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# YEMEN TIMES

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**Inside:**

- 5** The significance of the Holy Month in Hadramout
- 15** Call the conflict by its proper name: Geo-civil war
- 16** Working together out of poverty

**Readers' Voice**

**Last edition's question:**  
 The dispute between Al-Ahmer and Al-Shatter has gone on for sometime. Do you think this dispute has become a political issue against the opposition as some journalists claim?

I don't know (10%)  
 No (18%)  
 Yes (72%)

**This edition's question:**  
 Because many merchants lost money in their support of the presidential campaigns, merchants raised the prices of various foodstuffs, or so many Yemenis think. However, the government has announced that it will take measures to ensure stable prices. Do you think the government is serious in managing the price hike?

- Yes  
 - No  
 - I do not know

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## UN discusses violence against children

Violence against children remains a sensitive and widely-spread issue worldwide and silence toward the issue makes the problem even worse, according to a recent UN report. It says government steps to combat the problem still are inadequate, but the UN wants to combat the problem with government and NGO cooperation.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Oct. 17 — The UN report on violence against children in Yemen was released in the capital Tuesday — it was organized by UNICEF and Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

Planning for the study began in 2001 following recommendations and discussions by UN offices concerned about violence against children. UN members urged Secretary General Kofi Annan to begin a worldwide study on violence against children.

In February 2003, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro began an intensive study on violence against children and the study

was presented to UN General Assembly in New York last Thursday.

Many UN agencies and partners including UN Higher Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and World Health Organization have participated in the study.

The study covered regional and national deliberations, discussions and field visits, and then a detailed questionnaire form was distributed to governments concerning the methodology the study followed while discussing violence against children.

Many governments and regional organizations including the Arab League have participated in the questionnaire. Also, regional deliberations

were held to help implement the study's results. For the first time violence against children has drawn attention of human rights groups worldwide.

Much violence against children remains hidden and is often socially accepted, according to the UN study. The study lists a comprehensive global view of the range and scale of violence against children.

Violence against children includes physical violence, psychological violence, discrimination, neglect and maltreatment. It ranges from sexual abuse in the home to corporal and humiliating punishment at school. The use of physical restraints in children's homes to brutality at the hands of law enforcement officers; from abuse and neglect in institutions to gang warfare on the streets where children play or work; from infanticide to so-called 'honor' killing.

"The best way to deal with violence against children is to stop it before it happens, says Professor Pinheiro, the independent expert appointed by the Secretary General to lead the study.

Continued on page 2



A Yemeni child who is a victim of domestic violence

## Yemen Participates in the Extractive Industries Transparency Conference in Oslo

### Al-Arhabi: Yemen is adopting a policy of disclosure

By: Raidan Al-Sakkaf

OSLO, Oct. 17 — Yemen participated with a high level delegation in the Third Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Plenary Conference held in Oslo, Norway. The Delegation was headed by Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi and Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Khalid Bahah, along with several officials and representatives of the civil society.

Minister Al-Arhabi presented a paper on the recent economic and socio-political developments in Yemen, as well as the judiciary, legislative and administrative reforms package being implemented as a part of the third national plan 2006-2010. He also indicated that Yemen already enjoys a high level of transparency and disclosure of its oil and other revenues from extractive resources on timely bases, while emphasizing that the government has become highly transparent and has

adopted a policy of disclosure not only in extractive industries but also in other sectors including the net worth of government officials.

Al-Arhabi also met with several high level representatives from Norwegian Organizations and the government of Norway and discussed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing the developmental cooperation between the two countries.

On Another front, Minister of Oil Khalid Bahah met with the CEOs and high level administrations of Norwegian Oil companies such as Statoil, Hydro and DNO and invited them to take part in the bidding for offshore blocks in Yemen which are deemed to have substantial oil reserves in order to increase Yemen's oil production. He has also taken advantage of the conference to network with oil executives. A senior advisor to BP indicated he was impressed by the persona of Minister Bahah, saying he has been very successful in creating a positive impression about investing in Yemen in light of the global demand for oil.

The conference was hosted by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and was inaugurated by the President of the World Bank Paul Wolfowitz while representatives of the U.S Department of State, the International Monetary Fund, the International Finance Corporation, the International Advisory Group, Department for International



Minister Al-Arhabi presenting a paper on the recent economic and socio-political developments in Yemen, at the Extractive Industries Transparency Conference in Oslo.

Cooperation (UK), as well as high level delegation from various European and donor states as well as African and Asian countries. Several International Petroleum and Extractive Industries Corporation were also represented in the conference, as well as commercial

banks and investment funds.

The Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative is a multi stakeholder initiative committed to promote transparency, fight corruption and create a better future for citizens of resource rich countries all over the world.

## Saleh criticizes price-hikes and opposition

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Oct. 18 — Addressing businessmen and merchants at a dinner banquet, President Saleh warned of playing with prices of food and other materials in the Yemeni market and asked for an end to the increases of prices which impose burdens on limited-income families.

President Saleh also said he directed the Ministry of Trade and Industry to hold an emergency meeting to discuss price hikes and put an end to it. However, prices are still increasing despite the constant calls for lower prices.

Food and vegetables prices had a sudden increases timed with the onset of Ramadan.

Some shops owners attribute such increases to the tendencies of consumers and the absence of pricing control.

Further, President Saleh criticized the opposition's address and said they should go to psychological asylums as they did not understand the lessons of the recent elections.

"Following to the announcement of

elections' results, we declared we had turned elections' page and now we extend our hands to all to build and develop Yemen's future," added Saleh.

The opposition criticized Saleh' address, declaring these terms aim to defame the opposition and deny its role in the political involvement lived in Yemen under the multi-party system and freedom of opinion ensured by the law and constitution.

The opposition is also angry because they consider a poem delivered during an Iftar roundtable indecent. The poem was presented before President Saleh in Hadramout Governorate and televised nationally.

Joint Meeting Parties Official Spokesman, Mohamed Qahtan told Al-Sahwa Net that authorities attempt to make JMP involved in political conflicts. He confirmed that it is impossible for authorities to involve JMP in their failed policies.

The poem, which was first published in 26 September newspaper against Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar, inflamed has now brought a new wave of criticism from the JMP.

## Political security detain MP Ahmed Saif Hashed

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Oct. 17 — Political security arrested MP Ahmed Saif Hashed, accusing him of shooting a Political Security Apparatus building and the demonstrators who came asking for Al-Dilimi's release.

Hashed, member of rights and freedoms committee at the parliament, told mass media he will inform the incident to the General Prosecutor, asking him to conduct an investigation into his detention without any plain cause and before tens of protestors.

Further, Hashed declared he will raise his detainment case before the Parliament after Al-Fitr Eid.

While detained Hashed said he was put in a closed room guarded by a soldier.

The protestors expressed solidarity with Hashed who was detained in the Political Security Apparatus (PSA) for explained reason, but just asking for Ali Al-Dilimi's release.

Al-Dailami, a human rights activist and leading member of Public Forces Union Party, has been held over a week after his arrest at the Sana'a airport.

Tens of protestors, affiliated with several civil society organizations and MP human rights activists, staged a sit-in before the General Prosecutor's office, asking for his immediate release.

When they received a letter from the General Prosecutor's office demanding Al-Dailami's release or referring him to judiciary if guilty, the protestors headed to the PSA headquarters.

The Secretary General of the Social Democratic Forum, Nabeel Abdulhafeez Majed, told mass media the PSA declared it will allow Al-Dailimi's family to visit him and further noted they were prevented from meeting Al-Dailami who has no connection with terrorist cells.

Hashed is disappointed with the dealing of the Al-Dailami situation.

"We were having written directives from the General Prosecutor dictating the immediate release of al-Dailami. We headed later to the PSA headquarters asking them to implement the directive of the General Prosecutor," said Hashed. "The demonstrators, reaching more than 60 political and social personalities, were harassed by the Political Security officers. When trying to shoot that inhuman scene, the



MP Ahmed Saif Hashed

officers attacked me and confiscated my camera, though they know I am an MP."

It's not the manner Hashed expects to be treated.

"Further, they forced me into the building and put me in solitary detainment for about one hour and further they abused and threatened me," added Hashed.

He further noted he informed the incident to the acting general prosecutor, Taha al-Maktari, asking him to investigate the PSA officers.

Hashed also affirmed that PSA violate citizen's right on daily basis. Further, human rights activists at Parliament and other civil society organizations are not allowed to visit those held.

"Many times I have been prevented from entering this notorious institution though I have documents and reports that prove the existence of human rights violations in their detainments," noted Hashed.

Hashed asked all organizations interested in human rights pressure state to allow them look into detainees' affairs and reveal the sufferings and violations they are exposed.

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## In brief

## Amran

## 15 Contests out of 25 elections, sued to court

Oct. 17 — Chief of Amran's Appeal Court judge Ahmad Albaadani said 15 out of 25 elections contests were in court on Oct. 15 and they were brought to conclusion. Albaadani pointed out that the rest of contests will be vindicated this week. He confirmed that all verdicts go to the Supreme Commission of Elections and Referendum immediately.

## Sana'a

## Yemen, in international conference in Oslo

Oct. 17 — Yemen is taking part in the third conference involving transparency of strategic industries which has held in Oslo, capital of Norway. "The conference is very important as it discusses a transparency in dealing with oil industries," said Khaled Bahah, Oil and Minerals Minister. The initiative of transparency aimed at reducing corruption and improving sector of oil industries. Some representatives of promotion companies discussed investment in sea petroleum sector in Yemen.

## US offers US\$2 million to support health sector

Oct. 17 — The Minister of Public Health and Population, Abdulkarem Yahia Rasee, discussed on Monday with the Director of Health Development Partnership Project, funded by the US Agency for International Development, for the governorates of (Shabwa, Marab, Amam, Sadaa and Al-Jouf) the level of work in health projects in these governorates. The project offered cooperation to support and improve health information system in these governorates within two years by holding training programs for medical staff.

## Yemen partakes in Education Forum for Asia in China

Oct. 17 — Yemen is participating in Education Forum for Asia, which will be held in China during the period from 20 to 22 November. Mansour bin Safa, Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training, head of the Yemeni delegation to the forum, said that he would present a Yemeni experience in field of technical education and vocational training in the forum. He added that he would meet on sideline of the forum Chinese officials to discuss with them fields of the mutual cooperation between Yemen and China in vocational training. The participation is a chance to see activities of the technical and vocational corporations in China.

## Hajah

## Food price fixing leads to prosecution

Oct. 17 — The office of industry and commercial sent 36 persons to the public prosecution during Ramadan month for raising prices. The minister of industry and commercial ordered to make campaigns to the markets and supervise the prices and fix the right prices, according to Mohammed Al-Sofani, the manager of the industry and commercial's office said. The office of industry and commercial mention the citizens to notice if there are cheating cases.

## Aden

## Special entertaining tourism programs for Eid

Oct. 17 — The department of Moa'la's city port has prepared entertaining and tourism programs for Al-Fatr Eid included many trips in Aden's port. The trips will arrange on two shifts and about fifteen trips a day, the general manager of Al-Moa'la wharf's port stated. The activities of the programs aim to introduce and show the local and foreign tourists the famous tourism places in Aden.

## Coastguards arrest Djibouti citizen

Oct. 17 — An official source in the Yemeni Coastguards Authority in Aden Gulf Oct. 15 said that the authority has arrested Djiboutian-nationality person while he was sneaking in the commercial ship "Sam Al-Yemen" which sailed back from the port of Djibouti to Aden Port. The source said that the crew of the ship figured out that his presence in the ship after it had sailed from Djibouti and informed the coastguards. The investigations revealed the Djiboutian sneaked to Yemen seeking a job, pointing out that the procedures of expelling him back have been completed.

## Foreign Minister: Yemen needs wealth to qualify for GCC admission

SANA'A, Oct. 17 — Yemeni needs nearly US \$40 billion to qualify for admission to the Gulf Cooperation Council, said Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi this week.

Al-Qirbi added that over the next 10 years the government is going to maintain and increase its contributions for the US \$25 billion plan of qualifying its economy to join the bloc.

According to a recently designed strategy, the government is committed to contribute 65 percent of the US \$25 billion plan, of which US \$10 billion is expected to come from donors.

According to Al-Qirbi, Yemen's contribution to the plan during the coming five years will result in a budget deficit estimated of US \$10 billion.

"This is the budget for a five-year plan (2007 to 2011), which includes areas that will qualify the country's economy for its merger with the GCC economy, and this plan is based on an ambitious program to achieve an eco-

nomical growth of around 7.4 percent," the Minister explained.

In November the UK will host a two-day conference that will bring together donors from the United States, Japan and the European Union. The conference is due to discuss mechanisms necessary for Yemen's economic development and fighting corruption. Also, it is expected to discuss the five-year plan that is going to be presented by the government of Yemen, as well as the mechanism designed to achieve economic growth.

"The conference is due to concentrate on two points: Yemen's ambitious economic growth and the fact it has just come out from one of the most successful democratic elections in the region," an official stated.

The World Bank and the Yemeni government will co-chair the meetings which will be sponsored by the GCC countries.

Al-Qirbi mentioned that nuclear pro-

grams in Iran have no effect on Yemen joining the GCC. However, he expressed his desire for the Middle East, as a whole, be free of weapons of mass destruction, which meant Israel should also dismantle its nuclear weapons.

Within the 10-year plan for qualifying Yemen's economy for a complete merger with the GCC, Sana'a will also host an international conference in February to explore investment opportunities in the country. The minister said his government was focusing more on permanent investors rather than the "hit and run" ones.

Yemen is also hoping to meet the conditions of the Millennium Challenge Account, which last year refused to provide assistance because of shortcomings in Yemen's reform programs.

Democratization and freedom is also one of the indices, so the results of the recent elections will certainly reflect positively on Yemen, said Al-Qirbi.

## Republic of Turkey: 83 years of progress

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Oct. 19 — The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Sana'a will celebrate the 83rd anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Republic on Sunday, October 29th, on the Embassy premises. The National Day reception will be attended by Yemeni officials, members of the diplomatic corps, Turkish and Yemeni businessmen, media representatives and members of the Turkish community in Sana'a.

Yemen and Turkey enjoy friendly relations stemming from close historical and cultural ties. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries has been increasing continuously since respective embassies were opened in Sana'a and Ankara in 1988. Turkish Embassy officials state that relations between Yemen and Turkey are developing satisfactorily to the benefit of the brotherly peoples of both countries. Cooperation continues in many fields, ranging from international politics to cultural affairs. Numerous agreements and protocols have been signed in recent years covering economy and trade, energy, health, sports, higher education, national archives, transport and aviation, standardization, environment, tourism, security and the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking.

Yemeni students make use of scholarships offered by the Turkish Government to study in Turkey, and the establishment of a Turkish Language Department at Sana'a University is now in the planning stage. Yemeni businessmen engaged in trade with Turkish partners are of the opinion that Turkish industrial products are of good quality and that their prices are competitive.

The start of Turkish Airlines direct return flights from Istanbul to Sana'a in February 2006 has also greatly contributed to rising travel between the countries.

## Political relations:

In a press statement the Turkish Embassy in Yemen expressed its wishes to further develop its relations with Yemen in all areas, and Embassy officials believe that a huge potential exists for such increased cooperation. New bilateral agreements in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and maritime affairs are planned for the near future.

"Turkey welcomes the democratic and economic reforms achieved by Yemen after the nation's unification in 1990, and highly appreciates the Yemeni Government's poverty-eradication program as well as Yemen's efforts and cooperation with the international community in combating terrorism. Since 2004, Yemen, along with Turkey and Italy, is also a co-sponsor of the Democracy Assistance Dialogue of the G-8's Forum for the Future." Mr. Türel Özkara, Chief of Mission said.

A very successful third session of the Turkish-Yemeni Joint Committee, concerning trade, economic and technical cooperation, was concluded in Ankara in September 2005. It was followed in October of the same year by an official



Can't leave Yemen without buying some Henna for the ladies. Turkish businessmen tour the Old City, during their visit to Sana'a in July 2006.

visit to Sana'a of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who was accompanied by a trade delegation of 70 businessmen, as well as 26 journalists. The visit included the signing of an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation between the two countries, which is expected to be ratified soon by both sides. Furthermore, steps were taken between the business circles of the two countries to establish a Yemeni-Turkish Business Council that will commence its activities in the near future.

All these activities and cooperation have naturally given a boost to trade relations between Yemen and Turkey. The bilateral trade volume, which exceeded \$192 million in 2005, reached \$134 million in the first seven months of 2006 alone. Thus a marked increase in bilateral trade is expected for the whole of 2006. Turkish companies have signed major contracts in Yemen since the beginning of the year, in the fields of real estate development, fisheries, construction, oil and liquid natural gas.

## Eight decades of progress:

The Republic of Turkey is a secular, democratic republic founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1923. Surrounded by three seas and twelve neighboring states, Turkey is strategically situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. The country's physical and cultural role as a bridge between the two continents is also reflected in its international relations.

Guided by its founder Atatürk's dictum "peace at home, peace in the world", Turkey pursues a peaceful foreign policy with Western, Middle Eastern and Asian nations. It is a member of most international organizations including the Council of Europe, NATO and the OSCE as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference. A founding member of the United Nations, Turkey has contributed to the maintenance of international peace and stability for over fifty years by participating in UN-mandated peacekeeping missions across the globe.

For many years Turkey was an associate member of the European Union and is currently an accession candidate, having carried out comprehensive political and economic reforms in recent years. Accession negotiations with the aim of full EU membership were initiated in 2005 and are still ongoing. With a dynamic population of over 70 million, Turkey is one of the most populous countries in its region. It is also among the most industrialized. After its economy and its financial markets went through a process of liberalization in the 1980s, the private sector became the Turkish economy's driving force. Today, Turkey boasts the world's 19th largest economy, with a GDP of \$363 billion. The economy has registered a steady growth in recent years and the GDP growth rate for the year 2006 is expected to reach 5.5 percent. The most competitive Turkish economic sectors are textiles, the iron and steel industry, construction, industrial and agricultural machinery as well as the agro-industry. A wide range of products are manufactured in Turkey, from durable household products to electronics, automobiles and aircraft. At present, over 80 percent of Turkey's exports are industrial goods and 60 percent of its exports are directed towards European markets.

Turkey's geographic placement as a melting pot of civilizations over the millennia has endowed the country with a large number of historical and cultural treasures, including sites dating from the ancient Greek, Assyrian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods. The country also has beautiful beaches, fascinating landscapes, a rich culture and world-famous cuisine. Thus Turkey ranks among the nations with the highest tourism potentials and has become one of the world's most popular tourist destinations. 21.2 million foreign tourists visited Turkey in 2005, among them over 2000 Yemenis. The number of Yemeni citizens visiting Turkey for tourism or business purposes continues to increase with each passing year.

