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Inside:

- 3** Dubai ports deal criticized in United States
- 5** Yemen: a nation without addresses
- 8** Skyrocketing fish prices in Hadramout

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Recently, President Bush sent a letter to President Saleh protesting that Yemen did not carry out the International resolutions regarding Sheikh Al-Zindani, who has been regarded as a supporter of terrorism. Do you think Sheikh Al-Zindani supports terrorism?

I don't know (17%)
 Yes (44%)
 No (49%)

This edition's question:
 Yemeni women struggle to have an effective role in Yemeni life, but most of the community still oppresses them. Do you think establishing a ministry for women will support their cause?
 Yes
 No
 I don't know

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

YT founder late Dr. Al-Saqqaf wins MEPC Lifetime Achievement Award

By: Walid Al-Saqqaf

Dubai, March 6 — Yemen Times founder late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1952-1999) won yesterday the Middle East Publishing Conference Lifetime Achievement award, which was handed over to his son and YT journalist Walid Al-Saqqaf in an official ceremony in Dubai.

The awarding event was part of the second annual regional Middle East conference focusing on magazine, newspaper and online publishing held in Dubai during 5-6 March and was held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai and UAE Prime Minister.

The selection was made by a special committee, comprising representatives of the three co-organizers of the Middle East Publishing Conference (MEPC) - the International Federation of Periodical Publishers (FIPP), the World Association of Newspapers (WAN) and Dubai Consultancy



Late Prof. Al-Saqqaf

Research and Media Centre.

Late Al-Saqqaf was among a short list of prominent Middle East publishers including Ghassan Tuani, journalist, publisher and civil servant, who took over An Nahar (Lebanon) in 1947 and helped establish it as an outspoken, independent, liberal newspaper;

Hisham and Muhammad Ali Hafiz, considered founders of journalism in Saudi Arabia, having in 1978 founded Asharq Al Awsat; the late Abdul Aziz Fahd Al Msa'eed who was a towering figure in Kuwait's post-independence press; and Mustafa Ameen (1914-97), journalist, writer and publisher who established Al Akhbar.

"Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was one of the most prominent human rights activists... He was the founder of Yemen Times, which is the first and most popular English newspaper in Yemen," the organizers of the MEPC said in a press release.

After receiving the award, Walid Al-Saqqaf said the award would be dedicated to the soul of his father who "struggled to expose the truth no matter the consequences" and is a gift to Yemenis "who believed in his message."

"My father struggled a lot in his life. He was harassed, detained, beaten, and even kidnapped. But he always felt that his duty in presenting the truth to the



Walid Al-Saqqaf (right) receiving the AWA

people deserves all the sacrifice." Walid Al-Saqqaf said.

This is one of many awards presented to Dr. Al-Saqqaf during his life and after his death in a mysterious traffic accident he was exposed to on June 2, 1999. Among the other prestigious awards presented to Al-Saqqaf was the 1994 National Press Club Human Rights Award in the International

Category. The award for the category of Newspaper Publishing was one of three awards given by the MEPC. The other two awards were the Magazine Publisher award won by Ghanima Fahd Al Marzouq, publisher of Usrati weekly, Kuwait and the Online Publisher award presented to Al-Jazeera.net.

WNC third national conference for women: the way forward

The Women's National Committee celebrated the international day for women by demanding the 30% quota system for women in decision-making positions. This took place in a two-day conference, which was concluded by honoring a number of pioneer Yemeni women.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, March 8 — "From words to deeds" was the slogan of the Women National Committee's (WNC) third national conference for women conducted between the 6th and 7th of this month. Under the patronage of the president, and inaugurated by Ms. Amat Al-Razaq Hummad Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, the conference was attended by an impressive gathering of activists from all around the country. The main demand of the conference was to secure a 30% quota for women in the local councils nation wide. Addressing the attendees Ms. Rashida Al-Hamadani chairwoman of the WNC praised the achievements Yemeni women has made so far especially with the support of the political leadership. Yet she said that there is a long way to come. "The importance of creating a ministry for women's development could not be emphasized enough. We believe that the coming ministerial structure should adhere to this demand in order to highlight and prioritize women's issues in the governments agenda in all sectors." She said.

Mr. Hans Obdeijn, UNFPA Representative embraced the occasion and expressed the donor organisations interest in development of Yemeni women. Ms. Amat Al-Razaq Hummad Minister of Social Affairs and Labor on



behalf of prime minister and chairperson of the Supreme Council for Women, Mr. Abdul Qadir Ba Jammal, concluded the inauguration by emphasizing on two main points: the preparation of second and third line female leaders, and the commitment of political parties to supporting female candidates in elections and assure the 30% representation of women in decision making positions in the various political parties.

Serious celebration

Although the occasion was a celebration of Yemeni women's overall achievements and requirements it was an opportunity for gender and development activities to share their knowledge and concerns regarding the progress of women's issues in Yemen. Sixteen working papers were presented during the two days of the conference. The working papers included review of gender mainstreaming in the three five-year poverty reduction strategy 2006-2010, women's health strategy, political participation of women, women's education, women and the media, women in agriculture women's role in syndicates and unions and women entrepreneurs.

The way forward

In the concluding session of the conference prime minister and chairperson of the supreme council for women gave a speech in which he again reiterated the government's commitment to women's development and promised to decrease the retirement age for women as per public demand.

The concluding recommendations of the conference were in the following aspects:

Increasing women's political participation:

Through continuous demand to promote women in decision making positions through the quota system and mainstreaming gender issues in government budgets, plans and strategies. Calling on political parties and organizations to nominate female candidates in elections. And empowering women's organizations and encouraging them to take up their responsibilities and promote women especially politically.

Economic empowerment of women

Increasing women's participation in the work force to reach at least 30% of the total labor market. And also to provide them with economic opportunities and adequate vocational and technical training as well as improve the working environment and infrastructure.

Education and training

Increasing the rates of enrolment in girls education and taking required measures to ensure the sustainability of their education so as to try and achieve the MDG by 2015 regarding girls education. To enhance the literacy system and support training and education of disadvantaged women as well as to promote females as decision makers in the educational system.

Health

Supporting gender strategies in the

health sector and to mainstream them in all the ministries plans and strategies around the republic. Also to enhance reproductive health services and qualify more females in this field.

Violence against women

Endorsing the legal amendments recommended to eliminate discrimination against women in the legislations and laws and to provide the required guarantees to support divorced and widowed women in terms of accommodation and custody of children as per the personal status law. To expand the legal and psychological assistance to abused and violated women as well as to support the national campaign against the risks of early marriage.

Media

Increasing women's participation in all media tools and to enhance the content and media message about women and women's issues including in mass communication tools. Strategic wise, to develop educational and awareness programs that discuss women issues especially regarding development and to target the rural women.

Institutionalization of government mechanisms

Providing women with more authority and mechanisms to achieve their strategic goals and to provide them with the required technical and financial support. To provide technical and financial support to WNC branches around the republic and to translate the strategies into practical action plans.

Continued on page 2

Opposition makes proposal to ensure fair polls



Some of opposition representative in the press conference.

Photo by Yasser Al-Mayasi

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, March 7 — Yemeni opposition parties confirmed at a Tuesday press conference that they have a proposal to ensure free and fair elections, saying such proposal is due to prevent any poll-related violations as seen in previous parliamentary, local and legislative elections.

Opposition parties ascertained the proposal will ensure conducting free elections with more transparency and integrity by applying standard electoral measures. They emphasized the need to conduct local and presidential elections on time; and, to ensure this, the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) must be reshuffled.

Continued on page 2

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Court jails two for trying to kill U.S. Ambassador

SANA'A, Mar. 7 — On Monday, the State Security Specialized Penal Court (SSSPC) sentenced two suspects to five years in prison for attempting to assassinate former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen, Edmund Hall, in 2004.

Under the verdict, Hozam Al-Mas and Khalid Al-Halilah faced a maximum five-year imprisonment term after being convicted of charges attributed to them by the Attorney General.

Issued by Judge Umar Al-Ba'adani, the verdict stated that the suspects will be jailed in special places and receive

kind treatment while their seized explosives will be confiscated to the State's Treasury. Seized weapons included hand grenades and a Russian-made pistol.

The court began trying the suspects in January on charges of attempting to kill the U.S. envoy. They threw a hand grenade at him as he was entering a shop in the Hadda area. Charges were based on the Attorney General's indictment that the suspects observed the ambassador's car in Al-Sab'een area, Sana'a.

Accomplice Al-Halilah waited inside a taxi while Al-Mas jumped from the

shop's fence carrying a pistol and two hand grenades, plotting to kill the envoy after he parked his car and entered the shop. When a policeman saw him and ordered him to stop, Al-Mas fired on police and fled the scene.

Al-Mas pleaded guilty to attempting to kill the ambassador, but told the SSSPC he was psychologically ill. Taxi driver Al-Halilah pleaded not guilty, saying he only drove Al-Mas to an arms market.

On Saturday, the SSSPC cleared four Iraqis of charges that they belong to the

former Iraqi Intelligence Organization and plotted to attack the U.S. and British embassies in Sana'a.

Under the verdict, the Iraqis were released and granted the right to reside in Yemen, while their five seized handbags containing explosives and a remote-controlled bombing device were confiscated.

The four suspects were arrested March 26, 2003 on charges of being involved in forming an armed band plotting to launch offensives on the U.S. and British embassies.

Ambiguous circumstances behind jail breakers' capture



Al-Qaeda mosque through which the Al-Qaeda suspects escaped.

PHOTO BY ADEL AL-HADDAD

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Mar. 7 — Yemeni forces have recaptured some of the 23 Al-Qaeda prisoners who dug out of a Sana'a intelligence jail Feb. 3, media sources reported Monday.

Details of the identities and number of inmates and the way they were arrested are not yet clear. According to Reuters, security authorities arrested three of the Al-Qaeda escapees Sunday. However, the Defense Ministry's 26 September Net web site said two escapees gave themselves up to police in the past two days.

Quoting "well-informed" sources, the web site reported, "The two surrendered Saturday in the southeastern province of Hadramout. They told police officials they decided to surrender after finding it difficult to stay on the run any longer with police pursuing them."

Agence France-Presse (AFP), quoting a security official on condition of anonymity, reported Tuesday that two escapees were arrested with the help of three other recently surrendered jail breakers. The men, who hail from the southeastern Al-Baidha province, were arrested Sunday night in Sana'a disguised in civilian clothing.

Last month, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced that three other escaped Al-Qaeda militants surrendered to authorities. He told Al-Hayat newspaper that security forces were also in contact with other fugitives among the group.

Fugitives include Jamal Badawi,

leader of the 2000 bombing of the U.S. warship Cole and the 2002 attack on French supertanker Limburg, and Fawaz Al-Rabyee, a Yemeni-American wanted by the U.S. Al-Rabyee was sentenced to death in August 2004 following his conviction for leading a 14-member group linked to the terrorist Al-Qaeda organization.

Yemen's Interior Ministry announced a YR 5 million reward (\$25,600) for information on any of the Al-Qaeda escapees who broke out of their prison at intelligence service headquarters in the southern Sana'a suburb of Hadda. Authorities said the men dug a 44-meter-long tunnel from their cell to a nearby mosque using steel food pots and cooking tools.

The incident drew anger and astonishment from the U.S., which criticized Yemen for housing prisoners too close together and without sufficient restrictions. According to media, Yemeni authorities at that time rejected a U.S. request to interrogate detainees held by security officials following the escape.

In this regard, Deputy Premier Interior Minister Rashad Al-Alimi confirmed Monday at a conference on fighting terrorism funding organized by the UN Regional Bureau for the Middle East and South Africa that Yemen is the first to join international efforts to fight terrorism. "The political leadership gave priority in its programs to the issue of fighting terror and the resources that fund it," Al-Alimi said, according to Saba news.

HU student killed in tragic car accident

By: Saeed Al-Batati

AL-MUKALLA, March 8 — A student of Hadramout University of Science and Technology was killed and several others injured in a devastating car accident when their bus hit a lorry in Al-Mukalla-Bowsh Road, Saturday night.



One of the victims.

PHOTO BY SAEED AL-BATATI

According to the injured students, the students were going to the downtown of Al-Mukalla on a bus. The accident happened when the bus approached a junction in the middle of the road, a lorry crossed the road. The driver tried to swerve to avoid the truck but in vain. The bus hit the back of the lorry at about 4:30 pm.

The driver of the bus and the students were rushed to Ibn Sena Hospital in Al-Mukalla. The driver of the lorry was safe and sound.

After knowing the accident, HU rector, staff member and students dashed into the hospital to be assured about the health of the students and offer assistance. The rector expressed his condolences to the family and friends of the victim of this horrible accident and wished the injuries all and about, at same time pledged the University support.

Acting Envoy: Netherlands interested in training Yemenis



Acting Ambassador of the Netherlands to Yemen (second from right) with IFC and SFD representatives and one of the CMT House staff members

By: Adel Al-Khawlani

SANA'A, March 8 — During the graduation ceremony of the first batch who completed the 90-hour course in marketing diploma at the Consultancy, Management & Training House, HE Acting Ambassador of Royal Netherlands to Yemen Roelof Buffinga showed interest of his country to train Yemeni students.

The Dutch diplomat briefed attendants on the different kinds of support extended by his country to boost small and medium-size enterprises in Yemen. According to him, small and medium enterprises in Yemen are affected by the spread of corruption and the violation of government laws.

"The CMT House provides management courses for Yemeni students to address demands of the labor market and these courses are projected to create around half a million job opportunities in the least developed country," he went on. "Students have learned how to advertise and make suitable pricelists for commodities, as well as how to invest in themselves and I expect them to apply what they have been taught in real-life situation."

During his speech, the CMT House Manager delivered a speech in which he thanked the Embassy of Royal Netherlands, the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) and the Social Fund

for Development (SFD) for their support that made the project a success. He congratulated students for successfully completing the 90-course in marketing diploma, which is part of their program "Business Edge in Yemen"

By the end of the ceremony, which was attended by a number of diplomats and SFD and IFC representatives, certificates of merit were awarded to the CMT House staff members and graduates.

The CMT House is the local training provider of the Business Edge program and partner of IFC-Yemen. It is flexible in scheduling classes, throughout the day or in the evening according to clients' needs, and limits class sizes so that instructors can help students with their individual needs and the CMT House's facilities allow for "hands-on-practice."

With the investment program, the Return on Investment (RoI) is good since the fees are low and the courses are practical. All the courses are using the latest international know-how.

Yemen: helping female detainees and refugees

The ICRC, in partnership with the Yemeni Red Crescent, is providing vocational training for female detainees giving them an opportunity to reintegrate into society after completion of their sentences. The organization also helps female refugees stay in touch with loved ones.

SANA'A, March 6 — In Yemen, female detainees are frequently banished from society and rejected by their families; few receive visitors and they live behind bars with their children. Khalil is four months old and has spent his whole life in prison since his Somali mother, Aisha, was condemned five months ago.

