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Readers' Voice
Last edition's question:
I don't know (1.1%)
Yes (35%) No 63.7%

This edition's question:
In your opinion, what is the best method to stop FGM (read article in page 10) in Yemen?
- By serious law measures and severe punishment for violators
- By educating the families through schools
- Through religion

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

In reaction to Journalists demands' of more freedoms Government: A new press code for Journalists

The state vs. journalists match has reached a higher level, with the Ministry of Information taking the ball in its court and waving a red card signaling a new press code. As a reaction, journalists and press freedom advocates established "Freedom Square" in front of the Cabinet building as a place not only to congregate, but also to protest and pray.

By: Yemen Times staff

SANA'A, June 10 – Yemen's Ministry of Information began discussing a new press code last week, affirming that the new law "accommodates various technical and information developments and modern communications technology, as well as opens the door to investment in the information and communication field in general."

According to the ministry, the new law will be formulated with all concerned parties, particularly the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, in order to ensure the best outcome.

Although the law is intended to resolve current debates about mobile phone messages and electronic press web sites by enacting clear and specific legislation, Yemeni journalists consider it just another attempt to control freedom of press.

The Information Ministry says the new press law will outline the rights, duties and obligations of those dealing with collecting and disseminating information. It also will ban "any material intended to harm national stability, publish personal information or expose state secrets."

At the same time, the Communications Ministry, the authority responsible for regulating internet facilities and mobile services, is looking to draft a new law to legislate the use of communication technologies.

This step comes in line with the latest debate on the legal status of SMS news services provided through mobile telecommunications and news web sites, which have been blocked off and on according to the tides of liberty in Yemen.

When protest doesn't work, it's time to pray

The new press code "adds insult to injury" as demonstrators commented while holding a prayer gathering Friday in what's being called "Freedom Square" in front of the Cabinet building. Attorney Khalid Al-Anisi, executive director of the National Organization to Defend Human Rights and Freedoms, also known as HOOD, proposed the idea of praying in the square.

Continued on Page 3



Standing on firm grounds and backed by female supporters, Karman stands at Freedom Square demanding more respect for press freedom.

For a more productive society...

Small and Microenterprise Days launched

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

SANA'A, June 19 – The Social Fund for Development on Sunday launched the third Activities Days for the Small and Microenterprise Development, or SMED, unit being held June 10-16 at Saba'een Park.

The kickoff was done in the presence of Prime Minister Ali Mujawar and Abdul Kareem Al-Arhabi, minister of planning and international cooperation and managing director of the Social Fund for Development, among other ministers.

The Activities Days seek to improve the income of microentrepreneurs in both urban and rural areas of Yemen, especially for women, by providing them with sustainable financial as well as non-financial services to fulfill the needs of poor families.

Additionally, the SMED unit aims to draw attention to the importance of the microfinancing industry in a nation's economic development and its contribution to improving the living conditions of low-income households and small entrepreneurs.

For the first time, as well as through

previous SMED activities, clients will have a chance to demonstrate and directly sell their products at the open exhibition, where customer interaction was high during the first day. Moreover, it's an opportunity to bring together national agencies and individuals from across Yemen who are concerned with the microfinancing industry.

The exhibition launched with 12 programs and foundations providing either individual or group loans for clients' projects, who in turn comply with the loan repayment schedule within an appropriate timetable.

In pursuit of its objectives, the SMED unit focuses its activities in three program areas: community development, economic empowerment and human resources capacity-building.

SMED has established and supports 12 programs and foundations providing financial and non-financial services to winners of small and microenterprises in various fields in numerous Yemeni governorates.

Through such foundations and agencies, SMED focuses on increasing national awareness about the importance of small and microenterprises in arresting poverty and limiting unemployment problems. The unit also seeks to encourage both national and international organizations and donors to work in the field of small and microenterprise development.

Many participants expressed their interest in such an activity. "It's a good chance for us to provide more support for poor families to improve their incomes," stated Talha Abdulkarim, a member of Abyan's loan and moniesaving program, which supports



The open exhibition and markets for small and microenterprises.

more than 1,972 clients with additional support from the Social Fund for Development.

Al-Awael for Microfinance is another company participating in the event by providing technical assistance to women handicraft laborers with the aim of developing their skills and overriding some of their problems.

Commenting at the exhibition, Najabah Al-Haddad, deputy of the Culture Ministry's cultural and theater sector, noted, "Such an exhibition will contribute to raising families' economic and social positions and help protect them from poverty."

Parliament questions Sa'ada war

With new supplies and support on the way, the battles in Sa'ada seem to be on the verge of ending. However, Parliament has announced its intention to call for an investigation of the war, especially as it has disrupted the lives of more than 40,000 Yemenis, while Houthi rebels promise more surprises.

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, June 10 – After declaring a humanitarian disaster in Sa'ada, the Yemeni government gathered its strength and stacked more army personnel to join the ongoing battles in Sa'ada, which have raged since the beginning of this year.

In an attempt to control the rebellion, Yemeni army forces currently surround troubled areas, particularly the rough mountain areas of Razih, Ghamer and Qataber. Statements by high-level military officials express optimism that the government will be able to end the war soon.

However, local tribes in the area don't share the same optimism, reporting continuous clashes between army forces and Houthis employing guerrilla tactics while taking advantage of the very difficult terrain.

The past few days have witnessed intense exchange of fire between government forces and Houthi rebels, who still control several areas in the villages and hills surrounding Al-Gao and Al-Hisn Mountains in the northern part of the governorate.

42,000 displaced

Meanwhile, relief agencies such as the International Red Cross, Islamic

Relief, the U.N. World Food Program and the Yemeni Red Crescent have rushed to aid and provide food and basic commodities to those displaced, which are estimated to exceed 42,000.

Relief agencies still are struggling to reach displaced residents who are scattered in remote areas outside the battlegrounds or have found refuge in other people's homes.

Reports from Sa'ada convey that many locals prefer to remain in their homes despite the heated clashes because they fear being killed while "camping in the open air or traveling on the way."

An International Red Cross spokesman explained that the future for such displaced peoples remains unclear, especially as they are increasing in numbers and are totally dependent upon aid to survive.

Anti-war campaign

Simultaneously, updates on the political front indicate an increasing tension between the government and the opposition, led by the Joint Meeting Parties. As a reaction to the war, there has been a call to create a campaign entitled,

"Together against the war," criticizing how the state has handled the conflict in Sa'ada.

Yassin Sa'eed Noman, head of the JMP's supreme council, proposed forming a committee for the anti-war campaign made up of 120 credible personalities from all political parties and affiliations. "The invitation is open until the 28th of this month to all activists and national figures known for their balanced attitudes and commitment to dialogue," he stated.

However, Noman's idea was unappealing to at least one government source, who lashed out at the suggestion, terming it a "call for conflict and sabotaging the state's achievements."

The same source added to the ruling party's Al-Motamar.net web site that, "There's no doubt that the JMP is on the side of Houthi rebels and thrives on bloodshed and disaster."

The "Together against the war" campaign aims to intervene to stop the Sa'ada war and come up with political solutions to the situation, especially its consequences, including compensating displaced people and rebuilding damaged homes and infrastructure.

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In brief

SANA'A

Chess championship starts
June 9 — The National Championship for Chess – 2nd level has started yesterday and will continue until the 13th of this month. Coming from 18 governorates, participants from 26 clubs will compete for the title. The first four winners will compete again in a second round for the first level title, while the losers will settle in for second and third levels.

UN anti-drug delegation in Sana'a
June 9 — A delegation from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is visiting Yemen currently to continue cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and security forces in fighting organized crime, as well as drug use and dealing. The delegation will meet with several concerned authorities in order to assess the situation in Yemen in order to assist Yemen in its fight against drugs and organized crime.

ABYAN

100 sponsored eye surgeries
June 8 — Taiba Charity has completed its charity project "Light caravan for fighting blindness", through which 100 eye operations were carried out in Rasad General Hospital in Yafe'. So far the project has sponsored 600 glaucoma treatment and lens implantation with the assistance of charity people and well wishers from all around the republic.

ADEN

Workshop on poor youth issues
June 8 — Sixty young men and women from Dar Sa'ad and Shaikh Othman districts in Aden governorate came together through a two-day workshop to discuss their issues as youth coming from poor communities and seeking solutions for them. The workshop was sponsored by "Save the Children – Sweden" in partnership with "Al-Amal Charity" and the Jordanian youth development program "Naseej". The workshop aimed at increasing the level of awareness among youth living in poor areas and means to empower them to improve their life.

UNHCR-Aden funds training for female refugees
June 8 — Twenty five female Somali refugees benefited from a training course on how to manage income-generating projects in Aden. The training was organized by Al-Tadhamun Association for one week and was funded by the UNHCR branch in Aden. The training included education on sewing, food making, and incense creation projects and how to manage the accounts and ensure the return on investment and gain profits.

DHAMAR

Academic staff trained in scientific research and planning
June 8 — A two-day workshop on how to draw plans and scientific research concluded this week at University of Dhamar. The workshop which is the second of its kind organized by the academic development department at the university targeting professors and academics in order to enhance their abilities and hence the level of education in the University.

HADRAMOUT

Integrating students with disabilities in schools
June 8 — Over six days, 20 male and female teachers from schools in Sayoun, Shibam, and Al-Saoum cities have been trained on methodology and practices of how to integrate students with disabilities in public schools. Members of the physically disabled society were present at the workshop to assist in the training and provide their input to the course. The workshop is yet another achievement of the Social Fund of Development in Hadramout which aims at society development and enhancing the education system and environment in the governorate.

Demonstrators condemn security attacks

AL-DHALE'E, JUNE 10 — A crowded demonstration took place through main streets in Al-Dhale' governorate heading toward the government complex located in Sanah area, to protest against the security violations by a number of military personnel against a member of the governorate's local council last week who happens to be affiliated with an opposition party. Al-Eshteraki.net stated that the demonstrators were twenty thousand and they enchanted anti-ruling party slogans.

According to eye witnesses, security personnel attacked local council member Mr. Ali Al-Awdi as he was visiting a number of imprisoned citizens belonging to his constituent; "These citizens were detained because of practicing their democratic right of participation in a precedent demonstration" sources at the local council said.

The security personnel attacked the council member by hitting him by the ends of their Kalashnikov machine guns, while kicking him in front of the government building.

The Joint Meeting Parties called on the citizens of the governorate to go for a peaceful demonstration as the governorate authorities ignored the incident against local council member Ali Al-Awdi, who is the chairman of the social affairs committee within Al-Dhale'e's local council in Al-Dhale' governorate.

The demonstrators repeated a number of outcries and slogans denouncing the security aggressions and also the increasingly higher costs of living, calling on the ruling party to learn how



Demonstrators held anti government slogans.

countries are run and to properly govern the people, instead of harassing elected representatives of the public

In a press release, the JMP indicated that the demonstration took place only after the authorities did not take any action against the offenders, and that there were no transparent probe explaining why the soldiers behaved in that way and who issued the directives to beat Mr. Al-Awdi.

It is worth mentioning that this demonstration is a first-ever type of events for months in terms of the intensity of the crowded mass starting from JMP headquarter heading toward the

government complex on foot, repeating denouncing shouts.

Following the demonstration, under-secretary of the governorate Mr. Mohammed Sa'eed Moflah affirmed that the demonstrators' message is on its way to reaching higher authorities, and that the government will look into their demands.

However, sources at the JMP expressed their pessimism that the authorities will not take disciplinary actions against the aggressors, adding that all the precedent attacks against citizens were met with nothing but negligence and ignorance.

FAO calls for aerial control to fight locusts

SANA'A, JUNE 8 — UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned- on Wednesday- that Yemen faces its worst outbreak of crop-devouring locusts in nearly 15 years. The organization said that the situation could be exacerbated in the coming days by heavy rains and high winds associated with a very strong tropical cyclone over Oman.

In news release, the agency said "Unprecedented heavy rains in March and again last week have favored locust breeding and fledging in the most affected areas, and one or two more Desert Locust generations can be expected."

"Widespread breeding is in progress within a large and remote area of an estimated 31,000 square kilometers in the interior of Yemen, where locust swarms are likely to form," said FAO expert Keith Cressman, who has just returned from a weeklong assessment mission to the country. He estimated that overall, between 50,000 and 75,000 hectares may have to be treated this summer.

The agency confirmed that if locust infestations are not controlled in time, agricultural crops in Wadi Hadhramaut and other areas including the Sana'a highlands will be at risk. "As the locust infestations are spread over a large and

remote area of rough terrain, it is not possible to conduct sufficient surveys or control the infestations on the ground only." Said news release.

The agency called for a helicopter survey and control campaign to avoid massive infestations and serious damage to food crops, adding that the Government of Yemen is mobilizing national funds and is activating the National Locust Steering Committee. Nevertheless, international assistance will be necessary to support national control efforts for a first control phase until September.

In his return, Director of the National Center for locust control in Yemen, Abdu Fara'a Al-Rumaih stated to media that (FAO) intends to provide Yemen with two locust control helicopters equipped with spraying device.

He added that Yemen submitted earlier this week a request to the FAO to provide Yemen with aircrafts in order to eliminate widespread locust, which struck the eastern farms of the country, and started to take another outbreak, the matter which roused fears of a locust swarms form and invading neighboring countries.

Al-Rumaih said that locust swarms are in progress within area of up to 31

thousand square kilometers in the desert areas between (Thamud and Abas) in Hadramout; in addition to some areas in the province of Shabwa.

He insisted on the importance of controlling the spread of locusts and prevent its transmission to outside country, especially in availability of suitable climatic conditions for locust breeding in the coming period.

Pointing out that Yemen has exerted intensive efforts in fighting locust, where it distributed 13 technical teams equipped with all technical mechanisms spray and trucks in the areas in which insects are almost.

Additionally, He clarified that those teams were able to eliminate the spread of locusts in the area completely estimated 4200 hectares so far. However, the country still needs an intensive survey and air control to avoid damage consequences that may affect crops.

