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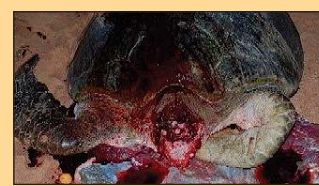
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**Readers' Voice**

Last edition's question:  
Yemeni government failed to implement water strategies and plans. Do you think the donors' warn will force the government to reconsider its future plans?

I don't know (8%)  
No (27%)  
Yes (65%)

This edition's question:  
Do you think that the appeal of the Yemeni Water Minister was meant to motivate donors to provide more funds for Yemen's water crisis?

- Yes  
- No  
- I don't know

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## Yemen needs to work harder to receive more assistance

**By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf**

SANA'A, March 25 — Although the Yemeni government displayed a commitment to good governance in its dialogue with the European Union, more effort must be made to acquire additional assistance, commented European Commission Charge d'Affaires Ralf Dreyer on the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

"As an economic power, we know that an economy depends upon good governance and respect for freedoms in order to survive and the best way to achieve this is through democracy. Yemen has begun its democratic progress and we encourage it to keep going," he said at a seminar held Saturday under the theme, "Where next for the EU and Yemen? Perspectives from both sides of the partnership."

Along with Dreyer, seminar speakers included German Ambassador Frank Marcus Mann; Valery Christov, charge d'affaires of the Bulgarian Embassy in Sana'a, and Khalid Ismail Al-Akwa', director general of the European department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On March 25, 1957, six European countries signed what's known as the Treaty of Rome, thus establishing the European Economic Community or the Common Market. European unity began more than a decade prior to the Treaty of Rome when European countries decided after World War II that they had had enough bloodshed. The driving force behind this unity was economy, as in the European Coal and Steel Community in the 1950s.

*Continued on page 3*

## No political will to implement water strategy or law, minister says

**By: Yemen Times Staff**

SANA'A, March 24 — Water has become Yemen's biggest problem, especially given its high population growth rate as well as government failure to implement the 2005 water strategy, officials and experts said Saturday at the launch of the 2006 Human Development Report.

"Yemen is one of the world's poorest countries regarding water resources," Minister of Water and Environment Abdul-Rahman Al-Eryani noted, "and unfortunately, it's one of the least competent nations in water usage, whether for irrigation or drinking."

"The root of the problem lies in mismanagement. We must have a clear road map," the minister said, adding that the state failed to apply the National Water Strategy approved two years ago.

"There's no political will to enforce either the water law or the water strategy at the national level. Thus, we appeal to the political leadership to have mercy on the people and apply both the law and strategy, thereby improving water management," Al-Eryani urged.

The minister revealed that while there are 950 water drillers, the government has registered only 150 within the past two years. "The Yemeni government has failed to control drillers, even the registered ones," he said.

Total annual renewable water resources in Yemen are estimated at 2.4 billion cubic meters, which amounts to little more than 125 cubic meters per person annually, as compared to the Middle East and North Africa average of 1.250 cubic meters per person.

*Continued on page 3*



## Sa'ada death toll rises as fighting escalates

**By: Mohammed bin Sallam**

SA'ADA, March 25 — Tribal sources assured on Sunday that confrontations are still aflame between the Yemeni army and Al-Houthi loyalists on numerous fronts in Sa'ada governorate, leaving hundreds dead or injured. Further, dozens of homes were destroyed in Dhahian city, which witnessed the fiercest clashes between the two warring sides.

Supported by approximately 3,000 tribesmen from the Hashed and Bakil tribes, the Yemeni army conducted a sweeping offensive last Thursday afternoon on Dhahian, located some 8 km. from the governorate's capital city of Sa'ada. On Friday, the offensive developed into a street war employing all types of weaponry. The number of victims is increasing and threatening a human catastrophe in the area.

The same tribal sources told the Yemen Times that army units and tribesmen drew back Friday evening after facing harsh resistance in many zones they occupied previously.

The bodies of victims from both sides are still amassed in the city's streets and under the destroyed homes, as the fierce fighting has prevented their transport to hospitals. Eighteen army personnel were killed and 96 others injured and rushed to nearby hospitals, while some were transferred to Sana'a. According to sources, Houthi losses remain unknown due to the imposed media blackout.

Al-Ayyam daily reported Saturday that since the war erupted Jan. 17, 416 army soldiers and volunteers have been killed and more than 500 others injured. It added that approximately 136 Houthis have been killed and 12 tanks have been destroyed.

According to officials and medical sources the newspaper quoted, last weekend's confrontations felled more than 150 victims from both sides in Dhahian city and Souq Al-Talh, which witnesses continuous confrontations after Houthis attacked it to reduce pressure on their militants in Dhahian.

A military statement attributed the army's drawing back to giving Houthi leaders one final chance to surrender; otherwise, they will "meet the same fate as Hussein Badraddin Al-Houthi and his father." It's the second time official sources have spoken of killing Badraddin Al-Houthi, as the chief of Haydan district mentioned the incident in a statement five months ago; however, a source close to Badraddin Al-Houthi denied the information.

Sa'ada Governor Yahya Al-Shami told Al-Motamar.net last Friday that 300 Houthis have been killed and another 200 are captives. He added that 30 Houthi supporters surrendered in Dhahian, noting that others still may seize the opportunity to turn in themselves and their arms. He further assured that Houthi leader Sheikh Yahya Sa'ad Al-Khudhair has been injured, but neither Houthis nor neutral sources have confirmed such news.



Several locations in Saada governorates were declared war zones; no traffic is allowed from and into these locations, stopping even supply of food.

The war is continuing on all fronts between the Yemeni army and supporting tribesmen on one hand and Houthi loyalists on the other. The most violent confrontations took place Friday afternoon and evening in Al-Qaithi farms located between Sa'ada and Dhahian cities, leaving hundreds dead or injured.

Further, Al-Salem, Al-Talh, Bani Muath and Gharabah military site occupied by Houthis now witness continuous and fierce attacks. Likewise, Houthi attacks are also constant upon Qahrat Al-Nasr and Kuhlman camps.

*Continued on page 3*

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## In brief

## SANA'A

## Political parties discuss several issues

March 25 — The political parties and organizations involved in the political dialogue approved during a Saturday meeting their agenda of several issues to be discussed during the first phase of the dialogue. These issues include constitutional reforms and developing the parliamentary work and election systems. The meeting was chaired by Abdulkader Bajammal, Secretary-General of the General People Congress, and other party leaders. The meeting participants decided to implement recommendations reached by the EU Election Observation Mission's report on Yemen's most recent elections.

## ADEN

## Women leaders awarded

March 24 — The Administration of Sheraton Hotel & Resort held last Wednesday an awarding ceremony for women in coordination with the Social Affairs and Labor Office in the governorate. Several women leaders were awarded certificates of merit in recognition of their role and contribution to the society development. Inaugurating the event, Aden Governor Ahmad Al-Kuhlani gave a speech praising women's role and effort in developing the Yemeni society. Many women working in the health sector and other government institutions were awarded at the ceremony, which was staged in the presence of senior government officials.

## DHAMAR

## Natural factors threaten Otma Protected Area

March — 25 - Abdulkhakim Nasser Al-Ishawi, Associate Professor at the Geography Department in Taiz University, listed numerous factors that threaten Otma Protected Area, which lies some kilometres west of Dhamar city. These factors, according to Al-Ishawi, include the heavy rains that sweep fertile soil away from the agricultural farms and the chopping of trees by citizens. The latter threatens the green coverage and biodiversity of the protected area while the use of fertilizers leaves negative effects on the soil. This came in a lecture by Al-Ishawi at Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture.

## IBB

## Ibb to host national book fair

March 25 — Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the General Book Authority clarified that a national book fair is due to be staged in Ibb governorate on the occasion of the 17th Anniversary of Yemen's Reunification, in addition to other cultural, popular and artistic activities. Al-Saqqaf added that his authority is currently working with the Higher Committee for Sana'a International Book Fair to hold the Sana'a 24th Book Fair this year. He noted that the committee has set a date for staging the Sana'a Book Fair, from Oct. 22 to Nov. 2 this year.

## ABYAN

## British team visits Abyan

March 25 — A team from the British Department for International Development visited Abyan governorate on Thursday. During its visit, the team, headed by the DFID Resident Representative Sarah Wiffe, met the head of Abyan Office of Yemeni Women Union and discussed several issues associating with women activities in economic and political areas. Wiffe expressed her appreciation of Yemeni women productive activities, which prove that Yemeni women are more able and eligible to participate in different development areas.

## TAIZ

## Taiz Education Office's budget discussed

March 24 — Taiz Governor Ahmad Al-Hajiri and Ibrahim Al-Dowairi, an expert from the World Bank, discussed the preparations so far taken by the Ministry of Education for approving the 2008 budget of Taiz Education Office. The meeting highlighted several education issues such as providing schoolbooks and different educational equipment for students in the governorate. The WB expert met with some Taiz Education Office officials and discussed with them ways of approving and implementing the budget.

## Yemeni higher education criticized

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, March 24 — Yemeni members of Parliament criticized the government for neglecting higher education and pushing Yemenis to emigrate outside the country. They requested actual financial dependence in Yemeni universities, along with reconsidering scholarships and admission policies.

Discussing a report by Parliament's Higher Education Committee following field visits to Aden, Ibb and Taiz Universities, MP Sultan Al-Atwani noted that the universities are run from the outside, hinting at security leaders. He demanded the Higher Education Ministry not operate cultural attachés with a security mindset.

Al-Atwani criticized Yemen's parallel education system, maintaining that it deepens class division, is done at the risk of the poor and runs counter to Yemeni Revolution goals, which called for eliminating the gap between classes.

MP Shawqi Al-Qadhi further criticized forced pensioning of university professors when their experience increases, calling on the Yemeni government to find responsible and carefully studied resolutions. He requested assisting such teachers to remain in their homeland and serve their nation, in addition to designating internal scholarships for talented students who don't have the opportunity to study abroad.

Similarly, MPs Ali Al-Ansi and Abdu Al-Hudhaifi demanded the presence of Yemen's prime minister,

along with the ministers of finance, civil service and higher education, to discuss Yemeni higher education, noting that such an issue requires the attendance of all ministers, not just university rectors.

At a Feb. 25 session, the deputy minister of higher education requested making Yemeni universities independent. He complained about the shortage of resources allocated for universities in general and scientific research in particular, noting that each university receives only YR 5 million for scientific purposes.

Parliament assigned its Higher Education Committee to sit with finance, planning and civil service ministers and representatives to look into the MPs' recommendations and how to treat the dysfunctions in Yemeni higher education.

In its report to Parliament, the committee mentioned that university curricula are outdated and don't meet the needs of the labor market. It also pointed out that students have difficulty accessing the latest and modern journals and sources, further noting the absence of means enabling students to develop their capabilities.

The report referred to the problem of crowded halls, as well as shortcomings in staff knowledge of English and computers, together with limited participation in symposiums and scientific conferences.

It also revealed a shortage of financial allocations dedicated to scientific use, including libraries, laboratories, equipment, etc. Moreover, the report noted the absence

of bylaws regulating enrollment, as there are different systems for joining universities, including the regular system and the parallel system (both in Yemeni currency) and the self-funding system (in U.S. dollars). It further noted that parallel system revenues are spent on items that don't serve the universities.

According to the report, the higher education department lacks a clear strategy to develop higher education. Further, it doesn't send students to study abroad except to replace those who already have returned. This limits the number of staff, especially those with rare specializations.

It also noticed the absence of budgets to be spent on scientific research while some university staff aren't registered. Staff members accumulate at university headquarters and facilities in major cities, but are scarce in branch faculties while some departments suffer lack of staff in certain specializations.

The committee found that it's possible for universities to benefit from Yemeni staff to cover the existing shortage, thus saving huge sums of money spent on foreigners. It further assured that the Finance Ministry's routine of paying entitlements is discouraging, noting that such conduct leaves a bad effect on university professors.

Concluding its report, the Higher Education Committee revealed that, except for some courses at some locations, the universities didn't benefit from loans by the International Development Association.

## Third Arab symposium on handicap legislation wraps up

SANA'A, March 24 — Lasting for two days, the third Arab symposium on Handicap Legislation around the Arab World concluded their meetings on Thursday, March 22. The symposium discussed facilitating access for handicapped people to the natural and information environment in Arab legislation. The Yemeni Shoura Council organized the symposium and it was attended by Sheikh Housa bint Khalifa Al Thani, UN reporter on handicapped affairs. Eleven papers were presented by the representatives of Qatar, Palestine, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Kuwait and Yemen.

The papers reviewed the situation of handicaps in these countries.

