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Lawyer Shatha Nasir condemns early marriage, calls for equal blood money



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A new retail phenomenon

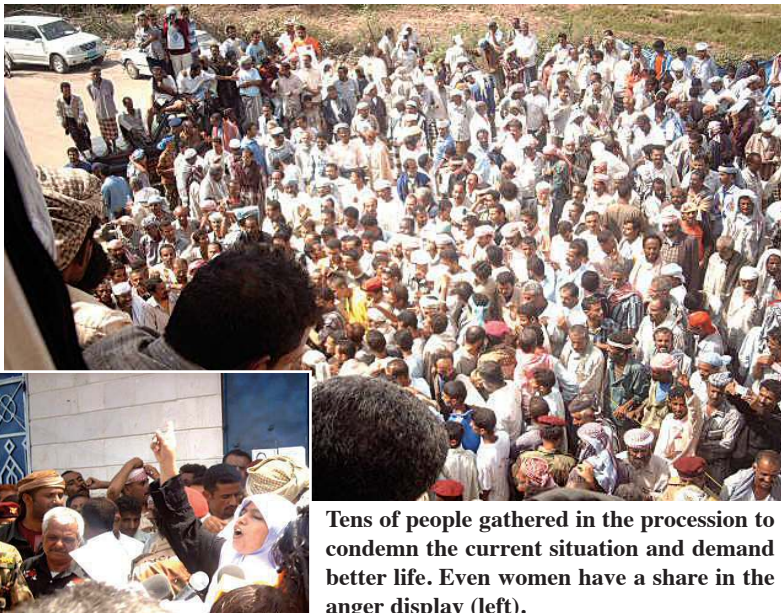


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No Drilling in My Backyard

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Since the cause of AIDS for Mohammad was a faulty apparatus, do you think there are other unsuspecting HIV positive patients?
 No (11%)
 Yes (89%)
 This edition's question:
 Do you think the funding dedicated to UNHCR program in Yemen (page 3) is sufficient to improve refugee conditions in Yemen?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Al-Dhale' pensioners demonstrate

By: Fuad Musa'd
 For Yemen Times
 AL-DHALE', July 25 — Raising photos of Ali Salim Al-Biydh, former president of the now defunct People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, thousands of Al-Dhale' residents took part in a festival organized by the governorate's pensioners this past Tuesday. The festival was conducted in front of the Civil and Military Pensioners Association headquarters and was attended by representatives of satellite channels and media outlets.
 In their speeches, military pensioners demanded a radical solution to problems faced by pensioners across the republic, hinting that the government turned a deaf ear to their legitimate demands.
Continued on page 3



Tens of people gathered in the procession to condemn the current situation and demand better life. Even women have a share in the anger display (left).

Journalists face serious accusations

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
 SANA'A, July 25 — Nabeel Subia', managing editor of Al-Shar'a Newspaper, on Saturday demanded the presence of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate alongside his lawyer in the case being launched against Al-Shar'a by the state. "Unfortunately our demands, which we raised to the attorney general, of the incapacity of the state security to handle this case had been refused," Subia' stated after the session.
 In their lawsuit against Al-Shar'a, an independent newspaper, which published its first issue last June, the state prosecution is focusing on terrorism issues. Supporting evidence presented thus far includes the newspaper's publishing of a file on events taking place in

Sa'ada, including field information about government allied tribal gunmen. This file proved controversial because it implicated the state in having hands of tribesmen in the Sa'ada war. The publication of this file led the Ministry of Defense to accuse Al-Shar'a of attempting to shake security of the state, in addition to affecting state troop morale and revealing information about government field operations without prior permission.
 Five months ago, an official newspaper warned satellite channels, news agencies and newspapers about publishing any statements by Yahya and Abulmalik Al-Houthi or their followers, considering the publishing of such statements as a counteract against Yemeni security forces and support for terrorists.
Continued on page 3

Journalists continue sit-ins



What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, journalists and activists come back again to freedom square after last week's bashing, raising their pens high as a sign of peaceful resistance.



"Stop the violations against journalists!"

By: Saddam Al-Ashmour
 For Yemen Times
 SANA'A, July 25 — Journalists along with human rights activists and MPs held their 12th sit-in at Freedom Square, demanding the right to possess and utilize visual and audio media. Protesters found the surrounding area crowded with people amidst height-

ened security and decided to stage their sit-in outside Freedom Square in front of the media park next to the ministry.
 The protesters began their sit-in lifting pens as an expression of the right of possessing the right word. Saleem Naji Alaw, representative for Yemen's National Organization for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), stated "While I was taking photos of the protests last Wednesday, suddenly a group of people from fifteen to twenty persons started hitting me till I went comatose. I was taken to a hospital where I found myself full of [marks] due to hitting."
 Alaw added, "What happened last Wednesday is an outrageous violation of the law. It is also an indication of the authority failure and its shaking regime that is used to violate the citizens' security. It reveals the government lies along with its allegations that pretend to protect citizens. The authority intended to bring bullying people to hit the protesters who were demanding their rights. What they did will not scare us but double our insistence to claim freedom and our right to possess media means."
 Abdul Salam Al-Masouri, volunteer for Women Journalists Without Chains, was injured after he finished reciting verses of the Holy Qur'an at the com-

ment of the protest last Wednesday. "I was surprised to find myself amid a group of people with unpleasant shapes who seemed to be members of the National Security Body. They tried to drag me down to a car but I resisted. The protesters attempted to prevent them, so they started bashing us."
Continued on page 3

Al-Masouri went on to say that what happened last Wednesday is evidence of government failure and bad treatment. "What we claim is stipulated in the constitution," he affirmed, adding, "It is a pity to see the government bullying activities reach to the extent that they break the protesters' bones."
Continued on page 3

Lack of security, continued conflict between Houthis and army

By: Mohammed bin Sallam
 SA'ADA, July 25 — Tribal sources in Sa'ada revealed the region's security situation is troubling and Houthis have begun to trench in sites still under their control while the state army is redistributing its forces in strategic areas, considered a preparatory act of further attack on Houthis.
 Media sources hinted that the Qatari mediation has suffered a setback and Qatar recalled its representatives after

disputes among the committee members emerged. The sources added that Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi in a letter sent to the Qatari delegation accused some committee members of being biased to the government.
 Last Sunday, the Qatari News Agency quoted an official of the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs as stating that his country recalled the Qatari delegation, hinting they were recalled for consultation and evaluation.
 The Qatari delegation, formed from military officers, worked with a Yemeni committee for over a month in an effort to stop fighting and implement an agreement signed on June 16 under Qatari sponsorship.
Continued on page 3

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In brief

SANA'A

Confiscating and prosecution of cement retailers

July 24 — The general authority for cement prosecuted 150 of its authorized retailers because of manipulating the prices and cheating on customers. The cement authority confirmed that there is no increase in the cement prices and that because of the increasing demand on cement the retailers used the opportunity to raise the prices. The authority has created a committee whose job is to monitor this issue and stabilize the prices around the republic.

3 million Riyals for best sports journalist and sports publication

July 24 — In an attempt to promote sports culture and journalism in Yemen, the Ministry of Sports and Youth announced two awards, one worth one million Yemeni Riyals for the best sports journalist and the other worth two million Yemeni Riyals for the newspaper that best covers sports and youth issues. The Ministry specified the criteria for winning which will be announced at the end of this year.

ADEN

Dead giant whale dumped on shore

July 24 — The waves of Aden coast in Sira district threw a 3 and half tons dead whale into the shore earlier this week. The whale which is 13 meters long is one of the migrating fish whose journey was unfortunately came to an end before it reached its destination in the Indian ocean. The whale's body seemed to have scars in the stomach and some other parts of the body, which could be attributed to the fan blades of large ships.

Louvre 3D photo exhibition concludes

July 24 — After lasting for one month, the 3D photography exhibition, depicting the famous French museum the Louvre, has concluded this week in Aden. The exhibition included 12 3D photos of the various sections of the museum, which is more than 200 years old, in addition to a photo display of the various art pieces in the museum. The purpose of the exhibition is to familiarize the Yemeni public to this famous art collection and create a cultural link between Yemen and France.

SOCATRA

Environment projects management training

July 25 — A two-week training course on environment protection management has started this week in Socatra with the participation of 12 environment technicians and specialists. The training is organized by the general authority for environment protection in cooperation with the management house institute in Sana'a. The training highlighted effective management techniques, delegation skills, team leading, decision-making, as well as community mobilization among other issues.

HADRAMOUT

Information technology centre inaugurated

July 25 — the first information technology centre at the Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry's Office in Mukalla was inaugurated this week. The Ministry of Communication, which launched the opening of information technology centre, highlighted the facilities available in the centre and how students, researchers and staff can benefit from them. The centre's introduction was carried on for two days, funded by the Dutch project for information technology.

SA'ADA

Committees to assess damages for compensation

July 25 — Headed by Sa'ada governor Mutahar Al-Masri, an expanded meeting was held to evaluate the damages caused by the crises in Sa'ada that affected the houses and properties of the citizens in the area. The committee will start field visits soon to evaluate the damages so as to suggest compensations, urging the authorities to pay the compensations to the citizens as soon as possible.

Civil organizations lack media attention and support

SANA'A, July 25 — "Being a woman working in a sensitive position makes me struggle to show that I am strong and smart. I need to prove for the others that I am not easily exploited," Za'afaran Al-Mahna, executive director of the Middle East Research Center for Human Development & Rights (MERCH) in Yemen stated. MERCH is a non-governmental organization dedicated to comprehensively addressing the various concerns of the disabled in the Middle East region and providing this challenged sector of society with its various rehabilitation needs. The center caters to the civil rights of the disabled through relevant research and publications, as well as by offering developmental and training services to all those in need. It functions in cooperation with the Medical and Rehabilitation Consultancy House in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) and the Scientist Foundation for Press (Al Aalem), also based in Riyadh.

The main obstacle Al-Mahna faced when coordinating the second executive program for human development, rights and disabled needs was the lack of simple pamphlets summarizing the organization's goals and accomplishments. Additionally, many people claimed the existence of organizations that would provide support and training courses, however, Al-Mahna was unable to garner such assistance. Much of her failed attempts were due to her being a woman.

Al-Mahna's program aims to qualify civil organizations in four main categories: health, education, human rights



According to the trainers, many Yemeni civil societies do a remarkable job, but they don't get the credit or recognition because of lack of publicity.

and organizational as well as skills development. The first training course held was about using the media to advertise the organizations' work. It ran July 22-25.

Nashwan al-Samiri, media trainer for the associations and development course, confirmed that civil organizations are not aware of the importance of media, which can be the key to exposing the public to an organization's services, garnering monetary support and volunteers.

The MERCH program costs \$37,000 and is affiliated with other organizations such as HAD (Human Aid Development Organization), SGH (Saudi and German Hospital) and YDN (Yemeni Development Net for private associations). The program will continue for a month from July 22 to August 22.

The first training course launched by

MERCH is considered the core of the second executive program. It included 300 trainees in Sana'a and focused on disabled care. The program provided technical support and modifications for all establishments and institutes involved with disability issues in the region. Additionally, it aimed to implement career-oriented developmental and educational programs and activities that would provide a greater awareness of the rights of the disabled.

The second training course was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. It included 12 trainers who are national and international specialists and researchers.

Training courses are being held in four governorates: Sana'a, Dhamar, Aden and Hais city in Hudaida.

Progressio teaches people on AIDS risks

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, July 24 — Over the period July 22 to 26, Progressio in collaboration with International Development Foundation organizes a training course targeting 20 participants on HIV/AIDS. The Training targets barbers, taxi drivers, internet cafes, and Lokandas (motel) workers who will act later on as educators, facilitators, mentors for HIV/AIDS prevention.

Progressio, an international UK based NGO, aims to develop confident and competent educators with skills to deliver the peer education on HIV/AIDS in their communities. The organization has been working in Yemen over the last thirty years and has a wide expertise of the country, especially in health field.

According to Progressio's Yemen representative Abdullah Ahmed Al-Syari, the organization works in coordination with 19 NGOs as partners in their different activities carried in the country, noting that the programs are made in coordination with Health Ministry.

The current project of training peer educators in HIV/AIDS, financially supported by Ireland, aims to raise the awareness among citizens as for the risks of HIV/AIDS and the means by which such vulnerable diseases are

transmitted. Through the participants, the organization aims to reach a wide-range of factions and occupations. The project also aims at building the institutional capacities of NGOs in a way to enable them take on future programs.

Al-Syari further hinted that his organization has been started thinking over its involvement in Yemen's sustainable developments, particularly water sector.

As for the cases of HIV/AIDS registered so far in Yemen, Al-Syari made it clear that the number recorded can not be a representative of the volume of the disease in Yemen, especially when statistics come from the Central Laboratory of Health Ministry. He maintained such statistics overlook those who do not visit the lab for testing and others who avoid making tests.

Participants assured that they benefited from the course. Also, they indicated that they knew many things they had not known before, asserting that they will try to convey such information to as many people as they can, in an effort to identify people with vulnerable diseases and prevent their stretch-out in the country.

Jamal Ja'fer, a hairdresser, pointed out that the participants received a lot of information about HIV disease and the ways by which they can prevent its

spread, especially when they use skin-piercing tools, which may transform such disease.