In the central prison of Hodeida, some of the women rediscover a sense of freedom during lessons given by volunteers from the Yemeni Red Crescent. Many are learning how to sew or how to speak Arabic.

Improving the daily lives of these women and giving them the means to reintegrate into society after their release is a challenge that is supported by the ICRC.

Aisha hopes one day to make use of her new talents. "I am benefiting from this programme because one day I want to be a seamstress."

For Aisha and her friend Juma their sole contact with the outside world is their teacher from the Yemeni Red Crescent who they call Aunt Aish. For her, this activity is more than just a job.

"When they discover something new and show an interest, I am happy that my girls have learned something. When they leave prison, they can sew and avoid getting into bad ways."

Strangely enough, the women can use this time spent in prison for their own benefit — something they could never have thought about in the outside world. Juma has several children and has been sentenced to three years in jail. So, why didn't she learn how to sew before?

"Because I have five young children and I was at home bringing them up. I had nobody to help me. I was always at home; I couldn't go out to school or learn how to sew. I was at home and couldn't allow myself to do these things."

In the prison classroom, there are courses in Arabic, mathematics, health and nutrition and Koranic studies. There is less time to be bored now and fewer disputes between the inmates.

Sixty women in Hodeida have taken advantage of the lessons since they began three years ago. Since January 2005, a weaving course has been on offer as well at the central prison of Aden or "Al Mansoura".

Once released, it is true that any return to normal life is strewn with obstacles and some of the women are unable to bear the thought of returning to their families and



Skills learned in prison give some of the detainees at least the opportunity to start afresh.

© ICRC / Jon Bjorgvinsson

communities. The skills they have learned in prison, however, give some of them at least the opportunity to start afresh.

Red Cross message exchange

Reeyo is a thirty-three year old Somali woman. Her husband and son are dead and the conflict and instability at home have forced her to seek refuge in Yemen.

She feels safer here but her state of health is fragile. For five years, she has survived by selling small items door to door. Her meagre income does not allow her to keep in touch with relatives scattered over several countries.

For this reason she asked the ICRC in Sanaa for help. The organization's family message system helps her communicate with her sister who is in a refugee camp in Kenya. In this way, she was able to share news of their father, missing for many years.

"I use the ICRC's family message system because I can't afford to pay for telephone calls — I'd love to call but you can't imagine how much it costs per minute. I haven't got the money."

"The family members are dispersed and live in different parts of the world," says the ICRC's Mohammed Al Hersi, "They have to be able to communicate with each other to know how things are and to be able to help. Most Somali refugees in Yemen depend on support from family members living abroad."

Like most other Somali refugees, Reeyo hopes for better days when she can live in another country. Meanwhile, the ICRC handles five to six hundred family messages a year, helping refugees and their families stay in touch when other forms of communication are considered a luxury.

Yemeni government approves establishing Gulf Cooperation unit

SANA'A, Mar. 8 — The Yemeni Cabinet discussed in its Mar. 8 meeting a report presented by expatriates and the Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning results of the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) Foreign Ministers meeting.

The ministers recently met to discuss qualifying Yemen to integrate into the council's economy, which includes establishing a qualification fund to direct Gulf investments to Yemen. It also involves qualifying Yemeni labor to meet Gulf labor market needs.

The Cabinet formed a ministerial committee, headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and expatriates, to establish a unit annexed to GCC affairs. A law also will be drafted to develop cooperation with the GCC.

We apologize for the mistake of publishing the photograph of Sheikh Mohamed Al-Junaid in issue No. 926, page 2.



Sheikh Mohamed Al-Junaid

Continued from page 1

WNC third national conference for women: the way forward

Cooperation, networking and partnership

Develop relations and partnerships with governmental, non-governmental and international institutions and organizations in order to enhance performance and exchange expertise. To support SHIMA network for combating violence against women, and to endorse the coordination between the various WNC branches and associations.

Honoring the brave:

More than 60 women were rewarded by both the Women's National Committee and UN for their distinguished roles in promoting women's development. These women are WNC's founders, active members as well as female activists in general. Prime minister Abdulqadir Ba Jammal presented the certificates of merits to the deserving brave women in the second day of the conference.

Women National Committee

The Women National Committee was created by an act from the Prime Minister (No. 97) in August 1996, and considered as technical committee affiliated with the Ministries' Council. Due to the commitment of the Government to highlight the different women problems and to define its importance in all life aspects, the committee was restructured and its framework was broadened according to the Prime Minister act (No. 68) in 2000 by establishing the Supreme Council for Women Affairs headed by the Prime Minister. The Women National Committee became part of the restructured Supreme Council. A female chairperson was appointed by a presidential decree leads the Women National Committee (WNC).

The Women National Committee is the technical committee of the

Supreme Council for Women Affairs, and it is responsible for managing the daily activities and practicing a number of tasks and responsibilities.

The Committee Tasks and Responsibilities include proposing policies, strategies, plans, and programs related to women affairs, reviewing the proposals of the annual budgets and final accounts, and providing the needed suggestions to enhance the work of the Council and secretariat-general.

The WNC also carries out any other task assigned by the Supreme Council and coordinates with national, governmental and non-governmental bodies and the related regional and international organizations.

Among other activities also, the WNC carries out studies, researches, surveys and statistics and conducts conferences, seminars, and workshops related to women issues

Opposition makes proposal to ensure fair polls

According to the opposition, SCER members must be held accountable for violations they committed and to which they confessed. The violations have been registered in international reports, as well as in Yemeni courts, leading politicians to lose confidence in the SCER, which they say became partial to the ruling party, having a majority of its members.

According to the opposition, the SCER implements the ruling party's directives at the expense of abiding by law and the Constitution.

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) said their proposal to ensure free and fair elections focuses on six points, the first of which is reforming election management. This point embodies the constitutional principle of ensuring independent and neutral election management and approving a legal mechanism to reshuffle the SCER according to transparency and independent standards.

Second is electoral system reform. This point aims to apply the representation percentage in lieu of parliamentary

elections to expand political participation, establish plurality and increase women's representation. It also helps interpret citizen votes and ensure political and social groups' representation in Parliament.

The third point is media neutrality focused on forming a national media council to play an integral role and employ the media in serving society. This point seeks to set measures to ensure media neutrality so as not to be exploited by a particular party, as well as cancel the Ministry of Information.

Points four and five concentrate on neutrality regarding government jobs, public money and judicial guarantees. The latter emphasizes the need to form a higher national authority from lawmakers to prevent any electoral law violations.

The sixth point further explains political guarantees, recommending issuing a political declaration to tackle war consequences and conflicts. It stresses a culture of dialogue and forgiveness, lifting

restrictions on activities of opposition parties and civil community organizations, as well as paying financial allocations to political parties and organizations according to law.

Opposition representatives revealed at the press conference that the ruling party insisted on forming subordinate election committees from its members and according to votes it gained in 2003 elections. They said the ruling party withdrew from the conference, rejecting any talk of reforms or infringements in the SCER.

Mohamed Qahtan, head of the Islah political unit, stated that every party and individual must participate in the poll to ensure a fair vote with high transparency and integrity. He pointed out that the opposition insists its demands concerning election transparency will make an important change in Yemen's political life. He added that the opposition will work by all means to ensure free and fair polls and will resort to the judiciary if its demands remain unmet.

Dubai ports deal criticized in United States

The question concerning a company based in the United Arab Emirates to manage operations at some United States ports has been a controversial issue arousing much debate in the U.S. especially by the Democratic Party. Many politicians and writers are still writing on the subject giving their opinions in this regard. Some writings agree with the proposed deal and others oppose it for various reasons. Here is a review of some opinions recently written about the issue.

(Angus Reid Global Scan), Mar. 7— Many Americans think a company based in the United Arab Emirates should not manage the operations at some U.S. ports, according to two recent public opinion polls.

In a survey by Bloomberg and the Los Angeles Times, 58 per cent of respondents oppose allowing Dubai Ports World to oversee shipping operations at U.S. ports. In a study by Gallup released by CNN and USA Today, 66 per cent of respondents oppose the proposed sale of cargo operations at several major U.S. seaports to the company.

Over the past two weeks, several Republican and Democratic lawmakers

have voiced their opposition to a deal that would place the shipping operations of six major U.S. seaports under the supervision of Dubai Ports World, a state-owned company from the United Arab Emirates. On Feb. 23, the company volunteered to postpone its takeover.

If the transaction valued at \$6.8 billion U.S. takes place, Dubai Ports World would acquire the Britain-based Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. and its terminal operations at the Baltimore, Miami, Newark, New Orleans, New York and Philadelphia ports.

On Feb. 21, U.S. president George W. Bush discussed the situation, saying, "The transaction should go forward, in my judgment. If there was any chance that this transaction would jeopardize the security of the United States, it would not go forward."

On Mar. 5, CNN interviewed Dubai Ports World executive Mohammed Sharaf, who declared, "We need to educate the people in America that we are truly a global company, and it is not in our best interest to get into those areas where we feel our customer feels that security is an issue. We are recognized as the best in the industry. We are very confident that we have met and will meet the requirements."

Polling Data

Now turning your attention to an issue in the news. As you may know, a Dubai state owned company in the United Arab Emirates has made a deal to buy a British company that supervises port shipping operations in some major cities in the U.S. Opponents of the deal say that the

September 11th hijackers used Dubai as a transit point, and they say that the security of U.S. ports could be weakened if a Dubai company was in charge of operations there. Supporters of the deal point out that the United States Coast Guard and Customs would continue to handle port security and that Dubai is a strong ally in the U.S. war on terror. How about you? Do you support or oppose allowing the Dubai-based company to oversee shipping operations at U.S. ports, or haven't you heard enough about that yet to say?

Support	17%
Oppose	58%
Haven't heard enough to say	18%
Don't know	7%

Source: Bloomberg / Los Angeles Times



A United Arab Emirates company postponed taking over operations at six U.S. seaports.

Candidate Busby condemns port deal

By: John Marelius

Francine Busby denounced President Bush's port deal with the United Arab Emirates yesterday as a threat to U.S. security, as national Democrats showcased her congressional candidacy after former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham's sentencing to prison Friday.

I was outraged to learn that the president wanted to outsource operations at some American ports to the United Arab Emirates," said Busby, who provided the Democratic response to Bush's weekly radio address. "And like many of you, though I was outraged, I was not surprised."

Busby is one of 18 candidates in 14 Republican, two Democrats, one Libertarian and one independent who have filed for the April 11 special election to replace Cunningham in the 50th District.

Cunningham resigned in November after pleading guilty to accepting \$2.4 million in bribes from defense contractors. He was sentenced Friday to eight years and four months in federal prison.

Each week, the Democratic Party taps one of its prominent national figures or a lesser-known local candidate it wishes to highlight to deliver the response to Bush's Saturday morning radio speech.

A party official said Democrats decide what issue to focus on each week and then select someone who would be "a good carrier of that message."

Given the location of the 50th District, Busby was deemed a good fit to address the raging port controversy.

My home county of San Diego is both a border city and a port city," she said. "We're proud of the jobs our port and border bring, but we're also aware of the dangers that come with living and working at the nexus of two security checkpoints of our great country."

Busby recorded his weekly radio speech in Islamabad, Pakistan, during a tour of South Asia.

Our relations with Afghanistan, India and Pakistan will enhance the security of

our country," he said. "By working with these leaders and the people of these three nations, we're seizing the opportunities this new century offers and helping to lay the foundations of peace and prosperity for generations to come."

Busby did not address the port issue in his remarks. The UAE-based Dubai Ports World, tapped by the administration to manage six East Coast and Gulf Coast ports, has agreed to a delay to accommodate further review of the port agreement.

But Busby, citing reports that some of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers used the Arab nation as an operational and financial base, called for an immediate congressional vote on the contract.

She also called for a "dramatic increase" in cargo screening at ports and an increase in Coast Guard funding to do the job.

Congressional Republicans questioned Busby's knowledge of the issue and called attention to her backing from MoveOn.org, which they called a "radical anti-war group."

No one knows when Francine Busby became an expert on port security," said Jonathan Collegio, press secretary for the National Republican Congressional Committee. "What we do know is that Busby has accepted money and support from some far-left, anti-war groups that don't exactly emphasize toughness when it comes to dealing with terrorists."

Protectionism wrong solution to port threat

By: P. J. Crowley

Criticism of a proposed merger that would give a United Arab Emirates company control of operations at six U.S. ports, including Baltimore, misses the point.

The deal between Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. and Dubai Ports World (DPW) merits close scrutiny, but strategically should be viewed as a long-term security asset, not a liability.

Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. and Democrats and Republicans in Congress are right to ask tough questions about the merger. The Bush administration must demonstrate that it has performed due diligence through the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) process. But while there are many reasons to be concerned about port security, which company writes the checks for American longshoremen is the least of those worries.

In fact, the merger should not pose national security concerns because maritime security is a global challenge. The real solution is not protectionism, but to build a truly integrated and effective global system that secures supply chains from the point of manufacture through foreign and U.S. ports all the way to local store shelves. That requires making maritime security a higher homeland security priority.

Our economy, and therefore our security, depends on the free and secure flow of goods to and from our shores. About 90 percent of the manufactured goods we import arrive by sea. About 9 million shipping containers each year flow through 361 U.S. ports. Baltimore, for example, is the 14th-largest port in the United States in terms of tonnage and seventh in cargo value.

Any interruption in the global movement of goods, whether because of terrorism, a storm or a dockworker strike, can instantly cause billions in economic losses. If a nuclear or radiological device were smuggled into the United States through one of these shipping containers, it could shut down the world economy.

There are shared incentives among governments, port authorities, the maritime industry and the private sector to ensure this does not happen. Maritime security standards have been strengthened nationally and internationally since 2001. Success depends upon cooperation among a wide range of players - manufacturers, freight forwarders, port operators, ocean carriers and insurers; most are foreign-owned.

In fact, the leading port operators worldwide that process the majority of shipping containers bound for the United States are owned by companies based in Hong Kong, Singapore, Denmark and Britain as well as Dubai.

So our maritime security already depends upon the cooperation of foreign governments and foreign-owned businesses.

The UAE is the United States' third-leading trading partner in the Middle East after Israel and Saudi Arabia. It is a leading ally in the Persian Gulf region.

Before 9/11, the UAE's record in combating terrorism was mixed, particularly with respect to lax banking regulations and oversight. The UAE was used as a staging area and commercial hub by some of the hijackers. But cooperation has improved significantly since then. Dubai is one of 37 international ports that participate in the Container Security Initiative (CSI), a program that attempts to identify anomalies with shipments before they leave for the U.S. It is part of the global maritime security system.

There are better ways to improve port security in Baltimore and across the country than trying to block the merger. Specific actions can dramatically improve port security.

First, the Department of Homeland Security needs to make port security its top priority. Since 9/11, DHS has devoted three times as much to aviation security as maritime security. This is like fighting the last war.