Arab Inter-parliamentary Union secretary general Mr. Nour Eddine Bouchkouj revealed that the total number of handicapped people across the globe reached 600 million souls, about 10 percent of the total number of people. The number of handicapped in the Arab world reached 30 million by 2006 and the number is set to reach 50 million by 2015.

The Sana'a declaration stressed the importance of adopting Article No. 9 in the Handicap International Convention. It also urged all Arab countries to sign the UN Convention

on the Rights of Disabled People. It further recommended forming sub-committees in the Arab Parliaments and civil society organizations to address handicap issues.

The declaration also called for reviewing legislation concerning people of special needs and further recommended reconsidering the engineering designs of old buildings in a way that facilitates the introduction of mobility measures needed by handicapped people. It also advocated the importance of enhancing facilities and access to information and implementing the recommendations of earlier parliamentary symposiums.

## Yemen successfully controls a new locus invasion In Hodiedah

SANA'A, March 24 — the Desert Locusts Control Centre (DLCC) announced on Wednesday the end of combating swarms of migratory locusts that descended upon 2,700 hectares of farmland over three weeks in the governorate of Al-Hodeidah, west Yemen.

General Director of the DLCC Abdu Farei' said five teams decontaminated swarms of locusts that spread over 2,700 hectares.

"The teams fumigated 4100 acres invaded by locusts that came from the Horn of Africa. Two kinds of

pesticides provided by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) were used in the operations," he said.

Al-Romaih added residents as well as Electricity Office at Rass Katheeb area helped the teams in combating the locusts.

"During combating the locusts, farm animals were evacuated from the area with the assistance of residents and workers from the Electricity Office," he noted.

Yemen experienced locust invasions in 1986, 1987, 1993, which

was a particularly serious outbreak. Additional outbreaks in 2002, 2004 were successfully controlled.

The Ministry of Agriculture has already put an emergency plan to face any locust invasion after FAO warned that there could be a locust invasion in Yemen in March after a spate in nearby Eritrea in December. The emergency plan includes forty two teams.

Al-Rumaih expected that the potential spread of locusts in Yemen has decreased due to the dry weather in the Horn of Africa.

## Students, Activists &amp; Journalists trained on environmental reporting

SANA'A, March 24 — The British Council and the Ministry of Water and Environment are holding a seminar on Environmental journalism in Sana'a from 25 — 28 March 2007. The seminar will be attended by schools students, environment activists and journalists from the Gulf States of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia as well as representatives from Yemen.

The seminar will be delivered at the British Council by two trainers from the UK. There will be two young journalists from each (school students) who are already part of their school journalism group, one professional journalist who already writes on environment, and one environment activist. Tomorrow's journalists with today's journalists and environment activities together would seek ways of working together. The outcome

would be a newspaper report mainly written by tomorrow's journalists with the help of today's journalists, the environment activists and the UK trainers. The article should be written after doing some filed visits and write about a topic they would choose. The reports would be published in the main newspapers in each country.

"The purpose of the workshops," says Elizabeth White, Director of the British Council in Yemen, "is to provide young journalists with the art of writing newspaper report and to raise their awareness on the climate change issues with the support of the trainers from the UK and professional journalists from the region.

Dr. Hussein Al-Gunied, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Water and Environment has nominated an activist from the Ministry to be participating in

this seminar due to its importance in raising the awareness among people of the environmental issues. The importance of this seminar comes from the fact that it will provide the participants with the techniques of writing a newsletter report on Environmental issues.

Khadija Al-Sarhi of the British Council expressed her thanks to the large number of people who have been involved in putting the programme together. "It is an excellent opportunity for us to do more work with the Ministry of Water and Environment in Sana'a," she said. "I hope this programme will be a fruitful venture, assisting environmental journalism and co-operation throughout the region and further consolidating the strong ties between the UK, Yemen and the Gulf States."

## Parliament approves Yemen's joining Rome Statute

SANA'A, March 25 — Parliament ratified Saturday joining the international agreement of Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court after a lengthy discussion for the report submitted by legal and constitutional committee. With this ratification, the number of States Parties has now reached 105 and Yemen becomes only the fourth Arab State to join the ICC.

According to this treaty, the court is considered an international and independent judicial apparatus dealing with genocide crimes, actions made for exterminating a group, race, or religious sect by killing, physical or mental harm to them, together with measures that aim to prevent their procreation. It also includes crimes against humanity and those crimes committed on a large-scale basis against civilians such as killings, genocide, forced displacement, torture, rape and racial discrimination.

Moreover, the court rules on war crimes and gross violations of Geneva conventions of 1949 such as destroying property, attacking civilians and using toxic arms. Other actions include as well violations of war norms like killing or injuring war captives. The court also looks into cases of local armed clashes.

Yemeni Human Rights Information and Training Center hailed this move, considering it to be a long-awaited move. Also the national human rights organisation No Peace Without Justice has been pleased that its work to encourage the Government of Yemen to ratify the treaty has been successful. The ICC was of the main pillars of the Sana'a

Intergovernmental Regional Conference on Human Rights, Democracy and the Role of the International Criminal Court jointly organised by the Government of Yemen and NPWJ in January 2004.

Thanks to the engagement of the Yemeni Government and the insistent pressure and unrelenting work of Yemeni human rights activists, notably the Sisters' Arab Forum, the commitments taken three years ago in Sana'a have now been honoured.

Sergio Stanzani and Gianfranco Dell'Alba, President and Secretary-General of No Peace Without Justice offered his congratulations to Yemen on the occasion.

"No Peace Without Justice offers its warmest congratulations to the Republic of Yemen for this historic step, which we have been looking forward to for a long time, and which has involved sustained commitment from all levels of Yemeni society, from civil society through parliamentarians to government officials. With this morning's news, Yemen has demonstrated its commitment to justice as a pre-condition for sustainable peace and has also signalled its willingness to continue to take a leading role in the region on issues of accountability and the rule of law.

We very much hope that other countries in the region will follow Yemen's example and ratify the Rome Statute with all possible speed, which would ensure more active participation from the region both in the Assembly of States Parties and in the work of the ICC itself." He said.

## Yemeni press code violates international standards



The Media Law Working Group encourages all stakeholders, including the government, Shoura council and political parties to contribute actively to the work of the group.

SANA'A, March 23 — In an attempt to reform the Yemeni press code Women Media Forum joined hands with ARTICLE 19, the renowned international organisation concerned with freedom of expression and launched the first meeting for the Media Law Working Group.

Two legal experts, Toby Mendel, Law Programme Director and Daniel Simons, Legal Officer from ARTICLE 19 provided the international picture regarding media legislations, broadcasting regulations and a proposal for a access to information law. Lawyer Khaled Al-Anisi executive director of Hood, a human rights advocacy organisation in Yemen explained how the press legal framework in Yemen constrains freedoms of expression and in fact violates international laws which Yemen has ratified.

The working group consists of Yemeni MPs, public officials, representatives of the Journalists' Syndicate and leading human rights advocates. The first meeting which was held last week resulted agreement on the priorities relating to media legislation in Yemen, and those were:

Reform of the Press and Publication Law of 1990 and the provisions in the penal code which restrict the right to

publish, adoption of legislation guaranteeing the right of access to information and adoption of legislation to legalise and regular private broadcasting.

This initiative comes under ARTICLE 19 Global Campaign for Free Expression and builds on ongoing involvement by ARTICLE 19 in the reform of the country's Press and Publications Law. The initiative is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy and follows on the G8 'Democracy Assistance Dialogue' (DAD), as part of which Yemen has assumed responsibility for promoting freedom of expression throughout the region. The Group's work aims to set a positive example and follow up on the landmark "DAD Conference on Democracy, Political Reforms and Freedom of Expression" held in Yemen in 2006.

"This is the first step of an ambitious program. The Media Law Working Group will be meeting again in order to formalize legal amendments of the current press code, as well as two legal law proposals. Obviously this initiative needs to be accompanied by a national advocacy campaign to support the initiatives," said Mendel.

## Aden Pelican Lake cleaned

ADEN, March 24 — More than 150 students from the Aden-based America-Mideast Educational and Training Services Institute (AMIDEAST) on Thursday participated in cleaning Pelicans Lake of Khour Maksar, Aden governorate.

Manager of Training and Development at AMIDEAST Shakeeb Abdulhamid said the students' initiative coincided with the International Water Day. He added students used to clean the lake on a regular basis in collaboration with Cleaning and City Improvement Fund together with Aden's Merah Association.

He also pointed out his institute has supplied all equipments required for gathering blemish from the lake

which mounted to 3 tons.

Chairman of Merah Association Dr. Ahmed Ali noted his association has made much efforts to upkeep this site to which pelicans come from neighboring countries to live in this lake. He further added they are interested in cleaning the lake particularly after President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued a resolution to make it a natural reserve.

Ali pointed out his association works in cooperation with the regional office of United Nations and within the framework of Ministry of Water and Environment's plan. It is working now in the third phase which includes building bathrooms and tree-planting in order to keep it as a permanent natural reserve. The total costs of the project reached US \$14,500.

# An awareness program to develop child-rights issues in university curricula

By: Fatima Al-Ajel.

Sana'a, 24 March. The ministry of human rights, in cooperation with the Sweden organization and Sana'a University, faculty of education, launched a four days awareness program at the faculty of education on Saturday under the banner "the basic principles of the rights of children."

The Minister of human rights, Khadija Al-Haisami focused in her speech on the importance of increasing and improving the position of the Yemeni child, something which can only be achieved with the real cooperation of all government, non government and civil society organizations. "Society's realization of the difficult situation facing the Yemeni child forms the beginning of solving their

problems and giving them their rights," Al-Haisami said. "Yemen signed an agreement on children's rights in 2002 and the parliament discussed this children's rights agreement as a step towards developing the posi-

tion of children in Yemen." Al-Haisami further added. Children's rights issues will be added to university curriculums as a new project to make real partnerships between the ministry and the university, with the aim of encouraging a culture for children's rights among the university's students, who will be teachers for children in the future.

The ministry of human rights has opened the enrollment and reporting center for child kidnapping cases in Yemen "the ministry receives information from citizens and it does its best to decrease the phenomenon of children kidnapping," Al-Haisami stated.

The secretary-general for the higher council of motherhood and childhood, Nafeesa al-Jafee, emphasized the importance of revamping the university curriculums through adding the issue of children's rights to the curriculums, especially to the faculty of education. "Teachers are the primary source of development in children. They interact directly with children so they have to be qualified enough to carry out their



From left to right, Khaield Tamam, Khadija Al-Haisami, Nafeesa Al-Jafee and Waleed Al-Bashar

responsibilities," al-Jafee clarified.

The Sweden organization plans to provide the faculty of education with a library of books about children's rights. "The organization claims from the university staff and students as well as to carry out research annually about children in Yemen. It is furthermore ready to support such a project." The Sweden organizations' representative, Waleed Al-Bashar, noticed.

Chief of Sana'a University, Khaield Tamam considers this a serious step towards developing the university's curriculums, especially with regard to children's issues. "We will launch a section to teach nursery and kindergarten in the faculty of education in order to produce psychoanalysts and sociologists who have enough experience to deal with the different characters of children." Tamam stated.

## Continued from page 1

### No political will to implement water strategy or law, minister says

According to Deputy Minister of Planning Yahya Al-Mutawakel, the problem exceeds scarcity in many areas of the country. "This situation has aggravated numerous problems and challenges: poverty, motherhood and childhood, a weak agricultural economy and increased internal migration. Water scarcity also reduces investment opportunities," he said.

Al-Mutawakel added that weak planning and management, widespread use of traditional means and lack of modern means to use and conserve water resources all contribute to Yemen's water crisis.

UNDP Resident Representative Flavia Pansieri says Yemen's water supply is constrained due to its location on the Arabian Peninsula, adding that "Up to 80 percent of new wells in the [Yemeni] highlands are used for qat cultivation." She noted that the 2006 Human Development Report shows that Yemen placed 150 out of 177 countries on the Human Development Index, thus making a little bit of progress.

Lacking large rivers or lakes, Yemen's main water supply comes from rainfall or groundwater, which already face overexploitation. At the end of 2005, only 58 percent of the urban population and 37.5 percent of the rural population had access to safe water. The discrepancy between water consumption and available resources was more than 1,000 Mm. in 2005 and the figure increases annually.

### Yemen needs to work harder to receive more assistance

"Europe learned that for economic prosperity, there must be political stability. Our relations with Yemen focus on economic development as a priority," Mann explained.

