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Negligent husbands, captive wives



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Diazepam use increases among youth, statistics revealed

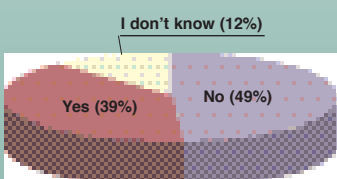


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'Butterflies Batch' innovates unique style of painting on glass

## Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think the international community and donors would react firmly to the abuse against activists on Wednesday?



This edition's question:

Since the cause of AIDS for Mohammad (page 3) was a faulty apparatus, do you think there are other unsuspecting HIV positive patients?

- Yes  
- No  
- I don't know

Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/poll](http://yementimes.com/poll) and have your voice heard

## Secondary education between strategy and implementation

The National Secondary Education Conference concluded with approval of the National General Secondary Education Strategy for 2007-2015, postponing the diversification structure of GSE to 2008, and limiting employment to teachers graduating from Education Schools.

By: Rasha Jarhum  
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 21 — The Ministry of Education in coordination with the World Bank organized a three-day National Conference for Secondary Education, under the slogan "Developing Secondary Education in Accordance to Strategy Ensures a Better Future." The conference was held to discuss the draft of the National Strategy of Secondary Education and other working papers such as secondary education and its relation to the labour market and to technical education and vocational training, as well as, to discuss a proposed conception for the structure of secondary education.

The opening ceremony was attended by his Excellency the Prime Minister, Dr Ali Mugawar, as well as, his Excellency Dr Abdulsalam Al Jawfy, Minister of Education. The conference was also attended by participants representing former ministers, donors, civil society, and different education institutions. The conference had an



A school in Jowal Madram Lahj governorate where the students studied outside in the trees because of lack of sufficient classrooms.

attendance exceeding the expected numbers to reach more than 550 participants.

Mugawar stated that the national strategy for Secondary Education is designed to address the imbalances of quantity and quality that constituted a problem in the secondary education during the last period, aiming to improving the quality and raising sci-

entific capacity. He urged the participants to discuss how to make secondary education flexible and responsive to the needs of learners. He also emphasized on the importance to promote decentralisation by encouraging the different educational departments and schools at different levels to participate in the decision-making process.

Continued on page 3

## Opposition promises surprises in 2009 elections

While looked on with suspicion by the government, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) are re-gathering their forces in order to strike back in the next parliamentary elections taking place in 2009.

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, July 22 — Early preparation for the April 2009 parliamentary elections have begun, with the launch of media campaigns in Taiz, Yemen's most populous governorate. Last week, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) organized a seminar on political dialogue in which it attacked policies of the current ruling party, accusing the party of stalling in the implementation of promised political reforms as well as leading Yemen into a desperate economic, social and political situation. The JMP demanded that the government seriously tackle the reforms before the official launch of the parliamentary elections campaign.

Mohammad Qahtan, member of the supreme committee of the Islah opposition party considered the coming elections in 2009 as a "bridge for Yemen to the future, and a turning point in the political process." He commented that the competition will not be easy and that the opposition are taking their task seriously in order to "shake the presidential chair."

Mohammad Al-Sabri, JMP spokesper-

son, confirmed the party's commitment to creating holistic political reform through peaceful and organized means, including dialogue. He pointed out that there are many obstacles to the implementation of reformative mechanisms, especially being that those currently in authority do not accept the concept of sharing national responsibility and affiliate patriotism exclusively to the ruling party, the General People's Congress (GPC).

Leaders of the JMP continuously encourage the gathering of forces in a collective struggle to change the current political system, deeming such change as a noble national quest. They feel that creating a strong and responsible Parliament is the first step to this change and so they are relying heavily on the results of the elections.

The GPC has retaliated by vehemently lashing out at the opposition and its public statements. Official media campaigns and seminars carried out by members of the GPC endorse the party's commitment to the betterment of Yemen.

Continued on page 3

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## Houthis remain in safe areas fearing further attacks, Reconciliation Committee lacks flexibility

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, July 22 — Tribal sources revealed that the Yemeni-Qatar mediation committee have failed to reach a solution pleasing to Houthis, whose main requests were the provision of adequate safety and security from future attacks by state loyalists. The committee also failed to free the villages of Houthis loyalists from state control, causing Houthis to demand safe areas to protect themselves as well as their families against any attacks launched by the state army or supporting tribes.

According to media sources, Houthi leaders are attempting to convince members of the executive committee to take control of these areas without interference of the army or any other state institutions. These areas span about 72km. The committee did not accept the proposal of the Houthis and refused to negotiate on the matter.

State authorities announced that Houthi leaders in Sa'ada governorate are still stalling in executing the agreement signed by the two parties at the beginning of this month. The state claims that Houthis are breaching the cease-fire agreement.

However, some members of the committee reported that fulfillment of the agreement reached 50 percent. The agreement included ceasing fire, ending battles between the two sides as well as handing over of weapons and exchanging captives. It also stipulated the removal of road disconnections as well as returning



Houthis demand safe areas to protect themselves as well as their families against any attacks launched by the state army or supporting tribes.

state-owned weapons to security officials.

Members of the Yemeni-Qatar mediation committee, concerned with supervising execution of the agreement, announced that they have achieved adequate progress in the evacuation of sites

controlled by Houthi loyalists during the last few months, as well as confiscation of medium-sized weapons. They further stated that Houthis can return to their villages peacefully.

Continued on page 3

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## In brief

## SANA'A

**400 free medical treatments**  
July 21 — Concluding Friday, the 15th charitable medical camp for finding blindness and eye diseases resulted in treating 400 cases and carrying out 76 surgeries. The camp was organized by Al-Nibras Helath Association at the medical center in Bani Hout in the Capital Secretariat. Ten doctors and specialist physicians participated in the camp along with 20 personnel throughout four days of continuous work. The care included prescribing treatments, providing medicines, spectacles, and awareness sessions.

**Five all-girls technical institutes to be established**  
July 22 — Minister of Technical and Vocational Training Dr. Ibrahim Hajri confirmed that his Ministry is currently studying to establish five technical and vocational institutes just for girls. The institutes will be in different governorates and will be designed in order to empower women and provide them with better opportunities for generating income.

## DHAMAR

**Otma flora preservation**  
July 21 — Otma is one of the hill stations in Dhamar where rare plants and rich flora is found. The General Authority for Environmental Protection has set up a plan to create preservation in Otma for wild and rare plants in order to be used scientifically and for tourism purposes. The authority has already submitted sketches for the natural preservation to the Ministry of Tourism in order to seek investors to fund this project and give it the attention it deserves.

**3 million cubic meters of rainwater reserved**  
July 21 — Thirty of the dams and reservoirs in Dhamar are storing around 3 million and 732 thousand cubic meters of rain water. This is 60 % additional capacity for the dams which can store up to five million and a half cubic meters of water. Currently there are 67 dams and reservoirs under construction with a total cost of a billion and half Yemeni Riyals.

## HUDEIDAH

**The second Eritrean refugees' relief campaign**  
July 21 — The second Eritrean refugees' relief campaign concluded this week at Hudeidah governorate. The campaign was carried out by Shiekh Eid bin Mohammad Al Thani, a Qatari Prince, and in cooperation with Al-Rushed Yemeni Charity. It included distribution of supplies to 1200 refugees from Eritrea as well as providing a medical health care for them. The campaign also sponsored digging two wells for drinking water.

**Tihama Valley witnesses an increase of water level**  
July 21 — Because of the continuous rainfall between in the period of July 3-18, the level of rain fall has reached 22405 millimeters and the flood flow has reached 48 million, 932 thousand, and 908 cubic meters.

Wadi Moor in Tihama Valley has taken up the first place in rain level as the flood flow reached 23 million, 253 thousand cubic meters.

## ADEN

**Confiscating more than 6 tons of expired foodstuff**  
July 20 — During the first quarter of this year, the environmental health office in Aden has confiscated six tons and 360 kilograms of expired foodstuffs in addition to 670 bundles of food products violating the standard health requirements. Simultaneously the general works office collected fines against hygiene and cleanliness standards reaching YR 650 thousands for the first quarter of 2007. The environmental health authority has been active this year as it has carried out 62 spraying campaigns to eradicate mosquitoes and cleaned 121 potential breeding locations so far.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

SANA'A, July 22 — Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has sent a press release reporting that Yemen has received a pesticide donation from Mauritania to combat the worst locust outbreak in nearly 15 years.

An aircraft leased by WFP on behalf of FAO arrived in Sana'a, July 21, 2007 carrying 35000 litres of pesticides donated by the government of Mauritania. In addition, an agricultural spray plane chartered by FAO will be arriving in Sana'a within the next days for locust control in the interior of Yemen.

The donated chemicals were transported by air to Yemen in a joint operation between the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

An intensive campaign, in which a helicopter from the government of Yemen will participate for emergency operation, will be used to prevent massive locust infestations and serious damage to food crops in Yemen and neighboring countries.

The Director-General of Yemen's Desert Locust Control Centre Abdu

Fara Al-Romaih confirmed that the quick support provided by Mauritania in cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as World Food Program (WFP) arrived on time and it would be used in combating locusts in governorates of Hadhramout, Shabwa, Marib, and Al-Mahrah.

"The stocks for pesticide were consumed through the previous campaigns and now we need the pesticides donated by the government of Mauritania to continue the campaign," Al-Romaih explained.

Some citizens reported that they saw many locusts in Sana'a. However Al-Romaih ensured that the locusts that are spreading in Sana'a are coming from outside Yemen and they are not from the southern edge of the Empty Quarter. "According to the wind directions, the locust came with the southern and northern wind and the locusts are not flocks as the citizens thought," Al-Romaih Clearfield. An estimated 50,000 to 75000 hectares infested by locusts may have to be treated through air and ground control for which FAO has leased vehicles from WFP's logistics centre in Dubai.

Desert Locusts have infested large areas in the remote interior of Yemen

along the southern edge of the Empty Quarter, stretching from Marib to the Oman border. Locust numbers are likely to increase dramatically as a second generation of breeding continues in these areas over the next months. Agricultural crops in Wadi Hadhramaut and other areas including the Sana'a highlands can only be protected by successful locust survey and control operations.

"The pesticide donation made by Mauritania shows the country's commitment in the global control of Desert Locust. With the arrival of aircraft and pesticides, a massive control campaign can be launched over a large and remote area of rough terrain," said FAO locust expert Christian Pantenius. "This should help to minimize the locust threat to local crops in most affected areas and to the neighboring countries."

WFP Representative in Yemen Mohamed El-Kouhene stated that it is vital to work fast to minimize the crop damage, that caused by these locusts.

The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has provided US\$2.4 million to FAO to support the government of Yemen's control of the Desert Locust over the next three months. The funds will



Yemenis in Sana'a enjoy the fact that locusts are here.

support aircraft, pesticide, equipment, vehicles, locust control, and logistics experts.

Although Yemen imports around 75 percent of its food needs, anything that might impact the country's limited agricultural areas — estimated at between just one and two percent of the country's land mass — could lead to a sharp price increase of domestically grown food. The rural people will be most affected and they are already the

most vulnerable being on average much poorer than the urban population

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 with the southern edge of the Empty Quarter, stretching from Marib to the border with Oman.

## 200,000 disabled demand support

TAIZ, July 20 — Individuals with disabilities face major obstacles in Taiz governorate.

Abdu Ali Al-Ja'fari, editor-in chief of Al-Azeema newspaper, which is issued by the association of physically handicapped persons, stated that disabled people number more than 200,000, and include those with both mental and physical handicaps. Among the problems they face is accessibility to adequate transportation, a problem that has been exacerbated by lack of funds. Additionally, those who have low skill level lack access to suitable employment, with only five percent of available jobs meeting their needs.

Al-Ja'fari added that Al-Azeema newspaper seeks to assert itself more in the press. It is currently celebrating its third year of publication in addressing the needs of disabled citizens in Taiz governorate. Al-Ja'fari also confirmed that the newspaper will be produced bi-monthly, aspiring to be a press foundation in the future. "In spite of the paucity of our potential, we could overcome such obstacles for the sake of serving our country. We have future aspirations such as putting this category [disabled] into the picture of media and presenting the lofted and creative ideas they have," Al-Ja'fari maintained.

Nabeel Al-Ma'mari, secretary general of the syndicate of handicapped persons, demanded that concerned parties build a comprehensive center to serve the needs of handicapped persons. The center must have the ability to receive the handicapped and include training and educational programs. It must also provide natural medicine and family guidance. "The association is attempting to utilize the experience of



Statistics show there are more than 200,000 disabled people in Taiz.

other countries in this respect," Al-Ma'mari added. He expressed his hope that concerned parties will employ secondary school disabled as well as those who have obtained diplomas.

Additionally, Al-Ma'mari pointed out that Taiz contains the largest percentage of disabled citizens who constitute 10 percent of the governorate's population. The construction of a disability center will serve the needs of 2,000 male and female disabled persons.

