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24 percent of Yemeni women experience genital mutilation

**Readers' Voice**

Last edition's question:  
Do you think Yemeni officials and political party representatives did not participate in Hussein's 40-day anniversary to avoid upsetting USA and Iraqi authorities?

I don't know (14%)  
No (16%) Yes (70%)

This edition's question:  
Would the protests and solidarity with Sami Al-Hajj cause USA authority to release him?  
- Yes  
- No  
- I don't know

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

## Parliament advocates action against Houthis

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 11 – Informed sources say military forces have been attacking all Sa'ada governorate villages and areas where Al-Houthi followers exist, using heavy weapons including guns, warplanes and helicopters.

The same sources revealed that Sa'ada was prepared as an operations scene a week ago and witnessed fierce clashes Friday, causing villagers to flee to nearby mountains.

Security authorities isolated the governorate from the outside world by ordering mobile phone companies to switch off all lines between the governorate and other Yemeni areas. Thus, Sa'ada was isolated from the outside world, except for some Thuria mobile phones owned by influential and rich tribesmen. The government also prevented media outlets from entering the governorate.

The Yemeni government hasn't reported any casualties; however, in a letter sent to the Yemen Times today via email, Member of Parliament Yahya Al-Houthi – brother of rebel Abdulmalik Al-Houthi – declared, "War is aflame on many fronts in Sa'ada, where more than 120 military men have been killed and taken to hospital morgues."

Yahya Al-Houthi, who now lives in Germany, didn't speak about the losses among his followers, only saying they were unable to admit their followers to Sa'ada government hospitals.

In his letter, Yahya Al-Houthi called on the authority to abide by agreements reached via the mediation committee and respect those voices calling for ending the war and violations against Sa'ada citizens, including the elderly, women and children.

He also requested the Islamic Conference Organization, the Arab League, the European Union, donor and

neighboring countries intervene to seek a just solution. He further warned authorities about violations against humanity, declaring that those responsible – whether nations or individuals – will be held accountable.

In related news, Parliament held a closed meeting Saturday to discuss developments in Sa'ada. However, Speaker of Parliament Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar didn't chair the meeting because he was headed to Saudi Arabia under presidential mandate by Ali Abdullah Saleh. The session witnessed disparity among MPs regarding evaluating the clashes and government performance there.

Some MPs strongly criticized the government for resorting to war and using force to deal with the crisis, while others supported the government policy, considering it necessary to maintain national unity.

*Continued on page 3*

## Journalists concerned for Sami Al-Hajj



Yemeni Journalists are concerned on the safety and well-being of fellow journalists worldwide.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Feb. 11 – The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate met Saturday to show solidarity with Al-Jazeera cameraman Sami Al-Hajj, who has been detained at Guantanamo Bay for six years. Numerous journalists, thinkers, men of letters and politicians attended the Sana'a meeting.

"We, the journalists gathered at the syndicate headquarters, announce our full solidarity with our colleague, Sami Al-Hajj," a syndicate press release stated.

It continued, "We are frustrated at the international community's silence regarding the U.S. administration's lack of commitment to human rights, freedoms and democracy."

*Continued on page 3*

## Socialist leaders protest raiding mass graves from 1986

By: Yemen Times Staff

ADEN, Feb. 11 – Dozens of people affiliated with the Yemeni Socialist Party staged a sit-in in front of Tariq Military Camp on Saturday in Aden's Khor Maksar district to protest the raiding of mass graves from events occurring Jan. 13, 1986.

In a statement, demonstrators said the sit-in is to show solidarity with the families of victims whose tombs were unearthed at Tariq Military Camp where the bodies of Jan. 13, 1986 victims were buried. They also hinted that the sit-in will continue until their demands are met, declaring that they'll sue the authorities if they don't respond to their demands.

Brandishing slogans denouncing the excavations, the demonstrators further demanded concerned authorities halt the digging and construction operations, rebuild the cemetery wall and present those responsible to the judiciary.

Socialist Party affiliates in Aden, Lahj, Abyan and Al-Dhale' on



Hundreds were killed in the 1986 clashes among members of the Socialists' Party in the southern region of Yemen. YT PHOTO ARCHIVE

Saturday affirmed their intention to implement a joint sit-in in front of Khor Maksar's Al-Shuhada' Cemetery in solidarity with the Jan. 13 victims' families.

Located within Tariq Military Camp, the cemetery contains a monument to those victims who fell during the Jan. 13, 1986 conflict involving warring leaderships within the Socialist Party.

The demonstrations came after authorities in Aden governorate began excavating in Tariq Military Camp, which is to become a public park.

In a statement to Al-Motamar.net,

Aden Deputy Governor Abdulkarim Shaif denied the Socialist Party allegations regarding unearthing the mass graves.

He noted that while excavating in the camp, the contractor discovered some corpses near the wall and reburied them in the cemetery, but did not raid other tombs as alleged.

Shaif further indicated that local authorities previously met with Socialist Party leaders, informing them that the cemetery will remain as it is. Local authorities also will erect a wall around the cemetery, remove communist symbols from the monument and replace them with Qur'anic verses.

## Kuwait lashes out at Yemen for commemorating Hussein

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Feb. 10 – Kuwaiti members of Parliament – mainly Muslim Al-Barrak – harshly slammed Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his government for marking the passage of 40 days of mourning following Saddam Hussein's execution.

In a statement to Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Qabas, Al-Barrak criticized Yemen's stand with the former Iraqi leader by commemorating his death. He urged his government to take action against the alleged insults and disgraces the Yemeni president has exercised against the Kuwaiti government and people.

Al-Barrak told Al-Qabas, "Commemorating the passage of 40 days of mourning Hussein's death in Sana'a is just one of a series of insults against Kuwait." He demanded his government halt all funds pledged to Yemen, as well as canceling any agreements with Yemen. He described the Yemeni president as "the shawish," meaning a low-ranking officer, who repeats his insults against the Kuwaiti government and people.

According to Al-Barrak, Saleh is practicing deception and wasn't shy in authorizing the Ba'ath Party to stage the event in the presence of Hussein's daughters, even providing everything to facilitate the party. The event was held at the Youth Palace, a government-owned property devoted to holding con-



Al-Barrak

ferences and special occasions.

Al-Barrak accused Saleh of disregarding Kuwait's stance as well as what Kuwait granted him in recent years when the Kuwaiti government and people supported Yemen in education and health.

He called for breaking diplomatic ties with Yemen and expelling Yemen's ambassador from Kuwait. "It's a shame that the Yemeni ambassador remains in Kuwait while his government insults and humiliates Kuwaitis," Al-Barrak went on to say.

He denounced the Kuwaiti government's attitude toward the issue and its kind talks with the Yemeni envoy in Kuwait and demanded the National Assembly demonstrate a strong stance by ending all Yemeni-Kuwaiti ties.

This is the strongest criticism Al-Barrak has launched against Yemen and its president following Hussein's December execution. However, Yemen didn't respond to such criticism, declaring that it will never react to the Kuwaiti MPs' behavior.

However, in an initial Yemeni reaction to Al-Barrak's latest statements, the General People's Congress parliamentary bloc expressed curiosity at his comments to Al-Qabas. The bloc confirmed that it didn't expect such conduct by an MP who is supposed to know the nature of his work, describing his badmouthing and defamation of Yemen and its presi-

dent in such a rude manner as slogan type of language, which can't be tolerated.

The GPC parliamentary bloc remarked that Yemen is a nation with reputable history and civilization, knowing well how to behave in such cases. It noted that marking the 40 days of mourning Hussein's death is an Islamic duty.

**Yemeni-Kuwaiti ties experiencing crises**

Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations have weathered various crises dating back to 1990, following Yemen's stance toward the first Gulf War and Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Known for his sharp criticism of Arab regimes – including the Yemeni government – Al-Barrak mostly has contributed to worsening Kuwait's relations with Yemen.

In 2003, Al-Barrak hit out at his government, demanding it provide its citizens a detailed explanation of some Arab countries' stances toward Kuwait, including Yemen. In September of that same year, Al-Barrak declared that President Saleh told Hussein to invade Kuwait so that the fighting would take place outside Iraq.

The Kuwaiti National Assembly opposition canceled assistance and broke several agreements with Yemen.

In January 2004, the Yemeni Parliament sent an objection to the Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker, denouncing the conduct of some Kuwaiti MPs, including Al-Barrak.

*Continued on page 3*

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## In brief

## Abyan

## Abyan local council and World Bank discuss fishery issues

Feb. 10 — In a meeting with a World Bank official, Abyan local council Secretary-General Nasser Al-Fadhli confirmed the start of the fifth project to develop the fishing sector. World Bank official Thrai Sekha asserted the significance of the marine sector because it involves a great number of locals, as compared to other sectors. The World Bank official visit aims to become acquainted with the local fishing economy and discuss ways to offer support in order to improve the sector by providing modern equipment and implementing service projects.

## Al-Beidha

## Sefa'a, Al-Amri lay foundation stone for project in Al-Sawaadia

Feb. 10 — Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Ali Mansur Sefa'a and Al-Beidha Governor Yahya Ali Al-Amri laid the foundation stone for the Industrial and Vocational Institute in Al-Sawaadia district. The government is funding the YR 634 million project. The two officials also inspected ongoing work on the Industrial Technical Institute project.

## Hajjah

## Central Security launches its training program

Feb. 11 — Central Security inaugurated its 2007 qualification and training program on Saturday. Hajjah Governor Mohammed Abdullah Al-Harazi pointed out the importance of building up armed forces and security, as well as improving their capabilities. He also called upon armed forces and security organizations to make use of the programs and training activities, praising efforts exerted by the governorate's security apparatus.