The Coast Guard estimates that \$5.4 billion is required to implement port security improvements called for in the Maritime Transportation Security Act. Yet Congress appropriated only \$175 million in port security grants this year. Congress should triple that.

Second, customs agents physically inspect only 6 percent of the 9 million shipping containers that flow through U.S. ports annually. Every suspect shipment should be scanned using the best available radiation detection equipment. Every U.S. port should be required to have radiation isotope identifier devices to reduce the chances that a nuclear or radiological device can be smuggled into the U.S.

Third, DHS should expand the number of personnel assigned overseas (with language skills) to work at foreign ports, inspect more shipping containers before they are loaded on ships destined for the United States and verify the security of foreign supply chains. Smart containers with tamper-proof seals and global positioning systems should be introduced as soon as possible.

It is Osama bin Laden and his virulent followers who want to disconnect the Middle East from the rest of the world. Integrating the Middle East into the global trading system and linking countries such as the UAE and companies such as DPW to international norms, profits and responsibilities are the ultimate solution to jihadism and extremism. This requires the United States to think strategically and act globally, not parochially.

Camel jockeys become issue in ports deal

By: Alicia Mundy

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration says it trusts the United Arab Emirates and its state-owned corporation in Dubai to take over some operations at six major U.S. ports.

But a clash over the use of children as camel jockeys in the Arab nation has raised questions about the UAE's reliability in recent years, and it has created a delicate situation for the U.S. government as it pushes the ports deal.

The man at the center of the human-rights dispute is former Rep. John Miller, a longtime Seattle Republican and now a top official at the State Department.

Miller said the UAE "misled us" to the U.S. government, his office and former Secretary of State Colin Powell about the trafficking of children for camel racing three years ago.

The UAE did not address the issue seriously until the nation was embarrassed by Miller's State Department division and had jeopardized its proposed free-trade agreement with the United States.

Miller is U.S. ambassador to control

human trafficking. He said the UAE "has made great progress in the last year" on its human-rights record. "They clearly have undertaken significant efforts."

The UAE also is an important ally in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, providing U.S. access to its ports and airfields, a White House spokesman said.

Camel racing and gambling on the sport is popular in the UAE. But jockeys must be small so they won't weigh down the animals.

In 2003 and 2004, Miller said, the UAE announced it had banned the enslavement of boys, some kidnapped from other countries, as camel jockeys for rich racing families in Dubai.

Miller and Powell learned much later, via TV news footage, that the practice was ongoing and well-known in Dubai. It took a top GOP lobbyist, former Rep. Vin Weber of Minnesota, to persuade the UAE to work with the State Department on reforms. The issue remains a question of credibility for the UAE.

"This is exactly why we want in the next 45 days to have a careful review" of the port deal, said Sen. Patty Murray, D-

Wash. "I have heard many members say to Homeland Security that we need to know who this government is, who exactly is running this, who the corporation is."

The credibility issue also troubles Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Wash., who chairs the House Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Committee. "We have to make sure that the people running this company are trustworthy," he said.

One of Dubai's major investors in camel racing is Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum, the UAE defense minister and crown prince. He's also president of the holding company that owns Dubai Ports World, which would control operations at the six U.S. ports.

In 2003, Powell praised the UAE in a speech after the country announced it had banned the abuse of boys, some as young as 4, as jockeys. Miller and Powell had made the end of modern slavery a policy focus for the State Department.

Miller's office had created a "name and shame list," called the TIP List, that ranked countries by whether they condoned human trafficking, including

sex slavery, domestic servitude and other abuses. A bad ranking could hamper commercial ties with the United States. The UAE's stated ban on young boys as jockeys kept the nation off the lower ranks.

But an HBO crew in late 2004 showed Miller a recent undercover tape showing children racing camels. Miller was furious. In an interview last year, he said the UAE "duped" the U.S.

He placed the nation on the lowest rung of the TIP list last June, despite Weber's efforts. Miller and the State Department further drove their point home with the UAE by giving a special award to the activist who had made the video.

State Department spokesman Tom Casey acknowledged the UAE has had a "bad track record on the issue of trafficking in persons and the camel jockeys." But, he added, the country has made significant progress. "The UAE has rescued 600 children, arrested 19 people for trafficking in providing child camel jockeys, and repatriated children to their own countries, and set up shelters for many," Miller said. "They are really trying this time."

Denouncing the Dubai deal won't ensure port security

Politicians' exercise in Arab bashing doesn't address the legitimate issue of port security

By: James J. Zogby

WASHINGTON — There's been a virtual frenzy with senators, congressmen, and governors jumping over one another to take the lead in bashing the Dubai port deal, the United Arab Emirates, or the Bush administration. It's all being done, critics say, in the name of national security.

But, in reality, what is taking place is nothing more than crass political posturing and an irresponsible and ill-informed attack on an Arab country that has been a strong ally of the United States.

At its essence, three factors are driving this ruckus: It's an election year, the public has a continued concern about national security, and there's an Arab country involved. Elected officials are preying on the public's fear by exploiting an Arab bogeyman. The language they've used is shameful, irresponsible, and downright false.

But in election year politics, it doesn't matter. Because it involves an Arab country, members of Congress assume they won't be called to account for a falsehood. Smearing all things Arab remains the last acceptable form of ethnic bigotry in America.

As a result of this mind-set, the UAE, one of America's closest Middle Eastern allies in the war on terror - a country that has sent troops to fight alongside ours in Afghanistan,

complied with all of our antiterrorism initiatives, and provides the largest base port for US military ships - is being called a "rogue government," an "Islamic fascist" state, and the "home of terrorists."

In the Middle East, people are scratching their heads.

If the UAE, which has stuck its neck out to support the United States, can be treated with such scorn, some ask, what's the point of being a friend of America?

It is ironic and troubling that US public diplomacy czar Karen Hughes recently was in the UAE to promote America, and that UAE and US trade teams last week entered yet another round in their talks toward establishing a free trade agreement.

Ms. Hughes must feel like packing it up and going back to Texas. If this anti-UAE campaign succeeds, there is no public diplomacy campaign that can salvage the damage. Arabs, you see - not unlike any other people - react not by what you say about yourself but by how you treat them.

Having said all this, the current exercise in Arab bashing is, in fact, nothing more than election year politicking at its worst. Democrats are feeling that President Bush is vulnerable and are piling on the criticism, while Republicans, feeling vulnerable, are joining the fray.

If it weren't so serious and dangerous, it might be comical. We've seen scenes like this before, as

congressmen and senators trip over one another on their way to the microphone, calculating just how outrageous they need to be to guarantee that their sound bite will be the one on the evening news. In this game, facts don't matter. Instead, with officials hyperventilating on their own rhetoric, exaggerations abound. Especially disturbing is that the legitimate issue of port security has been lost in the melee.

If Congress really wanted to have a debate about port security and the failings of the current system, it would be talking about increasing funding for hiring more customs officials, beefing up our Coast Guard presence, and providing additional equipment to screen more of the containers that enter our country. This is what is needed.

Regardless of what company owns the management of some of our ports, the security issues remain in the hands of the Department of Homeland Security.

Instead of a real debate, we're given scapegoating. Instead of making us more secure, politicians engage in the exercise of isolating us more from the world and damaging our relationship with an important ally in the Middle East. They ought to be ashamed. They owe an apology not only to the UAE but also to the American people. But since politics and shame are estranged bedfellows, I'm not holding my breath.

James J. Zogby is president of the Arab American Institute.

The Dubai Ports deal

The Nation — Defenders of the Dubai ports deal argue that rejecting it would be an insult to the Arab world. But if you look at it from a different angle, maybe we'd actually be doing our new found friends in the United Arab Emirates a favor.

It is hard to imagine why on earth Dubai would want to manage six major American ports where less than 5 percent of cargo is inspected currently. What if, God forbid, terrorists, completely unconnected to Dubai, slipped a weapon of mass destruction through one of the ports Dubai manages? Has the emir of Dubai forgotten what happened to Saddam, who had no connection to 9/11?

If our ally of all of four years really wants to involve itself in America's economy, maybe the U.A.E. should bid on a job equally vital but less of a security risk, like managing the reconstruction of New Orleans. It's clear the Bush administration isn't. They haven't even found a replacement for ex-FEMA head Michael Brown, whose rehabilitation in the media last week was one for the ages. No, the Bush administration is too busy doing damage control on the video showing that despite Bush's mendacious assurances to the contrary, his administration did indeed anticipate a possible "breach" of the levees. Wait, I'm sorry, they only anticipated the levees being "topped."



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking qualified candidate for the following post:

Post Title: Programme Assistant (Nutrition)
Duty Station: Sana'a
UN Category: GS-6
Duration of: 12 months Service Contract (after 3 months probationary period)
Closing Date: 21 March 2006

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Country Director for Yemen, and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer, the incumbent will:

- Assist and advise the Programme Unit on overall country programme activities related to nutrition;
- Implement policy and strategy guidelines on nutrition and food security
- Assist Programme team with the development and implementation of components of food security, nutrition and health and education, analyse data as required;
- As part of the Programme team, contribute to the reviews and/or processing of WFP technical documentation of various projects (Country Programme & Refugee Operation) and take all necessary actions as may be required by the Unit;
- Strengthen and manage all nutrition related programme studies and documentation both hard copy and electronic documents for prompt and efficient retrieval;
- Undertake regular visits to the WFP assisted programmes (Health centers, Schools and Refugee camp) , review/monitor interventions and prepare situation reports.
- Review, edit and develop educational materials in relation to the programme components.
- Assist the programme unit in the monitoring of the WFP food distribution system, the food basket , post distribution mechanisms and nutrition surveys.
- Monitor and follow up WFP achieved results at the output and outcome level using a set of tangible indicators in line with the Result Based Management.
- Participate in various meetings, working groups, assessments as requested.
- Provide support in organizing training related to Nutrition and nutrition education and participate as required;
- Develop and maintain strong working relation with UN agencies, especially UNICEF and WHO, with view of enhancing joint programming, execution, monitoring and evaluation
- Perform any other official duties as required.

Qualifications:

Education: University Degree in related field.
Experience: 3 years of progressively responsible experience in project planning/implementation and monitoring including at least two years in a Programming unit, or another related field (mothers and child health and nutrition).
Language: Fluency in both written and oral English and Arabic.
Essential Qualifications: Training and/or experience utilizing computers including word processing, spreadsheet, database/Access and other standard software packages. Ability to work courtesy, tactfully and effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds essential.
Desirable Qualifications: Knowledge of relevant WFP or UN policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures. Knowledge of Government policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures.

Applications must be received by the deadline and only short-listed candidates shall be contacted. (Programme Assistant (Nutrition) vacancy , at WFP Sana'a) at the following address:
 World Food Programme, Sana'a , Villa No. 22 - Nwakshut St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area, P.O.Box 7181, Republic of Yemen
 Tel : 01-214100/101, Fax 01205515



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking qualified candidate for the following post:

Post Title: Programme Assistant (Reporting and Advocacy)
Duty Station: Sana'a
UN Category: GS-6
Duration of: 12 months Service Contract (after 3 months probationary period)
Closing Date: 21 March 2006

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Representative and Country Director for Yemen, the incumbent will:

- Assist with media queries
- Assist in keeping the media updated on WFP's activities in the country
- Work on WFP media/advocacy campaigns in the country
- Translate press releases and other public documents into Arabic and English
- Draft and disseminate press releases in Arabic/English
- Follow up on requests for information from media and donors
- Help organize media/donor visits to WFP operations
- Help manage photographic/video material for the country
- Help produce brochure and other documentation for the Country Office
- Help organize media interviews
- Prepare briefing papers and talking points as required
- Help place WFP's public service announcements in local broadcasting stations
- Act as the UN Information Group focal point
- Assist in drafting/preparation of WFP Country Office reports
- Assist in liaising with donor representatives to raise WFP profile and mobilize resources
- Assist in Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) activities to implement efficiently WFP Result Based Management (RBM) including field visits and coordination with sub offices.
- Liaise with UNICEF, WHO and other WFP partners for promotion of health and nutrition, education and joint media and advocacy activities.
- Perform other related duties as required

Qualifications:

Education: University Degree in related field.
Experience: 3 years of progressively responsible experience in project implementation including at least two years in a Programming unit, relevant experience to media communications or other related field.
Language: Fluency in both written and oral English and Arabic.
Essential Qualifications: Training and/or experience utilizing computers including word processing, spreadsheet, database/Access and other standard software packages. Ability to work courtesy, tactfully and effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds essential.
Desirable Qualifications: Knowledge of relevant WFP or UN policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures.

Applications must be received by the deadline and only short-listed candidates shall be contacted. (Programme Assistant (Reporting and Advocacy) vacancy , at WFP Sana'a) at the following address:
 World Food Programme, Sana'a , Villa No. 22 - Nwakshut St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area, P.O.Box 7181, Republic of Yemen
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- 11- سعة
- سرعة طباعة تصل إلى 11 صفحة في الدقيقة
- خاصية غير التبريد (TLC)

الموديل KX-FL612
 الفاكس

- شاشة ليزر (200 x 200)
- 11- سعة
- سرعة طباعة تصل إلى 11 صفحة في الدقيقة
- خاصية غير التبريد (TLC)

الموديل KX-FM306
 الفاكس الذي يعمل بالليزر

- فاكس آلة تصوير طباعة ماسح ضوئي
- 11- سعة
- سرعة طباعة تصل إلى 11 صفحة في الدقيقة
- خاصية غير التبريد (TLC)

أنظمة PBX

الموديل KX-TEA008

- جهاز فاكس الـ CO و الـ COX
- 11- سعة
- سرعة طباعة تصل إلى 11 صفحة في الدقيقة
- خاصية غير التبريد (TLC)

الموديل KX-TE5/TEMS24

- جهاز فاكس الـ CO و الـ COX
- 11- سعة
- سرعة طباعة تصل إلى 11 صفحة في الدقيقة
- خاصية غير التبريد (TLC)

الموديل KX-TEA500

- جهاز فاكس الـ CO و الـ COX
- 11- سعة
- سرعة طباعة تصل إلى 11 صفحة في الدقيقة
- خاصية غير التبريد (TLC)

الجمهورية اليمنية صنعاء

شارع الزبير، هاتف: 211775/6، فاكس: 211774

شارع حيد، هاتف: 211773-211772، فاكس: 211771

المنكسلا، هاتف: 211770، فاكس: 211769

العبدية، الفاكس: 211768

Yemen: a nation without addresses

With the absence of addresses in Yemen, time will continue to be wasted and given no value. When going from street to street throughout the capital, one notices that 95 percent of streets in Sana'a, considered Yemen's most modern city, have no sign showing the street name, thereby making it difficult to get from one place to another. Less than 1 percent of Yemen's streets have signs – this in an era wherein some countries, like Germany, grant address tags to be hung around dogs' necks in case they get lost.