Bulgaria officially joined the union on Jan. 1, 2006, although it declared its will to join in 1988, finally submitting an application for accession in 1995. "It took more than a decade for Bulgaria to be accepted as an EU member state, but we worked very hard to achieve this. It was a national goal and we had to go through much reform and development and many years of negotiation to be successful," Christov noted.

Yemeni-EU relations date back to the late 1970s and have been progressing ever since. "There was a small setback in 1990 due to Yemen's attitude toward the Gulf crisis. A lot of funding was withdrawn, but we gradually regained it and even went to higher levels of cooperation. I'll never forget the EU stance supporting Yemeni unity during the 1994 Civil War. They were in daily contact with us and very concerned that we should maintain our unity," Al-Akwa' recalled.

Yemenis view the EU as a strong international power playing a positive role in the world and concerned with protecting the environment and freedoms worldwide, human rights activist and participant Jamal Al-Awadhi remarked.

Congratulating EU member states on the event, Dr. Raufa Al-Sharki president of the Cultural Development Programs Foundation and professor of Media and Gender Studies at Sana'a University,

praised Europe's example of unity and expressed her regret for Arab nations, which should have learned from such an example.

Amel Al-Basha, chairwoman of the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights and regional representative for the International Criminal Court, observed, "Arab nations aren't ready for such unity because we haven't reached the level of development that would allow the various countries to cooperate together in one union without the strong destroying the weak."

"However, I do congratulate all Yemenis for Yemen joining the international agreement, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, because this is a step toward true democracy," she added.

Saturday's seminar was attended by diplomats, government officials, NGO representatives and several media personnel.

### Sa'ada death toll rises as fighting escalates

Media sources mentioned that the army attack on Al-Talh was as fierce as that upon Dhahian and aimed to release dozens of military and tribesmen blockaded by Houthi snipers in the security department building, while government forces halted attacking Dhahian due to bad weather.

Dozens of Houthis were seen last Friday on Al-Hanajer Mountain in Al-Safara district's Dammaj area. Their presence caused leaders to put soldiers on high alert; however, Dammaj and nearby dignitaries and sheikhs met with military leaders, requesting they leave the matter

for locals to defend and guard their areas against Houthis without army interference. Dozens of Dammaj locals carried arms and spread out in the nearby mountains.

Houthi loyalists still are taking positions and many locals expect the coming days to witness wild confrontations between both sides.

Media sources reported that Saqeen district is witnessing clashes from time to time, the last of which occurred last Wednesday in Al-Sha'f and nearby areas, causing dozens of deaths and injuries among military and supporting tribesmen, as well as Houthis.

Clashes took place for several long hours Friday night in various areas of Bani Muath, Al-Saifi, Al-And, Al-Khamarat, Sahar and other areas neighboring Sa'ada city. However, a security source clarified that they simply were searching for Houthi loyalists in different areas. The search resulted in arresting eight Houthi supporters.

Numerous military, armored and foot soldier units reached Sa'ada Friday and Saturday afternoon, their numbers surpassing those that arrived last week. Sources added that more military forces are due to arrive in coming days.

Some observers commented that Houthis have abandoned occupying the mountains and have begun spreading to cities and villages, thus turning the offensive-defensive war into guerrilla warfare.

Fighter planes resumed their participation in the war last Thursday to support army forces after a two-week halt following the crash of two MIG-29 fighters. Sukhoi fighters implemented air raids upon various Houthi sites in Dhahian,

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destroying dozens of homes, a mosque and a fuel station.

In further news, an official source denied allegations and information Aleshteraki.net reported regarding the Sa'ada events, noting that the number of deaths and injuries among military personnel, as well as guerrilla warfare between Houthis and the Yemeni army, are unauthentic.

The same source further denied any participation of Dhahian citizens against Yemeni army and security forces, declaring, "On the contrary, Dhahian locals are fighting with their brothers in security and army against Houthis."

Dhahian city is the second largest city in Sa'ada, with approximately 25,000 residents and more than 5,000 houses and civil facilities. Large numbers of residents evacuated the city after a weeklong attack by the Yemeni army using heavy weaponry, including fighters, mortars, tanks and Katyusha missiles fired from Kuhlhan Camp in the north, Kuhlrat Al-Nas in the south and from the main road.

The city is considered one of Yemen's Islamic science centers and dates back to the second century Hijra. Among its scholars are Abdullah Yahya Al-Sa'adi, Abdulwahab Al-Moyyad and Badraddin Al-Houthi, along with dozens of other well-known scholars and social personalities.

Governor Al-Shami denied the presence of any tribal personnel supporting the Yemeni army in its war against Houthi loyalists, pointing out that a

Defense Ministry committee registered new enlistees to cover the shortage in some military units.

Interviewed by private newspaper Al-Wasat in last Wednesday's issue, the governor noted that what's happening in Sa'ada is a guerrilla war, as Houthis are waging offensives in small groups and thus, inflicting more losses upon military personnel.

He further noted that Abdullah Al-Ruzami, whom he considers the Faithful Youth Organization's top man, refuses to answer his telephone; thus, the authority was left with few options.

"If he doesn't accept dialogue or even answer the phone, then how can we dialogue with him?" Al-Shami asked, adding that Al-Ruzami has refused to meet with any individual or sheikh, including mediation committee members.

The Sa'ada governor added, "Although we released his son from prison, I haven't met him or heard from him since I came to Sa'ada. He doesn't accept anything, so how can we deal with such a person?"

Local sources in Sa'ada reveal that the area's Political Security Department has been waging an arrest campaign since last Sunday and 50 citizens have been arrested so far, mostly school headmasters and teachers. The sources explained that the individuals were arrested due to accusations of mobilizing school students to fight with Houthi loyalists against the authorities.

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Working closely together with the Senior Media Advisor (SMA), the programme Assistant will be entrusted with the following main tasks:

1. Be in charge of all practical and logistic arrangement for activities implementation and visiting missions;
2. According to approved budgets, follow-up on disbursement and reporting for individual projects;
3. Updating and maintaining the JYMDP archives;
4. Maintaining communication with Yemeni and international partners, including translation of correspondence and of other texts;
5. Providing ad hoc assistance to the Senior Media Advisor according to daily priorities.

Professional and personal skills required:

1. Written and oral English and Arabic must be fluent
2. Computer literacy: words, excel, internet
3. experience in administrative and financial work
4. Able to work under pressure and preparedness to work long hours in hectic periods of time;
5. good team player

Interested Yemeni and international applicants should send their CV accompanied by a motivation letter by fax for the attention of Stefania D. Bork to the following number: **01-414703**

Deadline for submitting applications is **Saturday, 31 March**. Only pre-selected candidates will be contacted.

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- Supply, installation, operating, check, test, and guarantee broadcast KU Band earth station equipment.
- Supply two transportation facilities (4WD & bus 16 passengers).

This tender will be financed by international grant by the ministry of planning and international cooperation.

Interested bidders who want to bid for this tender can obtain (purchase) a copy of the tender's documents priced at a fee of (20,000)YR twenty thousands Yemeni Rials (on non-refundable basis) during the normal work hours from the following address; (Ministry of education building , financial affairs, procurement and stores management (Jamal street) near to the military museum)

• **Deadline of selling the tender's documents is 18th of April 2007.**

• Offers must be placed inside envelopes or boxes sealed by red wax. Offers details such as bidder's name, number of tender and all its details must be written on every offer.

• Offers must be technically financially and commercially complete and to be submitted in one original and two copies in the blank places specified by the MOE in the same specification's pages of the tender's documents. **We are going to ignore any offer will not be adhered by this condition.**

\* **All the offers must be accompanied with copies of the following:**

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- 2) A copy of tax card valid for 2007
- 3) A copy of insurance card valid for 2007.
- 4) A copy of recording and classification certificate valid for 2007.
- 5) Recording certificate for the use of public tax affairs.
- 6) Cataloges of the all the items must be attached to the offers.

(Foreign companies must handover the similar documents mentioned above in numbers (2,3, and 4) from their homeland.)

• Deadline of receiving the offers (11:00 am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2007). any offers after this date will be rejected.

• Offers will be opened in public at (11:00 am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2007). In the ministry building (meeting hall) in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who may wish to attend.

• All bidders can have a look of this tender's documents during ten days from the publishing date of this announcement during normal working hours

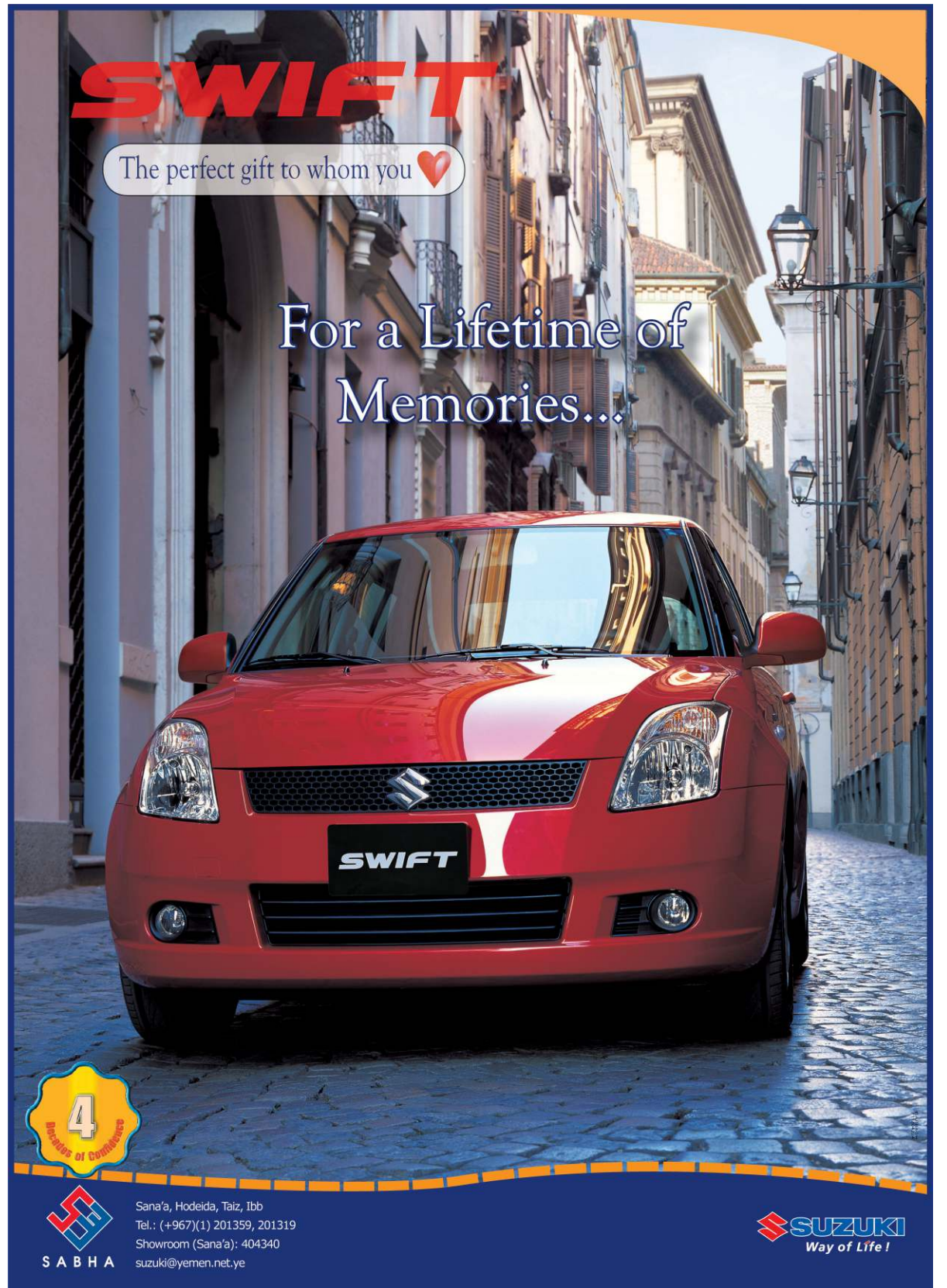


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# Restaurants only for women, men keep out!

By: Fatima Al-Ajel  
fatimafnr@yahoo.com

Restaurants generally tend to serve both male and female customers; however, in traditional societies such as Yemen and other Arab countries where local customs are preserved and held in high esteem, some restaurants cater only for women.

Approximately 10 years ago in Yemen, many restaurants catered only for women, especially in areas near the university and girls' schools, when some families rejected the idea of their daughters frequenting male restaurants to avoid mixing between men and women. Thus, women's restaurants became a phenomenon.

Operating women-only restaurants was an innovative idea for many businessmen, many of whom feared that such an ambitious project might fail. In the early days of the initiative, some restaurateurs initially opened sections for families and women only.