## Yemeni security hands over French reporter

SANA'A, Oct. 17 — Yemeni security released a French journalist who was arrested last week in Shabwa Governorate to the French embassy in Sana'a, according to Saba News Agency.

Saba reported from security source that Daniel Grandclement-Chaffy, a freelance journalist, was arrested on Thursday after he disembarked from a boat carrying refugees from Somalia.

A source in the French embassy confirmed the embassy has received the journalist saying "he will leave Yemen soon."

The Yemeni authorities accuse the journalist of entering Yemen illegally, although press reports here said he was in possession of a visa to enter the country.

"Even though he is a journalist, he has to enter Yemen by legal means," said Abdul-Rahman Hanash, security director of Shabwa.

Mohammed Shaher, deputy minister of information, confirmed that the Yemeni embassy in Paris has sent memo to the ministry informing the French journalist visit, however the

ministry asked for a date of the visit. He added that any foreign journalist with a television camera must get ministry permission before recording.

France's Foreign Ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei said Grandclement-Chaffy was working on a story about the refugees for television.

"Our compatriot is in good health, though he was tired from the journey," said Mattei. "We asked Yemeni authorities that our compatriot be allowed to return to France as soon as possible."

The Paris-based media freedom group Reporters Without Borders issued a press release in which it expressed its surprise saying they are "amazed by his arrest and prolonged detention."

"He is not a would-be immigrant and was aboard a boat carrying refugees purely in his professional capacity as a journalist. Furthermore, as the holder of a visa issued by the Yemeni authorities, he cannot be accused of entering the country illegally," the freedom group stated.

## Poll repeated in many voting centers

SANA'A, Oct. 18 — The Appeal Court in Lahj told the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum to repeat local council elections in one of the voting centers in Al-Had District, Yafe'e, within 60 days.

The main committee in the district and the supervisory committee in the governorate announced earlier that the local council candidate of Joint Meeting Parties at the governorate level, Ali Mohamed Saleh won 5034 votes, compared to 4734 votes for his closest rival.

The verdict was issued following a vote result challenge filed by the local council candidate of General People

Congress against the JMP candidate's victory.

The commission for elections is expected to call on Yemeni voters in 5 districts and 80 voting centers to revote in the complementary elections in these districts and centers where the poll process was suspended during the election.

The Election Law stipulates that complementary elections must be conducted in any voting centers or districts where the vote result was cancelled or the poll process suspended within three months following the date of cancelling the vote result.

## Continued from page 1

## Children

"Everyone has a role to play in this, but states must take the primary responsibility. That means prohibiting all kinds of violence against children, wherever it occurs and whoever is the perpetrator, and investing in prevention programs to address the underlying causes. People must be held accountable for their actions but a strong legal framework is not only about sanctions, it is about sending a robust, unequivocal signal that society just will not accept violence against children."

The study combines human rights, public health and child protection perspectives, focuses in five 'settings' where violence occurs: the home and family, schools and educational settings, institutions (care and judicial, the workplace and the community.

Extreme violence against children may hit the headlines but the study concludes that for many children, violence is routine, a part of their daily reality.

Although much violence remains hidden or unreported, and figures therefore often underestimate the scope of the problem, the statistics in the report reveal a startling picture.

In 2002, the World Health Organization estimated that 53,000 children under 17 died as a result of homicide. According to the International Labour Office's latest estimates, 5.7 million children were in forced or bonded labour, 1.8 million in prostitution and pornography, and 1.2 million were victims of trafficking in 2000.

In 16 developing countries reviewed by a Global School-Based Health Survey, the percentage of school-aged children that reported having been verbally or physically bullied at school in the previous 30 days ranged from 20 percent in some countries to as much as 65 percent in others. According to the study, children in detention are frequently subjected to violence by staff, including as a form of control or punishment, often for minor infractions. In 77 countries, corporal and other violent punishments are accepted as legal disciplinary measures in penal institutions.

Although the consequences may vary according to the nature and severity of the violence inflicted, the short- and long-term repercussions for children are very often grave and damaging. The physical, emotional and psychological scars of violence can have severe implications for a child's development, health and ability to learn.

Studies have shown that experiencing violence in childhood is strongly associated with health risk behaviours later in life such as smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, physical inactivity and obesity. In turn, these behaviours contribute to some of the leading causes of disease and death, including cancers, depression, suicide and cardiovascular disorders.

"No matter whether it occurs in the family, school, community, institution or workplace, health workers are the front line for responding to violence against children, says Dr. Anders Nordstrom, WHO Acting Director-General. "We must make our contribution to ensuring that such violence is prevented from occurring in the first place, and that where it does occur, children receive the best possible services to reduce its harmful effects. States should pursue evidence-based policies and programs which address factors that give rise to such violence, and ensure that resources are allocated to address its underlying causes and monitor the response to these efforts."

"Violence against children is a violation of their human rights, a disturbing reality of our societies," says Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. "It can never be justified whether for disciplinary reasons or cultural tradition. No such thing as a 'reasonable' level of violence is acceptable. Legalized violence against children in one context risks tolerance of violence against children generally."

"Violence has a lasting effect not just on children and their families, but also on communities and nations," says UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman. "We welcome this comprehensive study on the impact of violence against children."

The report to the General Assembly calls for a wide range of actions to be taken to prevent and respond to violence against children across all the settings where it occurs. Twelve overarching recommendations address areas such as national strategies and systems, data collection and ensuring accountability.

At a global level, the report calls for the appointment of a Social Representative on Violence against children, with an initial mandate of four years, to act as a high-profile global advocate to promote prevention and elimination of all violence against children and to encourage cooperation and follow-up.



# Troops will be in Afghanistan for next 20 years, says commander

By Kim Sengupta

Afghanistan — 18 October (Herald Tribune) The commander of the British forces returning from Helmand said that his forces were having to make up for the time lost by the decision of the US and UK to invade Iraq instead of concentrating on post-Taliban Afghanistan.

"We could have carried on in 2002 in the same way we have gone about business now," said Brigadier Ed Butler. "Have the interim four years made a difference? I think realistically they have. It doesn't mean that we will not achieve what we set out to do."

Stressing that he was speaking from a strictly UK perspective, and not for the international community, Brigadier Butler added: "So have we slipped back? I don't think we have slipped back, we may have marked time and I think we are starting to make up for that time."

Brigadier Butler continued that an international presence may be required in Afghanistan for the next 20 years, but he did not specify how long the British forces would have to remain.

Brigadier Butler, who heads the 3 Para Battle Group, has just handed over command in Afghanistan. He disclosed that his troops had come close to run-

ning out of supplies. "It got pretty close. We never actually ran out but that was the nature of the conflict. The guys were not starving but people were down to their belt rations," he said.

"I think we might have been surprised on occasion how persistent the attacks were and how enduring the scale of the operation was. I think some may have underestimated the tenacity and ferocity of the Taliban."

The Brigadier's comments came as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime called for Western troops in Afghanistan to attack opium traders, saying the drugs situation there is "out of control".

Opium cultivation rose by 59 per cent this year, according to the UN's figures, to an all-time record of 165,000 hectares.

That leaves a country that is practically run by the West supplying 92 per cent of the world's opium - much of which ends up as heroin.

The UN agency's remarks are stark news for Britain, which at one time was in charge of reducing opium production in Afghanistan.

Around 90 per cent of heroin on British streets comes from Afghanistan.

In the same period of time, opium cultivation in south-east Asia's "Golden Triangle" of Burma, Laos and

Thailand, the other major source, fell by 29 per cent.

"You can say that Afghanistan is pretty much out of control," Preeta Bannerjee, a spokeswoman for UNODC said. "Afghanistan is practically... supplying the world's opium. There's also evidence that the country is increasingly hooked on its own opium."

The UN agency is calling for Nato troops and their Afghan allies to attack heroin labs, opium markets and convoys transporting the drug, Ms Bannerjee said yesterday.

But the agency's warning will come as a surprise to no one in Afghanistan, where Western troops already know the opium trade is out of control.

Around 2.9m Afghans are involved in growing opium - 12.6 per cent of the total population - according to the UN's own figures.

Most of those are farmers who scrape only a subsistence living from the opium crop. The majority of the \$3bn revenue from the opium industry goes to the warlords who still control it - and to the Taliban, according to UNODC.

The agency warned yesterday that the Taliban are funding their campaign against British and other Nato troops from the opium trade, buying raw

opium from farmers and selling it on at a profit.

The commander of the British forces returning from Helmand said that his forces were having to make up for the time lost by the decision of the US and UK to invade Iraq instead of concentrating on post-Taliban Afghanistan.

"We could have carried on in 2002 in the same way we have gone about business now," said Brigadier Ed Butler. "Have the interim four years made a difference? I think realistically they have. It doesn't mean that we will not achieve what we set out to do."

Stressing that he was speaking from a strictly UK perspective, and not for the international community, Brigadier Butler added: "So have we slipped back? I don't think we have slipped back, we may have marked time and I think we are starting to make up for that time."

Brigadier Butler continued that an international presence may be required in Afghanistan for the next 20 years, but he did not specify how long the British forces would have to remain.

Brigadier Butler, who heads the 3 Para Battle Group, has just handed over command in Afghanistan. He disclosed that his troops had come close to running out of supplies. "It got pretty close. We never actually ran out but

that was the nature of the conflict. The guys were not starving but people were down to their belt rations," he said.

"I think we might have been surprised on occasion how persistent the attacks were and how enduring the scale of the operation was. I think some may have underestimated the tenacity and ferocity of the Taliban."

The Brigadier's comments came as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime called for Western troops in Afghanistan to attack opium traders, saying the drugs situation there is "out of control".

Opium cultivation rose by 59 per cent this year, according to the UN's figures, to an all-time record of 165,000 hectares.

That leaves a country that is practically run by the West supplying 92 per cent of the world's opium - much of which ends up as heroin.

The UN agency's remarks are stark news for Britain, which at one time was in charge of reducing opium production in Afghanistan.

Around 90 per cent of heroin on British streets comes from Afghanistan.

In the same period of time, opium cultivation in south-east Asia's "Golden Triangle" of Burma, Laos and Thailand, the other major source, fell by 29 per cent.

"You can say that Afghanistan is pretty much out of control," Preeta Bannerjee, a spokeswoman for UNODC said. "Afghanistan is practically... supplying the world's opium. There's also evidence that the country is increasingly hooked on its own opium."

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## Two dead as rebels attack Sri Lankan port

COLOMBO, Oct. 18th (AFP) - Suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bombers disguised as fishermen infiltrated a Sri Lankan port on Wednesday, destroying three gunboats and killing at least two people, officials said.

The attack on the southern port of Galle -- a popular destination with foreign tourists -- came as foreign envoys pushed for the Colombo government and the rebel Tigers to hold peace talks later this month.

Defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella said the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) broke through defences and barged into Galle, the country's third-largest city which is home to the navy's main southern base.

At least 20 people were wounded in the raid, in which the attackers entered the harbour in at least five boats. There was no immediate word on the number of attackers or the type of boats used.

"Obviously they have come to Galle on a suicide mission," Rambukwella told AFP. "There was no damage to merchant shipping."

The attack came two days after a huge suicide bombing against a naval convoy northeast of Colombo killed at least 103 people and wounded 150. The government blamed the Tigers, who neither confirmed nor denied it.

Meanwhile, peace envoys from Japan and Norway were in the south Asian country to try to convince the two sides to attend peace talks scheduled for later this month aimed at restoring a 2002 truce.

Japan's Yasushi Akashi arrived here Sunday while Norway's peacebroker Jon Hanssen-Bauer arrived on Tuesday to attempt to prepare an agenda for talks the two sides agreed to hold on October 28-29 in Switzerland.

In Galle, police said the Tigers used a flotilla of five boats to enter the port. Three explosives-packed boats rammed against navy gunboats anchored in the harbour, one was destroyed by naval fire and the fifth was unaccounted for.

There was no immediate indication of rebel casualties, but police took two

dead bodies to hospital, an official said, as the fighting was underway.

Police slapped a curfew on Galle, 110 kilometers (70 miles) south of Colombo to prevent majority Sinhalese mobs attacking minority Tamils following the Tiger attack, police said.

Police used loudspeakers to ask residents to leave their homes near the port and the historic Galle Fort area, a UNESCO heritage site.

The city got its name from a Portuguese fleet that landed there in 1505.

Rambukwella said the military sent gunboats into Galle to counter the LTTE attack. The military maintains a base in the area and ammunition depots in Galle harbour, which is also used by commercial shipping companies.

Residents in Galle said at least 10 explosions were heard and there was also gunfire in the area.

Sri Lanka's military has used Galle harbour to import arms and ammunition for security forces following threats to the bigger port of Colombo, which is a container hub for South Asia.

Rambukwella said he believed the Tigers chose to attack Galle, in the heartland of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority, to provoke bad feelings against minority Tamils.

"It looks like they are keen to create a backlash," Rambukwella said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Tigers, who in December 1997 detonated a truck bomb near the port in Galle, targeting the navy commander at the time.

In recent months, the military has discovered large quantities of explosives allegedly transported by the Tigers from the island's north to other areas.

Rambukwella said several other consignments of explosives may have gone undetected and that the Tigers could be using them in the island's south to stage more attacks.

The three decades of ethnic bloodshed in the tropical island nation has claimed over 60,000 lives.

## Two Palestinians killed

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) Oct 18 — The Israeli army pushed into southern Gaza before dawn Wednesday, killing two Palestinian militants, the army and Palestinians reported.

Israeli soldiers killed the two men as they approached army positions in Rafah, on the Gaza Strip's border with Egypt, an army spokesman said.

Palestinian security officials said Israeli infantry and tanks moved into Rafah before dawn Wednesday and took over a swath of the Gaza-Egypt border, including the Rafah border terminal. Troops carried out house-

to-house searches and bulldozers levelled agricultural land near the border, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

The army spokesman said the Israeli operation Wednesday was part of an ongoing push to uncover tunnels used by Palestinian militants to smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip from Egypt. Israel has charged that militants have smuggled large quantities of weapons over the border since Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza last summer.

By Sue Fleming and Chisa Fujioka

TOKYO Oct 18(Reuters) — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice sought on Wednesday on a whistle-stop tour of the region to ensure North Asian powers were committed to a unified stance on U.N. sanctions following North Korea's nuclear test.

Rice arrived in Tokyo for talks with the Japanese foreign and defense ministers as intelligence experts warned a second nuclear test was likely following an increase in activity at the site of North Korea's test on October 9.

"When there is a change in the threat environment, which I think you can certainly consider the North Korean test to be, it is first and foremost important to talk to your allies and reaffirm alliance commitments," Rice told reporters on the plane.

Despite the widespread outrage and sanctions after the first test, Pyongyang remained defiant saying it had withstood international pressure before and was hardly likely to yield now it had become a nuclear power.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il made his first public appearance since the test in Pyongyang on Tuesday night at a massive choreographed sound and light extravaganza to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the "Down with Imperialism Union", a precursor to the ruling Communist Workers Party.

Kim listened enthusiastically to a concert where songs such as "Love of Comrades" and "Always looking up to

the Leader" were performed, the official KCNA news agency said.

U.S. officials said North Korea had moved equipment into a place that may indicate it plans a second nuclear test. NBC television quoted officials as saying the North's military had already informed China.

But South Korea said it was not aware of an imminent test.

"As we understand it, China has not received such a notice. We understand the North has not given notice of such a plan," South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Lee Kyu-hyung told reporters.

### Diplomatic campaign

Rice arrives in Asia as the Bush administration begins a diplomatic campaign to rally international support for sanctions agreed on Saturday. After Japan, she goes to South Korea on Thursday and Beijing on Friday.

Her biggest challenge will be to get firm assurances from China, worried over the possible collapse of its neighbor, that it will follow through diligently on the U.N. resolution.

But the overseas edition of the People's Daily -- the mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party -- said the North Korean test had "touched China's warning-line," adding that it had increased the common interest among Beijing, Washington, Tokyo and Seoul.

In the analysis, the paper also said China could cut off vital food and fuel aid to North Korea if Pyongyang continues to escalate the situation.

Rice said her mission was intended in part to reassure South Korea and Japan they had no need to develop a nuclear deterrent of their own in response to the North's weapons program.

"I don't see how it helps the situation. The Japanese have made clear that it is not the course they are on."

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso said on Wednesday there was nothing wrong with Tokyo discussing whether the country should possess nuclear weapons, but he stressed that Tokyo would stick to its decades-old policy of not going nuclear.

"When a country next to us comes to have (nuclear weapons), we can't consider, we can't talk, we can't do anything and we can't exchange opinions. That's one way of thinking," Aso told a lower house panel on foreign affairs. "I believe it is important to have various discussions on it as one more way of thinking."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said repeatedly this week that Japan, the only country to suffer an atomic bombing, would not change its nuclear arms policy.

White House spokesman Tony Snow said Washington would not be surprised by a second North Korean



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrives at Tokyo's Haneda airport October 18, 2006. REUTERS/Yuriko Nakao

blast meant to test the will of the United Nations and the countries -- the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Russia -- engaged in long-stalled talks with Pyongyang about its nuclear ambitions.

"The North Koreans have made no secret of their desire to be provocative," he said in Washington.

The U.S. government has confirmed the underground blast in the northeast of North Korea was a nuclear explosion.

## U.S. troops patrol town battered by violence

BAGHDAD Oct 17 (AP) — U.S. forces were back patrolling the streets of the predominantly Shiite town of Balad on Tuesday after five days of sectarian violence in which nearly 100 died. Iraq's 4th Army had been unable to stem sectarian violence since taking full control of Salahuddin Province a month ago.

Forty mortar rounds had poured into the city overnight and into the morning, killing at least four more people and bringing the death toll in the Sunni-Shiite warfare to at least 95.

The Sunnis, a minority that absorbed most of the brutality in Balad, were fleeing across the Tigris River in small boats, the Balad police

commander, Brigadier Nebil al-Beldawi, said. On the outskirts of the city two fuel trucks were attacked and burned.

The commander said gunmen wearing black uniforms, trademark clothing of Shiite militiamen, had clashed with residents of Duluyia, the predominantly Sunni Muslim city on the east bank of the Tigris, opposite Balad. Beldawi said the militants were keeping food and fuel trucks from entering Duluyia.

The conflict between Shiites and Sunnis in the Balad area stands out as a marker of the first known extended battle in a confined region between members of the two Muslim sects. It

would also portend heavy fighting for the region should the country move toward dividing into three federal states - one each controlled by Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds.

Regions like Baghdad and areas immediately to the north, including Balad, are deeply mixed between Shiites and Sunnis.