Mohamoud Shahir, head of the board of directors for the handicapped, affirmed the support of the board for such a center. He stated, "By cooperation and uniting efforts, we can offer a hand of help to the handicapped. We have to admit that they are a constructive power." He also stated that media efforts put forth by the association are like a candle, illuminating the struggles of the handicapped, including how they may be overcome.

## Parliamentarian Committee criticizes the government policies

SANA'A, July 20 — The Parliament discussed the agreement of the additional loan between Yemen and the Saudi development fund with the amount of 31 millions and 667 thousands USD supporting the projects of main roads.

Amran Al-Soudah Al-Ahnoom road (111 KM), Sana'a Al-Jawf Rajozah road (210 KM), Hajjah Al-Mahabeshah Kushar road (156 KM). The total cost of the project is \$ 112 millions, out of which \$ 27 million was given by the Saudi development fund as a loan.

The Yemeni government will pay \$ 32 millions. While the Islamic Bank will cover the remaining cost by a loan reaches \$ 10 millions.

The Parliamentarian Committee, consisted of a development committee and a service committee, studied the agreement of the additional loan and pinpointed that there is a contrast in the information given by government about the assumed cost of the project. The dissimilarity in that reached 30

millions and 428 thousands USD.

The committee also highlighted the contrast in the path of the project. Additionally, the procedure of the components of the adopted roads from the two loans is not implemented, and there is a repetition in the parts of the components of the new loan.

The committee stated that the reasons and needs of the ratification of the agreement of the additional loan are the handling and correcting mistakes, the points of defaults that associated with the process of preparation, and the implementation of the projects financed from the two previous loans.

Therefore, according to the Committee, there is a defect somewhere in the policy of the loans used by the government; various sides attempt to get the loan with uncompleted and unsatisfying studies that have no accuracy or realism.

It is mentioned that the Committee, which has highlighted this information, also recommended accepting the loan last June.

## Youth and children programs need support

SANA'A, July 21 — The Supreme Council of Motherhood and Babyhood revealed that there is a financial gap as for supporting the children and youth programs amounting to \$99 million.

Secretary General of the council Nafisa Al-Jaifi pointed out that there are political, institutional, and financial gaps which hinder the implementation of children programs in Yemen.

In her outline of youth and children plan implementation, Al-Jaifi noted that there is a financial gap of over \$12 million as for the age group (0 to 5). The financial gap as for the age group (5 to 16) reaches around \$44 million. The same thing applies to the age group (16 to 24), wherein the financial gap for the next three years rises to \$43

million.

She assured that the government and donor parties fill in the existing gap and stressed the importance of building the capabilities of authorities in charge of implementing, coordinating, and following up activities as well as setting plans, that reflect future strategies, by government representatives.

Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mutaahar Al-Abasi hinted that Yemeni population structure reveals that over 67 percent belong to the age group (0 to 24) and this requires more efforts, together with enough support by the state and donor countries to fill the existing financial gap.

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# Apparatus flaw causes AIDS infection, court rules in favor of patient

Although official statistics do not acknowledge Yemen as one of the countries with a high AIDS infection rate (only .14 percent), faulty apparatus and ignorance about the disease continue to dominate Yemeni hospitals and society.

By: Yemen Times Staff

ADEN, July 21 — The Ministry of Health and Population is considering appealing for the second time against a verdict ruled in favor of Abdul-Aleem Omar Mohammad. Mohammad sued the Ministry of Health in 2003, after he contracted AIDS while receiving medical treatment at Al-Jumhuri government hospital. He contracted the disease during a blood transfusion that he needed after a car accident, which required amputation of his right leg.

Mohammad discovered that he was HIV positive when he travelled to Egypt for cosmetic surgery on his amputated leg. When the hospital in Egypt realized he was infected with AIDS they immediately sent him back to Yemen. He was admitted to Al-Jumhuri Hospital again where he has been staying for the last four years.

Mohammad decided to sue the government and the trial has been ongoing since May 2003.

On year ago, the preliminary court ruled in favor of Mohammad. However, the ministry is considering appealing the ruling, after already losing one previous attempt.

## HIV-positive before of after?

Dr. Al-Khadher Nasir Lsour, director of the Public Health and Population Office in Aden defended the ministry's rejection of the verdict, claiming, "it missed out many points that should have been taken into consideration."

The hospital's defense attorney claimed that the hospital nor the government can be held responsible for Mohammad's illness as he could have been HIV positive before the accident. He explained further that hospital procedures do not require taking an HIV test before treating a patient, especially in an emergency such as Mohammad's case.

"Let us not forget that there is no law that obliges the patients to take an HIV test before treatment," the head of the legal department for the Ministry of Health in Aden stated. However, Mohammad's lawyer Mohammd Ali considered the excuses presented by the defendant's attorney as "baseless and hiding mischievous intentions." In fact, Ali views the latest verdict issued last Wednesday by the court of appeals in the amount of 50 million Yemeni riyals as "not living up to the mental and physical damage my client was subjected to due to the hospital's negligence."

The new verdict agreed with that of the preliminary court in which lab technician Ahmed Hussein was accused of transfusing AIDS-infected blood to Mohammad. Hussein was sentenced to one year in prison while the hospital is obliged to pay four million Yemeni riyals as compensation for the expenses Mohammad incurred for his travel to Egypt as well as to ensure his treatment and provide him with a special sterilized room and medical staff at Al-Jumhuri hospital.



saibwa.net

**For the past four years Mohammad has been lying in the hospital fighting two battles; one against AIDS and the other against the government.**

## What really happened

According to the case profile, Abdul Aleem Omar Mohammad, a thirty year old man from Al-Dhale' governorate got into a car accident four years ago and was rushed to Al-Jumhuri hospital where more than 15 pounds of blood were transferred to his body from the hospital's blood bank. Apparently the HIV testing apparatus at the hospital was not functioning properly, resulting in the mistake of giving Mohammad HIV infected blood. Because he needed cosmetic surgery, Mohammad was taken to Egypt where he discovered his disease. The preliminary court in Saira, Aden ruled in his favor.

The court identified that Mohammad was infected while being treated at the hospital. The court based their ruling on evidence from earlier investigations carried out by the Ministry of Public Health in Aden, which concluded that Mohammad's

infection was caused by a mistake in the test results of the blood used in his treatment. The mistake was proven to be the result of a flaw in the apparatus used for testing blood. However, the ministry appealed the preliminary court ruling and was disappointed yet again by the court of appeals, who ruled in Mohammad's favor.

The final verdict from the court of appeals included a constant salary to be paid to Mohammad's family, due to the fact that he was their main source of income but now can no longer work. The court also demanded the ministry to purchase adequate HIV and Hepatitis B testing apparatus, which is to be disseminated to various hospitals throughout the area in order to prevent a similar mistake from happening in the future. In addition, 50 million Yemeni riyals (about \$251,256) are to be paid to Mohammad as compensation for damages.

## More AIDS cases in Yemen

The monitoring and research unit of the AIDS and STD combating program reported that 61 new AIDS cases were recorded in the first four months of this year, increasing the total number of HIV infected people in Yemen to 2,075. The first AIDS-related case was discovered in 1987.

Dr. Abdul Hamid Al-Suhaibi, head

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## Continued from page 1

## Secondary education

Mugawar also stated that the priority should be given to reorganizing the structure of secondary education and diversifying its programs and disciplines. He also acknowledged the mechanisms followed in executing the National Strategy for the development of basic education in relation to the coordination and integration with development partners, as well as, the annual review held for assessment; and called upon the Ministry of Education to implement the same mechanism for the secondary education strategy.

The draft of the strategy underlined the current situation and challenges for Secondary Education. It showed that the average rate of annual growth in enrolment reached 8.1% in the period between 1999 – 2005, wherein the average rate was 6.1% for males and 12.2% for female students. The draft also drew attention to the gap between rural and urban areas as the total enrolment rate for the academic year of 2004-2005 reached 39.6% with the enrolment rates in rural areas reaching to 54% where 70% of the population resides. The draft also revealed that the percentage of female students in rural areas accounts to only 23% in comparison to 35% in urban areas. It was also revealed that the gender gap in General Secondary Education (GSE) increased from 0.27 to 0.48. Furthermore, it was found that only 2% of the students in Secondary Education are accommodated by the Private schools.

The draft also highlighted problems such as the stuffed theoretical curriculum that cannot be completed in 36 hours allotted for teaching, shortage of female teachers in rural areas, and the incompetency of the assessment system to evaluate students.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Jawfy stated that after three years in executing the national strategy of basic education, they have come to learn that proper planning is not enough if there is no clear mechanisms for evaluation and follow-up and that long term plans must include annual programmes for implementation. He added that a scientific and systematic planning was followed to develop the National Strategy of Secondary Education, drawing from national and regional expertise to improve the quality of secondary education and make it responsive to time as well as, to foster loyal-

ty and protects national constituents. Al-Jawfy also stated: "The current capabilities do not meet our ambitions. That's why we invite the donors to participate in raising adequate support to launch the new era for secondary education that is characterized by flexibility and modernity. This is especially since we are approaching the Declaration of the Arab Decade of Education which is scheduled for next March."

On the other hand, Aisha Foda, the Education Officer at the World Bank, stated that the strategy is important to improve the quality of education in Yemen as it constitutes a vital connection between primary and university education and to narrow the gender gap in both rural and urban areas. She further confirmed the donors' willingness to support the strategy in both the financial and implementation levels.

The conference concluded with approval of the NGSES, development of the diversification concept of the GSE curriculum for 2008 and coordination of teacher employment between the Ministry and Education Schools according to demand. Furthermore, suggestions were made for separating primary and basic schools from secondary schools, establishing websites for secondary education, encouraging investment to establish secondary schools, as well as, developing more rigorous school curricula, providing intensive training for teachers and diversifying education funding sources. Recommendations were also made regarding the development of evaluation and monitoring mechanisms, linking teacher promotion to completion of training courses and creating mechanisms to motivate female enrolment.

Dr. Abdulaziz Habtour, Deputy Minister, commented that the conference produced a series of decisions, most importantly approval of a strategy, development of a diversification concept for the curriculum, and reorganization of the Secondary Education Structure. He added that improving the quality of education and increasing enrolment were also given high priority, as well as, establishing equality in Secondary Education opportunities. He further stated that he was very pleased with the valuable feedback received from members and participants of the conference and that the conference was successful in reflecting the high capabilities of female and

male educators to work together in an organized and efficient manner in order to achieve shared goals.

## Opposition promises

They accused the JMP of "targeting national stability and causing internal conflict." The GPC has also clearly defined three red areas that must not be compromised: the republican system, Yemeni unity, and the democratic process. The GPC accused those who belittle any of the three as "traitors" and "people with suspicious agenda."

However, both the current government and the opposition agree that Yemen faces significant challenges, especially population growth and exhaustion of natural resources. Yet what the JMP proposes is a new government to deal with these and other issues, claiming that the current system has failed in this task. "We are offering an alternative ruling power for Yemen

sake, and this is the JMP. We are confident that we can solve the problems Yemen is facing provided we get our fair chance," stressed Al-Sabri. At a recent speaking engagement in Taiz, the JMP demanded serious reforms, accusing the current government of lip service. Deputy President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi also made a public statement in Taiz on Saturday, attacking the JMP. He called on Yemeni people to stand against the opposition. "Anyone who tries to tamper with the Yemeni achievements and principles and accuses the state of abusing power will be faced by Yemeni citizens from Sa'ada to Al-Mahara who will not tolerate such behavior," Hadi stated to a huge audience, which included leading figures of the GPC.

It is yet to be seen whether the JMP will be able to live up to its promises in the coming elections. However, strong statements made by the current gov-

ernment following the JMP seminar in Taiz indicate great tension and apprehension on the part of the GPC toward the opposition.

## Houthis hold

Nine sub-committees formed by the main reconciliation committee are in charge of supervising the cease-fire agreement as well as ensuring the evacuation of Houthis from mountain regions and reclaiming state arms taken by Houthis. Additionally, these committees are responsible for providing safe access for Houthis to return to their houses.

The Ministry of Defense accused the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) of offering logistic support to the Houthis. The ministry went on to say that the YSP along with its media supporters should be of concern to political and national leaders, because of the party's dangerous intentions and perspectives.

The political editor of the organization, 26 September, an army stronghold, urged all political powers especially the Yemeni congregation party, Islah, to stand against those who want to incite feuds harming the welfare of the country.

An official source also warned of so called "players with fire," whether from within the YSP or from other than them, pointing out that they will be opposed by all the Yemeni political parties as well as the independents.

The editor of Al-Wahdani.net stated, "The technique of dealing with authority in creating wars and ending them must be changed because it is the main reason behind triggering wars and conflicts in the country. The investment of wars as well as trafficking of citizens' blood is not a national act. It is a big crime and those who commit them must be held accountable."

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# Negligent husbands, captive wives

By: Bassam Ahmad Al-Saqqaf  
For Yemen Times

Many Arab women find themselves in a state of captivity as they remain in unfulfilling marriages. Informal studies indicate an increase in the percentage of families where the wife is subjected to physical, emotional, and material negligence from the husband. In such cases, the women desire divorce, yet face obstacles, some self-imposed, others societal, to escaping their situation.