Over time, the number of female customers increased, thus necessitating restaurants enlarging their women-only sections. Increased demand by women, especially in a number of locations across Sana'a spurred some owners to open women-only restaurants.

One owner of a woman-only restaurant in front of the old university in Sana'a explained the reasons for opening his restaurant 12 years ago, from which he earns a respectable profit. "Nowadays, women go out either to study or work and as a result, they spend a great deal of time from home, so they actually need places like this to rest and eat their meals in a comfortable environment, especially in a society like ours," he noted.

Location plays an important role in encouraging businessmen to open such restaurants. "I decided to open my restaurant because I have a building in front of the university, a prime location for such a project. Otherwise, I don't think I ever would have considered such an endeavour so far from its natu-

ral market," another restaurateur commented.

Mohammed Al-Hazmi, an accountant for the past eight years at a women-only restaurant in Sana'a, clarified the importance of the restaurant's location in attracting university students, who spend their free time at the restaurant. He serves many customers, especially in the morning and afternoon.

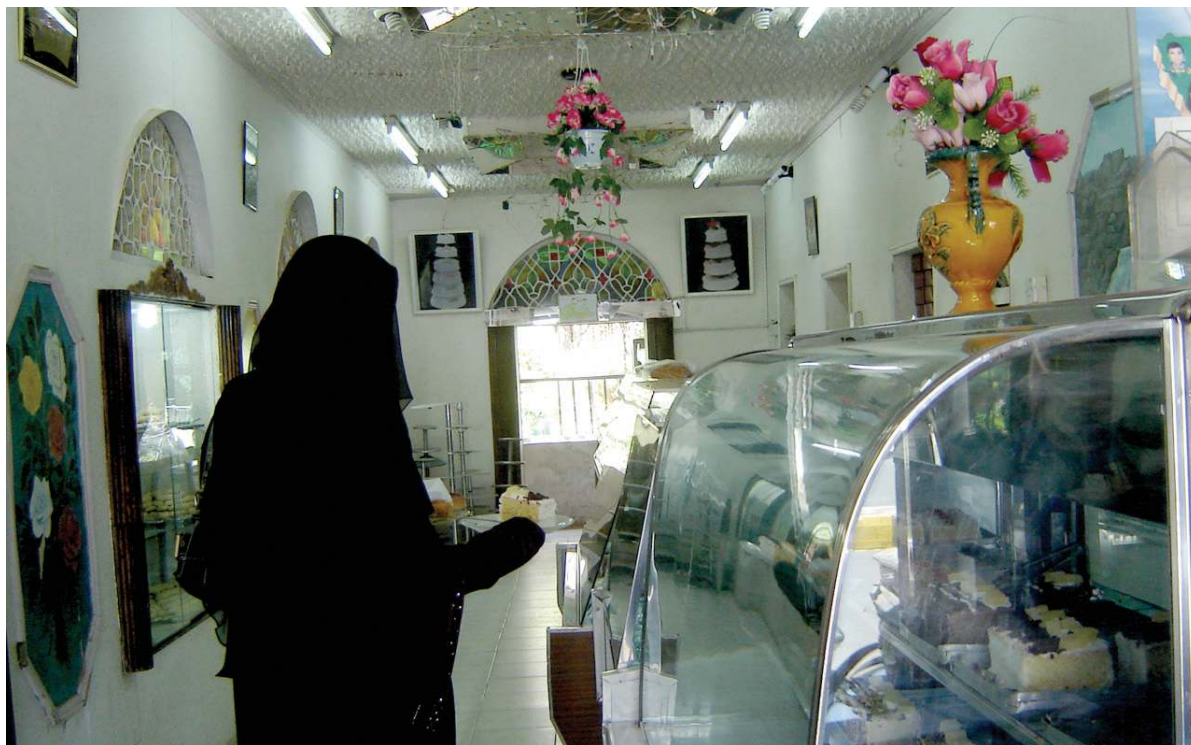
"We did have a separate section for men in the women's restaurant, but some male customers were bothered by the women who entered the restaurant, so we closed the male section. We prefer women customers because they're quiet and never cause problems, unlike in male or public restaurants," Al-Hazmi added.

With the advent of specialized women's restaurants where men are forbidden entry, unfortunately, the waiters are still male, a fact that bothers many female customers, who either are dissuaded from eating at such restaurants or forced to remain covered in a restaurant meant only for them.

However, women-only restaurants find difficulty employing women who will accept working in a restaurant; thus, many employ young boys under age 16. As one restaurateur explained, "I looked for female wait staff and I was ready to pay them more than men. However, I couldn't find anyone due to Yemeni culture wherein most families won't allow their daughters to work in a restaurant, even if it's specialized for women only."

Another reason many Yemenis don't accept female employees in such a workplace is that the environment is considered unsuitable for women, given that most restaurant employees are men who work closely together and chew qat during their time off. According to one restaurant owner, "I couldn't ask a woman to work in a male environment because she wouldn't feel comfortable with the male staff and the male staff would feel the same."

Many female customers appreciate such restaurants because they provide



Most women-only restaurants serve sweets, but some serve snacks.

a safe and suitable atmosphere for young women to eat and review their lectures. Some students' homes are far away, while others may have several hours between lectures, so women-only restaurants are ideal for a rest or prayer break until their next lecture or as a rendezvous to meet friends, rather than waiting on the street.

Salwa Mohammed, a first-level student at Sana'a University's Faculty of Medicine, is one customer who arranges to meet friends in such places. "I can't wait for my friends on the street or at college, so these restaurants are good locations for us to wait for each other, especially because they're safe. We're never bothered by stupid men," she added.

Noura Al-Athuari, a Faculty of Art student and a regular customer of a restaurant near the faculty, said she sometimes spends hours at the restaurant studying and reviewing lessons with her friends, especially during exams.

In the past few years, women-only restaurants have begun attracting customers who aren't university students, such as women working two shifts or housewives who consider such places good party venues, as well as many other women for whom these restau-

rants are simply places to relax and socialize away from the intrusion of the male gaze.

Consequently, many more businessmen are considering opening women-only restaurants to cater for this burgeoning market.



In the past few years, women-only restaurants have begun attracting customers who aren't university students

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## Words of Wisdom



If more meaningful change is to be made in respect for human rights, the daily violations against the rights of ordinary citizens have to be addressed. This means introducing new values through education and re-education. One clear target is to train law-enforcement agencies and officers on the rights of citizens and how to respect them. Another has to do with re-training of prison wardens and personnel.

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

OUR  
OPINIONLaw or no law ...  
that is the question

A recent discussion session among journalists revealed again the hesitation of Yemeni media to take matters into its own hands. Some journalists were unaware of the disadvantages of the current press code, others didn't want it changed fearing the alternative would be worse. Some journalists didn't think a law entitling them to the right to information was necessary... and the list goes on.

What is even more alarming is the depression of the Yemeni media and its pessimism towards change. Many Yemeni journalists do not perceive themselves as agents of change; in fact, at times, they are the first to oppose it. And when a bright side is brought to our attention, it usually comes from comparing our situation to countries of worse democracies, in order to feel good about ourselves.

The differentiating factor among journalists lies in one word, exposure. You don't feel bad for not having what you don't know. In other words, many Yemeni journalists and even common people have not enjoyed the freedom of expression in any form in their lives, and have not experienced the ability to demand information and get it. This is why a concept such as holding a Minister accountable to revealing state related information is almost a taboo, and practicing journalism without constraints is unheard of. In many developed democracies there is no media law and journalists are governed by the civil law just like any other citizens, because all people have the right to express themselves and being a journalists anyone can write or be a journalist if they have what it takes. "What do you mean there should / could be no law. How is the media going to be controlled?" was the reaction to the suggestion of eliminating the Yemeni press code. It would be much easier to get rid of it all together than to amend all the constraining articles in it.

However, unfortunately the agents of change in Yemen are still getting acquainted with their role. It might take another two or three decades to start living it for real.

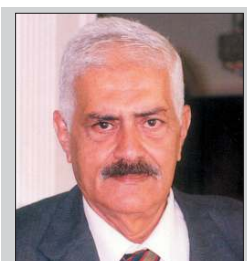
Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief

## About Baghdad's failed conference

By Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

I am not a fortune teller, nor do I believe in zodiacs. Undoubtedly, all the Iraqi people with all their sects and ethnic groups believe that the Baghdad conference, scheduled to take place in the near future, is bound to fail. There is no doubt that Arabs and others invited to the conference share the Iraqi people's belief about the conference's failure and the reasons behind the participants' doubt regarding the illegality of the conference. Those invited to the event bear in mind that the conference is merely a new political game to cover the failure of the security plan, as well as the claims of the occupation forces and the occupation-controlled government that they can restore security and peace to Mesopotamia.

The lack of confidence in the conference's success is based upon evidence and proof known to ordinary citizens before politicians and those majoring in politics. The Arabs already know that Iraq is under the Western occupation, which destroyed government facilities and discharged its armed forces. Now, the country's affairs are run by a group of traitors who shrewdly worked hard to continue



By: Prof.  
Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

involving the occupation forces in the quagmire that is present day Iraq.

Such a group of traitors plot to make the occupation forces sink deep into the swamp in order to defend its temporary interests and protect it from people resisting foreigners, in particular Western foreigners, who are driven by their greed to dominate the land and its wealth. The latter hadn't expected that such consequences as they now face would be the destiny of their greed.

Resolving the situation of the occupied Arab country doesn't necessarily come via conferences and symposiums. Instead, it comes via driving the occupation forces out of the country and leaving the Iraqi people to tackle their problems by themselves.

The Iraqi people should deal with the situation judiciously and forget about the poison of sectarian

divisions left by four years of the occupation. For those who fear any civil war, the real life situation tells them: "Hi people! What is happening today? Isn't it a civil war in the presence of the Western occupation, under its dominance and directives of its traitors? There is no possible solution to the crisis except for pulling out Western troops so that the Iraqi people will be compelled to coexist and work hard to restore solidarity and cooperation between their different sects and ethnic groups."

Since its tanks trod upon Iraqi territory, the U.S. Administration has suggested tens and hundreds of helpless solutions to rescue its forces from the hardship of inevitable failure. Some of these suggestions were even implemented such as the last one, which is increasing the number of service troops to make Baghdad more secure and safe after it was filled with blood and beheaded corpses. After sometime, the U.S. Administration perceived that the matter requires more than a security strategy accompanied by violence. So it suggested a conference.

The traveller in the heart of desert often alleges that any mirage he sees is water. This is the situation of the drowned

administration that has no other deliverance than to leave the Arab state today before the morrow. Observers say that the U.S. Administration is continuing its long war in Iraq in search for a noble outcome to maintain status and dignity of the superpower. But with the passage of time, the situation goes from bad to worse, until it has become difficult and impossible for the superpower to reach its sought goal. The U.S. has

placed itself, its reputation and its future in the hands of the genie. The superpower has no option but to leave the bloody and ever deepening and expanding swamp before it is too late for either country.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of the Arab Group for Investment and Development

## SILVER LINING

PGC - Opposition:  
Dialogue & cloudy  
surroundings

Again, the ruling PGC and the opposition coalition started a new round of dialogue last week. It is fine that the two sides attempt to find a breakthrough for the serious challenges and points of disagreements over several political and economic issues. The elections law and constitution amendments and some other issues have been put on the agenda of their dialogue.



By: Mohammed  
Al-Qadhi

But, the atmosphere surrounding the dialogue meetings does not reflect any sign of hope that they would reach a positive outcome due to absence of confidence and trust as well as a clear vision about what they genuinely want. While the two parties jumped into their first session of the dialogue, we found that the ruling party spokesman accused the socialist party of supporting the al-Houthi rebels in Sa'ada. How can they make such serious accusations and then argue that they are serious about dialogue with the opposition parties including the socialists. I know this is politics and political tactics, but such a fertile ground of mistrust cripples any positive outcome of such a dialogue that turns into a waste of time and effort.

I understand that it is the responsibility of the two sides to create a proper situation so as to make their meetings a success. However, the biggest share of responsibility has to do with the ruling party which enjoys full power and handles the decision making process. The ruling party should not expect from the opposition coalition to blindly approve of its government's decisions of going to war with al-Houthis without any background information about the reasons behind the eruption of the conflict again and again. If the opposition or any civil society activists call for and end to the war, it does not necessarily mean that they are supporting the despised insurgency which is condemned by everybody. In other words, such a murky atmosphere of accusation and counteraccusation and media barrage between the two sides does not demonstrate any potential for success for the dialogue between them.

