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Aden Port: A gem lost in time



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Nationality: Unclear



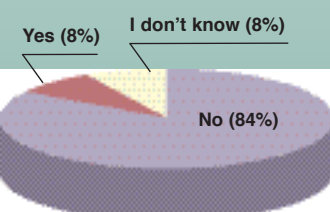
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Islamic Relief's regional coordinator in the Middle East: "9-11 boosted Islamic Relief's work"

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think the Yemeni government is serious to tackle issues of its citizens detained in Guantanamo?



This edition's question:

Do you think state reaction over rape case is a sign of respecting human rights in Yemen?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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Journalists show solidarity with Al-Maqaleh

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 14 — Dozens of journalists and political activists gathered Wednesday at the Sana'a-based Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to show their solidarity with Socialist journalist Mohammed Mohammed Al-Maqaleh, who was subjected to threat of physical elimination for his pro-Houthi writings.

The congregators denounced the threatening of their colleague Al-Maqaleh by a group of armed men in

front of his house this past Sunday. They also denounced recent assaults on journalists, together with violations of their rights.

They further stressed the importance of restoring the spirit of solidarity among them and hunting those involved in attacks against their colleagues.

Likewise, the journalists condemned accusing Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, editor-in-chief of the Public Forces Union's Shoura.net, of Houthism, a charge was directed at him by an official web site.

They also criticized government fomenting against journalists over covering the Sa'ada events, considering such step a dangerous setback threatening both press and general freedoms.

They also showed solidarity with their colleagues at Marib Press, who have been threatened many times, and further denounced blocking the Shoura.net web site, indicating that such a step is a continuation of Yemen's totalitarian past and an offense to its democratic experience.

Continued on page 3

Sa'ada confrontations expand Saleh rejects Houthi negotiations

By: Yemen Times Staff

SA'ADA, March 14 — Informed tribal sources mention that the Yemeni army continues attacking Houthi areas in Sa'ada with mortars and Katyusha missiles, but without any direct offensives in order to avoid further losses among military personnel.

Instead, authorities are using civilians mobilized from the Hashed tribe and

other areas to back the Yemeni army in their war against Houthis, who belong to the Bakil, Yemen's second largest tribe.

Aleshteraki.net revealed last Sunday that thousands of underage enlistees — including hundreds aged between 15 and 16 — from across Yemen have been deployed to fight Houthis in Sa'ada, with the source assuring that the same is true for Houthis.

"Approximately 3,000 soldiers from

various Yemeni areas recently enlisted and were deployed to participate in the ongoing war in Sa'ada against Houthi loyalists. Most are underage and they were given no weapons training. This violates both Yemeni and international law and is considered by some international organizations a stark violation of human and children's rights, in addition to being listed among war crimes," the web site reported.

Continued on page 3

Criminal Investigation head interrogated over rape case



Anisa and two children in the attorney office.

By: Nisreen Shadad

SANA'A — 13 March. The prosecution interrogated Rizq al-Jawfi, the head of the Criminal Investigation Unit, two weeks ago in connection with the Anisa Al-Shuaibi law suit. Anisa Al-Shuaibi was accused of kidnapping and killing her ex-husband and was subsequently imprisoned without a fair trial enduring harsh prison conditions before finally being released after 48 days in captivity. Al-Shuaibi was a soldier who worked as a printer in the Interior Ministry for fifteen years. She was mar-

ried at twelve years old and had two children. She was accused of killing her ex-husband and arrested in 2003, but after several weeks she was cleared because of a lack of evidence against her. While imprisoned Al-Shuaibi was abused and raped.

When Rizq al-Jawfi called to be questioned, prosecutors interrogated him without the presence of a Shuaibi's lawyers, "We want to ask him a lot of questions," said Abdul-Rahman Barman, al-Shuaibi's lawyer from Allawo Corporation for advocates.

Continued on page 3

Finally efforts for Yemeni women's rights pay off

After years of struggle to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in Yemeni laws and practices, Yemeni women development reached an important milestone today. The approval of the legal amendments of clauses which discriminated against women in the Yemeni laws is underway and the Supreme Council for Women has issued a number of decrees in favour of women.

By: Rasha Jurhoom
 For Yemen Times

SANA'A, March 13 — The celebration of women's international day in Yemen couldn't be happier. The amendment of twenty-seven discriminative laws, which have been advocated by the Women National Committee (WNC) - the government machine to promote women's issues - and women groups in Yemen were approved on Monday by

the cabinet on its regular meeting and are on their way to approval by the Parliament. It even gets better, the Supreme Council for Women on 12th March 2007, held a meeting in which it decreed a number of regulations to support women's issues in Yemen.

The Supreme Council for Women discussed an analysis of the action plan of WNC for 2006, the Action Plan of WNC for 2007, the evaluation of the National Strategy for Women

Development- Gender Strategy. Consequently, it approved a decree on employment of women in the education sector in the governorates and rural areas, the establishment of WNC branches in Say'un and the valley of Hadramout, the application of the free maternal delivery decree in all governmental health institutions, the approval of the training manual for gender budgeting, and the support of women role in the development process.

The meeting came as the final stop in annual conference WNC held in celebration of Women's International Day under the theme: "Law, an Institutional Protection of Societies". The two-day event that took place on 10-11 March 2007, under the patronage of His Excellency, Mr Abdul Qader Ba-Jammal, Prime Minister and Head of the Supreme Council for Women and

in presence of His Excellency the Minister of Civil Service Mr Khaled Hamoud Al-Sofy.

In the event, participants highlighted the efforts to improve women's conditions by presenting a series of working papers on issues of central value to women's development, such as education, health and economic participation. The working papers were discussed and audience participation and feedback was encouraged. The discussions included evaluation of the women national strategy, report on women status in 2006, women political participation, business women and their role in the society, free delivery and women reproductive health, gender budgeting in education. A number of NGOs also participated by presenting their experiences in enhancing women development.

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In brief

ADEN

Street cleaners feel oppressed

March 13 — Aden street cleaners complained about inhumane treatment after a restaurant owner in Al-Sheikh Othman area opened fire on some of them last Friday evening, injuring one cleaner's foot.

The brother of Emad Sa'eed Haza, who was wounded, said they both were performing their duties late in the evening when the owner alleged that there was garbage in front of his restaurant. "We cleaned up all the waste at his restaurant, but this didn't satisfy him, so he opened fire on us," Haza's brother lamented.

Trade and Industry Chamber deplores charges

March 13 — The Aden branch of the Trade and Industry Chamber strongly denounced charges filed by the Yemeni Council for Businessmen and Investors against the chamber's capital branch.

In a statement, the chamber's Aden Branch said, "The charges that the YCBI attributes to the chamber's capital branch are false and baseless." It expressed solidarity with capital branch employees, vowing to claim all of their legal rights, namely canceling unconstitutional clauses in the Sales Tax Law.

LAHJ

Teachers cease work over explosion

March 13 — Teachers have refrained from working at Al-Abous district's Talb School for three months and classrooms remain closed because an identified group detonated a package of explosives in the school, damaging it and intimidating its students, who number as many as 550.

After the incident, parents urged concerned authorities to punish the perpetrators and prevent any armed protests at the school. Lahj Governor Abdulwahab Al-Durrah, directed the chief of the security department to take whatever measures necessary for teachers to resume working, but such hasn't occurred.

SANA'A

Ba'ath Party marks 44th Anniversary of Glorious Revolution

March 12 — This past Saturday, the regional leadership of the Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party in Yemen marked the 44th anniversary of the March 8 Glorious Revolution, which constitutes a landmark in Syrian and Arab history.

In a statement, the leaders underscored the radical changes in Syria ushering in a new stage, not only in Syrian history, but also in the history of the entire Arab region. They also pointed to Syria's pivotal role in facing plots and aggressions targeting Arab nations.

Workshop on the national children's and youth strategy

March 11 — The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood concluded a two-day workshop Sunday on the national children's and youth strategy. The council's secretary-general, Nafisa Al-Jaifi, said the workshop sought to gather notes from concerned authorities before presenting the strategy. These notes will be presented to donor countries at a March 18 workshop to discuss the strategy.

Yemen's national children's and youth strategy aims to reduce infant deaths for those under age 5, increase children's disease services to cover 50 percent of Yemeni districts by 2010, increase school enrolment and attendance and reduce the number of school dropouts.

TAIZ

Anam award committees meet

March 13 — Judging committees of the late Hayel Sa'eed Anam's Award for Science and Culture are meeting March 14 and 15 at the premises of Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture.

The meeting was referred to in a statement by Faisal Sa'eed Fare, general manager of the foundation and secretary-general of the award. He confirmed that the judges are meeting with the aim of making suitable decisions regarding granting or withholding the award in other areas.

Arbitrary arrests, prolonged detention common in Yemen, report says

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, March 14 — In its annual report on human rights, the U.S. State Department has highlighted human rights violations in several developing countries, including Yemen.

Entitled, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," the report observed numerous violations, including killings, fatal shootings, violence, detentions, prison torture, corruption, declining freedom of press and violence against women.

According to the report, Yemeni security authorities employed prison torture in a way running counter to both Islamic Sharia and Yemeni law. "Members of the Political Security Office and Ministry of Interior police forces tortured and abused those in detention. Authorities used force during interrogations, especially against those arrested for violent crimes," the report says, attributing the reasons for such torture to police corruption and pressure by superiors to produce convictions.

Police preferred nonphysical methods like sleep deprivation and threats of sexual assault as the primary form of abuse in PSO prisons, the report added, and torture was employed to obtain confessions from prisoners.

In addition to torture, prisoners were put in overcrowded prisons with poor sanitary conditions, inadequate food and health care, and in some cases, police officials "exacted bribes from prisoners to obtain privileges or refused to release those prisoners who had completed their sentences until family members paid them."

Illegal detentions

While authorities detained citizens without charges, powerful tribal figures placed tribesmen in their private jails, often without trial or sentencing. "Tribal leaders misused the prison system by placing 'problem' tribesmen in 'private' jails, either to punish them for non-criminal acts or protect them from retaliation. At times, such prisons were simply rooms in a tribal sheikh's house," the report noted.

Authorities also arrested those with

illnesses both for committing and not committing crimes, imprisoning them with criminals and without providing them adequate medical care.

The report further noted that despite the law, arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention without charge or, if charged, without a public preliminary judicial hearing within a reasonable time, were common practices in Yemen.

It cited the example of human rights activist Ali Al-Dailami, whom security authorities arrested as he traveled to participate in a human rights event. The activist was released from the PSO after several days of torture.

"Members of Yemen's security forces continued to arrest or simply detain individuals for varying periods of time without charge, notification to their families, or hearing," it said, noting that approximately 100 opposition supporters and two opposition candidates were arrested during last September's election campaigns.

"Detainees often were unaware of which agency was investigating them, and the agencies themselves frequently complicated the situation by unofficially transferring custodial authority of individuals to other agencies. Security forces routinely detained fugitives' relatives while the suspect was being sought," the report indicated.

Other illegal security authority practices included searching homes and private offices, monitoring telephone calls, reading personal mail and otherwise intruding into personal matters for alleged security reasons.

"In other cases, detaining family members continued while the concerned families negotiated compensation for the alleged wrongdoing. Arbitration and mediation by families, tribesmen and other nongovernmental interlocutors commonly was used to settle such cases," the report added.

Press freedom limited

Additionally, the Yemeni government didn't respect freedom of speech or press, with the report mentioning that the nation's security apparatus threatened and harassed journalists to influence press coverage.

According to the report, the govern-

ment selected what items would be covered in news broadcasts, often not permitting broadcasts critical of the government.

Several web sites also were blocked during last September's elections. "The Yemeni government limited what internet content its citizens could access by using commercially available filtering technology, in addition to controlling its two internet service providers, TeleYemen (operators of YNET services) and YemenNet, via the Ministry of Telecommunications."

Rights violated

The report further stated that some ministries reportedly harassed those NGOs critical of the government by delaying required procedures for annual registration/licensing and via bureaucratic funding criteria.

"In some instances, the Yemeni government reportedly registered a pro-government 'clone' version of an NGO, immediately recognizing the clone as the legitimate NGO and thereby preventing the original NGO from renewing its registration under its original name," the report added.

"Several NGOs reported being singled out as 'agents of foreign powers' in pro-government media after publishing reports critical of the government. During the year, Women Journalists Without Chains, HOOD, the Arab Sisters Forum and the Observatory for Human Rights were all named as 'foreign agents' in pro-government media."

There's a widespread perception of corruption in every branch and level of government, the report said, and both government officials and parliamentarians alike are presumed to benefit from insider arrangements and embezzlement. "Procurement was a regular source of corruption in the executive branch and, thus far, only low-ranking officials had been prosecuted for corruption," it added.

According to the report, jobs and positions were purchased by their candidates, while many government officials received salaries for jobs they didn't perform or multiple salaries for the same job.

Profit increase for depositors in Postal Saving Fund

SANA'A, 12 March — The percentage of profits of depositors in the Postal Saving Fund rose to YR 800 millions during 2006 against YR 600 millions recorded in 2005. These profits are considered the highest on record so far if compared with commercial banks which deal in saving accounts, according to Mohammed Murghem, the general manger of the General Authority of Post and Postal Savings.

In the meantime, the total investments amounted to YR 8 billions during 2006 with total interest reaching YR 1.2

billion against YR 6 billions and YR 870 millions respectively in 2005.

