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**Inside:**

- 3** Kidnapped Basma is returned safely to her parents
- 5** Poverty attacking from all sides
- 10** Yemeni MPs stress fighting corruption as imperative

**Readers' Voice**  
 Last edition's question:  
 Do you think that the Yemeni government will ever surrender to the U.S. pressure and hand over Sheikh Abdul-Majid Al-Zindani in the future?

I don't know (14%)  
 39% Yes  
 No (47%)

**This edition's question:**  
 According to the media, the new Sa'ada governor has managed to settle fighting between government troops and Al-Houthi followers. Do you think the government's cunning policies in dealing with the issue are behind the two-year bloody confrontations?

- Yes  
 - No  
 - I don't know

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## Abu Mazin urges Arabs to support Palestinians

SANA'A, Feb. 28 — During his Sana'a press conference, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazin) told journalists that his negotiations with Yemen's President were successful, adding that his visit to Yemen was with the Palestinian leadership's desire to inform Yemeni authorities of all Palestinian developments.

Abbas added that the two sides exchanged viewpoints over internal Palestinian affairs, as well as Arab and international developments, confirming similarity in Yemeni and Palestinian stances on matters of common concern.

The Palestinian president denied that he threatened to resign unless Hamas changed its attitudes to suit present circumstances. However, he confirmed that he will resign if he fails to carry out his political agenda that brought him to power.

Abbas noted, "There are differences in points of view between Fatah and Hamas," however, he confirmed that there are hopes that the two political partners will overcome them, consider-



Abu Mazin at the Sana'a press conference.

ing the good of the Palestinian cause. He said, "The main problem the Palestinian Authority faces is restrictions on economic grants that were provided by some donors, topped by the U.S., because of their dissatisfaction over the expected new Hamas government."

He expressed hope that Arab countries

will provide necessary support to enable the Palestinian Authority to meet its commitments, especially building Palestinian institutions guaranteeing Palestinians security and stabilization.

Abbas renewed Palestinians' declared principle stance for the area's peace, confirming that Palestinian leaders and its people look forward to and desire peace.

Abbas held talks with President Saleh during his three-day visit to Sana'a, discussing present Palestinian developments and future priorities. They confirmed the necessity of continuous Arabic support of the Palestinian cause, supporting the peace process and establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament, renewed the principle Yemeni attitude toward the Palestinian cause, saying that it is the first and central case of Arabs and Muslims. He also reviewed efforts Yemeni parliamentarians exert in highlighting the Palestinians' cause at all Arab and international gatherings.

## Teachers ready to stage massive strike

SANA'A, March 1 — The Teachers and Educational Vocations Syndicates insist that the Minister of Education and the Cabinet fulfill their demands and improve teachers' living standards. Thousands of teachers throughout Yemen claimed they have been put down and lost many entitlements they received under the Teachers Law due to applying the new wage strategy.

In a statement issued three days ago, the two syndicates expressed concern over the Minister of Education's statement rejecting any work nature allowances for teachers. He wanted the demand to be delayed until completing the first phase of the new wage strategy.

Both syndicates confirmed that they will continue staging peaceful demonstrations to concerned governmental bodies. They plan to organize a massive strike March 14, calling on teachers to hang red signs if the Cabinet does not respond to their demands.

Over the past few months, both syndicates organized mass protests throughout the republic against applying the new wage strategy, which they consider unfair. They visited teachers

in the educational field insisting they be ready for a massive strike until the government meets their demands.

Teachers' representatives said promises to improve teachers' earnings under the new wage strategy still are ambiguous since tackling infringements costs for a long time, coupled with an untold deadline for completing the strategy's first stage. The syndicates' demands include setting timetables for completing Wage Law stages.

The government seems to be indifferent to the teachers' demands, indicating that the educational year's remaining days will not pass easily, particularly as teachers are ready to protest and confront any pressure or threats by authorities. Authorities have attempted to hamper any protests staged by teachers.

Teachers and education workers suffer a hard living due to low salaries and skyrocketing commodities prices in the country. The two syndicates called on Parliament to fulfill its pledges to teachers, as well as be responsible for the consequences if their demands remain unmet.

## Yemen executes killer of U.S. physicians

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Feb. 28 — The Ibb Appeals Court last Monday executed by firing squad Abdul-Razzak Kamil who killed three U.S. physicians in the southern province of Ibb in 2002.

Kamil was shot at the central prison in Ibb province, some 190 kilometers south of Sana'a, in the presence of prison, police and judicial officials, the official Saba news agency reported.

There was no confirmation from the U.S. embassy in Sana'a whether an embassy representative attended the execution.

Kamil, 35, was sentenced to death in May 2003 after he was convicted of killing the three Americans Dec. 30, 2002. He reportedly entered the hospital and gunned down two physicians and an administrator.

Obstetrician Martha Myers, 57, hospital director William Koehn, 60, and administrator Kathleen Gariety, 43, were killed and a fourth staff member was wounded in the attack.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who also is president of the Supreme Judicial Council, approved the death sentence Feb. 26, according to the Saba News Agency.

During the trial, Kamil admitted to the crime, telling the court he was defending Islam when he killed the three doctors. He said he killed them because they worked at a missionary hospital in the city of Jibla to preach



Murderer Abdul-Razzak Kamil

Christianity among the local population.

After the killing, President Saleh sent a message of condolence to U.S. President George W. Bush expressing shock and outrage at the attack on people who were working to help Yemenis.



The victims (from left): Martha Myers, Kathleen Gariety, William Koehn

Yemeni officials have said that Kamil was a member of a militant group that had planned to assassinate secular politicians and foreign missionaries working in Yemen.

They said the group was led by radical preacher Ali Ahmad Jarallah who was executed last November after a court convicted him of murdering a senior opposition politician Dec. 29, 2002, just one day before Kamil killed the three Americans. However, according to government officials, the group believes in jihadist principles are not directly involved in Al-Qaeda.

## Suggestion to exclude main parties from registration committees

As voter registration committee talks reached a deadlock, ruling party leaders suggest excluding their party and Islah, leaving responsibility to other smaller parties to form registration committees.

By: Mustafa Rajeh

SANA'A, Feb.28 - The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) announced at a press conference its decision to form registration committees from civil service job applicants. The decision is set for implementation.

The SCER made the decision at a conference held at the beginning of the week during which it approved a series of procedures, the most important of which is forming a joint work team in coordination with the Ministry of Civil Service.

The team is due to work according to a coordination mechanism set by the SCER to implement its decision concerning forming committees from university and high school graduates applying for civil service jobs to revise and modify voter registers.

The SCER approved forming a higher supervisory committee to be presided over by its chairman and his deputy, while its sector heads are to be appointed committee members.

Independent MP Ahmad Saif Hashed said, "The ruling party should accept opposition's demands, as the main objective is conducting free and fair elections. But what is being practiced by the ruling party and the SCER increases opposition concerns and shakes confidence in SCER's ability to run free and fair polls."

Hashed considers violations practiced in the Raïma constituency a hint of what will occur in upcoming elections.

Ali Al-Sarari, member of the Yemeni Specialist Party's political office, said, "In light of its recent decision concerning forming registration committees, the SCER seems to inaugurate vote fraud, as the registration stage is the

basis for the whole election process."

"As there is no confidence in the voter registration process, there is no need to talk about free and fair elections," he added.

Regarding procedures taken by the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), Al-Sarari declared his rejection of the procedures, demanding a voter register free of children, the dead, repeat names and multi-faced individuals.

He added that opposition parties still should discuss a complete program to raise their political struggle to confront vote fraud, particularly as the phenomenon has been repeated several times.

According to Al-Sarari, the same demands still persist, as no progress has been achieved with respect to availability of fair requirements and equivalence in the electoral process.

In a meeting aired on Yemeni television, ruling party assistant secretary general Sultan Al-Barakani said the door to dialogue still is open on condition the legal registration period must not be breached. He mentioned that the registration process must be completed six months before the poll.

Al-Barakani pointed out that ruling party leaders suggest withdrawal of their party and Islah, leaving responsibility to the other parties to form registration committees, if the opposition would accept such a proposal.

He indicated that opposition parties have prolonged the issue to put Yemen in a state of anarchy, thus hampering the poll. "Through their policy, opposition parties machinated postponement of elections by Parliament for three months, but this will never happen since we want to conduct the elections on time," Al-Barakani affirmed.

In a statement to 26 September Net, the U.S. Ambassador to Yemen revealed his country's interest in



Members of SCER.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

Yemen conducting free and fair elections. His deputy, Nabil Khori, confirmed in an interview with Al-Sahwah that the U.S. supports opposition demands to achieve SCER's staff balance.

JMP spokesman Mohamed Qahtan vented his anger at the SCER, demanding its members be imprisoned for committing massive violations against the Constitution and the law. According to him, the SCER transfers voter names from one constituency to another while the Constitution stipulates that the SCER's seven members must be neutral.

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## At least 33 Somali smugglers die in the Gulf of Aden

ADEN, Feb. 29 — According to the UN Refugee Agency, at least 33 migrants trying to reach Yemen have drowned in the Gulf of Aden. They were Somalis and Ethiopians trying to cross the Gulf of Aden. Smugglers reportedly forced 137 men, women and children into deep waters off Yemen's coast, killing at least 33. Approximately 30 remain missing.

"The latest tragic incident once again highlights the urgent need for joint international and local efforts to address this problem and minimize the flow of desperate people who fall victim to ruthless smugglers," UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Jennifer Pagonis told media.

On Monday evening, 84 migrants safely reached Yemen's coast, while 33 others were found dead on the Hodeidah coast. "Another 30 passengers, including children, still are missing and we fear their chances of survival are now extremely slim," Pagonis said. "Our team in Aden is taking care of the survivors, giving them medical care, food and non-food items," she added.

According to UNHCR in Aden, a boat sailing from Somalia forced all 137 passengers, three of them Ethiopians, into deep waters off Yemen's coast before turning around and heading back to Somalia. Some of the migrants reached the shore, but others still are missing. UNHCR said

it learned of the tragedy on Saturday, but it was unclear when the incident actually occurred.

Despite the dangers, smugglers still find many migrants wanting to immigrate via smuggling. Between January 12 and 17 alone, 22 boats carrying unknown numbers of Somalis and Ethiopians arrived in Yemen. Of those, UNHCR recorded 1,217 Somalis and 39 Ethiopians. On January 16, a boat carrying 65 people and six dead bodies arrived in Yemen. Another 14 people died on the journey.

UNHCR has been working with authorities in Puntland in northeastern Somalia to inform people about the dangers of using smugglers. In January, it produced a video to raise awareness among Somalis and Ethiopians of the risks involved and now is working on a radio program in local languages to reach more people.

In the latest among a series of appeals the agency has issued in

recent months, Pagonis said, "At the same time, we also are calling on donors to support the international community in its efforts to improve protection and assistance to internally displaced persons in Puntland who live in very difficult circumstances." She added, "Without addressing the root causes of the outflow, progress in stemming the smuggling will be extremely limited."

Thousands of Somalis, many escaping violence in their homeland, arrive in Yemen every year. It is estimated that 100 people arrive daily during the annual September to March period of good sailing conditions. Smugglers often beat migrants or force them overboard while still far from shore, sometimes with their hands tied behind their backs, leaving them to the mercy of the sea.

UNHCR has praised Yemen as the exception among Gulf countries in having signed the 1951 Refugee Convention.

### Somalia releases 34 Yemeni fishermen

SANA'A, Feb. 27 — Thirty-four Yemeni fishermen arrived last Saturday in the port city of Mokha after they were seized along with their boats by Somali authorities during voyages to the south Red Sea.

Somali authorities released the Yemeni fishermen and transported

them aboard a special ship following their detention for allegedly entering Somalia's regional waters.

According to sources, the freed fishermen are in good health; however, it remains unclear whether Somali authorities released their boats.

## Workshop to establish "unified guide for practice of children's medicine"

SANA'A, Feb. 26 — The technical unit of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood (HCMC) in cooperation with the Yemeni Association for Children's Medicine organized a special workshop Feb. 26-28 on a "Unified Guide for Practice of Children's Medicine" based on the annual State of the World's Children 2006. The workshop was sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The workshop, aimed at issuing such a guide in Yemen, focused on children's health status, establishing scientific principles for children's disease prescriptions and proper methods in children's medicine.

"Yemeni pediatricians graduate from different universities and countries, so prescription methods and treatment differ from one doctor to another. Therefore, we want to issue a unified guide," which will be a medical reference for Yemeni pediatricians, HCMC

general-secretary Dr. Nafeesa Al-Jae'ee said.

She added that the workshop revealed positive reactions about providing quality services to children who are most likely to experience real deprivation. For example, when children are sick, some families take them to the hospital late and; consequently, in some cases, they cannot find qualified doctors.

The workshop reviewed Yemeni children's current status according to available information, providing an opportunity to share experiences in order to prepare a scientific index and recommendations for Yemeni doctors.

Sana'a University professor Dr. Abdurrahman Ishak presented a paper entitled, "A Review of Health Conditions for Yemen Children." The paper revealed a poor health situation for Yemen children, including measles, polio 3, BCG, DPT3, hepatitis B3 and HiB3. Additionally, Ishak discussed

health indices, health care access, infant mortality and Yemen's fertility rate.

Based on workshop results and recommendations, Al-Jae'ee expects to form a committee to prepare the scientific index to be distributed to all concerned parties and spread awareness of the most serious problems children face in society. She pointed out that many training courses will be held, such as for traffic police.

Additionally, the workshop focused on child safety in public places such as schools, amusement parks, streets and markets, as children require special care if they have an accident and face an emergency. Hospitals should have special children's emergency procedures throughout major cities, Al-Jae'ee said.

Established in 1999 by presidential decree No. 321, the HCMC is chaired by the Prime Minister under vice chairmanship of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor.

## UAE Embassy rushes aid to flood-hit Ma'abar

By: Yemen Times Staff

Pursuant to directives of the United Arab Emirates president and Ali Saif bin Sultan, UAE ambassador to Sana'a, a relief convoy last Thursday rushed from Sana'a to the flood-hit town of Ma'abar in Dhamar province. Trucks were loaded with foodstuffs, mattresses, blankets and kitchen tools and distributed to some 1,590 individuals in 265 families affected by heavy rains in the area late last month.

"We made a field visit to the affected area to provide emergency relief to victims under the supervision and follow-up of HE Ambassador Ali Saif bin Sultan," embassy project and relief officer Sa'eed Al-Amiri reported.

"We recommend extra attention be paid to this area, such as urgent construction of homes for those who lost their dwellings. Victims are sheltered in schools, suffering harshly cold



UAE Ambassador with some locales assessing needs for relief.

weather," he added.

Rainwater inundated parts of the town, resulting in two deaths and destruction of a number of houses. More than 1,000 residents sustained

considerable losses of livestock and furniture as well.

Ma'abar is approximately 75 kilometers south of Sana'a with an estimated population of 24,790.

## Sister's Forum calls for severe punishment for perpetrator Amran child recounts her rape, Criminal Investigation begins interrogation

By: Waheeb Al-Nasari

SANA'A, March 1 — The Criminal Investigation administration released the two sons of a man accused of raping an 8-year-old Amran child named Sawsen. They had been taken hostage instead of their father, Sheikh NAME.

Sources said the accused is now in a security administration rest house and not in prison, adding that Criminal Investigation has begun interrogating him. Security officers also visited the incident area and began investigating the victim's family, who is being pressured to withdraw the case.

The child's grandfather denied any previous disputes with the suspect. He rushed Sawsen to Amran Hospital last Thursday where Criminal Investigation interrogated her. She mentioned the suspect by name because she knows him. Doctors confirmed that she had been raped.

A rumor went around that the suspect was in the protection of a security official from last Thursday until Saturday.

The Sister's Forum adopted the little girl's case, filing a case against the suspect after obtaining legal authorization from Sawsen's family. The forum strongly denounced the crime reflecting moral decline and lack of religious consciousness. They called on civil societies to declare their denouncement of the crime and back Sawsen.

The Yemen Times obtained a copy of a forum statement calling for pressuring Judiciary Control to speed seizing and interrogating the perpetrator. They called for him to be referred to judiciary, demanding severe punishment be inflicted upon him. They also called for him to be a warning to all who think about committing assaults against children.

Authorities released Sawsen's grandfather Monday following his detention last Friday. Sawsen also was returned to her family after being discharged from Amran Hospital. This followed protests of some humanitarian and legal activists due to fears of cheating the case and continuing

detention of Sawsen's grandfather.

Sister's Forum head Amal Al-Basha stated in a release to the Yemen Times that rape cases have increased in recent times. She called on government and non-governmental institutions to establish laws to punish perpetrators, wondering that the perpetrator's punishment is a three to 15 year prison term.

Following his release from prison, the victim's 80-year-old grandfather confirmed that he was pressured to withdraw the case and accept tribal conciliation instead of judiciary procedures. He said pressure came from influential individuals and sheikhs.