Yemen experienced locust infestations in 1986, 1987, and 1993, which was a particularly serious outbreak. However, the outbreaks in 2002 and 2004 were successfully controlled. It is worth mentioning that a "very small part" of an average locust swarm eats the same amount of food in one day as about 2,500 people, FAO reported.

Tetra Pak promotes School Nutrition in Yemen

SANA'A, JUNE 7 — A group of international experts has highlighted in a conference the importance of nutritional food and the impact such food has on the mental development of pupils as well the wellbeing of school-age students. The conference was held in Movenpic hotel in Sana'a and over 100 participants were present, including educators, doctors, nutrition experts, and government officials.

His excellency Dr. ABDulkarim Rawe'e, Minister of health and population, has inaugurated the conference and said in a speech that the Yemen can benefit from international experience in terms of school nutrition and health of pupils, adding that nutrition is of critical importance in order to build a strong and capable generation.

The conference was organized by Tetra Pak Arabia, inline with its corporate social responsibility principles which focus in the quality and safety of its food packaging, and also the importance of supporting school nutrition practices in several countries including Yemen. Mr. Ammar Zahid of Tetra Pak has stated

that the company's international experience has proved that the best mechanism for marketing and the need for sustainable social and economic development have to be done in cooperation with the concerted government agencies, development agencies, as well as the private sector.

On his part, Dr. Ali Al-Midhwah, director of Family health in the Ministry of health, has stated that the conference is a great opportunity to highlight the issue of child nutrition and safety, adding that such a theme is a fundamental cornerstone for the well-being of the society.

Regional Director of Dairy products in Tetra Pak has also presented the success of the company's school nutrition program, which was held in Saudi Arabia, stating that over 600,000 pupils have benefited from the "milk in school" program, indicating that the company is looking

forward to repeating this experience in Yemen in cooperation with the Yemeni authorities in order to help the Yemeni pupils develop strong mental and physical health, with consideration that Tetra Pak has international recognition in this field, and has signed international agreements for creating awareness on nutrition, including this conference which was held in Yemen.

Tetra Pak has developed its own in-house Office responsible for promoting the concept of "nutrition for growth" in order to support its partners through providing technical know-how and other forms of support so as to boost a healthier habit through a dual strategy, whose first part focuses on health as well as nutrition and includes programs such as school nutrition, eradicating malnutrition, and providing emergency food aid, while the other part focuses on



WNC educates Parties into Mainstreaming Gender

By: Rasha Jarhum

TAIZ, JUNE 9 — The Woman National Organisation (WNC) has organized a workshop on gender mainstreaming into political parties and organisations. The workshop that was held in Taiz and hosted by Al-Saeed Institution, was attended by 25 representatives of the GPC and the Joint Meeting Parties.

The Workshop objective was to acquaint participants with integration approaches to gender issues in political parties through a set of specific components that were demonstrated throughout the sessions. In addition, the participants were introduced to the definition of gender and the importance of gender indicators to the development process as well as gender planning and analysis. However, the second day of the workshop was the most vital as participants were trained to update the political parties plans to be more gender integrated and how to include gender issues as specific plans.

Hana'a Howaidi – General Director of the Planning and Development Unit in WNC, stated to the Yemen Times that the workshop aimed at introducing the concepts of women's political participation, which remains as low as 2% in high positions. She also added that women are still electoral cards due to social factors that look at women polit-

ical participation as a dangerous form of insanity.

Additionally, she indicated that there are other factors that weaken the integration of gender in political participation and decision-making in political parties in particular and political participation in general such as high rates of illiteracy, which reach 70% among women, and the tyranny of political illiteracy. She also pointed out that the Qat Sessions, which are exclusive to men and where important and vital political decision are taken, are another weakening factor to women's political participation.

Therefore, she called upon Yemeni women to educate themselves politically through resettling themselves in the decision-making process. She then wondered "Why women do not receive important and sensitive positions in the political party structures?"

In her conclusion, she urged the political parties and organizations to look into the community and not the party itself when it comes to course of the planning process, emphasizing that women constitute half of society, and stressing that women will have a positive role in the parties. Howaidi then insisted that the parties should transfer women from being just a name or added membership to an influential and the decision maker.

Soul begins phase II of "child to child" Program

SANA'A, JUNE 9 — Soul Organization for Women and Child Development started Phase II of the Program specialized in the methodology of "child to child" approach at Al-Quds school in Sana'a.

The program which is also supported by Qatar Charitable Association will last for five days and is including 24 teachers as well as 24 students at eight schools in Sana'a. The Program is aiming at enhancing the understanding of the participants in the Convention of Child Rights, improving and developing the work performance with children, and familiarizing them with the principles of initiative participation and promoting it. The program also is aiming to create awareness among children on some proper ways to solve their health and environmental problems. In addition, the program is also aiming at enabling the participants

to develop plans for future application of a 'child to child' approach at schools.

The current phase will evaluate the implementation of the plans that had been prepared in the first phase of each school. In addition, a review will take place on the topics that the trainees have been trained to do in the first phase and how those are applied during lessons within the classroom. New topics are also added on planning, documentation and evaluation.

The project is the first cooperation project between Soul for Women and Child Development and Qatar Charity Association. It is worth noting that Qatar Charity Association operates in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe; whether through its establishing field offices or through partnership and cooperation with non-governmental development communities.

ESCWA inaugurates a Multi-Tasks Technology Center

TAIZ, JUNE 9 — An inauguration ceremony for the Multiple Task Technology Centre took place in Taiz at the headquarters of the Social Solidarity Association in coordination with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Dr. Ali Abdullah Al-Shibani - President of the National Institutions Association and Industrial Companies, called upon transcending the success of courses to get acquainted with the young people and their needs.

Mansour Faraj - Head of the Training Center in the ESCWA, stated that the program started two years ago after obtaining fund from the Development Fund of the United Nations. He stressed on the importance of linking technology with the development process through information, industrial activities, and agricultural products.

Faraj added that the center has local marketing expertise to market its products and has created a labour market in rural areas, thereby helping to raise the

pace of economic development of rural areas. He also stressed on the potential contribution of the center to the development of the handicraft industry through Internet marketing, international marketing, redistribution strategy, as well as vocational training.

The center comes as another step to Smart Groupings Project managed by the Division of Information Communication Technology in the ESCWA under the ESCWA initiatives designed to promote the use of new technologies to create employment opportunities and reduce poverty in the member countries. The project is partially funded by UNDP and is focusing on the Multi-Tasks Technology Center and the Industrial Unit for Food and Agricultural. It also aims at encouraging the use of computers and information technology, spreading new technology for development, reducing poverty, creating employment opportunities, supporting small and medium institutions, and achieving the millennium goals.

Italy honors Al-Sarhi

SANA'A, June 9 — The Italian embassy awarded Arhab Mohammed Al-Sarhi, Head of the Italian public relations in the Italian-Yemeni Friendship Association, with the Italian Republic Knight Medal, Which is the first high rank medal awarded to a Yemeni.

The medal was rewarded on the national Italian day ceremony held at the Italian Embassy. Many Yemeni officials, headed by Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, a long with Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Maflahi, Minister of culture, and many of the Arabian and Foreign diplomatic representatives in Sana'a attended the ceremony.

Al-Sarhi was awarded this medal

for his sincere and loyal efforts in activating Yemeni-Italian relations and keeping them dynamic. It is an appreciation also of his distinguished role in releasing the Italian Hostages kidnapped in Yemen end of 2005.

In his speech, the Italian ambassador Mario Boffo praised the Yemeni-Italian relations and he described them as "dynamic" relations. He added that these relations have been there for over 80 years and are considered one of the best relations that ensured trust between the two countries. While accepting the medal, Al-Sarhi said "rewarded with this Medal is a great honor for me, this medal will increase my enthusiasm to open new channels for the benefits of the two countries."

Bahrain police fire on protesters

ALMANAMA, June 10 (AlJazeera.net) — Riot police in Bahrain have fired tear gas and rubber bullets at more than 500 demonstrators who were protesting against the seizure of their lands by a member of the royal family, according to local officials.

Witnesses at the scene on Saturday said that a number of protesters were injured and that at least two people fell unconscious.

Youssef al-Bouri, head of the district's municipal council, who was involved in the protest, said the protesters had been "surprised that the anti-riot police" had been deployed.

"They opened fire on us ... the police were siding with the law violator," al-Bouri said.

Bahrain's media, however, described the protests as "violent" and reported that the police were now searching for "agitators"

In an interview with the Gulf Daily News, published on Sunday, Captain Rashid Bu Najma, an official from the interior ministry's legal affairs

department, said the protesters "used Molotov cocktails, sharp sticks, sling shots and even golf balls which can kill".

Violent protests

Residents from the mainly Shia village of al-Malkiyah, west of the capital Manama, burnt tyres and some carried banners reading "Bahrain's lands are not for sale".

Bu Najma was reported as saying: "The tyres they burn are dangerous as well and produce noxious gases that can harm. In turn, the police use tear gas that is an internationally accepted tool to deal with violent protests."

The demonstrators were protesting against the construction of a wall along



Some of the protesters at the village of al-Malkiyah set light to tyres [EPA]

the village's shoreline.

The 500-metre-long concrete wall was built two years ago on the orders of Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Salman al-Khalifa, a cousin of Bahrain's king, allegedly in an attempt to claim the walled-off stretch of land as his property.

The wall has denied villagers, many of whom are fishermen, access to the seafloor.

Jawad Fairoz, a Shia politician, who was also at the protest, condemned the police action and stressed that the demonstrators had obtained permission for the rally.

Continued from page 1

In reaction to Journalists demands' of more freedoms Government: A new press code for Journalists

He explained that their prayer in Freedom Square is a sign of protest similar to the regular Tuesday sit-ins. Consequently, protesters have committed to continuing the Tuesday sit-in ritual and praying every Friday in the square until their demands are met.

Following the prayer ceremony, they reiterated their demands, which are: to allow individuals, political parties and organizations to establish private media, including newspapers, radio stations and television channels. They further condemn the blocking of SMS services and news web sites.

Prominent journalist Tawakul Karman, director of Women Journalists Without Chains and one of the key movers of the current journalist protest movement, called on all mosque preachers to make last Friday, June 8, "Freedom Friday" and defend constitutional freedoms and human rights, another slogan adopted by the enthusiastic activists in an attempt to involve religiously-oriented Yemenis in their plight. Both Al-Anisi and Karman are affiliates Islah Party.

As in Islamic Friday prayers, the ceremony began with a speech by an Imam, who was none other than Member of Parliament Fouad Dahaba of the Islah bloc and a member of Parliament's human rights committee.

Dahaba called on Prime Minister Ali Mujawar (whose office overlooks the front yard of the Cabinet building, the chosen location for Freedom Square) to resign his post. "We say to the prime minister, whom we believe has a living conscience, that if you find yourself unable to provide for the betterment of your people, then it's best you resign."

Mocking Yemen's weak infrastructure, Dahaba said that although the nation miraculously was saved from the damaging consequences of cyclone Gonu, it is drowning in a flood of corruption. Furthermore, if a Yemeni escapes death by a bullet in Sa'ada, there's a good chance he'll die in a shabby gutter somewhere else, referring to last month's incident wherein a car sank in a sinkhole in Sana'a and killed a woman.

Parliament joins in

Dahaba isn't the only MP who has been active in defending press freedom. The latest news out of Parliament reveals that more than 17 MPs, mostly from the opposition bloc, demand creating an investigative committee on the reasons and legal justification for blocking Aleshteraki.net and Al-Shoura.net news web sites, as well as blocking

Nass Press and Without Chains SMS news services.

On demands from the journalists demonstrating outside his office premises, Mujawar met with a delegation of the protesters and instructed the Communications Ministry to unblock the two web sites. The agreement from last week was to allow the web sites to operate until a law is made to solve the problem, which the Information Ministry began drafting last week.

Nasserite Unionist Party Secretary-General Sultan Al-Atwani demanded Yemen's information minister explain the reason for blocking opposition news web sites and SMS services, as well as why Yemeni television channels don't cover the activities of

opposition political parties.

It is uncertain when the new press code will be proposed and to what extent various media stakeholders will have a say in it. However, Parliament's opposition bloc seems more adamant this time around to take a firm stand to defend their parties' interests.

While press freedom advocates alternately protest and pray weekly, the issue of freedoms in Yemen is being brought to the attention of international human rights organizations. Many press freedom watchdogs such as Article 19, which currently is working with Yemeni organizations to draft a new press code, are keeping track of the events and awaiting what will evolve from this latest round.

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Dr. Stephanie Jones to Yemen Times:**The world is my home!**

The first time I met her I was not sure that she was the university professor I was supposed to meet. Instead of meeting a stern formal academic with spectacles and a bunch of reference books, I saw a pretty crew-cut female wearing casuals and carrying a rucksack on her shoulder. She had a wide grin on her face, and with a firm handshake she introduced herself and I know this would be an interesting interview.

Interviewed by: Nadia Al-Saqqaf

For more than half a century, Maastricht School of Management (MSM), based in one of the oldest towns in the Netherlands, has focused on international cooperation, combining education, technical assistance and research in its professional services. The Maastricht program is offered in a number of Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. For the past two years, MSM has had a higher education partnership with Sana'a University, and 24 Yemeni students have enrolled in the first intake, with the second intake just about to start.

With the objective of enhancing professional competence and enriching the lives and careers of those involved in the practice of management, the school balances management theory with practical experience and research in a multicultural and multidisciplinary setting. MSM has a variety of highly competent professors and lecturers from all around the world. Professor Stephanie Jones is one of several MSM faculty who have participated in the Yemen program.

We want to prepare the students to be able to work in multinational companies. I would like to help my students to be able to fit into any multinational company around the world and do well wherever they go. We are trying to create an international business elite.