Murghem added the number of accounts opened during 2006 reached 266,657, with an increase of 50,271 accounts, an increase of 23 percent. Further, the balances of depositors rose from YR 7.8 billions in 2005 to YR 9.8 billions in 2006.

He concluded the number of post offices, providing postal saving services, increased to 169 offices covering the whole republic during 2006 instead of 129 in 2005.

Open skies policy for investment companies

ADEN, 12 March — Themed "Open Skies", the General Authority for Civil Aviation and Meteorology organised a workshop on Sunday, 11 March. The work shop was attended by the Minister of Transport Omar Mohsen Al-Amadi, Aden Governor Ahmed Al-Kuhlani and other officials.

According to Al-Amadi, liberalising access to Aden Airport's airspace falls under the government's remit to implement resolutions and measures that aim to liberate the skies across the republic in order to cope with the latest industry developments in air transport. He added that the liberalisation of the skies over Yemen would help further develop tourism and attract investments due to the centrality of airports in Yemen's logistics and transport infrastructure.

For his part, Al-Kuhlani expressed his happiness with the opening of Aden's skies to international aviation stressing the positive benefits that would follow such as attracting further investment to Aden, the economic capi-

tal of Yemen.

Many papers were presented during the workshop. A paper by the Aviation Authority, for instance, addressed the issue of the general administration of Aden Airport. Other papers dealt with the role of the Free Zone, Commerce Chamber and the General Authority for Investment.

Hamed Farj, the chairman of the Aviation Authority, announced that all flights heading to Aden would be exempted from fees. He further assured that this exemption period will be extended to six hours instead of three, adding that they would provide all the required facilities for companies wishing to provide such services.

The workshop's recommendations included reconsideration of current fuelling fees, evaluation of the quality services available to airlines and supplying additional facilities for customs and security to help increase the number of passengers and cargo thus boosting imports and exports.

SabaFon distributes Big Contest Awards 'Scratch and Win' Cards



Sheikh Hamdan Al-Ahmar between the winners.

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Yemen Mobile Company, SabaFon continued distributing the Big Contest Awards 'Scratch and Win' cards, which the company offers to its subscribers. The Big Contest Awards include seven Land Cruiser Model 2006 cars, in addition to 250 thousand other awards comprising scratch cards, cell phone lines and mobile devices. All these prizes are awarded to those who succeed in combining all the letters available on the scratch cards to compose the car's name, or to those who find a named prize award on the card.

Since the first winner Mohammed Ali Al-Hassani, from Raima governorate, was awarded the first car on 1January, 2007, SabaFon has since awarded two Land Cruiser Model 2006 cars to two of its subscribers. The winners were Ahmad Mohammed Al-Hesni, 35, from Anis District, Dhamar governorate, who works as a farmer and Mahfoudh Ali Sa'eed, 23, who works as a goldsmith and is from Taiz governorate.

At the ceremony which was staged at Al-Sab'een Park, Sheikh Hamdan Abdullah Al-Ahmar, General Manager of the Marketing and Sales Department awarded the three winners with their prizes in the presence of a large number of the company's officials and workers and representatives of different media.

For his part, Ahmad Al-Hesni expressed his pleasure in winning big prize. He thanked the company for its credibility, loyalty to and cooperation with subscribers, as well as praising the facilities it provides for its workers. "The company official received me cordially and congratulated me for winning the car as soon as I submitted the cards required for winning," Al-Hesni said.

Mahfoudh Sa'eed commended the company's cooperation and warm reception as well as the speed with which the car was transferred into his possession. He mentioned that he was given the car just after he submitted the total cards need for winning the car. Sa'eed acknowledged that such facts prove the credibility of the mobile company and its respect for its subscribers. He praised SabaFon and the quality of service it provides customers.

Asked how he discovered the golden letter, Al-Hesni said that he hadn't thought of the car, as it is difficult for him as a farmer to buy a modern car like the one awarded to him. Like other people, he hoped to win any of the SabaFon prizes while scratching the cards to recharge his account. While scratching the last card, he didn't think that he would win, but when he scratched the card, he discovered the golden letter 'K', which was needed to win the top prize. The farmer pointed out that initially his friends and acquaintances didn't believe he had won, and that they remained doubtful until he arrived at the company, which confirmed that he won a luxurious car.

Sheikh Hamdan Al-Ahmar, General Manager of the Marketing and Sales Department at SabaFon called on all the company subscribers to participate in the contest buy purchasing the cards many of which contain the special letters required for winning prizes, particularly the golden letter 'K'. He noted that four Land Cruiser Model 2006 cars are still waiting to be won in addition to 250 thousand other prizes including cell phone lines and mobile devices. These awards, according to Al-Ahmar, are waiting for all cell phone line rental and prepaid system subscribers who wish to participate.

Quality Improvement in Further Education

SANA'A, March 14 — The British Council and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training will be holding a series of workshops on Quality Improvement in Further Education in Sana'a from 17 — 21 March. The workshops will be attended by delegates from the Gulf States of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia as well as representatives from Morocco, Iraq, Syria and Jordan. Twenty Yemeni delegates will also be attending the workshops.

The workshops will be delivered at Sana'a Community College by a specialist team from the UK's Adult Learning Inspectorate and will focus on the methods and techniques employed to improve and maintain standards in an institute of further education such as a Technical College or a Vocational Training Centre. The workshops will focus on a number of areas relating to quality management including self assessment, building a quality commu-

nity, making accurate assessments of learning, using student opinion and assessing the management of institutions. The workshops will also include actual observation of learning and feedback to instructors, and interviewing and feedback with college managers.

"The purpose of the workshops," says Khadija Alsarhi, British Council Project Coordinator in Sana'a, "is to provide the opportunity for delegates to experience first hand the practical implementation of quality control processes on a college rather than just look at the theory."

Abdulla Gubari, Deputy Minister for Standards and Quality at the Ministry of TEVT believes that the workshops will provide an excellent opportunity for the sharing of quality assurance expertise and inspection techniques between colleagues from the region and beyond. "The issue of vocational training and the establishing of robust measures to maintain standards is an issue which has attracted growing

attention in all Gulf Countries over recent years," said Mr Gubari.

"ALI have put together an excellent programme which will stimulate the delegates and provide them with hands on experience," explains Dr. Abdulsamad Haza'a, Dean of the Community College in Sana'a. Dr Haza'a is pleased that his College will be the subject of these workshops and hopes that the good practices explored will be of use to other Vocational Training Colleges in Yemen.

Tony Calderbank of the British Council expressed his thanks to the large number of people who have been involved in putting the programme together. "It is an excellent opportunity for us to work with the Ministry of TEVT and the College in Sana'a," he said. "I hope this programme will be a fruitful venture, assisting educational and vocational co-operation throughout the region and further consolidating the strong ties between the UK, Yemen and the Gulf States."

Watani Bank defendants sentenced to different terms

SANA'A, 13 March — On Tuesday the State Security Specialized Penal Court issued its rulings on the Watani Bank case. The court sentenced the bank's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamadani, to two years in jail. It also rejected the case raised by civil claimants and sentenced Tha'er Shamlan, Abdu Al-Mahyub, Abdullah Al-Khawlani and Naji Al-Ghader to eight-month terms.

The court also ordered the jailing of Abdullah Al-Mazna'ei, Bashir Al-Adimi and Saleh Al-Yaf'ei for one year each but released Abdulelah Al-Mamari, Said Shabih, a Pakistani national, and Hizam Al-Rub'u because of the period they have already served in prison.

Prosecutor Khalid Al-Mawri told the media that they will appeal the judgment because the rulings do not correspond with the punishments dictated by the law for such cases. The punishments meted out by the prosecution ranged from three to ten years.

The prosecution accused nine members of the board of directors, including chairman Al-Hamadani, together with two employees from the tax authority of squandering shareholders and depositors' funds amounting to YR 20 billions and



betraying the confidence of investors. They were also accused of mismanaging the bank to achieve their own personal ends and harming the development and national economy of Yemen in the process. The indictment also charged the accused individuals of easing the squandering of money for themselves and others as well as spending large sums of money illegally to speculate on the stock exchange. They were also accused of having provided loans for prominent personalities without any guarantees.

The Central Bank of Yemen took a decision on December 2005 to take con-

trol of the Watani Bank after it was unable to repay the depositors and cancelled the authority of the board of directors. Additionally, the bank issued a general notice to all Yemeni banks to freeze the accounts of the members of the Watani Bank's board of directors together with their relatives. Though some of defendants left the country following the arrests, they were brought back by Interpol after following forcible arrests by the Specialised Penal Prosecution. The prosecution also ordered forcible arrests of more than 50 debtors who owe the Watani Bank more than YR 12 billions.

Continued from page 1

Criminal Investigation

"We have the right to attend his interrogation; however, we were not informed of al-Jawfi's court appearance." "We were even forbidden to see the report of investigation." After al-Jawfi attended the interrogation other jailors are due to be questioned, "The General Prosecution promised us that we could attend the jailors' interrogation," said Barman. The other accused officers in the Criminal Investigation Unit are also scheduled to be investigated in connection with the allegation. Meanwhile, Al-Shuaibi receives death threats against her children, "Not only that,

they called me a crazy woman and they try to kidnap my kids." Everyday she fights a psychological war; she can't leave her house, her children are unable to go to school and some of her neighbors harass her. "Some women hired a house beside us to observe us and throw stones at my home. Now they've left and a new neighbor has hired the house, who knows who is behind them."

Nabila al-Matari, a friend of al- Shuaibi, lived with her for a time and now finds that, "When going outside my home I find people observing me as well. Once I was going to my

work, two women stopped me and asked me where I was going. I left them and continued on my way, however, they ran after me." "I have also recived death threats as I live with al- Shuaibi," al- Matari added. Now Al-Matari, as well as al- Shuaibi, is under observation, "Whenever we go out, unknown people or cars are following us," al- Matari said. Al-Shuaibi said, "The first meeting for me with Al-Matari was at the bus stop. She related her story to me and it was identical to my story. We both have no rights and our fate is unknown." "The biggest mistake I committed

in my life was working for the Security Authority, working with them has made my life unsafe," she added. "And now, after a long time of working with them, they fired me from my job. They said we don't need you anymore," al- Shuaibi said.

"The prosecution as well as the Judge did their best, however, the only obstacle the law suit faces is the Security Authority," said Barman. "The Security authority must help the other authorities to achieve stability in the country, but in reality they are ordered to attend but do not respond."

Journalists show

The recent period has witnessed the highest rates of threat, assault and harassment against media personnel. Further, media outlets have been banned from covering news about Sa'ada, with authorities considering any such coverage as an act against Yemen, support for Houthis and a service to their plans.

For their part, the Yemeni Socialist Party general secretariat warned

authorities and security apparatuses on Monday about returning to assignments and physical elimination policies against party leaders and staff.

In a press release, the secretariat assured that what happened to Al-Maqaleh, a Central Committee member and deputy head of the media department, is within the context of aggressive tendencies by some parties in the

authority against the Socialist party and its staff.

The release maintained that, "The authority is responsible for any delay in hunting those armed men who threatened Al-Maqaleh," and demanded investigating and trying the perpetrators who frightened the journalist's family and neighbors.

The party added that the threat against Al-Maqaleh comes within the context of

suppressive campaigns and terrorist acts against Yemeni journalists with the aim of silencing them about massive violations against human rights and citizens.

It also stressed the importance of the journalists syndicate, human rights organizations and political parties showing solidarity with each other to pressure Yemeni authorities to bring to justice those responsible for such violations.

Yemeni women's rights

However, the main issue of focus was legal reforms to eliminate discrimination against women, which coincided with the conformity to the legal amendments by the Ministers Cabinet in their periodical meeting that was held on 5th of March 2007. This represented a huge step in line with women's efforts and their continuous struggle to impose real equality before the law based on Islamic Shari'a and the values of Yemeni constitution aimed at equal citizenship as well as equal rights and obligations for both men and women.

The event was concluded with a vital set of recommendations in the different developmental areas of women advancement. In terms of the implementation of the Woman National Strategy, the WNC called upon the development of new legal and administrative mechanisms to oblige all governmental bodies to mainstream the strategy objectives into their plans through official obligations issued by the Ministers' Cabinet and ministerial decrees to ensure the implementation of the objectives by the different ministries.

In terms of enhancing the governmental mechanisms of women development, the WNC emphasized the importance of upgrading the committee into a specialized ministry for women development as has been done in many other countries. They also stressed the significance of obligating ministries to include women departments in their administrative hierarchies and budget planning to act as executive mechanisms to the implementation of Woman National Strategy. In addition, WNC requested financial support for its governorates branches and the civil society organization that work effectively to enhance women development in urban and rural areas.

In line of women political participation, the WNC accentuated the importance of applying the quota system in the elected and non-elected state bodies and requested the civil society organizations to take initiative in imposing pressure and influence as well as continue their support and advocacy to increase the representation of women in politics. In addition, they emphasized on the representation of women at not less than 15% in the coming Perlman election and adapting an early support to the promotional and qualifying programs to a number of women personalities.

In terms of integrating women in the labor market and enhancing their chances in accessing resources, the WNC highlighted the importance of implementing the policies of the Third Five Year Plan to increase the Women Labor Force in a growth rate of 5% annually, focusing on increasing Women labor force participation at the sectors of

education and health in rural areas. Additionally, the obligation of institutions and companies to create child-care centers if they possess more than 50 female employees (mothers); in accordance to the amended labor law No(5) of 2003 was emphasized.