## Can anybody tell Interior Minister about journalists' harassments?

Another issue I would like to spotlight is the heated fight between the two parliamentarians, Sultan al-Barakani, head of the ruling party caucus and its member, Abdulaziz Jubari, last week which thwarted the questioning of the interior minister on the increasing harassment and intimidations journalists have suffered. But, what is really ridiculous is the declaration of the interior minister that he has not heard about any violations or abuses of the journalists. I wonder where this man lives? Isn't the Minister of the Interior who should be aware of everything taking place in the country? Hey guys, can any of you go and talk to the minister about the problems some journalists have been facing?

The minister's statement shows, in fact, that the man does not have any respect for parliament, to the journalists or even the public. Is he fooling all of us or is it just the opposite? Such an official statement is really serious as it might be interpreted as a signal of approval on the part of the man and his ministry far all these abuses.

I guess we all agree that since this man has been in office the abuses of press freedom and journalists have never stopped. In addition, he and his officials have been imposing an embargo on the free-flow of information; he refuses to speak to journalists except those working for the state-run media. The man promised last year that there will be a media center at his ministry where journalists would have free access to information. But, the promise, which resulted from pressure exerted on the government by the media and international community to provide free access to information as a key element of any good and transparent governance remains unfulfilled just like many other promises the government has made.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.

Why does Israel  
publicise its crimes?

By: Mohammed Al-Ariqi

The criminal usually commits his crime according to a prior plan and then tries to conceal the evidence in order to evade punishment for what he commits. But Israel alone has been behaving in an irregular way which is totally different from the rule of criminals, as it commits its crimes in the public eye and takes pride in them even though such crimes carry sanctions under numerous international laws, conventions and agreements.

A few days ago, the Israeli Space Channel aired a documentary film,

which was announced for the first time, disclosing scenes in which the Israeli army killed 250 wounded Egyptian soldiers following the fighting which took place in the Sinai Peninsula in 1967. As the film was screened, some Arab newspapers described shots of Egyptian soldiers raising their hands without arms in gestures of surrender. Other shots showed Israeli troops, working under the command of Benjamin Elyzer, who is the current Minister of Infrastructure in the Israeli cabinet. At that time, Elyzer ordered his soldiers to kill the Egyptian prisoners of war.

The second crime was that of the Israeli 34 day war against Lebanon in July last year. To this day, the conflicting factions in the Lebanese government are debating over the war some of whom claim that Hezbollah gave Israel just cause to wage the war after the Shi'ite Islamic group held two Israeli soldiers captive. This was the same logic used in the addresses and analyses of those who call themselves realistic and ideal Arabs.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ehad Olmert, appeared to put an end to the controversy after he acknowledged that he declared war last year against Hezbollah. He claimed that under an emergency plan, which he approved four months before the war which devastated Lebanon and provoked controversy in Israel, he had taken a decision to eliminate Hezbollah. Olmert revealed, however, that the war couldn't help him reach his pre-planned goals.

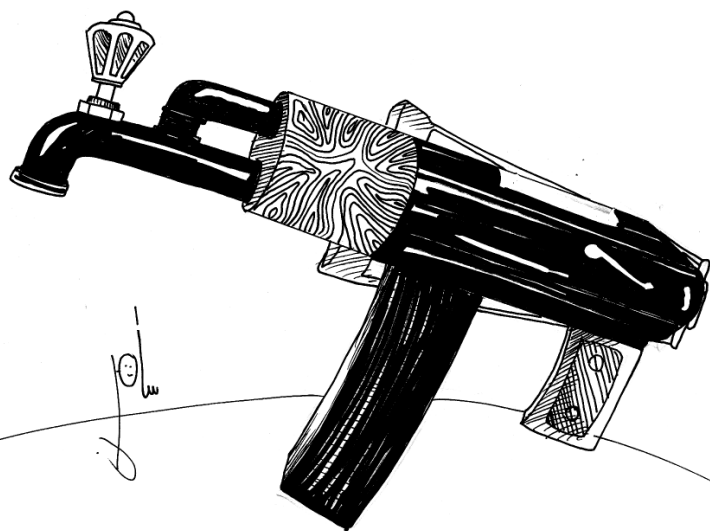
From these facts, a question is being raised about why Israel turned to publicise all its hostile acts and military and civil crimes. The answer is simply that Israel is

not very capable of earning the sympathy of the world public opinion.

Israel need not show its' alleged innocence for various reasons. Firstly, Israel's crimes and brutal acts, which it exercises before television cameras, are not welcomed by world public opinion, particularly certain sections of Western public opinion who have become convinced that Israel is an enemy of peace. The second reason is that Israel does not care about earning the sympathy of Western public opinion since Western governments back it and never oppose any Israeli act. The third reason is that Israel doesn't fear any reactions from Arabs rather it has a shared joint strategy with the U.S. to fight Arabs and defeat them psychologically. The fourth reason is that Israel doesn't fear any international sanctions or consequences because the world has no supreme court or legal body able to penalise Israel for its crimes against humanity. Israel itself is able to establish numerous courts and fabricate hundreds of charges against innocent people.

But, if the Arabs have the commitment they can defend and reclaim their rights because Israel is not that great a power. And, I think that Israel cannot now escape the ramifications of the unlawful killing of Egyptian prisoners of war since Egypt has become stronger with a growing population, numerous press institutions, and legal and civil community organisations.

Mohammed Al-Ariqi is a Yemeni journalist and secretary editor of Al-Thawrah daily newspaper. Source: Al-Thawrah daily newspaper

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By Samer

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# Yemen Press Review

By: Adel Al-Khawlani



**Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Organ of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)**  
Tuesday, March 20

**Main Headlines**

- After the killing of a tribal leader and his guards in armed confrontations, locals flee to Saudi border
- More than YR 8 million wasted in Al-Barh Cement Factory
- Students' activities boosted in Aden University and its branches
- Central Organization for Control and Audit released a report revealing money embezzlement in a health facility
- Two killed, another injured in Dhamar tribal conflicts
- Authorities escalate war against journalism

The weekly reported that its chief editor Ali Al-Saqqaf stood trial on Sunday at the Capital's Appeal Court while the paper's managing editor Ahmad Sa'eed along with Muadh Al-Maqtari, and other reporters, represented the UUPO-affiliated weekly before the Press and Publications Prosecution. Al-Saqqaf is tried over an article published by the newspaper about disputes between citizens in Al-Sadda district, Ibb governorate.

The other two staff members stood trial over a publication lawsuit filed by the commander of the Republican Guards Camp in Al-Orkoub, who accused the weekly newspaper of insulting the most important national institutions including some military units. The newspaper's articles, which

disclosed the kidnapping and killing of citizens by a 15-member group, fuelled tension and rage of some government parities and officials. Also, Al-Wahdawi weekly is facing another 14 lawsuits in different courts, and such conducts, according to the newspaper's reporters, are aimed at intimidating journalists and restricting press freedom.



**Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress**  
Monday, March 19

**Main Headlines**

- PM to opposition party leaders: dialogue is ever open to everyone, discussion is due to include all secrets and ideas
- Yemeni-British Friendship Society member praises great transformations experienced in Yemen
- Al-Haq Party dissolved under other parties' approval
- Parliament reviews an agreement for building a railway along Yemen's coastline
- Oxfam boosts women activities, decentralization process and poverty alleviation strategies
- EU Mission and UN Development Program supports Yemen's parliament and election system
- Army strikes terrorists' hideouts

The newspaper reported that the army is striking the terrorist elements in their final hideouts in the areas of Fard, Naqa'a, Matra and Al Salem, north of Sa'ada. Military and security unites, mandated to expel the rebels, are continuing their operations to dominate these areas and eliminate the terrorism

remnants. The weekly quoted Yahya Al-Shami, Sa'ada Governor, as saying: "Sa'ada governorate will be free of any terrorism remnants within a few days. All the areas of Bani Muadh, Al-Talh and Walad Masaod have been purified from the terrorist gangs." The governor pinned that the military and security forces, backed by citizens, launched operations against the final strongholds of terrorists, killing dozens and injuring many others.



**Al-Tajamu Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party (YUCP)**  
Monday, March 19

**Main Headlines**

- Displaced locals up to 25,000, as clashers grow fiercer in Sa'ada
- YUCP investigated after being sued by a military commander
- State's Real Estate doesn't work according to President's directions, observers say
- Human rights activist blames Saleh for indifference toward Al-Ja'ashen crisis
- Al-Haq executive committee appoint a new secretary general
- A former presidential council member detained in an Aden police station
- Influential persons plunder investors' lands

The newspaper reported that many gunmen with military uniforms were usually cited to plunder agricultural lands belonging to investors in Al-Emad district, Aden governorate. The weekly quoted reliable sources as

saying that civilians in charge of guarding the lands were attacked by policemen last week. The assailants damaged pumps and other agricultural equipment and confiscated some of them.

Eyewitnesses said that several agricultural investors had been detained in Da'ar Sa'ad Police Station, as they were filing complaints against policemen who grabbed their lands. The investors complained that they were subjected to torture and mistreatment during their detention. Deputy Chief of Aden Security Department Najib Mughalles ordered the concerned parties to take legal and firm procedures against the plunderers and investigate the incident.



**Al-Balagh Independent Weekly**  
Tuesday, March 20

**Main Headlines**

- Political party affairs committee approves dissolving Al-Haq Party
  - General People Congress (GPC) and Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) discuss Al-Haq Party dissolution
  - Editions of the New Testament distributed in Taiz City
  - 5 Hodeida locals drown in Red Sea
  - Manager of Al-Dhale' Water Office accused of embezzling public money
  - Dhamar detainees appeal to President to free them
  - Ruling party denounces a symposium entitled "Together against the war", accuses participants of backing terrorism
- According to the independent weekly, a ruling party official source

strongly denounced the symposium held under the slogan "Role of Civil Community Organizations in Ending Sa'ada War". The source noted that the symposium was supposed to discuss the role of civil community organizations in establishing and maintaining the rule of law and order. He added that these organizations shouldn't defend the terrorist elements who kill and intimidate citizens, attack military and security soldiers, loot public and private property and exercise highway activities.

The source expressed curiosity about the symposium where JMP members only were given a chance to speak in a way backing terrorists and the acts of vandalism in the northern governorate of Sa'ada. He confirmed that history will have no mercy on those who attempt to harm the nation by their support for terrorists and the acts of terrorism.



**26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army**  
Thursday, March 22

**Main Headlines**

- Saleh: we expect Arab Summit to come up with fruitful results
- Saleh and Putin discuss international relations and developments
- Shoura Council Chairman: Yemen reached significant development in the handicapped care facilities
- Foreign Minister: reforms, settling differences, development top our agenda in the days to come
- Saleh emphasizes role of Arab Labor Organization in addressing

- workforce's issues
- Finance Minister discuss means of enhancing cooperation with World Bank and International Monetary Fund
- Saleh to meet UN Secretary-General next week
- Sa'ada terrorist elements use citizens as human armors, authorities accuse rebels of wearing women dresses while plotting terrorist offensives

The weekly paper reported that the security authorities arrested a group of terrorists put on women dresses while plotting to launch terrorist operations on several targets. It added that the terrorist elements, who fuelled the sedition in some Sa'ada districts as directed by their leaders Abdulmalik Al-Houthi and Abdullah Al-Rizami, rejected a request by religious clerics and social personalities to stop entrenching in Dhehyan area and return home.

Also, the rebels were asked to leave their positions on the top of mountains and not to use aged people, women and children as human armors, as well to stop attacking innocent citizens and military and security troops and refrain from damaging public and private properties. The government accused Al-Houthi-led rebels of exercising highway activities, intimidating commuters and deterring traffic.

According to official sources, Dhehyan innocent locals evicted their homes because the terrorist acts target their lives and property. The sources added that in response to directives from high-ranking military commanders and local authorities, the military and security forces vowed to besiege the entrenching terrorists and tighten the noose around them without any armed confrontations in order to save lives of Dhehyan locals.

## VACANCY

### Procurement Officer for the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of Procurement Officer. The Procurement Officer will report directly to the Project Director and will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

**The Procurement Officer would:**

**i. Planning functions**

- Preparing and updating the Project procurement plan for each year of the Project and ensure its distribution to all sectors/units involved in the Project implementation.
- Itemizing and listing all goods required for the Project; grouping goods in packages and determining the procurement method: ICB, NCB, IS, NS.
- Preparing and/or organizing and supervising the preparation of bidding documents and requests for proposals; and
- Working with relevant sectors in developing TORs for the selection of consulting firms.

