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Inside:



Girls' education in the Arab



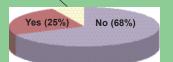
Investment on Kamaran Island to reach \$500 mil-



Readers' Voice **Last edition's question:**

16 years have elapsed since Yemeni reunification was achieved. Do you think that the reunification has gone on as planned by the parties who achieved it?

I don't know



This edition's question:

Amnesty International's recent report accused the Yemeni government of chronically committing human rights abuses. Do you think the report is accurate?

- I don't know

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll andhave your voice heard world: Challenges and diffi-





Good policy, good meeting

Amnesty assesses human rights in Yemen **Amnesty International launched its International Report 2006**

at the Foreign Press Association in London on May 23. The Report provides a broad overview of the status of human rights around the globe. Amnesty's Report comments on the state of human rights in some 150 countries. The comments related to Yemen are reproduced below.

Hundreds of people were killed in Sa'da Province amid armed clashes between the security forces and followers of Hussain Badr Al-Din Al-Huthi, a cleric from the Zaidi community. Police also apparently used excessive force during violent protests in July against fuel price rises. More than 1,000 alleged followers of Hussain Badr Al-Din Al-Huthi were detained without charge or trial, as were hundreds of people arrested in previous years in the context of the "war on terror". In the rare cases where political prisoners were brought to trial, the proceedings fell far short of international standards.Press freedom was further restricted and journalists were frequently attacked by police and others. The government continued to forcibly return people to countries where they risked serious human rights violations.

Dozens of people were reportedly executed and several hundred people remained under sentence of death.

Fuel protests

More than 30 people, including children, were reported to have been killed, and hundreds of others injured when a government decision to double fuel prices resulted in violent protests across the country on 19/20 July. Several soldiers and police were also among those killed. It was reported that protesters used firearms and the military used heavy weaponry, including helicopter fire and tanks.

'War on terror'

At least 200 people continued to be detained without charge or trial throughout 2005 as suspects in the "war on terror". More than 100 others were released after they agreed to engage in religious dialogue with Islamic figures and signed a pledge renouncing "extremist" views. However, dozens of

those released were later rearrested after it was reported that some of those freed had gone to Iraq to fight against USled forces.

• At least three Yemeni nationals who returned to the country from secret, apparently US-run, detention camps abroad continued to be detained unlawfully and without trial apparently at the behest of the US INTERNATIONAL Arabia authorities. The Yemeni

authorities told AI in October that they had no basis for detaining Muhammad Faraj Ahmed Bashmilah, Salah Nasser Salim 'Ali and Mohammed Abdullah Salah Al-Assad, following their return to Yemen in May 2005, but had been requested to do so by the US authorities. Two other men, Walid Muhammad Shahir Muhammad Al-Qadasi and Karama Khamis Khamisan, were returned to Yemen in April 2004 and August 2005 respectively. By the end of the year, the former was detained without charge or trial and the latter was standing trial on drug charges.

accused of being Al-Qa'ida members were sentenced to two years' imprisonment for forging travel documents. Five others were acquitted. All 11 were acquitted of another charge of establishing an armed group to carry out attacks in Yemen. Six of the defendants had been forcibly returned to Yemen from Saudi

• In May, two suspected Al-Qa'ida members, both Yemeni nationals who had been forcibly returned from Oatar, were reportedly convicted of forging documents. Al-Khadar Salam Abdullah Al-Hatami was sentenced to three years and four months in prison. Abdullah Ahmed Saleh Al-Raimi received a fouryear sentence and lodged an appeal.

The Sana'a Committee

The Sana'a Committee, established in 2004 by Yemeni human rights defenders, AI activists, lawyers and others, met for a second time in June. The • In March, six Yemeni nationals Committee widened its mandate to provide legal and other assistance to detainees' families and called on governments in the Gulf region to ensure that people detained in the context of the "war on terror" were treated humanely and in accordance with international human rights standards.

Unrest in Sa'da Province

Hundreds of people were reportedly killed in Sa'da Province where there were armed clashes between government security forces and followers of cleric Hussain Badr Al-Din Al-Huthi. Intense fighting broke out in the area in late March after the authorities launched a search for followers of the cleric, who was killed in September 2004. The area was closed to journalists and human rights activists on grounds of security. Some 400 people were reported to have been killed in a twoweek period, many allegedly as a result of excessive use of force by government troops. Hundreds of local men were rounded up and detained. The government also closed hundreds of religious schools within the Zaidi community and in October ordered the closure of 1,400 charities which it said were contravening the law.

Continued on page 2

should not apply for such

matters unless it is a must.

He emphasized peaceful

transfer of power and

building a modern state

via fair and transparent

According to Al-

Ahmar's son, Yemen is in

need of establishing a

principle for peaceful

transfer of power and liv-

ing in an atmosphere free

elections.

Opposition warns of unconstitutional elections

By: Adel Al-Khawlani

SANA'A, May 24 — Responding to a Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) letter, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) warned against an electoral process lacking constitutionality due to continued voting fraud. The parties renewed their refusal to participate in election management committees and accused the SCER of insisting on constitutional

In a statement circulated this week, the JMP said SCER actions have exposed the democratic process and elections impartiality to risk. The statement mentioned that the SCER's May 17 letter confirms that the highest election authority makes decisions and deals with parties according to partisan directives.

"The letter's date, content and demands uncover risky infringements within the SCER, which approves election management committee standards

عبرالعالم في الوقت تماماً The World on Time

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contrary to the law," the JMP stated, "The commission undervalues the significance of forming fair electoral committees and sets options that never lead to impartial and free elections." The JMP statement warned of a polit-

ical regime lacking legitimacy and constitutionality after upcoming presidential and local polls because of recurring voter registration fraud. It holds authorities accountable for such violations. The JMP insisted on rapid imple-

mentation of legal, judicial, political and administrative guarantees it announced in recent days. Opposition allies hold SCER members accountable for continued voting fraud and legal

opposition leaders received a letter last week demanding they join a discussion on nominating committees due to administer the electoral process. The leaders considered the letter contradictory to the JMP's stance of viewing the SCER as lacking constitutionality.

The SCER acknowledged that it discovered various types of voter registration fraud, including registering 53,000 minors who have not attained legal vot-

In a SCER press conference organized to comment on a UNDP report on the electoral registration process, Mohamed Al-Sayyani, head of the SCER's Technical Affairs department, said his commission discovered such fraud by comparing voters' recorded ages with their photos. He said some registration committees, especially in Shabwa, Marib, Hajjah and Amran, did not abide by registration standards and

Al-Sayyani pointed out that many registered voters have similar names, as there are approximately two million Yemenis with identical names. "So we cannot judge whether those names are repeated except by checking personal documents," the SCER Technical Affairs department added.

Abdu Al-Janadi, the SCER's Media & Awareness head, stated that some voter registration committees complained that tribesmen and some politi-An official JMP source affirmed that cal party members have forced them to register underage minors.

> "Underage minors included in voter registries will be referred to Prosecution, not for punishment, but for investigation to learn the bodies behind their registration," Al-Janadi

Al-Ahmar rejects JMP's possible nomination of Saleh

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 24 — MP Sheikh Hamid Abdullah Al-Ahmar renewed his rejection of a unanimously nominated candidate by the ruling party and opposition in the upcoming presidential race, attributing his strong rejection to his care for opposition parties.

"I think that any Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) and ruling party consensus to nominate the current president in this September's elections is bound to impact the former and cause them to lose credibility and suffer conflicts from within," Al-Ahmar said. "The JMP may destroy themselves if they do this. It is impossible for the nation to tolerate the totalitarian regime and its failed poli-

In a dialogue with Al-Sahwah weekly, Al-Ahmar confirmed that the ruling party is driving citizens toward a nationwide revolution by blocking any change outlets via proper political means. According to him, the matter is in the

and security despite the difficulties of the region.

Jordan has succeeded in

creating a modern econo-

my through establishing

a promising public-private sector partnership,

accelerating the process

of economic reforms and liberalization, enhancing

competitiveness, adopt-

ing a sound educational system and building hands of the authority able to overcome problems and increase public electoral awareness via the media to help citizens exercise their political right without the need for engaging in conflicts. "The ruling party's

stronghold on the throne, plus its lack of faith that the nation is in need of change to build a modern Yemen, are the primary Hamid Al-Ahmar reasons behind ruling

party and opposition dialogues reaching an impasse," Al-Ahmar noted.

He called on the JMP not to participate in unfair elections that may not lead to real change, particularly as the General People's Congress (GPC) destroyed democracy's meaning by controlling the voter registration process individually, refusing calls for multiparty electoral management to prepare fraud-free voter registries.

"Legitimacy is not based on addresses and debates by state employees; rather, legitimacy stems from citizens' needs," Al-Ahmar added. He called for establishing an electoral mechanism to help voters express their opinions, stressing that the ballot must reflect the voters

Al-Ahmar denied having any desire to run for president in the upcoming election, saying a man of reason and logic



of violations. "If President Abdullah Saleh does not back out on his historic decision not to stand in this September's presidential elections, he will reach a great achievement for his country. If Saleh insists on his declaration, this will be a great achievement similar in importance to establishing

national unity," Al-Ahmar stated. Various media outlets mentioned that Speaker of Parliament Al-Ahmar, who chairs Yemen's Islah Party, criticized the stance taken by his son and some minor sheikhs in Hashid, who call for what they describe as "Popular Revolution."

Al-Ahmar renewed his refusal to sign any political statement or document at the present time. Minimizing the importance of his son, he said Yemen has judicious men to be in charge of such matters and considered his son's declarations as merely statements of anger, media quoted reliable sources as saying.

Jordanian Ambassador conveys greetings to Yemen on the occasion of the independence day of Jordan

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of independence of Jordan and the 16th anniversary of Yemen National Day, I am honored to covey Jordan's sincerest greetings and best wishes for happiness, prosperity and continued success to his Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the government and the brotherly people of Yemen.

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II and his brother His Excellency Ali Abdullah Saleh, Jordan and Yemen have enjoyed brotherly and cordial relations. Our political, economical, cultural, medical, educational cooperation are excellent. I am confident that the relations between Jordan and Yemen will further be strengthened

Jordan celebrates the 60th anniversary of independence while it built a modern state enjoying high stability

and prosper.



Ahmed Ali Jaradat, Jordanian Ambassador

knowledge based econo-The adoption of the prudent approach to privatization has also led to the creation of new investment opportunities and better provision of services. As an Ambassador living in this

beautiful and historic country for years, I have witnessed closely the remarkable national achievements of the Yemeni leadership as well as its continued and sincere efforts to make Yemen a model of reform, democratization and the rule of law.

Continued on page 2



الاستضافة على أرقى السيرفرات العالمية مساحة الموقع ثلاثة اللاف ميجابايت سعة نقل البيالات حمسين جبحابات ه ،،،، زور موقعنا على الانترنت يمن إيكومرس تكنولوجي www.YemenET.com صنعاء ـ ش حدة ـ جوار عمارة الغراسي Yemen Ecommerce Technology

Court convicts seven forgers, requests extradition of three

SANA'A, May 24 — The Special Penal Court requested that the Ministry of Interior extradite three Iraqis charged with currency forgery. The group allegedly had seven members, for of whom are Yemeni.

Headed by Mohamed Al-Ba'dani, the court issued Wednesday an order of incarceration against the Iraqi members of the group: Amir Hamdan Al-Shumary, Abdlhamid Humadi Al-Jamili, and Mohamed Rakhis Al-Dhalati. Al-Shumary and Al-Jamili received five-year terms, while Al-Dhalati received a four-year sen-

The decision also charged the four Yemenis, Fuad Abdullah Zaid Al-Tam, Saleh Ali Abdullah Faraj, Qasim Ali Ahmed Humaisan and Yahia Hassan Al-Asnaj. Al-Tam and Faraj were handed down a sentence of two months of incarceration. Humaisan received sentence for a year and a half of imprisonment. The court was let off Al-Asnaj with time

already served. Nasr Ali Qaid Al-Shahiri, a suspect in the case, was acquitted of any wrong-doing.

The prosecution had accused eight suspects of participating in the forgery of local and foreign currencies. The Capital Detective Forces apprehended group members at different locations around Sana'a, unearthing and seizing large sums of forged foreign and local currencies. Detectives also confiscated the machinery used to produce the counterfeit currency.

Additionally, Loqman

recruited youths to the

ranks of the Believing

Muslim Youth group.

There was speculation

that the group was

headed by Hussein Al-

Hothi who was killed in

2005. Judge Loqman is

considered the first per-

son to be tried for prop-

thoughts and enlisting

youths in Al-Hothi's

rebellion. The rebellion

began on 18 June 2004

agating

Al-Hothi's

HOOD demands judge Loqman's release

SANA'A, May 24 — The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), called on President Saleh earlier this week to order the release of Judge Mohamed Loqman. So far, Loqman has served half of his prison term. The organization said in a message to the President, "the pardon of Judge Al-Dailami and Miftah have left the bloody Saada events behind. We hope that your decision will include Judge Loqman." Sources in the media have confirmed that President Saleh has directed the Supreme Judiciary Council to examine Judge Loqman's case and begin preparations for his release. The Special Penal Court sentenced Loqman, for-

mer judge of the Haraz Court of First Instance, to 10 years imprisonment. Allegedly, he participated in an armed gang that incited rebellion against the constitution and the legal order. Further, he was accused of defying the president and instigating racial, sectarian, and doctrinal conflicts.

The Supreme Judiciary Council previously lifted Judge Loqman. immunity from Judge Loqman because security

forces uncovered his involvement in in the Maran Mountains west of the Hussein Al-Hothi uprising.