## Hodeidah

## Shamlan discusses ongoing projects

Feb. 10 — A meeting headed by Hodeidah Governor Mohammed Saleh Shamlan centered on inspecting projects being conducted in needy areas, including sanitation projects. The governor stressed the need to accomplish ongoing water projects as soon as possible and link the public water corporation with an information center in order to know all developments regarding these projects.

## Sana'a

## Regional livestock center to be established in Yemen

Feb. 10 — Yemen's agriculture minister will begin a study in April to establish a regional livestock center in Yemen in association with the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development. According to Minister of Agriculture Jalal Faqirah, the regional center will cost \$15 million and be established under international standards so it can offer its services throughout the Middle East. He said the ministry also will implement a project to expand the Mokha Quarantine (a foreign cattle screening center in Taiz) by developing its performance and providing all local requirements for the livestock field at a cost of YR 500 million.

## Taiz

## Japan supports Yemen's education sector

Feb. 11 — The government of Japan approved extending a grant amounting up to \$88,068 to Al-Salam Social Charitable Development Establishment for funding Al-Methaq School's expansion project in Al-Salam district in Taiz. The funds will be spent on building extra classrooms in the school with the aim of improving the educational environment and encouraging more boys and girls to enrol in education.

## Aden's port lands looted, report says

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — Many government parties looted lands and real estate that belong to Aden Port due to the absence of a general plan of port's lands, a parliamentary report said last December.

The report attributed the deterioration of financial and administrative situation of Yemeni ports to the lack of an organizational structure which decides the authorities and specializations in port's administration.

Prepared by the Parliament's Transportation Committee, came after field visits to many air and maritime ports, recording many problems and the lack of maintenance and air navigation equipments.

The report said there is contradiction between Ports Administration and Customs Administration, as well as between Coastguard Administration and Maritime Affairs Authority.

According to the report, the difficulties and hurdles the Yemeni ports face are attributed to the competition of the neighboring ports which provide more facilities than those provided by Yemeni ones, expecting ports' war within the coming period which requires more authorities to increase activity and competition.

The report also noticed an increase in tickets and land equipments exploitation fees in airports in addition to the

absence of customs facilitation and the non-commitment to flight schedules on the part of Yemen Airways (Yemenia) which suffer from accrued debts.

The Committee demanded resolving the pending problems and modernization of Yemenia fleet and encouraging the private investments relating to air transport. It also asked for breaking Yemenia's monopoly and enabling Arab and foreign companies to use the Yemeni airports in making direct tourist and cargo flights.

Air and maritime transport sector lacks care on the part of those who administer these utilities, the report said.

## 14 dead in fiery car accident in Taiz

TAIZ, Feb. 10 — A traffic accident on the road between Taiz and Hodeidah claimed the lives of 14 people and injured six.

Colonel Yahya Zaher, Head of Taiz Traffic Department, said the accident occurred in an isolated place and at a time when there was hardly any traffic. The accident is attributed to reckless driving and lack of concentration.

Other factors added to the gravity of the accident, such as petrol materials on top of one of the cars and high winds, which helped spread the fire in the cars.

Police, civil defense and traffic officials, together with civilians in Al-Barah and Al-Makha participated in putting out the fire, pulling out burnt corpses and rushing the injured to nearby hospitals.

The total number of accidents registered in Taiz governorate during 2006 was more than 1900, killing more than



Pick-up Vehicles transporting passengers are common in sub-urban areas.

364 and injuring 2190 others, mostly The entire country had 15,000 traffic accident-related casualties in 2006.

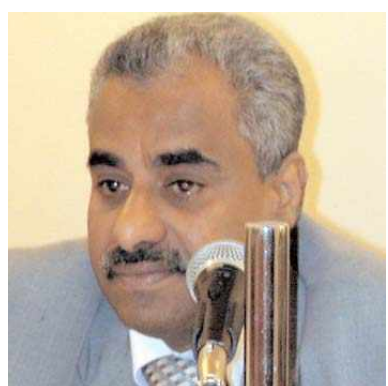
## Dutch company wins bid to design high-tech science museum

SANA'A, Feb. 7 — V.V.KN Interaction Dutch Company won the competition for best primary architectural design for the National Museum of Science, Minister of Higher Education Saleh Ali Ba Sura announced Wednesday at a press conference in Sana'a.

"The primary architectural design of the museum cost about \$1 million, and the construction of the museum, including the exhibited items will cost about \$40 million." Said Ba Sura.

The building is expected to be inaugurated in 2010, he added.

"The museum will be unique at the world level in respect to the architectural design," said Ismail Al-Janad, a member at the supervisory committee of the museum.



Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Saleh BaSurrh

The museum, which will be an educational institution for both

primary, secondary and university students, will include true models of applied technological science from the very beginning until today.

There will also be a theater for educational movies dealing with space science in 3-D.

"The visitors will not only watch, but they will have the chance to touch and try to learn," said Dr. Saroj Ghosh, an Indian museum expert.

As a primary initiative, Japan donated \$3,000,000, and the Ministry of Petroleum contributed \$1 million. Germany, India and UNESCO expressed their readiness to contribute items to the museum, while Sana'a University presented 16,000 square meters of land for the project.

## Iran and Yemen will remain friends against all obstacles

SANA'A, Feb. 11 — On the eve of the 28th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution (February 11), the Iranian embassy in Yemen celebrated Iran's National Day with a special ceremony in Sana'a.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of foreign ambassadors and Yemeni political and social figures, and a large number of Iranian expatriates in Yemen. Commencing the celebration the Iranian Ambassador to Yemen, Hossein Kamalian praised Yemeni-Iranian relations emphasizing that they will remain strong and grow further despite any transient obstacles. He described the Islamic Revolution as "a great popular phenomena in the contemporary world". The revolution was successfully led by the late Imam Khomeini, now known as the Father of the Islamic Revolution.

"After 28 years, the Islamic Revolution is still committed to its principles and seeks ties with the international community. The Islamic Revolution has continued trading its

path despite numerous plots hatched against the country and has successfully stabilized its social and economic status in the region as well as in the world," Kamalian asserted.

## History

The ancient nation of Iran, historically known to the West as Persia and once a major empire in its own right, has been overrun frequently and has had its territory altered throughout the centuries. Invaded by Arabs, Seljuk Turks, Mongols, and others--and often caught up in the affairs of larger powers--Iran has always reasserted its national identity and has developed as a distinct political and cultural entity.

Modern Iranian history began with a nationalist uprising against the Shah in 1905 and the establishment of a limited constitutional monarchy in 1906. The discovery of oil in 1908 would later become a key factor in Iranian history and development.

On February 1, 1979, exiled religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini



Iranian Ambassador

returned from France, to assume control of the revolution and established himself as Supreme Leader of a new, theocratic republic guided by Islamic principles. Following Khomeini's death on June 3, 1989, the Assembly of Experts chose the outgoing president of the republic, Ali Khamenei, to be his successor as Supreme Leader in what proved to be a smooth transition.

## First Yemeni woman join the inspection field

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — In cooperation with the Human Rights Center at the University of Minnesota in the United States, the Woman's Forum for Research and Training launched a service providing human rights references in six widely-spoken languages via its Web site.

The Web site includes 27,000 human rights documents which can easily be read and printed by readers.

In addition, the site contains pages of studies, research, training material and information about WFRT-related

programs and activities.

"Human rights activists and their organizations in the Arab world face difficulties finding information and references in Arabic, and this similarly applies to all those who don't have access to English," WFRT Chairwoman Suad Al-Qadasi said. "This factor is behind the rarity of information and little experience on the part of many people working in human rights organizations."

She added that most of the Arab human rights Web sites are not special-

ized in providing such services. "We worked with the Human Rights Center's library in the University of Minnesota and used the documents the university collected over many years to be at the service of visitors. Visitors can have access to these documents via opening the homepage of the Web site, Al-Qadasi said.

According to the WFRT chairwoman, the service is not only for Arabic speakers, but can also be useful for readers of English, French, Spanish and Japanese.

## UNDP presents action plan

SANA'A, Feb. 7 — In a shareholder meeting at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation held last Wednesday, the United Nations Development Program held a meeting with government officials and representatives of the civil society, diplomatic community and other stakeholders to present and discuss the 2007-2011 country program action plan for Yemen.

Abdul Karim Al Arhabi Minister of Development, Planning and International Cooperation highlighted the importance of this program in political, economical and social fields. In her turn, Flavia Panisieri, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative underlined that program under discussion was part of the border United Nations Development Assessment Framework and had been developed in coordination with national and international partners to support attainment of the goals of the National Five Year Plan for Development and Poverty Reduction.

Speeches were followed by a pres-

entation of the Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) by Dena Assaf UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for programs.

Drawing from the United Nations Development Assessment Framework, UNDP program will target in particular; governance, economic-growth. Gender considerations will be mainstreamed and also addressed through targeted interventions while in the area of social services, in which other UN agencies are already sizably engaged, UNDP will focus on HIV/AIDS awareness.

Joint UN and government monitoring and evaluation structures and mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that goals and targets are reached. Resource Mobilization will also be supported through joint UN and government advocacy of donors.

In conclusion, UNDP thanked the participants for the engaging discussion and expressed its interest in further consultations on these important priorities, as UNDP works towards actualizing them in projects and programs on the ground in Yemen.

## WFP goodwill ambassador leaves Yemen

SANA'A, Feb. 11 — Egyptian Actor and the United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the World Food Program Mohamoud Yassin has concluded a one-week visit to Yemen during which he toured various parts of the country and met with several officials, United Nations staff and civil society representatives.