Both groups would be expected to fight hard to maintain control of their territory, especially the capital.


Across Iraq on Tuesday 36 other people were killed in attacks and 16 more corpses were found in the capital, hands and legs bound and showing signs of torture, the police reported.

Iraqi officials, particularly Prime


Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, are under intense pressure to disband Shiite militias - believed responsible for most of the killings in Balad and heavy involvement in violence elsewhere.

The armed fighters, allied to Shiite political groups, are widely believed to have infiltrated the Shiite-dominated police and security forces or to be allowed freedom to attack Sunni Muslims without fear of arrest or interference. In apparent response to that pressure, the Interior Ministry, which runs the Iraqi police, removed two officers in charge of commando units as part of a restructuring plan announced last week.



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# The significance of the Holy Month in Hadramout

By Saeed Al-Batati, Mukalla  
Albatati88@yahoo.com  
& Hassan Ba-Udan, Tarim

the Almighty  
May He bring it back on you and us

In addition to the rituals during Ramadan, certain traditions have been practiced for centuries in Hadramout, which make the Holy Month significant. A long time ago, Hadrami people adapted certain institutions related to the rituals of Ramadan. As the crescent of the Holy Month of Ramadan is seen and the news of the onset of Ramadan becomes widely known, a feeling of happiness and rejoicing penetrate the hearts of people.

## Preparations before Ramadan

Halfway through the preceding month, people in Hadramout Valley begin attending mosque more regularly to welcome the Holy month. Imams remind the worshippers of the qualities of Ramadan and how the Prophet and his companions prepared themselves spiritually to welcome Ramadan. They ask people to embrace the month with good deeds. Consequently, the spiritual sermons increase keep people on pins and needles as they await the month they hold so dear.

People carpet mosques, scrub them out and ensure the availability of sufficient copies of the Quran. They prepare mosques to absorb the rush of the month. Full of hope, seeing a good omen, they chant in chorus repeatedly:

*Oh Fasters, welcome the month of*

On the other hand, the housewives start inspecting their houses to make sure all Ramadan items; dates; flour, soup are in the store of the house.

People also welcome Ramadan by buying dates for Ramadan month and the rest of the year. The process of dealing with dates is unique. They remove the seeds from dates using knives or their teeth, then they are put in the sun after washing them thoroughly. When the dates get very hot, they start to tread with their legs until they become soft. Finally, they are kept in jars.

## Commencement of Ramadan

The first night of the month is a distinguished one. As the sun sets, all people – especially in rural areas – turn their eyes to the western horizons in an attempt to spot the crescent of Ramadan. They are lucky to observe it and sometimes TVs or the radios are used as a way to bring in the glad tidings. In some villages of Wadi Hadramout, once people get the news of Ramadan, they welcome it by shooting bullets in the air and illuminating the mosques later filled with worshippers. After leaving mosque they congratulate one another and send greetings to loved ones for the great occasion.

In Hadramout manual workers such bricklayers, plumbers, and electricians get rest from work during Ramadan. They apply themselves exclusively with reciting the Quran, and doing other personal work. For example, in Tarim, Sayun and Doan,



Ramadan delicacies are found in every market.

Ramadan is a time for farmers to clean up their palm trees. People also paint their mud-made houses.

Another tradition to breaking fast in Hadramout during Ramadan is the collective breaking of fast - tafateer. Following the third night of Ramadan, families invite their relatives and neighbors to have Iftar in their houses. Hence, many gatherings between families, friends or colleagues take place for Tafateer. Moreover, it becomes an annual convention for a certain family to host its relatives at a certain time of the month. In the same night, people gather in their neighborhood mosques to celebrate Khatam (completing reading of the Quran).

Two or three years ago, it was the habit for people to hear the sound of the Iftar canon blaring throughout the big cities in Hadramout like Mukalla, Sayun and Tarim to announce end of the daily fast. However, this habit came to a halt nowadays because people complained that the loud shot of the canon shakes the clay-built houses.

The only feature that might not be found in other cities except in Tarim is the possibility of praying the Attaraweh prayer at any time from the night. That is because of the large number of mosques.

Religious lectures are held at many

mosques after Al-Aser prayers every day and last for one hour and half maximum.

To wake up families so as to prepare Sahur, the Musaharati walks down the streets before the dawn banging his drum. The Musaharati is not given a fixed salary but he receives donations including money and Zakat from the people in the area.

## The Month of munificence

Well-known philanthropists in Saudi Arabia, especially those originally from Hadramout, become more generous in this month. Millions of riyals flood to their relatives and the needy. Ali bin Afif, the deputy chief of Bin Afif Exchange Corporation in Doan, said some of the wealthy beneficent people overseas postpone their Zakat and donations on purpose to coincide with Ramadan in order to get multiplied rewards from Allah.

"In the period from twentieth of preceding month to twentieth of Ramadan, millions of riyals are remitted from Saudi Arabia. The money is doled out to the next of kin of the donators and the poor," he said.

These millions made it easy for everyone to buy Ramadan's paraphernalia which was a headache for a lot of low income families.

## Ramadan then

Yaslim Abdullah is now in his sixties, but he remembers vividly Ramadan of his younger days.

"People observe the crescent of Ramadan in Sheher and telegraph the news to the other places and I will never forget the day in which we fasted Eid day unknowingly. Things were not as easy as they are today," he recalled.

According to Abu Faisal the old days were different as their hearts were very good and the life had a special flavor missing in today's life.

"In the past, in spite of its scarcity, food had a marvelous relish. But meat, bread and date of today are tasteless," he said.

Iftar without dates is not Iftar for Yaslim and this year crop of dates is the worst in his living memory because of the Dubas epidemic – an epidemic causing damage to palm trees.

"Dates are the backbone of Iftar.

I'm now in my 60's and it is the first time in my life I see our houses without dates. We used to store dates, and give them as gifts to other people," he explained.

Although the markets are swept full the Saudi dates Abu Faisal thinks the local dates are "irreplaceable."

When Ramadan would come in the summertime, even though the weather was harsh, people used to work in hard-labor jobs such as ploughing with oxen and donkeys.

Women also worked shoulder to shoulder with men during those times. Aum Saleh, 79, said when she was younger, she used to wake up early morning. The women's business was to bring water from the source.

"In the early hours of the day, I carried my Qarabah (water container made of the goats' skin) sixty minutes walking to the nearest water spring in the area and we carrying it back," she remembers.

## Ramadan and children

Since Ramadan is considered to be the most joyful month of the whole

year, children also have their share of fun. They confirm their exhilaration of the advent of this month by repeating some chants while playing. They, for example, say in chorus "Ramadan came we welcome it. It brought the dinner in its bag." During Ramadan days, children, especially girls, gather near mosques after Al-Aser prayer till the dusk. They enjoy their time playing cards and other games and bring water bottles with them. After eating dates, they go home repeating some chants in chorus such as "Oh, my grandmother, stand up and pray, the prayer of the the cock cries and the dog barks." Another activity practiced by children is on the days of mosque, which celebrate completion of Quran recitation; they wander from one house to another where they are given money or sweets and cookies.

## Seculsion

In order to seek "The Night of Power which is a night of blessings Allah



People feel happy with the advent of Ramadan.

has blessed this Night" and practice Prophet Muhammad's actions during Ramadan, groups of people spend the last ten days of Ramadan in the mosque, and this is called seclusion. They give all their time to performing various forms of worship to feel closer to Allah, such as performing extra prayers or reciting the Quran. During seclusion people are not permitted to go outside the mosque except for emergencies, they sleep and cook in the mosques.



Groups of people spend the last ten days of Ramadan in the mosque, and this is called seclusion.

## Ramadan in Germany

# A Time for Spiritual Reflection and Self-Restraint

During Ramadan many worshippers attend special services in Mosques where the Qur'an is read and they also celebrate the so called "Iftar" – when they break their fast at sunset. Arian Fariborz witnessed one Iftar ceremony in the German city of Cologne.

An anxious, reflective atmosphere prevails inside the large Ramadan tent of the "Turkish Directorate for Religious Affairs" in the Cologne neighborhood of Ehrenfeld. At 7:30 p.m., the Muezzin's call ends the day's fast.

Around 500 Muslims are gathered on long benches; the room is filled to capacity, and decorated with colorful balloons of black, red and gold and with the Turkish crescent moon.



The Muslim holy month of Ramadan is a time for self-discipline and generosity, prayer and spending time with family and friends

Together, the faithful recite a short prayer before beginning the so-called "Iftar," or breaking of the fast.

Dr. Ismail Altintas is a theological instructor from the Turkish Directorate for Religious Affairs, known also by the acronym for its Turkish name, DITIB. Altintas says that the holy month of Ramadan is the most important time for Muslims:

"It is crucial to our religious belief. Before Ramadan, we prepare ourselves mentally and physically. A

lot of people come to pray after the breaking of the fast. Both men and women hear the recitation from the Koran, which is also very important. During the entire month, the Imam reads aloud from the Koran. One section of 20 pages each day."

## The socioeconomic aspect of Ramadan

With about 130,000 members DITIB it is one of the largest Islamic associations in Germany. Dr. Altintas explains that one of the fundamental aspects of Ramadan is to strengthen the sense of community amongst Muslims: According to him, fasting brings together young and old, rich and poor, the healthy and the sick. Above all, it is meant to convey charity toward those who often have to suffer from hunger.

"Actually, the socioeconomic and socio-psychological aspects are very important," Altintas says. "When we feel hungry during Ramadan, we remember poor people. When we go through life on an empty stomach, we look inside ourselves and spend more time thinking about our faith and our tradition. Islam stresses justice. During Ramadan, we have a greater chance of helping the needy. Whoever needs to come is welcome here – whether he is poor or rich."

Dr. Altintas says that especially during Ramadan no distinction between Orthodox Muslims and Shiite Muslims exists: "Theology is another story, but during Ramadan we all have the same feelings."

In order to supply an average of 500 to 600 free meals to Muslims each day, the DITIB relies on membership dues and donations from large Muslim companies in Germany.

## Differences in the Muslim world

But what is the difference between Ramadan as it is celebrated in Germany as compared to the Islamic world? Are there any differences at all? Bekir Alboga, the DITIB's representative for dialogue, has experienced the differences firsthand, and says: "For example, here no one goes through the streets in the middle of the night, drumming and calling out to Muslims: 'Get up! It is time to eat breakfast before the dawn. Soon your day of fasting will begin!' Out of respect, we don't do that here."

Another example is the cannon fire that always rings out in Islamic lands so that the people know it is time to begin with the breaking of the fast, Alboga explains:

"That was one of the most wonderful experiences of my childhood: We would always go onto the roof of our house and wait there expectantly. First we saw the light and then we heard the sound of the cannon. Every now and then we think about what might happen if we also did that in Cologne. What would people think of it? In addition, we don't hear the call to prayer from the minaret. These are all things we miss in Germany. And I hope that one day,



Many Muslims break the fast at the mosque. Mevlana Mosque in Constance, Germany (AP).

with the maturation of German democracy, in addition to our identity we will also be allowed to introduce some of these elements in order to enrich the culture in Germany."

Nevertheless, DITIB members in Cologne are quite pleased that the Ramadan events have become increasingly popular over the last three years – with Muslims as well as with interested guests from other religions – despite certain boundaries in the way the respective religions are practiced.

Dr. Ismail Altintas sees it this way: "I don't feel as if I'm part of the Diaspora here. I feel a close tie to my hometown. The Turkish people have been living in Germany for 40 years now, and we are grateful to this nation, the Federal Republic of Germany, for giving us so many opportunities to observe our tradition and practice our religion."

Arian Fariborz  
Translation from the German by  
Mark Rossman  
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سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيدة بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنها فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

المعزون:

أ / نادية عبدالعزيز السقاف

رئيس مجلس الإدارة ورئيس التحرير مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

أ / خير الدين محمد النسور

نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

وكافة طاقم ومنتسبي مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

((وبش الصابرين الذين اذا اصابهم مصيبة قالوا انا لله وانا اليه راجعون))

سبح الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة

**للأستاذة الدكتورة / وهيبة فارح**

عميدة المعهد الوطني للعلوم الادارية

لوفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى

**والدتها الفاضلة**

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيدة بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنها فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

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نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

وكافة طاقم ومنتسبي مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر



# Yemen signs an agreement for exploiting the mineral wealth



Singing an agreement involving the exploitation and development of zinc, lead, and silver between Geological survey Authority and Jabal Sulb Company (Yemen).

The minister of Oil and Minerals said the project is a good start and an embodiment for Yemen's attempt to attract mineral investments.

Dr. Ismail al-Janad said it is the first mineral project in Yemen and it will draw further investments to minerals field.

Mr. Bright James, the company's general manager said, "We have been working on this project since 2000. It is a giant project that will serve Yemen."

Economic observers considered the agreement signed between Ministry of Oil, represented in Geological Survey Authority and Jabal Sulb Company Ltd., represented in the British Company Zincox, Yemeni Man Company and the American Anglo-American Company, an important economic step and believed it opens new horizons for investments in Minerals Field.

The agreement, involving the exploitation and development of zinc, lead, and silver in Nihm district, Sana'a governorate, was sponsored by his Excellency, Khalid Bahah, Minister of Oil.

Such a contract is the first of its type and it's an assured start for setting up and implementing fundamental investments involving minerals, particularly when this tendency was approved of by the cabinet.

Bahah described the signed

agreement as a good investment project and a practical start that would qualify Yemen to let in minerals sector.

"We are, via such investments, looking forward to exploiting the mineral wealth available in our country," noted Bahah and further assured these achievements and programs embodying the tendencies of the political leadership, aiming to activate the minerals sector and make it participate in enhancing and reaching the desired economic development.

For his part, Ismail al-Janad, head of Geological survey Authority, assured that the agreement involving the exploitation of zinc, lead and silver by Jabal Sulb Company is the first mineral project in Yemen.

Jabal Sulb Company's general manager declared that his company has been working on this project since 2000, making numerous unsuccessful tests; however, the company managed to treat the crude using chemical washing (LTC), and resulting in Zinc extraction at 80 percent.

He further indicated his company, compared with other companies, succeeded in separating the crude after conducting a number of industrial experiments as it exists in a complex way (carbonated).

#### The project will try to develop:

- Infrastructure and provide the project's locality with social services.
- Transferring mining technology and making use of it in extracting gold.
- Securing a continuous flow of hard currency.

The contract was signed by Khalid

Bahah, Minister of Oil, and Dr. Ismail al-Janad, from Geological Survey Authority and Bright James and Hayel Abulhaq from the Jabal Sulb Company.

#### The capital costs

A feasibility study estimated the total capital costs at \$120 million and the company delegated international financing institution to secure the loans required for the project.

#### The project's advantages

The advantages Yemen will get out of this project over 12 years according to the feasibility study:

- Directly providing jobs to 370 employees, let alone the extra jobs linked with such an activity like port services, medical services, road and transport services.
- Training and qualifying Yemeni employees to engage 95 percent after years from the project' establishment. The company also assigned \$950.000 for this sake of training while operating the mine.
- Financing the training of Geological Survey Authority's cadre.
- Transferring technology of mining and treatment to Yemen, which could be useful in the future to extract gold.
- Developing the infrastructure in the project's locality and further providing social services like water, electricity, roads, education and health centers.
- Providing job opportunities to local contractors during the project's setting up as well as transport.
- Securing a continuous flow of hard currency.

We send our warmest congratulations  
to the pioneer of modern Yemen  
and the reason for its current success,

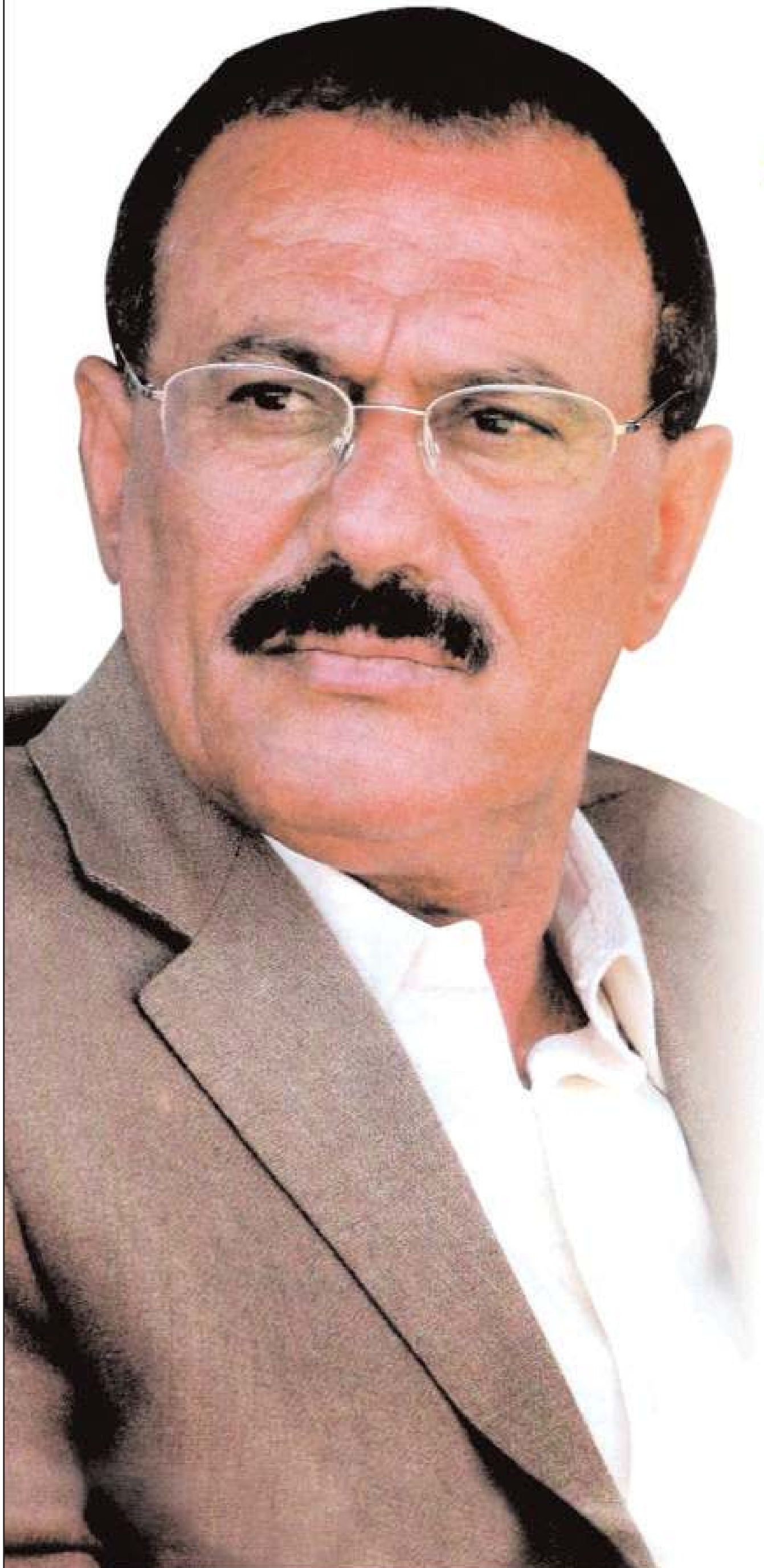
**H.E. President  
Ali Abdullah Saleh**

On the occasion of his re-election  
as **President of Yemen**  
and on the commemoration  
of the 44th anniversary  
of the 26th September revolution  
and the holy month of Ramadan.

