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5 Civil society vs. government: A battle over legislation



8 Global warming: A disaster of our own making



10 The diversity of Yemeni male and female head coverings

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
Do you think that the Parliament would succeed in dismissing lbb governor?

I don't know (8%)
Yes (25%) No (67%)

This edition's question:
Do you think that the new Prime Minister has unrestricted liberties in selecting the Ministers of his cabinet?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

Yemeni army resumes Dhahian attacks, human situation worsens

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 1 — The catastrophic confrontations between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists are ongoing in numerous areas of Sa'ada, with reports of the army implanting antipersonnel mines in many areas as the number of victims rises to hundreds involving both warring sides.

Media sources said army and volunteers waged 10 consecutive defenses last Thursday and Friday to penetrate Dhahian city; however, their attempts failed due to severe resistance by Houthis and their supporters. The battles left dozens killed or injured on both sides.

Al-Ayyam daily newspaper reported that the number of those who have fallen just in Dhahian over the past 20 days is close to the number of victims from the first Sa'ada war, noting that clashes continue there now. The paper further maintained that the 20-day battle in Dhahian represents the pivotal point in the war, as it has lasted for a longer time.

"Last Thursday witnessed ferocious fighting between both sides and turned into a guerilla war. Army forces managed to release more than 120 tribal supporters besieged by Houthis for many days," the paper reported.

The same source added that the Yemeni army has implanted antipersonnel mines on many fronts, causing death and injury among dozens of Houthis, civilian citizens, military and security personnel and tribal volunteers.

Further, 18 Houthis were killed by



The 20-day battle in Dhahian represents the pivotal point in the Sa'ada war.

antipersonnel mines last Thursday in Al-Hamra area near Azan Mountain situated between Nashour and Al-Talh.

According to observers, the Yemeni army is committing grave violations by using antipersonnel mines, which are banned by international treaties because they leave behind hundreds of hand-capped among both civilians and fighters. This is occurring despite the fact that Yemen approved the international treaty banning use of such mines.

Other sources mentioned fierce confrontations in Sahar district's Bani Muath after the Yemeni army waged intense offensives to take the fortified Sudan Mountain, where Houthis have been positioned since the war began.

The source added that battles are ongoing in various areas of Bani Salem, Al-Beidha, Al-Ruzamat, Wadi Nashour, Anq Al-Ghazal, Dhahr Al-Hanash Mountains in Al-Safara'a district and Al-And area near Sa'ada city. Similarly, clashes are occurring in Al-Barakat and Akbarah in Bani Muath, as well as Wadi Rahaban Mountain overlooking Sa'ada city.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni army still is attacking with mortars and tanks Houthi sites in Wadi Dammaj, Al-Ammar, Bani Muath, Al-Salem, Baqem, Kittaf, Haydan and other districts. Unconfirmed reports mention the unintentional attack of Red Crescent camps in Khamas, Takhiah and Al-Mass'ebah areas.

Continued on page 3

Saleh names new PM, orders cabinet reshuffle

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

SANA'A, March 31 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued presidential decree No. 8/2007 on Saturday, asking Minister of Electricity Ali Mohammed Mujawar to form a new cabinet. Mujawar will replace Abdulqader Bajammal as Yemen's new prime minister. Bajammal has served as prime minister since March 2001 and is secretary-general of the ruling General People's Congress party.



Dr. Ali Mujawar

Observers say President Saleh appointed the new prime minister to demonstrate Yemen's seriousness in embarking on real economic reforms. The new prime minister is expected to announce the new cabinet later this week. Meanwhile, Saleh forwarded a letter to outgoing premier Bajammal, thanking him for his role as prime minister for three consecutive terms. In his letter, the president said Bajammal now should focus on his role as GPC secretary-general and prepare for upcoming parliamentary elections in 2009.

A native of Shabwa, Mujawar, 54, is a technocrat and an academic specialized in economics, holding a doctorate in production management from France's Grenoble University. He has held several academic posts at Aden University and

served as minister of fisheries and marine wealth from 2003-2006. Appointed minister of electricity in 2006, Mujawar has become famous for the reforms he has instituted at the ministry since then. He has fought corruption within the ministry, as well as what's known as the "Electricity Mafia," which resulted in more than YR 126.6 billion in losses in 2005 due to uncollected payments and tender-related corruption.

As minister of electricity, Mujawar has vowed to make 2007 a year with very limited electricity power failures by implementing a revised energy production strategy, to disconnect power for any official or influential individual who hasn't paid the ministry what it's due and even prosecute such parties, in addition to revising the tariff to decrease the burden on society's lowest strata. Last month, he ordered disconnecting power services for the ruling party branch in Taiz for not having paid their electric bill for several years, which exceeded YR 5 million.

This is the first cabinet reshuffle since Saleh was re-elected president last September. A cabinet reshuffle previously was declared Feb. 12, 2006, with Bajammal as prime minister and 15 new ministers.

Cole bombing suspect says he confessed under torture

March 31 (AP) — A Saudi citizen of Yemeni decent held by U.S. military at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said he confessed to several terrorist attacks and plots only because he was tortured, according to a transcript of a March 14 hearing released on Friday by the Pentagon.

Abdul Rahim Al-Nashiri, 42, said his U.S. captors began torturing him as soon as he was arrested in the United Arab Emirates in November 2002; the torture stopped, he said, when he was transferred from secret CIA custody to Guantanamo last September along with 13 other "high value" detainees.

"From the time I was arrested, they tortured me," Al-Nashiri said through an interpreter in response to the tribunal officers' questions. "One time, they would torture me one way, and another

time, they would torture me in a different way."

According to the transcript, Al-Nashiri said he "invented" some information just to "make people happy" during his interrogations. One such statement was that Osama Bin Laden, whom he had met numerous times, had procured a nuclear weapon.

"They were extremely happy because of this news," he said, according to the transcript.

In an unclassified summary of the evidence against him, military officials said Al-Nashiri was an experienced terrorist operative with significant military and explosives training. They maintain that he played an important role in the USS Cole bombing, which killed 17 U.S. sailors as the ship refueled in Aden port.



Numerous Human Rights organizations condoned the controversial interrogation techniques used by the CIA and U.S. Authorities in Guantanamo.

The evidence summary also links Al-Nashiri to the bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa in 1998 that killed at least 224 people, and allege that he's suspected of masterminding the October 2002 attack on the French oil tanker Limburg, also in Yemen.

Al-Nashiri, who was sentenced to death in absentia in Sana'a in 2004 for his role in the USS Cole attack, denied those accusations during his hearing and said he made up the claim that Bin Laden had a nuclear bomb.

Continued on Page 3

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In brief

ADEN

Authorities begin building orphanage

March 31 — Concerned authorities in Aden have begun constructing a new orphanage in Be'ar Fadhl district. The YR 70 million project is being funded by the Qatar-based Islamic Organization.

Ahmad Abdullah Al-Tairi, project supervisor and general director of the governorate's orphanage, told Yemen News Agency that the new orphanage will have two wards, one for males and the other for females, as well as two schools and a mosque. He indicated that the project's first phase includes bedrooms to accommodate up to 40 girls, plus a library, a hall and a kitchen.

LAHI

Two killed in tribal clashes

March 31 — Two men reportedly were killed and another two injured in armed confrontations between Al-Ruqaiha and Al-Madjarra tribes in Lahj governorate's Al-Maqaterah district.

Local sources told Al-Sahwah.net that Sa'eed Hamid Othman and Sultan Sa'eed Mohammed were killed, while Alwan Nu'man Sa'eed and Mohammed Ahmad Abdullah were wounded in the fighting. The sources confirmed that clashes between the two tribes are ongoing over ownership of a mountain located in Al-Madjarra village. Security authorities mobilized police to the scene of the fighting and arrested six tribesmen from both tribes.

AL-MAHRAH

Relief aid reaches flood victims

March 31 — The governorate's local council has provided a consignment of relief aid to residents affected by heavy floods that inundated numerous areas in Al-Masila Valley.

Abdullah Mohammed Khadom, secretary-general of Al-Masila's local council, clarified that food-stuffs were transported by helicopter to locals whose property was damaged by the flooding, which destroyed crops, washed away palm trees and cut off roads. Khadom added that concerned authorities are due to begin rebuilding the damaged roads within the next two weeks.

SANA'A

Al-Saleh Foundation to hold third Orphan's Festival

April 1 — Al-Saleh Social Foundation for Development will stage the third Orphan's Festival April 5-6 with the participation of orphanages in the capital. Organized under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and entitled, "Give Me a Hand," the festival aims to mark Orphan's Day, remind people about the day and increase public awareness about social cooperation.

According to Hasiba Yahya Shanif, director of the foundation's women and children's sector, the festival will include a fascinating performance by children from orphanages, in addition to other forms of entertainment.

Natural disaster course planned

April 1 — In cooperation with the Mineral Wealth and Geological Survey Authority, the UNESCO National Committee will hold a training course in the coming days on reducing the effects of natural disasters, Yemen News Agency reported.

The course aims to train participants on how to deal with natural disasters, reduce their effects and increase public awareness about the means to minimize natural disaster effects. It will concentrate on rock-slides, underground water pollution, landslides and other natural phenomena.

TAIZ

Egyptian Film Week kicks off

April 1 — In cooperation with the Egyptian government, Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture kicked off Egyptian Film Week on Sunday. The event is due to show various historical and cultural films by great Egyptian directors, writers and artists. Films will include "The Earth," "Between the Two Palaces" and "Embassy is in the Building."