His mate, Mohammed Al-Hakim, believes that the economic situation, in the country, would prevent a lot of people especially the poor from asking for new razors in stead of the second-hand ones as they will increase the barber's fee. Instead, they will just ask for shaving with just replacing the blade, something out of unawareness.

Mohammed Yusuf, internet café administrator, pointed out that he can help spread of HIV awareness among youth, who represent 99 percent of café's customers, hinting that he can draw the attention of youth to such a topic through chatting and other electronic means.

He further noted that he know many new things about AIDS and some of his misinformation was corrected especially as the transmittance of disease by lactating women to their babies as well as hot kisses which are likely to transmit diseases.

Lowkanda worker, Khalid Ghaleb Naji, stressed that this course will help him know many things about AIDS and he, in his turn, will convey this information to Lowkanda clients.

The same opinion is shared by club worker Abdullah Hamadi who assures

National coalition to save mothers' lives

SANA'A, July 25 — The National Coalition for the Safe Motherhood (NCSM) approved the draft law of its project fundamental system in a meeting held in Sana'a, Tuesday, July 24. In the meeting, the NCSM elected the observation and inspection committee which consists of three members and an executive council that consists of 21 members from whom nine members were elected by governmental institutions and authorities.

The participation in the NCSM is based on the voluntary contribution from many various authorities concerned with the motherhood affairs and based on the successful typical model of the White Line coalition for Safe Motherhood.

The coalition which is called "White Strip Coalition for Safe Motherhood" represents an international movement started as an unofficial network and has become recognized as NGO which offers support and resources for the countries members in this coalition. The White Strip Coalition includes members, individuals and organizations, from about 80 countries, out of which 20 States have established the White Strip Coalition in their countries.

The 2003 medical statistics revealed that the rate of the illnesses, deaths, and mother fatality is considered one of the highest rates in the Arab region. The studies estimate that the rate of the deaths of mothers reaches 365 death cases for 100,000 alive delivery

annually. In addition, 38 % of the women deaths rate, in the fertility age (14-49), happen because of pregnancy and delivery consequences, whereas the death of new born babies is 37 for 1000 alive-born babies annually, which is a relatively big number.

The NCSM is established in order to encourage the efforts exerted to make pregnancy and delivery safe for all women in Yemen and to restrict the rate of deaths and illnesses among mothers and the new borns in accordance with what's stipulated in the national strategies of achieving the millennium development goals, said Dr. Nafisa Al-Jaifi, who is a member in the coalition.

The NCSM tries with the participants to make all mothers and new borns get services and supporting programmes for their rights in health care, safety, and comfortable life.

The NCSM aims to defend the safe motherhood as an essential right of the human rights and to build up local abilities to achieve the aims of the safe motherhood in different levels and to ensure its sustainability. It also aims to consolidate the participation of the individuals, families, communities, organizations, civil society, governmental authorities, and all various sectors and supporters of the NCSM program. The NCSM looks forward for the participation and cooperation with the national, regional, and international arenas in exchanging expertise, experiences, and information.



Participants from all sectors of life learned how to do their daily work in a safer way

he will convey all information to all club members, friends, and family members, noting that such open discussions of such touchy subjects would help diminish the risks and make citizens well-aware of these diseases.

Zone chief Ali Ahmed states that the information he receives will be disseminated among all those he knows. Also, he added that he will discuss such a disease each time he has a chance to do so, particularly during marriage celebrations and qat sessions.

International expert and HIV/AIDS coordinator Mohammed Irfan Akhtar

noted that the project now targets three populated governorates including Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, and Hodeidah.

Furthermore, Akhtar pointed out that the project, lasting for three years - 2007 to 2009, aims to create a long-term program that targets NGOs in these four governorates in order to help them adopt and conduct such programs in the future.

He hinted that his organization seeks the help of international skilled experts in order to provide NGOs with expertise and qualify them to conduct such projects and programs in the future.

Land distribution project to elevate poverty

HADRAMOUT, July 25 - In an unprecedented incident, the authorities in Hadramout are preparing for a project through which fertile land is to be distributed to poor young men and families in order to provide them with a source of income through farming these lands.

Led by Hadramout governor Taha Abdullah Hajer and representatives from Ministries of Agriculture and General Works, the project was finalized earlier this week. Worth-noting, the preparation phase of the project included field visits to the various districts in Hadramout in order to identify suitable public land.

According to local source, the project team, which consists of two committees, designated 600 hectares so far and more land will be identified in the few weeks to come. The source added that the land selection includes



Palm trees in Do'an, Hadramout. The authority is providing poor families with palm shoots to plant in the distributed lands.

testing soil for salts and minerals and, therefore, decide on the fertility of the land, as well as creating a central spray irrigation system which had proved economic and effective in the local area. Furthermore, it added that the Agriculture Promoting Fund is also contributing to this project through providing 500 thousand palm tree seedlings, 20,000 of which had already been distributed through the governor's office.

As'ad Al-Kamil Tourist Festival starts in Dhamar

DHAMAR, July 25 — As'ad Al-Kamil Tourist Festival, which aims to provide an exhibition for tourist attractions; archeological sites and traditions of the governorate, is to be inaugurated today, July 26, in Dhamar City and will continue till Sunday July 29.

The Vice-President of the Local Council in the Governorate Mujahid Shaif Al-Ansi told the Yemen Times, in an interview, that this festival is the first of its kind in Yemen in general and in Dhamar in particular.

Alansi points out that many tourist sites in different districts of the governorate attended the festival.

In a response to Yemen Times' question about the visits that are going to be paid to such places and whether they include all the districts of the governorate, Alansi declared: "in fact, we have remote districts that cannot be reached like Wesab Alali, Wesab Al-Savel, and Ottoma because of the lack of constant transportation means and the unpaved roads." "So, we just sent a team of Media from the information office to visit the archeological and

tourist sites in these districts and capture photos, which are going to be projected and shown in the inauguration of the festival." He added.

Moreover, he pointed out that the Festival is the first of its kind in Yemen. He added that a long time was spent for its preparation. "We expected the arrival of a large number of Yemeni, Arab, and non-Arab visitors to participate in this festival as it has a historical expansion and archeological depth. But, Marib terrorist and inhumane attacks on the Spanish tourists hinder their coming." He pointed out.

"Those criminal deeds are the obstacles between us and the visitors' attendance. However, we promise that we will be more enthusiastic to increase such festivals and we will not hesitate to stand against such extremist people." Alansi.

Furthermore, Alansi indicated that this attack threatened the situation and led many visitors, nationally and internationally, to cancel their visits and change their minds. "By the way we are going to make a corner in the festival

for reflecting our view, which is all the Yemenis' view, on this terrorist attacks which are against Islam and our society's values and traditions." Alansi pointed out.

Worth-noting, the festival includes youth carnivals and some sport competitions like horse competitions. In addition, there is a lottery in which several prizes will be withdrawn for attendants.

The Manager General of Archeology in the Governorate Mr. Ali DhaifAllah Al-Sanabani explained, for the Yemen Times, the relationship between the title of the Festival and what it shows, saying "this title has taken from a historical figure, King As'ad Al-Kamil, who is considered one of the most famous kings of the Hymyarite Civilization."

"The title has a geographical depth in Dhamar, in addition to the historical indicators which reflect that the king, Al-Kamil, had Bainoon, in Dhamar as a capital beside his capital Dhafar in Yarim. Therefore, with no doubt this title has a strong relation with Dhamar," he explained.

UN seeks millions to help fleeing Somalis

SANA'A, 24 July -The UN's refugee agency UNHCR said Tuesday it needs 47.8 million dollars to help protect Somalis fleeing daily battles in their country, as the numbers of those needing assistance are set to increase by the end of next year. The United Nations said by the end of 2008, 478,000 people will need help as opposed to 312,000 now, but the world body attributed this rise to greater access to people displaced within Somalia.

Most of the money would be spent on the Somalis still in the country, including the 400,000 who fled bloody clashes in the capital Mogadishu this year, whereas the remainder would go toward assisting refugees in neighboring Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen and Djibouti.

"\$22.6 million is needed for internally displaced people in Somalia, \$12.6 million for new refugees in Ethiopia, \$7.5 million for new refugees in Kenya, \$4 million for new refugees in Yemen and \$776,000 for new refugees in Djibouti," said UNHCR spokesperson Jennifer Pagonis. She warned that that the total number of people displaced may also rise to around 528,000 by end 2008 from 500,000 now.

"The program will include protection monitoring and tracking of population movements as part of an early warning system to improve future humanitarian responses." Last week the official news agency

reported that the office of UNHCR in Yemen and the Immigration, Passports and Nationality Department (IPND) in Aden are preparing to open an office in Al-Basateen area of Dar Saad district in Aden to receive Somali refugees.

The director of IPND Ghazi Ali Mohsin told SABA that the UN refugee agency had built the office and equipped it with computers and stationeries and that the IPND would be responsible for choosing the cadres to work at the office. He said that the office would organize receiving refugees and locating them in specific places as well as giving them the identity cards. Around 15,000 African refugees with identification cards live in al-Basateen area, while

many others live there without IDs. The majority of the area residents are Somalis who depend mainly on modest jobs such as washing cars, working in construction sites, and cleaning houses for a monthly income ranges from 16 to 26 US dollar.

Ms. Erika Feller UNHCR's Geneva-based director for the Middle East and North Africa called in her last visit to Yemen, in March 2007, to increase resources to cope with refugees living in squalid conditions outside refugee camps such as those, whose houses are made of tin and mud, living in the al-Basateen.

The last statistics revealed that there are more than 80,000 Somalis in Yemen.



Somalis await their turn at UNHCR distribution center south of Somali capital earlier this year.

Continued from page 1

Al-Dhale' pensioners demonstrate

A statement distributed during the festival, under the name of the "Southern governorates and areas," denounced the irresponsible policies of what it called "Sana'a rulers" adopted since the 1994 civil war. Directed to the Arab leaders and states represented in the Security Council, the statement hinted such irresponsible policies would plunge Yemen into a dark tunnel and damage Arab regional and international security.

The statement further maintained that Sana'a rulers did not just dismiss the pensioners from their jobs but also exercised starvation policies over them through food and service price hikes. It noted that those coming from Sana'a looted the lands of southern Yemenis.

Chairman of the Pensioners Association Brig. Nasser Al-Noubah urged all people to participate in Aden's major peaceful festival scheduled for Thursday, August 2. He told all pensioners to attend the festival dressed in military uniform.

Deputy Head of the Pensioners Association Abdu Al-Matari explained that unity could not be fully achieved until southern Yemenis feel they are partners in this country. He stated, "We felt pain and bitterness when the luxurious cars passed by us carrying the families of northern officials to Aden to spend the Eid vacation, however, we do not ask for cars but for equality with our peers as for salaries and promotions." Al-Matari further noted that the real unionist is the one who remains patient with a wrong policy for 13 years.

Intisar Khamis from the Yemeni Socialist Party condemned accusations directed at pensioners, accusing them of being secessionists. She assured they are against the wrong policies of the ruling party, demanding reformation of the unity track and reinstatement of those forcibly driven from their jobs.

In related news, the Cabinet during its Tuesday meeting approved measures aiming to resolve issues of pensioners and to reinstate those who were illegally driven out of their jobs in a way that will ensure optimal utilization of their specializations and abilities.

The Cabinet also approved the formation of committees headed by governors and including concerned authorities to look into the cases of unemployed pensioners and reinstate those who it is proven were illegally discharged from service as well as granting their rights in full.

Additionally, the Cabinet stressed the importance of abiding by the law and warned against exploiting the issue and damaging national unity and peace, hinting that unity is a red line which no one is allowed to jeopardize.

Journalists face serious accusations

"It is a very serious case," Mr. Subai commented, confirming that his newspaper handled the Sa'ada issue very professionally and objectively. "It is the first time that a newspaper has been referred to the state security prosecution, which is considered unprecedented," he added, insisting that accusations against Al-Shar'a are baseless. "The accusations we face can lead to the shut down of the newspaper and maybe to a death sentence," he added.

Khaled Al-Ansi, Al-Shar'a lawyer, insisted that this prosecution is unauthorized and unconstitutional, warning that the case will be the first step in charging Yemeni journalists with serious accusations that may lead to capital punishment. "We have already warned that there are some lawful texts in Yemeni press law that may lead to a death sentence. Some people thought that we were exaggerating. However these texts exist in the law and can be misused," Al-Ansi stated. He added, "Even the penalty will be death sentences with stay of execution, or fine

or whatever. Accusing the journalists with such accusations by this authority (state security authority) is considered a very dangerous sign of misusing such legal texts."

Al-Ansi is the second attorney of the newspaper after Jamal Al-Ja'bi who represented Al-Shar'a during the trial's first session before being thrown off the case at the request of state prosecution. Al-Ja'bi was removed from his position as the newspaper's defense attorney by the judge in the middle of proceedings.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate considered referral of the complaint made against Al-Shar'a to specialized state prosecution as setting a dangerous precedent for the relationship between the media and government. Additionally, the syndicate claimed that such an extreme measure not only harms Al-Shar'a Newspaper and its affiliates, but also exceeds constitutional and legal bounds, which have protected the press since the unification of Yemen. The syndicate also stated that these arbitration measures lead to abolishment of the constitutional and legal protection for freedom of press and right of expression.