On the most part, the fate of these women is placed in the hands of two parties – their husbands and judges – both of whom have proven inconsiderate of the rights of the women whose well-being they have been entrusted with.

## Divorce by chance

F.N. is a woman who recently was granted a divorce after enduring a 10 year court-case. "The courts made me lose my life and youth. I could not enjoy my freedom and my right to become a wife and a mother another time. Although, I got the divorce by chance and out of the court door. That happened through [my ex-husband's] other wife after a lot of troubles and delaying for 10 years with different reasons. I knew just by chance his marriage with another woman. I seized the opportunity of my presence with her [at a party] to tell her my problem of getting a divorce. The surprise is that she left the party to her house and after just two days I received the divorce papers, of course without the court," she explained.

She also talked about the difficulties faced in her long journey to liberation.

One of her biggest struggles was financially. She confirmed that her ex-husband did not take financial responsibility of her and her two sons throughout the entire 10-year-period that she sought a divorce. She was forced to incur debts from her father and sisters, eventually resorting to begging in order to care for her two little sons.

## Revenge on husband and society

M.M., another woman whose case is pending in the courts going on 5 years, shared, "I made a request to the court to separate between me and my husband. It was a very short marriage, not more than a month. I faced all kinds of violence psychologically and physically. Then I ran away and asked for a divorce from him. He refused to divorce me, so I resorted to the court. I do not have any money. My father took my money to marry another woman. Because of a lot

of procedures for divorce, I tried to commit suicide more than once. However, I failed. What I did in the end is make many relationships (friendships) with strange men just to take revenge on my husband, father and the whole society."

## Fostering hatred

Umm Ali, 42 years old, stated, "I spent with my husband more than 20 years. I gave birth to seven sons. The eldest is 19. The reward from my husband in the end is betrayal with another woman. I tolerated everything from him, insulting and beating. However, to find him with another woman is something difficult that I cannot tolerate." She continued, "I left my house, staying in my father's house. My father is also separated from my mother and married another woman who has six children. I was forced to work, helping my father who is very old. At the same time, I sought a divorce from my husband. I clarified all the reasons that forced me to do that. Then I added these last words: 'I hate him.' More than 6 years have passed but I didn't get what I want yet unfortunately."

## Judicial collusion

Recent studies have been launched to indicate the reasons behind the injustice faced by such women seeking divorce from abusive and negligent husbands.

One study confirmed that many Arab women face difficulties during their quest for a divorce, particularly from the courts. The reasoning for this, the study mentioned, is adherence to an old social system whereby a woman's right to divorce is null and void.

Further studies indicate that the courts' refusal to grant women divorces in such cases leads these women to indulge in promiscuous relationships with non-related men. It also forces many women to resort to begging and working jobs unsuitable for women in order that they may support themselves and any children they may have.

The most dangerous result is prostitu-



Informal studies indicate an increase in the percentage of families where the wife is subjected to physical, emotional, and material negligence from the husband.

tion, followed by drug addiction and stealing. The study also revealed that Arab women are not well versed in legal procedures for divorce, nor are

they aware of their rights. One study suggested implementing a 6-month maximum time limit for divorce proceedings.



Gender and Women Health has produced a poster which presents, in simple and effective graphic form, some of the central facts about violence against women, along with the message that such violence can be stopped.

## Poverty, family problems, and lack of faith are main causes of suicide in Yemen

By: Al-Migdad Dahesh Mojali  
For Yemen Times

Amera, 19, committed suicide when her father refused to let her get married to the boy she loved. According to Amera's neighbor, Amera's father's refusal to marry her off was in response to her working as a popular singer and contributing money to her family. If she got married, her family would lose their main source of livelihood.

Mohammed Al-Ramah, 37, father of four children, committed suicide to escape from police after he stabbed a companion. Mohammed Mohsen, a relative of Al-Ramah explained, "He had a good income and comfortable life and didn't commit suicide because of economic circumstances but because of drinking. While drunk he stabbed his drinking companion and then he went to his house to take a gun and money to escape from the city to his village, but when his mother refused to give him any [money], he killed himself."

Much like any other epidemic, the occurrence of suicide in Yemen started as individual, rare cases, developing into an increasingly popular phenomenon, despite claims of many specialists and academics to the contrary. "We can't consider suicide as a phenomenon because it doesn't happen every day. We know that the rate of the suicide victims increases quickly but still it doesn't reach to the phenomenon rate," mentioned Dr. Qaid Al-Sharjabi, sociologist at Sana'a University.

Mohammed Al-Awmari, head of the murder and aggression department agreed with Dr. Al-Sharjabi, stating, "First of all we can't say that committing suicide is a phenomenon because it doesn't happen daily."

However, the rate of the suicide has

*"For the causes of committing suicide we can say that they are relatively related to the gender whereas we find that most of the suicide cases among males occur because of economical reasons while females commit suicide because of domestic circumstances."*

increased substantially since the mid-1990s. Available statistics reveal that total cases of suicide in Yemen, between 1995 and 2001 reached 1,211. In addition many suicide cases are not reported, as suicide remains a taboo topic, reflecting badly on the family of the suicide committer. "It is considered a scandal and defamation for the family whereas this action (suicide), reflects the bad relationships among the family members, low education, and the shortage of faith in God. Not only that but no one will dare to get married from this family," Dr. Al-Sharjabi added.

Among methods used to commit suicide are knives, hanging, drugs and poison. Suicide committers are male, female, young and old, although according to Dr. Al-Sharjabi, suicide rates are highest among youth, particularly male youth. Additionally, Al-Awmari confirmed that suicide is committed in urban more than rural areas and in Taiz governorate more than in other governorates.

Those who have committed suicide have done so due to many reasons.

These reasons can be socially, economically, or physically motivated. "For the causes of committing suicide we can say that they are relatively related to the gender whereas we find that most of the suicide cases among males occur because of economical reasons while females commit suicide because of domestic circumstances," Al-Awmari added.

Poverty is the main cause of suicide according to researchers, who warned of the dangers of such a phenomenon spreading within a country that remains one of the poorest in the world, even with ongoing efforts to reduce poverty. With a population of 20 million, 42 percent of Yemenis are living below the poverty level of US\$2 per day, according to the government.

Additionally, 13.2 percent of the total population is living just above the poverty line. The average annual individual income is US\$450 and the unemployment rate was 37 percent in 2003, according to World Bank statistics.

Some cases of suicide, however, can be linked to another reason, such as Amera's case, which exemplifies the case of many female suicides that occur due to financial and emotional reasons. "We knew that Amera committed suicide because she wanted to get married to a boy but her father refused, not only to allow her to get married to that boy but also he refused the idea of marriage," Amera's neighbor revealed. Despite such a case, Al-Awmari eliminated emotions as a key factor in the committal of suicide among females.

Another reason behind the committing of suicide, according to Dr. Al-Sharjabi, is reduction of one's belief in God and destiny. Al-Sharjabi added, "Usually there are signs indicating whether a person intends to commit suicide such as nagging, isolation and repression, but this person never takes to violation."

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## Words of Wisdom



One of the key differences between a dictatorship and a democratic system is the role of the media in general, and that of the official media, in particular. If those individuals in charge of the media feel they are more responsible towards the public than towards the politicians, and perform their job on that basis, then that is a sign of a democratic structure.

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

OUR  
OPINIONThose who do and  
those who don't

No one can deny that what happened last Wednesday at the so-called "Freedom Square" is outrageous. Regardless of the reasons or the culprits, there is no excuse for attacking people savagely the way it happened, especially in front of the cabinet.

It is also embarrassing for those supporting Saleh President for 29 years that the anniversary of his taking power has been smeared with such ignorance and blood.

While those who don't support Saleh raised their pens as a sign of peaceful protest against the system and its overall behavior.

So those who do support Saleh went against those who demanded for change.

Again, the press took sides as usual. And the minister of interior said his ministry has nothing to do with the crude crowd who went around the streets of Sana'a chanting for the life of Saleh after creating a mess at Freedom Square.

When I enquired about the safety of some of my friends who were among those beaten up, she said: "This is only the beginning of the battle. And we know the road to freedom requires sacrifice."

Such brave words made me both inspired and apprehensive. Al-Khaiwani is released because of his health conditions. He is one of Yemen's famous opposition journalists who had been in and out of jail occasionally because of his writings that were legal by constitution but illegal from authority's standpoint.

Then there are the public reactions. Those who hoped for a better Yemen through peaceful protest are now losing heart compared to those who feel Yemen is fine just the way it is. And hence, there are several additional reasons why a smart intelligent Yemenis should seek immigration to a better place where human life has more value and where human dignity is respected.

I was arguing with a Yemeni friend who is living and investing in USA, as to why he feel patriotic to a country which is leading the world to one war after the other and a country which has such a bad reputation around the world in terms of justice and respect to human rights. He said: "We in the United States are living the American dream, not so much today as we used to, but it is still a great country to live in. If you are a law-abiding citizen then your rights are respected and you live your freedoms to an excellent extent. How do you want me to compare it to Yemen where even securing a roof over my head is a challenge?"

I understood from him that the USA government provides for its people the best, even if this means it has to take everything from those in the rest of the world, or rather from those in the poor world. Nevertheless, this is not about USA, it is actually about how governments treat their people and how their people respect and appreciate their governments in return. Something that the Yemeni government does not and the Yemeni people don't.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief

By: Khalid Al-Anisi

I am sure that you understand that sitting in the seats of onlookers at a fair case such as yours is not the true place for an advocate having strong faith that defending you means defending the free voice, not merely defending your freedom of expression. My dear, I think that the simplest service I may offer you in this case is that I must not participate in an unfair trial before a court that lacks the constitutional and legal legitimacy, and at the same time no one trusts this court. It is futile to appear before a judge having no power to rule on the simplest cases such as your release.

The days have proved that this court's job is to convict and then tell others to forgive. When the judge welcomes the trivial request of the defendant, he doesn't implement anything unless he receives an approval from those standing behind such cases. I would like to tell you that I don't pin any hope in this court to investigate the attacks on you, your little girl, and the storming of your home, as such is beyond its role.

Please don't criticize me when you find me in the seats of spectators and those standing in solidarity with you. I don't accept to

take part in a previously issued verdict convicting you at the moment of your arrest and intimidation of your family and children.

The malicious enemies standing behind your case won't accept investigating those who transgressed your dignity before your children and neighbors because they can't be identified even by those who try you. Those, who try you, believe that they aren't concerned with investigating the injuries resulting from the attack during your arrest. Also, they believe that they aren't concerned with the intimidation of your wife and tears of your children, as well as the confiscation of your family members' photos.

Your release doesn't necessitate any appeal or defense-advocate. Instead, it requires counted moments by those who ordered unidentified people to arrest you to seek substantial evidence. Those standing behind your detention have heard a lot of what happened to you during your capture inside your home. They heard about the arbitrary procedures taken to prevent your relatives and beloved ones from visiting you. They ignore your repeated requests as they felt that it is enough to arrest you with your sleeping dress.

Deliverance comes from our Creator as we believe and from their God according to their belief. So, Dear Khaiwani, please wait for deliverance from the Omnipotent, and not from those who, like you, await deliverance.

Respected journalist, be reminded that orders for your capture, inspecting your house and extending your jail sentence are unjustified if you want to know the power delegated to those who try you. The court judge hasn't been concerned about investigating your requests as much as he has cared for your accusation. I hope that the judge doesn't give your conviction precedence over seeking the evidence of your innocence.

Wala's father! Had you had perceived how the voices of the judge and the prosecutor were amplified while the defense-advocates had no access to an amplifier to make their voice louder, you would have known why I refused to defend you when I was asked to do so. You would have known that I don't want to be a defense-advocate without voice.

My brother Abdulkarim, you may ask the judge about his attitude toward the fraudulent order to extend your imprisonment term. You may demand him to investigate your requests, which were rejected

by Prosecution. The documented reports proved that the process of investigating your case was unfair. You can ask the Attorney-General if he did order the malicious elements to arrest you. "Did he order them to forcibly drag you with your sleeping dress and raid your home?" is another question you may raise.

Additionally, you may ask the Attorney-General if he ordered the unidentified people to raid your home, intimidate your children and take you out forcibly, as well as if he directed your captors to attack you while you were sleeping. You are suffering heart problems and hypertension, but did the Attorney-General tell your captors to drag you forcibly, dead or alive, and did he order them to beat and badmouth you before your wife and children.

Please ask the Attorney-General whether he gave orders to your assailants to arrest you and inspect your house before they did so. Why wasn't he present at the moments of executing his orders? And, did he direct them to inspect your home in your absence?

My dear Khaiwani, please ask the Attorney-General about the identities of those who inspected your house. Surely, you will find out that they are anonymous like those who arrested you or beat your little girl. You can ask about your charge and how 26 September weekly knew about the charge prior to the Prosecution's report.

My brother Abdulkarim, what a lawyer can do in such cases when the suspect is convicted without any evidence, except for a clean CD. What a lawyer can do for you in such an ambiguous case while he himself is accused of backing a gang, which the authorities recently acquitted from fabricated charges.