Additionally, the foundation will inaugurate two artistic exhibitions for youth, including one for artist Fatima Mukali from Syria. In a statement, General Manager Sa'eed Fare'e noted that the events are part of the foundation's 2007 activities.

Saleh calls for utilizing nuclear energy

SANA'A, March 31 — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh called on Arab states to utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and to make greater efforts to ensure a joint Arab project for generating electrical energy by means of nuclear energy.

"It is time for Arab nations to make use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and reunify Arab efforts made in this regard, as a way to ensure the existence of a joint Arabic project for nuclear energy to generate electricity from which all Arab states can benefit," he said.

The call came on Thursday during the 19th Arab Summit held in Riyadh, the Saudi capital. The summit, which began on Wednesday, was chaired by Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz.

Arab leaders showed concerned over a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

"For the first time Arabs are showing real interest in developing a nuclear industry but further steps

depend on their political will," the Associated Press quoted Wael al-Assad, the League's official in charge of preparations for the meeting, as saying.

He said closer nuclear co-operation was prompted by fear of Israel's nuclear weapons, and Iran's escalation of its program.

The summit called for "freeing the region from weapons of mass destruction without double standards."

The summit was attended by leaders of 21 of the Arab League's 22 member states, while Libya boycotted the summit. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and the European Union's foreign policy chief Javier Solana attended the summit.

At the summit, Arab leaders called for reactivating the peace initiative with Israel. The initiative, first launched by the Arab summit in 2002, offers Israel recognition and permanent peace with all Arab

countries in return for Israeli withdrawal from lands captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

UN Secretary-General Ban said the initiative "suggests a new way forward for the region" after decades of division over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

However, the peace initiative was rejected by Israel. Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdu Bakr Al-Qirbi said on Saturday that Israel's rejection of the peace initiative was expected.

"Israel wants to impose its own solution on Palestinians -and the Arabs in general- based on arrogance, which will lead to an impasse and make the region undergo ongoing tension and instability," he said.

Al-Qirbi called on the international community to exert pressure on Israel to accept the "peace solution" according to the Arab peace initiative that is based on the land-for-peace principle.

Sana'a University staff members stage sit-in

SANA'A, April 1 — Sana'a University staff members staged a sit-in last Saturday before the University Administration in protest against university presidency and government stalling on early promises towards the rights of staffers.

In their press release, the staff members claimed that teaching would be halted for two hours in all university faculties and its branches as an initial step, and then stoppages would gradually increase until their demands are met.

Head of Sana'a University Staff Members Syndicate Dr. Abdurrahman Ghanem told The Yemen Times that the demonstration aims at forcing the government to meet their demands including administrative and financial independence, giving more care to scientific research and toward the implementation of the judicial ruling issued by the Capital's West Court on March 7, 2007 that dictated the payment of suspended staffer salaries, and the handing in the President Saleh's gifts represented in personal computers.

Ghanem also asked that Yemeni Universities Law be applied to administrative and academic appointments and that the resolution of the Sana'a University Council concerning the distribution of land pieces among staff members and improving life standards



Sana'a University staff members protesting the government as their demands remain unmet.

of assistant staff members, readers and teachers be implemented, together with adopting hardship allowance for those not included in Wages Law No. 43 of 2005. He further demanded that staff members' residence allowances be paid that a 40 percent increase, to be calculated retrospectively since January 2005, be adopted.

President of Sana'a University Khalid Tamim accused the Finance Ministry of delaying the implementation of univer-

sity staff members' demands. He also assured that his university has met some demands and was about to meet others over the coming period.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Azazi noted the demonstration helped release 47 suspended salaries of 35 deceased staff members. He added that the syndicate would shift the sit-in to the Ministry of Finance the next day and that staff members would stage a similar one before the cabinet on Tuesday.

Oil Production Agreement in block 75 signed

Sana'a March 31 — The Ministry of Oil has signed a production partnership agreement with U.S.-based Occidental Petroleum for block 75 in Shabwa governorate. This agreement entails that Occidental pays the Yemeni partner one million US dollars as a royalty for the license to operate in block 75.

While exploration operations are expected to start at the soonest possible, Oil production from this block is expected in mid-2008. Exploration activities are expected to cost up to US\$ 12.5 million, while the Yemeni government share ranges from 64 - 80 percent, depending on the stage of production.

His Excellency Minister of Oil & Mineral Resources Khalid Bahah has stated that this agreement comes as a part of a government policy to increase oil exploration and production activities, adding that he is optimistic that block75 will be among the most



Occidental has been operating in Yemen for the last 20 years.

promising blocks in Yemen. He also added that there are another eight such agreements to be signed during the months of April and May, which will conclude the second and third international bidding rounds.

The Agreement was signed by His Excellency Khalid Bahah - Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources representing the Yemeni side, and Mr. Donald Lipinski, VP of Occidental representing the operating partners.

WFP supports Girl's Education in Yemen

SANA'A, March 29 — Information from UN World Food Programme in Yemen on the occasion of signing the Education Component Action Plan between WFP and the Ministry of Education to launch the new Country Programme (2007-2011).

The Ministry of Education represented by the Minister of Education Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) represented by Dr. Mohamed El-Kouhene WFP Representative in Yemen today signed the Country Programme Action Plan for the Education Component for the period 2007-2011. This is the main activity of the U.S.\$ 48 million Country Programme that was signed last week between the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and WFP.

In accordance with WFP policy on development, education activity will enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training. The overall goal is to increase gender equity in terms of access to and completion of basic education, through increased enrolment rates, stabilized attendance and reduced female students' dropout rates.

The food provided by WFP will constitute an appreciable income transfer for beneficiary households, especially for the average targeted household with more than one daughter enrolled in WFP-assisted schools. The programme will annually benefit an average of 95,000 schoolgirls in the targeted areas. It will provide girls with better chances in education. Food aid acts as incentives to encourage

families to enrol their daughters in both basic and secondary schools.

With a budget of U.S.\$ 31 million, some 76,000 metric tons of food will be distributed to the schools in the poor districts that have been identified by the recent food security survey conducted by WFP and the Government.

The Education component in this new Country Programme will target in addition to girls in basic schools, girls studying in grades 9-12 thus reducing the drop out rates and avoiding early marriage.

Thanks to a tripartite agreement signed between WFP, UNICEF and WHO, joint activities will be implemented in WFP targeted schools, which should optimize the impact of the programme.

Primary school wrecked in Aden

ADEN, April 1 — Al-Shawkani Primary School, previously known as 23 October School, in Aden's Dar Sa'ad district has been destroyed due to the lack of maintenance and the negligence of education, civil service and governorate officials in Aden. The school, established following the departure of British forces in 1963, has now been declared ruined after 44 years in service.

Al-Shawkani School headmaster Ghazi Ghurab, a former student of the school, told The Yemen Times the oldness of the school and its lack of preservation caused its ruining. He added he tried many times to contact the concerned authorities; however, their response came too late.

Ghurab added that the construction

of neighboring streets, as well as heavy equipment movement, has caused many parts of the school to fall apart. He added a female teacher was hit in the head a month ago when a large piece of ceiling fell over her while she was teaching in the class.

Reacting to the incident, the school administration decided to halt teaching in the school, which contains 28 classes with 65 teachers and 2000 students taught both during the morning and night.

The first three grades were given an open holiday, while the fourth to ninth grades were shifted to nearby Abu Fadhl School whose secondary school students were transferred to Zinab school. Thus, the confusion has extended to three schools.

Mareb's investigation department chief killed

SANA'A, April 1 — Chief of Mareb's Investigation Department Col. Ali Hamoud Qusailah was killed while two of his bodyguards were badly injured last Wednesday when returning from an assignment outside the city. The murders trapped Qusailah in the main road leading to the Mareb Dam, some 2km from Mareb city.

According to Mareb Press, based in Mareb, the operation was implemented at night and unknown parties trapped Qusailah and his guards when he was returning to the city. The murderers were without a car, hiding in a thick wood. After shooting Qusailah, they fled the scene; their whereabouts are still unknown. Some sources say drug gangs are behind the incident.

Mareb security apparatuses formed a committee later on to conduct investigate the incident and hunt the murderers.

The People and Issue Supplement

issued by the official Al-Thawrah Newspaper published an interview with Qusailah on Sunday, wherein he mentioned that Mareb security apparatuses managed to put a limit to highway robbery and further crack down on gangs, particularly those positioning on the highways between Sana'a and Hadramout.

Qusailah further noted that Mareb suffers tribal revenge and the absence of justice and solutions to the people's problems, coupled with poor citizens education. However, he asserted that they managed to arrest many monument-pieces and hand them over to the Monuments Authority.

He stressed as well that drug crimes pose a great concern to the security apparatuses, especially since the governorates have turned out to be a link between Yemen and neighboring countries, explaining that such crimes require greater efforts in order to be eliminated.

Fishermen Riot in Al-Mukalla

AL-MUKALLA, April 1 — More than 120 fishermen demonstrated and staged a sit-in on Saturday, March 24, before the Al-Mukalla governorate building in protest against extra taxes imposed on them.

The demonstrations were followed by riots and fishermen closed the nearby hospital, preventing people from getting inside and further broke the door of the Al-Mukalla Central Market. They also took by force fish and money belonging to three sellers. Another seller was injured when a fisherman hit him with a gauge.

In their letter sent to Hadramout governor Abdulqader Hilal, the fish-

erman asked that the extra tax, which amounts to 3% according to Law number 2 of 2006, be lifted.