In a related case, last week the editor-in-chief of Al-Wassat Newspaper Jamal Amer attended a hearing before the press prosecution, his newspaper facing accusations of publishing a group of articles that criticized and insulted the president, and offended Yemeni-Saudi relations. Al-Wassat deemed such accusations as proof of the "constant contracting of press rights." Amer further stated that he is unsure of the penalty but he is expecting one year in jail and a fine. "The problem is we are not just facing the press law but we are also facing the criminal law," he explained.

This is not the first time that Al-Wassat faced accusations. In 2006, the newspaper was defamed by official state newspaper, Al Thawra, which accused Al-Wassat of intrigue and betraying Yemen in the interest of a foreign country.

Journalists continue sit-ins

Ahmed Al-Abdali, HOOD website cameraman, stated, "I did not expect and imagine what happened on Wednesday. They hit me and broke my digital camera, taking my cell phone from my pocket. I was injured in different places on my body. My most critical injury was on my shoulder."

The presence of recently released journalist, Al-Khaiwani, was the surprise of the sit-in. He was received with strong applause and delivered a speech in which he thanked everybody for having solidarity with him. He also pointed out that the sit-ins are an alternative to violence in the community and reaffirmed that Freedom Square will be the springboard for achieving justice and rejecting all human rights violations.

Tawakul Kurman, chairwoman of Women Journalists Without Chains said, "Many state leaders, including the ruling party and prime minister, have presented suggestions and solutions that will ensure our constitutional and legal rights. Unfortunately they returned empty-handed. Now you can decide who is responsible or who makes decisions regarding the detailed violations remarkably encroaching upon freedom of expression including depriving our organization from registering and blocking its news service."

Kurman also affirmed the importance of fulfilling protesters' demands for the sake of freedom, commenting, "The ceiling of our demands has heightened to not only be limited to Without Chains newspaper and its mobile web service but also demanding freedom for all newspapers, channels and news services through mobile phones. We will continue demanding until they [enact] legislation that does not impose [restrictions] over electronic media, rejecting any new laws that restrict freedom of opinion and expression."

Kurman demanded the president to execute his electoral program concerning freedom of expression, stating, "We

demand the right of possessing audio-visual media for individuals, organizations and parties. The General People Congress should ensure this right as an execution of its electoral program too. We send our regards to the Joint Meeting Parties for their solidarity and [supportive] attitude, sticking up for freedom of opinion." Kurman urged the JMP to continue their supportive role until all demands are met.

Lack of security, continued conflict between Houthis and army

Last June, Houthis announced their approval of a government proposal for a ceasefire to end a war that left thousands killed since 2004. The Yemeni Defense Ministry released a statement announcing that Qatar summoned its delegation after Houthis did not commit themselves to the agreement articles, in particular scheduling an evacuation from their positions as well as handing over their medium-sized arms. The statement assured that other committee members will continue their work even in the absence of the Qatari delegation.

According to a tribal source involved in mediation efforts, the situation is tense and people are afraid of war renewal, particularly because the Qatari delegation declined to clarify the reasons for which they abandoned their mediation efforts.

Voicing unhappiness with the departure of the Qatari mediation, hundreds of Sa'ada locals demonstrated on Sunday in front of the hotel in which the ceasefire committee members reside.

The demonstrators demanded the army and the pro-army tribal fighters to evacuate the houses of residents in Bani Muath and surrounding areas. They further asked for the sending of relief materials for displaced citizens whose circumstances have been overlooked since the committee embarked on its tasks.

Moreover, the demonstrators asked that the siege imposed on Haydan district by pro-government sheikhs be lifted due to attacks launched on Haydan citizens, particularly those sympathizing with Houthis.

Abdulmalik Al-Houthi earlier presented a schedule to the ceasefire committee for resolving issues in Haydan and Washhah, a district in Hajjah governorate in which battles between Houthi loyalists and pro-army tribal fighters who have been armed and recruited to attack Houthi elements have occurred.

According to the agreement, the army had to leave the houses of citizens after Houthi followers abandoned dozens of their positions. Earlier this month President Saleh directed army forces to evacuate 45 houses in Bani Muath, however, military field leaders have yet to comply.

Some Yemeni newspapers, which are affiliated with influential people and support continuation of the war in Sa'ada, attacked the Qatari delegation last week. Al-Shimo'a and Akhbar Al-Yaum in their Saturday issue described the role of the committee as "dubious" and "conspiratorial."

Following Mareb's terrorist attack that killed eight Spaniards, President Saleh announced that those whose efforts in Sa'ada failed requested support of the Qatari mediation and Yemen accepted. Exposure of the Qatari mediation in the press might have caused the recent recall of their delegation.

Dignitary Saleh Habrah stated that 500 to 600 families are homeless and demanded human and charitable societies to provide these families with immediate relief. Habrah, who cooperates with the mediation committee, noted that the aid these families have received thus far is insufficient and hinted the most affected areas lie in Bani Muath, Dhahian, Al-Saifi, Al-Ja'maleh, Al-Mazro'a, Maran, and Khawlan, wherein the army is laying siege of 90 houses.

Habrah added that donated food is inadequate and unjustly distributed as

some undeserving families received such donations while those really in need received nothing. Habrah presented a proposal to the ceasefire committee who in turn asked for a complete list of displaced people.

Parliament member Abdulkarim Hadban requested immediate relief for 70 families who were displaced by war in Razih district. In a press statement, Hadban asserted the families displaced in Razih have received no relief except for 70 wheat sacks and some food donations from a charitable society. He also pointed out that donations received thus far by families in the district are not enough, especially when the families are homeless and in need of shelter, medicine, and other life essentials.

President Saleh ordered Yemeni members of the ceasefire committee to remain in Sa'ada and continue their tasks, advising them to have more patience and use all possible means for ensuring the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. Saleh considered the task of the committee to be a national one especially when its goal is to save lives and achieve peace in Sa'ada, which has been a war zone for the past three years.

As for telecommunication, media sources mentioned this week land line service has been restored in Razih and some other areas including Sa'ada city after a complete disconnect during the first days of war, however, the service is still down in some areas and districts. Additionally, a curfew is still in effect in Sa'ada city.

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Lawyer Shatha Nasir condemns early marriage, calls for equal blood money

Shatha Nasir, one of Yemen's most prominent human and women's rights advocates. Nasir is particularly concerned with the defense of women who have been wrongfully accused of a crime. During the interview, she revealed her opinion about Ameena Al-Tahaif's case, early marriage and women's inheritance. The following is a glimpse of her thoughts.

By: Faisal As-Safwani

What are the legal rights of a female prisoner and are these rights carried out in reality?

A female prisoner has rights and duties guaranteed her by the constitution. She has many rights including appearing in person before the courts, getting food, medicine and jobs. If she desires to contact her family, she can receive letters. She is entitled to pursue her studies. Moreover, the female prisoner can sit with her lawyer, appearing in person before the prosecution but handcuffed. I think 80 percent of these rights are carried out in reality.

What are the procedures of arresting a suspect and are they executed according to the law?

The arrest procedures along with investigation of the accused woman are carried out after lodging a notification or complaint to the judicial arresting bodies. There must be a direct accusation [against] a particular girl or woman. In the case of lack of a certain accused girl or woman, they arrest multiple suspects. They also arrest those who have some relation to the crime or those who confess committing the crime.

However, the investigation process is [handled by] the detective. The detective has no right to inspect [a woman suspect], but inspection is done by a female. Unfortunately, there are some cases of hitting or intimidation which women are subjected to due to the lack of lawyers. This violation is usually found in the police stations as well as the criminal investigation bureau.

Of course, the constitution as well as the law prevent that such violations are registered or reported because the detective [is not held accountable according] to any legal article.

What are the conditions of the prisons, especially for women?

Most of my visits are paid to the central prison in Sana'a as well as Dar Al-Amal for girls (juveniles), Dar Al-Rahma for female orphans and Dar Al-Tawjeeh for boys. I have not been given the chance to visit other prisons outside Sana'a. The central prison in Sana'a is a good example for the time being due to its administration.

This opinion is based on field research I conducted years ago. I criticized the conditions of the prison along with inmates. Yet I was surprisingly moved by the improvement of the prison when I visited it four years ago. I respect the manager of the central prison because [of his treatment of] the inmates in particular and visitors in general. He

also takes care of providing the necessary needs of the prisoners.

You offered judicial support to Ameena Al-Tahaif. What is her case and how did it finish?

Yes. I did offer judicial help to Ameena Al-Tahaif and many others. Ameena Al-Tahaif's case is that she descends from a poor family and could not enroll in school due to the miserable circumstances [in which her family] lives. Yet she could memorize some Qur'anic verses. Her father was obliged to marry her off when she was 11 because he wanted to get her elder brother married. [So] Ameena was married [according to] her father's desires. She did not reach marriage age as well as the [appropriate] level of bearing responsibility. Due to this early marriage, Ameena Al-Tahaif gave birth. She [delivered] a baby girl, Amani. After three months, her husband was killed at the hand of one of his relatives. The murderer carried out his crime assisted by his brother.

Ameena was a [witness] to the murder of her husband. So she was threatened with death if she would reveal the news. She could not tell her family about what happened to her husband because she feared [for her life] along with [that of] her little daughter. But she informed her family [about the details of] her husband's murder, [including that he was] drowned. The killed man and the killer were both of the same tribe. So the victim was Ameena. She was accused of killing her husband and was arrested by the prosecution.

[At the time of her arrest] she was a juvenile and suffered from mental disorder and hysteria. She was only 15. After her husband was murdered, she [gave birth to] her second child. She [went into] labor in prison. The baby girl was taken from her by force.

This is not a legal action. Procedures went this way. The court at first instance sentenced Ameena to death in 1999. The case was transferred to the appellate court.

What was the motivation behind your legal support for Ameena?

I supported and helped Ameena by chance. I met her in the prison. She sought my help. When I heard her [testimonies] and saw the [evidence] and how she was sentenced to death while she is innocent, I decided to fight and work hard to rescue her and stop the death-sentence issued against her.

International and local organizations announced that Ameena was subjected to rape in the prison and she escaped from the prison several times. Is this true?

Ameena escaped two times. The Yemeni authorities decided to transfer her from Al-Mahwait into Sana'a. Finally, she was put in the central prison in Sana'a. When the authorities decided to carry out the sentence, she was sent back to Al-Mahwait. She was dragged to the sentence square. She requested to implement the verdict on the true murderer but the blood relatives refused. Consequently, she told the judge that she is pregnant. Therefore, she was sent back to the central prison until she gave birth.

Was the pregnancy a result of the rape Ameena was subjected to inside the prison?

What I knew is that she was pregnant while she was in the prison. The pregnancy [delayed the execution of her sentence] according to Yemeni law, until the child reached two years old. The death sentence was suspended due to my efforts along with the help of international organizations for human rights headed by the International Amnesty Organization. In 2005, they urged Yemeni authorities to delay the sentence. It was postponed to make sure of her age. The international organizations spared no efforts to convince the blood relatives to take blood money. However, they refrained from taking it.

On what basis were the accusations and verdict issued against Ameena?

The murderer could escape. He [sought the assistance] of a shaykh, who was also an MP (member of parliament). Before he ran away, he threatened to kill Ameena along with her little daughter if she revealed [what she knew]. However, Ameena insisted on telling her husband's family. The murderer confessed that he committed murder, but [claimed Ameena was] his accomplice.

However, some newspapers announced the acquittal of Ameena, didn't they?

Ameena did not get her acquittal as Yemeni official newspapers released because of the film produced about her. She did not receive amnesty from the president due to the aforementioned film. The film was of large-scale interest for the media. Ameena, however, remained in prison. Her case had become propaganda for the gov-

ernment, [assisted by] the film and its producer.

During Ameena's case a lot of people heard about it via newspapers, but we did not read a press release or even a news article about you, her lawyer.

This is a good point. The deliberate sidelining is attributed to the criminal nature of the issues that I defend. Other issues have the human right aspect. Most of the newspapers are less interested in such issues, if the latter have no political [incentive].

[Geography] played a major role [as well] because I am from the former southern part of Yemen. Due to this reason I didn't receive the same care and attention like the women personalities in the northern part.

Is there a new law that will rescind the death sentence?

The new thing is that Ameena's second daughter, born in the prison, [suffered an accidental death] in 2003. By this incident Ameena is the blood relative of her daughter, the legal heir of her father. So, Ameena replaced her daughter in this case and the retribution became null and void.

Al-Mahwait preliminary prosecution presented an official request to the head of the Al-Mahwait first court demanding him to adapt the former verdict of the death penalty. The court demanded Ameena to appear in person where she was asked several questions which [were meant to establish] a direct relation with her daughter's death. Of course, Ameena denied [any] relation with the accidental death of her daughter, requesting to be freed.

