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A mother a little too soon



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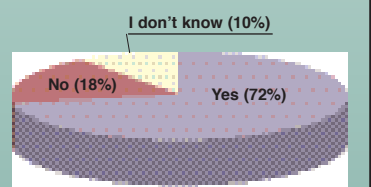


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Barno Heitmann: Every man has a dream

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

A study on equal citizenship indicates that the articles for equal citizenship in the Yemeni constitution are being tampered with, do you agree?



This edition's question:

Do you think more oil exploration would help Yemeni economy or increase the rate of exhausting natural resources?
- More exploration is good for economy
- It will increase national income but the additional income will be wasted
- No it will just exhaust our resources

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

Bahah: Oil production will increase by 2009

According to Minister of Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources Khalid Bahah, Yemen's Oil and Gas prospects in 2009 is quite optimistic. Crude oil production is to reach 500,000 barrels per day; Extraction capacity from current reserves will increase from 30% to 70%; and income from sale of natural gas will reach US\$ 1-2 billion per year.



Despite the speculations indicating Yemen would exhaust its natural resources, Oil exploration is yet to rise.

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
SANA'A, JULY 15 — During a recent interview with the Yemen Times, Mr. Khalid Bahah, Minister of Oil, Gas and Minerals stated that the current gradual decline in oil production is the result of Yemen's reliance on two main blocks for the production of oil - block 18 Mareb and block 14 Masila. In addition,

the country has been slow in drafting plans to compensate for the foreseeable decline in oil production. However, he stated that his ministry launched an extensive oil exploration campaign last year in order to regain an increase in oil production, emphasizing that the results of this exploration campaign will not be visible until 2009.

Continued on page 3

FAO has not delayed its aid to Yemen

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, July 15 — The Director-General of Yemen's Desert Locust Control Centre yesterday denied local and international media reports that the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has delayed its locust eradication operations in Yemen.

"FAO did not delay its aid to Yemen," Abdu Fara Al-Romaih confirmed, adding, "My statement was so clear to the media. I said that the FAO operation's airplane, which was supposed to arrive at the middle of this month, had not arrived yet, so we had to start combating the locusts using our existing capabilities. I did not say that the FAO stopped its aid to Yemen. In fact Yemen benefits in this dangerous situation from extraordinary fast and efficient support from FAO, in terms of material and technical advice," Abdu Farea confirmed.

Al-Romaih criticized the media, which circulated that the latest bombing in the governorate of Marib was the



Desert locusts had infested large areas in the remote interior of Yemen along the southern edge of the Empty Quarter, stretching from Marib to the border with Oman.

main reason for the stop of FAO operations to fight locusts. He confirmed that Yemen still has cooperation with the FAO, stating, "We are expecting the arrival of one spray airplane by the end of this month latest."

The FAO warned a month ago that Yemen faces its worst outbreak of crop-

devouring locusts in nearly 15 years. On July 4, the FAO released a statement that desert locusts had infested large areas in the remote interior of Yemen along the southern edge of the Empty Quarter, stretching from Marib to the border with Oman.

Continued on page 3

While Houthis wait for truce implementation Army takes over new positions

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, July 15 — Tribal sources revealed relative calm dominates most Sa'ada districts and the committee in charge of implementing the district-wide ceasefire agreement is still in Sa'ada, save three members belonging to the Joint Meeting Parties who returned to Sana'a last Wednesday.

The sources added that the committee surveyed all sites taken over by the army after being under the control of the Houthis for over 5 months, adding that the Houthis handed over the most strategic positions including Um Lila Mountain located in Baqem district along the Saudi border and overlooking Aleb border outlets. The mountain also overlooks the international highway that links Yemen to Saudi Arabia, passing by Sahar, Magz, Baqem, and parts of Ghamer and Razih districts.



Military forces lined up in Sa'ada as a display of power.

Continued on page 3

Yemen carries out damage control

The Yemeni Ministry of Tourism has never been more eager to enhance Yemen's image abroad than today. Especially with the death of the eighth Spanish tourist, two days ago, because of her injuries in the Marib terrorist attack beginning of this month.

According to these agreements, the companies will carry out promotion campaigns promoting tourism in Yemen targeting both Yemenis foreigners. In addition, the companies translate tourism promotion materials offered by the Yemen Tourism Promotion Board in different languages.

This intensive campaign to promote a more peaceful image of Yemen comes as

a consequence of the attacks on Spanish tourists in Marib earlier this month. Al-Faqih stated that foreign tourism in Yemen was harmed after the latest terror suicide attack on Spanish tourists in Marib. He said that only some European and American tourists changed their programs and canceled reservations after the attack.

Continued on page 3

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, July 15 — Minister of tourism, Nabil al-Faqih has revealed in a press conference held Thursday, that around RY200 million (million US Dollar) has been allocated to highlight and improve Yemen's picture of Yemen abroad. "The government would allocate more in coming years," he said.

The minister's statement came after he signed three agreements for tourism promotion with three European companies including the Kleber from German, TQC from Italy, and SRL from France.

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In brief

TAIZ

Joint twin passaway
July 13 — The joint-at-the-head twins, born last week and share a part of the brain, passed away yesterday. Doctors tried to save them especially that one died one day before the other with no use. The head of the surgery at Al-Jumhuri hospital in Taiz, where the babies were born, said that there was a very little chance that the could have survived.

SANA'A

500 university students trained in first aid
July 13 — The Yemeni Red Crescent in cooperation with the Medical Association of Sana'a University's College of Medicine arranged training and education programs on first aid and reproductive health targeting 500 university students. The training, as well as other filing courses, will take place in three phases each will target around 150 male and female students. The training which lasts for one month will take place at Al-Kuwait Hospital.

HADRAMOUT

35 university students avail internship abroad
July 14 — The Science and Technology University in Hadramout will be sending 35 of its students on internships this summer to Arab universities. Twenty five of the students will be sent to Egyptian colleges, while four will go to Syria, and six students will head to Sudan. The internship is one month long and will include training and education in various aspects within the educational exchange program between the technology university and its partners in other Arab countries.

ADEN

How to prevent blindness
July 13 — Within the international strategy to fight blindness 2020, the Yemeni Ministry of Health and Population created a workshop ending today on eye diseases and precautions to prevent blindness. Twenty eye specialists and MDs from various governorates participated in the workshop.

Yemeni scientist investigate a cure for diabetes
July 15 — Adel Al-Bakeeli is a young Yemeni scientist who recently submitted a thesis on using cactus to treat diabetes. The thesis was submitted to Aden University as a Master graduation research in which he proved results on using cactus to control the insulin independent sugar in the blood. He used lab animals to confirm the results which if proved effective on humans will be a leap in treating this disease in Yemen especially that cactus is a wide spread plant in Yemen.

HUDEIDAH

Hundreds of Yemeni deported from KSA
July 12 — Hudeidah port, according to Sahawa net, received 943 Yemeni citizens including women and children who had residing in KSA without complete legal papers. Saudi authorities deported the Yemenis after discovering their existence in Saudi Arabia. The authorities deported the Yemenis by sea because of the huge influx coming from Yemen through land and that this way it can ensure they do not return again to Saudi territories.

AMRAN

Preventing random water well digging
July 15 — Amran Basin Committee is working on mechanisms and laws to prevent chaotic well digging in order to maximize the utility of underground water in the governorate. The new preventive mechanisms will include awareness activities to clarify to the public the risks of exhausting underground water through random wells.

Government policies waste 69 percent of grants

SANA'A, July 14 — Yemeni government did not make use of 69 percent of grants and donations provided by donor countries over the period 2001-2005, according to a report released by the Economic Committee at the Consultative Council last June.

The report indicated that Yemen received, over the years 2001-2005, about \$565 million; however, the government exploited just 31 percent and this caused donors to cancel the free donations and reduce the upcoming grants after they lost their trust in the Yemeni government.

It also indicated a discrepancy in the volume of exploitation at the level of different sectors. Fish wealth sector just made use of four percent of a total sum amounting to \$43.8 million and this means that 96 percent was wasted. The same thing applies to constructions, transport, and highways sectors which

utilized just five percent. Electricity, suffering continuous cuts, exploited 16 percent out of a total sum equal to \$2.7 million. In addition, water and sanitation sector wasted 60 percent of grants with a total sum of \$198 million.

A relative utilization was recorded in the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, with a percentage of 51 percent totaling \$91.6 million. The conflict over the ownership of the Community College in Socotra, donated by The Emir of Kuwait, between both Ministries caused Kuwaitis to halt their finance, and such conflicts have prevented Yemen from many similar and free projects.

Such situation was attributed mainly to the lack of an objective government policy that aims to direct the grants and donations in a way that fits into the society's needs.

The report further criticized the concentration on buildings while disregarding training, together with a total absence of legislations that ensure an efficient exploitation of donations and grants.

Loans too

Similarly, an official report by the Consultative Council revealed late June that there had been a total of \$2 billion, over the years 2001-2005, as loans, most of which remained unexploited.

The report hinted that just 18 to 19 percent, amounting to \$255 million, have been used while \$1.5 billion remained unutilized. It also indicated that Yemen repaid over \$10 million in debt services and interests for loans unutilized.