Reacting to the incident, the Hadramout governor and Minister of Fish Wealth held talks with fishermen representatives and both officials confessed the existence of mistakes and promised to adjust them.

Al-Mukalla Fishermen Association Chairman Abdullah Badawood noted the problem is not that of the added tax but the law and its bylaws relating to artificial fertilization, which affect bottom drag trawling and the reproduction of fish and inturn reduce profits.

Accor Hotels invites Bahraini journalists to Yemen



Accor Hotels held a farewell for the visiting journalists at the Mercure Sana'a.

SANA'A, March 29 — Accor Hotels in Yemen recently invited a group of 10 Bahraini media representatives to visit Yemen and learn more about its unique features, landscape and history. Including journalists, photographers, editors and other media representatives working in Bahrain, the group traveled throughout Yemen between March 23 and 27.

"As the largest hotel group operating in Yemen, we believe in Yemen's tourism richness; thus, we're focusing on promoting the country's features more than promoting our own company. We plan to invite more journalists from other countries to show the world the greatness Yemen has to offer," said Saleh Farajat, area director of sales and marketing.

The visiting journalists commented

that Yemen has a lot to offer, many beautiful places and a marvelously pure and natural environment, adding that Yemenis are most kind, hospitable and generous. Despite these abundant features, they pointed out that Yemen's reputation abroad doesn't reflect these points. Overall, they were pleasantly surprised that the reality of Yemen defied their expectations and proved to be an excellent vacation destination for culture and ecotourism.

Accor Hotels in Yemen planned and organized the journalists' invitation, co-sponsored with Yemenia Airways and Universal Touring Company. Accor Hotels is a French company with four hotels in Yemen: Sofitel Taiz, Mercure Sana'a, Mercure Aden and a new hotel being constructed in Jabal Saber, Taiz.

Batelco partners with Sabafon

SANA'A, March 25 – Al-Ahmar Group Chairman Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar signed a partnership agreement March 25 with Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa, chairman of Batelco telecommunications company, securing the Bahrain firm's purchase of 20 percent of Sabafon shares.

Batelco purchased the shares from Al-Ahmar Group, Sabafon's largest shareholder; however, Al-Ahmar Group still owns the largest share in the company.

Sabafon, Yemen's leading GSM service provider, is considered the largest operator of GSM services, covering most Yemeni areas using more than 500 satellite relay stations. According to company officials, Sabafon had 1.2 million subscribers as of the end of February.

The Yemeni telecommunications firm began operating Feb. 14, 2001, focusing from the very beginning on supplying high-quality service and

advancing to possess 40 percent of Yemen's mobile phone shares.

Celebrating the occasion, Al-Khalifa noted that his firm has developed a strategy for immature markets in the Middle East, focusing on areas with increasing growth in broadband services. He further maintained that Batelco's partnership with Sabafon is in line with its strategy and provides the required framework for its future development.

Al-Ahmar pointed out that the deal reflects the depth of relations between Yemen and Bahrain and other Gulf nations, asserting that the partnership is thanks to Yemen and Gulf countries' efforts to integrate the Yemeni economy with those of the Gulf.

He added, "We're happy to engage in a partnership with Batelco. We preferred their bid to others because we'd like to join hands in order to empower our ventures and achieve future growth, while keeping in mind our joint wish to target other markets."



Sabafon is Yemen's leading GSM service provider.

Batelco Chief Executive Peter Kaliropoulos assured that the Sabafon shares will ensure a strong venture in Yemen, whose population is more than 22 million. He went on to note that Sabafon has eligible employees working with qualified and experienced managers exerting their efforts to satisfy customer needs with high-quality services at competitive

prices. Sabafon Executive Director Tariq Al-Haidari affirmed that Sabafon has succeeded in maintaining its leading position in Yemen's GSM mobile phone market, maintaining that partnering with Batelco will help expand its web and strengthen its leading position for the benefit of both shareholders and customers.

Sudden increase of wheat prices in Yemeni markets

SANA'A, Apr. 1 – The price of wheat has increased dramatically in the Yemeni market as the price of wheat sack increased from YR3250 to reach YR3500 on Friday.

This price increase comes as result of a message, sent by Yemeni Economic Corporation Brig. Ali Mohammed Al-Kuhlani, to the parliament denouncing the lack of strategic wheat stock and the rise in price expected in coming days, according to tradesmen.

Al-Kuhlani pointed out the last offer he received was US \$305 per ton and accused the Ministry of Finance and Yemen's Central Bank of dealing irresponsibly with President Saleh and the Prime Minister's directives together

with Parliament recommendations regarding supplying a strategic stock.

President Saleh earlier asked the corporation to import wheat to compensate for the insufficiency of the supplied quantities and the price increase.

In last Tuesday's session, Member of Parliament Shawqi Shamsan demanded that Parliament discuss a document regarding the lack of strategic stock and expected price increase. However, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament did not respond to this demand.

MP, and member of the Trade and Industry Committee Saleh Fareed

declared the document does reflect the randomness and lack of planning on the government's part and its irresponsibility towards citizens' issues.

A member of Yemeni Socialist Party block in the parliament called people to demonstrate against the deteriorating situation, while a report submitted by the Trade Committee earlier revealed a monopoly on the part of businessmen and government indifference in this regard.

For his part, MP Abdul Karim Shaiban disclosed the existence of special accounts and expenses not

included in the state budget and further accused Finance Minister Saif Al-Asali of trying merely to keep his post rather than improving his Ministry's performance, combat corruption and protect public money. He also asked him to abolish any accounts not included in the budget.

Al-Asali considered this criticism to be revenge against him because of his past in Islah and his decision to join the General Peoples' Congress government. Other consumer commodities have witnessed a price increase including flour, yogurt, vegetable oil, milk, and sugar.

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Continued from Page 1

Yemeni army resumes Dhahian attacks, human situation worsens

The confrontations have caused hundreds of residents in Al-Salem and Kittaf to evacuate their homes, with more than 18 homes destroyed in Bani Muath alone.

Sa'ada Governor Yahya Al-Shami asserted that the Yemeni army has completely besieged Dhahian, noting that additional forces have been mobilized to the area to reinforce existing forces in order to force Houthis to surrender themselves and their arms and cease their acts against the state.

26 September.net quoted Al-Shami as saying that the Yemeni army has managed to clear Houthis from Bani Muath, Al-Talh and Wald Masoud areas, indicating that many residents have returned to their homes in those areas while others remain in camps set up for them.

He added that army and security personnel are preparing to enter Al-Naq'ah, the last Houthi stronghold. He further pointed out that a team will be formed to estimate damages in Sa'ada governorate, while many charitable societies and civil society organizations are supplying relief and foodstuffs for displaced residents.

Noman comments on wars

Yemeni Socialist Party Secretary-General Yassin Sa'eed Noman commented that Yemen has experienced continuous small wars since 1994, with larger wars being the source for smaller ones, including the Sa'ada war.

"When war was waged upon Hussein Al-Houthi in 2004, the state justified it by saying that he had participated with secessionists in their conspiracy against unity in 1994. Similarly, when we speak about the futility of war and internal conflicts, they say we're favoring them [Houthis] for joining us in the 1994 war," Noman asserted.

Al-Qirbi on foreign support for Houthis
Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-

Qirbi has denied that his visit to Iran has given Houthis the right to appeal to the Iranians, noting that both Yemen and Iran have agreed that Sa'ada is an internal issue and they reject using violence and power to achieve political goals, especially under a multiparty system.

Al-Qirbi also told Al-Waset weekly newspaper, "We should distinguish between official Iranian support and support coming from Shi'ite centers." He affirmed that material support does come from such centers, but not from the Iranian government. However, he insinuated that both the official Iranian media and those affiliated with such Shi'ite religious centers have shown sympathy toward Houthis.

The foreign minister also indicated that Yahya Al-Houthi is the one who hinted at the existence of Libyan support, as he said following his visit to Libya that the nation sympathizes with and supports them. However, Libyan officials denied Al-Houthi's allegations during their visit to Yemen.

Al-Qirbi maintained that the Libyan Embassy has asked to visit the Sulfi Dammaj Institute to meet those Libyans now living in Yemen and married to Yemeni women. He added that Libya has asked to repatriate them, pointing out that Yemen doesn't oppose such a meeting with them; however, it should be according to diplomatic norms.

Furthermore, the minister denied any involvement of Saudi Arabia in the issue, saying, "It's untrue that Saudi Arabia is supporting Houthis. This is clear from Houthi statements, in which they accuse Saudi Arabia of backing the Yemeni government!"

Al-Qirbi concluded that the Syrians' visit to Sana'a didn't address the Sa'ada issue under an Iranian request, as alleged, noting that such talks were confined to the Arab summit, unifying Arab stances and rejecting Israeli blackmailing.

He further added that Yemen doesn't play around with regional conflicts, but rather warns against such dangerous play: "We believe those who play around with sectarian or racial issues will be burned by their fire. We all

should spare the area from such conflicts," Al-Qirbi urged.

Cole bombing suspect says he confessed under torture

He also said he made up Al-Qaeda plans to bomb U.S. ships in the Gulf and a plan to hijack a plane and crash it into a ship.

He says he knew virtually all of the players known to be involved in the Cole bombing and other Al-Qaeda plots. He added that he visited Bin Laden often, and that the Al-Qaeda leader had given him as much as \$500,000 over the years for personal expenses and business deals.

