggestion to break into four groups and to hand copies to the prime minister, the parliament, the OIC conference taking place currently and ofcourse the UK embassy. The idea is to gain their support and inform them of what we are doing". "We hope for a better life, we want our voice to be heard and that is why I am here. I came all the way from al-Shahil in Hajja to be part of this movement." Says Abbas alMamari of the Shahil Association in

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	190.0000	191.0000
Sterling Pound	342.2700	344.0700
Euro	229.3200	230.5300
Saudi Rial	50.6600	50.9300
Kuwaiti Dinar	650.5500	653.9800
UAE Dirhem	51.7300	52.0100
Egyptian Pound	32.8200	33.0000
Bahraini Dinar	503.9900	506.6400
Qatari Rial	52.1900	52.4600
Jordanian Dinar	268.1900	269.6000
Omani Rial	493.5500	496.1500
Swiss Franc	148.0600	148.8400
Swedish Crown	24.3300	24.4600
Japanese Yen	1.7198	1.7289

Source: Central Bank of Yemen



Abbas al-Mamari



Mr. Yahya al-Duba

Hajja.

But what is the point of cancelling Yemen's old debts while the government continues to borrow from the WB and the IMF? Ms. Ramzya replied to this question that these were old debts dating to more than 15 years back and kept on accumulating and it was hard to get out of this cycle. The Yemeni government and the donor community have taken a new trend now to fund projects directly and not to give hard cash to the government. I feel that this way Yemen would not waste the borrowed money as it used in the past especially with the supervision and



Dr. Bilqees Abu Isba

monitoring of the budgets and national plans by the civil society."

Dr. Bilqees Abu Isba of al-Jazeera Center for Human Rights was there in the campaigning and she said: "We are advocating now because this is a critical time and we must make use of the international movements and integrate with the world."

This kind of lobbying and campaigning proved successful as the debts of 18 countries were cancelled and we hope that Yemen would be next on the list. Yemen is a poor country with great potentials. We must work together to earn what this country and people deserve." Quite true, what Dr. Bilqees was pointing at was when the industrial world agreed to the write off all multilateral debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest countries, mostly in Africa, amounting to 40 billion dollars (33 billion euros). If this happened then why not Yemen? This idea was also encouraged by Jamala al-baidhani head of al-Tahadi Association for disabled



Jamala al-Baidhani

women said. "we can and we will inshaallah.

We must do our best and now that the Great Eight countries are meeting we want to convey our concern to them and let them know that the people of Yemen have had enough of being deprived and poor." She added.

Political parties were there too, al-Islah Party Charitable Association represented by Mr. Yahya al-Duba

participated in the event. On why al-Islah Association was there he answered: "we are participating in this international appeal through two ways: we aim at collecting one million signatures from around the country. The appeal calls on the International donors especially WB and the IMF to cancel Yemen's debts and increase unconditional aid for development. So far we gathered 100,00 signatures and we are still going on. The other way is direct advocating through sending a letter on behalf of the Yemeni civil society to the UK embassy who is leading the great eight currently and who is hosting the current conference. Our aim is to increase people's awareness inside and outside about our needs and our demands and we think that we are doing well and will continue our job restlessly."

Suha Bashireen from SAF attended the earlier meeting in Cairo last May where GCAP campaigning experience has been shared. "We are actually working on two levels: asking that the international world represented by the rich countries "G8" would give Yemen better aid and better financial conditions and wipe off the due debts we also want the Yemeni government to live up to its responsibility and integrate civil society in how the budgeting takes place and what is done with these resources." She said.

Probably the greatest achievement of this campaign in Yemen would not be the cancellation of the debts on Yemen, although of course this is the goal. But it is how the Yemeni civil society and even individual people came together for this cause. Ayman Omar and Mujeeb Sultan from Oxfam both commented on this issue. As representatives of international organisation and coordinators of the Yemeni civil society they realised that such event would empower NGOs in Yemen and is a good step in the right direction for democracy, empowerment and good governance. "the idea is not just work on the international community and get rid of the debts only, we must also work on the government and ensure that the current and future systems are transparent and all there is rule of good governance in all sense of the word." Ayman reflects. "I am really happy at the way civil society responded and I think we are looking into a good time for non governmental movements in the time to come" Mujeeb Sultan added.

Your role

So this is the story of GCAP around the world and in Yemen, and while you probably enjoyed at least part of the live 8 concert that took place earlier this week it would be only fair to think of what you could do. Those top signers, civil society activists, non governmental organisations came together for a reason. And you owe it to the 100,000 thousand signatures and more to come to be part of this campaign. If you are in an authority position put this campaign in your priority list and mission agenda, if you are an activist help in collecting the signatures by contacting any of the NGOs mentioned in this report. If you are a normal person who wants to participate in this and want the white band it is available in the Yemen Times premises in Sana'a. Whoever you are and wherever you are, the least you can do is be informed and promote this noble cause, and be a part of the world's largest anti-poverty movement.



