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Three dead in Lebanon clashes



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Research shows lack of legislative framework, misunderstanding of job description



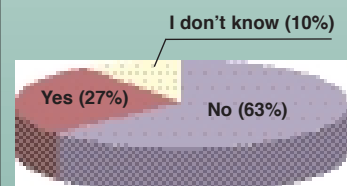
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Training Center of the Ministry of Oil: Leading the way in building Human Capital

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think the Yemeni government is serious about reducing the number of VIP bodyguards, which exceeds 70,000?



This edition's question:

Do you think terrorizing the remaining Yemeni Jews is an attempt to deport them to Israel or the United States?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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Sa'ada sheikhs accused of threatening Jewish minorities

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Jan. 24 — An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed that his government is seriously discussing the issue of threats targeting the Jewish minority in Yemen, Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal said Tuesday.

Bajammal added that his government rejects all threats against the Jewish minority by some Al-Salem sheikhs in Sa'ada. He stated in a Sana'a press conference attended by Jordan's Prime Minister that the state is responsible for protecting its citizens in order to maintain the social peace.

He added that religious forgiveness in Yemen is a historic matter and dates back several years. "We don't allow anyone to harm any of the Jewish citizens in Yemen. We strongly reject what happened to Jews in Sa'ada," Bajammal noted, promising state protection for citizens, including the Jewish minority.

The nation's official response came after the Israeli government last Monday expressed its concern about the peace and safety of Jews in Yemen following media reports that many Yemeni Jews fled their homes after facing murder threats by armed Islamic organizations.

Media sources affirmed that the Israeli government is concerned about the safety of Al-Salem Jews and began making international calls inquiring about their situation and living conditions.

Other media sources mentioned last Monday that Sheikh Yahya Sa'ad Al-Khidhair, a staunch Al-Houthi supporter from Al-Salem tribe, aided by some of his



A number of Yemeni Jewish families were forced to deport their homes in Sa'ada. YF PHOTO ARCHIVE

tribesmen, forced seven Jewish families living in Sa'ada, which is located 245 km. north of Sana'a, to desert their homes. This is the first incident of its kind since the 16th century.

The same sources expressed that armed Al-Houthi supporters, who have been engaged in fierce clashes with government troops during the past three years and remain entrenched in rough places, forced the Jewish families to evacuate their homes. Members of these displaced families number 45 and include men, women and children.

However, several news web sites clarified earlier this week that a number of Jews living in Jarir village, part of Sa'ada's Al-Salem tribe, denied charges alleging that they had spread vice in the area.

Various media quoted the Yemeni Jews, who moved to Sa'ada city, as saying, "We fled to Sa'ada city to protect ourselves and our families, particularly after we received written warning demanding we leave our homes within 10 days."

The Islah Party-affiliated Al-Sahwa net published a letter said to have been signed by Al-Khidhair on its web site and bearing the logo of Al-Houthi supporters. The letter read, "Following close monitoring and thorough observation of Jews over the past few days, it's clear that these Jews are behaving in a manner serving Zionism. They make people deviate from their religious principles and values and spread vice; however, our religion tells us to fight ill-mannered people and deport them."

Yemen and Jordan sign cooperation agreements

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

SANA'A, Jan. 24 — The meetings of the joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee concluded on Tuesday with the signing of 23 cooperation agreements, memoranda of understanding, executive program and protocols in the areas of agriculture, higher education and scientific research, education, social security, culture, tourism, labor, investments and legal affairs and

exports. The meetings, chaired by Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal and his Jordanian counterpart Marouf Al-Bakhit, agreed on in a bid to increase bilateral cooperation including the forming of a Jordanian Yemeni university to be owned by the private sector with its main headquarters in Aden, as well as a maritime transport company to connect the port city of Aqaba with Aden through the Red Sea.



Marouf Al-Bakhit

Other projects agreed establishing a Jordanian Yemeni hospital, in addition to protocols and agreements signed in the fields of agriculture, health, education, training, insurance, tourism, culture, energy and legal affairs.

The two prime ministers agreed to focus on following up on all the agreements and recommendations to ensure their implementation for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

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Interior Ministry sets new security strategies

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, Jan. 24 — The Ministry of Interior is to formulate a new strategy to maintain security, determine the various motivations behind criminal behavior and come up with efficient tactics to fight crime, after it felt its previous techniques increasingly were dysfunctional.

At a conference held in Sana'a, the ministry decided to conduct a case study on crimes and the means whereby it can fight them. It further assured the necessity of activating the Civil Defense Department's role in implementing rescue and disaster prevention and response. According to media sources, the ministry wants to turn the department into an independent administration.

At the second session attended by Ministry of Health representatives, attendees discussed securing health insurance for all state employees and Interior Ministry affiliates. The conference also reviewed a plan submitted by the security



Rashad Al-Alimi

ty sector related to administering crises and facing emergencies.

Gen. Mohammed Al-Qusi, deputy interior minister for the general security sector, noted that the ministry managed to control 35,024 crimes nationwide last year, including 15,645 flagrant crimes. He rated the ministry's 2006 performance at 93 percent.

According to Al-Qusi, there's a crime every 15 minutes, amounting to 679 crimes a week and 21,049 crimes a month. Furthermore, 2006 witnessed an increase in crime, with 682 incidents incurring more than YR 3 billion in material losses.

For his part, Interior Minister Rashad Al-Alimi declared that 2007 will witness more qualitative developments in a way that serves to upgrade security engagement within the frame of ministry plans and President Ali Abdullah Saleh's directives.

Continued on page 2

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Is kidnapping journalists a good idea?

By: **Rachelle Kliger, The Media Line**

There's no way to sugarcoat it. If you're a field journalist in a conflict zone, your mother has good reason for losing precious sleep.

Over the past 15 years, more than 580 journalists have been killed in the line of duty, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Of course, you can argue this is a calculated risk that comes with the job.

But more recently, journalists have become more than accidental victims caught in the line of fire. They have been upgraded to prime targets.

Unscrupulous gangs in the Middle East and beyond are recognizing that a live journalist is worth more than a dead one and they are frequently resorting to kidnappings.