"But I'm not responsible if they take the money and go fight or do something else" related to terrorism, Al-Nashiri told the military hearing officers.

When asked if he considers himself a "U.S. enemy combatant," he replied that he isn't an enemy of the United States, although he criticized U.S. foreign policy.

"If you think that anyone who wants the U.S. to get out of the Gulf is your enemy, then you'll find about 10 million people in Saudi Arabia that have that same opinion," Al-Nashiri said, according to the transcript.

Without commenting on Al-Nashiri's specific claims, CIA spokesman Paul Gimigliano said Friday, "The United States does not conduct or condone torture. The agency's terrorist interrogation program has been implemented lawfully, with great care and close review, and has produced vital information that has helped disrupt plots and save lives."

Numerous human rights reports recently have emphasized that the CIA uses controversial interrogation techniques that go beyond those used by the military following the Sept. 11 attacks, including water boarding (which simulates the sensation of drowning), exposure to extreme temperatures and prolonged forced standing. Detainees who believe they've been in secret CIA detention facilities have reported serious abuses there.

Request for Expressions of Interest Impact Study and Implementation Completion Report Basic Education- Expansion Project Credit No. 3422-YEM

This request for expressions of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the Development Business dated November, 2006.

The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Basic Education Expansion Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above-mentioned consulting service.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible **Individual Consultants** to indicate their interest in providing the service. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (CVs, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.).

The main objective of this technical assistance is to help MOE assessing the impact of the Basic Education Expansion project and verify if the project development objectives have been achieved through implementing project components; Study the girls' enrollment indicators in the five project governorates and compare them with the prospective results and the baselines; Investigate whether the project has reduced the gap between the enrollment of male and female in the targeted governorates.

This TA is also aims to assess the experience of the community participation and the mechanisms used in the governorates of Sana'a, Amran, Al-Mahweet, Al-Dhale'a, and Raymah; identify strengths and weaknesses of this experience and its effects in order to improve the educational process in these targeted governorates.

The output of the consultancy is:

The implementation completion report which should review and prepare the assessment of the operations undertaken by the Project. The Impact Study Report is the background report for the preparation of the ICR, which should reflect the views and evaluation of project execution from the borrower's point of view.

The selection of the individual consultants will be in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004" Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. From 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by April 16, 2007.

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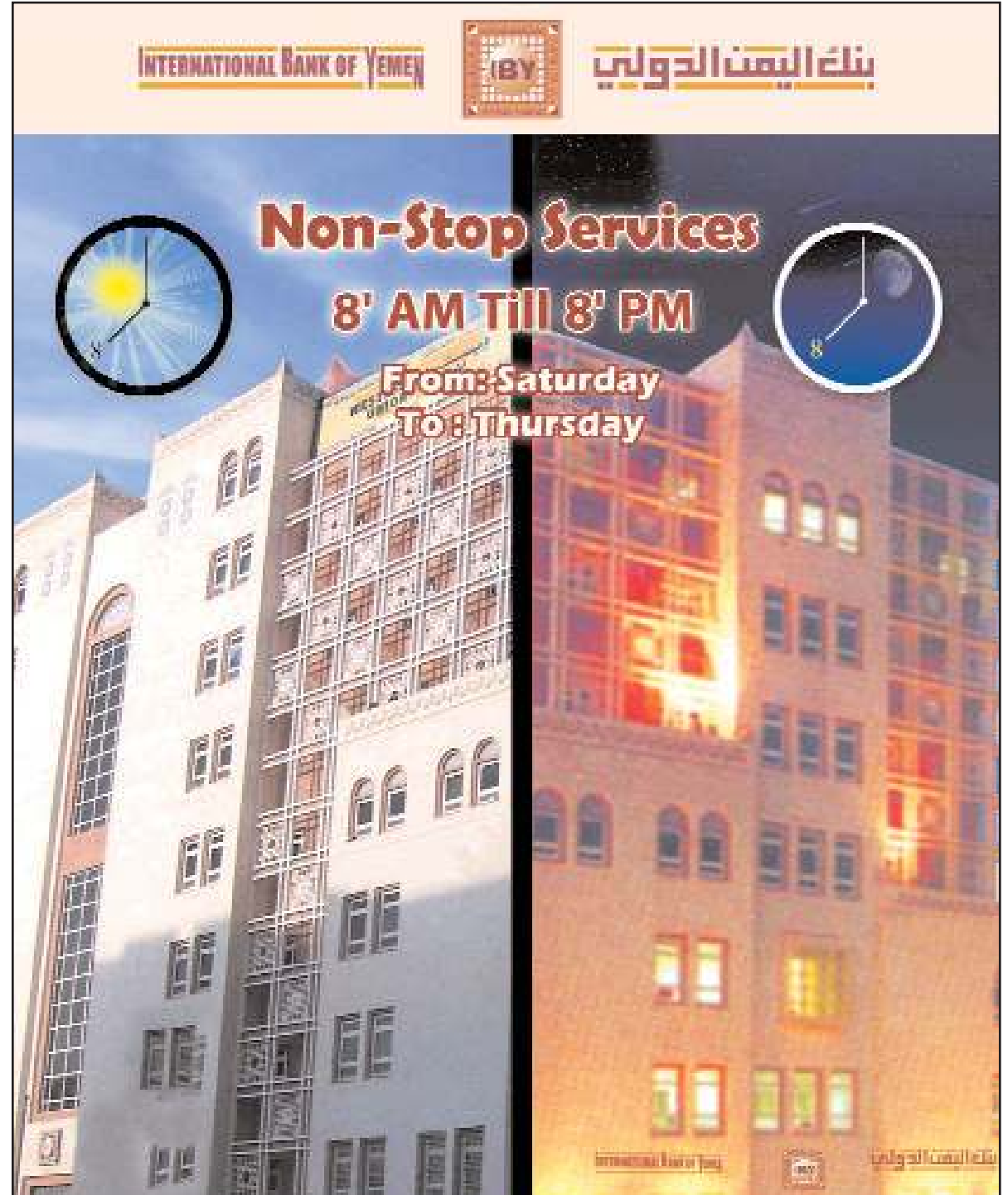
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Civil society vs. government: A battle over legislation

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

One of the great concerns of civil society and activists in Yemen is the rule of law. This has been displayed repeatedly at various meetings and workshops, whether it concerns laws related to discrimination against women, elections and referendum, the press code or sales tax laws. Recently, further legislation was added to the list of disputed regulations and this is the Associations and Foundations Law No. 1 for 2001.

According to Ministry of Social Affairs statistics, approximately 5,400 community associations and civil society organizations are registered with the ministry, one-third of which are inactive. This was the main reason it withheld licenses for 1,500 civil society associations last year. The ministry decided that it must take a closer look at how civil society is working in Yemen and hence, consider amending the Associations Law.

Each registered association receives annual government support once it has

The law also requires clear financial statement of funding sources and how the money is being spent. Article 6 of the law designates the Ministry of Social Affairs as the monitoring body supervising the activities of any association. Such associations aren't allowed to hold any political activities or get involved in electoral campaigning, etc.

Deputy Minister of Social Affairs Ali Saleh Abdullah commented on this point in his keynote address at a workshop organized by the Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation, known as CDF. "Political affiliation ruins development work when it interferes with society activities. What we need is civil society work without political party interference," he noted.

In the presence of Ministry of Social Affairs representatives and assistance from legal experts, CDF gathered a number of civil society organizations last week to discuss the law and potential amendments.

"This is the first step. Next, we'll hold similar workshops in five other

Chairman Abdulmajid Al-Fahd explained.

From what the deputy minister said in his keynote address, the ministry seems quite understanding; however, amendments are on their way, as he noted, "What's needed now are amendments to the law to reform civil society development work in Yemen. The government acknowledges civil society's role in development and that they are vital partners in development."

Why wouldn't they be, if in 2001 alone, according to the ministry itself, civil society organizations and charities contributed more than YR 5 billion to national development?

The workshop was a sequel to a similar one CDF organized last December in cooperation with the International Center for Non-profit Laws. Recommendations from that workshop resulted in legal evaluation by two experts of the law.

Lawyers Ahmed Al-Washali and Fathya Abdulwase' studied the law and came up with a proposed list of amendments, including eliminating some articles and incorporating additional ones.

One problem the legal team highlighted in Article 7 of the law for organizations was duplicate supervision of associations of a specific nature, such as cultural associations, whereby in addition to the Ministry of Social Affairs' role, the Culture Ministry had a supervising role as well.

"The problem is that we could only view this law from a legal point of view and identify points of conflict or restrictions. We don't have any field expertise on the problems faced by civil society in real life. This is why the input from the associations was very important in order to make our suggestions legitimate," Abdulwase' pointed out.

The Associations Law is relatively recent, as it's just over six years old and hasn't been adequately examined in practice since then. Participants from civil society organizations and charities explained that they were unaware of many of the regulations and, in some cases, when trying to avail privileges entitled to them by law, such as exemption from taxes or electricity and water bill subsidies as per Article 40, they were denied these rights by tax collectors or power authorities.

In response to complaints by the associations, Abdulqadir Mohammed, director of the Social Affairs Ministry's Civil Society Financial and Administration Monitoring Department, said, "As a government body, we can't complain on your behalf about the malpractices of other governmental bodies. You have the right and flexibility to take up your issues legally; in fact, I envy you this freedom."