• DHALEI, May 24 — SOUL for the Development of Women and Children, in coordination with UNICEF, held a workshop on early childhood in Al-Dhalei governorate on Wednesday. Providing definitions of the concept of early childhood and highlighting its importance, the event focused on identifying childbearing practices in the governorate. During the workshop, participants surveyed a study on childbearing conducted by SOUL in the Ibb and Hudeida governorates during 2003. Thirty-five participants attended the workshop representing a number of NGOs, the Health Office, headmasters, the Education Office, and members of the local council

• SANA'A, May 24 — Under the title "Tourism Is a National

the Queen Arwa University cultural week commenced today. They will run from May 24 -May 28. The activities are a scientific tradition that reflects the capacities and skills of Yemen's university students. Considered as a comprehensive cultural and informational promotion, the festivities merit the support from the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector. This week's activities will include many scientific, cultural, artistic, and recreational activities. Intellectual and poetical debates will also be held. The celebrations will conclude with the celebration of the sixth batch of graduates for the current academic year from the university. Top students and other who have earned distinction will be honored during this week's cere-

• LONDON, May 24 — Lloyd's of London, a company specialized in maritime shipping insurance, announced a raise in insurance rates for ships stopping in Yemen.

According to United Press International, Lloyd's considers Yemen and Sri Lanka high-risk areas and has decided to increase insurance fees over ships using ports in those

From Lloyd's perspective, the announcement is justified by the recent escape of 23 Al-Qaida prisoners from in jail in Sana'a, Yemen. Previously, insurance rates jumped following the attack on the French supertanker Limburg in 2002. Rates were subsequently decreased to levels seen before the attack on the Limburg in 2004.

Al-Kharbah sees gunfight over salaries

Abdallah Al-Ghuthaifi, the General Manager of the Education Bureau, along with five other persons were reportedly injured, while two others were killed, in a gunfight. The incident took place at noon in the village of Al-Kharbah located near the government complex in Al-Hazm.

Armed, disgruntled teachers intercepted the Al-Ghuthaifi's car, leading to a deadly exchange of fire.

Sources said that teachers had complained previously of salaries deductions and suspension of work. Frustrated at the slow response to their complaints, the teachers resorted to violence to make

Locals intervened and mediated between the two sides, which resulting in a ceasefire. Casualties were rushed to local hospitals. Fear still lingers though of the possible consequences of the incident, which might include revenge killing and tribal fighting.

HRITC calls for light-arms ban

SANA'A, May 24 - On the occasion of the World Anti-Light-arms Action Week, the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) urged the Yemeni government and Parliament to issue a law for the creation of an arms control and monitoring organization. HRITC coordinates the Regional Network for Curbing the Spread of Arms in the Middle East and North Africa.

The aim is to restrict the spread and circulation of light arms, which constitute a threat to peace and order. Light-arms are often used to settle conflicts and end-up be used to take the lives of Yemenis in tribal clashes, at wedding parties, and due to general misuse

HRITC has called on civil society organizations to pay closer attention to the dangerous local phenomenon that threatens both Yemeni and foreign citizens.

According to HRITC, international tallies reveal that nearly 1,000 people worldwide die every day due to smallarm fire. The trade in light-arms is valued at some \$21 billion (USD) per year. There are approximately 639 million pieces of light-arms currently in existence, with an average of one gun for every ten people, according to the HRITC. These arms are produced in at least 98 countries.

The center invited all civil society organizations, political parties, and media organizations to lend a hand in the collection of people's signatures calling for a ban on the bearing of light-arms. It urged them to increase public awareness about the risks associated with the spread and misuse of light-arms, which constitute a threat to peaceful human relations.

Hadramawt University launches students' week

AL-MUKALLA, May 24 - The fourth annual students' week functions were opened at Hadramawt University's International Exhibition Center. Festivities include scientific activities, sports, cultural activities, plays, and carnivals. Deputy Rectors from the university attended the celebrations amid a large crowd of media. Hundreds of students attended the exhibition, some coming even after the event closed. Open daily from 4 – 8 in the afternoon until May 28, the activities also will be open during the morning on May 28.



Yemen, Saudi Arabia to share electrical grids

SANA'A, May 24 — The Executive Arab Electricity Ministers Council will hold their eleventh round of meetings between May 24-25. Among the topics that council participants will discuss is a proposed project that would see a shared electric grid between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The project was one of the special studies on electric grid networks commissioned by the Algiers and Khartoum summits.

Furthermore, the Council will discuss a memorandum concerning the enhanced development of the council that focuses on electricity. The importance of their exertions has previously been recognized during to the decisions reached at the Tunisia summit where it was stipulated that countries belonging to the Council should be in compliance with the Arab qualifications and standardizations for electrical equipment. For commodities, Council member countries should be in compliance with the Arab Industrial, Development, and Mining Standards.

Qualification authorities should ratify these standards and all countries are expected to comply with them especially in manufacturing and trade sectors. The memo notes that there is a need for the formation of working teams to create modalities for the use of existing Arab training centers. In addition, the Council will consider the prospect of developing training courses now in operation.

The memo cited the need for updated information and publications that are prepared for the Council of Electricity Ministers, particularly in the renovation of inter-Arab electric grids.

Continued from page 1

Amnesty assesses human rights in Yemen

Arrests and trial of members of the Zaidi community

More than 1,000 followers of Zaidi cleric Hussain Badr Al-Din Al-Huthi were reported to have been detained. The crackdown was prompted by their continued chanting of anti-US and anti-Israeli slogans after Friday prayers.

In May, dozens of Zaidis, including children, were arrested. At the end of the year most remained in incommunicado detention without charge or trial and were at risk of torture and ill-treat-

• Fourteen-year-old Ibrahim Al-Saiani was detained in May. He was reportedly arrested after the security forces stormed his family home in the capital, Sana'a. He remained in detention at the end of the year, reportedly in the Political Security prison in Sana'a. There were fears that he was at risk of torture and ill-treatment. According to reports, he sustained serious injuries in the clashes in Sa'da: his right arm was amputated, a piece of shrapnel was lodged in his skull and his right leg was injured. It was unclear whether he was receiving adequate medical treatment.

On 25 September, the President announced a pardon for followers of Hussain Al-Huthi. However, it was not clear who was covered by the pardon and most of those held reportedly remained in detention.

• In August the trial began of 36 members of the Zaidi community, eight of them in absentia. They were accused of plotting to kill the President and senior army officers. The trial was adjourned after it was disrupted by defendants shouting verses from the Qur'an and political slogans. A subsequent hearing in November was also adjourned to seek clarification whether the suspects were

covered by the presidential pardon.

• Zaidi cleric Yahia Al-Dailami was sentenced to death on 29 May after an confiscated. unfair trial. Another Zaidi cleric, Mohammed Muftah, who was also editor of the opposition publication Altried with Yahia Al-Dailami, was sen- Shura, was released on 23 March foltenced to eight years' imprisonment. The prosecution lodged an appeal against the sentence and called for the death penalty to be imposed. On 3 December the Court of Appeal upheld the sentences. The two men were charged with vaguely worded offences including "communicating with Iran" and "supporting Hussain Badr Al-Din Al-Huthi". Both were prisoners of conscience.

• In June, the Special Criminal Court for terrorism in Sana'a reduced Judge Muhammad Ali Luqman's sentence from 10 to five years' imprisonment. His sentence was reduced on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence in relation to one of the charges. He had been arrested for his alleged support for Hussain Al-Huthi and reportedly charged with "sedition, fanning sectarian discord and forming

Restrictions on media freedom

Media freedom was restricted and journalists who criticized the government were harassed, attacked and had their property confiscated. In May, the authorities introduced a draft press law which was strongly criticized by journalists as posing an even greater threat to press freedom than the existing Press and Publication Law (1990). New offences would include "criticizing heads of state" and some, such as "communicating classified information or documentation to foreign bodies", would be punishable by death. Journalists attempting to report on the July fuel protests were arrested and attacked by police and security forces.

Several were banned from covering the protests or had their equipment

• Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani, chief lowing a presidential pardon. A prisoner of conscience, he had been sentenced to one year's imprisonment in September 2004 for his alleged support for Hussain Al-Huthi. During his appeal hearing in March, defence lawyers Mohammed Naji Allow and Jamal Al-Ju'bi, as well as the Secretary General of the Union of Journalists, Hafez Al-Bukari, were badly beaten by the security forces. Other people attending the hearing were also allegedly beaten when they tried to leave the courtroom in protest.

Jamal Amer, chief editor of the independent *Al-Wassat* newspaper, was reportedly abducted outside his home on 23 August, taken to an unknown destination and beaten and threatened with death. Shortly before, his newspaper had accused government officials of corruption. A day later the office of Ahmed Al-Hajj, an Associated Press journalist, was reportedly raided by the security forces, who confiscated files and two computers.

Women's rights

Women's organizations continued to campaign against discrimination and violence against women. Women's rights activists called on the government to reserve at least 30 per cent of parliamentary seats for women. In September the National Women's Committee announced that it would establish a coordination council to press political parties to support women in forthcoming presidential and local elections.

On 8 March, International Women's

Day, a group of women journalists established a new organization, Women Journalists Without Borders, to promote human rights, including women's rights, across the Middle East, but the government revoked its licence after members of the organization reported on the July fuel protests. In December a conference on the rights of Arab women was held in Sana'a, continuing the work of a similar conference in 2004

Forcible returns

The Yemeni authorities forcibly returned at least 25 people to countries where they would be at risk of torture and other human rights violations, in contravention of international human rights standards.

• Twenty-five Saudi Arabian nationals considered to be suspects in the "war on terror" were reportedly returned involuntarily to Saudi Arabia on 28 March. In previous months, Saudi Arabia had returned at least 27 unnamed Yemenis to Yemen. Their fate was not known at the end of the

• Abdul Rahman Ameur and Kamal Berkane, both Algerian nationals, were believed to have been deported in May. They had completed prison sentences in Yemen in December 2003. Their whereabouts remained unknown at the end of the year and it was feared that they had "disap-

Death penalty

Death sentences continued to be passed and dozens of people were reportedly executed. Hundreds of people were believed to remain under sentence of death.

• Fuad 'Ali Mohsen Al-Shahari, whose death sentence was ratified by President Saleh on 6 September, was executed on 29 November. He had been on death row for more than nine vears. He had been sentenced to death for murder in 1996 at the end of a grossly unfair trial that may have been politically motivated or influenced by tribal factors.

• Fatima Hussein Al-Badi, who was sentenced to death in February 2001 for the murder of her husband, was at risk of imminent execution. Her brother, who was sentenced at the same time, was executed in May.

• In February the Appeal Court upheld the death sentence on Hizam Saleh Mejalli, who was convicted of the 2002 bombing of the French oil tanker Limburg and other attacks. It also imposed a death sentence on Fawaz Yahya Al-Rabi'ee who had previously been sentenced to 10 years in

• Hafez Ibrahim's death sentence for a murder committed when he was 16, was stayed in April.

• Amina Ali Abdulatif's execution,

scheduled for 2 May, was stayed to allow a review of her case. She was sentenced to death at 16 for the murder of her husband. The Attorney General reportedly appointed a special committee to review her case and confirm whether she was under 18 at the time of the crime.

Around 80,000 refugees registered with UN High Commissioner for Refugees, including more than 68,000 refugees from Somalia, were living in Yemen. Around 7,000 were housed in Al-Kharaz refugee camp.

Throughout the year, hundreds of refugees drowned off the coast of Yemen either because they were forced to jump from smugglers' boats or because the boats became unsea-

Refugees in Yemen faced poor economic conditions and a lack of work opportunities. There were reports of rapes of refugee women; the justice system failed to ensure that survivors had access to justice.

Oromo refugees from Ethiopia repeatedly complained of harassment by the Yemeni authorities, including arbitrary arrests.

AI country visits

AI delegates visited Yemen in June to attend the Sana'a Committee meeting, and in September/October

Jordanian Ambassador conveys greetings to Yemen

Yemen was successfully able to perceive significant changes across all fields political, economic, social, administrative, judicial and educational. The changes have been in the interest of our Yemeni brothers and their promis-

As a manifestation of excellent relations, high level exchange of visits always take place between the two

countries. His Majesty King Abdullah II visited Yemen last October to talk and coordinate with his brother His Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh about ways and means to strengthen bilateral relations and how to best serve the Arab nation. The 12th meeting of the Joint High Committee between Jordan and Yemen will take place in Sana'a after few months. The

Committee will review ongoing cooperation and agrees on further projects of cooperation. In the educational field, a significant project will be launched in the near future. The two Governments have agreed on establishing a Jordanian-Yemeni University in Sana'a.

I sincerely congratulate the Yemeni and Jordanian people on their national days, wishing them all the best.

Yemen being the worst

Girls' education in the Arab world: Challenges and difficulties

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

t is without doubt that education is the basis for development and change for any country wishing to develop. Having a special type of education for both sexes will enable the country to get rid of many problems and difficulties. Millions among the young generation, particularly girls, are deprived of education, especially in developing countries, including Arab ones.

As statistics show, this deprivation does not affect girls alone, but the whole society. In some Arab countries, those not having education represent about 23.3 percent of all children between ages 7 and 18, most of whom are females. Statistics also show that approximately 113 million children worldwide do not have any sort of education, most of which are females.

International reports indicate that the



Dr. Malak Zaalouk cation in the Arab world, aiming to learn enrollment and dropping of school percentages, educational inputs (buildings and premises, curriculums and teachers of both sexes).

Additionally, it focused on recognizing strategies and successful experi-



Mohammed Anees Salim

and Qatar, mentioning numerous success stories in girls' education in these countries and how girls achieved such astonishing successes under difficult circumstances. In Darfur, he found approximately 200 students in one school, 80 percent of which were girls,



Safa'a Faisal

percent increase in girls' education and this is a good indicator in this respect. International and government efforts are being exerted, but they are not enough and they do not meet the level of world ambition."

She added, "Djibouti is last regarding girls' education, as girls' enrollment is 30 percent. Yemen is next with 41 percent and then Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Oman respectively. Syria is considered first among Arab countries regarding girls' school dropouts."

For her part, Dr. Nour Dajani Shehabi, coordinator of the Literacy for All program in UNESCO's regional office, confirmed, "Arab countries have many things ahead of them in order to reach Literacy for All by 2015. Applying the obligatory education principle requires factors other than children's primary rights, as the Arab world faces increasing student numbers."