Summing up, I hope that you have understood that sitting in the seats of onlookers is the least bitter option for a defense-advocate, who refuses to defend you in a case the verdict of which was issued before the hearing.

Khalid Al-Anisi is a lawyer and human rights activist  
Source: al-Sahwa-yemen.net

Feelings at the  
Intensive Care Unit

By: Dr. Yahya Ali Al-Hureibi

As I was on the way home on July 2 after full night prayer, I received a call from Al-Thawra General Hospital that I had to go to the hospital immediately due to an incident necessitating my presence. Other medical staff was requested to come to the hospital at the same time to work along with the staff on duty. I directly went to the hospital and prior to my arrival, the on duty staff contacted the hospital manager, Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansi, and his deputy Dr. Ahmad Hajar. I was informed of the ugly incident that targeted the innocent Spanish tourists in Marib governorate.

I got confused by the news, as I could not get a single motive behind the terrorist attack, nor could I explore a justification for launching such criminal offensives against the innocent Europeans. By Allah, I felt unable to find a suitable term for such barbaric assault.

Any way, upon my arrival to the hospital, the medical staff were

extremely busy in the presence of the Minister of Public Health and Population Dr. Abdulkarim Rase' and many members of the Spanish diplomatic mission in Sana'a.

The injured case came while we were extremely ready to provide emergency treatment to the cases. Fast diagnoses were made for all the cases after our colleagues in Marib Hospital provided emergency treatment to the injured there. In the presence of the Minister of Health and Population, the hospital manager and emergency doctors, surgeons, anesthetists, and laboratory specialists, the scene seemed to be similar to a beehive, as each was performing his duty in an organized manner.

After diagnoses by ex-rays and laboratories, the victims were rushed to the operation rooms at the same time as all the surgeons, their assistants, and other medical staff were on full alert and ready to receive the cases. All the staff announced to start the necessary operations for the injured cases. Praise be to Allah, all the medical supplies were available, as the supply officials proved to play a human role in treating the wounded tourists. I am indebted to the hospital's administration for providing all the needs for the medical staff in and outside the operation rooms to do their job in a better way.

While treating the innocent tourists, who were injured or killed in the incident, we turned to ask ourselves: "Why did this happen? Why did this happen? Why did this happen?" We were very sad when we heard one of the victims moaning: "Why did this happen to us? We heard something good about Yemen and Yemenis, which is why we prefer to visit the country and know about its nature and the hospitable people who received us warmly."

As doctors, we were confused to reply to her words. "Consider us part of your families, we highly regard you and what the terrorist group did will never affect the qualities of Yemeni people" was the

only response we gave to her words. Thanks to Allah, the operations for the cases were started at the same time and ended at more or less the same time; however, their injuries differed from case to another. The victims were transferred to the special ward in the presence of the Minister of Health and the hospital manger, as well as some members of the Spanish diplomatic mission in Sana'a. From the first day until 4:30 a.m. of the second, no one of these respected personalities left the hospital. Also, the medical staff, who were conducting operations and providing treatment, never felt tired or weary. What we did for the injured cases was successful. We expressed our condolences to members of the diplomatic mission over the deaths that couldn't survive the terrorist attack.

The Spanish medical team, who came to transfer their compatriots to their country, conveyed a good impression about the role we played and the service we offered for the victims. They praised our performance and did nothing other than what we did. For my part, I would express my deep gratitude to the Minister of Public Health and Population Dr. Abdulkarim Rase' for his presence with us since the very beginning and until the operations ended in the second day. I deeply thank him and the hospital manager Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansi for facilitating availability of the needed supply and equipment for treating the innocent victims.

I say to the terrorist group, who launched such offensive, that they will be severely punished for what they committed. I wish for the tourists, who arrived in Yemen on the same day, but were in a tourist trip to Hadramout, happy life and fascinating journey. I thank them for their insistence to continue their tourist program in Yemen irrespective of what had happened.

Dr. Yahya Ali Al-Hureibi is the Head of Anesthesia Department and Intensive Care Unit at Al-Thawra General Hospital, Sana'a  
Source: Al-Al-Thawra Daily.

## SILVER LINING

The consequences of  
government indifference

I am really concerned about the situation in Yemen. What is happening in Yemen these days seems worrying. There has been a war in Sa'ada and the breakdown of the truce is potential; there are several problems in the southern governorates of Shabwa, Abyan, Dhal'e, and Aden which might turn into a real insurgency. The question of the southern retired military officers is not yet sorted out and might exacerbate as they are planning some more protests. The economic conditions of the people are getting worse and worse due to constant price hikes. Some influential figures are robbing some people their pieces of land and sometimes their lives. Tribal feuds are on the rise.

However, the cronies around the president try their best to hide such a reality and make the man feels such disturbances here and there are carried out by mercenary people whose main goal is to split the country. The retired military officers who were dismissed of their jobs after the 1994 civil war are now treacherous and their goal is to split the country when they ask for the respect of their rights. Similarly, the journalists and human rights activists who organized a protest last Tuesday in front of the government premises were harassed by unidentified people. The social-ist party is facing the ready charge of treason over the 1994 separation attempt when its media is being critical to such a deteriorating situation.

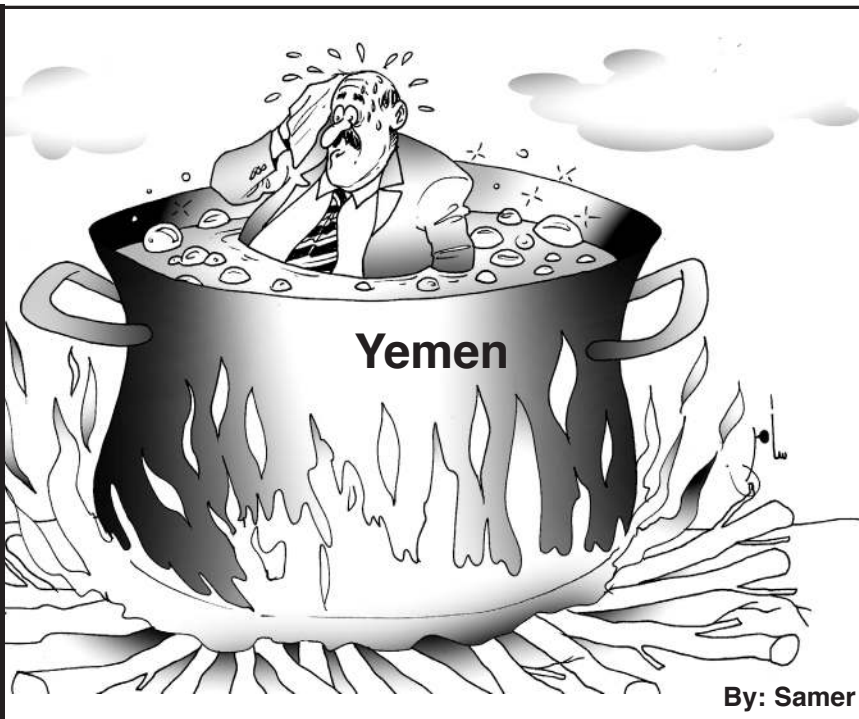
Regardless of their motives, angry people have the right to protest against the government policy or anybody else as long as they are not violating the law. The retired soldiers and everybody have the right to go to the street and stage demonstrations as long as the government is not moving to address their problems.

Why does the government negotiate peace with the armed rebels and accept their conditions for ceasefire while it gives a blind eye to the questions of the people protesting peacefully. Why does it conduct truce with the al-Houthi and his supporters in Sa'ada while it fabricates charges for the journalist Abdulkarim al-Kaiwani of having links with the rebels and is being tried before the state security court? Does the government want the retired soldiers or journalists or whatsoever to use force to get their demands met?

Retrospectively, I, like many other people, warned against the indifference of the government towards the plight of al-Ja'ashin citizens harassed by their influential sheikh in Ibb. The people sought the support of the constitutional institution to put an end to their problems. Unfortunately, the government and even the parliament let them down. It is really hazardous that people lose heart in the competence and reverence of the state, lose faith in the law and order. In this case, they take the law into their hands and then the law of the jungle prevails. If the government continues to act heedlessly towards the people's problems, I understand the consequences will be grave and price will be very high. Beware guys!

Last week, The Arab Sisters Forum for Human Rights horned a number of human-rights-abuse victims as well as al-Nidaa independent weekly for its ice-breaker role in reporting the question of poor prisoners who were kept in jail for several years for nothing but their difficulty in paying their fines. Among those prisoners the newspaper helped to get free is Abdu Sho'ee who was jailed for 17 years. He was sentenced to 7 years and because he had no money to pay fines, he was forgotten for 10 more years. What a shame? The 60-year-old man has lost his family as well as his housing and is now starting his quest for a new life. Who is to be held accountable for this?

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

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# Yemen Press Review



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army  
Thursday, July 19

## Main Headlines

- President Saleh: We are satisfied with cooperation and bilateral ties between Sana'a and Washington
- Government expands Barah and Bajel Cement factories, establishes new ones in Hadramout and Abyan
- Vice President directs concerned authorities to provide facilities for Taiz Water Desalination Project
- Government takes serious steps to improve agricultural development in Socotra Island
- Prime Minister receives a letter for Saleh from his Iranian counterpart
- Yemen and Syria signs protocols on trade and agricultural cooperation
- Scores of Gulf tourists holidaying in Yemen on the rise
- Security source denies that police intervened to disperse protesters organized by opposition parties
- Donors pledge \$140 million for secondary education development

The army's organ quoted Minister of Education Dr. Abdussalam Al-Jawfi as saying that the Yemeni government, represented by his ministry, exerts prompt efforts to persuade many donors to take part in funding Yemen's secondary education for the coming three years. Al-Jawfi added that his ministry signed a partnership agreement with donors, specialized in funding the education sector in various developing countries.

He continued that there was a preliminary mutual understanding between the Yemeni government and donors from the United Kingdom, the

Netherlands, Germany and Japan. According to the Education Minister, the US Agency for International Development pledged to increase funds for education development up to \$140 million.



Al-Wahdah Comprehensive Political Weekly  
Wednesday, July 18

## Main Headlines

- Trade and Industry Chamber acquits trade sector and government from price rises
- Parliament recommends providing mobile news services, updating media policies
- International money laundering team to visit Yemen next week
- Arab league experts to visit Yemen next month
- Yemen tops list of Arab countries in school dropouts' rates
- Authorities establish project for developing desert tourism in Marib
- Yemen expends prompt efforts to make Somalia Reconciliation Conference a success

According to the weekly paper, an official source confirmed that Yemen is expending great efforts with the aim of making the Conference of Reconciliation between the Somali Conflicting Factions a success. The newspaper reported that the conference began its activities on Sunday, pointing out that the Yemeni Ambassador to Somalia gave a speech during the conference in which he confirmed Yemen's care for conciliating between the conflicting factions in Somalia.

The Yemeni government expects the conference to reach fruitful results that help serve the interests of Somali

government and people and rescue the country from the bad consequences of civil wars and factional conflicts. The official source renewed Yemen's call for all the Somali factions to stop bloodshed and return to the dialogue table to resolve their own issues.



AL-Wasat Comprehensive Political Weekly  
Wednesday, July 18

## Main Headlines

- Al-Attas warns President Saleh of directing the country toward what is worse than apostasy
- Al-Zindani armed fellowmen assault police station
- Natco vows to file a lawsuit against Minister of Public Health and Population
- Press freedom deteriorates as authorities escalate attacks on journalists
- Congestions in Abyan exacerbate due to absence of law and order
- As fighting between Shulan and Hamdan tribes escalate, Tribal leaders blame President on his support for sheikhs
- Parliament proves unable to restore looted property in Aden
- AL-Houthi: Government troops continue striking She'alel, besieging Dhuaib

The weekly newspaper reported in its lead story that leader of the rebellion Abdulmalik Al-Houthi ascertained the committee, authorized to supervise implementation of Sa'ada truce, suspended its activities in all sites, where it was supposed to survey on Tuesday. The Sa'ada security committee, chaired by Governor Rashad Al-Masri, discussed the

security situation in Sa'ada in light of recent developments. Rebels have broken the ceasefire and are reluctant to observe the ceasefire's conditions.

In a statement to Al-Wasat, he said the committee suspended its work because his followers refused to quit their positions in Azzan Mountain, which, according to him, is the single outlet to Al-Naqa'a. Leader of the rebellion attributed the committee's insistence on his followers to leave the mountain to its bad intents and unfair strategies since this mountain is the only safe path to Al-Naqa'a area. He accused the committee of being partial toward the government, adding that the committee receives directions and instructions from senior government officials.



