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Inside:  **3**  **Human Rights Ministry and the fight against AIDS**  **5** **Yemen imprisoning children despite ratifying child rights convention**  **9** **The war against corruption**

Readers' Voice
Last edition's question:
 Are opposition MPs sincere about accusing the Yemeni government of hiding more than 25 million barrels of oil not included in the 2007 budget?
 I don't know (18)
 No (18%) Yes (60%)
This edition's question:
 Is it true that having knowledge of international laws will give Yemeni journalist legal protection.
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

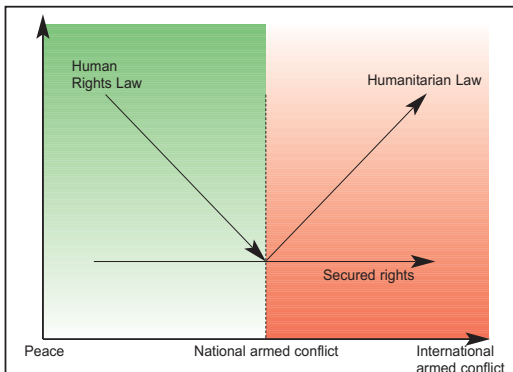
For better protection, journalists must know the law

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Dec. 20 — Legal protection is the escape journalists have from political, economic and personal pressures they face in their profession. The International Humanitarian Law ensures protection and immunity for journalists, who are considered civilians.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and using the humanitarian law in media, followed by a speech from Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief Nadia Al-Sakkaf regarding the problems and difficulties of media work in Yemen.

Comparing the media to humanitarian organizations like the Red Cross, Hassan explained, "Because of their misunderstanding of the laws and terminology, many journalist end up producing faulty



"The difference between the International Human Rights Law and the International Humanitarian Law is the mode of application. In peace times, the highest significance is human rights law, while such significance decreases until it reaches minimum levels during conflicts," Damaj explained.



Damaj explained to trainees that whether in conflict or peace situations, four basic rights never should be violated: the right to life, no torture, no fugitives and provision of judiciary guarantees.

reports. The difference between the media and us humanitarian organizations is that we prioritize the victims over the news and we can't take sides whatsoever. However, we agree on finding the truth and promoting the welfare of humanity."

The main session was on the International Humanitarian Law, its relation to other international laws, its basic principles and implementing it during armed conflicts.

"In order to make use of the law, you

have to know it first – this is what we'll be doing in this training. International laws give people complete protection in all aspects of life," Damaj told trainees.

However, such immunity isn't absolute. Journalists are protected unless directly or indirectly involved in hostile acts, as this cancels such protection during the journalist's involvement in hostile acts.

Even when used for propaganda purposes, the media enjoys the right to protection unless they deviate to serve military purposes or incite violence, genocide or violations against the International Humanitarian Law. Once all requirements have been met, the media always must be on full alert to avoid property loss, death and any harm to civilians.

The second day, Damaj introduced trainees to national applications of the humanitarian law, mechanisms to implement it and security in open fields. In

another session, Hassan explained legal protection for journalists in armed conflicts.

"The difference between the International Human Rights Law and the International Humanitarian Law is the mode of application. In peace times, the highest significance is human rights law, while such significance decreases until it reaches minimum levels during conflicts," Damaj explained.

Continued on page 2

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Future Arab youth leaders want a say

By: Khalil Al-Khaubari

SANA'A, Dec. 20 — Arab youth want their rights in the political and decision-making process and demand improved living standards.

"Poverty, unemployment and delinquency are results of bad political and economic situations in Arab regions. Governments should include youth in their politics and decisions," said Nabil Majeed from the Social Democratic Forum in Yemen during a three-day regional meeting of the Arab Integrated Network held Dec. 17-19 in Sana'a.

The Arab Integrated Network includes coordinators from 12 Arab nations: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Sudan, Libya and Morocco.

The meeting was within the youth project and human rights challenges in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

"It's so pleasing that Arab youth have a

unified goal and are working together to solve their problems and achieve their goals," said Ahmed Badawi from Egypt, "With a unified vision and cooperation in implementation, we can solve youth problems at the Arab national level."

Idrisi Jawhara from Morocco considered the event a push forward in the youth development process. She also called upon female youths to take up their expected roles in such process.

If not enacted, participants considered the conference and its recommendations useless and unreliable. "Youth must be skilled and qualified. They should be given administrative and personal skills in order to be active and productive at the same time," said Mohammed Al-Maskati of the Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights and General Secretary of the Arab Network.

Participants were considered the network's coordinators in their respective nations, undergoing high-standard exami-



The panel discussed the difficulties youth face in their various countries.

nations by network founders to assess their activities regarding youth issues. They must be neutral – neither for government nor the opposition – and their thesis should be objective and practical. "We depend upon funding organizations to evaluate the level of activities the coordinators achieve in their countries," Al-Maskati noted.

The Arab Integrated Network is self-financed and accepts no financial support from any government or political party. As Al-Maskati clarified, "We refused \$300,000 from the U.S. State Department to support the network. We depend on human rights and nonaligned organizations' support."

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Meat embargo lifted, Yemen criticized

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

DJIBOUTI, Dec. 19 — Yemeni businessman Mohammed Qa'ed Abu Yasser has officially inaugurated the largest cattle quarantine in the entire Middle East area, and indeed the world, in Djibouti.

Abu Yasser, who resides in Saudi Arabia, revealed that Yemeni officials refuse to test cattle before importing them, particularly with the advent of Eid when large quantities of beef are consumed.

Following the inauguration of the cattle quarantine, Abu Yasser asserted that most beef enters Yemen illegally and expressed surprise that Yemeni authorities reject or hinder testing cattle imports.

He maintained that those who reject such testing aren't being cautious regard-

ing Yemen's interest and are behaving irresponsibly, indicating that he can provide additional facilities and privileges, even testing cattle for free.

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In brief

Aden

Exhibition activities of government uniform opened

Dec. 19 — The foundation of development and culture program opened the third national exhibition for Yemeni modern history. The chief of the foundation, Raufah Hassin, stated that the exhibition aims to create a new visual memory for the Yemen modern history during the period from 1948 to 2004. The exhibition spotlights the original clothes for the political leaders, currencies, flags, unique and historical photos. Additionally many workshops, artistic shows and other activities will take place for ten days in Aden.

Amran

School management training program

Dec. 18 — The Ministry of Education organized School Management Program activities. The courses will be continue for 11 days. The courses aims to prepare 42 trainers to train schools headmasters and their deputies on the professional administration in order to qualify schools for better education output. Head trainer, Sadik Annagar, confirmed that this program and other programs the ministry is organizing, aim to develop the education situation throughout qualifying school managements. He said that 200 male and female trainees have received training courses on modern educational methods.

Dhamar

Governor meets Palestinian Diplomat

Dec. 17 — Governor of Dhamar, Mansour Abdul-Rab, held talks with Palestinian Ambassador Khalid Al-Sheikh over the status of Palestine's students in Dhamar university and schools. The governor said the Palestinian students are receiving excellent treatment, praising the good relationship between Yemen and Palestine. For his part, the ambassador expressed his happiness to visit Dhamar to see civilization in Dhamar. He appreciated the stance of Yemen and president Ali Abdullah Saleh toward Palestinian issues as well as Yemeni unlimited support for Palestine's issues.

Shabwa

Yemen LNG donates electricity generator to Bir Ali

Dec. 19 — A ribbon cutting ceremony in Bir Ali brought together members of the Yemen LNG Board of Directors marking the inauguration of the Bir Ali 300 kw electrical generator provided by the company to the village last Wednesday. The handover agreement was also signed between village committees and the company. The generator is one of a series of projects that aim not only to compensate for any unavoidable impact also to improve the living conditions of affected communities and achieve sustainable development

Taiz

Teachers protest suspension of their salaries

Dec. 19 — Taiz governorate stated that heads of education centers suspended the November month's salaries of 400 teachers that amounted to YR 10 million at Shara'ab district. The education center has granted more than 400 teachers arbitrary dispatching decisions since the beginning of this year in return for illegal payments. The education center appointed principals without referring them to the Education Office in the governorate, the procedures of which are arbitrary. The educational process in the district is subjected to trafficking. A number of schools lack textbooks since the beginning of the academic year and a number of inspectors in the district appealed to the local councils to quickly interfere and release their salaries as well as investigate the case.

Six Yemenis return from Guantanamo

By: Amel Alariqi

SANA'A, Dec. 19 — Six Yemeni nationals who had been detained at the U.S. military jail at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have returned to Yemen, said a Yemeni Interior Ministry source on Monday.

Saba news agency quoted an Interior Ministry source saying that they are still in talks with the U.S. Administration about handing over the rest of the Yemeni detainees. Saba did not provide further details about the freed prisoners or say whether they would face trial in Yemen. However, the Associated Press quoted an official speaking on the condition of anonymity as saying they were being held by Yemeni authorities to determine if they have any terror ties.

"As usual, Yemeni authorities seized those who came back from Guantanamo, putting them in jail for a long time. Namely they are transferred from Guantanamo prison to another prison in their country," commented lawyer Khaled Al-Ansi, executive manager in Yemeni Human Rights Organization.

The U.S. military repatriated 18 detainees from Guantanamo Bay over the weekend to Afghanistan, Yemen, Kazakhstan, Libya and Bangladesh, a Pentagon spokesman said Sunday. The men, flown out of the U.S. naval

base in southeastern Cuba on Friday, were all transferred to the custody of governments in their native countries except for one Yemeni detainee, who was released without conditions, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chito Pepler. Yemeni officials did not have any information about the detainee released without conditions.

Last year, Yemen received four Yemeni citizens from the Guantanamo prison and put them on trial. Two of the men were convicted last March of falsifying identification documents and sentenced to three and a half years in prison. None were charged with terrorism-related activities.

"These sentences were only to justify the long time that they spent in the jail," said Al-Ansi.

According to a list received by the Yemeni government from U.S. about 106 Yemenis remain at Guantanamo. However lawyers and human activists referred to the existence of about 150 Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo. In June, a Yemeni and two Saudi Arabians committed suicide at Guantanamo and their bodies were sent to their homelands. A study revealed that 95 percent of Yemeni detainees at Guantanamo, who were arrested in Afghanistan and Pakistan following the fall of the Taliban, have no Al-Qaeda links. According to the study, only five percent of detainees

were involved in military operations launched by Al-Qaeda's network.

The study said most Yemenis arrested were working as Quranic and Arabic language teachers in Afghanistan at a monthly salary of \$100 for married teachers and half that for singles.

Through information obtained from Yemeni families and testimonies of Yemeni Guantanamo detainees, most detainees were arrested in Pakistan due to the \$5,000 award offered by U.S. authorities to anyone reporting about those escaping into Pakistan from Afghanistan. This encouraged Pakistanis to inform U.S. authorities of any Arab national they discovered.

According to the study's findings, U.S. authorities have no evidence to convict at least 95 percent of Yemenis detained at Guantanamo in connection with military operations. It added that most detainees were captured during military operations in Afghanistan.

According to Pentagon figures, about 380 detainees have been released from Guantanamo from at least 29 countries since 2002, including Albania, Afghanistan, Britain, Egypt, Iran, Yemen and Iraq. After the release of these recent 18, there are around 395 detainees remained at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo.

Thousands vote, one killed in Mahwit

TAIZ, Dec. 20 — Thousands of Yemeni voters headed to polling centers to cast their ballots in complementary elections and to fill vacant Parliament seats in Constituencies 47 and 166 in Taiz and Hodeidah respectively.

Media revealed that elections in some districts weren't successful and witnessed armed clashes. The most serious incident was in Malhan's Al-Shamasenah district in Mahwit, which left one person dead and five others injured.

Electoral committees embarked on their tasks in 153 local and parliamentary constituencies at around 8 a.m., with voters rushing to polling centers from early morning.

A total of 670 nominees — 181 for the governorates and 489 for districts — competed for local council memberships, while eight nominees competed

to fill two vacant Parliament seats in Constituencies 47 and 166.

Complementary elections for governorate local councils involved 26 polling centers, while district complementary elections were held in 126 local constituencies.

There were 299,763 eligible voters, including 95,413 women. The electoral process was conducted by 696 committees, of which 302 were women's committees. Additionally, there were contradictions regarding the number of polling centers where elections were halted, as well as numerous violations recorded at many voting centers.

According to the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum, elections to fill vacant Parliament positions in Constituencies 47 and 116 were conducted without any problems.

Coast Guards drown in Red Sea

SANA'A, Dec. 20 — Ten Yemeni coast guards drowned in the Red Sea when their boat capsized. The guards were sailing from the Yemeni Island of Zugar, 45 km off the Yemeni shore, toward Al-Khokha coast.

"A Yemeni trade ship found the capsized boat and rescued 7 survivors but did find the corpses of the sailors who drowned," said security sources on Monday.

The security sources revealed the accident was caused by strong water currents, but did not mention any efforts by the Air Forces to rescue the victims with military helicopters.

Navigational sources said that the trade ship that managed to drag the uncontrolled boat out belongs to the Yemeni businessman Ahmad Al-Eisi. The same sources mentioned the boat was missing in the seawaters because its captains had not followed the safety means, recommended in winter when the waves are more restless.

Many African refugees were subjected to similar accidents earlier this week as they were attempting to reach Yemen's shores. The refugees were escaping the civil war in Somalia.

Drowning accidents have increased between last April and November due climate changes, according to the sources.

Many reports have so far confirmed that Yemen asked several countries that have troops in the Red Sea to help in search for the military equipment, which was lost last week.

Al-Shoura Net reported the Yemeni Marine Forces expended efforts in search for the boats that were missing with Coast Guards on board.

Yemeni Fishermen in Hodeidah haven't indicated that there are climate changes and restless waves. They said the weather remained in the same condition during the week.

Yemen's recently established Coast Guards exceed 20,000 and have modest military equipment.