He admitted that there are shortcomings in the ministry, but at the same time, many associations abuse their position for personal interest. A number of ministry consultants currently are studying the amendments, which revolve around 18 technical observations on the law, especially regarding separating regulations for associations from those of organizations.

An internal charter was created in 2004 to complement the law and clarify some of its ambiguous points; however, according to Mohammed, it wasn't enough, thus, amendments to the actual law are required.

Legal expert Al-Washali was apprehensive about what type of amendments the government will suggest, saying, "There are certain clauses in the current law that allow the Ministry of Social Affairs to govern association finances as per Article 4 of the law, and this could limit the freedom civil society organizations have in their work. In fact, how to use an association's money comes under personal ownership rights."

The problem with new amendments is that they mostly come to restrict freedoms rather than allow more flexibility, Al-Fahd commented. "It's sometimes better to leave laws as they are if the alternative is worse," he noted.

The Ministry of Social Affairs' participation in the workshop displayed an interest in what civil society has to say. Although most amendments to Yemeni laws actually happen indoors without much public participation, even from the stakeholders themselves, the ministry promised to look into the proposed amendments and consider them when drafting the new law.



Civil society organizations must come together and raise their concerns in order to influence the making of their law's amendments.



Deputy Minister of Social Affairs Ali Saleh Abdullah speaks at the workshop: "Amendments to the Associations and Foundations Law must be accompanied by improving techniques of development work administration and training ministry personnel."

completed a year since its establishment. The ministry licenses such organizations once they have 21 or more members, an internal charter and a statement of purpose ensuring that it's a non-profit organization.

governorates. The point is to create public interest from the stakeholders themselves and allow them to give their input and feedback to the Ministry of Social Affairs before any amendments are forwarded to Parliament," CDF



Director of the Civic Democratic Foundation, Abdulmajid Al-Fahd: "We don't need to wait until the government comes up with difficult legislation and then complain about it. We should be proactive and come up with the initiative for amendments to support civil society in Yemen."



Director of legal affairs at the Ministry of Information, Fathya Abdulwase': "The articles of any law must come in line with the general objective of that law, but this isn't the case with the Associations Law."



Abdulqadir Mohammad, director of the Civil Society Financial and Administration Monitoring Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs, stated that government desire to amend the Associations Law is due to some organizations' behavior.

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Words of Wisdom



President Saleh has to prepare the country for the 21st century. This can only be done by introducing meaningful change into the system. The two foremost requirements for any modern system are accountability and transparency. He can not continue to give lip service to these issues. He has to show that he intends real implementation.

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

OUR
OPINIONA Ministry for
Women's
Development

Dialogues are now undergoing for the formation of a new government. It is again a time for women who had always pleaded many times before to call upon the creation of a Ministry for Women's Development; one of the main recommendations outcomes of the Elimination of Violence against Women Conference which was held in 2004 and prior to that the recommendations outcomes of the Second National Conference for Women held in March 2003.

Many countries such as Malaysia, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, South Korea...etc have formed such ministries, and this has helped them respond better to the Millennium Development Goal of promoting gender equality and empowering women. The objective of this goal was to reach gender equality in primary education and secondary education preferably by 2005. However, the statistics for year 2005 showed a huge gap of a ratio of 66 girls to 100 boys in primary education and it gets worse in secondary education with a ratio of 45 girls to every 100 boys.

Leaders of the Woman National Committee (WNC) stated that the formation of a ministry for women development is not a luxury or a privilege, but it is more of a basic necessity caused by the enormous challenges facing women's development. This is clearly reflected in the national, regional and international human development reports which indicate that Yemeni women rank low in literacy, enrolment rates, and sustaining education, level of integration in the labour market; and especially in decision-making positions, despite of the efforts to improve the conditions for women.

What is frustrating is that there is still a question to the women role in contributing to sustainable development and the well-being of society. To those who still question the value of a women's development ministry please read "Engendering Development through Gender Equality in Rights, Resources, and Voice" a World Bank Policy Research Report and then you will know.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

The scenarios of Sa'ada three wars

By: Mohammed Al-Maqaleh

If the ongoing war in Sa'ada had clear and specific goals, we would have known when it ends and where and what the criteria of victory and defeat are. Two days ahead of the breakout of Sa'ada third war, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced in a televised address a list of conditions for Abdulmalik Al-Houthi to abide by. If Al-Houthi doesn't abide by the laid conditions, he will be held accountable for any consequences, according to Saleh who said "We must not be blamed after giving this warning." The conditions include the surrender

of heavy and light arms, evicting mountains, forming a political party according to the law and constitution and applying the General Amnesty.

Three days after the third war erupted, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi welcomed all the conditions listed by President Saleh stipulating that rebels stop entrenching on the tops of mountains and form a political party according to the Law of Political Parties and Organizations. Leader of the rebellion reconfirmed his acceptance of the conditions in a statement issued on 24 of last February, but the war didn't end. Instead, the war expanded geographically and socially and in terms of increasing the death toll

and the use of different types of weapons in the fighting. The matter means that the announced conditions aren't the clear goals sought by the war, nor were they the goals drawn since the very beginning because they changed in the line with the developments of the battleground and according to the regional and international developments, which are indirectly related with the war.

As the war goals keep on changing everyday, the question raised to President Saleh, 40 days after the war broke out and after many people were killed, is that "What are the war's goals today and what are its goals tomorrow?" Simply, the answer is that "I don't know" and those engaged in the

fighting may not know about the war's goals, too. If there is no answer to the question, the war is bound to escalate and claim the lives of soldiers and citizens until one of the following scenarios is achieved.

The first scenario is that the death toll of soldiers and citizens increases, making it difficult for the authorities to be responsible for its consequences. Consequently, the authorities will find themselves obliged to dialogue with Al-Houthi and his followers. Such is a dangerous scenario because it doesn't ensure reoccurrence of the war in a similar manner to what is happening at the moment.

The second of the scenarios is

that when the authorities put an end to the war but after it kills thousands of citizens in Sa'ada. This is the most risky scenario because the death toll from a single area will go in favor of a local or a foreign force paving the way for overthrowing the current regime even after a while. In addition, this scenario is expected to pave the way for foreign interventions.

The third scenario is that of the intervention of a third party to help the fighting parties get rid of the war dilemma, and I prefer that it should be a local party to ensure maintaining rule of the law and order and the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as to contribute to healing the war wounds.

Illiteracy: our enemy in Yemen

By: Abdulwahed Abdullah

We have passed many centuries of male dominance and the result is a backwardness that has negative impacts on ourselves and other people. For now, we bear in mind that women should lead the march toward development since it is impossible for them to behave in a way similar to that of men. I am convinced that it will be women that better Yemen prospects.

Our women progressed from eras of darkness in the second half of the 20th century to outperform men in the area of education. Since the 70s, schools and universities have experienced women occupying top positions in all the applied sciences and humanities.

In the Yemeni cabinet there are two women serving as ministers, in addition to a huge number of them

in various government institutions. 5 women are serving as deputy ministers, 15 as assistant deputy ministers, 45 as general managers, 84 as department directors, and 12 as advisors. In addition, there are as many as 65 women judges, thousands of female doctors and lawyers, and 40 women working as chairwomen of female organizations.

The former Human Rights Minister Amatalaleem Al-Soswa was promoted to the post of an assistant of the UN Secretary-General and the UNDP regional coordinator as well. The U.S Washington Post talked about Al-Soswa in an article published two years ago. Speaking about the article, Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Political Advisor to President Saleh, said it was the best article about Yemen in an international newspaper. The article talked about Al-Soswa's life and struggle for ensuring human rights. The article

author described Al-Soswa as a "real woman", adding that objectivity and independence are two of the reasons behind her success. The article praised the great role which Al-Soswa played in increasing awareness of peoples rights. The former Yemeni human rights activist has a famous saying, which is "In Yemen our enemy is illiteracy."

Illiteracy delays the development and advancement of women and makes them exploited by men to gratify their lusts; the only solution to this is a women's revolution. Illiteracy rates among the female population run high, and the fact will delay the women's revolt. I know in the future there will be a revolution and I am comforted by that, but I am frustrated that our women are still held back.

Prominent names like Ruqayya Humaidan, Asma'a Al-Basha and Nora Dhaifullah always top the list

of career women. Humaidan, who works as a lawyer, was nominated for the Noble Award for Peace. Regrettably, the award went to Mohammed ElBaradie, General Manager of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Humaidan was awarded by the King of Bahrain in recognition of her humanitarian activities.

Al-Basha, who is an activist in the field of civil community organizations, was the first woman to obtain membership in the General People Congress's Permanent Committee while Daifullah played a prominent role in the field of prosecution and public money. The latter contributed hard efforts to fighting corruption.

The nations of the world

perceived before us that their deliverance is at the hands of their female population. Two women, for example, managed to overcome all the hurdles and then rule two third world countries. Ms Eline Johnson won the presidential elections in Liberia to become the first African woman to occupy the highest political post in her country. Ms Mechiel Pashileih assumed the throne of Chile, thus becoming the first South American woman leading her nation.

I hope that we elect a woman to lead us because I am convinced that deliverance of nations is at the hands of women. However we have along way to go: In our country, we don't have democratic governance, as the country affairs are entirely controlled by men.

The days of women

By: Huda Alawi

Future man will have learned things about women that will make him apologize. Tackling women's issues and expressing them objectively is a complicated process requiring rereading the social address to ensure appropriate discussion of such issues without the influence of subjectivity.

