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**Readers' Voice**  
Last edition's question:  
Do you think that the new Yemeni News crawler [www.yemenportal.net] might be censored by the authorities?  
I don't know (3%)  
No (21%)  
Yes (76%)  
This edition's question:  
Do you think president Saleh had pressured the U.S. Authorities to surrender Yemeni Detainees at Gitmo to Yemen?  
- Yes  
- No  
- I don't know  
Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/poll](http://yementimes.com/poll) and have your voice heard

## Yemeni government refuses to meet Gitmo detainees' lawyers

**By: Nisreen Shadad**  
SANA'A, May 27 — "Where's my father?" These are the words with which Abdullah Ismail Al-Raymi began his remarks, causing most attendees to shed tears at a press conference regarding defending Yemeni Guantanamo detainees' rights and releasing them.  
The detainees' families and sons came to contribute to the press conference. Attending with his mother and little brother, fifth-grader Al-Raymi noted, "Today was the last day of examinations, so I came after I finished my exam."  
"After several days, my exam results will come, but who will sign it? Who will carry me on his shoulders cheerfully? Dad, I miss you. I'd like to show

you my diary and my accomplishments. I go to sleep with the hope of meeting you. I'm waiting for you, Dad, to awaken me," Al-Raymi said.  
He continued, "I demand President Saleh, all human rights organizations, fathers, mothers and all children whose fathers remain behind the bars of oppression to stand tall together and not neglect to do so after this conference is over and we return home."  
A delegation of 14 volunteer lawyers representing Yemeni detainees at the U.S. detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, traveled to Yemen to meet with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and relieve the worries of the detainees' families last Sunday. However, the refusal of security and government officials to meet with them made the

chance to release the detainees more complex.  
All European detainees at Guantanamo have been released, as have most detainees from other countries, while only eight Yemeni detainees have been released. Yemenis comprise the highest number of detainees, at a third of those remaining.  
Martha Payner, an associate clinical law professor at Lincoln Square Legal Service representing four Gitmo detainees, two of which are Yemenis, observed, "Several weeks ago, President Saleh traveled to the U.S. to meet with President [George W.] Bush; however, the issues they discussed weren't made known to the media or to public opinion in America."  
*Continued on page 3*



Fahd Ghazi's daughter is demanding the return of her father from the Guantanamo Bay U.S. detention center.

## Press displeased with blocking of mobile news services

**By: Ismail Al-Ghabri**  
SANA'A, May 26 — The press and those interested in news services provided by GSM companies denounced blocking the news services of Nass Mobile and Without Chains Mobile, respectively telecast by Al-Nass Establishment for Press and Women Journalists Without Chains and provided by Yemen's MTN telecommunications company. They also denounced the non-stop blocking of Al-Shoura.net and Aleshteraki.net web sites by Yemen's Telecommunications Ministry.  
The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate expressed full solidarity with Al-Nass Establishment for Press and Women Journalists Without Chains against their news services being blocked.  
MTN Yemen announced on Friday evening that it made the decision following political pressure from the authority.  
Hamdi Al-Bukari, a member of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate's council, assured that MTN Yemen's conduct is illegal and an aggression against customers' rights. He added that the syndicate will take a strong stance on such violations, noting that it will review many of its previous transactions.  
Al-Bukari further indicated that the syndicate will escalate its protests against the deterioration of press freedom in Yemen and called for extended meetings at the syndicate's headquarters to discuss the press freedom situation

regarding blocking electronic web sites and halting GSM news services.  
The syndicate's secretary-general, Marwan Dammaj, denounced the Yemeni government's attempts to deprive its citizens of the fruits brought about by technological advancement in the telecommunications field, hinting that such a practice reveals that the government isn't pleased about freedom of expression.  
Dammaj also demanded a decisive and blatant attitude by all people against such dangerous violations, at the same time calling for a halt to blocking electronic web sites and stopping such blocking in the future.  
In its statement, Al-Nass Establishment for Press criticized MTN Yemen's halting of its news service, especially as it was done without any legal justification, and considers it a violation of the agreement it signed with a

mediating firm in Yemen.  
It added that the political resolution to halt Nass Mobile news service is a dangerous sign indicating the totalitarian mind of the authorities who are incapable of coping with the prerequisites of Yemeni law and its constitution, which ensure freedom of expression and the right of receivers to access information.  
Sabafon Chairman Hamid Al-Ahmar pointed out that there are no legal hindrances to providing news services via SMS, especially under the Yemeni Constitution, which ensures freedom of opinion and media, noting that his company provides news services of both national and foreign parties under legal treaties.  
Al-Ahmar further declared that both his firm and MTN Yemen have received numerous notices from the Information and Telecommunications Ministries asking them to halt the news service of

Without Chains Mobile. Sabafon declined the ministries' demands, but MTN yielded to the illegal pressure.  
Al-Ahmar stressed that his company won't break treaties signed with news service providers and further requested adopting a law as the sole authority in this regard.  
Yemen Journalists Syndicate Chairman Nasr Taha Mustafa affirmed that there are legal problems regarding providing news services via GSM companies, but he called for handling such problems aside from each side's reactionary attitudes.  
In the Sunday edition of Al-Siyasiah newspaper, Mustafa noted that the Information Ministry must compel those wanting to launch mobile news services, such as Nass Mobile or Without Chains Mobile, to receive permission from the ministry, just as September Mobile did.  
*Continued on page 3*