She added, "Many Arab countries are committed to international charters and commitments. However, 113 million school age children still are deprived of education and most of them are female."

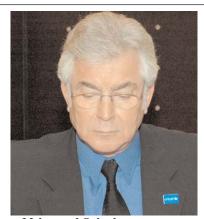
She also revealed many facts about problems facing Arab world females which hinder them from joining education, such as illiteracy and not joining school, turning to vocational education and few chances to obtain higher education. She mentioned some countries in need of special efforts to boost girls' education, such as in Sudan and

According to Shehabi, mass media should do their best to improve women's image in society and get rid of wrong beliefs and concepts causing discrimination against them. Women should be supported in work in order to participate in development and be given more chances to participate in various aspects of life, whether political, developmental and the like. They also should be granted the right of decision making.

Safa'a Faisal, a reporter and girls' education presenter in the BBC's Arabic section, confirmed that the issue of girls' education is associated with many factors. She came to know about such factors via her reporting for the BBC "School for Girls" program telecast for the Middle East and North

She said, "The most important factor is poverty. Sixty percent of children out of school are girls. There are more than one million girls out of school in Yemen and Sudan." According to Faisal, who has visited many Arab countries, one problem hindering girls' education lies in poverty and absence of awareness regarding girls' educa-

affect girls negatively, but also will



Mohammed Anees Salim, ambas-

sador of UNICEF's regional Middle

East and North Africa office,

expressed another opinion. He

affirmed, "Activating girls' education

lies in constant efforts to adopt this

issue. Media personnel should shoul-

der the responsibility of girls' aware-

ness and development and they must

do their best to elevate girls' educa-

tion." He asked each to apply this in his

own country when returning home

within a short six-month period. He

also requested they make such issue

primary in their media concerns.

Mohamoud Qabeel

Nassim Al-Rahman

field visits to various areas and many give them certain roles to play in society. She identified other problems success stories have been found despite caused by unsuccessful teachers delivliving under difficult and serious conering their lessons, reflected in girls' hating and escaping from school.

Al-Rahman also affirmed that media personnel efforts have contributed much in presenting the girls' education issue. UNICEF has been able to monitor and document many reasons and hurdles preventing girls from educa-

Teaching girls will have far-reaching positive effects on women themselves, as well as on society, as they will be less objected to exploitation and mistreatment. Such teaching also will secure a better understanding of social understanding and democracy. For these reasons and many others, UNICEF considers the issue of girls' education among its first priorities in

UNICEF also sees the importance of unifying and encouraging media efforts in projecting the issue of girls' education, as mass media will play a responsible role in designing general concepts and eradicating the poor image of women.

For his part, Nassim Al-Rahman, Chief of Information and Communication for UNICEF-Yemen, assured that UNICEF's Yemen to treat childhood issues. It also gives girls' education more importance, as the office has made many trips and

future plans.

Al-Rahman assured that the best investment in the Arab world is to invest in education, particularly girls' office works with various other parties education. He believes all should join hands to achieve this noble objective, which is considered part of Millennium Development Goals.



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To apply please send either an e-mail or fax with a C.V and a letter of application including a passport size photograph by 31st May 2006. Tel: 203 950, Fax: 206 134, E.mail:<u>sbschool@y.net.ye</u>



Part of the forum

Arab world needs more than 450,000 teachers in order to reach the final goal of education for all for the year 2015. Thus, there would be 40 students for each teacher, especially given that millions of Arab children are not enrolled in primary education.

The existence of educated girls will prevent early marriage as well as decrease infant mortality and fertility rates. Additionally, educated mothers will seek to ensure high education levels for their female children and be less objected to exploitation and mistreatences at Arab and international levels and included the United Nations initiative for teaching girls. One forum revealed stunning facts about the decline in girls' education is some countries, particularly Yemen.

The forum provided a good opportunity, as a large number of academic and media personnel and those concerned about the issue gathered there. They shed light on the problem of the decline in girls' education and the reasons for

The best investment for the sake of development lies in teaching girls, as education enhances their protection against violence and discrimination.

ment. They also will have an early understanding of social justice, peace and democracy.

Due to the aforementioned reasons, UNICEF has made girls' education among its first strategic planning priorities. UNICEF also sees the importance of unifying and encouraging media efforts in projecting the issue of girls' education, as mass media will play a responsible role in designing general concepts and eradicating the poor image of women.

The second Arab forum on Media and Rights of the Child concluded its sessions in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with the participation of a large number of media personnel interested in the issue, including Yemen. The forum disclosed many facts regarding human rights and girls' edu-

Mohamoud Qabeel ambassdor of goodwill to the UNICEF: assured that the best investment for the sake of development lies in teaching girls, as education enhances their protection against violence and discrimination. Facts indicate that the world did not reach the international goal regarding equality of the sexes, as expected by 2005. Qabeel further noted that 7.5 percent of Arab children are out of school, most of them girls, which is equal to five percent of the world's

He also confirmed that it is necessary to hasten achieving a group of development objectives by 2015, which include equality of the sexes in education. Qabeel pointed to experiences he has had in places like Darfur, Al-Saeed, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon

which proves the will and ambition, despite difficulties for girls aspiring to get high grades.

For her part, Dr. Malak Zaalouk, regional education advisor for the Middle East and North Africa, affirmed that a conference has been launched several years ago according to the "Education to All" program, with 160 countries participating. The conference aimed to achieve many objectives for grading children's education according to set strategies and plans; unfortunately, they were not applied. Concentration was focused on the educational side, as it is the party responsible for development.

Another initiative was declared and hosted in Dakar, Senegal in 2000, with more than 164 countries participating. This initiative came up with many positive outcomes and was more fruitful than the previous one. More than 13 organizations working under the U.N., including the World Food Program and UNICEF, agreed to accelerate girls' education.

Zaalouk also referred to some of the most successful stories in the Arab world, particularly in some governorates and rural areas in Egypt. "The success of such a trial in teaching girls is attributed to collective efforts by official parties represented in 16 ministries and national and social associations, in addition to the private sector's role. Moreover, many international organizations within the U.N. participated," she noted. She also called upon the government to follow the same pol-

When asked about the current situation in the Middle East and North Africa regarding girls' education, Zaalouk pointed out, "There is a 14

Concerned authorities can prevent some problems and complexities by building walls for schools and activating social activities that bind girls to schools. Faisal also criticized some school textbooks which, according to her, draw certain roles for Arab world women to play. Women's roles assigned beforehand not only will





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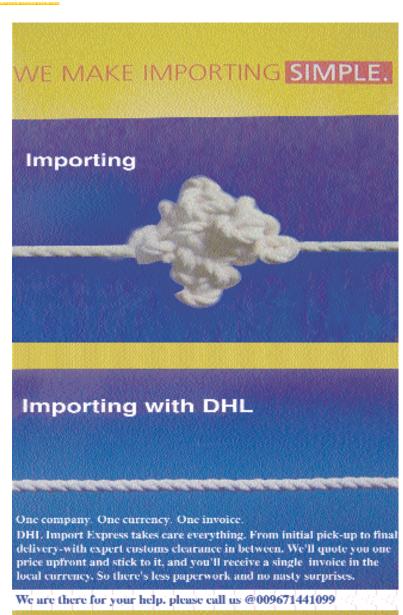




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Yemeni weddings then and now

By: Hakim Almasmari Hakim_almasmari@hotmail.com

ver the years, weddings in Yemen have changed dramatically. Compared to the past, the casual observer would hardly believe what ceremonies and customs made up a Yemeni wedding in the past. Embellished and quite expensive weddings have replaced the simple and culturally-based traditions of the past. In the estimate of elder Yemenis, weddings these days cost up to 100 times the amount that they for-

In this article, we will preview how weddings took place in the 70s, 80s, 90s, and in the recent past. The list catalogues the characteristics of weddings then and now. Different regions in Yemen have variegated cultural practices. The listed information focuses on weddings that took place in cities and not in rural areas

Weddings in the 1970s

In general, all cities had the same wedding style. The poor and the rich held more or less equivalent weddings ceremonies, as little was different.

- The wedding lasted three days, and every family practiced the same wedding traditions and procedures.
- The guests were offered only tea and
- coffee. • All brides wore almost the same style and design of wedding gowns and dress-
- The same singers were hired by all families.
- Weddings took place at the family's house or a neighbor's house.
- No invitations were handed out. All families were invited openly through the local mosque by a general announcement. In some situations, even the general announcements were not made.
- The wedding singer arranged all the brides' needs including her bathe at a hammam, her dress, and the make-up for
- The clothing given to the bride by the groom's family was limited to ten dresses



In some areas of Yemen, brides prefer to wear ornaments, while some others find it enough to wear modern dress.

and one pair of shoes.

- Neighbors helped the family holding the wedding by making bread and traditional food such as bint-as-ahn.
- It was a culturally shameful for the entire household to attend the same wedding (daughters, sisters, and mother). Typically, only the mother or one daughter attended the wedding. For this reason. one house was always enough to hold wedding celebrations.
- · Huge amounts of gold were not bought for the bride. Simple items such as a ring or earrings were given. Gold belts, heavy necklaces, and bracelets were not

Weddings in the 1980s and 1990s

Wedding celebrations eventually changed and traditional weddings became gradually limited to rural impoverished areas. Customs practiced in the 70s were observed only on rare occasions.

• People started to give cakes and biscuits to their guests. While eating and mingling, music was played on a cassette

•Brides started to wear different clothing according to how much each family was willing to spend. A difference became visible between the weddings of the rich and poor.

• Famous singers were invited to sing at the wedding hall. These singers charged huge amounts of money for only

four hours of work. • Weddings began to take place at tents and halls instead of houses. If weddings were conducted in tents, neighbors helped

- with the in furnishing of the tent. • Invitations were conveyed by telephone instead of by general public announcement made at the local mosque.
- Brides visited hair-stylists before the sit-in with friends and family. • The amount of clothing presented to the bride from the groom's family gradu-
- ally began to increase. • It became normal for bride's family to ask for golden-belts, as well as necklaces

Present-day ostentatious weddings:

and bracelets, for their daughter.

Today everyone is free to have a wedding according to his or her hearts content. Those who wish to be flamboyant opt to hold outlandishly expensive weddings, which result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in expenditure.

• Wedding ceremonies lasting ten days instead of the traditional period of three days. Each day a different woman singer is hired to perform at the wedding for a

• Qat, flowers, snacks, meals, softdrinks, tea, and chocolates are given to attendees. Antiques, spring water, special raison drinks are also provided. The bags used to distribute each guest's favors were embroidered with the bride's name.

• Brides have begun to wear more than one dress during the same day. In some situations, each dress might be worth between \$1,000 - \$3,000. This excludes the expensive footwear and accessories that are worn with each dress. Wedding dresses are typically bought from abroad.

• Each time the bride changes wedding gowns, the gold she wears also changes. The gold given to the bride sometimes weighs tens of kilograms.

• Male singers have begun to sing at all female-only wedding ceremonies. Also, foreign singers are now often invited to sing at the wedding replacing the local singers used in the past. These music groups can cost the family up to thousands of dollars and are paid hourly.

• Dancers seen on local television are invited to dance during the weddings. These dancers come with their own band.

• Some brides refuse to purchase their clothing from Yemen, instead they buy clothing from the Arab Gulf or Europe. The number of suitcases it takes to hold all the clothing bought from abroad number from seven to thirty.

• The main wedding gown tends to cost up to three million Yemeni Rials or \$15,000. Some dresses are designed with pieces of gold to make the bride look even more adorable.

· Wedding halls have begun to charge high fees for the service they provide. In well-known, luxurious halls prices exceed 300,000YR (\$1,500) per day. These halls tend to be relatively small. The current, well-to-do generation prefers to hold their weddings at pricey hotels with large halls such as the Sheraton Hotel, or the Mövenpick Hotel where it cost as much as \$13,000 per day. At these places dinner costs \$30 per person. A rough estimate shows that if 500 people were invited, the cost of food alone would

• Wedding invitations have changed

dramatically. Now they are not only made of hard paper, but also of wood, plastic, and sometimes jewels. Expensive clothing are used to wrap the invitation as if they were gifts themselves: hundreds of families have started to give gifts such as the Holy Quran, perfumes, antiques, books, and other valuables. Recently, invitations made of thick glass with the groom and brides names imprinted on them have started to increase in popularity. Such invitations can cost up to 80 times more than the normal paper invita-

• Brides have started to employ personal caretakers during their wedding-days. The bride is obliged to give each caretaker matching dresses and other wedding accoutrements at her personal expense.

• After the bride takes her seat among the guests, her caretakers walk around the hall and spread expensive fragrance. The fragrances used are a mixture of Eastern and Western quality perfumes, such as oud, musk, and amber.

• The bride's sitting place is known as the Koshah. The Koshah can cost a fortune depending on what type of rear-view is chosen. Recently, a rear-view resembling famous local and international places such as old Sana'a and Dubai are in favor instead of the flowers used less than two years ago.

• The family of the bride shows more standing at wedding ceremonies when they hire tens of waitresses and bus boys to keep the place organized and clean throughout the festivities.

• Photographers are hired to take videoclips and photographs for every stage of the wedding. These photographers are offered nearly \$1,000 for their work.

· Limousines are the latest of prestige item employed to show-off at weddings.

• Male family members now buy the latest automobile models and use them to follow the bride to her husband's house. When they reach the husband's house, they leave the car as a gift for the bride.

General Comments

· Wealthy families are usually the reason for the start of these new fads. The fact that a family can buy the latest fashions shows one family's prosperity over the others. Over time, their actions gradually become into cultural norms for weddings.

· In the past, wedding expenses cost less than the engagement process of pres-

• The number of divorces has risen to new heights, especially among the rich. Divorces among the higher classes of society occurring during the first month of marriage have grown greatly. This could be blamed on the high cost of the marriages that they have. From a religious point of view, Islamic teachings recommend having a wedding at the lowest possible cost. Prophet Mohammed, PBUH, says in a hadith: "the most blessed marriages are those with the least expenses.'

• Wealthy Yemenis believe that they are only using the wealth that god has bestowed upon them. Therefore, they are not to be held accountable for the rising costs associated with weddings.