The role of the media in advocating women development issues was also highlighted in terms of efficient coverage to gender issues in both audio and visual media and broadening the scope to present a balanced and positive perception towards women. Additionally, the adaptation programs advocating the dangers of early marriage by civil and governmental organizations to increase awareness and influence public opinion was urged.

In terms of equality in rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the WNC pledged to the Parliament to approve the law amendments that has been confirmed by the Ministers Cabinet, as well as, calling upon the Ministers Cabinet and Parliament to take active measures to complete the necessary procedures to approve the suggested law amendment on the article (18) of the Personal Status Law No (20) for the year 1992 to determine marriage age.

In the scope of health, recommendations were made to extending the free delivery decree between health institutions and spreading the awareness on the decree content among the citizens. In addition, the effective execution of procedures to reducing mortality of mothers in accordance to the Third Five Year Plan Policies was stressed.

In the education field, more schools and education cadre for girls in the primary and high school education were requested specially in rural areas. Increasing the efforts of both governmental and civil society to compact illiteracy and increase the number of the non-illiterate ten times the current number was discussed. The WNC also called upon increasing the expenditures rates on technical education and vocational training, as well as, encouraging the admission of girls into specializations that supply the demand in the labor market. The WNC also called upon an equal opportunity for girls in studying abroad and scholarships to other countries in terms of the scholarship bodies and majors of specialization.

The event was also attended by representatives of international organizations, foreign civil society organizations, governmental bodies, Yemeni civil society organizations, members and heads of WNC branches, in addition, to correspondents of the press, news agencies, satellite channels and a number of honored guests.

VACANCY
Accountant

PHRD Grant for preparation the Girls Secondary Education Project

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has received a PHRD Grant from the Japanese Government through the World Bank towards the cost of the preparation the Girls Secondary Education Project, and it intends to apply part of this grant to facilitate the grant implementation. The Project Administration Unite of the Basic Education Development Project (PAU BEDP) at the MOE now seeks applicants for the position of an Accountant that will work directly under the general directions of the PAU BEDP Executive Director and will interact closely with the PAU team, MOE staff and particularly with the secondary Education Strategy Team as with the World Bank team.

The Accountant would:

- Ensure that there is a functional financial management system; Establish proper accounting procedures and internal controls.
- Manage all daily financial activities of the grant; prepare the withdrawal applications, claims, and related governmental letters; Record transactions in the computerized accounting system of the financial activities; make the necessary vouchers and receipts for all deposits and withdrawal to and from the grant, and record them in the predefined chart of accounts in the system.
- Make a monthly replenishment of the S/A and maintain the necessary control registers for all procured goods and technical assistance; Make a monthly reconciliation of the S/A.
- Make sure that all bank statements, withdrawal applications, claims, correspondence are properly filed and easily accessible once required.
- Ensure that consolidated financial management reports for the grant are produced on a timely basis and sufficient in content to enable the management of MOE and IDA to assess the financial position of the grant.
- Act as a focal point for any dialogue on financial management matters relating to the grant may be required by the financiers.
- Ensure that the grant is audited in accordance with IDA's requirements and cooperate fully with the auditor in that respect.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 3 years of professional
- Experience in accounting position, preferably in the private sector or in a development project.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's financial management requirement.
- Experience in the use of accounting programs and software.
- Proficiency in English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **March 28, 2007** at the following address:

**Basic Education Development Project
60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad
Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219**

VACANCY
Financial Assistant

Basic Education Development Project
(IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Ministry of Education (MOE)-Project Administration Unit (PAU)- seeks applicants for the position of a Financial Officer Assistant who will be responsible for the entire daily routine finance tasks of the Project, and will form with the financial officer the financial department which will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

The Financial Assistant would:

- Update Fixed Assets Sys. and maintain files of Fixed Assets.
- Enter all the financial transactions on daily basis into the Financial Sys.
- Maintaining proper filing for all accounting documents.
- Prepare bank reconciliation for all bank accounts on monthly basis.
- Prepare the accounting reconciliations on monthly basis for , Contracts, Resources Centers, ...etc and prepare the necessary adjustments.
- Insuring that the Contracting System is updated on the appropriate time and follow up with FO at the governorate level.
- Prepare Initial financial analysis of data & preparation of the project basic data (plans, cost , budget actual ... etc).
- Prepare The Financial Monitoring Reports and Cash Disbursements Plans.
- Assist Finance Officer in dealing with the external auditors.
- Assist Finance Officer in the assessment of FMs capacities at the governorates level.
- Assist Finance Officer in maintaining overall integrity of financial statements and accounting records.
- Assist Finance Officer in developing, proposing, implementing & supporting changes or improvements to financial policies & procedures.
- Any other tasks as required by the project Financial Officer and the Project Director.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Business Administration with major in accounting and finance.
- Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in a financial management and accounting position, preferably in the private sector.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's financial management requirement is a plus.
- Experience in the use of accounting programs and software.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **March 28, 2007** at the following address:

**Basic Education Development Project
60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad
Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219**



أول نظام تكييف في العالم مزود بمجس استكشافي "باترول سنسور"



أدخلت مكيفات الهواء باناسونيك سبيلت معياراً جديداً يوفر لك الحفاظ على نقاء الهواء في الغرفة، عبر المجس الاستكشافي الفائق الذي يعمل على مراقبة الشوائب ومستويات الرطوبة في الهواء حتى عندما يكون المكيف واقفاً عن العمل. وفي لحظة تشغيله، يطلق أيونات سالبة "ميغا إي-أيونز" حسب الحاجة لتضفي فوراً جواً منعشاً داخل الغرفة. تتمتع بإحساس رائع بالانتعاش الطبيعي في غرفتك عبر حصولك على مكيف باناسونيك سبيلت المزود بمجس استكشافي.



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Aden Port: A gem lost in time

Aden, for about 3000 years, has been the center of the whole area. Over that long period of time, visitors such as Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta, have been keen about the port and commercial opportunities it can provide. The commercial activities of Aden's port have been recorded since the dawn of history; however, these activities were prosperous as of the beginning of the 16th century. Since that time, Aden has been subject to occupation of different forces starting with Portuguese and ending with Turkish.

By: Yemen Times Aden Bureau

During British governance

160 years ago, Captain Hains together with British forces had occupied Aden and they remained there for 125 years. Aden was a small village then with only 600 inhabitants. Upon the occupation of Aden, Captain Hains declared they would make Aden the central place of trade and this prediction came right at a later part of their stay there.

Aden witnessed a slow development in 1839 when Britain established a center for coal trade and further commercial deals prospered with east Africa. The trade was localized then in Barbara, Somalia.

In 1845, trade in Aden flourished, particularly after stores were set up together with customs centers before the front gulf beside Sirra Island. Ships were heading to this area seeking protection and deep waters reaching 911 feet.

Aden was announced a free port in 1850, and it monopolized the Yemeni coffee trade. With the inauguration of the Suez Canal linking the Red Sea with the Mediterranean, which cuts down the maritime distance between London and Mumbai from 10700 miles to 6270 miles. Further, all goods dispatched to areas beneath the Red Sea were transported via the Suez Canal.

In 1855, British authorities established a pier in Al-Mu'alla and the customs center moved to there. By 1864, there was growth of coal importing and further the trade in provisions of coal and food stuffs increased until 1869.

Aden, luckily, was linked by the telegraphic line that connects London with Mumbai in 1870. Thus, Aden was able to provide telecommunication services for east and west and this contributed to the increase of trading activities between 1885 and 1910, leaving the neighboring ports secondary to it.

When the steam engine replaced coal-

fueled engines, provisions activities decreased. With the increase of ships and their sizes, there was a need to deepen the port and further this demand was associated with the establishment of Aden's chamber of commerce that reinforced the influence of shipping companies and tradesmen.

In 1889, Aden Port's Secretariat was set up to supervise all activities and administer the port. It was represented by the government and tradesmen and the board of directors was nominated. The first task assigned to this secretariat was to implement the port's deepening program in 1891.

The work started to revive in 1919 involving the ships' fueling. Towards the end of 1931, Aden had four docks relative to such activities. Further, the route and berth were deepened to 31 feet and the number of ships arriving in Aden's Port were 150 per month.

The size of ships and volume of goods increased remarkably in the period 1946 - 1952 and they were increasing in number day after day.

The port's team, consisting of four tank engines and five guiding boats and eight anchoring boats with a four-people team in each and with shifts of eight hours, managed to make a ship enter the port each 33 minutes in 1950. Thus, the number of ships that enter the port was 40-50 a day.

Aden's refinery and oil port were set up in 1955 and thus Aden started another activities relating to importing and refining oil to provide ships with fuels.

Additionally, docks were established for internal trade in Al-Mu'alla in 1956, after filling big areas of sea to set up stores and residential houses in Al-Mu'alla's main street.

Independence

At the outset of 1960, three maritime berths were established to supply ships with fuels while anchoring. The port was

further deepened to reach 83 feet. South Yemen's independence in 1967 synchronized with the close up of Suez Canal, leaving a great harm upon Aden's economy and trade transactions.

Following the independence, Aden witnessed a constant deterioration not only in the number of ships coming to the port, but also the quality of services provided. This deterioration was further followed by a setback at technical and administrative levels.

Moreover, the bad situation of Yemen and the continuous conflicts together with Gulf war influenced too much Aden's port and business in Aden in general.

Time stopped in Aden as soon as the Suez Canal was closed before the maritime shipments and the maritime route changed to other ports in the Horn of Africa. Thus, neighboring countries were encouraged to build up their ports and provide them with the most up-to-date technology to cope with the increase of activities and further establishing direct deep piers to meet the demands.

Aden, later on, realized the importance of establishing direct piers to cope with the swift movement of development in world ports. It exerted efforts to develop the port and received easy loans from neighboring countries to set up direct and deep piers in Al-Mu'alla.

At the onset of 1987, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE participated in financing the project with ranging portions. The total costs for building works reached US \$ 40 million and this phase came to an end in 1990.

Despite preparing and equipping it with required means, Aden's Port did not restore its recovery and its earlier status, the time when it was just second to New York Port. Now, Aden's Port is ranked 320 in case we speak of container activities - an activity common nowadays world wide.)

Why Aden

There are many characteristics that make Aden distinguished and qualified to be the main commercial port in the area.

Aden provides shipping agencies with a lot of privileges, thus making Aden the area's main port. Also, the port is located at the junction of the Red Sea and Aden's Gulf and directly on the international commercial maritime line that links the Far East with Europe and America. Therefore, a ship just needs to deviate with four maritime miles to reach the guiding station.

Based on its many technical and geographical merits, Aden developed and extended its maritime services until the year 1967 - the time at which Suez Canal was closed before the maritime transport and for 8 years. Closing Suez Canal was timed with unrest that accompanied the national independence, causing enormous damages to Aden.

Many neighboring ports became more active out of oil returns during the decade of 90s. These returns were exploited in setting up modern ports to handle build-

ing requirements that progressed then, particularly during the 70s and 80s.

Aden, by that time, did not possess the equipments used for handling containers due to the shortage of resources and dry commodities were dealt with in a very traditional way until the end of 80s.

Mu'alla Wharf-Multipurpose Terminal

Yemeni Ports Authority has realized the importance of changing the cargo-handling methods and the solution laid in building new berths. The authority managed to get a financial support to build Mu'alla Multi-Purpose Terminal from Arab Funds. For the first time in its history, Mu'alla Port became able to contain big dry-cargo liners. In 1993, the first crane arrived and a second one was fetched in 1995. Thus, Aden was able to offer transit services. The port has witnessed a noticed and steady progress as of 1999 in all respects as for the number of ships and cargoes.

However, container trans-shipping cargoes at Al-Amu'ala were stopped in 2002 as it turned in favor of Aden's Port of Containers. The number of containers witnessed increase to reach 27156 due to the improvement of performance and the availability of swift services when handling containers.

Latest Developments

Despite building Mu'alla Multi-purpose Terminal and gaining positive achievement at all aspects, the port's administration still feels Aden has not restored its past status due to the competitiveness of the neighboring terminals. Yemeni Ports Authority (YPA) feels Aden can restore its past position and the time is suitable for that, particularly when container ships volume has increase, the merger of shipping companies together with new tendency for having terminals specialized in serving a new generation of container ships.

Following to Yemen's reunification in 1990, a number of studies were conducted by the British government and World Bank together with other consultants and they stressed the importance of Aden's positions and the possibility to develop and provide excellent services to container ships and transit. The General Authority for Free Zones was established in 1990 and a treaty for establishing a new station for containers and an industrial zone was signed in 1995.

Aden Container Terminal (ACT)

Yemenvest together with the Singaporean PSA Corporation and Hyundai established the new container terminal (ACT) - on the north coast. The quay wall is now 16 m; however, it can be dug further to 18 m, four meters deeper than Jabal Ali, Jeddah and Colombo.



A bird's-eye view of the city and port of Aden.

Thus, ACT can hold the largest existing container ship or any other newly planned containership right now.

Tide patterns provide further 0.6 m to the port's deepness over 18 hours a day along the year. The first phase of the North berths with 700 m was operated in March 1999 and the second phase will supply more berths with 350m and the third one will add 600m of berths. The three berths combined will be 1650 and it is potential to add more berths in the future.

ACT is equipped with modern cranes, with a total outreach of 57m, yard cranes, reefer points, maintenance and other complementary facilities are being established.