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Al-Jazeera Information Technology and Communication Exhibition
 بصاحب المعرض إنعقاد
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Literary Corner
 By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

Abdullah Humran, his life and his poetry

Subject Book: Abdullah Humran, His Life and His Poetry
Author: Ahmed Saleh Al-Khourabi
Language: Arabic
Publisher: Dar Al-Fikr Printing, Distribution and Publishing
Year Published: (1st) 1988

*Oh pity to whoever passes his life without having
 A goal to eternalize him over the ages.
 Ahmed Al-Mu'alimy*

This is what the late literary personality, Ahmed Al-Mu'alimy said in his long poetic eulogy to one of the few patriots of Yemen, who is given the recognition he is for his important contributions to both the nationalist movement in Yemen and to Yemeni literature. Abdullah Hamoud Humran was known for his modesty, sensitivity and uncompromising loyalty to Yemen. Moreover, Abdullah Humran was quick to lament when he saw any developments wherein he saw the Yemeni people not being given their due share of concern and their rights subjected to transgression. Many people thought that his death at an early age aside from the physical illness was also due to the heavy hearted feelings of disappointment and despair at the challenges that the Revolution, which he and so many other sincere patriots sacrificed or were ready to sacrifice their lives for, saw had become confronted with – a feeling of helplessness, as forces they had no control over held sway in the country they had longed hoped for to be the model democracy of the Arab World.

He was born a country boy in 1939 in the town of Al-Haimah Al-Dakhiliyah where he had obtained his preliminary education in traditional village schools. When his father died, his mother moved him to Sana'a where he entered the Scholastic Institute, the output of which produced most of the civil servants of the government in pre-Revolution times. There he learned the traditional religious and Arabic studies that formed the basis for his literary capacity. In 1956, he joined the Radio Station, where he prepared and broadcast programs that were inciting for rebellion against British colonialism of the Southern part of the Governorates. He secretly joined the secret cells that were planning for the overthrow of the monarchy and his voice was among the earliest voices announcing the Revolution and ushering in a new era for Yemen. He was soon designated the Director General of the Radio Station and later assigned to his first diplomatic post as first Secretary of the Yemen Embassy in the Sudan. He returned to Yemen after 1967 to be reassigned as Director General of the Radio Station. Later he became Vice Minister of Information and eventually became Minister. He also held the positions of Information and Political Advisor to the Presidency of the Republic, Minister of Unification and Personal Representative of the President of the Republican Council and of the Chairman of the Command Council until 1977. In 1977, he returned to Khartoum as Ambassador. In 1981, he returned to Sana'a. In addition Mr. Humran had a dynamic social record and he was well in touch with most of the prominent literary personalities, who maintained affectionate relationships with him throughout his life. His house was considered a forum for literary personalities to meet and discuss the latest cultural and literary developments. He worked hard in trying to fulfill the unification of Yemen and laid much of the groundwork that eventually led to its successful conclusion in 1990. His published output was very little as he was always busy with his executive, political and diplomatic assignments. He produced one book of poetry soon after his second return from Khartoum, which was titled: "I and My Heart". As he was about to produce his second volume of poetry, when his illness became acute and finally took his life in 21 April 1982.

The book being analyzed here is a collection of poems and articles written about Mr. Humran following his premature death and consists of a great collection of the masters of Yemeni literature at the time, as well as the condolences of the leading political and social dignitaries of the time. In addition, it includes many of the poems in his published book as well as some unpublished ones.

The famous literary personality Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Maqalih suggests that the poetic work of Mr. Humran all move around four pillars:
 I) The Homeland; II) Away From Home; III) Dialogue With Friends and Loved Ones; IV) Grief for Friends Who Have Gone.

What is paramount in the poetry of Abdullah Humran is his relentless love and attachment to Yemen. From as early as 1953 his poetry was devoted to Yemen, north and south and never did he accept in his mind that Yemen should ever be a divided state:
*For the noble unity of Yemen, have I
 Endowed my poetry in rebellion, and all my words
 An appointment have I with the unity of my homeland,
 And for taking my revenge from the Colonialist and the Imam.*

*Impossible, my future that you should meet with
 Me with failed dreams and lost hopes.*

The last pillar of his journey in poetry reflect the kind of man that Mr. Humran was: true and loyal to his friends and colleagues even after they have passed away. In such poetry he always starts off by expressing his condolences to the nation:
*My homeland, you are more than me entitled to sorrow,
 As I think of all those we miss, who have gone.*

Finally, to get a feel of the predicament the poet is confronted with, as he sees death take one of his friends after another, he says of the killing of Mohammed Ahmed Nu'uman (Former Foreign Minister of Yemen killed in Beirut in 1974) in eulogy to his father the late Professor Ahmed Nu'uman:
*Death is the destiny of us all, but not a right
 Of the criminal perpetrators to set for it its moment!*