• Families have started to desire that the richest grooms ask for their daughter's hand in marriage, rather than the most polite or religious.

· Wedding expenses are usually divided between the groom's and bride's family. In the Sana'a, the bride's family handles all expenses including the purchase of additional clothing, car rentals, hall rentals, gold, and other needs for the wedding. In contrast, other places such as Taiz and Aden, the expenses are the responsibility of the groom and his fami-

• However much the family spends on the wedding, the invitees will never be pleased, and will find something to fault with the wedding. Some complain during the wedding, while others wait until the next day to spread rumors about things that went wrong at the wedding.

• Locals say that the only way to stop weddings from becoming more extravagant is to stop participating in them.

· Traditional weddings have almost disappeared over the years in large part due to the intrusion of foreign cultural practices like the ones followed today.

SOUL: A society to develop women and children

Over the past nine years, SOUL has carried out a number of projects aimed at enhancing Yemeni women's role in fields of education, health and development.

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

n 2005, SOUL launched the "Unlimited Potential" program targeting some 500 women unable to afford computer training fees. The program aims to eliminate computer illiteracy among women by giving them basic computer skills

Microsoft Up program coordinator Einas Al-Eryani said the program targets women unable to join private institutes to learn computer skills. Funded by Microsoft, the "Unlimited Potential" program offers women opportunities to receive free computer courses.

"Yemeni women are not greatly targeted to learn computer skills, so here at SOUL, we seek to erase computer illiteracy among women by giving them courses in MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access, digital media, internet and web design," Al-Eryani said.

SOUL initiated another project in the Information Technology (IT) field known as Women in Technology (WIT). Sponsored by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), U.S. State Department and managed by the Institute of International Education, it aims to empower Yemeni women to participate actively in society's development. The project provides scholarships to some 450 women to attend hands-on and IT training, conducts professional development workshops and offers community outreach and mentoring activities.

By the end of this month, SOUL will announce the Women's IT Association. SOUL Executive Director Dr. Arwa Al-Deram said the association is the first of its kind in Yemen and mainly confined to women. It will include WIT graduates so they can form a legal body through which to help other women in society,

Training and capacity building

SOUL has conducted a variety of projects concerned with improving education. In 2004, it initiated a project called Improving School Management, wherein 20 individuals working in school man-

agement from selected schools across Sana'a were given training with the hope of creating modern and unique school management models.

"From Child to Child" is another project aiming to increase awareness among school teachers as to the importance of child participation in the learning process. Twenty teachers from 10 schools were trained in the main concepts of "From Child to Child" method-

In 2003, SOUL conducted training courses in seven governorates entitled, "NGO Capacity Building," aimed at impacting local NGOs by enhancing their professionalism and performance. Twenty employees from selected local NGOs participated in the project.

SOUL also adopted a long-term breastfeeding promotion program implemented nationwide.

The Women's Education and Cultural Center was established in 2001 in Khamer, where women are taught basic life skills by tackling simple everyday problems and addressing social misconceptions from an Islamic viewpoint.

SOUL implemented another project in Sana'a in dressmaking, wherein a total of 20 women and orphan girls were trained to acquire quality skills in professional dressmaking to enable them to sell future products in Japan.

In 2001, SOUL ran three training courses for 45 traditional birthing attendants in Shabwa, Amran and Sana'a governorates. It also implemented a "Management and Communication Means" training course targeting 20 trainees from five organizations.

Other projects and training courses in health and education were conducted in various areas of Yemen.

Awareness campaigns

In 2004, SOUL launched an awareness campaign on legal documentation and women's rights. It aimed to raise the Yemeni community's awareness, particularly women, of the importance of possessing official documents such as an ID, family card and birth certificate. The campaign targeted a number of schools



SOUL enhances the overall quality of the Yemeni education system and increases female enrollment rates. It offers free training courses on Information Technology so as to erase cumputer illeteracy among females. One of SOUL's aims is to empower women to participate in developing the

and organizations in Sana'a governorate. SOUL participated in National Immunization Days by sending field staff into schools to raise the awareness level among students. Another campaign was conducted in 1998 to promote rational use of medical drugs and safe health practices in general. This campaign aimed to raise public awareness of the need for obtaining professional advice on the correct means of treating illnesses.

SOUL also was responsible for formulating, producing and testing two handbooks entitled, "Rational Use of Drugs Teachers' Guide," to be used at preparatory and secondary education levels.

Poverty reduction

SOUL implemented a number of projects that helped lift large segments of the Yemeni community out of poverty. In 2001, SOUL signed a contract with the Social Fund for Development to imple-

ment the Sana'a Micro-Financing Program aimed at supporting individuals willing to run their own small enterprises as income-generating activities. It continued until 2004 when the total number of client-beneficiaries was 4.050 with a cumulative portfolio of YR 170

Other services

Funded by the World Bank, SOUL established a Hotline Call Center service in 2002 aimed at providing parents nutritional information related to their children's eating and health problems by contacting a nutritional specialist. Furthermore, several nutrition education sessions were held to raise mothers' awareness concerning child nutrition.

Via the Japanese Relief Clothing Center, SOUL also distributed new clothing throughout Yemen over approximately five months. Distribution recipients were orphans and poor families.

Pakistan School Sana'a PSS, The Best Career Corner For Teachers

Pakistan School Sana'a requires applications for the following posts.

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2-	Senior and Junior Teachers	Arabic /Islamiat/Quran	Bilingual with graduation degree will be preferred	Minimum 5 years experience		
3-	Teachers for Junior Section (Only female candidates)	Maths, English, Science and Social Studies	BA./BSc.	Minimum 5 years experience		

* For humanities group – IGCSE & FBISE. Interested candidates should submit their CV's along with the supporting documents to Pakistan School Sana'a –Senior Section latest by $4^{\rm th}$ June

Address: - Pakistan School Sana'a P.O Box 19655 Sana'a Yemen Phone No. 01266978 Fax: 243673

Another project known as "Back to School" was implemented during 2002-2004 wherein SOUL helped students who drop out of school to continue their

According to Al-Deram, SOUL has conducted a number of studies and research regarding both women and children, including a 2004 study in 10 governorates entitled, "Assessment of Midwives and Health Practitioners." Among prominent studies SOUL has conducted are:

Barriers preventing Yemeni women from using information and communi-

cation technologies

Baseline survey for Yemeni adult life

skills and literacy education project Traditional birthing attendant's training, evaluation and supervision pro-

Participator in rapid appraisal of children in marginalized zones

Baseline survey for child development

Social assessment of the impact of photo voltaic energy in rural Yemen

Social assessment of child develop-

ment project Girls' education acceptance

Established in 1997, SOUL is a nongovernmental and non-profit Yemeni organization committed to raising the children.

Basic Education Improvement Projects Tender for Professional / External internationally certified Audit Services

The Basic Education Improvement Projects Ibb, Abijan, Hajja and Marib of the Ministry of Education, a 25 Million Euro Investment Program, co-financed by the German Financial Cooperation through Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW) would like to engage a professional internationally certified audit firm to carry out external <u>project audit services for</u> a period of 2 years semi-annually.

The following works are required:

Audit of financial reports, ensuring that the statements of expenditure submitted as the basis for withdrawal applications have been prepared in accordance with consistently applied International Accounting Standards and the corresponding Separate Agreement (including the Supplementary Conditions of KfW for payments under the Disposition Fund procedure). Reports have to be presented to MoE and KfW not later than 6 weeks after the end of the

Together with the audit report, the auditor will prepare a "management report". In this report, the auditor will give comments and observations on the accounting records, systems and controls examined during the course of the audit.

Tenders are therefore invited form interested reputable Audit Firms, clearly showing the

Current List of corporate clients

A demonstration that the firm has sufficient resources to carry out the audit

The proposed fee including basis of computation

The assignment will be based on the Terms of Reference obligatory for KfW-financed projects and the interested parties are invited to request the ToR from the below mentioned

Sealed tenders clearly marked "Tender for Audit Services" should be sent to: BEIP Hajja GOPA Consultants

Mr. Matthias Leibbrand P.O. Box 80014 Yemen Republic

Closing date for the receiving tenders is 14 June, 2006, 16.00 hrs. The Tenders will be opened at 10.00 hrs on 17 June 2006.

> For further inquiries please contact the Project Manager on 07 224015 or by e-mail: gopa-leibbrand@web.de





Jannah Hunt Oil Company is currently recruiting for the position of Geologist. The minimum requirements for this position are as follows:

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

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JOB REQUIREMENTS

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- Perform Geological functions within an integrated O & G development team.
- Present Geological and Geophysical interpretations of the field development proposals to working interest partners and government officials.

If you meet the above requirment please email your CV to the following email address. Please note we will only accept CV's through email submission.

jannahrecruiter@y.net.ye

All candidates must be Yemeni nationals. Deadline for submitting your CV for this position is June 15th

canadan* nexen

Yemeni Nationals Only

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Field

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http://www.nexeninc.com/Careers/Yemen/

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- All applications must be submitted through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted NO later than June 7th, 2006.
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- Selection will be <u>based on the most qualified applicants</u>.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, contact and qualification information.
- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will NOT be considered.

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Applicants will be informed about the time and place of interview.

ANUNCIO

La embajada de España anuncia la apertura de un proceso de seleccion pare cubrir siguientes vacantes:

- 1. 1 Oficial administrativo
- 2. 2 Secretarias de dirección.
- 3. 1 Conductor
- 4. 1 Mayordomo
- 5. 2 Servicios Generales
- 6. 1 Cocinero

Todos los candidates deben hablar muy bien ingles y árabe.

Se valoraran la expreriencia y las cartas de recomendación que se comprobarán.

Se exige estudios universitarios o medios según la vacante.

El proceso constara de un ejercicio escrito y una entrevista.

El lugar y fecha de examen serán anunciados por este medio junto al nombre de los candidats seleccionados.

Los candidatos entregarán su C.V. en la recepción del hotel Mövencpick en sobre cerrado y con el numero de la vacante en la portada del sobre.

- 1. Para oficial administrativo.
- 2. Para Secretaria de direccion.
- 3. Para conductor.
- 4. Para mayordomo.
- 5. Para Servicios Generales.
- 6. Para Cocinero.

El número de plazas prdrá ser aumentado o disminuido según el interés de la Embajada. Cualquier plaza podrá ser ocupada indistintamente por hombre o mujer.

El plazo de presentación de C.V. finalize el día 15-06-2006.

إعلان

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- ٦- طباخ

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Opinion 25 May, 2006

To preserve our rights and freedom, Democracy in Yemen is hereby canceled

n democratic countries, a multiparty system is an important device used to preserve a people's rights and freedom. However things are different in Yemen, here a multi party system becomes a tool in the authority's hand, used to accuse any civil society calling for rightful and constitutional demands. This could lead to a "formal" cancellation of a multi-party system

while keeping the façade of its form to beautify the regimes image abroad.

There are many instances in which civil societies face abuse for standing by their membership. The pretext is often that they are politically motivated to do so. Lack of political vision in both the opposition and the government, leads each side to prove and disprove these accusations. The ensuing arguments often detract both sides from the basic rights for which the protests themselves were originally held.

All this happens in a country described as the only democratic entity in the region, with parties running local and presidential elections under alleged agendas serving the people's rights.

The multi- party system is summarized as a number of parties competing to provide agendas that serve the objectives of the public. The voter chooses the party's candidate with the agenda that suits their



Authorities attack

Yemen, out of political ignorance, the parties, with the ruling one on top tend to promote persons instead of principles. Such practices spread the cultural belief in individual power not in pro-

parties whose agendas

call for promoting general improvement on peoples' status. This occurred during the 2003 electoral campaign when the Islah party promised to raise the army's salaries 200 percent. The ruling party's press attacked and mocked Islah saying the party had discovered oil fields in the Al-Eman University (which is run by the Islah leader Al-Zandani) when Islah asserted it was going to fulfill it's promises with their revenues. Yet in an ideal democracy, it is the favorite party that instigates a certain social class into obtaining their rights. Such a party is one which is considered "in tune to the pulse" of the group and the constituents in turn believe their rights are being looked after

The "political scene" can be expressed as protests of civil society organizations and their issues, such as that of the journalists, the doctors, the teachers, students and motor bikes' syndicates. They all ask

the government to carry out its promises, which is supposedly on the agenda of the ruling party, and not on that of the opposition. They have also called for implementation of the laws issued by the ruling party's government, that has had dominate power for 16 years, nine of those consecutive.

Despite the difference in demands the accusations are the same: that they are politically motivated by the opposition. and that they distort the image of the ruling regime. Protestors are compelled to defend themselves instead of attacking to achieve their rights. The opposition chooses to stay aloof, giving the government the chance to liquidate these rights.

The motorbike drivers, in their condemnation of the multiparty system, made a mock funeral for the opposition in spite of their limited political awareness and their lack of an organized syndicate. They had been told not to work in the Capital. The government's reasons are based on claims that did not look into rising unemployment rates, or at the pervasive levels of corruption dominating the country.

The regime's answer is to resort to the creation of parallel syndicates that legalize infringements and oppress our basic rights. These clones do not recognize legalized organizations and appoint their leadership from within the bodies that they are supposed to watch (the education manager is appointed Head of the teachers' syndicate). The leadership is given to

"pro-government" personnel who receive privileges for accepting these infringements on their membership's rights. Other rival syndicates are made to appear to be "partisan mad". The most striking of these clones is the Teachers' syndicate an affiliate of the ruling party. The leadership of this syndicate is appointed by party officials. They agree with government procedures and condemn other syndicates which stand on the side of their members' demands. The same criterion is true of the doctors' syndicate

Democracy in Yemen is only a décor. To receive more donations the government's face is brightened and whitewashed, while rights are infringed to maintain the décor. Our situation requires serious reconsideration. However there are two options, either to undertake democracy as a method that preserves the right of all, that seems impossible under present conditions; or to go back to a single party system as long as it provides the rights of ideal democracies. This would save us from the illusions of the destructive tendencies of democracy and multiparty systems. The first is the easiest way out as it suits the regime's perspective. As for us, the public, we will miss criminal incentives and hold a certain entity accountable for the loss of our rights releasing us from the exhausting search for the impossible exchange of power.