Ameena's unfair prosecution was the driving force behind my supporting her. Her rights were not considered. This tragedy will be repeated in Yemen hundreds of times not only because of laws but also due to several other reasons. Ameena's case is a typical example of the violation of human rights. Her example is reflective of unquestioning judges and members of prosecution who violated Ameena's rights. [Her rights were first] transgressed when her father compelled her to get married at the age of 11. Yemen is still suffering from such a phenomenon, [legitimized] by Yemeni legislation within article 15 of the personal status law. Ameena is the victim of poverty, ignorance, early-marriage and finally absence of justice.

What do you expect from the preliminary court in terms of judgment?

I expect a blood money verdict because the imprisonment period is over.

Will she be able to pay blood money?

I was informed that the president directed the payment of blood money.

How do judges and the prosecution treat you as a volunteer offering legal help?

The general prosecution along with the judges accept my legal support. We always help them to find the truth.

You were the first Yemeni lawyer who lodged a lawsuit against cigarette companies?

First of all, I do not smoke and do not sit beside smokers either. I would like to [clarify] that my lawsuit against cigarette companies [began] in the United States in 1996. The companies



Advocate Shatha Nasir: "Ameena's unfair prosecution was the driving force behind my supporting her. Her rights were not considered."

promote their products and encourage smokers. I was very worried about this because they help increase the number of smokers in Yemen, particularly among women and children. Thus, I sued such companies and got three verdicts that support my demands.

How do you find the Yemeni laws toward women?

Yemeni laws are enacted according to Shari'a (Islamic Law). The parliament works to issue these laws. They are good and suitable but violated by those in charge of their implementation.

For instance, Islamically there is no law that deprives women from inheritance. [Yet] male family members such as fathers, brothers and uncles refuse to give up the woman's share. There is also a problem over the blood money of women. It must be equal to the men's share. A woman's loss cannot be compensated. The parliament must review some laws, including the law of women's inheritance as well as that of blood money. Civil society organizations must work together and have united efforts to change and correct laws violating women's rights,

such as article 15 in the personal status law that encourages early marriage.

How do you evaluate the organizations working towards women's issues?

There are a small number of civil society organizations. They work hard and advocate for women's issues as well as issues related to political life.

It is said that the bar is a troublemaker. Is that true? What are the troubles you face?

The bar is a noble profession. It is, however, hard and time consuming. It may bring intimidations to the lawyer. I was threatened several times.

A lot of people complain about the prolonging of judicial proceedings. Why does this happen?

There are several reasons behind prolonging prosecution, [the greatest] of which is lack of judiciary independence. This is attributed to the incompetence as well as the lack of judges in comparison to the huge number of issues.

Source: Family and Development Magazine

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Women and their right to work

By: Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari

These days, there is a lot of talk about woman's work outside her home, plus different viewpoints about the significance and utility of women's joining the labor market, as well as the nature and type of works that fit women and their social traditions and culture. The most important thing is to see whether women's work is permitted or banned by any religious legislation.

Several symposiums, conferences, social functions, and cultural activities were staged with the aim of setting layouts and theories in support of women's right to join the labor market in all or specific fields. But, these functions lost their credibility and significance because their recommendations and outcomes have not been utilized by the concerned agencies.

Before we discuss women's work, which is a right, a grant or a gift from the community, we should refer to some facts and scores that explain the size and the level of women's participation in the labor market in the developing countries in general and the Arab world in particular. World Bank scores indicate that women's participation in the labor market has increased from below 23 percent in 1970 to 32 percent in 2000.

Releasing a report on the occasion of International Women's Day in March 2004, the World Labor Organization confirmed that large numbers of women join the labor market. Despite this, they suffer higher unemployment rates than men. They are underpaid and constitute 60 percent of the poor employees around the world, who number up to 55 million.

The report argued that the gap between the numbers of women and men joining the labor market or those

having no jobs decreased. The number of women to men working in transitional economies and East Asia comes at the ratio 83 - 91 to 100 while in the Middle East and North Africa the ratio is 40 women to 100 men. According to the WLO's report, women are usually paid less than men even in the jobs and careers that are more suitable for females.

It has been made apparent that woman's work in real-life situation is increasing, in addition to the works exercised by women inside their houses or in the field, but neither men, community, nor the government acknowledge the role played by women.

The international, regional, and national agreements and conventions declared that women's right to work is one of the basic human rights. These agreements and conventions granted woman new rights considering her nature as a mother and a homemaker exercising roles that are not less significant than her role outside the house. This is aimed at facilitating women's social participation in the labor market.

Despite the various gains obtained by women after a long time of suffering and discrimination between them and men, women are still suffering the consequences of joining the labor market. This suffering forced many women to abandon their legal right to work outside the house.

We should not express curiosity about the findings reached by several scientific field studies, which confirm that the majority of women, particularly in the Arab World, prefer to stay home. This is attributed to the fact that the Arab countries shun women through their official institutions like the education and media ones. The Arab media depict women of career as ignorant of their children and husbands, claiming that working women are only concerned about their success in work out-

side their home and the material gains. The Arab media also depict women of careers as not taking care of their appearance and that their feminism is exploited by the private sector.

The official and non-official media and educational institutions exercise a negative role toward embodying the traditional task of a woman as a mother and a housewife and consider this the primary role to be played by women. These institutions work on marginalizing women and edging out the social role of working women, as well as reducing the significance of women's participation in the labor market. This leads one to say that the sectors of media in the Arab world constitute a great barrier hindering women's participation in the labor market.

The issue of women's work outside their home and the nature of careers suitable for women remain unresolved although the Arab life has overcome all the contradictory and controversial viewpoints on women's work. When a woman-related issue is presented for discussion, the viewpoints vary without any reference to the real-life situation or the scientific field researches that continuously affirm that working women are more aware and interested in their homes, husbands and children. Children of working women often outperform others at schools and their acquisition is better than that of other kids. Women careers are often said to contribute to the success of their spouses.

In addition, working women are more interested in their health and fitness than housewives, who turn fat, suffer diseases and remain idle inside their homes. It is strange that some people are insisting that working women must return home and not to behave like ladies of the western communities. Home is the suitable place for women to work while the man is responsible for sustaining her and other family mem-

bers, be he a husband, a brother or a father. After marriage, husbands should the responsibility of sustaining their wives, who in return care for their husbands, children, and do other domestic works. If the husband dies while his children are still at their early ages, the wives resort to their brothers or brother-in-laws to provide them with livelihood.

Those who think this way have to bear in mind that their narrow viewpoints are impossible to be achieved in the present time because the majority of men are unable to sustain their families alone. The majority of men turn out to prefer working women as spouses for them in order to share with them the cost of daily living. Some people haven't yet understood that women's participation in the labor market has become one of the prerequisites of the contemporary life.

The primary problem doesn't originate from controversy over women's right to work outside their homes because this right has become an indispensable fact supported by the state and its official and non-official institutions. Various laws and charters stressed women's right to work, taking into consideration their nature and the dual role they play in and outside their homes. The problem is associated with commitment of the concerned organizations to pass or reinforce the labor laws, as well as all the regional and international agreements, which Yemen approved. These agreements and laws cover numerous terms stipulating that all the forms of discrimination between males and females have to be eradicated, particularly in worksites. In another article, God willing, I will attempt to shed light on any women-related laws and international agreements, which Yemen approved and promised to abide by.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

No longer equals!

Dr. Abdullah Al-faqih

The first constitution of the Republic of Yemen, ratified in a general referendum in mid-May 1991, adopted the principle of "equal citizenship." Article 27 of this constitution stipulates that "[a]ll citizens are equal before the law, equal in rights and duties, without discrimination on the bases of sex, color, origin, language, social status or profession or Belief."

In theory, it can be inferred from the clause that the constitution itself is the supreme law of the land, and that rights and duties are derived from constitutional and legal rules. Clause 27 explicitly states that rights and duties in society are conferred equally for men and women, blacks and browns, rich and poor, workers and entrepreneurs, and Muslims and non-Muslims.

It is worth noting, however, that constitutional clauses do not necessarily translate into social behavior in everyday life. Political scientists, therefore, distinguish between a constitution on the one hand, and constitutionalism, on the other. For a state to have a constitution, all it needs to do is to somehow write one. Constitutionalism, by contrast, means that government officials, social institutions, and citizens in general, strictly observe, in their thoughts and deeds, rules embedded in a country's constitution.

In the case of Yemen, and in the past four decades, several constitutions were promulgated both in the former south and in the former north. Constitutionalism as defined, however, was largely missing. This was more so in the tribal and traditional north.

Clause 27 of the 1991 constitution, nevertheless, was considered, a major leap forward. In a multi ethnic, cultural, tribal, class and sectarian society like the Yemeni one, "equal citizenship" came as a result of a compromise between two competing broad-based social coalitions. The first coalition, led mainly by southern socialists, embraces a liberal view of the world. It views individuals, regardless of biological and social differences, as equal in terms of rights and duties. The second coalition, comprising mainly traditional forces, holds a conservative view of social relation. Rights and duties, according to traditionalists, are given to individuals on the bases of social origin, religion, sect, class affiliation, and the likes.

The political, social, and cultural strife between these two opposing views is rooted in decades of social stagnation, evolution, and transformation. Before unification, the two views clashed twice; once in 1972 and the second in 1979. After unification, the two views failed to coexist side by side. Subsequently, the two social coalitions ended up fighting

each other in the summer of 1994. This was the third full-fledged war between the two sides.

After two months of fierce fighting, the traditional forces emerged as winners. As expected, the victors, in an attempt to consolidate their control of power and wealth amended—virtually rewrote—the 1991 constitution.

Clause 41 of the new 1994 constitution, formerly clause 27, reads "[c]itizens are equals in public rights and duties." The new wording of the clause suggests that citizens are no longer equals before the law, no longer equals in private rights and duties, and discrimination is no longer prohibited by constitution and laws. While scrapping much of "equal citizenship" the new constitution, currently in place, laid the foundation of "unequal citizenship."

In the 1994 constitution, women are no longer equal to men. The constitution is written in a masculine language, and has no clause assuring women that the masculine language applies to both sexes. While men's rights come from the constitution and various laws, women's rights are referred, by article 31 of the constitution, to sharia'a.

Citizenship in a modern society is perceived as a direct relationship between an individual, on one side, and a state, on the other. In today's Yemen, citizenship is still, at least in practice, an indirect relationship between an individual and a state. Women's rights are determined by men and men's rights are determined by tribal sheiks.

Generally speaking, access to public office in today's Yemen is mediated by one's gender, tribe, social group, social status, wealth and loyalty to those in power. Equal opportunity exists only in the constitution and in political rhetoric but not in everyday actions. Merits alone is inadequate criterion for one to get to office. They are good only when supplemented by some of the aforementioned criteria. As a result, voices and interests of women, the poor, and the marginalized are left out.

The consequences of such a system have been detrimental to the country's chances of overcoming poverty, illiteracy, and instability. Corruption, inefficacy, and a lack of accountability have all exacerbated the country's crisis. The widening gap between the few who have and the many who have-nots is very likely to serve as a major destabilizing force not only in Yemen but also regionally.

Abdullah Al-faqih is an activist, analyst, and professor of politics at San'a University. The article is inspired by a study he carried out for the Women Forum for Research and Training—WFRT on political citizenship in the Republic of Yemen. The author encourages comments and he can be reached by email at: dralfaqih@yahoo.com.

Catch and release doesn't work

Yemen's failed anti-terrorist policy

By: Jonathan Schanzer
The Weekly Standard

Nine people, including seven Spanish tourists, were killed in Yemen on July 2 when a suicide bomber driving an explosives-laden car barreled into a tourist vehicle convoy as it left an archaeological site. A new al Qaeda franchise calling itself "Al Qaeda of the Jihad in Yemen" claimed responsibility for the carnage, putting the lawless state of Yemen back on the list of "places to watch" in the war on terror. The bombing represents an unfortunate, but not unforeseen, turning of the tide in Yemen.

Four years ago, the government of strongman Ali Abdullah Saleh claimed to have successfully defeated al Qaeda in Yemen. With U.S. training and assistance, the government cracked down on the Islamic Army of Aden-Abyan after a decade of violence culminating in the headline-grabbing USS Cole bombing of October 12, 2000, and the bombing of the French tanker Limburg on October 6, 2002.

After his officials heralded the defeat of the Aden-Abyan gang in 2003, Saleh boldly released dozens of suspects with links to al Qaeda to their families in exchange for promises that they would renounce violence. The government insisted that this unorthodox approach—the Yemeni approach—would be successful.

Unbelievably, three years of relative calm followed. Yemen's primary problem was not international jihadism, but

rather an internal insurrection in the hinterlands of Yemen's Saada province led by Husayn al-Huthi, the leader of a Shiite sub-sect. Clashes over several months left more than 200 rebels and troops dead before al-Huthi's group was neutralized.

Then in 2006, authorities foiled two al Qaeda suicide attacks against Yemeni oil and gas installations. While tragedy was averted, it was an indication that Yemen was coming undone.

The unraveling was probably inevitable. Yemen has traditionally encountered challenges from jihad-supporting tribal leaders who effectively rule the lawless parts of the country that Yemeni authorities cannot reach. Supporters of Osama bin Laden, whose ancestral roots lie in Yemen, have sought shelter in these areas, which are also known to have copious amounts of weapons that can be easily bought in free-wheeling arms markets.