Mahmoud Yassin praised the Yemeni people describing them as people of culture and heritage while embracing the development and modernity of the times, adding that he was impressed by the democratic values and the advocacy of women.

In a press conference held Thursday in Sana'a, the goodwill ambassador expressed his personal hostility against Israel stating that he would "spit" on anyone who asks him to visit Israel, adding that the popular sentiment in Egypt is against the normalization of relations with Israel.

The goodwill ambassador also praised the national positions of the Yemeni people and government with regards to the issue of relations with Israel.

He indicated that this visit was focused on promoting the role of women in society and the importance of educating girls. He also expressed his happiness at the big turnout of girl's education in Yemen.

The goodwill ambassador's mission with the World Food Program is to combat hunger through raising awareness on the issue.

Yassin indicated that the problem of world hunger isn't a political issue but a humanitarian affair, calling on the people of the world to work together to fight hunger in cooperation with the World Food Program.

Yemen is a low income, food deficit and least developed country, with over 40 percent of its 20 million inhabitants living with less than \$2 per day. Child malnutrition rates are amongst the highest in the world, with wasting at 12.5 percent and stunting at 53.1 percent for children under 5.

Infant and five mortality rates are estimated at 82 and 133 per 1,000 live births, respectively. Maternal mortality is also high and estimated at 350 per 100,000 per births.

## Somali Islamic Courts leader likely to get asylum in Yemen

SANA'A, Feb. 6 — Executive chairman of the Somali Islamic Courts Council, Sheikh Sharif Ahmed arrived in Yemen on Thursday, a source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

"Yemen is hosting Sheikh Sharif according to an accord between the governments of Yemen, Somalia and Kenya," the source said, adding that Yemen has hosted the Islamic Somali leader as part of efforts made to achieve national reconciliation and regain stability and security in Somalia.

The Yemeni government has already welcomed Sheikh Sharif and affirmed its readiness to grant him asylum status and a residence permit.

Yemen would grant Sharif Ahmed, considered a moderate Islamic leader, asylum status as it believes he can play

a key role in Somalia's reconciliation, Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi said.

Al-Qirbi added that Sharif's political asylum will still require some conditions that need to be met.

The defeated leader surrendered to Kenyan forces on the border in January after the Somali military, with the help of Ethiopian forces, forced the UIC out of Somalia.

Sheikh Sharif is a national Somali figure and is seen as a moderate leader who is convinced that dialogue is the best way of resolving the conflict in Somalia.

Yemen aspires to play a role in Somalia's issues and sponsored a reconciliation conference between the transitional government and the Union of Islamic Courts last month.

## Web site provides human rights documents in 6 languages

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## Vacancy Announcement

The Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) is a German enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations working also in Yemen as a priority partner country of the Yemen-Germany Cooperation. The Country representative office in Sana'a (GTZ Office Sana'a) is looking for a

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- Experience/preparedness working in an international, intercultural team.
- Knowledge of finance and contract procurement
- Fluent in English, Arabic with good knowledge of German being a great asset
- PC literate with good command of all MS-Office standard applications
- Flexible, open minded, highly motivated and stress-tolerant

#### Duration for the position:

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#### Remuneration:

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Interested applicants who fulfill the above-mentioned requirements should send their detailed CV (with copies of awards/degrees earned, references, etc...) with a short covering letter referring to the position advertised and salary expectations. Non-Yemeni applicants should have valid and necessary work and residence permits.

All applications are to be submitted in a closed envelope clearly marked as the following:

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GTZ Office Sana'a

P.O. Box 692

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Final date for submission of applications will be the 28.02.2007. Women are encouraged to apply. Only short listed applicants will be contacted and invited for interviews.

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# Yemeni nurses under stress (Part 2)

Female Yemeni employees are always under scrutiny. They continuously must account for everything and invariably face prejudice against women in the workforce.

In Yemen, nursing is the symbol of disparagement against women and some negative societal views cause many native nurses to seriously consider leaving their careers, regardless of the consequences. A look into various circumstances from both the nurse's and the patient's point of view reinforces this opinion.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel  
fatimafnfr@yahoo.com  
Hanani Al-Hamzi  
For the Yemen Times

**A**beer Hazam, a nurse at Al-Thawra Hospital, says there's no respect for the nursing profession. Degradingly, many believe that nurses aren't merciful angels, but rather menial servants who are there to help relieve a sick patient's discomfort. Yemenis don't understand the importance of the nursing profession, which exists to supplement and enhance the work of doctors.

However, considering the social environment, Hazam states, "It's difficult to work far from home or travel to work in villages, so why don't nursing administrations train people in these villages to help alleviate nursing staff shortages?" Yet such won't help the fact that nursing is no ordinary technical career and the field's level of sophistication is beyond rural Yemeni schools.

H. H., another nurse at Al-Thawra Hospital, daily suffers societal views and the pressure they create. Her family especially considers nursing a low-ranking career. "At first, my father was against my studying at the nursing institute because we are from a higher social class. My father believes my work as a nurse is more like a servant to patients," she says. "Because my job requires dealing with different people, especially men, my father tried unsuccessfully to stop me from completing my studies."

H. H. also experiences society's negativity toward nursing. "If they need me to help, I'll go, even working the midnight shift. They'll thank me and

pray for me, but afterward, they'll say nursing is bad, especially for girls, because it forces them to go out in difficult situations and it's dangerous anyway."

A nurse at Saba'een Hospital since 1991, Salimah Al-Jonied says, "I hate working nights at the hospital due to negative social views, as well as the difficulties of working at night. I only worked the night shift during the war."

Regarding working in rural areas, she comments that many other nurses will accept and be willing to work there; however, "I absolutely refuse to work outside Sana'a, even if there are many persuasive circumstances to the contrary," she emphasizes.

While nursing is a wonderful profession, it can be bothersome when some patients' attendants, usually family members, want nurses to do whatever they say, even if it hurts the patient. This is based on such individuals' attitude that a nurse isn't so much a medical professional as a mere servant. The difficulty lies in convincing families and society at large that nurses are doing what's best for patients because they're following solid orders by the attending doctors.

Amat Al-Wahab Al-Saragei has taught at Al-Thawra Hospital's Nursing Institute since 1983; however, she isn't exempt from the problems and inconveniences caused by her family and her community's views, nor from the job itself.

"My mother wouldn't agree to let me work as a nurse, but the need for addi-

tional income forced her to accept the matter. Unfortunately, our traditions and customs play a major role in constructing and perpetuating negative images of nursing," Al-Saragei says.

Reminiscing, she adds, "At the beginning of my career, I went to work in Sanhan, where area citizens had low awareness and understanding of what nurses are and what they're supposed to do. Many didn't understand or appreciate the importance of nursing or how women are the best contributors to this field."

In the end, it was the lack of basic necessities like clean water, safe housing for female nurses in the villages that led her to "never accept work outside major cities."

## Who's to blame for the nursing drain: Foreign nurses, society or hospital administrations?

### Patient viewpoints

A 2006 student-run study involving 207 patients at Al-Thawra Hospital on the perceived levels of Yemeni and foreign nursing staff found that approximately 70 percent of those surveyed said

Yemeni nurses are better than foreign staff in a variety of aspects. Yet, foreign nursing staff were said to give better care and had higher salaries.

Asked about the treatment and care they received from nurses, the patients replied as follows:

Mohammed Ali Darem said Yemeni nurses are better and more merciful than foreign nurses. Mohammed Al-Jabal added that he prefers Yemeni nurses due to the common language, which makes it easier to communicate with them.

Some foreign nurses were good, but differing languages and customs cause misunderstandings between patients and nurses. Yemeni nurses also were said to realize the importance of their responsibilities and duties toward patients, as well as their country.

However, other Yemeni patients found foreign nurse more practical than Yemeni ones because they were honest in their treatment and most didn't neg-



Cultural hurdle: Dealing with male patients is the main reason for many parents to prevent their daughters from working as nurses.

lect their duties.

Homadia Salah remained neutral, believing that positive or negative aspects never relate to a nurse's nationality, but rather to his or her personality. If nurses like their jobs, they'll do well regardless of their nationality or place of employment.

Because the majority of Yemenis are uneducated, it's difficult dealing with foreign nurses, so patients tend to overlook their efforts. Amar Sarhan Al-Hatami and Jamil Al-Matri feel nurses with less experience "know how to deal with us and know our traditions." Does this mean experience is viewed as negative? Wouldn't experienced nurses be preferable to those right out of school, since the latter group could jeopardize patient care?

Abud Al-Moniem, deputy chief manager of Al-Thawra Hospital's nursing department, believes that there's been observable improvement in Yemeni nurses in recent years, especially after changing the system of

accepting new graduates from either institutes or universities.

"The outcome from nursing institutes is higher than before and reflects on the nursing performance, both at the hospital level and within society. This brings more attention to them, giving them better ranking positions and increasing their income. All of this may change the negative view society has about nursing," he says.

It's been said that, "We need to improve both public and private Yemeni institutes, which invariably will lead to increasing qualified of Yemeni nurses." Nursing plays an important role in treatment because they are closer to patients than doctors or even a patient's family. It's important for a nurse to be knowledgeable, have enough career experience and always follow any new developments in the nursing field, which ultimately provides patients better care.

According to Al-Moniem, "We now have very good nursing staff and many

countries surrounding Yemen are looking for these qualified staff to work in their hospitals at higher positions and salaries. Hospital management has lists of names needing courses in a variety of fields and a system of selecting the names."