YEMEN LNG COMPANY

JOB VACANCIES

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The project offices will be based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now preparing to recruit the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT SECRETARY – Reference No. 001
 YLNG Company will shortly begin a major recruitment programme. We are now looking for a Senior Secretary who has a minimum of five years' experience of the Human Resources role within large international companies. Reporting to the HR Manager, this is post will include the provision of administrative and secretarial assistance to the senior HR staff, the training of the HR secretarial team, the establishment and administration of a departmental filing system (electronic and hard copy) and the co-ordination of responses to job applications. The ability to translate documents into English and Arabic would be a distinct advantage. The successful candidate will be confident, dedicated and efficient and will have extensive experience in liaising with individuals at all levels within external organizations and government departments. This permanent position is based in Sana'a.

CUSTOMS CO-ORDINATOR Reference No. 002
 Reporting to the Logistics & General Services Manager, this post involves the rapid and efficient completion of all import and customs formalities required by YLNG. The successful candidate will be qualified to University degree level and will have a minimum of five years' experience of import clearance regulations and transportation activities. The position requires tenacity, strong organizational skills and the ability to prioritise key tasks. A technical background such as an engineering degree would be a distinct advantage. He or she will be capable of deputising for the department manager when required. This permanent position is based in Sana'a.

SECURITY OFFICER Reference No. 003
 Reporting to the Security Manager, the successful applicant will be responsible for managing all security assets of the YLNG office, ensuring that they are operating efficiently. The Security Officer will also monitor and direct the office guards and will arrange escorts for staff or VIP visitors. Applicants must have extensive experience of carrying out security assessments of venues such as hotels or locations where social functions are to be held, and must develop excellent relationships within the local security community. The successful candidate will be aware of expatriate housing requirements and will provide expert advice on security related issues, in co-operation with partner company representatives. A minimum of ten year's experience in similar roles is required, ideally gained within an army, police or security service environment. The position is based in Sana'a and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

DOCUMENT CONTROLLER Reference No. 004
 Reporting directly to the Services Manager, this post involves the creation, maintenance and updating of document control procedures for large volumes of technical and contractual records. The successful candidate will operate and maintain electronic and manual systems and will be responsible for the receipt, registration, distribution, filing and archiving processes. The role will include the training of all Project personnel in all relevant aspects of the document control system, and liaison with Project staff and contractor personnel at the various project offices and at the Balhaf site. Knowledge of Electronic Data Management Systems (EDMS) – ideally Documentum - and previous experience within multi-national projects would be a distinct advantage. The successful applicant will be seconded to Paris for approximately three months to gain experience of the existing systems. The position is based in Sana'a and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

SITE QUANTITY SURVEYOR Reference No. 005
 Reporting to the Site Preparation Superintendent, this post involves the checking and verification of progress by the contractors, in accordance with the scope of work. The role will include progress measurement, the monitoring of change orders, the checking of contractor invoices against work achieved and the maintenance of complete and accurate records. The successful candidate will be an experienced Quantity Surveyor, educated to University degree level and with a proven track record on major projects. The position is based at the Balhaf site and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

MATERIAL AND LOGISTICS ENGINEER Reference No. 006
 Reporting directly to the Project representative in Sana'a, this post involves the provision of a complete personnel and materials logistics service in Sana'a, Balhaf or other locations within Yemen. The job holder will reserve accommodation, flights, clearances and transportation for Project personnel and will ensure that appropriate communications and IT links are available. In addition, the post involves the monitoring of contractor procurement, packing, shipping, storage and Customs processes and the provision of expert guidance where necessary to eliminate delays and ensure that all materials arrive on time and are stored securely. The successful applicant will also be responsible for local purchase, delivery and storage of materials as required. The position is based in Sana'a and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

**All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential, and candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs. It is the policy of YLNG to give preference to Yemeni nationals. Interested applicants should send their CV with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post to:-
 The Human Resources Department, Yemen LNG Company, P.O. Box 15347, Sana'a, Yemen.**

The deadline for all applications is 20 July 2005.

Candidates applying from outside Yemen may apply by e-mail to: hr@yemenlng.com.ye

Company website www.yemenlng.com

Saving the trees of life

By CLAUDE MARTIN AND IAN JOHNSON

Nobody can get through the day without using a product that comes from a forest. To a greater extent than most people realize, the paper we write on, the water that comes out of our taps, the medicine that heals us, the wood that builds our houses and furniture, all originate from forests. Forests provide the fresh air we breathe and habitats for endangered species. They also provide us with recreational opportunities, increasingly important in our complex world. Approximately 1.5 billion of the world's rural poor directly depend on forests for basic needs like food and fuel-wood.