The phenomenon is particularly noticeable in Iraq and in the Gaza Strip, although it is certainly not exclusive to these areas.

The recent abduction of Jaime Razuri, a Peruvian AFP photojournalist, in Gaza, was the latest in a long series of abductions in this volatile region.

In Iraq, journalists have been the victims of countless kidnappings since the war in 2003 began drawing foreign journalists to the region.

Varying Motives

The reasons for kidnapping journalists vary, as do the modus operandi.

Arguably, the best-known case of a kidnapped journalist was the abduction and eventual murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl in Pakistan in 2002. The kidnappers tried to use him as a political tool to pressure the U.S. government.

Pearl was kidnapped by a previously unknown organization calling itself the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty. The group sent the United States a list of demands including freeing Pakistani detainees and releasing the frozen shipment of fighter jets from the U.S. to the

Pakistani government.

Pearl was beheaded and dismembered after his captors' demands were not met.

In many cases, as well as in the case of Pearl, the captors claimed their victims were agents working as spies for foreign governments, therefore justifying their capture.

Frank Smyth, now the security director for the Committee to Protect Journalists, was kidnapped while working as a journalist in Iraq in 1991.

"They were accusing myself and a French photographer of being Western intelligence agents," he recalls. "They were demanding we tell them of our alleged intelligence connections. Of course, we had none."

Smyth was eventually released after 18 days, during which time he witnessed the torture of cellmates, including a young boy. The ordeal left him with conflicting emotions which were very hard to process, he says.

Sometimes the motive for kidnapping journalists is not ideologically driven. In many cases, it boils down to money or job security.

Almost a dozen foreign journalists have been abducted in Gaza over the past two years. With the exception of one incident last August, in which two journalists from Fox News were held for two weeks, all others were released within a reasonably short time, and in good condition.

Based on media reports, journalists abducted in Gaza have been released without any demands being met.

Simon McGregor-Wood, chairman of the Israeli Foreign Press Association (FPA) says he was not aware of any cases where media organizations were asked to pay money to secure the release of their employees.

"Usually, we understand later that the motivation for these abductions is an internal Palestinian one, often including, as we understand, requests for money, requests for jobs, political favors, perhaps the release of certain people from Palestinian prisons. I think

the general policy for media organizations is not to get involved in those sorts of negotiations at all," he says.

In the recent case of Razuri's abduction, no known demands were made at all. But similar to previous cases, the details are often withheld from the media.

"Some of the kidnappers have indeed achieved their goals," says Abu Abir, a spokesman for the Palestinian Resistance Committees. He stresses his organization does not agree with the policy of abducting foreigners.

The exact identity of the kidnappers in Gaza is an enigma. The captors choose a previously unheard of single-use name, says a Gaza-based journalist, who has been following the abductions.

Curiously, these groups, or random street gangs, are rarely pursued by the Palestinian security forces.

"The circumstances surrounding the negotiations to release the journalists are always shrouded in secrecy," the journalist says.

The negotiators usually belong to the Palestinian security forces, but they never inform the media of the identity of the kidnappers.

Incidentally, TML approached several journalists kidnapped in Gaza requesting an interview. All of them declined.

The fact that several journalists abducted in Iraq were murdered soon after, without even attempting to use them as bargaining chips, suggests the kidnappers' goals were neither political nor monetary but solely to terrorize and manage the flow of information.

"Journalists are the conduits of information," Smyth says. "Certainly, information is a factor in any conflict, whether it's a political conflict or a military one."

In this sense, the goal of targeting journalists is to shape the story.

"It usually backfires," Smyth says, "but certainly there's a great deal of wrath focused on journalists."

Phil Sands, a freelance journalist kidnapped in 2005, says that in Iraq, where

he was abducted, various parties simply do not want journalists accurately reporting the events.

"In a murderous chaos like that, when every group is trying to tear off their own strip of carcass, the truth is liable to make everyone look bad."

Who Gains From Kidnapping Journalists?

So, is kidnapping journalists a good idea? Naturally, it depends who you ask.

The Islamic Army in Iraq, a group linked to Al-Qa'ida, which has taken credit for several kidnappings of journalists, defended its position in an email to The Media Line.

"We're in a flared-up war-zone," said an unidentified writer aligned with the group. "Any person who is suspiciously located in this region is exposing himself to a problem."

The writer described a complex mechanism in the organization for dealing with these "suspicious" individuals. Any person captured is lawfully interrogated and their fate is decided accordingly, they wrote.

The group does not target professionals in their line of duty, whether they are doctors, journalists, or any other profession offering service to the people.

However, the message concludes with an exception.

"Whoever uses their profession for espionage activities will meet the penalty they deserve."

Stephen Farrell, a correspondent for The Times of London, finds certain logic in the kidnappers' activities. Farrell spent a day in Iraqi captivity in 2004, an ordeal he described as an "extremely vicious, nasty and horrible experience."

"Yes, it is a good idea for them," Farrell says.

"If you want the media out of Iraq or out of large parts of Iraq, kidnap them. It works. It's a practical solution. It does have an effect. But what it ends up doing, of course, is ensuring that journalists won't go to large parts of Iraq

and human suffering won't be reported."

If the kidnappers seek money, as is sometimes the case in Iraq, a reporter, and especially a Western one, is a lucrative opportunity, Sands says.

It is widely believed that many of the journalists kidnapped in Iraq for ransom were released after the money was delivered, but these reports are often denied or downplayed.

Sands does not disregard the ideological motives of targeting a journalist.

"I'd say the political groups that kidnap journalists in Iraq are probably doing so because they see the media as a weapon of war," he says.

It is feasible that an Iraqi will view the Western media as being part of the problem, accusing them of being anti-Muslim and blaming them for exacerbating the security situation by poor and dishonest reportage, he adds.

Sands says his captors were keenly interested in the kind of stories he had been writing.

"If I'd been saying how great the American invasion was, it might have made my situation worse. As it is, I'd just written a piece about an unarmed Iraqi family who had been shot down by U.S. troops at a checkpoint. There's no way of telling, of course, but it's an observation.