Because many nurses are leaving their careers, many hospitals constantly are finding it difficult to find employees, train new staff or fill recently vacated posts. This then indirectly becomes a self-perpetuating problem on its own, thus slowing the process of developing the nursing career.

As previously noted, the departure of nurses is attributed to women due to low salaries, familial circumstances and the desire to work in a more comfortable and fulfilling career. Disorganization within nursing administrations magnifies the problem, pushing more experienced nurses out of the field and into privately-based careers or no work at all.

LIANA

Take A Different View

LIANA

4

SUZUKI Way of Life

## Words of Wisdom



To improve governance in Yemen, there is clear need for re-training our officials. We need the people in charge to really believe in the need for change in the way they manage public affairs. They need to accept new values.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf,  
(1951 - 1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times


**OUR  
OPINION**

## “The graveyard of freedom”

In its 2007 report on the Middle East, French press freedom organization Reporters Without Borders presented a very gloomy picture of media freedoms during 2006 in the region, calling it “the graveyard of freedom.”

During the year, 65 journalists and media assistants were killed in Iraq alone. Journalist kidnappings also increased, mostly in Iraq, where seven of the 17 kidnapped journalists were executed. The report criticized Middle Eastern governments for not living up to their promises to promote more freedom and democracy, saying, “Journalists are subject to the whim of monarchs and ‘life’ presidents, who keep tight control of the media.” Overall, the complaints ranged from harassment and censorship to abduction and execution. The report stated that most countries in the region also use restrictive press laws to control the media. Several promises made at the beginning of the decade to revise them haven’t been kept and journalists still may be imprisoned for press offenses. Journalists have very little room to maneuver and self-censorship is the norm.

However, 2006 brought attention to strong restrictions against reporting on religious issues. For example, the consequences of republishing the Danish cartoons occurred in several countries during 2006, including Yemen, where statements against the three accused newspapers and editors were neither coherent nor explainable. To a great extent, I agree with the report; however, I don’t agree with the pessimism reflected upon Middle East media freedoms in 2006. We’ve experienced many achievements in Yemen – although partially – yet they’re still promising. For example, the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate elections can be considered a milestone in Yemeni media development.

Additionally, two Yemeni editors-in-chief received international awards in recognition of their work in 2006. Collective work and alliances were created to work on a new Yemeni press code to ensure more freedoms for journalists. Harassments against Yemeni journalists also decreased from the previous year 2005, when they were at their worst.

While it’s true that journalists have suffered and remain at great risk in Iraq and Palestine, this is true of any nation experiencing civil crises or in a state of war. Journalists are part of the community, so they’re subject to what the general populace is subjected to, in addition to their dangerous role of reporting and informing, which puts them on the front line and consequently, exposes them more to danger. Reports from Ethiopia and other African nations are alarming and some Latin American countries are reputed for targeting journalists and human rights activities. I feel it’s unfair to call the Middle East “the graveyard of freedom” – not because we enjoy all of our rights, but because we’re living in a time of renaissance when there’s a strong tide of awareness and a hunger for freedom.

**Nadia Al-Sakka**  
Editor-in-Chief

By: Dr. Samia al-Aghbari

Indolence is considered an exaggerated laziness or rather the highest degrees of inactiveness. Nobody is free from the laziness that may occur in him every now and then in a temporary form and ends with disappearing. Somebody may get infected with an illness making him unable to move and work or even think well. This can be caused by shortage of certain food-stuffs such as minerals and vitamins to a degree making the body lose its balance and inactivate his activity and vitality. If this person does not treat his illness case it will with the passage of time change into a chronic case and consequently the inactiveness caused by that disease changes to permanent and chronic laziness or indolence.

Indolence can be a result of exposure to some psychological acute disturbances such as infection with severe depression or taking certain medicines causing indolence.

The aforementioned causes of the emergence of indolence are considered temporary factors that almost disappear with removal of its causes. As for the indolent personality it is the one that was brought up and grew up on laziness and indolence. The personality may not be affected by a biological or psychological disease, but it is a characteristic accompanying the personality a peculiarity distinguishing it to an extent that many of that personality’s relatives and families as well as friends and neighbors and colleagues at work give it the nickname of indolent.

## The partnership: A Tom and Jerry game

By: Hamoud al-Bakhiti

While the relationship between governments and private sectors has taken advanced steps with various multi forms for the consolidation of trust some institutional entities were established to form an umbrella under which a genuine partnership will emerge based on credibility and transparency.

As for the relationship between our government and the private sector it is in a state of bickering rather than in agreement. The government accuses the private sector of now knowing what it wants, such as wanting amendment to be made in a certain law but does not mention or clarify what articles are supposed to be amended,

Even if there are personality possesses other good and positive traits they will not come to surface because the characteristic of indolence is superior to all.

Everything in that personality gives implication of indolence. The eyes are sleepy and drooping and absent, the lips hang loose and in most occasions the tongue rests loosely on the lower lip in a clear laziness. Flies may stand at rest on that person without him paying attention until someone will tell him. In many cases his saliva will run down his mouth unawaresly.

Laziness and indolence control the fat and loose body of that personality. When you shake hands with that person you feel his hands weak and cold as if you are catching a piece of ice without any trace of veins on them. When a person of indolent personality walks he slowly shuffles his feet as though they are tied to chains hindering them from moving quickly and firmly.

This personality is characterized by fatness however it mostly suffer from chronic anemia and mostly his hair falls because he is too lazy to visit doctors for the treatment of his ill case.

Thus it seems that the indolent personality has acquired readiness to receive all incurable diseases that remain inactive throughout the period of childhoods and youth and will appear suddenly in the period of maturity or old age. The indolence that accompanies the indolent personality is not confined to its body but it rather invades its mind and dwells deep inside its soul and almost controls all its entirety. As a result of that the indolent

personality is affected with passionate coolness, if there is for instance a death it will not get affected negatively or positively even if the dead person is the closest one to it, as if the matter does not concerns it at all. It may feel very sad but it does not express it in weeping or crying or wailing, not even with silent praying. It suppresses its sorrow and that will result in an incurable psychological or physical illness.

In the case of joy, such as a wedding of a relative its presence will be cool and spiritless, having no meaning or significance. Its presence or non-presence is the same as if it has been forced to attend the occasion. Its face does not show any expressions and all that it will do is to greet the bride coolly with the tips of its fingers and hastens to look for a place where to drop its burly body and begin to chew leaves of qat, or drink coffee or eat nuts. And if it happens to laugh then its laughter will be very lazy and inaudible for it is of a moody temperament. It may laugh suddenly without a cause for it and vice versa. As for its brain that is affected with mental laziness it usually does not press hard on itself or busy its mind with a certain subject even if it were serving its interest and the interest of its family.

The indolent personality is indifferent and disrespectful and mostly depends on others in the simplest things. Its role in life is marginal and its existence is basically useless to an extent that the closest individuals to it such as the parents, brothers and sisters and then the husband or the wife see in its presence no importance but rather

a heavy burden on them wishing to get rid of it. The matter will be very difficult when an indolent man marries an indolent woman and here the contamination is communicated to the offspring and the whole family becomes a burden on relatives who will tolerate unwillingly the negative impact of that indolence materially, health and socially.

Therefore the indolent personality is not liked and boring and wastes its time, health and youth as well as its money as a result of the severe laziness controlling it. It is unable to think soundly and to work or look for a job taking it out of its inactiveness and bringing for it an income protecting it.

It is difficult for the indolent personality to get rid of its inactiveness as long as it finds the one that stands by it and helps it materially

and morally and offering advices to it is futile. The important thing one can do regarding the indolent personality is to ignore it and not offer any help to it and to derive if anything it likes even if it tires to beg for it because any weakness will make it go further in its inactiveness. Above all it is supposed that we shall know the causes that made this personality inactive, whether it was physical, psychological or educational. Then we must try to treat it according to that. This will infect take a longtime and exceptional effort and cooperation of all those concerned. The most important point is to convince that personality that it suffers from an unusual and harmful case and if it does not resist its indolence then the whole world will discard that person.

Source: [www.althawranews.net](http://www.althawranews.net)

## SILVER LINING

### Deadly consequences for Sada'a

Last week saw an escalation of the ongoing political and armed confrontation between the supporters of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, brother of the late Shiite insurgent Hussein Al-Houthi, and government troops. The National Defense Council held two meetings in the past days and said in its meeting last Thursday it would reconsider Yemen’s relationship with those countries, without naming, interfering in Yemen’s internal affairs. The chief of the presidential office and the National Security Organization Ali Al-Anisi and the head of the Shoura Council, Abdulaziz Abdulaghi, lashed out at Al-Houthis, dubbing them as terrorists; they also said that some countries are being involved in the third round of the insurgence that originally started in 2004.

I do think you agree with me that it is ridiculous of them to go into the third round of fierce fighting with the government simply because they want to just chant Israeli and American slogans. It is really mad of them to go to death on such a foolish ground.

Aalnaisi said that around eight of soldiers were killed and 6,000 others injured and that over \$600 million is the bill since the first eruption of the fight. The number of deaths among Al-Houthis is not known. Is not that too much folks? I believe we do not need to lose such a big number of our people and waste such an amount of money on such an unruly war.

It seems that the political regime would like this time to defeat the Al-Houthis down to the earth to ensure that they are completely crushed and do not have the potential to erupt another insurgence or remain a pain in the neck. This spells out why, in addition to Al-Houthis dogmatic intolerance and foreign support, all doors before all attempts to reach any truce could not hit the nail on the head. But this would be very costly, it means much more deaths and injuries as well money. It will also mean deployment of more troops to be stationed at rebel positions and strongholds.