Yet deforestation continues. Every year, we lose 14.6 million hectares (56,000 square miles) of forests – an area almost four times the area of Switzerland. Irresponsible forest management, enhanced by poor governmental regulation and enforcement, and markets that reward illegal logging, are conspiring to denude the world's most valuable and threatened forests. Once forests start to disappear, a host of environmental, social, and economic ills usually follow, affecting us all in some way.

Indonesia's Sumatra Island is a good example. Pulp and paper companies are driving rampant and illegal destruction of forests that contain the richest diversity of plants in the world. It is likely that plants not

yet discovered will disappear along the way, as well as such endangered species as the Sumatran rhino and elephant, as well as the orangutan. When Sumatra's forests disappear, entire communities of people will also find themselves with no proper place to live and no decent way to make a living.

Moreover, the distortion to global markets caused by trading in illegally, cheaply produced products results in disadvantages for responsible corporate citizens. Developing countries are losing \$15 billion in tax revenues annually due to illegal logging. To make matters worse, the demand for wood for reconstruction following last year's tsunami is intensifying the already untenable demands being placed on Sumatra's forests.

Similar threats to forests are evident in the Amazon and Congo Basin. The recent UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) shows that forests in these and other critical regions are in serious decline due to mismanagement and will continue to disappear unless serious measures are taken. Information released by the government of Brazil indicates that deforestation of the irreplaceable forests of the Amazon, due to factors such as agricultural conversion, reached 2.6 million hectares (roughly 10,000 square miles) in the past year, bringing the total deforested area of the Amazon to 17%.

But the battle against deforestation is not lost. Diverse organizations,

الإختيار الذكي في عالم الراحة

الطراز المعلق على الجدار
تصميم متناسق عموديا وأفقيا
يتناسب مع الزخرفة الداخلية

الهيئة تنظيف الهواء بواسطة البلازما
يمكن تنظيف الهواء بفاعلية وكفاءة لأن المنفذ الذي يمر عبره الهواء في نظام البلازما الذي يشحن ويجذب الملوثات. كبريت مغارة بالمركبات التي لها منفذ هواء صغير لإزالة الملوثات المجهرية الحجم والتي يكون بقع الهواء فيها ضعيفا.

نوع تجميع الغبار
تحتوي على شاشة سائلة ويحتوي على العدسات ذات الشحنة الموجبة الموجودة في الهواء

هواء نظيف
Clean air

توليد البلازما
Plasma generation

سلك مشابك
يتميز بخاصية توليد (+) على المنفذ والرياح الكهربية لقتل الملوثات

هواء متسخ
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environmentalists, and corporations concerned with the state of world's forests are joining forces to reverse deforestation and improve forest management. For example, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the World Bank have helped Brazil's government kick-start an initiative

that established over 17 million hectares (69,000 square miles) of new forest-protected areas such as national parks. The WWF/World Bank alliance also motivated partners to establish a trust fund to manage these protected areas in perpetuity.

Similarly, a summit among the leaders of the Congo Basin countries resulted in extraordinary cross-border cooperation on forest conservation and responsible management. This in turn led to a \$53 million initiative by the United States State Department to promote Congo forest conservation. Since the leaders first met in 1999, 3.5 million hectares (more than 13,000 square miles) of new protected areas have been established in the Congo

Basin. Nevertheless, given the effects of last December's Asian tsunami, the weight of evidence provided by the MEA, and deforestation statistics from key forest regions, our efforts must continue. The World Bank and WWF recently pledged to unite in an effort to assist in reducing the rate of global deforestation by 10% by 2010, and to work with other public and private sector institutions to pursue ambitious targets on forest conservation.

WWF studies show that if the world's forests are allotted among a mix of uses and types – including protected areas, responsibly managed commercial forests, and restored

forest landscapes – we can provide the world's needs for forest products while conserving important environmental and social values for the foreseeable future. Business leaders, governments, and civil society organizations must play their part in realizing this vision.

Dr. Claude Martin is Director General of WWF International and Ian Johnson is Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank.

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alawdi

NIIT

البراد في تعليم انكوميوتور

NIIT Yemen announces training for the following courses in the month of July :

Course Name	Duration(Hrs)	Start Date
Red Hat Linux (Essentials, Administration, Networking & Security)	112 hrs	05/07/2005
Kids Summer Training Camp (Introduction to Computer, Windows, MS Office Basics, Internet, Multimedia & Games)	40 hrs	09/07/2005
Oracle 9i DBA (Original Oracle Courseware)	160 hrs	11/07/2005
Master Mind Diploma A+	3 months	16/07/2005
Microsoft Project (Basic & Advanced)	50 hrs	18/07/2005
MS Office XP (Basic & Inter.)	56 hrs	27/07/2005

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- Original Courseware will be provided to the participants.
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- Training for all the courses will be conducted at NIIT, Sana'a.
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The Double Eagle Trophy

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Interpretation of literature

Reading novels

A novel is defined as an extended fictional prose narrative, and the word is derived from the Italian 'novella', and the Spanish 'novela'. In most European countries, the word for 'novel' is 'roman', short form of 'romance', which was applied to longer verse narratives, which were later written in prose. Early romances were associated with "legendary, imaginative, and poetic material" - tales "of the long ago or the far away or the imaginatively improbable"; novels, on the other hand, were felt to be "bound by the facts of the actual world and the laws of probability" (A Handbook to Literature, C. Hugh Holman, p.34).