New Yemeni history book

SANA'A, Dec. 18 — In cooperation with Yemeni foundations and various foreign organizations, the French Institute for Antiquities and Social Sciences funded, printed and published a book on "Yemeni Cities of Inscriptions." The institute is chaired by Jan Lampere.

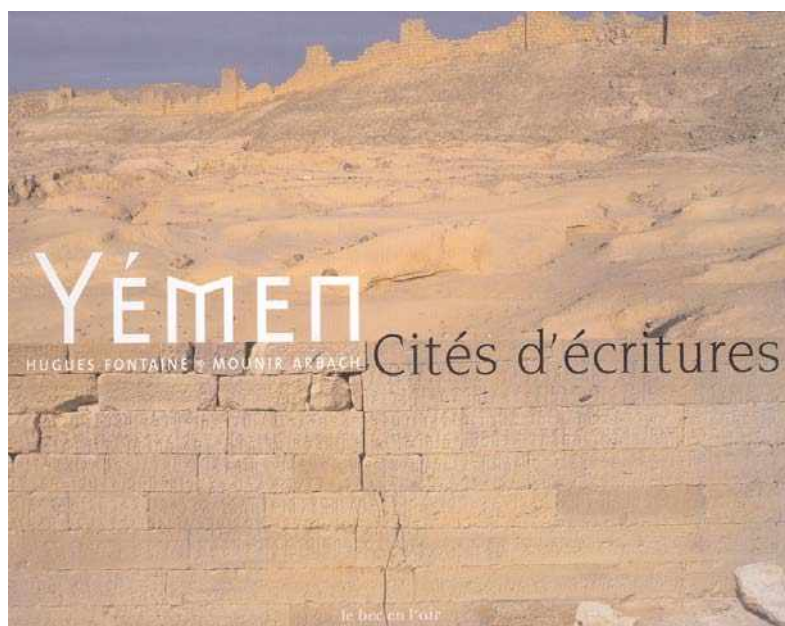
The book was compiled by Monir Arbash and the famous French photographer Auje Fouchi. It is composed of 238 pages, nearly one hundred photos, 21 paintings and several maps. The book concludes with a chronically serialized table showing the biographies of the kings of Arabia Felix and contains an index for places, as well as a list of consulted references.

The book focuses on the valley cities that played an important role in the incense trade in 1000 B.C.

The book was produced to help French people in particular and the Europeans learn about the civilization of Arabia Felix kings through photos and texts. It also aims to help Yemenis know about their civilization heritage, which is pondered upon as part of the world heritage.

Additionally, the book intends to show the wealthy civilization of the Arabia Felix kings with the help of antiquities and inscriptions.

The book is written in Arabic and



French and both versions have the same content.

The Arabic version, which is entirely separated from the French one, contains a historical glimpse about the early appearance of Arabia Felix kings, in addition to maps, languages and calligraphies of the past and brief explanation about valleys, of which shots were taken.

The book is distinctive for being compiled and organized in two different visions. The first vision is

that of the photographer who took numerous shots expressing themselves in their own language without any comments, thus giving the reader the complete freedom to contemplate on the appreciate the product.

The other vision, which has a complementary role, is that of the historian, who worked hard to understand and interpret the reasons behind the Arabia Felix kings' great civilization and ancient history.

Violence in Sa'ada prison

SA'ADA, Dec. 20 — There were armed clashes in Sa'ada's Quhzah Prison between inmates and security forces and army units who were summoned by the prison's guards, according to media reports on Dec. 18.

The reported clashes took place on Sunday afternoon when some security personnel decided to burn the inmate's tents in the prison's yard. In reaction, the inmates, hiding in the prison's rooms and lobbies, hurled stones at the security. Thus, the guards summoned additional forces from security and army and embarked on firing into air. No inmates were injured.

Officials negotiated with inmates

and the talks resulted in convincing inmates to hand over sticks and iron pieces in their possession to the prison's administration in return for lifting the ban over food, water and electricity.

The available information mentioned the prison's administration allowed inmates to access food, water and electricity after 36 hours.

As for the suffocated inmates, the sources revealed most inmates got over their conditions and another two are still receiving medicine.

The clashes between security forces and inmates came after the latter started to chant slogans Al-Houthi followers used to voice against America and Israel though

they are not affiliated with Al-Houthi.

"The inmates have no links to Al-Houthi and most of them are jailed on criminal issues," maintained the source. "However, Al-Houthi may have indirect connections with incidents and further some Al-Houthi followers left behind some Houthi handouts and books upon leaving the prison earlier and inmates refused to hand them over to guards, forcing them to burn tents."

Quhzah Prison witnessed a massacre at the end of 2005 when 6 inmates were killed and 18 others injured after security personnel fired bullets at them as they were protesting mistreatment.

Journalists seek international protection

SANA'A, Dec. 20 — Four Yemeni journalists urged the United Nations to protect them from physical harm, hunting, assaults and harassments. They complained that their freedom of expression is restricted.

In a letter sent to U.N. Human Rights Council, a copy of which was published by Al-Tajamu' weekly, journalists urged the UNHRC to intercede and take an international decision to protect them in conformity

with international conventions and legitimacies.

"The State hunts us, abuses our rights and restrict our freedom of expressions," the Yemeni journalists said in their letter. "We were subjected to abduction, forcible disappearance and illegal and unconstitutional arrests. We are deprived of our livelihood sources because we criticize corruption and the military regime that has been grasping power

for 28 years."

The four journalists called on their colleagues to support their request, which is backed and signed by the famous writer and human rights activist Abdurrahim Mohsin, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Deyyar newspaper, Hamoud Al-Mahdhari, Editor-In-Chief of Al-Shoura Net, Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani and the journalist Abdulqawi Al-Qubati.

Continued from page 1

For better protection, journalists must know the law

The International Committee of the Red Cross is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and armed violence. Under international law, it has a permanent mandate to take impartial action for prisoners, the wounded, the sick and civilians affected by conflict. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and based in approximately 80 countries, the Red

Cross has a total of more than 12,000 staff.

During conflict situations, the organization coordinates responses by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and their International Federation. The group is at the origin of both the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and the International Humanitarian Law, notably the Geneva Conventions.

Future Arab youth leaders want a say

Youth economic, social and cultural situations

The meeting concluded with papers discussing the difficulties youth face in their various countries, as well as recommending that governments improve their situations and give them more opportunities in the decision-making process.

Challenges differ from country to country; for example, the good economic situation in Kuwait helps life to be free of obstacles, but Palestinians experience the opposite.

"As reported by the United Nations, Kuwait has no problem regarding poverty or insufficiency. Moreover, it's considered one of the nations

excelling at the level of NGOs," stated Laila Al-Sarraf from Kuwait.

She added, "A political student gathering led by youth from schools and universities held many activities, the last of which was dissolving Parliament."

On the other hand, Wassam Al-Bargothi from Palestine sees the situation of Palestinian youth deteriorating due to economic and political factors. "Youth corporations lack financial resources, so they can't fulfill their programs. Israeli policy is to target youth in general because they play a major role in resisting occupation of Palestinian land," he noted.

Meat embargo lifted, Yemen criticized

According to Abu Yasser, what's important is that cattle imports to Yemen should be safe and healthy. "Allowing cattle to enter Yemen without testing avails no one except cattle smugglers who operate illegally by sea," he noted.

The cattle quarantine in Djibouti is considered one of the largest projects in the Horn of Africa and one of the most important for Abu Yasser's International Establishment. In its first phase, the project cost \$20 million, with an estimated total cost of \$75 million.

Phase one officially was inaugurated at the end of last month, with the first batch of cattle exported to Saudi Arabia on Sunday after the Saudi Cabinet was satisfied with the efforts of the Djibouti regional quarantine and thus, lifted the embargo on cattle imports from the Horn of Africa.

Saudi Arabia banned beef imports

from the African Horn following the death of many consumers due to Rift Valley Fever.

The project aims to supply meat and cattle markets in the Gulf, Yemen, Jordan, Egypt, Malaysia and Indonesia with high-quality meat at competitive prices. It further aims to develop animal wealth in cattle-raising areas and further improve the livelihood of cattle farmers.

The project's first phase will contain approximately 10 million heads of cattle annually, which will increase in coming years as other project phases are implemented.

Those in charge of the project assure that it stands on solid ground and complies with international standards, having been granted a World Health Organization certificate assuring that its work does comply with such international specifications.

Human Rights Ministry and the fight against AIDS

Karolina Plickova and Dr. Ossama Musalam are two journalists from the UNDP and the UNFPA keen on finding information persistently. Earlier this month, on the occasion of the international day for fighting HIV/AIDS, the two journalists sought to interview Khadeja Al-Haisami, minister of human rights on the ministry's role in fighting the disease.

By: Karolina Plickova and Ossama Musalam

Breathlessly, we went up the stairs of the ministry while revising the questions which we would ask Khadeja Al-Haisami. Because of the minister's tight schedule and numerous obligations, we thought that we should prepare ourselves to a quarter an hour interview. On contrary to our expectations, the minister with the strong commitment to her work and country dedicated one hour and fifteen minutes of her busy time to us.

What is the relationship between the Ministry of Human Rights and HIV/AIDS patients?

Who would protect the patients' rights if we do not take the initiative. The

ministry of Human Rights and Ministry of Public Health are the two wings for patients' rights. The coordination between these two ministries is a tangible translation for these rights, to transfer them from mere words towards full implantation.

The patient's rights are a complicated topic and have various dimensions and any wrong step, in the beginning, will cost Yemen more money, effort and time.

Yes, as a long-term target we need to change the culture; the culture of patient's treatment, health care system, the family and the society. We have a lot of convictions that should be changed. From my point of view, they are very attached and associated to our traditions

and customs. The religion has nothing to do with them.

In the mid term, I think that integrating the patient's rights within the curricula of faculty of medicine and nursing as well as in all medical providers sectors will be very beneficial. These documents should include patient's rights, keeping his or her privacy, listening to him, giving him enough and correct medical information without hurting anyone's feeling and keep the patient's dignity.

In a short term, the training is a key case. Training and training, train doctors, nurses and medical aid staff as well as all the medical services providers, how to deal with patients. Moreover, training school teachers will have a good impact on coming generations. The training is not very costly and its results are unlimited, if it has been done efficiently.

It will be also so influential and effective to include religious scholars and to listen to them how to deal with patients. I was very glad to find out that Patient's Rights Treaty which, I was keen to sign, had included a Holy Hadith "My slave, I was sick, and you didn't visit me!" The slave said: "How can I visit you and you are the most merciful; and

God of all?" Allah said: "Don't you know that my slave X was sick, and you didn't visit him/her! If you did, you would find me there".

Training of civil society organizations and empowering them to effectively fight disease is a vital issue. Following Health and Population Ministry, the ball now is in the hands of NGOs to combat the diseases since NGOs have popularity and they can reach a vast sector of society particularly women and young people.

Why do we actually need to declare the Code of patients Rights? What benefit for our society it will bring?

All the patients' rights are of no importance with patient's ignorance of his rights. Most of our patients do not know that they have rights and that's why they unusually feel satisfied with the care they have received. What is given is good; however, we keep saying, "Is there any more?" The quality of medical services is positively reflected on the patients' rights as a whole.

The Health and Population Ministry is the main and the first partner for Human Rights Ministry to push the patient's

rights from just newspapers news and radio interviews to a law that should be passed through legal channels, supported by Information Ministry, Endowment Ministry, Social Affairs Ministry and Prime Ministers Council to eventually be submitted as a draft law of Patients' Rights to the Parliament.

The ministry of Human Rights has not only the right to review the current laws and its suitability to human rights laws but also to suggest new laws to support human rights.

Patients' rights law

As a Minister of Human Rights, Al-Haisami signed the draft of law of the patients' rights in Yemen in May 2006. The draft was a result of different workshops, symposiums and conferences in which a number of social, religious, local and media leaders and civil society organizations take part along with the Human Rights Ministry and National Council for Population.

In the end, Al-Haisami pointed out the importance of collaboration with various U.N. organizations assuring the necessity of setting up plans and holding joint workshops with these organizations to



Minister of Human Rights Khadeja Al-Haisami.

have an opportunity to know other countries' experiences in the field of patients' rights. She welcomed and showed her willingness to have the regional and national expertise to see this issue from different perspectives.

As it is written in the draft of patients' rights treaty, "Drawing a smile on the face of a patient is like a crown on the head of government in the wisdom land (Yemen) and it is a badge of honor on the society's chest".

Seeking justice

By: Yemen Times Staff

Not only is her land unjustly confiscated and her guard brutally beaten by the people supposed to protect the law. The attorney general in Aden has turned the tables around imposing grand theft charges and made her a fugitive fleeing from arrest. "He did not respect my old age and authentic documents proving my right to the property. He insulted me, threw my British passport in my face and said it is time to bring me in handcuffed," said Arwa Al-Hamdani, a Yemeni-British woman who is struggling to find justice in this messed up legal system.

The story starts with a land about one and a half square kilometers in Shiekh Othman, Aden governorate. The ownership document (number 329,342) goes back to 1943 issued by

the British Colony of Aden at that time. It was then endorsed in 2006 and given a Republic of Yemen reference. Al-Hamdani decided to make use of her land and put up a fence around it and she made sure governor and district security were informed of her intention and in agreement. Just when the workers she hired to do the construction were about to fix the gate, a gang lead by a man known as Al-Yafi'ei invaded the land, beat the guard badly and placed large containers in the land which the gang claimed theirs. The guard testified that Al-Yafi'ei broke into the



The ownership document (number 329,342) goes back to 1943 issued by the British Colony of Aden

land with the assistance of a man from the general attorney named Mansour Mahboob.

"We went to the police station to report the attack, our guard, who was visibly injured, was with us and we had eye witnesses. The police officers went to the scene and confirmed what happened. They took one of the invaders to custody and was released at a later stage without any action to stop the invaders. In fact, we learnt that the report never left the police station and the case somehow was frozen then and there,"

Mohammad Al-Hamdani Arwa's son complained.