By: Hakim Almasmari
hakim_almasmari@hotmail.com

“Go straight ahead for four minutes, then turn right and go for another three minutes. Mine is the white house you'll easily see on the way there.” Giving addresses this way is common among Yemenis, as no real street names are given, even to the country's main streets. Everyone encounters difficulty when trying to give the address of a place they want to go or meet someone. Streets are small, unorganized and unevenly paved with many remaining unnamed. Houses have no addresses, as if they never existed or are part of

another country.

In countries worldwide, citizens can go from north to south of the country without fear or worry about getting lost. Roads are organized and street names are clear. In Yemen, it is common to change a street name simply because of an occurrence or incident, as no real importance is given to such issues.

“The capital's Siten St. has so many names that we are now lost. It was called 60th St., then Mohammed Al-Dhurra St., then Yasser Arafat St. and now I see a new sign hanging across the street naming it Mohammed Jinnah St.” Sana'a resident Dhu-Yazen Ali said.

Rural area streets do not even have names, as residents were so happy that roads finally were available, that they

didn't care to name the streets. According to a local survey conducted in Sana'a, 95 percent of capital streets do not have a sign showing the street name. This in turn gives a wider picture of how the country is disorganized. In this situation, instead of addresses, locals give directions to others using stores, buildings or even signs of nature to assist them.

Another issue directly related to addresses is mail that could be received or sent to another person. No house mailing system exists throughout the country and the government has no intention of improving the situation in the near future.

Dr. Hamdan Dammag, a computer scientist recently returned from the UK, said, “In the early '80s, Sana'a was

much smaller than it is now. It was easy for mail to be distributed to houses, as it was easy to locate where people lived. Now the city is expanding and nothing has been done in this regard.”

Nowadays, only post office box addresses are available, but they also are limited. With the absence of such requirements, it will take Yemen more than expected to develop into a modern country.

“The importance of having addresses is linked to many necessities in life. Unfortunately, Yemenis are so busy worrying about poverty and unemployment that they have no time for other issues,” said Ammar Abdul Aleem, born in Europe and currently visiting Yemen. “In Europe, life would break down if the mail system stopped. It has become a necessity of life,” he concluded.

The absence of clear addresses has many impacts on delivering vital services. For example, in his speech at last month's opening of the Islamic Relief Disaster Management training event, the Minister of Interior pointed out that lack of a clear address system in cities hinders efforts of fire brigade services in reaching homes quickly.



On the contrary to Modern Sana'a, the city of Old Sana'a streets and alleys are properly addressed.

Normally, the government would begin organizing roads before people began construction in that area. However, Yemenis refer to hundreds of cases where a citizen who built a house more than 10 years ago is told that it is in the middle of a road and must be destructed.

Recently, Yemen's RAHA taxi service advertised rides from the airport to anywhere in the capital for YR 1,500 (\$7). According to one of the compa-

ny's drivers, the major reason for this was because the capital is unorganized and most streets remain unnamed.

How does Yemen expect to deal effectively with the rest of the world without organizing its address system? “The government must prove it is developing not only to the world, but also to itself and, most importantly, to its people,” said Yemeni-American visitor Abdullah Ali, saddened by Yemen's current unorganized system.

The qat phenomenon and ideas to stop its use

Yemen Times Staff

Qat has been part of Yemeni culture for more than 500 years, dating far before the country was famous for its coffee. When qat first was used, it was not famous, as it was considered a usual occurrence of no importance. Gradually, and after the revolution, more people turned to Qat as things changed around the country. Now, the qat leaf's importance has

risen like never before.

Over the past 20 years, qat surprisingly has come to symbolize this Middle-Eastern nation, even being used as an advertising tool for tourism in Yemen. To many tourists visiting Yemen every year, trying qat usually is part of their agenda while in the country.

Qat usage just seems to keep growing and spreading, as new chewers like women and children have entered the chewing field. “In my house, a total of 13 people chew qat on a normal basis,” said Ateq Abdullah, who has chewed

qat for the past 30 years.

According to governmental sources, 80 percent of Yemen's water is consumed for qat, leaving only a small number for the rest of the country. The World Health Organization (WHO) ranked Yemen as one of the world's lowest as to water availability, noting that an American consumes 15 times more water than a Yemeni.

Qat's physical and mental harms are numerous and, in some situations, life-threatening. Ending qat usage in Yemen will take years of continuous efforts. Citizens have become addicted

to the leaf, feeling obliged to indulge in chewing and setting aside a special part of their day for it.

Authorities in the past realized the phenomenon's greatness and tried to limit its use in any way possible. Years ago, President Ali Abdullah Saleh openly announced that he would try to stop chewing qat after previously announcing that he chews on weekends. In 2002, the government banned all its employees from chewing qat in governmental institutions throughout the country. Unfortunately, four years later, it has only witnessed more growth than ever before.

Water resources have vanished in many governorates as the government feels an imminent water crisis. Qat consumes 80 percent of Yemen's water, carelessly wasting mankind's most precious liquid. “Qat's existence will always be part of Yemen. It is not seen as an addiction. It is part of our culture, heritage and traditions,” said known qat addict Ayman Nasser of Rada'a city. “It is like telling Egyptians to destroy their pyramids - it's impossible,” he added, looking serious about his remarks.

Since qat is viewed as part of Yemeni culture, many concerned citizens still believe ending its spread is possible if users are given a better replacement. Local analysts believe qat is spreading due to citizens having nothing else to do, as unemployment runs high in this impoverished country. “If people had jobs and responsibilities, they would never revert to qat. The leaf is only being used until the government opens doors of opportunity to people,” Fatima Imad said.

A limited local survey of senior citizens aged 50-70 revealed that 90 percent of them believe qat is more popular now than in the past. They mentioned that only on rare occasions would people get together for the type of qat sessions seen nowadays and that diwans (qat chewing halls) were normal and like any other room. “I don't understand how things changed in Yemen. I can't remember myself when I was younger making plans to chew qat,” 68-year-old Mohammed Abdul Aleem said.

Many of the younger generation blame poverty and unemployment for qat's sudden spread. In the past, even those who couldn't find jobs would busy themselves on family farms or go after cattle, allowing them no time to think of chewing qat except on rare occasions. Families laid down responsibilities for the entire family, as women had to hold a side job to go along with their house and family duties.

Opinions differ from one person to another concerning what is to be done if Yemen plans to stop qat's spread around the country. Below is a list



Yemenis are chewing qat almost everyday.

gathered from questioned citizens about what might be done to solve this ongoing crisis and limit qat's dangerous usage. These and many other solutions could be employed to safeguard future generations against using the dangerous qat leaf.

1. Raising tax prices as foreign countries do for cigarettes.
2. Keeping school children aware of its negative aspects.
3. Limiting places where qat can be sold. For example, leaving one qat shop for Sana'a, which could be located 10 kilometers outside the capital. In return, this would make possessing qat a burden.
4. Using television or street ads to show qat's dangers.
5. Giving qat growers fruits and vegetables to grow while offering them free diesel for their crops.
6. Banning qat usage on major city streets and giving violations for those seen chewing qat in the street.
7. Raising water prices for qat growers.
8. Distributing free brochures and magazines informing citizens of the leaf's dangers.

9. Opening sports clubs for men and women to spend their time.

10. Establishing more libraries in the heart of cities to attract youth.

11. Giving more importance to sports and activities, thereby attracting youth and adults.

12. Offering citizens more job opportunities to busy themselves.

13. Producing plays and movies concerning qat's dangers.

14. Setting an age limit for those allowed to chew qat. For example, teenagers under age 18 would not be allowed to chew or possess qat.

15. More parks for citizens who want to enjoy their time with friends.

16. Places for families to get together for those wishing to have family trips.

17. Showing health statistics to citizens based on actual statistical information about the dangers accompanying qat.

18. Revealing stories and tragedies of qat chewers.

19. Making water prices extremely expensive for qat growers.

20. Teaching children that the leaf is bad, as well as the financial and health crisis it brings.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY SUPPORT TO PROMOTE GIRLS' EDUCATION

PURPOSE: TO FURTHER DEFINE AND IMPLEMENT SOCIAL MOBILIZATION STRATEGY TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN GIRLS' EDUCATION

DURATION: 6 months with possible extension in a TFT contract

CONTEXT: Despite poverty and rapid population growth, the basic education system in Yemen has been improving steadily over the past several years. However there remains much to be done to improve equity, quality and internal efficiency of education. Girls' education is one of the major issues in Yemen. Although primary net enrolment of girls has increased over the past five years it is only 41 per cent compared to that of boys' which is 61 per cent.

While the ratio of rural-to-urban population is 74 per cent, the rural female students are most disadvantaged with 30 per cent enrolment rate compared to 71 per cent of urban female students. According to the Poverty Monitoring Survey, the youth literacy rate for rural females is only 27 per cent compared to urban females at 82 per cent.

The proposed consultancy will assist in strengthening UNICEF's contribution to the implementation of the overall Basic Education Development Strategy, with the special focus that is required to accelerate progress with regards to Girls' Education in relation to the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI).

SCOPE OF WORK: Under the supervision of the Education Officer the consultant will:

1. Contribute to further defining the UNICEF's strategy on social mobilization around girls education
2. Implement the strategy in the targeted areas through:
 - Collaboration with key counterparts, especially MoE
 - Support UNICEF field staff in working on the girls' education issue
 - Interaction with community leaders, parents and members of community
 - Organizing workshops, meetings and events
 - Development and design of appropriate messages and relevant materials
 - Facilitation of public discussion
 - Strengthening civil society
3. Compile 'Lessons learned' and support the use of the tested strategy in other districts, at governorate and central level

Deliverables (with time of delivery)

- Basic situation analysis of each targeted districts produced (1 month)
- Basic strategy paper finalized (after 6 weeks)
- Materials, such as leaflets, posters etc. modified (2 months)
- Report on the events, meetings and workshops and related plan written (3 months)
- Final report including data of the activities and impact assessment of these activities related to the indicators in the situation analysis (6 months)

Qualifications:

- Advance university degree in any of the following: social sciences, especially sociology, anthropology, communication or education;
- Three years of progressively responsible experience at professional level in a related field in support of development projects, M&E;
- Proven experience of working in a multicultural environment;
- Good knowledge of common computer applications;
- Fluency in English and Arabic.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with the CV to the Operations Officer, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. Applications received after 20th of March 2006 will not be considered.

Level of recruitment: NoA

The real challenge

Whoever believes that military confrontations, tribal insurgencies and clashes, incidents of kidnapping and revenge constitute the real danger to the state is doomed to have committed a mistake.

We never lessen the danger of such challenges nor do we underestimate concerned parties' indifference to deal with such crimes. But when the state feels the seriousness of the risk and exacerbation of armed challenge, it then uses power, which is the basis of its legislation and its area of superiority over society.

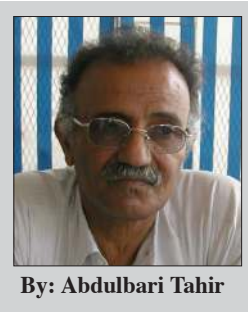
No one can deny that confrontation with a society or an illiterate and armed environment having visible and invisible relations with the government is difficult and critical. But the survival instinct forces the government to show the sword in such conditions. What occurred over the past few weeks in

Shabwa, Khawlan and Marib confirms the state's superiority in the ground of seemingly sustainable battle in Yemen.

The government faces two real challenges: corruption, spreading like cancer in governmental bodies and totalitarianism, functioning as fertile land for corruption's spread.

State power is manifested not only by arms possession; rather, it is reflected in its ability and mastery in arms use for definite purposes. Real power currently stems from the state's strong economy, soundness of its public policies, transparency of its procedures and renewable legitimacy of governance coming from citizens' free will.

Historically, the deadly mistake of Yemenis is their acceleration to resolve conflicts by using arms. Disputes within the same family over inheritance or any



By: Abdulbari Tahir

other futile quarrels lead to using weapons. Tribal conflicts usually are settled by killing and society's demands lead to arms-bearing, kidnapping tourists and practicing other highway acts. The state already has inherited such an epidemic from society and its memory, filled with violence and an interest in killing. Redesigning this epidemic and re-exporting it to an outraged society is merely the state's action.

Rebelling against the government can be compared to fighting with a lion in his den. Rebellion is an Islamic term used in abundance by Yemen's Zaidi Imamate during fighting with the tyrant ruler but not the atheist, as Sunna people believe. Battling governance in Yemen is a peaceful and democratic struggle, which also is the disliked machine gun that cannot be used and therefore causes

fear. The state may resort to war and fomenting local sedition in an attempt to evade democratic demands, calls for freedom, peaceful transfer of power and respecting human rights, as happened in 1994 and the Sa'ada wars.

Well-versed politician Ahmad Al-Rubee was smart when he indicated at his participation before the ruling General People's Congress that corruption is government's and the ruling party's real enemy. Corruption is the legitimate child of oppression. Corruption is the termite gnawing the government. In the shadow of world democracies, the immature state of Yemen, which, according to news, topped the list of third world democratic countries, also topped the list of failing countries characterized by oppression of freedoms and practice of corruption.

Tribal rebellions, kidnapping of foreigners and highway acts imply failure of development programs, absence of

national integration and updating, as well as tribal influence on urbanization. Opposition parties' failure to make contacts with tribesmen, show their political programs and increase their awareness of manners and means of democratic struggle is a real challenge facing the opposition and the government as well.

The Yemeni opposition's struggle appears to be manifested by the elite. Due to the totalitarian regime and its overwhelming majority, the party-affiliated and independent press are deprived of being written and read, with most press products unable to reach the readership. Considered Yemen's largest newspaper, Al-Ayyam prints only 30,000 copies while the state monopolizes audio and visual media.

We fear that corruption has become a norm and the possibility of reforming the regime from within has vanished. Rampant corruption opens the door to endless military confrontations and

invisible media of traditional arbitration, as well as forcible disappearance of reform advocacies and civil opposition.

The state seems to have a great tendency of tightening the noose around the democratic margin and burying alive freedom of opinion and expression. It perceives freedom of opinion and self-expression as the real enemy of corruption and oppression; and, for that, it deliberately shows itself as a "police state," cracking down on political opposition and considering power its sole option in dealing with any opposition calls for reform.

The public has no alternative but to recommend and support voices of civil protest, as well as confront the armed beast of corruption in a never-ending way.

Abdulbari Tahir is a Yemeni Journalist and the former chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate

Al-Zindani's alliance lacks the front

By: Mustafa Rajeh

The U.S. demands Yemen arrest Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani, included in a United Nations list issued under international decision, and freeze his assets on suspicion of funneling money to terrorism while the Yemeni side released the U.S. letter in neutral language, closer to defaming Al-Zindani and exerting pressure on the Islah Party.

This past week witnessed escalating charges against Al-Zindani, Islah's Shoura Council chairman. Yemeni army mouthpiece September 26 weekly and the official Al-Jumhuriyya and Al-Thawra daily published a letter from U.S. President George W. Bush to his Yemeni counterpart, Ali Abdullah Saleh. The letter contained an official U.S. protest against President Saleh's accompanying Al-Zindani in Yemen's delegation to last year's Muslim Countries Summit in Mecca.