However, we seem to really know nothing about what is going on in the ground. The opposition leaders said they did not know what is happening. We as journalists do not know either as we cannot go there. Parliament, the most important constitutional institution in the country, is mute and toothless; it said it would debate the case but that was postponed last week. Our Parliament promptly responds to all problems happening here and there all over the world and issue statements condemning or praising, but when it comes to the fight in Sada’a, our MPs turn deaf. The people have the right to know why such fights are blown up and for what we should make this big loss. We have also the right to know by name those countries putting their nose in Yemen’s internal business.

I was really discussing with one of my colleagues before the eruption of this round of fight the consequences of the regional fiasco of events on Yemen and we expected another fight between the government troops and the Al-Houthis would erupt and the possibility that Yemen turns a battlefield for face-off between regional forces, particularly with the new refueled gap between the Sunnis and Shiites.

It seems we are going on this track as last week the political regime said it would reconsider Yemen’s relationship with some countries involved in the fight; Iran and Libya stand on the frontline to have a likely crisis with Yemen. Iran is keen to encourage the Shiite growth and intends to play a more regional role with this card with the U.S. Libya wants to create problems for the Saudis on their south borders. But what is dangerous is that the regime accepts such a deal and goes into a war just to appease some regional forces at the expense of Yemen’s stability. The consequence could be catastrophic.

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By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi



By Samer

but it rather says things in a general way. The private sector says the partnership the government talks about is a nominal one confined to statements for propaganda purposes, adding that there is no partnership in decision-making, a question the private sector demands.

Whatever it is said by certain parties in the private sector or the government on good relation between them, it is, if it exists, in fact characterized by investigation and followed with apprehension. There is no credibility between the two sides and no one trusts the other. Perhaps the recent mudslinging in media is the best evidence that the situation existing between the government and the private sector is not normal. It is as if they follow the saying that we can say what you want and we will do what we want.

Observers talk with concern about this unbalanced relationship. They also warn that reflections of this situation will be difficult with regard of attracting investments in Yemen, especially when there is no correct and sound relationship between the government and the private sector.

The observers believe this relation as a mirror reflecting the degree of seriousness and encouragement of others to invest in Yemen. They mean foreign investments in general and Gulf investments in particular. Their argument is that those investors,

whether they wished to indulge in 100 percent investments of their own or with local partners, derive their information from the private sector and do not trust in what the government says. This is the case of any private sector wanting to invest in any place and at any time.

The other witness on the bad relationship and non-availability of good will is the existing branching inside the private sector institutions or the many existing formations. Thus the observers consider that the private sector is in need of steering its effort and intention towards its internal affairs so they can face the branching the government is using against each other.

The entities in Yemen that are concerned with dealing with and caring for the private sector, no matter what their projects or orientations are, are very weak. The private sector is considered responsible for weakening itself as a result of non-unity of visions, which has led to a state that each entity antagonizes the other. This makes the government act as a double-dealer and chooses the best for it. This means that the game of Tom and Jerry will continue.

Observers are also of the opinion that it is like that game. It is especially so under the present government where the situation has become very difficult to trust each other.

Nevertheless, the private sector in Yemen is still responsible for the widening circle of the indolent and their emergence under the spotlight.

Hamoud Al-Bakhiti, a journalist and editor in chief of *Economy and Markets* magazine

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# Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Nidaa weekly 7 Feb. 2007.

## Min headlines

- Sheikh Sharif in Sana'a under a deal including the release of 15 American soldiers
- Escaped attempted assassination, denied his connection with Iran, Abdulmalik ak-Houthi to ASI-Nidaa: We are open to a solution preserving our dignity
- Sultan al-Atwani holds the government responsible for what the GPC influential practice of dragging citizens
- Demanded government vote of non-confidence, MPs: Rise of prices a reward for merchants for their support for the president's election campaign
- Investigations halted in a case of children adultery network

Writer Mohammed al-Ghubari says in an article recently Ali Al-A'nisi, head of the National Security Council said about 800 military men had been killed during the three periods of the war in Saada and that other six thousand of them had been wounded. He added that the country's losses exceeded 600 million dollars. This is without mentioning about losses among al-Houthi followers and the citizens.

Nevertheless no one has told us the reason why do we have to pay that entire price. Does Dose Yemen need for those sacrifices and losses, or are we fighting as surrogates of regional parties, as hinted by the chairman of the Shoura Council in the session devoted to meeting the political parties to inform them on the situations in the governorate of Saada?

Since the outbreak of the first confrontation between al-Houthi followers led by Hussein Badrudin al-Houthi and

the government forces we have not known the reason behind fighting and also have not known what those and authority wanted.

At the second stage the matter remained as it was until it reached the third stage, a matter that increased suppositions of settling the Iranian and Saudi accounts on the Yemeni territories.

If the governor of Saada has said that his governorate has become an arena for settling regional and sectarian accounts, there is only Saudi Arabia that lifts the banner of promoting for the Wahabi sect in Yemen and the Islamic world and also there is Iran that is exporting what is known as the Shiite revolution in its periphery in order to establish its influence as a major player in the events that are surrounding the largest oil reservoir in the world.

Since the beginning of the seventies Saudi Arabia was the strongest of parties present in the Yemeni political affair and with that influence the base of the Wahabi ideology expanded and the governorate of Saada became an incubator environment on the Saudi southern side because of the sectarian stance in it.

Thus it has supported strongly the Salafi groups and their leader Muqbil al-Wadie. But since the beginning of the Iranian revolution, based on the Shiite Jaafari ideology, the Saudi fears increased about the role that the sectarian groups might play in Saada, especially that the majority of inhabitants in south Saudi Arabia are followers of the Ismaelite creed.

Nowadays with the expansion of the sectarian conflicts in the region and Riyadh entering the conflict clearly on behalf of Washington for the sake of influence against Iran there is nothing to convince in this war that claims lives of hundreds of Yemenis but its being a war fought instead of those parties.

Since America has failed in Iraq, Riyadh has lifted the banner of confronting the Shiite tide in the Arabian

Peninsula and preparations began for internal conflicts in every country in service of the American project and for covering its failure in Iraq.



Ath-Thawri weekly, organ of the Yemen Socialist Party, 8 Feb. 2007.

## Main headlines

- Confrontations between government forces and al-Houthi followers continue, The military solution is of no avail
- Yassin calls changing the issue of Saada into a national one
- YSP secretary general calls for party bodies appraise their activities
- Parliament tackles price rise with recommendations

The newspaper editorial written by Abubakr Bathib mentions that there is no topic now more controversial among large portions of the Arab public opinion than the dialogue that is no longer confined to one country other than others. Maybe that is ascribed to the state of tension, oppression and frustration the Arab countries are experiencing as a result of closed political, economic horizons in addition to the dangers of domestic fighting, sectarian and ethnic sedition threatening to undermine the national social fabric in a number of our Arab societies.

There is no doubt that this feeling of the need for dialogue among factions of the national action is an evidence of health and an expression of a national awakening required urgently at the difficult times and at the same time it is an indicator of deterioration reflecting depth of the crisis these courtiers experience at more than one level.

In Iraq, as in Palestine as well as Lebanon, for instance, the matter transcends just a crisis. The unity of this

country and adherence of its national fabric are exposed to danger. Also, the United States and the West's feverish endeavors to flood these countries in chaos dictate on the political forward forces to join their ranks for surmounting the existing impasse.

And in this context, with difference in circumstances and reasons, we can understand requisites of the call for dialogue that has been recently launched in Yemen in a statement by the General People's Congress in Yemen. It is no longer a secret to mention that the political system in our country is exposed to many pressures. The severe economic strain under whose burden the poor masses of our people groan and the state of frustration they live under a tangible political stagnation and absence of political reform projects in addition to other indicators heralding dangerous consequences on the later development in Yemen, all together give this call a legitimacy. It is the call to which the opposition parties replied with the seriousness and interest it deserves.

Away from skepticism in the intentions of the owners of the call, the dialogue is a complicated process and in order to be fruitful it requires openness and willingness by all concerned parties taking part in the dialogue, abandonment of subjective visions and a serious orientation of giving preponderance to the public interest. What is more important is respect of the plurality of idea of whatever nature and a genuine commitment to what results that are reached.

In our view, the reason of floundering of some previous experiments of dialogue is the feeling of the ruling party that it possesses the capability of passing over any topic it submits regardless of the others' stand. Those rounds of dialogue were almost skipping to failure had it not for saving the matter as much as possible at the final moments.

Finally we are looking forward to serious dialogues establishing new rela-

tions between the authority and the opposition to be built on transparency and positive interaction of ideas. Dialogues not be taken a decor but they must be a means for reaching common visions and creation of new formulas able to be responding to challenges of democracy, embodiment of citizenship rights and enabling the poor segments on the road of reforming all tracks of the developmental our country.



26 September weekly, 8 Feb. 2007.

## Main headlines

- Economic and security files before Sana'a Grouping Summit
- The summit discusses supporting Somalia, developments of situations in Darfur and securing navigation
- The parliament warns against Judaization of Jerusalem, calls for serious stands, Yemen condemns the Zionist practices against Islamic sanctities
- Strategic and services projects in Ibb governorate in preparation for celebrating the national day
- Ethiopian president and Malaysian prime minister in Sana'a
- US parliamentary delegation to visit Sana'a in this month
- Chairman of Somali Islamic Courts in Sana'a
- German regional conference to be held in Sana'a
- Package of legislations to improve investment environment

In its editorial the newspaper wrote saying that eyes if the Palestinians inside and outside Palestine and with them the Arabs and Muslims are drawn to Mecca meeting for defusing the internal fratricide in Palestine between the movements of Fatah and Hamas. All are hoping that

the meeting will come out with an agreement putting an end to the wrong and bloody confrontations among the sons of the homeland and the one issue especially that the two parties of fighting have a long history of sacrifices and struggle.