The novel has, over some 600 years, developed into many special forms which are classified by subject matter: detective novel, gothic novel, stream-of-consciousness novel, epistolary novel, historical novel, regional novel, picaresque novel, and so on. These terms, of course, are not exhaustive or mutually exclusive. Furthermore, depending on the conventions of the author's time period, his style, and his outlook on life, his mode may be termed 'realism', 'romanticism', 'impressionism', 'expressionism', 'naturalism', or 'neo-classicism' (Holman, p.359).

Analyzing a novel

Analyzing novels is probably like asking questions like what? who? where? and how? The 'what' is the story, the narrative, the plot and subplots. Most students are familiar with Freytag's Pyramid, originally designed to describe the structure of a five-act drama but now widely used to analyze fiction also. The stages generally specified are 'introduction' or 'exposition', 'complication', 'rising action', 'climax', 'falling action', and 'denouement' or 'conclusion'. As the novel's events are charted, the "change, which structures the story" should emerge. There are many events in a long narrative; but generally only one set of events comprises the "real" or "significant" story.

However, subplots often parallel or serve as counterpoints to the main plot line, serving to enhance the central story. Minor characters sometimes have essentially the same conflicts and goals as the major characters, but the consequences of the outcome seem less important. Sometimes the parallels involve reversals of characters and situations, creating similar yet distinct differences in the outcome. Nevertheless, seeing the parallels makes understanding the major plot line

less difficult.

Sometimes, an author divides the novel into chapters- named or unnamed, perhaps just numbered. Or he might divide the novel into "books" or "parts", with chapters as subsections. Readers should take their cue from these divisions; the author must have had some reason for them. Take note of what happens in each larger section, as well as within the smaller chapters. Whose progress is being followed? What event or occurrence is being foreshadowed or prepared for? What causal or other relationships are there between sections and events? Some writers, such as Steinbeck in *The Grapes of Wrath*, write chapters, alternating between the "real" story (the Joads) and peripheral or parallel stories (the Okies and migrants in general). Look for the pattern of such organization; try to see the interrelationships of these alternating chapters.

Of course, plots cannot happen in isolation from characters, the 'who?' element of a story. Not only are there major and minor characters to consider; we need to note whether the various characters are 'static' or 'dynamic'. Static characters do not change in a significant way- that is, in ways which relate to the story which is structuring the novel. A character may die, i.e., change from alive to dead, and still be static, unless his death is central to the narrative. For example, in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, the boy with the mulberry birthmark apparently dies in a fire early in the novel. Momentous as any person's death is, this boy's death is not what the novel is about. However, when Simon is killed, and later Piggy, the narrative becomes directly effective as the reason for their death is central to the novel's theme regarding man's essential nature of evil. A dynamic character may change only slightly in his attitudes, but those changes may be the very ones upon which the narrative rests. For instance, Siddhartha begins as a very pure and devout Hindu but is unfulfilled spiritually. He eventually does achieve spiritual contentment, but his change is more a matter of degree than of substance. He is not an evil man who attains salvation, nor a pious man who becomes corrupt. It is the process of his search, the stages in his pilgrimage, which structure the novel *Siddhartha*.

Characters in a Novel

We call major characters in a novel as 'protagonists' or 'antagonists'. Built into those terms is the Greek word 'agon', meaning "struggle". The 'protagonist' struggles toward or for something; the 'antagonist' struggles against someone or something. The possible conflicts are usually cited as man against himself, man against man, man against society, or man against nature. Sometimes

more than one of these conflicts appears in a story, but usually one is dominant and is the structuring device.

A character can be referred to as 'stock', meaning that he exists because the plot demands it. A character can also be a stereotype, without any specific individuality of his own. Characters can also serve as foils for other characters, enabling the readers to see one or more of them better. A good example is Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer, the romantic foil for Huck Finn's Realism. Or, in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Scout as the naive observer of events which her brother Jem, four years older, comes to understand from the perspective of the adult world. Sometimes characters are allegorical, standing for qualities or concepts rather than for actual personages. For example, Jim Casey in *The Grapes of Wrath* is often regarded as a Christ figure, pure and self-sacrificing in his aims for the migrant workers. Or Kamala, Siddhartha's teacher in the art of love, whose name comes from the tree whose bark is used as a purgative; she purges him of his ascetic ways on his road to self-hood and spiritual fulfillment.