The U.S. letter demanded Al-Zindani's capture, seizing his property and preventing him from traveling

abroad. The demands were based on a UN resolution accusing Al-Zindani of funneling money to terrorism.

Al-Zindani has been considered one of the prominent militants, in addition to other American nationals, who fought hard in Afghanistan. For two

years, the U.S. Department of Treasury and other official parties charged Al-Zindani with funding terrorism, mainly supporting Islamic groups in Iraq.

The file of charges against Al-Zindani later was forwarded to the UN, which officially took up the issue along with others regarding names contained in its terrorist list. The issue is troubling relations between the U.S. and Yemen, which joined a terrorism fighting coalition and signed a security agreement following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the U.S.

The matter of extraditing terror suspects and locating their trials remained ambiguous while Yemen refused to surrender any Yemeni citizen to a foreign force, as such harms Yemen's



By: Mustafa Ragih

sovereignty. Yemen vowed instead to try any suspect based on sufficient evidence. This matter also raises tension in different political aspects due to Al-Zindani's status as a great Islamic scholar. During 1994-95, he was a member of the Presidential Council. Most important is that he

has relationships with those in power both inside and outside Yemen due to his previous activities. So, targeting Al-Zindani is bound to open a never-ending file.

Al-Zindani's case was in a position to tighten and attract Yemen and the U.S. over the past two years, but U.S. demands were confined to freezing his assets and preventing him from traveling abroad. There was no demand for his capture. It is of crucial importance that Al-Zindani and several parties cast doubt on the published letter's authenticity, particularly the demand for his capture, considered a type of pressure by Yemeni authorities for political purposes.

Despite confessing to the signifi-

cance of development in the U.S. stance, in case the letter with all its demands is proven authentic, another more important thing is reflected in the way Yemen dealt with the letter. Although Yemeni authorities have been enthusiastic enough to defend Al-Zindani, taking into account that the state is responsible for his case, the situation differed this time and no attention was paid to the issue.

The letter was leaked to the official press, despite media silencing imposed on letters like it. Authorities become angry when the U.S. Ambassador is subjected to issues like this in public or when he talks about demands for political reform, which is a local matter.

Authorities never commented on the letter, published in a neutral manner closer to defaming and pressuring Al-Zindani and the Islah Party, unless it paves the way for more centrist stances to be discovered in coming days. Yemen's stance was limited to asking the U.S. Administration for clear-cut evidence in order to hunt for Al-Zindani and bring him to trial in Yemen.

The issue developed because Al-

Zindani, Iman University rector, resumed pursuing his activities publicly by giving sermons, holding symposiums and leading huge protests against the Prophet Mohamed cartoons published by a Danish newspaper. The new climate and popular feelings constituted a suitable opportunity for Al-Zindani to get rid of the solitude imposed on him for nearly four years. Islah is said to be the first party that demanded Al-Zindani restrict his activities following the 9/11 terrorist attacks before others restricted them.

Remarkably, Al-Zindani has become a burden to the Islamist Islah Party with its judicial policies that bring it closer to, or rather to top, the forces of democracy and the civil community. The party has broader alliances with the leftist and liberalist opposition, as well as channels for dialogue and deliberation with the U.S. Al-Zindani is believed to be closer to Salafi groups than to Islah. Multiple doubts emerge regarding authorities' stance toward Al-Zindani after they supported him along with Iman University over the past time period and tightened the noose around Islamic politicians in the Islah Party.

The situation indicates that political motives, not the War on Terror, are behind pressuring Al-Zindani. Pressure is being exerted upon him to back President Saleh in September's presidential elections, as well as on the Islah Party that joined the JMP calling for political reforms. The JMP is expected to nominate a single candidate to compete against President Saleh in the upcoming presidential elections. Al-Zindani's alliance with the authority and several other parties is broader than his relationship with the Islamic movement.

Al-Zindani is viewed as a religious hardliner, but disputes with him proceed to the advantage of the Islah Party to peacefully attract Al-Zindani and integrate him into the political movement. External targeting of Al-Zindani helps him gain strength and power.

Two political sides are racing to win Al-Zindani, but both evade any harm associated with him. The authority defends him as a terror suspect to gain his trust, while the Islah Party views him as a burden on the judicial Islamic movement.

Mustafa Ragih is a Yemeni journalist

Letters to the Editor

Creating development

For a functioning local government, it is essential to have an independent auditor who annually reports the budget to the public at least once a year, and in this budget you can see the priorities of the current government. The Canadian Speech to the throne is an example. Every government in the developed world worries about every files being head accountable.

It is essential for development to succeed that it works from the bottom up, to involve everyone, and work to find involve the most marginalized. There are various degrees of delegated power and of tokenism. Delegated power varies from citizen control, which would mean a successful development project (not government control). Then there are various degrees of tokenism, where the government is control, ranging from consulting to manipulation.

If we as citizens do not take control of our development, and have actual power and say in the design of our development projects, they will fail. Our government will collect less tax and our government officials have

smaller bonuses. Everybody loses. Delegating power, as painful as it is will increase government official's salaries, while creating development projects that benefit everyone, especially the most marginalized.

*Mariam Al-Masani
politikaleconomy@yahoo.com*

Open Letter to the Ministry of Information

I would like to congratulate first your appointment as new ministry of Information. As a Yemen expatriate I would like to bring to your notice, we are the most viewers of Yemen TV abroad. We are always like to know more of what is happening back home and learn more about the country.

Unfortunately, we feel the Yemeni TV are not addressing this demand properly. They hardly make one or two programs of which most does not contain any beneficial subjects. The Yemeni expatriates or the Yemeni Viewers in general does not need to view old western movies, Indian, or even Arabic films. There is hundreds of other channels boringly broadcast-

ing such films or movies.

Even the one or two programs broadcasted through the Yemeni TV timing are not well chosen. Most of the Yemenis expatriates are either working or studying and they can hardly catch the timing of such poor produced programs.

I would highly appreciate if you please reconsider the programs the Yemeni TV are broadcasting, and make the proper study if it is well suited for the Yemeni Expatriates and the Yemeni Viewers in general.

Also, I think it will be a good idea if you Website are updated and make available some programs for downloading. I think the Ministry website backdated 2004..

I hope this suggestion will meet your consideration and attention.

*Mustafa Naji
mustafanaji@yahoo.com*
Response to the video games article

All the problems I've read are all do with gaming. Children steal for cigarettes, for going out, shopping and

yes for videogames, but this has nothing to do with videogames at all. The same counts for the other so called videogames related crimes. I don't see how you can publish an article like this. And a father who puts his child in jail? What kind of father is that?

*Albert van den berg
avb1977@hotmail.com*

Muslim's debate with the west

I am really surprised of the way the people of the western countries think. I read some of the letters sent to you from western people (Issue922, Feb20) who think that they are smart enough to tell us Muslims how to think and what to wear and not to wear!!! I think that is what's ridiculous, not any thing else..

One of them thinks that it is ok to insult our prophet (pbuh), but it is a TABOO to get even close to what is called "HOLOCAUST" or to say a good think (if there is any) about the NAZI or Nazi symbols. Where can we find more "double standard" than this. I would say the following to those who sent the letters and all westerners. You have to know from now on that

Muslims have "Red lines" that cannot be crossed. If some irresponsible people were using the prophet's pictures in the Internet, that does not mean Muslims allow that. Muslims also want the west to know that Islam is "state and religion" and there is no way in the world that can be separated, period...

On the other hand, someone said that women are forced to wear "BURQAS"...I have no idea where these people come up with that. I think they need to learn more and read more about Islam; also a lot of Muslims need to read and learn more about their religion. Islam does not force women to wear burqas, actually there are different school of thought on that.. However; HIJAB ,from Islamic point of view, is obligatory on women to wear if they are Muslims. I'll leave for you to understanding that the way you want. But that's how it is and whoever practices Islam will not say other than that. This is Islam that we love, live, and die for it.

*Nabeel Alabadany
nabeel_alabadany@yahoo.com*

Yemeni engineer in K.S.A

There is few Yemeni engineer working in KSA leaving Yemen because Yemeni authority don't find for him any job in their country they are qualified and have good experiences in their field now through Yemen Times i call new Yemen government, to contact this engineer, to serve in Yemen instead they spend their age outside their country.

*Anwer Al-Naqeeb
anweralnqeeb@yahoo.com*

Looking for my father

I wondered if you could help me in my quest to trace my father Hassen Zandani. I was born in Hartlepool, England in 1957 and my father had Diplomatic status. I have tried for many years to trace him or remaining family as I feel a part of me is missing. I hope you can help perhaps an article or appeal in your newspaper? or if you could tell me how to look for my father. He is aware of m existence as he came to England when I was seven to visit me.

*Vannesa Zandani
Vannesa@hydrangea.propagation.net*

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Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: yementimes@yementimes.com
Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Managing Editor in Charge
Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Al-Ajel, Fatima
Al-Ariqi, Amel
Ali, Mohammed
Al-Jabri, Mohammed
Al-Khawlani, Adel
Almasmari, Hakim
Al-Mayasi, Yasser
Al-Molsi, Shaker
Exler, Stine
Khidhr, Mohammed
Patterson, Dana

Branches

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

Taiz Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Hodeidah Bureau:
Mazen Abdulghani Al-Saqqaf,
Telefax: +967 (3) 206886

Ibb correspondent:
Nashwan Dammaj
Mobile: (+967) 733840609,
Email: nashwan2000@yahoo.com

Hadramout Correspondent:
Saeed Al-Battali
Mobile: (+967) 733896986
Email: Albatat88@yahoo.com
Fax: +967 (05) 360303

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Behind the Wire (1/2)

An Update to Ending Secret Detentions

Growing numbers of detainees in U.S. custody in Iraq and Afghanistan are putting stress on permanent U.S. detention facilities and raising demands on temporary detention facilities where conditions are poor and abuse has been frequent, Human Rights First said in a new report called Behind the Wire.

By: Michael Posner & Deborah Pearlstein
Human Rights First

Behind the Wire, an update to Human Rights First's Ending Secret Detentions, released in June 2004, assesses the nature and scope of the United States' worldwide military and intelligence detention system. While identifying a few positive developments, the report finds that the number of detentions worldwide is on the rise, as is secrecy regarding the system overall. The report also unearths a previously undisclosed detention facility in Peshawar, Pakistan. In the end, the report concludes, the scrutiny into military detentions over the past nine months, by U.S. courts and Pentagon investigations, has still failed to produce full answers to many of the most basic questions regarding the U.S. military and intelligence detention system: the location of U.S. detention facilities, how many are held within them, on what legal basis they are held, and who has access to the prisoners.

Human Rights First has called on the United States to end secret detentions and to grant the International Committee for the Red Cross full and immediate access to all individuals in U.S. custody. These steps are consistent with legitimate national security interests and make clear the United States' ongoing commitment to human rights, open democracy, and the rule of law.

U.S. detention facilities hold more than 11,000 in Iraq and Afghanistan. Increasing numbers held in trailers and barbed wire where abuse is more likely

"The numbers we're detaining now are essentially where they were in 2003 when we saw the worst torture and abuse occurring in U.S. custody overseas," said Deborah Pearlstein,



Al-Jafr prison in Jordan behind the wires

Director of the U.S. Law and Security Program at Human Rights First. "It was in part these stresses on capacity that the Pentagon's own investigators cited as contributing to the gross abuses the Abu Ghraib pictures revealed," Pearlstein said.

In Iraq, the United States is now detaining a record 10,200 people, more than double the number held five months ago. The number of detainees held in Afghanistan also appears to be on the rise. Individuals detained in Afghanistan by U.S. forces rose from 350 in June of 2004 to 500 in January of 2005. No numbers on Afghanistan are available since January 2005 since the Department of Defense has introduced a policy of classifying information related to U.S. detentions in Afghanistan, including the number of detainees held and the specific legal basis for their detentions.

"One of the concerning developments we're seeing as U.S. detention operations in these places mature is a trend toward greater secrecy, not less," Pearlstein said. Behind the Wire updates a report Human Rights First issued in June 2004 on the scope and nature of U.S. global detention operations in the "war on terrorism."

"The scrutiny of the past nine months has still failed to produce full answers to many of the most basic questions posed in our original report," the Report says. "Far from diminishing in importance as

U.S. missions in Afghanistan and Iraq mature, these questions are becoming more urgent as U.S. detention operations appear to be picking up permanence and pace."

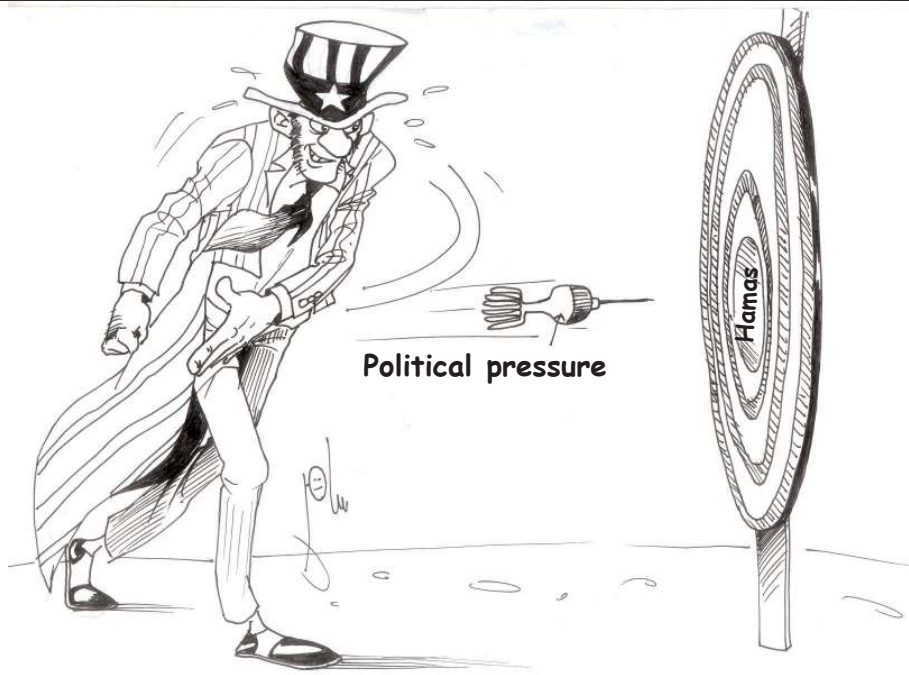
Among the effects of the overall increase in numbers the report notes is the continued reliance on makeshift "transient" detention facilities - which often are nothing more than a series of trailers surrounded by barbed wire. Interviews conducted by Human Rights First with now-released detainees held by U.S. authorities in such facilities reveal that conditions there are often grossly inadequate. Many of the worst alleged abuses of detainees, including deaths in custody, have occurred in these facilities, where visits from the Red Cross are limited.