Dr. Stephanie Jones

Dr. Jones is an Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior. Having a PhD in Economics from University College London, Dr. Jones managed Human Resources consulting and training businesses in the UK, Hong Kong, PRC, India, Australia and Dubai, from 1988 to 2001. She was previously based at the Kuwait Maastricht Business School, and taught at the University of Wollongong in Dubai and the American University in Dubai, from 2001-2005. She also lectures in Thesis Writing, Quality Management, Change Management, Cross-Cultural Management, International Business, Entrepreneurship, Business Ethics and the Consultancy Process.

Dr. Jones is an active consultant and trainer in human resource management and leadership, and serves on the editorial board of a practitioner journal Human Assets Middle East. She has served twice as an assessor and lead assessor for the Dubai Human Development Awards. Her research interests are in leadership, cross-cultural issues, and HRM topics such as recruitment, training and interviewing approaches.

Since gaining her PhD in her early twenties, Dr. Jones has authored over 20 full-length internationally-published books on business and management, including on the subjects of psychometric testing, recruitment, career development and expatriation. Dr. Jones has recently completed the first volume in the MSM textbook series, How to Write Your MBA Thesis, jointly with Dr. Khaled Wahba of Cairo and Professor Beatrice van der Heijden in the Netherlands.

Her latest book, Nelson's Way: leadership lessons from the great commander,



Dr. Stephanie Jones

reached the top ten best-selling business books in the UK. "Nelson's Way is my favorite book, I researched the leadership skills of this great leader and hope the readers will learn and use the knowledge and ideas we presented in this book throughout their lives," she added.

Joining the Maastricht School of Management

After more than 5 years teaching at international universities in Dubai, Dr. Jones decided it was time for a change. She came to know about MSM through their exhibition stand at a conference she was attending in Dubai and hence applied to join the Maastricht program in Kuwait, and then the "head office" in the Netherlands.

"I wanted to work in a more flexible environment which allowed for creativity

and innovation. The Maastricht program was perfect for me especially that it includes a lot of traveling which I enjoy very much," Dr. Jones commented on her start with MSM in 2005. Although Dr. Jones originally comes from a small town in the South West of England she considers the world as her home. Having a house in Malta, and having consulted and taught in many countries around the world, she considers herself as a world citizen.

Currently Dr. Jones is visiting Yemen as a part of the Sana'a University-Maastricht Executive MBA program, which lasts for a year and half. Being a consultant and trainer in human resource management and leadership, she plays an integral part in the executive MBA program in Yemen because of her approach that mixes theory with practical training.

Yemeni higher education

As to her views on the priorities of the education sector in Yemen, Dr. Jones simply explained that for an educational system to be successful it should be practical and up to date. Regarding this she commented, "the problem with the higher education system in Yemen is that it seems stuck in time-warp. Many of the academics use the same teaching methods they were taught years ago and they do not realize the dire need to advance with time. The problem is that students evaluate their teachers on the basis of how interesting and practical the teachers and teaching methods are. And I think this is why many higher education students give their teachers a hard time. Especially that the students have gained a taste of different teaching styles through their own experiences overseas and the visiting teachers coming from abroad through the Maastricht program. We need to keep in mind that these students are senior adults and mostly very successful in their careers, and want to equip themselves with better knowledge and skills. And these kinds of students are the most challenging and interesting ones."

Yemen is the cradle of Arab civilization. You can see signs of signs of modernization merging with old traditional ways. It is like the country is trapped in history.

Dr. Jones commented that since learning is encouraged by Islam, Yemenis should be great learners. But maybe they are too concerned with getting good marks and gaining knowledge rather than really applying that knowledge. Knowledge for its own sake is limited. And it doesn't stop there. We have to keep learning and growing. There is too much unjustified complacency in academe in Yemen. We need to discover what we don't know before we think we know everything.

Management in different cultures

Dr. Jones' experience is multicultural. She had taught management in many different countries around the world, and she believes that each culture has its unique way of dealing with management and human behavior issues. "You can find the same human resource text book

theories wherever you go, but when it comes to practical implementation the particularities of each country and each culture must be taken into consideration. It's simply because people are different and the way they deal with issues varies from one place to another."

However, Dr. Jones confirms that the best way of teaching management subjects to senior and mid-career professionals and executives is to combine internationally accepted theories and best management practices with local realities. "We want to prepare the students to be able to work in multinational companies. I would like to help my students to be able to fit into any multinational company around the world and do well wherever they go. We are trying to create an international business elite, and not just in established business environments. Most of the Maastricht programs are in emerging business environments," she said.

Yemeni culture and successful management

As to whether the Yemeni culture supports organizational effectiveness she said: "Organizational effectiveness can be seen as a rather abstract concept – but in the context of Yemen it could mean local companies operating in a more effective way – setting goals such as making profits and wealth creation – and being efficient – such as not wasting resources. I think organizational effectiveness is important for Yemen, there is not much of it about as far as I can see – even multinationals here are not very effective. Why not? Lack of trust, tribalism, qat-chewing, discontent with salaries and "checking out", i.e. going through the motions and lacking motivation."

I think organizational effectiveness is important for Yemen, and there is not much of it about as far as I can see – even multinationals here are not very effective. Why not? Lack of trust, tribalism, qat-chewing, discontent with salaries and "checking out", i.e. going through the motions and lacking motivation."

tional and Islamic. It doesn't have the oil reserves and home of Islam like Saudi. It doesn't have the Pyramids and the Nile and the diversified society of Egypt. It doesn't have the gas reserves and small population of Qatar. It doesn't have the oil of Kuwait. Tourism is a distinct possibility, but Yemen's reputation for kidnapping tourists is difficult to overcome. Maybe Yemen could be like Jordan, capitalizing on amazing tourist destinations – but Jordan seems quite poor still. Maybe like Syria, with the old city of Damascus reminiscent of the old city of Sana'a – but then maybe not. Syria is much poorer still. Yemen needs to make the most of its strengths and attack its weaknesses – and every Yemeni knows what these are.

Learning from the students

MSM has worked for over 50 years at the interface of the public and private sectors' management of transition processes in culturally diverse environments. The students enrolling in this program come from many different backgrounds. Dr. Jones feels that not only does she teach the students but also learns from them. "I



With one of the graduate students Terki Al-Azmi MBA, who works with MTC Vodaphone in Kuwait, April 2007.

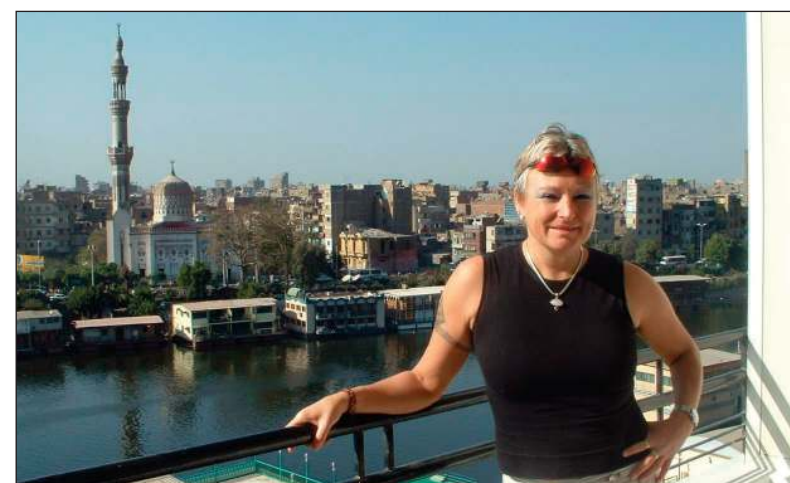
Dr. Jones thinks the culture of Yemeni companies would seem to be (in an academic sense) high power distant – i.e. fear of the boss; collectivist – operating in groups; uncertainty avoiding – need for structure and guidelines etc. The presence of so many poor people hanging around without employment must make people worry about job security issues. "If I don't do a good job, if I complain a lot, if I make lots of mistakes – there are plenty of other people to take my job. So people are afraid to make decisions and try new things. These behaviors reflecting these cultural norms do not help Yemeni businesses to be effective," she commented.

If Yemen was a city state like Dubai there are comparisons like Singapore and Hong Kong. But it is quite a big country, still apparently suffering from the hang-over of unification, and it is very tradi-

have learnt so much that I think this is what keeps me going. I was turning up for the class the other day, and the students said "how was your day?" I just said my day has just started now because the class is the highest point of my day."

Coming to Yemen – for the first time – was an eye opener for her. "Yemen is the cradle of Arab civilization. You can see signs of signs of modernization merging with old traditional ways. It is like the country is trapped in history."

Dr. Jones appreciates the qualities of her Yemeni students. She thinks they are impressive, smart, open, argumentative, challenging, and bright. "I believe these students are the 'creme de la creme' of the Yemeni business environment, and I am sure they will be leaders each in their own way, if they are not already," she concluded.



In Cairo, while she was teaching on the DBA program at RITI, the Maastricht partner, February 2007.




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Being Palestinian and American

By: Bassem Roomie
and S. Jacobson
The Media Line Ltd.

The Arab American Institute Foundation estimates the number of Palestinian Americans living in the United States at about 252,000. Since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in 1994, many of them returned home and invested in national and private projects including high tech, telecommunications and some glitzy tourist developments.

However, since the eruption of the Palestinian uprising in 2000, things have gone from bad to worse. The economic hardships and great losses in investments have obliged many of these Palestinian Americans to shut down their business and return to the U.S.

Another challenge threatening them is the access to the territories, because of what the Palestinians say is a new policy, which prevents the entry of non-resident Palestinians back to the Palestinian areas.

[Ramallah] Groups of red-roofed villas arrayed on the hilltops and surrounded by gentle terraced meadows present an awesome picture of prosperous Palestinian villages on the outskirts of Ramallah. Those sun-spangled houses, with enclosed gardens and beautiful stonework, are symbols of the opulent lives of their Palestinian-American owners.

According to the U.S. Census

"I have ended up living in a big jail surrounded by Israeli walls and checkpoints. I think I'm going back to the States soon."

Bureau's 2000 count, there were 72,112 Palestinian-Americans living in the United States. However, the Arab American Institute Foundation estimates the figure at closer to 252,000.

"It is difficult to say when the first Ramallah immigrants arrived in the United States," says local historian Ahmad Salah.

However, many of the first immigrants to arrive were Christians fleeing Ottoman Palestine in the 1800s; others came as a result of the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967.

"The Ramallah community is today one of the largest individual Arab communities in the U.S.," Salah adds.

For decades, those migrants maintained strong ties with their city of origin through regular summer visits.

"They also maintain the tradition of returning to their original homes in their old age," Salah explains.

The signing of the Oslo Accords and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in 1994 encouraged many Palestinian-Americans to return home and invest in national and private projects including high-tech, telecommunications, medical-supply firms, electronics manufacturers and some glitzy tourist developments.

"This investment was the backbone of the economic growth in the Palestinian territories," says Mufied Hamadan, an economic analyst.

Nowadays, there are thousands of Palestinian-Americans living in Ramallah, including university lecturers, researchers and employees working in various vital development programs, he continues.

The eruption of the Palestinian uprising in 2000, followed by the Israeli checkpoint closure and military incursions, has damaged all the vital economic facets in the Palestinian territories.

This damage not only drove the economy to the verge of collapse, but also created a bleak humanitarian crisis. United Nations reports find that more than two-thirds of Palestinians now live below the poverty line. The unemployment rate is over 50 percent.

The situation was worsened after the landslide victory of Hamas in the Legislative Council last January that resulted in the halting by Israel of the transfer of customs taxes to the Palestinian Authority and the simultaneous suspension of Western donor funding for Palestinians.

These economic hardships and the great loss in wages and investment have obliged many of these Palestinian-Americans to shut down their businesses and quit the country to return to the U.S.

"It's not just a hiccup in our development process; it's a serious aggravating crisis threatening investors with bankruptcy," says Jamal Saliem, the owner

of a fast food restaurant in the city center.

"When I was in America, it was a dream for me to open my own business in Ramallah and live in my village enjoying the abundant sunshine, fresh breeze and warm family relations," Saliem says. "But now, I have ended up living in a big jail surrounded by Israeli walls and checkpoints. I think I'm going back to the States soon."

Despite this drawback, other business players cling to the hope that enough of a foundation has been laid that when this round of violence has been played out, they can return to invest in other projects.

"We are still committed to the idea of investing in the homeland," says Abdel Hamied Kasid, the owner of the City INN Hotel, who invested \$ 2.2 million in building the hotel.

"No question, the past few months have been bad, but we hope that the forthcoming months will bring calmness and stability and allow the economy to flourish again."

The Mecca agreement on the formation of a unity government between Hamas and Fatah revived hopes that the international financial sanctions would be lifted, allowing the economy to bounce back.

Another challenge threatening Palestinian-American access to the territories is what Palestinians say is a new Israeli policy, which prevents the entry of Palestinians with American passports. This policy was in serious evidence last summer, when Israeli security started turning back Americans

of Palestinian ancestry at Ben-Gurion Airport and the Allenby Bridge.

Several families, who came to spend their summer vacation in Ramallah, left for Amman to renew their visas and were denied re-entry.

During the summer, only two or three passengers were allowed to enter on each bus that arrived at the Allenby Bridge crossing from Jordan into Israel. The remaining passengers were forced to turn around, says Musa Hussein, an officer working at the Jericho military liaison office.

The ban has so far affected several thousand Palestinian-Americans, whom Israel has kept from returning to their homes and jobs, or from visiting their families in the West Bank. Many visitors spent two days at Ben-Gurion Airport before being put on a return flight to the United States. Others received visas that limited their stays to two weeks rather than the customary three months.

"I was permitted entry, but my wife, who accompanied me to Allenby Bridge, was denied entry," says Jawad Hamail, who hails from Abu Falah, a village to the west of Ramallah. "I filed a complaint with the U.S. State Department urging them to interfere and defend us from a discriminatory policy, but all in vain," Jawad adds.

The Israeli authorities see the entry issue in a very different light.

The problem occurs when Palestinians do not hold Palestinian residency, says spokesman for the Coordinator of Activities in the Territories, Shlomo Dror. People with

Palestinian residency are not allowed to enter via Ben-Gurion Airport, but have no problem entering via the Allenby Bridge, he says.