ACT Effect on Trade and Economic

Setting up ACT and restoring Aden's early position will play a vital role and develop the Yemeni economy. Yemeni Ports Authority believes ACT and other port's activities will help pull the foreign investments, particularly in industrial aspects.

Surely, there will be rivalry from other ports in the area and some of which proved its existence over the last 30 years. The most successful one are those involved in container activities.

Container movements across the world increase with 8-9 percent during 1990s and it is increasing with 7-8 each year until the year 2010. There existed no containers at the time when Aden was among the world ports that provide ships with fuels and now efforts are exerted to make Aden have a share of container market.

Aden will have facilities for receiving the large-sized ships, as for those which have the capacity of loading 4500 containers or while some reached 6000 and some other ships loads more than 10,000 containers will join service very soon.

The ships that carry 4000 containers represent 2 percent of the containers fleet world wide and they will reach 33% in 2010. ACT can hold such sizes and even larger ones and restore its past position.

Al-Mu'alla Multi-purpose Terminal is still providing distinguished services for the country as it provides the economy with hard currency received from the passage of ships, enabling Yemen to import in a modern way, including construction and consumer goods and further exporting services.

It is expected that both ports will be complementary to one another as Al-Mu'alla port will receive small size containers and feeder ships for re-exporting while ACT will receive giant ships.



Aden Container Terminal (ACT)

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Job Vacancy

The general secretariat of the Association of Senates, Shooraa, and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) is urgently seeking for a highly qualified French/English bilingual secretary to work at its headquarters in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

The candidate should have the following requirements:

- Four-five years cognate experience.
- Good command of French / English (speaking & writing).
- Good computer & Internet skills
- Capable of assisting the Chief Executive in the day-to-day office functions.

Fluency in Arabic is desirable and a university degree in English or French will be an advantage.

Interested persons should forward their CVs through any of the following addresses before 28th March 2007.

P.O. BOX 8899 Sana'a Yemen Fax: 00967-1-223372
Email: assecaa@y.net.ye

Note: Only short-listed candidates would be contacted

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Anti-qat project

By: Samia Al-Aghbari

I was shocked at the way Yemeni members of Parliament dealt with the qat issue while discussing a project to fight and organize qat planting and trade. Instead of discussing terms of the qat ban, many MPs began defending qat

planting and trade, maintaining its various advantages for individuals and society as well. However, such MPs exaggerate qat's advantages.

Instead of highlighting priorities and concerns of citizens and their need for reasonably priced food, accommodation, clothing and medicine; tackling poverty and unemployment or dis-

cussing the risks associated with corruption, the MPs supported farmers to continue planting, trading and consuming qat. They neither indicated its negative aspects and risks to both individuals and society, nor did they think of alternatives to qat.

Those defending qat provided numerous justifications to support their objection to the anti-qat law under the pretext that qat draws youths' attention away from other risky habits like alcohol and drugs. They added that pesticides aren't used only for qat, but they're also used on fruits and vegetables; thus, authorities should ban importing poisonous pesticides, not qat planting.

What shocked me most is that some MPs confirmed that many Yemeni families and individuals depend upon qat as their main source of income, with one MP noting that nearly 90 percent of Yemeni families depend on qat planting and trade as their main source of income. Consequently, if the new law bans or restricts qat planting and trade, it may cause a huge catastrophe. Additionally, levying high taxes on qat and qat sellers is bound to affect the incomes of numerous families.

On what do these MPs base their judgment because there are no official statistics supporting their words? If they are correct, Yemen actually will experience a catastrophe simply because qat is a locally-consumed commodity not exported to other countries. It doesn't bring hard currency into Yemen, yet it greatly impacts the environment because qat planting causes soil to lose its fertility and consumes large quantities of water, which is a contributing factor in exacerbating the nation's water shortage, in addition to other social, economic, cultural and health harms.

Numerous studies, research, symposiums and conferences have highlighted issues regarding qat planting and trade, but failed to increase citizens' awareness about qat's risks. Such studies were opposed by officials who support qat planting.

Something that made me laugh was one MP who strongly defended qat planting and holds the view that banning such planting is bound to enrage citizens nationwide, thus leading them to engage in protests and demonstrations. Exactly which citizens does this MP mean? Qat farmers, qat sellers or

those who benefit from the qat trade and planting?

Such protests and demonstrations will be based on the fact that qat draws their attention away from claiming their legal rights, since the narcotic substance helps them escape several problems.

The most risky issue involves exploiting religion to support the qat trade and planting. Many Yemenis claim that chewing qat is permissible because the Qur'an doesn't ban it. However, this contradicts a jurisprudence rule noting that the public interest must be preferred to plight, meaning that national efforts are required to eliminate the plight of qat in favor of public interest and health.

MPs who defend the qat trade and planting don't really defend the public interest as much as they defend the personal interests of those who already have qat farms or operate within the qat trade.

On the other hand, those who oppose qat planting, trade and consumption constitute only a small number. Their voices remain unheard because their opposition stems from their will and determination that qat planting and trade are risky.

Ordinary Yemenis, most of whom are addicted to qat, consume the narcotic substance as a type of escape from reality or their inability to solve persistent problems. For simple citizens, qat is the only means to spend their leisure time in a positive way.

Those who support issuing a law to organize qat planting, trade and consumption affirm that the law's main goal is to stop the expansion of qat plantation and increase awareness about qat's risks and negative aspects. They stress the necessity of finding alternatives to qat planting and compensating those subjected to loss after passing the qat ban.

Yemeni society's primary problem isn't due to qat planting, as the main goal is stopping the most risky phenomenon of corruption and all of its dimensions. If such phenomenon is discussed seriously, the qat issue, as well as other issues, will be easy to tackle.

What's the benefit of issuing a law organizing qat planting and trade when corrupt officials control everything? Who will obey, protect and defend the law? Moreover, how can a law like this be applied when citizens are unaware of the risks associated with the narcotic substance?

Yemen's situation necessitates fighting corruption first, in addition to establishing a national strategy to eliminate such a destructive phenomenon.

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

COMMON SENSE

Teach your children well

“What can I teach my children that the school has not taught them” grumbled Yasmine to her husband, who was trying to take a nap, but somehow the cat refused to stop wagging his tail near his ear.

“You can teach them never to try to take a nap next to a spoiled cat, that is what you can teach them. They will never learn that in school. But in here they will graduate with honors”. Mahmoud was not at all interested in teaching anything to his kids. He wanted to take a nap, hell or high water.

In the meantime, one of the youngsters came in: “Why should our army be sent to fight the entire population of one of the governorates of the country. In fact, the entire Armed Forces are now engaged in a full scale operation that is aimed at the obliteration of the people of Sa'ada.”

The father now awoke: “How many times have I told you, Ibrahim, stop talking politics these days; you know that the Government has its ears tuned on anyone who ever dares mention the Governorate of Sa'ada. Just yesterday, one of our neighbors was asking someone at the Al-Qa'a Market, near the Foreign Ministry, where they were selling the grapefruits that were coming from Sa'ada. Within seconds, a pickup loaded with an anti-aircraft gun whisked by him and blocked his forward path. The men on the pickup came down and surrounded the guy and picked him onto the truck. Later on, when he was released, he told a horrible tale of how it took him 10 days to convince the arresting officer, who had heard him say the word Sa'ada in the marketplace and called for reinforcements to help arrest the man, who was 'giving lectures on the Houthis in the marketplace' the real truth. When he tried to explain to the prison officials that he has never been to Sa'ada, nor has he even met anyone from there, they got a few 'agents' all testifying that they each heard him mention the word Sa'ada ten times! He kept consistently saying to them that the only time he ever mentioned Sa'ada in the market is when he was asking about the guy selling Sa'ada grapefruits there. There is only one guy selling Sa'ada grapefruit there, so they can go ask him if he was not a regular customer or not. Sure enough the police did not waste any time and they picked up the Sa'ada grapefruit seller, on suspicion of financing the Houthi rebels! By the end of the week there were 20 people arrested ranging from the supplier of the grapefruits to the market, the truck driver who brings them and finally the farmer and his children who grew them. All had become a ring of financiers for the Houthis.

Finally, an intelligent officer came to take the complex case of the Houthi financing ring, because the ring was 'found to have tentacles stretched out in all directions according to the news bulletin'. The officer was smart enough to realize that this case was really getting out of hand for no reason at all. When his commanding officer asked him why he is being so lenient on one of the most 'dangerous' terrorist financing team they have ever captured. The young intelligent officer said: 'For the simple reason that I have been buying grapefruit from the same man for the last ten years almost and there is no place that one can get grapefruits like this anywhere in Yemen, or for that matter anywhere in the world.' He took a huge grapefruit from a bag he had brought from home. He told his commanding officer: "Every winter, if you want to get the best grapefruit in the world, just go to this man right here, pointing to the Sa'ada Grapefruit seller. I guarantee you will never get better grapefruit anywhere else in Sana'a. With this blessing from Allah our neighbor was able to get out from the misery of uncalled for imprisonment on fabricated charges, by zealous security officials who want to get a few brownie points for their records" The father ended his long dissertation on the case of the Sa'ada Grapefruit seller.

The mother was shocked at the nonsense of it all, and the unneeded suffering revealed by her husband: Just think what they would have done, if they heard what our son just said a few minutes ago!

The father said: "Well, I do not know how the women's prison is like, but for sure, you would have found out right away, because the first people they will look for, especially if our son goes into hiding, will be his parents. In our case neither grapefruits, nor apples will save us from the Houthi witch hunting that caught on with our security apparatus like a mysterious severe flu."

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Government and tradesmen

Among the world's nations, situations develop quietly while affairs are run in a simple and spontaneous manner, depending on a package of regulations and laws specifying all types of relations between government and citizens.

Differences and agreements develop in a normal manner without any tension or irritation, thanks to numerous factors, the most important of which is top-quality education achieved by communities in developed countries. Citizens in these communities enjoy good capacities to understand their problems and suggest possible solutions to them.

However, in underdeveloped countries like Yemen, the issue is completely different, as affairs and relations are disorganized and agreements and differences are unclear. We perceive that agreements usually are short-lived, while differences or disagreements magnify and continue, thus making it difficult for concerned citizens to suggest solutions; however, they are easy, simple and needn't require great efforts.

In our nation, we see numerous problems and differences that continue magnifying while we are unable to suggest possible solutions

to them. This is evident in what's occurring between the Yemeni government and the private sector regarding applying the sales tax law.

The problem has worsened and is expected to create a real crisis due to absence of clear vision and justification, which the government and the private sector are supposed to provide citizens. Up until now, the government has been unable to clarify what it wants from the sales tax.

Does paying sales tax influence economic development or price hikes? Tradesmen can't justify why they evade paying sales tax. The government may have the right to levy taxes on sales to increase its revenues, but traders have the right to criticize the law for imposing taxes that restrict their freedoms.

Citizens don't know the justifications provided by both parties; they simply feel that a crisis is affecting their living standards. Government decision makers and traders must be quiet, sit together, suggest possible solutions and reach an agreement without tension.

Yasser Al-Mayasi is a Yemeni journalist specialized in children and business. ymayasi@yahoo.com



By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

Letters to the Editor

My family in Yemen

I am of mixed races; my father is from Yemen and my mother is a Briton. I am 31 years old and both my parents have passed away. I am left feeling very sad not only because my parents have gone but because I don't know about my roots on both sides.

My father was very proud of his heritage. He was born in Aden I think. His name was Syed Mohammed Abdo Shamsan. He left when he was very young - maybe 15 - and came to England and met my mother. They had 5 children. He was the greatest and most gentle of a man I will ever know and I am honoured to have had him as my father.

I regret that as I was growing up I didn't ask more questions about his homeland and my ancestors. I feel there is something missing in my life because of this.

After 40 years my father went home alone to visit his family with no knowledge of where they lived or who was still around. He just turned up on a doorstep in the middle of the night. His sister was still alive and living there.

My father was ill when he left to Yemen for the visit. I think it was because he wanted to see his homeland and family before he died. His sister didn't believe it was him because his family had thought he was dead for

years.

He went back one more time after that to see his brother whom he loved and missed dearly. I think his name was Abbas. He went to Mecca and was so happy on his return to England. After seen his brother for the second time his brother passed away. I'm just so thankful my father saw him before his demise.

One of the stories I have heard about my father is he was the strongest man in his village and people still tell stories of him today. I just wished I have gone to Yemen with him. I had the opportunity and didn't take it. I was 14 at the time but I will always regret this even if I was to visit now. It would never be the same for me. I would want my father with me. I didn't even learn Arabic. I am left with so many regrets.

I loved my father so much but don't know why I never asked more questions about his homeland and his family back in Yemen.

My family in England was in contact with a family in Aden but lost contact.

Does anyone know about my family in Yemen? Or does anyone know my cousin Manar Shamsan? Please feel free to email me.

*Shamsan
dee197515@hotmail.com*

Sick and tired of abusive men

Nearly a year ago, I wanted to work so I did a job advertisement in Yementimes newspaper and put my mobile number so if anyone was interested in hiring me could contact me. I REALLY wanted to work. I insist on 'really' because I do not want anyone to think that I was fooling around. I was very serious about the job thing but just when the ad appeared I realized that I've done my biggest mistake ever. Believe it or not! Approximately 90% of the people that contacted me, were making advances to me!