The conflict between Fatah and Hamas has double the effect of the Zionist aggression and blockade and provided it with the Palestinian fighters' preoccupation in their fratricide and prepared circumstances for Israel to commit a new aggression on the Aqsa Mosque to desecrate it and efface its Islamic identity and to Judaize it.

This event alone is quite enough for Fatah and Hamas to come out from Mecca meeting with an agreement ending the dispute and conflict and Palestinian bloodshed. This event is enough also for the Palestinian factions to join their efforts in defense of the Aqsa Mosque against repeated Zionist aggressions and that should be emerging from the consciousness of the religious status of mosque. If we take the aggression n its broader implications and goals it does aim at effacing the Islamic, Arab and Christian identity of the city of Jerusalem.

Thus the first defence line for the city of Jerusalem, as it used always to be, are the Palestinian people who are supported by their nation. But this time the situation is worse because the dispute and fragmentation have led the Arab and Islamic reality to have a negative influence on the unity of the Palestinian people who clearly appear to be unable alone to confront and prevent the aggression on the Holy Aqsa Mosque.

This also enough to put both Fatah and Hamas leaderships face to face with a situation that will not allow them but to come out from Mecca meeting with results living up to what is greater than merely the agreement to cement the Palestinian national unity to encounter the impending dangers against the Palestinian cause.

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3. Valid occupation certificate should be enclosed.
4. Bank bond or payable check for 2.5% of the value of the bid valid for 120 days, issued from an authorized bank.
5. Bids shall be presented in one origin + two copies in closed envelope sealed with red maws and addressed to the refinery director – head of the tenders committee – Aden Refinery Company Hospital Construction Project.
6. Applicants should enclose a copy of their experience in implementation of projects similar to the same project for verification (as previous experience).
7. Candidates should be of first grade locally, and, in addition, foreign companies with experience in such a field.
8. Those who are given the tender must be 1% of the value of the bid as Governorate Beauty Fees.
9. Any bid not meeting all above mentioned conditions will not be considered.
10. The tender documents are purchased from the Project Department for non-refunded Y Rials 50,000/- only.
11. The tender documents shall be returned sealed with the bid.
12. The company is not obliged to accept a minimum offer.
13. The bid shall be valid for 120 days from the date it is presented.
14. The technical offer shall be supported with catalogues and the proposed samples.
15. Envelopes are delivered on Monday 5/3/2007, at 11 a.m. The day on which they will be opened in the presence of the tender committee and the applicants and their representative.
16. For inquiry and visit the site contact the director of projects at Tel: 376231 during working hours.

## إعلان عن إنزال مناقصة عامة

تعلن شركة مصافي عدن للمقاولين المحليين من الدرجة الأولى وشركات المقاولات الأجنبية المتخصصة عن رغبتها في تشييد مبنى مستشفى شركة مصافي عدن على أن يستوفي الشروط التالية

- ١- نسخة من البطاقة الضريبية سارية المفعول. ( المحليين )
- ٢- نسخة من البطاقة التأمينية سارية المفعول .
- ٣- إرفاق شهادة مزاوله المهنة سارية المفعول .
- ٤- ضمان بنكي أو شيك قابل للدفع بواقع ٢,٥ ٪ من قيمة العطاء صالح لمدة ١٢٠ يوماً صادر من بنك معتمد .
- ٥- تقدم العطاءات من أصل + نسختين بظرف مغلق مختوم بالشمع الأحمر ومعونون للأخ/ مدير مصافي ؟ رئيس لجنة المناقصات- مشروع تشييد مبنى مستشفى شركة مصافي عدن .
- ٦- على المتقدمين إرفاق صورة من خبرتهم في تنفيذ مشاريع مشابهة لنفس المشروع وذلك للتأكد. (كسابق خبرة )
- ٧- يشترط من المتقدمين أن يكونوا مصنفيين من الدرجة الأولى محلياً وإلى جانب الشركات الأجنبية ذات الخبرة في مثل هذا المجال.
- ٨- على من ترسو عليه المناقصة دفع ١ ٪ من قيمة العطاء وذلك رسوم تحسين المحافظة .
- ٩- لن ينظر في أي عطاء ما لم يكن مستوفياً جميع الشروط المذكورة .
- ١٠- يتم شراء كراسة المناقصة من إدارة المشاريع بمبلغ ٥٠,٠٠٠ ريال يمني لا غير لا ترد .
- ١١- يتم إعادة كراسة المناقصة مختومة مع العطاء .
- ١٢- الشركة غير ملزمة بقبول أدنى عرض.
- ١٣- يكون العطاء ساري المفعول لمدة .
- ١٤- يوماً من تاريخ تقديمه .
- ١٥- يجب أن يكون العرض الفني مدعماً بالكتالوجات والعيينات المقترحة .
- ١٦- يتم تسليم المظاريف يوم الاثنين الموافق ٢٠٠٧/٣/٥ الساعة ١١,٠٠ صباحاً وهو نفس يوم فتحها بحضور لجنة المناقصة والأخوة المتقدمين ومدوبيهم .
- ١٦- للاستفسار وزيارة الموقع الاتصال بالأخ/ مدير المشاريع تلفون رقم ٣٧٦٢٣١ وقت الدوام .

# The plight of Ethiopian journalists

According to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the Ethiopian government has incarcerated more journalists than any other country in the world. Today there are around 100 Ethiopian refugee journalists around the world, three in Yemen. Yemen Times met with one of them, Daniel Gezahegen.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

"I was an editor in chief of a known newspaper in my country. I was an activist and one of the communities known people. Most of all I was a dignified freeman. Today I am an unknown refugee in a foreign country who is surviving on charity, and I don't know what happened to my

wife and little girl" expressed Daniel Gezahegen sadly, while showing me an outdated photo of his daughter, the only remaining link his has with his family. Gezahegen was the editor in chief of Mogad, an Amharic language newspaper in Addis Ababa. He was one of the many opposition journalists arrested by the Ethiopian regime in the last few years. He was arrested over six times during 2001, as he was accused of writing false and slanderous stories



Daniel Gezahegen former editor in chief of Mogad weekly: All I want is peace and democracy for Ethiopia and I want to help make this happen.

about the defection of the members in the Ethiopian Air Force and of defying the ruling system. He also dared to speak out on other contentious issues involving: The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the Ministry of Defence, and influential personalities such as Bacha Deble (a General Major in the Ethiopian government).

After the elections, in the second half of 2005, Gezahegen was arrested again for a week. He was released on bail, and decided to save his life by fleeing the country with one of his fellow journalists, Tamra Serbesa. The destination for the two journalists was Yemen. During that time, the government wanted list included over a 100 journalists, 21 of whom were caught and are in prison, while the rest have been scattered around the world.

His wife and 18-month-old girl Lolowa left the capital to live with relatives in the countryside because they had no source of income, and feared becoming extended targets of the government's purge.

#### Struggling to survive

"Tamra had been partially paralysed because of a brutal beating in detention nine years ago at the hands of security officers. Despite that we decided it was better to risk our lives and die at sea rather than be caught by the Ethiopian authority. We were smuggled in a ship, and arrived in Aden illegally in January 2006." Daniel Gezahegen explained.

They immediately went to the UNHCR authority in Aden and applied for refugee status. For six months, they resided in an old ruined building that used to be an Indian hotel called Sea-View. It is located near the UNHCR office in Khour Maksar in Aden.

"It was horrible; there were no

windows, no doors, no nothing. We slept on newspapers and begged for food. My health was deteriorating and I used to get a lot of headaches and my mouth was continuously dry. Some people helped me get a blood test and I discovered that I had diabetes, my score was 320 and the doctor ordered me to stay away from certain foods such as carbohydrates. Little did he know that beggars were not choosers," continued Gezahegen.

It got worse; while he and his friend were waiting for the appointment with the UNHCR, local security attacked the

**I cry and seek justice for the 21 members of the free press, whose offices had been ransacked and closed down brutally, their properties confiscated illegally, abused and beaten up every hour and every minute in jail!!**

**Kifle Mulat - President, Ethiopian Free press Journalists' Association (exiled)**

place in the early morning, tore-up their appointment slips and forced them out of the building. The security acted based on rumours that the place was used for gay sex and had to be vacated. During the six months prior to the police raid, Daniel came to know a few Ethiopians in Aden and another Ethiopian journalist residing in Sana'a, who had escaped from Addis Ababa one year ago. Sympathetic fellow citizens offered him lodging at the roof of their home, but his health became worse and

his diabetes blood test showed 420. The doctor then advised him to avoid the humid weather by the sea and go to Sana'a. In Sana'a he stayed with the journalist Girum T-haimnot and survived from day to day on petty work and charity. After relying on T-haimnot for four months, Daniel shifted his burden to another Ethiopian political refugee called Getnat with whom he is staying with at present.

"I am now waiting for the UNHCR to get back to me. I took the email of a Baptist Church in the US from a friend and emailed them about my case. They said they are ready to sponsor me only if I was granted refugee status in Yemen. It is not easy to get through to international charity organisations or to embassies. So I decided to take my story to the Yemen Times. I respect this newspaper because it promotes freedom and human rights", he said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Yemen is looking into his case. "We have registered Mr. Daniel Gezahegen as an applicant and we are looking into his case according to UNHCR standards and procedures", said Saado Quol, Senior Protection Officer of UNHCR - Yemen.