He said, "Between YR 2,000 and 3,000 was offered to me to withdraw the case of raping my little one and pardon the criminal." He called for Sharia law to be implemented against the perpetrator.

With agony and tears pouring down his white beard, he recounted Sawsen's return: "She came trembling in fear, with torn and blood-stained clothes. She was weeping and her lips were blue and cracked, saying NAME had raped her." He raised his trembling hands toward the sky asking God to punish the perpetrator.

It is a shocking crime to hear. Sawsen appears very thin due to malnutrition and the loss of her mother. She recounted her story with a bent head, saying she was grazing her goats when NAME came and took her, telling her they would play together. She said he put a shawl into her mouth and she felt nothing after that because she fainted. She said she went to her grandfather's house when she came back to herself.

Repeated investigations revealed that the perpetrator was NAME, who is now a fugitive. Amran security manager Luffi Anash justified authorities' leniency by saying he was not sure the perpetrator was NAME. He said investigations are ongoing, although Prosecution and Criminal Investigation know nothing about the case, not even the girl's hospital admission or her grandfather's detention.

## Deaf children enrolled in public schools

By: Nashwan Dammaj  
Ibb correspondent

IBB, Feb. 28 — The Deaf and Dumb Care and Training Society (DDCTS), funded by the Ibb branch of the Social Fund for Development (SFD), conducted an awareness campaign advocating society's help to enroll deaf children in public schools.

The Feb. 18-March 6 awareness campaign is viewed as a successful step toward integrating the handicapped into society.

The first week of the campaign saw distribution of publications and brochures, hanging banners and marching in the streets with amplifiers. The DDCTS coordinated with mosque preachers to discuss the children's

problems in Friday sermons, as well as how to receive kind care and treatment from their families and society.

During the second week, visits were made to Al-Dhihar and Al-Mashanna district public schools, such as Al-Saeed Complex and Isma'a School for Girls and Khaled Bin Al-Walid and Al-Farouq schools for boys.

DDCTS Secretary General Ali Hamid Al-Siddiq, who is deaf, gave a speech at the morning assembly in one of the above-mentioned schools, with DDCTS coordinator Mohamed Ali Qied interpreting his words.

During his speech, Al-Siddiq reviewed a number of DDCTS activities and services, as well as its goals. Consultant Nidhal Taha delivered a speech on behalf of the SFD in which she mentioned

SFD's policies toward deaf children.

Abdurrahman Othman talked about the auditory handicap and briefed schoolboys on its types, causes and consequences. He also instructed them about the project to integrate deaf children into public schools, stressing they have the right to join public education to get rid of isolation and introversion.

The integration project involves annexing additional classrooms for deaf children in schools targeted by the DDCTS and the SFD.

A comprehensive workshop on the deaf children's integration project is scheduled in the campaign's third week, involving teachers from various public schools, parents of deaf children and the awareness campaign work team.

## Yemenia fleet expansion and modernization discussed

SANA'A, Feb. 28 — Yemenia held its annual meeting Sunday, Feb. 26 in Aden along with its Saudi partners to discuss prospects for the two parties' activities to modernize and expand the fleet to meet agents' needs. Yemen owns 51 percent of shares, while the Saudis own 49 percent. The meeting also tackled the issue of facing international competition and the general budget, as well as other technical, marketing and economic matters.

In a press release, Yemenia Chairman Captain Abdulkhaliq Al-Qadhi said the meeting covered the company's future plans for the next five years. He said it submitted an offer to Airbus and Boeing to buy planes that will join the fleet in the next five years. Al-Qadhi added that his company competes with other regional airlines by providing modern planes with high

technological abilities.

He added that the meeting is considered a periodic one, revising the previous meeting's decisions. Yet decisive measures were taken at this meeting that will determine Yemenia's future for the next five years through providing the new planes, which will be announced within the next two days.

He mentioned that the number of confirmed planes is six; however, another four are optional. The planes will be received in 2012, when it hopes to replace the current planes by then. Al-Qadhi confirmed that the new planes will give Yemenia a strong push amidst regional competition; however, they also will make a qualitative trend in economic operations. He noted that Yemenia will be the first company to possess such planes.

Al-Qadhi also pointed out that

Yemenia has plans to promote its domestic flights, as discussed with the board of directors. A direction was issued to finish a study concerning the domestic carrier with a consideration about whether it should be a subsidiary of Yemenia or whether Yemenia will be a shareholder in it. The study will last six months, after which the project mechanism will be implemented.

Yemenia general manager and delegated member Hani Mansour confirmed that the meeting between the Yemeni and Saudi sides aimed to promote the two parties' partnership, noting that the partnership has prevailed for nearly 25 years. He praised the company's pioneering role in sales, booking and expanding domestic and international flights, highlighting the distinctive position the company occupies among regional airlines

## Human Rights Ministry employees complain of mistreatment

SANA'A, March 1 — More than 17 employees working on a contractual basis at the Human Rights Ministry have not received their salaries for more than three months, nor have they receive any other entitlements.

No reasons were given as to why the employees were treated this way. Employees could not claim their rights

for fear of exposure to penalties or other bad consequences.

Regular Human Rights Ministry employees complained that sums amounting to YR 5,000 are deducted regularly from their salaries without reason. It is strange to see such human rights abuses and mistreatment in the Human Rights Ministry, which is sup-

posed to be an ideal example for other ministries in dealing with such matters.

Regular employees and those working on a contractual basis appealed to Human Rights Minister Dr. Khadijah Al-Haisami to immediately end their sufferings and pay their salaries in full at the end of each month.

# Thanks to excellent police work: Kidnapped Basma is returned safely to her parents

By: Hassan M. Al-Haifi

For Mr. Abdullah Ibrahim Ibn Mohammed (retired Yemeni diplomat), it should have been a routine Saturday on the 18th of February 2006. It started off around 7:30 AM with him taking his youngest child, Basma (7 years old) to the Al-Amjad Elementary School on Airport Road in Al-Jiraf (5 km north of the center of Sana'a City, also 3.5 km south of Abdullah's house).

As he was driving on a dirt road westwards from his home in the heart of Rawdha Village to Airport Road, he was intercepted by a Toyota Hilux pickup truck, with four men in it. The men dressed in camouflage military outfits and armed approached Abdullah's car. "You are wanted to go to the home of the commander of the Central Security (which was also in Rawdha village)".

Abdullah had initially taken them to be security men on patrol or on the lookout for smugglers or some other security work. He asked them the reason, and the spokesman of the group would not give one, except that he should bring the girl with him and they would go together in their car.

The father responded to them that there was no reason to bring the girl along. He suggested to them that they follow him to take the girl to school or back home and then he was ready to go wherever they liked, not yet having any suspicions of the intentions of the men. The spokesman became more insistent: "The girl will come with us and we will go now!"

At this juncture, Abdullah was adamant on not bringing the girl along and tried to assure them that once the girl is dropped off, he was ready to go with them anywhere. The little girl felt uneasy at this point and started to say: "No I will not go with you, you are bad guys and you want to take me away!"

At that point one of them came with a rope and put it around Abdullah's neck almost strangling him.

When the girl began to scream at the sight of her father like that, the one of the other soldier came and hit him on the head with the butt of the AK-47 automatic rifle, knocking him momentarily unconscious. In the meantime the other culprits put the little girl in a sack or garment wrapping and picked up to the their Hilux truck and sped off.

At that moment, there was a mature woman who happened to have been there, who started to hurl stones at the men and screamed at them: "Put the little girl down - leave her alone!" One of the men headed towards her pointing his AK-47 and threatening her, "If you don't get away, this is what you will get". Then he fired a few rounds to show he was serious. The men got into the vehicle and sped off.

The father was beginning to come out of his unconscious daze and noticed that they had taken his car keys, but forget to turn the engine off! He tried to follow them, but the dust they were raising prevented him from even getting a look at the vehicle number. He followed them to the nearest paved road where the road split into two directions and he was unable to determine where they headed. He went to where the men had originally asked him to go, which was about a kilometer away, because he knew there was a police car parked there all the time. He explained the story to the "Emergency" Policemen in the car and they advised him to go to the Police Precinct in Rawdha to report the case. There he filed his report and gave all the details he could remember, while still in pain from the attempted strangulation and the hit on the head. He then begin to piece some incidents that had happened prior to this fateful day.

About a month before all this, a man and a woman had gone to Basma's



Scene from Rawdha village near Sana'a

school and told the assistant principal that they had come to pick up Basma, because her father had a car accident and could not come to pick her up. The assistant principal, never having seen these people before, told them to wait while she gets permission from her Supervisor.

Basma at that time had been brought over from her class and had said that she was not going with anyone she did not know! The assistant principal

(both the principal and assistant are women) went to call Basma's house, taking Basma with her. Basma's mother answered. When the assistant principal asked for the father, the mother said: "He just left a few seconds ago!" The Assistant Principal, realizing something fishy, went to her boss and explained the story, so both the principal and assistant went to the couple waiting for the girl.

The couple tried to explain that they

were just neighbors trying to do a good deed. When the principal took Basma aside to ask her if these were her neighbors, the girl almost intuitively said: "No, these are not our neighbors and they just want to take me away!" The principal told them politely that they are not authorized to release any children except to their parents or close kin.

For the next couple of days the father was recovering from his injuries and shock and awaiting for the Lord to give him some comforting news. In the meantime, all the concerned security and administrative officials were notified and an all out bulletin was circulated to all precincts and security posts. The following day, kidnapers called demanding a large sum of money for ransom. They also allowed him to speak to the girl to assure him that she is well.

Yemen Times also called the Deputy Governor of Sana'a Province, Mr. Ali Shriem to report the incident and to request him to report the matter to all precincts in Sana'a Governorate, as there are chances that the kidnapers had left the city to some remote place in the surrounding area, in Sana'a Governorate, although the kidnapping had occurred within the jurisdiction of the Capital Secretariat, as Sana'a City is administratively called.

The Governorate Office assigned a top notch officer, in the Governorate Criminal Investigation Unit, Col. Ahmed Al-Awdy to take charge of the case, getting him out of his sick bed. Al-Awdy with the coordination of the other security offices and the Criminal Investigation unit in the Capital Secretariat involved in the case were quickly able to trace the whereabouts of the men. The girl and the men were in Nehm District (Sana'a Governorate) and Al-Awdy went with a few of his men and quickly put a siege around the house where the girl was kept.

With a tight cordon and probably

with the help of local dignitaries and assurances that no harm will come to them, the two men that were holding Basma agreed to release the girl to Al-Awdy and his men. Al-Awdy took the girl immediately to Rawdha and safely delivered her to her anxious parents on Tuesday night.

Two of the kidnapers and the homeowner of the place where they were staying were apprehended soon after that and the fourth was apprehended on Thursday in Arhab District also by Al-Awdy and his team. The only missing culprit, as of Saturday morning is the driver of the vehicle, but it should not be long before they apprehend him.

All the men so far apprehended were verified by the father and the girl as the culprits in the crime and are being further interrogated to determine if they are not part of a larger gang, or if they are not associated with any terrorist activities.

Unquestionably, it should be noted that the police and security authorities at all levels acted responsibly and expeditiously to bring this case to a quick and favorable conclusion and more importantly to bring the girl safely out of this sad and traumatic episode for her and her family.

Sana'a Governorate (with the personal attention of the Deputy Governor) should also be especially commended for their minute by minute follow-up with the Governorates Criminal Investigation unit headed by Al-Awdy. We are told that this case was also closely watched by the Minister of Interior and other relevant senior officials in both Sana'a Governorate and the Capital Secretariat, at the highest level. Suffice it to say that the men were reportedly said to be not in any security apparatus and the first question they were asked, when the father was brought in to verify them was: "Where did you guys get the uniforms?"

## French president visits Saudi Arabia

Paris, Feb. 28 — President Jacques Chirac, who will be arriving in Saudi Arabia in the week for a state visit, is said to be making use of the trip not only to sell, as he usually does, French high-tech products, like armaments, Airbus aircraft, state-of-the-art telecommunications equipment, or water technology and oil exploration gear, but above all to (1) attempt to persuade his interlocutors, the Kingdom being one of the pillars of French Middle East policy, that contrary to appearances Paris remains "the Arabs' best friend in the Western world," a title that's been regularly affixed to Mr Chirac himself, and (2) to seek Arab support for his policies, especially as he is become, within the ranks of his own political administration, indeed his own ruling UMP (Union pour une majorité populaire) political party, one of the rare support-

ers of a pro-Arab policy that goes back to the foundation of the Fifth French Republic under General Charles de Gaulle - Mr Chirac's political godfather - in 1958 - a policy that not only is in the process of being severely revamped by Mr Chirac's own camp, but also by the French Socialists who'd also, and notably under President Francois Mitterrand (1981-95), supported the strongly pro-Arab and pro-Palestinian policy, but whom now - notably under Parti socialiste secretary-general Francois Hollande - have let it be known that if ever they return to power Israel will be given as much importance in French foreign policy as was Palestine and the Arab world in general in the past.

As French head of state Jacques Chirac prepares for his March 4th official visit to Riyadh, one of his closest collaborators on defense and the Gulf

in general (and Saudi Arabia in particular) is suddenly fired, fuelling speculation that the man, Michel Mazens, otherwise a Chirac loyalist, was not doing enough to sell French armaments to Saudi Arabia, and notably the Rafale jet, which no foreign (i.e., non-French) army has yet acquired, which means, say analysts of French Middle East policy, that his successor will be expected not only to find markets for the Rafale jet, but bring about a change with regard to Saudi perception of French armaments, which, say the analysts, are being gradually replaced with equipment from other European countries, notably Great Britain, which has already persuaded Riyadh to acquire the major competitor to the Rafale, Euro fighter, constructed in collaboration with three other EU countries: Germany, Italy and Spain.

## Paris to welcome to France newly-named Israeli foreign minister

By: Paul Michaud

Paris, Mar. 1 — The Quai d'Orsay has said that in receiving today Israel's newly-named foreign (and justice) minister, Mrs. Tzipi Livni, it's decided to go "all out," according to a foreign policy spokesman, and this obviously to confirm the Chirac government's decision to continue to take a distance from a traditional pro-Arab policy long associated with the French Fifth Republic, indeed with its founding close to a half-century ago by General Charles De Gaulle, the political godfather of President Jacques Chirac who, until recently, had regularly been characterized as "the Arabs' best friend in the Western world."

In a seemingly unprecedented move, Mrs. Livni, considered as a close ally of ailing prime minister

Ariel Sharon, is being invited to dinner by foreign minister Philippe Douste-Blazy tomorrow evening, this following a meeting at the Palais Matignon, the prime minister's formal residence, with French PM Dominique de Villepin, although a staunch ally of Mr. Chirac, one of the artisans of France's decision to "inflect" (the official used to characterize the change in policy) its policy on the Middle East, reducing its support for Palestine and the Arab world, while correspondingly stepping up its support for Jerusalem.

Indeed, says foreign policy spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei, "these discussions (i.e., those with Prime Minister de Villepin and foreign minister Douste-Blazy) are part of a continuity of numerous bilateral visits which have taken place these

last few months and which have permitted the maintaining of a profound and renewed dialogue on questions of common interest."

High on the list of the subjects to be discussed, said the spokesman, are "the consequences of the Hamas victory in the Palestinian territories," described by Mr. Mattei as "being at the heart of these discussions." In this regard, he told journalists during the daily press briefing of the Quai d'Orsay, "France will reiterate the firmness of the principles posed (as a prelude) by the international community to an eventual dialogue with the future Palestinian government," and this "although she remains all the while convinced of the necessity of not penalizing the Palestinian people and not provoking the 'asphyxiation' of the Palestinian territories."

## Bush visit, security toned up in J&K

Srinagar, Feb. 28 (PTI) — Ahead of US President George W. Bush's visit to India, security has been beefed up in Jammu and Kashmir especially in minority-dominated villages to prevent the type of massacre of 35 Sikhs taken place on the eve of the then American President Bill Clinton's trip in 2000, official sources said today.

Police and security forces have been put on maximum alert in Sikh and Hindu-dominated villages in the state to ensure that no incident that could mar the visit of Bush, they said.

All necessary precautions are being taken and security arrangements are being made to prevent any strike on the minorities or any other people in the state, they said.

Thirty-five Sikhs were massacred at Chattisinghpura in Anantnag district of south Kashmir hours before Clinton landed in New Delhi on March 21, 2000.

The killing gave birth to many controversies leading to suspension of a senior police officer and institution of an inquiry report of which is still to be made public. The massacre had led to many questions being asked about the killers and their motives, given the timing of the carnage.

Conscious of this, the authorities are leaving nothing to chance this time and have asked the police, especially in the 67 villages of Kashmir valley, to provide extra security ahead of Bush's visit, the sources said.