Arwa hired lawyers and pursued the

case, she went to the police station, the general attorney in Aden endless times, until she was worn out and became ill. Eventually she was faced with a compulsory arresting order against her and security was sent to her accommodation in order to drag her to prison on charges of grand theft.

Presenting her case again before the general attorney and endorsing her ownership to the land with authentic documents did not get Al-Hamdani anywhere. The police report on the attack against Al-Hamdani's land and guard clearly confirms her side of the story and that there was nothing in the land before she started working on the fence. Aden Governor Al-Kuhlani and head of the district security confirmed that the land was empty and the contractor and construction engineer were willing to go to court to testify to the same. Al-Hamdani sought the

governor who issued a decree endorsing her case. However, the general attorney refused to acknowledge any authority or any reasonable intervention in this case. Al-Hamdani, being a British citizen as well, raised her case in U.K. and was supported by the House of Commons who issued a letter regarding this matter to the Yemeni embassy in the U.K. Who in turn forwarded a letter to the minister of foreign affairs and urged him to take a close look at the matter.

"It is amazing how everyone clearly sees that I am right except for Qahir



Letter from the House of Commons issued by Rt. Hon Keith Vas MP.

Mustafa, general attorney in Aden. How dare he ignore all that, and insult me as a person and a seeker of justice?"

"The president should see to it that people working in the legal and security system are doing their jobs honestly. Corruption is eating up the structure of this nation and he is this nation's leader whom we elected to lead us to justice and stability."

With this, Arwa Al-Hamdani ended her case.

The Yemen Times have copies of all relevant documents if anyone wishes to verify the case. It is a shame how the judiciary system in Yemen has become bound to the moods of people, without real accountability.



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Yemen imprisoning children despite ratifying child rights convention

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

Hamzah Al-Madhabi, 17, was detained for three days in a capital city police station when he was 15 for stealing some potatoes and spent a further 18 months at the Sana'a juvenile center.

"Because the owner of the potatoes refused to forgive me, I lost hope. Although I confessed to my crime, the police tortured me by hitting and lashing me. Due to such harsh torture, I even had to confess to crimes I never committed," he said.

According to Al-Madhabi, conditions at the police jail were dismal. "They offered us no food and the bathroom was in the worst condition," he recounted.

Al-Madhabi is just one example of hundreds of children who have been detained illegally in a police station or juvenile center, whether for a minor crime or no crime at all.

"We receive complaints from families that their children are detained and tortured in prisons," said Ahmed Arman, executive secretary of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD.

Arman also raised the alarm about children who aren't kept in juvenile centers but rather in prisons, where they "are brought together with adult criminals." He added that they are often abused and mistreated.

"These children complain of malnutrition. The meals they get are neither well-cooked nor nutritious," he said. "The prison officials are soldiers, who aren't entitled to handle juveniles."

Lawyer Jamal Al-Adimi blames Yemen's judiciary system for such action. "It's not allowed to imprison a juvenile for minor crimes, but police must do so to ensure that investigations can be conducted easily without having to search for suspect(s)," he explained.

The Yemeni government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. According to international standards, any child under age 18 suspected or accused of committing a crime and found to violate the law can be placed in a detention center. However, the age limit is lower in Yemen at 15.

Arman noted that there is gross injustice in many cases involving imprisoned children. He cited extreme cases where police allow parents to send a son to prison as punishment for being disobedient or for committing a minor crime like stealing food or money or fighting with other children. Girls are punished at home. According to Arman, such acts run counter to the law.

In most cases, detention doesn't exceed 24 hours. Judge Afrah Ba-Dowailan, head of the Sana'a Juvenile Court, noted that parents jailing their children is more a social phenomenon than a legal matter.

In some cases, even state officials

can imprison children. Arman cited the example of Yahya Abu Saba'a, who since the age of 13 in 1997 has been detained at Sana'a Central Prison by Speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar. Abu Saba'a did nothing, but his brother was accused of murder and disappeared.

There are nine juvenile centers throughout Yemen, two of which are for girls, but the Sana'a juvenile center receives the largest number of children. "We've received 500 boys since the beginning of 2006," center head Mujahid Al-Zindani noted.

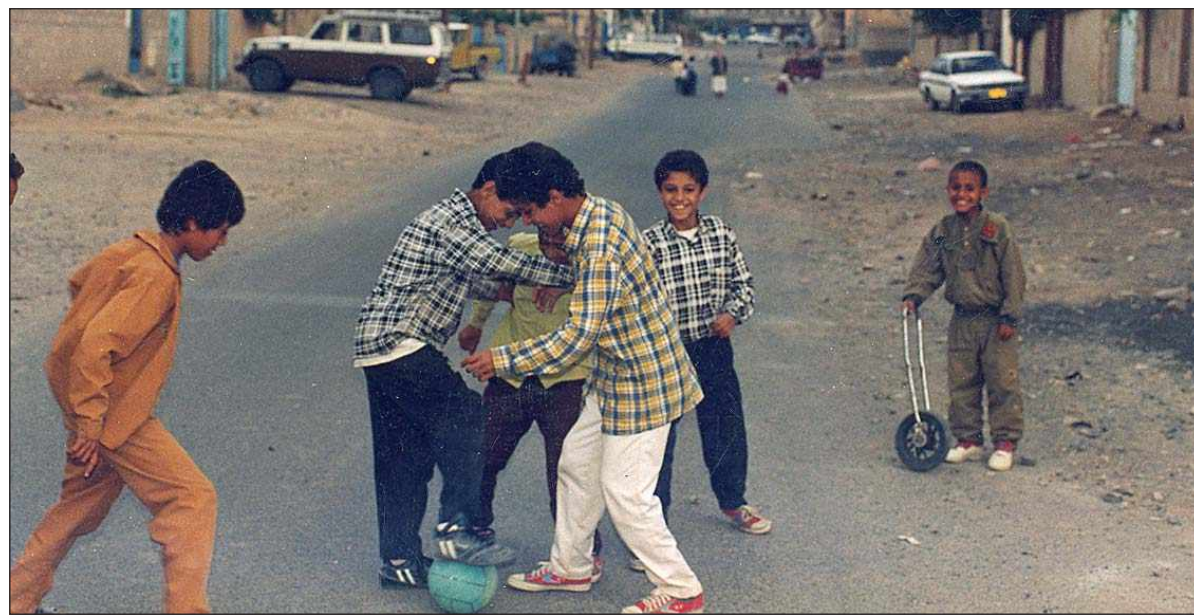
The other centers in Aden, Hodeidah, Taiz, Hadramout, Ibb and Hajjah governorates house some 400 children, of whom 40 are girls. "However, precise data on the number of children detained by law enforcement agencies is unavailable," said Naseem Ur-Rehman, head of information and communications for the United Nations Children's Fund in Yemen.

Such children, mostly under age 15, usually are accused of committing minor crimes, such as truancy, fighting with other children or using illegal substances like liquor.

Organized gangs sometimes exploit youngsters, particularly street children, and use them to smuggle goods, but very few are involved in violent crimes.

Prison conditions

According to Ur-Rehman, as in other



Yemen is a country where more than 50 percent of the population below 15 years of age.

developing countries, prison conditions are "dismal and harsh," and most jails are crowded. "The worst thing is when children are kept with adults and forced to mix with criminals," he added.

Even though the Yemeni government ratified the child rights convention, in reality, children who have violated the law are mistreated, often facing physical violence, lack of access to legal advice, basic food or entertainment in prison.

In an effort to reduce such practices,

UNICEF is seeking to establish a system for juvenile justice in Yemen. In partnership with the government, it has recruited and trained juvenile lawyers to advise poor youngsters who get in trouble with the law. Ur-Rehman noted that 20 lawyers have been appointed to provide free legal advice in cases arising in the nine juvenile courts.

Additionally, UNICEF has assisted the ministries of interior, social affairs and justice, whereby 350 juvenile judges, police, social workers, law enforcement agencies and personnel

working with children have been trained in getting "a better understanding of the rights of the child."

Laws regarding child offenders

Ba-Dowailan stated that it's against the law to keep a child under age 12 in police custody, except as a "precautionary measure" when the child is at risk of being abused or has nowhere else to go. However, she pointed out that there have been cases when some children exceeded the 24-hour period due to behavior by some officers.

Juvenile rights: between legislation and practice

By: Afrah Ba-Dowailan
For the Yemen Times

What shakes me from my innermost core is hearing or seeing a child in pain, whether that pain is physical, spiritual or some type of remissness or carelessness. In my job, I undoubtedly see many pictures of mistreatment and such mistreatment is rejected by human conscience, morals and tradition.

Children's rights have a distinct place among all heavenly doctrines, of which Islam is particularly careful. Islamic Sharia (jurisprudence) provides protection for a child from before birth, even before his father marries his mother. As the hadith advises, "Choose your spouse wisely because qualities are inherited."

The Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) said, "It's enough for a human that he not fail those he supports." In this case, a human isn't confined only to the parents and support means all aspects of care and protection. It goes without saying that there is a great sin and horrible waste when children are placed in detentions.

Children's rights also have a distinguished position in United Nations literature, which is reflected in local societies, particularly after signing the 1990 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Along with other U.N. legislation, the agreement's primary rules and pillars have found their way into Yemeni legislation concerning children. Further, Yemen was among the first nations to sign the agreement in 1991.

Juveniles in the legal system

Yemeni legislation regulates children's situation, particularly when they violate the law, providing more care and qualification to ensure their integration into society. To this end, 1992's Delinquent Protection Law No. 24 and No. 26 in 1997 both regulate how underage delinquents are arrested, as well as their full rights during detention. When speaking about detention, we mean care rather than prison.

These two laws have made noticeable progress in the children's situation in Yemen. Further, they've resulted in the emergence of a specialized judiciary for juvenile delinquents, providing them special treatment. There are standards for children's arrest, taking into consideration their age, the crime site and the circumstances of the crime.

According to Yemeni legislation, setting them free is the rule whereas detention is the exception. Arrest is justified if there's some kind of risk on the part of the delinquent, such as when revenge

upon the delinquent is feared or when the delinquent himself poses a threat to others.

It's important to mention that juvenile delinquents are subject to arrest under three circumstances:

- 1- Committing an act legally prohibited.
- 2- Being in places where they are subject to perversion.
- 3- Posing social risks to themselves or others, bearing in mind that detention is the last option and that prior to this, there should be a number of social reform measures, such as compensating and handing him over to his family; thus allowing him to reintegrate into society.

Who is considered a child?

The international definition of a child is anyone under age 8. Yemeni law includes all children's rights under normal conditions. The 1992 Delinquent Protection Law confines protection to children ages 7-15. The law deprives ages 16-18 of the benefits enjoyed by those aged 15 or under. According to Yemeni law, reaching age 15 means one is an adult. This discrepancy involving the difference between a child and an adult has created the problem of delinquent children.

If a ruling dictates detaining a delinquent for three years, as in murder cases, and his age at that time was 14, he will be transferred to prison upon reaching age 16. This is one reason for the exis-

tence of children in prison. Another is a delay in issuing rulings, which may cause delinquents to spend time in prison.

A discrepancy exists between international standards specifying that a child is anyone age 18 or under and local standards fixing the age of adulthood at 15. Therefore, anyone over age 15 will be treated like an adult and should be imprisoned. If given a ruling limiting their freedom, children sometimes are detained or imprisoned where no juvenile detention centers exist or will be imprisoned if they pose a high risk.

Inability to pay their financial obligations is another reason for detaining children. Obligations resulting from convicting delinquents regarding legal fees, compensation, theft restoration, etc., are a problem in Yemeni law because delinquents should remain in prison until their families pay for these obligations. The problem worsens when a delinquent fails to inform his family or if they reject him.

The law forbids physically enforcing the law upon children and compensation cases should suit the delinquent's family. However, an escalating problem regards how victims can restore their belongings, which will be addressed below in the recommendations and solutions section.

The problem of revenge, which remains prevalent in most Yemeni areas, also causes concerned authorities to keep delinquents detained in order to

protect their lives.

For girls, the case is even worse. Female delinquents suffer greatly because their families often refuse to receive them after they complete their sentence; therefore, official authorities don't release them for fear that they'll become subject to by mistreatment by their relatives or street harassment.

Detaining children is between legislation and practice

Arrest should be made only with legal justification and there should be no detention of children whose status isn't settled by law. Furthermore, a delinquent under age 12 shouldn't be detained at a police station. Under no circumstances should a delinquent under age 12 be detained at any security apparatus; rather, he should be handed over to his family. If he has no family, he should be handed over to delinquent housing within no more than 24 hours.

Only by necessity may a delinquent over age 12 be detained at a police station and for no more than 24 hours (Article 11 of the Delinquent Law). The attorney has the right to hand over a delinquent to any housing within no more than a week, which period can be extended only by court request (Article 12 of the Delinquent Law). The delinquent has the right to a lawyer while at a police station or in prosecution.

It's preferable to free the delinquent at any phase of investigations or ruling if

his release doesn't pose any risk to society (Article 13 - Delinquents). Contact between the delinquent and his family should be facilitated. Delinquents shouldn't be imprisoned or detained with adults and there should be no mixing between males and females in government housing centers.

Recommendations and solutions:

1. Extending and strengthening legal protection programs to include all detention centers and all stages of the legal process. Civil society organizations also should play an important role in defending human rights.
2. Enacting the role of prison attorneys to record cases inside prisons, inform about the illegal existence of underage prisoners and coordinate with concerned authorities to release them.
3. Coordinating between concerned

authorities affiliated with social affairs to follow the cases of delinquents in those governorates without juvenile detention centers in order to transfer them to such centers in other governorates.

4. Building government housing for female delinquents in order to receive those girls who are rejected by their families and thereby ensure them a secure life following their completed terms.
5. Encouraging civil society efforts aimed at adopting children born in prison or those accompanying their mothers in prison in order to protect them from the risks of prison.

Afrah Ba-Dowailan heads the Supreme Juvenile Court in the Capital Secretariat. One of Yemen's first judges, she's known for her strong and constructive initiatives regarding children's rights.