## Al-Alimi: All Sa'ada seized by army

**By: Mohammed bin Sallam**  
SA'ADA, May 27 — Yemeni Interior Minister Rashad Al-Alimi assures that the security situation in Sa'ada governorate is under control and that the Yemeni army has seized all districts except Ghamer, Qataber and Razih, which it hasn't entered yet because the armed forces don't want to shed civilian blood.  
In a Thursday press conference at the Yemeni Cabinet headquarters in Sana'a, Al-Alimi noted that Houthi loyalists are using civilians as shields, adding that army and security forces eventually will enter those areas in a manner they deem suitable.  
He went on to report that Yemeni security forces managed to foil several explosives implanted in areas of Sana'a, stressing that Houthis have sent numerous elements to the capital city to carry out terrorist acts, the most



Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi recent of which was a bomb explosion near the Defense Ministry, causing serious injury to two children. One later died and the other still is being treated. Shiite  
*Continued on page 3*

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# New in Al-Mukulla Suzuki Showroom and Maintenance Center



Hadramout Governor Taha Abdullah Hajar inaugurates Suzuki Showroom and Maintenance Center in Mukalla

Suzuki Yemen inaugurated Suzuki Showroom and Maintenance Center in Al-Mukulla City on Sunday, May 20. Hadramout Governor Taha Abdullah Hajar was at the top of the attendees and cut the ribbon.

The Showroom and Maintenance Center comprises the following departments:

- Cars showroom
- Integrated and modern maintenance center
- Spare parts department
- Maritime engine maintenance workshop

The attendees visited the different departments and the company's general manager and the branch manager provided detailed information about the project's components as well as the different services it provides to its customers.

They further thanked the governor for attending the inauguration ceremony, noting such attendance is indicative of the support provided by official institutions to public sector, being an important partner in development. Moreover, the manager assured their company is going to expand in Al-Mukulla over the coming years and make it a primary branch to serve people in Hadramout and those neighboring governorates.

For his part, Hadramout governor Taha Hajar expressed his admiration of the showroom and the maintenance center as well as the services they provide to the customers. He further emphasized the great role played by public sector in serving the national economy and boosting development, calling upon all public sector companies to expand their activities in order to help the society's development.

Later on, Hajar together with Suzuki Yemen's General Manager cut the torta at the presence of Hadramout Chamber of Commerce head Omar Bamashmous together with Hadramout General Mangers of Ministeries' branches, social personalities and businessmen.



# Science is light...so where's the light?

By: Nisreen Shadad

“Science is light, so where's the light?” was the slogan of female residential students at the Science and Technology University, who held a first sit-in on Monday, May 21 inside the residence and another one outside or in front of the university on May 22.

According to one of the students, “We were without electricity or water for five days, so we staged a sit-in inside the residence on Monday, May 21 from 6:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m., but no one in charge of the residence or student affairs was ready to talk with us.

“The only solution they offer is to move the 130 of us to another place for a certain time, but then after exams, the situation will be as it is now. We need a real solution,” she added.

She continued, “The real reason behind the problem is the existence of only one [electric] meter for 20 apartments, and with four rooms in each apartment, it became damaged due to the pressure upon it. This damage resulted in a fire, but the guard immediately extinguished it, so the fire didn't spread. “If the fire had spread, we all would've died because we lack fire extinguishers. There are only three and all of them are in the administration office,” the student commented.

Students say the money they pay for the residence, as well as to the university, is too much while the services offered are nothing like what they read about on the internet or in the school's catalog.

Most students said that when they were back home searching for a university at which to study, they read a lot



paper,” one student complained.

“The only thing that made me leave my country and my family and come to Yemen was to study, but the study environment here doesn't help. Even when girls are sick, no one inquires about them,” another student maintained.

Yet another student recalled, “I got sick one day and my friend was the only one who tried to carry me and help me to the hospital at 10 p.m. If someone had kidnapped us, no one would have known.”

“I got sick for a week, but not one of the supervisors came to see me, so I sometimes stayed alone just crying. For the first time in my life, I prefer not to study. I hope I can return to my home,” another student lamented.

As one girl explained, “We pay 7,000 Yemeni Riyals monthly for a small single room, while a medium single is YR 8,000 and a large single is YR 9,000. A large double room for two girls is YR 9,000, in addition to YR 12,000 annually for water and electricity and YR 5,000 for annual insurance.

“Prices increased for 2006-2007, but services remain weak. A small single room now is YR 8,000 and a medium single is YR 9,000. A large single room or a double room for two girls both are approximately YR 11,000, while a triple room for three girls is approximately YR 19,000. We now pay YR 18,000 annually for water and electricity, but insurance remains at YR 5,000 annually.”

Additionally, the students reported that the university administration sometimes compels them to pay even more. “They say we use a lot of water, so we must pay additional amounts ranging between YR 415 and YR 11,800.

“I don't know how they're able to specify the amount each girl must pay because there's only one meter. Maybe

it's according to the electronic machine, but that isn't fair,” one student maintained.

“Even though there are no articles in the university contract requiring us to pay more in any circumstance, they threaten us to pay it or they won't show us our marks regarding whether we failed or succeeded on our exams,” she alleged.