AL-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)  
Tuesday, July 17

## Main Headlines

- Authorities warn oil tanks' kidnappers of using force to restore them
- Many divorced women writers launch a project to claim legal compensations and get integrated in social life
- Court sentences pilot's wife and her accomplice to death after being convicted of murder
- YJS: Referring a newspaper to an unconcerned prosecution is flagrant violation of Yemen's constitution
- At least one injured in Sa'ada gunfire as gunmen open fire on the mediation committee
- Yemen's failure to improve national economy responsible for

- depriving the state of WTO entry
- Militants from Yemen and Saudi Arabia join Nahr Al-Bared fighting in South Lebanon
- Authorities foil attempt to smuggle 2000 ancient scriptures at Haradh outlet
- Eritrean authorities seize 28 Yemeni fishing boats in Yemen's territorial waters

The weekly newspaper reported in a front page article that the Eritrean authorities confiscated as many as 28 fishing boats belonging to Yemeni fishermen during their fishing in Yemen's territorial waters. The newspaper quoted press sources as saying that the Yemeni Coast Guards seized an Eritrean boat while it was chasing fishing boats in Yemen's territorial waters. The boat was seized in the Yemeni Island of Akban before it was taken along with the people onboard to political security.

From time to time, Yemeni fishermen and boats have been subjected to Eritrean piracy acts that assault Yemeni boats within the borders of the country's territorial waters and violate the Yemeni fishing laws. The Yemeni fishermen repeatedly complain of looting and piracy acts, exercised by the Eritrean authorities, although they fish in the territorial waters of their country.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (Ruling Party)  
Monday, July 16

## Main Headlines

- Anti-corruption Authority assumes duties after members were sworn in before president
- Ministry of Industry and Trade

- takes firm procedures to control inflation and price hikes in local markets
- Sana'a and Aden obtain permanent office memberships in Arab Cities Organization
- Higher Council for Economic Affairs discuss several oil-related subjects
- Yemen Female Media Forum trains journalists for one year
- Authorities implement ever biggest restoration project for Great Mosque since its establishment
- Youth & Sports Minister refers ministry official to Public Money Prosecution for embezzlement
- Suspect accused of opening fire on foreign experts in Shabwa stands trial

The ruling party-run weekly quoted Shabwa governor as saying that the suspect, accused of opening fire on foreign experts working for Oxy Oil Company in one of the blocks in the governorate, will be transferred to the concerned judicial authorities in the coming two days to be investigated. The official pointed out that the preliminary investigations of the suspect revealed that he is suffering psychological disorders. The newspaper mentioned that many foreign experts were subjected to gunfire on June 23 in Usailan area where an Indian national was shot dead while five foreigners and two local guards were injured.

The governor told Al-Methaq weekly that his province never suffers any security problems. He added the governorate enjoys good security and stability and the foreign companies working there don't face any problems, praising the national role played by Shabwa locals for the sake of enhancing security and stability in their governorate. According to the official, there is only a group of malicious elements who try to do harm to Shabwa people.

## Does the UN still matter?

By: Joseph S. Nye

With 192 members and a mandate that covers everything from security to refugees to public health, the United Nations is the world's only global organization. But polls in the United States show that two-thirds of Americans think the UN is doing a poor job, and many believe it was tarnished by corruption during the Iraq oil-for-food program under Saddam Hussein. Many also blame the UN for failing to solve the Middle East's myriad problems.

But such views reflect a misunderstanding of the UN's nature. The UN is more an instrument of its member states than an independent actor in world politics.

True, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon can make speeches, convene meetings, and propose actions, but his role is more secretary than general. Sometimes likened to a "secular Pope," the UN Secretary General can wield the soft power of persuasion but little hard economic or military power.

What hard power the UN has must be begged and borrowed from the member states. And when they cannot agree on a course of action, it is difficult for the organization to operate. As one wag has put it, "We have met the UN and it is us!" When blame is assigned, much of it belongs to the members.

Consider the oil for food program, which was designed by member states to provide relief to Iraqis hurt by sanctions against Saddam's regime. The secretariat did an inadequate job of monitoring the program and some corruption was involved. But the much larger sums that Saddam diverted for his own purposes reflected how the member governments designed the program, and they chose to turn a blind eye to the abuse. Yet the program's problems are portrayed in the press as "the UN's fault."

The cost of the entire UN system is about \$20 billion, or less than the annual bonuses paid out in a good year on Wall Street. Of that sum, the

secretariat in New York accounts for a mere 10%. Some universities have larger budgets.

Another \$7 billion supports UN peacekeeping forces in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lebanon, Haiti, and the Balkans. The rest – more than half – is spent by the UN's specialized agencies, which are located around the world and often play an important role in managing global trade, development, health, and humanitarian assistance.

For example, the UN High Commission for Refugees helps to alleviate the problems of displaced persons, the World Food Program provides assistance to malnourished children, and the World Health Organization supports the public health information systems that are crucial for dealing with threats from pandemics like avian flu. The UN does not have the resources to solve the problems in new areas like AIDS or global climate change, but it can play an important convening role in galvanizing the actions of governments.

Even in the area of security, the UN retains an important role. The original 1945 concept of collective security, by which states would band together to deter and punish aggressors, failed because the Soviet Union and the West were at loggerheads during the Cold War.

For a brief moment after a broad coalition of countries acted together to force Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait in 1991, it looked like the original concept of collective security would become "a new world order." Such hopes were short-lived. Consensus within the UN proved unachievable on both Kosovo in 1999 and Iraq in 2003.

Skeptics concluded that the UN had become irrelevant for security questions. Yet in 2006, when Israel and Hezbollah fought to a stalemate in Lebanon, states were only too happy to turn to a UN peacekeeping force.

Ironically, peacekeeping was not specified in the original charter. It was invented by the second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, and Canadian Foreign Minister Lester

Pearson after Britain and France invaded Egypt in the Suez crisis of 1956. Since then, UN peacekeeping forces have been deployed more than 60 times.

There are now roughly 100,000 troops from various countries wearing UN blue helmets around the world. Peacekeeping has had its ups and downs. Bosnia and Rwanda were failures in the 1990's, and then Secretary General Kofi Annan proposed reforms to deal with genocide and mass killings.

In September 2005, the states in the UN General Assembly accepted the existence of a "responsibility to protect" vulnerable peoples. In other words, governments could no longer treat their citizens however they wanted.

A new Peace-building Commission was also created to coordinate actions that could help prevent a recurrence of genocidal acts. In East Timor, for example, the UN proved vital in the transition to independence, and it is now working out plans for the governments of Burundi and Sierra Leone. In the DRC, peacekeeping forces have not been able to curb all violence, but they have helped to save lives. The current test case is the situation in Sudan's Darfur region, where diplomats are trying to establish a joint peacekeeping force under the UN and the African Union.

In the poisonous political atmosphere that has bedeviled the UN after the Iraq War, widespread disillusionment is not surprising. Ban Ki Moon has a tough job. But, rather than calling the UN into question, states are likely to find that they need such a global instrument, with its unique convening and legitimizing powers. While the UN system is far from perfect, the world would be a poorer and more disorderly place without it.

*Joseph S. Nye, Jr. is a professor at Harvard and the author of Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007. www.project-syndicate.org*

## China's industrial nightmare

The Western media have a habit of going on feeding frenzies. Ironically, when it comes to China, the latest frenzy concerns food itself. The execution this week of the former head of China's State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA), Zhen Xiaoyu, who accepted almost \$1 million in bribes, shows that the frenzy has now seeped into China as well.

First came a spate of stories about pet food laced with melamine (a coal derivative), cough medicine and toothpaste adulterated with diethylene glycol (a sweet-tasting industrial chemical used in anti-freeze and brake fluid), toy trains decorated with lead-based paints, bacteria-infected antibiotics, exploding cell phone batteries, and defective car tires.

Now, attention has now turned to food. The world press is filled with stories about honey laced with industrial sweeteners, canned goods contaminated by bacteria and excessive amounts of additives, rice wine braced with industrial alcohol, and farm-raised fish, eel, and shrimp fed large doses of antibiotics and then washed down with formaldehyde to lower bacterial counts.

In response, China's government acted almost instantly. The General Administration of Quality and Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine conducted a survey and reported that nearly one-fifth of all products made in China for domestic use did not measure up to safety and quality standards. At the same time, regulators increased inspections, closed down some 180 food manufacturers and now post the names of violators on their Web site.

Moreover, not only was Zhen Xiaoyu executed, but Cao Wenzhuang, who was in charge of drug registration at the SFDA, was sentenced to death for accepting roughly \$300,000 in bribes from drug manufacturers. Both verdicts were doubtless calculated, as a famous Chinese proverb puts it, to "kill some chickens in order to scare the

monkeys."

But why does this surprise us? After all, "capitalism with Chinese characteristics" has been a chaotic free-for-all for some time. Roughly 75% of China's food is now produced by small, private, and unlicensed operations that are difficult to regulate.

With little knowledge of China's tectonic changes, foreigners have been investing, buying, trading, and extravagantly praising its amazing, but hell-bent, "economic boom." Fear of "China bashing" has made it difficult for so-called "friends of China" to discuss its darker side openly.

The Chinese people themselves, however, have been far from unaware that the purity of their food, medicine, water, and air is in doubt. The xiaobao xiaoxi (back alley news) has long been replete with rumors of things going awry. One small-time operation ground up sheet-rock and put it in gel-caps to sell as medicine. A peasant village raided a hospital dumpster to reclaim discarded surgical equipment, wash it in a nearby canal, re-package it in sealed plastic saying "sterilized," and sell it back to the hospital at cut-rate prices.

It has not helped, of course, that the Communist Party loathes a free press and a robust civil society, both of which are essential information feedback loops in ensuring any country's well-being.

Nor has it helped that China's regulatory agencies lag far behind the growth of its economy. For example, the Beijing office of China's State Environmental Protection Administration has less than 300 employees, whereas the United States Environmental Protection Administration has over 17,000.

China's mad rush toward fuqiang (wealth and power) has given it little chance to develop all the compensatory institutions that any truly developed, not to say

enlightened, society needs to achieve equilibrium and social health.

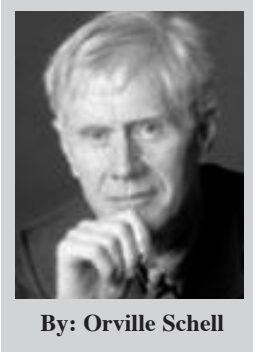
But in today's globalized world, where national boundaries have morphed into synapses for myriad kinds of uncontrollable interactions, each country's problems have become everyone's problem. So, before we in the West becomes too censorious of China's quality control problems, we should remember our complicity in making China the world's industrial park and global dumping ground for many toxic industries. While we may lament the loss of manufacturing jobs through "outsourcing," we certainly do not lament exporting massive amounts of pollution to China.

China may come to rue the wanton eagerness with which it has embraced industrialization. Already, the Chinese are beginning to awaken from the infatuation with development that besieged them as they began to emerge from the commodity-starved Cultural Revolution. In a world of scarcity, more always seemed better.

But now, just as the West began to understand decades ago that the natural environment has limits, China is showing the first signs of entering a post-industrial phase. So, rather than simply shutting our doors to Chinese products, we might contemplate helping China by opening the doors of our regulatory agencies to Chinese regulators.

To do so would actually help ourselves. For, even with "strategic competitors" like China, we now live in a global commons in which we share air, water, manufactured goods, and even food.

*Orville Schell is the Arthur Ross Director of the Asia Society's Center On US-China Relations. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007. www.project-syndicate.org*



By: Orville Schell





## JOIN OUR TEAM

A world leader in Oil and Natural Gas exploration and production, Occidental is helping to meet the world's energy needs through its core operations in the Middle East, Latin America and United States. Oxy offers you the opportunity to work in a very entrepreneurial and diverse corporate culture, providing excellent rewards and benefits that are among the best in the industry.

# Occidental Petroleum of Yemen Introduces “Savings Plan”

Director of Human Resources for Occidental Petroleum of Yemen, Mr. Rod Georges, stated “Occidental Petroleum of Yemen is enhancing its profile as a leading employer in the Yemen Oil and Gas Industry. One of our latest achievements in this area is the introduction of a Savings Plan for our Yemen National employees. The “Savings Plan” is one of a growing number of industry-leading benefits the company is rolling out this year. In brief, the “Savings Plan” is designed to assist and encourage employees to save through a company sponsored matching contribution system. In addition, the plan includes a loan provision feature that allows employees to borrow money against their accounts.”

Mr. Georges stated “This program was put together with a view toward assisting our employees to save for their futures, however, it does include a loan provision that will assist them in funding intermediate expenses such as a wedding, the purchase of a vehicle, or perhaps even to buy a home.”

General Director for Yemenization at the Ministry of Oil, Gas and Minerals Mr. Mohammed Al-Mutawakel was impressed with the savings plan initiative undertaken by Occidental Petroleum of Yemen, he said: “upon learning of the new savings plan offered by Occidental of Yemen to all its national staff, I was impressed by the benefits the plan affords its members. Through the plan, the company assists its people in saving for their future, even contributing monetarily to each employee's portfolio...” he also added: “Moreover, the significance of this savings plan also lies in its contribution to retaining its local employees by providing an incentive for them to stay with the company. We encourage other companies to adopt similar initiatives that will provide further stability within the oil and gas labor market.”