The authorities are also taking precautions against the possibility of headline grabbing strikes by militants in other parts of the state. This has resulted in stepped up security in Jammu and Srinagar cities, the sources said.

### Left to hold protest

Left parties will organise a rally on March 2 to coincide with US President George W Bush's India visit to protest against American opposition to the Indo-Iran gas pipeline and India's interest in Syrian oil fields.

"India, in order to solve its energy needs, entered into an agreement to have a gas pipeline from Iran through Pakistan to India. They (Americans) are openly opposing it," CPI (M) General Secretary A B Bardhan told reporters here on Monday.

In addition to this, whatever agreement was entered into by India about the Syrian oil field along with China that also they (US) are opposing, said Bardhan, also a member of Committee Against Bush,

adding therefore, the Committee, which is a platform for mass organisations, has decided to join this rally.

"I am happy to say that many prominent individuals also are associated with this and have openly given their blessings," he said.

The rally will start at 1130 hours from Ramlila ground towards Parliament House, Bardhan said, hoping that the government will not stop the same enroute.

### Expression of Interest

Basic Education Development Project  
Credit No. 3988-YEM and Grant No. TF-053721

1- Training in the basic skill for the staff of the Ministry of Education in (Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Financial Management, Public Procurement, Communication, Office Management, Decision Making, Basic Computer skills) - (Consulting Firm)  
2- Capacity Building (Individual Consultant)

This request for expressions of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business and Dg Market dated of Feb.2, 2005.

The Ministry of Education, Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and Multi-Donors Trust Fund towards the cost of Basic Education Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit & grants to payments under the contract for the above-mentioned consulting services.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible consulting firms and individual consultant (respectively) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The selection will be in accordance with the Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004". Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by March 15, 2006

Ministry of Education  
Basic Education Development Project  
Project Administration Unit  
60 m Southern Rd. -Bait Meyad  
Tel: 00967-01-619160, Fax: 00967-01- 619219  
Email: info@bedp-yemen.org



# Poverty attacking from all sides

With the beginning of a new millennium, Yemenis were hoping for a change for the better. In reality, more families have joined the lower class of society as poverty has only increased, according to the annual UN report. Families now only hope their children's future will not be as devastating.

By: Hakim Almasmari  
hakim\_almasmari@hotmail.com

During the late '80s and early '90s, a middle class existed in society, but unfortunately, today, many of those families have dropped and joined lower class citizens. The latest UN report on Yemen revealed that nearly 17 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, which is an average of \$1 per day. These numbers do not reflect those living near the poverty line, as figures could rise to nearly 40 percent of the total population. International observers are noticing a shift in tone in Yemen's political agenda,

as it seemingly is heading backward, while authorities are not doing enough to prevent the country from future droughts and possible full-fledged catastrophe.

Despite its location in the oil-rich Middle East, Yemen remains one of the poorest world nations, according to the World Bank. Ongoing efforts to reduce poverty often are heard of, but until now, no positive progress has been noticed. Oil fields are drying out, water resources are vanishing and poverty rates are reaching unbearable figures. Unemployment was at 35 percent two years ago, whereas it now has risen to 37 percent, according to the annual UN report.

Unemployed university graduates have reached unimaginable numbers,



A Yemeni citizen sleeps on the streets in one of the most crowded Sana'a areas. He uses cardboard boxes to help him against the cold night.



A homeless old lady sits in the middle of the street awaiting generous people to pass by her.

while those occupying jobs in some situations rarely get \$1 an hour! Illiteracy rates are nearing 50 percent and a whopping 87 percent among poor and lower class citizens. "I finished my university studies, hoping only for a chance at a better future. I realized I have wasted my life seeking education, as no value whatsoever is given to knowledge," said Ameera Ali, who completed her masters in education and now works as a low paid secretary.

Older citizens without family to support them have no other choice but to beg or live on the streets. Around the country, no government senior citizen homes exist for society's elderly, if needed. The cities of Hodeidah, Taiz and Aden have such homes but they are not run by the government and are funded by local businessmen or foreign governments. As a result, service is limited, leaving older people to suffer life's disasters on their own.

The World Health Organization mentioned that 80 percent of drinking water in rural areas across Yemen are unsafe, making it easier to contract numerous diseases. "How do you expect a county

to prosper if basic life essentials are not available for the people? Citizens in most Arab countries enjoy a life full of opportunities, while here in Yemen, people's living standards worsen as years pass," said Samia Abdul Nasser, whose family of six has suffered years of poverty, with a household income of only \$70 monthly.

Naila Sabra, UN World Food Program (WFP) representative for Yemen, mentioned that poverty has increased dramatically in the past two years, as officials are not giving poverty great concern. She said, "Most funds are being spent on construction and do not reach the poor."

According to Transparency International, an institution revealing corruption around the world, Yemen was rated number 106, making it one of the most corrupted nations in the world. Such results are not new to many citizens, as they understand that corruption is the root of the country's heading backwards. "It just doesn't make any sense," said No'man Homadi, a local citizen working for a \$2 per day salary. "Every citizen clearly understands that corruption in government circles is key in this



A 5-year-old child begs from passersby. Samira spends 10 hours per day begging near shops.

destructive phenomenon," he added.

In the late 1980s, the northern government promised to spread prosperity throughout the country, while vowing to introduce a unique natural gas project allowing natural gas flow to reach citizens' houses without the hassle of buying a gas tank. The conclusion? The majority of citizens don't have appropriate electric or even sewer systems up until now, not to mention the promised natural gas project. Basic essentials still are seriously lacking in this oil-rich Middle Eastern country.

In many neighborhoods around the capital, homeless families are seen sleeping on curbs and in cardboard houses, leaving them no other choice but to freeze during the cold season. "If you would like to see how widespread poverty has become in Yemen, visit the streets of Nukum zone in Sana'a. There you will see the poor living on the streets with no one caring for them or giving them a loving heart," said Nukum zone resident Mansour Saleh. "Life has changed for many families and the situation is only getting worse," he added.

In the early 1990s, Yemenis in general

did not expect life to be as difficult as seen today, with the poverty rate increasing annually. The latest Transparency International report mentions Yemen as one of the eight most corrupt nations. It also mentions that the gross domestic product (GDP) per Yemeni citizen ranked a whopping 211th out of 226 total nations.

Government officials must understand the problem's scale in order to solve it. No effort is noticeable in stopping such an ongoing dilemma, as if the issue deserves no importance whatsoever. Tensions, disagreements and emotions during this period are far more dangerous than at anytime in the past. People have lost patience and will resort to unlawful solutions to ease their problem.

"I don't know what to do if my family needs medical attention. What am I supposed to do to help them? Resorting to unlawful actions is the only solution in this crucial situation," said 57-year-old Nagi Abdu Rabu Mohsen, father of seven homeless children living on a Sana'a street corner. "This life was destined for me and my family," he concluded.

# British government refuses to ban qat

By: Shaker Al-Makhadhi

Despite months of pressure to ban it, the British government has decided not to outlaw the favorite drug of London's Yemeni and Somali communities.

Every couple of days London's Heathrow Airport receives a strange cargo. Bundles and bundles of shrub wrapped in banana leaves arriving on planes from Yemen and East Africa. This is qat - a mild narcotic, which after years of wrangling, is still legal in the UK.

Users gather in groups across the country every afternoon to chew the freshly harvested bush. As the men sit - qat-chewing is a very male affair - munching, talking and drinking tea, the leaves release a stimulant that has been compared to alcohol or cannabis.

The drug is illegal in the US, Canada, parts of Europe and many

Arab countries, and over the past few months, calls have been growing for it to be criminalised in the UK too.

One of the members of parliament voicing her concern is Labour politician Kerry McCarthy.

"A significant number of people in the Somali community tell me they think it ought to be banned because of its effect on families," she told Aljazeera.net.

McCarthy says most of the pressure for a ban is coming from Somali women.

Abdul Razaq Alsowmy is a London-based doctor who was born in Yemen. He says he understands why women are so set against qat. "Chewers are complaining of a reduced libido - it's one of the reasons there are family problems ... the person who is chewing qat doesn't sleep well, he is not a calm person," he says.

**Social outlet?**

But Najla Abu-Taleb, a Yemeni

project manager living in London, does not see qat as an exclusively male problem.

"A woman that we know, her life revolves around Saturday when she's going to have qat with her friends; to her it's the only social outlet. I think that's dangerous because you're excluding yourself further from the wider community," she says.

A survey carried out by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs found that almost half of Britain's Somalis want the drug banned, but Abu-Taleb does not think the Yemeni community is hurt by its consumption.

"[Somali] consumption of qat is not as grown-up as it is in the Yemeni community. I think that might be by virtue of their relatively new community in the UK, therefore they're still replicating the same patterns as back home."

I joined a qat-chewing session one January afternoon. As the hours passed, the men's talk became gradually less coherent. But it was keeping them out of bars and clubs, and away from "real" drugs, they insisted.

The night wore on and the chewing continued. For the young Yemeni men sitting cross-legged on the floor, it is an almost daily ritual. These passionate qat-aficionados refused to accept that the drug had any downsides - except when some farmers spray their crop with pesticides, which, it is claimed, can cause mouth cancer.

**Withdrawal symptoms**

But Dr Alsowmy says that is not the only problem. Chewers sometimes suffer from spontaneous ejaculation and they can lose control of their bladder. Users complain of depression and withdrawal symptoms when their qat session comes to an end.

"With qat, people chew for hours, so it does have that impact on people



Two foreigners are chewing Qat.

PHOTO BY: HAKIM AL-MASMARI

holding-down jobs"

Qat-chewers have been compared to alcoholics, but McCarthy insists the problem is much worse: "If you go for a few drinks, it doesn't stop you going into work the next day. But with qat, people chew for hours, so it does have that impact on people holding-down jobs."

It hurts users, but it also hurts Yemen, according to Abu-Taleb. She says farmers in the Arab world's poorest country are choosing to grow the drug instead of food.

"There's a lot of fertile ground in Yemen. When I was on a seven-hour drive from Sana'a to Aden, every green patch we saw was qat because it provides more funds for the growers," she says.

"If you have a proper agricultural policy, it will encourage the growth of coffee and fruit and sustain the country as a whole rather than the need to import food."

**The qat trade**

Centuries ago Yemen produced nearly all of the world's coffee - mocha is named after the Red Sea port it was shipped from. But that was before qat. Now a large proportion of the country's economy is propped up by the qat trade.

Back in the UK, the Government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs did not accept the concerns of doctors, politicians and qat-wives. They were worried that if the drug was criminalised, the qat trade would

be driven underground, and users could be exploited by criminal gangs. In the US, where qat is illegal, one kilogram of the shrub can cost \$400. In the UK, users pay \$25.

If proof that users will resort to desperate measures or pay any price is needed, the 1993 qat shortage provides some evidence.

One London-based qat dealer had Somalis knocking on his door late at night pleading for his green gold. He went into his garden, pulled some branches from his hedge and sold it to the hungry men. They stuffed it into their mouths and breathed a sigh of relief. Their only complaint - it was a bit bitter.

Source: www.aljazeera.net



The Harari qat is opened up from its banana leaf wrap. SOURCE: WWW.ALJAZEERA.NET

# On the Science of Marketing

Due to the overwhelming rapid growth in digital technology, GSM operators worldwide have become a main contributor in the communication link between and within countries. I am a GSM employee and I'd like to give a brief account of proper marketing concepts in general.

There is little difference between beehives and the marketplace in terms of structure, work, productions, etc. Bees have a Queen Bee, which is the marketing director, and worker bees are the employees. Bees collect nectar from flowers and produce services like honey, whereas we collect more than a million customers in four years.

I've been working in such a

with marketing.

Marketing is far more than tactics. Marketing is analysis and a sound marketing strategy is based on this analysis. The type of analysis I am talking about is customer analysis, for example. Having a solid understanding of customers means having a solid understanding of how they behave – their perceptions, motivations and preferences. It means correctly segmenting the market and not the way most companies think about segmentation (if they even do). It means having a profound understanding of their attitudes, emotions and knowledge. Without such knowledge, marketing tactics are just blowing in the wind. You'll hope the tac-



Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmer - Chairman of Board of Directors

about competitive analysis, not just the "fun and interesting" tactics permeating the web.

What about company capabilities?

Once again, to think about marketing you also need to consider a company's ability to actually survive in the market. I'm not talking about financial ability, although that is part of the story. What about culture, sales force compensation, relationships with distributors, suppliers, etc? Some companies focus squarely on customers and don't even think about competitors. But these same companies often forget their ability to provide what customers need or incentives in their distribution system to actually get the job done. No, marketing is not just about tactics, it's also about understanding your own company, its abilities and weaknesses.

you want to get involved in tactics. Consider artists, sports figures, doctors and scientists and ask yourself if it is just as necessary to understand tactics in these areas, which are as creative as marketing.

Tactics alone won't get you very far, but tactics along with a strategy based on great analysis will get you exactly where you want to go. So before you go hiring consultants and networking with other marketers, make sure you understand what marketing is so you don't just become a tactical pawn, but rather someone who ultimately can direct an entire marketing campaign like our director Emad.

Although customer satisfaction increasingly is seen as an important business objective, the extent to which it is taken seriously varies. Its measurement is problematic and the precise nature of its impact on financial performance and shareholder value remain the subject of debate.

While the existence of a link between customer satisfaction and business performance clearly is a central tenet of marketing theory, evaluating the existence, nature and strength of this relationship at a company level has proven problematic. Researchers have had much greater success when focusing on individual behavioral constructs such as quality and satisfaction and satisfaction and loyalty, and rather less success when exploring the link between behavioral outcomes and financial performance.

The American Consumer Satisfaction Index aimed to evaluate empirically the direct relationship between customer satisfaction and a range of financial performance measures. In general, data results suggested that

customer satisfaction does have a positive financial impact but direct effects generally are small.

## Telemarketing

In telemarketing, marketers contact customers via telephone. One of the original attractions of telemarketing was the speed with which marketing campaigns could be executed. While direct mail is cost-effective, it is relatively slow, as marketing pieces must be mailed. Tele-marketing lends itself well to products and services that are complex to buy, such as switching to another telephone company or purchasing a financial service. While certain types of transactions also may be subject to government regulation, telemarketing permits a company representative to walk customers through the purchase while ensuring compliance with laws. While not as varied as direct mail, telemarketing can take several forms:

\* Outbound telemarketing: Calls made to customers using auto dialers and predictive di-

place as would a billboard or radio commercial. Instead, the marketed service or commodity is addressed directly to the end consumer.

Direct marketing is attractive to many marketers because its effectiveness can be measured directly in many cases. For example, if a marketer sends a million mail solicitations and 10,000 customers respond to it, the marketer can say with some confidence that the campaign directly led to the responses. In contrast, other media often must be measured indirectly, as there is no direct response from consumers.

What can direct marketing do for my business?

A marketer's first duty is to avoid loss. Direct marketing can minimize risk because before you mail, E-mail or advertise to a large number, you always test on a small number. This can increase profitability because you always should test one approach against another, going with whichever makes the most money.



Tariq Al-Heidari - Sabafon Executive Manager

marketplace and have come to realize that one can be most productive when surrounded by loving staffers under the umbrella of reliable, straightforward, honest and visionary managers.

What does marketing mean? What are the most important points in marketing?

Many web sites claim to be knowledgeable about marketing. In fact, if you type "marketing" into a search engine like Google, more than 16,000,000 web pages will be returned! When you have that many people claiming to be marketing experts, it's difficult to even know what marketing means. That's one of the problems with the web.

I noticed an article on a well-known marketing web site similarly entitled, "Just what is marketing?" It's a very good question and the answer typically ends up (as in the aforementioned article) listing tactics like advertising, brand management, sales, service, pricing, E-mail marketing, etc. That's a good start, but far from complete.

In my opinion, marketing is not tactics and I'll tell you why. When most people think of marketing, they think marketing tactics. They associate marketing with tactics, partly because they're fun. Advertising is fun, promotions are fun and so are E-mail campaigns and every other similar tactic. However, tactics, while the most prominent aspect of marketing, are similar to sports tactics. They're very important, but useless without a sound knowledge base. So it is

tactics work, but you'll be blissfully unaware as to whether anyone wants to listen or pay attention.

I'd also like to discuss competitive analysis. Rarely do we see marketing sites deal with



A view of the students

competitive analysis. Marketing also is about understanding competition, but not just listing one's competitors. It means thinking about their competitive objectives, reactions and capabilities, as well as understanding an industry's competitive forces. Too often I see firms acting as monopolies, as if their competitors are unlikely to react or have little interest in capturing a market. The internet provides a good example. How many internet companies really think seriously about entrenched players' potential competitive reactions? Do any of them consider long-term competitive reactions? What about creating robust plans toward future competitive reactions? No, marketing also is

So, what is marketing?