إعلان وظيفة

منظمة رائدة في تنفيذ المشاريع التنموية الممولة، تعلن عن رغبتها في توظيف شخص يمتلك كفاءة ومقدرة عالية في تنفيذ المهام الموكلة إليه وذلك لشغل وظيفة مسؤول إعلامي ومدقق لغوي (عربي، إنجليزي).

المهام والمسؤوليات الأساسية

- 1- تحديد الاحتياجات من المعلومات والبيانات المستهدفين من الرسائل الإعلامية، ومن ثم تصميمها وتحديد وسائل توصيلها، وكذلك تنسيق وإدارة وإنجاز وتحرير وتدقيق التقرير السنوي والنشرات المختلفة باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية.
- 2- العمل مع المستويات الإدارية داخل المنظمة على تحديد الأهداف العامة للمواد والتقارير الإعلامية، ووضع خطة إستراتيجية لها وإعداد الخطط السنوية في هذا الجانب، وكذلك المساعدة في إعداد ملاحظات على المقترحات للمواد الإعلامية التي تعدها المستويات الإدارية المختلفة، والعروض وكتابة النص الأصلي (إذا لزم الأمر)، و/أو تحرير السبوتات-2- كتابة وإدارة تصميم وتحرير وطباعة ونشر المواد الإعلامية؛ مثل: البلاغات الصحفية.
- 4- تبادل هذه المعلومات مع الأجهزة الإعلامية والجهات التنموية، وإيجاد فرص للنشر في الصحف والإذاعات والتلفزيون ومواقع شبكة الانترنت... الخ. ومتابعة طلبات وسائط الإعلام، والتنسيق (من وقت لآخر) مع الشركاء لسد أي نقص في محتوى المعلومات المنشورة والمتعلقة بالمجالات ذات الصلة بالأنشطة أو بالمستفيدين من المشاريع.

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Realistic writing on reality

By: Ali Haitham Al-Gharib

Of the misfortunes of our press in the three decades sine independence and before the declaration of unity on May 22, 1990 is that government media interpret everything the political regime sees and ushers as positive and they demand the reader understand issues in their manner. To sum it up the official media were dotting their I's and crossing their T's and deprived others of any contrary opinion. Many writers and journalists kept the uniformity of opinion and word and totalitarian laws were passed to that effect.

At the present time with a democratic margin it does not of course allow the existence of various viewpoints, but there is a motivation for that. Freedom of the word is still fought against by politicians and supporters of the uniformity of opinion familiar inside most of the political parties. We should not forget that there are still those who consider that dispatching one opinion decided officially to all newspapers is much easier than permitting discussions inside the government. Hence there are established pro-

ted areas, persons and groups that must not be criticized. Anyone violating this prohibition, a hysterical fuss will be aroused, do not impinge on the constants, do not touch on our group and don't cross these red lines. I think this is a temporary phenomenon resulting from the totalitarian past and the first steps of democracy which our society has not yet learned to live with.

The process of expression in the media at the present time is very slow and does not include the necessary press and media life and it does not proceed at an equal speed. For instance there are now tens of newspapers and magazines piled at kiosks and bookshops and rejected by the reader because they do not fulfill the message required by the citizen. And there are, on the other hand, newspapers publishing articles and facts which were prohibited and they demonstrate the life and suffering of the citizen and because of this stance those newspapers are exposed to harassment by government apparatuses and pursuits by press and publications prosecution. At one period the share of Al-Ayyam newspaper of this treatment and charges against the press was amounting 98 percent.

The human society at present must

know all the facts. The Yemeni people today must know the facts of their past and present. They must know not just the accomplishments and gains but also the false slogans and inaccurate statistics about their living and also their causes and consequences on their future so that they will not be repeated.

The changes in ethics and laws of our press are receiving support from the readers more than the journalists. I think those who read little or do not read tend to be more suspect towards the changes and media openness. Many of them regretfully think that if they refuse everything will remain as it is. They have not use the word of the freedom of expression which does not mean anything for them despite how it delivers them from going too far in devouring the food of the people and provides possibility of effecting useful changes. The freedom of speech is a great issue especially after they taught us in the South for decades and tens of years in the North the demonstrative praising and confirming privileges of the man through keeping silent.

Our press at present is at a turning point. Writing as it was used in the past has become a rejected matter and writing in a new way is something the government has not yet learnt. The

draft law of press and publications is another backward step and there is refusal of giving the press its freedom. The periods of prohibition have had their harmful affect on the draft law of press and wring. Nevertheless, even if we remained without law the facts will come out under the light even if they were in a brief manner. We have to realize that among the reasons that prepared the way for the process of change is the work of some newspapers and writers who have stood trial in prisons.

The previous period has singled out considerable number of sincere writings keen on freedom of the word and saturated with the love for the people, thirsty for justice and resentment against those violating them. It should be said that many newspapers have preserved those ethics in the best examples. We hope that the men of word can do very much to assist the people on moving forward with democracy and human rights and towards understanding the educational, national and political value of news stories and the free word.

Ali Haitham Al-Gharib is a Yemeni writer.

Source: Al-ayyam newspaper

COMMON SENSE

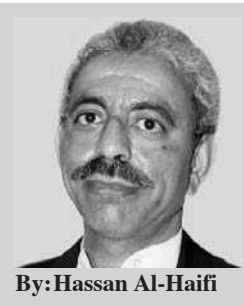
A boiling world

The fighting between the Palestinians and all this bloodshed that has engulfed the region from the arid areas of Dharfur and Chad to the formidable mysterious killings in Iraq to the scaled up activities of the Taliban, notwithstanding the somewhat optimistic prospects of the Iraq Study Group, all indicate a clear failure of policy of the Global Superpower. For the last seven years since the Third Millennium began, the Administration of George W. Bush has energized conflict and persisted on pursuing objectives that fail to satisfy even the most minute of visionary idealists, who had hoped that the new Millennium would bring with it peace and prosperity for all of mankind. With the demise of the Bolshevik rendition of Scientific Socialism, many had thought that the road is paved for lasting world peace with the passing of the Cold War into the dusty files of history. However, one now would be inclined to say, please bring back the Cold War, for at least there were ways to block or deter any major escalations of conflict and each of the antagonists was promising some form of idealistic justice that would hopefully alleviate the misery of the downtrodden of this Earth.

As 2006 draws to a close, we see that our brothers in Lebanon are beset by constant interferences in purely domestic politics. This interference in itself does not say much for the West, which has been preaching democracy and the prevalence of the will of the people. In fact this Western attitude is approaching an attitude of the "public be damned", when it comes to not falling under the yoke of the domination of the world that the stubborn Evangelical dogmatists, their Zionist friends and the misguided Moslems fed by petrodollars, who have come to join them, are pursuing "at all costs" to mankind and to the sponsors of such imperialist venom. In Palestine, the West has shown its true colors of double-dealing when it says that it is all for early Parliamentary and Presidential Elections. However, the West seems to have forgotten that it does not want that in Lebanon, when the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese have clearly expressed that this is their hope and desire and have expressed in more than one civilized manner their hopes in this inescapable option for correcting the political ills of Lebanon. But when Zionism has become the dictator of Western policy, one can only expect confusion, double-talk and double dealing, not to mention the awesome financial catastrophes and misery to billions of people this demonic philosophy is bringing to the world. Does the West want Lebanon to return to pre Taif days, when militias took to the street in order to mark their place in the complex political set up that has yet to be truly reflective of the demographics and the political aspirations of the genuine Lebanese people, who are tired of being considered as easy game for international meddling? The excuse of Syria and Iran has become rather tiresome, since neither has really shown the evidence of evil that is often projected of them (even by their Moslem and nationalist brothers), nor have any of them been the harborers of the terrorism, which the West fears. In fact, the whole world knows where that terrorism was born and from where it is still being nurtured and fed. But we rarely hear any sign that the West is truly knowledgeable about where the enemies of world peace are to be found: in the steady sands of Arabia and in the leather chairs of the Israeli cabinet and the behind the scenes planning sessions of the International Zionist establishment, not to mention VP Dick Cheney's office.

So the people of Afghanistan, Somalia, Dharfur, Chad, Palestine, Chechnya, the Philippines, and probably soon Lebanon and other volatile hot spots, where these sleazy masters of deception and chaos have planted their venomous seeds of conflict and petty fighting for no real apparent reasons. This can only be seen as the logical pretext to keep the world engulfed in perpetual conflict while the masters of this unholy alliance of the masters of Zionism, Wahhabism and Evangelical dogmatism skim the cream of their bloodthirsty pursuits. God help mankind in the years to come, for with such an alliance carrying on with so much liberty and with all the means at their disposal, our children have very little to look forward to.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Who educates who?

By: Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari

Recently there has been much talk about education at all its different stages beginning from illiteracy eradication and adult education and ending with university education and higher studies. All seem to be interested, specialized and non-specialized in education, to have their say in this regard.

Different ideas that have pivoted around the problems facing education, especially the university one regarding curricula in that of being outdated and their incompatibility with the present age and requirements of labor market. In addition, many university professors have limited experience and scientific and cultural capabilities. Also, university professors suffer from many administrative and financial problems impeding their scientific and practical progress. No one has given attention or discussed what problems face education is in general. The problem is a fundamental query which is who educates who? In other words, if many of those who are in charge of the entire education process do not know or understand anything

about education and are in need of re-education and need knowledge on methods of teaching. For instance a teacher at university teaches Arabic language to university students while his spelling is weak and he does not master Arabic, in addition to his shallow culture and sometimes one would find out that the students are more capable in culture and understanding than the teacher himself. In consequence, how can a teacher of this type develop curricula of university education and proceed with educational process to the better?

I am of the opinion that to develop the education and put it at an advanced level we are in dire need of completely reconsidering how to choose teachers for the various stages of education, starting from the basic stage. The starting point would be putting certain conditions for accepting students to enroll in institutes and colleges for training teachers. We have also to define conditions and criteria for students studying in higher studies.

Here emerges another problem with regard to the way of deciding criteria and conditions of admission to colleges of education and teacher training insti-

utes and of the side that determines criteria and conditions, or mediation and nepotism will define the admission conditions. Throughout years since the establishment of teacher training institutes and colleges of education it has been noted that admission to them is not subject to strict criteria and conditions. Moreover the students who proved their failure in study and got low grades were transferred to colleges of education.

Consequently the college of education has become a product of ignorance. In order not to do injustice to teachers we will find that some of them joined the college of education out of desire and full conviction and possess inborn and acquired willingness for teaching and in possession of deep general culture. Those distinguished and efficient teachers have been facing fierce war in the practical field. They fight for committing any guilt but they represent an honorable example of the teacher who possesses thorough knowledge and deep culture, not only in the subjects they teach but rather in all walks of life, whether in politics, or economic or society. We can see this example of teachers much concerned with affairs of his country and tries to plant in the souls of

his students the love for knowledge that does not stop at certain limit as well as the spirit of affiliation to the homeland and principles and goals of the Yemeni revolution.

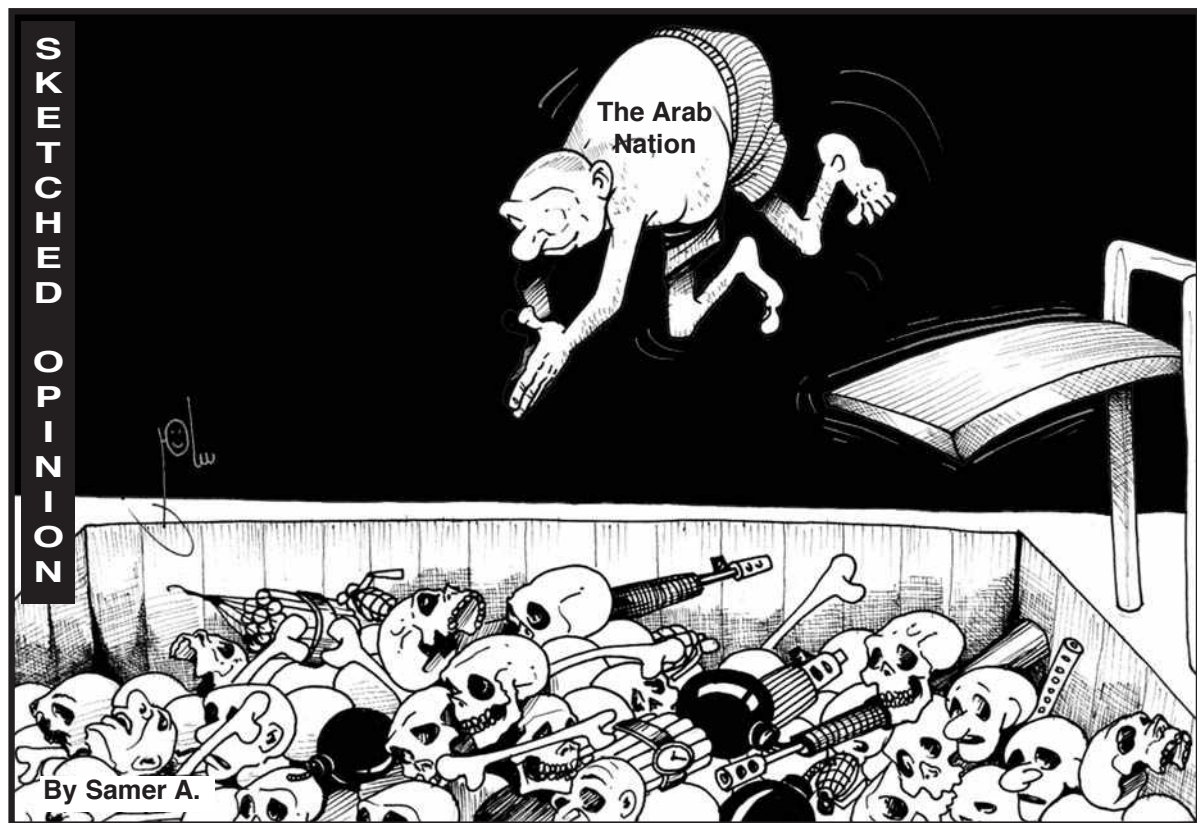
Some of those real teachers have been relieved of service and some have died and others have been left in difficult financial circumstances with no one paying them attention.