The interplay of plot and character determines in large part the theme of a novel, the 'why?' of the story. First of all students should distinguish between a mere topic and a genuine theme or thesis; and then between a theme and contributing 'motifs'. A topic is a phrase, such as "man's inhumanity to man" or "the fickle nature of fate". A theme, however, turns a phrase into a statement: "Man's inhumanity to man is barely concealed by 'civilization'" or "Man is a helpless being at the mercy of fate". Many writers may deal with the same topic, such as the complex nature of true love; but their themes may vary widely, from "True love will always win out in the end," to "The course of true love is never smooth".

Motifs

Skilled writers often employ 'motifs' to help unify their work. A motif is a detail or element of the story which is repeated throughout, and which may become symbolic. Motifs in the hands of a skilled writer are valuable devices. And in isolation, and often magnified, a single motif can become a controlling image with great significance. For example, in *Lord of the Flies* when wise Piggy is reduced to one lens in his specs, and finally to no specs at all, we see the loss of insight and wisdom on the island, and chaos follows.

Setting

Setting is the "where" element of the story. But setting is also the "when" element: time of day, time of year, time period or year; it is the dramatic moment, the precise intersection of time and space when the story is being told. Setting is also the atmosphere: positive or negative ambience, calm, chaotic, Gothic, romantic. The question for the reader to answer is whether the setting is ultimately essential to the plot/theme, or whether it is incidental: i.e., could this story/theme have been told successfully in another time and/or place? For instance, could the theme in *Lord of the Flies* be made manifest if the boys were not on an island? Could they have been isolated in some other place? Does it matter whether the "war" which they are fleeing is WWII or WWII or some other conflict, in terms of the theme? It is important to note that the four elements of plot, character, theme, and setting are intertwined and largely interdependent. Any literary work must be read as a whole, rather than dissected and analyzed in discrete segments.

The final question, "how?", relates to an author's style. Style involves language (word choice), syntax (word order, sentence type, and length), the balance between narration and dialogue, the choice of narrative voice (first person participant, third person with limited omniscience), use of descriptive passages, and other aspects of the actual words on the page, which are basically irrelevant to the first four elements (plot, character, theme, and setting). Stylistic differences are fairly easy to spot among such diverse writers as Jane Austen, whose style is -to today's reader-very formal and mannered; Mark Twain, whose style is very casual and colloquial; William Faulkner, whose prose often spins on without punctuation or paragraphs far longer than the reader can hold either the thought or his breath; and Hemingway, whose dense but spare, pared-down style has earned the epithet, "Less is more."

A letter to the teachers of English: 88

Punished by rewards (2)

Dear Fellow teachers,

Success achieved through unethical practices such as cheating in the examinations, bribing the teachers or other people concerned etc may be pleasing for sometime but such success will not be satisfying at all as the sense of guilt will bother both the parties involved in the malpractice. Similarly, boosting the marks of undeserving students, being unduly liberal for the sake of favours and correcting examination scripts callously will also result in 'punishing by rewards'. I have heard many students telling me that they know how to get through certain subjects or certain teachers; you know what they mean.

By giving them more marks than they really deserve, we are in a way punishing them by rewards (not in the sense in which Kohn presents his case). I have several evidences to my claim that we spoil our students by being 'generous' in giving marks; they develop a false judgment of themselves and they more often find it difficult to accept their real standard or get a shock of their lives when their weakness is exposed in higher classes or when they come across teachers who are not 'generous' and act in a just way; they refuse to see the reality when they get exposed. In one of my earlier letters, I have quoted an example - a weak student challenging me how he could fail in my subjects when he has passed in a few other subjects taught by some of my colleagues.

Some of us think that we will be hurting the feelings of the students if we are strict in correcting the answer scripts; but aren't we duping them when we give them false hope about their abilities? Won't they feel more hurt when they find out later, in real life, their real abilities, which we were concealing for some reason or the other? Moreover, we will be doing



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injustice to them as well as to our profession, when we indulge in such practices knowingly or unknowingly. Some others tell me that they are softer to the students as they are weak in English; I go along with them to some extent, but at some point of time we have to take a decision, though hard it is, in the interest of their development, don't we? Psychologists and psychiatrists suggest that the persons with handicap will feel bad if we sympathize with them all the time; similarly, students who are weak in English will not be happy if we sympathize with them all through their course; instead we should encourage them to win even if it is struggling hard in spite of their weakness.

There are so many ways in which we can help the students improve their abilities, but we should, to begin with, enable them to self-evaluate themselves. This can be done at every stage of their course of study, if not in schools, definitely in colleges so that they do not overestimate themselves and disappoint at a later stage. A proficiency test at the beginning of each course is one of the ways to give them an idea about their level of competence. The entrance tests conducted in the Universities are meant for this purpose but, unfortunately, the performance of the students in the tests is never studied and analysed by the teachers nor are the students informed of their performance; most often the tests are ceremonial and are an administrative routine. We should have access to the test papers and the Depts. of English should make it a point to study the performance of the students and give feedback to them. This should be used as a bottom line for the preparation of all the courses offered to those students. Let's continue the discussion, shall we?