She continued, “We held a sit-in to force the directors to listen to our problems. We want to talk with them. We sat in the hot sun for hours, but no one from either university management or residence administration came to listen to us.”

“One of the directors told our supervisors to ignore us and that was the most hurtful thing. We were waiting for someone to listen to our problems, but the response was to ignore us,” one student complained.

Portuqala Al-Shatibi, administrative director of the university residence women's section, explained, “We moved the girls from residences in Al-Hasabah and Mathbah to a large building we are renting on Al-Raqqa Street. Before arriving at the new residence, we formed a union to maintain the entire building.

“The owner informed us that there's one [electric] meter, but that it could hold up under any pressure. However, due to its small cable, it couldn't handle the pressure, so it shorted out. As a



Students refused to give their names or show their faces because they are threatened by supervisors to be kicked out of the residence and they have no family in Yemen.

result of this problem, the owner is working to increase the number of meters in the building,” she added.

Al-Shatibi considers such electrical shorts and cuts a common problem throughout Yemen, not just at the Science and Technology University. “We're working to solve the problem, but the girls are exaggerating. Neither the electricity nor the water has been cut for five days continuously,” she clarified.

“The outage occurred from 10:30 Thursday morning until the next day at 12:30 p.m. We changed the cable and then informed the Ministry of Electricity of the problem. Consequently, they came and they kept it on until 8 p.m. The Ministry of Electricity employees then cut it again as a warning to the building owner.

“The electricity continued to be out until the next day, Saturday, at 8:30 p.m. From Sunday morning, it was out until 9:30 p.m. On Monday, the lights came back on at 2:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, the electricity was cut for only a few hours to give the generator a rest,” Al-Shatibi recounted.

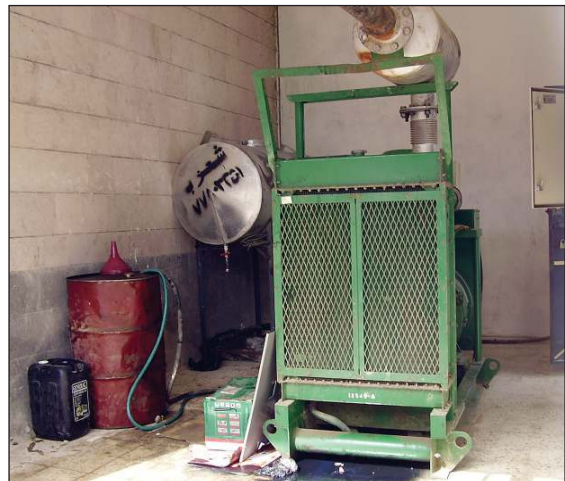
“On Monday, we brought the generator from the Science and Technology University's women's section and it began working from Tuesday,” she added.

Additionally, Al-Shatibi contacted the head of university teachers to delay the students' exams and research projects for a week as a result of the circumstances they had to endure. However, one student says this isn't true, as the delay was only for fourth-level students in the dentistry department.

Regarding university services, female student's residence supervisor, Jihan Al-Afif says, “There are health care services and trips within Sana'a, for example

to restaurants and Fun City, and some places outside Sana'a. There also are maintenance services more than once a week. If anyone gets sick, one of the supervisors must go with her. There's no need to go with them during the day, especially if it's not serious; however, we must go with them at night.”

Last time, we helped one girl and stayed with her until 3 p.m.,” another female student's residence supervisor Fathiya Sa'eed adds.



The residence's electrical generator was out of order for six months. To solve the problem, the university provided the residence with the university's generator.

about the Science and Technology University's qualities, both regarding residence and the university program.

“I read in the catalog that there's a swimming pool, a sports hall, large and clean buses, as well as internet; however, upon coming to Yemen, I was shocked to find that it's only ink on

the university administration sometimes compels them to pay even more. “They say we use a lot of water, so we must pay additional amounts ranging between YR 415 and YR 11,800.

“I don't know how they're able to specify the amount each girl must pay because there's only one meter. Maybe

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# Yemen Press Review



**Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party**  
Thursday, May 23, 2007

**Main Headlines**

- Shabwa security authorities release a Russian doctor, detained for treating wanted people
- Malaria kills two people, injures dozens in Lawdar, Abyan governorate
- For the first time in Yemen, Intercontinental Medical Team arrives in Sana'a
- Joint Meeting Parties insists on serious dialogue to help Yemen avoid risks of oppression and wars
- Four twins die immediately after birth due to mother's poor health
- Sa'ada's restores calm after Saleh declares suspension of military operations

After more than three months of fierce confrontations between government troops and Al-Houthi supporters in Sa'ada, the situation turns into clam as President Ali Abdullah Saleh declared suspension of military operations on the 17th Anniversary of Yemen's Unification, the Islah Party's mouthpiece reported. It quoted press sources as saying that a member of the mediation committee welcomed the decision. The weekly added that Sa'ada local sources said that the situation is calm but people are in a state of full alert as several deadliest events occurred prior to Saleh's declaration.

According to the sources, the government troops, backed by some loyal tribesmen, controlled Shawaba Mountain in Razeh after bloody clashes claimed several lives on both sides. Ten Houthi loyalists were arrested during the clashes.