The staff of the company were very excited to learn of the plan, the majority of which have either signed up to the savings plan or expressed their intentions to do so; including Jamal Qaid of the payroll team who said that he will be the first to sign up to the plan, he said he will contribute the maximum percent of his income towards the savings plan because it is the best investment he can do to secure his future needs, he also expressed his thanks and appreciation to the management of Occidental Petroleum of Yemen for coming up and implementing such a generous plan which emphasizes the company looks forward to a long-term relationship with its staff.





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### Geophysicist

(Job Number Y034)

#### Essential Job Duties

##### Regional

- Integrates subsurface data (well logs and seismic surveys) to identify undrilled potential in the basin.

##### Prospect Generation

- Generates drillable prospects integrating well control, seismic data and subsurface engineering data.
- Assesses reservoir, seal, and structural risk from analogs, depositional trends, seismic, geochemical data, and geomechanical data.
- Interacts with other team members and with engineers to incorporate production information into evaluation of exploration plays and prospects.
- Performs post analysis of drilling results.

##### Documentation

- Produces final reports (written and oral) for each project that includes results, summaries of data used, processes, observations and conclusions.

##### Required Qualifications

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Geophysics, Geology, or Geoscience. (MSc preferred.)
- Minimum of 3 years oil industry experience which includes regional play evaluation, exploration prospect generation, field development, and interpersonal/presentation skills.
- Experience with Structural geological concepts with understanding of geomechanical modeling and principals.
- Strong background in clastics, including shallow water deposition and understanding of stratigraphy and environment of deposition.
- Advanced skills in 2D and 3D seismic interpretation, inversion and attribute mapping.
- Ability to integrate 2D and 3D seismic interpretation with geologic data. Ability to conduct structural and stratigraphic analyses with geologic and geophysical data, including seismic attributes, to define and constrain the geometry of traps.
- Familiarity with data acquisition, acquisition project planning, QC and processing.
- Experience with the use of PC and Unix based (Landmark) geoscience computer programs.
- Ability to communicate information and evaluations in a clear and concise manner both verbally and in written format.
- Ability to contribute effectively and creatively as an individual and as a member of multidisciplinary teams.
- Time management skills to plan work personally and participate in multidisciplinary projects – meeting goals within time constraints.
- Willingness to relocate within the US on a temporary basis (11 months).
- Familiarity with petroleum system concepts.
- Ability to work on multiple tasks concurrently.

### Geologist

Job Number Y035

#### Essential Job Duties

##### Regional

- Makes regional play evaluations integrating petrophysical, core data, seismic, and reservoir engineering data.
- Integrates subsurface data (well logs and seismic surveys) to identify undrilled potential in the basin.

##### Prospect Generation

- Well correlation and seismic integration for structural and stratigraphic analyses.
- Well log analysis for the determination of reservoir properties, missed pay, etc.
- Generates drillable prospects integrating well control, seismic data and subsurface engineering data.
- Assesses reservoir, seal, and structural risk from analogs, depositional trends, seismic, geochemical data, and geomechanical data.
- Interacts with other team members and with engineers to incorporate production information into evaluation of exploration plays and prospects.
- Performs post analysis of drilling results.

##### Operations

- Prepares well prognoses.
- Monitors the directional progress of new wells that are being drilled.
- Provides quality control assurance for open hole wireline logs, LWD/MWD, and cased hole logs.
- Ensures completion operations remain within the defined limits of well prognoses.
- Provides quality control and logistical support for coring, mudlogging and well site operations.
- Maintains communication between field and office staff.

##### Documentation

- Produces final reports (written and oral) for each project that includes results, summaries of data used, geologic trends, observations and conclusions.

##### Required Qualifications

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Geology. MSc preferred.

- Minimum of 3 years oil industry experience which includes regional play evaluation, exploration prospect generation, field development, and interpersonal/presentation skills.
- Experience with Structural geological concepts with understanding of geomechanical modeling and principals.
- Strong background in clastics, including shallow water deposition and understanding of stratigraphy and environment of deposition
- Familiarity with petroleum system concepts.
- Experienced in the use of PC and Unix based (Landmark) geoscience computer programs.
- Ability to communicate information and evaluations in a clear and concise manner both verbally and in written format.
- Ability to contribute effectively and creatively as an individual and as a member of multidisciplinary teams.
- Time management skills to personally plan work and participate in multidisciplinary projects – meeting goals within time constraints.
- Willingness to relocate within the US on a temporary basis (11 Months).

##### Additional Required Qualifications

- Seismic interpretation.
- Ability to work on multiple tasks concurrently

### Petroleum Engineer

Job Number Y036

#### Essential Job Duties

- Monitors production of all producing fields on Oxy operated Blocks in Yemen.
- Identifies opportunities to enhance production.
- Develops work over and completion procedures to enhance production.
- Ensures the quality of all data collection regarding producing operations.
- Post appraisal of work over and drilling programs.
- Identifies economic drilling locations.

##### Required Qualifications

- BS degree in Petroleum Engineering.
- Minimum 5 years petroleum engineering experience. Recent PE graduate may be considered, if graduate was in the top of the graduating class.
- Demonstrated ability to use petroleum engineering theory to solve problems and identify enhancement opportunities.
- Demonstrated ability to design, implement, and post appraise cost effective and economically successful work over and completion programs.
- Proficiency in performing economic evaluations of projects including risk analysis.
- Ability to make technically and economically sound recommendations with incomplete information.
- Strong interpersonal and communications skills, written and verbal.
- Experience with reservoir production surveillance techniques.
- Ability to conduct reservoir performance predictions applying pressure transient, geologic modeling, fluid flow properties determination and numerical simulation analyses.
- Team oriented and ability to interact effectively with cross functional team members (geoscientists, operations, drilling and facilities engineers).
- Well - developed basic computer skills including the use of Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint.
- Successful applicant will work in Houston (Texas – USA) with the technical service team on temporary assignment for several months prior to relocation to Sana'a.

### Travel Coordinator

Job Number Y037

#### Essential Job Duties

- Coordination with the in-house travel agent on local travel arrangements w/ hotels, transport, meet/greet assistance.
- Administration and coordination of all company business and rotational travel w/ department staff.
- Serves as system administrator for company travel database to ensure company paid tickets have properly documented approvals according to company policy.
- Coordinates w/ HR teams for smooth on-boarding and off-boarding processes for employees, regarding visas, travel accommodation and transport requirements.
- Coordination of hotel, transport and visa requirements for personnel, contractors, vendor and VIPs both internationally and locally.
- Coordinates venue, hotel, transport and visa requirements for training courses, conferences and business meetings both internationally and locally.
- Negotiates and secures preferential corporate rates with Yemen-based and international hotel and car hire companies and chains.
- Administration, financial tracking and coordination of Oxy Yemen's air travel and vehicle rental services.
- Assists to design, competitively bid, and administer contracts for Oxy Yemen's air travel and vehicle rental services.
- Provides support to others in the human resource department, when required, in order to optimize the utilization of the Company's resources.

##### Required Qualifications

- Diploma in Business or Finance/Accounting.
- Minimum of 3 years experience in administrative support services.
- Should be able to work with minimum supervision, and deal

- with rapidly changing priorities in a dynamic situation.
- Must be flexible with regards to working hours.
- Capable of maintaining good working and interpersonal relations with a multi-national workforce.
- Ability to understand and interpret Company policies and explain their applicability given an employee's specific circumstances.

### Health, Environment and Safety Director

Job Number Y033

Direct Report to: Vice President and General Manager

Direct Supervision of: HES Field Advisors (2-4)

Location: Sana'a Office

#### Roles/Responsibilities:

- Develops and coordinates HES Training matrix for Oxy Yemen staff and coordinates the activities of the HES department.
- Develops long term plan for continuous improvement.
- Works together with the Geoscience and Drilling Managers in setting field direction and ensuring environmental, safety, health and risk engineering standards are achieved.
- Recommends and develops health, environment and safety policies/programs that accomplish Oxy and government/agency compliance.
- Develops and maintains effective reporting and record-keeping systems and provides meaningful analysis.
- Maintains an active field presence through frequent field visits and participation in safety meetings and safety assessments.
- Monitors and recommends company program changes and improvements to optimize the safety and health of employees and contractors.
- Monitors contractor safety performance and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.
- Communicates key HES issues to contractors.
- Manages environmental protection permit compliance
- Responsible for administration and ongoing evaluation of the Oxy Yemen Health, Environment, and Safety Management System (HESMS) along with the VP/GM and other members of the management team.
- Arranges internal HES & RE assessments and tracks open active items to closure.
- Serves as Primary Lead for Accident/Incident Investigation.
- Serves as representative of the OPQL management team charged with responsibility of supervising the HESMS and Risk Engineering areas with assistance from the GM and other members of the management team.

#### Key Activities:

- Oversees HES department activities and ensures alignment with Company goals
- Provides HES consultation to Management Team.
- Provides HES performance reports to OOGC as required.
- Participates in activities and programs dedicated to improving contractor safety performance.
- Ensures regulatory plans and manuals are current and updated
- Conducts Employee coaching and performance evaluations.
- Assumes role Emergency Preparedness Coordinator in emergency response activities.
- Develops Division/Department Goals and Staffing Plan.
- Develops and Maintains Training plans for Yemenization

#### Required Qualifications

- Bachelors degree in engineering, HES or equivalent
- Certified Safety Professional or equivalent
- 10 years of Industry Experience with at least 3 years in a Management HES role
- Additional production, drilling, construction is a +
- Must have international work experience

### Sr. Warehouseman

Job number Y045

#### Essential Job Duties:

This position in general is responsible for the management and control of the Warehouse and Logistics operations in the Field. In addition, this positions is responsible for the control of inventory and making sure the applicable company policies and procedures are met. The specific responsibilities and task for this position include but are not limited to the following:

- Validate PO details and received materials upon arrival
- Check incoming shipments for any signs of damage and issues Material Discrepancy Reports when necessary
- Log received materials in Oracle and assure items are stored in the warehouse per established procedures.
- Takes the necessary precaution with hazardous materials, following the storage recommendations as per the MSDS's
- Maintain an updated file of MSDS's for all chemicals and hazardous materials.
- Notification and delivery of direct charge materials to end users
- Issue Inventory and log activity in Oracle database
- Actively monitors warehouse stocks to assure timely replenishment of materials.
- Utilize the proper PPE & comply with all Safety requirements related to warehouse activities
- Ensures all Warehouse installations are kept clean and in an orderly manner
- Coordinate incoming & outgoing logistics shipments with

the Logistics & Customs personnel related to cargo activities

#### Required Qualifications

- College Degree with 3 to 5 years of Logistics experience preferably in the oil industry
- Fluent English and Arabic (written and spoken)
- Working knowledge of Oracle is a plus
- Proficient in Excel & Word
- Excellent interpersonal skills, high degree of comfort working in a team-oriented environment
- Problem-solving skills – demonstrated ability to consider, analyze, and recommend solutions to problems

### Field Manager

Job Number Y046

#### Essential Job Duties

- Build a highly skilled and action oriented Team
- Manage the day to day operating activity of a remotely desert location oilfield with about 25 wells, a Central Production Facility, with occasional small construction projects.
- Establish safety and performance standards and meet established targets
- Develop metrics to measure and track performance against targets.
- Set development criteria for obtaining nationalization target of 90% plus.

#### Required Qualifications

- 15+ years upstream oil & gas operations experience with both downhole and surface facilities.
- Exhibit a broad range of operational expertise from well operations to surface facilities to produce a sales spec oil for export.
- History of leadership roles and team building experience in remote locations and dealing with neighboring communities.
- Demonstrated coaching and mentoring capability with indigenous national employees.
- Ability to effectively communicate among a diverse group of various nationalities, indigenous population, and military security.

#### Additional Desired Qualifications

- Downhole and surface production experience, including well workovers and artificial lift.
- Working in international remote environments, and coaching and training indigenous staff.
- International / remote location experience.

### Reservoir Engineer

Job Number: Y047

#### Essential Job Duties:

This reservoir engineering position will work on the company operated Block 20,S-1 in Yemen. The successful candidate will be sent to Houston, Texas for one year of training. This position affords the successful candidate valuable exposure to international Middle East operations. The ideal candidate should be a natural leader who can handle the day to day operations of an active drilling program as well as provide reservoir management via long term planning. The engineer will construct reservoir models. The candidate should be proficient in reservoir simulation, well test analysis and PVT analysis.

#### Required Qualifications (list in order of priority):

- BS in Engineering
- Minimum 5 years of experience in reservoir engineering and 2 years in reservoir simulation preferred.
- Proficient in reservoir simulation, well test analysis and PVT analysis
- Good understanding of reservoir characterization techniques.
- Experience with industry standard reservoir simulation and phase behavior packages (ECLIPSE, VIP, PVTx, etc.)
- Excellent interpersonal, presentation, and teamwork skills.
- Ability to make technically and economically sound recommendations with limited data
- Ability to travel internationally.
- Strong economic evaluation skills.