**Many Happy Returns  
and wishing Yemen  
and its wise leadership more  
achievements and prosperity.**

Mr. Mukesh Ambani  
Chairman & Managing Director

  
**Reliance**  
Industries Limited  
Growth is Life





تقدم بأجمل التهانى والتبركات لأحد

**شرف حمود القاسمي**

بمناسبة الزفاف الطيبين  
فألف الله ببروكة

الإمام حمود القاسمي - بسام أحمد السقايف - علي حمود القاسمي - أحمد زيد شرف الدين - وكل الأهل والأصدقاء

تقدم بأجمل التهانى والتبركات مثله بغير مثله  
والياسمين المنجود بأصدة الأعيان وحيات  
الرحمة بسيرة الأسماء

**إسماء علي المسني**

بمناسبة الزفاف الطيبين وبالرفاء والبركة  
فألف الله ببروكة

عزات صفيحة نون قادمز - محلات السلطان عنهم هاني السلطان - جمال عبد الناصر وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

تهانينا بالتفوق

أجمل التهانى وأحر التبركات للطالبة المتفوقة

**عائشة الحارثي**

بمناسبة التفوق والتفوق مع الثانوية العامة  
في قسم علمي - بنسبة  
**91,73%**

تتم تهنيتنا بمرام التفوق والجدال  
المهنتون

عاطفتك وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION  
HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT (HRSP) CREDIT 3625  
CREDIT ADMINISTRATION UNIT (CAU)**

**Announcing Vacancy National Consultancy on Development of  
monitoring and Evaluation System for Integrated Management of  
Childhood illnesses (IMCI) in Yemen**

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) within Ministry of Public Health and Population intends to hire an individual Consultancy who will be contracted to carry out the following tasks:

**Tasks for the Consultant**

The Consultant will:

- Review existing filled data collection forms related to IMCI or child health (e.g. IMCI registry at health facility, follow-up check list) to determine what kind of M&E indicators are being collected and to assess quality of these data.
- Review the list of the IMCI &E indicators recommended by the interagency working group on IMCI Monitoring and Evaluation to assess if they can be adapted to the Yemeni context.
- Prepare the list of M&E indicators and data collection procedure to assess their progress in scaling up the IMCI strategy in the targeted districts.
- Facilitate a workshop to build a consensus on the suggested set of the M&E indicators and revise them according to the received comments.
- Implement a capacity building workshop to share the final products outline for trainings on the M&E system for the IMCI and provide technical guidance to the staff in the CHD.
- Coordinate with the on-going development of the health management information system that is expected to integrate the M&E system for the IMCI in near future.

**Methodology**

- Desk review on the existing routine data collection forms and the quality of analyzed data
- Discussions with Child Health Directorate of the MOPHP, the department of Information/Research, the General Director of Family Health, the Deputy Minister of Primary Health Care, and PHR plus
- Field visits to discuss with health workers in health facilities that are providing IMCI, district/governorate health officials who collect and analyze data on IMCI or child health.
- Meet community communicators trained on IMCI.

**Expected Deliverable**

- A report on a list of M&E indicators, data collection procedures, and suggestions for data collection forms, assessment of the existing M&E capacity at different levels and recommendations for the capacity improvement.
- Facilitation of a consensus building workshop on the M&E indicators for the IMCI in Yemen.
- Facilitation of a capacity building workshop with the CHD staff to share the final products.
- A trainings on M&E system for the IMCI in Yemen.

**Qualification of the Consultant**

- Strong background in Public Health.
- In-depth knowledge on epidemiology, biostatistics, IMCI (or child health) and health management information system,
- Experience of the similar type of assignment in the Middle East or North African countries,
- Native Arabic speaker or very fluent in Arabic

Applications with CV's and copies of supporting documents should be submitted to the CAU within ten days of the advertisement of this post to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a Tel:00 967 1 252224 Fax: 00 967 1 251622

قرض السيارة

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- مبلغ التمويل لغاية 6 مليون ريال بمشي للجديد و 4 مليون ريال للمستعمل
- سعر فائدة مناسب
- شروط تمويل سهلة وبسيطة في الاجراءات
- إمكانية تمويل سياراتين
- إمكانية تأجيل قسط بعد دفع 6 أقساط متتالية

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• صنعاء - شارع الزبير - هاتف: 3333001	• عدن - شارع مريم - هاتف: 3333001	• العديدة - شارع صنعاء - هاتف: 3333001
• صنعاء - شارع صنعاء - هاتف: 3333001	• صنعاء - شارع صنعاء - هاتف: 3333001	• صنعاء - شارع صنعاء - هاتف: 3333001
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فروع محافظة تعز :  
• تعز - شارع صنعاء - هاتف: 3333001

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**Republic of Yemen  
Public Works Project  
Procurement of School Furniture  
IFB NO:GIDA-3/PWP3  
Credit No.3859**

1. The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Public Works Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Procurement of School Furniture.

2. The Public Works Project now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply and installation of school Furniture to the school site as per the distribution list included under Section VI.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.5

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Public works Project and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below:  
**2nd turning on left of 20m Rd west 60m Rd,  
Telephone: 407354/407358, facsimile: 407353  
e-Mail: pwp-yem@y.net.ye  
P.O.Box: 18316 Sana'a-Yemen**

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English maybe purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee YR 10.000

6. Bids must be delivered to the address above at of before 11:00 on 3/12/2006. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of US\$ 7,500 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency valid for 120 days. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above.



# Yemen's nervous balancing act

Ali Abdullah Saleh recently won Yemen's first open presidential election with 77% of the vote. He has already been president for 28 years. The continuation of the precarious balance that he has maintained since 9/11 has its dangers, notes Laurent Bonnefoy.

By: Laurent Bonnefoy

In a remote village in the south of Yemen, a car proudly displays two images on its windscreen. One shows the country's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has enlisted alongside the United States in the 'war on terror'; the other is of Osama bin Laden. These contradictory loyalties are not simply the sign of duplicity that many foreign observers angrily take them for, they are also a reflection of the government's ability to maintain stability by not alienating an Islamist opposition that many in the country regard as legitimate. This policy has demonstrably succeeded: Yemen has not suffered a serious attack since 2001.

Individual Yemenis are less concerned about terrorist violence than about economic and social issues, the progressive exhaustion of the country's meagre oil reserves, the corrosive effects of the current government's prolonged exercise of power, and the damaging local effects of the international community's obsession with security.

After 9/11, the Yemeni government - anxious not to repeat the mistakes that, during the first Gulf war of 1990-91, led to its ostracism by the western nations and some Arab states - took the decision to cooperate in the war on terror. The October 2000 attack on the American warship, USS Cole, in the port of Aden, and the obstacles put in the way of the subsequent FBI investigation, placed the Yemeni government in a delicate position. Since then it has struggled to balance the expectations of its population and its political elite, both susceptible to the anti-imperialist rhetoric of al-Qaida, against the demands of the United States and its allies, who seek to criminalise any opposition - even non-violent - based on religion.

The government resolved its dilemma by doing as little as possible. The FBI opened an office in the capital, Sanaa, and U.S. soldiers trained the Yemeni army. Official protests following the extrajudicial assassination of an alleged al-Qaida leader by a U.S. Army drone, in November 2002, were distinctly muted. As a result, rather than a potential target for U.S. bombs, Yemen became a valued ally. The external signs of this new status include an increase in aid from western countries and the World Bank; United States Agency for International Development (USAID) projects in various regions of the country, including potential terrorist havens like al-Jawf, Marib and Shabwa; and the invitation to president Saleh issued by George Bush at the G8 in June 2004.

## A careful policy

The government's aim is to sustain its carefully-balanced policy of integrating the different components of Yemeni society - tribes, religious leaders and opposition parties - into state and even executive structures. Accordingly it refused to shut down the private al-Iman university, accused of training jihadist fighters, or to bow to U.S. demands that it should freeze the assets of the university's founder Abd al-Majid al-Zindani, a leading figure of the opposition Islamist Islah (Reform) party. All the government would agree to was the need to exert tighter control over foreign students attending Islamic institutions (at the end of 2001 it claimed to have expelled more than 600).

Despite occasional harassment and prosecutions, the press and the various

opposition parties enjoy a freedom of expression unique in the Middle East. President Saleh has carefully adopted nationalist and anti-Zionist postures to maintain an illusion of independence. The 2003 Iraq war afforded him an excuse to express fierce criticisms of U.S. Middle East policy and to set himself up as a leading voice of resistance to externally-imposed reforms. In 2002 Yemen's parliament, which is controlled by the governing General People's Congress Party (GPC), passed a resolution calling upon Arab countries to stop all cooperation with the United States until it abandoned its policy of support for Israel.

At the same time, the government developed a communication strategy to help it reconcile conflicting demands. It secured wide publicity for judge Hamud al-Hitar's success in convincing various groups that armed struggle was against Islam and persuading them to renounce terrorism. The official line is that these negotiations proved more effective than repression in preventing attacks. But a series of deals and compromises were also agreed, some - for example with fighters returning from Afghanistan in the early 1990s - at the highest level of government. And it is actually more likely that it was these that persuaded the jihadists to reintegrate into the Yemeni economic, even military, system and to renounce violence against the state and the West.

Unfortunately, the United States was unimpressed by this policy of compromise and, amid rising tensions, accused the Yemeni government of duplicity. Early in 2004, Saudi Arabia threatened to build a barrier along its frontier with Yemen in order to prevent infiltration. Plausible revelations that senior officers in the Yemeni security services were implicated in the attack on the USS Cole were followed by the identification of Yemenis within the ranks of the resistance in Iraq. Rumours surrounding the incredible escape of 23 terrorist suspects in February 2006, made the government's position even more difficult. President Bush wrote to Saleh, questioning his commitment to the struggle against terrorism.

What these events reveal is, above all, the fragility of a state that is under unique pressure to compromise with very different social groups. Ever since the creation of the Republic of Yemen in 1962, bogus jobs in the civil service have been the primary tool for the redistribution of wealth, particularly in the tribal areas in the north and centre of the country where infrastructure and public services are non-existent. At every level of the decision process, individuals and groups are likely to interfere, thus reducing the effectiveness of public policies.

## Compromise has its limits

The nationalisation of private religious schools was announced in 2002, and again in 2005. Gun-control legislation was promised. Neither had any significant effect. The complexity of the state, the sheer multiplicity of its interests and its skill in integrating the various elements of the political landscape have, on the whole, allowed Yemen to avoid political violence and to preserve a degree of pluralism.

But compromise, however effective, has its limits. In 1990 two Yemens - the nationalist North, and the 'scientific socialist' South - united to form a single country. Power-sharing proved difficult and led, in the spring of 1994, to a brief war between the armies of the two former sovereign states.

Since 9/11 the government has reacted to mounting pressure from the

United States by trying to offer its 'allies' a series of proofs of its commitment to the war on terror. The resulting concentration on security issues led to a hardening of the regime: press censorship, arbitrary imprisonment, show trials, and the grotesque war in the north of the country against the Believing Youth (Shabab al-Mu'minin) movement led by Hussein Badr al-Din al-Huthi, a former MP for the conservative Zaydi-Shia party al-Haqq.

In an attempt to preserve the republican balance maintained since the revolution of 1962 and the overthrow of Imam Muhammad al-Badr, the government has concentrated its repressive energies against 'history's losers,' the Zaydi minority, rather than against the Islamist heirs of the Muslim Brotherhood. In 1994, the government fought the former South Yemen's socialist elite. Since 2004, it has combated a group whose association with the former Zaydi Imamate deprives it of any real legitimacy.

By depicting Believing Youth as a Shia terrorist group, linked to Hizbullah and funded by Iran, government propaganda has secured international support for military intervention against the 'supporters of al-Houthi'. But, in fact, Believing Youth has little in common with al-Qaida, apart from anti-Zionist and anti-American rhetoric, and presents no threat to either Saleh or the United States.

In June 2004, the government used a skirmish between members of Believing Youth and the army as an excuse to launch a major offensive in the Saada area, near the Saudi border, against a group that it had previously supported as a counterweight to local Salafist influence. The army encountered unexpected resistance in a region that had long been excluded from state development policies. After several attempts at tribal or religious reconciliation, the violence intensified and villages were bombed and shelled.

## Fierce fighting

Several thousand civilians, government soldiers and rebels died in the fierce fighting, which was suspended in September 2004, following the death of al-Houthi, only to resume the following March. Meanwhile the government conducted a campaign of repression against Zaydi intellectuals, banned many books and temporarily closed some newspapers.

Given the rivalries and conflicts of Yemeni politics, the fact that the war took place is hardly surprising. But its violence was primarily the result of the excessive concentration upon security questions encouraged by the international war on terror. Overseas pressure led the regime to over-react to any threat against western interests, such as kidnappings (few of which were politically motivated), attacks or anti-imperialist speeches. The consequent cycle of repression undermined individual Yemenis' sense of security, threatening the stability of the political system and emphasising its authoritarian character.

The al-Houthi affair also demonstrates the damaging effects upon the Saleh government of its long tenure of power. Unfortunately - despite attacks on press freedom, a developing personality cult and the progressive legitimisation of a hereditary regime under which Ahmed Ali Saleh, the head of special forces, would succeed his father - there is no credible opposition. The success of attempts to unite the various parties, from the Muslim Brothers to the socialists, can mostly be attributed to the goodwill of the government, whose strategy of integration and compromise has fatally undermined the opposition's ability to play its proper part.

Over the years, the GPC has managed to build up an extensive support network, based on patronage rather than ideological conviction. In July 2005, Saleh announced that he would

not seek a further term of office. But the continuing uncertainty surrounding his final decision has prevented the emergence of any serious alternative. The opposition, however united, has no legitimate, credible candidate to put up against Saleh, who will probably be re-elected until 2013.

Yemen is undermined by economic, social and health problems, by unemployment and inflation, and by its inability to control its own foreign policy. Most of its people are resigned to this and recognise the powerlessness of their government. But the riots of July 2005, provoked by a dramatic rise in petrol prices, which left 50 dead, were a reminder that weariness could turn into revolt.

The attitude of the western powers, including Europe, is ambiguous. They are aware of the absence of any credible alternative and know that the main beneficiaries of their calls for greater pluralism could be the Islamist Islah opposition with its links to the Muslim Brotherhood. They simultaneously endorse and criticise the government's hard line, and fund programmes that would allow opposition parties a chance of achieving power. At the end of 2005, the World Bank - keen to eliminate widespread corruption associated with arms contracts and the flood of aid after 9/11 - reduced its aid by a third.

Despite the discovery of natural gas reserves in the east of the country, the increasing exhaustion of Yemen's meagre oil reserves is placing it in a position of dependence. International investors have supported projects designed to encourage the emergence of a liberal civil society, to allow the organisation of democratic elections, and to train the local MPs to match the ambitious policy of decentralisation introduced in 2000. Some of these worthy initiatives have been effective at a local level; but they have done little to persuade western policymakers that security is not the only issue.

Analysts continue to predict war, chaos and even collapse. Yet the people and government of Yemen have managed to maintain a certain equilibrium. Indeed, the main source of instability is the international community's determination to impose its own obsession with security. In the long term, any attempt to preserve the West's safety at the expense of the Yemenis will prove to be a mistake. It remains to be seen whether the Yemeni government and the western powers understand this paradox.

Laurent Bonnefoy is attached to the French Centre for Archaeology and Social Sciences (Cefas) in Sanaa.  
Source: middle-east-online

## COMMON SENSE

### Unending misery for the Palestinians

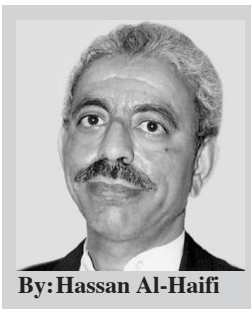
Anyone who is still following up on the Palestinian situation is awestruck by the insurmountable nature this long standing human tragedy has taken hold of. There seems to be no let up of the horrific status quo of bloodshed, economic strangulation, incalculable violations of human rights and sheer lack of empathy by fellow Arabs, the international community and now even the Palestinian leadership, the various factions of which are embroiled in their own special brand of infighting for positions that hardly are worth the time and effort. What leadership is at stake? What resources would such leadership have control of? What international weight would this leadership have? These are all questions that come to mind as one watches in bafflement the seriousness by which the spokesmen for the various factions attempt to convince us the legitimacy of their arguments and the unconvincing logic of their positions.

Needless to say, neighbors and other members of the international community have allowed any feeling of concern and sympathy for the already wretched conditions and circumstances that the overwhelming majority of helpless Palestinians are being compelled to endure to take a back seat. For the Palestinians there is no hope of relief from an unholy aggression and a meticulously devious and Godless enemy, who seeks to systematically and methodically render their existence as dehumanizing and torturous as human suffering can be made to be. Most nations of the world would always attribute their conditions of misfortune to natural calamities, poor economic conditions, aftermaths of conflict or whatever discernible causes one sees as frequent causes of human suffering. For the Palestinians, however, we have a far more ugly and evil explanation that will surely go on to be recorded as one of the saddest and contemptuous modern efforts of ethnic cleansing, carried out in the coldest and most scientifically engineered manner. In Palestine we have a horrific case indeed, when human will is driven by such cold blooded and mindless treatment of an entire people by an enemy that insists to have a monopoly on pity for "centuries of suffering and prejudice", yet finds its own infliction of suffering and elimination on others, as sacrosanct and a landmark in the civil treatment of the strong and powerful against the helpless and the meek. How much deceit can be formulated to fool the majority of those who still have the stomach to watch news broadcasts with the notion that all the misery that one daily witnesses in Gaza and the West Bank is a natural outcome of an illegitimate claim to nationhood at the expense of an entire indigenous population, many of whom may even be descendants of the genuine Hebrews, who settled in the Holy Land for short stints in the long history of mankind.