The frozen loans reached 18 out of 48 developments loans with a total amount of \$669 million.

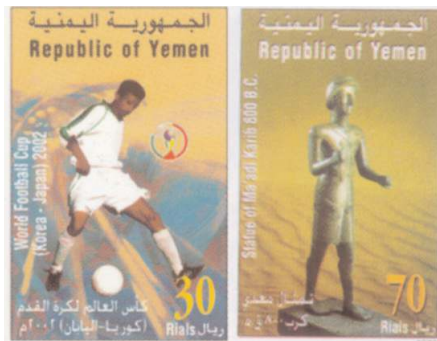
Releases of seven new postage stamps

SANA'A, July 15 — The committee of the postage stamps had released seven new issues of stamps, which considered an introduction to release them from the Posts and Postal Savings Corporation during 2007.

Faiz Saif Abdu, the General Manager of Postal Affairs in Posts and Postal Savings Corporation, stated that the new issues include pictures that register the Yemeni historical and important events as well as characteristics. There is a representation of the tourist and archeological elements as well as the natural beauty of the country, Yemen. He also confirmed that the committee is very careful to release postal stamps of historical and tourist sites. In addition, he clarified that the release is to meet the desire of stamps collectors all over the world as well as to introduce and promote the tourist sites of Yemen. Further, he indicated that the postal stamps, which are due to be distributed nationally and internationally, represent an essential factor to attract tourism in Yemen.

According to Faiz Saif, the first issue includes the release of two postal stamps and picture cards about the World Day of Human Rights. The second issue releases 6 postage stamps and picture cards about the unique flowers as well as the wonderful views in the natural protectorates in Yemen. He also indicated that the next issue will be embodied by issuing 6 postal stamps about the sea life in Yemen which has various and unique sea creatures.

The fourth issue depicts the Yemeni agate through 8 postage stamps and picture cards which reflect the fame of



Stamps issued on World Football Cup 2002 (Left) and representing the status of Ma'adi Karib 800 B.C. (right)

the Yemeni agate and its various kinds nationwide.

Abdu went on to say that the corporation will release the fifth issue as 6 postal stamps as well as special cards for the historical and archeological mosques in Yemen including Al-Janad Historical Mosque, founded by Moa'ath Bin Jabal (the exalted companion of Prophet Mohammed) in Taiz, 9 A.H. Al-A'mariah Mosque will be included in the list, considering it as one of the most important archeological and historical places in Yemen. It has been 318 years since founded. It was built in 910 A.H. by the Sultan A'mer Bin Abdulwahab Al-Dhaheeri during the reign of Al-Tahiriah.

He also pointed out that the seventh release will include 6 postage stamps and picture cards of useful and rare insects which Yemen environment is distinguished with, and proved by international experts.

The seventh release has 5 stamps and picture cards depicting historical castles and forts in Yemen, showing the

Yemen civilization.

The general manager of the Postal Affairs confirmed that the releases of the corporations have a large-scale concern on the part of people enamored of stamps over the world. The corporation allows the circulation of these stamps through the internet, the electronic riyaals etc.

It is worth mentioning that the revenues of the postal stamps increased during 2006 to 46 millions and 209 thousands RY in return for 44 millions and 142 thousand RY, 693 RY during 2005 with increase percentage reached 5%.

The postal stamps are considered as the most important relationship used by people while sending and receiving mails. Therefore, the postal stamp became as a currency because the written price on stamp equals the postal price for it.

It is mentioning that the first postal stamp printed locally in Yemen was issued in 1926 under the name of Al-Motawakelia Kingdom.

In 1930, a postal stamp was issued with international specifications and standards. It was printed in Germany. In 1937 another postal stamp was coming out under the name of Eden in English language at the time of British occupation. And, there were many issues like the stamp of the Arab South Union in 1963.

After the Yemeni revolution and independence, the first stamp was in March 1963 in north Yemen and the first postal stamp, after independence in Eden, was in May 1968.

Civil defense denies flash floods reports

SANA'A, - July 14 — The general director in the civil defense, Ismael Mohammed, denied what some mass media reported that the number of the washed cars was seven and five houses, in the great mosque zone, were destroyed. "The statistic that published in many official and private mass media was incorrect," Mohammed ensured.

However, at least 2 cars were washed away in flash floods caused by heavy rains in the main water streaming amid the capital, Sana'a. The floods, which took place on Monday and whose level reached three meters, were flown from east and north of Sana'a into the main water streaming amid the capital.

According to the latest official report for the civil defense, two houses were collapsed in Noqum area and four per-

sons were injured, Mohammed stated.

The civil defense in the capital Sana'a reported that the profusely flowing floods has led to washing away two cars in the main water passage in Sana'a, however, the five persons, who were inside the cars, were rescued. "The civil defense team was able to alleviate the damages and save the people entrapped," Mohammed said.

The flood caused a downfall drain and resulted in traffic bottleneck on the main street of Bab Al-Yemen in the capital Sana'a, according to the person in charge of the disaster administration in the civil defense, Mohammed Shaba'en.

Additionally, Khiald Al-Sanhani, an eye witness, commented that the team of the civil defense came to the location of incident a little bit late, however, with the participation of the locals;

they could save the entrapped people.

Receiving help from citizens is a reason for making the civil defense, to great extent, come to the accident location on time "many times we receive a helping hand from citizens who provide correct information, which help us behave in a timely manner. However, sometimes, we receive misleading information which hinder our work and cause late conduct." Mohammed Shaba'en pointed out to the Yemen-times.

The official report mentioned that within the past two days; Sunday and Monday, heavy rains dropped in the capital Sana'a as well as many governorates and caused casualties in different areas, three persons killed in Dhamar and five persons killed in Lahj governorates while about seven persons were injured in Sana'a.

Summer Festival in Expo- Sana'a

SANA'A July, 14 — As a continuation of the successes achieved by the summer festival during the last years, the 2007 Summer Festival Exhibition is currently staged in Expo Hall Sana'a during the period 17 July to August 2. More than 40 companies, national and international, will participate in the exhibition to meet the citizens' needs. They will provide house and office furniture as well as appliances, clothes, accessories, and

gifts.

Mr. O'mar Al-Nahmi, the marketing manager in Apollo Company for International Exhibitions, said that the exhibition is annually staged during summer vocation. He also added that the participating companies come from countries such as Yemen, Syria, Egypt, and China.

Al-Nahmi went on to say that the Apollo Company sought through this exhibition to specify annual occasions

for special exhibitions in order to facilitate, to the customer, who can take the appropriate purchasing decisions, the available commodities in these occasions. The exhibition is accompanied by the Third Summer Festival for families, in which a lot of associations, schools, and summer centers participate. Also, entertainment parties and cultural competitions are performed during the festival.

Two-million bounty for information on explosives

ADEN, July 15 — An informed security source announced a two-million bounty for the one who provides information about those who implanted explosives near a busy mall last Monday in Aden.

Aden security apparatuses foiled explosives implanted beside Aden Mall Center in Krater district after they received information from citizens as for the existence of strange stiff in the north point of the mall which is always full of shoppers of different class and gender.

The same source assured that the security apparatuses will continue their

hunting for those responsible for targeting the center in order to meet their fair punishment.

Reacting to the incident and other similar accidents, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Alimi pointed out that Yemen's security is the responsibility of all citizens who should cooperate with security apparatuses for keeping the country's security.

Al-Alimi further hinted that the terrorist acts will not just disturb the country's stability, but also harms the national economy and badly affects the on-going development.

Pensioners demonstrate for better conditions

SANA'A July 14 — following up the demonstration arranged by the Coordinating Council of the Military Pensioners Associations in Aden, hundreds of military pensioners demonstrated in Sana'a last week, calling for improving the pensioners' issue.

The military pensioners in Sana'a formed their first cooperative, which aims to coordinate with the pensioners in all the governorates to call for their rights, according to the Yemeni constitution.

At the Police Officers' Club, in Sana'a, the pensioners held the first meeting for their cooperative. They asked the human rights organizations and mass media to support them in highlighting their problem so as to attract the people's attention.

They also aimed to take their rights which are mentioned in the Yemeni constitution as well as to take what the government has promised in its last week. The promise was to set comprehensive solutions to the issue of the military pensioners and implement the President Saleh's directives which dictate resolving the issue of pensioners.

The general chief of the official military affairs in the ministry of defense, Mohamed Al-Ansi ensured that special military committees are formed to implement the President's

decision. Many centers are opened in Sana'a, Aden, and Adalia governorates to receive the military pensioners' files from the all governorates.

"About 1200 military pensioners were received in the period of July 7-14. And, the official military affairs have distributed applications to the pensioners and released presses to the pensioners' finance offices to start giving them what they deserve according to the Law." Al-Ansi explained.

The financial office will raise up about 50 percent to the basic salary of the pensioners, starting from the end of this month, as any working forces in the country.

Bigger demonstration was arranged by thousands of military pensioners from southern and eastern areas of Yemen. They staged a sit-in on Saturday, July 7, 2007 in Aden's Parades Square, responding to the call by the Coordinating Council of the Military Pensioners Associations.