With the increase in the number of teachers who joined the teaching career without having accurately checked with regard to their scientific standards and efficiency the efficient teachers got lost in amidst this accumulation of unqualified teachers who do not possess anything mentionable of science and knowledge.

Therefore the development of education necessitates dependence on international experts and specialized advisors, especially UNESCO, to assess the teaching programs first and the teachers next.

Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari is an active female Yemeni journalist working in Al-Sahwa newspaper and contributes to other media

Source: Al-Thwart Newspaper



By Samer A.

Letters to the Editor

Letter to Osama Bin Laden

Do you remember me? I am America and I remember you!

Five years! How fast time flies. It seems like just yesterday and yet I've had half a decade to dwell upon it.

I've saved the memories in a special compartment in my mind and I access them regularly in order to keep them fresh and vivid. They fan the flames of patriotic fervor

Osama, did you know that when you touch flames, you're bound to get burned?

I remember you, Osama! I remember with the consciousness of many! In your ignorance, you thought me meek and mild

You saw me as a sheep ready for slaughter.

With my Stepford-style houses, my movies and my credit cards, You thought me easy pickings and like a coyote, you moved on me!

You forgot one thing, Osama. What sometimes is perceived to be

weak and easy prey isn't exactly what it seems.

There's often a wolf hidden inside the sheep's clothing!

A wolf always will win in battle against the cowardly coyote!

Remember this, Osama.

Five years, wow!

Has it really been that long? We both know it has.

We will meet again, you and I!

Sincerely and with fortitude,

America

Teresa Sanders-Halligan
halligan83@cableone.net

Making Water with George W. Bush

Contest into a strong historic wind -

Ain't no way this fool is gonna win!

Totally oblivious -

Absolutely policy lascivious!

Stay the Iraq-alytpto course -

Till he hoarse!

Reality devoid -

Obtuse destroyed!

Placing blame elsewhere -

Historic err -

Exemplification he must forever bear!

Admittedly bad poetry for a bad American president who can easily determine where his failed policies will only take him by simply reading down from the left.

(Partially based on an old colorful Southern expression regarding hopeless ways of foolish men.)

Hubert Wilson
mhupertw@msn.com

Cheers to a writer

Cheers to Hassan Al-Haifi for his article "The Bush Team Loses Two of Its Worst Public Servants". Sadly, such candor is so lacking in the mainstream American media. Please continue your refreshing and frank observations since we receive so little of it in prominent American media.

Hubert Wilson
mhupertw@msn.com

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Why I shed bikini for niqab

The new symbol of women's liberation

By: Sara Bokker

I am an American woman who was born in the midst of America's "Heartland." I grew up, just like any other girl, being fixated with the glamour of life in "the big city." Eventually, I moved to Florida and on to South Beach of Miami, a hotspot for those seeking the "glamorous life." Naturally, I did what most average Western girls do. I focused on my appearance and appeal, basing my self-worth on how much attention I got from others. I worked out religiously and became a personal trainer, acquired an upscale waterfront residence, became a regular "exhibiting" beach-goer and was able to attain a "living-in-style" kind of life.

Years went by, only to realize that my scale of self-fulfillment and happiness slid down the more I progressed in my "feminine appeal." I was a slave to fashion. I was a hostage to my looks.

As the gap continued to progressively widen between my self-fulfillment and lifestyle, I sought refuge in escapes from alcohol and parties to meditation, activism, and alternative religions, only to have the little gap widen to what seemed like a valley. I eventually realized it all was merely a pain killer rather than an effective remedy.

By now it was September 11, 2001. As I witnessed the ensuing barrage on Islam, Islamic values and culture, and the infamous declaration of the "new crusade," I started to notice something called

Islam. Up until that point, all I had associated with Islam was women covered in "tents," wife beaters, harems, and a world of terrorism.

As a feminist libertarian, and an activist who was pursuing a better world for all, my path crossed with that of another activist who was already at the lead of indiscriminately furthering causes of reform and justice for all. I joined in the ongoing campaigns of my new mentor which included, at the time, election reform and civil rights, among others. Now my new activism was fundamentally different.

Instead of "selectively" advocating justice only to some, I learned that ideals such as justice, freedom, and respect are meant to be and are essentially universal, and that own good and common good are not in conflict. For the first time, I knew what "all people are created equal" really means. But most importantly, I learned that it only takes faith to see the world as one and to see the unity in creation.

One day I came across a book that is negatively stereotyped in the West--The Holy Qur'an. I was first attracted by the style and approach of the Qur'an, and then intrigued by its outlook on existence, life, creation, and the relationship between Creator and creation. I found the Qur'an to be a very insightful address to heart and soul without the need for an interpreter or pastor.

Eventually I hit a moment of truth: my new-found self-fulfilling activism was nothing more than merely embracing a faith called

Islam where I could live in peace as a "functional" Muslim.

I bought a beautiful long gown and head cover resembling the Muslim woman's dress code and I walked down the same streets and neighborhoods where only days earlier I had walked in my shorts, bikini, or "elegant" western business attire.

Although the people, the faces, and the shops were all the same, one thing was remarkably distinct--I was not--nor was the peace at being a woman I experienced for the very first time. I felt as if the chains had been broken and I was finally free. I was delighted with the new looks of wonder on people's faces in place of the looks of a hunter watching his prey I had once sought. Suddenly a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I no longer spent all my time consumed with shopping, make-up, getting my hair done, and working out. Finally, I was free.

Of all places, I found my Islam at the heart of what some call "the most scandalous place on earth," which makes it all the more dear and special.

While content with Hijab I became curious about Niqab, seeing an increasing number of Muslim women in it. I asked my Muslim husband, whom I married after I reverted to Islam, whether I should wear Niqab or just settle for the Hijab I was already wearing.

My husband simply advised me that he believes Hijab is mandatory in Islam while Niqab is not. At the time, my Hijab consisted of head scarf that covered all my hair except for my face, and a loose long black

gown called "Abaya" that covered all my body from neck to toe.

A year-and-a-half passed, and I told my husband I wanted to wear Niqab. My reason, this time, was that I felt it would be more pleasing to Allah, the Creator, increasing my feeling of peace at being more modest. He supported my decision and took me to buy an "Isdaal," a loose black gown that covers from head to toe, and Niqab, which covers all my head and face except for my eyes.

Soon enough, news started breaking about politicians, Vatican clergymen, libertarians, and so-called human rights and freedom activists condemning Hijab at times, and Niqab at others as being oppressive to women, an obstacle to social integration, and more recently, as an Egyptian official called it--"a sign of backwardness."

I find it to be a blatant hypocrisy when Western governments and so-called human rights groups rush to defend woman's rights when some governments impose a certain dress code on women, yet such "freedom fighters" look the other way when women are being deprived of their rights, work, and education just because they choose to exercise their right to wear Niqab or Hijab. Today, women in Hijab or Niqab are being increasingly barred from work and education not only under totalitarian regimes such as in Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt, but also in Western democracies such as

France, Holland, and Britain.

Today I am still a feminist, but a Muslim feminist, who calls on Muslim women to assume their responsibilities in providing all the support they can for their husbands to be good Muslims. To raise their children as upright Muslims so they may be beacons of light for all humanity once again.

To enjoy good--any good--and to forbid evil--any evil. To speak righteousness and to speak up against all ills. To fight for our right to wear Niqab or Hijab and to please our Creator whichever way we chose. But just as importantly to carry our experience with Niqab or Hijab to fellow women who may never have had the chance to understand what wearing Niqab or Hijab means to us and why do we, so dearly, embrace it.

Most of the women I know wearing Niqab are Western reverts, some of whom are not even married. Others wear Niqab without full support of either family or surroundings. What we all have in common is that it is the personal choice of each and every one of us, which none of us is willing to surrender.

Willingly or unwillingly, women are bombarded with styles of "dressing-in-little-to-nothing" virtually in every means of communication everywhere in the world. As an ex non-Muslim, I insist on women's right to equally know about Hijab, its virtues, and

the peace and happiness it brings to a woman's life as it did to mine. Yesterday, the bikini was the symbol of my liberty, when in actuality it only liberated me from my spirituality and true value as a respectable human being.

I couldn't be happier to shed my bikini in South Beach and the "glamorous" Western lifestyle to live in peace with my Creator and enjoy living among fellow humans as a worthy person. It is why I choose to wear Niqab, and why I will die defending my inalienable right to wear it.

Today, Niqab is the new symbol of woman's liberation to find who she is, what her purpose is, and the type of relation she chooses to have with her Creator.

To women who surrender to the ugly stereotype against the Islamic modesty of Hijab, I say: You don't know what you are missing.

To you, the ill-fated corrupting conquerors of civilization, so-called crusaders, I say: BRING IT ON.

Sara Bokker is a former actress/model/fitness instructor and activist. Currently, Sara is Director of Communications at "The March For Justice," a co-founder of "The Global Sisters Network," and producer of the infamous (Shock & Awe Gallery®). Sara may be reached at: srae@marchforjustice.com

Bush's last chance

Though triggered by the need to devise an exit strategy from the Iraqi quagmire, the Iraq Study Group's grim report is a devastating indictment of the Bush administration's entire foreign policy. The report challenges the core principles of a faith-driven administration and of a president whose political gospel led him to a sharp departure from the culture of conflict resolution in favor of a crusade based on raw power.

A war that cannot be ended is sometimes worse than a war that is lost. Therefore, the Iraq report is more than a plan to rescue Iraq; it is a road map for extricating America from the mayhem of an unwinnable war. However much the study group shunned recommendations for a precipitous withdrawal, and avoided strict timetables for disengagement, their report is not only an unequivocal repudiation of Bush's "stay the course" obsession, but also a counsel to cut and run.

Indeed, there is no realistic chance that the Iraqi army and police will be able to take over combat responsibilities and effective policing any time soon. The entire security apparatus in Iraq is corrupt and infiltrated by insurgents. Nor is it at all clear to what degree the Iraqis retain a stake in the idea of a united Iraqi state worth fighting for. The report practically calls for ending all support to the Iraqi government if it fails to assume its responsibilities.

None of the Middle East's problems has a military solution, and none can be solved through unilateral action. The report is therefore right to challenge Bush's insistence on discrediting both Iran and Syria as interlocutors for a more stable regional order.

Iran has the most leverage inside Iraq, and Syria has become a vital crossing point for weapons and insurgents into the Iraqi battlefield. There is simply no way that Iraq can be stabilized without America moving from a policy of disengagement to

one of engagement with these two major regional spoilers.

The report thus stands as a rebuke to Bush's entire "axis of evil" philosophy. It refuses to ascribe to Iran's secretive state an ideological rigidity that might not exist. Indeed, Iran has shown its ability to behave with startling pragmatism more than once, not least in its links to Israel and the United States during its war against Iraq in the 1980's, and in its assistance to the Americans in the war against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

But it is not only Iraq that requires regional support groups to reach a modicum of stability. All the problems of the Middle East - Iraq, the Arab-Israeli dispute, the need for political reforms, and Islamic terrorism - are interconnected. The interconnectedness of the problems in the outer circle of the region and those pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the inner circle was shown by the first Bush administration, which, in October 1991, following the first Gulf War, organized a major international conference aimed at securing an Arab-Israeli peace.

Neither the Israeli government nor its intimate ally in the White House can be expected to applaud the Iraq Study Group's call for a repetition of that logic, for it contradicts everything the Bush administration has championed.

The report's recommendation for an international conference in the style of the Madrid peace conference is not only a timely indication of the linkage between the Israeli-Arab conflict and the region's other

troubles; it is also a long overdue reminder that bilateral negotiations between the parties can not produce an agreement.

That realization prompted the all-Arab peace initiative of 2002, which established the conditions for an Israeli-Arab comprehensive settlement.

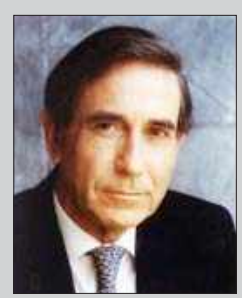
Alas, however bipartisan the Iraq Study Group's report may be, it is too much to expect that Bush will endorse all of its recommendations and admit the bankruptcy of his entire foreign policy. In fact, Bush has already expressed his objection to unconditional direct talks with Iran and Syria. Nor does he seem eager to open a rift with Israel by dragging its government to an international conference, the way his father did with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in 1991.

Bush will find it especially difficult to change his policy with respect to Iran. In order to ensure that the US is too harassed to be able to threaten it, Iran has consistently obstructed Bush's mission of regional transformation. The report urges the president to understand that the spoilers will not cease to be spoilers as a precondition of negotiations, but only as a result of them. At stake is a painful choice for Bush: to lead America into coexistence with what he considers a repugnant Islamic theocracy.

But Bush does not have many choices if he is to save his presidency from going down in history as an utter failure. His was a suicidal brand of statecraft from the outset. If he does not change course in Iraq and beyond, his presidency might draw the curtain on long decades of American hegemony in the Middle East - to the detriment of its closest allies in the region.

Shlomo Ben-Ami, a former Foreign Minister of Israel, was the chief negotiator of the Camp David and Taba peace talks in 2000 and 2001 respectively.

Source: Project Syndicate, 2006.



By: Shlomo Ben-Ami

Holocaust Denial, Nuclear Denial What connects Iran's nuclear ambitions and Holocaust denial?

With equal fervor, Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, defends his country's right to develop its nuclear capacity (though denying that his country seeks nuclear weapons) and challenges decades of Holocaust research. How should Ahmedinejad's denial that Iran intends to pursue nuclear arms be judged in light of his Holocaust denial? Journalists ask, but Ahmedinejad won't answer. His argument is that Iran does not want nuclear weapons, and would not use them to duplicate a crime that did not happen.