"I don't condone it, and I think in the long run it will always be counterproductive to kidnap journalists. But I can see the logic behind it."

From a different perspective, regardless of the terrible ordeals the journalists undergo, McGregor-Wood says the kidnappings in Gaza also have a horrendous impact on the Palestinian image.

The FPA has been holding detailed negotiations with Palestinian officials from the Hamas government on how to better protect journalists.

"We're happy to talk to these people in an effort to raise awareness of how damaging kidnapping journalists can be to Palestinian public relations," he says.

From a domestic standpoint, Abu Abir says the abductions are worsening

the security chaos and "breaking the will of the people."

The Deterrence Factor

Sands believes that if the captors want their cause to be portrayed sympathetically, kidnapping journalists is the wrong way to go about it.

The audience will view the kidnappers as harming non-combatants, which would alienate the general public, he says.

It also indicates a poor understanding of what makes a Western journalist tick.

"In most cases, if the kidnappers invited the same reporter to do a story about them, the reporter would. There's no need to kidnap," he says.

The recent spate of journalist kidnappings has not deterred foreign journalists from traveling to Gaza, but the visits have become less frequent, and journalists will only go when absolutely necessary, McGregor-Wood says.

As well as the frequency of their visits, the kidnappings are affecting the journalists' routines.

The FPA is recommending its members be more vigilant in Gaza. This advice entails limiting Palestinian colleagues to well-known fixers and translators, avoiding traveling alone and, more recently, varying their routines.

Most of the journalists kidnapped established a pattern of behavior, such as staying in a hotel for several consecutive days and maintaining a high profile in their business, McGregor-Wood says.

"We now advise those people to think more carefully about their routines and take a lower security profile."

The foreign press corps in Israel and the Palestinian territories includes almost 500 members, one of the largest in the world.

There is absolutely no chance that kidnapping journalists can be a good idea, he says.

"We're there to do a job. Accurate and balanced reporting can only be good for the people in the region."

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General Tender Announcement Number (1) Year 2007

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation announces tenders for the following:

- **Supply, supervise installation, test, guarantee and hand-over of different audio equipment for festival venues.**

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US\$ 200. An additional US\$100 is charged for optional postal delivery.

General conditions:

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2007
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2007
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2007
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2007
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

Place and date for opening the envelopes:

The envelopes are to be opened at 11:00 AM on Thursday 20/2/2007 at the corporation premises.



General Tender Announcement Number (3) Year 2007

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation announces tenders for the following:

- **Supply, supervise installation, test, guarantee and hand-over of an integrated television system (audio/video) for transmitting religious rituals.**

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US\$ 300. An additional US\$100 is charged for optional postal delivery.

General conditions:

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2007
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The envelopes are to be opened at 11:00 AM on Wednesday 21/2/2007 at the corporation premises.

Training Center of the Ministry of Oil: Leading the way in building Human Capital

Advancing the nation in the 21st century requires more than economic development and political progress; it requires investing in the Human Capital of the country and building a pool of expertise and knowledge, especially considering that knowledge and know-how have become the main forces of development. Yemen Times has come across a praiseworthy example of this commitment to building human capital in the Ministry of Oil and Natural Resources, and spoke to AbdulRahman Saber, Director of the Yemen Petroleum Training Center affiliated to the Ministry of Oil and Minerals, who told us about his center's commitment towards building the human capital of the Ministry of Oil.

Interview by: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Can you brief us on the different stages of development this center has been through?

The center has existed since 1996, however its operations and training activities had stagnated until it reached a position to be either shut down or be activated. The minister decided to activate the center and boost its resources in order to be capable of living up to its mission and in August 2006 the center was moved into its new premises and changed its administrative staff in order to ensure a fresh and smooth start for the center. Today we have around 60 personnel undertaking various administrative and academic roles in English training and computer skills as well as technical skills in accordance to the trainings we have.

After doing the first step, which was finding the new premises and equipping it, we started working on the curricula and types of training we need in both the short and long term. We found that the highest priority were English language skills as those skills are critical to furthering the knowledge base of our employees as it is the language of science and understanding it is essential in order to have access to knowledge. The second priority was computer and information technology skills because computing has become the medium of communications and an effective tool in all sectors. Our new premises is equipped with a wireless network to allow employees to browse the internet and open multimedia anywhere in the center and we also have state-of-the-art computer labs with high speed internet operating during working hours all day long.

The next task at hand was to find qualified educators and teachers to teach and we have advertised in Yemen Times among other papers our vacancies and have received a

training. However, we do also run several short-term technical training programs in several sectors in accordance to the needs of the respective departments of the ministry, was it oil refining, maintenance of equipment and infrastructure, geological analysis or even mineral sciences among others. We also have other training programs to teach the 'soft skills', such as organizations and management, leadership and teamwork and several administrative skills which we consider to be of great importance for work as well as the learning process of trainees.

To answer your question in more detail around technical training, we receive memos from various departments around their training needs as well as an annual plan which details the number of trainees and the type of required training they need. We look into these memos and look into the subjects, we search within our existing team of cadres to see if we have the needed type of training and we also look into government facilities to see if they have the capabilities to provide hands-on training required by those departments. Then, we provide the theoretical part of the training here in our premises, we recruit international experts if we did not find any person with the specific area of expertise and we ensure that the trainees attain the maximum possible, thereafter we coordinate with the departments affiliated to the ministry and undertake the training either in their facilities or in the field itself. For example, in the area of maintenance you can describe the Aden refinery as a school in which tens of employees specialized in maintenance have had their training there.

Have you had any cooperation from oil and gas companies operating in Yemen with regards to training and exchanging knowledge?

As you know, the departments



Eng. AbdulRahman Abdullah Saber - Director of the center

facilities such as Yemen LNG and Canadian Nexen, however we are yet to cooperate with their training centers directly with regards to undertaking joint training programs. We also have agreed with the department of Yemenization in the ministry in order to coordinate efforts and formulate a joint strategy in order to provide the market with the needed skills in the oil sector, however, as a start our focus is on the departments affiliated to the ministry and English language training and computer skills.

In numbers, how many people can the center train and in what areas?