The demonstrators chanted against the restriction of freedom of speech and the hindrance of the expression of their opinion in peaceful way. They also asked for reinstatement of all military pensioners as well as improving their life standards after they were laid off since the civil war of 1994.

US report on money laundering criticized

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, July 15 — Reacting to a report released recently by the US Department of Treasury and concerned with the money laundering, the Head of the Anti-money Laundering Committee at the Central Bank of Yemen Ahmed Ghaleb assured that Yemen is not a center for money laundering or financing terrorism, hinting that the American report is inauthentic.

Ghaleb noted that the information upon which the US Department of Treasury relied while preparing the report is not correct as Yemen is not a regional or international financial center and it has a limited economy.

He added that all money transfers and orders are observed by the concerned authorities within the frame of laws that control the mobility of capitals, stressing that Yemen is not a suitable environment for money laundering.

Meanwhile, the Anti-corruption Committee announced, by the end of the last month, that it had finished the preparation of a united law draft on money laundering, drugs, and crime in collaboration with international experts.

Ghaleb noted that an American team of seven members, which represents the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Justice and Finance Ministries, visited Yemen last year and paid field visits to all Yemeni financial institutions; however, it issued no report at that time, which is a positive sign according to Ghaleb.

He further noted that any embezzlement issues do not come under money laundering, but rather corruption issues and to be resolved by the judiciary.

A report by the Treasury Department named Yemen as a center for money laundering and terrorism funding in the area. It noted that law enforcement

agencies encountered common patterns and concentrations of Informal Value Transfer System, known as IVTS, directed at areas with non-existent, unaffordable or untrustworthy financial institutions.

Moreover, the report recorded different shapes for making money laundering and this includes opening fake bank accounts under commercial names, cash deposits, as well as money orders made in exchange institutions and away from the observance of the Central Bank.

The American government directed a harsh criticism to the Yemeni government as it does not enact the role of units concerned with combating money-laundering, particularly when these units lack in a data base.

Different national and international reports criticized the embezzlements and corruption rampant in government sectors especially in taxes, oil, and customs sectors.

US Dollar to raise against Yemeni Riyal

Different national and international observers of Yemeni market assured that the US Dollar value will raise against the Yemeni Riyal. In addition, it is expected that a US Dollar will increase to YR 207 by the end of this year.

Yemeni reserves of hard currency are limited and primarily stocked through oil resources, something that is not secure and depleted. The volume of other sources for hard currency as expatriates' transmissions represents a very small percentage of income sources.

However, the Central Bank assures that it follows a certain policy based on supply and demand, and interferes at the due time to prevent any increase of US Dollar value against the Yemeni Riyal.

Continued from page 1

Bahah: Oil production will increase by 2009

"We know that block 18 Mareb began production over 20 years ago, and the expectation for the last five years indicates that the current production of that block should be zero. This means that, in theory, there should be no production from block 18 Mareb now, and we should've been ready for this," Mr. Bahah stated, adding, "Our current expectation is that Yemen's oil production from these two main blocks will be zero by 2011. The difference is that now we have a number of prospects, and explorations in several new blocks are very promising."

He also stated that previous explorations have been very slow and findings weren't worth mentioning, adding that the current challenge is to stabilize and increase oil production within the next two years. He further revealed that the number of exploration blocks has increased from 26 blocks in 2006 to 40 blocks this year, and hopefully by next year if the success rate of exploration activities reaches an average of 25 percent, Yemen will be able to push production back to 400,000 barrels per day.

However, Mr. Bahah commented that Yemen's target is to produce 500,000 barrels per day by 2009, and the strategy to reach that target is a realistic one and depends not only on heavy exploration activities, but also on the introduction of new technology, which will allow for an increase in production from the same blocks. He stated, "Current drilling and production technology allows you to extract around 30-35 percent of your oil reserves, however, new technological equipment will allow you to extract up to 70 percent of the oil reserves, which might potentially double production in particular blocks."

In a statement made to Al-Thawra Official newspaper dated January 16, 2005, previous Minister of Oil, Dr. Rashed Baraba'a stated that geological surveys indicated that Yemen is about to launch a campaign to increase exploration activities and oil production from blocks 43, 9 and 20, adding that Yemen's oil production will continue to increase. This was contrary to official reports, which indicated that Yemen's oil production was suffering a gradual decline and that exploration activities were sluggish.

It is worth mentioning that the current production of block 18 Mareb stands at around 60,000 barrels per day, while block 14 Masila's production stands at roughly 200,000 barrels per day. Yemen's current oil reserves exceed four million barrels.

FAO has not delayed its aid to Yemen

Yemen Times reported on the 15th July: "Locust numbers are likely to increase dramatically as a second generation of breeding continues in these areas. Agricultural crops in Wadi Hadhramaut and other areas, including the Sana'a highlands could be at risk."

In response to the locust threat, Yemen submitted a request to the FAO in early June to provide the country with aircrafts in order to eliminate widespread locust infestation, which struck farms in eastern provinces, causing rousing fears of a locust swarm invasion in neighboring countries.

"There are now 13 survey and control teams in the field, including more than 100 men, equipped with all technical material, spray equipment, and 35 vehicles in the areas in which the locusts are most prevalent. Those teams, who have been distributed in Shabwa, Hadramout, and Marib, were able to eliminate the infestation in the area estimated at 6000 hectares so far," Al-Romaih clarified.

However, a new and exceptionally rare invasion of locusts is expected during the next weeks from the desert of the Empty Quarter, which stretches from Saudi Arabia. Yemeni Deputy Agriculture Minister Abdul Malik al-Arashi reported that the Yemeni government has since asked for regional and international help to face "a dan-

ger which threatens large agricultural territories in the region of the Arabian Peninsula."

Since the very first alert in January, the government of Yemen has dedicated more than 50 million Yemeni Riyals (approx. 250,000 USD) to fight desert locusts. The United Nations Emergency Reserve Fund has allocated 2.4 million USD towards fighting the spread of locusts.

Yemen experienced locust infestations in 1986, 1987, and 1993, the latter being a particularly serious outbreak. However, outbreaks in 2002 and 2004 were successfully controlled. It is worth noting that, according to the FAO, a very small section of an average locust swarm eats the same amount of food in one day as about 2,500 people

Army takes over new positions

During the war, the national army made many attempts to reclaim this area from the Houthis, yet their attempts were unsuccessful due to the area's rugged terrain coupled with fierce resistance of the Houthis.

From the beginning of last week, the Houthis handed over 53 positions and abandoned checkpoints established during the war. The handing over of Um Lila Mountain occurred in conjunction with the recent calm witnessed in Sa'ada after raised tension recorded last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Meanwhile, relations between Houthi leaders and the government-appointed committee were proving unproductive, as both parties exchanged accusations of breaching the truce. In addition, Houthis accused the committee of being biased in favor of the government.

Sources close to the committee mentioned the Qatari delegation included within the committee was directed not to give any press statements, declining also to speak about the stance of the Qatari delegation and hinting they are unsatisfied with the positive achievements made so far, as they have not reached the level intended at this point.

Despite fears among Yemeni people regarding the renewal of battles in Sa'ada, close sources have indicated that the Houthi leader Abdul Malik Al-Houthi sent a letter last week to President Saleh, describing the letter as a good attempt at reducing lingering tension between the two parties. In addition, continuous communication between President Saleh and different political parties is being sustained in the hopes that it will help put an end to the existing war and prevent further shedding of Yemeni blood.

Timed with the combined efforts exerted by the mediation committee, various dignitaries and tribal sheikhs, media sources spoke of violent confrontations between the Houthis and the army in Sahar district's Al Salah, with similar battles reported in Nashour. However, the battles between both warring sides did not leave casualties.

Houthi elements and the army exchange occasional accusations of breaching the ceasefire. The committee members, who are just 10, face a lot of obstacles to observing and monitoring developments and breaches that are sporadically committed.

Houthi field leader Abdul Malik Al-Houthi assured that the political leadership could put an end to the war and manage the situation if it wished to do so, noting that he along with his followers are keen about the country's stability and security and that they only resort to arms in self-defense.

Stressing the success of the Qatari mediation, Al-Houthi hinted that the war's renewal would be catastrophic for both sides, a point he feels is downplayed by the committee members who believe a renewed war will affect the Houthis alone.

"Yemen's situation goes from bad to worse and it is not in the interest of the authority to start a new war," asserted Al-Houthi.

In his statement to Al-Shar'e newspaper, Al-Houthi criticized the committee for ignoring all the positive steps made by the Houthis, including their handing over all main outlets

leading to Saudi Arabia.

He went on to say, "We asked the committee to survey the whole governorate to ensure our abandonment of all positions according to the agreement," further revealing that the committee rejected to make any field visits to areas abandoned by his followers.

Moreover, Al-Houthi accused the committee of favoring some military leaders, overlooking the refusal of said leaders to hand over houses of Houthi members returning to their villages, hinting that the committee relies on reports submitted by the army without verifying their authenticity.

"As for the breaches, we demanded forming a fact-finding committee with legal and religious background to verify, but our demands were overlooked by the committee," Al-Houthi commented.