Sami Noman is a Yemeni Journalist.

Being a journalist in Yemen

he Press plays a vital role in the development and enhancement of a human being's freedoms of expression. One of the greatest professions in life, it is a grandstand for showcasing social problems. The Press is the mouthpiece from where oppressed people can have their demands heard. Journalism is like the watchdog that can act as

adversary or friend of the government. It is then, rightly, called the Fourth Estate of the regime. As the watchdog of the government its main task is to keep tabs on the government's performance.

A journalist is not just a reporter and writer, but also a holder of the sublime message from humanity. The journalist does his work without fear or consideration of any kind of the troubles and the tragedies he might face. He believes his mission is not only to write and report, but to defend the cases he believes in. The famous American journalist, Joseph Pulitzer said that the journalist "peers through fog and storm to give warning of dangers ahead". The journalist is not thinking of his wages or the profit of the newspaper's owners. He is there to watch over the safety and welfare of the people

The Press' role in Yemen, on the other hand, is quite different from the "Fourth branch of the government". Official laws do not give Yemeni press all its rights to convey information freely on issues of public interest. The journalist is especially restricted in commenting on wrongful procedures enacted by the government and its influential figures.

In Yemen, being a journalist means facing many challenges and difficulties while on its mission to search for truthful information. Sometimes the journalist puts his life on the line when he criticizes corrupt, high ranking government officials; when he reports about sensitive political issues; or exposes "secret or hot" events. Their journalistic protection and their rights to freedom of speech are not totally approved by the State. Journalist will oftentimes find a variety of problems and violations imposed on them. They will find themselves imprisoned, threatened, and barred from professional practice with tactics such as facing criminal charges. These lawsuits result from a direct intervention of the government via the Press and Publication Prosecution Department.

This only aims at intensifying the



By: Adel Al-Haddad

ship between the State and the Press. When iournalists try to criticize the government's policies, the government often doesn't like what is said and tries

newspapers publish.

The journalists, of course, will try to resist the pressure and dictates of the State. There ensues the start of a conflict between the State and the newspapers for the sake of Freedom of

Ex-Prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru said "I have no doubt that even if the government dislikes the liberties taken by the press and considers them dangerous, it is wrong to interfere with the freedom of the press.

Current official laws, in Yemen on the other hand, are oppressive and violate the Yemeni press' right to criticize the government. Prime Minister Abdulkader Bajamal told the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) that "the government's censorship on the press was directly attributable to violations of the law by journalists." Speaking of Yemeni journalists he said they "are working outside the law. They get into our bedrooms.

The list of newspapers and their journalists suspended by the government, in recent times is growing. Their licenses have been revoked for a variety of reasons. Among those "hit" are Al-Ray A'am newspaper, Yemen Observer English language newspaper, the Nasserite opposition party's Al-Wahdawi newspaper, Al-Hurya

newspaper, and Al-Usbou newspaper. In recent months journalists have been particularly targeted: Al-Thawri Editor-in-Chief, Khalid Salam was accused of a scorn case and fined YR 50,000. His reporter Qaed Al-Tairi was kidnapped outside Sana'a and then beaten severely by unknown assailants. Akhbar Al-Yoom's Editor-in-Chief, Ibrahim Mugahed was assaulted with sticks and iron rods, again: anonymous individuals. In addition, Al-Nahar's managing editor, Haji Al-Jihafi stands trial because he wrote an article criticizing Sheikh Mohammed Mansour and the violations he committed against his subjects. Al-Jihafi was wounded when he opened a booby-trapped envelope that exploded in his face as he tried to open it. He had already written the article.

The Deteriorating Standards of Journalism

So far, Yemeni press has not experienced international circulation nor is its quality up to international standards. The government's continued censorship on freedoms of expression and a lack of specialized newspapers and journalists are some of the main reasons for a deteriorating Yemeni press. Some journalists can not even be considered professionals; as they hail from political backgrounds or they pretend to be intellectuals. Many work in the media for fame, money, and to be mouthpieces for their political parties. These types of journalists are viruses eating on media ethics. They exploit their professional position for the sake of money and personal interests by some form or fashion. For them personal interests are of primary importance above and beyond any moral princi-

ples and press ethics. Journalistic functions are turned upside down when financial interests and tooting one's own political ideology serve as the main capacities of said journalists. In spite of the Press' rightful purpose to be at the service of the people, financial interests interfere in journalistic work when those who run the newspapers do so as businessmen and not as journalists. It becomes an ordeal for outspoken journalists who are forced to think in terms of business parameters contrary to the greater aim of journalism which is to search for the truth and for viable information.

The journalist is "not a businessman or a publisher or even a proprietor", Pulitzer said.

A journalist is a man of letters who sacrifices himself for the sake of the honest word and is the voice of the voiceless. He is the bridge between the ruler and the people ruled. Some business or politically oriented newspapers, however, exploit the journalist in order to gain a profit. The business oriented newspaper exploits even the very journalists they hire so that these can serve as the mouthpiece for the interests of the owner and for the party system they belong to. Owners will refuse to publish what is not in their favor, putting party needs before public interest. A journalist then finds that their job is constantly on the line. And with a rising unemployment rate of more than 35%, the journalist lives in fear of becoming another statistic. Yemeni laws doesn't protect them, so to comment frankly against the government puts the journalist at greater risk of being targeted by security and state run newspapers.

Moreover, the journalist faces internal conflicts between his ethics, as a professional, and the interests of the newspaper that hires him and its political/governmental interests. It becomes hazardous to their professional life this on going conflict, so they chose to safeguard their living and their post instead of safeguarding truthful information. The current situation reflects and rings true of Nehru's words: "A poor man or a man with inadequate means, whether he is good or bad, will not have much of opportunity to express himself except in a very limited and small way. He may be good, he may be brilliant but the person who gets the opportunity nowadays is the person with means; he can run newspapers, buy them or stop them, employ people whom he likes and dismisses people whom he dislikes."

The situation is such that Yemen's record violence against journalists is absolutely dangerous and has reached a critical level. The government does not pay real attention to the press as a means to improve its quality, its standards and its very journalists. There is serious debate over the Press Law recently drafted in Parliament. This law would bestow the right of the government to control the press' freedom and especially it would have the right to imprison the countries journalists. All this despite how vital freedom of press is to promoting a person's right to know and be informed about what is happening around them. This freedom is a principle feature of democracy and reflects the balance of the country and the freedom of its citizens.

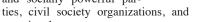
The very lack of this principle factor is what has led the Millennium Challenge Corp to suspend Yemen from its program. The same can be said of Freedom House's Survey of Freedom in the World -2005; where it rates Yemen as "Not Free" in its press nor in its ranking on freedom of speech. In all cases, the press remains the 'great mission" among all professions. The Yemeni journalist, however, faces a lot more hardship and violence against them. Even by law, their lives are not protected and their freedom of expression is

In Yemen, while knowing and experiencing all of these plights and difficulties, the journalists continue their struggle for their rightful purpose. They believe their mission is greater than any danger they may encounter. They keep it up as long as the sun rises every morning.

Adel Al-Haddad is a Yemeni journalist interested in Development Journalism.

Controlled democracy

o what extent should we consider the Yemeni people's desire shift to democracy to be certain? Before we can answer this question, we must distinguish between the government's desires and that of the public including politically and socially powerful par-



vocational groups For the Yemeni authorities, we find that they have historically proved to be dictatorial and have built their oppressive tools used to control all social and financial aspects of life during the Cold War. After the new conditions that existed with the unification of Yemen in 1990 and the new international currents, which adopted the advocacy for democracy, human rights, and reforms as points of priority the for post Cold War period; the government has been compelled to become more open and permit political plurality. The government has resorted to many devices in the process of adapting itself to the latest national and international situations. Yet, at its core it was merely attempting to maintain the existing oppressive order while enhancing its tools of oppression thereby remaining dominant and the holder of a monopoly on power.

In order to limit the democratic tide during the first four years of unity, President Saleh repeatedly described the citizens' democratic practices of rights and guaranteed liberties to be that of a "democracy of stripped door." Furthermore, the government used all available means at its disposal to subjugate and control the democratic aspirations of Yemeni people. Thus, democratic practices have gradually lost their content and become stagnant slogans. What's worse is that these practices have become a mechanism whereby the government reproduces its legitimacy.

After three parliamentary elections held in 1993, 1997, and 2003, a presidential election in 1999, and a local one in 2001, the government, by controlling the elections, has succeeded in transforming them into a convenient mechanism for maintaining the status quo discarding the need for overt despotism. Moreover, acting under the legitimacy such a contrivance conveys, protects the regime from international criticism, and prevents domestic contenders from alternative methods of gaining power.

The government, by making many constitutional and legislative amendments, have ensured their legal control of the electoral process leaving a wide margin for cheating in those areas of elections not covered by the law or by electing not to give them legal status. When considering the results of the elections, we find that the ruling party had a considerable majority in 1997 gaining 180 seats of Parliament and to have had an overwhelming majority in the 2003 elections when they gained 240 members of Parliament. In the presidential elections, President Saleh garnered 93% of votes cast, a percentage not dissimilar to other widely popular Arab leaders' election figures. The ruling party achieved a similar success story in the 2001 local elections.

Likewise, the government is attempting to have power over all facets under which the upcoming September elections will occur, so that the President prevails by a winning percentage that approximates those of other Arab leaders if not by more. For more than five months now, political combat - sometimes silently and sometimes publicly - has been initiated by the ruling party to assay the positions of the opposition to the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

The new conditions the government



By: Ali Al-Sarari

intends to impose in the upcoming elections seemingly eradicate the positive aspects of reform, both domestically and internationally, that have been previous introduced. The concern of the international community in Yemen, particularly

the group of donor countries, is for the introduction and expansion of effective reforms thereby boosting the development wheel towards democracy. At the national level, the situation has markedly deteriorated. Under these conditions, the JMP was pushed to create a comprehensive national and political reform project. This project calls for key changes to be made in the heart of the political system. Importantly, the opposition has formed a strong coalition that blends together the Left, nationalistic elements. Islamicists, and liberal, national moderates. This coalition includes the Islah Party, the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization, the Yemeni Popular Forces Unionist Party, and the Al-Haq Party.

Amid these national and international conditions, a new balance of power has settled thereby creating the need for reconsidering the rules of the social and political game by having innovative democratic content.

The second phase of democracy, adopted by JMP, involves comprehensive reforms at all levels. It clearly and frankly declares that Yemen needs a full dose of qualitative reforms as well as setting forth a series of guarantees to guarantee the impartiality of the elections. JMP's dialogue has focused, as well, on the importance of reviewing the current circumstances of the electoral administration and the need for stamping out its defects. Also, it emphasized the necessity of having a capable and neutral administration qualified to administer the elections with the minimal amount of interference and produce untainted results.

According to the JMP, the recoil that has accompanied the Yemeni democratic experience during the past twelve years should cease and progress should go forward once again in order to the move ahead. It is absurd that reforms in the Arab affairs area have been marked by gradual progress, while the movement towards enhanced democracy has been marked by setbacks due to ruling party attempts to impair its development and progress, in spite of the fact that Yemen had previously committed itself to democracy.

The ruling party is hard pressed when dealing with opposition demands for the attainment of the minimum extent of freedoms, impartiality, and justice in the upcoming elections. The government resists violently any attempts that aim at weakening its control and authority over the electoral process. As the dialogue between the government and opposition has come to a deadlock, the government has set their sights on international stances, which will have a great effect on the Yemeni electoral process as such.

JMP wishes that the stance of the international community will serve the Yemeni democratic experience and push it a step further, but the government never ceases to persuade donor countries of the acceptability of its methods in regard to the administration of the upcoming September elections. When receiving the blessing of these countries, it will pay attention to issues raised by the opposition regarding reforms and the enhancement of the democratic experience.

and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist

YEMEN TIMES

First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Κ

Good policy, good meeting the literacy (Part-II)

EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (7/9)

hen 164 governments adopted the six Education for All (EFA) goals in 2000, they espoused a holistic vision of education spanning learning from the first years of life through adulthood. In practice, achieving good-quality universal primary education (UPE) and gender parity, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, has dominated attention. As the United Nations Literacy Decade unfolds, the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 aims to shine a stronger policy spotlight on the more neglected goal of

literacy – a foundation not only for achieving EFA but, more broadly, for reaching the overarching goal of reducing human poverty.

Drawing on insights of part III of this report, Part IV calls for a three-pronged policy approach to literacy, encompassing the achievement of UPE, the scaling up of youth and adult learning programmes, and the development and enrichment of literate environments. Part IV also discusses essential features of sound policy and the role of government in scaling up adult literacy programmes.

The nuts and bolts of youth and on: studies of the linguistic and socioadult literacy programmes linguistic situation , including (Continued) attitudes of communities towards the

Learners' knowledge and wishes should inform adult learning programmes and be their starting point – an axiom that is not applied uniformly. Whatever their objectives, all such programmes require attention to curriculum and pedagogy, learners' schedules, the training and status of literacy educators, the learning technology used and the language of learning, as well as to the broader environment in which individuals practise their literacy skills. The following are some essential dimensions of good practice.

5. Developing multilingual policies

Language and literacy are inextricably linked. A majority of countries facing salient literacy challenges are linguistically diverse. In what language should schools teach and adult programmes be conducted? How should both integrate multilingualism to enhance the literacy prospects of all? Decisions on language must balance political and ethnic sensitivity, pedagogical effectiveness, costs and learner preferences.

The designation of official language(s) and the choice of languages taught in schools and adult learning programmes are sensitive issues. The basic features of a language influence the ways in which students learn. Different skills are required to master different script systems (alphabets vs ideograms, for instance). The oral and written forms of a language may serve distinct purposes. Modern standard Arabic, for example, is used by many countries as the national or official language, but differs from the diverse forms of spoken Arabic. Lack of correspondence between the spoken and written languages can pose a particular problem for learners.