There are over 14,000 employees affiliated to the Ministry of Oil, and we aspire to enhance the skills of all of those 14,000, we are very optimistic about our capabilities and we know that we have the full support of Minister Khalid Bahah with regards to raising the quality of the employees in the ministry.

If we examine those 14,000 in more detail, we find that technical training is mostly needed in only two departments. Those are the department for explorations and production of oil, which employs around 2000 people; and the other is the department for geological surveying, which employs around 1500 people. While the other departments' need mostly English language training, computer skills and also training in soft skills. This type of training is being currently undertaken and we have started with the first batch of training 121 employees in English language as a pilot training course. We have the capacity to train 1400 employees annually once we start training on full scale.

Tell us about your overall training strategy during the upcoming few years.

Prior to the activation of the center, each department had its own training strategy and mechanism which proved highly inefficient with disappointing outcomes. However, now we have a training coordinator in each department who forecasts the need and shortage of skills the department is currently has or is likely to see in the near future or in the medium term. This information is the basis of our strategy, which considers the needs of all departments and ensures the ministry meets its training goals and ensures constant supply of skills for various departments.

Our current five-year strategy emphasis on English language training and computer skills as I have mentioned, however, with regards to technical aspects we have an alarming shortage of skilled people to oversee and undertake maintenance operations in several facilities, was it in the production of natural gas for domestic use or in the refineries, we also need to

maintain even the containers of refined oil products which distribute Gasoline and other products to retail points. Maintenance is an important part of all operations. We also are planning to introduce unique training programs such in geological surveying to examine fragile locations and avoid catastrophes such as that of Al-Dufair village last year, where a sudden landslide destroyed the village. By 2012 we will have the expertise in all oil, gas, and mineral sciences and we will have trained at least 5000 employees affiliated with the ministry in English and basic computer skills.

Business In Brief

Merchants go on strike against sales tax law

Many merchants and businessmen have closed their shops and retail outlets in several districts of Sana'a and other cities demanding the president revoke the sales tax law and use the previous taxation mechanism. The tax authority has broadcasted advertisements explaining that only large businesses will be affected by the tax and advised them not to be misinformed or manipulated by larger businesses as most merchants who went on strike will not be affected by the tax law.

Al-Asali: Sales tax is unstoppable

Minister of Finance, Saif Al-Asali, stated that the amended 2001 sales tax is unstoppable, calling on the chambers of commerce and the business community to give up their challenges. He also added that this law will result in the easiest, fairest and efficient taxation mechanism which have been adopted in many countries.

NGOs describe government as insincere in combating corruption

Alliance of Civil society organizations has described the government's efforts in combating corruption as "insincere" as the government has deliberately chose not to allow representation of the civil society in the national authority for anti-corruption. The alliance also stated in a press release that it has several comments on the anti-corruption law, adding that there is no transparency in putting together the proposed anti-corruption committee.

Government revenue grows 32 percent in 2006

Sources at the Ministry of Finance indicated that government revenue reached YR 1,424 billion in 2006, compared to YR 1,078 billion in 2005. The main force behind the increase was the 29 percent increase in oil revenue in 2006 compared to 2005, which reached YR 1,085 billion in 2006, accounting for 76 percent of all government revenue and falling from 78 percent in 2005.

Committees for Yemen's accession to the GCC formed

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Al-Arhabi indicated that commit-

tees to facilitate Yemen's accession to the Gulf Cooperative Council have been formed with four lines of operations. The first to develop the infrastructure of the country and create sustainable development; the second to develop an investment-friendly environment; the third to synchronize several economic and social agencies in Yemen with their counterparts in the gulf; while the fourth will harmonize the legal framework in Yemen with that of Gulf states.

Indian Oil Companies consider investing in Yemen

Upon his return from India, Minister of Oil and Mineral Khalid Bahah has stated that seven Indian Oil companies are considering investing in Yemen and will enter the 4th International Bid of Oil Sectors, which will take place in the second half of 2007. There are also interested in investing in oil refineries and infrastructure.

Japan to promote technical training in Yemen

A delegation is expected to arrive from Japan in mid-February to assess the current situation of technical and vocational training in Yemen in order to establish several educational projects aiming to improve technical training in Yemen. Japan is currently committed to boosting economic development and cooperation with Yemen.

Yemenia attracts Gulf investors

Yemenia Airways have received offers from Gulf-based investors to invest in the company's domestic airline subsidiary which will operate locally linking Yemeni cities, which is a part of a general turnaround strategy Yemenia has adopted in order to boost its profitability and competitiveness in the region.

YCB launches Jawaher Scheme

To attract more deposits in the bank the Yemen Commercial Bank adopted a new and exciting scheme called Al Tijari Jawaher, the scheme entails the deposit of YR 100,000 or \$500 in the account in order to enter a draw for 12 luxurious cars and over 1000 valuable prizes in cash and kind. The first draw for 2007 is to be held in the first week of May.



Vacancy Advertisement

The World Bank is seeking a full time Financial Management Specialist (FMS) to work at its office in Sana'a, Yemen. The position requires strong accounting and auditing expertise in the public sector, community/rural development or the private sector.

Responsibilities and Scope of Work:

- Undertaking diagnostic reviews of the financial accountability environment to assess risks to World Bank programs and guide the design and implementation of operations to strengthen financial management in client countries.
- Assessing financial management arrangements for individual projects.
- Providing strategic and operationally relevant advice to country authorities and Bank project teams to strengthen financial management in client countries.
- Ensuring that policies and procedures with respect to financial management are applied in all phases of World Bank-financed projects.

Selection Criteria:

- Professionally qualified accountant (e.g., CPA, CA) and a relevant Bachelor's degree in accounting, business, finance or economics. International experience would be an advantage.
- At least 8 years of direct relevant experience.
- Knowledge of international accounting and auditing standards.
- Understanding of and experience in project management and client capacity building in an international development environment.
- Ability to review, analyze and evaluate financial statements and audit reports in diverse sectors and circumstances.
- Understanding of information systems and IT applications
- Willingness to travel frequently within the country and the region.
- Exposure and experience in public sector financial management would be considered advantageous.