**26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army**  
Thursday, May 24

**Main Headlines**

- In response to president's call, parties resume dialogue this week
- Ministry of Transportation studies the feasibility of building a sea bridge between Yemen and Bahrain
- Authorities open new Amran Cement Factory at a cost of \$150 million
- Ministry of Endowment and Guidance prepares for the first national conference on religious guidance
- Palestinian and Lebanese envoys praise Saleh's efforts to contain Al-Bared camp crisis
- New mechanism to monitor imported and domestically produced drugs

The army organ reported that the Higher Drug Authority has prepared a new and modern work mechanism to control and inspect the imported and inland produced drugs at the custom tariff outlets and in local drug markets. The newspaper quoted a HDA source as saying the new mechanism will be presented to the higher health authorities for approval before applying it in real-life situation.

The source clarified that the new mechanism stipulates work to be in conformity with the modern international standards and specifications in the fields of monitoring imported and domestically produced medicine. The mechanism aims to prevent entry of any expired and harmful drugs to Yemeni territory.



**Al-Wahdah Comprehensive Political Weekly**  
Wednesday, May 23

**Main Headlines**

- Authorities establish sugar and boat factories in Hodeida worth \$110 million
- Chief Judge of Public Money Court to Al-Wahdah: The court reviewed 93 corruption cases this year
- Chairman of Ghail Bawazir Cultural Center criticizes officials who once were students at the school for neglecting their school
- Authorities review laws concerned with labor and laborers
- Yemeni-Gulf meetings in Sana'a to carry out donors' pledges
- Swarms of locusts widely spread in Hadramout and Mahra
- Yemen to host meetings of control and audit organizations in Arab countries by the end of May

Abdullah Al-Sinfi, Chairman of the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) clarified in a statement that his organization is due to host on May 23 - 31 activities and meetings of the Arab Group for Control and Audit Organizations, the political weekly reported on its front page. It added that the meetings are due to be attended by chairpersons of control and audit organizations in all Arab countries. Al-Sinfi said these organizations will devote their meetings to discussing many matters included in their agenda with regard to organizing and developing cooperation ties between control and audit organizations in the Arab states. He added that participants are to exchange viewpoints with the aim of improving performance of these

organizations.

The most important themes in the meeting's agenda include the group's strategic plan for the coming three years, the training plan and suggesting a new agenda for the group. COCA chairman indicated that the meeting participants will elect a new chairperson for the Arab Group for Control and Audit Organizations, as well as his deputy for the coming three-year term. They also will elect members of the group's executive council. According to Al-Sinfi, Yemen will chair the group and its executive council for the coming term.



**Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress**  
Monday, May 21

**Main Headlines**

- President Saleh inaugurates, lies foundation stone of 743 projects in Ibb
- Yemeni expatriates abroad receive access to transfer subscriptions electronically
- Artistic Eve Party in Sana'a celebrate the 17th Anniversary of the National Unity
- Artistic tourist exhibition for Yemen in the French city of Lenie Lauribo
- Saleh announces suspension of military operations against Sa'ada rebels
- Military source: Military operations suspended to give a chance to the rebels to surrender

A military source in the advancing troops, which are on duty, in the restive province of Sa'ada, north of Yemen, confirmed that upon instructions from Ali Abdullah Saleh,

President of the Republic and Higher Commander of the Armed Forces, the military operations were suspended in different areas of Sa'ada to give the chance to the rebels to surrender on the 17th Anniversary of the National Unity, the weekly reported.

In a statement to the 26 September.net, affiliated with the Defense Ministry, the source confirmed that units from the combined military and security forces in Sa'ada showed strong commitment to the instructions in order to give a chance to the terrorists to surrender and hand their heavy and medium-size weapons to the concerned authorities in conformity with the Defense Council's decision and the religious scholars' statement.

The source confirmed that troops are ready to strongly react to any mobilization of rebels, welcoming the courageous stance of military and security troops who bravely confront the rebellion and the acts of vandalism exercised by the terror elements. He lashed out at the rebels for assaulting government troops overnight and displacing innocent women and children.



**Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Organ of the Nasserite Popular Unionist Organization (NPUO)**  
Tuesday, May 22

**Main Headlines**

- News say that leader of rebellion Abdulmalik Al-Houthi and top aide Abdullah Al-Rizami are available in Baqem district, Sa'ada governorate
- Joint Meeting Parties' Higher Council: dialogue is the civilized and safe method to protect people

from wars and conflicts

- NPUO congratulates Yemeni people on the 14th Anniversary of the National Unity
- Saleh declares suspension of military operations in Sa'ada, express his confidence that troops will win the battle
- Sana'a University teaching staff suspend strike for two weeks as Prime Minister promised to process their demands
- A Military source: Allegations made by the terrorist Yahya Al-Houthi about chemical weapons are baseless fabrications
- Al-Dhale' governor engaged in sharp dispute with local council leaders over appointing notorious civil service official

The NPUO-affiliated weekly reported it learned that Al-Dhale' Governor Abdulwahid Al-Bukhaiti is engaged in a sharp dispute with his deputy and Secretary-General of Local Councils Mohammed Ghaleb Al-Utubi over the Civil Service Ministry's appointment of Abdullah Farhan Al-Humaidi, General Manager for its office in the governorate. According to local sources in the governorate, the Local Council refused to allow Al-Humaidi assume duty as General Manager of the Civil Service Office after it issued a decision withdrawing confidence from the official.