The problem arises with people who live in the Palestinian areas on a long-term basis, according to Israel. For example, a few months ago, a Palestinian with foreign citizenship was caught in Tel Aviv, after living in the Palestinian areas for 15 years as a tourist.

As a result of this type of occurrence, the office of the Coordinator of Activities, after being approached by the Israeli Interior Ministry, decided to place restrictions on the re-entry of Palestinians with foreign passports and no local residency, in order to deal with the situation.

Rather than going back and forth to Amman in order to renew their visas, Palestinian-Americans can now renew them at local offices of the Coordinator of Activities every three months for up to two years. After that they are required to leave the country for a day, return and start the whole process from the beginning. If they agree to receive Palestinian residency there will be no problem with them re-entering via the Allenby Bridge, Dror says.

Despite the Israeli clarifications, a group of the Palestinian-Americans, who had been denied re-entry, have formed a committee to pressure Israel to reverse its policy. They have also been trying, through international human-rights bodies, to push the U.S. government into intervening in the matter.

Yemeni Women in sports

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Yemeni women's sport has witnessed significant progress at varying levels, but such progress remains in its infancy due to traditions and customs governing women's sports in Yemen. Yemeni women now are requesting special and private clubs to enable them to do different sporting activities befitting their biological nature and in line with Islamic teachings. Thus, they may join men in developing and building Yemen.

In view of such demands, the Youth and Sports Ministry has established a Women's General Administration whose main goal is to upgrade the level of women's sports in a way that complies with Islamic teachings and Yemeni customs, as well as women's nature.

The prime minister's 1999 decree No. 60, as well as the youth and sports minister's 2003 resolution No. 73, both dictated establishing a Women's General Administration, whose main objective is to supervise and organize women's sporting competitions at every federation and branch level.

The administration's involvement extends to include all sports clubs, girls' schools and universities. The

administration now has 12 branches across the republic, including Sana'a, Aden, Abyan, Lahj, Dhamar, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Mahwit, Marib and Hadramout.

Nora Al-Jarawi, director of the Women's General Administration, points out that the greatest achievement during the recent past has been establishing the Women's Sports General Federation and the Bilqis Cultural and Sports Club in Sana'a, as well as appointing women officials in 13 sporting federations.

Al-Jarawi further indicates that Yemeni women have achieved a lot, including a female deputy head of the Olympic Committee and 20 percent of board of directors' seats. Women also occupy the same percentage of seats on the Olympic Committee's General Assembly.

She went on to say that the Yemeni government supports women's sports, approving a project in January 2005, whereby YR 200 million was designated to create a women's sports infrastructure, as well as signing an agreement to establish a \$300,000 women and children's library funded by the Social Fund for Development.

As for the international participation of Yemeni women, Al-Jarawi notes that there have been five international competitions for women in Egypt,

Sudan, Japan and Syria, together with national competitions and training courses.

This past March, the Women's General Administration organized the second National Meeting of Women's Sports, wherein more than 200 women from 13 governorates participated, an indication of the raised awareness among women regarding the importance of women's sports.

Women's Sports Federation Secretary-General Huda Al-Haidari explains that the federation aims to increase Yemeni women's opportunities regarding participating in different sporting activities, together with fixing sports seasons in collaboration with sporting federations whose sports benefit women and Yemeni societal customs.

Al-Haidari added that the federation supervises and organizes many sports and games competitions, including basketball, football, volleyball, basketball, track and field, table tennis, Tae kwon do, Judo and chess.

She further indicated that they are working on establishing a national strategy for women's sports in collaboration with the Olympic Committee's women's sports division and other parties interested in women's sports.

In collaboration with the Yemeni Chess Federation, the Women's Sports

Federation hosted the Arab Clubs Women's Championship in Aden, where the Yemeni Kamaran Club took third place. It also has participated in international championships where Yemeni women players have won advanced places, many receiving gold

and bronze medals.

The federation plans to organize more competitions in other sports involving more women's participation in a way that complies with Islamic principles and teachings.

Other factors that help the spread of

women's sports in Yemen is extending education and opening more schools in Yemeni cities and villages, increasing the number of clubs and sports centers and raising awareness about the importance of sports in maintaining health and fitness.

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«إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون»

الأسيفون:

هيفاء ووليد ونادية وريدان عبد العزيز السقاف



AMTC
50

AMTC
50

In a superb and festive celebration

AMTC Celebrates 50 Years since the First TOYOTA arrived to Yemen

In a celebration exemplifying the refined Yemeni heritage, the Automotive and Machinery Trading Center celebrates half a century since its relationship with Toyota, the Japanese Emperor of Automobiles

In a joyful atmosphere, the Automobiles and Machines Trade Centre **AMTC** celebrated last Tuesday the 50 anniversary since the arrival of the first Toyota car to Yemen. The ceremony which was held in the Movenpic Hotel in Sana'a turned into a remarkable cultural and artistic celebration with welcoming public dances and songs and many other fascinating events that reflected the diversity and heritage of the Yemeni people.

The celebration was attended by a spatial diversity of the social spectrum guests, apart from the attendance of three ministers; the Foreign Minister - Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, Abdel Kader Hilal - Minister of Local Administration, and Khaled Al-Wazeerr - Minister of Transport; the celebration was also attended by honoured guest Mr Akira Okapi - member of the Management Board of Toyota and the Regional Director for the Middle East and East Asia. The guests also included deputies and businessmen, as well

as, **AMTC** staff who constitute the actual capital as expressed by Mr Ahmed Ba-Zara'ah member of the Management Board of **AMTC**.

During the celebration a welcoming statement was given by Mr Aidarous Ba-Zara'ah - Chief Executive Officer, who also surprised the guests with an announcement of a prize draw of a Toyota Land Cruiser (GRX, 2007).

A Long Way but Definite Success

Mr Ahmed Ba-Zara'ah also gave speech on behalf of his father Mr Abu Bakr Ba-Zara'ah - Chief of the Board of Directors, where he expressed his pleasure and contentment with the success of the company with Allah's blesses during those 50 years.

He added "the start was in Aden and the road was very long and hard, but those 50 years passed so fast, and the achievements that we encountered were due to the vast efforts of my father and to the wise management of Toyota in Japan".

He acknowledged the support that Toyota Company provided and stressed on the significant role that the Toyota customers played through their loyalty and believe in the quality of Toyota Cars. He also assessed that Mr Akira Okapi's attendance was a vital indicator to the recognition and consideration by the International Toyota Company to the importance of Yemeni Market currently and in the future.

He further elaborated on the significance of the Yemeni Market represented in the increasing human and population density under the shadow of the new economical reforms of the government to encouraging the foreign investment.

Customers Come First

Ahmed Ba-Zaraha stated that since the beginning we realized that customers are the main component to focus on, therefore, we focused on customer service. He added that this is a philosophy that given to us by my father and that collaborates with modern marketing philosophies.

Mr Okira Okapi further stressed in his speech that Toyota does not care about occupying the first place in the automobile market as much as it cares about providing customer support. He also

embraced Mr Abu Baker's risk taking spirits in the early sixties to bring Toyota to Yemen as Toyota's international presence was not in its highest levels at the time.

Honest Competition

Dr Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi - Foreign Minister, thanked **AMTC** and Ba-Zaraha Group for their successful achievements. He further stated that **AMTC** is considered one of the national successful institutions which compete honestly with automobile importers. He indicated that the attendance of **AMTC**'s competitors in the celebration is evidence to their good competitive relations. He also expressed his hopes that the celebration of more than 50 years of a wonderful relationship between **AMTC** and Toyota could enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Mr Gamal Abdulwasie'e- Vice-Director of NATCO Company (Hyundai Agent), expressed his happiness about **AMTC** achievement wishing them more prosperity. He also added **AMTC** is the inaugurator of the Yemeni Markets for Automobiles and represents an idle of honest competition that empowers them to achieve without obliterating their relationships with other competitors.

The Land Cruiser Prize Draw

The celebration was ended with a draw on the car that was presented from **AMTC** as a prize to the audience in this occasion. After a long waiting and in a transparent atmosphere, the prize draw was over and 34 years old Mr Hilal Al-Awar - Medical Agent in Norpharts Pharma (NATCO) won the prize which is valued at 48000 USD. Al-Awar stated expressed his happiness, thanks and gratefulness to the management of **AMTC** wishing them all the success.

The Road Ahead

The next day the management of **AMTC** inaugurated the new exhibition premise with its unique artistic design. The Inauguration was attended by Mr Abu Bakr BaZara'a - President of the Board of Directors, Mr Okari Okapi - member of the Management Board of Toyota and the Regional Director for the Middle East and East Asia, as well as, M. Toshikage - Ambassador of Japan in Sana'a, and a number of businessmen.



- ريبورتاج وتصوير أرجوان للإعلان والتسويق



TOYOTA

Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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



OUR OPINION

Africa and the G8 emissions

Apparently the increase in drastic climate changes such as hurricanes, floods, and cyclones – latest being very close to our part of the world – are caused by increasing emissions from industrial countries. The issue of climate change and global warming has been a point of everlasting debate. Some claim – like John Crichton's State of Fear – that global warming is a myth used by some people to get money out of industrial countries. However, others express great concern that the increasing emissions are causing the sudden climate changes and hence must be stopped or reduced.

Climate change was one of the main topics of the latest G8 summit in Germany. The leaders of the G8 countries (Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States) committed themselves to elevating the greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Kyoto Protocol (which USA is the only country of the lot that hadn't signed).

Africa was the most important point on the agenda. And despite the pledged promises to support African countries in their fight against AIDS and poverty by 60 million dollars, critics say it is not enough. It was reported that "The G8's announcement, entitled Growth and Responsibility in Africa, was greeted with disappointment and derision by development agencies and other campaigners. The Gleneagles agreement of 2005 committed the world's leading nations to providing free anti-retroviral treatment for all – approximately 10m people. But yesterday's announcement appears to go back on those figures, only committing the G8 to provide treatment for 5 million HIV/AIDS sufferers."

An African journalist from Kenya was commenting on the west's, and recently China's interest in Africa by saying: "I wish they'd only leave us alone. African countries are extremely rich. Nigeria is the third largest producer of oil in the world. Keep your hands off Africa and it will work out its issues on its own." However many of the activists around the world disagree because of the high corruption and unaccountability of African governments. Campaigners criticizing the results of the summit acknowledged the commitment of the G8 to "a strong interest in a stable, democratic and prosperous Africa", but added that, "Good governance in Africa is vital to peace, stability, sustainable development and growth. Without good governance, all other reforms will have limited impacts."

Japan is to host the G8 summit in 2008. My feeling is that summit will defiantly steer the wheel into more practical steps and especially with regards to trade and development.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf Editor-in-Chief

Is it time for Lebanon to suffer tragedies?

By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

The heated and recurrent events in the small Arab country, which has a greater role in the intellectual, political, and cultural life of Arabs, imply that it is the turn of Lebanon in the rotation of tragic events. Lebanon is the country, which I imagined as a high mountain challenging strong storms and restoring vitality to the daily life of people, but now it turned into a ground for tragic events.

It is the turn of the small Arab country. It is the turn of Lebanon, the country of Shukaib Arsaln, Jubran Khalil Jubran, Michael Naema, Hussein Marwah, Subihi Al-Saleh, Kamal Jumblat, and other well-known personalities. Lebanon is the country of resistance, poetry, poets, as well as printing houses and publishers. It is the country that dispelled its opponents by peaceful negotiations at first and then by the

gun. Arabism was the slogan of the country and love is its message. It is the country that used to play an integral role in resolving the Arab issues, not the ground of civil wars or street conflicts that lead to fragmentation of the people. It is the country of humans not ghosts, and it is the land artists and creative people, but not the land of breaking the principles of citizenship. It is the country of peaceful coexistence and equal living opportunities.

Regretfully, the Arab street says,

nowadays, that it has nothing to do with the crisis because it is the turn of Lebanon to experience the tragic situations like Iraq, Palestine, and other Arab countries. Further, it adds that it is time to avenge the peaceful country as a reaction to the widely spread respect for press freedom, coexistence, and free thinking. Two years now, the strange bats' calls for fragmentation which lead the Arab countries to be multiplied. These calls aim to stain the civilized landscape of the attractive country and transform it into a chaotic environment.

Lebanon has been listed in the dictionaries of Arab development as a strong defender of public freedom as well as a fighter of slavery and servitude. The country is beloved by hearts of the Arab people as its conducts are totally different from those exercised by the regimes of traitors, who are responsible for the repeated tragedies and sufferings of people. From this point, we realize that

there are certain forces insisting to destroy the nice Arab country, waste its components and resources via means, which are very difficult for the devil to machinate. But those who outperform the devil in such tricks and means of fragmenting the nation are unlikely to reach their malicious goals. They will ultimately discover that Lebanon is a strong mountain in the face of difficulty. Also, they will find that it has a long experience qualifying it to remain secure and safe.

The Arab role required from Lebanon is totally different from the other roles designed by pirates and those who trigger wars. What is required from Lebanon is to fence and protect itself from being engaged in the sectarian and ethnal conflicts. The small Arab country has demonstrated an exceptional attitude toward the Palestinian Cause by defending the occupied state and housing the displaced people, as well as confronting the Israeli aggression.

Neither in the present nor in the future, the Lebanese showed or will show a different attitude despite the presence of wolves who seemingly allege to play the role of advisors and rescuers. The country is lucky enough to escape the trick of malicious forces. The talk of making Lebanon like Iraq is not that easy as one of the sedition experts believes, as the country cared for avoiding the situation of fragmentation like Iraq or Balkan since its natives had selected the right path several years ago. They selected the path of democracy and respect for the other opinion. It is the path of objective difference that may be longer, but is impossible to lead the country and its natives to the situation machinated by the malicious enemies.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

Liars Without Borders



By: Ali Al-Sarari

Modelled after the two well-known international organizations: 'Reporters Without Borders' and 'Physicians Without Borders', the Yemeni regime is now breaking into the global stage by declaring a third organization under the name of 'Lairs Without Borders'.