The way men conceptualise" a women putting her number in a newspaper to get a job" really pisses me off. I simply want to tell those people that just because I'm a woman don't mean I'm a slut. Just because I'm a woman who wants to get a job doesn't mean I want to have relationships with men. I'm not sure that who did that with me would truly understand my very simple logical words.

Anyways, as long as there are men who have this severe mental illness, this country surely will not go anywhere further than where it stands right now. I thought I would share my story with you because I really have had enough.

*Afrah nasser
afrah.nasser@yahoo.com*

SKETCHED
OPINION



By Samer A.

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Nationality: Unclear

The Druze community on the Golan Heights is in a bind. Whilst it lives on land annexed by Israel almost three decades ago and receives all its services from Israel, its loyalties lie elsewhere – in Syria. The Media Line's Yaniv Berman joined the Druze of the Golan during their annual demonstration against the annexation to discover a piece of Syrian life in Israel.

By: Yaniv Berman
The Media Line Newsagency.

They regard Bashar Al-Asad as their leader; they hang Syrian flags in their homes; their mother tongue is Arabic, and they see Israel as an occupying nation. They are the Druze community, and they live in the Israeli-held Golan Heights.

For the past 25 years the Druze community in the Golan Heights has been demonstrating each year on February 14 at a place called the Shouting Hill, a few dozen meters from the Israeli-Syrian border. Although they stand on the Israeli side of the border, a passerby would probably think he had crossed the border. The Druze demonstrators carry large Syrian flags and pictures of the Syrian president as they communicate through loudspeakers with Syrian pro-

testers standing on the opposite hill.

They are demonstrating against the Knesset's (Israeli parliament) decision of December 1981 to annex the occupied Golan Heights. The Golan was won from Syria during the 1967 War and was under Israeli military rule for 14 years. The annexation would have turned the Druze community living in the area into Israeli citizens. Most of the Druze refused to accept the Israeli identity cards and two months after the Golan Law was approved in the Knesset, the small Druze community began a six-month strike.

Approximately 100,000 Druze live in Israel, of whom 18,000 reside in the Golan. Unlike their brothers in the northern Israeli regions of the Galilee and the Karmel, the Druze in the Golan are faced with a grave predicament. The area in which they live might revert to Syria if negotiations with Israel resume.



If that happens, the Golan Druze will become once again Syrian civilians and their behavior vis-à-vis Israel – especially the behavior of those who accepted Israel's identity cards – will be thoroughly examined by the Syrian regime.

An oppressed minority

The Druze follow a distinct religion which quit Islam in the 11th century. The new religion accepted believers for no more than 30 years (between 1017AC-1047AC) and then closed its doors. As a result, the Druze religion today is one of the smallest religions in the world. There are approximately 1 million followers of the religion, most of whom (almost 90 percent) live in Syria and Lebanon; around 10 percent reside in Israel.

Having been an oppressed minority in the countries they lived in for almost 10 centuries, the Druze adhered to a principle called *taqiya*. Generally, it meant that they assimilated into the surrounding societies and obeyed the ruling regime, while keeping their faith in the comfort of their homes.

The Druze in Israel's Galilee and Karmel regions did just the same. They completely assimilated into Israeli society and even joined the Israeli army. The Druze in the Golan, on the other hand,

were presented with a sensitive political situation, whereby their current rulers could change anytime. This, probably for the first time in their history, made the *taqiya* principle unrealistic.

The Druze in the Golan – Syrians who happen to live in Israel

According to Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor, one of Israel's leading experts on the Druze community, the latter's belief that the Golan might return to Syria, has led them not to identify with the State of Israel.

"They do not feel as the [rest of the] Druze here [in Israel] do, and therefore they are really Syrian Druze, who happen to live on the Golan," says Ben-Dor.

Nuhad Safadi lives in Majdal Shams, the largest of the four Druze villages in the Golan. Nuhad was born in 1968, a few months after Israel occupied the Golan. Although she had never visited there, Nuhad regards Syria as her homeland and thus concurs with Ben-Dor.

"Our identity is not Israeli, it is Syrian. The occupation was forced upon us," she says.

Nuhad grew up on her mother's stories about their large family in Syria.

"She used to cry whenever she thought of them."

Nuhad's uncle and aunt from her

mother's side live some 40 miles from Majdal Shams, in the Syrian village of Jaramana. With the border stretching a few dozen meters from her home, she understandably never saw them. Surprisingly, she was given a chance to renew her relations with them through her daughter, Hind.

Hind represents an anomaly in Israeli-Syrian relations. While each country regards the other as its sworn enemy, they allow Druze students from the Golan to study in Syria. Hind began studying dentistry at Damascus University two years ago. On her way to Damascus she paid an emotional visit to her family in Jaramana, a family she had never seen before. The voices she heard over the years via the telephone materialized, and faces were attached to them.

When Nuhad sent Hind to Damascus, she asked her for one thing: "Love Damascus for me." Nuhad was excited when her daughter first arrived in Damascus. She had felt as though she had sent a part of herself with Hind.

"We have a deep emotional connection with our capital," Nuhad explains.

Six years after the Golan was occupied by Israel, the 1973 War broke out. Syrian and Egyptian forces attacked Israel by surprise from two fronts. A small group of pro-Syrian Druze from the Golan aided the Syrian forces by supplying them with information it gathered in Israel. One member of this group was I'ssam Safadi, who later on married Nuhad. I'ssam was caught and arrested. He sat in prison for 11 years before he was released. To this day, Nuhad says proudly, people in Majdal Shams remember I'ssam's bravery and respect him for it.

Still, one should not get the impression that the Druze community in the Golan is ready to join the Syrian army in the near future. They are considered by



the Israeli authorities as quiet, law-abiding people. Some of them work in the nearby Jewish communities, and some study in Israeli universities and colleges.

"We deal with the Israeli society with openness. We regard them as ordinary people, just like us. There *can* be friendly relations between Arabs and Jews," Nuhad says.

World's women gain political ground

More women than ever hold seats in parliaments around the world, but governments need to make a greater effort to achieve gender equality, says a group that tracks women in politics.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union said Thursday in New York at UN headquarters that women now comprise nearly 17 per cent of parliamentarians now, up from 11.3 per cent 12 years ago.

Anders Johnsson, secretary general of the IPU, said that women are not only standing for election in greater numbers than before, they are getting elected, thanks in part to quota systems.

In countries with gender quotas, women took 21.7 per cent of seats compared with 11.8 per cent in countries without.

However, Johnsson said, the rate at which women have been making gains has slowed.

"The good news is that the number of seats held by women in parliament continues to go up and now has reached an all time high of nearly 17 per cent in 2006," he said.

"The bad news is the increase in the number of women is slower than it was in the preceding year. If we are aiming for equality in parliament - in other words, roughly 50 per cent men and 50 per cent women - we will wait until the year 2077 to celebrate that event."

Of the women who won seats in 2006, 1,459 were directly elected, 63 were indirectly elected, and 35 were appointed. A total of 9,335 seats were up for grabs in 2006, with women capturing 16.7 per cent of seats. A total of 23 countries used quota systems last year.

Johnsson said there are more female presiding officers of parliament than ever before: a total of 35 out of 262 worldwide, with a record number of women elected speakers.

Remarkable gains

Women speakers were elected for the first time in Gambia, Israel, Swaziland, Turkmenistan and the

U.S., with the election of U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Of heads of government, he said, the numbers of women more than doubled last year, with six elected in 2006 alone, including Chilean President Michelle Bachelet.

In some countries and regions, the increases in the numbers of women were remarkable, he said. The regions where gains were made include the Gulf States, the Middle East and Latin America.

For example, the United Arab Emirates allowed men and women to vote and to stand for election for the first time ever in 2006. The number of women in the UAE parliament went from zero to 22.5 per cent, with nine women elected.

"That reflects a growing trend in that part of the world where more and more women not only get the right to vote and stand for election, but also they are actually getting elected to parliament," he said.

Rwanda leads list

And in Costa Rica, after an election in 2006, women now make up 38.6 per cent of parliamentarians, with 22 women elected. There were 20 elections in all in Latin America last year.

According to a table compiled by the IPU, which classifies 189 countries by descending order of the percentage of women in their respective parliaments, including lower or upper houses, Rwanda, Sweden and Costa Rica are the top three.

In Rwanda, women occupy 48.8 per cent of seats in its Lower House, while in Sweden, women make up 47.3 per cent of its parliamentarians.

Canada ranks 47 on the list, given that only 20.8 per cent of its MPs are female. Of 308 federal seats, 64 were won by women in the last federal election in January 2006. And only 35 out of its 100 senators are women.

There were elections in 51 countries in all last year. The IPU, established in 1889, is an international organization of parliaments of sovereign states, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Source: WINNIPEG (CBC)

Investing in the Future Arab Media Newsletter

By: Nicolien Zuijdggeest,
Assistant programme manager
Middle East and North Africa
Freevoice

Egypt - Blogger jailed for four years for 'insult'

An Egyptian court has sentenced internet blogger Abdelkareem Soliman to four years prison for insulting Islam and the president. Soliman's trial is the first time that a blogger has been prosecuted in Egypt.

Soliman had used his weblog to criticize the Islamic al-Azhar Emirates allowed men and women to vote and to stand for election for the first time ever in 2006. The number of women in the UAE parliament went from zero to 22.5 per cent, with nine women elected.

Executive director Gamal Eid of the Egyptian Human rights group HRInfo announced to appeal the sentence as soon as possible.

Soliman, 22, was tried in his native city of Alexandria. He blogs under the name Kareem Amer. A former student at al-Azhar, he called the institution "the university of terrorism" and accused it of suppressing free thought. Al-Azhar expelled him in 2006 and pressed prosecutors to put him on trial.

Egypt arrested a number of bloggers who had been critical of the government during 2006, but they were all freed. "This is a strong message to all bloggers who are put under strong surveillance that the punishment will very strong," said HRInfo. (HRInfo/AP)

Saudi Arabia - Travel ban for Saudi critics

The government of Saudi Arabia is restricting the movement of leading intellectuals. A travel ban affects 22 activists, including three prominent constitutional reform advocates.

Human Rights Watch wrote a letter of concern on 9 February to king Abdullah. Also three prominent constitutional and political reformers, Matruk Alfalih, Abdullah al-Hamid, and Ali al-Dumaini, are affected by the ban. They were pardoned by the king in August 2005 after they had received lengthy prison sentences for their writings.

On 16 March 2004 the Saudi authorities had arrested a large group for signing a petition for reform, later released. Seven of them remain banned from foreign travel, including lawyer Abd al-Rahman al-Lahim. Nine others received travel bans for publicly supporting the reforms. Ibrahim al-Mugaiteeb, president of Human Rights First, is on the list. Mubarak bin Zu'air ended up on the list after protesting on Aljazeera his father's and his brother's incarceration for speaking to the media. Matruk Alfalih, a political science professor at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh, has been unable to take up a sabbatical position at the university of Seattle (US).

The travel bans violate international human rights law which guarantees everyone the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. (HRW)

Algeria - Human rights lawyers tried on dubious

Lawyers Amine Sidhoum and Hassiba Boumerdassi have been on trial since August on charges of handing unauthorized documents to their clients in prison. They face up to five years in prison if convicted.

Sidhoum and Boumerdassi are Algiers-based attorneys known for their public defence of human rights. Both lawyers frequently criticize human rights violations in media interviews.

The prosecutor accused Sidhoum of handing a prisoner five of his business cards in July 2006 without seeking permission from prison authorities. Sidhoum admits to having given the inmate the cards at the inmates request. The cards contain only Sidhoum's contact information.

In the case of Boumerdassi, the prosecution alleges that on 27 June she gave a client in Serkadji prison the written report of his first appearance before the investigating magistrate without asking permission. Boumerdassi denies the charge. She handed the document in question to a prison guard, who promised to deliver it to her client once he obtained permission to do so. Prosecutors have charged both

Boumerdassi and Sidhoum with violating Article 166 of the prison law, which punishes anyone who provides or tries to provide, under illegal conditions, a detainee with "money, correspondence, medicine or any other object that has not been authorized." If the offender is empowered to have direct contact with the detainee, the punishment is from one to five years in prison and a fine of 10,000 to 50,000 dinars (107 to 537 euro). A lawyer convicted under this provision can be barred from practicing the profession. (HRW/IFEX)

Tunisia - Head of TV station arrested

Tahar Ben Hassine, the head of the satellite TV station Al-Hiwar Attounsi and editor of website Perspectives Tunisiennes, was arrested on 7 February in Tunis after visiting freelance journalist Taoufik Ben Brik.

The police stopped Ben Hassine after he left Ben Brik's home, gave him an alcohol test and accused him of driving under the influence although Ben Brik insists "he drank no more than half a glass of wine". After spending the night at the Tunis Bouchoucha police station, he was due to be taken to court on 8 February.

According to Ben Brik, whose home is kept under surveillance, Ben Hassine's arrest was "a new intimidation attempt by the Tunisian authorities, who use every possible means to put government opponents in prison." Ben Hassine's lawyer, Hammami Ayachi, told Reporters without Borders that members of the political police visited Ben Hassine in his cell during the night of 7 February.