The following is the proper definition I discovered from our director, Pier Emad. Marketing is analysis of customers, competitors and companies, combining such understanding into an overall understanding of what segments exist, determining the most profitable segments to target, positioning your product and then doing whatever necessary to deliver on that position.

How do you deliver on a position? This is where tactics enter – by branding and advertising correctly, communicating via E-mail, letter, SMS or whatever, but all in a way consistent with the analysis for which marketing really is responsible. It's fine if



A view of the celebration

alers, thus call centers can phone a large number of customers.

\* Inbound telemarketing: Promotions and offers are made when a customer calls the center.

\* Voice messages: A number of firms employ special technology to call customers' answering machines.

## Direct marketing

Direct marketing is a form of marketing that attempts to send its message directly to consumers using "addressable" media like mail. It differs from regular advertising in that it does not place its message on a third-party medium or in the market-

I began my article by defining marketing, so I'll end it with definitions and advice from director Emad: "Marketing is the management process that identifies, anticipates and satisfies customer requirements profitably. Marketing is human activity directed at satisfying human needs and wants through an exchange process. Marketing is a social and managerial process by which individuals and groups obtain what they want and need through creating, offering and exchanging products of value with others." Emad gives five very important marketing concepts:

- \* Choosing and targeting appropriate customers
  - \* Positioning your offer
  - \* Interacting with those customers
  - \* Controlling the marketing effort
  - \* Continuity of performance
- Emad added that successful marketing is:
- \* Profitable
  - \* Offensive (rather than defensive)
  - \* Integrated
  - \* Strategic (future-orientated)
  - \* Effective (gets results)

So, marketing is the right product, in the right place, at the right time and at the right price.



The banquet

# Heads of UN aid agencies start to visit Africa's Great Lakes region

The continent of Africa has been for decades suffering from various types of problems and crises, some of them caused by many internal ethnic wars and other wars between nations. Other crises are the product of nature such as waves of drought sweeping many regions of the continent, causing severe situations of famines and force the people to migrate to other regions as refugees. The refugee phenomenon in Africa constitutes a great problem that can be felt and tangibly seen in most parts of this continent. Here is a report on various points of views by some news agencies on the recent visit to the Great lakes region in Africa made by three UN aid agencies trying to study the situations of the African refugees on the ground and to propose solutions for this humanitarian tragedy the Africans are experiencing in the third millennium.

Compiled by: Mohammed Khidr

Heads of three UN aid agencies on Sunday 26 February 2006 started a joint tour of Africa's Great Lakes region, designed to highlight its refugee crisis. According to a joint statement, the heads of UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the refugee agency UNHCR, on Sunday started their tour in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

They are calling for greater assistance from the international community, said the statement.

The DRC's recent war cost 4 million lives and about 1.6 million people are still refugees.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, WFP Executive Director James Morris and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Ann Veneman will go on to visit Rwanda and Burundi, where hundreds of thousands of people were killed in civil wars in the early 1990s, it added.

"We hope their unprecedented mission to this neglected region will help re-focus international attention on the suffering of millions of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees," the statement said.

"All three agencies are under-funded for their work in the Great Lakes region, which is just emerging from a tempest of conflicts that forced millions to flee in the 1990s," it said.

Top United Nations officials appealed for more aid for hundreds of thousands of Congolese refugees, saying this Central African nation's plight had been forgotten by donors.

The heads of three U.N. agencies are touring Congo and neighboring

countries in an effort to bring attention to the crisis. Congo is struggling to recover from a 1998-2002 war and huge tracts of the east remain lawless despite the presence of 16,000 U.N. peacekeepers.

Despite the continuing volatility, Congo plans presidential elections in June -- the first in decades for the nation -- to replace a transitional government created in 2003 after peace deals that ended the war.

Sweden and Belgium joined France and Germany in saying Monday they are ready to send troops to boost the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo before the vote. Spain and Portugal also expressed interest in participating in a European Union contingent at an EU foreign ministers meeting, EU officials said.

About 420,000 Congolese refugees live in nine neighboring nations. A further 1.6 million Congolese have been displaced from their homes, "unable to adequately meet their most basic needs," the U.N. said in a recent statement.

"It is sad to say that DRC is among the major humanitarian crises in the world, it is the most forgotten," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres told The Associated Press, using the acronym for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Fighting over the last few months has displaced more than 80,000 people in the eastern Katanga and North Kivu provinces, with most of those displaced living in dire conditions at camps without adequate food or health supplies.

Guterres spoke during a stopover in the eastern city of Kindu. He was touring eastern Congo along with U.N. World Food Program chief James Morris and Ann Veneman, executive

director of the U.N. Children's Fund. The three met President Joseph Kabila in Congo's capital, Kinshasa. On Tuesday, the delegation will welcome a boat full of hundreds of refugees returning from Tanzania before continuing to Rwanda and Burundi where they are expected to meet political leaders, donors and aid workers.

All three U.N. agencies said they were short on cash and underfunded. Guterres said the U.N. refugee agency had appealed for \$24 million for programs to help repatriate refugees, but had only received \$16 million.

"It's a continued mistake to not solve the refugee problem," Guterres said, adding that keeping refugees in camps cost more than bringing them back home.

The agencies hope the visit will raise money for cash-strapped aid programs helping civilians rebuild their lives after nearly a decade of debilitating regional conflict.

The statement said some 2.2 million people in Burundi would also need aid in 2006 because of poverty, crop disease and poor rains.

The agencies will "promote education as a way forward for the three countries to break out of the cycle of conflict and poverty," the statement added.

The heads of UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the refugee agency UNHCR, started their tour in Democratic Republic of Congo.

They are calling for greater assistance from the international community.

Dr. Congo's recent war cost four million lives and about 1.6 million people are still refugees, the UN says.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, World Food Programme Executive Director James Morris and UN Children's Fund UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman will go on to visit Rwanda and Burundi, where hundreds of thousands of people were killed in civil wars in the early 1990s.

"We hope their unprecedented mission to this neglected region will help re-focus international attention on the suffering of millions of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees," UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond said.



A map of the Great Lakes region of Africa showing the main areas where refugees' camps are.

tempest of conflicts that forced millions to flee in the 1990s," they said in a joint statement.

The heads of the three leading United Nations (UN) humanitarian agencies set out their priorities for development in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday, following a weekend meeting with President Joseph Kabila.

In a boost for Kinshasa, the World Bank said its board had reached preliminary agreement on how it would approach debt relief for the country.

World Food Programme (WFP) director James Morris, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) chief Ann Veneman met after what Morris described as a "very productive meeting" with Kabila.

Veneman said UN officials had spelled out four priorities: peace and security, successful elections, an end to violence against women and children and respect for human rights. "Children must receive education," she said. "We look forward to working closely with the new government after the elections", the first presidential poll in 45 years and expected in the middle of the year.

Guterres said a key issue was proper pay for Congolese soldiers. "No army can respect human rights if it is not paid," he said. "It is crucial for establishing the rule of law, and we are all committed to creating the conditions for resolving this."

The three requested more aid for hundreds of thousands of people displaced in Congo and called on the government to end violence against civilians.

"The elections are not the end of the transition process," Guterres said. "They are the beginning of the real transition towards a democratic and prosperous Congo. For this to happen, the international community must be engaged."

Such engagement was inadequate up to now, he said. It would be a crime were it to end following the polls.

The three UN agency chiefs arrived in Congo on Saturday at the start of a tour highlighting Africa's growing refugee problem. They are also to visit the Great Lakes region, including Rwanda and Burundi.

After the talks with Kabila, they flew to the east of the country to meet refugees recently repatriated from

neighbouring Tanzania.

Congo's civil war has cost about 4 million lives, including those lost to disease and malnutrition since 1998, and forced about 1, 6-million refugees, the UN agencies said. More than 400,000 refugees are still living in nearby countries.

Recent fighting in southeastern Katanga and Kivu in the east displaced thousands, although last year, more than 46,000 refugees were able to return home to start rebuilding their communities.

The World Bank's preliminary agreement includes what the lending institution called "triggers and conditions" that would ensure the reforms committed to by Congo move forward.

The government must show improvements in good governance and financial transparency, as well as in the management of oil revenues, which will be subject to an annual independent audit, the World Bank said.

The agreement, signed on Friday, remains subject to approval by the International Monetary Fund.

The World Bank said it welcomed the continuing financial and structural reforms in Congo, but urged officials to accelerate and consolidate their implementation. Sapa-AFP

Dr. Congo: Warning of 'Huge Risk' of New Conflict, UN Agencies Urge Greater Aid

Warning that there is "a huge risk for conflict to rise again" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the top United Nations refugee official has called on the international community to provide greater support for the vast country's transition to full democracy for the first time in 45 years.

"The scale of the problem, the complexity of the problem, and the nature of the problem are such that all our resources combined together won't easily solve it," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres told ambassadors from donor countries in Kinshasa, capital of a nation that is moving towards national elections in June after the most lethal fighting in the world since World War II.

A six-year war cost 4 million lives, and medical experts say a further 1,200 people are still dying needlessly every day. More than 3.4 million have been displaced from their homes and 17 million do not have a steady supply of food.

"We are morally obliged to act together. Separately, UN agencies cannot do much. Together we can really make a difference," Mr. Guterres declared, speaking on the first day of a visit to the Great Lakes region with the heads of two of the UN's other large humanitarian agencies, World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director James Morris and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Ann M. Veneman.

He said the unprecedented mission of the three agency heads showed their "total solidarity with this area and its people" as well as the commitment of UN agencies to co-operate more closely with each other.

The UN Organization Mission in the DRC (MONUC) is not only fielding nearly 17,000 soldiers and police to help bring stability but is also engaged in the biggest and most expensive electoral process the world body has ever helped organize. Its various agencies are also involved in the full spectrum of humanitarian activities.

The three agency heads today met with DRC President Joseph Kabila for 45 minutes, discussing the need for the international community to help DRC protect its own citizens. Later today, they were scheduled to travel to eastern DRC where tomorrow they plan to meet refugees returning home from camps in Tanzania with UNHCR's help.

Over 57,000 Congolese refugees have returned home since October 2004, of whom 22,000 were assisted by the UN refugee agency.

The three lamented that the DRC's tragedy was unfolding out of the glare of television cameras, and out of the

consciousness of the developed world. All three UN agencies say they are dramatically under-funded compared to the needs of the three Great Lakes countries they will visit on this trip.

After the DRC, they move on to Rwanda and Burundi to underline the need to find a regional solution to conflict and displacement in the Great Lakes.

"You cannot solve the political problems of Congo if at the same time you do not address the problems of Rwandans and Burundians," Mr. Guterres said, referring to the DRC's two small neighbours which have also been afflicted by decades of civil war and humanitarian crises, including the 1994 Rwandan genocide of Tutsis and moderate Hutus by extremist Hutus, in which 800,000 people are estimated to have died.

Top United Nations officials appealed for more aid for hundreds of thousands of Congolese refugees, saying this Central African nation's plight had been forgotten by donors.

The heads of three U.N. agencies are touring Congo and neighboring countries in an effort to bring attention to the crisis. Congo is struggling to recover from a 1998-2002 war and huge tracts of the east remain lawless despite the presence of 16,000 U.N. peacekeepers.

Despite the continuing volatility, Congo plans presidential elections in June -- the first in decades for the nation -- to replace a transitional government created in 2003 after peace deals that ended the war.

Sweden and Belgium joined France and Germany in saying Monday they are ready to send troops to boost the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo before the vote. Spain and Portugal also expressed interest in participating in a European Union contingent at an EU foreign ministers meeting, EU officials said.

About 420,000 Congolese refugees live in nine neighboring nations. A further 1.6 million Congolese have been displaced from their homes, "unable to adequately meet their most basic needs," the U.N. said in a recent statement.

"It is sad to say that DRC is among the major humanitarian crises in the world, it is the most forgotten," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres told The Associated Press, using the acronym for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Fighting over the last few months has displaced more than 80,000 people in the eastern Katanga and North Kivu provinces, with most of those displaced living in dire conditions at camps without adequate food or health supplies.

Guterres spoke during a stopover in the eastern city of Kindu. He was touring eastern Congo along with U.N. World Food Program chief James Morris and Ann Veneman, executive director of the U.N. Children's Fund.

The three met President Joseph Kabila in Congo's capital, Kinshasa. On Tuesday, the delegation will welcome a boat full of hundreds of refugees returning from Tanzania before continuing to Rwanda and Burundi where they are expected to meet political leaders, donors and aid workers.

All three U.N. agencies said they were short on cash and underfunded. Guterres said the U.N. refugee agency had appealed for \$24 million for programs to help repatriate refugees, but had only received \$16 million.

"It's a continued mistake to not solve the refugee problem," Guterres said, adding that keeping refugees in camps cost more than bringing them back home.

The agencies hope the visit will raise money for cash-strapped aid programs helping civilians rebuild their lives after nearly a decade of debilitating regional conflict.

The statement said some 2.2 million people in Burundi would also need aid in 2006 because of poverty, crop disease and poor rains.

The agencies will "promote education as a way forward for the three countries to break out of the cycle of conflict and poverty," the statement added.



Thousands of African refugees living in very harsh human conditions in various parts of Africa because of wars and natural disasters.

# Takeaway democracy

I have found nothing better than "takeaway democracy" to describe the type of democracy prepared by the U.S. political kitchen at the end of the Cold War. It was cooked more quickly than a Big Mac. This is democracy in the eyes of the U.S. Administration: no more than a magic meal with a modern flavor. It should be taken because it is rich and delicious. It revitalizes and invigorates states and cures people's ailments — backwardness, poverty, fanaticism, terrorism, dictatorship, etc. The most important thing is that it is cheap and easily prepared, with no need to sit at the table with a relative or friend. It is easily eaten, taken by each Arab state separately on their road, mapped by the Sykes-Picot Treaty.

This analogy between currently promoted democracy and a Big Mac doesn't mean that I belong to the cult that considers democracy a Western characteristic, delivered via a long-lived conflict with the church resulting in estranged state and religion. Such a cult claims that it is impossible to replicate democracy in societies where Islam is a religion and a state. Nor do I want my simile to be understood as support for the political stream that prefers postponing democracy until liberation, social justice and development are achieved. I don't stand by them due to certain convictions of mine.

The first reason is that political forms, be they states or governments, are a universal heritage. Various constitutional studies nearly confirm that all nations have experienced a wide range of governance modes. Different systems of governance — secular, royal, totalitarian, democratic, etc. — are not specific to a certain nation.

Therefore, democracy as participation in governance and selection of a ruler was known by ancient communities and peoples, most notably Greek democracy.

My second conviction boils down to the fact that democracy has no fixed shape. It had a multiplicity of forms which ultimately evolved into its two forms dominating Europe and its extensions (America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) with individual and social approaches. The former stressed participation in governance and the second stressed sharing wealth. Constitutional, political, social and philosophical studies have profoundly



By: Mohammed Abdulsalam Mansour

examined both types and concluded that it is impossible to say which is higher and purer. This opened the door for more modern and humanistic approaches to come into existence, asking for improvement of the two types in such a way as to ensure people's true participation in governance and fair distribution of wealth.

The third conviction has been crystallized through a prolonged and tiresome quest for Islam's true stance on the legality of political authority and the sources thereof. The huge mass of opinions, interpretations and conclusions forged by theological cults and jurisprudential sects hardened this quest. Muslims and non-Muslims easily can conclude the opinion of Islamic Sharia law regarding political authority by means of prudent examination of explicit Qur'anic verses and the Sunna in sayings and deeds.

In the Islamic viewpoint, a Muslim's action is related either to a religious or a mundane matter. The Prophet (pbuh) came to explain to people the particulars of their religion through the Qur'an, his sayings and deeds. However, mundane acts are to be entrusted to the individual and the community, doing what they think is in their interest and according to their human experience. The Prophet (pbuh) explicitly referred mundane acts to the sole judgment of mankind, saying, "You know better the affairs of your life."

In other words, Islam is the religion of human nature, confining religious affairs within the boundaries of certain laws set forth in explicit verses and deeds. What remains (the wider circle of halal, an Islamic Arabic term meaning permissible) is a mundane affair. For example, agriculture, warfare, administration, industry and politics are mundane affairs.

In my opinion, Islam gives political affairs a priority, as it states clearly that they are mundane. This is why it was mentioned twice in the Qur'an: "Consult them," and "Their decisions are by means of Shoura (mutual consultation)."

As the Prophet knew best that politics is a mundane affair, his messages to other nations were limited to the call to Islam as a peaceful creed. Concerning their political authority, he stated in his messages that it is left to them, giving it to whomever they trust.

The fourth of my convictions is that democracy, thus defined, is a human instinct. Each person tends to monopolize authority as long as their power and community's submission allow. Yet, this submission doesn't displace the instinctive love for power, at least to participate in it.

Therefore, we realize that efforts toward establishing a democratic system should not stop in any society and should not be conditioned by pre-achievement of a goal such as national liberation, development or social justice, even though such goals seem to be prerequisites for democracy.