As the Yemeni official institutions showed a desire for the presence of global trade activities in their territory, such presence needs qualifications and facilities. Additionally, as the Yemeni authorities promoted its unity-related experience at the international level, they found nobody accepting their merchandized commodity. Then they tried their alleged prudence via providing new proposals for reforming the Arab League once and reforming the United Nations at another time, but they found no one seduced by such prudence of a country full of violations and is in an urgent need to utilize its prudence if such prudence already exists.

If one seeks the qualifications and facilities possessed by the Yemeni official organizations that help them gain international reputation, he/she is bound to see merely a lot of lies made up by unique techniques. No doubt that the Yemeni organization (LWB) is a source of shock and surprise having no limit in the world of

liars who found nobody to raise their flag and take an initiative to constitute an international organization under their name.

To testify the availability of essential qualifications on the part of Yemeni authorities to declare Liars Without Borders, nobody needs to cite the lie of generating electricity from nuclear energy in a poor country, whose share of power is less than 500 megawatts and its citizens frequently live in the dark due to the repeated power blackout.

Also, nobody needs to cite the lie of postponing the manufacture of a mortar fire at clouds to force rain falls on earth as a solution to water shortage. The authorities refrain from doing so as they fear that rain may devastate the African coasts bordering Yemen. No one needs to quote the lie of constructing a railway in a country lacking good highways. All these lies are designed in Yemen, as there is no even a single liar worldwide who dares to use such lies inside his/her home country.

The unique success reached by the Yemeni authorities in the fabrication of lies and its promotion nationwide encouraged these authorities to exercise such skills at the regional level and internationally. As far as I am concerned, no foreign minister worldwide has preceded his Yemeni counterpart in exploring and applying a new rule for international relations. Such was included in statement by Yemen's Foreign Minister, who declared that the presence of the MP Yahya Al-Houthi in Libya implies that Libya supports Houthli followers in Sa'ada. By this, he justified the current crisis between the two Arab countries, as well as the government's recalling its ambassador from Libya.

According to the same rule, a

senior Yemeni government official accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of backing Houthli supporters in Sa'ada. Asked about the evidence, the official responded that he has nothing.

Simply and easily, the Yemeni Foreign Minister decides to break his country's relations with other Islamic states according to his own mood. Similarly, an other high ranking official fuels a crisis between his country and Iran as he has suspicions that the Islamic Republic supports Houthli aides. Such baseless suspicions haven't prevented the Yemeni authorities from breaking ties with Iran and Libya, nor did these suspicions prevented the authorities from organizing popular protests against Libya and Iran.

Accusing Libya of backing Houthli loyalists implies a desire to convince Saudi Arabia that the army is battling Houthli followers in Sa'ada with the aim of protecting the Kingdom's security against a Libyan conspiracy carried out by the Houthli near its border. Charging Iran with supporting Houthli is aimed at persuading the U.S. and its allies that the Yemeni authorities are fighting terror elements, who are loyal with Iran and receive support from the Islamic state. Iran's accusation is based on a widely-spread rule that Iran is a shia state and it backs the Houthli who belong to the shia sect.

Through this type of rules for managing the international relations, the world liars can fuel wars everywhere. From this point, they express the need for an international league to gather their expertise and skills, as well as to seek the help of the Yemeni authorities that are the most experienced worldwide in the field of lies.

George W Bush and Toney Blair waged a fierce war on Iraq under the pretext that they have certain information about Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction. After years of occupying the Arab country, both allies found no evidence to prove legitimacy of the war, and as they ran a war this way, they found themselves in swap of blood, thus provoking protests and rage worldwide. Had Bush and Blair asked the Yemeni expertise to help them in fabricating lies, they

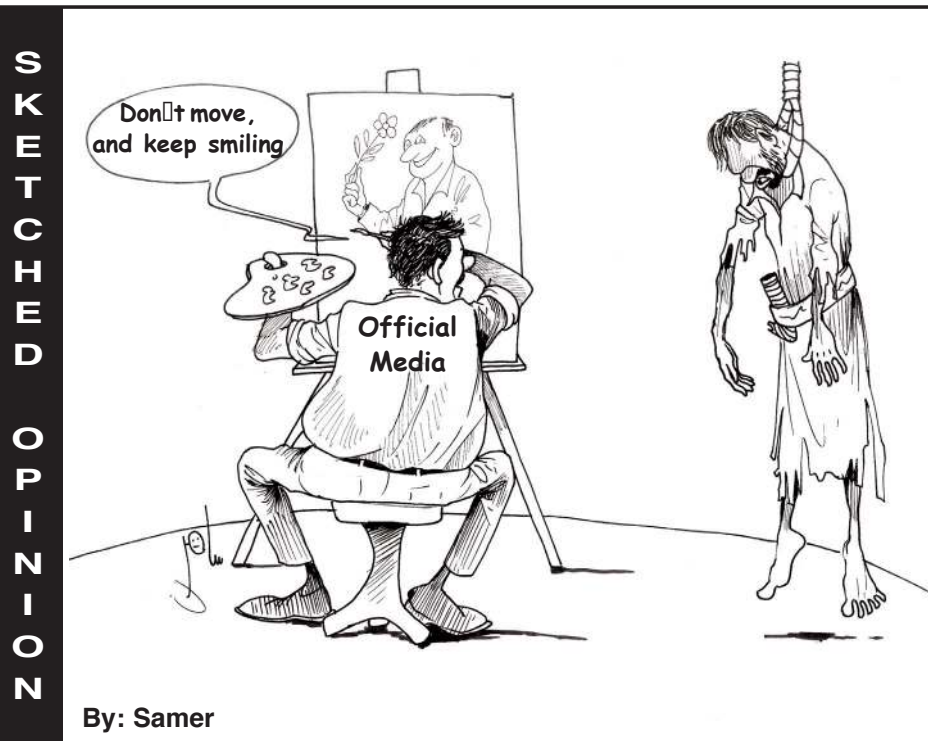
would have used pretexts that are more technical and avoided such consequences.

To sum up, nobody is expected to underestimate a small and poor country like Yemen, which can gain global reputation successfully and the secret of its success is that it

does not have any border or limit for lies.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Source: Al-Nass Weekly



By: Samer

SILVER LINING

Breaking Control on Media Coverage of Sada'a Fight

I can not really continue to go like this. A complete ban is imposed on the media reporters who would like to go to Sada'a to cover the ongoing fight between the government troops and the al-Houthli supporters since last January. It is truly a shame that no one either from the journalists or even the politicians know what is going on the ground.



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

We, as reporters for foreign media, can no longer depend on what the state-run media reports. Every now and then, since the eruption of the third round of the fight, we hear government officials, sometimes unidentified sources, claiming they are about to finish the confrontation and crack down on al-Houthli. But, on reality the situation is completely different as al-Houthli are showing more ability to resist and they are trying their best to internationalize the problem, involving some regional and even international players.

Some TV reporters could at least reach some of the areas in Sada'a in the first and second rounds of the fight in 2004 and 2005. But, now everything is blocked. The government is fooling not only the journalists but the public at large.

The government claims to be democratic and underpin that the people have the constitutional right to be informed, but nothing goes on practice. The government is even irritated by reports some journalists are trying to do on the situation in Sada'a. They do not want to give us information; they do not want us go to Sada'a and they allege to be democratic and free.

Hey guys wake up! Democracy is not a show but a concrete practice. Democracy is there in the afflicted Lebanon where we can see the TV reporters are covering the fight in Nahr al-Barid camp live; where TV reporters and security investigators were seen sitting on the ditch caused by the terrorist explosion of Thursday's night, doing their job. There is no way to compare that with our situation. We were behaving like thieves, moving secretly in the alleys of the streets, trying to get some information or shoot some pictures of the explosion in the weapons depot at Nuqum military camp some days ago. Some cameramen were harassed and their cameras were seized by the police for several days.

I suggested some idea last week and discussed it with some of my colleagues; I said we should decide together as reporters of foreign media to go together on one bus to Sada'a. If the government wants to stop us, it is okay. But, we have to make an endeavor to break this terrible control on our work for if we do not take an action now, the future of media is at stake.

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

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Yemen Press Review



**AL-Sahwa Weekly, Mouth of the
Islah Party**
Thursday, June 7

Main Headlines

- Joint Meeting Parties leadership, E.U. discuss political reform
- Al-Istheraki and Al-Shoura news websites blocked once again
- Journalists protest information and telecommunication ministries for restricting press freedom
- Members of parliament insist on investigating reasons behind failure of Ibb projects
- Teachers arrested for asking students to write about President's efforts in fighting corruption
- Saleh's regime lacks will and capacity to adopt radical reforms
- Yemen's current regime is closer to Imamate than to modern state
- Sa'ada fighting extends to Al-Jawf, international campaign extend helps to displaced people, leader of rebellion warns Saudi Arabia of backing army

The Sa'ada fighting has extended eastward to reach different areas in Al-Jawf governorate after tens were killed and other dozens injured in the most recent fierce clashes between the military forces and Al-Houthi supporters. Islah Party-run weekly reported. It added that several families evicted their homes and moved to other safe areas while the World Food Program has started a campaign of aids to the displaced families.

Meanwhile, prominent members of parliament criticized the government for being unable to resolve the crisis after the ruling party declared that the Yemeni Ambassador to Libya has

returned home. Leader of the rebellion Abdulmalik Al-Houthi accused Saudi Arabia and other states of standing by the government troops against them.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, June 5

Main Headlines

- Al-Wahdawi.net publishes a senior journalist's paper on Sa'ada confrontations
- Higher Council of Joint Meeting Parties meets European Union Mission
- Al-Dhale' locals protest soldiers' repeated attacks against citizens
- JMP enthusiastic to form a national committee to resolve Sa'ada fighting
- Presidential pledges turn into big fools, as government agree with tradesman to worsen citizen's living standards
- Iran hasn't taken any decision regarding visit of Advisor to Islamic Revolution Leader to Yemen
- Al-Wahdawi weekly stands trial for being sued by Republican guards over criticism
- Senior journalist attributes Sa'ada clashes to oppression and injustice, warns the war may turn into a nationwide catastrophe

The weekly reported that the senior Yemeni journalist Abdulbari Taher, who was once President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, attributed the escalating Sa'ada fighting to failure of 26 Revolution to reach its sought goals, plus the spread of corruption, injustice

and oppression. In the paper presented during inaugurating a campaign entitled "Together Against Sa'ada Fighting", Taher said that Sa'ada is deprived of all the basic services and the governorate has only one hospital, which was built at the expense of Saudi Arabia. He commented, "Instead of establishing service projects in the remote governorate, the authorities mobilized tanks and mortars to Sa'ada."

Condemning rebellion, Taher confirmed that war is always the result of the spread of oppression and injustice, warning that Sa'ada crisis may grow into a nationwide catastrophe. According to the senior journalist, the crisis can be only resolved by a comprehensive dialogue. Under the slogan "Together Against the Sa'ada Fighting", a popular campaign was launched in Sana'a as part of a series of efforts to end the bloody clashes between the government troops and Al-Houthi supporters.



Al-Balagh Comprehensive Political Weekly
Tuesday, June 5

Main Headlines

- Protesting block of news websites, tens of journalists stage sit-in in front of cabinet
- Higher Council of Joint Meeting Parties: Regime and ruling party expose nation, stability and security to risk
- Education workers enraged over delay of hardship allowances
- Salafite sheikhs call for people nationwide to confront Shia and Sofia movements
- Parliament insists on questioning government over Sa'ada fighting

- Al-Nass Chief Editor and Managing Editor resigns for unclear reasons
- Parliamentary report criticizes poor health standards in Aden governorate
- United States confirms its military support to Yemen

Deputy Assistant US Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs, who is currently visiting Yemen, stated that the U.S. President George W Bush reaffirmed his commitment to support Yemen in all the economic and military areas, the weekly reported on its front page. It added that the American official praised the strong Yemeni-American ties. Received by the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the US official stressed that his government cares for consolidating its ties with Yemen.

The American official highlighted the positive results, which President Saleh reached during his most recent visit to Washington, as well as the discussions he held with his U.S. counterpart and other senior government officials in the White House. The US State Department official discussed with Saleh the areas of cooperation and various topics of mutual interest for both states. Also, they discussed several developments in the region, particularly the situations in Iraq, Lebanon and Somalia, plus the Iranian Nuclear dossier.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (the Ruling Party)
Monday, June 4

Main Headlines

- Yemen announces Investment Opportunity Exploration Conference's results in Cairo
- Bajammal stresses the necessity of

unifying Palestinian people to confront Israeli occupation

- Prime Minister: Yemeni-Saudi ties experience continued progress in various areas
- American official: Yemeni President's official visit to Washington reached positive results
- Ministry of Expatriates' Affairs plans to conduct a census of Yemeni citizens abroad
- Parliamentary sources attribute postponing election of Anti-Corruption Authority members to incomplete candidates' credentials
- Senior government official reveals that court discovered three money laundering cases
- French Navy trains 35 Yemeni coastguards with the aim of ensuring marine safety
- Army clears Al Al-Saifi area of rebels, displaced families return home

The displaced citizens in Al Al-Saifi area, Sa'ada governorate have begun to return home after the military forces tightly controlled on Saturday the area, which is one of the three most important outlets leading to the stronghold of rebels in the districts of Matra, Al Dhurriya and Al Ghubair, the ruling party-affiliated weekly reported on its front page. It quoted a local source as saying that the areas of Al-Talh, Al-Nadhir and Burkan have become safe, thereby helping the displaced people to return home. The source mentioned that the army cleared Al Al-Saifi area of rebels and those who are loyal with leader of the rebellion Abdulmalik Al-Houthi.