The Local Council in Al-Dhale' considered the reappointment of Al-Humaidi illegal, as well as a violation of the constitution. The Local Council Secretary-General threatened to refer the official to Public Prosecution to be investigated over job-related violations. The dispute is escalating and is warning of an unprecedented crisis between the governor and the local council, according to the newspaper.

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Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY - A British INGO) is announcing the following short-term consultancy for National professional personnel:

- 1. Position:** Consultant (2 Months) Base-line survey & Analysis  
**Reference:** CTPB/IPD/080507

**Description of the Project:**

Rising concerns over the violent resolution, disputes over land and water, and other social conflicts in Yemen, has fuelled Islamic Relief's interest in exploring avenues for promoting conflict transformation and peace building skills among key segments of society. Yemen confronts today a complex scenario, in which tribal groups, regional interests, economic and social disparities between rural and urban areas, massive arrival of refugees, environmental un-sustainability, and the widespread use of light weapons among the population, have contributed to the creation of a high-prone, albeit with a low intensity, conflict society.

The main reasons for conducting a baseline survey and a conflict assessment are for better understanding of the conflicts and their dynamics in order to ensure more targeted interventions. The baseline survey will provide in depth view of potential conflict and the necessary background information that will enable Islamic Relief Yemen to integrate greater conflict sensitivity into its approach. The conflict baseline survey will provide the necessary baseline data against which future evaluations regarding impacts and effects will be measured.

Overall scope of the survey and the future use of the insights gained from the analysis can be defined as understanding and identifying the main areas of conflict in the country. This include a base for further activities directed at strengthening local capacities for conflict transformation in Yemen and monitor future developments and the impact of program activities on conflict dynamics.

**Requirements:**

- Postgraduate degree in conflict transformation analysis, sociology, political sciences or related field
- Extensive experience in the Middle East, preferably Yemen
- Good methodological and practical knowledge of the tools used in conflict analysis
- Good analytical skills and writing skills
- Knowledge of Arabic as the primary working language and good writing skills in English.
- Willing to travel to remote locations and in difficult terrains.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

Admin Department - Ref: CTPB/IPD/080507  
Islamic Relief Yemen, P O Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Fax No: 01-415998 Or  
Email: [secretaryir@y.net.ye](mailto:secretaryir@y.net.ye)

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



### Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen announces the following vacancy:

#### Scada Technicians

CPF

##### Minimum Requirements:

- Successful completion of a Technical Diploma in SCADA/Instrument Trade, with 6 years of related experience. Certified Technologist standard (GET) personnel are preferred.
- Successful completion of the Instrument Skills ladder and a minimum of 2 years post-FJQ Instrument experience. Completion of 2 years SCADA skills ladder or related experience.
- Excellent knowledge of English (written and oral) and the ability to produce technical reports.
- Valid Yemeni driving license.

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

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

##### Application Criteria:

- All applications **must be submitted** through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted **NO later than June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**.
- A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, **contact** and **qualification** information.
- Faxed or Handed In CV's will **NOT be considered**.



### Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen announces the following vacancy:

#### Mechanical Technicians

CPF

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- 2 years Diploma in a Mechanical trade after secondary school.
- 6 years of related experience.
- Good knowledge of English

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### Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen announces the following vacancy:

#### Instrument Technicians

CPF

##### Minimum Requirements:

- 2 years Diploma in a Technical Trade after secondary school.
- 6 years of related experience.
- Good knowledge of English, good computer skills with familiarity with Microsoft Word & Excel.
- Valid Yemeni driving license.

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

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### Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen announces the following vacancy:

#### Electrical Technician

CPF

##### Minimum Requirements:

- 2 years Diploma in an electrical trade after secondary school.
- Successful completion of at least 95% of the items listed on the Electrical Technician Skills Ladder.
- Good knowledge of English.
- Valid Yemeni driving license.

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- Online Applications must be submitted **NO later than June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**.
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- Faxed or Handed In CV's will **NOT be considered**.



# As part of compensation by Yemen LNG, Fish aggregation devices installed in Balhaf, but residents still complaining

By: Jamal Al-Najjar  
jamalnajar@hotmail.com

After Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas (YLNG) selected Shabwa governorate's Balhaf area for its company's location, the area's fishing environment was affected and residents began facing problems related to compensation and laborers' jobs.

Area fishermen are demanding fair compensation, as they were banned from fishing around Balhaf and kept from their boat shelters in the area surrounding the company.

Although the liquefied natural gas project represents a large portion of Yemen's income, Balhaf residents stress that their problems should be resolved properly, as the company has affected them greatly, both as fishermen and landowners. For this reason, the firm has implemented a program to provide area fishermen with a replacement fishing environment by installing fish aggregation devices and establishing breakwaters.

However, controversy continues regarding compensating landowners whose properties the company consumed either for construction or extending gas pipelines.

Last Wednesday, YLNG installed fish aggregation devices in the company's nearby sea area in an attempt to provide a more convenient environment for fish and, hence, help fishermen obtain their living more easily. In addition to YLNG representatives, Shabwa Governor Ali Mohammed Al-Maqdashy, and Abdulmalik Alamah, undersecretary at the Ministry of Oil and Minerals, attended the launch ceremony. The program is part of the company's fishing infrastructure compensation program.