Al-Hiwar Attounsi was created in 2002 and broadcasts two hours a week by satellite from Italy. Several of the people who work for it have been harassed and attacked in Tunisia. A dozen policemen beat up one of its journalists, Taoufik Al-Ayachi, and took his camera when he tried to visit the home of Samia Abbou, the wife of imprisoned lawyer and cyber-dissident Mohammed Abbou, on 16 August 2006. (IFEX)

Sudan - Paper banned for reporting on murdered editor

A state prosecutor imposed an immediate ban on the prominent Arabic-language newspaper Al-Sudani for carrying an article on 31 January which discussed the murder of Mohammed Taha Mohammed Ahmed (see right), editor-in-chief of the private daily Al-Wifaq. There is an official ban in the country on writing about the case.

The prosecutor said the paper violated Article 39 of Sudan's provisional constitution and provisions in the 2004 Press and Publication Act. It would harm "public interests and professional ethics" and "incited religious and ethnic hatred". The ban was imposed "to prevent any influence on the procedures that are still before the investigative authorities".

The Al-Sudani article reported that those accused of the editor's murder would stand trial and described a visit by defense lawyers to 20 people held in connection with the killing in Kober jail in Khartoum. The editor of Al-Sudani appealed the sentence to the Ministry of Justice, the constitutional court and the National Press Council, Sudan's official press regulator. In a statement posted on Al-Sudani's website, Mahjoub Erwa, the paper's editor-in-chief, said the ban was "unjust" and denied that the article contained any incitement or racial hatred. The paper's attorney said that only the courts and the Press Council have the legal right to ban a publication.

Court cases and censorship have been on the rise in Sudan in recent months. In December, a criminal court in Khartoum ordered Al-Sahafa columnist Zuhayr al-Sarraj and its former editor Nouredin Madani to pay a fine of 5 million (1907 euro) and 2 million (725 euro) Sudanese pounds respectively or serve a jail sentence. In September, several opposition and independent newspapers were seized or heavily censored, including Al-Sudani. Authorities told editors then that the issues were censored to avoid compromising the investigation into the murder of Al-Wifaq's Taha. (CPJ).

Islamic Relief's regional coordinator in the Middle East: "9-11 boosted Islamic Relief's work"

Contrary to the belief that the 9-11 terrorism attack on the World Trade Center in New York had a negative impact on Islamic charity work, Islamic Relief has witnessed a six-fold increase in donations during the period 2001-2006 reaching US\$ 180 million to date. Since its establishment in 1984 by Dr. Hany Al-Banna in Birmingham, UK, Islamic Relief has established itself in the international arena as an important player in international aid in spite of its limited resources. Yemen Times met with Mr. Lutfi Mohammed Ali, Regional coordinator in the Middle East and spoke to him about issues concerning fundraising for Islamic Relief in the region and beyond.

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

Please brief us on Islamic Relief and its funding.

Islamic Relief has a history similar to that of other International Organizations working in the field of development, with the exception that Islamic Relief has an Islamic philosophy and a mandate based on the honorable values of Islam as inspired by its name. What we aim to do is to provide international aid and humanitarian assistance in a non-discriminatory manner in over forty countries. Islamic relief has a number of sources for funds, but is primarily funded through private donations. Currently we have 12 fund-raising centers scattered

"donations have grown six-fold since 2001, and reached US\$ 180 million in 2006)

throughout Europe and North America, our strategy of non-reliance on a particular country or center for funding allows us to maintain neutrality, independent of any political influences or affiliations, this strategy proved most beneficial especially after the attacks of 9-11 which changed how the world views Islamic Organizations.

How were you, and other organizations, affected by 9-11?

At that time the administrators of Islamic Relief had their doubts about how the world would react or if Islamic relief would be accused of terrorism in

a similar manner to that of other organizations which have been labeled as financiers of terrorism especially in the Gulf area. There was a huge publicity campaign against Islamic organizations, being accused of non-transparency, accused of working with terrorists and financing terrorism, and as a consequence many of those organizations were shut down or starved-out of donations; transactions and money orders sent in favor of several charities were disallowed, and as a result they didn't have sufficient funds to keep even the offices open and pay the salaries of the staff, but the real victim was the orphans and humanitarian work done by these organizations in South Asia and Africa.

Having said that, Islamic relief was blessed to have the support of the British government and the moral support of the Royal Family. Shortly after the 9-11 attacks Prince Charles paid a visit to our offices and made a donation. This act was in itself a strong message in support and solidarity with Islamic relief. In fact, the British government has put us among the official British relief organizations in order to do emergency relief work in the name of her Majesty the Queen.

Interesting indeed, were there any control mechanisms to monitor where Islamic Relief works or what sort of work it does?

Interestingly, Clare Short, who was the UK's secretary of State for International Development, has visited Islamic Relief in Birmingham in 2002 – shortly after 9-11 – and had stayed in our premises for almost nine hours dur-



Lutfi Mohammed: I see opportunity for expansion in Yemen.

ing the working day, after which she was very impressed with the work we do and has sent letters to all UK embassies and missions abroad that Islamic Relief is a British Organization and to be supported by all means possible.

The other thing, being an international relief organization, we are under strict legal and financial monitoring to the extent that we were ranked as having the third-best financial monitoring the transparency system in the UK. Therefore our main funding and support is the result of the support and endorsement of the British government, as well as our exceptionally high levels of transparency that ensure that the donations we receive go into good causes.

These two factors have contributed the most into our growth during the past few years, as many international

"we have the third-highest transparency rate among relief organizations in the UK"

organizations and bodies have awarded us with their relief work, for example the United Nations has entrusted us to do humanitarian work in Indonesia worth 17 million Euros, and Similarly in Sudan worth 8 million Euros. Now our budget exceeds US\$ 180 million, compared to less than US\$ 30 million in 2001.

Please tell us about your project-marketing fundraising technique.

This is precisely why I visited Yemen, as it is my responsibility to contact prospective donors and inform them about our different development and relief projects that we do in various places and try to convince them to donate in order to agree to fund projects. We do not embark on any project until we are sure there are funds and donors who are willing to fund the project all the way to completion. In Yemen I see an opportunity to market a

"The British government stood by and supported Islamic Relief after 9-11"

special kind of project, what we call the good-will loan, this is a loan we give to impoverished people in order to buy equipment or to establish tiny businesses in order to create a sustainable income for themselves as well as be able to repay the loan, these loans are interest-free with the objective of helping people escape the poverty trap. Now, after collecting information for this project, I would start visiting prospected donors in the Gulf countries since they seem to have a genuine interest in helping Yemen's economy and society, and try to raise the required funds for this project and so forth. It may be disappointing to you to know that less than 2 percent of all donations that are donated to Islamic Relief come from the Gulf countries, and this visit is an attempt to increase that percentage and also to further expand our relief operations in Yemen.

Business in Brief

Yemen-GCC trade is YR 443 billion in 2006

Trade between Yemen and nations in the Gulf Cooperation Council reached a record high of YR 443.73 billion in 2006.

Yemeni exports were mainly agricultural and fishery products, while imports included a wide range of industrial and consumer goods mainly from the United Arab Emirates, Yemen's largest regional trade partner.

Court convicts Watani Bank directors

The Specialized Preliminary Court has convicted 11 individuals, including the chairman and members of the board of directors of Watani Bank, on charges of criminal neglect, which resulted in the bankruptcy of Watani Bank and the loss of more than YR 20 billion.

The convictions stipulate imprisoning the convicts for sentences ranging between six months and two years; however, the convicts plan to appeal the verdicts.

Emirates to finance Sardoud Valley Dam renovation

The Abu Dhabi Development Fund will co-finance the approximate \$100 million renovation of Sardoud Valley Dam. The dam will control flooding resulting from seasonal and monsoon rains by channeling rainwater toward 14,000 acres of agricultural land in Sardoud Valley.

France increases aid to Yemen to 120 million euros

France has increased its development aid to Yemen to 120 million euros for 2007-2011 and plans to establish a branch of the French development agency in order to administer programs.

Spain and Yemen cooperate in fisheries

A team of Spanish experts has arrived in Yemen to collect and analyze data regarding available investment opportunities in Yemen's fisheries and marine wealth sector in preparation for the June visit of the Spanish minister for fisheries. The visit is expected to enhance cooperation with Yemen and help Yemen develop its local fisheries industry.

Kuwaiti construction firms to build residential projects in Yemen

Eewa'a Construction and Al-Dar Construction of Kuwait are studying prospects to build a residential project in Yemen consisting of 50,000 housing units, as well as resorts, shopping complexes and parks.

First plate glass production plant to be established in Yemen

A Yemeni investor plans to establish a plate glass factory, the first of its kind in Yemen. The approximately \$40 million plant will have the capacity to produce up to 43,000 tons of plate glass annually, mainly for local markets, but with the possibility of exporting it to neighboring Gulf countries and the Horn of Africa.

Tadhamon Bank expands into Syria

The Syrian Central Bank has issued a permit to Yemen's Tadhamon International Bank to establish a branch in Syria for investment purposes. Tadhamon Bank is Yemen's largest Islamic bank, with investment activities in several countries, where 60 percent of the bank's profits originate.



Canadian Petrol One looks for opportunities in Yemen

Chairman of the Board of Directors and Senior Executive Director of Canadian Petrol One Sheikh Walid Ahmed Al-Rawaf left Yemen on Thursday, March 1 after a two-day visit. During the visit, he met with senior Yemeni officials including Minister of Oil and Minerals Khalid Bahah.

The visit is built on the primary visit paid by the Member of the Board of Directors Sheikh Ali Abdulrahman Al-Sabahan between Jan. 11 to 13.

Al-Rawaf and Bahah reviewed the available opportunities in minerals and oil industry field whether in sea and land sectors. They also discussed the facilities and guarantees given to investors together with incentives and privileges ensured by Yemeni law to encourage investment.

Al-Rawaf expressed his readiness to invest in Yemen as long as the government gives more attention for investors in general and Gulf investors in particular. He further assured Yemen is counted one of the areas that pull investors into many vital sectors such as oil and minerals. Last year's oil explorations have increased the opportunities in this sector.

Petrol One is a Canadian company enlisted in Toronto Bourse. It is a general company owned by more than 3,800 shareholders. The company works in exploring and producing oil and natural gas. It has the right of exploration for gas and oil in the north-west of Gabon and it is about to let into Sudan and Malaysia.

Al-Rawaf added his company has strategic partners such as Canadian Storm Company, which owns 21 sites in different areas across the world, and Chinese Shengli. Further, the company received three proposals from three companies to let in a strategic partnership with them.

"We came to Yemen because we know it has a big natural wealth that makes many countries and companies aspire to exploit such a wealth. We wish we can succeed in serving our second home, Yemen, on one hand and serve ourselves on the other," noted Al-Rawaf.

Al-Rawaf went on to say the company wishes to get the right for exploring oil and gas in Yemen, noting his company has different petroleum techniques including what they call "Mature field" to help those countries where oil wells have dried up or where the level of their production comes down. He further pointed the company has the technique that enables them to produce stagnant oil and market it, stressing that they will offer this technique as a service for Yemeni government.

"It is known that Yemen float on a petrol lake and it has an immense



gas reserves together with other natural resources like gold and iron and many other minerals," maintained he.

He also indicated that studies proved that Yemen will witness an industrial upswing and there exist legislations to encourage investments.

"Yemeni legislations are very good and inviting. However, Yemeni government should look the matter from another perspective which lies in tax exemptions as imposing taxes creates dual taxations on investing companies as they pay twice once in their homelands and another in the hosting countries," hinted Al-Rawaf.

He continued that his meeting with Oil Minister was fruitful and the Minister identified him with many sites for exploitation and assured Yemen welcomes oil companies to exploit such sites and widely opens

its arms for such investment. It further provides all facilities for investment in energy, petrol, gas, minerals and tourism sectors. He clarified that Bahah offered him to invest in offshore blocks because the company has many involvements in such activities.

Concluding his statement, Al-Rawaf noted that Yemen's political stability is the prime factor in drawing investments and capitals into the country, because political stability always draws capitals but not the reverse.

Ahmed Hussein Al-Yafai, the company's representative in Yemen, alongside his friend Walid Mutahar Al-Seraji contributed in making Al-Rawaf's visit successful.

Invitation for Prequalification

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Headquarters and Complex Building Design - Sana'a

Brief Description of the project

The scope of work includes Architectural work to design the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Main Building and Complex, in addition to supplemental buildings in one complex.

The Ministry of Higher Education seeks to contract with established professional Architectural and Engineering Offices and Companies to prepare the needed designs to construct the new headquarters for the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

This announcement invites qualified offices to submit their profiles and supporting documents for review and prequalification. Prequalification will be conducted using established prequalification procedures, as defined by the Government to The Republic of Yemen.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Procurement Department during official working hours from 8 AM to 2 PM. A complete set of prequalification documents in Arabic or English are to be submitted to the above office no later than 10 am, 30 days of this announcement. The documents should be clearly marked "Application to prequalify for Architectural Design of Ministry of Higher Education Headquarters, Sana'a."

To: Director of Procurement
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
info@hepyemen.org
Tel: 01/535031 - 35



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Successful applicants will work a 28 days on, 28 days off rotation at Canadian Nexen's Processing Facility located in the Masila and East Al Hajr Block located 150 kilometres north of Mukalla.