**ii. Procurement Process**

- Preparing and ensuring the publication of Specific and General Procurement Notices for goods, and requests for expressions of interest for consulting services.
- Ensuring that documents have received appropriate approvals in accordance with the Development Credit Agreement (DCA).
- Systematically attending on behalf of the BEDP all bids opening, evaluation, and contracts award sessions and preparing minutes of bid opening and evaluation reports, in accordance with IDA guidelines.
- Preparing contracts and ensuring they are timely approved, signed and notified, in accordance with the procedures described in the Procurement Manual.

**iii. Contract Management**

- Inspecting and receiving goods, to ensure compliance with specifications and quantities with the purchase orders/contracts.
- Arranging for safe custody and the proper delivery of goods to the Project institutions, if necessary, and installation in accordance with the contract and the target dates in the implementation schedule.

**iv. Relevant Tasks**

- Acting as a focal point for any dialogue on procurement management matters relating to the Project as may be required by the Project's financiers.
- Systematically reporting and updating the Project's Management on the status of procurement activities and issues, and follow-up with MOE and other related Ministries and Institutions on procurement and other Project's issues as may be required by the Project's Management.
- Contributing to quarterly Financial Monitoring Reports.
- Ensuring that procurement procedures provided in the DCA are respected at all stages.

**Qualifications:**

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in commerce, business administration, engineering, or equivalent qualification.
- At least 3 years experience in a procurement management position.
- Familiarity with the government and IDA's procurement guidelines and procedures.
- Computer literacy and proficiency in both Arabic and English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **Monday April 9, 2007** at the following address:

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

## VACANCY

### Monitoring and Evaluation Officer 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 Monitoring and Evaluation Officer who will be responsible for the entire Monitoring and Evaluation aspects of the Project and will also assist and cooperate with MOE in overall Monitoring and Evaluation activities. The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer will report directly to the Project Director and will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

**The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer main tasks would be:**

- Assisting MOE in preparing semi-annual reports on the implementation of annual education plans. The officer will:
  - Work with the Department of Planning and Statistics to ensure adequate coverage of the follow-up reports in light of the BEDP log-frame and the associated list of performance monitoring indicators;
  - Cooperate with MOE Central and Governorate staff responsible for follow-up of each BEDP components, in coordination with the Department of Planning and Statistics, to obtain adequate data for the follow-up reports; and
  - Visit project sites to assess the quality of follow-up reports and propose actions for the improvement.
- Updating data for the project performance indicators (indicators for the development objective and outputs of the project) as input to quarterly project progress reports. The officer will:
  - Establish and update a monitoring mechanism for the project performance indicators which will also feed into a monitoring mechanism for the MOE annual education plans in the project governorates; and
  - Implement the monitoring mechanism, in coordination with MOE Department of Planning and Statistics and other departments concerned, and provide input to quarterly project progress reports.
- Contributing to the mid-term review report and the implementation completion reports. The officer will:
  - Assist MOE in arranging two impact studies of the BEDP: one will be undertaken before the mid-term review (in the third year of project implementation) and the other will be done before project completion (fifth year of the project).
- Acting as a focal point for any dialogue on Monitoring & Evaluation matters relating to the Project as may be required by the Project's financiers.
- Systematically reporting and updating the Project's Management on the status of Monitoring & Evaluation activities and issues, and follow-up with MOE and other related Ministries and Institutions on the same and other Project's issues as may be required by the Project's Management.
- Contributing to quarterly Project Management Reports.

**Qualifications**

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Education Planning, Statistics, Economics, or other related fields.
- Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in educational monitoring and statistics.
- Experience in the use of statistics programs.
- Professional language proficiency in both Arabic and English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **April 9, 2007** at the following address:

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

# Modern materialism and the spirituality of Islam

By: Nisreen Shadad

A symposium about modern materialism and the spirituality of Islam launched last Monday, noting how the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) faced the problems and social crises of his day and how his solutions fit today's social problems.

Luke Martin, a new Muslim from Britain, discussed the Prophet Mohammed's prophetic characteristics, saying, "He is a mercy for the whole world," while Herman, another new Muslim from Namibia, related his conversion story.

Hisham Al-Attas, a teacher of comparative religion at Hadramout's Dar Al-Mustafa discussed the core points of abuse, specifically, women's and children's abuse. After enumerating today's social crises, he offered solutions from Islamic instruction.

"In the United States, according to Times magazine, 1994 issue 4, one-third of women have experienced violence and four women die every day at the hands of their husband or sweetheart according to Nation for Women-Now (www.Now.org). Fifty percent of British women are beaten by their husband, according to the BBC, while in Canada; a wife is killed every day according to Survey of Spousal Assaults Reported to Police in 1995. In Russia, 36,000 women are beaten by their husband or sweetheart daily. In Russia as well a woman is killed every hour according to Amnesty organization," Al-Attas stated. "We can't deny that Muslim countries also suffer such things; however, such huge numbers don't exist. The remedy for Muslims is between their hands – they need only follow it," he noted.

The symposium lecturers assured that we must follow the Prophet Mohammed, who never beat his wives. "The prophet said: 'The best of you are the best in their behavior toward their families and I am the best of you in my behavior toward my family,'" Al-Attas quoted.

According to him, the hijab is one solution provided to solve the rape of women because it saves them and makes them more secure, as well as reflects a woman's personality rather than her beauty or the form of her body.

Al-Attas considers forbidding the drinking of alcohol as another solution,



I did it out of love and respect for the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh); I wear the clothes that he used to wear, Martine said in response to one of the attendees questions.

noting, "Drinking [alcohol] is forbidden in Islam. As statistics prove, one-third of rapes occur while men are under the influence of alcohol."

In number 287 in chapter 34 entitled, "Treating Women Well," of Riyad Al-Saliheen (an authentic hadith), Abu Hurayra states, "The messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said: 'The most perfect of believers in belief is the best of them in character. The best of you are those who are the best to their women.'" [Al-Tirmidhi]

Al-Attas stated, "Ninety-one percent of Americans have seen a psychologist or advised others to go to them and 73 percent say the main thing causing worry and depression is money. Every 18 minutes, a person commits suicide in the U.S."

He continued, "Our relationship with Allah is the heart's remedy. Praying five times a day and remembering Allah all the time strengthens the relationship between creation and Creator. The feeling that Allah loves us and has mercy upon us makes man draw closer to Him out of love," he continued.

Martin related his conversion story and what most caused him to embrace Islam.

He admires Yemen and is proud to be in a country the Prophet Mohammed praised. "He mentioned the softness of your hearts, so make use of such open hearts to love your prophet. Know him in order to love him, because it's hard for anyone to love someone about whom he knows only a little," Martin exhorted.

"Look to the Prophet Mohammed's biography and read about his manners, morals and character with both Muslims

and non-Muslims," he urged, recounting, "There was a Jewish man who daily threw dirt at the prophet's door to annoy him. One day, the dirt wasn't there, so the prophet began to worry about the Jew because he didn't see dirt at his door. He asked about him and discovered that the Jew was ill. He visited him, surprising the Jew by his greatness, because although he annoyed him, he cared about him. The Jew witnessed and then converted to Islam." Martin continued, "The prophet is the man who is weeping for us. One day while he was among his companions, he said, 'I long to see my brothers.' His companions asked, 'Aren't we your brothers?' to which he replied, 'My brothers are nations that never saw me, but they give family and wealth out of love for me.'" He added that he longs to see or meet such a great and merciful man.

During his remarks, Martin presented what the Prophet Mohammed offers to the whole world, as well as some Western witnesses to his greatness. "In a July 15, 1974 Time magazine article entitled, 'Who Were History's Great Leaders?' American psychoanalyst Jules Masserman said, 'Leaders must fulfill three functions: provide for the well-being of the led, provide a social organization wherein they feel relatively secure and provide them a set of beliefs.'

"[Louis] Pasteur and [Jonas] Salk are leaders in the first sense, while [Mahatma] Gandhi and Confucius, on one hand, and Alexander [the Great] and [Julius] Caesar on the other, are leaders in the second and perhaps the third sense. Jesus and Buddha belong in the third cat-

egory alone, but perhaps the greatest leader of all time was Mohammed, who combined all three functions, and to a lesser degree, Moses did the same."

He continued, "In his 'Historie de la Turquie' (Paris, 1854) the famous French poet Alphonse de Lamartine wrote, 'If greatness of purpose, smallness of means and astonishing results are the three criteria of human genius, who could dare compare any great man in history with

Mohammed? Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational beliefs, founder of 20 earthly empires and one spiritual empire – that was Mohammed. Regarding all standards whereby human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?'"

Martin concluded, "In his book, 'The Prophet Mohammed: A Biography,' Christian Anglican author Barnaby

Rogerson enthusiastically wrote about the prophet. 'Even when viewed in an entirely secular perspective, he remains a superhero. Only by marrying the best qualities of certain characters from European civilization – say, a combination of Alexander the Great, Diogenes and Aristotle, or the Emperor Constantine, St. Paul and St. Francis – can you begin to understand the measure of the man.'

## Martin's conversion story

To summarize a life-changing experience – one of great joy and also sadness, of peace and also struggle – into a short story really is impossible; however, I hope to recall some of the events in my life that led me to convert to Islam.

As a young teen, I was involved in the average daily routine of any young Westerner; however, I always enjoyed contemplating and writing poetry.

It was in high school that a friend of mine introduced to me Islam. Before my introduction, I wondered why Muslims didn't eat and starved themselves for one month of the year (Ramadan), so my curiosity led me to try it for myself. Roughly 10 days into Ramadan, I started to feel a light in my chest – the light of faith. I still had very little knowledge; therefore, I carried on with my normal life.

After reading some books, my knowledge increased. I felt uneasy eating the haram meat, pork; therefore, I decided to stop eating pork and even stop drinking alcohol and began eating only halal meat. As time went on, I began to pray. I remember being afraid of people entering my room, so I blocked the door with a small cupboard!

Thus, I began following Islamic instructions while I was a non-Muslim: I prayed every day, I left alcohol, I started eating halal meat and fasting during Ramadan. The only thing left was to perform the Hajj. Of course, the most essential part of all of this was the Shahada: "La illah il Allah Mohammed rassulullah."

After five months of praying, fasting and eating halal food, my friend had strongly urged me to accept Islam. It was just what I needed and during the month of Muharram, I accepted Islam.

When I told my father, he immediately went out to buy some books about Islam. I remember showing him the beautiful athan (call) to prayer from Mecca and he was deeply influenced. As time went by, we spoke about Islam and one night, I remember there was a big argument because out of the intensity of his spiritual journey, he had become angry. I remember I immediately went into my room and prayed to Allah, as I always say to myself, "Never give up on Allah's mercy!" Al-hamdulillah, by the mercy of Allah, my father embraced Islam!

It's clear that the spirituality of Islam was a fundamental factor in both my father's conversion and mine, so much so, that my mother began fasting during Ramadan, although she's still a Christian!

My dear brothers and sisters, I ask for your sincere prayers. I advise myself and you to never give up on the beauty of Allah and his divine mercy He continuously bestows upon us every moment like a cool, gentle rain upon a barren desert.

## Herman's conversion story

I was born and raised in a country in southern Africa by a family who really went out of their way to ensure that I received a good education and life skills. I owe my family a lot and everyone who took part in my upbringing. This good upbringing later made me long for a family of my own; however, the two things preventing me from realizing my desire were freedom and finances. Therefore, I saved up all the money I had and bought a plane ticket to the U.K. in the hopes that this would be the key to my dreams.

I found a job and really began earning some good money. However, my goals suddenly changed from wanting to build a family to just caring about how much money I could gather. My happiness became related to my financial state: Are my clothes expensive? Are my shoes in style? Is my mobile phone top of the range? I really became exhausted by this rat race and it was at this point that I started thinking about my purpose in life.

I was a Christian at that time and the whole concept of the trinity was confusing to me, as well as the story of the prophet Lot (pbuh) who was disrobed after having drunk alcohol and then had intercourse with his daughter. Additionally, the weekly Sunday service and praying only at times of need weren't really working for me. But now in Islam, we have a continuous connection with our Lord and there's no way one can forget Him.

However, before I could accept Islam, I had a problem because I had a greatly distorted view of Islam and Muslims, whom I pictured as bearded men carrying weapons, causing chaos and violence whenever they go, abusing their wives and transgressing their rights.

While in London, I worked at a sports center. One day, a customer with a beard

walked in and requested to view the swimming pool, which was open for public use. Since he wanted a private pool, he left the center shortly thereafter. However, I kept in touch with him in the hopes of helping him find what he was looking for and that was where the relationship grew.

His good character attracted me more than anything, as I saw in him honesty, humility, love, tolerance and generosity. The more I got to know him, the more I visited him and my knowledge of Islam grew. The hospitality he showed me was always very good.