Some westerners, while lamenting Ahmedinejad's insensitivity, have struggled to minimize the significance of his Holocaust denial as the fulminations of a misguided fanatic (as if misguided fanaticism were an incidental quality in a nation's president). This misses the point. Holocaust denial is not an argument about the past. It is an argument about the future.

The point of Holocaust denial is to remove the taboo now associated with the original crime. For deniers, the problem is not that the Holocaust occurred, but that most people still consider it to be a bad thing. Thus, Auschwitz is dismissed as a "detail of history," in the telling phrase of the French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen.

What Holocaust deniers seek most is to undo the idea that Nazi crimes should have any impact on current international relations or on global notions of morality. Ahmedinejad made this point repeatedly in interviews with western media and in long letters to US President George W. Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. He has even done the math: sixty years have indeed passed since the Holocaust ended, five times the actual period of Nazi rule in Germany. So, it is time, he wrote Merkel, to "make the shadow of World War II disappear."

Unsurprisingly, he has Israel in mind. But Ahmedinejad's obsession with Israel blinds him to any under-



By: Clifford Chanin

standing of what actually happened across Europe during WWII - and to the fact that present-day Europe was constructed over the six decades since then as a response to this historical disaster. In writing to Merkel, he is addressing the leader of a country decimated by Nazi rule - millions dead, an entire society and economy reduced to rubble.

Had she been politically active during the Nazi times, Merkel would have landed in a concentration camp. Yet Ahmedinejad, referring to Europe's response to the Holocaust, asks her to imagine "what standing some European countries could have had and what global role they could have played, if it had not been for this 60-year-old imposition."

Germany does not seem to have done too badly in these 60 years, but consider the core of this "imposition": the effort to give enduring political expression to the moral concepts of good and evil that the Nazis tried to invert.

As a policy, the Holocaust was premised on denial - the physical denial of any legitimate religious, racial, or political difference within Nazi Germany. The means of this denial were the annihilation of offending populations - the Jews foremost among them - in a merciless attempt at social purification. The intent of the crime was so ambitious, and its scope so great, that a new word - genocide - was coined to describe it.

Modern media played a role, too, broadcasting images of the death camps that immediately came to sym-

bolize the depth of Nazi depravity. The enduring impact of the Holocaust, explored in hundreds of books and films, was to portray Nazism as the ultimate expression of evil. In this context, to deny the Holocaust is to reject its modern association with evil, and implies that what happened during the Holocaust could be accommodated under a different moral order.

Ahmedinejad argues that outside pressure, not the actual historical experience of total war, keeps the memory of the Holocaust alive in Europe. What he doesn't understand is that the memory of Auschwitz is also the memory of the Battle of Britain, the bombing of Dresden, the occupation of Paris, and the Warsaw uprising. Auschwitz did not occur in a vacuum. It was the furthest extreme of a disaster that incorporated all these other events.

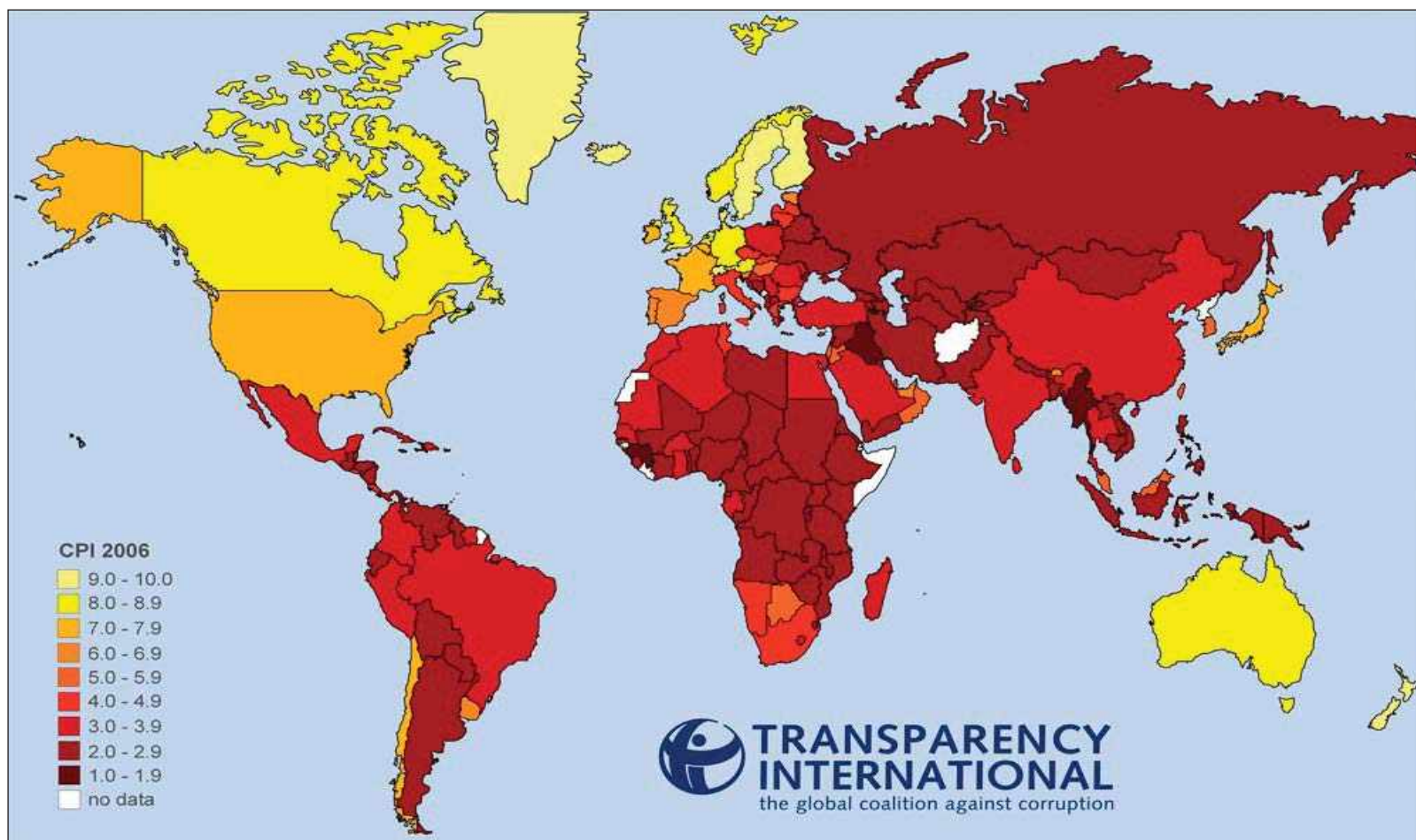
If the Holocaust did not happen, or if it has no meaning, then how is the rest of modern European history to be understood? If there were no crimes, then the Nazis were not criminals.

Ahmedinejad feels the power that comes with re-writing history. He enjoys taunting the West with the past that he denies. He understands the temptation of evil, the lure of forgetfulness. Above all, he is a practical man. It does Ahmedinejad no good for Europe to maintain a sense of history that must put it at cross purposes with Iran.

Ahmedinejad's purpose is simple: find the weak spots in the chain that links Europe to its past and, through this past, to Israel and the US. Europe's choice is equally clear: to accept absolution for this past from the president of Iran, or to determine whether the standard of truth that he applies to history is the same as he applies to nuclear weapons.

Clifford Chanin is founder of The Legacy Project (www.legacy-project.org), which seeks to build a global exchange on the enduring consequences of the 20th century's many historical tragedies
Source: project syndicate.

The war against corruption



Transparency International ranks Yemen among the 2nd worst group of countries in the world with regards to corruption

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf and Mahub Al-Kamali

The recent election campaigns witnessed an unprecedented level of freedoms to discuss various issues related to the Yemeni society, on top of which was the issue of corruption. Citizens and voters discussed the origins of corruption and the reasons behind its presence in the country, from top officials to businessmen to government employees. However, the fact that debates on the topic were aired through national television along with the speeches of presidential candidates have been eye openers for the society.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has said

time and again that his war against corruption is intensifying, indicating that there is no place for the corrupt in his government and illustrating several measures to combat corruption and the corrupt, but the question raises itself, who is the corrupt and who is the corrupter? And what is being done to isolate and eradicate the corrupt figures from all levels of government.

Corruption can be defined as the practice of unlawful or improper use of influence, power, and other means, but it occurs mostly by the misuse of authority and public funds for personal gains, corruption ranges from accepting a bribe to facilitate some transaction or ignore a violation all the way to transferring public funds and assets into per-

sonal property, and this sort of corruption has been witnessed on several accounts in Yemen, a recent report by the Central Organization for Control and Audit has listed 86 such violations during 2005 amounting to over YR3 billion, however, none of the concerned officials have been questioned or prosecuted and many of them kept their jobs.

The World Bank has been monitoring the spread of corruption in Yemen and it has threatened to cut back on its development aid unless the regime takes serious measures in combating this practice within government circles. In its assessment, the World Bank has laid down four measures to combat corruption; internal monitoring, internal and external audit of government accounts,

accounting and reporting, and capacity building for auditors and the financial administration of the government. Those steps should increase transparency and ensure that cases of corruption are detected promptly.

Those reforms are currently being partly implemented by the government, the financial system followed is being revised and upgraded by the minister of finance, however, internal monitoring is still lacking and the current system of revising the accounts is highly inefficient and feeble.

Having said that, it has become clear that opposition parties used such facts supported by government reports to be used in pointing fingers during the elections campaign, the opposition has focused on presenting the flaws of the regime in its attempts to combat corruption as a political tool through presenting its own set of measures to combat corruption as an integral part of its elections campaign.

So far, the regime has failed miserably in combating corruption, the 2006 corruption perception index has ranked Yemen at 2.6 points which is worse than previous years in spite of the highly publicized government efforts to combat corruption, a clear indication that something is wrong.

The third strategic five-year plan has made combating corruption as one of its pillars, aiming at improving Yemen's ranking in the corruption index to 4 points by 2010. To do that the government will establish an independent agency to detect cases of corruption and make sure that the involved officials are tried and sentenced, as well as the approval of a law requiring all high-level government officials to declare their net worth on timely bases, in order to increase public confidence in the government, as well as other measures to improve governance and enhance transparency in handling public funds.

Various government agencies started formulating different mechanism to combat corruption, ranging from using sophisticated systems and mechanism to ensure the integrity of bidding and tender processes such that adopted in the Ministry of Oil, or the system of fingerprint used in the ministry of civil service in order to detect cases of fraud where the same employees are double-listed and in turn receive multiple pay checks.

However, there is almost no coordination between various ministries and government agencies in their tactics against corruption, while the newly established government agency with the aim of combating corruption would need a few years to advance its learning curve and have a significant effect in combating corruption, especially as there is no strong deterrent to discourage officials from involving themselves in corruption as they still continue going unpunished under the eyes of the legal system.

Yemen's war against corruption is an arbitrary war fought using random tactics and almost little coordination; therefore it is very likely that the lifecycle of this war would go beyond the current 7-year term of president Saleh with very little success in reducing corruption, mind you eradicating it.

Business In Brief

Al-Arhabi: regional economic integration is our aim

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul Karim Al-Arhabi has indicated that the priority of the government is to create regional economic integration with other economies in the region in order to create business synergies between Yemeni and regional businesses especially in the gulf area.

\$25 million for construction of overpasses in Sana'a

The Capital Secretariat has announced that an International tender is on the way to construct eight overpasses in various parts of the capital in order to ease traffic in the city. The project is valued at \$25 million.

Textiles enterprise to be restructured and partly privatized

Director of the General Textiles enterprise has indicated that the enterprise will be split into three enterprises, namely the Hodieda cotton plantations and marketing, the Sana'a Textiles enterprise and the Aden textiles enterprise. He also indicated that the three enterprises would have a joint ownership with the private sector and would operate as three independent enterprises.

Retailers pay fines for manipulating prices

The Hajja preliminary court has ordered 9 food retailers to pay fines ranging from YR 20,000 to YR 30,000 after being convicted of manipulating the prices of consumer goods during Ramadan, which witnessed increases in the prices of food products reaching up to 50 percent. The 9 retailers were also

ordered to take oaths not to increase prices unless granted permission by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Central Bank sells \$96 million to stabilize Riyal

The Central Bank of Yemen has sold \$ 96 million in the local market in order to decrease the demand for the dollar against the Riyal and in turn stabilize the value of the Riyal. The Central bank continues to monitor the exchange rates in the local market in order to maintain confidence in the value of the Riyal.

Consumer Protection Association calls for a strategic reserve of foods

The Consumer Protection Association of Yemen has called on the government to create a strategic reserve of food products in order to maintain the supply and prices of food products in the local market and make an end to the oligopoly of food importers who continue to manipulate the market.

Wireless internet services now available

The Ministry of Telecommunications has inaugurated the 'Hot-Spot' service in order to provide internet services through wireless networks in selected areas in Sana'a and Aden. The project had an initial cost of over YR 114 million and is expected to grow into other governorates in accordance with the demand for the service.

Al-Mukalla Expo kicks-off

Al-Mukalla Expo for consumer goods has kicked-off and will continue until Dec. 28 offering discounts on various consumer goods and food products. There are 39 corporations taking part in the expo including local companies as well as Chinese, Egyptian and Syrian companies.

Vacancy Announcement

Technical Advisor- The Ministry of Public Works and Highways

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways has received a credit from the International Development Association IDA toward the cost of Rural Access Program.

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways, through Rural Access Project now seeks applicants from qualified and experienced candidates for the position of **Senior Technical Advisor**.