To be considered:

- Applicants **must have graduated from University in 2004, 2005, 2006 or 2007**
- Applicants **must have graduated with an Engineering degree.**
- Please indicate in your resume your graduating mark (as a percent "%")
- Applicants must have a high level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

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<http://www.nexeninc.com/Careers/Yemen/>
and click on View CNPE Opportunities

Application Criteria:

- All applications must be submitted through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted **NO later than April 1, 2007.**
- A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, **contact** and **qualification** information.
- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will **NOT be considered**

The last hero

R.N.Karadi
Rn_karadi@yahoo.com

Nothing is really true
Every thing is false
The moon is a bulb
The sun is a horse
Nothing is really true
People are toys
Names are Morse
I am not me you are not yours
We are not us of course
We speak different songs
We play separate words

I swear
We have nothing to share
Except hollow words
Shallow care
We had a dream
A nightmare
Soldiers in farms, we were
Now we are farmers
The battle is bare

Camera cannot show the smell of blood
When we die live
It is the only hero
The last to survive

O, my life!

By: Abdalnasser Al-Abdali

Each moment I spent with you
Is to me unforgettable and also true.
Like 1+1=2
With no doubt, much or few.

Each moment I spend with you
I feel that I am born anew
And several birds come in twos
To sing love songs for me and you.

Each moment I spend with you
Reminds me of no one other than who
The one whose heart is so full of love
and truth
And the only one for whom my love
grew.

Each moment I spend with you
I believe my life is meant for you.

International Women's Day

Chosen from UN website By:
BasmaAnwar Naji Al-Sharmani
B.A. Political Science
Oil exploration and production
authority

International Women's Day (8 March) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men. In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for "liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialized world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population growth and radical ideologies. Following is a brief chronology of the most important events:

1909: In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States on 28 February. Women continued to celebrate it on the last Sunday of that month through 1913.

1910: The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, international in character, to honour the movement for

women's rights and to assist in achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.

1911: As a result of the decision taken at Copenhagen the previous year, International Women's Day was marked for the first time (19 March) in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded the right to work, to vocational training and to an end to discrimination on the job.

Less than a week later, on 25 March, the tragic Triangle Fire in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working girls, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This event had a significant impact on labour legislation in the United States, and the working conditions leading up to the disaster were invoked during subsequent observances of International Women's Day.

1913-1914: As part of the peace movement brewing on the eve of World War I, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with their sisters.

1917: With 2 million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women again chose the last Sunday in February to strike for "bread and peace". Political leaders opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went on anyway. The rest is history: Four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote. That historic Sunday fell on 23 February on the

Julian calendar then in use in Russia, but on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process. Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

The Role of the United Nations

Few causes promoted by the United Nations have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women. The Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco in 1945, was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right. Since then, the Organization has helped create a historic legacy of internationally agreed strategies, standards, programmes and goals to advance the status of women worldwide.

Over the years, United Nations action for the advancement of women has taken four clear directions: promotion of legal measures; mobilization of public opinion and international action; training and research, including the compilation of gender desegregated statistics; and direct assistance to disadvantaged groups. Today a central organizing principle of the work of the United Nations is that no enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world's women.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

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



Do we need more enemies?

Conflicts are the nature of all creatures. Behind any conflict there is always some disputed interest. It is, however, nonsense to take a hostile stance against each other, while we are in a dire need to stand hand in hand against the "real deadly enemy(s)".

Listening to mosque-preachers nowadays, and even to the current common sense among the nation, one realizes the immense danger that threatens the Islamic nation (not nations), and the gap that shakes the unity of the Yemeni nation in particular. "Is it time for more divisions and conflicts among Muslims? Everyone should ask oneself this question considering the state of weakness and humiliation that has gradually haunted the Islamic and Arab nation."

The events that are ongoing in Sa'ada provoke the nation's anger. Every one, and myself too, is against the Houthian rebels in Sa'ada, and we, as a part of this "dear homeland", should be one hand against them not because they are from Sa'ada or for being Shi'ite, but because they illegally rebel against the government so that a security gap had taken place among the nation especially the common people living in Sa'ada and nearby areas.

To be one hand against these rebels does not mean to stand against the "Shiites". Muslims are Muslims regardless of any sect they belong to. And it is really more than enough to learn from the "lessons that are daily taught" in Iraq and other parts of the Islamic and Arab world.

Undoubtedly, to stand against each other is to weaken the nation's unity. Everyone's real anger must be against whoever tries to destabilize the nation's interests. For this reason we must be against the Houthians and any other rebels in any corner of the country.

"Shi'ites" and "Sunnis" are all Muslims; both should be together when facing homeland and Islam enemies. Just recently people have raised the photos of Hasn Nasr Allah for standing against

Israel. We also feel proud of Ahmadinejad, the Iranian President, for standing against the U.S. threatens. Today, people pray against "Shiites" though Hasn Nasre Allah and Ahmadinejad are "top leaders" and "religious references" of Shi'itism.

By standing against the Shi'ites today, who would be standing with these two heroes in the future? Of course, such a conflict may be extended from the local level to the international one. The conflict would be widened to be between not mere groups, but "countries". This serves only the real enemies of Islam, Israel in Lebanon and the U.S.A. in the whole region, which are behind any such conflicts in the world.

Actually, the Houthian rebels do not represent all the "Shi'itism", and there might be some of the "Sunnis" among them. They must be fought, no doubt in that, but not for being parts of this "Islamic sect", but for rebelling against the government. Launching a political and social war against Shiite Muslims as a whole is unfair. It is, therefore, better to be against the Houthians, or better to say against the "rebellions only".

If we want to know the real danger of this, we should consider who would get the benefits of such conflicts among such or any other religious sects. The conflict between the Shiites and Sunnis in Iraq, for instance, did really pave the way for the so called "peace-lovers" to occupy Iraq. Similarly, the same thing has repeated itself in Somalia and Sudan but with "different names of the conflict-parties".

In short, no need for more gabs among the nation. It is enough to be victims of this "trap" in different Islamic and Arab areas. Allah Almighty says what means "Be together, and never get apart". So we have to follow His instructions, and to act logically through the mind's eye.

Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a 26 year old writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. An ex-editor of Eng. Journal of the Uni.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Skull and crossbones holder
- 5 Fearful feeling
- 10 Valentine's Day visitor
- 14 Saddle irritation
- 15 Bloodsucker
- 16 Hacienda unit
- 17 Let the cat out of the bag
- 18 Caruso, among others
- 19 Indy path
- 20 Hotel hiree
- 23 Junkyard dog
- 24 Cock-and-bull story
- 25 Transitory things
- 30 Plaid pattern
- 34 Certain numero
- 35 Horn in on?
- 37 Cowpoke's tool
- 38 Grade school greeter
- 42 "Maria ____"
- 43 Certain cargo measures
- 44 Sugary suffix

- 45 Soprano Scotto or Tebaldi

- 47 Tools for handymen
- 50 Porgy's love
- 52 Loft filler
- 53 Construction site posting
- 60 This may be enough
- 61 Glazed item, briefly
- 62 December song
- 64 River to the Baltic
- 65 Do away with, in a way
- 66 Vacationing, e.g.
- 67 Tammany's Tweed
- 68 Adam's third son and clockmaker Thomas
- 69 Kind of excuse

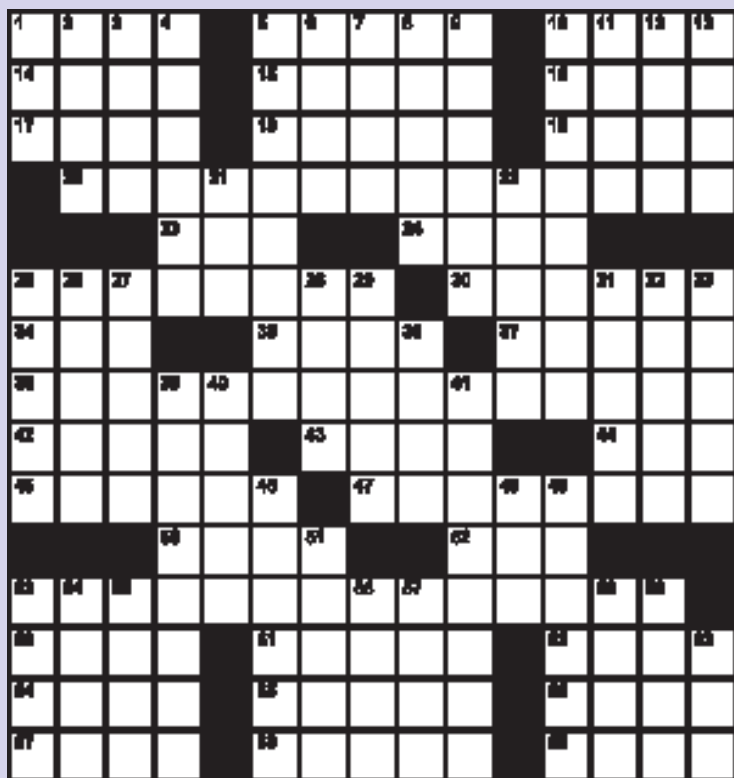
DOWN

- 1 Certain descriptive aircraft letters
- 2 Milne creation
- 3 Woody's son
- 4 Cut down
- 5 Mr. Hyde, e.g.

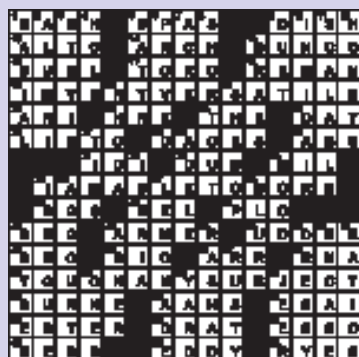
- 6 Requirement

- 7 Hereditary factor
- 8 "Ivanhoe" author
- 9 Blackmail tactic
- 10 Understood by few
- 11 Sitarist Shankar
- 12 Norway's patron saint
- 13 Telemarketer's aim
- 21 Bottom line
- 22 Santa in California
- 25 Old-time anesthetic
- 26 Working class member
- 27 Muscle Beach dudes
- 28 Dig like a pig
- 29 Knight's protection
- 31 Lake in Nevada and California
- 32 Bikini blast
- 33 Breathing passages
- 36 Sicilian volcano
- 39 Helpful folks
- 40 Designated PG-13, e.g.
- 41 Nature lovers, e.g. (Var.)
- 46 Off-mike comments
- 48 Essex or Duesenberg, memorably
- 49 Psalm-singer's text
- 51 Sign of boredom
- 53 Chowderhead
- 54 Take apart
- 55 Italian desserts
- 56 Flyswatter's target
- 57 Door sign
- 58 "State Fair" state
- 59 Yokod sight
- 63 Caustic application

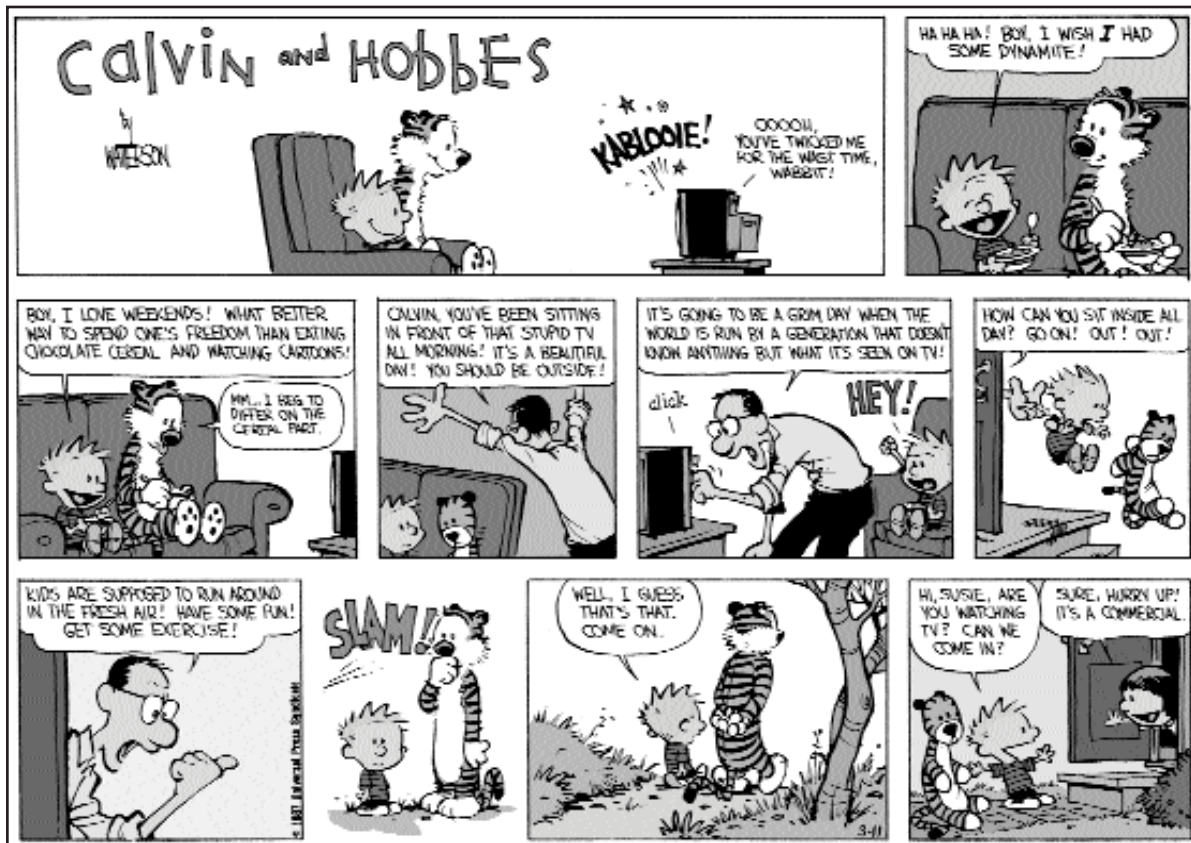
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للتواصل: ٧٣٤٠١٠٦٣٣

الإيجار الشهري: ٢٠٠٠ دولار.