I reached a point where I realized that Islam was the truth, but I didn't have the desire to accept it. I remember I had many excuses at that time and I lived in an intense internal struggle. I wished I could purify myself and accept the truth humbly; however, I worried about what my parents and friends would think of me. It was too difficult to change my religion, begin a new life with new instructions and even harder to face my family and society. I thought it over for a long time.

"Do you accept Islam as the truth?" my Muslim friend asked and I answered, "Yes;" however, it was difficult for me to put it into action. The question that really affected me was what happens if one dies without having accepted Islam? I refused to answer him, but I knew deep down what my outcome would be, so my response was to chase him out of my apartment! After he left, his question remained in my heart and hovered in my head. It was time to face myself first and answer the questions in both my head and my heart. I was living in darkness and if I died, surely I'd be resurrected in the same state. Since I had accepted this life, there was no way to refuse it after death. I wanted to be raised up in light and purified by admitting the truth, so I ran out of my apartment and headed to my Muslim friend's house. Although I had chased him from apartment and been rude to him, he still gave me a warm welcome and the tender hospitality he had given me previously.

I said the Shahada, which took less than a few seconds; because I thought I was going to go through a big ceremony. I later found out that this one who had informed me about Islam also previously was a non-Muslim like me!

## Poetry Day celebrated

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Yemeni Writers Union and the Poets' House in Yemen inaugurated for the first time a celebration about Poetry on March, 12.

Abdul Aziz al-Maqaleh, the Director of the Yemen Center for Studies and Research as well as the Poets' House, consoled all the attendees, who were all poets, at the beginning of the program for the loss of one of Yemen's great modernist poets Muhammad Hussein Haytham who died on Friday, March 2. Condolences were also forthcoming regarding the death of another famous Yemeni poet, Zaid Mutee Dammag, who died on March, 20.

"Such occasions are for those who show deep concern for their social problems and fill the entire world with their sincere compassion and thoughts," said Abdullah al-Bar, the director of the Yemeni Writers Union. Nadia Muraee, a teacher in al-Shawkani institute for teachers, said, "I commenced writing poems at elementary school. When I got older, I got the ability to criticize the courses' poems myself. The poem I performed today is about Muhammad Hussein Haytham. I was a friend of their family. So his death was a shock for all those around him. It is a great chance to listen and mingle with other poets. Today we have heard from numerous poets who we seen for the first time," she said. The first collection I have done is "Azaheer al-Atash"; the small flowers' thirst. "As a woman I don't think that there is anything that prevents her from being fulfilling her potential. The talented woman emerges and the only obstacle the female poet faces is the extra responsibilities she has or the refusal of her family to write," Ahlam al-Qubati, an MA student in Arabic language said, "I am a writer, however, I am still unknown. I don't dare



Al-Maqaleh as well as al-Bar celebrated for the first time the Poetry Day.

talk in front of people, but I keep coming to such occasions to be encouraged and talk in front of the others." Sawsan al-Areeqi, a female poet, commented on first such occasion held in Yemen. "It is a chance for us to meet great poets and listen to them reciting their poems." Samah another female poet said, "I really appreciate such meetings since all poets, the well-known as well as beginners, can meet together and talk to each other". Mabkhoot al-Wesabi, another MA student of Arabic language said that "Every day is poet's day."

"It is a wonderful chance since Poetry Day coincides with the occasion of Mother's Day. Poetry is the mother as both are the breast that we can express our feelings through. Every day is poetry day; however, I think we lack classical poems. Though most poets who attended here are classically trained, most poets presented are modern poems," said Abdul Qawee Muheb al-Deen, a student in Geographical department.

Next year, the Yemeni Writers Union, in conjunction with Poetry House in Yemen, are going to organize poets' gatherings in specific streets, particularly where people usual gather. It is a chance for common poets to emerge and show their talents," commented Hamdan Dammag, the Vice President of the

Yemeni Centre for Studies and Research. "I began to write poems while I was in high school. Because my father is one of the famous writers" said Zaid Mutee Dammag, "so he affected my life a lot. I am a member of the Yemeni Writers Union. I am also the Chief Editor of Ghaiman, a specialized literature magazine published by the Poetry House in Yemen," he added. "I have been publishing poems since 1990. I write modern Arabic poems. Nicole's Beautiful Morning, my first poetry collection is under publication. I also write short stories. I have been publishing short stories since 1995. The Fly, my first collection of short stories was published in 2000," he continued. "We aim as well as to gather far from the parties and art conflicts. We want to make the bridge for all people to walk in".

Sources for the Yemeni Times were assured that there will be two further occasions to celebrate poets, the first one will be at the Yemeni Centre for Studies and Research under the auspice of al-Maqaleh and al-Bar. The second will take place at the Culture House under the auspice of Abdul Salam al-Kibsi, the director of the Poetry House. That the events are to be held in different centers reflects the conflict of interests between poets who divided to form different groups.

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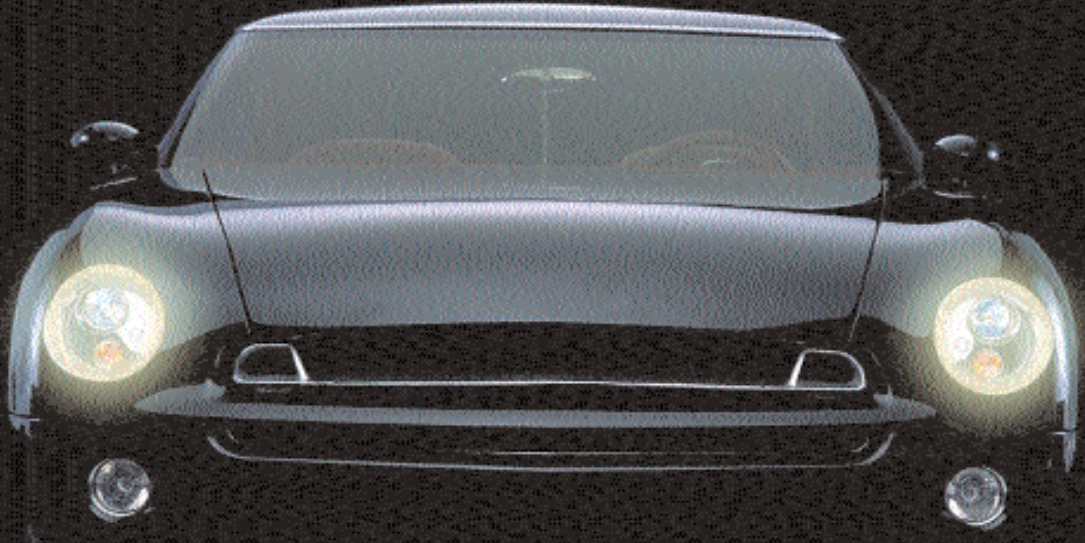
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## Air pollution costs Yemen US \$100 millions

**S**ANA'A, March, 14- Diseases due to air Pollution cost Yemen US \$100 millions yearly, the water and environment minister, Abdul Al-Eryani said on Wednesday.

"Human exposures to hazardous agents in the air, water, soil are major contributors to illness, disability, and death. Deterioration of environmental conditions slows sustainable development tremendously in our country. A serious and hazardous environmental toxin is lead. The single most important source of human exposure to lead is lead aerosol formed by the combustion of lead antiknock additives in gasoline." Said the minister in a conference titled "National Commitment Building to Phase out Leaded Gasoline in Yemen." He confirmed that Yemen is one of the remaining 18 countries worldwide still using leaded gasoline.."

He emphasized the importance of putting environmental policies into action to reduce air pollution, and providing the involved authorities with international expertise in this area. We need to change the path by going unleaded - for our country and the future of our children" said Al-Eryani

"Lead is a hazardous heavy metal and a known neurotoxin. Lead phase-out is expected to be a highly cost-effective measure, strong commitment and an appropriate policy intervention is required. Raising awareness and understanding are major tools in the process of phasing out leaded gasoline. I will raise the issue with my colleagues at the Cabinet," expressed Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Director of the Social Fund for Development, Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi

According to studies, there is no save exposure to lead and even low levels can cause serious and persistence damage to the nervous system. Scientifically, it is one of the best understood and widely studied environmental toxins. It severely damages many human organs, most notably the nervous system, the blood-forming system, the kidneys, the cardiovascular system, and the reproductive system. Children's health is most vulnerable to lead because their



The workshop titled "National Commitment Building to Phase out Leaded Gasoline in Yemen."

nervous systems are not fully developed. Ambient lead from vehicle exhaust may also travel a long distance and spread widely, although much lead is deposited on the soil in areas nearby heavily traveled roads, where it persists for a prolonged period.

Mr. Mike Walsh, Board Chairman of the International Council on Clean Transportation, more than 800 infants and 10,000 adult deaths were caused annually in Cairo by this problem. Fortunately Egypt phased leaded gasoline out recently.

"The economic costs of air pollution are in the range of 1-4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)" expressed the Chairman of Chamber of Commerce Mahfoud Shamakh.

Mahmoud Shidiwah, the Chairman of the Environment Protection Authority said that the authority in January has finalized a series of testing to assess the concentration of lead in blood from risk groups in Sana'a. The results of which are reflecting the concern on the present situation. He added that replacement of lead-free gasoline will be within the framework of the third five-year plan for development and alleviating poverty, from 2006 to 2010. "Furthermore, we have launched in cooperation with UNEP a project aiming at building awareness thereby supporting commitment building within all stakeholder groups to phase out leaded gasoline," he informed

A study found that Sana'a consumes 29,000 out of 50,000 barrels of oil used annually in all of Yemen. However, the capital city's portion of poison-produced gases is very high and well exceeds international standards. Moreover, Yemeni doctors have warned on various

occasions about the increased impact of air pollution in general, and the impact of lead emissions in particular.

More than 70 percent of existing vehicles in Yemen contribute to the presence of lead. According to statistics from the General Department of Traffic in Sana'a, nearly 250,000 vehicles are operating in Sana'a, more than 20,000 of which run on diesel. Additionally, more than 25,000 vehicles have been seized in Sana'a due to poor exhaust emissions.

Environmental experts said that the use of leaded fuel prevents the use of catalytic converters. Catalytic converters can be instrumental in improving the air quality in Yemen's cities as they reduce vehicle emissions by more than 90%. Lead in gasoline also increases vehicle maintenance costs and reduces the life of automobile engines. Because of the progress in refining technology, lead additives are no longer required to achieve gasoline octane specifications. High gasoline octane ratings can be achieved without lead.

"Introduction of clean fuels and vehicle technologies not only benefits the health and environment in the cities, but also contributes to addressing regional and global environmental issues such as transboundary air pollution and global warming." said Lia Sieghart an international advisor in water and environment ministry.

Although lead phase-out is expected to be a highly cost-effective measure - particularly in terms of the impact on health and the environment - strong commitment, the appropriate policy intervention, public awareness and understanding forms part of a broad, consensus-building effort.

## Tortoises in Yemen are slaughter prone

By: Jamal Al-Najjar

**S**harma Natural Reserve, East of Hadramout governorate's Al-Mukalla city, is one of the most convenient places worldwide for animal species especially the rare ones or those on verge of extinction including sea and green turtles. Unfortunately, the reserve's turtles are subject to human and non-human aggressions and other risks that threaten their lives.

According to Ahmed Al-Humaiqani, General Director of Nomadic Travel Tourism Agency, turtles are slaughtered by some people in the area. "During our visit to the reserve, I was shocked to find a lot of turtles' remains scattered in the area," he said.

Al-Humaiqani presented photos of two slaughtered turtles captured when he was accompanying a group of Netherlands tourists during their visit to the reserve for recreation. "At 11:00 pm of the same day we arrived, we saw six men entering the reserve from the main gate by their car. They slaughtered two turtles; one of which was over 100 years old," he confirmed.

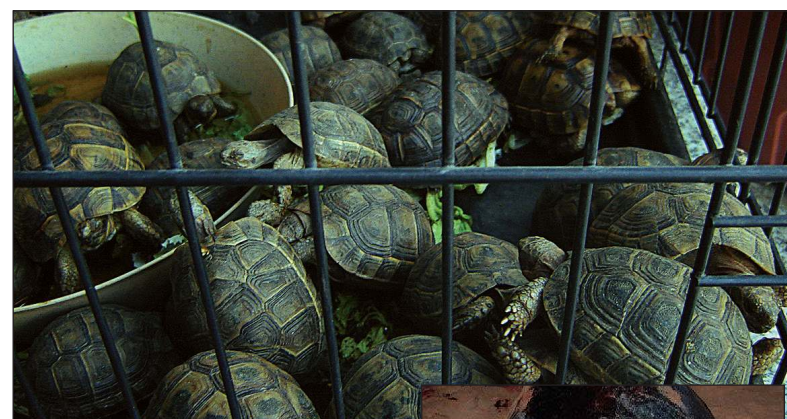
He further expressed his sorrow that the reserve's guards were aware of the slaughtering process and facilitated it for the slaughterers. "The guards were capable of stopping the aggressors but they didn't. One of the tourists and his wife prevented them from killing more turtles and, at the same time, they took photos of the slaughtering scene," he explained.