I also am convinced that social developments are a debatable issue with entangled threads. I do believe that claiming democracy doesn't postpone the struggle for national liberation. Social, economic and political rights are pressing needs and we should work for obtaining them immediately and relentlessly.

The reader may feel this is inconsistent and wish to surprise me with the question: Why did you make that analogy of democracy? This is because I appeared right from the beginning to be unsatisfied with the U.S. Administration's democracy invitation and its support for Arabs to pressure their governments. Actually, I am very glad for this interrogative anxiety. Answering it will give me a chance to explain my view in a nutshell on aspects of the U.S. Administration's invitation and some of its predictable repercussions which will set the record straight.

The first sign: A historical glimpse of U.S. Arab-oriented policy, right from its plan to succeed European colonization in the Middle East, will show that it began since then to work more enthusiastically and diligently than any European country to stabilize Zionist existence. Afterward, it was intent to deter any Arab move toward awakening. It also tried to perpetuate political, social, economic and cultural conditions in the Arab world under the umbrella of backwardness, ignorance and tribalism.

If we trace the fate of petroleum wealth, we will find that vast amount of petrodollars have poured into U.S. Administration coffers, with as much dedicated to stabilizing deterioration through various media outlets and misleading, which turned facts about the area topsy-turvy and succeeded in instilling in the collective consciousness that liberal movements are secular and atheist, aiming to destroy Islam and Arab values. It incited some innocent

groups to pursue them and encouraged them to use violence. The last of these groups is the Al-Qaeda organization, which, following the Cold War, discovered that it had been deceived by the U.S. Administration. When Al-Qaeda achieved U.S. aims, the U.S. Administration turned on it trying to stab it in the back, especially after it perceived that some religious groups began to have political projects against its agenda. This led to 9/11 events.

It can be said that since the U.S. Administration entered the area, it has stayed the course to annihilate every possibility for a democratic system to exist.

The second sign: Although slowed down, unstoppable historical development has widened the circle of intellectuals, experts and national and political parties, resulting in influence over cognition of backward time. A social motion began to look for a way out of this reality. Democracy appeared to be one of the solutions to their social and political crisis. Immediately, the U.S. Administration forestalled maturing this consciousness by means of its democratic project. It began to hype and promote it to exclude any serious democratic project in Arab consciousness.

I likened this project to a Big Mac only to indicate that it does not relate whatsoever to the "democratic banquet" enjoyed by Western countries, primarily American and European societies.

We cannot gauge the difference between our democratic takeaway snack and their lavish banquet when we know what they have prepared for us, not in our political or social kitchen, but in theirs, although their democracy is totally unlike ours. Western countries did not beg anybody for democracy. It was established by the community as a whole including the farmer, worker, officer, etc. Their democracy oozed through centuries and they snatched it from the rulers of the past. They want our democracy to be the way they like and as a gift from them. They want it to be a means to help some Arab states survive and topple the rest of dissidents, a way opening for Arab communities the horizons of a new political roadmap featuring takeaway democracy. And when the oil wealth is depleted, Arab states shall be left in the labyrinth of a wasteland

Mohammed Abdulsalam Mansour is a Yemeni Poet with several poetry collections. He is also a judge and a legal consultant.  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Torturing prisoners

Today the UN demanded that the U.S. stop torturing the thousands of Moslem prisoners held by them. All prisoners have been tortured daily for several years and these prisoners are trying to commit suicide by refusing to eat. To keep the Moslem prisoners alive for greater torture, the U.S. straps them into chairs and pushes tubes into their stomachs and forces the food (including pork products) into them. Then they are held in the chairs for 24 hours to prevent vomiting. The Moslem prisoners are primarily tortured by electricity and burning of their genitals on a daily basis. Christian U.S. President Bush approves this torture saying "this is a crusade". Thousands of Moslems including women and children are being tortured daily by Bush and his hired soldiers. The Moslem women are raped daily, and some of the Moslem women are held down by U.S. soldiers while being raped by dogs (see the recent pictures released by the Australian government.)

The great majority of U.S. and Israeli citizens approve of this torture of Moslem men, women and children. The Christian leaders of France, Germany and England all approve of the torture. Bush has commanded his military to continue to study new ways of torture and how to keep Moslem prisoners alive for many years while being tortured.

Robert Lindh  
lindh@starband.net

### Attacking citizens

The last time I was in Yemen was around 5 years. I have heard many good things about Yemen. However, few weeks ago, in JUBAN, I have heard that the person who is in charge of the mideeriah had attack a resident of Juban. It is very sad that the government allow this gentleman to remain in his job after what he did in Juban. He and some of his soldiers attacked a teacher and a resident in Juban. We in the United States regret to hear such thing happen in our great city. The person who was attacked and was beaten up by the mideer and his soldiers is abdul wahab al abassi; a great teacher and respected person in the city. We as Yemeni's Abroad do not appreciate a government officials attacking local residents for no reason. I know we are too far from this but with the help of Yementimes. We will send our message to every official to have restraint and respect each individual in our great country.

Dr. Bilal Ahmed Shafiq Nasser  
bilalmd02@yahoo.com

### Contemplations

I was born into a Christian family and raised in a Catholic church. I'm not what you would call a very religious man, but I do believe in God and I do have a good understanding of right and wrong.

About three years ago, I visited Yemen and toured the whole country, from Sada'a and Sanaa to Al Mulkullah and everything in between. The people were friendly and respectful. But more than that: they were very religious.

Several times every day everything stopped and men, women and even children paused to remember that their life belonged to God.

Here in America we have people who call themselves religious, but they usually only attend church and think of God for one hour a week — if even that. Most just claim to believe but their actions suggest that they aren't. Our president is such a man. He goes to church and, as we Americans like to say, "talks the talk but doesn't walk the walk."

What God loving man would start a war, invade a country and kill and maim thousands of his own people and innocent civilians, run torture prisons and lie to the very people who elected him? Here in my own country I am fearful to write this letter and it may well be that I will "disappear" for doing so.

But I am writing to ask all of the

God loving people in Yemen to pray. Pray that the evil people who are planning — right now — to invade yet another Islamic nation, Iran, will be somehow stopped. Pray that we will not see this powerful evil force kill thousands more innocent people in the name of oil and power.

And, after you have done that, please pray for me that I do not end up in a prison for writing this request to you.

Gary Vey / viewzone.co  
myristicin@hotmail.com

### Responses to Mother of Gold

Simply put, a big drop in my heart and gut regarding the article on a 110 year old mother caring for her 80 year old daughter! The drop, is the complete sadness that overwhelmed my whole being. The sadness for them which is also the representation of all the human beings in Yemen in the same position. It is a hard awareness to swallow. The first response that consumed me was, how can I, just one person, even help out. And can that one person become a ripple effect like a pebble thrown in the waters causing others to reach out with compassion and empathy as though it were them in that same situation.

Mary  
damar@centurytel.net

Reading this article is very depressing, knowing that girls at that age get married very young, uneducated in not knowing how to go about in life when married.

Reading this made me think that islam is not practiced in yemen that much, especially in such a situation. They did not state any witness who came forward etc. It was only the killers words which the court took on board.

I feel that yemen is dominated by men and I do not feel there is any rights for women. If things are kept this way i doubt that yemen will advance in anyway as i believe women have great potentials.

Norah Abdul  
hellcat99@hotmail.co.uk

### Yemen: Crown of Arabia

Mountains, seas and marvelous yellow sands surround the mysteries of this ancient country. Yemen, the name which always reminds us of the cheerfulness, stability, and fragrance of the spiritual past. The variety of its climate is resembling the rainbow after a heavy rainy day! Each beam arouses in you a different sense of ecstasy.

Northwards, your feelings are unified with the clouds flying on the tops of the mountains; taking your spirit far away to a dreamy land. You forget everything around you; and your eyes just staring at the virgin nature and the gallant mountains. Greenness is mingled with the chanting of the reapers and the charm of the cool day. The hot coffee made at the warm houses recalls in your mind your loved ones you desire to share you this wonderful taste and the moments of tranquility.

Southwards, the sea converses with you, with the ebb and flow, digging your memories. You travel with your mind deep into the endless history. The image of your beloved is reflected in the blue sky, painted by the roaring of the friendly sea and your childhood sweet moments travel with the waves.

Eastwards, the soft yellow sands, playing with the wind, narrate the stories of the powerful hands and the pretty young queen sprinkling the surroundings with her incense. The stones of her temple tell you about the power of those people who once had lived in real earthy paradises.

Yemen, a God Made Portrait, attracts you and call you wherever you go.

It is the country, representing the link between the past and present, enthroning itself the crown of Arabia by the high green mountains and the wealth of the talking history.

Khalil I. Mahmud  
leelo30@hotmail.com

## Knowing the defender from the offender

We are following with great astonishment the arrest of Mr. Mohamed Al-Asadi, the editor of Yemen Observer and two other journalists. The charges against the three Yemeni journalists represent an overzealous outreach of the prosecution to levy charges that are unacceptable, unreasonable and represent another attack against Yemeni press freedom. The publishing of the cartoons by the European newspapers has been a blatant and deliberate attack against Muslim values. People in Yemen are justified to be angry and disgusted by the publication of the blasphemous cartoons and they have the right to boycott and resent any newspaper that is deemed disrespectful and dishonoring of the society's Islamic values.

It is at these times, when emotions are high, that one expects governments



By: Shaker Lashuel

to take a lead role in defining for society the limits of freedom. The blind and misguided prosecution of Mr. Al-Asadi and the other journalists who attempted to present the cartoons in context does not serve or protect Islamic values. Their role

obliged them to shed some light on the topic, and if they considered it their responsibility to present the cartoons in a tasteful, newsworthy way and in the context of defending society's Islamic and cultural values then they should be given the benefit of doubt. Their prosecution does not help in the greater dialogue we need to embark on and instead serves to stir up already heightened emotions.

In the midst of these difficult times, and this blinding anger we need to take a step back and understand what we are doing. The efforts of Muslim societies

should be focused on insuring that no further disregard or blasphemy is attempted by anyone who provocatively attempts to challenge values that we as Muslims hold dear. Yet, it is important to guarantee that the reaction remains, measured, reasonable, adequate and reflective of true Islamic values.

Many voices are raised in defense of Mr. Al-Asadi, editor-in-chief of the Yemen Observer, Akram Sabra, the managing editor of al-Hurriya weekly newspaper and reporter Yehiya al-Abed of Hurriya because it is believed that they never had the intention to attack, insult, or challenge the Islamic values of society.

Mr. Alasadi admitted there was a mistake in production. In an interview with the Newsweek he explained that he "reprinted the cartoons but blacked them out." Because of an unfortunate "innocent mistake in the production process, a thumbnail of the cartoons appeared on the front page—only 1.5cm [0.6 of an inch] by 2cm [0.8 of an inch], you could hardly read it," he told

Newsweek. Does this mistake warrant his imprisonment?

Yemen's press freedom has been tested often lately and in the eyes of the outside world it remains a measure of the extent of democratization that Yemen would like to claim. Many decisions over the past years have led many to question the censorship and the constraints imposed on newspapers and journalists. In this case, the grounds for charging and imprisoning the journalists can be seen as an overreaction and a succumbing to emotions which left us incapable of differentiating between Mohamed Al-Asadi and the Danish newspaper publisher who challenged and attacked Islamic values and emotions.

Shaker Lashuel is a freelance Yemeni writer based in the U.S. He has written on the Yemeni-American community and Yemen related issues. He is a teacher working for the New York City Department of Education.  
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# Eight 2005 newspaper trends that will continue in 2006

The World Editors Forum is the organization within the World Association of Newspapers devoted to educating newspaper editors worldwide.

The Editors Weblog ([www.editorsworld.org](http://www.editorsworld.org)), launched in January 2004, is an initiative of the Forum designed to facilitate the diffusion of the information we research and act as a unique rendez-vous point for editors and senior news executives looking to be informed of and discuss the monumental changes that journalism is undergoing. One of the interesting articles found recently on the weblog was that by Bertrand Pecquerie and John Burke about eight trends that the Editors Weblog feels will have major effects on newsrooms in 2006.

## 1. Print/Online integration becoming the norm

The *New York Times* and *USA Today* began the process of merging their print and online newsrooms in 2005, a trend which will surely accelerate in 2006. Online is no longer looked at as a complement of print and many newspapers have realized that simply re-publishing print articles on the Web does not suffice.

The challenge to newsrooms in 2006 will be to eliminate the line dividing the two newsrooms while simultaneously preserving their distinct features.

Journalists will be trained storytellers across both media and will work in teams to produce a complete journalistic package including multimedia and investigative texts.

Ultimately, merging the print and online newsrooms will result in new and more creative forms of journalism.

## 2. Threats against investigative journalism growing

With 2,000 lay-offs in the American newspaper industry including around 600 journalists, 2005 was certainly a terrible year in the US. But the trend was similar in the UK and in France and other continental newspapers have barely maintained their level of employment.

But at the same time, newspapers have developed entertainment and lifestyle pages or new supplements dedicated to tourism or luxury. It would be interesting to compare what was a newsroom in the 80's and today, but some trends are clear:

- less foreign correspondents
- less staff at the foreign and political desks
- more people in the lifestyle and entertainment sections.

But this evolution cannot be condemned because newspapers followed a general trend: considering their readers also as consumers.

The main problem appears with the latest wave of lay-offs: newspapers threaten their core activity of investigative journalism (not only major scoops, but reporting on what happens in different communities.

The basic requirement for a newspaper is to be a watchdog of the government, the town hall and big corporations. If your staff is not able to report about what is wrong in your country or your county, you lose your credibility... and immediately after, your business.

**Journalists will be trained storytellers across both media and will work in teams to produce a complete journalistic package including multimedia and investigative texts.**

Investigative journalism is badly damaged by incessant waves of lay-offs. One day, there is a point of no return for your core activity and that day is not so far off.

## 3. More transparency needed

The loss of credibility and public trust of newspapers emphasized by the anonymous source dilemma in the United States and cases of failure in adequately covering important stories, has led to a call for more transparency in the editorial process.

In the wake of the Judith Miller/CIA leak saga and government pundit payola, newspapers have established ombudsmen, guidelines for explaining the reason for an unnamed source have been written, and several papers have opened up their editorial meetings to the public.

In 2006, more newspapers should use blogs and Internet interaction to learn what the public really wants to hear, not merely what they think it should. In this way, newspapers will regain their status of veracity and people will be more likely to buy the paper, be it in print or online.

**The problem for newspapers is that news may take up a mere 10% of the mobile TV pie as television shows, sports and even movies are more attractive to consumers.**

## 4. Breaches appearing in the free news ideology

*TimesSelect*, the 2005 initiative of the *New York Times* was passionately debated. Apart from a handful of papers, notably the *Wall Street Journal*, it was the first time that a major newspaper decided that readers would have to pay for accessing a part of its content (mainly op-ed pages for \$50 per year). With around 350,000 subscribers, the paper is far from its objective of one million, but it was the first time that a publisher frankly said «news is not free and its cost cannot be only covered by online advertising».

What is interesting here is that it represents a major breach in the free news ideology. In numerous American media think tanks and blogs, it was difficult to find someone defending the idea that this « free news bible » was a long-term suicide for news organisations: how can you maintain enough staff in the newsrooms if your revenues diminish every year?

It is the reason why the NYT Sulzberger initiative is welcome. It is

just « bon sens » when you see that millions of people are paying for their mobile phone or their cable TV or Sirius radio subscriptions! There was the same free download ideology about music until Apple changed everything with iTunes.

If *TimesSelect*, however, is to become truly successful, it is likely that the *New York Times* will split it up into more specific topics. As of now, the package includes the paper's op-ed staff, some *New York City* region columnists, select business commentators, sports writers and *International Herald Tribune* journalists, not to mention online chats with some of the staff and archives. Some consumers may not be willing to pay the \$50 because it is too general. But if NYT offered more targeted packages that allowed readers to access only articles of personal interest for a lower price, it may find that more people are willing to pay.

Just another regret: *TimesSelect* cannot be really successful because it is based on a few articles of the same newspaper. WEF is convinced that the only possibility to develop online payments for news requires new partnerships between traditional competitors. Readership would be ten times more developed if the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Miami Herald* could join their efforts and propose a global service of op-ed pages. Same thing, for instance, in France with *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*, *Liberation*, *Les Echos* and *La Tribune*.

## 5. News agencies competing with newspapers

News agencies have found new freedom which will continue to develop in 2006. They do not just sell their content exclusively to newspapers or broadcast but now contact the reader directly through websites or mobile phone feeds.

For instance, *Reuters* already has a mobile television service and the *Associated Press* launched a youth website in 2005. Furthermore, most of the news found on the world's most popular online news source, *YahooNews*, comes from the AP or *Reuters*.