More than 3,000 suspected terrorists have been arrested in many countries. Many others have met a different fate. Put it this way, they're no longer a problem to the United States and our friends and allies.

—President George W. Bush
State of the Union Address
February 4, 2003

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By: Samer

Behind the Wire also uncovers information on the nature and scope of U.S. detention operations, concluding that the overall system is more expansive than previously believed. For example, the report discusses a previously undisclosed facility in Peshawar, Pakistan that was discovered by Human Rights First through a series of FOIA requests in the past year.

In April, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the cases of Jose Padilla and Yaser Hamdi - both U.S. citizens who have been held in military detention facilities for more than two years.

One Justice wondered aloud how the court could be sure that government interrogators were not abusing these detainees. You just have to "trust the executive to make the kind of quintessential military judgments that are involved in things like that," said Deputy Solicitor General Paul Clement.

Later that evening, CBS's 60 Minutes broadcast the first shocking photographs of U.S. troops torturing Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib detention center in Iraq.

The photos from Abu Ghraib have made a policy of "trust us" obsolete. But they are only the most visible symptoms of a much larger and more disturbing systemic illness. Since the attacks of September 11, the United States has established a network of detention facilities around the world used to detain thousands of individuals

captured in the "war on terrorism."

Information about this system - particularly the location of U.S. detention facilities, how many are held within them, on what legal basis they are held, and who has access to the prisoners - emerges in a piecemeal way, if at all, and then largely as a result of the work of investigative reporters and other non-governmental sources.

The official secrecy surrounding U.S. practices has made conditions ripe for illegality and abuse.

Beyond major detention operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the United States has operated detention facilities in multiple other countries. In addition to facilities documented in Ending Secret Detentions, Behind the Wire unearths an additional U.S. detention facility in Peshawar, Pakistan, in use as late as July 2002.

Several of these facilities, including the U.S. military bases at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, are well known. The existence of these facilities - and the fact of unlawful conduct within them - have been widely publicized and well documented. Nonetheless, there is still no or only conflicting information about how many individuals are held there, troubling information about inadequate provision of notice to families about the fact of detainees' capture and condition, and unclear or conflicting statements about detainees' legal status and rights. While the International Committee of the Red Cross (icrc) has visited these

facilities, their visits have been undermined in ways contrary to the letter and spirit of binding law.

In addition, there are detention facilities that multiple sources have reported are maintained by the United States in various officially undisclosed locations, including facilities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, on the British possession of Diego Garcia, and on U.S. war ships at sea. U.S. government officials have alluded to detention facilities in undisclosed

locations, declining to deny their existence or refusing to comment on reports of their existence. A Department of Defense official told Human Rights First in June 2004 that while Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo's Camp Echo were open to discussion, "as a matter of policy, we don't comment on other facilities." Similarly, Captain Bruce Frame, a U.S. army spokesman from centcom, the unified military command that covers Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia, told Human Rights First only that there "may or may not" be detention centers in countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan in centcom's area of responsibility.

Khrushchev's secret speech and end of communism

By: Roy Medvedev

In history, some events at first appear insignificant, or their significance is hidden, but they turn out to be earthshaking. Such a moment occurred 50 years ago, with Nikita Khrushchev's so-called "Secret Speech" to the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It ranks, I believe, just below the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and the start of Hitler's War in 1939 as the most critical moment of the twentieth century.

At that moment, the communist movement appeared to be riding the tide of history, and not only for those in the Soviet Union. In the mid-1950's, communism was on the offensive in Europe, as well as in the emerging Third World. Capitalism seemed to be dying. All of communism's imperfections were deemed temporary, just bumps on the way to the just society that was then being born. A third of humanity saw the Soviet Union as leading the world toward global socialism.

The Twentieth Congress put an end to that. It was a moment of truth, a cleansing from within of the brutality of Stalinism. Khrushchev's speech to the Congress inspired doubt and second thoughts throughout the worldwide Communist movement.

Khrushchev's motives as he took the podium on the morning of February 25, 1956, were, in his mind, moral ones. After his ouster from power, in the seclusion of his dacha, he wrote: "My hands are covered with blood. I did everything that others did. But even today if I have to go to that podium to report on Stalin, I would do it again. One day all that had to be over."

Khrushchev had, of course, been an intimate part of Stalin's repressions, but he also didn't know half of what was going on. The whole Stalinist system of government was built on absolute secrecy, in which only the General Secretary himself knew the whole story. It wasn't

terror that was the basis of Stalin's power, but his complete monopoly on information. Khrushchev, for example, was stunned when he discovered that in the 1930's and 1940's, some 70% of Party members were annihilated.

Initially, Khrushchev didn't plan to keep his denunciation of Stalin a secret. Five days after the Congress, his speech was sent to all the leaders of the socialist countries and read at local party meetings across the Soviet Union. But people didn't know how to discuss it. And with good reason, for the problem with the de-Stalinization process was that, although the truth was partly revealed, no answer regarding what to do next was offered.

After the Congress, it became clear that the communist gospel was false and murderously corrupt. But no other ideology was offered, and the crisis - the slow rot of the system that became clear during the era of stagnation under Leonid Brezhnev - that began with Khrushchev's speech lasted another 30 years, until Mikhail Gorbachev took up his mantle of change.

The doubts inspired at the Congress may have been inchoate, but they nonetheless sowed genuine unrest. In the first of the protests that rocked the communist world in 1956, huge crowds in Georgia demanded that Khrushchev be fired and Stalin's memory reinstated. An uprising in Poland and the far more tumultuous Hungarian Revolution argued for the opposite. The Poles demanded communism with a human face, and the Hungarians, after Imre Nagy sought to reform communism, ended up wanting no communism at all.

All of these protests were brutally crushed, which resulted in many West European Communists leaving the Party in utter disillusion. Khrushchev's speech also ignited the feud between Mao's China and the USSR, for it allowed Mao to claim the crown of world revolutionary leadership.

Worried by the protests, Khrushchev tried to cool off the anti-Stalin campaign. The release of the Gulag prisoners that

followed his speech continued, but it was done in silence. Party membership was restored to purge survivors, and they received new jobs, but they were forbidden from discussing the horrors that they had endured.

That silence lasted until 1961, when Khrushchev permitted new revelations of Stalin-era crimes. These were publicly reported and discussed on TV and radio. Stalin's body was removed from Red Square, Stalin monuments were destroyed, and cities restored their original Soviet names. Stalingrad became Volgograd.

The idea of the Gulag entered our literature with Alexander Solzhenitsyn's One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich. This second anti-Stalinist campaign lasted two years, which was not nearly enough to change the country's mentality.

The Twentieth Congress shattered the world Communist movement, and it turned out to be impossible to cement the cracks. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries faced a crisis of faith, as the main threat to communism was not imperialism, or ideological dissidents, but the movement's own intellectual poverty and disillusion.

So, although it is common today in Russia to blame Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin for the collapse of the USSR, it is both useless and unfair to do so. The system was dead already, and it is to Yeltsin's great credit that he was able to bring Russia out of the ruins in one piece. Although Russia's future is uncertain, its history is becoming clearer, in part because we now know that the Twentieth Party Congress started the process that brought about the end of Soviet despotism.

Roy Medvedev, historian and Soviet dissident, is an author of many books, including Stalin: Let History Judge and Khrushchev: The Years in Power (with Zhores Medvedev).

:Source: <http://www.project-syndicate.org>

The India option

By: Charles Tannock

French President Jacques Chirac's visit to India this month to complete the sale of 6 attack submarines to India will confirm once more India's emergence as an economic and diplomatic powerhouse. The "strategic partnership" that both America and the European Union have at times sought with China looks both more plausible and more desirable with democratic India.

With a Muslim President, a Sikh Prime Minister, a Hindu Foreign Minister, and a foreign-born Christian President of its ruling Congress party, India is as remarkable a success story as the twenty-year boom that China's Communist Party has delivered. Indeed, since 1991, when a balance-of-payments crisis loomed, India has been shedding its socialist legacies and posting 7.5% average annual GDP growth - only marginally slower than China. India has opened up its economy to world trade and started to privatize many of its state-owned industries (albeit often too slowly).

High-tech businesses have helped enormously in this effort by showing that India has more to gain than lose from competing in the global marketplace. Perhaps for the first time since inventing the zero, India has a hot product to sell - and, this time, it can keep the profits for itself. Moreover, a global bidding war has broken out for Indian brains.

The EU is keen to link into India's boom. The first EU Galileo satellite - intended as an alternative to America's GPS system - was launched in late December with India as a full partner. Also in December, India became the latest nation to join the EU in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) team, which aims to produce electricity using nuclear fusion, as happens in the sun.

For obvious historical reasons, the United Kingdom has led the way in building EU links with India. Indian businesses naturally chose Britain over other locations in Europe for reasons of language and cultural ties, but even that is changing, as Indian investments spread

across the Continent.

In a sense, India's democracy sometimes hinders immediate growth. Unlike in China, India's government cannot simply ride roughshod over local interests by, say, leveling a village to build a roadway or a dam. But this is a sacrifice that India seems more than willing to make to safeguard its freedoms.

That sacrifice is particularly visible in today's Congress-led Indian government, which relies on support from the Left Front Communist Party. India's communists (unlike China's) remain ideologically driven, and the Left Front is resisting privatization of state assets, lifting caps on foreign direct investment, and creating a more flexible labor market.

Yet the essential reforms, which date back to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's time as finance minister in 1991 and include liberalization of external trade and dismantling the "license raj," remain on track. It is clearly in India's interests to join forces with the EU in negotiations within the World Trade Organization to lower protectionist barriers, particularly in services such as accounting, law, and finance, as this will free up trade and generate greater investment flows.

India already is being treated with growing respect in global economic councils. When "new economy" issues such as e-commerce come up at the WTO, India, the EU and the United States often find themselves on the same side. On "old economy" issues, ideological clashes have given way to tough-minded bargaining, as has happened in the Doha round of trade talks. India supports a Millennium Round of trade talks, but rejects any linkage of trade to labor standards. The Indians want faster liberalization of the textile and clothing trades; the EU wants better enforcement of intellectual-property protection. Indeed, India is keen to share intelligence with the EU in the fight against international terrorism.

The main problem in pushing this strategic partnership ahead lies mostly within the EU, where there is a split between protectionists and advocates of free trade. In particular the EU must resist

calls for higher tariffs from southern European textile manufacturers, as these businesses have failed to restructure, despite ample warnings over the last decade to do so.

Indeed, the EU should regard growth in India not as a competitive threat but as a golden opportunity that will benefit everyone. The global economy is not a zero-sum game, and the challenge for European politicians will be to explain this to EU members, particularly countries like France that are resistant to globalization and keen on building a "Fortress Europe." Chirac's visit provides a perfect moment for India to make it clear that strategic partnerships and protectionism (as seems to be occurring in the French effort to block Mittal's bid for the Belgian-French steel group Arcelor.) don't mix.

The second point of convergence between Indian and Western interests is one that will probably get no public mention during Chirac's visit: India can perhaps serve as a counterweight to China. The world is beginning to notice that India has nearly the same number of people as China, plus a more benign system of government and no designs on its neighbors. China hawks in both India and the West dream that "strategic partnership" will link the world's great democracies.

That will not happen soon. To be sure, India is as wary of China as some in Europe and America are. After all, China supplied much of Pakistan's nuclear-weapons technology and beat India in a 1962 war; their borders remain disputed in places. Yet neither India nor the EU wants their friendship to be part of an anti-China axis. Indeed, India has mostly succeeded in ending the chill that set in after 1998, when it declared China to be the main target of its nuclear weapons. Nonetheless, Europe, India, and America are all aware that today's friendship could become tomorrow's alliance if China turns hostile.

Charles Tannock is UK Conservative Foreign Affairs Spokesman in the European Parliament.
Source: <http://www.project-syndicate.org>

In brief

Aden Customs Office recently seized 22 large motors smuggled into Yemen. Aden customs control director Omar Al-Hababi said the machines were discovered hidden in a rice shipment from Sayoun district in Hadramout governorate. He explained that bringing the machines into Yemen represented two violations: first, they were smuggled and second, they violated government regulations preventing importing used machines.

Within the past week, customs authorities at Al-Baqa border crossing seized 312 motorcycles and used spare parts quantities during an attempt to smuggle them into Yemeni territories.

Adel Mohammed Abdullah Saad, deputy general manager of Al-Baqa customs area, stated that authorities also retained 45 palm seedlings at the customs offices. The seedlings were intended to be smuggled outside Yemen from Marib governorate. Saad added that customs also seized large quantities of smuggled medicines and other quantities of coffee bound for Yemeni territories.

Dr. Awadh Ba Matraf said the Shoura (consultancy) Council, head of the State Authority for Developing Yemeni Islands, will send recommendations to official parties calling for grouping Yemeni islands situated in both the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea into one administrative entity to be called the Socotra and Islands governorate.

In a statement to Saba News Agency, Ba Matraf made clear that recommendations also include supporting the inhabited islands' infrastructures, as well as boosting the authority's institutional structures with technical and material support to enable it to manage and develop the islands and investment promotion for them, according to international regulations.

The trade unionist committee for Watani Bank workers and employees have denounced the Central Bank-appointed committee's decision to take control of the bank that stipulated freezing 300 Watani Bank employee and workers' wages.

In a statement, the committee warned against the measure, saying it represents a challenge of the Commercial Court's authority to the capital secretariat which previously issued a court decision to halt Watani Bank for Trade and Investment's liquidation procedures until a verdict is issued on the legality of taking control of the bank.

The General Authority for Aviation and Meteorology has completed a study on the new \$70 million Taiz Airport runway project. The new runway will replace the old one, situated between Sabr and Al-Kaeda mountains, which pose dangers to the airport's landing operations.

aging drug traders and commercial market problems. Drug companies ascribe the problem to smuggling operations, saying it is not reasonable to compete with smuggled goods sold at lower prices.

For their part, medicine authority sources pointed out that the authority gives medicine importers a five percent window within which to move due to pricing changes. Citizen Sarhan Qassim's opinion is that the government has ceased its medicine subsidies and hospitals pharmacies do not dispense free medicine to needy patients.

The question is whether concerned parties will realize what they must do for limited-income citizens, working to protect them by controlling smuggling operations, encouraging industries in this field and fixing treatment prices so citizens will be able to both buy and receive free medication.

Skyrocketing fish prices in Hadramout

By: Saeed Al-Batati
Albatati88@yahoo.com

When Hadramout is mentioned, the first thing people think of is fish. Visitors are told that they haven't visited Hadramout if they haven't eaten fish. It is eaten more than any other protein source in the governorate.

Due to the abundance of fish in the past, Yemenis fashioned many popular dishes like Sayadia, Gila bah and Sanah. Presently, these dishes are no longer served due to skyrocketing fish prices. YR 250 per kilo was a reasonable price for all citizens; however, getting good quality fish these days costs an arm and a leg.