In the meantime, several local sources in the restive governorate confirmed that the rebellion's second man Mohammed Eidha Al-Rizami was injured in the latest military operations. The same sources denied the availability of authentic news stories regarding the injury of leader of the

rebellion Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, adding that the concerned authorities are investigating the facts to confirm reports of Al-Houthi's injury.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, June 7

Main Headlines

- Information Ministry hold deliberations with Yemeni Journalists Syndicate on a new press law
- Yemen claims Egypt to extradite murderers of soldier in Maidi
- Yemeni-Sudanese Joint Ministerial Committee convenes in Sana'a
- Yemen to ink treaty with Italy on conserving scriptures
- Aden Industry and Trade Chamber elects new chairman
- Saleh orders government to set timetable for its eligibility for MCA funds

The weekly reported that President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave orders to the government to immediately take the essential procedures required for its eligibility to obtain Millennium Challenge Account funds and benefit from the organization's resources. The newspaper quoted well-informed sources as saying that President's directives concentrated on the necessity of setting a timetable for Yemen's qualification.

The MCA set requirements before Yemen in order to be qualified for funds such as carrying out economic and political reforms, fighting corruption and showing respect for press freedom, plus enhancing transparency good governance.

US-Iran policy dynamics

By: Noam Chomsky

In Crude and brutal societies, the Party Line is publicly proclaimed, and it must be obeyed, or else. What you believe is your own business, of lesser concern. In societies where the state has lost the capacity to control by force, the Party Line is not proclaimed. Rather, it is presupposed, and then vigorous debate is encouraged within the limits imposed by unstated doctrinal orthodoxy.

The crude system leads to natural disbelief. The sophisticated variant gives the impression of openness and freedom, and serves to instill the Party Line as beyond question, even beyond thought, like the air we breathe. In the ever more precarious standoff between Washington and Teheran, one Party Line confronts another. Among the well-known immediate victims are the Iranian-American detainees Parnaz Azima, Haleh Esfandiari, Ali Shakeri and Kian Tajbakhsh. But the whole world is held hostage to the US-Iran conflict, where, after all, the stakes are nuclear.

Unsurprisingly, President Bush's announcement of a "surge" in Iraq — in reaction to the call of most Americans for steps toward withdrawal, and the even

stronger demands of the (irrelevant) Iraqis — was accompanied by ominous leaks about Iranian-based fighters and Iranian-made IEDs in Iraq aimed at disrupting Washington's mission to gain victory, which is (by definition) noble.

Then followed the predictable debate: The hawks say we have to take violent measures against such outside interference in Iraq. The doves counter that we must make sure the evidence is compelling. The entire debate can proceed without absurdity only on the tacit assumption that we own the world. Therefore interference is limited to those who impede our objectives in a country that we invaded and occupy.

What are the plans of the increasingly desperate clique that narrowly holds political power in the United States? Reports of threatening, off-the-record statements by staffers for Vice-President Cheney have heightened fears of an expanded war. "You do not want to give additional argument to new crazies who say, 'Let's go and bomb Iran,'" Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told the BBC last month.

"I wake up every morning and see 100 Iraqis, innocent civilians, are dying," US Secretary of State Condoleezza

Rice, as against the "new crazies," is supposedly pursuing the diplomatic track with Teheran. But the Party Line holds, unchanged. In April, Rice spoke about what she would say if she encountered her Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki at the international conference on Iraq at Sharm el Sheikh. "What do we need to do? It's quite obvious," Rice said. "Stop the flow of arms to foreign fighters; stop the flow of foreign fighters across the borders." She is referring, of course, to Iranian fighters and arms. US fighters and arms are not "foreign" in Iraq. Or anywhere. The tacit premise underlying her comment, and virtually all public discussion about Iraq (and beyond) is that we own the world.

Do we not have the right to invade and destroy a foreign country? Of course we do. That's a given. The only question is: Will the surge work? Or some other tactic? Perhaps this catastrophe is costing us too much. And those are the limits of the debates among the presidential candidates, the Congress and the media, with rare exceptions. That's part of the reason the debates are so inconclusive. The basic issues are not discussable.

Doubtless Teheran merits harsh condemnation, certainly for severe domestic repression and the inflammatory rhetoric

of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (who has little to do with foreign affairs). It is, however, useful to ask how Washington would act if Iran had invaded and occupied Canada and Mexico, overthrown the governments there, slaughtered scores of thousands of people, deployed major naval forces in the Caribbean and issued credible threats to destroy the United States if it did not immediately terminate its nuclear energy programs (and weapons). Would we watch quietly? After the United States invaded Iraq, "Had the Iranians not tried to build nuclear weapons, they would be crazy," said Israeli military historian Martin van Creveld.

Surely no sane person wants Iran (or anyone) to develop nuclear weapons. A reasonable solution to the crisis would permit Iran to develop nuclear energy, in accord with its rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but not nuclear weapons. Is that outcome feasible? It would be, under one condition: that the United States and Iran were functioning democratic societies, in which public opinion has a significant impact on public policy, overcoming the huge gulf that now exists on many critical issues, including this one.

That reasonable solution has over-

whelming support among Iranians and Americans, who agree quite generally on nuclear issues, according to recent polls by the Program on International Policy Attitudes, at the University of Maryland. The Iranian-American consensus extends to complete elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere (82 per cent of Americans), and if that cannot be achieved, a "nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East that would include Islamic countries and Israel (71 per cent of Americans)." To 75 per cent of Americans, it is better to build relations with Iran rather than use threats of force.

These facts suggest a possible way to prevent the current crisis from exploding, perhaps even to World War III, as predicted by British military historian Correlli Barnett. That awesome threat might be averted by pursuing a familiar proposal: democracy promotion — at home, where it is badly needed. Although we cannot carry out the project directly in Iran, we can act to improve the prospects for the courageous reformers and oppositionists who are seeking to achieve just that. They include people like Saeed Hajjarian, Nobel laureate Shirin Ebad and Akbar Ganji, and those who as usual remain nameless, among them labour activists.

We can improve the prospects for democracy promotion in Iran by sharply reversing state policy here so that it reflects popular opinion. That would entail withdrawing the threats that are a gift to the Iranian hardliners and are bitterly condemned for that reason by Iranians truly concerned with democracy promotion. We can act to open some space for those who are seeking to overthrow the reactionary and repressive theocracy from within, instead of undermining their efforts by threats and aggressive militarism.

Democracy promotion, while no panacea, would be a useful step towards helping the United States become a "responsible stakeholder" in the international order (to adopt the term used for adversaries), instead of being an object of fear and dislike throughout much of the world. Apart from being a value in itself, a functioning democracy at home holds promise for a simple recognition that we don't own the world, we share it.

Noam Chomsky is a professor of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the author, most recently, of *Hegemony or Survival Americas Quest for Global Dominance*. Source: www.khaleejtimes.com

Who wants Peace in the Middle East?

By: Shimon Peres

Forty years after the Six Day War peace between Israelis and Palestinians seems as distant as ever. Israel still refuses to accept the new Palestinian national unity government as a negotiating partner because Hamas is part of that government. What is the cause of this seeming paradox? Is there any hope?

The Palestinian government is united administratively, but divided politically. The Palestinians have one government with two policies. Politically, Palestine's Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh remains against recognizing Israel and respecting the existing agreements. He declared that he is for the continuation of resistance in all forms. What kind of guarantee of a good faith effort to reach a peace agreement can come from such a stance?

That is the question the European Union needs to ask itself as it debates whether to resume providing financial aid to the Palestinian Authority. The EU should make it clear to Hamas that the Union is not going to finance terror and is not going to finance a refusal to make peace.

If the Palestinians want to have European help — which I support completely — it must be ready to make peace, not to break peace. After all, it is not Hamas as a party that is objectionable; what is objectionable are the politics and policies which Hamas pursues. We have nothing against Hamas; we are against their belligerent policies, which service in government has not changed.

There was a time when the PLO held positions that were the same as those of Hamas. Then the PLO changed. If the current Palestinian leadership changes its position, there will be no problem from

our side. We will have nothing against negotiations. We are for negotiations. We are for the "two-state solution." We accept the Middle East "road map." What we are against is terror.

Where we cannot agree, however, is on a "right of return" for Palestinians. If such a right were recognized, there would be a Palestinian majority instead of a Jewish majority, which would mean the end of the Jewish state. This is a demographic, not a religious, question: An Arab state is where the Arabs are the majority, and the Jewish state is where the Jews are the majority. Indeed, the "right of return" contradicts the very idea of a two-state solution, as it would mean one state — a Palestinian state. Nobody in Israel will accept this.

But there are other problems in the region that Israel — and the world — must face. The Palestinians' current unity government resulted from Saudi mediation,

which came in response mainly to Iran's ambition to increase its influence, not only in Iraq, but also in Lebanon, Gaza, and the West Bank.

Of course, that issue is completely outside Israel's control. The ongoing fight in the Muslim world between Sunnis and Shi'a recalls the struggle between Protestants and Catholics in seventeenth-century Europe. So it is little wonder that the Saudis, Jordanians, Egyptians, and the Gulf states are seeking to resist Iran's hegemonic ambitions in the region.

Nevertheless, the stakes are far higher than in the seventeenth century, because Iran represents a threat that combines a fanatic religion with a determination to acquire nuclear weapons. Indeed, Iran is the only country that openly declares its desire to destroy another member of the United Nations. That is a threat that every country is obliged to take seriously. When a country's president delivers

crazy speeches, denies the Holocaust, and does not hide his ambition to control the Middle East, who can guarantee that the threat is not serious?

The issue is not one of restoring nuclear "balance" to the Middle East, as Iran's leaders maintain. First of all, Israel does not threaten anybody. Israel never said that it wants to destroy Iran; Israel never openly proclaimed that it would enrich uranium and build nuclear bombs in order to destroy another country. On the contrary, Israel has said that it will not be the first to use nuclear weapons in the Middle East. But that does not mean that we can afford to ignore an obvious threat from countries that want to destroy us.

Despite the current unfavorable situation, the path to stabilizing the Middle East still leads through joint economic projects. Even now, Israel is planning to build a new "corridor of peace," which

will comprise the Jordanians, the Palestinians, and us. Within the framework of this project, we are seeking to halt the dehydration of the Dead Sea, build a joint airport and a joint water network with Jordan, and develop tourism infrastructure, at a cost of up to \$5 billion. We have the donors, so there is no shortage of money to finance our efforts, which, I am sure, will be realized.

Israel wants — indeed, desperately needs — peace and stability in the Middle East, and we will continue to do everything in our power to achieve it. But we cannot reach that goal alone, much less negotiate with those whose idea of a stable and peaceful Middle East is one that has no place for Israel.

Shimon Peres is Israel's Deputy Prime Minister. Copyright: Project Syndicate/HVG, 2007. www.project-syndicate.org.

Female genital mutilation: ritual or worship?

By: YemenTimes Staff

At a wedding party in one coastal area, a Yemeni bride was carried to her husband's home in a traditional procession. Upon reaching her husband, he discovered that she wasn't circumcised, so he asked her to return to her home.

To correct their mistake, as they hadn't circumcised her before this moment, her family requested a women's specialist to circumcise her.

Out of her pain, the bride cut her hair and clothes, opened the door and began running unconsciously, seeking to forget the pain. She ran until the only thing in her way was the sea, which might be the only thing to wipe away her tears and decrease her pain. So she disappeared into the sea to end the pain and her life as well.

In an effort to find a solution to the violation of women's human rights, a two-day regional conference was held in Yemen last Wednesday and Thursday involving many individuals and activists from Sudan, Egypt, Djibouti and Somalia, as well as Yemen's governorates.

Aboudou Karimou Adjibade, UNICEF country representative in Yemen, stated, "Studies indicate that 3 million African women and children are subjected to female genital mutilation, 96 percent of which are circumcised within the first two weeks of birth."

Amina Mursal, Minister of Women's Affairs in Somalia, affirmed that Somalia also suffers this problem, saying, "Ninety-eight percent of Somali girls are subjected to circumcision. I don't think this problem is national or regional; rather, it's an international problem, as 140 million women are subjected to circumcision."

Yemeni Human Rights Minister Huda Al-Ban noted, "Yemeni women's rights, particularly in rural areas, are being violated through bodily injury, early marriage and deprivation from

education. Islam forbids oppression, so why do we still oppress each other? The law also prevents circumcision, so it's easy to get rid of such a problem."

She continued, "We need youths to stand up for this issue because youths are the tools of change. The designers of the curriculum of the schools also must take these issues into account in order to change people's perspective on it."

Sawsen Al-Refai, gender program officer at the United Nations Population Fund, commented, "These two days are full of work and include many doctors, religious scholars and leaders in order to gain more realistic solutions to put into action."

Adjibade added, "We came here to agree on strategies to restrict female genital mutilation; thus, we're working to raise awareness among people, build the capacity of partners and come up with effective legislative within a common capacity to protect girls, particularly in these five countries."

Hurya Al-Eryani, director of organized skills support at the Yemeni Women's Union in Sana'a, remarked, "I don't think this issue is widespread in Yemen. It's more popular in Africa. Here in Yemen, it's well-known in certain governorates, like the Tihama, but it has begun to diminish."

Najiba Al-Sheikh, director of the Yemeni Women's Union branch in Shabwa, said, "Female genital mutilation is most common on the Yemeni coasts. People use it to diminish female lust and tone down her sexual desire."

Ramziya Al-Eryani, director of the Yemeni Women's Union in Sana'a, stated, "Ninety-seven percent of Yemenis in Hodeidah mutilate their girls, 96 percent in the Tihama, 98 percent in Al-Mahrah, 82 percent in Aden and 28 percent in Taiz. Additionally, 28 African countries also experience this phenomenon, for a total of 114 million women mutilated annually."

As the Qur'an and the Sunnah are the source of Muslims' way of life, Islamic preacher Jabri Ibrahim Kamel



explained, "Scholars depend on three hadiths, two of which are weak. The first is, 'Circumcision is a law for men and a preservation of honor for women,' and the second is, 'Ashmimi (cut, but only a very little), but do not overdo it.'"