He maintained that the committee is performing its "passive" supervision from their closed room in Rahban Hotel in Sa'ada city and his demands concentrated on the execution of field surveys to ensure their seriousness.

He went on to accuse some committee members of lacking an impartial attitude, claiming, "They do not deal with us or accept any idea raised by us even if it is logical."

As for the rejection of the mediation by some of his followers, Al-Houthi assured that some of his followers complain of the committee's impartiality, especially when Houthi demands are not met, even when they make positive steps, citing the refusal of national army leaders to hand over Houthi homes and farms as an example.

Refusing to label Houthis as "followers," Al-Houthi pointed out that his fighters felt the committee's task is not that of peace as it attempts to displace Houthis from certain areas while introducing the army in these same areas. This is coupled with the continued denouncement of positive steps taken by Houthis via media forgery in order to cover up for war continuation or resumption.

He added that the committee is wrong when working according to the aforementioned calculations, maintaining his accusation of attempts by military leaders to continue the war as they amass an army, reinforced by tanks and missile rockets, to replace Houthis within all deserted sites.

Al-Houthi referred to the Dhahian city's case wherein Houthis received security members nicely and provided them with residence only to be met with continued military presence around the city, noting that such conduct cannot be understood as peace-making.

The committee spokesman Yasser Al-Awadhi indicated he is optimistic about achieving success, especially after President Saleh extended the deadline two days with positive steps achieved so far. Al-Awadhi hinted there is some hope, particularly with implementing the second article of the Sa'ada ceasefire agreement.

"Without doubt, Al-Houthi offered some positive points, however, they [the Houthis] have not reached an adequate level especially when compared to the duration of time we spent in Sa'ada," said Al-Awadhi, adding, "Houthis have fears and some are justifiable while others are not."

President Saleh directed the committee to remain in Sa'ada until the issue is resolved, a decision garnering satisfaction among Sa'ada residents who have begun returning back to their homes after abandoning them when hearing that the committee would rescind the negotiations and fearing the renewal of battles between the army and the Houthis.

Local sources in Dhahian city mentioned that the meeting involving some committee members, Houthi loyalists and Dhahian residents relieved the residents' worry and made them feel secure for the first time after the five-month war.

Yemen carries out damage control

According to statistics of immigration and passport authority, only 10 to 20 percent of reservations have been canceled. He mentioned that He said that

Yemen is promoting tourism through its 28 embassies abroad as well as through 25 offices belong to the Yemenia Airways Company.

Security measures and one more victim

Security measures have been taken in cooperation with interior ministry "To deploy tourist police based on the Security Deployment Strategy. Emphasizing on the need to qualify tourist police and secure tourist sites."

One of the Spanish victims of the recent terrorist attack, Maria Asunción Vitorica, was pronounced dead last Saturday. Director of the intensive care unit, Dr. Nabil Youri, MD, said that Maria was pronounced dead around 3 a.m. Yemen time, two days after her brain activity stopped. The doctor said that her vital signs diminished thereafter and during the last few hours her heart started to show signs of weakness and failure.

Following the announcement of Vitorica's death, Spanish authorities sent an aircraft to Sana'a in order to transport the deceased back to Spain for burial.

On another front, investigations have revealed that Egyptian terror suspect, Ahmed Basyouni, who was killed during an exchange of fire with the police Thursday, July 5th, used to go by the alias Ahmed Mustafa, and was interrogated 11 days prior to his arrest on suspicion of links with Al-Qaeda. His house was searched based on a tip given by an informant who claimed that Basyouni was a terrorist. The search proved inconclusive and Basyouni was released from police custody.

According to Al-Wasat newspaper, eyewitness accounts indicate that police forces allowed Basyouni's family to evacuate the house, and promised to let him surrender himself, due to the statement of his wife who told the police that he was already injured and bleeding as a result of the

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exchange of fire. However, the police closed the door of the house and resumed the exchange of fire, which was followed by the explosion of a hand grenade that left Basyouni's body shattered and blood spatter all over the room.

Neighbors told Al-Wasat that Basyouni seemed to them an innocent man who suffered from several illnesses and his family suffered from poverty, his limited income as an accountant barely covering living expenses.

They added that a single soldier could have arrested Basyouni and that the use of excessive force was unnecessary, raising suspicions amongst

them. Chief of Police for Mareb governorate, Mohammed Al-Ghodra, stated that the investigation and evidence from the scene of the terrorist attack indicate that the terrorists used mainly compressed oxygen cans, used in hospitals, to cause the explosion. Additionally, they utilized TNT packets to blow up the oxygen cans and used several 132mm-size bombshells to cause maximum damage. Al-Ghodra added that Yemeni authorities are cooperating with Spanish investigators and are working on using DNA evidence to figure out the exact identity of the terrorist.



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YEMEN TIMES



A mother a little too soon

By: Hana Al-Sanhani
For Yemen Times

“A child gave birth to a child,” Rania, a fourteen-year-old mother described herself. One year ago she was married off to a man 15 years older than her. Even before she got pregnant, Rania described her married life as difficult and confusing.

On a late Wednesday night, Rania's labor began and she was rushed to the hospital. After a long, painful ordeal and surgery, she gave birth to a small baby girl. The doctor informed her father and husband that she had suffered from severe tears in the womb and birth canal because “her body was not ready to bear a child”.

Early marriage is said to be one of the main social problems within Yemen due to its alleged negative impact on both the physical and mental health, as well as on many other aspects of a young woman's life. Many organizations have carried out studies to support their allegations as to the harmful effects of early marriage. The objective of such studies is to produce findings, backed by relevant specialists, which will encourage the abandonment of such a practice. “We should analyze the background of this phenomenon and see why it takes place in order to be able to fight it,” stated Hooria Mashoor, Deputy Chairperson of the Women National Committee, which has carried out a study on this issue.

The study included 1,495 young people in Hodeidah and Hadramout governorates, which, according to the study, are the Yemeni governorates where early marriage is most common. Figures showed the spread of early marriage as 52.1 percent among women compared to 6.7 percent among men in the two mentioned governorates.

The people included in the study expressed their desire to establish a law

specifying a minimum age for marriage. This could possibly prevent the negative consequences of early marriage faced by young Yemenis as well as on development in general.

The study also showed that illiteracy increases by 43 percent among women who marry at an early age, affecting national productivity as a whole. An academic study conducted in April of this year revealed that 70% of people who had an early marriage were between 10 and 17 years old at the time of marriage.

Cause and effect

Researchers and specialists agree that the biggest contributing factor to this problem is poverty. This is why early marriage is most common in Hodeidah, which, if it is not the poorest governorate, is one of the poorest. Poor families are anxious to relieve themselves of the economic strain of caring for daughters and hence marry them off at the first opportunity presented.

The studies explain that there is a marriage age difference between rural and urban areas. The occurrence of early marriages decreases in urban areas compared to rural areas in percentage while the average age for marriage in rural areas is less (12 - 24 years) compared to cities (15 - 28 years). A seminar carried out in June on the same issue revealed that 70% of early marriages take place in rural areas compared to 30% in urban areas.

In rural areas, the males are more likely to get married at a young age because of circumstances specific to rural living, which does not depend on education or getting a job in the formal sector. Boys marry as early as 17 years old because of the importance of creating a family and bringing new free labor to work in the family farms. This is seen as more important than pursuing a formal education.

Second to poverty, social and religious factors play a strong role in promoting early marriage, especially among girls. Hadramout governorate is

one of the most socially and religiously conservative areas in Yemen. In such communities there is a common concern that a girl must be married off before she loses her virginity in an un-honorable way. Specialists link early marriage with the societal behaviors that dominate and control the sexual life of women. Proverbs in the Yemeni tradition confirm this speculation. For example, the proverb, “Bint al-Thaman Al-yaiha al-Dhaman,” means “The girl of eight is guaranteed,” in terms of virginity and no experience with men.

Early marriage is said to affect the young mother physically and emotionally, causing her to lag behind in her personal and career development and feel insecure in her marriage. It is also said to violate the girl's right to formal education because in most real life cases, the girl drops out of school once married.

In addition, there is the effect on her general and reproductive health. Medical studies show a strong correlation between early marriage and mother and infant mortality, difficult and prolonged labor, under weight newborns, malnutrition, stunted child growth, neurological diseases, and increased susceptibility to infection.

According to the Child Rights Convention that Yemen had ratified, Articles 24, 28 and 34 ensure the right to education, good health, and prevention of sexual exploitation of the child.

Advocacy and Support

The Yemeni network combating violence against women, known as SHIMA, last year launched the first awareness campaign against early marriage in cooperation with the Yemeni Women's Union and other civil society organizations. The campaign, backed by doctors, psychologists, lawyers, and religious scholars aims at creating increasing support for the dissolution of early marriages and mobilizing the community to raise the age of marriage for boys and girls. The network advocates for a minimum marriage age of



She got married when she was 13 years old. now she is a mother to a three-years-old child.

18 for both males and females. Religious men in the group state that delaying the age of marriage is not against the principles of Islam so long as it is in the best interest of the youth and the society at large.