Moreover, the tragedy is made even more harder to absorb in the human mind and heart by the fact that all the magnanimous powers that can truly and effectively bring all this misery to an end find it meaningful and even joyful to have such misery continue. These modern standard bearers of chauvinism and dogmatic standard bearers of "might makes right" are actually doing all that is possible to encourage this meandering concoction called Israel to carry out its evil intentions on the misleading fabricated rationale that this is part of a "War on Terror" that justifies the unleashing of untold misery of millions of the inhabitants of this planet, in Palestine and elsewhere, without legal due process and with little regard for the rights of all mankind to have their dignity safeguarded.

As for the Arabs around the giant Gauntanamo Prison that Palestine has come to be, with detailed perfection on a grand scale that engulfs the entire remaining population of the land that was destined to be the beacon for the light of peace and hope that will end all human suffering, all one can say is that respect for kinship and affinity have long since buried by the overwhelming desire to maintain perpetual autocratic regimes, which most Arab have no stomach for any longer. Such regimes have even been instrumental in bringing the misery of their brothers in Palestine as the standing norm of the day as this is "in line with what the internationally community seeks to uphold! If that is not enough, we also have the Palestinian leaders also showing that ambition can also blind politicians to the point of even paving the way to help the enemy unleash his contemptuous genocide on their intended subjects. In such a situation, only God can provide the salvation that can bring Divine justice to a long neglected people. Human justice has long ago lost any sense of rationality.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi



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# Deadly News: Hundreds of journalists have been killed over 15 years, many on the orders of government officials. Few cases are ever solved

The mechanisms of war—mines, artillery, shrapnel, rifle fire—have claimed the lives of 107 journalists since 1992, making crossfire in combat the second-leading cause of journalist deaths. It is the combat arena into which most foreign correspondents plunge, and so, too, where they are most often killed. Of the 89 foreign correspondents killed since 1992, 49 died in combat-related crossfire.

Michael Kelly, the Atlantic Monthly editor and Washington Post columnist, was the first U.S. journalist killed in Iraq. He was embedded with U.S. troops when the Hummer in which he was riding on the outskirts of Baghdad swerved into a canal while attempting to avoid enemy fire in April 2003.

But Kelly's death, coming less than a month after the war began, became the exception in Iraq. More than half of journalist deaths there have been murders, and the majority of the victims have been Iraqis. Common are cases such as that of Nadia Nasrat, an anchor for the Coalition Authority-sponsored Diyala TV, who was killed in 2004 when insurgents targeted a bus transporting the station's employees. Journalists affiliated with U.S. or other Western interests were in the cross-hairs in the war's first two years. As sectarian violence spiraled, some CPJ sources speculate, journalists were also targeted because of their news organizations' real or perceived sectarian affiliations.

Journalists in conflict zones have often been targeted for their supposed affiliations, CPJ's analysis found. In Algeria's Islamist struggle in the early 1990s and Turkey's flare-up of fundamentalism in 1992, political groups declared as enemies media seen as representing secular values. During Rwanda's genocide, journalists were targeted regardless of ethnicity for being seen as supportive of peace and political reform. Murder goes virtually unpunished in conflict-ridden countries, where police and judicial systems are typically dysfunctional.

The parameters are different in combat-related deaths, those in which journalists are killed by shelling, sniper, air attacks, or other acts of war. While journalists are not necessarily targeted in these cases, CPJ has found that their deaths often could have been avoided had an army's own rules of engagement been properly followed. Responsibility is murky in many of these cases, largely because the killings are rarely subjected to a thorough or impartial investigation.

In Iraq, for example, CPJ's analysis found no evidence that U.S. forces deliberately targeted any of the 14 journalists killed by its soldiers—but it also found that the U.S. military failed to fully investigate the killings.

That pattern was replicated worldwide. CPJ found 22 cases in which family or colleagues sought investigations into combat-related journalist deaths. In 14 of those cases, either no action was taken or results were not made public. Investigations exonerated soldiers in the eight other cases.

Take the case of James Miller, a



British documentary filmmaker shot in the neck by an Israel Defense Forces officer in the Gaza Strip in May 2003. Crew members, who had just wrapped up a day of filming, said they were wearing jackets and helmets marked "TV" and were holding a white flag illuminated by a flashlight. Israeli officials declined to bring criminal charges or take disciplinary action even as they acknowledged that the officer violated military rules of engagement and gave conflicting accounts of his actions.

"James' family is deeply disappointed and frustrated that, in over three years since his killing, there has never been a proper, open, and transparent investigation by the Israelis into his death," said Liz Sich, a Miller family friend and spokesperson.

Journalist deaths typically spike in times of war, from about 26 in years without major conflict to roughly 46 in years of significant warfare. Several of the deadliest countries for journalists—Iraq, Algeria, Colombia, and Bosnia, for example—reflect the wars that have endangered all citizens.

But CPJ also found that the worst countries include Russia and the Philippines, where war was not the leading factor. In those nations, systemic investigative shortcomings and institutional efforts to gloss over the problem contributed to the toll by creating a climate of impunity.

In the Philippines, where more than 80 percent of the public gets its news from radio, broadcast commentators constitute the majority of victims and local government officials the bulk of suspects. But the rare cases that go to court are side-tracked because witnesses are killed, threatened, or coerced, while corrupt local police and justice officials do little to intervene.

Marlene Garcia-Esperat, a well-regarded Philippine broadcaster and columnist whose anti-graft message earned the ire of local officials, was shot in her Tacurong home in front of her horrified family on Easter weekend in 2005. Garcia-Esperat's case quickly went to court, only to have the judge dismiss indictments against two high-profile officials. Witnesses say they are being threatened, and the case is stalled. In Russia, the spread of capitalism and private investment fueled business corruption, along with a breed of journalist eager to probe the connections between money, crime, and politics. The ensuing retaliation extended to even high-ranking news executives.

Yet Russian authorities turn a blind eye to work-related motives in journalist deaths. In at least four cases since 2000, CPJ found, Russian authorities classified journalist slayings as "street crimes" despite compelling work-related evidence. Eduard Markevich, a newspaper publisher in the Ural Mountains region, had been threatened and jailed for his paper's coverage—but when he was shot outside his home in October 2002, friends say, there was little indication that investigators considered professional motives.

"Prosecutors deliberately ignored journalism as a motive because Eduard Markevich actively criticized local officials," Maria Istomina, a family friend, told CPJ. Markevich's wife and co-publisher shut down the paper just months after the killing—when a dumbbell was thrown through her window and someone tried to set her house on fire. The murder case was closed without arrests.

If victims and circumstances vary between Russia and the Philippines, authorities in the two nations share one trait: They're quick to consider a case "solved."

In both nations, cases are considered solved if a suspect has been identified and some legal action taken—even in the absence of a conviction. "My long-term experience of communicating with representatives of international organizations, including those defending the rights of journalists, shows that they do not always comprehend many norms of the Russian code of criminal procedure," Natalya Vishnyakova, a spokeswoman for Russia's prosecutor-general, told CPJ in a 2005 letter.

"To us," said Col. Frederick Oconer of the Philippine National Police, "we say a case is solved when we have identified a suspect and filed a case in court." The national force said it considered about half of Philippine journalist murders to be solved, although CPJ's analysis found the country's impunity rate well over 90 percent. CPJ considers a case solved and justice served only when those who ordered the killing are arrested and prosecuted. If the killers are convicted and progress is made toward identifying the masterminds, CPJ considers justice to be partially served.

Over all, CPJ's database includes only those cases in which it is reasonably certain that a death was directly related to a journalist's work. CPJ continues to track—but does not include in this database—another 216 journalist deaths in which the circumstances are not clear. Neither does CPJ include in its database journalists who are killed in accidents—such as car or plane crashes—unless the crash was caused by hostile action. Other press organizations using different criteria cite higher numbers of deaths than CPJ.

Dangerous assignments, such as coverage of riots in domestic situations, account for 10 percent of journalist deaths over all and constitute the third primary cause of death. Such cases are most common in Africa and Latin America, where protesters frequently clash with police and military forces in the streets, and journalists are caught in the center.



Photographers, with a need to position themselves close to the action, are at particular risk in these situations. One example is Ken Oosterbroek, head photographer of Johannesburg's The Star, caught in the crossfire during a struggle between protesters and police on the eve of South Africa's historic elections of 1994. Due to his willingness to pursue the story, Oosterbroek did not live to see Mandela elected 11 days later.

Photographing a protest and reporting on a war bring with them inherent dangers. Yet justice and accountability can be brought to individual cases and those actions, in turn, can help address the overall death rate.

Mobilizing domestic and international public opinion has been crucial in cases where genuine progress has been made, CPJ found. Ukrainian Myroslava Gongadze led an international campaign to draw attention to the politically



inspired 2000 killing of her husband, Georgy Gongadze, editor of the news Web site Ukrainska Pravda.

Her efforts cast a spotlight on a decade of corrupt, authoritarian rule, eventually spawning the Orange Revolution that ousted President Leonid Kuchma. Under new President Viktor Yushchenko, three former police officials have been charged with the murder.

In other cases, CPJ found, journalists continued to probe the underlying news that drew deadly retaliation—effectively undermining the logic of killing a journal-



ist to quash a story. In Argentina, José Luis Cabezas was kidnapped and killed in 1997 after photographing the reclusive business tycoon and reputed mafia kingpin Alfredo Yabrán. If the intention was to keep Yabrán out of the newspaper, the effect was the opposite: Argentine reporters started digging deeper, exposing the sweetheart government deals that had enriched Yabrán. A police chief and seven others were eventually convicted in the case. Yabrán, the investigative dragnet drawing tighter, committed suicide.

Maintaining a professional distance from politicians and newsmakers can create a more secure climate for journalists. In places such as Brazil and the Philippines, local journalists told CPJ that their own colleagues contribute to the risk by abandoning professional standards. For example, Philippine journalists cite "block-time" broadcasting, in which commentators lease airtime and solicit their own sponsors, as leading to questionable practices such as "AC/DC journalism," or "Attack, collect. Defend, collect." Some block-timers, journalists said, attack and defend reputations based on which politician is paying them at a given time.

War will always be dangerous, but educating military forces about the rights of journalists in conflict zones can make it safer. In 2005, CPJ and Human Rights Watch urged U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to take basic steps to improve safety at military checkpoints in Iraq. The recommendations, many echoed by rank-and-file military officials, called for the use of non-lethal measures such as spike strips to disable vehicles; the use of international symbols to warn drivers; and the use of sirens and warning lights. Military forces must be willing to investigate journalist killings, even when they are unintentional.

It's vital, too, that lessons be learned. Postwar investigations and "truth commissions" need to include examinations of journalist deaths. Though there have been painfully few of these inquiries, those that have been undertaken have yielded strong results. The United Nations Commission on the Truth in El Salvador, which investigated human rights violations against Salvadoran citizens during the nation's 12-year civil war, also probed instances of journalists caught in crossfire. In the case of four Dutch journalists killed in a 1982 ambush, the commission implicated an Army commander who planned the raid and the Supreme Court judge who helped cover it up.

Norbert Zongo did not set out to become a martyr, but his slaying galvanized a nation fed up with political killings and official brutality. An unprecedented wave of demonstrations stretching over 18 months prompted the government to pursue democratic reforms and spurred

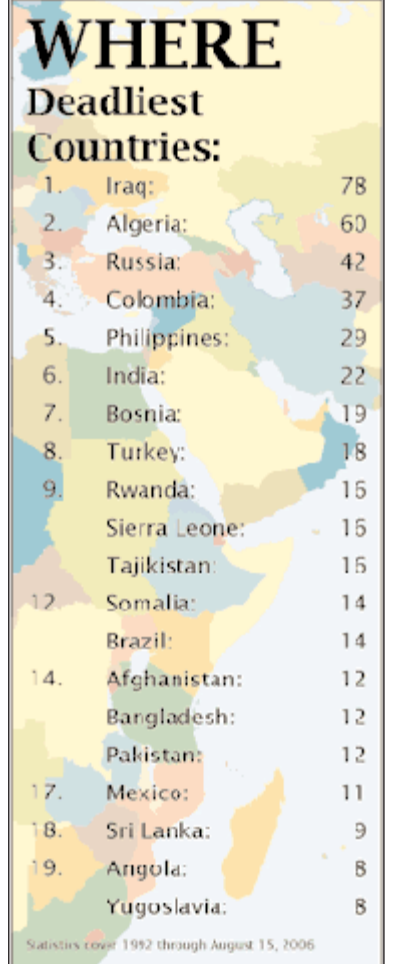
President Compaoré to issue an extraordinary public apology in 2001 in which he expressed "deep regret for torture, crimes, injustices, bullying, and other wrongs" committed by the state.

Yet justice is elusive. Charges were dropped in July against the only person ever indicted in Zongo's murder, a former officer in the presidential guard. Burkinabé officials have grown nearly silent about what, if anything, will ever happen in the case. Wait, they say. These things take time, they explain.

That's what the parents of Dimity Kholodov in Russia were told, and they are still waiting. In Colombia, Orlando Sierra's colleagues are being told to wait, too. When the time is right, authorities say, local politicians will be questioned about their role in the brazen daylight murder.

In his work, Norbert Zongo set an example. He saw wrongdoing in a government that should have been doing right by its citizens. He looked where others averted their gaze, and for that, he was gunned down, set ablaze, his body and those of his companions left as debris on a dusty, near-forgotten landscape. Norbert Zongo's legacy is great, but it is incomplete.

Source: www.cpj.org



# Knowledge sharing: forever a future prospect?

By: Koichiro Matsuura

Is knowledge sharing a utopia, the international community's new « buzz word »? We do not think so. A few examples are more telling than a dozen analyses. In 1965, Singapore was overrun with shantytowns, and its economy was underdeveloped. Since then, the authorities have pursued resolute policies aimed at investing in education, improving skills and productivity and attracting high-added-value industries. The per capita GDP of Singapore has today overtaken that of many countries of the North.

An economy based on the sharing and spread of knowledge is an opportunity for the emerging countries and for the well-being of their populations. Thus, despite its poverty, the Indian State of Kerala now boasts a level of human development close to that of the countries of the North: life expectancy has risen to 73 years and rates of schooling are in excess of 90%. Kerala contributes significantly to making India the 8th nation in the world in terms of scientific publications.

In 1971, a few thousand migrants settled in an empty plain 20 km from Lima and created Villa El Salvador. Practising self-reliance, its inhabitants set up education centres and formed associations. A courageous endeavour of participatory

community development, relying on women, transformed this shanty area into an organized town. Recognized in 1983 as a municipality, Villa El Salvador established in 1987 its university. Today, 98% of its children attend school and the rate of adult illiteracy (4.5%) is the lowest in the country. The town now has 400,000 inhabitants, including 15,000 students. The municipality provides computer access points for its citizens, who express their opinions on issues under discussion within the community.

Shared knowledge is thus a powerful lever in the fight against poverty. It is also today the key to wealth production. Finland, which suffered a severe economic crisis following the break-up of the Soviet Union, is currently cited as a model: it invests almost 4% of its GDP in research, its education system is highest rated among the industrialized countries by OECD, and the variation in performance between pupils and educational institutions is astonishingly low, demonstrating that success on the scale of knowledge societies can very well be combined with equity.

These are far from being isolated examples. In all parts of the world, different countries are in the process of inventing new styles of development, based on knowledge and intelligence. For a society's development potential will depend

less in future on its natural wealth than on its capacity to create, spread and utilize knowledge. Does this mean that the 21st century will see the rise of societies based on shared knowledge? Since this is a public good that ought to be accessible to all, none should find themselves excluded in a knowledge society. But the sharing of knowledge cannot be reduced to the dividing up of knowledge or the exchange of a scarce resource to which nations, societies and individuals lay competing claim. In network societies, creativity and the possibilities of exchange or sharing are greatly increased. These societies create an environment particularly favourable to knowledge, innovation, training and research. The new forms of network sociability that are developing on the Internet are horizontal and not hierarchical, encouraging cooperation, as well

illustrated by the models of the research "collaboratory" or « open source » computer software.

The emergence of network societies and the concomitant reduction of transaction costs encourage the rise of new forms of productive organization, founded on exchange and collaboration within a sharing community. This is particularly vital set against the temptation of economic warfare: these new practices hold out the hope that we shall be able to arrive at a fair balance between the protection of intellectual property rights, necessary for innovation, and the promotion of knowledge belonging to the public domain.

The sharing of knowledge cannot however be confined to the creation of new knowledge, the promotion of knowledge belonging to the public domain or the narrowing of the cognitive divide. It implies

not only universal access to knowledge, but also the active participation of everyone. It will therefore be the key to the democracies of the future, which should be based on a new type of public space, in which genuine democratic encounters and deliberations involving civil society will make it possible to address social problems conceived in prospective terms. «Hybrid forums » and citizens' conferences prefigure this development in some respects.

The obstacles that stand in the way of knowledge sharing are admittedly numerous. Like the solutions we are putting forward, they are at the heart of the UNESCO World Report Towards Knowledge Societies directed by Jérôme Bindé and published a few months ago. The 21st Century Talk that we have just organized at UNESCO on the topic of

knowledge sharing has doubtless helped to identify them more clearly: polarization, the digital divide and, even more serious, the knowledge fracture and gender inequality—these are the main impediments to the sharing of knowledge. To overcome these obstacles, societies will have to invest massively in lifelong education for all, research, info-development and the growth of «learning societies» and to cultivate greater respect for the diversity of cognitive cultures and for local, traditional and indigenous knowledge. Knowledge sharing will not forever be a future prospect: for it is not the problem but the solution. The sharing of knowledge does not divide knowledge: it causes it to grow and multiply.

Koichiro Matsuura Director-General of UNESCO



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# Ramadan 2006 (Part VIII)

*Those who are merciful have mercy shown them by the Compassionate One, if you show mercy to those who are in the earth, He Who is in heaven will show mercy to you.*  
(Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi)



By: Harun Yahya  
www.harunyahya.com

**"This is the way of Your Lord, leading straight: We have made plain Our revelations for those who receive admonition."**  
(Surat al-An'am: 126)

## For perfected faith

# Islamic morals remove selfishness

It is not surprising that those who do not adhere to religious principles think only of themselves. This is, in fact, a philosophical prerequisite of the system in which they live. Willingness to make sacrifices, mercy, good morals are the values introduced by religion and only religion ensures that one will cherish them.

Only those who believe in God and the life beyond and those who are aware of the fact that they will be taken to account in the hereafter can display moral perfection as described in the Qur'an.

That is why, for a disbeliever, it is totally unlikely that he will display such a noble character. Moreover, it would be completely wrong for a disbeliever to say:

"There are such selfish people out there but I am certainly not one of them." This is simply because, if one does not adhere to religious values, there is no alternative but to be selfish.