### File Clerk

Job Number Y048

#### Essential Job Duties:

To assist the Finance Manager in various accounting and administrative responsibilities including but not limited to the following:

- Overall Records maintenance
- Filing of Original journal entry documents
- Scanning records into a digital database (FileNet)
- Assist in producing documents requested by auditors and accounting staff
- Other special projects and administrative duties as assigned

#### Required Qualifications:

- Proven ability to work and excel in a team environment
- Computer literate
- Fluent English and Arabic (written and spoken)
- Must have the flexibility to work long hours when needed

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# Most diabetic patients don't control their diet

By: Jamal Al-Najjar  
Jamalnajar@hotmail.com

**M**ost Yemeni diabetic patients lead a difficult life, as they are unable to control one of the most serious chronic diseases worldwide, according to a recent study undertaken by Sana'a University medical graduates.

The study, which aimed to determine the level of blood-sugar control among patients admitted to Al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a, revealed that 63 percent of the target patients have a blood sugar imbalance, 33 percent have acceptable control of the disease and only four percent have highly effective control of the disease. The

study attributes the high rate of patients who lack control of the disease to several factors, the most paramount of which is lack of health education, which can raise awareness among patients about serious complications that result from increased blood-sugar. In addition, lack of commitment to diet and late diagnosis of diabetes aggravates the problem and endangers patients' lives, especially given that such a disease cannot be eliminated, only regulated.

According to the study, high illiteracy rates, difficult access to health services and lack of free medication play an important role in hindering progress in controlling the disease, increasing the risk potential of patients. Patients with more than five years carrying the disease suffer

more than those recently infected. This is undoubtedly due to the absence of continuous medical follow-up, non-adherence to doctors' dietary instructions as well as late diagnosis of the disease.

The study further confirmed that hypertension is the most prevalent complication faced by patients who do not stick to medical tips with regard to the disease including diet and physical exercise.

Dr. Yousif Abdul Rub Al-Faqeeh, diabetes specialist, commented that the problem sometimes stems from the way the doctor educates the patient about the disease. "If the doctor explains to the patient the food that should be avoided and prescribes the proper medication, then the patient can get better conditioning that he follows the doctor's advice," Al-Faqeeh said, maintaining that diet is the first-line treatment of diabetes followed by medicine.

Al-Faqeeh revealed that the key to a long-term decrease in complications of the disease (over time, diabetes can damage the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves) is cooperation between the Ministry of Public Health and diabetic specialists in order to raise awareness among diabetics and provide the required health care. "The Ministry of Health is the only authority concerned with education. So, unless the ministry takes over its role, progress can't be made in this regard," Al-Faqeeh confirmed, pointing out that educated people are more committed to diet and the prescribed medicine than those who are illiterate or unaware of the disease and its complications.

However, some diabetic patients believe that the main barrier to their control of the disease is their deteriorated economic situation. Azeez Al-Haidari, a 40-year-old patient who has been sick for over 10 years without any awareness about diabetes until recently, maintained that it is difficult for him to go to the doctor every week because of the high cost. "I do realize that diabetic



**Lack of insulin has become one of the major problems faced by diabetic patients in Yemen. Doctors confirm that patients infected with type 1 diabetes should always use insulin to keep their blood sugar within normal range.**

patients need continuous medical follow-up but I cannot afford to spend over 2,000 Yemeni riyals every week to go to the doctor and take the diabetes test," he said.

Additionally, lack of insulin (a necessary medicine for patients with type 1 diabetes) in the central pharmacies represents one of the biggest obstacles that diabetic patients face. Sometimes the turn-over rate of the drug being stocked in pharmacies is over a month, leaving patients to suffer and become more susceptible to severe complications. Nowadays, patients wait in front of the Ministry of Public Health's pharmacies in the hopes of receiving insulin to continue their everlasting treatment, only to be turned away empty-handed.

Ahmed Hassan, father of a nine-year-old diabetic patient, complains that his daughter is suffering severely as he has been unable to provide her with insulin that he usually obtains from Al-Jamhoori

Hospital in Sana'a. "I have been waiting here for more than a month without insulin. I don't have any other solution because I can not pay 3,000 Yemeni riyals every two weeks to buy the drug from private pharmacies," he said, adding, "The pharmacy employers told us today to demonstrate in front of the health ministry so that it may provide us with insulin."

Najeeb Naji Al-Alie, a 26-year-old diabetic patient, said that insulin is to be taken daily and lack of it hinders blood sugar control and endangers a diabetic patient's life. "I use insulin twice a day. So, if I cut it for a few days, I face a lot of health problems and could be coma prone," he maintained, adding, "I don't know what justifies lack of insulin in the central pharmacies which is responsible for providing it for all diabetic patients nationwide. The drug is available in private pharmacies although such a drug is provided for free in all countries of

the world."

Dr. Al-Faqeeh pointed out that it is incumbent upon the Ministry of Public Health to provide patients with insulin since diabetes is a chronic disease that continues throughout a patient's life and therefore patients cannot afford its cost forever. "Medicine of such chronic diseases like diabetes is provided by governments for free all over the world. Insulin is expensive and patients find it difficult to provide it continuously. So, this is the responsibility of the ministry to make it easy for all diabetic patients to get the drug," he said.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 180 million people are infected with diabetes world-wide and the number is expected to more than double by 2030. In addition, an estimated 1.1 million people died from diabetes in 2005. Close to 80 percent of diabetic deaths occur in low and middle-income countries.



**Ahmed Hassan has been waiting for insulin for over a month in order to save his nine-year-old daughter. His financial situation does not allow him to purchase the medicine from a private pharmacy.**

## Diazepam use increases among youth, statistics revealed

By: Yemen Times staff

**O**ver 4000 kg of hashish, 804,000 pills of amphetamine, and 115 bags of cannabis were confiscated in Yemen during the first half of this year, according to Moneer Al-Janadi, director of Taiz anti-drug branch.

Al-Janadi's statement came during a special discussion symposium

organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center as a part of their Weekly Dialogue Forum about the legal stand concerning the phenomenon of usage of drugs, some of which lead to addiction.

Al-Janadi pointed out that tranquilizers, such as diazepam, are medically used to reduce anxiety, tension, insomnia, and convulsions as well as to decrease pain that results from surgical operations and to help

one give up drugs. However, overuse of such medicine can result in the depression of one's respiratory center, unconsciousness, oblivion, frustration, weakness of memory, personality change, and sometimes death.

He also disclosed that use of such medicine has become a phenomenon among an increasing number of youth within Taiz governorate, confirming that accessibility to these kinds of drugs and their low price aggravate the problem. Furthermore, an anti-drug law issued in March 1992 does not forbid such kinds of medicine so long as they are prescribed by pharmacologists, in accordance with certain national regulations. All these factors have assisted in increasing the number of users of these drugs, resulting in an increase in drug-related crime, including suicide attempts.

Abdul Qawi Salem, executive director of the Human Rights Information and Training Center, maintained that civil society organizations play an important role in addressing such life-altering issues, noting that the center has already held a symposium on the issue of drug use and addiction, during which participants concentrated on the educational, psychological, and medical effects of using such drugs. He further added that the second symposium aimed to shed light on the legal side of the same phenomenon.

Judge Abdul Salam Moqbil, member of Prosecution of Appeal in Taiz, indicated that drug use is amongst the serious problems that affect people's physical and mental health as well as putting a strain on relevant government agencies, social reformers and doctors. Moqbil made clear that all countries realize the danger that these drugs pose to society at large. Hence, the drafting



**Hashish**

of legislated punishments against the drug trade, which vary from one country to another. According to Moqbil, in some countries, like China, drug traders are sentenced to death.

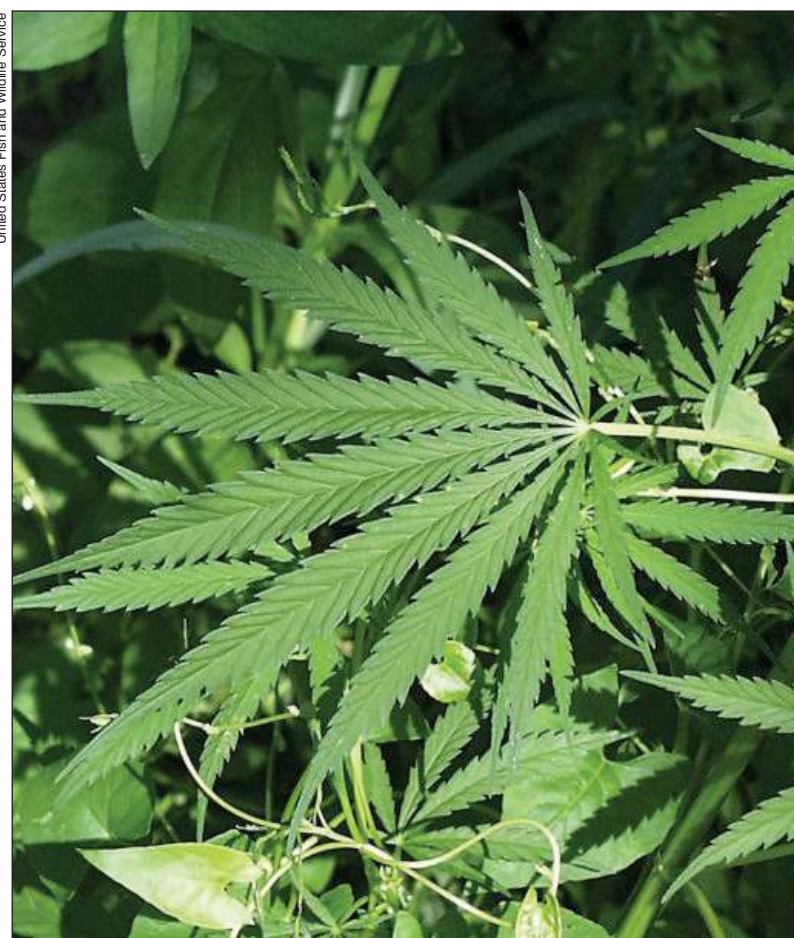
As for Yemen, he pointed out that the government has gradually started combating drugs since the latter part of the last century, including a law issued in 1992, which stipulates death as the punishment for drug trafficking.

Abdu Numan, head of lawyers syndicate, Taiz branch, explained that Yemen's anti-drug law is inadequate

because it does not include a specific definition of drugs. In addition, the 32nd term of the law gives the Ministry of Agriculture the right to amend the drug list, a right that is considered illegal since the ministry has no authority to amend any legislation.

Participants in the symposium held by the Human Rights and Training Center recommended that a study on current drug legislation should be put forth in order to fill in any gaps and tackle any inadequacy in the law. They

also emphasized cooperation between all governmental authorities together with civil society organizations, mosque leaders, intellectuals, social reformers and academic institutions to combat drugs. Additionally, the participants stressed the necessity of family monitoring and intervention in coordination with that of relevant authorities. The establishment of drug-treatment facilities focused on the rehabilitation of drug addicts and their successful re-integration within society was also mentioned.



**Cannabis plant.**



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# ‘Butterflies Batch’ innovates unique style of painting on glass

By: Nisreen Shadad

**B**utterflies Batch, a group of 20 female artists who paint on glass, graduated from IMPACT Institute on June 5. After the graduation party, the artists held an exhibition in which they displayed and marketed their work. This type of project is the first of its kind in Yemen. “We gained the skills of such art by way of self-study,” said glass painting trainer Maisun Hussein.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, IMPACT Institute for Women’s Development conducted a graduation ceremony and glass exhibition of the “Women Drawing Glass” diploma project funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Hala Al-Awlaqi, a graduating student said, “This exhibit is the effort of three months of studying and working. The program was not limited to drawing on glass only, but also to other skills such as administrative, financial and marketing training which will be conducted in order to help the women to be entrepreneurs and to start their own business.”

The purpose of the exhibit was to display the seriousness and value of such kind of projects. The representative of the Embassy of the Netherlands was very proud of and impressed by the exhibit and the graduated students. He referred to the pieces showcased at the exhibit as “art,” advising students that to create art, one needs an avenue of opportunity and IMPACT Institute provides that avenue. He added that he is very happy to be associated with such work and intends to support the marketing of student products.

Minister of Culture Abdul Kareem Al-Maflahi was pleased by the work he saw at the exhibit. “It is obvious through this exhibit that Yemeni women are capable to excel,” he stated, adding that training received thus far was merely the “begin-

ning of the way” and that the real challenge would come after graduation.

The exhibition involved a variety of unique works, capturing the attention of visitors. “I am in the vein of the new styles of drawing,” said Ahlam Al-Ariqi, a professor at the College of Sociology. Although Al-Ariqi was interested in the showcased art, she did not purchase any of the pieces, stating, “Because they are glass, I can not save them.”

Traditional dancers, Mahdi al-Dahhas, and Faris al-Rashdi were amazed by the technique of producing such artwork. They were eager to learn more about the creation of such pieces, stating, “It is our first time to see drawing on glass.”

“Accuracy is what makes the artists’ work distinctive,” said Salwa al-Mawri, a teacher of Arabic language. “We used to see normal portraits, but today we see more innovative works which take the form of vases as well as small alabasters.”

Suha al-Mawri, a plastic artist, stated that raw materials intervened, such as light-colored threads and beads. Many visitors said the price of such artwork is reasonable. “I think the painters spend a lot of money. The alabasters really deserve more,” said al-Mawri.