Spiraling prices have made it impossible for low-income citizens to buy both low and high quality fish. Moreover, it has forced them to buy other types of fish used only for feeding fish. Aid (Sardinella Melanura), which was not so popular in Hadramout before, is now used in dishes since it is the only fish that can be bought via competitive prices.

Fish prices never have skyrocketed as much as today, with fish and meat prices at nearly the same. Nowadays, neither the haves nor the have nots can afford fish and on special occasions like Ramadan, prices hit the roof.

Owing to increased demand, the price of Thamad (yellow fin tuna) has exceeded YR 900 per kilo and predictions say it may reach an unprecedented record.

Hadrami peoples now experience hard times. When friends visit them, they don't know what to serve in order to be generous, as only vegetables are the poor alternative.

Anyone entering Al-Mukalla fish markets can see depressed faces of citizens arguing for discounts from fish sellers. Many return home empty-handed and others with meager amounts of fish that may not meet their family needs.

Citizens are on the warpath concerning prices, with many cursing the government for not intervening to arrest the deteriorating living standard. There is a moot point in Hadramout as to the reason for the problem which has become a phantom now disturbing



The interrupted supply of fish makes the fish scarce and cost alt

everyone in the governorate. Citizens unanimously say that the interrupted fish supply has failed to keep pace with increased demand. Everyone lays blame on the other for the short supply.

During his visit to Al-Mukalla Market, Hadramout governor Abdulgader Hilal discovered there was a great need for fish in the market, but most fishermen prefer selling their catch to fish-canning factories, which makes fish scarce and cost a lot. Hilal imposed stringent regulations on fishermen, requesting they prioritize the local market. As a result, prices temporarily dropped, but due to failure to keep an eye on violators, prices again are escalating.

Hadramout Information editor Anwar Ba-Sloom links the fish price rise to fuel price hikes. "Fishermen used to consume 20 liters of fuel, costing them YR 1,000 to sail into the deep sea to fish. When fuel prices went up, deep-sea fishing cost YR 14,000," he said. Concerning fishing companies' growth and their impact on

prices, "In recent years, the governorate grabbed many investment opportunities that have tangible social benefits but monitoring such investments essentially is required," Ba-Sloom added.

Ministry of Fish Office manager Nader Ba Wazir attributed the issue to various simultaneous factors. "The amount of fish caught declined last year compared with past years. The total amount of fish caught in 2004 was estimated at 88,000 tons, whereas it was 63,000 tons in 2005." His opinion is concurrent with many biologists about the global problem of decreasing fish stocks. "Rapid expansion of roads makes it easy for fish traders to export fish to other governorates," he added.

Ba Wazir has a number of remedies for the problem. "We introduced a law forcing fishermen to bring their daily catch to fish markets, preventing them from selling it to outsiders before midnight." Regarding fuel economy, "We are going to equip fishing boats

with diesel engines," he added.

Local fisherman Ahmed Bukari blames the government for increased fuel prices. "The fuel price is the main reason. In the past, we spent YR 10,000 but at current price levels, we now spend YR 30,000. We spend more money than what we get."

Fishermen reasoned that Ba Wazir's approaches were irrational. "We bring our catch to market after midnight, so the law is ineffective in this process. Diesel engines are nearly as close in consumption as those using petrol, so, we want gas ones," Bukari said. "Although fishermen are society's fish producers, no one pays attention to them," he concluded.

The other side of investment

Following unification, the government made investments much more attractive by offering many facilities to investors, which was enough to encourage them to come. Hadramout took the lion's share in the fishing industry. In the past decade,

Yemenis groan under smuggled medicines and high prices

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

According to a Ministry of Health inspection campaign conducted in the capital secretariat earlier this week, Yemenis are living under crushing deteriorated health conditions and smuggled expired drugs that are widespread in markets and pharmacies. At the same time, consumers find varying prices for foodstuffs in the market. Prices are very high in some stores, while in others, they are at medium levels, reflecting troubled and uncontrolled price rates.

While concerned institutions busy themselves with internal woes and preparations for September's presidential and local elections, citizens are drowning, deep in problems embittering their daily lives. Yemeni families currently suffer much as a result of aggravated poverty, which is expanding its social segments, and scarce job opportunities.

Many citizens complain of their health conditions while others talk of inability to gain job opportunities. Amidst such talk, official authorities speak in detail about meeting citizens' needs and helping the poor via a national poverty fighting strategy and realizing sustainable development. The striking thing in this regard is general public feeling of the need for honorable living and obtaining medicine, lodging and clothing; however, looking

for jobs is futile as long as the market situation remains as is without available job opportunities to end prevalent unemployment.

Worker Mohammed Al-Matari has waited since early morning at the used goods market without finding work to earn money for his family. He says,

"Fatigue accompanying a person while shopping or selling at the local market is doubled because of citizens' loss of trust in sellers. This is associated with most merchants' greed and their desire to wring out the highest possible profit at the expense of everybody. They take advantage of the uncontrolled Yemeni

market and open borders. Added to this is the deep sleep of concerned authorities. The result is that we find much price difference for a simple commodity from one shop to another on the same street."

Worker Saleh Al-Raimi mentioned that the price rule exception increases

citizens' suffering, especially when buying medicine, for many reasons. One reason is citizens' favorable judgment of those trading in an important commodity. The citizen usually will rule out being exploited for goods he is in dire need of, as it is known that the patient receives sympathy from others. Most of the time, citizens are unable to buy goods they want, particularly necessary medicine for their lives.

Another citizen, Yahya Abdullah, mentioned that if a citizen is able to buy medicine, he then falls victim to corrupt and cheap drugs, thus shortening the patient's distance to his death. Abdullah maintained that some patients give their prescriptions to pharmacists who in turn add other drugs, causing the patient to pay for the extra medicine which costs more.

Regarding high medicine prices, pharmacist Abdulrahman Al-Faqieh said the General Authority for Monitoring and Medicine Inspection is who doubles drug prices by adding new prices onto them. He added that despite the authority's talk of implementing all-out land, sea and air inlet monitoring, which is a good thing to serve society and supported by all, smuggling operations remain active. Pharmacy sources affirmed that medicine companies do not abide by fixed pricing and attribute the change in the Yemeni Riyal exchange rate against the dollar as doubling patients' suffering.

Drug manufacturing companies say the dollar's sudden rise leads to dam-



Corrupt and cheap drugs, the shortest way to the patient's death

Yemeni Boxing Federation in final push for success

The Yemen Football Federation (YFF) approved in an extraordinary meeting the draft bylaw for the federation's new system due to be the criterion for work in the days to come. The meeting, held at the YFF in the presence of a FIFA delegation, was chaired by the Asian Football Federation Representative Esa Saleh and the YFF temporary committee under Ibrahim Suedi.

The awarding ceremony for the Republic Culture Championship was held on Tuesday in the capital Sana'a. Junior teams from Ibb, Al-Mahweet, Lahj, Dhamar, Hodeida, and Aden, the capital and Taiz took part in the championship.

The Seventh Championship for youth



Yemeni Football Federation

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Interested candidates are asked to submit their applications to the Human Resources Director, email: adra@y.net.ye or fax : 01 260528. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

and junior boxers kicked off in Sana'a Tuesday. The event is organized by the Yemeni Boxing Federation with the participation of boxers from the capital, Sana'a, Aden, Lahj, Hadramout, Dhamar, Taiz, Hodeida, Al-Beidha, Shabwa, Abyan and Al-Dhale'. Junior boxers compete in the weights: 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46kg while youths in the

weights: 48, 51, 54, 57, 69, 64 and 67 kg.

Yemeni Minister of Youth and Sports Abdurrahman Al-Akwa'a met on Tuesday the Asian Football Federation's (AFF) delegation under Esa Saleh, Director of AFF's Legal Affairs Administration. The delegation is currently visiting Yemen with the main objective of completing restructuring of the YFF system and arranging for the YFF elections due in the final days of March. During the meeting, the sport officials viewed the arrangements for the poll and discussed issues and aspects of bilateral cooperation between YFF, AFF and FIFA, as well as how to develop football in Yemen.



Minister of Youth and Sports

Competitions of the Volleyball Premier League start on Thursday as four encounters are to take place on the same day. The strongest meeting is between Al-Shurthah from the capital and his guests Al-Shualah from Aden who is on the lead. The meeting is to confirm whether Al-Shu'alah will maintain the lead or Al-Shurthah may score victory and reclaim the lead of teams.

Canadian Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) - Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France defeated Martina Hingis 6-2, 6-2 Friday and will play second-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia in the final of the Qatar Open.

"In the final tomorrow, my serve is likely to play a big role," Mauresmo said. "I and Nadia serve well, so serve will play an important part. It will be a tough match." Petrova topped Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-1, 7-6 (2) in the first semifinal.

Mauresmo, who has won three titles this season, beat the Swiss former No. 1 and inaugural Qatar champion in 2001 for the fifth time in six meetings.

"I think all aspects of my game are OK at the moment. I am being consistent with my play," Mauresmo said. "Being consistent is a very important part of my game and I was happy that I played that way today. I think Hingis also played a good match."

Mauresmo, the Australian Open champion, broke Hingis twice in the first set and four times in the second.

The Frenchwoman was broken twice in the final set.

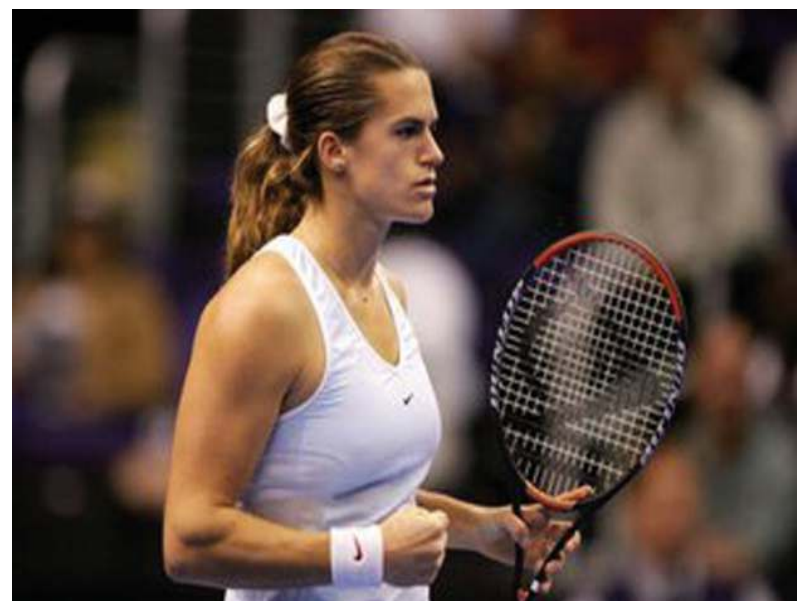
"She is a solid player, the one to beat in tomorrow's final," Hingis said. "I lost to a great player today. She is playing her best tennis. However, I wouldn't say that I am playing bad tennis. I am improving with every outing. I know there are certain areas in which I can improve."

Petrova, a quarter-finalist at January's Australian Open, beat Sugiyama in 103 minutes.

The Russian broke Sugiyama's serve in the second and fourth games of the first set, but, in the second, Sugiyama fought back from 4-0 down and won five consecutive games to force a tiebreaker.

Petrova then played a baseline game with trademark deep forehands and crosscourt shots.

"I was very motivated for today's match. I knew I would win the semifinal. I was in no doubt about the result. I gave everything I had," Petrova said. "I stuttered a little in the second set, when Sugiyama won a few games, but I played my natural game in the tiebreaker."



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الشيخ / خالد مجود طه الصعدي

بمناسبة الشور بالثمة العميرة التي أولاهما له أبناء الدائرة (٢٢٧) كتمثل لهم في مجلس الشورى . ثالث ألف مبروك

المهنتون :
 أعمامك - إخوانك عنهم فهد وعبد الملك - عبد الخالق العمدي وإخوانه وجميع الاهل والاصدقاء

The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Risky trip

By: **Sadat Mohamed Geesh**
drgeesh@hotmail.com

As we know, there is always some very hazardous trip for which only the Horn African refugees pay the price while crossing the 300km Gulf of Aden. In the latest one approximately 400 desperate refugees lost their lives, during the two months of the last year. It's running from Death and drowning to death that seems to be the day to day activity in that Sea of Death.

We have heard the calls of the International Human Rights organizations expressing their deep concern about that tragedy and as usual this does not change the ways or the reasons which causes the death of these desperate refugees. In 1992, the first was the Goobweyn Ship which was the first to sail from Somali to Yemen during the onset of the civil war in Somalia. The explanations given were in reference to the poor infrastructure of both the source (Somalia) and target (Yemen) countries making it impossible to contain that everlasting human tragedy on one hand, and the unwillingness of the International Community to effectively address the root cause of the problem on the other hand.

We believe as Somali refugee intellectuals in Yemen that if the International Community does not take preventive and responsive steps towards these desperate Horn African refugees there will be a real human disaster during the upcoming months.

This has a few explanations:

- The prolonged drought that hit the south west of Somalia has had a wide impact on the great new influx to Yemen predicated for the upcoming months. This is particularly true for the region of Gedo in Southern Somalia, hardest-hit by the regional drought that has also affected neighboring Ethiopia and its epicenter in northern Kenya
- People living mainly from rearing cattle sold to their Kenyan neighbors to buy grain; their animals had started dying by the hundred and thousands.
- Inter-ethnic clan fighting has worsened as rival clans battled for the few remaining water points in the barren region, just as aid workers said: The crisis was as much a water crisis as it was food crises
- Somalis are fed up and carry little hope that the current federal government will work out its differences, restoring law and order

that he fled from Somalia- in particular the south-west region of Gedo after he had seen all his cows killed by famine. "So I have determined instead of dying like the animals, its better to die at Sea". He added that owing to the reasons mentioned above, the expected flow out of the refugees from death prolonging drought and the violence would greatly affect an already scant humanitarian response in the Sea of Death.

Therefore, Somali refugee intellectuals appeal to the Yemeni government, the International Human Rights organizations, and the United Nations to take preventive measures and actions towards warding off the expected human disaster in Red Sea, as the end of the calm seasonal seas approaches. Already known and unscrupulous human traffickers, the main source of this self perpetuating tragedy, are exploiting these desperate refugees. There are cases of the inhuman practices of ordering desperate refugees to jump into the sea before approaching the coast, and the lack of technical developments of the vessels which is the second cause of the drowning resulted in Red Sea.

By alerting the authorities with the latest information on the number of refugees waiting to smuggle across the seas to Yemen, we hope to prevent another human tragedy.