The reason for this is no different from the underlying reasons for other types of immoral mindset; such as having no belief in the existence of the hereafter, having no conviction that each misdeed in this world will be punished in the hereafter and having no fear of God.

That is why, those who do not live by religious values pursue only their own interests and do not care about others. Their major expectation in life is to be wealthier, to improve

their professional life, to attain better living standards... Meeting the needs of their close circle, those in need, the poor and the elderly or doing something for the benefit of society is generally the last thing that occurs to them.

This is simply because, the disbeliever's assessment of life lacks an impetus to make sacrifices or to commit himself to displaying good character.

The general attitude they observe in the people surrounding them is also no different; indeed, the whole of society behaves in more or less the same way. This general tendency of all people in society provides some sort of salve to the conscience.

In brief, in a society where religious values are norupheld, selfishness is inevitable. Without exception, everyone is selfish.

However, man is tested in this feeling of selfishness which God has placed in the unregenerate self (nafs).

God draws attention to this inclination in man in the following verse: ... But people are prone to selfish greed. If you do good and have fear for God, God is aware of what you do. (Surat an-Nisa': 128) By and large, selfish people insist on the correctness of their own convictions even in trivial matters. What others need or want hardly means anything to them.

If a selfish person is exhausted, for instance, he wants to sit down as soon as possible and never thinks of

an elderly or a sick person next to him who needs a rest.

Despite the existence of others, he is sure to take the best of everything. Giving others discomfort for the sake of his own comfort never disturbs him. He demands peace while he works, but fails to show respect for others while they work. His selfishness manifests itself in various ways, both in his family and business life.

In disbelieving societies too, there may be some people who are known for their good character. They may be very generous to the people surrounding them, for instance. However, the main reason why they do goodness is actually not to earn God's approval, but merely to be reputed to be virtuous.

Being praised, appreciated and having a "good" reputation among people, for instance, are what they actually aim for. Besides, the contribution these people make to the poor is most of the time insignificant as compared to their income.

Idealists may also have the desire to assume responsibility or leadership. Their aim again is not to earn God's approval or serve other people. They simply chase after their own selfish whims and desires, seeking to gain prestige and reputation, and enhance their social standing. Most of the time when they feel their interests are at stake, they show their real character.

In societies where the values of

religion are ignored, those who are known to be generous would actually be considered to be selfish when their "generosity" is compared with the sacrifices the believers make.

What believers understand by the concept of self-sacrifice is very different from how disbelievers view it.

Believers always prefer to meet the needs of others rather than their own. Deep in their hearts, they wish the best of everything for their brothers and sisters.

This surely demonstrates the morals of the Qur'an:

They give food, despite their love for it, to the poor and orphans and captives. (Surat al-Insan: 8) Due to this moral sense, believers "fight in the Way of God-for those men, women and children who are oppressed." (Surat an-Nisa': 75)

Instead of thinking about only their own needs, believers assume the responsibility for everyone and consider the general good. The Prophet's saying, "By Him in Whose hand my soul is, a man does not believe till he likes for his brother what he likes for himself," (Al-Bukhari, Muslim) very aptly reflects this spirit of the believers.

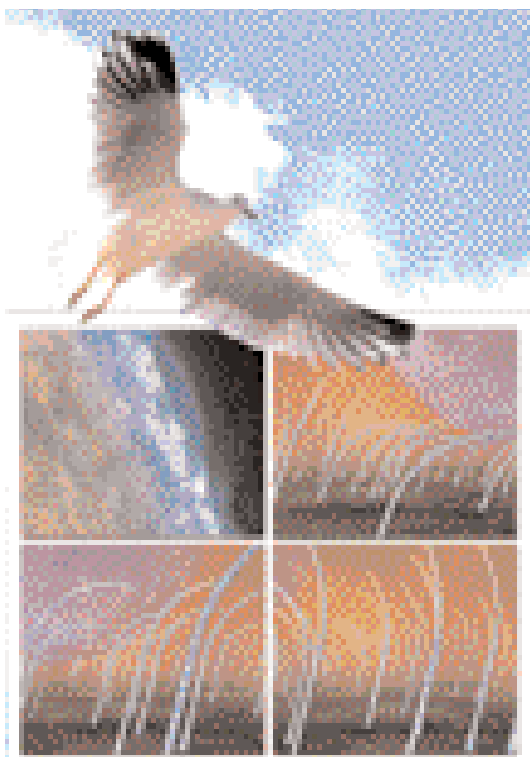
Whenever religious values are pervasive, social relations will be based on sacrifice and thus many problems will disappear.

(For detailed information on this topic, see Harun Yahya, The Nightmare of Disbelief)



## Signs of Allah's creation

# The detailed creation of bird feathers



At one time or another, most people have probably run their fingers through a bird's feather they found lying on the ground or caught falling from a bird that was flying through the air. Probably they have noticed the symmetrical structure of the feather, the thinner structures of soft feathers coming off each side, which look as if they interlock onto each other. In fact, if they had the chance to examine this bird feather under a microscope, their astonishment at the marvelous design before them would increase even more.

In the middle part of the feather is a long, hard tube. The barbs of the feather extend from both sides of this tube. These feathers, whose lengths and

softness vary, give the bird the ability to use the air in the most suitable way. In addition, when we go into further details, we encounter even more interesting structures. Each barb has smaller strands attached to them which are called "barbules" and cannot be seen with the naked eye.

These barbules are locked together with tiny microscopic hooks called "hamuli." By means of these hooklets, barbules are interlocked onto their neighbors like a zipper.

On every single feather of a crane there are 650 barbules on each side of the shaft. On each one of these barbules are 600 barbules. These barbules are tied together with 390 hooklets. The hooklets are clamped together like two sides of a zipper. These barbules, which

lock onto their neighbors with hooklets, are so close together that if smoke is blown onto the feather, no smoke escapes to the other side. If the hooklets are unlocked for some reason, it is enough for the bird to shake itself or, in more severe cases, to straighten its feathers with its beak, to make the feathers return to their previous state. The structure of a bird's feathers is very important for flying. The bird can fly because its wings don't allow the air to pass through them.

Besides the detailed design in the birds' feathers, the rich color diversity in them is striking as well. This diversity occurs due to pigments present in the feathers which are stored when the feather first starts to develop and also because of light movements.

The feathers, which are made up of keratin, are renewed at certain intervals as they wear out in a very short time due to environmental conditions. However, the bird regains its colorful feathers each time. This is because the feathers of a bird continue to develop until they reach the necessary length, and attain the unique color and design typical of its kind.

The countless diversity of color and patterns in the birds' feathers, along with the detailed design of the wings, are evidence which show us the magnificent artistry and knowledge of Allah in creation.

1 Paul Keck, "Feathers: Created or Evolved?";  
<http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/feathers.html>





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- Responsible for control and commissioning of any new instrumentation on new equipment or plant installations. Work with engineering to recommend changes or improvements
- Must be able to use a variety of test equipment, such as, dead weight tester, multimeter, pressure testing equipment, oscilloscope, decade box, temperature bath, current and signal simulators, P.C. frequency and pulse generators, fire & gas sensor calibration. Be familiar with 24volt and 110volt power supplies
- Must be able to work on a variety of laboratory equipment, chromatograph, O2 analyzer, moisture analyzer, PH meter, vapour pressure analyzer, RO units, and be familiar with PLCs. Should be able to do orifice plate calculations, control valve sizing, repair control valves, controllers, valve positioners and position indicators
- Must read and interpret schematics, drawings and technical manuals. Should be able to make "As Built" drawings
- Review daily work requests with Maintenance supervisor, assign a priority to each request and work
- Comply with company Safety, Environmental and Health rules and regulations. Report all accidents, injuries and hazards to immediate supervisor

##### Required Qualifications:

- The technician should have a secondary education
- Must be able to speak, read and write English
- Must be able to read and comprehend parts books, service manuals and technical literature
- Must have a knowledge of standard craft tools and safe working practices
- Should have a minimum of a two years technical certificate in the instrumentation field and completed a three to four year apprenticeship training program and have up to one year experience
- Should have experience with production separators, desalters, LACT units, oil and gas wells, heaters-treaters gas compressors, air compressors, gas turbines, NGL plants, pneumatic and electronic instrumentation.

#### OPERATIONS TECHNICIANS (Job Number Y008)

##### Essential Job Duties:

- Create and distribute the Block S-1 Daily Production Report
- Perform administrative functions of the Operations Department. Update ID card database. Review and verify invoices and requisitions. Responsible for personnel timesheets and scheduling, catering activity
- Support Operations Supervisor in the coordination of materials, operational logistics, preparation of SO's and PO's for all Operations activities
- Must know basic methods of liquid and gas measurement. Knowledge of various devices used for measurement, and physical properties affecting measurement. Monitor and operate positive displacement, turbine, eddy current, and orifice flow meters, and change orifice plates and meters as process demands.
- Must have fundamental knowledge of general well drilling and completion for production and injection monitor all conditions and activity at well site as related to well performance. Need to be able to recognize anomalies and report to immediate supervisor
- Must comply with all company Safety, Environmental and Health rules and regulations. Must understand and practice guidelines set forth in the HES handbook

##### Required Qualifications:

- Should have high school diploma
- Should have a minimum of 2 years experience in related areas of crude oil production or administration
- Must be able to communicate in English (Written and Verbal)
- Must be able to set priorities and multi-task as necessary

#### OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR (Job Number Y009)

##### Essential Job Duties:

- Maximize oil production and process fluids in an efficient, safe and cost effective manner. Job function encompasses all related activities from the well bore to the sales terminal.
- Coordinate and direct joint activities of Operations, Maintenance, Construction, and Drilling to ensure efficient execution of projects
- Assure that training of Operations personnel is accomplished through prescribed training courses and active mentoring.
- Co-ordinate field chemical and corrosion activities
- Direct all Operations activities of a remote developing oil concession. Monitor, guide and assist a multi-national work force to form a cohesive organization.
- Co-ordinate Operation activities with those of other departments and staff at all levels. Meet the operating requirements by allocating resources in a timely manner. Always be available for unplanned events and assist with critical operations.
- Validate field operational data. Participate/Provide feedback in well workover design and procedures. Coordinate rigless activities and ensure timely reporting.
- Communicate with drilling and workovers to ensure that Operations is ready to receive new wells / workovers for commissioning and production as soon as possible.
- Assist in the preparation of an annual budget. Ensure well work and plant

maintenance and repair records are kept updated to provide for future planning and budget analysis. Develop a strategic plan showing where costs could be optimized or funds utilized to enhance production or mechanical efficiency.

- Comply with all Company Safety Environmental and Health rules and regulations. Report immediately all accidents, injuries and hazards to immediate supervisor.

##### Required Qualifications:

- BS Degree in Petroleum Engineering or equivalent discipline. Additional college along with technical training desirable.
- Minimum 15 years in work related to drilling, completion, stimulation and production, a good knowledge of both down hole and surface facilities, and a good knowledge of plant facility operations. A basic knowledge of reservoir and geology is desired in this position.
- Highly developed leadership / decision making skills
- Minimum 10 years experience working in remote, hostile environments.

#### LEAD PRODUCTION OPERATOR (Job Number Y010)

##### Essential Job Duties:

- Co-ordinates with the Operations Supervisor, the activities of the field and plant operators.
- Directs all activities in the production, processing, treating, pumping and oil-related gas compression facilities. Ensures that all work is performed in the prescribed manner to maximize production safely and efficiently.
- Responsible for data collection, recording, and analysis.
- Must have experience and thorough knowledge of the principals of gas, oil, and water separation. Must have thorough operational experience with a variety of equipment used in the processing of crude oil, gas, and water. Supervises the operation of the separation facility, including product treating, storage, and shipping. Maintain stable conditions throughout the process flow and sales. Maintain proper stock inventory.
- Must understand the principals and purpose of product meter proving. Should have experience in actual meter proving, obtaining data, and calculating meter factors. Will observe and affect meter proving. Determine whether there are discrepancies and the general cause of discrepancies.
- Comply with company Safety, Environmental, and Health rules and regulations. Immediately report all accidents, injuries and hazards to immediate supervisor

##### Required Qualifications:

- Should have high school diploma.
- Should have a minimum of 3 years experience in related areas of crude oil production.
- Must be computer literate.
- Must be able to communicate in English (written and verbal)

#### PRODUCTION OPERATOR (Job Number Y011)

##### Essential Job Duties:

- Operation of oil, gas, gas injection, water injection and water producing wells.
- Operation of separators, oil and water treating facilities, and metering station (LACT).
- Operation of gas compressors and fluid pumps.
- Perform production tests to the industry standard.
- Be able to assist the Lead Production Operator in any and all areas and tasks.
- Works directly with other Production Operators, the Lead Production Operator and Operations Superintendent on assigned tasks and reports any problems encountered.
- Monitor operations, including engine fluid levels, engine and compressor temperatures, start/stop, load/unload, recognize abnormal sounds, vibrations, and potential safety problems at inception and take appropriate action to prevent damage to equipment, loss of production, or a serious safety hazard to develop.

##### Required Qualifications:

- Should have high school diploma
- Should have a minimum of 2 years experience in related areas of crude oil production or other oilfield activity
- Should have good diagnostic skills and must be able to implement solutions.
- Must be willing to work a flexible schedule.
- Must understand the principals & purpose of product meter proving. Must have experience in actual meter proving, obtaining data, and calculating meter factors. Must observe and affect meter proving to determine whether there are discrepancies and the general cause of discrepancies.
- Must have knowledge and experience in the operation of various types of compressors including single and multi-stage reciprocating gas compressors.
- Familiar with the Permit to Work system. Comply with all company Safety, Environmental and Health rules and regulations.

#### INSTRUMENT- ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR (Job Number Y012)

##### Essential Job Duties:

- Review daily work request, assign a priority to each request and assign technicians to work accordingly.
- Ensure that all electrical equipment and instrumentation is fully functional and available when needed.
- Assure that training of Instrument-Electrical personnel is accomplished through prescribed training courses and active mentoring.
- Plan schedules to ensure sufficient manpower is available for prescribed work load. Fill in or assist when work load dictates. Always be available for

breakdowns and to assist with critical operations. Keep daily logs and records updated.

- Monitor and supervise maintenance or installation projects to ensure they are carried out within company policy, manufacturers recommendations and in a safe manner.
- Minimize equipment downtime, cost and loss of production.
- Be able to handle a large group of diverse personalities and nationalities. Be aware of and follow rules of conduct for foreign nationals.

##### Required Qualifications:

- Minimum 2 year technical degree in Instrumentation or Electricity, with some additional college. Completion of a four year apprentice program is desired.
- Minimum of 15 years experience is necessary in the area of electrical and pneumatic instrumentation, Oil processing equipment, NGL Plant, Gas Injection Compressors, Gas turbines, Refrigeration, and Catering facilities.
- Must have strong English communication skills (Written and Verbal)
- Computer literate. Experienced in the use of computer programs to trouble shoot equipment faults
- Should be able to identify and correct potential problems.
- Must be able to use technical manuals to find pertinent information and order spare parts for warehouse stock and repairs.
- Must be willing to work a flexible schedule

#### MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (Job Number Y013)

##### Essential Job Duties:

- Organize and manage the maintenance department.
- Maintain all mechanical equipment functioning in optimum condition in all areas of Block S-1
- Assure that training of Maintenance personnel is accomplished through prescribed training courses and active mentoring.
- Co-ordinate maintenance activities with those of other departments. Meet the operating requirements by allocating resources in a timely manner. Always be available for breakdowns and assist with critical operations.
- Develop and administer preventive maintenance programs.
- Establish practices consistent with company policies and procedures on safety and environment. Insure all personnel are aware of and follow these policies and procedures.
- Assist in the preparation of an annual budget. Ensure maintenance and repair records are kept updated to provide for future planning and budget analysis. Develop a strategic plan showing where costs could be optimized or funds utilized to enhance production or mechanical efficiency.
- Advise management of field requirements. These areas include manpower, vehicles, facilities, tools, and repair and testing equipment.
- Maintains contact with outside vendors through the material department to co-ordinate repairs, identify appropriate parts and maintain technical awareness of current technologies

##### Required Qualifications:

- A minimum 4 year degree in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent discipline. Technical training or military training would be desirable.
- Minimum 10 years working knowledge of oil production equipment service and repair required with attention to the problems associated with remote areas.
- Minimum 15 years of industrial maintenance a requirement.
- Highly developed leadership / decision making skills.
- Must have strong English communication skills (Written and Verbal)

#### ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN (Job Number Y014)

##### Essential Job Duties:

- Perform maintenance and repair of all electrical equipment in Block S-1
- Report Maintenance supervisor on expected downtime and should any unexpected problem arise, communicate to Operations any delay.
- Review daily work requests with Maintenance supervisor, assign a priority to each request and work accordingly
- To be able to recognize equipment or component failure and suggest remedies.
- Be conversant with correct and safe maintenance procedures and practices on equipment of Block S-1.
- Maintain all electrical equipment from generator to distribution and consumption (total load approximately X Megawatts). Initiate requests for material, identify marginal areas and recommend improvements. Be familiar with the requirements of the NEC and work to these standards paying particular attention to hazardous areas and personnel safety. Participate in training.
- Responsible for ordering spare parts and setting up materials stock with Maintenance supervisor.
- Must be able to troubleshoot a variety of equipment such as Deutz and Caterpillar generator packages, Reda pumps & Keltronic controls, Trane & Carrier air conditioning units, Westinghouse motor control centers, etc.
- Must read and interpret schematics, drawings and technical manuals. Should be able to make "As Built" drawings.
- Must comply with company Safety, Environmental and Health rules and regulations.

##### Required Qualifications:

- The technician should have a secondary education.
- Must be able to speak, read and write English
- Must be able to read and comprehend parts books, service manuals and technical literature.
- Should have a minimum of a two years technical certificate in the Electrical field and completed a three to four year apprenticeship training program and have up to one year experience.
- Must be able to use a variety of test equipment, meggar, multimeter, amp meter, frequency meter, power factor meter, cable and pipe locators etc.
- Must have experience with power generation, power distribution, motor repairs, cable sizing, conduit bending, air conditioning and refrigeration, submersible pumps, desalters and other oil field related equipment.

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## Geopolitical conflicts in the Muslim world

# Call the conflict by its proper name: Geo-civil war

**Conflict flaring throughout the Middle East is neither a clash of civilizations nor civil war, but instead a geo-civil war, according to John Brenkman. Brenkman argues that an appropriate label could lead to a better understanding of the conflicts and thus influence policy to bring about resolutions and stability**

This summer civil strife continued unabated in Iraq; Iran and Syria steered Hezbollah into war with Israel, and Israel's response crushed Lebanon's faltering steps toward sovereignty and civil order; terrorist cells inspired and, in some cases, directed by Al Qaeda metastasized among British Muslims.