Yemen's final undoing, however, can be pinpointed to a 2006 prison break, when 28 accused terrorists escaped from a jail in the capital, Sanaa. Analysts openly wondered whether the government chose to look the other way. A prison break is a rare occurrence in an Arab police state. At the very least, the prisoners had help from the guards.

Now, according to the Yemen Observer, one of those 28 escapees, a man identifying himself as Abu Basir Nasir al-Wahishi (a.k.a. Abu Hureira al-Sanaani) claims responsibility for the attack on the tourists. He announced in an audio message that he is now the leader of Yemen's newest al Qaeda affiliate group, the successor to the Aden-

Abyan gang.

One would think the government of Yemen would learn its lesson: no more "get out of jail free" cards for terrorists. Such leniency only leads to the rise of other al-Wahishi's.

But even as the Yemeni government rounded up 20 suspects and announced a \$75,000 reward for information leading to the capture of the recent attackers, the government released at least three other convicted terrorists, including bin Laden's former bodyguard Fawzi al-Wajeh and Ali Mohammed al-Kurdi, who was sentenced to death for his role in suicide bombings in Iraq and a hotel bombing in Yemen's port city of Aden.

According to one Yemeni official who tried to justify amnesty for terrorists, "Fighting [terrorists] doesn't work in the longer term."

But Yemen is inconsistent on this front, too. Security officials shot and killed Egyptian national Ahmed Bassiouni Dewidar, a suspected al Qaeda operative and alleged plotter of the tourist site suicide bombing, when he resisted arrest.

When authorities subsequently searched Dewidar's home, they found weapons, explosives, and forged passports allegedly used by al Qaeda to travel to Iraq and other Arab countries. The state-controlled Yemeni press has yet to release any further information about these findings, or about Dewidar's links to other jihadists in Yemen. Indeed, it is inconceivable to think that Dewidar acted alone.

The recent news coming out of Yemen is conflicting, but mostly bad. U.S. authorities are now reportedly on

the ground in Yemen, looking for signs of cooperation between Yemeni terrorists and insurgents in Iraq. More important, they should be looking for signs that Yemen is ready to take its jihadist problem more seriously. Saleh's amnesty experiment appears to have failed.

Jonathan Schanzer, a former Treasury intelligence analyst, is director of policy for the Jewish Policy Center. He is author of *Al-Qaeda's Armies: Middle East Affiliate Groups and the Next Generation of Terror*. He conducted research in Yemen in 2003.



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Let us make peace with the Earth

by Koichiro Matsuura

We know now that our civilization, our species, and even our planet may not be immortal. This is not the first ecological crisis that humanity has lived through, to be sure; but there can be no doubt it is the first that is so wide – indeed, world-wide – in scope. What are we doing to safeguard the future of the Earth and its biosphere? What are the challenges to be met? What solutions can we offer? These were the questions under discussion in the latest session of our 21st Century Dialogues organized by Jérôme Bindé at UNESCO Headquarters on the theme “What future for the human species? What prospects for the planet?”, with contributions from some fifteen leading experts.

First and foremost, climate change and global warming: by the end of the century this planet could be hotter by an amount between 1.5° C and 5.8° C. Such a warming of the climate threatens many parts of the world, and is liable to provoke further disasters from the proliferation of tropical storms to the drowning of whole island states or coastal regions.

Next comes desertification, already affecting a third of the world’s land. At the end of the 20th century almost one billion people in 110 countries were threatened by encroaching deserts: the figure might well double by 2050, when two billion could be affected.

Deforestation is continuing, too, though primary and tropical forests are home to the greater part of the world’s biodiversity, and we know they help to combat climate change as well as slowing soil erosion.

The whole biosphere is threatened by pollution: pollution of air and water, oceans and soils, chemical pollution and invisible pollution. In Asia alone, the World Bank estimates the cost in human life of atmospheric pollution at 1.56 million deaths a year.

There is a world water crisis that cannot be ignored. Two billion people will face water shortages in 2025 – three billion, in all likelihood, by 2050.

Lastly, biodiversity is endangered: species are becoming extinct a hundred times faster than the mean natural rate, and 50% of all species could be gone by 2100. Yet biodiversity is essential to the cycle of life, to human health and to the security of our food supply.

This situation brings a serious risk of war and other conflicts, and demands a global response. Sustainable develop-

ment concerns us all: it is a necessary condition for any effective fight against poverty, not least because it is the poorest who will suffer the worst of the droughts and other natural disasters to come.

Today, though, we understand that our war on nature is a world war. That is the meaning of the Stern Report on the economic consequences of climate change. If we do not take immediate action to combat global warming, we can expect to forgo between 5% and 20% of world GDP. Who says sustainable development costs too much? “Business as usual” is what threatens to ruin us! Javier Pérez de Cuéllar began our 21st Century Dialogues with a clear warning: “How can we know, yet be unable – or unwilling – to act?”

There are difficult questions that we have to answer now, with courage and lucidity. It can no longer be argued that “sustainability” and “development” are conflicting goals, nor that tackling poverty is incompatible with conserving ecosystems. We are going to have to fight on every front at once.

We shall also have to invent new and far more wisely restrained modes of growth and consumption. As Haroldo Mattos de Lemos emphasized in the 21st Century Dialogues, “we humans are no longer living off nature’s inter-

est, but off its capital”. The idea is not, of course, to stop growth entirely, but, as Mostafa Tolba suggested, to bring about the quickest possible shift in its nature towards less material forms of wealth, reducing our consumption of raw materials in every area of production. There must also be far greater awareness of the devastating potential of global warming; and that awareness must result in compliance with the measures laid down in the Kyoto protocol.

It would also be useful to promote a right to clean drinking water, laying a proper foundation for the ethical governance of water so that it becomes possible both to control demand and to manage it better, as well as improving water quality through careful use, proper treatment and recycling.

UNESCO is actively engaged on many fronts in promoting sustainable water policies, fostering education in this area and encouraging the global protection of biodiversity not least through its world-wide network of “biosphere reserves”. They have truly become experimental laboratories for ecosystem conservation and the rational use of natural resources at local level.

I have also in mind UNESCO’s many operations in the South to help

with the training of experts and managers; for there is a cruel lack of trained professionals and educated policymakers properly aware of the links between water, poverty, health, culture and development. Cultural aspects and education are often neglected in environmental thinking and policy: yet education and culture are two essential factors in any sustainable development.

As part of the current reform of the United Nations system, a wide-ranging debate has now begun concerning the governance of the environment at a world-wide level and the need for better coordination of everybody’s efforts. I, too, am convinced that our environmental activities within the UN system are too fragmented, and often suffer as a result; this must be put right. In our efforts to improve coordination, however, we must be sure to build on the mechanisms that already exist and are working well.

UNESCO is actively engaged in this debate, where our role is dictated by our mandate: the E for Education, the S for Science and the C for Culture and Communication. Here I should recall that UNESCO conducts four major international scientific programmes on the environment – one on Oceans, one on Water, one on Man and the Biosphere and one on Geoscience – in

full cooperation with the UN and with the United Nations Environment Programme. The success of UN-Water (composed of 24 institutions and organizations belonging to the UN system, one of which is UNESCO) gives a good example of fruitful cooperation. UNESCO also acts as lead organization for the World Water Assessment Programme, and for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

The call for us, today, to put an end to the War on Nature is a call for an unprecedented solidarity with future generations. Perhaps, in order to achieve this, humanity needs to make a new pact, a “Natural Contract” of co-development with the planet, and an armistice with nature?

We need the wisdom to champion an ethic of the future, for such an ethic must prevail if we are to make peace with the Earth. This planet is our mirror image: if it is wounded, then we are wounded; if it is mutilated, human kind is mutilated as well. To change direction, we have to create knowledge societies that can combine tackling poverty with investing in education, research and innovation; in doing so, we lay the foundations of a true ethic of responsibility.

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Book Review: “Fleeing Force” Society in motion: Of migrants and tourists

In their book, Mark Terkessidis und Tom Holert examine the phenomenon of people 'in movement' and the consequences of this mobility.

By: Heike Friesel

At first glance, the connection proposed by the authors from the outset – already in the subtitle – between tourists and migrants may seem a little tenuous, but closer inspection reveals more parallels and points of contact than one would initially assume.

In their book the authors embark upon a journey of their own, following the paths of people who leave their native countries – mostly temporarily, though sometimes permanently – to lead a supposedly better life in a different place.

Diverse motives

Their motives are highly diverse: many of them set out to find better economic possibilities, others flee from war and violence, and tourists want to make use of the purportedly 'most precious weeks of the year' to gain fresh energy for when they return to their everyday lives at home.

In eight chapters, Holert and Terkessidis describe the effects of the massively-increased mobility of people in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries on those places that constitute the starting points, the intermediate stages and finally the destinations of this mass movement.

Using a wide range of examples

from Croatia, Italy, Spain, North Africa and the Middle East, they show how the changes are by no means restricted to the population structures of the destination countries, but also exert a considerable influence on the economic and sociological structures of the countries of origin.

Organised mobility

In Tangier, for example, one finds entire neighbourhoods that are only inhabited in the summer months, when expatriate Moroccans come to spend their holidays 'at home', and practically deserted for the rest of the year.

Mobility needs to be organised, and there is much money to be made through the management of this movement, both by legal and illegal means.

Holert and Terkessidis essentially view the refugee smugglers as the undercover counterparts of regular tourist offices, organising the logistics, transport and sometimes also accommodation during travel.

The tourist and building industries in the destination countries rearrange entire stretches of countryside, creating holiday oases where there were once only poor fishermen whose work barely enabled them to make ends meet.

A further important aspect of this study is the examination of political attitudes in the destination countries:

on the one hand there is extensive media coverage, encouraging a subtle fear of too much foreignness among the 'indigenous' population and thus also justifying the inhumane treatment of the arriving immigrants, who are subjected to discrimination as 'asylum seekers'.

Tourist industry and illegal work immigrants

On the other hand, countries with a substantial tourist industry and/or high level of agricultural production urgently require cheap workers, preferably without any rights, and this need can be met most easily by illegal work immigrants. The question of integration does not seriously arise in such circumstances, as the permanent residence of those workers is not actually desired.

Like the tourists, who spend their holidays in self-enclosed complexes and hardly encounter the indigenous population, most migrants also live in isolation, albeit an involuntary one.

Whether one is dealing with transit camps, asylum-seekers' hostels or simply illegal residence in a foreign country, there is no participation in the social life of the host country, either in the case of (long-term) tourists, work migrants or refugees.

The two authors thus present a picture of various 'absent present' people increasingly inhabiting the peripheries of affluent areas. The cities in those areas lose their 'polis' character, however, as many of their inhabitants are no longer actual (political) subjects, instead remaining



there – formally, at least – only temporarily.

The authors therefore call for stronger municipalities, the political integration of the 'non-settled'

population, as well as the active participation of that population in the political and social determination of its own living conditions. This demands a fundamental rethinking, however, and

the achievement of Holert and Terkessidis lies in thematising this.

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A nation kidnapped

The editorial published in the Colombian newspaper *Diario del Sur* on July 6 (“A Slap in the Face of Violence”) was ecstatic: “Never before, in spite of the violence that has oppressed us during so many years, has Colombia lived a day like yesterday: historic and unforgettable in every aspect.”



By: Anna Husarska

At noon on July 5, Colombians throughout the country poured into the streets to show their outrage at the news that 11 provincial politicians had been killed while being held by leftist rebels. A human chain was formed, with participants wearing white tops. My colleagues in the capital, Bogotá, and in

the south of the country, where we have humanitarian projects, say that everyone was waving white scarves. White balloons were launched everywhere. Press agencies estimate that, with more than one million participants, this was the largest public protest since October 1999, which was also – sadly – a demonstration against violence and kidnappings.

But, while the killing of the 11 congressmen from Cali region – attributed to “crossfire” during an attack by an “unidentified military group” the leftist rebels – provoked shock and anger, there was no agreement on how to solve the chronic problem of “El Secuestro” (The

Kidnapping). Some Colombians demand a “humanitarian accord” – an exchange of prisoners for hostages – and reject “blood and fire” rescue attempts. Others oppose “ceding the territory” (setting up a demilitarized zone, where any such exchange could take place) and demand of the government “firmeza, siempre firmeza!” (to be “firm” and go after the rebels).

As is often the case in armed conflicts, civilians suffer the most. The July 5 protest reminded us of the 3,000 kidnappings since the start of this four-decade conflict, but Colombians could form human chains and release white balloons for many other reasons.

Consider, for example, Colombia’s grim ranking as global leader in the number of victims injured by landmines. According to “Landmine

Monitor 2006,” Colombia had 1,110 victims last year, followed by Cambodia with 875 and Afghanistan with 848.

This unnoticed drama is emblematic of the under-reported Colombian conflict. Indeed, if there were such a thing as a combined index of despair, Colombia would be an undisputed leader. Hostage-taking, and killing and maiming by landmines, are but the side effects of the oldest and longest-running civil war in Latin America, which has resulted in three million internally displaced persons – one of the world’s highest levels, close to that of Sudan, Congo, and Iraq.