#### Refugee awareness project

Gezahegen hopes to be relocated in the USA or any other developed country. He aims to continue his work in human rights and media. "If I get the chance, I want to continue higher studies in journalism, political science, or a related field in public relations. All I want is peace and democracy for Ethiopia. How it will be achieved, I don't know, but I know that this will not happen unless there is a change in the current regime which endorses democracy and good governance. When that happens, I will be the first to go home and help rebuild a new modern Ethiopia." Daniel went on: "I have a lot of potential and I want to use my knowledge to help my fellow country people. While I am waiting for a decision to be taken in my case, I would like to be productive and help educate the refugee community in Yemen. We are three journalists and if we have a computer with a printer we can create a periodical in the Amharic language. We can enhance awareness of HIV-AIDS, development issues, and refugee regulations. The problem is that most of the refugees who number more than 100,000 don't know English or Arabic, and so information in their own language would prove very helpful. We have the skills and the will to do this provided someone supports us."

He believes Yemen is playing and can continue to play an important role in the African Horn countries. Because

of the geographical proximity and similarities between Yemen and the African Horn countries there is much more that can be done. He concluded by saying that Yemeni people have been sympathetic and kind towards

**Many of the journalists are being held in the Kalitiy prison. The roofs of the cells are made of corrugated iron sheets, which fluctuate in temperature according to the weather, and the journalists are also exposed to contagious diseases due to rodent infestation. International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)**

him and his friends. He commented, "They are believers and my experience of them is good."

Many Ethiopian journalists are being held in the infamous Kalitiy prison. The roofs of the cells are made of corrugated iron sheets, which fluctuate in temperature according to the weather, and the journalists are also exposed to contagious diseases due to rodent infestation. Between June and September 2005, at least 17 editors of private Amharic-language weeklies were arrested because of their post-



Lolowa, Daniel's little girl, whom he hasn't seen over one year.

election coverage. At least seven were accused of criminal offences, such as defaming the Defense Ministry and the military. Several editors were arrested more than once.

In Ethiopia, around 20 newspaper publishers and editors are still imprisoned; they are accused of "high treason" for having backed an opposition challenge to the May 2005 election results. Neither the international outcry nor the protests of its western allies have been heeded by the government of the Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi.



Daniel Gezahegen (right) and Tamrat Serbesa was the former editor-in-chief of Menelik Newspaper outside their home for six month, the ruins of the Sea-View Hotel in Aden.

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 • Ensure timely payment of office utility bills – phone, electricity, water  
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# Study finds few Yemeni women immunized, also spelling trouble for their unborn babies

## Deadly tetanus could disappear with simple vaccine

By: Jamal Al-Najjar  
jamalnajar@hotmail.com

Although tetanus is one of the world's most common fatal diseases, the majority of Yemeni women don't receive the tetanus vaccine, according to a recent graduate research study by Sana'a University's Faculty of Medicine.

The study found that 99 percent of the estimated 1,300 girls studied know about tetanus, 96 percent know

a vaccine is available and 86 percent know about methods of transmission. However, only 39 percent of girls were vaccinated, which may have deadly consequences in the future for these girls and their babies.

The study concentrated on female immunization because immunizing the mother can protect both her and her baby from the deadly disease. According to UNICEF, 500,000 infants worldwide die every year because their mothers aren't immunized.

Tetanus is transmitted to babies by

using unsterile instruments that carry the tetanus bacteria when cutting the umbilical cord following delivery. Unimmunized mothers also can be subject to the disease if post-delivery, post-abortion or post-surgical wounds are exposed to the infectious bacteria.

[Tetanus] can be eliminated through effectively vaccinating infants and women of childbearing age (15-45 years old), as well as promoting safe and clean delivery practices," the research stated.

The high number of unimmunized girls in Yemen raises many questions about the role the Ministry of Public Health and international organizations play in eliminating the problem.

The study investigated why Yemeni girls don't get the vaccine. Some said they refrained from vaccination because they feared the pain from the needle, while others said the vaccination campaigns didn't come to their schools.

Ahmed Al-B'adani, supervisor of the immunization program in Sana'a, said there are no regular vaccination campaigns against tetanus. "We only did vaccination activities at some schools in Sana'a, such as Al-Tahrir and Al-Saba'een districts in 2004, in addition to five vaccination rounds that covered most of the areas far

from Sana'a city in 2006," he noted.

One reason for the lack of immunization campaigns against tetanus is absence of financial support, said a source from the National Program for Extended Immunization Center, who declined to give his name.

"With the cooperation of [the World Health Organization], we aim to eliminate tetanus in 2007. Approximately 4.9 million women are targeted, but we need about \$10 million to cover immunizations nationwide. Campaigns will be launched in intervals according to the vaccination schedule," he explained.

"Due to traditions, some women don't want to go to immunization centers where only men work, so we need female staff at those centers, especially in the rural areas," he added.

The same source disclosed that there are no specific statistics regarding the mortality rate due to tetanus in Yemen.

The researchers recommended the Ministry of Health exert more effort, particularly concerning regular vaccination campaigns in schools. They also stressed that the Ministry of Education should shed light on the disease and its protection factors, including the vaccination schedule in

schools, so that all students are aware.

It seems that the risk of tetanus is much higher in remote areas.

"We conducted our research on educated groups represented by female students in Sana'a; however, the number of unimmunized girls was high. What about the immunization practices of illiterate women, especially those living in rural areas?" said Mohammed Al-Alie, a member of the research group.

A vaccine schedule must be followed in order for immunization to be most effective. Women need five doses. The first dose begins as early as possible in pregnancy, then again four weeks later, then after six months or during the subsequent pregnancy. The fourth dose follows a year after the third dose or during the subsequent pregnancy, and the last dose is a year after the fourth dose or the next pregnancy.

According to the national program of extended immunization in Yemen, children should have three doses. The first dose begins a month and a half after birth, followed by the second dose at two and a half months and the last dose at three and a half months.

All of those involved in this field stress that without public cooperation, the efforts of both the Ministry of Health and international



Tetanus, also known as lockjaw, is a serious but preventable disease affecting the body's nerves and muscles. Once the tetanus bacteria are in the body, they produce a neurotoxin that causes muscle spasms.

organizations aren't enough to eliminate the disease. The entire society must contribute effectively to the elimination process by adhering to the vaccination schedule, as well as following clean delivery practices during childbirth.



Neonatal tetanus occurs in newborns delivered in unsanitary conditions, especially if the umbilical cord stump becomes contaminated.

## 24 percent of Yemeni women experience genital mutilation

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

According to the United Nations Population Fund office in Sana'a, 24 percent of Yemeni women have been exposed to female genital mutilation (FGM).

Yemen is a conservative society where families practice such mutilation as a religious and cultural tradition. It also has become a common belief that the practice serves to temper female sexual desire.

While illiteracy stands at 29.8 percent for Yemeni men, it's 62.1 percent for women, which is another factor responsible for FGM practices in Yemen, according to experts.

A 2001 ministerial decree prohibited FGM in Yemen, but health officials say they couldn't monitor the decree's application in all medical facilities. Dr. Jamila Al-Raiby, the Ministry of Health's general director of women's affairs, notes that the ministry's role is to raise public awareness.

"Our role is to address those attempting to raise awareness. In most cases, we experience difficulties when talking with people about this sensitive issue, but we request help from religious men with influence in their communities to talk with citizens about the risks and dire medical consequences of this practice," she said.

Al-Raiby points out that there are no sufficient studies on FGM practices in Yemen. According to her, a 2000 study conducted by the Pacific Institute for Women's Health revealed that more than 97 percent of respondents in Hodeidah had experienced FGM, 96 percent in Al-Mahrah and Hadramout, 82 percent in Aden and 45.5 percent in Sana'a. The study involved a sample of 2,163 women in those governorates.

The study found that immediate complications include severe pain, shock, hemorrhaging, urine retention, ulcerating the genital region and injuring adjacent tissue. Bleeding and infection can cause death.

Some professionals who read the study were shocked and disputed the figures, saying that the areas where interviews were conducted had a high percentage of immigrant populations, leading to inflated numbers of women who had FGM performed on them.

However, Soheir Stolba, Ph.D., who worked in this field in Yemen, confirmed, "Most educated Yemenis denied the custom's existence, attributing it only to limited pockets of coastal populations where African immigrants live. My continued work on this phenomenon over a six-year period revealed that FGM is deeply rooted in Yemen."

Stolba referred to another practice, known locally as al-takmeed, per-

formed on female genitalia in Yemeni coastal areas. On the fourth day after a baby girl's birth, her mother or an older female household member prepares a compress to use on the genitalia. The compress is a soft cotton material inside of which heated salt and/or sand is placed, along with oil and herbs.

A mother heats the compress and places it on the infant's genitalia, pressing repeatedly for about an hour. This continues for a period varying between 40 days and four months. The procedure's physical effect may affect nerve endings and decrease the sexual excitement of the girl or woman on whom it's performed.

Often referred to as "female circumcision," FGM includes all procedures involving partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs.

Ministry of Health studies reveal that trained medical personnel perform only 10 percent of such operations. Women specialized in ear piercing, birthing attendants, rayissas (women skilled in female circumcision) and relatives perform most FGM procedures.

According to the studies, the procedure is done 95 percent of the time at home and mothers are the primary decision-makers in determining if their daughters will have it.

USAID's 1997 Demographic and Health Survey conducted in Yemen

found that nearly all reported procedures (97 percent) occurred during the first month of life. Health facilities housed only three percent of these, while 97 percent were performed at home, with a traditional birthing attendant (68 percent) or elderly female relative (19 percent) usually doing the procedure.