Tasks and Duties:

- Prepare an assessment of all major current issues pertaining to the Road sector in Yemen and suggest an action plan for addressing these issues; especially a major tasks for the development and modernization of producers and practices within the office of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways.
- Prepare regular monitoring reports on progress on implementation of the NHRAMP and advise the Ministry on steps, actions, finance needed to bring the intended outcome to light.
- Prepare a work plan to train key staff of the Ministry in sound business practices and business development and assist in the implementation of the plan.
- Advise the Ministry on ways and means to develop dialogue and communications between foreign donors and the Ministry on key topics such as project finance, training, knowledge transfer and technical cooperation.
- Follow up the finance, management and implementation of highway projects from a technical point of view, especially when funded by foreign donors, and advise the Ministry of Public Works and Highways on various issues related to these projects.
- Advise the Ministry of Public Works and Highways on various technical, and administrative issues related to foreign consultants, contractors and suppliers.
- Review reports, correspondence between the Ministry and various donors, and advise on appropriate actions to be taken.
- Prepare draft reports, correspondence and minutes of meetings when and where needed.
- Advise the Ministry of Public Works and Highways on matters referred by the Minister or his staff requiring immediate action.
- Consult with the Ministry's key staff on issues requiring immediate attention and action

Qualifications and Experience:

- Masters of Science in Civil Engineering. (preference shall be give to Ph. D holders)
- Minimum of 20 years experience in business development in the road sector
- Strong road and highway field experience
- Proven past interaction with consultants/contractors and suppliers
- Strong ability to work under very demanding circumstances
- Excellent communications skills
- Good regional experience
- Arabic language is a plus

Interested Applicants, who meet the above requirements, should submit their CVs with copies of certificates and work experience in a sealed envelope, latest by **Jan 15,2007** to the following address:

Ministry of Public Works and Highways
Rural Access Project-Central Management Office (RAPCMO)
Attn.: The Project Director
Off 60 M Ring Road and Algiers, St., West of Sana'a Expo Center
Phone: 00967-01-448109/104/449422
Fax: 00967-01-448106
E-mail: rapcmu@y.net.ye

OPINION

A New World Order

By: Raidan A. Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

There is no question that Western societies are more developed and advanced compared to their Asian counterparts when it comes to human sciences, technological advancements, and other areas of excellence. Take the example of music: No Asian orchestra comes close to matching top Western orchestras. Also, there are few Asian business schools with a reputation for research matching their counterparts in the West. The bottom line is that Asian societies might seem to have a long way to go until they call themselves the more advanced and more developed societies of the world.

Having said that, Asians have successfully imported and utilized technology and know-how of the developed western societies to create economic miracles; over half of the world's economic growth and development has been taking place in Asia, in 1960 east and Southeast Asia contributed 4 percent to the global economy while North America contributed 37 percent. However the global economic growth and the 'Asian miracle' resulted in giving both regions an equal contribution to the global economy of about 24 percent each. In Economic terms, East Asia has the same economic power and influence as that of North America.

While it took the British 58 years and the North Americans 47 years to double the output of their economies, Asian countries such as South Korea took 11 years and China 10 years to do the same, singling that the incredible economic performance of

Asian societies would eventually change the world order we see today. Asia is developing rapidly, but is developing in different manner compared to the western model.

When Japan first kicked-started the development of Asia, it used a strategy of copying the West in every respect in order to embrace development and join the 'Western' club, leading to Japan becoming a rival to western powers during the world wars and being accepted as a developed society in global standards, with a prosperous economy, democratic stability and social freedoms in a similar manner to Western societies.

However, the social consequences of the Western model of development has deterred other Asian societies from copying it. The U.S., for example, deemed to be the most advanced nation and society, has a huge gap in incomes where the richest 1 percent have an accumulative worth equal to that of the poorest 50 percent of U.S. residents; ghettos still persist as the most inequitable example of human exclusion in the world, and France's riots are a reminder of how such developed societies can be on the verge of collapse.

Asian societies are redefining development, their development isn't mainly based on financial terms but it also gives great emphasis to their inherent values of cultural identity, morals and ethics. Asian societies are redefining development big time, focusing more on the issue of human prosperity and harmony in keeping the family together and the society healthy and rather than increasing purchasing power. After all, Asia is home to some of the greatest civilizations, ever to exist, such as Islam and Confucianism.



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- Branding Coordinator / Marketing Department - Ref. MR-02-06
- Communication Coordinator / Marketing Department - Ref. MR-03-06
- Product Coordinator / Marketing Department - Ref. MR-04-06
- Sales Back Office Representative / Sales Department - Ref. SL-01-06
- Sales Representative / Sales Department - Ref. SL-02-06
- Sales Back Office Supervisor / Sales Department - Ref. SL-03-06
- Sales Supervisor / Sales Department - Ref. SL-04-06
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- Executive Assistant / Ref. EX -01-06
- UNIX Administrator / MIS Department - Ref. MIS -01-06
- Oracle DBA / MIS Department - Ref. MIS -02-06
- PL SQL Developer / MIS Department - Ref. MIS-03-06
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- Technicians Supervisor / Technical Department - Ref. TC-04-06
- Engineer / Technical Department - Ref. TC-02-06
- Engineers Supervisor / Technical Department - Ref. TC-03-06
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P.O. Box 16210 Haddah St. Sanaa, Republic of Yemen OR recruitment@hitsunitel.com

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Human Rights and poverty

By: Jason Barbo
Sana'a International School
bornnomad@yahoo.com

Poverty is the single greatest destroyer of human rights the world has ever seen. It has existed from the time men first came together into communities until this very day. It is all-prevalent, existing in every country and reigning supreme in many. It devalues human life. Poverty forces people to live and work in horrendous situations, denying them the most basic necessities and the most modest comforts. The violation of human rights is a direct cause of poverty.

I know a family who exemplifies this problem. The mother of this family has been a widow for seven years, but before her husband died they managed to produce nine children. Now the family is on the verge of starvation. Their staple is leftover bread that the neighbors are kind enough to give them. However, it is not uncommon that the whole family is forced to go entirely without food. They are garbed

in rags, only enough for basic human modesty. Their home is a cave. It is a space hollowed out under an old house, about two meters by three meters in its entirety. That tiny space must house ten people. They have no running water and must buy their water and haul it to the house. It is a desperate situation.

The people most commonly responsible for taking care of a widow are her adult sons. This widow has two sons of working age. Tragically however, both are disabled. Her eldest son is completely insane, and wanders the streets all day, frightening children. The next oldest son has a nerve disorder, causing him to shake erratically. This prevents him from holding a job and providing support for his family. Worse, both of these conditions would probably be treatable if the family could afford medical and psychological help. But because they can't, the widow is forced to support her entire family, including her grown sons, by herself. Which she can only barely manage. The lives of this entire family are miserable and hard.

The most fundamental human rights of this family have been violated. Well over half of the rights mentioned in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been violated, but I will focus on the right most blatantly abused, Article 25. Because these people live in poverty, their rights have been ignored.

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Article 25, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

In this direct quote from Article 25, we can see that this family's rights have been violated, leaving them in a desperate situation.

The family's standard of living is not adequate for their health and welfare. They do not have enough food, clothing or housing. They do not have security, though they suffer from widowhood, sickness, disability, and unemployment. They do not have any of these things because they are poor. 'Motherhood and childhood are

entitled to special care and assistance.' In another direct quote from Article 25 we can again see how far poverty has driven this family from what should be. This family has received no care or assistance of any kind, despite the many children in the family and their widowed mother. Their poverty does not allow them to have even the most basic rights, those that are essential for survival.

This family's rights have been violated, and poverty is the obvious cause. But who is responsible for poverty? The answer is that we are. Every person on this planet must take their stand firmly against poverty. Society as a whole must stop pretending that poverty either does not exist or is not a problem. It most certainly exists and it is our problem. We need to realize the issue and work as a society to help the poor. Governments must take more active roles against poverty, destroying its causes at their sources and protecting those who live in poverty. Governments must work to solve the problem of poverty. Poverty is a blatant violation of human rights and we must work to stop it.

Political Islam and its experts

By: Kamel Radman
radmankamel@hotmail.com

Islam is a religion of more than one billion believers. Its adherents are called Muslims. It is one of the most widespread religions due to its high ethical teachings, which call for peace, justice, and of course, its lack of race prejudice.

But, as in other religions, there are some followers who try to spoil it, and work against its values and principles. And the worst of these followers are the extremists who pervert Islamic principles to gain personal advantage. Thus, they have presented Islam as a religion of terror.

The Muslim shall ask himself: Are these extremists Muslims? Absolutely, they are. But do they represent Islam in the right way? Never! Because what they really do is to propagandize campaigns of the radical views/ideas, the fatwa. The ironic thing is that they claim that they have complete plenipotentiary powers to give a verdict of infidelity to Muslims who do not follow their courses. They believe in religious and authoritative resources which hardly try to decorate their positions in society.

We, in Yemen, do not talk about the Christian clergymen nor the Jewish extremists. We are talking about some radical Islamic groups that recently existed in our country. And they use their own militants to have a major political force in Yemen.

Now, and after they have defeated the moderate Muslims, they have started to fight against what they call the non-Muslim regimes. They presented themselves as the guardians of the true Islam. Amazingly, they argue that corruption and poverty exist in the Muslim countries as God's pun-

ishment for not following their direction. They feel happy when they see someone who condemns both cultural activity and press campaigns that call for openness. And they have no shame when they vote for the assassination of those who oppose their ideas, even, if they are Muslims. Consequently, the radicals' campaigns against the intellectual Islamists have gathered thousands of Muslims who were not used yet as political instruments to fight the other Islam.

In fact, the radical Islamic groups have not found a system to deal with the principle of democracy. They reject the liberal (western) concept of democracy due to the fear of the decadence of morals in the community. They are very clear in denying that Western democracy but they do not present a kind of democracy that may agree with the Muslim society.

In spite of this, the radicals have their own political party. They run for elections, and they have members in the parliament. This situation reminds me of their demands for freedom while they are strongly and reasonably opposed to social or political change.

So, the issue is neither this horrible perversion of the true Islamic teachings nor the exploitation of Islam for political purposes. But the worst thing is that this danger is increasing in our society and we are just watching. We will not be far of it. And our shy condemnation will not work unless there are effective actions. Action speaks louder than words.

Waiting for that day, may God save our people, and most individuals who need to be protected are women. Because the extremists still deny the right of women to have a social and political role in society. They still look at women as a shame!

The charm of smiles

By: Rahma Al-Gadri

Most people think that a frowning person has strong personality while a smiling person is weak; however, this is not the case. Smiling is a magical stick with ability to stir others' hearts. And hereafter some rules that lead you to use your smile in order to maintain your relations with others.

The honest smile comes from the heart and it is based on love and sincerity. It is totally different from

the frantic and emotionless smile which is like fake currency, being cold, empty and malicious. The charming smile is able to open others' hearts for you and facilitates making friends.

Try to love people in order to have an honest and deep smile and train yourself to love people and remember that a joyful person, with his sweet speech and amusing spirit, is always loved by people as he has the ability to make them laugh and forget about their problems.

A natural smile reduces tension and helps to treat some cases of depression.

A beautiful dream

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

While surfing all the world's sites
In Skies
The night-tide feels sad and cries
As the moon sways and fades out
The stars are smiling so proud
A beautiful dream sleeps
On my beloved's map
Gently, on land
The dawn's waking up
The sunshine penetrates
My darling's heart
As the sea heaves a deep sigh
He bequeaths her blue eyes
Painted the scene of rainy love
On her soul's chaise longue
Cheerfully, the birds chant
What a miracle lies in

the adorable bride!
In haste,
Her soul's spectrum reams the flush
of my bloodstream
Gathered all flamboyant butterflies
Flowers hugging the gentle breeze
The melodious rivulet's strings
Composing a symphony of Peace
That is called
The world's glory
Can't be found
In science nor in fine art
Never be in a layout
Never be, in times,
Present nor past
In fact, it is a love's story
It is my great pride
What a beautiful dream resides
In my soul's countryside

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 December trio
- 5 Cosmetics entrepreneur
- 10 ___ morgana (illusion)
- 14 "Bingo!"
- 15 Garden bloomer
- 16 Film format with a huge screen
- 17 Plant anchor
- 18 Musical featuring "Hernando's Hideaway"
- 20 Legendary city in South America
- 22 Like mice and geese
- 23 Starts to wake
- 24 Philanthropists, carpoolers, etc.
- 25 Let the cat out of the bag
- 27 Borden cow
- 28 Elton's john
- 29 Scoundrel
- 31 "I won't take ___ an answer!"
- 35 Small town
- 37 Suit fabric
- 39 Chris of "Law & Order: Criminal Intent"
- 40 Perfume essential

- 42 ___ the Covenant
- 44 University of Utah player
- 45 Fortuitous
- 47 James or Marilyn
- 49 Type of cushion
- 52 Old coins for the Trevi Fountain
- 53 Worked up
- 54 Albatross around one's neck, e.g.
- 57 Nixon's book
- 59 Old wives' tales
- 60 Ticked off
- 61 Change, chemically
- 62 Humorist Bombeck
- 63 Pass start?
- 64 Impulsive spending frenzy
- 65 Cubicle item

DOWN

- 1 Boggy ground
- 2 Truant soldier
- 3 Gracious winner, e.g.
- 4 Lock, stock and barrel
- 5 Quite obvious
- 6 Cracks the books
- 7 Karate school
- 8 Alfonso's queen
- 9 Nature deities depicted as beautiful maidens
- 10 Plan for
- 11 Stoudemire of the Phoenix Suns
- 12 Daughter of David
- 13 Jumper in a skater's program
- 19 French actor Delon
- 21 Put on the line
- 24 Smooth and glossy
- 25 Napoleon's isle of exile
- 26 Strike from a list
- 27 More than most
- 30 Hardly oblivious
- 32 80, to Lincoln
- 33 Palindromic emperor
- 34 Korea's Syngman
- 36 Rubber boots
- 38 Have control over
- 41 100 cents, in Sri Lanka
- 43 Model T manufacturer
- 46 Trees of Lebanon
- 48 Caught in the act
- 49 It can bear a watch
- 50 Lionize
- 51 Bizarre
- 52 Knight stick?
- 54 Listen to
- 55 Instruments of war
- 56 Type of performer
- 58 Gym unit

"PLAY FOR MONEY" by Carol LaChance

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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49	50	51							52					
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60									61					62
63									64					65

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	K	E	P	U	P	A	A	S	H	E	N
T	B	I	S	C	O	M	B	S	H	A	L	E
C	H	O	P	S	T	I	G	K	A	C	K	B
R	O	W	P	E	T	E	L	O	C	K	E	T
C	R	A	C	L	E	P	A	R	K	A		
T	H	I	N	D	M	O	S	T	M	O	W	
T	A	C	I	T	E	A	S	T	R	O	M	E
H	U	L	L	B	E	U	S	O	R	A	L	
A	R	I	D	I	D	L	E	A	V	E	R	B
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B	A	L	E	D	C	A	R	P	A	L		
A	R	O	N	A	S	V	E	P	I	W	O	
L	E	A	P	T	I	N	C	E	M	E	A	T
M	E	R	L	E	A	L	D	A	E	C	R	
A	D	D	E	D	R	A	S	P	W	E	D	B

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Calvin and Hobbes comic strip panels showing Calvin and Hobbes in winter. Calvin is talking about winter and snow, while Hobbes is more skeptical. Calvin mentions that snow is just frozen rain and that they should buy mittens. Hobbes asks if Calvin is really that cold, and Calvin replies that he is very cold. Calvin then says he wants all the snow.