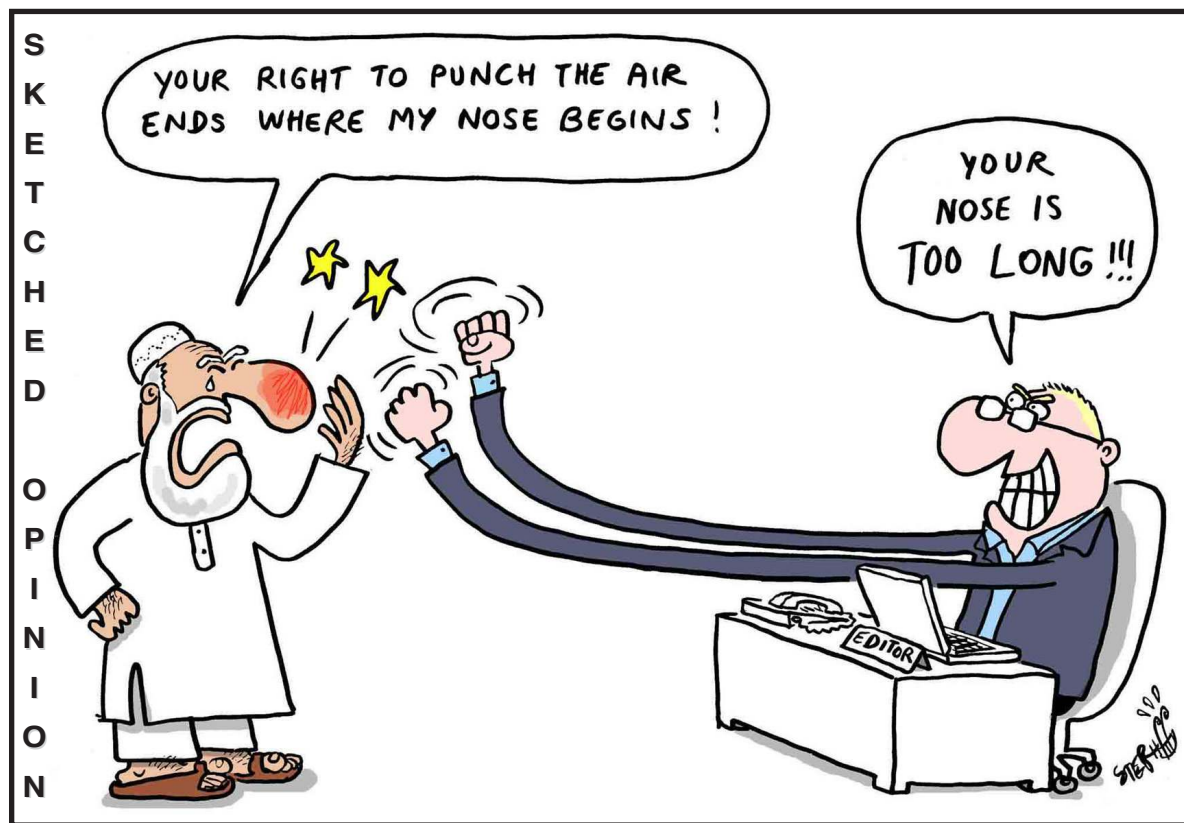
Newspapers are simultaneously becoming increasingly dependent on news agency syndication for international and national news, highlighted by the fact that newsroom staff reductions have led to the elimination of many newspaper bureaus.

In 2006, newspapers will adjust by refocusing on their core constituency, covering stories of regional and local concern too particular for large news agencies.

## 6. Social networking: advantages for newspapers

The popularity of social networking websites, which provide users their own weblog and facilitate contact between other users with like interests, officially turned mainstream this year with Rupert Murdoch's purchase of

(pbuh) merit to be protected. We Muslim people only know what our prophet means to us not any other person does. Martin mentioned on his column that Muslims was strong enough to stand against Danish, but put themselves down after challenging with such newspapers and responding with outraged feelings to them attributing them (the newspaper) as little people. Dear Martin, remember that the little mistake if an apology shouldn't be determined lead to the grave one. Today they scorned our prophet. What will be tomorrow.....of course worst than that? So isn't it better to close the sources from which the floods come from instead of looking for solution after it reaches you?!



*MySpace*, which has grown to over 45 million members since its launch in July 2003.

## The affects of social networking on newspapers is two-pronged:

Pro - Newspapers can adjust by creating niche supplements complete with online forums led by specialists or celebrities, which will in turn attract readers. The strength and influence of their brand would add value to social networking.

Con - Social networking is another medium eating up time, especially among youth, time that is siphoned from newspaper reading.

## 7. Mobile TV threatening mobile news

For a few years, newspaper execs have been lauding the benefits of selling mobile news subscriptions in the form of SMS updates. This business model, still in its nascent stages, may barely get off the ground because of rapidly developing mobile television, which most consumers will no doubt prefer.

Mobile TV is, in fact, already upon us. In Korea, it is already estimated

that consumers watch an hour a day. Mobile service providers all over Western Europe are also experimenting with it on 3G phones to which consumers have been receptive.

The problem for newspapers is that news may take up a mere 10% of the mobile TV pie as television shows, sports and even movies are more attractive to consumers.

Newspapers can, however, take advantage of that small pie if they act now, creating innovative ways to produce mobile news. Journalists and editors can be trained to produce video briefings that entice watchers to link to the deeper, well-investigated newspaper article on their desktops at home or work.

## 8. News organizations becoming entertainment companies

As a result of the pressure of worried shareholders, news companies have massively invested in online ventures where young readers and advertisers are flocking. In 2005, *News Corp*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and at a lower level, British news

companies followed this trend. How do these deals weigh on the future of news?

The main risk is that the core strategy of these companies could change dramatically: over the next decade, news departments could become less important than the entertainment departments within media groups. News will never disappear, but it will be considered as a part of a more ambitious goal: entertaining people everywhere at any moment!

Here the debate is between « content » and « brand ». If you consider the main asset of a news company is its content, you will maintain high quality information, considering that nobody can beat you in this field.

On the other hand, if you consider that your main asset is your brand - for instance *The Los Angeles Times*, *Die Welt* or *Il Corriere della Sera*... - you can imagine new developments as a culture service provider or an entertainment service provider, with the risk that news will become a sort of hostage of your other businesses.

# The Media War on Terror

By: Donald Rumsfeld

“More than half of this battle is taking place on the battlefield of the media, [for] we are in a media battle in a race for the hearts and minds of [Muslims].” The speaker was not some public relations executive, but Osama bin Laden's chief lieutenant, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Terrorists have skillfully adapted to fighting wars in today's media age, but, for the most part, America and the governments of the other democracies have not. Consider that the violent extremists have their own “media relations committees” aimed at manipulating elite opinion. They plan and design headline-grabbing attacks using every means of communications to intimidate and break the collective will of free people.

They know that communications transcend borders, and that a single news story, handled skillfully, can be as damaging to our cause - and as helpful to theirs - as any military attack. And they are able to act quickly with relatively few people, and with modest resources compared to the vast, expensive bureaucracies of democratic governments.

Today we are fighting the first war in the era of e-mail, blogs, blackberries, instant messaging, digital cameras, the Internet, mobile phones, talk radio, and 24-hour news. In Tunisia, the largest newspaper has a circulation of roughly 50,000 in a country of 10 million people. But even in the poorest neighborhoods, you see satellite dishes on nearly every balcony or rooftop.

A few years ago, under Saddam Hussein, an Iraqi could have his tongue cut out if he was found in possession of a satellite dish or used the Internet without government approval. Today, satellite dishes are ubiquitous in Iraq as well.

Regrettably, many of the news channels being watched through these dish-

es are hostile to the West. Media outlets in many parts of the world often serve only to inflame and distort - rather than to explain and inform. While al-Qaeda and extremist movements have used this forum for many years, further poisoning the Muslim public's view of the West, we in the West have barely even begun to compete.

We saw this with the false allegations of the desecration of a Koran last year. First published in a weekly news magazine, the story was then posted on Web sites, sent in e-mails, and repeated on satellite television and radio stations for days before the facts could be discovered. That false story incited deadly anti-American riots in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The United States military, appropriately and of necessity, took the time needed to ensure that it had the facts before responding that the charges were untrue. In the meantime, innocent lives were lost.

But we have begun to adapt. In Iraq, for example, the US military, working closely with the Iraqi government, has sought non-traditional means to provide accurate information to the Iraqi people. Yet this has been portrayed as “buying news.” The resulting explosion of critical press stories then causes everything - all activity, all initiative - to stop. This leads to a “chilling effect” among those serving in the military public affairs field, who conclude that there is no tolerance for innovation.

Consider for a moment the vast quantity of column inches and hours of television devoted to the allegations of detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib. Compare that to the volume of coverage and condemnation associated with, say, the discovery of Saddam Hussein's mass graves, which were filled with hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis.

Free governments must make communications planning a central component of every aspect of this struggle. Indeed, the longer it takes to put a strategic communications framework into place, the more the vacuum will be filled by the enemy.

There are nonetheless signs of modest progress. Soon after the devastating earthquake in Pakistan, a public affairs team was deployed with our sizable military forces in the disaster area. They worked to help focus media attention on America's commitment to help the Pakistani people. Public opinion surveys conducted by private groups before and after the earthquake suggest that attitudes in Pakistan regarding the US changed dramatically because of this new awareness.

Government public affairs and public diplomacy efforts are slowly beginning to reorient staffing, schedules, and bureaucratic culture to engage the full range of today's media.

Still, government must develop the institutional capability to anticipate and act within the same news cycle. That requires instituting 24-hour press operations centers and elevating Internet operations and other channels to the status of traditional twentieth-century press relations. It will require less reliance on the traditional print media, just as the publics of the US and the world are relying less on newspapers.

This also will mean embracing new ways of engaging people throughout the world. During the Cold War, institutions such as Radio Free Europe proved to be valuable instruments. We need to consider the possibility of new organizations and programs that can serve a similarly valuable role in the War on Terror.

We are fighting a war in which the survival of our way of life is at stake. And the center of gravity of that struggle is not just the battlefield. It is a test of wills and it will be won or lost in the court of global public opinion. While the enemy is skillful at manipulating the media and using the tools of communications to their advantage, we have an advantage as well: truth is on our side, and, ultimately, truth wins out.

Donald Rumsfeld is US Secretary of Defense. Copyright: Council on Foreign Relations and Project Syndicate, 2006.

# A respond to Martin Bendeler (why do they hate us)

I have read from YT on its last issue a column written by Martin Bendeler, which he talked about the clash between the western and the Islamic civilizations, taking instants the recent prophet Mohamed's caricatures.

Martin said the reason publishing these pictures was to state the assertion of right to criticize religions in Denmark without no fear but not a hatred toward Muslims

Just, a simple question goes here why the Islamic religion and not other religions. However, Muslims give their full respect to each religion and don't try to harm people's feelings nor disgrace them. Secondly, if Denmark thinks that Muslims have no power in Denmark, let them be aware that Muslim are not only exist in Denmark

but cover the world, will also conduct any possible steps to protect their religion.

Islam is a religion of mercy and peace. So Muslims give rights to each stranger who lives under their identity. Moreover, Martin attributed the several steps that Muslim countries conduct against the Danish government as illegal, immoral and impossible steps. But, indeed it is the ideal way to take against not only the Danish but also against any other Muslim offender. Those steps take a magnificent role in damaging both the Danish newspapers and Government will as well lead them to learn from their mistakes.

As for me a Muslim individual these steps seems nothing to me. More than this should be taken which our prophet

# Yemeni MPs stress fighting corruption as imperative

Yemeni parliamentarians discuss aspects of administrative and financial corruption in the country and call for uprooting it.

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

Yemeni parliamentarians and international experts called for joining government and citizen efforts to end the corruption phenomenon from which the whole world, including Yemen, is suffering. Yemeni parliamentarians and politicians emphasized the necessity of combating financial and administrative corruption widely disseminated inside state institutions, stressing that serious steps must be taken to stop corruption's spread.

In addressing a Feb. 23 workshop organized by the American National Democratic Institute (NDI), Dr. Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakil, Assistant Secretary-General of the People's Forces Union Party, demanded establishing an independent body entrusted to fight corruption, indicating that combating corruption cannot be done without comprehensive political reform, a freely elected Parliament and a just and independent judiciary.

He said the problem of developing countries like Yemen is that they rely on corruption as their structure is built upon it, which is why they dare not remove even one stone of corruption so the situation will not collapse. Such regimes resort to surrounding themselves with a group of corrupters.

Abdulwahab Al-Anisi, Assistant Secretary-General of Yemeni reform party Islah, warned against the danger of dealing with the corruption issue at the expense of democratic change in the country.

Al-Anisi said, "We fear that corruption fighting syllabuses will

draw us to accuse the democracy mechanism of being the one that established fighting corruption, calling for combating it with institutional and popular methods. Institutional fighting is based on democratic action, whereas popular fighting depends on developing values among society."

He also called for annexing the Central Apparatus for Monitoring and Audition to Parliament, pointing out that the apparatus includes efficient elements and has a role despite no response by others. "It is said that Parliament suffers from talent shortages. Annexing the apparatus would raise Parliament's efficiency."

Yemeni economic personality and former oil minister Faisal Bi Shamlan confirmed that there is no political will to fight corruption, affirming that all, including the president, parliament and the government, talk about the country's corruption, which arouses the question: If they all talk about corruption, who will rule the country? He called on all to work together to find a political mechanism to fight corruption, pinpointing the tools of this will as being the press, Parliament and an independent Parliament.

Former MP Salem Al-Arthi warned against the danger of making corruption a legitimate entity, questioning how corruption that is promulgated and approved by Parliament can be combated. He asked, "How will we watch the supplementary appropriation that Parliament approved when 99 percent of it represents corruption? What authority will refute and oppose something legislated and approved by representatives of the people?" Al-



Members of parliament discuss corruption in Yemen and propose ideas for combating it.

Arthi called on all to give priority to national affiliation to partisan or regional affiliation in order to destroy corruption.

Mohammed Qaraa, Shoura (consultancy) Council member and former Shabwa governor, called for the necessity of raising corruption issues via civil society organizations and the press as the first step in corruption fighting efforts.

MP Aidaroos Al-Naqib, head of Parliament's Yemeni Socialist Party bloc, ascribed the problems of Parliament's absent monitoring role mainly to the fact that a large number of MPs do not want to realize their task toward corruption. He stressed the necessity of disconnecting the Central Apparatus for Monitoring and Audition

from the government and attaching it to Parliament, affirming that corruption has spread widely and become a daily part of culture.

Shoura Council member Mohammed Al-Taib described corruption as an international phenomenon existing in various countries of the world and taking various forms and levels. He emphasized fighting corruption by means of dialogue among various political parties.

Workshop participants expressed their hope that Parliament soon will complete the law on establishing a Supreme Body to combat corruption thereby guaranteeing limiting corruption's spread among state institutions.

An international expert at the NDI parliamentary workshop confirmed that the issue of fighting corruption is considered among the world's most important matters, pointing to the many programs to combat the phenomenon in many countries, including Yemen. She considered the matter as important to Yemen's government as it is to NDI. She stressed the necessity of combining efforts to end the epidemic from which many world nations suffer.

Workshop participants also reviewed experiments of Latin American, Asian and Pacific Ocean countries, as well as Eastern European and African countries, in fighting the corruption phenomenon and convenient mechanisms to end it.

## In brief

A joint meeting to group Yemen and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers is scheduled to convene in the Saudi capital of Riyadh March 1 to discuss a number of topics related to cooperation of the two sides.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi clarified in a news conference that the joint meeting will discuss means of strengthening economic and development cooperation and partnership between Yemen and GCC states.

The German Mann Company for trucks is planning a large investment project in Aden Free Zone. Sources said the project intends to build a factory to assemble overland trucks in the free zone's industrial zone.

Sources pointed out that the truck assembly factory's products will cover Yemeni market needs as well as the Horn of Africa region. They added that the step comes as part of facilities Yemen's investment law has granted to foreign capitals to invest in Yemen. A delegation representing the German company currently is visiting Yemen to contact free zone officials and relevant parties to discuss project details.

Official efforts continue for building a commercial port in Socotra, Yemen's largest island. The YR 1.38 billion project began in 2005.

Dr. Ali Al-Shatir, Finance Undersecretary for the planning, statistic and follow-up sector, has demanded revising the policy of issuing treasury bonds. He said, "We have begun at the Finance Ministry's department of planning to discuss and study these issues in a proper way."

In an interview with 26 September weekly, he said, "I personally think these bonds contribute to economic recession. There must be provision of many factors leading us to come out of this situation, including serious study on the condition of treasury bonds."

Al-Shatir indicated that treasury bonds were resorted to at a certain significant stage and played a role in land and currency speculations, as well as had a role in a kind of stability situation.