In their recent meeting at the end of last month, SHIMA devised a strategy and advocacy plan targeting members of Parliament in order to amend Article 15 of the Personal Status Law which concerns marriage yet does not define a minimum age for marriage. The network hopes to pressure the Parliament to adopt 18 as a minimum age for marriage for both males and females, along with implementing a serious monitoring mechanism to insure compliance with the marital age requirement.

Lawyers advocating for the enactment of such an amendment argue that current laws contradict Article 23 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, Article Two of the

Child Rights Convention, and Article 16 of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This is keeping in mind that Yemen was one of the first countries to ratify all international conventions mentioned above.

People's Reactions

Before SHIMA launched their campaign, heated debates took place as to what is the expected reaction from the society and whether there will be campaigns of opposition promoting early marriage especially in conservative areas.

A father of five girls from Sana'a commented that he believes early marriage is a dangerous practice and is triggered by lack of education and religious misconceptions. He argued that 20 is the best age for marriage for both boys and girls.

In contrast, a religious preacher

argued the opposite. He endorsed his argument for early marriage through the example of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, who married Aa'ishah when she was nine years old. When reminded that Prophet Mohammad also married Khadijah when she was 40 years old, he brushed the topic off.

Regardless of what people think, especially the fathers, those who matter the most are the children, male and female.

Rania looked with envy from her window at the children of her age playing in the street, glancing every now and then at her newborn sleeping beside her. One day, not so long ago she was one of those children giggling so happily and today here she is, wounded body and burdened spirit with a responsibility way beyond her years.

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6. The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax.
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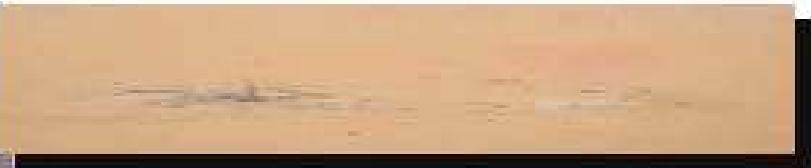
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- self initiate and complete routine assignments, while assisting the Senior Drilling Engineer in broader and more complex assignments;
- demonstrate competence and develop proficiency in the technical aspects of drilling engineering;
- understand the economic impact of technical and business decisions;
- interface with multiple groups and disciplines;
- assist in coordinating field personnel and contractors related to specific projects covering cost-effective and efficient performance;
- help ensure that operations are run in a safe and environmentally sound manner;
- maintain effective communication throughout the department and with internal clients covering coordination within the Company;
- Participate in the development of short and long term departmental objectives compatible with and supportive of overall Company goals and objectives;
- Develop high standards of technical competence in drilling engineering, keeping abreast of new trends, techniques and technology in drilling engineering and drilling operations;
- Work closely with contractors covering efficient performance and expenditure control;
- Keep the Senior Drilling Engineer, Drilling Manager and other key personnel informed of relevant conditions and activities that may impact on the operations of the drilling department;
- From time to time, visit well site to witness critical operations deemed important by the Drilling Engineer in developing drilling engineer's technical skills and knowledge.

Minimum requirements:

- B.Sc. degree in Engineering Discipline;
- Experience 2 - 3 years;
- The Drilling Engineer will be an organized, disciplined individual and have a reputation for integrity, industry and sound judgment;
- with well developed written and verbal communication skills, able clearly and concisely present ideas, and contribute solutions to technical and operational problems, increase performance and assist in decision making that will add value for the Company;
- Fluent in English

Senior Operations Geologists

Job Duties:

- Close between Upstream & Operations teams at all stages of drilling projects, from planning through to post well;
- Assist in geological planning of drilling projects & preparation of pre-drill documents;
- Supervision & coordination of all aspects of realistic geological operation to ensure well objectives are clearly met;
- Manage & provide support to Well site Geologist, including quick look interpretation of geological & formation evaluation data;
- Provide input for tendering & contracts preparation, if required, with a focus on formation evaluation services (eg. LWD & wire line logging, mudlogging, core analysis, sample analysis etc.);
- Work with & coordinate geological formation evaluation contractors, in discussion with rest of the Operations Team, including service call-out, invoice checking & service quality reviews etc. as required;
- Responsible for receiving & handling all geological well data logs & reports; responsible for their distribution to Downstream, Wellloggers, Welltest & Automation;
- Preparation & delivery of G&G part of Final Well Report (includes Composite Log) & Welltest Report;
- Preparation of ITDs for exploration and development wells;
- Asset in Peer Review & Lessons learnt meetings for drilling projects in Yemen & elsewhere, as required;
- Implement Company standards in Geological Operations, with support from & reference to the Operations, Geology department in the Well Engineering group in Vienna (EOP-WE/GC);
- Supervision and training/mentoring junior geoscientist

Minimum requirements:

- University degree in geosciences;
- More than 10 years relevant industry experience, with Mudlogging or Welltest Geology experience, with at least 4 years in an Operations Geology role, preferably with independent operation;
- Proven record in exploration/development drilling and well evaluation;
- Preferably with practical experience of wells in a variety of environments & geological settings;
- Familiarity in supervising Wellsite Geologists & all geological formation evaluation contractors;
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- Fluent in English;
- Location: Saudi

Senior Geologist

Job Duties:

- Project generation and technical support in exploration, appraisal and development stages;
- Well analysis and completions;
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- Strong team player, self motivated & ability to work independently;
- Fluent in English;
- Location: Saudi

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Words of Wisdom



One of the major changes needed in the reform process is to establish some degree of accountability. To weed out the bad elements is an important step, not only for the system to regain credibility and prestige, but also to help speed up the development process.

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

OUR
OPINION

Beyond politics

I have read a recent news article on the disabilities in Lahj, which is a small town in South Yemen; around 40 minutes drive from Aden. Last week, Rada Barnen Save the Children - Sweden funded training, which comes after a survey conducted in the governorate covering 21 areas and including 386 families, for mothers of disabled children.

According to the news report, the survey, which included children suffering from chronic diseases such as leukaemia, Haemophilia, kidney failure, cardiac problems...etc, concluded that there are 625 cases of disabilities found in the surveyed area.

In 386 families, 625 disability cases were found. Can you imagine the gravity of this number? This means every family had at least one case of disability on average.

I can't confirm the accuracy of these numbers, but unless the percentage of error is more than 70%, which is still scary.

The director of the special needs association in Lahj, who conducted the survey, commented on the difficulties his team had when collecting the data. He also indicated that in addition to the scattered villages they had to cover, many of the families were hardly educated and were suspicious of the survey and its team. Further, he pointed out that some families refused to cooperate with the researchers. "They refused to tell us the number of children in the family, fearing the results would yield a negative impact on their families," he commented.

Amusingly, the team not only had a hard time with the remote areas, the heat, the families, but also with the stray dogs which had given the researchers the fright of their lives.

Children are our future. With such a high percentage of disability this future is harmed. Many of the reasons behind disabilities have to do with education and healthcare provision.

Taking care of our children is much more important than the political disputes and the political party conflicts that take up the news every day.

More than one disabled child per family in Lahj is something that should not be taken lightly. It is a problem that should be dealt with immediately and on the highest level. For the sake of our children, for the sake of our future.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

The real democrats

It is easy for one to say that any democracy cannot develop or prosper unless there are real democrats. The real democrats are those who attempt to establish a community where members enjoy equal basic rights accrued to human beings. These democrats perceive that rights have something to do with the sufficient responsibilities.

The real democrats are those who differentiate between democracy and chaos. They sacrifice what they have for the sake of democracy to develop and prosper but never exploit or use democracy for their personal interests. They work hard for serving their nation without any distinction between nationals in terms of religion, race, color, sect, ethnic, tribe, or area, and their noble goal is that all Yemenis lead good and safe life.

On the other hand, the unreal democrats don't make any distinction between the national and personal interests and never fell ashamed deceiving their country due to their malice and animosity toward the regime. They use the democratic slogans in order to obtain material or political gains.

The unreal democrats are those who have a strong desire to

monopolize power and eliminate others from any government posts. They don't feel ashamed when spreading fabricated rumors that pay harm to the nation and never accept to sacrifice anything in favor of their homeland. They only lag after their personal interests and gains.

The unreal democrats don't accept any equality between people in basic rights such as suffrage (the right to vote) or the right to nominate themselves even within their political parties and organizations under the pretext that there is a difference in religion, race or area. When these people exercise their electoral right, they do so according to previously made lists. If the democratic practices contradict their personal interests, they don't hesitate to machinate a



By: Prof. Saif Al-Asali

coup against these practices. Speeches of the in authentic democrats tend to magnify the characteristics of regionalism, tribalism, and racism at the expense of the national interests and the human values. We find that their behavior implies partiality toward certain areas or tribes without any clear reason or justification.

The unreal democrats work on creating situations of conflicts and human right abuses and insinuate the marginalized social groups by saying they should enjoy their rights more than any other groups. No doubt that this leads to contradiction of human rights. This kind of people works on emptying the electoral process from its most important contents. This means they plan to weaken transparency and accountability via defending their bystanders even if they are corrupt. No doubt that this helps corruption to spread rampantly.