In this context, women's efforts in embodying their rights to defend their existence by expressing their real concerns and problems isn't an easy task, considering the faked values posing a great barrier to women, even while expressing their biological issues. The prevailing social culture helps boost dangerous concepts concerned with edging out women's role in running daily affairs.

Some approaches advocate women returning to the home while others criticize women's engagement and participation in political activities. Additionally, fatwas and jurisprudence provide differing views regarding a woman's niqab (veil), her being a ruler and leaving her home without her man (mahram).

From time to time, societies provoke honor crimes against women while those perpetrators who commit violence against women escape punishment due to the prevailing culture of fear. Women tend to adopt clearer attitudes when explaining their sensitive issues, thus highlighting natural morals and the ambiguous psychological barriers posed to progress in discussing their daily issues.

With its conservative views, society upholds the theory of hypocrisy as a means to avoid the philosophy of stigma. Such a fact supposes absence of the mind and negligence of logic in any scope of freedom granted to women to express their issues without engaging in clashes with cultural heritage.

In order for lifestyle to be unaffected and principles adhered to, women must be granted all of their legal rights; otherwise, they'll be

intimidated by the whip of horror and numerous obstacles due to be posed to their progress and qualification.

Educated women always adhere to several principles in their intellectual talks, while women writers are governed by behavioral regulations reflecting their personality as novelists and poets.

Women politicians always are pushed by an organizational fellowship and specific partisan progress, while career women usually exhaust their energy and sell the power of their work twice: first for money and secondly for spiritual support. Housewives automatically prefer the safe way leading to the shade.

In this way, with all its barriers and obstacles, Yemeni society restricts women's freedom of expression and prevents them from publicizing their rights. Society places red lines that are impossible for women to cross, thus likening them to turtles, which are subjected to harm by the outside world if they go beyond their internal world (the sea).

Women's real problem isn't conflict with men; rather, they are struggling against social backwardness and an environment of injustice and oppression. The way women deal with their issues today must be reconsidered in order to rectify the work strategy in such a way suiting the demands of the time and interpreting the requirements of social privacy.

Huda Alawi is assistant professor of criminal law at Aden University's Faculty of Law.
Source: Al-Ayyam daily

SILVER LINING
Parliament & Ja'ashin
Plight: Holing
Irresponsibility Accountable

At last, the parliament could hit the nil on the head and come up with a very good fact-finding report on the plight of the al-Ja'ashin area in Ibb governorate. The area has been suffering at the hands of the oppressive influential council member Mohammed Ahmed Mansur.

The parliament report has caused controversy over the last few weeks, and some influential figures at parliament wanted to bury its clear condemnation of Mansur's oppressive acts against his people. The report called for the firing of the Ibb governor who with Mansour, helped in the eviction and intimidation of more than 400 families in the Al-Ja'ashin district.

The parliament did a good job when it ordered the interior ministry, which has become very idle, to act swiftly to address the question of private jails that shame the history of modern Yemen. It is disgusting that in the 21st century some influential figures still have their own private jails, and it is also a clear infringement on the law and constitution.

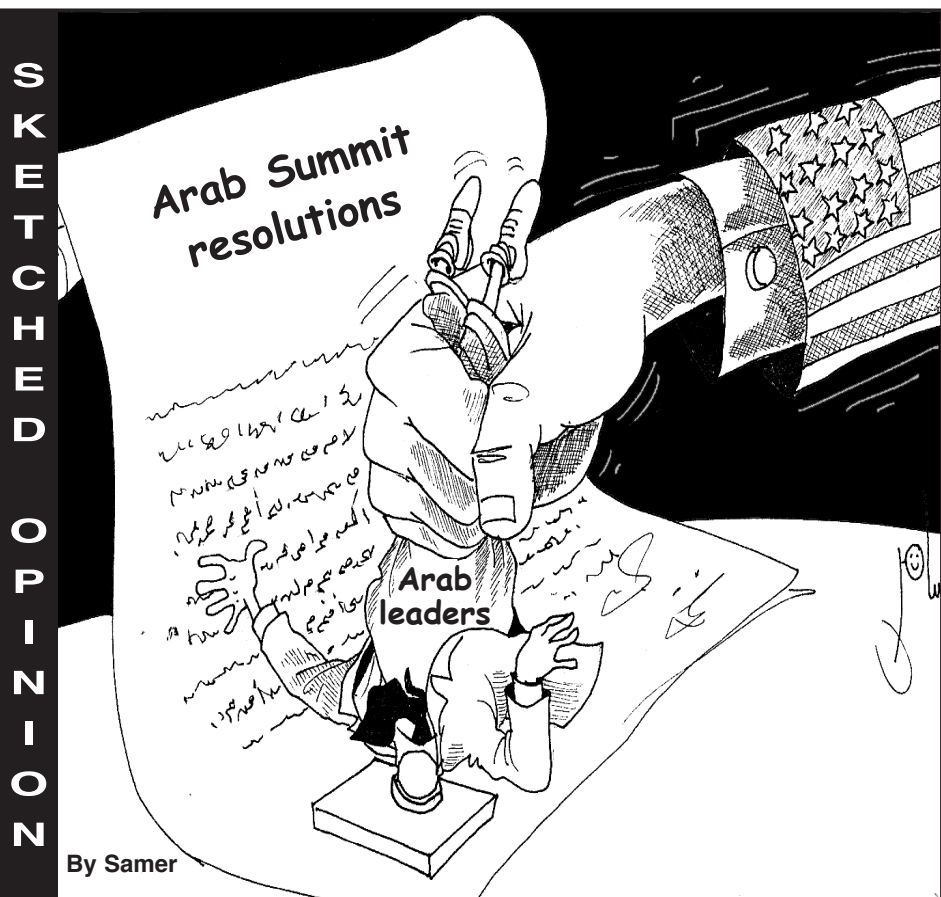
The governor and local authority members of Ibb, as the parliament report pinpointed, should be held accountable for their failure to address the dilemma of the al-Ja'ashin people, being lenient with the influential Sheikh. Not only had they kept silent, they even stood by the oppressor and tried to justify his acts, for they considered the protest from the people of al-Ja'ashin in Sana'a a sort of politically motivated showdown.

Last Thursday, I read at the al-Motamar website that the governor of Ibb Ali al-Qaisi ordered that water supply to al-Ja'ashin which has been disrupted by Mansur to be returned. The man took this action just after the parliament report condemned his silence over the problem of al-Ja'ashin people. He previously said he knew about their problem just from the media and that no complaints have been addressed to him. Wow! Now, he knows and he admits that there is a problem. This is really ridiculous and he should be held accountable for these acts of irresponsibility. In fact, if our parliament functions as it should, a lot of mistakes and wrongdoings will be addressed.

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



By: Mohammed
Al-Qadhi



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Yemen Press Review

By: Adel Al-Khawlani



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, March 29

Main Headlines

- Parliamentary report demands firing Ibb governor, investigating him over Al-Ja'ashen issue
 - Islah Party congratulates Mauritians for their successful democratic experience
 - Taiz Governor apologizes to National Paints Company, undertakes to investigate violators
 - University teachers start partial strike from work as the government doesn't meet their demands
 - MPs question the government over failed policies
 - JMP demands deporting the French national for insulting Holy Qura'an
- The weekly reported that the Joint Meeting Parties in Shabwa governorate condemned the French national, who works for Yemen-Gas Company located at the coastal area of Balhaf, for insulting and throwing away the Holy Qura'an. The opposition parties insisted on the concerned authorities to deport the French expatriate.
- JMP leadership in the government released a statement demanding the company to apologize to Yemenis in particular and Muslims in General for the indecent behaviour committed by one of its workers. Shabwa Governor Ali Mohammed Al-Maqdashi told Al-Sahwa that the governorate authorities

are investigating the riot, which took place at Balhaf and disputes between local and French workers over the expatriate worker's insult of Muslims and their Holy Book.



Al-Balagh Independent Weekly
Tuesday, March 27

Main Headlines

- 30 Al-Houthi loyalists surrender, other prominent tribal leader injured
 - Tens of thousands of Yemenis flee to Saudi Arabia
 - Women leaders form committee to defend their issues
 - MP concerned about the situation of Marib hospitals and health units
 - Al-Mahweet education workers demand authorities to give them salaries on due time
 - Three foreigner students killed while attempting to assault Al-Houthi followers
 - MPs lash out at Interior Minister over poor press standards
- The paper reported that many prominent MPs including Abdulaziz Jubari, Aidarous Al-Naqib, Ahmad Saif Hashed and Abdulmu'z Dabwan vented their anger at Interior Minister Rashad Al-Alimi over the deteriorating situations and standards of Yemeni press. The MPs said that Yemeni journalists nationwide have been subjected to assaults, harassments and assaults by the security authorities.
- Al-Aidarous cited the violations

committed against the former Secretary-General of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Hafez Al-Bukari at the Sana'a International Airport as he was returning home from abroad. He added that Al-Bukari was held for hours and his luggage and belongings were confiscated as the airport security officers accused him of being a traitor with the U.S.