The Yemeni Customs Authority announced it has signed a contract with the Swiss COBTEC-NA company for a \$250,000 project in 2006 to introduce X-ray systems to scan containers and trucks to be inspected at customs sites.

The European Commission has granted Yemen's Ministry of Fish Wealth a \$5.5 million to partially finance a fifth fish project to which the World Bank also will contribute \$25 million.

The EU recently agreed to grant Yemen a \$3 million in annual food assistance beginning this year. France also has pledged to offer a \$1.5 million in annual food assistance. Relevant government sides, the European Commission Office and the French ambassador to Sana'a are scheduled to sign the two agreements in a few days.

Aden Free Zone granted investment licenses to 116 investment projects between January 2000 and January 2006 costing more than \$3.9 million.

A free zone statistic mentioned that licenses included industrial, housing, tourist, storage, trade and services. The statistic also mentioned that the licensed projects provided 8,271 job opportunities for qualified Yemeni labor.

At the conclusion of Yemeni-Kuwaiti talks on enhancing cooperation between Yemen and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the two sides signed joint minutes on results of the talks.

The talks also included assessing implementation progress of projects funded by the Fund in various Yemeni sectors, mainly water and sewage projects, roads, Sana'a Airport, agriculture, fish, electricity and the Social fund for Development. During the recent visit of the Kuwaiti Fund's director general and chairman of its board of directors, Abdullatif Yusuf Al-Hamad, the two sides agreed on priorities of loans to be offered by the Fund for a number of Yemeni projects included in the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides.

# Study calls for developing laws to serve youth

By: Yemen Times Staff

A study prepared by a Yemeni researcher says there is apparent social and economic misery prevalent among Yemeni youths. The misery is embodied by high rates of school truancy, child labor, family violence, crime and addiction to drugs and alcohol.

An academic study says Yemeni youth are a force groaning under the unemployment market whereas youth in Gulf Cooperation Council states live in a stable environment providing a dignified and secure life. There they find means of honorable living and a secure climate to establish family life as an essential cell in building society for self-realization and respectable social status.

The study further indicates that Yemeni youth need feelings of safety, affiliation and necessary potential to push them toward participating in determining society's different needs. Additionally, they need such feelings to contribute actively to building society and its stability through various institutions, as well as contribute to social services and consolidating civilization and national and popular heritage.

According to the study, Yemeni youth live in an unstable environment, troubled circumstances and deteriorated situations with regard to health care, education, housing, human services, etc. Economic,

political and social changes further constitute great challenges to Yemen's young generation. The situation doubles the possibility of tension and confusion youth experience when they advance from teenagers to adulthood.

The study prepared by Yemeni researcher Abdulbasit Saif mentions that economic and social misery is very obvious among Yemeni youth, as evident in large proportions of them leaving school, child labor, crime and practicing habits of taking drugs and drinking alcohol.

The study says sociologists confirm that such aspects are signs denoting that some youth need means to escape pressures of life and a sense of the loss of certainty. On the contrary, Yemeni female youths are characterized by strong competition with male youths in areas of education, training and developing their educational and cultural capabilities. When Yemeni youth discuss their important issues, they continually express a chain of common concerns and expectations, regardless of their age, education level or domicile.

The study recommends creating opportunities for youth contributions and new leadership, not confining cooperative work to certain groups or segments, and encouraging competitive work among them. It also recommended developing legislation and laws regulating youth work and guaranteeing creating real opportunities for youth participation

in making social work-related decisions. It asked to find special youth projects aimed at nurturing a spirit of affiliation and initiation among them. In this respect, media play a bigger role in calling youth to active and effective participation in leadership, which is the rudder of change.

Social specialists believe a change has emerged in recent years in studying youth tendencies of both sexes, attributing it to political and economic changes Yemen has witnessed. Such changes opened wide the way for youth to enter all fields of

work and specialization, including those exclusive to male youths.

This issue has been the subject of specialists at the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training. Thus, it has prepared a field study to explore common educational tendencies among girls. Results revealed that a large proportion of female students tend toward handmade professions and some modern specialties.

A questionnaire included 26 artworks and technical specialties, mainly fine arts, coiffure, handicrafts, housekeeping, food industries,

secretarial work, accounting, public relations, computers, laboratories and electronic apparatus maintenance. The questionnaire revealed that females prefer secretarial work by 13 percent, 11 percent for accounting, 10 percent for sewing, embroidery, health and nursing, followed by public relations, computers and electronic equipment maintenance at 9.44 percent. The general commercial field, handicrafts and coiffure represented 6 percent, the study found, while 15.42 percent of the questionnaire sample expressed that they did not desire enrolling in technical education.

## New European markets for Yemeni products

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Higher Council for Exports Development currently is studying opening new markets for Yemeni products in Eastern European countries. Council sources said the plan includes opening the new markets with competitive characteristic, adding that the idea came following the success of Yemeni products in external markets currently on demand. The council plan also includes qualifying 25 Yemeni export

companies to export Yemeni goods to European Union countries.

The council is pondering several plans encouraging activities of added value to exports, such as industrializing fish, rawhides and some agricultural products and re-exporting them industrialized instead of as raw materials. Sources added that the council continually studies export-targeted external markets and circulates study results among Yemeni exporters, as well as offers them technical support to develop the capabilities of exporting firms,

improve production quality and provide marketing information on external markets.

Council Secretary-General Nouman Al-Molsi said it has prepared working plans to develop the council's work and increase Yemeni exports abroad. He clarified that the council issues directories on agricultural products export activity, tackling problems facing their export, raising production and export capacities and conducting studies on neighboring external markets in Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

# تهانينا Congratulations

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وإلى معالي الدكتور / علي محمد مجور  
بمناسبة تعيينه وزيراً للكهرباء

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أ/ سعيد علي معيتب  
أ/ رضوان السقاف

## External Vacancy Announcement 01/06

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified candidates for the position of a Project Officer - Child Project Development (NOC) based in Sana'a. Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project Officer Area Based Programme (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

- 1- Contribute towards the preparation of the situation analysis by compiling data, analyzing and evaluating information and writing chapters of the analysis.
- 2- Design, prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate assigned program or specific project(s). Analyze and evaluate data to ensure achievement of objective and/or take corrective action when necessary to meet project objectives.
- 3- Prepare the sector oral documents for the country program recommendation (CPR) and Plan of Action, country Program sheet, etc
- 4- Undertake field visit to monitor programs, as well as conduct periodic program reviews with government counterparts and other partners. Propose and/or undertake action operational procedures affecting project implementation and management.
- 5- Participate in the development of sector oral work plan. Ensure compliance to specific assigned objectives. Provide guidance and support to staff in meeting program/project objectives.
- 6- Assist government authorities to plan and organize training programs. Identify training needs and objectives for the purpose of capacity building and program sustainability.
- 7- Meet with international agencies covering the management of program/project. Participate in meetings with ministries responsible for program/project review and follow-up recommendations and agreements.
- 8- Coordinate with the operations/supply staff on supply and non-supply assistance activities ensuring proper timely UNICEF and government accountability. Certify disbursements of funds, monitor and submit financial status report to Sr. Program officer or Representative as required.

### Qualification and Skills Required:

- Advance University degree in social science or related fields.
- Five years of progressively responsible experience at professional level in a related field in support of development programme of a governmental or non-governmental organisation
- Good negotiation and communication skills.
- Good judgement, initiative, high sense of responsibility, and ability to work in a team.
- Proficient computer user and good knowledge of common computer applications.
- Proven experience of working in multicultural environment.
- Fluency in written and oral English and Arabic.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to :  
The Operation Officer, UNICEF , P.O Box 725, Sana'a of Yemen

Applications received after 14 of March 2006 will not be accepted.

Qualifications women candidates are encouraged to apply. "UNICEF is non - smoking environment"

## ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

THE ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN AUSTRIA IS PLEASED TO OFFER PARTIAL AND FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO ESPECIALLY TALENTED AND MOTIVATED STUDENTS.

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Willingness to contribute to the life of the school community and to take full advantage of what it has to offer is essential. Carl Sandburg once said "Nothing happens unless first a dream", we encourage you to pursue your own.

Information about the school and application procedures at:

St. Gilgen International School  
Ischlerstrasse 13  
5340 St. Gilgen  
Austria

[www.stgilgen-international-school.at/scholarships](http://www.stgilgen-international-school.at/scholarships)



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THE ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN AUSTRIA PLACES SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA EDUCATION. IT ANNOUNCES THE MEDIA AWARD 2006 IN THE SUBMISSION CLASSES STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS.

Entries are accepted in the categories:  
Audio // Video // Image // Interactive

Prizes include two main prizes "Best Media Contribution" of €10,000 each, six prizes "Best Contribution per Category" of €3,000 each, and full and partial scholarships at the St. Gilgen International School.

"He who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine receives light without darkening me." Thomas Jefferson

Information about the award and application procedures at:

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Ischlerstrasse 13  
5340 St. Gilgen  
Austria

[www.stgilgen-international-school.at/MediaAward](http://www.stgilgen-international-school.at/MediaAward)





## VACANCY

### Information, Education & Communications and Services Marketing Coordinator

Marie Stopes International in Yemen, a leading international reproductive health organization, seeks to recruit a qualified and experienced **IEC & Marketing Coordinator** to lead and coordinate all the Health Education and Marketing activities required for MSI in Yemen.

#### Tasks Include:

- Develop and implement an effective Services Marketing strategy for MSIY, linked to project activities and clinic targets.
- Produce monthly work plans and budgets for marketing activities across all centres.
- Plan and implement a demanding schedule of HE sessions around Yemen.
- Actively promote RH and Family planning as well as MSIY services.
- Develop a network of media and organizational contacts to carry out IEC activities.
- Train and support a team of Health Educators, and supervise their work.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of Health Education activities.
- Develop targeted Health Education sessions for young mothers, youth and marginalized groups on PRH, FP and STDs.
- Research opportunities to work with marginalized groups.
- Contribute to strategic and programme planning.

#### Person Specifications:

- Must have HE or Marketing experience.
- Must have experience working in Communications.
- Must have good contacts in the media or academic institutions.
- Must be a strong advocate for Family Planning.
- Must have good training and people management skills.
- Must be willing to travel frequently within Yemen.
- Must have good spoken and written English.
- Must have good computer skills.
- Must be highly motivated, active and willing to learn new skills.

Due to the nature of the work, female candidates will be preferred. This post is open to Yemeni nationals only. The job is to start immediately.

Please send your CV and cover letter in English to Marie Stopes International in Yemen fax: 425906 or to: [mshahady@y.net.ye](mailto:mshahady@y.net.ye)

## VACANCY FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST

**Project:** Yemen Agricultural Support Program (YASP)  
**Position:** Monitoring and Evaluation  
**Activity:** Manage YASP Monitoring and Evaluation [M&E] system  
**Duration:** 19 months

ARD is seeking applications for the position on Monitoring & Evaluation for a USAID-financed Yemen Agricultural Support Program (YASP). This is a junior to mid-level position requiring a background in managing information related to project performance measurement.

YASP is entering a new phase of project implementation that involves field based activities in 5 target governorates. With the approval of the 2006-07 Work Plan there is the need to establish baseline, annual monitoring and results indicators to measure YASP progress against specific benchmarks for the remaining LOP. The M&E system is designed to ensure effective and efficient operation of program activity measures with respect to project implementation, capacity building, results and impact.

#### Tasks and Duties:

##### Monitoring and Evaluation

- \* Collaborate in the design of project M&E System
- \* Manage the M&E System for the project
- \* Design data collection instruments
- \* Assist project management in establishing baselines and target input levels
- \* Periodically collect project implementation data
- \* Perform data audits
- \* Prepare reports, graphics, and other visual presentations required for project performance reporting
- \* Undertake special services as requested by his/her supervisor.

#### Candidate Profile

- \* Bachelors Degree- and three years experience.
- \* Knowledge of community-based organizations, Agriculture in Yemen.
- \* Knowledge of USAID monitoring and evaluation practices and requirements
- \* Excellent report writing skills
- \* Effective preparation of oral and written presentations
- \* Excellent command of Excel, Access, Word and Power Point.
- \* Knowledge of concepts and applications of GIS and GPS
- \* At least one year of work experience in accounting, statistics or analytical jobs.
- \* Excellent people and networking skills.
- \* Understanding of organization and maintenance of files.

#### For Further Information:

Interested and qualified individuals should submit their CVs with a cover letter in English via fax to (Sana'a) 304-121

or via e-mail to: [khulood.zariqah@ardiyemen.org](mailto:khulood.zariqah@ardiyemen.org)

Tel: 304124/5

The deadline for receiving applications is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006

## VACANCY FOR GRANT MANAGER

**Project:** Yemen Agricultural Support Program (YASP)  
**Position:** Grants Manager  
**Activity:** Manage YASP Small Grants Program (SGP)  
**Duration:** 19 month

ARD is seeking applications for the position on Grants Manager for a USAID-financed Yemen Agricultural Support Program (YASP). This is a junior to mid-level position requiring a background in managing information related to project performance measurement and prior experience working with projects that have small grants components. Women are encouraged to apply.

The Grants Manager will supervise the provision of development grants and "seed money" to communities throughout the five Governorate Regions that will further support development initiatives generated at the local level. Grants will be implemented in accordance with the guidance found in the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Automated Directives System (ADS) 303.5.15b for Fixed Obligation Grants (FOGs). Grants will be processed, awarded, and managed in accordance with the instructions contained in the YASP/FOG guidelines

#### Tasks and Duties:

##### Grants Management

- \* Develop system for collection and review of grant applications that conform to the FOG format using a very clear set of criteria
- \* Assure that the SGP supports initiatives generated by local NGOs, cooperatives, associations, local councils and agricultural extension authorities
- \* Encourage and promote women's initiatives
- \* Target beneficiaries to include formal civil society agents, producer and processor groups, public and private actors delivering social and economic services.
- \* Monitor and collect data on both direct and indirect beneficiaries affected by SGP activities.
- \* Partner with other local initiatives, as appropriate, to enhance SGP impact including MAI, Local Councils, Extension Directorate, Governors in the targeted Governorates and other donor programs
- \* Provide timely information and guidance to the SGP Review and Evaluation Committee (REC) for all project applications
- \* Prepare timely reports on YASP results for the donor and host government

#### Candidate Profile

- \* Bachelor-level degree
- \* Knowledge of community-based organizations
- \* Excellent report writing skills
- \* Effective preparation of oral and written presentations
- \* Excellent command of Excel, Access, Word and Power Point.
- \* Knowledge of concepts and applications of GIS and GPS
- \* At least one year of work experience in accounting, statistics or analytical jobs.
- \* Excellent people and networking skills.
- \* Understanding of organization and maintenance of files.

#### For Further Information:

Interested and qualified individuals should submit their CVs with a cover letter in English via fax to (Sana'a) 304-121 or via e-mail to:

[khulood.zariqah@ardiyemen.org](mailto:khulood.zariqah@ardiyemen.org)

Tel: 304124/5

The deadline for receiving applications is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006

أدام الله السرور  
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# YEMEN TIMES

## Editorial Vacancy

The Yemen Times is seeking to hire a native speaker of English (American, British, Australian or Canadian) to work **as full-time editing secretary** with experience in working in media and good coordination skills.

#### The job description is as follows:

- To coordinate with the editorial coordinator in maintaining the admin and coordination issues of the editorial department
- Follow-up of the issue's plan, timing and availability of materials
- Supervising that the materials set in the pages are according to pre-decided plan
- Copy editing of news especially the front page, or other materials when needed or requested by the managing editor
- Writing articles and reporting about events and participating in the contents of the newspaper regularly
- Plan Supervising the layout and design of the pages including titles and picture captions
- Keep track of attendance sheet and the whereabouts of the editorial staff
- Follow-up of the allocation of journalists to covering events and their reporting process
- To report to the managing editor about issue's progress and any issues concerning staff

If you are interested, send your CV under the title "Editing Secretary" to [editor@yementimes.com](mailto:editor@yementimes.com). Deadline for receiving applications is Friday March 3rd.

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Should be leader and a Team Member to build an organization from a nascent stage.