The unreal democrats tend to ignore any success the government is expected to reach and concentrate on the negative aspects of the government performance. They did so in order to make the democratic practices futile. They don't save any effort for posing barriers to the economic development. So, the real

democrats should confront such ill-mannered people via expanding the scope of democratic practices. Care for dealing with the unreal democrats, according to democracy, is due to expose that they only exercise prejudice or claim something, which doesn't exist.

The real democrats are needed to expend sincere efforts to enhance the basic human rights in the community and encourage members of the community to abide by these rights. They should continue building and developing the institutions, which are able to protect and defend these rights as well as to help people enjoy their rights equally. They are also needed to confront and fight corruption toughly and firmly.

The real democrats are required to review the form and content of school curricula. This is essential in order to confront any forces supporting discrimination between races, genders, and social layers, as a result of the bad habits. This type of democrats is needed to enliven the mental and logical thinking that aims to establish equality among all people in having equal access to human rights. They are expected to work on changing some harmful social behaviors, as well as to clarify, to people, the bad

consequences of discrimination even on the family. Parents have to cease the practice of discrimination between their children under any circumstances.

We expect the real democrats to drop out any justifications of discrimination between natives on grounds of heritage tales and other sources that were haughtily dealing with discrimination. These democrats should achieve all these things via the process of updating public culture, theater, books, radio and T.V. broadcast and other means that help replace marks of discrimination by the principles of equality in enjoying basic human rights.

The real democrats of Yemen are advised to utilize the limitless support they receive from the political leadership. This is a fact, and not an allegation, as President Ali Abdullah Saleh is the first one who fights regionalism, racism, and sectarianism. He deals with his proponents and opponents on the basis of the national interest. He is a real democrat by all means, and this is why we should not be concerned about democracy in Yemen, as the fake democrats will be exposed and Yemen will remain for Yemenis.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

No for killing innocent tourists

By: Ahmad Othman

I felt sad, disparate, and frustrated when I heard of Marib's car bomb blast, which killed seven Spanish tourists and two Yemenis. The victims were not killed or injured in a brutal manner without committing any sin, nor did they expect that this would be their fate in the country of belief and wisdom, which they were happily and safely visiting.

Most of the victims were aged men and women, who came to Yemen with the intent of overcoming despair of the time being and compensate for fatigue and weary of the old age. They came to take a nice and clean breath, visit Yemen's historic and ancient sites and return to their families and children safely with good impression about the Arab country. They had been planning to return home and tell their children,

relatives, and beloved ones about the unique history of Yemen and the hospitality of Yemenis.

The victims might bear in their minds the idea of recommending their own government not to join Bush-led barbaric wars against Muslims and Arabs, as well as not be like other European countries that follow the American plans, which create strong hatred between them and Arabs. The Spanish government did something in favor of Arabs and Muslims as it pulled out its peacekeeping troops from Iraq, thanks to pressure its people exercised on it to stop contributing peacekeepers to Bush's dilemma in the Mesopotamia.

The innocent tourists visited our country as guests from the official entrance in order for Yemen's tourism agencies and vehicles owners to benefit from their visit. Their coming to Yemen was expected to help create many job opportunities for some of the unemployed. They haven't come to Yemen with fighter jets or destructive rockets, contrarily to the U.S. military bases positioned in our homeland to attack Arabs and Muslims. Why did those innocent Europeans become a random target for those who blindly claim to be brave whenever they are merely cowards and wrongdoers?

Those coward people allege that they launch such offensives in order to horrify Israel whereas the Zionist

state benefits from such acts of vandalism by shaping a bad impression and image of Muslims.

This kind of vandalism against the innocent tourists, irrespective of their citizenships, ideologies or religious affiliations, is a strong and additional support for the new conservatives. It will also help raise Bush's popularity that went through various crises over his invasion of Iraq. This behavior harms the reputation of Arab governments, which never feel concerned about the killing of innocent civilians.

The Arab states seem to benefit from catastrophes and exploit their territories to demonstrate much totalitarianism, oppression and corruption, and restrict freedom of the press.

The Spanish people took to streets of main cities in a single demonstration, which overthrew the existing government and replaced it by a new one in favor of Iraq and against the US-led invasion of the Arab country. On the contrary, thousand blind terrorist operations of this kind failed to make any change in consecutive oppressive and totalitarian Arab regimes. It is the people who suffer the harmful consequences of wars on the Muslim and non-Muslim nations, particularly those who fled their homelands and sought asylum in western countries.

It is impossible, if not difficult, for anyone to find any religious, national, or human justification for such terrorist attacks. The issue raises several questions about the influential parties and those who stand behind or support such barbaric acts that are merely in favor of Bush, Blair, and their policies, which trigger animosity toward Arabs and Muslims.

Source: Al-Sahwa Weekly

SILVER LINING

When Academic Institutions Exercise Hypocrisy

Ibb University dismissed some students because they did not take part in the festivals of the unification 17th anniversary. After media reports on such a scandal, the university decided to halt such a decision. But, the students were denied some scores which were given to those who took part in the event. What a shame? I do not think such standards are found anywhere in the world. Scores are given on the basis of academic performance and competence rather than taking part in activities which have nothing to do with the university.

To add insult into injury, the universities of Tamar and Taiz competed last week to run workshops on the "thought" of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, celebrating the 17th July anniversary, the day in which Saleh came to power. I felt very sad when I read in newspapers and websites about such events. Do you know why? I do not object that people pay homage to Saleh for what he did to his country. I do not deny that he is a shrewd politician who did good things for his people and failed to do many others. My objection is that Saleh is not a philosopher or thinker or theorist whose philosophy or thought should be debated in workshops where research papers are presented. They could have put it the other way around and discussed the situation of Yemen during Saleh's reign.

I understand the organizers of such events are nothing but hypocrites; they know themselves that Saleh has not produced an ideology that can be subject to argumentations and debates. I guess even the president will look down upon them and feels they are insincere and their main goal is to strike his ego and exercise lip service and nothing more.

There are other more issues which need such exercise. Taiz, for instance, is facing a lot of problems due to some diseases like typhoid. Taiz University could have channeled such resources and efforts to organize a workshop on typhoid, trying to serve the community outside its campus. I was in Taiz last week and heard horrible stories about typhoid and many other ailments Taiz people are going through. Taiz is terribly thirsty and its streets badly need to be cleaned; its hospitals need to be taken care of. Similarly, Tamar University could have done the same and debated serious issues of concern to the ordinary citizens. It is this way such academic institutions be of service to the people rather turning into hypocrites. Don't you think so?!

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



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi



By: Samer

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More efforts should be exerted Maternal Health: Multi-angled issue

By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Ali
For Yemen Times

In light of World Population Day, which concentrates this year on maternal health and the necessity of men's partnership in matters related to women's health, further attention should be paid to a number of measures, which if followed will ensure maternal health, particularly during pregnancy and delivery. The high rate of maternal mortality (death of women while pregnant or within 42 days after termination of pregnancy), particularly in developing countries, has made this phenomenon of global concern. In Yemen, over 360 out of 100,000 women die as a result of pregnancy and delivery complications, according to recent studies.

Antenatal Care (ANC) means "care before birth" and includes education, screening, counseling and treatment to monitor and promote the wellbeing of the mother and fetus. Adequate antenatal care is vital for the delivery of a healthy baby from a healthy mother. The aims of ANC include assessment and treatment of potential maternal risks as well as detecting dangerous symptoms like vaginal bleeding, headache, leakage of fluid from vagina, urinary tract infection and other infections. The increase of blood pressure during pregnancy is also dangerous and requires consultation and monitoring by doctors.

In addition, assessment and management of the fetus is of vital importance to ensure the well-being of both the fetus and the mother. This helps avoid any life-threatening complications that may

Yemen, lead to low birth weight, preterm labor, and increased risk of complications even after delivery. Malpresentation and position of a fetus may also lead to the obstruction of labor. In addition, some infections during pregnancy lead to congenital abnormalities, such as German measles, and may cause abortion.

Schedule of routine antenatal visits

Women should schedule at least four visits to antenatal clinics during every pregnancy, but may need to schedule more according to the condition of the mother. The first visit should occur as soon as the pregnancy is diagnosed, the second visit in the 6th month of pregnancy, the third visit in the 8th month of pregnancy and the last visit during the 9th month of pregnancy. However, if a woman experiences hypertension (increase in blood pressure) or anemia, she should visit the doctor more regularly, especially during the 8th month of pregnancy.

General advice to pregnant women

1. Advice on danger signs: Pregnant women are advised to go to their local hospital or health centre immediately, day or night, WITHOUT waiting if signs such as vaginal bleeding, convulsions, severe headaches with blurred vision, fever, weakness and inability to get out of bed, rapid or difficult breathing occur. In addition, pregnant women should go to the health centre as soon as possible if any signs of fever, abdominal pain, feeling of illness, or swelling of fingers, face or legs occur.

2. Diet during pregnancy: Pregnant women differ in required amount of nutrients. However, expectant mothers need more than 2500 calories in general per day. In fact, pregnant women need 15% around (300-500 cal) more per day than non-pregnant women. Keep in mind that the most important thing is the quality - not the quantity - of diet. For example, more proteins are needed with 2g of protein per every kg of body weight daily. So, if the mother's bodyweight is 70kg, then she needs 140g of protein daily.