What is this ever-shifting conflict? It is not a "clash of civilizations," since the conflict rages among Muslim nations as much as between radical Islamism and the West.

It is not, however, merely a "civil war" within Islam between moderates and radicals, since the conflict entails potentially cataclysmic fighting among Muslim nations and also implicates Western countries as well as Israel.

**Civil and geopolitical upheavals**  
It is not simply "global terrorism," since Al Qaeda and associated groups are but one source of extremism and violence. Nor is it simply Islamism versus the rest, since the most virulent forms flower on both the Sunni and

Shiite branches of Islam and are antagonistic toward each other. In short, the upheavals in the Muslim world today are at once civil and geopolitical.

The geopolitical conflicts can erupt into religious war; religious conflicts can escalate into civil war; civil wars can overflow borders and become geopolitical. This protean conflict should be called what it is: geo-civil war. Renaming the conflict that has embroiled the US and the West since 9/11 might shake loose the misunderstandings that shroud it. For neither political thought nor policy can address a complex phenomenon until words begin to disclose its essential contours.

President Bush stays the semantic course with democracy-vs-tyranny and freedom-vs-terror. His words articulate a consistent policy, but they obscure the conflict it is meant to address.

The original miscalculations in Iraq stemmed from the belief that since democracy is the opposite of tyranny, a people who have suffered tyranny will embrace democracy as soon as benevolent foreigners remove their tyrant.

**Exhausted vocabulary**  
Regime change is another still-repeated keyword from the Afghanistan and Iraq invasions. The US rejected the idea of diplomatic discussions with Iran and Syria to address the Lebanon crisis because, in the president's words, the US is more concerned with "form of government" than "stability."

This vocabulary has exhausted itself. First of all, the countries that count as America's allies, like Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, are not democratic regimes or even on a definite path toward liberalization.

The invasion of Iraq was supposed to awaken democratic aspirations within these autocracies, but the oppositional movements are coming not from liber-

of sovereignty and democracy, first in Afghanistan and Iraq and then in Lebanon, where the US, along with Europe and the United Nations, was lulled while watching the televised Cedar Revolution into letting Hezbollah's arms build up sabotage Lebanon's sovereignty and Israel's security.

Finally, the Iraq intervention was predicated on the fallacy that instability would foster progressive political change, but regional instability has thus far emboldened anti-democratic forces that now vie for supremacy.

**Four directions of Muslim world's geo-civil war**

An inventory of these forces suggests the various possible directions of the Muslim world's geo-civil war:

- Pan-Arab nationalism, which has sometimes trumped or at least suppressed the antagonisms between Sunnis and Shia, remains an element in Middle Eastern politics. It may be the last card that the leaders of the so-called moderate states of Egypt,



John Brenkman: "The Iraq intervention was predicated on the fallacy that instability would foster progressive political change, but regional instability has thus far emboldened anti-democratic forces that now vie for supremacy"

repudiates Shiism as apostasy and heresy as much as it preaches holy war against Jews and Crusaders.

The absolute ambition to impose its purified theology across the Muslim world, combined with the sacralization of murder and suicide, makes Al Qaeda impervious to historic compromises.

While these hegemony-seeking, anti-democratic trends contend with one another, the tensions between Sunnis and Shia could meanwhile become a widening gyre of sectarian confrontation in a swath that goes from Lebanon to Pakistan.

The latent conflict between major regional adversaries, like (Shiite) Iran and (Sunni) Pakistan, could erupt with unpredictable consequences, including allowing the radicals within each country to gain further strength. A jihadist takeover in nuclear-armed Pakistan, thereafter aligned with Al Qaeda, is of course among the most alarming possibilities.

**Change of course**

The US, Europe, and the international community need to call a spade a spade and recognize that no one is beyond the reach of the Muslim world's geo-civil war. As regards American policy, the most immediate need is a threefold change of course:

First, the uncompromising task of hunting down Al Qaeda's leaders and breaking up its globally dispersed cells must be separated, strategically and rhetorically, from the problems posed by Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran.

Second, some genuinely innovative diplomacy toward Iran must emerge to open a wedge against its continued radicalization. The Islamo-fascist fanaticism voiced by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is real enough, yet US policy has to recognize that Iran is a country which may fly a "totalitarian" banner but whose state and society are not in fact monolithic or fully mobilized behind the theocrats, and, further, that Iran's own security concerns vis-à-vis the potential nuclear threat posed by Pakistan, the US, and Israel have to be actively addressed and alleviated rather than heightened by bellicose posturing.

**State-building and democracy-promotion**

Finally, since neither "bringing-the-troops-home" nor "staying-the-course" will undo the mistake of invading Iraq, a new direction must emerge from the current predicament:

As Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon struggle to repair their sovereignty under the protection of, respectively, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the US-British occupier, and the European-led United Nations peacekeeping force, US policy should devote maximum resources - money, boots, persuasion - to these variously organized interventions.

**The fatal flaw in US policy has been its neglect of civil order as a foundation of sovereignty and democracy**

It is the occasion, however arduous, to remake state-building and democracy-promotion in the Muslim world as an international responsibility, rather than a messianic American ideal.

In Washington-style shorthand: Destroy Al Qaeda; talk to Iran; and nation-build Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon.

John Brenkman, distinguished professor at the City University of New York, directs the U.S.-Europe Seminar at Baruch College. He lives in New York and Paris. His next book, "The Cultural Contradictions of Democracy: Political Thought in the Age of Geo-Civil War" will be published by Princeton University Press in 2007.

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**The latent conflict between major regional adversaries, like (Shiite) Iran and (Sunni) Pakistan, could erupt with unpredictable consequences, including allowing the radicals within each country to gain further strength. A jihadist takeover in nuclear-armed Pakistan, thereafter aligned with Al Qaeda, is of course among the most alarming possibilities.**

al reformers and democrats, but from Sunni radicals and jihadists with increasing populist appeal.

**Walking a tightrope between the US and the own military**

Pakistan's Musharraf regime, the West's most important ally in the struggle against Al Qaeda and the effort to sustain some sort of non-totalitarian regime in Afghanistan, is not only not democratic, but its president walks a tightrope between cooperating with the US and placating his own military and internal-security apparatus, which have strong ties with, precisely, Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Second, the less-than-sovereign weak states, including Iraq, the Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, and Afghanistan, are the current sites of radical Islamist mobilizations and terrorism.

The fatal flaw in US policy has been its neglect of civil order as a foundation

Jordan, and Saudi Arabia have to play to wrest popular support from the Islamists that threaten their regimes.

- Conversely, the Persian Shiite theocracy in Iran is using its influence with the Arab Shia of Iraq and Lebanon to promote a pan-Islamism under Iranian hegemony. The Iranian Revolution of 1979, it should be recalled, has long served as an inspiration even among Sunni jihadists who otherwise consider Shiism their enemy.

- Alternatively, a new kind of Arab pan-Islamism could arise around the charismatic figure of Hezbollah's Hassan Nasrallah, attempting to unify Shia and Sunnis in the name of "resistance" against Israel and the West. His influence could also greatly strengthen the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

- The jihadists of Al Qaeda are in turn, however, unlikely to let themselves be eclipsed by such a Shiite-Sunni alliance, since their Salafist



Brenkman argues that the fatal flaw in US policy has been its neglect of civil order as a foundation of sovereignty and democracy, first in Afghanistan and then in Iraq.

((بش الصابرين الذين اذا اصابهم مصيبة قالوا انا لله انا اليه راجعون))  
سنة ١٤٢٨ هـ

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تتقدم بأحر التمازي وأصدق المواساة

للشيخ النقيب / ناجي بن عبد الله دماج  
وللمعيد / أمين قاسم دماج  
لوفاء المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى  
الشيخ / مسعد بن محمد دماج

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتعمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلمه أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان  
ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

العزوة  
د/همدان زيد مطيع دماج  
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## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2006

## Working together out of poverty

The United Nations International Day for the Eradication of poverty is celebrated throughout the world in October each year. One of the main aims of the commemoration is to make the voice of the poor heard, therefore the United Nations invited all States and concerned parties to devote this Day to presenting and promoting concrete activities on the eradication of poverty and destitution. The theme of this year's poverty day is "Working together out of poverty."

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf  
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Poverty in Yemen is likely to increase unless there is greater economic growth especially in rural areas in Yemen, says a July report by the unit for poverty reduction affiliated to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The report indicated that the year 2005 has performed slightly better than 2004 in slowing down the speed of poverty growth in Yemen. In 2004 Poverty has grown by 1.4 percent while in 2005 poverty has grown by 0.9 percent. This growth in poverty was the result of the inability to meet the minimum growth percentage required to sustain the same level of poverty in Yemen, which was 5.3 percent in 2004 and 5.5 percent in 2005.

The Economist Intelligence Unit has even reported an even more pessimistic image on Yemen's economy; it has forecasted economic growth in 2006 will be at 2.4 percent and 2.3 percent in 2007, falling far behind the target of 7 percent the government has set in its five-year development plan 2006-2010, which relies on two factors, the first is to promote economic activity increasing overall national productivity and in turn increase the

income per capita, while the other factor focuses on combating poverty using seven mechanisms which we will discuss hereafter.


1. Encourage Investments in labor-intensive industries which employ a large number of workers in industries such as agriculture, manufacturing and services such as tourism in order to increase employment and financial yield to people. Also to extend the Infrastructure such as roads and power services to remote areas in order to reduce their disconnection and also potentially facilitate the expansion of labor-intensive industries in rural areas into rural areas which might prove economically more feasible compared to urban centers.

2. Revising economic policies and the legal framework as well as the fiscal and financing policies and tax regulations in order to become more investor-friendly and encourage investors to play a larger role in the economy in turn providing employment.

3. Partnerships with the private sector, civil society institutes, international organizations and donor countries can prove instrumental in poverty reduction, especially with regards to the most deprived and poorest segments on the society through production projects, tiny enterprises and the activities of civil


**First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty 1997-2006**

**Eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind**



**"To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day..."**

**Millennium development goal**



society organizations in promoting entrepreneurship.

4. Capacity building for the poor and unemployed and training them to enhance their productivity, building their capacity through education, health care, vocational training and other sorts of training aiming at improved efficiency and productivity eventually increasing the income per capita.

5. Micro Financing and facilitating the purchase of productive assets and equipment through improving the lending mechanisms for tiny and small scale enterprises, these include the establishment of the HOPE bank which will be focused on financing micro and tiny projects.

6. Strengthening social security networks and expanding welfare networks for the disabled and those

who cannot play an active part in the economy, and also coordinate between various government welfare agencies in order to synergize efforts made in this regard.

7. Improving local administration and the role of local councils in terms of collecting 'Zakat' donations as well as other funds and directed income, and using those funds to build productive assets for the community as well as providing various services such as education, sanitation and infrastructure.

This seven-mechanism package of poverty reduction adopted by the Yemeni government might seem adequate in theory, but the key measurement is the impact of these mechanisms in reducing the level of poverty. Official statistics issued by the Minister of Planning indicate that during the period of 2000 - 2005 poverty in urban centers have decreased from 25.3 percent in 2000 to 18.7 percent in 2005, while in rural areas which accommodate roughly 70 percent of the population the poverty rate has dropped from 43.6 percent in 2000 to 40.6 percent in 2005.

One of the main reasons for the poverty in urban centers is the unemployment and underemployment, the official statistics indicate that unemployment stands at 15 percent of the urban work force and have a direct bearing on level of poverty in urban centers, while the biggest concern of poverty lies in tackling poverty in rural Yemen.

Poverty in rural Yemen lies mainly in the nature of economic activity carried out in rural areas, for example agricultural activity. The economy of Yemen is still

agricultural-based as agriculture employees 54 percent of the workforce and provides livelihood for over 66 percent of population focused in rural areas. This means that roughly 4 percent of the rural population is supported by value-added activities in rural areas such as trade, services and industry in various parts of the country.

Understanding poverty in rural Yemen which relies on agricultural activity necessitates that we study the agricultural yield in Yemen we can see that it can be divided into two types in accordance to the irrigation techniques, agricultural lands which rely on rainfall and do not have access to advanced irrigation techniques represent 60.8 percent of total agricultural land, but it only produces 14.2 percent of the total agricultural produce. On the other hand, 39.2 percent of the agricultural land uses advanced irrigation techniques and in turn produces 85.8 percent of the total agricultural produce. This indicates that poverty in rural Yemen suffers from a vicious cycle as those unable to afford advanced irrigation have a fraction of the yield otherwise possible with the help of better irrigation techniques.

The seven mechanisms laid down by the government of Yemen in order to reduce poverty are destined to have a favorable impact if executed properly and efficiently, as the failure of tackling poverty in Yemen doesn't only have an impact on the economy, but the political stability as well. Poverty in Yemen is a complicated issue, however, on the occasion of the UN day for eradication of poverty works as a reminder of the enormous size of the task and the many steps to be taken.

## Corrupting the fight against Corruption

By: Joseph E. Stiglitz

At its recent annual meeting, World Bank officials spoke extensively about corruption. It is an understandable concern: money that the Bank lends to developing countries that ends up in secret bank accounts or finances some contractors' luxurious lifestyle leaves a country more indebted, not more prosperous.

James Wolfensohn, the Bank's previous president, and I are widely credited with putting corruption on the Bank's agenda, against opponents who regarded corruption as a political issue, not an economic one, and thus outside the Bank's mandate. Our research showed systematic relationships between corruption and economic growth, which allowed us to pursue this critical issue.

But the World Bank would do well to keep four things in mind as it takes up the fight.

First, corruption takes many forms, so a war on corruption has to be fought on many fronts. You can't fight the diversion of small amounts of money by weak and poor countries while ignoring the massive diversion of public resources into private hands of the sort that marked, say, Russia under Boris Yeltsin.

In some countries, overt corruption occurs primarily through campaign contributions that oblige politicians to repay major donors with favors. Smaller-scale corruption is bad, but systemic corruption of political processes can have even greater costs. Campaign contributions and lobbying that lead to rapid privatizations of utilities - before appropriate regulatory frameworks are in place, and in a manner that produces only a few bidders - can impede development, even without direct kickbacks to government officials.

Life is never black and white. Just as there is no "one size fits all" policy for economic development, there is no such policy for fighting corruption. The response to corruption needs to be as complex and variegated as corruption itself.

**"There is no one size fits all policy for economic development.."**

Second, it's fine for the World Bank to deliver anti-corruption sermons. But policies, procedures, and institutions are what matter. In fact, the Bank's procurement procedures are generally viewed around the world as a model to be admired. Indeed, some countries with large dollar reserves - hardly in need of World Bank credit - borrowed from the Bank at far higher interest rates than they were getting from the United States, believing that these procedures would help ensure high-quality projects free of corruption and become standard in other areas.

But success in fighting corruption entails more than just good procurement procedures (avoiding, for instance, single-source non-competitive bidding). Many other policies and procedures can be enacted that reduce incentives for corruption. For example, some tax systems are more corruption-resistant than others, because they curtail the discretionary authority of tax officials.

Third, the World Bank's primary responsibility is to fight poverty, which means that when it confronts a poor country plagued with corruption, its challenge is to figure out how to ensure that its own money is not tainted and gets to projects and people that need it.

In some cases, this may entail delivering assistance through non-governmental organizations. But seldom will it be the case that the best response is simply to walk away.

Finally, while developing countries must take responsibility for rooting out corruption, there is much that the West can do to help. At a minimum, Western governments and corporations should not be complicit. Every bribe that is taken has a payer, and too often the bribe payer is a corporation from an advanced industrial country or someone acting on its behalf.

Indeed, one reason for the so called "natural resource curse" - the fact that resource-rich countries do not, on average, do as well as resource-poor countries - is the prevalence of corruption, too often aided and abetted by companies that would like to get the resources they sell at discount prices.

The US under President Jimmy

**"the fact that resource-rich countries do not, on average, do as well as resource-poor countries - is the prevalence of corruption"**

Carter made an important contribution in passing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which made bribery by American companies anywhere in the world illegal. The OECD's Convention on Bribery was another step in the right direction. Making all payments to governments transparent would bring further progress, and Western governments could encourage this simply by tying this requirement to tax deductibility.

It is equally important to address bank secrecy, which facilitates corruption by providing corrupt dictators with

a safe haven for their funds. In August 2001, just before the terrorist attacks on America, the US government vetoed an OECD effort to limit secret bank accounts. While the government has since reversed its stance on bank secrecy for terrorists, it has not done so for corrupt officials. A strong stand by the World Bank would enhance its credibility in the war on corruption.

Those who criticize the Bank's stance on corruption do not do so because they favor corruption. Some critics worry about corruption in the corruption agenda itself: that the fight will be used as a "cover" for cutting aid to countries that displease the US administration. Such concerns have found resonance in the seeming incongruity of the Bank's tough talk on corruption and simultaneous plans to expand lending to Iraq. No one is likely to certify that Iraq is corruption-free - or even ranks low on corruption internationally.

The most strident criticism, however, comes from those who worry that the World Bank is straying from its mandate. Of course, the Bank must do everything that it can to ensure that its money is well spent, which means fighting both corruption and incompetence.

But money itself will not solve all problems, and a single-minded focus on fighting corruption will not bring development. On the contrary, it might merely divert attention from other issues of no less moment for those struggling to lift themselves out of poverty.

Joseph E. Stiglitz is a Nobel laureate in economics and Professor of Economics at Columbia University; he was Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the World Bank. His latest book is *Making Globalization Work*. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006.

### OPINION

## Transparency Initiative & Yemen

By: Raidan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf  
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The last few decades have witnessed a great acceleration in the accumulation of wealth, due to industrial developments, technological revolutions or the newfound wealth in natural resources such as oil, gas and minerals. The newfound wealth was recently seen with the global increase in oil prices and the fortunes made by oil producing and exporting countries, and here I would like to bring the experience of two oil producing and exporting countries, Norway and Yemen.

Norway is among the rich countries on earth, and is the third largest exporter of oil after Saudi Arabia and Russia, while Yemen is one of the least developed countries and a tiny exporter of oil. Each country received significant income as a result of the increase in oil prices; Norway deposited the funds into a "Future Generations Fund" in order to ensure the well being of future generations, while Yemen sets a bank account at its Central Bank, and spends the additional funds to expand the day-to-day operations of the government instead of investing it or using it to tackle any of the distressing problems of poverty and illiteracy.

Yemen did not anticipate the increase to prices of oil in accordance to its budget and financial information and therefore it did not have a strategic vision (similar to that of Norway) for which it can use the additional

funds, and instead used the funds to build more government premises, buy more furniture and vehicles.