Yours fraternally,
Dr.M.N.K.Bose.

The 'under view' of the Seminar: Some clarifications

Dr..M.N.K.BOSE
BOSE@y.net.ye
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH,
FACULTY OF ARTS, IBB.

Dear Dr Sahu,

I hope you will publish this letter, which tries to clear the misrepresentation of my presentation in the Seminar in the 'under view' of Dr Murari Prasad, (Yemen Times 20 June 2005); Dr Prasad has done an excellent job highlighting the undercurrents of the grand Seminar on Shakespeare with his enviable eloquence. He seems to share the joy of all the presentations but greatly disturbed by those of Dr Sharyan's and mine. Is that why they have been undermined?

My position made clear in my presentation is this: Teach Shakespeare or any literary giant only when the students are linguistically ready to understand and appreciate them; teach them in a way that will benefit the students. It is not enough if a few of them use the *if*s and *but*s, but most of them should be able to use *if* and *but* properly. I am glad that Dr Prasad's students are able to make use of Shakespeare's grandiloquence in their day-to-day use, but such students constitute a negligent minority in Yemeni universities; the majority, in my experience, doesn't find Shakespeare helpful to them in enhancing their competence or confidence. As Professor Thakur summed

up my presentation, teachers should decide when and how to teach Shakespeare. In my view, most of us err on the wrong side, when we come to this crucial decision-making and teach Shakespeare or any other genius through the tunneled vision; we see darkness instead of light at the end of the tunnel. This is not the pipeline approach but the lifeline approach, because it centers round the life of the students (and also ours!) and enables them to live.

Coming to the teaching of Shakespeare, as it was pointed out in one of the sessions, most of the students get the teachers' versions of Shakespeare and how are they going to learn the *if*s and *but*s of the genius, even if that is what we want them to learn?

The question is not about the modernity or antiquity of Shakespeare (to quote Dr Prasad, most of his expressions are understandable to modern intuition, which is difficult to ensure in our students), but about the students' linguistic preparedness to receive the English of such grandiose and magnitude. Why labour with such difficult linguistic giants at the UG classes? Why not some easy-to-comprehend, close-to-heart literary creations? The decision-making in Yemeni universities, fortunately, is ours, isn't it?

Yours sincerely,
Dr. M.N.K. Bose.

Campus vignette

In pursuit of excellence: Scholarly presentations by our colleagues at international forums

Dr Anil Prasad, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University attended (in April 2005) the 17th International Conference on Language, Linguistics, Translation and Literature at the University of Yarmouk, Irbid, Jordan. He presented a paper on Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* (1977). He has been invited to attend and give a paper on the topic "Ethnicity and the Novel: Politics and Poetics of Narrative" at the 2nd World Congress of the International American Studies Association at the University of Ottawa, Canada in August 2005.

Summary of Dr Prasad's paper on Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*:

Toni Morrison's novels "measure the lives" of a marginalized community fraught with an ambivalent consciousness. This ambivalent consciousness has been depicted in the narratives of the Afro-American writers, in general, as pointed out by W.E.B. Du Bois as the expression of "double consciousness" of the black psyche, the "twoness- an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body" For this reason Henry Louis Gates, Jr. calls the black texts as "two-toned" and "double-voiced". Therefore, a "linear reading" of Morrison's narrative fiction will be misleading and the ambiguity and plurality of its voice and stance cannot be successfully reached at and explored. The complexities inherent in the double consciousness will be explored, the paper proposes, more fully and successfully by a non-linear reading, by what Edward Said calls "contrapuntal reading" of the Afro-



Dr. Anil Prasad

American narratives particularly the narratives of the black women writers like Toni Morrison.

The paper has referred to Susan Willis' perceptive discovery that in Toni Morrison's novels language has been used as a "register for the experience of change" and has further examined it as the stylistic feature of Morrison that is used to challenge the "universalizing and the essentializing tendencies of the hegemonic white discourse", to resist the oppressive monolithic discursive drives of the Western culture. On the surface, Morrison's *Song of Solomon* is unmistakably a story of postethnic slavery and racism. Metaphorically, it is more than that as it incorporates the complex realities of social change showing their influence on the two generations of Afro-Americans bringing the past in their lives alive and transformed, a means to transform their lives which might mitigate the double consciousness of a black psyche.

The dualities might be dissolved, Morrison seems to suggest, throughout her story, by bringing about a change both from within and without. Wealth and social status give freedom but there is always a risk of wearing a white mask on a black skin as illustrated in the novel in the character of the protagonist's father. Therefore, there is a need to unmask the self, and to recreate new spaces of history and geography by reconnecting the past with the present for a future in which the Milkmen of today would not make themselves "invisible" thinking of what the others think of them instead they should be the active agents of change.