Fat should be restricted

Also, pregnant women need about 5000 international units of vitamin A daily.

Vitamin B is essential because its deficiency may cause vomiting of the pregnant woman. Folic acid deficiency may lead to anemia and is therefore essential for pregnant women and fetal growth, with about 0.5 g recommended daily. In addition, lack of Vitamin C may lead to post delivery bleeding. Vitamin C is found in a lot of fruits and should be consumed daily.

All vitamins can be consumed through vegetables and fruits and there is no need for medication, except in the case of iron and folic acid, which should be taken in the form of tablets. Iron also should be supplemented by medication because the daily requirement of iron cannot be supplied by normal diet. It is very important for the fetus and mother.

Calcium is also necessary because pregnant women need more calcium than normal. One liter of milk daily is necessary for pregnant women (equal to 1.2 g of calcium daily). Deficiency of calcium leads to bone fragility in the mother, manifested as pelvic and back pain, which is a common complaint of pregnant women.

Pregnant women must avoid bad habits such as smoking, which increases the risk of abortion, preterm labor, and growth restriction of fetus in addition to affecting other aspects of a child's physical and mental development. Consumption of coffee, tea and chocolate should be minimized during pregnancy and sleep should be 8 hours at night and 2 hours rest during the afternoon.

Sexual intercourse should be avoided only if there is risk of abortion or preterm labor and clothing should be loose.

To conclude, the only way to decrease the high maternal mortality rate in our country is through effective antenatal care and proper health services for pregnant women. Antenatal care and education should be integrated and not separated in order to raise awareness among all people, men and women, about the importance of following proper medical procedures and precautions. Increasing focus on prenatal diagnosis and seeking the "perfect child" should not detract from the joys of pregnancy. There is a need to continually update and improve our current method of antenatal care. The move towards a more educational approach to antenatal care should be based on sound scientific evidence.



At an advanced stage during pregnancy, a fetus may become capable of feeling pain. This is why it is important to take of the mother's mental and physical health for the wellbeing of the child.

This high number of death among pregnant women in our country indicates the extent of poor health services and lack of antenatal and primary healthcare among pregnant women. In addition, lack of health education, exceeding rates of low income amongst Yemeni citizens, absence of free health care within public hospitals and the high cost of health services in private hospitals has exacerbated the problem.

With this revelation, it should be confirmed that antenatal care is the only way to reduce and prevent maternal mortality. It is also considered an important issue towards which men can play a major role, as they have the required privileges educationally, socially and politically and, hence, can contribute real progress to one of the most serious issues that concern women.

occur before and after delivery.

To achieve these objectives, medical history and clinical examination using a combination of methods including biological and hematological tests as well as ultrasound diagnosis are needed to maintain maternal physical and mental wellbeing, prevent preterm delivery, anticipate difficulties and complications upon delivery, ensure the birth of a healthy infant and assist the couple in preparation for parenting.

Regular doctors visits are a significant factor in detecting, controlling and preventing many diseases, such as preeclampsia (increased blood pressure and collection of fluid due to excretion of protein in urine). If not treated, this disease may lead to death.

Malnutrition and anemia of pregnant women, two conditions prevalent in

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Appeal

Hazem Abdullah Ali Hazem, a young boy, suffers from cerebral palsy, which has caused him severe disability. According to the medical report issued from Taliban Medical Hospital (27-9-2006), Hazeem needs extensive physical therapy for eight months at the cost of \$7500. His family appeals charitable people to assist him in being able to gain access to the proper medication and therapy needed for his recovery.



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“Flies know no border”

By: Hadas Kroitoru
The Media Line Ltd.

Jordanian citrus farmer Faridoun Naimi doesn't recommend getting into the agriculture business. His 50-acre orchard is not exactly the most fruitful venture, requiring more work to sustain than oranges it provides, he says. Of the many challenges Faridoun faces, one of the most devastating is barley the size of his finger nail.

When it comes to agriculture, the Mediterranean fruit fly, or Medfly, is more than just a nuisance; it is one of the world's most destructive insects.

If not controlled, the flying pest can attack and ravage over 300 varieties of fruits and vegetables. Farmers in the Middle East have generally relied on chemical pesticides to protect their crops from the fly, but international markets are increasingly applying stricter regulations on fruit and vegetable imports. This means Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian farmers must insure their produce is almost entirely chemical-free if they hope to compete in the lucrative markets of the U.S., Europe and Japan.

While pesticides assure the fruit from Naimi's orchard in North Shuneh is fly-free, his use of a chemical pest control system means distribution is limited to the local market. It also means his citrus is more likely to produce health and environmental risks.

Meanwhile, south of Naimi's orchard in Ghor Safi, Zuhair Jweihan grows citrus fruits and vegetables on 370 acres of his families land in the southern Jordan Valley. Jweihan says that almost 100 percent of his crops are free of the Medfly, but more importantly, his citrus is pesticide-free as well.

Jweihan's crops and those of countless other farmers in the southern Arava Valley of Israel and Jordan are being protected through a trans-border cooperative venture called the Arava Medfly Eradication Program (AMEP).

The program has harnessed the expertise of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the tools of nuclear science to use an environmentally-friendly form of pest-control known as the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT).

The program's main line of defense: a specially bred, sterile male medfly that serves as a form of biological birth control.

Millions of male-only modified Medflies are released throughout the region each week, produced at the mass-rearing facility of Israeli company Bio-Fly in the Beit She'an Valley at Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu. The flies are bred, says IAEA public information representative Kirstie Hansen, to “crave sex.” Their main ambition: to mate. Their efforts in the wild, however, do not produce offspring, avoiding the “next generation” of fruit flies and reducing the overall population.

“It is an alternative control method for the pests – an alternative to chemical waste,” says Inbar Shouster-Dagan, the professional manager at Bio-Fly, who specializes in mass-rearing techniques of the Vienna8 strand of the flies. The strand was developed and bred in the Vienna labs of IAEA, the institution sponsoring the program with support from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The Israeli and Jordanian Ministries of Agriculture have spent the last 10 years working with AMEP to rid the region of the Medfly. SIT Flies were originally bred and shipped to the region from Guatemala, but Bio-Fly, the only commercial fly-production company in the Middle East, was established by Israeli mother company Bio-Bee at the beginning of 2006, in order to localize fly production and streamline the process.

Every week, about 20 million sterile male flies are produced at the facility and about 18 million are released in the Arava Valley by hand or by plane, says

Shouster-Dagan. While aircraft are generally prohibited from flying in the restricted military air space dominating the Valley region, an exception has been made for the small Israeli plane that drops the millions of buzzing beasts into the agricultural land of Israel and Jordan below.

Thousands more flies are transferred from the Bio-Fly facility, across the border, through a military checkpoint, and into the hands of Jordanian program representatives, to be released in the fields and orchards of local farmers.

The program's success is visible in the agricultural settlements of the Arava Valley, between the Dead and Red Sea in southern Israel, where since fly release began in 1998, local farmers have been able to export 10-25% of their fruits and vegetables to the United States, according to Israeli farmer and former AMEP R&D head Ezra Ravins. This is compared to zero percent before AMEP helped qualify the Arava Valley as a Medfly-free zone, he says.

“On the Israeli side, there is no question as to the benefits,” says Ravins.

“It has had a very significant impact. It has allowed us to export peppers, eggplants [and] tomatoes to the states. Without the project, we couldn't do it,” says Dr. Eldad Landes, director of Plant Protection and Inspection Services at the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture.

According to IAEA Mideast MedFly Program Management Officer, Jean Pierre Cayol, compared to the \$700,000 worth in vegetable exports in 1998-99, last year Israel's Arava Valley produced \$150 million in vegetable exports, mostly bell peppers and tomatoes. It is a combination of SIT, insect-proof greenhouses and other pest control methods that insure commodities are fly-free, says Cayol, making them ripe for export to the U.S.

Today, AMEP representatives are hoping the program will allow Israeli farmers to break into the highly restrictive Japanese market. Landes says they are also planning to extend the program to cover northern Israel, Ramat Hanadiv, Ein Habesor, and Beit Jaan by early 2008.

“In the future we want to cover all of Israel and the region with the flies,” says Bio-Fly Director Dael Levy.

Across the border into the fields and orchards of southern Jordan, from Aqaba city to Mazra'a, implementation of the program has allowed local farmers to protect their crops, decrease pesticide-use, and expand their export opportunities, as in the case of Zuhair Jweihan, who just two months ago received a EurepGAP certificate, confirming his Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Jweihan also exports his fruits and vegetables to Lebanon, Syria and the Gulf States.

“I think the challenges Jordanian farmers face is in marketing their produce to new demanding markets, says Jordan's MedFly project coordinator Mary Bahdousheh, head of pest control at the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture. “They have high quality produce and what they lack is high-price markets.”

When flies were released in Jordan six years ago, Cayol says the losses incurred from Medfly, which were destroying up to 50% of crops, were decreased immediately. Today, less than 1% of fruits and vegetables are infested, says Bahdousheh. The plan will soon be extended to include the northern region of Jordan, from Rayan to North Shuneh, where Naimi is hoping his citrus orchard will receive a badly needed boost.