IMPACT Institute seeks to develop the skills and natural talent of Yemeni women via modern rehabilitation and capacity-building programs that will contribute to the development of Yemeni society.

Glass painting is one of IMPACT’s projects that aim to increase women’s earning potential. IMPACT ran two training courses in glass painting for 20 women, some of whom upon graduating started to paint their homes and sell their products, in the process increasing their income.

Glass painting enterprises offer administrative, financial and marketing training in order to help women become entrepreneurs and start their own businesses.



Artists used new materials to make their alabasters more gorgeous.



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Graduates gained diploma through which they learned new skills to increase their own income.



Yemeni women with their traditional clothes painted on glass.

## Yemen’s Hidden Jewel: Cultural Tourism

By: Fouad Musaed  
fuoad1428@yahoo.com  
For Yemen Times

**T**he motivation behind cultural tourism is the visitation of monumental and historical sites and museums as well as the viewing of handicrafts and other artistic activities such as exhibitions and festivals. The uniqueness of features present in such tourism, makes it an attractive asset for Yemen’s economy.

Deputy Head of the Tourism Promotion General Authority Abdu Al-Sanawi believes that cultural tourism represents the main sector of tourism in Yemen, as the country possesses a number of historical and monumental sites, which capture the attention of visitors from all over the world. Al-Sanawi also noted the advantage of cultural tourism’s lack of infrastructural needs as opposed to the developmental needs of luxury tourism.

Bettina, a girl from Germany who has done her fair share of traveling, admired the unique features of Yemen’s tourist attractions and wished Yemen would give more attention to its historical sites.

The same opinion was shared by her friend Nina, who told us that she had visited Old Sana’a, Habb Fort in Ibb, Al-America School in Rad’a, Damt Spa, Dhamar’s Hamam Ali and Shibam Kawkaban, assuring us that she was impressed by everything she had seen.



Traditional costumes of Yemenis are a great attraction for tourists.

Official statistics indicate that Yemen received over 380,000 USD during 2006 from Arab and foreign countries and the total profit reached USD 309 million, with an increase of USD 50 million from 2005.

Money earned from cultural activities comprises a great portion of the increase in profit. From amongst the cultural offerings of Yemen are various festivals, restored ancient routes, and theatrical and musical productions, as well as exhibitions and conferences.

Cultural tourism, nowadays, is not confined to historical features as new elements have been introduced in an

effort to diversify the tourism industry and attract more visitors. This blossoming industry also includes restoration of old national and international routes, together with pools, wells, and other monumental features.

Valery Patin from the International Council of Monuments and Sites believes that cultural

tourism consists of many customs linked to the cultural and natural heritage of Yemen. Such tourism customs include: visiting monumental and natural sites, participation in festivals, visiting temporary exhibitions, vacations spent in natural reserves including eco-tourism and ethno-tourism, and residing in historical buildings.

Yemen has many tourist sites including Old Sana’a, Shibam Kawkaban, Socotra, Dar Al-Hajar, Aden’s Cisterns, Otmah, Al-Makha, Sirrah, Mareb Dam, Sarwah, Sayun Palace, Tarim, Yafirus, Zabid and Tihamah. There exist many artifacts

and handicrafts like onyx and frankincense, together with unique architectural designs seen in mosques, temples, museums, markets and houses.

During the 1960s and 70s, cultural tourism represented just five percent of Yemen’s tourist industry, however, recent figures span anywhere from 12 to 20 percent.

According to Valery, the increased interest in such historical features has caused a lot of demands for infrastructure and tourist residence and such monuments now demand protection as they help economic development.

In addition, it is important to include locals in the development process through training courses, jobs, supporting of handicrafts, cooking, securing the reception of local residents and conducting celebrations.

It is important to give special attention to hosting tourists in areas close to monumental sites via the placement of hotels or even apartments for renting; however, they should maintain the country’s traditional architectural features.

The achievements of the Tourism Ministry and Tourist Promotion Program include:

Preparing an executive matrix for tourism within the frame of the five-year plan (2006-2010).

Issuing legislation that regulates the functions of tourist facilities including hotels, housing, restaurants, tourism agencies, tourist guides, and tourist transport.

## Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalima Al-Tayybah

## The Zeidi Sect (III)

Subject Book: The Zeidi Sect/Zeidis

Author: Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud Subhi

Part I of Volume II in the Science of Theology<sup>1</sup> Series

Publisher: Arab Writer’s Press

Year Published: 1991 AD

No. of Pages: 768

**F**rom the previous section in this series, it is easy to say that Shi’ism began with the rise of the dispute over the succession of the leadership of the Moslem Nation after the death of the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH). In fact the word schism may have its roots in the Arabic word Shi’ism, since the Shiites were opponents of those who accepted the rule of the Umayyads and thus “broke” away from the fold.

It is clear that the character of Ali and later his descendants, especially those of his sons Hassan and Hussein, instigated a mass popular support, especially among the overwhelming masses of the discontent, who suffered under the extremely harsh rule of the Omayyad dynasty of Caliphs, who ruled for about 90 years after the completion of the rule of the Orthodox Caliphs (Abu Bakr, Omer, Uthman and Ali). The rule of the Abbasids, who followed the Umayyads, with the pretext of following the path of Ali and avenging the persecution of the Umayyads on the House of Ali, in particular and the Shiites or followers of the House of Ali in general, was no relief for the Shiites, although the latter played an important role in helping the Abbasids rise to overthrow the Umayyads.

In short, author views the rise of the difference between the Shiites and the Sunnis and hence the rise of the many different religious sects in the Moslem religion as emanating from the lack of a political regime that would allow for a peaceful transformation of authority in the new regime that was created by the advent of Islam as a living political force in the world. The author contends that to this day, this absence of a sustainable political regime that guaranteed a peaceful transfer of political power is the incurable ill of the Moslem World. This was left to the Moslems to figure out for themselves as the religious ordinances in the Quran and in the traditions of the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH), did not delve into the matter, but offered sufficient guidance as to how political power should be exercised.

After the death of Ali Bin Abu Talib and the ability of the Umayyads to consolidate power in their hands, the House of Ali continued to produce strong resistance to the tyrannical rule of the new dynasty that took over the caliphate, the capital was shifted from Medina to Damascus<sup>2</sup>. Soon after the death of Ma’awiyah in Abu Sufyan or Sufian, the first of the Umayyad Caliphs, his son Yazid took over and his rule was even more repressive than that of Ma’awiyah. Thus, the masses again resorted to the House of Ali to liberate them from this relentless tyranny began by the Umayyads. Ma’awiyah had already had Ali’s elder son, Hassan, poisoned by one of the latter’s wives. Thus, the protestors to the rule of the Umayyad’s second Caliph, Yazid turned to the second and only remaining son of Ali, through the daughter of the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH), Fatima, Hussein to lead them in rebellion against Yazid. They sent a delegation to the latter to invite Hussein to come to Kufa to lead them in rebellion and they pledged their allegiance to fight with him until the last blood of blood if necessary. At first, Hussein was reluctant to positively respond to this call for rebellion, knowing how many times, his father Ali was betrayed by the very masses that formerly had sworn to support him in his fight against the Umayyads. But this time, these masses insisted that Hussein lead them to rebellion and they promised full support. The scholarly and brave Hussein decided that it was his duty, first as a Moslem and then as a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH), to rise against oppression and to take the banner of rebellion against the Umayyad tyrants. He was sure that with the overwhelming support that he was promised, defeating the Umayyads would be easy game. As Hussein advanced towards Kufa, the Umayyad Governor in Iraq had already set the ground for facing Hussein and preventing any of his supporters from reaching Hussein even before he got to Kufa. The entourage of Hussein was confronted by considerable force of Umayyad troops against a ragged force of some 300 followers. It is said that the latter were met by a force of over 10,000 well equipped troops, who had arranged to have the entourage besieged and cut off from water and other relief. Eventually, the entourage was slaughtered and the House of Ali began to be inflicted a series of massacres that followed the slaughter of Hussein and his entourage, even after the passing of the Umayyads and the advent of the rule of the Abbasids.

<sup>1</sup> The Science of “Philosophical or Jurisdictional Argument” was the subject matter that occupied many of the religious scholars in the early period of Moslem History before actual religious sects existed; most sectarian religious affiliation is rooted in these dissertations.

<sup>2</sup> Ali, the Fourth Caliphate had provisionally shifted the capital to Kufa Iraq, where he had a large following and to get him closer to Damascus, where his opponent Ma’awiyah, the Umayyad aspirant to the Caliphate was hanging on to his claim for the Caliphate.

Conducting a tourist survey for tourist facilities and the work force as well as conducting training courses for those preparing the survey.

Forming the Yemeni Tourist Writers Association.

Conducting many tourist festivals including Al-Baldah in Hadramout, Ibb Tourist Festival, Qimaw Second Festival as well as implementing accompanying activities.

Preparing scientific studies as well as documenting the targeted areas (as of now 56 sites have been documented).

Issuing tourist and promotional posters for over 18 tourist scenes.

Holding a consultative meeting for all those involved in tourism including the Ministry of Tourism, private sector, and tourist police in order to discuss the means by which they can upgrade the tourist industry and resolve the problems hindering its development.

Preparing architectural plans for

tourist projects (restaurants, tourist villages, hotels, services, etc) as well as specifying the targeted areas of those projects.

Allowing the private sector to establish tourist transport companies according to investment law.

Signing memorandums of understanding for various investment projects. Setting potential amendments to investment law with an aim to improve the investment environment with special articles about tourist investment.

Preparing tourist maps for main cities in Yemen (Sana’a, Taiz, Aden, Taiz, Ibb, Hadramout, Mareb and Al-Hodeidah).

Preparing promotional brochures in different languages including English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish.

Preparing courses for tourist police and providing them with telecommunication means to facilitate their communication needs.



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# Youth and decision makers 'working together for a better Yemen'

By: Fatima Al-Ajel  
fatimafnfr@yahoo.com

Abdullah Abdul-Elah Sallam's belief that dialogue is one of the most important means by which important issues can be understood and problems solved rationally, inspired him to build a court exclusively for youth whereby they could interact with relevant authorities and share ideas for a better future. As director general and founder of the youth court project, Sallam is one of many Yemenis striving to improve his country.

There is a communication gap between youth and decision makers. Decision makers and planners are ignorant of the pertinent role that youth can play in Yemen's development process, resulting in a wasting of youth capabilities and energy.

Supported by a number of national and international organizations, the new youth court aims to give youth the opportunity to freely express their opinions and discuss important issues with decision makers directly. This will, hence, contribute to a greater involvement of Yemeni youth in the

development of their country, enabling their voice to be heard at the decision making level.

Members of the youth court range in age from 12 to 30 years old and include people concerned with issues of relevance to youth, such as journalists, lawyers, intellectuals, and decision makers. The project started 6 months ago when five trainers from the youth center affiliated with the youth court participated in a training course for a youth court in Egypt. "I dream at the end of six months to spread the youth court project from the youth center as an independent company and open more branches all over Yemen," Sallam revealed.

Every month 300 people are scheduled to meet and discuss an issue of concern to youth with a prominent decision maker. There are 12 decision makers currently involved in the youth court program, in addition to 3,500 young men and women teaming with questions and ideas. The project is to take place for 12 months, during which young people will have the opportunity to meet with one decision maker each month. For each meeting, youth participants will be in charge of preparing the meeting agenda as well



The Youth Court aims to build a strong and large national and international network throughout the country. Youth Court visited Ibb governorate to present a session about the tourism in Ibb.

as handling the discussion.

Every new project faces obstacles upon inception. The youth court is a new concept in Yemen and thus faced some resistance initially. "At the beginning, we received many negative comments about the court. Mostly that we will not succeed in such a project especially because we are in Yemen. Sometimes some ministers didn't interact with us seriously," Sallam commented, adding, "However, we never gave up. We tried to talk with such ministers about the importance of our project for both youth and them in adding more achievements to their duties. Also we influenced the ministers to attend through [featuring] some prominent figures."

The youth court's goals have yet to be achieved, however, it is too early to evaluate its progress. "The most important advantage for the youth court is that youth started to express their opinions and some of the decision makers started to show interest in the youth," Sallam noted. For the long term, the court plans to establish a youth network, including youth NGOs and political organizations, as well as

institutions concerned with youth issues.

Founded in 1997, the affiliated youth center is a voluntary non-governmental organization working to raise general awareness of human rights and inform the public about democratic principles, duties and rights through the organization of seminars, lectures and workshops. The youth center is dedicated to progress all over Yemen, with five coordinators in Sana'a, Hodeida, Aden, Abyan, Thamar as well as a main office in Taiz. The youth center staff includes fourteen permanent employees and activities launched this year involved more than 1,000 participants.

The Cultural Program is a segment of youth court programs and activities, encouraging artistic expression and writing, including poems, short stories, essays and drawings.



Youth are active in the emergent democracy process, gender issue, unemployment, violence, the application of international conventions to locals' laws, and others issues.



The Youth Center organizes seminars, lectures and workshops focused on empowering youth and informing them about the Human Rights, their duties and rights as citizen.

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