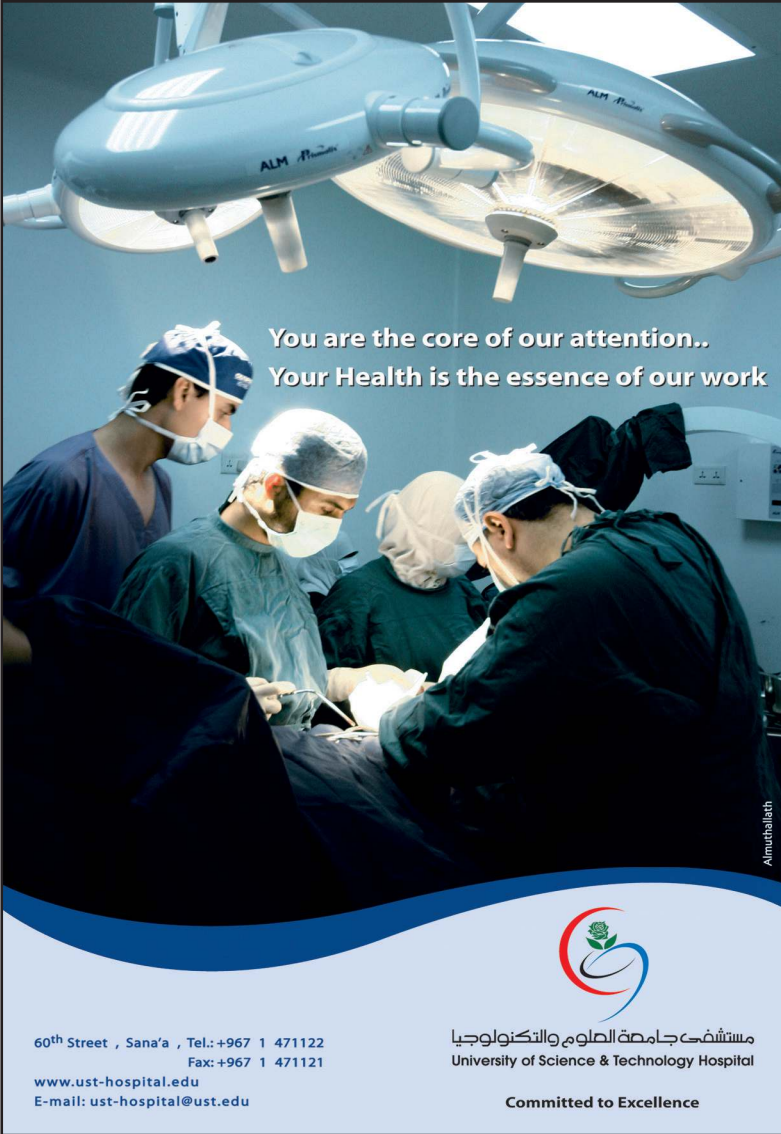
Should be familiar with the relevant laws and statutory requirements for running an Industrial Organization in the Republic of Yemen.

Should be well conversant in English and Arabic.

#### Announcement Deadline:

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

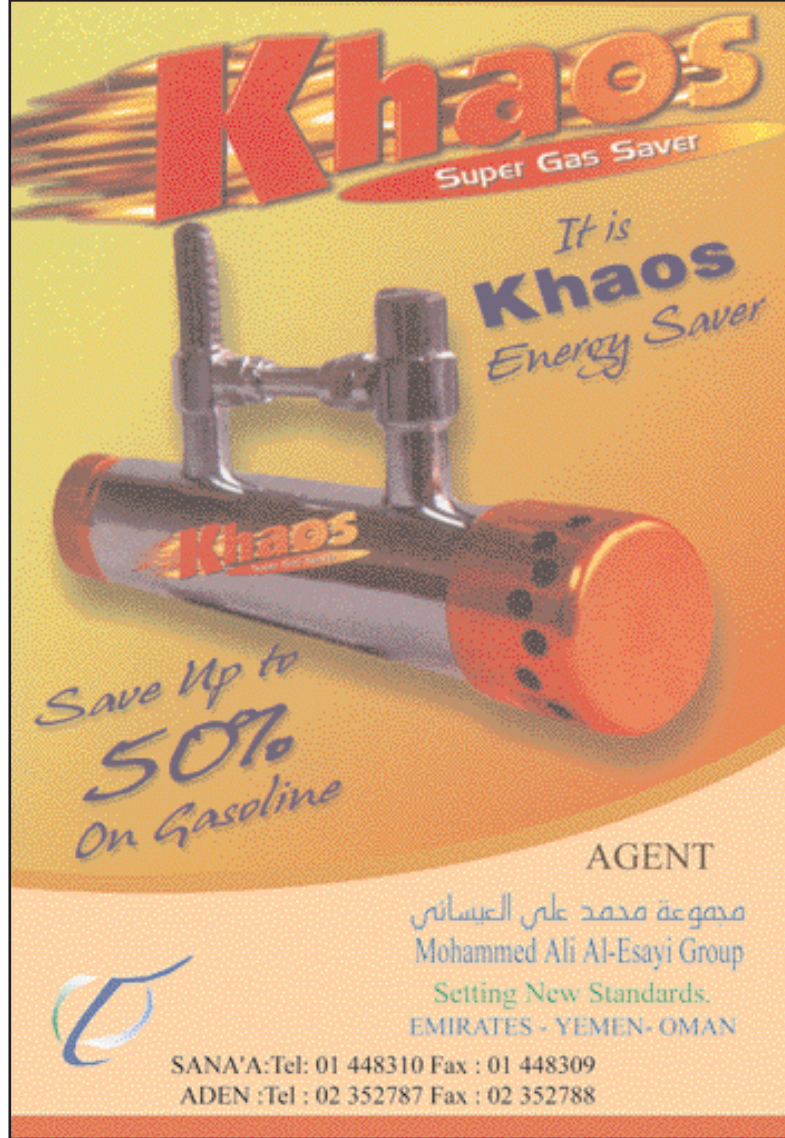
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**Republic of Yemen  
National Water Resource Authority  
Announcement**

**[Vacancies for individual international consultants]**

The National Water Resources Authority has received a support from the state of Netherlands to assist in financing towards the cost of water sector project and intends to apply parts of it for the recruitment of individual international consultants whose terms of reference are given below.

**Position Title:** Public Awareness Expert, international  
**Duty Station:** Sana'a  
**Organization:** National Water Resources Authority [NWRA]  
**Duration:** 6 months in the first year,  
 then 2 times 3 months in the following tow years  
**Date Required:** As soon as possible.

Under the overall supervision of the NWRA Chairman and his Deputy and Sector Head of MIS, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the expert is required to perform the tasks listed below.

Main objective: Review and discuss with the relevant staff of MIS the strengths and a weaknesses of an ongoing and planned public awareness program, suggest a strategy to make this program more effective, including prioritization of various actions. Enable the department to carry out their functions independently and under minimum supervision in the future.

**Background of the post:** The Public Awareness Department of the National Water Resources Authority [NWRA] is housed under the Monitoring and Implementation Sector [MIS] and is responsible for production and dissemination of national campaign on issues related to water conservation. Presently, the Public Awareness Department is in its early phase of development and is not yet fully functional to perform its tasks.

Therefore, services of an international Public Awareness Expert are required to strengthen the technical capabilities of the public Awareness Department for taking up of a public Information and Awareness program.

The Public Expert [Communication Expert] Shall have an MSc Degree in Sociology of Journalism and Mass Communications and shall have minimum of 15 Years experience of which 10 Years shall be in the field of designing and implementing public information and awareness campaigns in the agriculture and rural sectors with emphasis on soil and water conservation. He shall be fully with the various media broadcasts; audio - visual displays, print media etc. and should be able to create messages through these media for public information and awareness on the participatory management and conservation of groundwater and on the need of not expending the groundwater irrigated areas in Yemen with a view to arrest rapid decline of groundwater aquifer levels. Appropriate stakeholder participation at community level by any undertakings of the expert is required.

A good knowledge of both English and Arabic would be necessary.

**The communications Expert's main duties include:**

- 1- Develop a comprehensive program and dissemination strategy of TV and Radio messages. In this context, the expert should describe the contents of the messages, pre-test these messages with the target audience, and ensure complete production of these message with the help of existing Public/private productions.
- 2- Provide assistance to NWRA in the production of films on water management issues and prepare TOR for their production, dissemination and publicity.
- 3- Provide assistance in setting-up the production unit is NWRA with necessary equipment facilities to ensure in - house production of up-to-date public awareness messages and Billboards at prominent locations. Moreover, assist NWRA in preparing technical specification for communication equipment, installation and appropriate use.
- 4- Provide an extensive on - the- job training to the staff of the public Awareness Department. Propose a training program for key staff of the Department considering short - term study tours to learn from experiences of other countries preferably Arab Countries.
- 5- Design a procedure for evaluation of awareness campaign impact.

More details of the TORs can be obtained from the address given below if required. Interested applicants who meet above requirements may submit their applications with their CVs to the NWRA Chairman, whose address is given below on or before 10<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

**Sana'a Republic of Yemen  
National Water Resources Authority, NWRA  
P.O. Box No. 8944  
Tel.: 00967-1-231733  
Fax: 00967-1-256926  
E-mail: NWRA-HQ@Y.net.ye**

**Republic of Yemen  
National Water Resource Authority  
Announcement**

**[Vacancies for individual international consultants]**

The National Water Resources Authority has received a support from the state of Netherlands to assist in financing towards the cost of water sector project and intends to apply parts of it for the recruitment of individual international consultants whose terms of reference are given below.

**Position Title:** Database Expert  
**Duty Station:** Sana'a  
**Organization:** National Water Resources Authority [NWRA]  
**Duration:** One Year  
**Date Required:** As soon as possible.

Under the overall supervision of the NWRA Chairman and his Deputy and Sector Head of MIS, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the expert is required to perform the tasks listed below.

**Duties: The expert is required to perform the following tasks:**

- Integrate available applications into one overall system: Coordination of different activities and integration of all modules that have developed over the 1988 and 1999 into one comprehensive system. Attention should be given to required outputs for the regional water management plans.
- Consolidate NWRA's information system towards other programmes and organizations: As part of this activity, local information centers will have to be developed and consolidated under each sub - program, providing hardware, software and technical assistance as required. A mechanism of data exchange with other water sector institutions and projects is to be established.

**Duties, continued:**

- Evaluate the existing data base system in all aspects and identify gaps together with a local team.
- Identify number of staff to be working in the department, including developing their job-descriptions.
- Identify system requirements for database.
- Merge consolidate and upgrade existing database information.
- Enhance the database design and applications in order to accommodate other than monitoring data, such as domestic, irrigation, industrial water, water pollution and water resources management irrigation, socioeconomic, registration and permits data generated by NWRA or relevant data generate by other agencies. Refine existing output modules for generation of quarterly and annual monitoring reports.
- Disseminate information: To - date dissemination of information technology was mainly centered around NWRA. With the establishment of local information centers under different sub-programs, the expansion of dissemination activities will have to be coordinated and integrated. In addition, new media's such as Internet sites and CD ROM technologies needs to be explored to complement these activities and reach other organizations.
- Assist in the setup of an operational library database.
- Supervise digitization of maps, and further integrate database and GIS software in use.
- Establish in collaboration with the Hydrogeologist linkages between database / GIS systems and water modeling software.
- Train and involve national counterpart staff in all aspects of the information system, e.g. database design, application development, dissemination techniques, and integration of systems.
- Enhance NWRA's computer network [NT Server] towards it's branches and train staff in NT SERVER network administration.
- Prepare documentation on NWRA's information system and computer network.
- Assist staff of the database in preparing working program for the coming years.
- Perform other tasks as required.

**Qualifications and Experience:** Master Degree in Computer Science or related technical field with significant experience in water resources information systems, at least 10 years of relevant experience. Extensive the oretical knowledge of database management systems, in particular MS Access and object oriented programming languages [Visual Basic and Map Objects]. Knowledge of common GIS software like Arc / View, Atlas\*GIS, Arc/Info, ILWIS, Idrisi. Experience with Local Area Network, in particular NT Server 4.0 and familiar with concepts of system analysis and design. Must be fluent in English with excellent report writing capabilities. Experience with UNDP and NEX procedures would also be advantageous.

More details of the TORs can be obtained from the address given below if required. Interested applicants who meet above requirements may submit their applications with their CVs to the NWRA Chairman, whose address is given below on or before 10<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

**Sana'a Republic of Yemen  
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## Naksh: the business of many women in Yemen

**Naksh is a decorative art wherein women's hands, arms and legs are decorated. It is a social phenomenon, but there is no mention of exactly when it appeared in Yemen or how it came; however, it is considered a business by those who practice it.**

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

Most Yemeni and Gulf women use decorative art for many occasions. A bride is supposed to "tentakesh" that is, have either henna or naksh "khethab" done. It is similar to "Yawm Al-Naksh" in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and other cities but with some key differences. The bride is veiled during the naksh party, so she will look prettier on the wedding night because nobody has seen her.

### Khethab

Khethab, the material decorators use to decorate, is a black stone with a particular smell. There are women who cook khethab, spending time doing it with great effort until it looks like stone. The decorator breaks the stone into small pieces and then grinds them into powder. Afterward, she soaks them in a few drops of water for a while, which makes it soft so it is easily applied with a brush. Some decorators add a little salt or sugar to make it more fixed for a longer time. Khethab usually stays on the skin for two to three weeks.

### The Munakeshah

A Munakeshah is the professional decorator. Only women work with naksh, as it is a female job. Men are not allowed to work in this art because women's bodies are decorated and Islamic religion and customs do not allow men to decorate women. Although there are no training centers in Yemen specialized in this decorative art, a few talented women may enter this field. They must learn the art and professionally train themselves.

### Decorating occasions

Naksh actually is used for many Yemeni occasions; however, the main naksh occasion is the wedding celebration, as Yemeni brides must be painted with naksh. There is a special



A young girl with naksh on her arms.

PHOTO BY: FOUAD AL-HARAZI

day to decorate the bride called, "Yawm Al-Naksh," during which women celebrate and hold a big party at the bride's house.

The Munakeshah comes early in the morning and begins decorating the bride. Afterward, she may start to decorate the bride's relatives and friends. A Munakeshah often spends more than two hours decorating the bride. Afrah, a Munakeshah, says, "The bride's naksh is the most difficult one I must care for. I decorate only two or three brides a day, as it requires more effort and time."

In the past, only brides and married women could be decorated as a traditional habit. Nowadays, any woman, whether married or single, who wants to be decorated can go to a Munakeshah. Furthermore, if some families have a wedding, the bride's relatives and friends must be decorated to be distinguished from other guests.

Often, a woman who has had a baby goes to a Munakeshah to decorate her hands and arms after giving birth. Also, engaged girls like to prepare for their engagement party with naksh, while others use naksh to celebrate their graduation. A Munakeshah often is busy decorating girls during Eid days as well. "Sometimes I spend all night decorating all the girls of my neighbors," Afrah says.

### Places to decorate

Generally, women decorate their

hands, arms, feet and legs, but in some cities, women also decorate their face and chest, especially brides and married women. According to traditional custom, it is forbidden for unmarried women to decorate their legs or face, as unmarried women should not decorate anything but their hands and arms. Only married women who go to a Munakeshah to satisfy their husbands are allowed to have their legs and face painted.

### Types of decorative arts

There are many kinds of decoration, depending on the particular country. For example, every Yemeni city has its own decorative style. Sana'a decoration differs from Swgtrah decoration. Al-Godimi is one of the oldest types of decoration in Sana'a, with its own design of lines of dots that make hands more attractive.

New generations have come up with new decorations and decorators create designs for themselves. Every decorator makes her own design that it looks different from other decorators' styles. Al-Hadrami style is a Hadramout design that looks very different from others and requires more effort and focus. Also, there is Hohahha design, similar to Al-Hadrami design but with minor differences.

### The price of decoration

Decorators generally estimate the cost of decoration. There is no fixed price for the decorative process, as many

conditions and factors may affect the price. Decorating a bride is the most expensive because the decorator must spend a longer time decorating her than anybody else. A customer's status also plays a role in estimating the price, as a rich customer pays more than a poor one.

When asked how much they earn per month, one decorator replied, "I earn more money during occasion months. In the summer, I decorate more than four brides a day and many girls who have parties, so I earn about 30,000 riyals a day. I don't ask for much money, but I consider the customer's economic state."

Ahlam, a very skillful decorator, said, "I have decorated for a long time, so I have enough experience to decorate skillfully. Most of my customers are rich and they don't care about the money if the decoration is wonderful. I charge YR 20,000 for a bride and I request YR 5,000 from other women to decorate only the hands. The price may be more or less." Skilled decorators charge higher prices than decorators still in training.

Eman, another decorator, said, "For me, I make a fixed price for customers. I don't care whether she is rich or poor." When asked about the maximum price that she charges, she said, "I charge YR 7,000 for a bride, YR 3,000 for married women and approximately YR 500 to 1,000 for adult girls."

### Munakeshah are businesswomen

Munakeshah in Yemen are rich because there are only a few women who can decorate. Some girls consider the decorative art a main career for them, preferring to quit

their school and university studies to be free to do it. They believe they can earn more money and get a good income by working as decorators rather than obtain a university certificate and then looking for a job opportunity. Salwa, a professional decorator, says, "I studied up to grade six and now I work at home as a

decorator. Women come to my house, so I don't need go out and search for a job."

Many women become rich after a few months of working in this field. Some participate in small projects; others buy gardens and build residential buildings projects, while others open beauty centers, etc.



Tools used in making khethab.

PHOTO BY: BY: FATIMA AL-AJEL

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