"This program is part of Yemen LNG's programs concerning the fishing communities around Balhaf. It aims both to offset the loss of Balhaf Bay and provide an important legacy for the future," YLNG Deputy General Director Faisal Haitham explained.

Haitham revealed that while fish aggregation devices are an innovative

idea in Yemen, similar programs have been established in the Indian Ocean and represent an important source for the livelihoods of fishermen in that area.

He also confirmed that the program is a trial for a short period of time and if it succeeds, other devices will be installed. "In just three months, we'll have a good idea about how successful these devices have been. If this trial follows the path of such replacements in other parts of the world, this could well become an important source for Yemen's fish wealth in the future," Haitham noted.

So far, three devices have been installed in the waters near Balhaf. The first device is 500 meters deep, the second is 160 meters deep with the third is 50 meters deep. Fishermen say they're concerned about the devices, the failure of which will cause numerous problems, particularly as they depend totally upon fishing as their only source of income.

Hilal Al-Riyashi of the Environmental Protection Authority explained that the devices will provide a good environment for fish to lay their eggs and small fish will aggregate around the location of the devices. Consequently, when larger fish come to eat the small ones, the location of the devices will be a source of fish aggregation.

Al-Riyashi disclosed that while the devices are important in helping area fishermen catch fish offshore instead of on Balhaf shore, which was banned by the company, it's difficult to provide an environment for coral reefs such as those in the waters near YLNG.

However, Haitham maintains that coral reefs in the sea near the company aren't subject to any damage, but that the company is tackling any affects that may occur to the reefs during construction.

Another YLNG project to compensate area fishermen is constructing breakwater in Jila'a, located some 7 km. west of the Balhaf coast. The breakwater is intended to provide fishing boats shelter during monsoons. Breaking the force of waves in the area will create calm water onshore where fishermen can pull up their boats. Depths behind the breakwater gradually will decrease



Breakwaters provided a safe shelter for fishermen boats especially from July to October when waves are strong.

from 8 meters to 1 meter toward land.

Still, area fishermen maintain that what the company has done for them doesn't suffice their needs or compensate them for their loss, as they had one of the best fishing environments on the Yemeni coastline before YLNG came to the area.

Additionally, Balhaf residents are complaining about compensation for their lands, maintaining that YLNG implemented a compensation program for all of those affected in the area. In this regard, residents affirm that some lands were used for the company's premises while others were used for gas pipeline extensions.

Haitham confirmed that compensation for land will be done in coordination with the government, not with residents directly. He revealed that \$40 million has been allocated for this purpose, affirming that his company intends to fairly compensate all of those whose properties it used. He further noted that such compensation isn't restricted only to Shabwa residents, but also to some Marib residents whose lands were used for pipeline extensions.

"A supreme compensation committee was formed based on a Cabinet resolution to determine the extent of the effects and fair compensation," he explained, adding, "The committee is being chaired by Alamah, the governors of Shabwa and Marib, the general directors of oil in the two governorates and

other representatives from incumbent government authorities."

Haitham further indicated that the amount of compensation depends on the extent of the effects, noting that some types of compensation are permanent, whereas others are temporary. "Concerning compensation for land consumed by pipelines, residents' property is limited in the sense that they can use their land for agriculture, but not for construction," he pointed out.

Additionally, Shabwa residents maintain that YLNG isn't offering them employment opportunities, although they should be given priority when filling the majority of job vacancies. As a result, some residents have had problems with the company.

According to Abdullah Saleh Afeef, a member of the General People's Congress office in Shabwa, local citizens have hijacked approximately four company cars, not because they wanted the cars, but because YLNG didn't employ them. In this regard, Afeef stated that the governorate's labor office should be held responsible because it's neglecting citizens' rights regarding the company's job vacancies.

"The company doesn't have the right to employ anyone without coordinating with and approval from the labor office here in Shabwa. However, some workers are employed through labor offices in Sana'a and Hadramout while others



Fish aggregation devices (FAD) are expected to create a good environment for fish breeding.

are employed via YLNG subcontractors," Afeef pointed out, adding that the company also rents cars with drivers from other governorates, despite the fact that there are cars to rent and drivers in Balhaf.

As a result of such problems, Balhaf residents have formed a committee to demand their rights from YLNG, mainly compensation for those whose lands were affected by it, compensation for fishermen and jobs in the company.

According to committee member Abdullah Ali Al-Sallal, the fishermen's problems partially have been solved by the breakwater, which provides safe boat docking. The other two demands regarding compensation for land and employing locals haven't been solved, although they've received promises from both YLNG and the Yemeni government.

"Approximately 50 laborers from among area residents were dismissed under the pretext that the company needs technicians. From time to time, we discover that it employs laborers from other governorates with the same qualifications as local residents," Al-Sallal complained.

He further added that YLNG sent 21

Balhaf students to Sana'a to study English and computer science so they could fill secretarial jobs within the company.

"When they arrived in Sana'a, only one was accepted and the others were fired on the pretext that they couldn't speak English, despite the fact that the company had sent them there to study English and computers," Al-Sallal recounted.

Other demands by Balhaf residents relate to infrastructure projects such as electricity, potable water, health facilities and schools. Alawi Ahmed Malhoof, a member of the residents' committee, maintains that both the Yemeni government and YLNG should cooperate to provide such projects for locals.