Reacting to the incident, Director of Environment Protection General Authority Mahmoud Shediwa declared those involved in killing turtles including guards will be held accountable for their offenses.

"We agreed with the local authority in the governorate to fine those involved in this act," he said, adding, "Punitive procedures will be applied on the slaughterers as stipulated in the environment protection law number 26 in 1995."

Shediwa maintained also that guard rooms have been built around Sharma reserve which is due to be declared officially as a natural reserve within this year. In addition, the reserve will be provided with guards from the Environment Protection Authority in cooperation with the local authority in order to prevent any further slaughtering of turtles.

The reason behind killing turtles is still



There is no regulation over the sale of tortoises, which are usually sold as food in urban centers. Baby tortoises for sale in Sana'a (Above). Tortoises slaughtered at a beach in Hadramout (Right).

unknown but some people confirm that some people feed on turtles' meat in some parts of the world. Yet, it seems outlandish to hear that such an act happens even in Yemen.

"Eating turtles' meat or eggs is strange for the Yemeni society. However, the situation has changed due to the surge of African refugees into the country," Shediwa pointed out.

He further revealed that other factors threatening the reserve's turtles include stray dogs which spread in the area and eat turtles' eggs. In this regard, he affirmed that the authority is determined to launch campaigns to rid of the stray dogs and erect a fence around the reserve.

Adnan Saeed Al-Soumahi, sea environment specialist, explained that female turtles are the victims of human aggression that may lead to their extinction. "The problem is that only female turtles come out of the sea to lay eggs. So, when they are killed, the reproduction process is adversely affected," he said.

Al-Soumahi maintained that fishermen and visitors also cause a lot of risks to the turtles. "Sometimes, fishermen kill turtles when they happen to be in their fish-tackle. In addition, some visitors camp in the coast and scare turtles by lights, forcing turtles to look for another safe environment," he noted.

Additionally, turtles are caught by some fishermen and sent to most of the Yemeni cities including Sana'a. These turtles are sold in some flower shops wherein the price of a turtle is YR 1000 to



1500.

Upon announcing it as a natural reserve, visitors and tourists only will be allowed into Sharma and under the supervision of its staff, according to Shediwa. Thus, Yemen's sea animal species including turtles will be protected against extinction.

According to a study conducted by Dr. Salim Rabe'e Bazar, Chairman of Environmental Association Union of Hadramout Coast, Sharma reserve is ranked the 12<sup>th</sup> most convenient location worldwide for turtles' settlement. Bazar confirmed that the union exerts a lot of efforts to protect the reserve's turtles against any risks that may endanger their life. "Preparations are on track to set out a project for protecting sea turtles from aggression and, consequently, maintaining Hadramout's bio-diversity," he noted.

For his part, Head of Yemeni Association for Education and Environment Protection Sadiq Al-Osaimi confirmed that Sharma Reserve turtles are among the four rare kinds worldwide, pointing out that such species should be given enough attention, together with their eggs in order to maintain their existence. Al-Osaimi criticized such illegal acts including selling of turtles' meat or eggs turtles, noting that there is a law that specifies the mechanism of turtles' trade that should be made in the way that doesn't affect their life negatively.

### REPUBLIC OF YEMEN - MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

#### SANA'A BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SBWMP)

# VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the costs of **Sana'a Basin Water Management Project** and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of the project management component. Now the Ministry of Water and Environment invites Qualified and experienced Local Specialists to apply for the Post of **Project Coordination Unit Director (PCU Director)**

#### Tasks and Responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of the Minister of Water and Environment, and observing the technical directives, while adhering to the Project's prevailing rules and procedures, and with leeway permitted for the exercise of independent judgement undertake a range of activities

**(a) PCU Director:** The PCU Director is to be responsible for managing the Project and for overseeing and managing engineering development interventions for all Projects' Components. This will require him/her to work under the supervision of NWRA/SB and in close collaboration with the relevant line agencies, namely the MAI/GDI, DPP, etc. and through them with the consultants engaged to implement the project components. More specifically, the PCU Director shall:

- be responsible for the overall management and coordination of project interventions and in particular for ensuring an efficient collaboration and exchange of information between local and international staff;
- provide overall direction to the project's technical interventions, and review all major project and consultancy reports, through delegation to and reporting from staff as needed;
- prior experience of the applicant with NWRA operations, especially at the basin level would be an asset
- be accountable in the final instance for all aspects of project operations, and particularly for procurement of major works and services, for contracting implementation partners for major tasks, for principal monitoring and evaluation tasks, and for SC and project financial management, record keeping and general administration;
- with staff support, coordinate, liaise with, guide and supervise the line agencies particularly in respect of operational procedures that they should follow for procurement, financial and monitoring reporting;
- in conjunction with the Steering Committee, Sana'a Basin Committee, social development / WUAs specialist and the MAI prepare TA and implementation consultant requirements and TOR, and undertake procurement and supervision of TA and implementation consultant contracts and activities, for engineering development aspects of all project's Components;
- together with the social development / WUAs specialist, coordinate the various involved implementation partners including SC, SBC and LINE AGENCIES staff, other MAI staff, consultant advisors, implementation consultants including social mobilisation teams (SMTs), works and equipment contractors, and WUAs and WUGs;
- assist the social development / WUA specialist with overview, through the line agencies and consultants, of the training and subsequent activities of the SMTs, particularly with regard to engineering, water management, and irrigation and dam systems O&M training and

extension matters;

- participate in the process of assessment and selection of participating communities and projected engineering interventions through definition and application of criteria related to water resource and physical infrastructure characteristics and to water management needs;
- ensure the overall technical quality of project-supported physical intervention investments, through guidance and review of designs and specifications for works and equipment, particularly with a view to their compatibility with local demands and needs, and through participation in and overview of implementation contracts preparation, evaluation and administration;
- in support of the project's procurement and contracts management specialist, identify, investigate and pre-select local manufacturers and suppliers of irrigation equipment and providers of survey, design, construction and installation services for irrigation system and dam works and equipment, including review of their technical records and performances and assessment of their capacity to undertake specific project interventions;
- through the line agencies and consultants as needed, provide technical guidance and training to local private sector partners involved in the design, supply and installation of irrigation and specialised dam and water resources monitoring equipment;
- supervise through the line agencies and consultants the upgrading and conversion of irrigation conveyance and distribution systems, the installation and commissioning of irrigation equipment, the rehabilitation and construction of dams and recharge systems, and other project works and interventions;
- assist the institutional development / public information specialist with technical inputs to facilitate, supervise and review the equipping and setting up of NWRA/SB for routine monitoring of the Sana'a Basin's water resources, and to procure and execute the specified Component 3 hydrogeological investigation and project physical impact studies;
- provide engineering-related inputs to SC monitoring, reporting and decision-making.

#### b) Qualifications and Requirements:

At least Master Degree in Water Resources / Water Management / Institutional Development Irrigation Agronomy/ Agricultural Engineering or any related field. Good computer literacy, Fluency in English, At least five years of work experience in management level of similar projects. Specifically, experience in management of IDA Financed Projects.

#### c) Duration of assignment:

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

**d) Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered in sealed envelopes to the office of the Deputy Minister of Water and Environment as follow: Ministry of Water and Environment, Hadda Street – Sana'a - P.O.BOX (9237) , Sana'a ROY Tel (00967-1-426452), Fax(00967-1-426451) E-mail (mialhamdi@yahoo.com)**

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respect a time to asking for c/v please send message to waheeb\_hasen2007@yahoo.com

■ Yahya Hussien, bachelor in English language, diploma in secretarial computer works.  
Contact: 712487410

■ English language teacher with good experience with many years of experience as ESL teacher, requires a job at a foreign school.  
Contact: 733436142

■ Tawfiq Mohammed, satellite receivers eng. Fixes and tuning all kind of TV satellite receivers.  
Contact: 733424099

■ Adeeb Ali, B.A. in Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, IBB University.  
Further training on: networks, internet, call centers and rural-transmitting.  
Contact: 733274048 - 77654763

■ Adeeb Beshr, Bachelor degree in electronic engineering communication engineering with experience in design and fixing LAN Network, together with computer and GSM maintenance  
Contact: 711998137 or 777209430

■ Ibrahim Mohammed, is excellent.  
Contact: 71186058/01600551

■ Sabri Mohammed, a diploma in computer programming, one year experience in shipping felid and three years experience working as restaurant in-charge, excellent English.  
Contact: 733577556

■ Khalid Hussein, Diploma in Arabic language, 5 years experience in teaching Arabic in several foreigners and Yemeni schools, Diploma in computer, English courses.  
Contact: 777846328

### Job Seekers

■ Tariq Mohammed, Bachelor degree in English language, diploma in computer. experiences in teaching English, translation, administration and secretarial. Contact: 777300430

■ Waheeb Abdullah, Good knowledge in hotel services English (reading, writing and speaking). Good appearance.

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Contact: 270129

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Contact: 777408711

■ Seeking second hand small refrigerator, gas stove at a decent price. For information contact Ryan Fletcher 734010633

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Modern German Hospital Tel. 600000/602008  
E-mail: felixp@hotmail.com Fax. 601889  
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Sana'a: 412442 Fax: 412441  
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**Quality Made In Germany**

## Yemeni men need to change their mentality

By: Ryan Fletcher  
For the Yemen Times

The self interest of the E.C. lay behind the funding of NGO run development schemes in Yemen, explained the E. C. Ambassador, Patrick Renault Head of The European Commission Delegation to Jordan and Yemen, during in an interview with the Yemen Times on Thursday.

"We are funding development in Yemen because in the long run it will benefit the European Community", he said, "we are not here for exercises in democratic reform", an allusion to more ideological courses of action in the region by outside powers. He pointed out that Yemen's economic growth was in the E. C.'s interest because European consumers could then buy quality produce from Yemen.

On a broader scale, he commented that development was necessary in the Middle East and Africa, because it would alleviate the drift of the worlds poor and displaced towards Europe. He mentioned specifically Yemen's strategic importance in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East, and its potential influence



The local women were clearly enthusiastic about the opportunity of gaining an education, while the socially ingrained laziness of the men was evident in the failure of the worked examples of the vegetable garden, and of the manure gas producer, to be reproduced in the village.

for calm over its troubled neighbor Somalia.

The Ambassador made clear that when dealing with issues such as development and economic migration, it is

only possible to consider change through long term projects that work alongside the natural development of a culture. This was why the E.C. is funding NGO's such as CARE: CARE has 30 projects in villages throughout Yemen, which aim at the empowerment of women in the community. The organisation provides chicken farms and the training to allow local women to run them at a profit, so that they can fund literacy and healthcare classes for female villagers. CARE also sets up practical examples in the villages of small-scale projects that will improve quality of life, such as vegetable gardens, and methods of extracting natural gas from manure to provide fuel. This is done with the aim of demonstrating a means for villagers to set up and sustain projects independently.

When the Yemen Times visited the village of Ayn, in the governorate of Mahweet, with the Ambassador, the success of the chicken farm and literacy classes were plain to see. The local

women were clearly enthusiastic about the opportunity of gaining an education, and obviously the dynamic force in the success of the project.

However, problems arose when development encroached upon the oppressive patriarchal culture of the village. Mohamed Saad, the programme director of CARE, quoted the findings of a study into the average working hours of village men and women, and commented on their implications:

"On average men will work between 4-6 hours a day, while the women will work up to 12. The women are responsible for arduous tasks like fetching water and firewood, which can take more than 4 hours a day. For development to be more wide-ranging and successful there must be greater involvement from men."

The socially ingrained laziness of the men was evident in the failure of the worked examples of the vegetable garden, and of the manure gas producer, to be reproduced in the village. Both require an amount of heavy labour and modifications to produce long-term benefits: in the use of rain storage tanks for the garden, and in the digging of a hole for the gas. The only comment the local men made was that if they were given funds to dig a well they would not have to wait for rainwater (not a viable course of action in the region). There seemed to be very little incentive or organisation among the male labour force.

The Ambassador was in his own words "frustrated but not despairing" at the attitude of the male villagers, and returned to his earlier point: "For success with the men we must encourage, but also wait, for a change of mentality. For this to take effect we must think in terms of years not months."



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