Initial education in the mother tongue is widely recognized to be positive for a child's cognitive development. Learning how to read and write in a maternal language facilitates access to literacy in other languages. Language diversity need not be a barrier to literacy acquisition: in Papua New Guinea, where over 800 languages are spoken, primary pupils start education in their mother tongue and gradually shift to English.

The use of vernaculars in adult programmes is pedagogically sound, encourages community mobilization and social development, and provides for political voice. Using only the local language as a learning medium, however, can be a barrier to broader participation in a country's social, economic and political life.

Adult learners themselves often express a demand for literacy in a regional and/or national language. In the United Republic of Tanzania, literacy programmes in Swahili proved far more popular than ones in local languages.

Balancing these factors is not easy. The key features of an inclusive multilingual policy should be based

US\$26 billion is required to 2015 to enable more than 550 million people to complete a literacy programme of 400 hours linguistic situation , including attitudes of communities towards the languages they use and towards official languages; consultations with local communities as an input to learning and to the governance of adult programmes; locally written and produced teaching materials; the addition of second (and third) languages that take account of learners' competence and knowledge. The extra cost of training teachers and developing materials in multiple languages must be weighed against the inefficiency of teaching in languages that learners do not understand.

6. Literate environments: nurturing learning

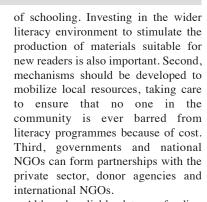
Printed and visual materials in households, neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and the community encourages individuals to become literate and to integrate their literacy skills in their everyday lives. Comparative studies of educational achievement and literacy proficiency show that the quantity and use of literacy resources matter. A recent study in thirty-five countries found that exposure to home-based literacy activities was positively related to Grade 4 reading achievement. The International Adult Learning Survey found that the extent to which respondents read books and newspapers, visited public libraries and watched television was significantly associated with literacy proficiency in some twenty OECD

While research clearly shows that home and school literacy environments significantly contribute to reading and language achievement, many pupils grow up in impoverished literacy environments, lacking a bare minimum of written material. According to the Southern African Consortium Monitoring on Educational Quality, at least 70% of students reported having fewer than ten books in their homes. In all but four countries, only 20% to 40% of the schools had libraries. Many Grade 6 pupils reported that their classrooms had no books at all. In remote communities of Asia, Latin America and Africa, the circulation of newspapers, books and magazines is often severely limited. Policies related to book publishing, the media and access to information affect the literate environment and are intricately linked to the building of literate societies. Many countries harness the potential of the print and broadcast media to promote literacy. Quite a few have developed special publications aimed at individuals with minimal skills and at the expansion of literacy in local languages. Others have used radio and television in conjunction with literacy programmes and initiated listening groups to maximize the impact of specialized

Financing literacy: the costs of scaling up

broadcasts.

People in low-income countries have very limited ability to pay for educational activities. The scaling up of adult literacy programmes requires, first, a coordinated national financing strategy. Budgetary allocations to literacy must increase, and not at the expense of investment in the quality



Although reliable data on funding for youth and adult literacy are scarce, evidence suggests that the level is very low in most developing countries, both in the aggregate and in terms of the priority given literacy in national and education sector budgets. In many countries, literacy programmes represent just 1% of the total national education budget. Calculating overall support is difficult, since governments may spread funds over several ministries and programmes may be run by NGOs, employers and donors. Discussion of long-term financing must first assess some of the basic cost parameters for good-quality literacy programmes. These include start-up costs, training, development and printing of learning materials, payment of literacy educators and operating costs. All are difficult to standardize. For a recent sample of twenty-nine literacy programmes, the average cost per learner came to US\$47 in sub- Saharan Africa, US\$30 in Asia and US\$61 in Latin America. The averages per 'successful' learner



one having completed the programme – were, respectively, US\$68, US\$32 and US\$83. In Senegal's literacy and poverty alleviation programme, the unit cost for one adult learner is US\$50 – broadly equivalent to the cost of one year of primary schooling. Policy-makers need to come up with baseline figures for significantly expanding national programmes. The key consideration is salary and training costs for literacy educators. Relying on volunteers is not a long-term

- Adult programmes must understand how people use their literacy skills, and respond to the priorities of learners
- It is imperative to professionalize, pay and invest in literacy educators
- Language policy, including multilingualism, is crucial
- Print materials have a positive influence on literacy achievement
- National financing strategies, including higher public spending, are required

recommends that literacy educators should be paid at least the equivalent of the minimum primary school teacher's pay, for all hours worked. This benchmark raises difficult questions, as governments are already under pressure to pay primary school teachers a decent wage. A minimum period of training is also required: the same study recommends that facilitators should receive at least fourteen days of initial training and regular refresher sessions. Such costs represent a major investment, one that will have to be met not just by governments but also by the private sector and donors. Production of learning materials is a third important cost, which varies considerably depending on the pedagogy used. The extent to which government and other actors are prepared to invest in free or subsidized newspapers, local and national language editions of materials and the provision of travelling libraries also deserves consideration. Other items include management and other overhead, as well as monitoring and evaluation, which are all too rare in literacy programmes.

Preliminary, broad-brush work on the magnitude of additional costs that might be incurred if major progress is to be made towards the Dakar literacy goal was commissioned for this Report. It suggests that US\$26 billion is required over the 13 years to 2015 to enable more than 550 million people (nearly half in South and West

Asia) to complete a literacy programme of 400 hours. The financial challenge is greatest in South and West Asia, while relative costs are highest in the Arab States. This work offers an indicative framework to stimulate policy debate in countries, where assumptions can be varied according to context. The figures and conclusions involved should be read with caution, since the data are limited and many fundamental assumptions are made. The range of estimates is broad between US\$10 billion and US\$50 billion over the next ten years. Because this work calculates costs since 2002, at least US\$2.5 billion a year would likely now be needed, a tall order for both countries and the international community.

Most governments need to be much more active in researching, financing, expanding and coordinating literacy policy and practice through schools, youth and adult literacy programmes and the broader environment. Benchmarks developed by the GCE and ActionAid can stimulate debate on literacy. They include attention to governance, evaluation, educators, pedagogy and financing, all discussed above. No matter what approach is chosen, political commitment is the obligatory pre-condition for meeting the ambitious targets that many governments have set for their countries. In turn, it will rely on technical capacity, adequate financing and international support, discussed



A Jordanian woman registers to vote with the imprint of her thumb at a polling station in 2003.

Investment on Kamaran Island to reach \$500 million

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

he Hayel Saeed Anaam Group and the Egyptian Orascom Company signed an agreement for the development of a tourist project on the Yemeni island of Kamaran located in the Red Sea on May 21. Signed in Hudeidah, the project is estimated to involve an investment of \$350 million during the first phase and costs will run to a total of\$500 million for the life of the proj-

Involving the construction of a number of resorts and hotels, the scheme also entails the creation of infrastructure and other essential services for the inhabitants of the island as well as job creation opportunities. The project envisions job creation at the airport, the sewage network, and at the stadi-

The agreement was signed by the Nabil Al-Faqieh, Yemeni Minister of

he Western Union network

for financial services

announced the opening its

new service for money transfers

inside Yemen. Mohammed Rashad

Al-Zubairi, the officer in charge of

Western Union services at the

International Bank of Yemen (IBY)

Tourism, and the regional director of the Hayel Saeed Anaam Group based in Cairo, Mahfoudh Ali Mohammed Saeed, as well as by Sameeh Sarawis, the director of the Orascom Company. The signing ceremony also was attended by the president of the General Authority of Development and Tourism, Mutahar Taqi, and Abdeh Naii Al-Salawi, the deputy of the Authority, and Ali Mohammed Saeed Anaam, chairman of the board of directors of the Hayel Saeed Anaam

The island of Kamaran possesses all the ingredients for a prosperous tourism industry as it captivates visitors with its rich environmental diversity and amazing marine life. Kamaran, or Two Moon, Island is set on luscious landscape with a green carpet covering its soil making the island seem as if it is floating on the Red Sea. Mangroves surround the island in the north and one can find deer and camels pasturing on its ver-

Yemen, along with two other

He pointed out that now people

will be able to send money to their

clients and partners safely, and

within minutes to any place in

Yemen via Western Union. The IBY

has 11 branches offering services

and has assigned 109 points-of-

Yemeni companies.



A view of Kamaran Island showing building development on the island.

The island provides the tourist with the possibility in engaging in a wealth of activities such as scuba-diving, fishing, snorkeling among the coral reefs, dolphin-watching, and swimming. Tourists who visit the island usually express astonishment at the variety of places to visit and things to do. One of places that one must visit is the village of Makram where they can spot beautiful buildings and pleasant people. Evidence of heightened government attention to the island is visible in the new infrastructure and better education

Perhaps more pleasantly, tourists may glimpse fishermen plying the waves at sea searching for fish. Some may be amazed at the number and sizes of whales caught, in addition to

the myriad fish species. Even the fishermen are lucky and have decent fisheries to exploit, many fishermen might express their hopes to better exploit the vast fishing grounds Yemen possesses through marketing techniques and increased export abroad. Inhabitants of

the island often complain of the dangers of unplanned fishing by Egyptian and other foreign fishing vessels sailing around the island's shores, and in the process, sometimes destroying the coral reefs that form the protective environment for fish to grow.



A Kamaran Island village.

explained that the bank will be the agent of the U.S.-based company in service to Yemeni agents, he added.

Job Vacancy

The Embassy of the United States of America invites applications from qualified persons for the position of **Purchasing Agent.**

Western Union inaugurates

domestic services

Basic Function of Position

The Purchasing Agent is responsible for researching and procuring supplies, services and equipment either locally or offshore in accordance with Department of State regulations. The agent will accurately maintain records, create reports, maintain relationships with vendors, and be customer-service orientated.

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Yemeni fisheries ripe for investment



Yemen to adopt new trends for fish wealth.

By: Yemen Times Staff

emen possesses vast fisheries located off its coasts that have significant commercial potential. If exploited properly, the revenue gained could cover the current budget deficit and improve the incomes of poor families. However, the obstacles blocking the development of the fisheries are the drawing-up of implementation plans along with finding private sector partners to increase the catch brought annually, marketing, canning, and exportation.

While many fishermen criticize the government for not devoting enough energy to the development of Yemen's fisheries and associated businesses, Minister of Fisheries Mahmoud Ibrahim Saghiri says the fishery management and conservation project, the "Fish Fifth Project," represents one of the government's fields of investment fixed in the Third Five-year Plan (FYP) for development and poverty alleviation. It is anticipated that the project will begin implementation by the end of this year lasting until 2010. The project's budget comes to \$35 million and is supported by the World Bank, the European Union as well as the govern-

Saghiri maintains that the project constitutes a big boost to the fishery sector as it focuses on developing infrastructure related to fisheries and supports the process of monitoring quality levels thus ensuring the ability to maximize the value of future exports. Besides that, the project envisions the construction of research stations along the coasts of Yemen, extending from Midi on the Red Sea, to the Gulf of Aden and ending at the shipping area adjacent to the Sultanate of Oman on the Arabian Sea. The project also includes the construction of ports, wave-breakers, and wholesale fish markets in the coastal governorates as well as the rehabilitation and expansion of existing ports.

The Minister noted that the project will establish fish breeding centers, which are expected to form the nucleus of fish culture in Yemen. He added that the "Fish Fifth Project" includes support for the restructuring of the Ministry of Fisheries aimed at decentralizing its overall activities, the initiation of statistical system and information network, the preservation of current fish stocks, and the beginning of monitoring and inspection of Yemen's fisheries.

Seeking to increase the average annual fish production to 700,000 tons a year by 2010, the Ministry has lobbied for the restructuring of fish exports in the next FYP so that the industry becomes value focused instead of concentrated on maximizing the sum of exports. The draft FYP aims to increase production growth rates and fish exports, while preserving the fish reservoir in a manner that sustains Yemen's fisheries. Additionally, it plans to improve the quality of the catch and how it is marketed. It is expected that the plan will increase fish exports by an annual rate of 8.5% so that the catch will amount to 124,000 tons by 2010.

The Ministry of Fisheries' plan envisions increasing involvement of the private sector in the comprehensive development of the fishery sector with the enactment of policies attracting domestic and foreign capital. The government has encouraged the private sector to invest in fishery-related development and the establishment of a national fishing fleet.