"We urged the government to provide us with these projects, but to no avail. We now demand YLNG provide us with electricity from its power," he said, adding, "We're deprived of everything, although we live amid two huge projects: the Al-Nishaimah oil project in Hadramout governorate and the liquefied natural gas project here in Balhaf."

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# This is Yemen's History (Part One)

By: Nisreen Shadad

“This is Yemen History” is a three-volume book written in Arabic by Yemeni history specialist Abdullah Al-Kumaim.

Volume one offers an introduction to the beginning of the universe, mankind, language and civilization. In the first chapter, Al-Kumaim discusses Yemen's position during each of the historical periods, as well as the meaning of the word Yemen.

In chapter two, he provides more details about Yemenis and Yemeni civilization, mentioning numerous Yemeni historical characters, including Dhul Qarnayn and Sheba.

Also in this chapter, Al-Kumaim presents evidence that Dhul Qarnayn was a Yemeni, as Dhul Qarnayn's identity has become a matter of great controversy in modern times. Dhul Qarnayn was said to have been a great and righteous ruler who built a long wall that kept Gog and Magog from attacking the peoples of the West.

Moreover, Al-Kumaim presents the Prophet Mohammed's praises about Yemenis, as well as things mentioned about Yemen and Yemenis in the Old Testament of the Bible.

As he writes, Yemen was the first nation to plant, to domesticate animals and build palaces and dams. He also discusses 99 palaces in Yemen and various dams built in Yemeni governorates.

As Al-Kumaim presents in his book, one Orientalist said, “Yemen is the only country that can be called the cradle of Arabism.” In the oldest Babylonian script found was carved in *al-mismari* (an ancient type of handwriting) about Ma'een, a state that flourished in eastern Yemen's Al-Jawf Valley during the first era of ancient Yemen and a political entity near the Sabaean mother state in southern Arabia, rotating in its orbit or secluding itself and, at times, becoming an ally of the Hadramout and Qataban against it.

Ma'eenite civilization was no less than that of Sheba in its power and influence, as it established temples in many towns of Al-Jawf and was characterized by its



Abdullah Al-Kumaim

unique Ma'eenite architectural style. The arts of drawing and engraving developed to a great extent during this time. Like other ancient Yemeni states, the Ma'eenites wrote in *al-musnad* calligraphy and spoke the same language of southern Arabia.

Ma'eenite towns surrounded the Sabaeans during the first century B.C. and many historical signs were left by the Ma'eenites represented in the relics of towns, dams and temples across Al-Jawf governorate.

The following is just a sample of some of the remarkable things Al-Kumaim mentions in his book:

## Yakli Palace, the Red Palm

Yakli Palace was built on the summit of Jabubah hill in the area of Al-Hada, located south of Sana'a. The palace was named for the small Yakli River, which surrounded the hill from the north to the east side.

It's called the Red Palm due to the shape and the color of Jabubah hill, which looks like a palm and has a red color. Al-Jabubah is located in the far northwest of Al-Hada, an area in the midst of Al-Hada tribe, Khawlan area, Sanhan area, Al-Rus area and Jahran.

Scientific research and drilling for the remains of the Red Palm began in 1932-1931 during the reign of Imam Ahmad; therefore, it was hard to know the exact time such palaces were established. Ancient artifacts reflect that these areas submitted to numerous kings, the most

famous being Al-Sharh Yahthub and Dhammar Ali Yahbr.

A scripture of King Dhammar Ali Yahbr, a king from the Saba and Dhu Raydan periods, was found in this area, upon which both the king's and his son's name were written in *al-musnad* calligraphy.

## Dhi Marmar Palace

Many engravings indicate that Marmar, the Arabic word for marble, was a temple or a palace. Discovered at the beginning of the third century B.C., it's still known as Marmar Palace today.

In one particular engraving was written Dhi Marmar. Jawad Abdullah thought Dhi Marmar was a palace of Sakheem because it became a symbol for them, just as the palaces and castles of other tribes became symbols for their nation and tribes.

Dhi Marmar was built on a height overlooking ancient Shibam Sakheem city. It was surrounded by a huge, strong fence to protect the palace from any attack. The palace remained until 1583, when it was destroyed to build a new city using its stones.

## Dhul Qarnayn, a great king

Medieval scholars identified Dhul Qarnayn as the ancient Greek conqueror, Alexander the Great. Early Muslim historian Ibn Hisham wrote, “Dhul Qarnayn is Alexander the Greek, the king of Persia and Greece, or the king of the east and the west, for because of this, he was called Dhul Qarnayn [meaning 'the two-horned one'].”

Some modern Islamic scholars also identify Dhul Qarnayn with Alexander the Great; for example, in the appendix of his famous translation of the Qur'an, Yusuf Ali argues for such identification. Secular academic scholars of the Qur'an also agree that Dhul Qarnayn is an ancient epithet for Alexander the Great.

However, Al-Kumaim presents numerous evidences that Dhul Qarnayn was a Yemeni historical figure. In describing him, the materials he used, his main message and other reasons the book lists, the Qur'an proves that Dhu Al-Qarnayn was Yemeni because ancient Yemenis established dams, melded iron with tin and



copper and were known to bear the last name of Dha.