Nurses, midwives and doctors perform seven percent of FGM procedures, whereas barbers do five percent. The usual tool is a razor blade, although scissors are used 20 percent of the time.

The World Health Organization reported in June 2006 that women who've had FGM are significantly more likely to experience difficulties during childbirth and their babies are more likely to die as a result of the practice.

At the Feb. 6 International Day Against Female Genital Mutilation, the UNFPA called for preventing such a practice, which "violates the basic rights of women and girls and seriously compromises their health."

"The UNFPA calls for stronger government commitments to fund and implement programs to prevent FGM," said UNFPA Executive Director Thorraya Ahmed Obaid, who confirmed that between 120 and 140 million women worldwide have been subjected to the practice and three million girls continue to be at risk each year.

## Water Quiz

What do you know about water issues in Yemen? Test your knowledge and send your answers to the following email: [gl@swissmail.org](mailto:gl@swissmail.org)

The prize for the first three correct answers will be a high-quality Swiss-style pocket knife (\$40 value). An additional 30 correct answers will receive a prize of a T-shirt, cap and a colorful 2007 calendar. All winners will be notified by email to collect their prizes at the NWRA Sana'a office.

For questions 1-5, only one answer each is correct (for example, 1. B). For question 6, please indicate your choice, as any answer will qualify. The deadline for receiving answers by email is Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007. The prize drawing will take place at the Sana'a branch of the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007.

Don't forget to include your full name, age, occupation and residence.

- Dirty water ranks as the ..... cause of children's death in the world.  
A. 1st B. 2nd C. 5th
- Each day..... children in the world die due to unsafe water  
A. 500 B. 1,000 C. 5,000
- How long would a small water tanker (in Yemen commonly referred to as "white", carrying 3.5 cubic meter or 3500 litres of water) last one person for drinking needs?  
A. 3 months B. 1 year C. 3 years
- If you had one water tanker ("white", 3.5 cubic meters), how much wheat could you produce?  
A. 3 kilos B. 10 kilos C. 50 kilos (one sack)
- The amount of water needed to grow a single banana compares to.....  
A. the drinking water needs for one person for a day.  
B. the daily household water needs for 2 people.  
C. the daily household water needs for a family of 7 in Sana'a.
- What do you think would be an important solution to Yemen's water problems?  
A. build more dams  
B. introduce modern irrigation systems  
C. economic development  
D. awareness campaigns  
E. other (please specify)

## Extension of Request of the Expressions of Interest's Deadline

The Project Administration Unit  
Ministry of Education, Yemen

Reference is made to our advertisement in the Yemen Times on February 1, 2007 regarding request for the Expressions of Interest for the Technical Assurances for the Preparation of the Girls' Secondary Education Project. Please be informed that we have extended the deadline to Feb. 19, 2007.



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## Côte d'Ivoire: A strike away from igniting violence amidst a faltering peace process

As Cote d'Ivoire gears up for October elections, postponed from 2005, the country is on a knife's edge with fears that a renewed eruption of violence will destroy any progress towards political reconciliation. So-called "hate media" is playing on people's fears, stoking the violence and is a major threat to peace and reconciliation.

**The Story**  
As the world marked the twelfth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide this April, some media reports in Cote d'Ivoire seem frighteningly reminiscent of how the media had been used by leaders to trigger devastating acts of violence. Following a series of coups, dating back to 1999, a September 2002 troop mutiny in Cote d'Ivoire escalated into a full-scale revolt, as northerners rebelled against southern dominance, with thousands killed in fighting between rebels of the Forces Nouvelles and the Government. Although fighting has stopped, the country remains divided between the government-held south and the rebel-controlled north. In 2004, the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was set up to monitor the ceasefire and support the



UNOCI forces on patrol in Côte d'Ivoire.

implementation of peace agreements, holding together a shaky peace.

The virulent targeting of political opponents in the national press and television, as well as on national and local radio, has long been a feature of the Ivorian media scene. Journalists, struggling to maintain their independence, often fall victim in a country where partisan politics and resorting to hate messaging are commonplace. Although the media environment is ostensibly free, in the last few years, journalists have been victims

of harassment, threats, arrest and even murder. Journalists enjoy little editorial autonomy, with political affiliations often dictating coverage.

During a February 2006 visit, the UN Emergency Coordinator Jan Egeland said that civilians in this country were among the most unprotected in the world. He called for immediate action "when hate media in a Rwandan style asks for attacks against defenceless civilians, for minorities being chopped up and for international humanitarian organizations to be attacked, people should be brought to justice." Without the possibility of meaningful and severe sanctions against those engaging in inflammatory messages, hate media will continue to be a serious threat to peace and national reconciliation.

### The Context

Cote d'Ivoire gained independence in 1960 and enjoyed several decades of economic growth and unity, gaining a reputation as an African success story. Democracy was introduced in the 1990s, but disaffection among some groups resulted in a series of coups which led to full-fledged civil war by 2002. A peace deal brokered by France was reached in 2003 but this shaky peace was not consolidated.

In 2004, UNOCI set up its own radio station to counter the effect of inflammatory propaganda and messages of hate. Initially available in Abidjan, the station has extended its reach to cover rebel-held towns in the north. In December 2004, a new Press Law was adopted which provides the means to sanction poor journalistic practices and inculcate journalistic ethics.

Charles Konan Banny was appointed interim Prime Minister in December 2005. His nomination was supported by African mediators and the UN as likely to move forward Cote d'Ivoire's stalled peace process. He faces difficult tasks, including disarming rebel forces and pro-government militias, identification of voters and organizing elections by 31 October.

In January 2006, UN forces and property came under attack by members of a political group, the "Young Patriots", following which international staff were temporarily withdrawn. Even more alarming, these attacks were incited in some locales by militia and prefecture leaders who took over local radio stations and used them to

### Country profile: Ivory Coast

Once hailed as a model of stability, Ivory Coast has slipped into the kind of internal strife that has plagued many African countries.

An armed rebellion in 2002 split the nation in two, and the main players in the conflict have so far failed to find a political solution.

For more than three decades after independence under the leadership of its first president, Felix Houphouët-Boigny, Ivory Coast was conspicuous for its religious and ethnic harmony and its well-developed economy.

### AT-A-GLANCE

**Politics:** Civil war in 2002 split the country between rebel-held north and government-controlled south; foreign troops patrol a buffer zone; Premier Banny was installed to lead a reconciliation government to elections - the UN extended his mandate for another year from November 2006

**UN road map:** Aims to re-unite country, disarm militias, restore state authority across the land, register voters and hold elections

**Economy:** Ivory Coast is world's leading cocoa producer; UN sanctions include a ban on diamond exports as well as travel bans and asset freezes for some leaders

All this ended when the late Robert Guei led a coup which toppled Felix Houphouët-Boigny's successor, Henri Bedie, in 1999.

Mr Bedie fled, but not before planting the seeds of ethnic discord by trying to stir up xenophobia against Muslim northerners, including his main rival, Alassane Ouattara.

This theme was also adopted by Mr Guei, who had Alassane Ouattara banned from the presidential election in 2000 because of his foreign parentage, and by the only serious contender allowed to run against Mr Guei, Laurent Gbagbo.

When Mr Gbagbo replaced Robert Guei after he was deposed in a popular uprising in 2000, violence replaced xenophobia. Scores of Mr Ouattara's supporters were killed after their leader called for new elections.

In September 2002 a troop mutiny escalated into a full-scale rebellion, voicing the ongoing discontent of northern Muslims who felt they were being discriminated against in Ivorian politics. Thousands were killed in the conflict.

Although the fighting has stopped, Ivory Coast is tense and divided. French and UN peacekeepers patrol the buffer zone which separates the north, held by rebels known as the New Forces, and the government-controlled south.

Peace talks brokered by other African nations and France have, so far, failed to reunite the country. Under a 2003 peace deal the government is to disband loyalist militias and pass political reforms. In return, the New Forces are to lay down their weapons. But disarmament has yet to begin.

- Full name: The Republic of Ivory Coast
- Population: 17.1 million (UN, 2005)
- Capital: Yamoussoukro
- Area: 322,462 sq km (124,503 sq miles)
- Major languages: French, indigenous languages
- Major religions: Islam, Christianity, indigenous beliefs
- Life expectancy: 45 years (men), 47 years (women) (UN)
- Monetary unit: 1 CFA (Communaute Financiere Africaine) franc = 100 centimes
- Main exports: Cocoa, coffee, tropical woods, petroleum, cotton, bananas, pineapples, palm oil, fish
- GNI per capita: US \$840 (World Bank, 2006)
- Internet domain: .ci
- International dialling code: +225

air hate messages that encouraged the destruction. The Security Council has imposed sanctions on two youth leaders and one rebel commander. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Pierre Schori, has warned that, "Preaching violence is tantamount to working for the failure of the peace process."

Secretary-General Kofi Annan has condemned the resort to hate media and demanded that all parties and leaders desist from such acts. The Security Council called for sanctions on those who would incite violence and hatred, including by resort to the media.

The Secretary-General has flagged the preparation of elections and the role of media as outstanding current issues. Concrete and dynamic action needs to be

taken to begin implementing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, to dismantle the militia, re-deploy State authority, identify voters and prepare for the elections.

A report released by OCHA on 27 April shows an estimated 700,000 persons have been displaced since the beginning of the current crisis in 2002 when an aborted coup against President Laurent Gbagbo led to civil war. Ninety per cent of those persons are living with other families in five large urban areas, putting severe economic strain on many of their hosts, the report says. Additionally, the report shows that 50 per cent of those displaced say their health situation has worsened, while 30 per cent of displaced children lack the means to attend school.

### "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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