The MPs cited other more harassments and forms of abuses that have been practiced against Yemeni journalists and blamed the Interior Minister for not providing adequate protection to journalists like other democratic countries. Al-Alimi denied that he learned about any violations or assaults by the security authorities against pressmen.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress
Monday, March 26

Main Headlines

- Yemen designs a vision for activating Arab joint work and solidarity
- MPs select 11 Shoura Council members for posts in the Anti-Corruption Authority
- Political parties discuss election system, local authorities and economic policies
- Government reveals ten industrial zones at the Investment Opportunity Exploration Conference
- Minister of Oil and Minerals:

Shabwa Gas Project operates normally

Higher Education Minister: The government's support for scientific research is limited

30 Sa'ada rebels surrender, others arrested in Al-Talh and Dhahian areas

The weekly said that as many as 30 terrorist elements have surrendered while others have been arrested by police in Al-Talh and Dhahian areas in the restive governorate of Sa'ada. It quoted Sa'ada Governor, Yahya Al-Shami, as saying that the military and security forces are still refraining from raiding Sa'ada city because terrorists use innocent civilians as human armours.

It added that the government troops are hunting the terrorism remnants, who fled to remote areas in Al-Safra district in the governorate. Al-Shami told Al-Methaq weekly that the terrorist groups are confused due to the strong military operations and offensives the troops launch against them. He added that the military and security forces are besieging the Al-Talh and Dhahian districts where the rebels are hiding and using citizens as human armours.

According to the governor, the troops are engaged in armed confrontations with some rebels in other areas, but in a state of full alert in order to avoid killing innocent civilians and damaging property.



Al-Nidaa Comprehensive Political Weekly
Wednesday, March 28

Main Headlines

- Guerrilla wars in Dhahian, Militants' attempts to cross into Sa'ada foiled
- Parliament says that government has no control over Al-Ja'ashen, citizens suffer the absence of law and order

Amnesty International criticizes secret agreement between Sana'a and Washington

Ra'ash residents feel oppressed as government doesn't deal with their issues

Shoura Council approves nominees eligible to run for Higher Anti-Corruption Authority

Libyan President: Yemen's Saleh asked me to mediate between him and Al-Houthi followers

According to the newspaper, the Libyan leader Muammar Al-Qadhafi said that his Yemeni counterpart Ali Abdullah Saleh asked him to contact with the MP Yahya Al-Houthi, who is currently residing in Germany, as part of his mediation efforts to end Al-Houthi-led rebellion in Sa'ada governorate.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera Space Channel about why Libya boycotted the Arab Summit in the Saudi capital Riyadh, Al-Qadhafi was asked about Libya's poor and tense relations with Yemen over allegations that his government back Al-Houthi-led rebellion in Sa'ada. He disclosed that Saleh requested him to contact with Yahya Al-Houthi and give him the telephone number of the Yemeni-government wanted man, who is escaping in Germany. The Libyan leader said Saleh accepted to meet some demands listed by Al-Houthi and rejected others.

He added that his state's ties with Yemen aren't tense and that the Sa'ada fighting was drawing nearer and nearer toward the end, but Yemen's enemies fuelled the fighting and made it fiercer. He denied that his country back the rebellion.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Organ of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, March 27

Main Headlines

- Wednesday marks the third session of political dialogue between Joint Meeting Parties and General People Congress
 - Around YR 500 million is due to be spent on celebrations of the National Unity 17th Anniversary
 - Sa'ada armed confrontations between army and rebels kill several Yemenis and foreigners
 - United Arab Emirates prevent Yemenis from entering its territory
 - Al-Ja'ashen Sheikh's followers plough over farms, his son interrupt road construction works
 - Yemen signs secret agreement on protecting U.S. nationals from international judiciary
- According to the NUPO-affiliated weekly, Amnesty International disclosed the newspaper that Yemen signed the agreement while its capital Sana'a was preparing to host a conference on human rights and the International Criminal Law. In a letter to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Amnesty International said correspondences between Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi and his U.S. counterpart Colon Powell on Dec. 10 - 18, 2003 revealed Yemen's commitment to the U.S. demands. It pointed out that it obtained such information from the website belonging to the U.S. Department of State.

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The Amnesty International considered such a conduct a flagrant violation of Yemen's commitment to the International Law, which makes all human beings equal with each other. The U.S. Administration attempts to grant its citizens a special protection from interrogation or questioning before any international tribunals.

The history at the end of history

By: Francis Fukuyama

Fifteen years ago in my book *The End of History and the Last Man* I argued that, if a society wanted to be modern, there was no alternative to a market economy and a democratic political system. Not everyone wanted to be modern, of course, and not everyone could put in place the institutions and policies necessary to make democracy and capitalism work, but no alternative system would yield better results.

While the "End of History" thus was essentially an argument about modernization, some people have linked my thesis about the end of history to the foreign policy of President George W. Bush and American strategic hegemony. But anyone who thinks that my ideas constitute the intellectual foundation for the Bush administration's policies has not been paying attention to what I have been saying since 1992 about democracy and development.

President Bush initially justified intervention in Iraq on the grounds of Saddam's programs to develop weapons of mass destruction, the regime's alleged links to al-Qaida, as well as Iraq's violation of human rights and lack of democracy. As the first two justifications crumbled in the wake of the 2003 invasion, the administration increasingly emphasized the importance of democracy, both in Iraq and in the broader Middle East, as a rationale for what it was doing.

Bush argued that the desire for freedom and democracy were universal and not culture-bound, and that America would be dedicated to the support of democratic movements "with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world." Supporters of the war saw their views confirmed in the ink-stained fingers of Iraqi voters who queued up to vote in the various elections held between January and December 2005, in the Cedar Revolution in Lebanon, and in the Afghan presidential and parliamentary elections.

Inspiring and hopeful as these events were, the road to liberal democracy in the Middle East is likely to be extremely disappointing in the near to medium term, and the Bush administration's efforts to build a regional policy around it are heading toward abject failure.

To be sure, the desire to live in a modern society and to be free of tyranny is universal, or nearly so. This is demonstrated by the efforts of millions

of people each year to move from the developing to the developed world, where they hope to find the political stability, job opportunities, health care, and education that they lack at home.

But this is different from saying that there is a universal desire to live in a liberal society - that is, a political order characterized by a sphere of individual rights and the rule of law. The desire to live in a liberal democracy is, indeed, something acquired over time, often as a byproduct of successful modernization.

Moreover, the desire to live in a modern liberal democracy does not translate necessarily into an ability to actually do so. The Bush administration seems to have assumed in its approach to post-Saddam Iraq that both democracy and a market economy were default conditions to which societies would revert once oppressive tyranny was removed, rather than a series of complex, interdependent institutions that had to be painstakingly built over time.

Long before you have a liberal democracy, you have to have a functioning state (something that never disappeared in Germany or Japan after they were defeated in World War II). This is something that cannot be taken for granted in countries like Iraq.

The End of History was never linked to a specifically American model of social or political organization. Following Alexandre Kojève, the

Russian-French philosopher who inspired my original argument, I believe that the European Union more accurately reflects what the world will look like at the end of history than the contemporary United States. The EU's attempt to transcend sovereignty and traditional power politics by establishing a transnational rule of law is much more in line with a "post-historical" world than the Americans' continuing belief in God, national sovereignty, and their military.

Finally, I never linked the global emergence of democracy to American agency, and particularly not to the exercise of American military power. Democratic transitions need to be driven by societies that want democracy, and since the latter requires institutions, it is usually a fairly long and drawn out process.

Outside powers like the US can often help in this process by the example they set as politically and economically successful societies. They can also provide funding, advice, technical assistance, and yes, occasionally military force to help the process along. But coercive regime change was never the key to democratic transition.

Francis Fukuyama is Dean of the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, and Chairman of The American Interest. Copyright: Project Syndicate/The American Interest, 2007.

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A multinational oilfield chemical company plans to recruit two Yemeni nationals to work as chemical engineers at oilfields throughout Yemen.

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- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will **NOT be considered**

Global warming: A disaster of our own making

By: Udal Ram
B.Tech (Petroleum Eng.)
Asst. GM (Drilling), CCOGC
For Yemen Times

The sun is Earth's ultimate energy source. In fact, energy from the sun is the reason most living organisms exist and prosper.

The earth receives energy from the sun in the form of radiation. After reaching Earth's atmosphere, 30 percent of this energy is radiated back into space, with the atmosphere absorbing approximately 20 percent. The remaining 50 percent of energy reaches Earth's surface and out of this, plants, soil and oceans absorb 85 percent of this heat energy, while the rest is reflected back into the atmosphere.

Greenhouse gases and the greenhouse effect

Certain gases in the atmosphere retain and trap heat emitted from Earth's surface. The gases that help trap this heat energy are called greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases absorb this energy and warm the atmosphere. This is a natural phenomenon described as the greenhouse effect.

Without this natural greenhouse effect, heat energy absorbed and reflected from the earth would be lost to space. This would lower Earth's temperature to approximately -18 C and it would be impossible for most living organisms to survive at this low temperature. Thus, this effect provides a thermal insulation blanket warming the earth's surface.

Greenhouse gases are atmospheric components that contribute to the greenhouse effect. Most gases contributing to this effect occur naturally in the atmosphere, while others are produced from human activities.

The most abundant natural greenhouse gas is water vapor, followed by carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which contribute more than 98 percent to the greenhouse effect. Increased agriculture, deforestation, industrial manufacturing and mining further contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions

Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities. It is released into the atmosphere when fossil

fuels like oil, coal, natural gas, solid wastes, wood and wood products are burned. Deforestation also releases stored carbon, which reduces the natural "carbon sink."

Methane is a byproduct of production and transportation of oil, natural gas and coal. It also is produced from decomposing organic waste and livestock. Nitrous oxide is released during agricultural and industrial activities, as well as during combustion of solid waste and fossil fuels. Other greenhouse gases are added to our atmosphere due to various industrial processes.