Garfield comic strip panels showing Garfield and Jon. Jon asks Garfield if he is ready for Christmas, and Garfield replies that he is not ready because he is still waiting for Santa. Jon says that Santa will be here in one week, and Garfield replies that he is still waiting. Jon then says that he is not ready either, and Garfield replies that he is not ready because he is still waiting for Santa.

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• للبيع: خلاطة اسمنت (قطع غيار) - بوديهات متنوعة - قطع غيار للموديلات القديمة - ثلاجة أسماك - مولد كهرباء إيطالي ٢٥ ك - دكاكات أرفلت.

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٦٣٥٧١١

• للبيع مطابع أوفست متكاملة وبحالة ممتازة
السعر مناسب
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٨٤٨٧٦٥ - ٧٣٣٤٩٢٥٣٦

حوالي ٢٠ متر، بيت بوس، قريب جداً من حده.
سعر للبيع: ثلاثة مليون ومائتين ألف ريال
للتواصل: ٧١١٦٨٠٨٨٦

• للإيجار: فيلا واسعة مع الحوش في منطقة الكمب بتعز، الإيجار الشهري: \$٤٠٠
للتواصل: ٧١١٩٩٨٩٩٥

سيارات

• للبيع: مرسيدس موديل ٨٩ نظيفة جداً.
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٦٣٥٧١١

• كمبيوترات، أدوات كهربائية، تلفونات، و أشياء أخرى

• للبيع: جهاز كمبيوتر (هارد ياباني) - السعر مناسب
للتواصل: ٧٧٥٠٠٩٨٧

• مطلوب شراء تلفونات الفهد

ثانوية عامة - سنة ثالثة تجارة - مستوى جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - خبرة في مجال المخازن لمدة ست سنوات (أمين مخازن - مراقب مخازن) - يبحث عن عمل مناسب
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٠٩٦٥٢

• ثانوية عامة (علمي) - دبلوم سكرتارية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣١٣٢٤٧٠

• محمد خرويه - مهندس معماري - مصري الجنسية - خبره ثلاث سنوات في أعمال التصميم والتنفيذ - خبره في العمل مع الأجانب - خبره سنتان في اليمن (السفارة الأمريكية - تصميم وتنفيذ العديد من الأعمال) - يجيد استخدام الحاسب الآلي واللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في شركة أجنبية أو شركة بتترول أو شركة مقاولات كبرى
للتواصل: ٧١١٠٧٠٧٤٥

• محمد أحمد علي - خبر طويلة في مجال السواقه - يبحث عن عمل مناسب في هذا المجال.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩٤٣٨٨١

• مروان عبده قايد - بكالوريوس تربية - التخصص كيمياء - التقدير جيد - يرغب في العمل في أي مدرسة.
للتواصل: ٧١٢٤٠٥٩٣٦

• فهد علي السقاف - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم برامج تطبيقية على الحاسوب + دبلوم صيانة كمبيوتر في الهند - دورة في المحاسبة - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال مناسب في صنعاء أو تعز أو عدن.

• فهد علي السقاف - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم برامج تطبيقية على الحاسوب + دبلوم صيانة كمبيوتر في الهند - دورة في المحاسبة - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال مناسب في صنعاء أو تعز أو عدن.

• عادل أبو حليقة - بكالوريوس رياضيات حاسوب + دبلوم سكرتارية + مهارة في تحليل وتصميم نظم المعلومات - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية بشكل جيد - يرغب في العمل في مجال التخصص أو أي مجال مناسب.
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٨٤٨٧٦٥

• عبد الرحمن محمد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم برامج تطبيقات الحاسوب - يجيد الطباعة بالعربي والإنجليزي - يحمل رخصة قيادة - يرغب في العمل بإحدى الشركات أو في مجال السياحة في صنعاء أو تعز أو إب أو حضرموت.
للتواصل: ٧١١٦٦٠٧٣٠

• حبيب محمد - دبلوم حاسوب (تخصص برمجة) - جامعة عدن - خبرة ثلاث سنوات في تدريس دورات برامج تطبيقية - خبرة في صيانة الحاسوب لمدة ثلاث سنوات - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يجيد العمل على برنامج الفوتوشوب
للتواصل: ٧٧٥١٦٩٠٧

• محمد أحمد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - يجيد كافة المراسلات التجارية وترجمة التوكيلات التجارية - خبرة في البرامج التطبيقية وفي صيانة

• فواز صالح أحمد - ليسانس لغة إنجليزية (جيد جداً) - دبلوم لغة فرنسية - يجيد استخدام الحاسب الآلي - خبرة في التدريس والترجمة لمدة ثلاث سنوات له كتب منشورة في الترجمة. يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٠٢٣٦٩٥

• كمال محمد أمير - بكالوريوس فيزياء - جامعة صنعاء - حاصل على شهادة من المعهد المهني تحكم ميكانيكي - لديه شهادة خبرة في الكهرباء لمدة خمس سنوات من إحدى المصانع المشهورة في اليمن، حاصل على دورتين في اللغة الإنجليزية. يرغب في العمل لدى إحدى الشركات في اليمن.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٨٠٢٧

• رؤوف نصر محمد - ثانوية عامة - حاصل على دورتين لغة إنجليزية - خبرة في مجال الفندقة لمدة ثلاث سنوات - حاصل على شهادة خبرة في القسم كافي شوب - مساعد طباط - يرغب في العمل لدى إحدى الفنادق المشهورة.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩٨٣٢٧٩ أو ٠١/٣٧٢٥٩٤

• فهد علي السقاف - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم برامج تطبيقية على الحاسوب + دبلوم صيانة كمبيوتر في الهند - دورة في المحاسبة - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال مناسب في صنعاء أو تعز أو عدن.

• حسن أحمد محمد - مدرس علوم (أحياء - كيمياء) - جامعة الإسكندرية ١٩٩٠ - خبرة أكثر من ١٤ سنة في مجال تدريس الكيمياء والأحياء للمرحلة الثانوية والإعدادية - يرغب في العمل في مجاله أو في أي مجال مقارب له.
للتواصل: ٧١١١٠٩٠١١

• شوقي أمين أحمد يوسف -

• فواز صالح أحمد - ليسانس لغة إنجليزية (جيد جداً) - دبلوم لغة فرنسية - يجيد استخدام الحاسب الآلي - خبرة في التدريس والترجمة لمدة ثلاث سنوات له كتب منشورة في الترجمة. يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٠٢٣٦٩٥

• كمال محمد أمير - بكالوريوس فيزياء - جامعة صنعاء - حاصل على شهادة من المعهد المهني تحكم ميكانيكي - لديه شهادة خبرة في الكهرباء لمدة خمس سنوات من إحدى المصانع المشهورة في اليمن، حاصل على دورتين في اللغة الإنجليزية. يرغب في العمل لدى إحدى الشركات في اليمن.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٨٠٢٧

عن ت: ٢٤٣٢٤٥٠ ف: ٢١٢٤٨٠
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مستشفيات

مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١-٤٢٦٩٦٧/٧/٩
مستشفى العموري ت: ٠١-٣٧٤٣١/٧
مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤١٣٨١
المستشفى اليمني العامي ت: ٠١-٤١٣١١١
مستشفى الاماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠٢٠٠٠
ف: ٤١٣١١١
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧/٧/٢
فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠
فندق موفيفيك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
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فندق ريلكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٤٨٧١
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ف: ٥١٥٧٥٥
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تعز ت: ٣٥٠٣٤٥

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مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٣٧-١٩١٧/٢
مدرسة النور الدولية ت: ٤٤٤٣٥٨/٩
مدرسة المعاهد اليمنية ت: ٣-٦١٥٩
مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤-٣٧/٤٤-٤٣٣

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العالمية للسرديات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٩١/٦٠

مطاعم

مطعم ومخازن الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
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البنوك

البنك التجاري ت: ٣٧٧٣٣٣ ف: ٣٧٧٣٣٣
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Ghaiman: Where reality blends with myth

By: Moneer Al-Omari

According to one local, Ghaiman was Yemen's capital during the pre-Islamic era, particularly under King Asa'ad Al-Kamil.

Located just 20 km. from Sana'a, very few people know its history.

Ghaiman is a fort with a large number of historical features, cisterns, paved roads and sturdy walls; however, most of these monuments are now ruins.

Ghaiman was the name of what is now Nuqum Mountain in eastern Sana'a, as well as the name of a famous fortified fort and archeological area southeast of Sana'a. Administratively, Ghaiman is

part of Bani Behlol district and tribally, it belongs to Khawlan Al-Tiyal. Sanhan district recently annexed Bani Behlol.

Located atop a small hill, Ghaiman is bordered by Al-Hagarah village and Qarowan Mountain in the north, Jaoub and Skhaleet villages to the south, Wadi Jubaib and Al-Ligum to the east and Raymat Humaid to the

west. Important valleys in Ghaiman include Nais, Al-Mahjar and Al-Ghail.

Ghaiman is not as it used to be, as numerous houses have sprung up in the wadis beneath the fort and very few people still inhabit the fort.

Three famous old mosques were built within the fort throughout different periods of the Islamic era. Built in a magnificent manner, they are full of Islamic inscriptions and contain deep cisterns.

Some mosques contain old tombs of pious and religious figures that were raided in search of gold; however, such searches yielded nothing because most of the tombs were from the Islamic period, whereas gold was from the pre-Islamic era.

In the past, Ghaiman was the area's most fortified fort with a wall surrounding its entirety. Entry was via two doors, Bab Al-Balad to the east and Bab Al-Qudmah to the west. These doors still exist, whereas the fort's surrounding walls and other monuments since have disappeared.

Ghaiman's most important historical and archeological features include King Asa'ad's palace, Asa'ad's Cistern and a long underground tunnel linking the fort to



Part of Asa'ad Al-Kamil's Palace.



Ghaiman's eastern gate known as Al-Qudmah.

Al-Kalb (dog) Well in the wadi below. Used during war or siege, the tunnel enabled inhabitants to descend to the wadi for water without being seen by the enemy.


However, only remnants of these monuments remain, like King Asa'ad's Palace, a one-story structure built of long white marble-like stones locally known as al-balaq, together with black stones forming the foundation's bottom two rows.

Despite the fact that very few paved roads now exist within the fort, most of its roads were paved with white stones. The cistern currently contains no water and the tunnel was blocked from the fort side, thus it was

impossible to enter it.

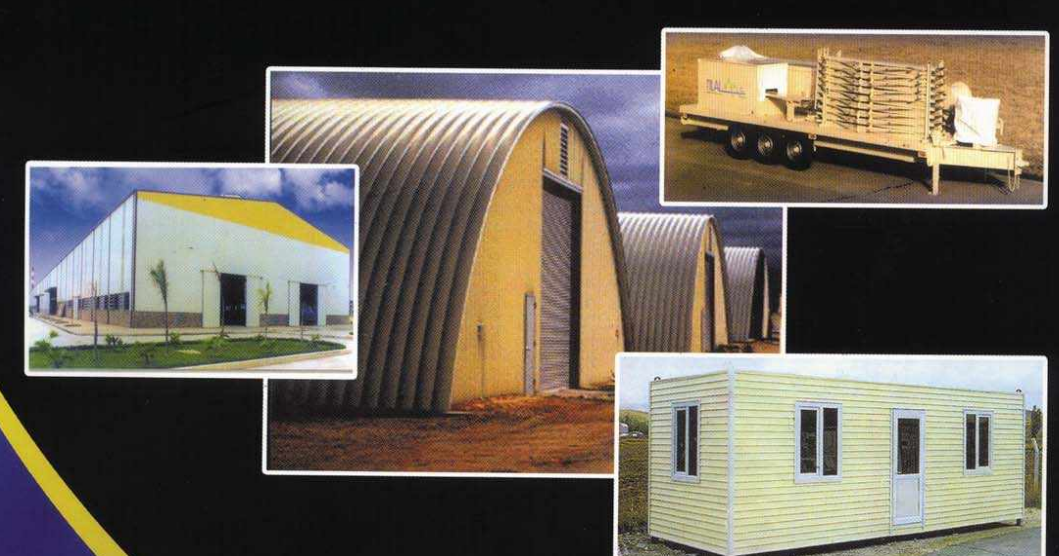
Most inscribed stones, such as a temple-shaped stone and another known as Asa'ad's Foot, were taken from their original locations and placed elsewhere both within and outside the fort.

The area including and surrounding Ghaiman supposedly contains large quantities of buried gold. In searching for it, locals dug at various sites in the fort, but very few found any - some found gold while others didn't. All such previous attempts were individual, as the government in Ghaiman has undertaken no systematic digs like at other archeological sites across Yemen.

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