Business In Brief

Yemen Society Consumer Protection (YSCP) has responded with satisfaction to the decision made by the chairman of the West Capital Secretariat Court, Judge Mohammed Ismael Al-Hajji, on 20 May 2006 that prevents the sale of concentrated fodder containing lards contaminated with dioxin and other toxic substances. On 20 May, the YSCP issued a press release mentioning that the judge's verdict was a response to the lawsuit filed by the society against the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Yemeni Authority of Specifications and Standardization, and the Al-Falah poultry company. The lawsuit holds the three parties responsible for importation of 223,874 thousand kilograms of fodder concentrates polluted with lard containing the highly poisonous chemical substance dioxin.

recently published internation-Al report anticipates una une Yemeni government will introduce a new "dose" of price reforms after the coming presidential and local elections. The report also expects the Yemeni riyal exchange rate to drop against the U.S. dollar to around YR 198.6 to the dollar during 2006 and down to YR 206 by 2007. The report, issued by the British Economic Information Unit, disclosed Yemen's failure to achieve the annual economic growth specified in its five-year plan (2001-2005) as the GNP in 2005 failed to exceed 2.6% against the targeted rate of 5.6%. The report attributed that failure to the steep drop in oil production and export as the Yemeni oil reserves have been gradually depleted, adding that it is not expected for the Yemeni government to curtail expenditures before the September 2006 elections. The report, posted on Yemeni opposition websites, foresees investment recovery with the start of spending on construction of the liquefied natural gas project and other new energy projects.

n agreement has been signed in Paris on 18 May between the Paris on 10 May company,
Yemeni airways company, Yemenia, and the French Civil Aviation Authority that will see the addition of one additional Yemenia flight from Sana'a to Paris. The agreement was signed at the conclusion of a consultative meeting between the two sides and stipulated that the additional flight will begin next June. With the addition of this flight, the number of weekly Yemenia flights to Paris will reach four from the current three.

he Bahr Al-Arab Company, specialized in supplying and grinding fish, has recently begun production in the free industrial zone of Aden. Sources at the Aden free zone said that the company is one of the Jordanian investment companies operating in Yemen. The company's production capacity is 200 tons a month of grinded fishmeal. The fishmeal is then processed into poultry fodder with 100% exported abroad. Yemen is the sole source of the company's primary raw material. Registered at the Aden free zone since 2004, the Bahr Al-Arab Company was allocated approximately six-thousand square meters of land at the industrial and warehousing area. It began trial operations in April 2005 and plans to continue its work for a 25 year period until its operating license comes u for renewal.

den's seaport is scheduled to put into service a new international navigation system at the beginning of next year. The system facilitates and regulates ship movement inside the port and provides information on ships entering it. Sources working in the field have indicated that the Italian consultative technical delegation from de Apolina has lately submitted a report to the Yemeni Ports Authority on aspects of the technical establishment of the

Exchange rate of some currencies

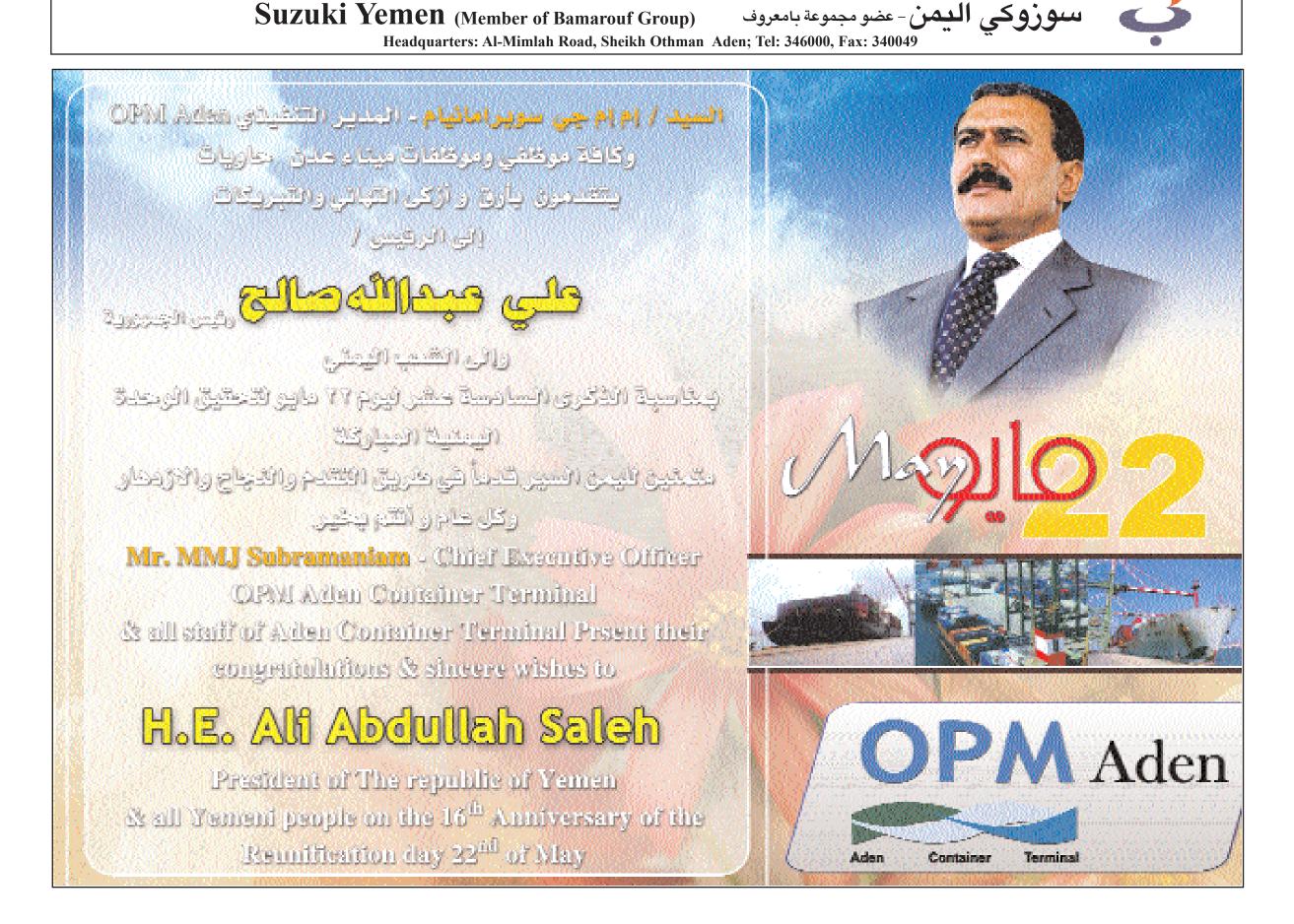
Currency US Dollar Sterling Pound Saudi Rial Kuwaiti Dinar UAE Dirhem **Egyptian Pound**

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Japanese Yen 1.759602 Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye







Al-Saqr downs titleholder Yemen loses 74 to 83 to Lebanon 3-0 to maintain lead



Al-Saqr team.

By Ismail Al-Ghabri

Thrashing last season's titleholder Al-Telal 3-0 on their home soil, the Al-Sagr football team maintained its Premier's League top place with 34 points. Meanwhile the visitors, Al-Telal, remain in seventh place with 22

The Ahli Al-Hodeida team failed to reduce the difference of points between it and Al-Sagr in the sixteenth round of the Premier League when it reached a draw with the visiting Sha'ab Ibb team last Friday. Forward Nashwan Al-Hajjam scored for the visiting team in thirty-second minute of the first half, while the hosts answered in the ninth minute of the second half with a goal by its Egyptian professional player Mohamed Ramadhan.

Ahli Al-Hodeida raised its points tally to 29 in second place after Al-Sagr, while Sha'ab Ibb increased its points to 27, putting it in fourth place.

In the capital, Ahli Sana'a defeated its neighbor Al-Yarmouk 2-0 through strikers Ali Al-Nono and Adel Al-Salimi putting it to third in the tournament with 28 points, while Al-Yarmouk remained in fifth place with 22 points.

At Aden's International Stadium, Al-Shu'lah won 1-0 over its guest the 22 May team from Sana'a to jump up to the ninth place with 19 points, while the loser remained in the penultimate position with 15 points.

In Hadramout, Sha'ab Al-Mukalla scored a 2-1 victory over the visiting Ta'awen Ba'adan to occupy the tenth position with 19 points, while the visiting team remained dead last in the tournament with 14 points.

Hassan beat the visiting Tadhamun Shabwah 1-0 with a goal by its forward Raji Bamatrouh to bring it to the eighth place in the tournament with 22 points, meanwhile the visitors stayed in the twelfth place with 18 points.

In Taiz, Shabab Al-Jeel from Hodeida downed its host the Al-Rashid team 3-

1. Although, Al-Rashid scored first in seventeenth minute of the first half via its striker Najeeb Sa'eed, Shabab Al-Jeel rallied when star Mohamed answered in eleventh minute of the second half and added the second goal in the fourteenth minute of the same half. Ethiopian professional player Farzaghia scored the third goal in the thirteeth in minute to seal the game. With this victory, Shabab Al-Jeel jumped to the eleventh place with 18 points while Al-Rashid remained in the sixth place with 22 points.

The timetable showing the league's matches										
Team	Plays	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals	Goals	Points			
					for	against				
Al-Saqr	16	10	4	2	28	11	34			
Helal Hodeida	16	8	5	3	27	15	29			
Ahli Sana'a	16	8	4	4	24	15	28			
Sha'ab Ibb	16	7	6	3	27	17	28			
Hassan	16	5	7	4	15	13	22			
Al-Yarmouk	16	6	4	5	19	20	22			
Al-Rashid	16	6	4	5	18	22	22			
Al-Telal	16	7	1	8	19	25	22			
Al-Shu'la	16	4	7	5	17	19	19			
Shabab Al-Jeel	16	5	3	8	21	28	18			
Sha'ab Hadramout	16	5	3	8	14	24	18			
Tadhamun Shabwa	16	6	-	10	18	28	18			
22 May	16	4	3	9	17	23	15			
Ta'awen Ba'adan	16	3	2	11	21	26	11			

in final meeting on basketball

Yemen's 17 years old and under the Yemeni team which now ranks basketball team lost 74 to 83 to its Lebanese counterpart in the final meeting of West Asian basketball qualifiers for the Asian Cup. Finals for the cup are scheduled to take place during August 29 - Sept. 6 in China.

The Lebanese team currently leads the tournament taking place in the Jordanian capital of Amman. The loss has no impact on the qualification of

second in the competition.

The tournament involves six teams: Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan,

Yemeni Basketball Federation (YBB) Secretary General Mujahed Al-Sarahah said the national team performed well and struggled against the Lebanese team until the final minutes of the game.

The Yemeni national team won

three meetings against Iraq, Iran, and Syria, but lost to Jordan in the opener.

Yemen's 17 years old and under basketball team stood second in the past year's West Asian qualifiers that took place in Mukalla, Yemen.

Yemen has qualified for the Asian basketball finals three times in the recent past, the first of which was in Malaysia in 2000, the second in Kuwait in 2002 and the third in India

International Coastal Volleyball Championship kicks-off

The 22 May International Coastal Volley Championship, organized by the Yemeni Volleyball Federation (YVF), started on Friday. The championship hosts eight Yemeni teams in addition to two foreign teams from Oman and Sudan.

brations of the sixteenth anniversary of national unity.

Participating teams were divided into two groups of four each. Two teams from each group will reach the semifinal and

The event coincides with Yemeni cele- the winners of that round will meet each other in the final.

> In the opener, Oman A won 2-0 over Yemen C, while the Sudanese team defeated one of the Yemeni teams 2-1 in

Hodeidah hosts various sporting activities

Reunification celebrations, Hodeidah's Youth and Sports Office organized various games, including coastal volleyball, football, boxing and popular carnivals.

Coastal volleyball encounters involving teams from Yemen, Oman and Sudan concluded last Saturday with Oman winning the 22 May Cup. Four local football teams, Helal Al-Hodeidah, Zabid, Al-Maraw'a and Shabab Al-Jeel, participated in a championship for the 22 May Cup.

In cooperation with the Education Office, the Youth and Sports Office organized a student carnival to march through Hodeidah's streets to the coast. The carnival was accompanied by music, popular dances and various activities specific to Yemen.

During the 3,000-strong student carnival, Hodeidah governorate's secretary-general delivered a speech on behalf of his counterparts in other Yemeni governorates, emphasizing that they will not take part in any future elections if President Ali Abdullah Saleh does not stand in upcoming presidential elections.

The Youth and Sports Office media to back out on his decision not to stand staged as an attempt to persuade Saleh

officer affirmed that the carnival was in this September's presidential elec-









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New students' placements begin May 29. Discounts for enrolling more than one family member apply.

For more information or to register, please contact Mr. Alahdal or visit the AMIDEAST office. AMIDEAST is conveniently located at: *Algiers St.* #66 (near the intersection of Algiers and Baghdad streets), Sana'a, Yemen. Tel: 1 206222/400279-81. Fax: 1-206942. Email: yemen@amideast.org.



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شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

ممثلة برئيس مجلس الادارة التنفيذي الشيخ /

صالح سالم باثواب

وجميع موظفيها وعمالها

تتقدم بأطيب التهاني و التبريكات إلى قائد النهضة وباني اليمن

الحديث الاخ/

على عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى أبناء شعبنا اليمني العظيم

بمناسبة العيد الوطني السادس عشر لتحقيق الوحدة المباركة في

الثاني والعشرين من مايو

سائلين المولى عز وجل لهذا الوطن الحبيب الخير واليمن والبركات ومزيداً من المنجزات والمكاسب في ظل قيادتة الحكيمة

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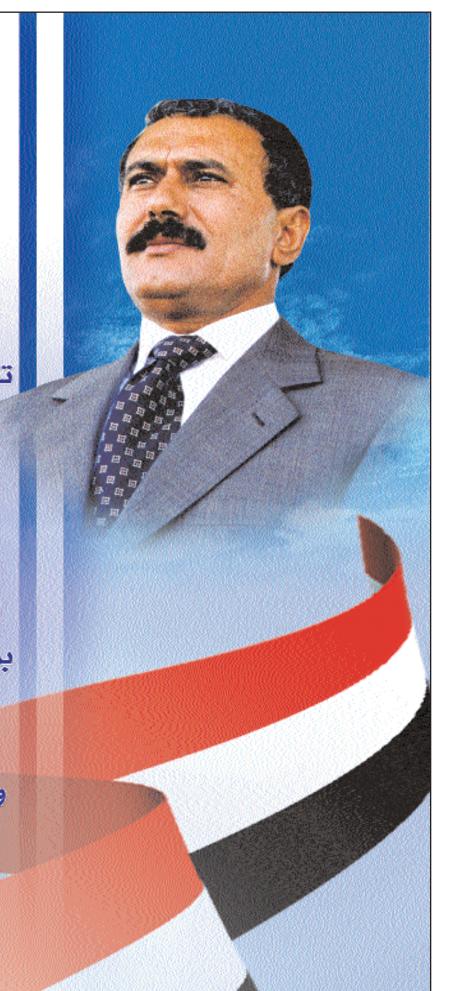
Represented by the Chairman Executive,
Sheikh Saleh Salem Bathawab &
all its employees and workers.
Presents its heartfelt congratulations to the
maker of Yemen's development His Excellency
President of the Republic

Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of the Reunification Day, 22nd of May Praying to God to bless this beloved country With prosperity, welfare, and further development under the wise leadership.

Many happy returns







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

But what can you do?

By: Amenah bint Natera

have heard this statement, which is not really intended as a question, a million times over the past decade from well meaning, but at times defeated, Yemenis who in the statement convey all the frustration inherent in their daily life and their social situation.