Numerous factors, including governmental policies, social and economic development, the changing pattern of global technology and new innovations, will determine future carbon dioxide emissions and concentrations in the atmosphere. It has been projected that by 2100, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels will be between 30 percent and 150 percent higher than current levels.

The role of fossil fuels

It's a well-established fact that energy-related activities are responsible for nearly all carbon dioxide emissions in major parts of the world. Research has proven that fossil fuel combustion is primarily responsible for contributing to carbon dioxide emissions. Coal produces the largest amount of carbon dioxide, followed by petroleum and natural gas.

Global warming

The past two decades have witnessed rapid urbanization and industrialization leading to steep fossil fuel consumption in many parts of the world. Along with the changing pattern of land use, this is resulting in more and more carbon being dumped into the atmosphere, thus altering the natural process that maintains Earth's surface temperatures. The vast pouring of carbon into the atmosphere has disturbed the equilibrium of the natural balance of carbon in the earth, oceans and atmosphere.

Burning fossil fuels releases more than 5.5 billion tons (BT) of carbon annually while changing patterns of land use worldwide contribute another 1.5 billion tons per year, resulting in more than seven billion tons of carbon released every year.

The ocean absorbs approximately two BT annually and the terrestrial biosphere another two BT per year, yet more than

three BT of carbon remains to accumulate yearly in the atmosphere. This has adversely affected the ecological system's natural capacity to adjust carbon levels. As more and more carbon accumulates in the earth's atmosphere, more and more heat is trapped, which ultimately raises the earth's temperature.

This unnatural warming of the earth is known as global warming. Environmental researchers forecast an estimated 1.4-5.8 degrees Celsius increase in Earth's surface temperature over the next 100 years. This will damage the earth's ecological system, as well as negatively affect social, economic and administrative systems globally, especially in those developing countries with minimal resources.

Changing climate

If we continue to keep our eyes shut, Earth will become a garbage tip as increasing greenhouse gas concentrations are projected to accelerate the rate of global climate change. Global warming will lead to unimaginable disasters that won't spare anyone. Whoever causes the damage, all will share the consequences of this manmade catastrophe. Climatic change won't be uniform across the globe, but it eventually will encompass every society and culture. We've already witnessed the 10 hottest years during the last 15 years of the 20th century.

As a consequence of global warming, extreme weather events, including severe droughts and heavy rains, have increased in intensity and are projected to increase in frequency, which will lead to long-term effects on human health. This has become a serious concern for everyone worldwide. Changes in the intensity and frequency of weather extremes will most profoundly impact agriculture, social infrastructures, economies, ecosystems and human health.

Human health impacts

Global warming will lead to global climate change, which will have multiple overall negative impacts on human health. Prolonged droughts already have drastically reduced food production and contributed to population displacement. In the past decade, intense flooding has caused economic disaster in many parts of the world.

Many variables will determine the magnitude of the impacts on human



Glaciers melting due to global warming.

health due to global warming. Social factors, including poverty, poor nutritional status and overcrowding, along with ecological changes, including deforestation and loss of coastal wetlands, will render many developing countries particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events and subsequent outbreaks of infectious diseases.

The direct health impacts of global warming include increases in heat-related mortality and morbidity from illnesses associated with heat waves and thermal stress, principally affecting the elderly and the urban poor. While warmer winters may decrease cold-related mortality in many temperate countries, increased temperature variability in summer and winter may have the greatest impacts on mortality. Extreme weather such as intense rainfall can lead to increased runoff and thus, exposure to chemicals, nutrients and microorganisms in water supplies, as well as physical damage, food shortages, population displacement and death. Community damage then can have psychological and economic impacts.

Severe weather systems also can create conditions conducive to clusters of infectious disease outbreaks because of flooding, standing water, water contamination and unavailability of fresh water, which will further increase mortality and morbidity.

The indirect effects of global warming on biological systems may be of even greater consequence for human health. Climate change due to global warming will create conducive conditions for

transmission of carrier-borne infectious diseases like malaria, dengue fever and viral encephalitis. Heavy rains and flooding, as well as drought with inadequate water supplies and sanitation amenities, also are conducive to outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

Climate changes put additional pressure on world food supplies as agricultural productivity is severely affected by floods and droughts due to global warming. However, the negative impacts of this will be felt more severely in the developing world since this will add to the number of malnourished people in these regions, which is already home to the largest impoverished and vulnerable community. Hunger and malnutrition not only increase infant and child mortality, but also cause physical and intellectual stunting. Both severe weather events and gradual warming have the potential to cause social and economic disruption and population displacement. The ability of populations to contend with such events depends upon the nation's social, political and economic conditions.

It has been projected that sea levels will rise as much as 90 cm. due to global warming by the year 2100. Since more than half the world's population lives within 60 km. of the sea, rising seas could have devastating effects on coastal populations. If global warming continues unabated, many island nations will be extinct by the next century.

Rising sea levels also can affect food production and water due to excessive salination of fresh soil and water and thus, negatively impact public health.

Global Warming's educational relevance

Despite the growing evidence that global warming is a very real threat to human social systems, it has received relatively little relevance in media or the education system as a whole. Global warming is an issue that's more social than scientific in nature. Because global warming is a global reality, it requires a pattern of global education focusing on ecology and the environment in general and global warming in particular. Therefore, students should be guided in class to view the global reality as a set of interrelated systems where individual decisions can't be separated from global welfare.

Hence, young minds should be encouraged and motivated to think about global warming's interconnectedness to humanity and how it affects the entire globe. In fact, the subject of global warming should be incorporated into a science and environment curriculum that will introduce students in a sensitive way to the world as a whole, which will give them insights into different geographical settings, cultural heritages and traditions. It will incite them to think about how global climate change due to global warming will affect the entire socio-economic and cultural fabric of this planet.

Such an environmental curriculum should be designed on a pattern of science and environmental study, which not only will infuse a sense of responsibility and awareness in the minds of young citizens around the globe about the current evils of environmental degradation, pollution and global warming, etc., but also will teach them the remedy and cure that science and technology will bring about for a better tomorrow.

Today, we're facing numerous challenges to the global future and global warming is one of the most devastating, presenting a sense of hopelessness to young minds in particular. This urgently requires educational dedication and commitment from all educators. The urgency of global connectivity by way of integrating environmental education highlighting global warming calls for global education.

Environmental education will facilitate new ways of looking at the world, as well as foster insight, understanding and sensitivity regarding humanity and the earth. This calls for a global education system infusing new global realities into teachers' education as well. This must be an ongoing process of defining and redefining ways to prepare youths for diversity, equity and interconnectedness in their own community, their region and the world.

The importance of educating young minds and creating social awareness about global warming among the masses is equally vital and directly related to the use of the mode of energy that directly or indirectly contributes to the phenomenon of global warming and climate change.

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Yemeni women's festive dress: a folklore fashion show (Part 2)

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
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On various women's occasions, Yemeni women in their traditional dresses make a daily show. Despite the new fashionable dresses displayed in most markets, Yemeni women still prefer to wear traditional dress and their head coverings on most occasions. Some women wear traditional dress as a standard on formal occasions. In this article, we'll examine some Yemeni women's festive dress and when they are worn.

Aden

Adeni women's folk dress is characterized by simplicity and humbleness of design and material. This is due to many reasons, such as the area's high temperatures and local culture, among others. But like most Yemeni women, Adeni women like to look fabulous.

Southern Yemeni women generally use Arabian jasmine to decorate their head and neck when dressing for their festive occasions. The simply designed Al-Dare is Adeni women's festive dress, both for married and single women. Most Adeni women place Arabian jasmine and others flowers around their head and waist. They sometimes take a part of Al-Dare and put it on their head in order to look more beautiful.

Taiz

Yemeni women from Taiz governorate have their own traditional dresses with special designs. Al-Sabri dress is known only for Taizi women, especially in the governorate's Al-Sabr region. There are two main types of Al-Sabri dress, the first of which is a black dress made of special textile and soft threads. The top of the dress contains accurate designs in bright colors.

Taizi girls decorate their heads with a scarf designed in a special way and encircled around the head with flowers. They also wear trousers designed to coordinate with either the top of the dress or the headscarf. This attractive design shows the harmony of Yemeni women and their elegance.

Al-Qamas is the other type of Taizi dress especially for married women on the first days of their marriage par-

ties, but some newlywed brides wear it on their honeymoon. It is similar to Yemeni dress in other regions, but with some simple differences. Al-Qamas dress design is difficult and requires the assistance of a professional woman to do it for the bride.

Sana'a

The Sana'a wedding dress is special. There is a certain traditional Yemeni dress for a bride, which may be white or other bright colors, but al-taj is the Sana'ani bride's crown. She wears it as a queen meeting her nation.

A Sana'a bride is distinguished by the Sana'ani Taj and only one style of coiffure mixed between the decorated

dress and special jewelry called faratiks placed on the bride's head. Different colored Sana'ani Taj are worn during the honeymoon days.

Unfortunately, many Yemeni women don't wear the Sana'ani Taj at their wedding parties, as they mostly abandon traditional Yemeni wedding dress because they like to imitate what they see on television.

At the conclusion of all the wedding ceremonies is another party called Al-Shakmah, at which the bride is free to wear either the Sana'ani Taj with bright colors or one of the traditional Yemeni headdresses for married women, such as Al-Ospah or Al-Asjah.



A child from Sana'a displays the beauty of Al-Dare Adeni dress.



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