The World Bank offers a locally competitive package. The World Bank is committed to attract and maintain a diverse and dedicated workforce. Women are encouraged to apply. French is desirable. Deadline for applications: **February 12, 2007**. Only short listed candidates will be notified. Application should be submitted via mail to: MNAFMAPPLY@worldbank.org, with the reference: **YEMEN FMS 2007**



The center has state-of-the-art IT labs

considerable number of applications for us to choose the best tutors regardless of their cost, especially considering that our teaching curricula is that of the best English language training centers in the country which meets international standards for teaching English as a foreign language. With regards to our computer training we have communicated with the UNESCO in order to obtain the International Computer Driving License accreditation and we are about to be accredited as we meet the requirements of the UNESCO in this regards.

What about Technical training?

As I have explained to you, English and computing are the gateway towards sophisticated technical

affiliated to the Ministry of Oil are very diversified, you have the department of Gas, you have the Yemen Oil Company, you have the department for minerals, you also have the department of supply and marketing. The technical needs of these departments are highly diversified which oblige us to knock on all doors in order to help us with the training process. We have cooperated with various companies which operate in Yemen with regards to exchanging expertise, as many of those companies have a pool of international experience as well as the resources and facilities, so that we would be able to position our training programs in such a manner that is similar to their and learn from their experiences in training. Several companies have their in-house training



Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen announces the following vacancy:

Oil Movement Operators
(2) Positions

Terminal

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Secondary school diploma and a minimum of 2 years experience in Terminal Operations in an oil exporting facility.
- b. Good knowledge of English.
- c. Valid Yemen driving license.

For further information or to apply for this position please visit our website:

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

Application Criteria:

- All applications **must be submitted** through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted **NO later than February 12, 2006**.
- A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, contact and qualification information.
- Faxed or Handed In CV's will **NOT be considered**.

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REPUBLIC OF YEMEN - MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
National Water Resources Authority – Sana'a Branch (Nwra / SB
SANA'A BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SBWMP)

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the costs of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of the project management component and also the cost of installation of Different Irrigation Systems/Networks). Now the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) invites Qualified and experienced Local Specialists and Engineers to apply for the following posts.

1- NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS ENGINEER (SPECIALIST IN IRRIGATION AGRONOMY)

Under the overall supervision of the Director General of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project, and observing the technical directives, while adhering to the Project's prevailing rules and procedures, and with leeway permitted for the exercise of independent judgement undertake a range of activities, primarily in the field of irrigation systems, design, supervision on installation, operation and maintenance, irrigation scheduling, irrigation advisory services and social mobilization activities. In particular will:

1. Participate with the Social Mobilization Teams of the Project in reviewing and assessing the applications received from farmers for installation of appropriate irrigation systems on their farms;
2. Conduct detailed field assessment on the status of farms selected by the Social Mobilization Teams for final approval, and to ensure that the criteria set for selection is been adhered to;
3. Prepare detail designs of different irrigation systems including production of detailed designs and complete bill of quantities for both pressurized and gravity irrigation systems to be installed on pilot demonstration and private farms, based on the surveys conducted by the project's surveying team; (Drip, bubbler, sprinklers, and water conveyance networks etc.)
4. Supervise installation of the pressurized irrigation systems (drip, sprinklers, bubblers) and the gravity systems (conveyance and distribution) on both pilot demonstration and private farms, and provide farmers with initial training on site in operation and necessary maintenance for the systems;
5. Cooperate with international and national staff, and liaise with IPAC staff in the dissemination of appropriate irrigation practices and technologies to farmers through field day demonstrations, training courses, seminars and workshops;
6. Collect data related to the efficiency, equitability and effectiveness of distribution of irrigation systems under the project, and on their adequacy to meet the needs of the irrigation water sector in Sana'a Basin;
7. Report monthly on the progress of implementation of the approved Irrigation component Work Plan, quantify the achievements, highlight obstacles encountered, and present recommendations for the smooth and timely implementation of the work plan;
8. Carry out any other related duties as requested by the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project.

Qualifications and Requirements:

University degree in Irrigation Engineering/ Agricultural Engineering with major in Irrigation Agronomy, Good computer literacy, Fluency in English language is an advantage, At least five years of field experience in irrigation systems design, installation, supervision, operation and maintenance and engineering related works. Specifically, experience in field installation of on-farm pressurized irrigation systems including drip, bubbler and sprinkler is essential, as well as experience in operation and maintenance of these systems.

Duration of assignment:

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contracts will be offered thereafter.

Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow: SBWMP- P.O.BOX11014, 60 Street, Sana'a ROY Tel (00967-1-469159/7/6), Fax(00967-1-469158) E-mail (Saldubby@yemen.net.ye) **Latest Date is (February 3, 2007)**

2- PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

The procurement Specialist will be a member of the PCU core staff of the SBWMP and shall report to the PCU Director. He/ She will perform without being limited to the following tasks and responsibilities:

- Responsible of all procurement activities in the project such as goods works and consultant services ensuring that established procurement guidelines of the Government and IDA are complied with.
- Develop coordinate and implement an annual procurement plan for the SBWMP at the PCU level and validate the out put of the other staff linked to the project.
- Work with PCU staff and relevant Ministerial Department specialists to prepare and revise the different bidding documents of works and goods call for Expressions of interest and RFPs consultancy services staff recruitment notices and obtaining the necessary clearance from IDA and ensure their safe keeping and recording.
- Preparation of the Terms of Reference (TOR) the different consultancy services required by the project.
- Responsible of contract management and maintaining of proper records of all relevant procurement documentation as well as developing well – defined management reporting tools to manage and monitor procurement activities and reporting system.
- Participate in the PCU team in clearing procured items through customs and arrangements for the transport.
- Support assist and train procurement Officers reporting to the PCU to apply procurement guidelines of the public sector as well as IDA.
- Preparing and updating the annual budget of procurement under the project.
- Provide inputs into the project annual work program and budget.
- Participate in bid evaluation committees for the selection of contractors.
- Participate in the preparation of the quarterly progress reports concerning procurement matters.
- Liaise with other similar projects and units and relevant Government Authorities.