"A third is, 'If two circumcised people, meaning a man and a woman, have intercourse, they both must bathe.' In Arabic, it's common to say 'the two circumcised,' but we mean only one. For example, al-nurayn [the two lights] means the sun and the moon, although the moon has no light."

Kamel further noted that this hadith obliges both the man and woman to bathe after intercourse, not circumcision.

He pointed out that neither the hadith nor the Qur'an obliges women to be circumcised, as even the Prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) daughters weren't circumcised. Clear regulations in the Qur'an and the Sunnah must be followed, but in this matter, no Islamic regulations recommend women or oblige them to be circumcised.

Although female genital mutilation has more negative consequences for women, many still do it, particularly in Sudan, Egypt, Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen. For this reason, activists, lawyers, Islamic scholars and leaders have agreed to fight it and create laws to penalize those who subject girls to



(gishiri cuts) the vagina; introduction of corrosive substances into the vagina in order to cause bleeding or putting herbs into the vagina with the aim of tightening or narrowing it and any other procedure falling under the above definition for female genital mutilation.

There are many psychological, sexual and social consequences of female circumcision, as sociologist Dhiya'a Fadhl indicated, "The woman feels that she's different from her peers."

Al-Eryani added, "One university student mutilated as a child is so sad. She's uneasy and feels like an unre-

spectable wife, if she considers marrying."

According to Fadhl, circumcised women also lack sexual excitement and arousal during intercourse.

According to WHO criteria, the health consequences of all types of female genital mutilation have been found to pose an increased risk of death to such women's babies. Studies found that immediate complications include severe pain, shock, hemorrhaging, urine retention, ulcerating the genital region and injuring adjacent tissue. Bleeding and infection also can cause death.

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The British Council Yemen wishes to recruit an

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- Identifying, informing, and following up with local partners re how the BC can support English professionals.
- Keeping project files and ELT contacts database up to date and accessible.
- Translating project materials and press releases.
- Providing administrative support for visiting speakers.

Essential competencies and skills

- Background in English Language Teaching/Education
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Arabic
- Experience of projects or educational administration
- Excellent team working Skills
- University degree or equivalent

How to apply?

Applicants should email recruitment@ye.britishcouncil.org for a detailed job description and an application form.
CVs are NOT accepted.

Closing date for applications will be **16 June 07**

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SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the posts of:

Gender National Advisor to the Women National Committee

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the guidance of UNFPA Representative, the incumbent for this gender component funded post will be responsible for the following:

I. Technical Advisor:

- 1) Assists the Women National Committee (WNC) in the review of gender strategies and the review of other strategies regarding gender sensitivity (i.e. youth, advocacy etc);
- 2) Provides technical advice to Women National Committee as the Programme Component Manager (PCM) for UNFPA, mainly in terms of coordination between UNFPA implementing Partners (IPs).
- 3) Assists in the preparation of papers, briefs and reports on WNC work as a PCM and on general gender and women empowerment activities for relevant forums upon WNC and UNFPA's request and contributes to special events related to UNFPA.

II. Programme Coordination:

- 1) Supports the PCM in coordinating the implementation of UNFPA supported activities of the national implementing partners (IPs) including National Women's Committee, Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Women Union and other relevant NGOs;
- 2) Monitors progress in implementing activities and expenditure of each IP through Annual Work Plans and quarterly reports.
- 3) Undertakes monitoring field visits to the targeted governorates and districts agreed upon and according to coordinated plans;
- 4) Contributes to preparation/organization and participates in UNFPA gender programme reviews, evaluations and assists in completion of the relevant reporting;
- 5) Facilitates knowledge sharing on lessons-learned and effective practices among IPs and supports PCM data collection and processing activities.
- 6) Provides logistic support to the gender thematic group meetings and activities.
- 7) Organizes quarterly gender component level progress meetings with IPs, and produces quarterly and annual gender component progress reports.

III. General:

- 1) Liaises between PCM/WNC and different gender component implementing partners and works in close collaboration with UNFPA gender component management on gender related activities;
- 2) Keeps abreast with UNFPA and PCM's Policies, programmes and applies them to the given conditions;
- 3) Assists in preparation of reports to PCM on gender component-related activities and performs any other functions in the field of gender and women empowerment as directed by PCM

IV. Working Environment:

- 1) The incumbent will work at WNC premises. He/She should move between centers and sites of the component projects as appropriate and agreed upon with PCM;
- 2) She/he reports on all above-mentioned tasks to the PCM. The PCM and in close-collaboration in UNFPA will supervise the performance of the incumbent. He/She will be subject to an annual Performance Appraisal (PAR) that will be completed by the UNFPA Representative in consultation with national sub-programme and projects management;

3) Works closely with WNC HQs and branches in governorates, UNFPA National Programme Officers, UNVs, NPPPs, CST advisors and missions fielded by UNFPA as may require.

Qualifications and Experience Required

- Post graduate degree in social or other relevant sciences;
- At least 5 years of professional experience, preferably in gender or women empowerment programmes/ projects;
- Excellent professional knowledge of English and Arabic and the ability to clearly communicate and report in these languages;
- Adequate computer skills, good interpersonal communication and team building skills.

Programme/Administrative Assistant to the WNC Programme Support Unit

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Gender National Advisor, the incumbent will provide programme, administrative and financial support to the newly established Programme Support Unit (PSU) at the Women National Committee (WNC). She/He will assist Gender Advisor in the substantive and financial monitoring activities, provide administrative and logistical support, and undertake other duties and responsibilities to support the efficient functioning of the PSU.

In particular, the Programme/Administrative Assistant will be responsible for:

I. Programme Support:

- Coordinating review meetings and other PSU related workshops and events;
- Independently gathering, analyses and interpreting data and information from a wide range of sources using appropriate analytical tools and professional standards;
- Identifying warning signs based on information received, probing for clarification points of concern and presenting findings;
- Providing assistance in organizing, conducting donor meetings and public information events;
- Providing programme support for the national Advisor in preparation of documents, correspondence and reports;
- Managing the incoming and outgoing correspondence for the PSU;
- Taking notes and transcribing minutes of PSU meetings;
- Maintaining all project files with relevant reference documents for easy retrieval;
- Researching the web for information on events that may be relevant.

II. Administrative/Financial Support:

- Liaising with the WNC, UNFPA Administrative and Finance Associates on managing day-to-day operations of the PSU;
- Coordinating with travel agent for travel itineraries and costs;
- Arranging and plans monitoring visits;
- Translating relevant documents from English into Arabic and vice versa;
- Following-up on quarterly financial reports;
- Ensuring follow-up with government counterparts and NGOs on sub mission on required NEX forms (COEs, C, E, D, and Evaluation Forms) and ensure they are properly completed and duly signed;
- Insuring proper book-keeping of the IPs accounts;
- Following-up on NEX audit reports and recommendations coordination and cooperation.

III. Working Environment:

- The incumbent will work at WNC premises. He/She should move between centers
- and sites of the component projects and UNFPA Office as appropriate and agreed upon with PCM;

Works closely with WNC HQs and branches in governorates, UNFPA Programme and operations staff, project directors and admin/finance assistants.

Required Competencies:

- Knowledge sharing/Continuous learning
- Valuing diversity
- Managing Relationships
- Personal Leadership and Effectiveness
- Results orientation/Commitment to excellence

Qualifications and Experience Required

- Minimum B.A. Degree in Business Administration, Management or any other related field. Formal training in specialized programme/administration or IT field desirable;
- Two years of progressively responsible experience in administration or technical support preferably in a work related to WNC and UNFPA mandate;
- Fluency in oral and written Arabic & English;
- Adequate computer skills, good interpersonal communication and team building skills.

Terms of Reference

National Consultant for RH/FP Community Based Interventions, Most-at-risk populations and Youth Forums attached at CSSW in Ibb governorate

1. Purpose:

To assist in establishing and consolidating community based interventions in the selected governorates, starting by IBB governorate.

2. Duration

Eleven months (1st June 2007 to 30th April 2008)

3. Context:

Community based interventions in the vulnerable neighborhoods of Sheikh Othman district and Dar Saad were established in 2005, and expanded in 2006 to target over 4,000 young people with life-skills, RH and HIV/AIDS/STI peer education through community outreach and networking with community based centers, NGOs, and local councils; and in Dar Saad district, interventions were established jointly with UNFPA and UNHCR. It should be noted that these neighborhoods are resided by Yemeni returnees, marginalized groups, and Somali Refugees.

UNFPA will integrate RH/FP activity in the existing peer education activity with UNICEF AWP for targeting youth in Aden, Ibb, Hadramout and Hodeida with life-skills based peer education. This will entail ongoing training of peer educators and community outreach focal points, as well as adaptation of training manual and main messages for behavioural impact, as well as effective networking between community-based centers, NGOs, and other governmental agencies.

Peer education is an ongoing process because cohorts of peer educators grow out of the age range of adolescents. In order to ensure quality of training as well as capacity building of young people and national counterparts, a national consultant with extensive experience in working with vulnerable and most-at-risk groups, as well as with school young people is needed.

4. Scope of Work:

Under the supervision of CSSW project manager in IBB as UNFPA implementing partners, the national consultant will perform the following tasks:

A Peer Education and community outreach networks in vulnerable communities of Ibb government.

- Prepare training modules for community based peer education and

community outreach, and ensure the involvement of young people and counterparts in preparation as well as timely update according to feedback from young people attending the peer education sessions;

- Facilitate the process of developing and pre-testing communication for behavioural impact messages with peer educators and community outreach focal points;
- Conduct training of trainers for peer education and community outreach focal points; and conduct quarterly refresher trainings;
- Conduct refresher trainings for peer educators, health focal points and social workers in schools;
- Conduct peer education ToT for vulnerable young people in high risk group youth;
- Facilitate and establish networking between NGOs, community based centers, and governmental agencies, MOPH&P in the targeted communities;
- Ensure establish Y-PEER network in the selected governorate as a pilot.

B. Social Mobilization for Voluntary Counselling and Counselling Centers and targeting high risk groups in vulnerable communities:

- Peer education trainings for high risk groups;
- Conduct social mobilization and life-skills, RH/FP, HIV and STI/peer education trainings with high risk groups to ensure access to VCT services;
- Ensure adding modules on RH/FP material in the ToT packages.

C. Facilitator for youth forum groups of peer educators:

- Facilitate meetings of previous peer educators from schools and communities, and coordinate their support for current peer educators;
- Organize timely meetings with peer educators from different neighbourhoods and schools to share experience and reflect on challenges to ensure ongoing update of training manuals as well as project design.

The consultant will work on the basis of monthly work plans with specific deliverables agreed upon with the supervisor.

5. Deliverables:

- Updated training manual for community peer educators and community outreach focal points (electronic and hard copies);
- Training manual for youth;
- Updated refresher training manual for school peer educators (electronic and hard copies);
- Revised key messages for community based peer education sessions;
- Revised key messages for school based peer education sessions;
- Quarterly plan and report for the youth forums;
- The consultant is expected to provide a monthly progress report in English, referring to a monthly work plan and pre-defined deliverables.

6. Qualifications:

- Proven Experience in working with out-of-school and in school young people;
- University degree in Social Sciences, Health, or related fields;
- Experience in conducting ToT workshops on peer education for school students as well as young people in vulnerable communities;
- Good writing English and Arabic skills;
- Good computer skills.

Please send your application to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a. Deadline for application: **21st June 2007**

Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified.

This is Yemen History, Vol. 3 (Part 3)

By: Nisreen Shadad

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

This third volume is devoted to theories, studies and new discoveries presenting the origins of human language, particularly Arabic. Al-Kumaim calls this volume “the Arabism of Yemen and the Qur’an” in order to bring back the Arabism of Yemen and Yemenis, especially after the wrong and deformed picture of Yemeni history.

As Al-Kumaim says, suspicion about the Arabism of Arabs as a whole. “Many books attack Yemeni history and its language, alleging that Yemenis aren’t Arabs and their language isn’t Arabic.”

The main points earlier peoples used to attack the language of Yemen are as follows: differing meanings for a single term and numerous nouns devoid of al-ta’areef (the definite article of ‘the’). Additionally, several linguists claim that Ishmael was the first to speak Arabic.

The conflict began during the period of the companions’ rule and became widespread year after year. As a result of hatred and envy, such conflicts usually disappeared, but another replaced it – an intellectual conflict, according to Al-

Kumaim.

One assertion made by Zabban ibn Ammar, a poet of Al-Basra who was born in Mecca during the second half of the first century Hijra and died in Al-Basra in 770 A.D., was the subject of much controversy.

Ibn Ammar said, “The Himyar tongue, an ancient language spoken in Yemen, as well as all remote Yemeni regions’ languages, are neither our tongue, nor is their Arabism ours,” meaning that the Arabism of Yemenis and their language are a far cry from the Arabism of other Arab countries.

“Although this saying doesn’t directly express his refuting of the Arabism of Yemen, people use the surface meaning and deal with Yemenis according to the misrepresented concept,” Al-Kumaim explains.

The reason Ibn Ammar made this statement was because of the rich meaning of a single word, as there was a controversy about pre-Islamic literature between two schools: Al-Basra and Al-Kufa.

The word “thib” was one example used to prove Ibn Ammar’s argument about the oddness of the spoken language in Yemen. It was claimed that an Arab from the desert went to the Yemeni city of Dhafar, which was ruled at that time by a king whose palace was located on a mountaintop summit. The man decided to visit the ruler as he passed through.

The king welcomed his guest, saying,

“thib.” This term has numerous meanings, but the only one the man knew was “jump,” so he replied, “I will obey your command.” The king repeated, “thib,” so the man jumped to the ground from a high point of the palace and died.

The king was surprised at the man’s action because, as all Yemenis know, the meaning of this term is: “Sit on a snug mattress.” (This second meaning is available in the Arab tongue book and Al-Taj book.)

In his book, Al-Kumaim refutes Ibn Ammar’s claim, saying, “Zabban’s admittance to the Arabism of Aad, who is actually Yemeni, contradicts his claim that all Arabs are Ishmael’s sons because Aad was before Ishmael, so how can this be?”