Into the Gaza Strip and West Bank, the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture hopes that its farmers too will soon be able to fully participate in the alliance to fight the medfly. Three-hundred thousand dollars in bulk orders for the sterile medfly have already been placed, but the campaign has been postponed due to political circumstances.

“It is a pity,” says Dael Levy, explaining that when Hamas took power in the Palestinian territories, official coopera-

tion was terminated.

In the mean time, with assistance from the IAEA and FAO, the PA is using other methods to fight the medfly.

General Director of Plant Protection and Species Services of the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, Zakaria Omran, says that in the Gaza Strip, a low-toxic bait spray is being used to fight the medfly in citrus and guava orchards. In addition, over 500 pheromone traps have been set in the area in order to monitor the fly.

Results of local efforts have been good, he says, with the infestation rate of local crops at less than 1%.

In terms of plant protection, Omran says Israel and the Palestinian Authority have very good relations – “we are friends,” he says. Yet the problem of getting those modified Medflies over the border does not lie in his hands.

“It is political,” he says. “We can't do anything.”

“Israel and Jordan can not succeed without cooperation from us,” he says, noting that if Medfly infestation is not addressed in Gaza and the West Bank, it will likely spread.

“Flies know no border,” he says.

Palestinian citrus farmer and head of the Palestinian Agricultural Engineers Union, Muhammad Munzir A-Rais, agrees.



If not controlled, the flying pest can destroy over 300 varieties of fruits and vegetables.

“Insects know no boundaries,” he says, noting the many other indirect losses felt by Palestinian farmers as a result of the security situation.

“Because of the closures, pesticides don't arrive at the Gaza Strip on a regular basis,” Merchandise also takes a long time to reach markets because of checkpoints, and sometimes doesn't make it at all, he says.

With all the negative aspects of the political situation, sharing the technology of SIT was one potential positive advantage, A-Rais says. He blames Israel for not implementing the program in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

“The problems are political. It saddens me very much that the Israeli side until now does not understand the reality,” he

says. AMEP is an area-wide control project for a reason, and indeed, results are much better when flies are released throughout the entire region in large numbers.

“We are concerned [the flies will cross the border]. We will find a solution to cope with this though, because, really, the farmers need this. The crops will be damaged without it. They know it and we know it,” says Landes.

Despite the political situation, all sides of the program are looking forward to continued cooperation on the agricultural initiative, which has already helped build trust between the parties through its joint conferences, meetings and visits by Jordanian farmers to Israel.

In fact, representatives close to the

project say SIT is nuclear technology that can be used for peace, in a region where the two concepts together seem nothing more than counterintuitive.

“[Cooperation] has been one of the biggest successes of this project. We know the technology works. So the major bottleneck at the beginning was to work through the political differences, says Cayol.

“We have Jordanian farmers for the first time in their lives going to Israel to talk to farmers... At the level of farmers in the field, this has made a difference – enhancing their respect, and overcoming their beliefs that they are enemies.

“All the type of cooperation you don't see in the newspapers – that's happening here every day.”

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جهاز تلفاز بلازما من باناسونيك ٤٢ بوصة

جهاز تلفاز بلازما من باناسونيك ٤٢ بوصة

السحب الكبير في ٣٠ أغسطس ٢٠٠٧

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هناك أجهزة تلفاز ملونة، خلاطات/مضاربات، مكواة، مساللات، كاميرات تصوير رقمية، مسجلات وأجهزة تسجيل ومشغلات راديو، أجهزة فيديو، أقلام وقصاصات، كاميرات رقمية، كل ذلك بالإضافة إلى أجهزة داخل قسائم إمسح واربح بالإضافة إلى المفاجآت الكبيرة الرائعة جهاز تلفاز باناسونيك بلازما ٤٢ بوصة إذا بدأ بتدوين ما تمنى الحصول عليه وسارح إلى أقرب معرض باناسونيك. يسري هذا العرض من ١ يوليو ٢٠٠٧ وحتى ٣٠ أغسطس ٢٠٠٧، أو حتى نفاد الكمية.

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A message to violent men: "Beware what's on her mind!"

By: Nisreen Shadad & Mariam al-Yemeni

The culture of violence affects people's behavior and way of life, as well as their thoughts and ideas. More importantly, the concept of violence sometimes is considered synonymous with strength. Therefore, people enforce such culture in their homes, streets and schools. In this article, we discuss the violent behavioral patterns that take place within homes, particularly violence practiced against women.

Many Yemeni women are subjected to physical as well as psychological violence. The only outlet they have to release their pain is through enacting revenge against their attackers and maintaining mental control of them. Such acts are distant from the minds of women who are not subjected to violence.

Umm Ahmed, a second wife, was mixing the hilba, a Yemeni traditional food, one day when suddenly she started to mix it at a very fast and abnormal speed. The first wife of her husband asked her the reasoning behind the sudden change, to which she happily replied that she was imagining her husband inside the mixture. "I hope I could do it in reality and see him suffer as he does when he beats me without reason," Umm Ahmed described. Such feelings and behavior increase when her husband makes her angry or beats her.

Aisha Ali, a student in grade eleven said, "My brother beats me, even if I did a simple mistake. I'd like to have the power to stop him from beating me, but he is stronger than me." She added, "Sometimes when I knead the dough, I imagine he is inside to feel I have the power over him and can knead him."

A level-four, university student who preferred not to reveal her name said, "The first image that comes to my mind is slapping the man. I hate them when they are showing off and feel they are stronger than the woman. They like to dominate everything. I do not have a problem if the man dominates, but most importantly the ways they use to control."

Dhya'a Fadhil, a psychologist, said, "When the woman is thinking such thoughts, it means that she is subjected to violence. Since she cannot defend herself, her interior mind starts to think of what she hopes to do; to defend herself."

According to Fadhil, some women don't think in such a way, as they were raised to believe that a man has the right to dominate and beat a woman. "All men I have seen enforced the idea that they are merciless and selfish. My father beats my mother. He traveled now to Saudi Arabia to work, but he



does not support us. I hoped my brothers when they got older may feel the oppression we live in and help us, however they unfortunately have gotten one lesson: manhood is to control the woman and beat her," she added.

Umm Muhammad Hamla, a housewife, complained that her husband is not merciful and always shouts. She shared, "The only time my husband told me he is so grateful because I stand with him and I was so patient with him when he wanted to marry another wife. His excuses were to give me rest." Hamla's husband has a very strong personality. He does not accept any comments or critiques about his behavior. "I can not tell him that he is wrong, so I dream sometimes to strangle him," Hamla added.

Ayda al-Radaee, another psychologist said, "These thoughts are a means of releasing the feelings of anger that cannot be applied in reality." Umm Sahar, a housewife, found another way to soothe her anger. She beats her children, as they are the only things she feels she has power over. She added, "Whenever he [her husband] is insulting me, I insult him indirectly...I insult my children's

father." Some women even commented that if a man were to beat them, they could not imagine beating or killing him, because problems will increase. Fatima Ali, a housewife, said she just stays silent, rather than "introducing the mater to him and showing him his

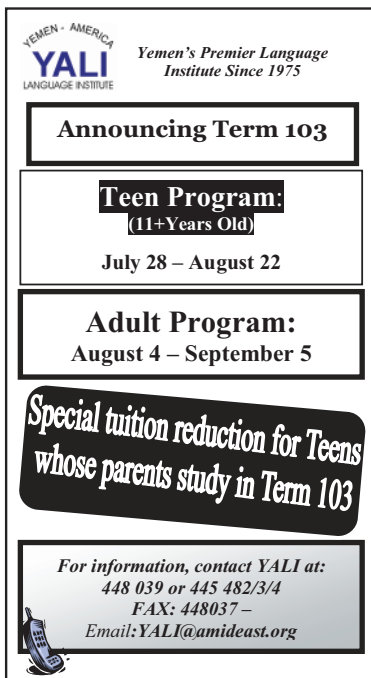
mistakes."

For women who have been spared such treatment by their male family members, the existence of such violent thoughts among their female peers surprises them. Hamm Abdu, a housewife, would never think of beating any of her male relatives. She stated, "My husband, my brothers and my father love me so much, and I love them too. They are merciful; therefore such thoughts can never come to my mind."

Zaynab al-Mua'ad, an English teacher at the Britain Institute, has no violent thoughts. She belittles "such men and such behaviors."

Abdul Rahman Barman, a lawyer said, "The reasons behind these thoughts are because the woman is so sensitive, and a very simple thing can hurt her. The second reason is when the woman is beaten she cannot retaliate, therefore she finds thoughts the best way to take revenge. Sometimes, these thoughts are transferred into actions."

Linda, another lawyer, said there are many women who have adopted the belief that the man is better than her. He has the right to beat her, but she never has the right to complain. She is the servant at home. If any one of her brothers command her with something, she is supposed to obey no matter what. Linda shared, "I know a father who said to his daughter, 'you are just a chair in this house, we can move it as we want.'" She added that a woman placed in this position feels a sense of destruction and her dignity is ruined. Her violent thoughts are merely an expression of her violent circumstances.



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