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٤٠٨٧١١

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للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٤٣٠٠٤

• علي محمد - مبرمج كمبيوتر
- مسئول قواعد بيانات - رئيس قسم إستحقاقات - خبرة في برامج المشتريات والمخازن - خبرة في مجال التدريب والتدريب - مؤسس ومدير معهد سابقاً - خبرة في مجال البرمجة والصيانة لمدة سبع سنوات - خبرة في مجال المحاسبة لمدة أربع أربع سنوات - يبحث عن عمل للفترة المسائية فقط.

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٢٤٠٩٩

عقارات

• للإيجار: شقة حديثة ومؤثثة
الإيجار: ٢٠٠ دولار.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٣١٨٩
• للبيع: مركز اتصالات بالمواصفات التالية: ٤ كباث اتصالات نظام (القيصر) - اكسسوارات متنوعة للتلفونات المتنقلة - ديكور حديث مع لوحة كبيرة باسم المحل - الموقع: شارع التوفيق - صنعاء.
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٤٤٠٢
• للإيجار فيلا مكونة من ٥ غرف مع مجلس وصالة وحمامين مع غرفة حارس وحمام - الموقع: حده - المساحة ١٥ لبنه - الإيجار الشهري: ٥٠٠ دولار - وكذلك للإيجار بيت قديم مع الحوش مبني من طين - مرمم وجديد ونظيف ويتكون من ٤ طوابق ويحتوي على ٢٠ غرفة مع الملحقات والمنافع وتوجد فيه غرفة حارس وحمام في الحوش - الموقع: البونية

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• ناصر عبد الحبيب - هندسة كهرباء (تخصص حاسبات وتحكم) - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يجيد استخدام كافة برامج الكمبيوتر - يجيد استخدام الإنترنت - يجيد استخدام نظام Oracle

للتواصل: ٧١١٨٧٣٩٣٣
• إبراهيم محمد مسعد الرياشي - ثانوية عامة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية نطقاً وكتابة - سائق - دورة عسكرية أمنية في الخارج - خبرة في هذا المجال لمدة ٥ سنوات - خبرة في العلاقات العامة ونظام الإشراف والمراقبة.
للتواصل: ٧١١٨٦٠٥٨ - ٠١/٦٠٥٥١

• محمود صغير - حاصل على تمهيدي ماجستير مناهج وطرق تدريس عام ٢٠٠٥ - بكالوريوس لغة عربية - دبلوم معلمين - خبرة في مجال التدريس منذ العام ١٩٩٥م - حاصل على أكثر من عشر شهادات تقدير وخبرة ومشاركة. يرغب في إعطاء دروس خصوصية للراغبين في ذلك.
للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٦٢٨٣٤
• عمار نعمان - بكالوريوس كيمياء (كلية العلوم - جامعة صنعاء). حاصل على دورة تدريبية في وزارة النفط وكذلك دورة تدريبية في المقاييس وظبط الجودة - خبرة في تدريس مادة الكيمياء في إحدى المدارس الأهلية الدولية.
للتواصل: ٠١/٦٧٨٨٥ - ٧٣٣٨٤٥٦١٩

مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي للخدمات العقارية
حده - الخي السياسي - الأصبحي - بيت بوس سيار: ٢٨٥٥ - ٧٣٣٨٠ - مكتب: ٦٧٩١٦٦
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للإيجار: ١٠ فيلا صغيرة، ٥ غرف، حمامين، حوش سيارة، حي الإسكان جوار المقالح. الإيجار الشهري ٣٠٠ دولار.
٢٠ فيلا ٣ أدوار، ١١ غرفة كبيرة، ٥ حمامات، مطابخ مع الدواليب، موقف للسيارات، الأصبحي الجديد. الإيجار ٧٠٠ دولار
٣٠ فيلا جديد، دورين، ٨ غرف، ٤ حمامات، مطبخ - مساحة الأرضية ٢٠ لبنه، بيت بوس، بين الخمسين والثلاثين متر. الإيجار ٧٠٠ دولار
٤٠ فيلا دورين، الأصبحي القديم. الإيجار المطروح ٤٠٠ دولار شهرياً بحاجة إلى تحسينات وتغييرات، مساحة الأرضية ١٧ لبنه.
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• خريج جامعة صنعاء - كلية الإعلام (قسم العلاقات العامة والإعلان) - دبلوم سنتين English - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أو كمدرس للمبتدئين في مادة اللغة الإنجليزية.
للتواصل: ٧٧١٩٩٧٥٦٦ - ٧٧٧٨٣٠١٥٩
• خبرة سبع سنوات في المراسلات التجارية والترجمة - خبرة عملية في الموارد البشرية والتسويق - قدرة على استخدام الكمبيوتر والإنترنت. يرغب في العمل مع شركة.
للتواصل: ٢١٠٥١٦ أحمد سعيد ناصر - بكالوريوس فيزياء حاسوب - يجيد استخدام الحاسوب - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال يناسب تخصصه كما لديه الإستعداد لإعطاء دروس خصوصية للمرحلة الثانوية في مادتي الفيزياء والرياضيات
للتواصل: ٧١٥٠٢٣٩٠
• عبدالله عمر سعيد - بكالوريوس هندسة نفط (جامعة السودان) - حاصل على درجة الشرف - خبرة جيدة في نظام الهيدروليك والنيوماتيك .
للتواصل: ٧١١٩٩١٢٩١

• أديب بشر - بكالوريوس هندسة الكترولنيات (قسم اتصالات) - خبرة في تصميم وتركيب الشبكات LAN - خبرة في صيانة الأجهزة الالكترونية والكمبيوتر.
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٠٩٤٢٠ - ٧١١٩٩٦١٣٧
• أديب علي - بكالوريوس هندسة الكترولنيات (جامعة اب) - تخصص إتصالات - لديه عدة دورات في مجال السنترالات

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عقد: ٢٤٦١٤٥: تهر: ٢٢٢٤٨٩

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ورلد لينك

مستشفيات

مستشفى الثورة
ت: ٠١-٢٤٦٦٦٦/٨/٩

المستشفى الجمهوري
ت: ٠١-٢٤٦٦٦٦/٨/٩

مستشفى حدة الأعلى
ت: ٠١-٤١٨٠٠٠

المستشفى اليمني الألماني
ف: ٠١-٤١٨١٦٦

المستشفى الألماني الحديث
ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦-٢٠٠٨
ف: ٤١٨١٦٦

E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

فندق فرساي
ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧٠/٧/٢

فندق شيراتون
ت: ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠٠

فندق موفيك
ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦

فندق تاج سبا
ت: ٠١-٣٣٣٧٢٥

فندق ريلكس ان
ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١

فندق واجحة الخليج السياحي
ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٥٥٠ - ٦٠٣١٣٥/٨

معاهد

معهد بالي
ت: ٠١-٤٤٨٠٣٩/٣/٤-٤٤٥٤٢٢
ف: ٤٤٨٠٣٧

معهد اللغة الألمانية
ت: ٢٠٠٩٤٥

المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر
ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢
ف: ٥١٤٧٥٥

شركات للتأمين

الوطنية للتأمين
ت: ٢٧٧١٣٢/٢٧٣٨٣٠
ف: ٢٧٧٩٢٤

مأرب للتأمين
ت: ٢٠٦١٢٩/١٣

الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين
ت: ٢٨٤٩٢٣

عقد: ٢٤٤٨٠
تهر: ٢٥٨٨١

شركة اليمن للتأمين
ت: ٢٧٣٨٠٦/٢٧٣٩٢٣/٤٣
عقد: ٢٤٧٦١٧

تهر: ٢٥٠٢٥٠

مدارس

مدرسة رينيو
ت: ٤١٤٠٠٣٧/٤٢٤٠٤٣

مدارس صنعاء الدولية
ت: ٣٧٠١٩١/٢
ف: ٣٧٠١٩٣

مدرسة التريكة الدولية
ت: ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩

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طوارئ الكهرباء ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة ١٩٩،
الطفلة ١٩١، طوارئ المياه ١٧١،
الإسعافات ١١٨، حوادث (الموتور) ١٩٤،
الشئون الخارجية ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧،
الشئون الداخلية ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧،
الشرطة ١٧٧، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٧٥٣٣٠٠٢،
الزراعة ١١٨، ٢٨٢-٦١، التلفزيون ٣٣٠٠١/٣،
مؤسسة الإصاات للنقل داخل المدن ٣٦١١١/٣،
وزارة المواصلات ٢٥١١٠/٣/٢،
السياحة ٢٥٤-٣٢،
الصليب الأحمر ٢٠٣١٣١/٣،
تليمن ٧٥٣٣٣٧

البنوك

البنك التجاري
ت: ٢٧٧٢٢٤
ف: ٢٧٧٢٢١

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ت: ٢٧٧٥٥٠/٣٦٧٠٢
ف: ٣٦٧٠٣٠/٣٦٧٠٣٠

بنك اليمن الدولي
ت: ٠١-٤٠٧٠٣٠

البنك العربي
ت: ٠١-٣٦٥٨٥٨/٣

بنك التسليف الزراعي
ت: ٠١-٥٢٣٨١٢

البنك المركزي
ت: ٠١-٣٧٤٣١٤

تأجير سيارات

زاوية (Budget)
ت: ٣٠٩٦١٨٠٠/٥-٣٦٣٧٠٠
ف: ٢٤٠٩٥٨

فرع شيراتون
ت: ٥٤٠٣٠٩
عقد: ٢٠٢٤٥٢٣٥

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فاكس: ٠١-٤٧٤١٩

عقد: ٢٠٠٣٧١٩٩

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Salmon Fishing in Yemen: a journey to believe in the impossible

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafnfr@yahoo.com

“Salmon Fishing in Yemen,” written by Paul Torday, is one of the much-anticipated literary debuts of 2007. The novel is about British scientist, Dr. Alfred Jones, who finds himself reluctantly involved in a project to bring salmon fishing to the highlands of Yemen. The project subsequently changes his life and teaches him to believe in the impossible.

Torday's novel is a black comedy; combining both the serious and the comic in a tale of political machinations, dreams, faith – and fish.

“Salmon Fishing in Yemen” is about hypocrisy and bureaucracy, dreams and deniability, and the transformational power of faith and love. It also tackles the differences between the secular world of the West and the traditional faith of the Middle East. “Yemen seems to be the best country to illustrate this point. I regret the absence of religion in the Western world,” Torday commented.

In a press conference at the British Council, the author clarified why he chose to set the novel in Yemen, a place he's never visited, rather than another country, noting that Yemen has managed to retain its traditions, values and identity, having been unaffected by Western civilization, unlike most other Eastern cultures. No stranger to the Middle East, most notably Oman, Torday was able to draw a picture of Yemen after hearing about it.

Because he hadn't visited Yemen before writing the book, Torday depended upon his imagination, as well as research. “Since it isn't a travel book, it doesn't depend on experiences gathered from traveling; rather, it absolutely depends on the imagination and the inte-



At a press conference, author Paul Torday gives a brief introduction about his book, “Salmon Fishing in Yemen,” as well as his first visit to Yemen.

gration between Islamic faith and secularism (East-West interaction).”

He continued, “If I had written the book after visiting Yemen, the theme would have been something else and not a novel. It's not a political book per se; rather, it's a comic tale of two societies mixing and learning from each other.”

Did his imagined Yemen resemble anything like the real Yemen Torday experienced after visiting? He stated that there were many similarities with some differences. “When I visited Haraz Mountain, it was much greener than I imagined, which is better. Also, there's an intensity about the Yemeni people that surprised me,” he observed.

Among the novel's wonderful cast of characters is Mohammed, a Yemeni sheikh who mentors the hero Jones, teaching him to be patient if he wants to learn more from life. The fishing project is the brainchild of the Yemeni sheikh, a devout and wealthy man, whose love of salmon fishing and whose fervent, unwavering conviction that the impossible can be made possible inspires the astonished scientist, overpowering all of

his rational objections.

“Sheikh Mohammed teaches Jones about the importance of faith in life. The mutual understanding they develop helps bridge the gap between both societies,” Torday adds. The salmon fishing trip represents the author's own journey through life.

Born in 1946, Torday read English literature at Oxford's Pembroke College. After working in the industry for 30 years, he began looking to do something different, finding time to write within the past three years. Additionally, he's been a keen salmon fisherman for 15 years, able to indulge his passion regularly from his home near the North Tyne River.

Returning to his original career, Torday published his first book with great support from his wife. “I was faltering to write it and afterward, I preferred it to remain unpublished; however, my wife advised me to take a step and publish it,” he recalls.

There's a possibility that the novel may receive big screen treatment, if there's support for the project. “If the novel is to be filmed, it must be made in Yemen in order to be true to the spirit of the book. If it's not filmed in Yemen, it won't be authentic,” Torday advises.

At the end of the press conference, Torday expressed his pleasure at having visited Yemen and hopes to visit again. “I plan to write articles in British newspapers about Yemen and what I've seen here in an attempt to change negative stereotypes prevalent in the Western world about the East in general and about Yemen in particular,” he concluded.

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