In chapter one, Al-Kumaim describes the concept of linguistics and the origin and development of human language. He illustrates numerous theories explaining the origin of language, the first of which is that Adam (pbuh) spoke a language and subsequently taught his sons, according to Arab linguists Ibn Jini and Ibn Faris and the philosopher Heraclite.

The second theory involves those who say that language is not a talent or an inspiration, as the first group claims, because a group of wise people gathered and created the names of things. A third alleges that man is equipped with an instinct giving him the ability to talk.

A fourth theory, according to

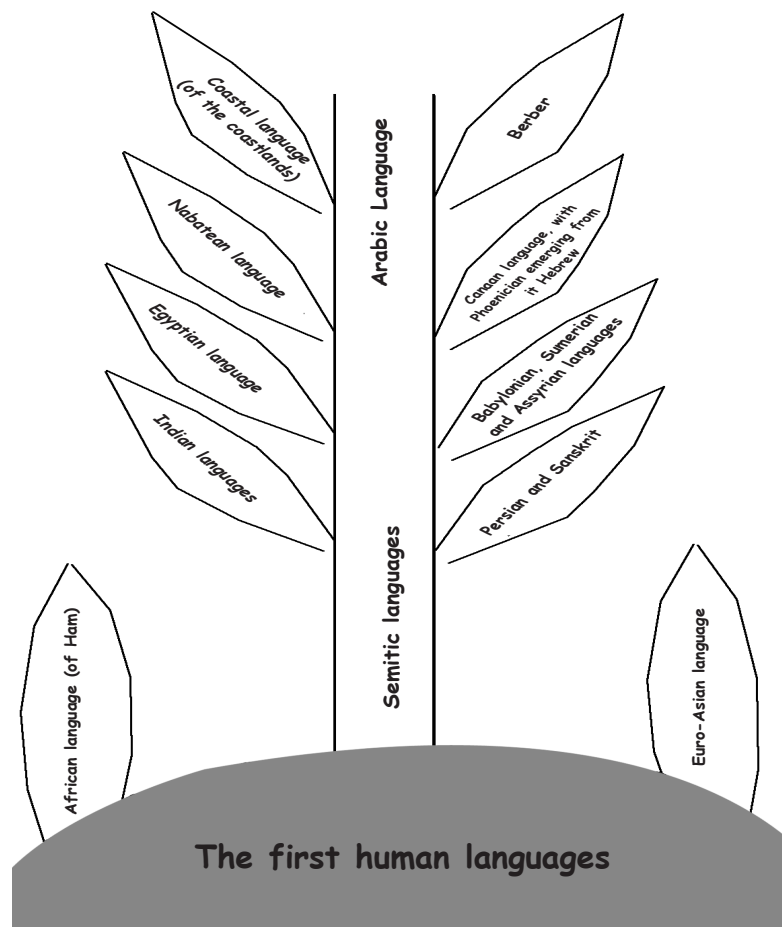
Mohammed Shahrur, is that language is a product of the human body’s physiological development. According to another group of linguists, a fifth theory is that language originates from the sounds of surrounding creatures. Humans attempt to imitate sounds like the wind, thunder, water and animal sounds and consequently, create words. This is the theory of Ibn Jini.

A sixth theory reveals what linguists say about protohumans. American linguist Merritt Ruhlen is known for his work on the classification of languages and what this reveals about the origin and evolution of modern humans.

Al-Kumaim next talks in detail about the origin of ancient Arabic language, standard Arabic, which, according to him, is the last form of ancient Arabic, or al-Musnad.

Chapter two deals with the origins of Arabic script. As Al-Kumaim notes in his book, “Professor Jawad Ali summarized scholars’ assertions in this field, saying the script’s origin is Yemen. It then moved to Iraq and then Al-Hijaz, after which it covered most of the Arabian Peninsula.”

Chapter three is about the Arabism of the Qur’an and Yemen. In this chapter, Al-Kumaim also refutes the claims of Taha Hussein, who belittled Yemeni civilization. Chapters four and five are devoted to the ancientness of Arabic poetry in Yemen, as well as science.



Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalima Al-Tayybah

Culture and the revolution in Yemen (5)

In trying to analyze Yemen’s culture from a revolutionary standpoint, Abdullah Baradooni understands that, as in all assessments on human intangibles, currents or movements, one must find the deciphering objective path that will in the end bring about an understanding of the inherent traits of such movements. Moreover, looking at a revolution through reliance on emotional biases or even erroneous presuppositions laid down by dictates of the prevailing political mood, especially of the ruling establishment is neither useful to the Revolution or those who associate themselves with such inclinations.

Baradooni then suggests that the overthrow of an existing regime or order (e.g., monarchy to republic, colony to independent statehood), as suggested by the track records of most of the “Revolutions” that took place in many of the revolts of the second half of the Twentieth Century, especially in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, would necessarily a major cultural enhancement (as opposed to cultural change, which is almost inevitable anyway). Baradooni, in this context, emphasizes time and again throughout the book, that revolution (by overthrow) is not in itself the dynamic force necessary for effecting dynamic change in a society that vibrant and leads to a significant enhancement in the way of life for the people. Moreover, he wishes the reader to realize that it is quite easy to have convinced the Yemeni people that change was inevitable, given the obvious backwardness in which Yemen was lurking. However, for Revolution to be meaningful the people, who are all that matter when talking in a Revolutionary context, must grasp the outcome of Revolution in their very lives and not just be satisfied by the daily or seasonal ceremonial Propaganda that one must listen to almost by force on the government media channels.

On the other hand the blind author (blind in vision but not in heart)¹, underscores the point that most of the books written by many a participant in the Patriotic Movements, which in the Eighties so a lively effort by many of these patriots to get their memories on record before they pass away or their memories be afflicted with the pitiful mindboggling symptoms of senility and emotional prejudice. Actually this period saw a flourishing of cultural efforts all aimed at satisfying the ego and trying to make up for the fading of importance to which many of these prominent figures were noticing as their prominence became somewhat fading, since they have been removed from positions of not only power but influence as well.

Baradooni continuously stresses that the Revolution somehow lost touch with the general public because it failed to realize what they really wanted out of it: a halfway decent life that did not prevent them from exercising all their potentials for bringing about dynamic change to the country; a chance to release their energies and intellect to be good productive citizens.

The author also points out that many of those who were able to rise to the helms, by virtue of the liberty and equal opportunity brought about by the Revolution, had forgotten themselves and their own background and thus saw their rise to power and grandeur as a God delivered gift to them to exploit to the maximum limit to enrich themselves and to actually partake in the very things that the Revolution had come to get rid of. He brings back the simile in the history of this great Moslem nation when the Prophet Mohammed had come to deliver mankind from all forms of oppression and transgression. Soon after his passing away except for the first thirty years hence, Islamic history went on reverse gear the caliphate or the temporal leadership that succeeded Mohammed father the first four Caliphs, was turned into a monarchy exercising the most cruel and oppressive attributes of any autocratic regime; i.e., the very anathema of Islam. In such a venue over time the culture of Revolution in its dynamic form becomes plastic and lacking in resourcefulness. All the efforts of culture are then geared to raise the status of the rulers into the living deities that those who surround them try to show them to be for their own economic and psychological well-beings, because these latter demons of the society have no other means of fulfilling their egotistical desires except by making share that they have their share of the booties that the rulers have made themselves the heirs of as they have wrested control of all the resources of the land to be used only for the safeguarding of their thrones and the plunder of the state treasury.

This book is an exemplary product of a patriotic philosopher, historian, literary genius that Baradooni has become for all Yemenis who love to see how this man of great perception and broad horizons from a social context analyzes our social fabric in all its manifestations and brings our positive and negatives to our simplified outlook on life and makes us realize that there is a lot more hidden than meets the eye.

The loss of Baradooni was perhaps one of the greatest cultural losses that to this day remains irreplaceable, notwithstanding the greater productive means we have at our disposal and the rapid advances in communications we now take for granted.

¹ The Holy Qur’an states: It is the hearts that go blind and not the eyes.

Subject Book: Culture and the Revolution in Yemen
 Author: Abdullah Al-Baradooni
 Language: Arabic
 Publisher: Arab Writer’s Press
 Year Published: 1991 AD
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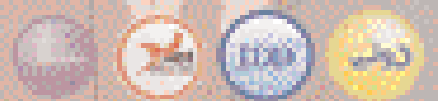
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Ethiopian Celebrates its Return to Yemen



After five years of service interruption, Ethiopian Airlines has resumed its flight from and to Sana'a International Airport 06 June 2007, with the first flight touching down at 2.30 pm local time in Sana'a Airport, an Ethiopian Boeing 737- 700.



Furthermore, Ethiopian Airlines has recently received the 2007 Africa Achievement Award for its success in airline and a viable organization and for its significant contributions towards the development of air transport in Africa. Ethiopian Airlines has set a goal to become a one billion USD company by 2010, operating to more than 60 destinations around the globe with some 30 jet aircrafts carrying about 3 million passengers per annum.

The award winner airline is now flying four times per week between Sana'a and Addis Ababa. Mr. Busera Awel, Vice President Commercial of Ethiopian Airlines for commercial affairs, has stated that the Management of Ethiopian Airlines is very happy with the resumption of flights between the two countries. Adding that this air link will further strengthen the economic, commercial, and socio-cultural bilateral relations of the two countries.

He also stated that the decision for the reinstatement of services to Sana'a was made after conducting pertinent market surveys that indicates the existence of increased business opportunity in Yemen. He said " We believe that this market potential will enable us to provide quality service for our customers with a new spirit".

It is worth mentioning that Yemen was one of the first countries Ethiopian Airlines flew to, shortly after it commences its scheduled operation in April 1946, with a regular flight to Aden and later in 1973 to Sana'a, Reinforcing the overall ties between Yemen and Ethiopia, which goes back in history to the ancient times of Sheba.

Mr. Teshome G/Selassie, Ethiopian Airlines Area Manager in Yemen has stated that this is an attempt to revive the already existing close historical ties that link the two nations of Ethiopia and Yemen. Indicating that the airline aims at facilitation air travel and boosting tourism between the two counties.

Moreover, Ethiopian Airline is considered as Africa's gateway to the world and has an extensive coverage of major airports in Africa, the Middle East , Europe and USA flying to 50 international destinations including Sana'a and Bahrain which are the most recent additions to Ethiopia's list of destinations.

On his part, Dr. Tawfik Abdullahi Ahmed, Ethiopian Ambassador to Yemen, has stated that this joyous occasion will bring the two countries long-standing bilateral relationship to the highest level. He expects the number of Yemenis visiting Ethiopia to increase, especially as Ethiopia Celebrates its Millennium later on this Year.



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Sporting in Sana'a University

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
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Sana'a University wrapped up its sports season on Wednesday, June 6 with a big carnival. Every year, the university administration arranges a tournament for students from Sana'a colleges and their branches. Activities are held in various fields, including social, cultural and sports activities.

Such activities create strong competition between both male and female students to win the University Cup. Students participate in four sports, which are the favorites among Yemeni youth: football, ping pong, volleyball. Additionally, women students participate in Judo and chess, their only opportunity in the competition.

Two rounds are held each year. At the beginning of the year, each college and its sections begins forming its teams for the four sports. Each college then begins preparing for the competitions, wherein each college's teams meet each other. In the first semester, competition is only between college teams, with the losing team being eliminated.



A carnival show at the beginning of the celebration

after seeing their good interaction in such an event," Abdulrahman Al-Rasean, administrative manager of sports at Sana'a University, noted.

Such activities also build relations between students from different colleges, as well as allow them the chance to acquire many skills. "We aim to create better communication between students, increase sporting activities, decrease the stresses of studying and use their leisure time," Al-Rasean adds.

spending a long time training and getting good experience."

Many women students at the university participate in such sporting activities as a way to increase their fitness. Most aspire to attain skills in self defense, so they're interested to join the Judo team.

"Some women are professionals at some sports, but then they can't continue their activities after leaving the university because they either get married or become busy with their work," Wafei regretted.

However, there is a step to encourage women to participate in such activities by establishing indoor sports for women and preparing professional female staff to train them.

Many competitions between Yemeni universities are arranged for both male and female students, including numerous matches throughout the second semester. "I watched approximately 64 matches involving all of the university colleges and its branches," Ahmad Al-Madrai, trainer of the Sana'a University ping pong team, said.

Unfortunately, some college teams don't prepare for such competition, which negatively affects the entire competition. "This semester, we prepared well for the competition between four universities involving the Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and Hodeidah teams. However, the competition was canceled for unknown reasons. Such problems decrease our performance and interest," Wafei said.

Results of second semester round
Observing the results of competition in

the final semester's activities, the most active team was the commerce college. Results from the five sports are as follows, according to the winners' places:

Championships at Sana'a University

Judo

1. Media team
2. Commerce college
3. Computer college
4. Residential students

Ping-pong

1. Arts college
2. Commerce college

Volleyball

1. Commerce college
2. Dentistry team
3. Commerce college
4. Media team

Chess

1. Commerce college
2. Engineering college

Football

1. Commerce college
2. Computer college
3. Residential students

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Players raise their flags for each sport in which they participated.

In the second semester, the competition is expanded to include all college teams meeting each other to compete for the University Cup. Competition begins between college section teams. The winning team will represent that college in front of the other college teams. The next competition involves other colleges and branches of Sana'a University.

In the past, such competition was only for university students; however, the university administration has formed new teams representing the university's security personnel and another team for university employees.

"We thought to let security and employee staffers partner with the students in the competition, especially

Women's participation

Compared to men, women's participation in sports isn't high, as social, and cultural and other factors play a role in decreasing such participation. The university administration pays more attention to men's activities because they are available for training and participation. Additionally, some players continue after university and join national teams.

As Najeh Wafei, Judo trainer and supervisor of women's teams at Sana'a University, points out, "Women actually are good at sports, but they're interested to acquire the skills or join the activities only for fun. They often leave after



A women's Judo winner is awarded at the celebration of the final semester's sports activities.

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