Even if there were, by some miracle, a negotiated end to the fighting, the scars left by this conflict will remain. So, besides helping the country find a political solution, there is also a need to

focus on long-term reconstruction and reconciliation, so that young lives distorted by the civil war can be righted and children can be rescued from the harmful influence of so much violence and bloodshed.

In Colombia’s south – where the heavy presence of illegal armed groups makes social peace a distant dream – I went to visit a secondary school, as part of a needs assessment. After four hours on a dirt road, I reached a highlands hamlet. The smart and friendly teenagers were eager to learn how to surf the Internet, just installed in their school.

But when I asked five of them what they would like to become, I understood that this conflict has marked them forever. Their dream careers were: lawyer, criminal investigator, forensic physician, and soldier. The fifth one

wanted to become a chemist, so that he could set up a cocaine laboratory. The teenagers’ plans simply reflect a sad reality: these pupils are the second generation that has not known anything but war.

On the day of the march against violence, next to the editorial in *Diario del Sur* was a simple, one-question opinion poll: “Do you think that the security [in our department’s capital] has improved since the beginning of the year?” Over 90% said “no.” This is why thousands went into the streets to be counted.

It is perhaps a beginning.

Anna Husarska is Senior Policy Adviser at the International Rescue Committee. www.theIRC.org Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007. www.project-syndicate.org



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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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Sr. Operations Engineer

Job Number Y004

Essential Job Duties

This is a key position responsible and accountable for operations support activities for Occidental's Yemen assets. Key accountabilities include directing and coordinating the Production Operations activities including well workover program, production data management, and artificial lift systems application. This position would assist the Operations Manager in all his responsibilities related to production operations. The Field Managers will depend on this position for technical support. This position will be consulted on all matters related to running the Production Operations both technically and organizationally. Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Directly responsible for efficiently managing all production and facility operations to insure maximum production of oil and gas in a safe and efficient manner.
- Develop the project plans for production maintenance.
- Achieve major & minor project deliverables, including financial and schedule targets.
- Consult on the operation of the field as the principal resource for the Field managers.
- Coordinate between all corporate HES resources and the field operation to ensure that company policy is adhered too.
- Coordinate with Operations, Drilling, HES and other stakeholders to implement production maintenance projects.
- Support the technical project needs of Yemen Operations with a focus on life-of-field operability to ensure rate, reserves and HES goals are met.
- Cultivate and maintain an effective working relationship with Occidental of Yemen personnel and the PEPA partners in order to facilitate the attainment of business objectives.
- Develop and Justify production or operations improvement projects and manage the project budgets related to production monitoring and improvements.
- Provide operating group input to Develop and justify the capital budget and associated AFE's (22 million dollars in 2006).
- Ensure contracting and procurement activities satisfy Yemen's objectives of meeting project schedules at competitive prices with maximum cost recovery.
- Keep the Yemen Leadership Team informed about progress, opportunities, potential threats and critical problem issues.
- Provide expertise and resources to support development of new business initiatives.
- Responsible for the monitoring of training programs to facilitate the

Yemenization of all expatriate positions the Operating Group.

- Ensures that all safety procedures are understood and that all work is performed in the safest manner possible.

Required Qualifications

- BS or higher degree in engineering.
- Minimum of 10 years O&G industry experience.
- Recognized expertise production management, particularly well performance and artificial lift.
- Experience in operational troubleshooting, process risk management.
- Ability to effectively communicate vision, strategies and programs to OOGC management, employees, Yemen counterparts and other stake holders.
- Knowledge of production analysis software, Prosper and Gap preferred.
- Managing and measuring work through the use of appropriate metrics and key performance indicators.
- Competence in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Microsoft Project.
- Strong communication skills with the ability to be a liaison between Yemeni staff and upper-management.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously.
- Emergency on call service 24hrs.
- Travel to and from the field is required on a frequent basis.
- Ability to work overtime as needed.
- Ability to travel as required.

Maintenance Supervisor

Job Number Y013

Essential Job Duties

- Organize and manage the maintenance department.
- Maintain all mechanical equipment functioning in optimum condition in all areas of Block S-1.
- Assure that training of Maintenance personnel is accomplished through prescribed training courses and active mentoring.
- Co-ordinate maintenance activities with those of other departments. Meet the operating requirements by allocating resources in a timely manner. Always be available for breakdowns and assist with critical operations.
- Develop and administer preventive maintenance programs.
- Establish practices consistent with company policies and procedures on safety and environment. Insure all personnel are aware of and follow these policies and procedures.
- Assist in the preparation of an annual budget. Ensure maintenance and repair records are kept updated to provide for future planning and budget analysis. Develop a strategic plan showing where costs could be optimized or funds utilized to enhance production or mechanical efficiency.
- Advise management of field requirements. These areas include manpower,

vehicles, facilities, tools, and repair and testing equipment.

- Maintains contact with outside vendors through the material department to co-ordinate repairs, identify appropriate parts and maintain technical awareness of current technologies.

Required Qualifications

- A minimum 4 year degree in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent discipline. Technical training or military training would be desirable.
- Minimum 10 years working knowledge of oil production equipment service and repair required with attention to the problems associated with remote areas.
- Minimum 15 years of industrial maintenance a requirement.
- Highly developed leadership / decision making skills.
- Must have strong English communication skills (Written and Verbal).

Automation / IT Supervisor

Job Number Y031

Essential Job Duties

Directly responsible for efficiently managing all office and automation computer systems as well as the communications infrastructure. The position will be trained in the support of automation hardware and software. Basic understanding of electronic circuits is required or experience in the installation and maintenance of industrial control hardware. The position will support office computer systems and software, office peripheral equipment, office LANs, support the office phone system, interaction with the communications provider and communication systems that support the WAN. The position will support the automation server and software, automation LAN, PLC systems to the point of restoring software and basic troubleshooting.

- Works with the Sana'a IT department to maintain consistent installations according to the corporate standards for information systems.
- Supervise the maintenance of the instrumentation and control systems.
- Understand and support the OOGC automation server systems under the direction of the OOGC ATG.
- Provide the principal support for the field communications infrastructure, including: fiber optic distribution of the LANs, telemetry systems that will extend the LAN from the CPF, PBX phone system and its connection to the service provider.
- Responsible for maintaining the security of the data systems according to OOGC directions.
- Keeps the field facilities documentation of the computer system up to date and ensures that they are synchronized with the Sana'a copies of the documents.
- Ensure that all quality control systems are implemented for new construction and keeps records of those controls.

- Understand and implement all HES policies, particularly those related to work performed on the automation systems.
- Supervises The Following position(s): Instrument technician who will respond to maintenance issues for the control system components.

Required Qualifications

- B.S., Information Technology.
- 5 - 10 years experience in all the support of information systems including computer systems and associated communication systems.
- Understanding of basic circuit theory or industrial control systems.
- Expert in Microsoft Office software and Microsoft operating systems.
- Strong communication skills with the ability to work with Yemeni personnel and the expatriate community.
- Expert in office LAN and WAN systems.
- Good understanding of communication systems like the office PBX.
- Excellent trouble shooting skills.
- Good understanding of circuits or industrial controls.
- Ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously.
- Field based working 4 weeks x 4 weeks. (or similar even rotation).
- Travel to Sana'a to work with the engineering team as required.

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Job Number Y002

Essential Job Duties

This is a key departmental role that will be suitable for a highly motivated individual capable of multi-tasking while maintaining attention to detail. The responsibilities for this position include but are not limited to the following:

- Implement administrative projects and tasks for the leadership team.
- Manage contacts and schedules for leadership team.
- Setup and maintain department filing system.
- Prepare company correspondence in both Arabic and English.
- Manage company correspondence database.
- Contract Administration.

Required Qualifications

- College Degree with a minimum of 5 years experience.
- Fluent English and Arabic (written and spoken). Candidates with professional translation certifications will be given preference.
- Proficient in Excel & Word.
- Self starter with a high energy level, and the ability to deliver results independently in a multi-tasking, fast-paced environment.
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A new retail phenomenon

By: Yemen Times Staff

The convenience of your friendly neighbourhood grocer still dominates the retail market in Yemen; the Urban population, exceeding 7 million people with significantly higher income than rural populations, gives more life to the business of retail in urban centres, indicating that retailing is an economic sector worthy of investigation in order to find the market trends happening within the retail industry in urban Yemen.

Every person who spends any money is a part of the economy. Consumers make a conscious decision where and how to spend this money, to spend it buying various household items and foodstuff from your neighbouring shop or grocer, or opting to head to the super or hyper market where more choices and varieties are in one place? Anwar Mujahed, a highschool teacher from Sana'a, says that he never heads to the supermarket, he explains: "when you go to the supermarket you find too much choice and then you want to buy too many things which you cannot afford, it makes you overspend then feel miserable".

There might be some sense in what Anwar said, continues, his companion, Esam: "Supermarkets and shopping malls are for rich people, we barely afford our current lifestyle where we buy only what we need, then why should we go to someplace where we think we need more than what we actually do?"

The limited income of the bottom segments of urban societies seem to tend to avoid larger retail outlet, branding those as 'places where you will lose your money', however, the population of the limited-income segments is significantly high and, in total, resembles a large chunk of the market. Asad, who works as a Coca-Cola truck driver and who retails mainly to small and tiny grocery stores, says: "almost 90 percent of my retailing is done to these many small



One of the new hypermarkets which started to mushroom in Sana'a.

shops, they each buy small quantities, less than 100 bottles per week, however, there are some 200 small shops in this area [Hayel street in Sana'a] and I keep on stopping every 150 - 200 meters to sell to another shop down the corner and so on," he also added: "fathers send their kids with 50 Riyals to buy them a bottle of cola to drink while chewing Qat, its like there is a time of the day when kids come out of no where holding 50 Riyals bills demanding cola, especially during the weekends, Cola bottles are usually sold in ones and twos, rarely in dozens unless there is some occasion."

The amounts of business for each shop is small, but in total there is a huge potential as population grows, says bakery-delivery boy Abdul Sallam: "last year, shops used to ask for something like 100 - 150 bread loafs every day, but now some of them buy 400 bread loafs every day, I guess there are just more mouths to feed so more work for me and more business for the bakery..."

In a survey attempt to quantify how much business is taking place in each of these tiny shops, it indicated that the capital investment is around US\$ 2000 - 3000 dollars mainly spent on making the shelves and buying the freezers, less than a third of the capital investment is used to buy the various products and food stuff, which can be described as working capital.

Hamoud, a Shop owner, says money is precious to be spent in working capital: "people only buy particular items, moving items, people know what they need and will buy only that, if I bring new items there is a big chance no body will buy them and they will expire, unless it is a special occasion such as Eid or end of school year, then spending slightly increases".

He continues: "you see, the stuff I have here are like bread, eggs, cooking oil and ghee, kilos of rice, sugar, wheat and grains, small packages of biscuits and bottled juices, a small variety of candies and inexpensive chocolates, some detergents, matches and candles, AA batteries among other things every

household consumes and every household around me will need".

Moving along to another side of town deemed to be more prosperous, retails are larger in size and smaller in numbers, larger houses and relatively smaller populations. We spoke to a cashier of a large retail outlet and asked him about the consumers, Abdullah said: "there are two types, the first are the ones usually in a hurry who bought something small like cigarettes or refreshments as such, while the other type is families who buy lots of stuff which should keep them happy for a week, they spend sometimes 20,000 Riyals or even double that for larger families, and they buy all sorts of stuff, foodstuff, kitchen utensils, toys, tools, toys, frozen foods and all kinds of things" When asked about the frequencies Abdullah said: "most of the people who come here are regulars, I think they like the convenience that everything is at once place near by them, and they don't mind hesitate to spend a few more thousands to buy expensive chocolates..."

A new retail phenomenon
Having portrayed that image, it

doesn't necessarily indicate that only rich people shop at large retail outlet, a phenomenon has recently emerged where large retail outlets emerged with a specific target set at the limited-income segments similar to discount outlets, there are seven such retail outlets currently in Sana'a city, with a couple more under constructions.

The limited-income retail outlet tend to retail mainly clothing items, home accessories, and other products avoiding food stuff. An Investor, who owns such a retail outlet located in Hadda st., says: "there is a lot of market potential in Yemen if you look in the right places, most of the products being sold here are 'leftovers' which were on display at other parts of the world, but because they ran out of fashion they were sold to me at a fraction of the price, and now I sell them at reasonable prices for the consumers who are happy to buy them for less than half of their original price".

Mr. Jamal who is a school principle comments: "When my wife went shopping into one of these places I was expecting to see that she bought poorly-made Chinese clothing items because of the very low prices, however, I was surprised to find that some of clothes were made in Turkey and were of excellent quality".

Housewife Hafsa Masoud says: "as long as I can find enough affordable variety and nice designs, I will buy. Previously, we used to buy similar products from the market for higher prices, now that we cannot afford that because of inflation, we come here and this is a better choice".

Economists describe the Yemeni market as highly price-sensitive, indicating that although Yemen resembles a large market with reasonable growth potential, Yemeni consumers will buy products that suit their budget first and their liking second; budget in terms of what they can afford and want to spend on, and liking in terms of convenience and tastes. As the new discount retail outlets phenomenon has shown, there is a market in Yemen but it is waiting for the right products, even if it is meant flooding the market with old-fashioned and possibly second-rate goods.