Qualifications and Experience:-

- (a) University degree in Business Administration, Commerce, Law, Economics, engineering, or related fields
- (b) Five years professional experience in procurement operations, of which at least three with IDA Financed Projects
- (c) Working knowledge of English, and Arabic
- (d) Competent in using computers and relevant supporting software.

Duration of assignment:

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contracts will be offered thereafter.

Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow: SBWMP- P.O.BOX11014, 60 Street, Sana'a ROY Tel (00967-1-469159/7/6), Fax(00967-1-469158) E-mail (Saldubby@yemen.net.ye) **Latest Date is (February 3, 2007)**

3- INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS SPECIALIST
Under the overall supervision of the Project Coordination Unit Director, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the Information and Public Awareness Campaign Specialist is required to perform the tasks listed below

1. Work with the Nwra/SB to identify, select, recruit and train the members of the IPAC team and then initiate and supervise the IPAC program, acting on a part-time basis either as an IPAC adviser or as an IPAC team director;
2. Supervise, monitor and evaluate the work of the IPAC team, the

effectiveness of the IPAC messages and methods, and the IPAC results;

3. With Nwra/SB, revise IPAC messages and methods as warranted, and adapt IPAC processes accordingly, from cycle to cycle;
4. Provide inputs to TS-SBC monitoring, reporting and decision-making related to the IPAC program.
5. Review and discuss with the relevant staff the strengths and a weakness of planned public awareness program, and suggest a strategy to make this program more effective, including prioritization of various actions.
6. Develop a comprehensive program of TV and Radio messages, which should be disseminated during 2004-2008 under SBWMP. In this context, the expert should describe the contents of the messages, pre-test these messages with the target audience, and ensure complete production of these messages with the help of existing public/private production institutions.
7. Propose a strategy to disseminate TV and Radio messages. The expert should elaborate on the mechanisms and institutional arrangement, which must be made to secure smooth implementation of the program.
8. Organize and implement in major rural villages and towns, in collaboration with the respective Nwra Sana'a Branch, MAI /GDI and Northern FU of GSCP a series of community meetings to discuss possible water management solutions and water related events and competitions (workshops, meetings, and seminars)
9. Recommend a series of actions to strengthen the public awareness department, including the steps, which should be followed by this department to assume increasing responsibilities over the project years- perhaps without the help of external assistance.
10. The expert should provide assistance in setting-up the production unit with necessary equipment facilities to ensure in-house production of public awareness messages, and materials (posters, leaflets and calendars) and Billboards (with water conservation messages) at prominent locations Moreover, the expert should provide assistance to the project in preparing technical specifications of the communication equipment; installation and testing of equipment procured by the project; and training of staff in utilizing the equipment.
11. Provide an extensive on-the-job training to the staff of the Public Awareness Campaign in order to enable them to perform their functions independently or under minimum supervision; and propose a training program for key staff of the campaign in the form of short-term study tours to learn form experiences of other countries.
12. The expert should provide assistance to Nwra in the production of films on water management issues and prepare TOR for their production, dissemination and publicity.
13. Design a procedure for evaluation of awareness campaign impact.
14. Provide inputs to PCU monitoring, reporting and decision-making related to Component 4 (IPAC).
15. carry out initial surveys of attitudes and vectors of change
16. identify key messages and then design and carry out the IPAC program monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the IPAC messages and methods, and the report on IPAC results;
17. propose adjustments to IPAC messages and methods as warranted, and adapt IPAC processes accordingly, from cycle to cycle

Qualifications and Required Experiences

University Degree in media, sociology or related discipline. Five years experience, of which at least 3 in jobs involving design and execution of a mass media or targeted public awareness campaign. Good knowledge of English is an advantage. Vast knowledge of IPAC campaigns in the natural resource sector. Long experience in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating IPAC. First rate communicator

Duration of assignment:

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contracts will be offered thereafter.

Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow: SBWMP- P.O.BOX11014, 60 Street, Sana'a ROY Tel (00967-1-469159/7/6), Fax (00967-1-469158) E-mail (Saldubby@yemen.net.ye) **Latest Date is (February 3, 2007)**

4- INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING SPECIALIST (National)

The ITS will help the PCU to oversee the institutional development and capacity building. This will require him/her to work in close collaboration with the relevant existing and projected water management institutions, in particular (i) the National Water Resources Authority (Nwra) and the Nwra Sana'a Branch (Nwra/SB), (ii) the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) and its sub-agencies including the MAI General Directorate for Irrigation (GDI/ MAI), Department of Plant Protection(DPP/MAI) (iii) Environment Protection Authority (EPAQ), (iv) the Sana'a basin stakeholder organizations including water user associations (WUAs), water user federations (WUFs) and the SBC. More specifically, the PCU institutional Training specialist would be responsible for:

1. Assess the training needs for each component including: Training in Water Management for Irrigated Agriculture, Water Control and Recharge Systems O&M, Social Mobilization Teams, Basin Water Resources management, Information and Public Awareness Campaign, Environment Management and EIA and Training for the PCU and Line Agencies.
2. In collaboration with all project staff, define the population concerned by the training program
3. Define the training needs and the scope, and type of training, in collaboration with the project management team.
4. Define the needed consultancy/institution to deliver the training programs, write terms of reference and prepare cost estimates and advise on the procurement process
5. Coordinate the execution of training programs.
6. General Overview and Direction of all training programs in collaboration with PCU's Sociologist/ Social Development Specialist, and line agency engineers.
7. Design quality control mechanisms, including post training evaluations and follow up reviews
8. Design and help implement a training programming and monitoring system.
9. (At the end of the project) prepare a full report on training effectiveness and cost effectiveness.

Qualifications and Required Experiences

- At least MSc Degree in Social Development/ Business Administration / Agronomy / Engineering/ or any related field,
- Ten years experience of designing and coordinating training programs, of which five years in projects related to natural resource management.
- Very Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer skills : Windows, MS Office and related programs

Duration of assignment:

Initially period of three months, then annual intermittent assignments will be offered thereafter as needed.

Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow: SBWMP- P.O.BOX11014, 60 Street, Sana'a ROY Tel (00967-1-469159/7/6), Fax(00967-1-469158) E-mail (Saldubby@yemen.net.ye) **Latest Date is (February 3, 2007)**

Corruption is not simply an act: It is a state of mind

By: Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf
abdulazizalsakkaf@hotmail.com

If we continue to ignore, as well as undermine, corruption we need to start soul-digging, hoping to find our true humanely aware conscious. Perhaps it is at hand, but we fear facing corruption with it. We have to understand that the sooner we face it, the faster it will disappear. Remaining vague about it, whilst knowing that it is an immoral step into the wrong, is even more corrupt than corruption itself. We need to start taking it into account as the number one obstacle that is currently hindering our everyday search for a better Yemen. Not simply trying to get past it and around it every single day.

ple and the truth is that corruption has taken over our lives as well as perspectives and it has created mistrust in our society; mainly on trusting one another. A country is civilized when its citizens reach the point after the dot; we are still not even past the first couple of commas so far. We are past the 2006 Presidential elections and awaiting Parliamentary elections in 2008. We have become a sincere democratic system. With that in mind, then why are we still, in some way or another, afraid of pointing fingers at certain corrupt individuals? And if it finally happens, nothing happens! In that case, why do we even bother ourselves by going to the polls? Maybe our claim of democracy is corrupt too.

cleless or do not realize how corruption affects our everyday lives. We would not get far in fighting corruption along with corrupt figures. That is for sure. Also, what the government does is insufficient and not up to its capability. Besides, one of the main things that are annoying so much, are speeches that criticize corruption and conclude with no action afterwards. We need to, and can, begin shaping the future today. In other words, we need to focus on corruption as well as other social negative problems and then implement them into the educational system with the aim of building a healthier civilized society with a clear outlook when it comes to corruption along with other day-to-day issues. And not neglecting other factors and ways that cannot just end corruption, but

kill it by all means. Knowing that, we should be more honest with ourselves about who we are as well as what and who we want to be in the future; as individuals and as a nation. How can this nation sleep unworried at night knowing that laws are not being implemented? And even law enforcement officials, who are theoretically there to keep us from breaking the law, are fraudulent? Furthermore, the media with all its claims, is part of the answer through more accurate and effective reporting. As the media is not simply an instrument that covers and brings us the news bulletin, it is what wakes us up to reality and is, intentionally or not, supposed to stir us to face and judge all different issues. If even that does not take place, I am not sure when we will wake up.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy
majed_thabet@hotmail.com



Yemeni space channels and youth expectations

Among other space channels, the Yemeni Channel is sometimes distinguished for some, though repetitive, seasonal programs, especially, or only, during Ramadan. The channel is really of great value for the expatriates who feel homesickness abroad. Having sufficient patience to watch it for long hours, one, especially youths, hardly find special programs concerning with youth affairs. One must not forget the program of "The Youth and Sport World" with its "forever two-broadcasts," as well as some series of love and romance.

entertainment and fun. This is one side of the Channel's programs; I do not know where the other hides, i.e. the programs of seriousness and responsibility. Spending a daytime in front of the Yemeni Space Channel, one expects programs concerned with culture, education and science. I think I am wrong because at least children should have their time. In addition to the programs for children, there are others concerned with old people like series of social problems and news. The daytime ends with no part specialized for young people. Into night, hope increases to watch something at least related to the youth's problems and ambitions. Night is not the children's time because they must be sleeping to wake up early in the morning. So, there would be programs for children. It is not the time of most old people, women and men, who are supposed to have their own business at that time. Unfortunately, night, like daytime, passes with similar or repeated programs.

The Ministry of Information should be thankfully appreciated for its efforts especially importing costly series, which include a large number of advertisements that play the role of "suspense-creating" for the viewers. We must not forget to thank it also for the news programs broadcasting "not all the news" because they have other tasks like teaching the world the art of "shaking-hands" as a symbol of "peace." In the case of programs concerning with youth, the ministry is not to be blamed since such programs are present in the radio channels and some newspapers and magazines. But they may find no place in the case of the Space Channel, maybe for its time limit. In the modern world of internet and globalization, the young generations require new demands to be updated with the world fast progress. Series of love stories and romance are no longer useful to build a nation with full consciousness of its responsibilities and duties. Visual songs, with the "modern modifications and qualifications", spoil rather than reform. I do not deny that they are of interest especially for young people. But they are meant only for

I don't think that programs related to youth would be too costly. They would be satisfying even if they are locally produced since importing costs too much. Cultural competitions, for example, can be held among young people to be shown in order to widen their cultural knowledge and encourage them to fight for the betterment. Educational programs in different fields would be very useful especially in the fields that are daily updated like computer, internet, medicine and such so. Actually, the programs that serve this point are many. The lack is, however, the consideration of the decision-makers either in the channel or in the Information Ministry. I do not think the matter requires fighting to be tackled. Thinking about it through the mind's eye would sufficient.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a 26 year old writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. An ex-editor of Eng. Journal of the Uni. (majed_thabet@hotmail.com)

Heaven's shadow

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

An inspiring panorama of beauty and gusto
A solo magnum opus
Reflecting the artistic vista
A work of a creative genius
Gargantuan creature
Harmonized Physique
A fastidious appearance
In a row and tune
Emblazoned a masterpiece of melody
Only one of its kind
With high spirits
So many times
You come and go
For God's almighty
Thou dost always extol and bow
Impressive... impressive
Heaven's shadow
A safe home and benevolent hands
The storms are hard-hitting and tough
Above his foggy sough
His curvy waves smile and laugh

With your smoothed performance
Giving a round of applause
Undreamed of seascape
From old-fashioned times
Bearing a harsh agony, though
Whine or grievance
You never show
Beautiful, beautiful
Ebb and flow
Hug me
Hug me
Up and down
Take me
Take me
High and low
Drift me
Drift me
Fast and slow
Learn me
Learn me
Beauty in soul