Unlike Ellison's invisible protagonist whose identity is shaped by how other people define him ("I'm invisible... simply because people refuse to see me. I am neither dead nor in a state of suspended animation... I am in a state of hibernation" - from Ellison's *Invisible Man* (1952)) Milkman, the protagonist of *Song of Solomon*, aims to achieve "a total authentic personality". Unlike his father, he refuses to be a kind of Ellisonian invisible man. He is an agent of change rather than of musings in a self-conscious cave of hibernation. He goes to the past to decipher the song of Solomon, to mend the course of a fractured and misrepresented history. Like Robert Frost's narrator in his poem "Directive" he drinks his "waters" and "be whole again beyond any confusion". The song of Solomon is such a kind of "watering place" for Milkman. His going to the past, his symbolic act of rewriting of history, his changing the course of the Afro-African geographical and cultural locations is what Stuart Hall has called "the act of imaginative rediscovery" of the "hidden histories". By sending Milkman from North to South Morrison as Dixon has rightly remarked

"alters the direction of cultural history". A new history of the country should be written, Morrison seems to emphasize, to mitigate the double consciousness of the black psyche. The threads of the unwritten history would be brought together to explore new spaces where identities are not based on synecdoche of colour, where "color-line" is not considered as a cultural signifier.

In *Song of Solomon* Morrison uses the motif of flying (the myth of the flying African) throughout the narrative from the abortive mock-heroic flight, in the opening of the novel, of the insurance agent Robert Smith from the roof of Mercy Hospital to the heroic flight of the agent of change Milkman from Solomon's Leap at the end of the novel. Morrison's use of this popular myth defamiliarizes the earlier legendary black Icarus image of the flying African from authority and repression by envisioning a future through a folkloric, historical tradition in which an individual can be empowered with "a new sense of self-ownership".

Morrison's *Song of Solomon* is not merely a remapping of the historical and geographical space but a further extension of the boundaries of historical and geographical space from the "the narrative of hibernation" towards the narrative of self-creation and cultural transformation. The boundaries of the conventional teleological progression of the storyline is also extended and recharged by the inclusion of postmodernist, mythical, folkloric and magico-realistic modes of storytelling which Henry Louis Gates Jr. has called as the employment of "lyrical superrealism" in Morrison's narrative fiction. The paper concludes: this "might help us begin to move beyond racial essentialism, beyond the repressive p-



YOUTH FORUM



In need

When I was in need,
Around me there was none,
They all disappeared
Suddenly I felt that I'm alone.

Looking around me, all are far
Signs to me, I didn't know
what they were saying about me
But surely they were far from me.

Once they passed across me,
As a strange gust of wind, I turned

Back and stared at their eyes deeply,
It took me back, to the happy days we had.

The most beautiful moments
I spent in life, to remember tears well up
So precious are those pearls
I can never ever dream giving them up.

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Island after the hurricane: Grenada struggles to recover from devastation

It's not just the money! Three months before the tsunami grabbed world headlines, the island paradise of Grenada was ripped by Hurricane Ivan. The world responded generously at the time, but seven months later most of the country's housing remains in ruins; an example of how disaster recovery needs the sustained support of the international community.

The Story

Oceans away from last December's tsunami, the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada is living proof of how difficult it can be to translate outpourings of international assistance into recovery and reconstruction. In September of 2004, Hurricane Ivan swept the Caribbean taking 80 per cent of Grenada's infrastructure with it and devastating the spice and tourist industries. The world responded generously to the calamity, which killed 39 of the tiny nation's 103,000 people and left 90 per cent of the nation's 28,000 houses in shambles. But seven months later, the 'Spice Island' - famed for its nutmeg, mace, cinnamon, ginger and cloves - is still

struggling to pull itself back together.

Most of the nutmeg trees which made Grenada the world's second-largest producer, were uprooted by Ivan and although the cruise ships are returning with tourists, most of those who serve them have yet to rebuild their homes. "It's been slow, slow going," reports Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Liaison Office Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Barbados. "Technical capacity even before the hurricane was modest in most sectors, but now progress has been severely impacted. We have yet to rebuild certain basic systems to a degree that will allow us to move forward."

Grenada's experience is mirrored in the city of Bam, Iran, as it struggles to recover from the 2003 earthquake. Both make clear that disaster recovery is a long term affair that needs sustained support from the international community.

The Context

Grenada's housing target is the reconstruction of 1,000 homes in 2005. As of March, only 23 homes had been rebuilt with government assistance, with

"Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"

In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way...

The editor



another 50 under construction. It is estimated that some 10,000 homes will need to be constructed with public aid. With thousands of people traumatized by the disaster, the need to deal with the psychosocial dimension of this crisis has become an important element of the recovery process, which the government is trying to address by formulating a national wellness programme. Among positive developments, having received relatively high funding and attention from the international community, the education sector is on the road to recovery. All schools have reopened, although some are operating in shifts. Most buildings have made at least temporary repairs.

For further information

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