But what can you do? Well let's break down the statement.

But is the part that starts telling you no, even before you get your answer completely enunciated.

What is the gritty part of the argument... the subject, the issue, the solution, the resolution, the action, a reaction is demanded.

Can is the modifier... it is not saying "May"; which leads one to believe that the person is asking permission. "Can" in this case is saying that it should, could, must; that "it" needs to be done.

You- here is a really tricky word in this statement. Is the person asking you "the other"; or is that person- the themselves speaker asking rhetorically?

Do- that word of action. An act that means someone will be responsible for having done "it".

Now that we have broken up the statement to define in a way its components, what does the statement mean, what does it convey, and what does it expect... which I have learned are three of the things implied when such a statement is made from a

At one level it can mean the person is actually feeling so frustrated and inept (though not by choice necessarily, but by circumstance), that it almost sounds like a plea to the other because they can't accomplish what they consider an act of greater magnitude.

At another level it can mean the

person knows the issue at hand but also realizes, at times, the futility of the exercise in finding a solution that will not be implemented. So the appeal is to both self and the other to recognize that "Resistance is Futile" (as was put in a TV show in the USA).

Yet at the level that I sometimes rank the comment, though not always, is in that accountability zone... You know, "you are accountable for your own actions", "he should answer for what he has done"; "they need to step up to the plate and answer for their actions", etc. But at some point in my conversations with Yemeni, accountability is always on "the other". No one actually tells me that if they as Yemeni decided to do XY or Z they would get ABC... to do so would mean that should things not go as planned then they would have to account for their actions... though none seems to think of accounting in times of victory; because everyone automatically knows you did it and you want them to know.

But let's talk about the context of the comment. When is it used? Is it all the time? Not really. The times it is most poignant is in those heart wrenching conversations when the lack of action results in the failure to provide for the safety of millions; failure to accept that certain aspects of our lives need to change because the world is a 100 years ahead of us; failure to believe that there are steps to be taken and we believe we can just sit and wait for Allah to send down the solution, forgetting Allah has said in the Qur'an that He will only change our condition if we change the condition in ourselves first.

So what can you do?

• First, Stop thinking there is nothing you can do. That there is just no way that we can do anything, because that is the easiest excuse ever invented by Man: "Sit, do nothing, and then blame the world."

Second, Pray Allah will help you find the solution. Allah has given you a brain, use it! We were and have been taught by the pen, so put your "money-where-your-mouth-is" and actually dare to ask and look for solutions.

Third, Make a Plan. If it is just you involved; ask yourself where you want to be in 5 years... and please, be realistic... if the answer is Rich and Famous, you are totally off track. If you say, "I want to be in peace, have enough food for myself and debt-free"; you are moving in the right direction.

If you are one of a pair- your are about to get married, you're thinking about getting married; or you have to get married... then make a plan... marriage is a very important step in your life. Don't for one second think it is a piece of cake, that all your worries will go away; and that there will be that "other" who will take care of it... You would set vourself up for failure even before starting.

If you are a student, I suggest you be an honest student and get the best marks you can, not only in grading but in understanding and applying what you learn, striving for excellence... I never say perfection; because perfection is in Allah's Realm... all we can aspire to, is excellence.

If you are a father, a mother, a wife, a husband; then be the best you can be because you will be held accountable for it both, here in this world and in the Here After... In this world because your children, your spouses, your family, even society: they will all hold you accountable for every decision you made or not and the consequences of it. In the Here After because that is a promise from Allah; He will Judge you, period. Question is are you ready for it? • Fourth: Consultation with those who

know and understand. Let me explain this part, though; because we have a tendency to ask the blind man if he can see what color the sky is.

I mean that you are asking an intelligent question to an intelligent person who will pause, think about it, pause again and tell you that he will get back to you with an answer. If you receive a quick fire answer chances are that person is talking off the top of their head and could actually lead you astray unintentionally. Nor do I suggest you spew out things off the top of your head either when someone asks you because you will be held accountable for every single word you pronounce and every single action that comes of it... daunting isn't it?

When asking; think clearly what it is you want; say what you mean and mean what you say. And when you get an answer, an opinion, what have you; think over carefully what that means, and its implications... Here is an interesting example...

I live in NY; and there are many things that happen here that make you pause and you HAVE to ask people if this can or not be done... but if you are not focused and have good intentions to do the best, you can do some rather crazy or not so crazy things...

A man asked a Sheikh if as a Muslim he could sell pork and beer at a store... Without giving you the answer from the Sheikh let us go through this

1. You are told as a Muslim; as a human being; that to save one life you save all of humanity and to kill one person is to kill all of humanity.

2. Then taking into consideration that as a Muslim living in a country whose Rule of Law says that if you know a crime is about to be committed, and/or you knowingly participate in the crime, or as it is classically put -are part of "aiding and abetting"; you are as guilty as the person who actually committed the

Now, imagine this scenario: a person buys an intoxicant like beer and you sell it to them. They leave the store, drink the beer, get drunk, get behind the wheel of a car, are not in their right senses (that happens when you are intoxicated) and they don't see the person who is crossing the street in front of the car and they hit that person and kill them or at the very least injure

Now tell me who is/are guilty taking into consideration what Allah has said about injuring another person without justification, i.e., in self defense?

Now depending on what you think the answer should/would be, you will proceed and implement this in your life... are you ready for the questions Allah will put forth to you on this? Did you think about the consequences of the actions all of this has on you, your family, the other person's families,

• Fifth, pray again for guidance and make a decision. That means hoping you have made the right decision; praying for the outcome that best suits the situation and implementing it. If you have done all the previous steps then having come to terms with your decision will mean once implemented you have complete faith in God and you move on to the next batch of issues in your life.

But if you think the previous steps are not necessary, or not needed, or irrelevant; or just plain silly... I would like to hear your answers when you are asked what, why, how, when and where you did what you did and what you DID NOT DO... that is also written down you know, especially if it creates

a consequence that impacts other

I have suggested what you can do; delineating steps to help resolve certain things in your life that you have more control over than others... and believe me Allah has given you control over a lot of things in your life; you just have to acknowledge it and account for them... Ignorance is not Bliss my friend. And the "But what can you do"; will only go but so far...

But you will ask, in practical real life terms; those issues we grapple with everyday; how can we even attempt such a simplistic format? Actually, everything takes on this simplistic format... from tying your shoe to deciding the next policies that will have most impact on generating revenue in your domestic company planning on going global.

Why? Simple... it's called accountability...

- · Making yourself accountable for all you do; making others accountable for what they do... and for the things you or they don't do as well...
- · It is about understanding that you are accountable for the welfare of your child... feeding, clothing, loving, teaching, rearing, guiding...
- You are accountable at your place of employment... being on time, doing your best, producing the quality work that is expected; doing what is
- Your are accountable for being human; God gave you this life for a reason... not to squander it, not to hurt it, not to live in abject misery of mind and soul which is very different from abject misery of food and

So maybe the question should be: "Who is accountable and what do I do

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Glacier breakaway 5 Heated conflict
- 10 Singer/songwriter Mitchell
- 14 Part of it makes blue eyes
- blue
- 15 Drug from poppies 16 ___ about (circa)
- 17 Starter starter
- 18 Charles de Gaulle's birthplace 19 Mother of Helen of Troy
- 20 Colorful signals
- 23 Aromatic compound
- 24 Not quite a birdie
- 25 Egypt and Syr., once
- 28 Certain female animal 29 Workplace safety gp.
- 33 Like sheepdogs
- 35 On dry land
- 37 Trim away 38 Vacationer's purchase, per-
- 42 Wind instrument 43 Type of ball

44 Nifty type of smell

haps

- 47 Word with block or map 48 Theologian's sch.
- 51 Certain Siouan
- 52 Flunky's answer
- 54 Italian isle
- 56 What some films contain 61 Ray of "The Green Berets"
- 63 On video
- 64 Sight from Buffalo
- 65 Coach Ewbank
- 66 Sound beginning?
- 67 Multiple-choice, e.g.
- 68 Colorful parrot
- 69 Annoyingly troublesome 70 Homophone for seize

- 1 Caught in the act
- 2 "Be it ___ humble ..."
- 4 Blooper
- 6 Like some proportions
- 8 Sign of spring

35 "Wait just ____!"

DOWN

- 3 Connect, in a way
- 5 Big moments at The Met

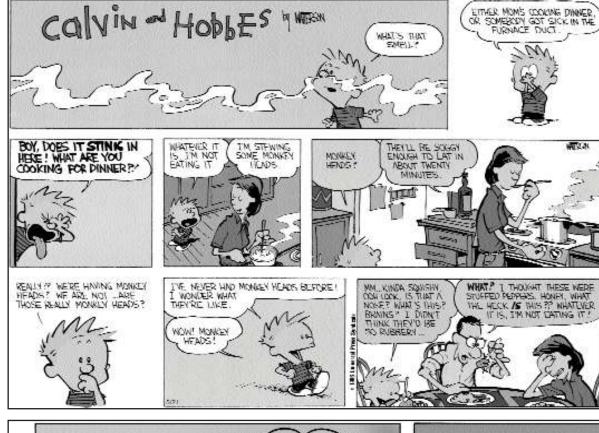
7 Work the earth



- 9 Some sorority women
- 10 Sudden impact
- 11 Request at Starbucks, perhaps
- 12 Gesture of assent
- 13 Financial nest egg
- 21 Winter blanket?
- 22 Royal acronym
- 26 Taj Mahal city
- Type of bread or grass
- Na Na Kong
- 32 Pianist Rubenstein
- 34 Imitator
- 36 Prefix meaning "outer"
- 38 Sarcastic response
- 39 "Oh, that's why!" _ time 40 One day __
- 41 Battlefield worker
- 42 Lennon's love 45 Writer Rand
- 46 Get some shuteye, e.g. 48 Evening party
- 49 Kay Thompson character 50 Some French paintings
- 53 Like several-days-old bread
- 55 Galley orders _ Dooby" (Roy Orbison hit)
- 58 Goes for
- 59 Exec's extra _ at the Races"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER														
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South Africa tops World Travel Awards

outh Africa is the best holiday destination in Africa and it's official. At the World Travel Awards ceremony in London in November 2005, South Africa's airline, hotels, airports and tourist attractions walked off with 16 of the 17 prize categories for the continent of Africa.

To determine the awards, some 156 000 travel agencies and professionals in over 140 countries vote over the internet for their leading travel destinations, airlines, hotels, personalities and companies around the world.

For the second year in a row the Saxon Hotel in Johannesburg was voted the World's Leading Boutique Hotel, beating the Soleil Hotel & Suites in Vancouver, the Sunset Marquis Hotel & Villas in California, Australia's Royce Hotel, the Metropolitan of London and the Delano in Miami.

South Africa's Shamwari Game Reserve came out tops in the awards for the 8th consecutive year, winning two global awards - the world's leading conservation company and the world's leading safari and game reserve. The reserve was also voted Africa's leading safari destination.

The world's leading responsible tourism project went to Bushman Sands in the Eastern Cape, while South Africa's Rovos Rail company was voted the world's leading luxury train and Africa's leading safari train.

In the Africa section, both South African Airways and the Sun City complex in North West province won three awards. Other African winners were the Mount Nelson Hotel, Protea Hotels, and the Fancourt Hotel and Country Club.

Cape Town was voted the leading



destination in Africa and is also considered as one of the "50 Places to See

before You Die"!

This honour was also bestowed upon Cape Town at the 18th Annual Conde Naste Travellers Readers Choice Awards held in New York in October 2005. Nearly 28 000 travelers voted in the awards and Cape Town came out tops as the number one city in Africa and the Middle East.

US adventure travel website iExplore, which caters for higher income travellers searching for "something unique", has listed South Africa as number six in its top worldwide travel destinations for 2005 - up from number 13 in 2004.

iExplore sells tours all over the world, focusing on adventure and experiential destinations. Their typical clients are higher income, independent, experience-focused travellers who "want a fully guided experience on their own personal terms", who "want to get something unique and different ... where price is not their first

That said, South Africa saw strong

growth to move into the annual top 10 list for the first time.

South Africa was growing in popularity because it is a great country with a lot to offer, whether people want to tour Cape Town, or join the safaris around the Kruger National Park, or just enjoy the country's fabulous shopping malls.

The World Travel Awards - known as "the Oscars of tourism" - were started in 1993 to acknowledge and celebrate excellence in international travel. Now in its 12th year, tourism professionals and discerning travellers regard the awards as the best endorsement a tourism product could hope to receive.

REQUIRED URGENTLY

For a leading Kuwaiti Construction Company for its operations in the Middle East and Africa.

1. Project Manager Civil & Infrastructure

BSc Civil Engineering with minimum 15 years experience, the last five years must be as PM. Manage, plan and successfully execute hi-rise buildings complexes, roads, bridges and infrastructure projects, management experience with proven leadership qualities, able to liaison closely with clients and subcontractors, familiar with contracts administration, computer literate and able to communicate fluently in Arabic & English.

BSc Civil Engineering, minimum 10 years experience in construction related fields, capable of interpreting design drawings and specifications of materials.

3. Chief Accountant

BSc in Commerce, ten years experience in construction companies, computer literate and proficiency in English & Arabic

4. HR Coordinator

Graduate with a minimum of three years human resource experience, Develops, directs. coordinates all HR activities such as recruitment, payroll, compensation benefits and employee services.

Candidates who fulfill the job requirement may send their CVs with photograph within one week, addressed to the HR Manager, at the following address. cvshrc@yahoo.com

All applications will be dealt with strict confidence. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

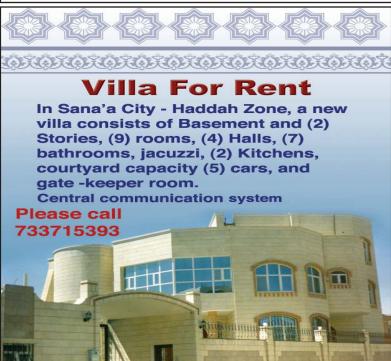




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