Beatitude

By: **Fuad Noman**
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

A saintly soul calls on
Tantrums of my sniveling to conclude
Love can't be hurt by the blameless nature
But inspiring a soul of Beatitude
What a Beautiful Creature!
Generous-minded resides in a good feature
Never be ugly and rude
Love does not shilly-shally to shadow your divine route
Let my soul discern your love's attitude

It is found in the profundity of Beatitude
God's Love is primordial and absolute
Only For Him my great survival
gratitude
Sanctuary of our Love is really large and huge
Her lips' fruit juice embellished the blush of berries
What a gorgeous fluid!
Emerald can't survive without her eyes' crude
Ethereal Heavenly Beatitude!
Her lullaby song sleeps on love's babyhood
When dark spirit hears her alluring

mantra
Suddenly becoming brightly white and cute
As if she melts our sighs by playing flute
So her beatific cheeks stimulate my heart's lute
Diving in sonata of spirit as a great loon
Kindheartedly tying the knot of glassy star
With diluted moon
Moon can slumber soundly and feel satisfied
When she endows our world by her face's light

Meaningful silence

By: **Barkatullah Marwat**
Kuwait
bumarwat@yahoo.com

The meaningful silence of the Muslim Ummah over the blasphemous caricatures of the Holy Prophet Muhammad [PBHU] carried by the European media clearly indicates that they have lost affection and love the Muslim of Golden and Glorious period had had for the Holy Prophet Muhammad [PBHU]. And this, even though the Holy Prophet once said, "A true Muslim among you is the one who loves me more than anything else". Hence in the light of such a saying of the Holy Prophet [PBHU], it becomes clear that the Muslim of 2006 loves materialistic stuff by wearing sunglasses [imitating the non-Muslim] through which the alleged caricatures resembles a drawing.

In the wake of the incident, Saudi Arabia has not only called back her Ambassador from Denmark but has also ordered to lift all the items produced by Denmark from all of her shopping malls. Following the footsteps of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait also ordered to empty the shelves of all shopping centers with Danish commodities, and even Libya has closed up her Embassy in Denmark.

As for the rest of the Muslim countries including Pakistan, I was really shocked to witness no official statement over that. In Friday's papers, I read that our FO only called the Danish Ambassador, but the question arises as to what he would do since his prime minister has already flatly refused to make an apology in this regard. He was also heard saying that it's just a part of 'Freedom of Expression' and could not force the owner of the papers to run an apology.

The story does not end here, however, where the most shocking aspect of the incident is that other publications of Europe also carried the same caricatures just to add insult to injury. What's that? Is it not too much? The fact remains that our President always teaches us to

remain cool and calm-but what about the mean activities being carried out by the anti-Islamic elements, the vivid example of which could be seen through the European media? Yes, they are humiliating and challenging our sentiments on the pretext of Freedom of Speech.

As regards the role of OIC, honestly speaking, it is completely dead-which is

why it has failed miserably to sense the gravity of situations created by the European. Muslim leaders have scolded the Iranian President for his comments regarding *what* Israel. Ironically, however, they could not utter anything about the blasphemous cartoons. So may I ask, are we true Muslims? I guess...NOT. If yes, prove it!

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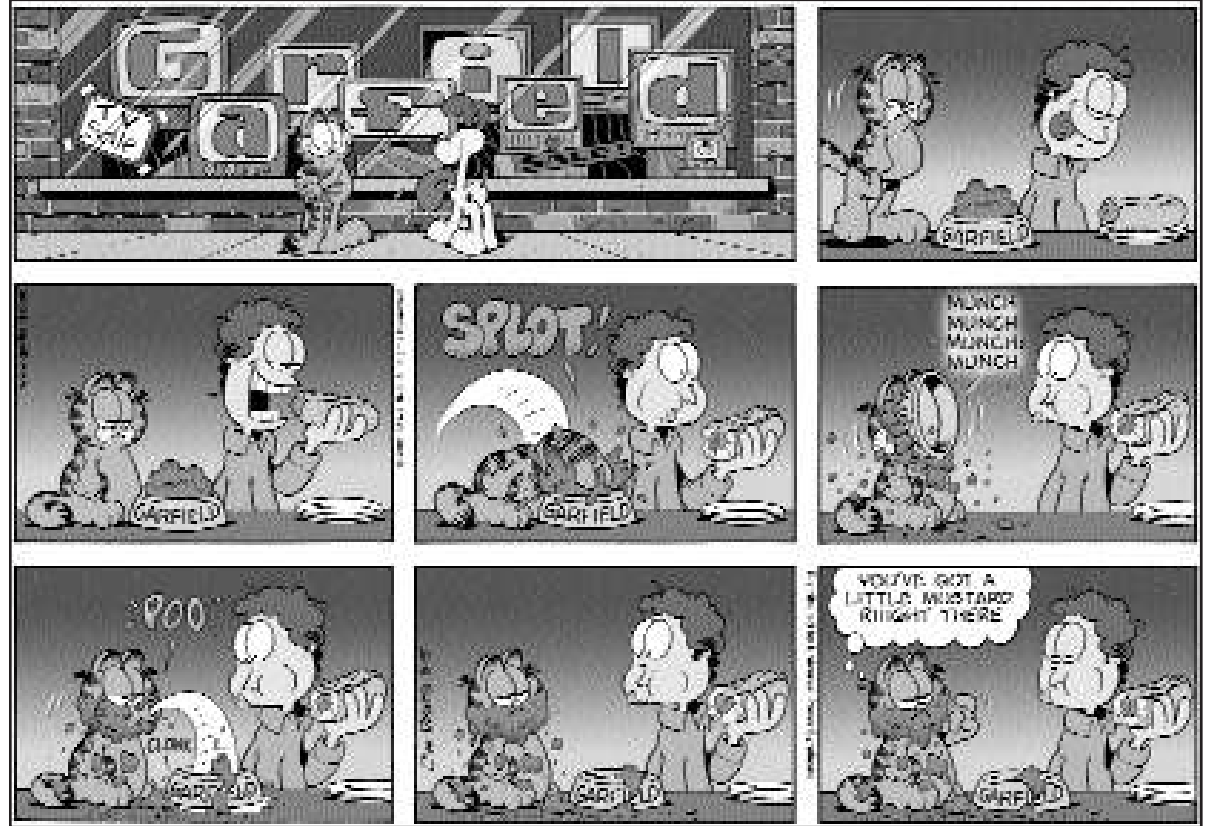
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- PREPARING KEY FINANCE REPORTS ON DAILY/WEEKLY/MONTHLY BASIS
- INTERACT WITH EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

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- (C) GOOD EXPOSURE TO COMPUTERS AND ACCOUNTING PACKAGES LIKE DACEASY, TALLY, BAZAR, AFAK, MYOB PEACHTREE ETC.
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NGO Human Rights Protection Projects



Position: Human Rights Protection
Project Title: Strengthening National Capacity in Human Rights
Project No.: YEM/03/006/34/A

Background:

The UNDP Project for Strengthening National Human Rights Capacity (hereinafter referred to as the Project) aims at strengthening national capacity (both governmental and non-governmental) to promote, protect, and respect human rights in Yemen. The promotion and protection of human rights is a commitment professed by the Government in its Constitution, international obligations and the many organs that have been created for that specific objective. A new Human Rights Ministry has been created to oversee the realization of this objective. The main objectives of the project are:

- To strengthen the national institutional capacity to advance, in a meaningful way, protection and promotion of human rights through fulfillment of international obligations mainstreaming human rights into national development efforts;
- To strengthen the capacity of civil society to enable it to develop its advocacy and networking skills for promoting and defending human rights.

One of the objectives of the Human Rights Project is to advance human rights protection in Yemen through supporting both governmental and non-governmental initiatives. Work with the government has focused on developing the capacity of the Complaint Department and the publication of the first Annual National Human Rights Report. Additional resources are therefore provided by the Danish Trust Fund in order to allow for more involvement in human rights protection through civil society organizations.

Expected results:

Formal initiatives for improving the protection of human rights in Yemen are strengthened through the complimentary efforts of Yemeni human rights protection NGOs.

Specific Tasks: Under the supervision of the CTA, the selected human rights NGO will

1. Develop and implement a one year human rights protection programme aiming at advancing the implementation of Yemeni constitutional standards and international human rights obligations;
2. Provide a location and a track record for documenting and/or voluntary activities aiming at protecting human rights;

Proposal content:

Consultants are expected to submit a proposal outlining:

- a. demonstrated capacity and plans for carrying human rights protection;
- b. a detailed methodology to be eventually reflected in a work plan for the execution of a contract based on the present TORs;
- c. a detailed breakdown of the overall cost (budget) of the entire set of activities based on the lowest and best values;
- d. proper way(s) for coordinating with the Ministry of Human Rights; and
- e. future plans to sustain protection activities and attract more Yemenis to partake in human rights protection.

Budget:

The estimated budget for the execution of this contract is 25,000 USD. Administrative overhead should not exceed 10% of the overall budget.

Required qualifications:

The following qualifications are deemed necessary for the required consultancy:

1. A Yemeni human rights NGO with a credible track record in human rights protection;
2. Demonstrated capacity to provide human rights protection on the basis of equality and neutrality;
3. Demonstrated sustainability for both future work of the organization and the activities delivered by it; and
4. Demonstrated flexibility and coherent methodology suited for cooperation with the Human Rights Ministry.

Deadline for submission of proposals:

Interested consultants are expected to submit proposals preferably in English by 12:00, March 23, 2006 to following address:

Ms. Samira Al-Farah
Procurement Analyst
P.O.Box 551
Sana'a
Tel: 448605/8

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

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Unappreciated Yemeni songs

Traditional Yemeni songs do not have a big place in the hearts of the young people of Yemen. They prefer to listen to music from outside their home country, and many young Yemenis dream of becoming musicians themselves.

By: Atif Awad

Yemeni youths stand before TV screens to watch songs and music on different Arab and non-Arab satellite channels. The youth in Yemen cannot avoid such crowds before the TV screens nor do they shift attention away from these channels. For a variety of reasons neither girls and nor boys can find their youthful identity. Often they want to imitate the western way of singing. The young Yemenis also have the desire to escape from their current situation and be musicians, by forming music bands in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden or Hodeida. But the hobby, the dream and the hope is short-lived.

For more than one reason, some desperate youths' dreams vanish, while other young people's dreams become endowed with life. Some youths form bands to then perform their own music, instead of just listening to and watching songs on different satellite channels.

When I asked him, "who are you? And what are you doing with this instrument - the most modern one in the technology of music?", he said, "I am Mohamed Mattar. I adore the music of the youth and I am the owner of the Al-Afrah Musician Band in Sana'a."

I asked him, "which songs do both girls and boys prefer when they celebrate special occasions. Is it mainly Yemeni songs?" He replied: "On special occasions, we play and sing the Gulf, Egyptian and Lebanese songs. The young Yemenis prefer these songs to others."

I repeated the question, "what about the Yemeni songs?" Mohamed Mattar answered: "The Yemeni songs are desired in shops that sell cassettes, but not for celebrating special occasions. The



Mohamed Mattar stands second from the right with his band, Farah.

PROMOTION PHOTO

youths do not appreciate the traditional Yemeni songs, and therefore we do not hear or play them when we have a celebration."

Mattar said that Yemeni youth oriented songs are rarely produced and if there are some, they are not as good as the Lebanese and Egyptian ones. In Yemen, there are no authorities or institutions concerned with the talented youth, and in fact many Yemeni youths are talented musicians and singers. Some even have the ability to compose their own music.

"Are there any famous Yemeni male or female singers who try to meet the needs of young Yemenis in terms of music?" I asked Mohamed Mattar. He answered: "No. Most of the singers and songstresses sing heritage songs and they use old heritage compositions. Saddam Al-Haj is a singer who sings with the composer Nabil Nasser. Both are two of the innovators who take traditional songs, particularly those associated with weddings, and then innovate and refresh the songs with modern music and

composition."

I wondered, "How many of the young bands in Yemen are famous and most often used to entertain at wedding parties?"

Mattar said: "There are numerous music bands in Sana'a, but also in other Yemeni provinces, such as the bands called Mas, Sam and Naghm. In Taiz, there are two famous composers, Adel Al-Shibami and Yahya Ayid, in addition to the Al-Nauras and Khaled Qahtan bands.

"How many institutions are concerned with the traditions of Yemeni songs?" I asked him.

"There are many. For instance, Arab Stars, Gold Threads, Al-Fuad and 13 July. These institutions and the Ministry of Information discover the youthful talents, but they only let them perform the traditional songs. Their talent gets lost in the field of heritage. The young musicians accept this submissively and rarely express their emotions and concerns that represent a great generation

his band's members were visiting the studio, I asked him to sing one of his songs for me. He decided to sing a song with a traditional melody, but with his own lyrics: "Oh beloved, with your

painful desertion, you have left me with nothing, except your apparition. You were my best wish and I am faithful to your love. However departed we are, my heart is bound by your love."



What makes Yemeni music special?

The music of Yemen is not well known in the rest of the world. A few music compilations have been released in order to spread the unique sound of the Yemenis.

The music culture of Yemen is a domain which has been scarcely known or documented. Yet, it has deep historic roots. The music of Yemen is extremely rich in genres, repertoires and configurations, functional relationships, modalities of performance and instruments. Yemenite music in general, and regardless of all the differences between layers of tradition and local and regional styles, has a particular attraction and charm, virtues which have been praised since ancient times.

The traditional music life in Yemenite towns knows no concerts or concert halls. Music performances form part of various functions. In Sana'a there are two main occasions: magyal, a social afternoon gathering and samra, night time entertainment. Recorded at a modern magyal, this volume features the classical traditional style of Yemen.

The most significant individual style of art music in Yemen is based closely on poetry, including both classical Arabic poetry as well as that of Yemeni poets over the past centuries and up to today.

Performance style consists of a solo singer with accompaniment (typically 'ud). Along with the basic combination of voice & 'ud, there can be percussion instruments to highlight the rhythms in subtly expressive ways. Many variants on this style exist in Yemen, and as a historical form, this was the specifically Arabic musical style which first made a world impact during the early Islamic Empire. The styles in Yemen are especially fluid in rhythm, with a wide variety of metrical patterns derived from poetic language, and articulated without strong rhythmic accents.

This is especially true of the largest single style, that of Sana'a, the capital. "The Music of Islam, volume 11, music of Yemen" is an anthology of vocalists recorded in Sana'a. Despite the conservatism there are some outside influence in the accompanying instrumental improvisations. The songs remain compelling, nonetheless, and the presentation contains valuable

discussion & orientation.

Two more traditional individual recitals, also from Sana'a have been released: "Yemen - Le chant de Sana'a" with Hasan al-Ajami and Ahmed Ushaysh and "Yemen - L'Heure de Salomon" with Mohammad al-Harithi. The former is particularly strict in a traditional sense, with one singer using the original Yemeni style of 'ud (as opposed to the generic Arabic 'ud which is now ubiquitous), and the other an intriguing copper tray evocative of Indonesia. The latter is a contemplative recital, self-accompanied on the 'ud. These two recent releases have effectively transformed the discography of Yemeni traditional music.

Besides the style of the high plateau around Sana'a, one particularly compelling anthology has been released for a region in the south: "Yemen - Songs from Hadramawt."

The styles here are more angular & animated, but still possess the special grace which makes singing of poetry in Yemen so compelling.

Sources: www.blacksun.com and www.medieval.org

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