Dhul Qarnayn is mentioned in the Qur'an's Surat Al-Kahf (18: 83-97): “And they ask about Dhul Qarnayn. Say: ‘I will recite to you something of his story. Verily, We [Allah] established his power on earth, and We gave him the ways and the means of everything. So he followed a way. Until, when he reached the setting place of the sun, he found it setting in a spring of murky water. And he found near it a people.

“We said: ‘O Dhul Qarnayn! Either punish them, or treat them with kindness.’ He said, ‘Whoever does wrong, we shall punish him, then he will be brought back to his Lord, and He will punish him with a punishment unheard of before. But whoever believes, and works righteousness, he will have a goodly reward, and easy will be his task as we order it by our command.’

“Then he followed another way. Until, when he came to the rising place of the sun, he found it rising on a people for whom We had provided no shelter against the sun. So he left them as they were: We completely understood what was before him. Then he followed another way, until,

when he reached a tract between two mountains, he found, beneath them, a people who scarcely understood a word.

“They said: ‘O Dhul Qarnayn! The Gog and Magog people do great mischief on earth. Shall we then render you tribute in order that you might erect a barrier between us and them?’ He said: ‘The power in which my Lord had established me is better than tribute. Therefore, help me with strength and labor. I will erect a stronger barrier between you and them. Bring me blocks of iron.’

“At length, when he had filled up the space between the two steep mountainsides, he said, ‘Blow with your bellows.’ Then, when he had made it red as fire, he said: ‘Bring me molten lead that I may pour it over them.’ Thus, they were powerless to scale it or dig through it. He said: ‘This is a mercy from my Lord, but when the promise of my Lord comes to pass, He will make it into dust; and the promise of my Lord is true.’”

## Dhul Qarnayn's name and heritage

Interpreters and historians describe Dhul Qarnayn with many names that have no authentic roots. However, as Al-Kumaim writes, the most valid lineage for Dhul



King Dhammar Ali Yahbr

Qarnayn is Al-Hamisa'a bin Amr bin Areeb bin Zayd bin Kahlan bin Saba and he's called Sa'ab.

Due to the vast differences among historians regarding Dhul Qarnayn, Al-Kumaim conveys in his book their opinions and the information upon which they depend, in addition to explaining how such misconceptions occurred.

## إعلان عن إنزال مناقصة عامة للمرة الثانية

تعلم شركة مصافي عدن للمقاولين من الدرجة الأولى وشركات المقاولات الأجنبية المتخصصة في بناء المستشفيات عن رغبتها في تشييد مبنى مستشفى شركة مصافي عدن على أن يستوفي المتقدم الشروط التالية :

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CAR SHOWROOMS & SPARE PARTS table listing cars like Ford/Hyundai, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Opel/GM, Suzuki, Toyota with prices and contact info.

COMPUTER EDUCATION AND INSTITUTES table listing Computer Education, Infinit Education, NIT Quality, Computer Education, The British Institute for Languages with contact info.

COURIERS table listing FedEx with contact info for Sana'a and Hodeidah.

FREIGHT FORWARDERS table listing M&M Logistics & Aviation Services, Al-Nasim Cargo Forwarders, World Link with contact info.

HOSPITALS table listing Modern German Hospital, Al-Jumhuri Hospital, Hadda Hospital, Al-Thawra Hospital with contact info.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES table listing Al-Watania Insurance, Marib Insurance with contact info.

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## Weapon buy-backs showcased in Sana'a

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri  
saddamalashmouri@gmail.com

Pressmen and representatives of several local and international media had an opportunity to access three storage facilities filled with a wide range of arms and weapons which were bought from the public in various parts of the country as a part of an arms-reduction strategy carried out by the Yemeni government. The Interior Ministry has arranged a media tour to the three arm stores in a rare opportunity to attend a showcase of the various types of weapons which were in the hands of regular civilians, tribal

sheikhs and clans from around the country. Tens of thousands arm pieces with different types including rare brands made including the latest guns made in the U.S. UK, Europe and China were bought" an Interior Ministry representative, who requested not to be identified, said.

The representative pointed out that the first storage facility contains Ground-Ground and Ground-Air missiles and rockets, and also large machine guns with medium to long-ranges, while the second storage facility is full of mortars, anti-personal and anti-vehicles land mines, hand grenades and other types of explosives. He added that those in charge of the stores are not allowed to give pressmen any information about the prices of arm pieces they collected, confirming that their task is limited to keeping the collected arms, and allow journalists to 'take pictures only'.

According to the Interior Ministry's representative who accompanied the journalists, the ministry estimated the value of the collected arm pieces to exceed ten billion Riyals.

At a Thursday's news conference, Interior Minister Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi promised that attendants may visit these storage facilities in order to portray the success of the Ministry in con-



A tank's shell taken out of its casing.

trolling the trade and ownership of weapons, in accordance to an arms collection plan, approved by the cabinet last April. The Yemeni government also decided to shut down arm trade shops and outlaw the ownership of all heavy weapons with exceeding a gun and a machine gun per family for protection purposes, as stated by president Saleh himself earlier this year.

The operation of collecting and withdrawing weapons costs the state tens of billions of Riyals not only for buy-backs but also for logistics and inventory, especially that many of these weapons are very sensitive and can result in a devastating disaster if mis handled, according to an Interior Ministry's report. The report disclosed that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states made pledges to extend financial assistance to Yemen to continue out this arm collection project.



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