How to grow
Thou dost fill with air pleasing wafts
Increasing peace in hearts
For me
For me
Love and happiness
Just bestow
A beautiful mermaid just I saw
Let her; let her sing and sing
I will gift her a golden ring
Far from his seascape
Mumbling to skies and birds
I have the sense of hearing his boom
O Man!
I see your woe's echo
you were born in a great mould
Wisdom of the cosmos' designer
You still hold
Chosen you the unrivalled fellow
So, conceal your conflicts and sorrow
Beautiful, beautiful

Ebb and flow
Hug me
Hug me
Up and down
Take me
Take me
High and low
Drift me
Drift me
Fast and slow
Learn me
Learn me
Beauty in soul
How to grow
For me
For me
Love and happiness
Just bestow

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS**
1 ___ Brava
6 Last 36 of 36-24-36
10 Earned a citation, maybe
14 To turn away
15 Far East housemaid
16 Military unit
17 Princely
18 Source of misery
19 Occipital ___
20 What dropped leaflets could be
22 Lasting introduction
23 Dial opener
24 Broke bread
26 Barkeeps' requests
27 Mythical monsters
31 Photographer's cover?
34 Skywriting maneuver
35 Debate position and half of this puzzle's theme
36 The Muses, e.g.
39 Columbus' reputed birthplace
41 Inclusive conjunction
43 Christmas regular
44 Classify

- 46 Debate position and half of this puzzle's theme
48 Desktop symbol
49 Last epoch of the Tertiary period
51 Units of concern to nuclear scientists
52 Hit the slopes
54 German interjection
55 Sloppy guy?
57 Carol start
59 Brainteasers
65 Neighbor of Afghanistan
66 On the ocean
67 Six-Day War battleground
68 Walk nervously
69 Gull cousin
70 King's proclamation
71 Problem for an oculist
72 Picasso's years
73 Mythical Hades river of forgetfulness
- DOWN**
1 Complain unreasonably
2 Superior to

- 3 Lily with a tasty bulb
4 "The Parent ___"
5 Encyclopedia section
6 "Carmen" highlight
7 "___ Old Cowhand"
8 Asian mammals
9 Put the sword away
10 Place for a red tag?
11 Capital founded by Roger Williams
12 Bury
13 Some leather workers
21 Swallow greedily
25 Extremely long time frames
27 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
28 Some deer
29 Cabal
30 Thread unit
32 Time being, to the Bard
33 Broadcasting sign
37 Smashing subject
38 Aykroyd and Rather
40 Opera solo
42 Women are their obsessions
45 Keyboard composition
47 Gas for a Broadway ad
50 Appointed
52 They may pass in the night
53 Krugerrand measure
56 Flop out of Detroit
58 Locale for a spanking
60 Roman despot
61 Tease mercilessly
62 Measured amount
63 Ratio of fast flight
64 Construction locale, e.g.

"DEBATE TEAM" by Lewis Graham

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71				72				73				

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	M	U	S	T	A	G	C	R	A	S	A	S	B	S
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S	T	O	P											

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قسم الطوارئ
قسم النساء والتوليد

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Somalia: Security vacuum compounding effects of drought

Against the backdrop of a fragile peace process and encouraging prospects for reconciliation, the persistent insecurity in many parts of the country presents mounting challenges on the humanitarian front as Somalia struggles with the effects of its worst drought in a decade.

The Story

As United Nations aid agencies are sounding an alert about the Horn of Africa, where over 8 million people are in grave danger from a devastating drought, the situation in one of the affected countries, Somalia, remains of particular concern and in urgent need of special attention. Despite some recent progress towards reestablishing a central government, the persistent insecurity makes combating the effects of drought very difficult, further complicating political reconciliation and leaving Somalia especially vulnerable to renewed destabilization. The two elements - the political peace process on the one hand, and the precarious humanitarian situation on the other - present two different momentums, but they are interlinked, says Christian Balslev-Olesen, UN's Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia. Somalia is facing the decade's most severe drought-related emergency, which is "coming on top of a situation where you already have all the most difficult indicators for human development," Balslev-Olesen adds. In March, the UN Security Council expressed its growing concern over "severe livelihood distress and the rising civil and food insecurity" and urged all Somali leaders to ensure complete and unhindered humanitarian access, as well as provide guarantees for the safety of humanitarian aid workers.

Today, some 2.1 million Somalis are totally dependent on international aid. Not surprisingly, the bulk of the recent UN humanitarian appeal for the Horn of Africa - \$327 million out of a total of \$426 million - is targeted for Somalia. Aid workers, however, face unique difficulties in reaching all those in need as they try to

provide assistance amidst constant threats, piracy, abductions and roadblocks. Without help, the parched southern areas could see 10,000-12,000 human deaths each month, while up to 80 per cent of the nation's livestock could die. As food reserves diminish, requiring ever greater reliance on external aid, the competition for these scarce resources will grow, leading to increased inter- and intra-clan fighting, hijacking, looting of convoys, extortion and demands for "protection fees," a recent UN report warned.

The Context

Several years of successive rainfall failures have particularly affected pastoral and agro-pastoral communities that are being forced to travel vast distances to find grazing for their animals. Meanwhile, reduced agricultural production has led to a dramatic increase



Severe shortages of water in parts of southern Somalia may increase the number of Somalis fighting for survival by 40 per cent.

in the price of food commodities, particularly cereals.

aid represent 25 per cent of the population and include 400,000 internally displaced persons, many of whom are at risk of dying of malnutrition if the crisis is not addressed. Families in some areas are spending 70 to 80 per cent of the little money they have just to buy water.

There are over 1,000 national and international staff from all the UN agencies working in the country. However, there are no international personnel in the major cities of Mogadishu and Kismayu.

Up to 80 per cent of schools in drought-affected areas are closed in a country

where only 20 per cent of children have access to education under normal conditions.

Security remains the greatest challenge to the Somali peace process. It also continues to impact on the dire humanitarian situation, worsened by the regional drought. The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) has made considerable progress in overcoming differences between the different Somali factions, however, several challenges could unravel the fragile peace process. Recent fighting in Mogadishu has deepened tensions, as has the presence of some armed militias in the vicinity of Baidoa, the temporary seat of government. The need to canton these groups and provide food, water and shelter for them, is being addressed by Somali leaders and the TFG with aid from donors.

"Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"

In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way...

The editor

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