Although Yemen is far richer than it was a few years ago, poverty is increasing and quality of life continues to stagnate. What Yemen needs isn't more wealth per se, Yemen needs a concept or a system enabling it to use its wealth and resources in service of Yemen's future and in sustainable development for future generation.

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is one of those concepts ensuring better utilization of resources, it supports improved governance; empirical studies have shown that when governance is good, then the revenues of extractive industries can be channeled to fostering economic growth and reducing poverty.

The primary beneficiaries of transparency initiative are the governments and citizens of countries which have considerable natural resources. Knowing what governments receive, and what oil and extractive companies pay the government, is a critical first step in proper use of those revenues.

Implementing a transparency initiative as part of a program of improved governance will help to ensure oil, gas, and mining revenues contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction. Having said that, the government is on the right track as the cabinet has ratified a number of transparency and accountability measures last January, but the impact of those measures are yet to be witnessed in Yemen.



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

# A suicidal operation

By: Ghaleb Hassan Al-Ahlasi  
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“Good luck son,” a 45 years old woman saw off her 23 years old Aziz who was going to the city collage to see his grades. A four years’ hard work, strenuous walk and series fear result would appear that day. His old, tired parents who had done every possible thing for him and his brothers’ dream’s had to be done or gone.

It’s a very long walk, its length was more than three hours on feet; not because there was no buses or he couldn’t pay the fare no but because the extorters wanted and still want to make it as difficult as they could for him and his partners who want to educate and serve his country and of course say NO for occupation forces.

He started his 3 hours walking by praying and asking Allah to help him. After less than 30 minutes his feet couldn’t carry him any more. He sat on a big stone for a short rest, remembering his past and family and trying to picture his future. He remembered his father and mother, his great parents who just had done every thing for them. Who taught him and his two brothers and sister the real meaning of patience and dignity. How to really love the earth and farm. How to really take a good care for their two acres farm to get its unlimited giving. He stood up and continued his long journey while the memory film was still playing in his mind. He remembered the beautiful times when his father taught him how to plant then raise and finely how to harvest. Step-by-step he learnt every thing and the more he learnt about the earth the much more he learnt love to it grew.

Twenty-three years is the period of the time he have been living in his small, seven houses village with his parents, two brothers and sister. All live in the three rooms and kitchen house and depend on the two acres yield. They live in happiness and peace. All of them know the great meaning of cooperation and sacrifice. The life has taken its meaning from them but they have been taking it from the days. His younger brother, Saad, is 21

and in a year he will be a policeman. The other, Jamal, is 18 and has finished his high school this year. And the sister, Samah, is just five. She will enter the school next year. He remembered his very happy and sad childhood. The great time he had with his brothers and cousins Reiaadh, 22 and planning to be a doctor. Fadi, 16 years and his love, Rana, 19 years. As her picture came over his mind his heartbeats became faster and faster and a hopeful and determination smile was drawn and shining on his face. His life dream is about to be real. His heart and soul will meet their other each half very soon. He turned back to his childhood and school. The scenes of tanks, machine guns, armored vehicles, blood and dead bodies showed it automatically to him. He remembered the times he and his friends had to cross more than two kilometers on feet. The times they arrived their schools after the forth class not because they couldn’t pay but because the occupation forces tried and still their best to make it as impossible as they can for them to educate. The times they lift the schools and in front of its door saw whole occupation army standing, gazing on them by eyes wanted to get out from their eyelids and eat them.

He remembered Salaah, the 10 years old boy whose heart and head were shot only because he said “NO” for the occupation and threw some small stones. The scene of Salaah bloodstained was always in front of his eyes. He couldn’t forget that day, one of his best friends died in his hand and he couldn’t do anything. He still felt his bloody hand on his and the shiny death smile on his face. His last words’ echo was still in his ears. “tell my mother not to be sad. Tell her I just missed my father a lot and we are waiting for her in heaven.”

Salaah was the first one dye on his presence but he was not the only. Hamad, Issam and Mohammed followed him. He himself was about to follow him. The occupation bullets were hunting them one after the other. They don’t distinguish between a men and a babies. Youngs and olds. Men and women. All they care about is there blood, how to separate there souls and bodies even without reasons.

He went back mentally to his village. His father promise when he said “listen son, I promise you when you graduate and get your certificate I’ll ask for Rana’s hand for you.” The promise that gave you the reason to live. Those wards were the division between him and despair and death. Rana, his soul and heart, his life and death, his happiness and death.

His meaning of life and drive to success. His hope and light and past and future.

His collage wasn’t nearer than half an hour but his feet couldn’t move any more steps. He sat and returned to his love, Rana, when his father and uncle were talking about them after there last together dinner three days ago when they were setting for tea alone but he and Rana were eavesdrop, “see brother,” said his father “our sons are growing very fast. Aziz and Reiaadh will graduate in a few days.”

“yes, “his uncle agreed “our great dreams are about to be real.”

“yeah but our job hasn’t finished yet. It will not be done until their brothers graduate and became independents.”

“you are right. We will not have a rest until we see them on there own houses with their wives.”

The uncle’s answer brought the whole world’s happiness into their hearts. He saw for the first time her embarrassed smile. It was like the dawn light.

The sun was saying its good-byes to that green heaven when Aziz entered it handling his certificate. Finally he graduated and his future’s features were cleared up. The world’s happiness wasn’t enough for him. he was flying, his heart was a heaven bird inside his chest. Two life dreams were made that day; his graduating, which was the first step on his long life way and his father’s promise, his life love and partner.

The great dreams for the simple future took his mind until he found himself in an unknown place for him. He found himself in a ruined village, destroyed completely over its population.

He realized in seconds it wasn’t his village; the felicity must make him change his way. But the scene was really horrible. The blood was every were, the farms were totally destroyed and the buildings

were completely equaled with the earth face. For a long moment his feet were stood as if pinned to the ground. He couldn’t resist his tears and fury. “What is these?” he asked himself. “A whole village destroyed like this, in a moment. Why? For what? Where are the human rights’ organizations? Where are the great countries who always defaming terrorism and promise to eradication it.” A lot of questions came up in his mind while rounding the devastation. Stumps and blood every were, their was no a signal of a life.

A green, embroidered dress on a dead body stopped him. He had saw this dress somewhere, he was sure of it. Back to his memory he reviewed all the women he knows. His mother, sister, his three teachers, his aunt and... yeah, it was hers. It was ... no. that’s impossible. He jumped over the devastation and threw the stones up from that dead body, specially its face. And it was the big shock. Although its face was deformed and bloody and its features were not clear but it was her. His dream and future and soul and heart, she was Rana. The shock paralyzed his mind and body. He couldn’t believe it. For five minutes he stood staring at his love body. Why? What did she do? Why her?” questions where as in his mind as the tears his eyes dropped.

He spent night searching in the ruin. He found his father, mother and aunt’s bodies, very dead. His uncle was burned in his farm and his body wasn’t found. His brothers, sister and cousin’s were all at the hospital in a very critical state. They really need a miracle to make it.

The news said “ten heads and 17 wounded at least is the harvest of the air Israeli air attack in a village in Gazah section this afternoon.”

Aziz, the bright, smile, optimistic and ambitious young became in three days a tired, introverted, sad with a 90 years old face man. He couldn’t believe it, he just went to saw his certificate, he was absolutely handling his dreams. In a moment, just a moment destroyed his life dreams. His happiness, just seconds ruin his whole life. Why? What had he done? He only wanted to live a simple life, to see the happiness in his father’s eyes, to marry his life love. Are those crimes? Did

he deserve all that? And why that day? Why they choose it? Why they didn’t did their attack other time he when he be with them. Three days passed like 300 years for him. his mind was about to exploding. Yet he came to no answer. Or even a plan, just one thing, one thing only was very clear to him. “his life became tasteless, unneeded and lost it’s every meaning. He was a very dead man with a pulsating heart. Yet he knew he couldn’t live like this, he must do something. Do it fast and right. He must end up his miserable, horrible and unmeaning life. He must follow his father, mother and his clean love, Rana. But the question was, how to follow them to the heaven, not going to the hell?”

With the first sun rays Aziz waked up and put on his only, dirty clothes and went out of the village. He made his last, fatal and decisive decision. The deadly anger fire was flaming in his eyes, he just knew what must be done.

A three floors old building with broken windows and no single of life was where he stopped at noon. For two hours he stayed there and waiting. His very empty stomach was entreating him to eat. Three days without eating, living only on water, but he didn’t listen. He made himself as he didn’t hear its entreats. It wasn’t eating time, it was revenge’s.

After two hours three young, will-educated and looking arrived, looking around scarily.

“Sehab,” Aziz call one of them, the three gays took a long, afraid look at them

“what! Don’t you remember me?” Aziz interrupted the their questionable look. “I’m Aziz. Aziz Safwan.” It took a few seconds before one of them said “Aziz...what...what happened to you?”

And before he answered, Aziz sighed smiling, for a moment he thought his old friends wouldn’t know him. they invited him to the old house where he, for a whole hour, stayed and told them his whole story.

“And what do you plan to do?” asked Shehab after he finished his story “a suicidal operation.” His words were a shock for them

“what...what do you mean?”  
“will, an explosive belt and...”

“yes we know that but... don’t you think...”

“I’m done with thinking.” He interrupted “there is no more.”

“no there is. Think of that, you are a doctor, think of how many people you will safe, how many suns will be saved from orphanage...”

“and what about me,” he shouted “what about my feeling. My parents, my farm, my house and my only love gone in a moment.”

“you still have your brothers and sister, they need you more know then before.”

“they have Allah.”

“but you must...”

“listen to me, are you helping me or no.” he asked very seriously and when they saw this they promise to help.

After three days of hard and unbroken work, the operation was complete, need only to be done. Aziz went to the hospital, visited his brothers. Saad was ok, he lift the emergency room. Samah had broken arm and leg bones. And Jamal was still in the emergency room. His cosines were both out the emergency room. The were better than his brother. Aziz, when the nurse left them, took Reiaadh’s right hand and said “Reiaadh, I want you to promise me you will take care of my brothers as they were yours.”

“what... what are you taking about. What about you?”

“it’s along story. Please promise me.”

“Aziz, you scare my, where are you going?”

“please cousin. Please say it. You will know every thing very soon.”  
Reidh didn’t had much to say. He just promise him. then, after thanking him, he went to Saad and asked him to take care of Fadi and Samah. Then he Kissed Samah on his head and went without a word. He couldn’t resist his tears more than that. He lift them sinking in the scare and confusing mire.

The next day he wore his every thin for the operation and went directly to on of the occupation colony and after researching him and everything he entered the colony, he was an Israeli solder as said in his ID.

“Three Israelis were killed and seven wounded in a suicidal operation in a colony south...” The news said.

## Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

### ACROSS

- 1 State flower of N.M.
- 6 Camp retreat
- 10 Baby seals, e.g.
- 14 Castaway’s site, perhaps
- 15 Borodin opera prince
- 16 Mozart’s Trojan princess
- 17 Trait of one displaying good judgment
- 20 Nonkosher
- 21 Unmatched
- 22 Defender of Troy
- 23 Demeanor
- 24 Word with deep or stir
- 25 En route on the QEII, e.g.
- 26 High school math course
- 32 Word with bar or days
- 34 Sea eagles
- 35 “Norma \_\_\_” (Sally Field film)
- 36 Shrink trailer
- 37 Duce toppers
- 39 Post-larval insect
- 40 Do not delay
- 41 Regrets

- 42 Burns and Allen, e.g.
- 43 Brother-and-sister pop act
- 47 Intentions
- 48 Acoustic organ
- 49 Word with up or down
- 52 Acclaim
- 55 Range of vision
- 56 Of the highest quality, informally
- 57 They once hung over the Kremlin
- 60 Rombauer or “La Douce”
- 61 Baal, e.g.
- 62 Luster
- 63 Revolutionary Trotsky
- 64 \_\_\_ d’Azur
- 65 Fixes, as fences

### DOWN

- 1 Historic conference site
- 2 Gestation stations
- 3 Darkroom object
- 4 Staff opening
- 5 The most you can get
- 6 Hippie coloring method

- 7 Old oath
- 8 Land east of Eden
- 9 Some high crimes
- 10 Auricles
- 11 1997 Fonda role
- 12 Galileo’s birthplace
- 13 Brat’s forte
- 18 Headpiece?
- 19 Judges to be
- 24 Temporary trend
- 25 High-altitude habitation (Var.)
- 27 Race segment
- 28 Where to get down?
- 29 Honest
- 30 Engrossed
- 31 Some approvals
- 32 Knock out of the park
- 33 Military doctor’s concern
- 37 Curry powder ingredient
- 38 Workout units
- 39 “\_\_\_ favor, senator!”
- 41 Cause for celebration
- 42 Word with second or mile
- 44 Alligatorlike reptile
- 45 Kid
- 46 Turns into leather
- 50 Guideless
- 51 They’re coming of age
- 52 TV Dr.
- 53 Stamp designation
- 54 It’s loaded
- 55 It takes two people to tie it
- 56 Rubdown target
- 58 Pother
- 59 Doctrine

### “JACK OF ALL TRADES” by Avery Rice

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### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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H	A	T	E	D	A	R	E	S	T	O	R

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The comic strip section features several panels. The top row includes a Calvin and Hobbes strip where Calvin asks about dinosaurs and a Garfield strip where Garfield is talking to a man. Below these are several smaller strips, including one titled 'WAKE UP!' and another about a 'SABER-TOOTHED TIGER'. The bottom row shows a large Garfield strip where Garfield is talking to a man, and another strip where Garfield is talking to a man.



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## Made in Yemen - Ramadan delicacies

Every issue, we will bring you recipes of a number of Yemeni traditional foods made especially during Ramadan. We will also provide you with health tips regarding some of the food items for your benefit. **Bonn appetite!**

### Ta'amiya or Bagiya:

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup dried, peeled fava beans
- 1 medium onion
- cup freshly chopped leek leaves
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 tablespoons fresh mint, stems removed and finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, stems removed and finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons fresh coriander, stems removed and finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 3/4 teaspoon cumin
- oil for frying

#### Preparation:

1. Soak beans overnight in water.
2. Drain and rinse.
3. Preheat oil to 350 degrees. 2 inches of oil in a frying pan will suffice.
4. Place beans in food processor and blend.
5. add the remaining ingredients to form a thick paste-like consistency. If too thick, add 1 tablespoon of

water at a time until desired consistency.

6. Remove mixture from processor. Spoon falafel into hot oil by the tablespoon. Or if you can, make small flat balls with your hand and gently place in the oil.
7. Fry for about 2 minutes or until Bagiya is a golden brown color.

Serve falafel by itself, or with hot Adani chili sauce, or with simple sahwaiq.

### These are four types of chutnies made popularly in Yemen:

#### 1. Adani chili sauce

Adani chili is also known as chili pepper. It is less spicy and much bigger in size. It is bought in dry form from spices shops

Soak the chilies for a one hour until soft

1. Remove seeds
2. Grind with garlic, if required add



- two table spoons water
3. Add juice of one lemon
4. Add salt for taste
5. Either use 2 spoons vinegar or use tamarind sauce.

To make tamarind sauce, soak tamarind in warm water until it becomes soft and starts to melt. Peel and remove the seed, then mix it with little water to get a thick sauce.

#### 2. Sahwaiq: Tomato coriander chutney

- #### Ingredients:
- 3 red tomatoes
  - 2 cloves garlic
  - \_ tbsp cumin seeds
  - one small chili
  - 1 spoon chopped fresh coriander
  - Salt to taste

#### Procedure:

Mix all the ingredients together in a blender and add the salt to the taste.

#### 3. Cottage cheese chutney

- #### Ingredients:
- 250 grams of cottage cheese
  - 3 red tomatoes
  - 2 cloves garlic
  - \_ tbsp cumin seeds
  - one small chili
  - 1 spoon chopped fresh coriander
  - Salt to taste

#### Procedure:

Mix all the ingredients together in a blender and add the salt to the taste.

#### 4. Anchovies chutney

The same ingredients as the cottage chutney except replace the cheese with 3 spoons of anchovies. Grind the anchovies with little water. Blend it with the rest of the ingredients.



Cottage cheese chutney and Sahwaiq (tomato coriander chutney).

PHOTOS BY HAMDAN DAMMAJ

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## Health benefits

This is the local version of a more well known Mediterranean food called Falafel. Falafel is more commonly prepared with chickpeas.

#### Nutrition

Fava beans are high in fiber (85% of the RDV), high in iron (30% of a day's requirement), and very low in sodium. They have no cholesterol and are low in fat. Favas do have 50 grams of total carbohydrates and almost 300 calories per 3/4 cup serving.

Some small studies have shown that the levodopa in fava beans can help control the symptoms of Parkinson Disease, just as medications containing levodopa do. In fact, a few people report that the effects from fava last longer than the effects from medications. Some researchers believe fava beans may contain other substances besides levodopa that could be helpful.

However, although some people report good effects, others find no antiparkinson effect from fava beans at all; and still others report adverse effects, such as nausea and dyskinesia. Much more research needs to be done to determine how effective fava beans may be.

#### Chilies:

Chili peppers contain a substance called *capsaicin*, which gives peppers

their characteristic pungence, producing mild to intense spice when eaten. Capsaicin is a potent inhibitor of substance P, a neuropeptide associated with inflammatory processes.

Red chili peppers, such as cayenne, have been shown to reduce blood cholesterol, triglyceride levels, and platelet aggregation, while increasing the body's ability to dissolve fibrin, a substance integral to the formation of blood clots. Cultures where hot pepper is used liberally have a much lower rate of heart attack, stroke and pulmonary embolism

#### Tamarind

The tamarind pulp has a pleasing sweet/sour flavor, which makes it a good complement to hot dishes. Tamarind is used as a souring agent in place of vinegar, lemon, etc. It is rich in vitamin B and calcium. The tartaric acid present in it is a very good food acidulant. It is also used in the making of sauce, ketchup, etc., for seasoning, and as a preservative in meat and fish processing. Tamarind is preferred to lemon for sourness.

They are commonly used with sugar and water in the American tropics to prepare a cooling drink. The pulp is used to flavour preserves and chutney, to make meat sauces and to pickle fish.

#### Anchovies:

Fish is a high-protein, low-fat food that provides a range of health benefits. White-fleshed fish, in particular, is lower in fat than any other source of animal protein, and oilier fish contain substantial quantities of omega-3s, or the "good" fats in the human diet. In addition, fish does not contain the "bad" fats commonly found in red meat — called omega-6 fatty acids.

#### Sources:

Whfoods.com & mideastfood.about.com



Adani chili sauce

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