Business in brief

Oil Ministry seeks civil society cooperation

Sources at the Ministry of Oil indicated that the Ministry is seeking the cooperation of the civil society in order to play an active role in the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, three civil society organizations have been nominated to participate in the implementation in a rotating manner that allows other civil society organizations to participate thereafter.

Joint food council to regulate prices

In its meeting this week, the joint food council which include members of the business community decided to formulate a mechanism to monitor and regulate the prices of food stuff in the domestic market and to work under the guidance of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Helal calls for blacklisting non-compliant companies

Minister of Local Administration Abdulqader Hilal has emphasized the importance of blacklisting businesses which are awarded government contracts but fail to comply in accordance to the agreed-upon terms, he stated that after withdrawing two road construction in Al-Dhale'e projects from a construction company for the company's non-compliance.

Islamic Union Bank Expands to Yemen

The Islamic Union Bank Group said that the bank is currently undergoing arrangements in order to expand to Yemen and establish a branch office with a capital of US\$ 100 million, however, the establishment of the bank is awaiting the legislative reforms that will allow foreign ownership of 50 percent of the bank's shares.

Islah Launches Anti-Child Labor campaign

Islah Charitable foundation has recently launched an Anti-Child Labor campaign with the support of the U.S. department of labor and under the supervision of the U.S.-based CHF organization. The prime objective of the campaign is to raise awareness of the dangers of child labor.

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No development, no peace

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Anyone interested in peacemaking, poverty reduction, and Africa's future should read the new United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) report Sudan: Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment. This may sound like a technical report on Sudan's environment, but it is much more. It is a vivid study of how the natural environment, poverty, and population growth can interact to provoke terrible human-made disasters like the violence in Darfur.

When a war erupts, as in Darfur, most policymakers look for a political explanation and a political solution. This is understandable, but it misses a basic point. By understanding the role of geography, climate, and population growth in the conflict, we can find more realistic solutions than if we stick with politics alone. Extreme poverty is a major cause, and predictor, of violence. The world's poorest places, like Darfur, are much more likely to go to war than richer places. This is not only common sense, but has been verified by studies and statistical analyses. In the UNEP's words, "There is a very strong link between land degradation, desertification, and conflict in Darfur."

Extreme poverty has several effects on conflict. First, it leads to desperation among parts of the population. Competing groups struggle to stay alive in the face of a shortage of food, water, pasture land, and other basic needs. Second, the government loses legitimacy and the support of its citizens. Third, the government may be captured by one faction or another, and then use violent means to suppress rivals.

Darfur, the poorest part of a very poor country, fits that dire pattern. Livelihoods are supported by semi-nomadic livestock-rearing in the north and subsistence farming in the south. It is far from ports and international trade, lacks basic infrastructure such as roads and electricity, and is extremely arid. It has become even drier in recent

decades because of a decline in rainfall, which is probably the result, at least in part, of man-made climate change, caused mostly by energy use in rich countries.

Declining rainfall contributed directly or indirectly to crop failures, the encroachment of the desert into pastures, the decline of water and grassland for livestock, and massive deforestation. Rapid population growth - from around one million in 1920 to around seven million today - made all of this far more deadly by slashing living standards.

The result has been increasing conflict between pastoralists and farmers, and the migration of populations from the north to the south. After years of simmering conflicts, clashes broke out in 2003 between rival ethnic and political groups, and between Darfur rebels and the national government, which in turn has supported brutal militias in "scorched earth" policies, leading to massive death and displacement.

While international diplomacy focused on peacekeeping and on humanitarian efforts to save the lives of displaced and desperate people, peace in Darfur can be neither achieved nor sustained until the underlying crises of poverty, environmental degradation, declining access to water, and chronic hunger are addressed. Stationing soldiers will not pacify hungry, impoverished, and desperate people.

Only with improved access to food, water, health care, schools, and income-generating livelihoods can peace be achieved. The people of Darfur, Sudan's government, and international development institutions should urgently search for common ground to find a path out of desperate violence through Darfur's economic development, helped and supported by the outside world.

The UNEP report, and experiences elsewhere in Africa, suggests how to promote economic development in Darfur. Both people and livestock need assured water supplies. In some areas, this can be obtained through boreholes that tap underground aquifers. In other

areas, rivers or seasonal surface runoff can be used for irrigation. In still other areas, longer-distance water pipelines might be needed. In all cases, the world community will have to help pay the tab, since Sudan is too poor to bear the burden on its own. With outside help, Darfur could increase the productivity of its livestock through improved breeds, veterinary care, collection of fodder, and other strategies. A meat industry could be developed in which Darfur's pastoralists would multiply their incomes by selling whole animals, meat products, processed goods (such as leather), dairy products, and more. The Middle East is a potentially lucrative nearby market. To build this export market, Darfur will need help with transport and storage, cell phone coverage, power, veterinary care, and technical advice.

Social services, including health care and disease control, education, and adult literacy programs should also be promoted. Living standards could be improved significantly and rapidly through low-cost targeted investments in malaria control, school feeding programs, rainwater harvesting for drinking water, mobile health clinics, and boreholes for livestock and irrigation in appropriate locations. Cell phone coverage could revolutionize communications for sparse populations in Darfur's vast territory, with major benefits for livelihoods, physical survival, and the maintenance of family ties.

The only way to sustainable peace is through sustainable development. If we are to reduce the risk of war, we must help impoverished people everywhere, not only in Darfur, to meet their basic needs, protect their natural environments, and get onto the ladder of economic development.

Jeffrey Sachs is Professor of Economics and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. He is also a Special Adviser to United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.

Abu Bakr Al-Mashhour:

Muslim scholar speaks on Yemen's Islamic roots, qat epidemic, and relations with other nations

By: Abdulkawi Sha'lan
For Yemen Times

With the yearly advent of the month of Rajab, many Yemenis recall a place reached by the Prophet's emissary, Mu'ath Bin Jabal, who called the people of Yemen to embrace Islam. The commemoration of Mu'ath's venture to Yemen is accompanied by practices that are harmful to the reputation of Islam. Some people even go further and declare such a celebration as a bi'dah (innovation) with no foundation in the religion, deeming it a heresy.

Despite such claims, Sufis launched festivals in celebration of this occasion last Tuesday. Festivities include practical lectures and cultural readings before gathering in Al-Janad Historical Mosque to hear the Friday sermon. Recognition of this event is most prominent among Sufis, who claim that celebration of this occasion in Yemen's history serves as a reminder to Yemenis of their glorious past when they embraced Islam as well as serving as a reminder of the establishment of Al-Janad mosque. Islamic scholar Abu Bakr Al-Mashhour clarified some points about this historic yet controversial celebration.

First of all we would like to know some indications about celebrating Rajab's Friday every year?

Celebrating Rajab's Friday is to commemorate Mu'ath Bin Jabal, the Prophet's emissary. It is also to create a Yemeni window to the outside world in order to know the scholars of this country as well as those who serve religion, Jihad and science for the sake of God.

What are the issues you discuss during this celebration?

During the celebration of this occasion we bring a lot of religious issues back to memory through conducting scientific researches and lectures.

What is the message you want to convey to the government and community via this celebration?



Scholar Abu Bakr Al-Mashhour.

The celebration of this occasion coincides with the election of President Saleh, long-time president of the Republic of Yemen. This has a symbolic indication, inviting us to call for Saleh along with the government to realize the nation targets and take reforming steps for the sake of the country.

Some people consider celebrating this occasion as a heresy. How do you react to this?

I do not want to answer. Everybody is free regarding his or her thoughts. We are living in a democratic community. Visiting Al-Janad Mosque is a norm. But if the visitors commit something wrong during their visit violating the Sharia' (Islamic law), we consider it a heresy. In regard to visiting and gathering, the Prophet called us to do that; however, some people object visiting the mosque due to the mistakes committed there. I prefer to correct mistakes rather than to stop visiting the mosque.

What do you think of terrorism?

Terrorism is a blight attributed to the lack of education inside schools, mosques and houses. If kids are not educated, they become terrorists and with time, they start to carry guns and commit crimes. However, Islam calls for good deeds and prohibits evil things.

During the lecture you said that there is a group of Ahlul-Bayt that has extremist trends. Can you explain that?

We are living in an age that everyday new issues emerge to break down the community. For instance, before a period of time issues regarding Al-Kitab (the Qur'an) and Al-Sunnah (statements and actions of the Prophet Muhammad) emerged and there was a dispute over it. After that the issue of Ahlul-Bayt also came to the minds. They say that the relatives of the Prophet do not have their rights [therefore] they have the right to take their status back in history. And some others call for taking revenge of the killer of Al-Hussein (grandson of the Prophet Muhammad). [Old] troubles cannot be tackled by new ones.

What do you think of the suicide attacks happening here and there?

The one who commits the crime of suicide is highly responsible for his/her sinful act. The Prophet, peace be upon him, put a limit for this thing.

Before conducting this interview with you, four people were killed in the qat market. What is your opinion about the qat issue in Yemen?

I think [the use of] qat is the biggest problem Yemen is cursed with. The problem is that if you speak about qat, you speak about the beloved people [of Yemen]. The state should take adamant steps towards this dangerous issue. We have to fight [the production of] qat, not those who chew it.

Do you call for uprooting qat trees?

Yes, of course. Uprooting qat trees must be taken step by step. There must be a good plan that finds new alternatives and then the government starts preventing citizens from selling and chewing qat. Mosques as well as schools play a major role in this concern. They can educate people about this tree and how it puts their lives in jeopardy.

What about the fatwa about qat trees?

We must be aware of anything that may lead to death. As you said four people were killed and the majority of patients infected by hepatitis virus is because of chewing qat. Islam does not call for incurring loss of lives.

How do you react to the terrorist attack that took place in Ma'rib, claiming the lives of seven Spanish and two Yemeni nationals?

I think it is a curse upon the nation. It is

attributed to the misunderstanding of our relations with other peoples. There are some people who think of removing other nations such as removing Israel. These people are not well educated. They must fight the ones who [fight them]. Killing innocent tourists incurs problems over the country such as harming Yemen's interests and its relations with the outside world. Subsequently, the conflict circle becomes wider and wider between nations.

We understand from you words that removing Israel is an escape from the world of reality to the world of elusion?

On the contrary, removing Israel is a demand, but how can we do that? It can be done through principles that Islam talked about. Palestinians as well as Lebanese must refer to these principles instead of the dissension and chaos currently taking place.

تعلن الشركة اليمنية الإيطالية للألمنيوم المحدودة

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Geological Survey & Mineral Resources Board

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SECOND TIME

(TENDER NO: 5/2007)

The Geological Survey & Mineral Resources Board (GSMRB) invites manufactures or authorized dealers of specialized and experienced companies to participate in tender (NO:5/2007) for purchasing equipment for **Telemetric Seismic Network through VSAT communication system facilities.**

Qualified and specialized companies who wish to participate in tender can obtain the tender documents from (Purchasing section - Services and Supply Department, General Department of Financial & Management, Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board located in Al Zubari St, Asier road, near Ministry of Oil and Minerals during working hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 100.00\$US one hundred dollar.

The tender offer should be accompanied with the following:

1. Offers must be placed in two separate envelopes one for Technical classification and the other for Financial classification both envelopes should be submitted in third envelope sealed by red wax.
2. A copy of valid Tax card (with regard to local companies or Agents of foreign companies), and the original documents must be brought for comparison.
3. A copy of valid Insurance Card (with regard to local companies or Agents of foreign companies), and the original documents must be brought for comparison.
4. A copy of valid Commercial Registration Certificate, (with regard to local companies or Agents of foreign companies), and the original documents must be brought for comparison.
5. A copy of registration for the purpose of sales tax according to Yemeni law.
6. A copy Al Zakatt Card, and bring the original for comparison
7. The tender offer should contain all fees & taxes to handle equipment to purchaser warehouse.
8. To facilitate evaluation and comparison, the Purchaser will convert all bid prices expressed in the amounts in various currencies in which the bid prices are payable, to Yemeni Rials to the selling market exchange rates established by the Central Bank of Yemen. Date of exchange rate of commercial bid opening.
9. A bid Bond or check payable for 2.5% of the bid offer un-conditionally valid for three months.

The last day for the tender bid is 10.00 a.m on Wednesday 8/8/2007. The tenders will be open in public at 11.00 a.m of the same day in GSMRB, in the presence of Tenderers or their representative who may wish to attend.

الجمهورية اليمنية

وزارة النفط والمعادن

هيئة المساحة الجيولوجية والثروات المعدنية

مشروع تطوير شبكات الرصد الزلزالي اليمنية

مركز رصد ودراسة الزلازل

إعلان المناقصة العامة رقم (٥) لعام ٢٠٠٧م " الإعلان للمرة الثانية "

تعلن هيئة المساحة الجيولوجية والثروات المعدنية

عن إنزال المناقصة العامة رقم (٥) لعام ٢٠٠٧م

والخاصة بشراء وتوريد أجهزة ومعدات شبكة رصد زلزالي عبر الأقمار الصناعية:

فعلى الشركات المصنعة أو الممثلين الرسميين للشركات المتخصصة الراغبة بالدخول في هذه المناقصة التقدم إلى مقر الهيئة الكائن في شارع الزبيرى - طريق عصر جوار وزارة النفط والمعادن لاستلام نسخة من كراسة الشروط والمواصفات من الإدارة العامة للشؤون المالية والإدارية (أدارة الخدمات والتجهيزات - قسم المشتريات) وذلك في أوقات الدوام الرسمي مقابل رسم وقدره \$١٠٠ مائة دولار أمريكي لاترد.

ويشترط على المتقدمين لدخول المناقصة الآتي:

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- ٢- إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية سارية المفعول (للشركات المحلية ووكلاء الشركات الأجنبية) مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ٣- إرفاق صورة من البطاقة التأمينية سارية المفعول (للشركات المحلية ووكلاء الشركات الأجنبية) مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ٤- إرفاق صورة من السجل التجاري سارية المفعول (للشركات المحلية ووكلاء الشركات الأجنبية) مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ٥- إرفاق صورة من شهادة التسجيل لأغراض الضريبة العامة على المبيعات.
- ٦- إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الزكوية سارية المفعول (للشركات المحلية ووكلاء الشركات الأجنبية) مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ٧- يشمل العرض كافة الرسوم والضرائب (توصيل مخازن).
- ٨- ولتسهيل عملية التحليل والمقارنة لعروض الأسعار فإن لجنة المناقصات سوف تقوم بتحويل قيمة العملات الأجنبية إلى الريال اليمني بسعر الصرف المحلي الصادر عن البنك المركزي اليمني وسيكون تاريخ تحويل العملات هو يوم فتح المضاريف.
- ٩- تقديم ضمان ابتدائي بواقع ٢.٥٪ من قيمة إجمالي قيمة العطاء بشيك مقبول الدفع أو ضمان بنكي غير مشروط وساري المفعول لمدة تسعين يوماً.

علماً بأن آخر موعد لقبول العطاءات هو يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٨/٨/٢٠٠٧م

الساعة العاشرة صباحاً وسيتم فتح المظاريف في نفس اليوم في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر من نفس اليوم بحضور أصحاب العطاءات أو مندوبيهم

No Drilling in My Backyard

By: Hadas Kroitoru
The Media Line Ltd.

Environmental activist Amr Ali suspected something fishy was going on in the pristine waters along Egypt's northern Red Sea coast. In an area Ali claims is a protected nature reserve, the prospect of oil drilling among the region's picturesque coral reefs, marine life, and diving sites seemed to defy all his conventional legal and environmental wisdom.

The situation seemed so suspicious, in fact, that when British oil exploration and production company Burren Energy (Egypt) Limited was making final preparations for its exploratory oil drilling project in the

area, environmental organizations launched a campaign against the project, which, as of last week, was halted until further approval.

"You cannot build an oil rig in my backyard and tell me it's not going to have impact when I am suffering [the effects] from other oil rigs 200 kilometers north of here," says Ali, managing director of the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA).

Ali claims Burren's planned oil exploration activities, which could lead to drilling, will harm the local environment, marine life and precious diving and tourist sites.

"Scientifically and logically it is going to destroy an area which attracts three million divers each year – \$3 billion in coastal activities for Egypt,"

says Mahmoud El-Kaissouni, chairman of the Egyptian Tourism Federation's Ecotourism Committee.

Ali and El-Kaissouni both claim the proposed concession area, located near the coastal city of Hurghada, between several islands in the Red Sea, lies within a natural protectorate, the Northern Red Sea Islands National Park – a protected and restricted area under Egyptian law.

Burren Energy (Egypt) general manager David Warwick says, however, that based on information provided by the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum, which granted the concession area, the company is not working within a protected nature reserve or restricted area.

Burren will also make sure its seismic testing program, aimed at

discovering prospective areas for drilling, will not harm the local environment or tourist attractions, he says.

"We are very aware of the importance of tourism in Egypt and the sensitivity of the marine environment, and we will be doing our utmost to carry out our operations in a responsible, sensitive, and safe manner," he says, adding that Burren not only conformed to local safety regulations, but applied international industry best practices and the highest standards of health, safety and environment.

Burren works as a contractor for the Egyptian government and is tightly regulated by the Ministry of Petroleum, which approves Burren's work programs, budgets and the awarded contract, says Warwick.

"We have to get our information from the state oil company as to which areas are restricted and which are not," he explains. "And the fact that we were awarded an environmental permit from the environmental ministry indicates that there is no specific restriction on the area in which we are working."

In fact, the apparent conflict of interest, says Ali and El-Kaissouni, is not primarily Burren's fault.

It is a "mistake," says Ali, that should be attributed to the company's Egyptian consultants and the ministry that granted the concession area without receiving proper approval from the Ministries of Tourism and Environment. Ali claims these ministries did not grant approval for Burren's activities and were not informed of the seismic explorations until after the concession was granted.

"We told [Burren] 'our problem is not mainly with you.' The problem is with the ones who granted such permission to such a company," he says. "This is a serious violation. It is as if you sold one apartment on one piece of land to two owners."

However, Muhamad Mansour, overseas training general manager at the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Company (EGPC), believes otherwise. Mansour contends that if the area in dispute were a protectorate, then the international tender never would have been offered in the first place. Areas for oil exploration and drilling are selected outside of protected areas, he says, and the Petroleum Ministry and its subsidiaries are aware of their locations.

The area in dispute is not a protected natural area, says Mansour, but rather belongs to the state-owned Ganoub El Wadi Holding Petroleum Company (Ganoupe), which is assigned by the Ministry of Petroleum to handle all exploration activities in southern Egypt.

According to Ali and sources from the EGPC, however, Burren did not



Environmental organizations launched a campaign against the oil projects in Egypt which are considered as harmful to the environment

obtain the full approval needed to begin the project, including permission from the Ministry of Tourism, which may be where the source of the conflict – and confusion – lies. Miscommunication and conflicting land allocations may also be to blame.

Law No 102 of 1983 for Nature Protectorates defines a natural protectorate as any area of land, coastal or inland water characterized by flora, fauna and natural features having cultural, scientific, esthetic or tourist value, designated by the prime minister upon recommendation by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)

According to Ali, the contested Red Sea concession area is within what was officially declared a national protectorate in early 2006.

It was recognized as protected land even earlier than that, says El-Kaissouni.

Discussions with Burren over the concession may have begun in 2005 or earlier, says Ali, which could be one reason the area's status as a protectorate is disputed. The EEAA ministry website includes on their list of protectorates the North Red Sea islands, but does not provide more specific information.

Under the law, commercial actions

or activities that can harm the natural environment in these areas are strictly forbidden, including pollution and damage to marine life and natural features. Only with explicit permission from the "concerned administrative body" and in applying "restrictions specified by the Prime Ministerial Decree" is such activity legal – permission that Ali and El-Kaissouni say was simply not granted.

Mansour says the only approval Burren is waiting on is from the Ministry of Tourism. It is just a "matter of time" before it will be granted, he says.

But Ali is still skeptical such action will be approved given what he calls an obvious environmental threat. Demonstrating his point, Ali describes a document submitted by Burren to the Ministry of Environment requesting the evacuation of divers from the concession area to prevent potential harm. In the same document the company denies oil exploration activities will have any damaging effect on the surrounding environment and animal life.

What is the difference between divers and animals, asks Ali?

"Divers can get out of the water and sue, and animals can't."



The prospect of oil drilling among the region's picturesque coral reefs, marine life, and diving sites seemed to defy all his conventional legal and environmental wisdom.

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The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Thank you Allah

By: Adam Taha
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It was there, right before me as always. Like it is for all of us but sometimes, we are not ready for His mercy. I held that canvas of a painting I had painted years ago and put away until I was ready to finish it. I stared at the canvas that I locked away and started wondering on how we fire away with questions, such as, "Why Lord? Why? What did I do to deserve this?" And yet, if we were to just hang on, stay silent, for a moment – the answers will speak to us, there and then.

My friends, how we complain when it rains, when it is too hot, when it is too cold, when we are tired. We complain when we lose the business and forget how we so wanted to be entrepreneurs and prayed to be strong. We complain of nations and nations complain to each other and against each other, to forget how they grew because of each others knowledge. This is the

same with politicians who either embrace a slinging match or forget their dream, their words they spoke along time ago, "I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

The signs of our Lord show us - a bamboo tree takes a long time grow in the first few years. When planted, watered, and nurtured for an entire growing season - the bambo tree doesn't outwardly grow as much as an inch. After the second growing season, in which the farmer takes extra care to water and care for the bamboo tree, the tree still hasn't sprouted. This goes on for four solid years. The farmer and his wife have nothing solid to show for all of their labor trying to grow the tree.

Now wait; in the fifth year that Chinese bamboo tree seed finally sprouts and the bamboo tree grows up to eighty feet in one growing season! Now, remember what our Lord, Allah the Most High says:

"And man supplicates for evil [when angry] as he supplicates for good, and man is ever hasty", Holy Qur'an, Al-

Isra'a (17:10)

In another part of the world, you will see but a small larva, just a few millimeters long. Through time it sheds its skin. Then, it produces its own silken thread from organs beside its jaw. And it creates what is called a Pupa, a camouflage and it hangs onto the silken pad. It is in that shell for most of its adult life. And once in that Pupa stage, a remarkable process occurs. Just before the adult butterfly hatches, the pupal skin becomes transparent and the wing pattern is visible inside, transforming into a beautiful butterfly.

This is how life should be for us if we ponder on how the caterpillar eats, how its wings reveals pattern, reflecting what it has eaten. Reasonably, shouldn't we take lessons in the thoughts, words, and actions we do? As He, our Lord Allah Almighty says:

"...Whatever good comes your way, it is from Allah and whatever ill strikes you, it is due to yourself". The Holy Qur'an, Al-Nisaa 4: 79

When we wake up everyday, did we

say, "thank you Allah" for another chance to amend our ways and to be a mercy to whomever we meet? Do we then just go to work and complain about the traffic and go crazy on another human being for making mistakes? When our kids meet our gaze, do we thank our Lord, and smile to our children? Do we thank Him for having them for another day? Do we appreciate our teachers as well as our Imams, and pay them highly? Do teachers know humility not arrogance wins the hearts of their students?

All of us have lost a home, land, beloved ones, job, or a business but didn't we regain all of these and much more, in one year? You ask of material? No! I ask "AREN'T YOU ALIVE?!"

I swear to you, as I write these words, my heart is breaking because many of us may have not said these simple words. Just these three words: "Thank You, Allah."

What favors do we deny? I say to you – what favors do we deny?

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE



Reality never lies, dear Lamis

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
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On the basis of sharing ideas with others, I wrote the article entitled "Marriage nowadays as investment chance", published on the 5th of May, issue No. 1047. The article discusses the difficulties that men face when getting married, depending on real stories of others.

I emphasized within inverted commas that "I have no experience" to show readers that I am not narrating a personal case. I like very much to be commented and even to prove that I am wrong, but in a realistic and logical way.

One of the comments was by the reader Miss Lamis Shuga'a, published on the 13th of June 2007, issue No 1059. In her comments, she stands against my viewpoints, attacking them as if they were 'personal viewpoints' though they are mere realities.

I hope what Miss Lamis has said is right because there would be no obstacles and risks that a man is forced to jump up when proposing a lady's hand. 'Reality, however, never lies'.

I am not against her, dear readers. But, I have to advocate (not my points of view), the facts that everyone faces (or will face) in marriage procedures. It is not, moreover, a matter of who is right and who is wrong. It is only spotlighting on the matter from a more realistic point of view.

Miss Lamis claims that a bridegroom must "realize" and "appreciate" whatever is needed for the marriage before taking any step. I just wonder where to ask about these before proposing. And since the marriage demands differ from one family and one social class to another, there would be no fixed list. If there is such a list, she must have attached it with article.

In her words, she emphatically claims that "the social customs and traditions regarding costs of marriage are nearly the same." Really I was surprised to know this. Suddenly, she contradicts herself, attributing the differences of demands and costs to "the differences of the social classes themselves." Does she mean that anyone wants to marry have to equalize the social classes so that the demands and costs would be the same?

Suppose, dear readers, a man follows Miss Lamis's suggestion. He would ask his relatives or friends about the list of demands for marriage according to which he gets ready. He is going to marry from a family of different social status, a family that has different customs and traditions of marriage. Can he force them to accept the list he has as Miss Lamis says? In this case he must refer to Miss Lamis so that to avoid 'punishment or beating'.

With the list previously prepared, that man "will not find himself in a trap" as Miss Lamis strongly confirmed. So what to call such a case, "a trick", or "hide-to-be-found-out game"?

Actually, I like Lamis' comments regarding the Prophet's Hadieth which instructs parents to accept men of good morals with a dowry of metal rings. "Where are those men (of good morals)?" she asks, claiming that "they are very few and rarely can be found". This means that the high cost and unlimited number of demands for marriage are due to men's bad morals!!

She asks as if the women nowadays are similar to women of the prophet's era in terms of morals, and it is only men (of good morals) who no longer live. Men might have lost good morals as she thinks. I will not go in details in this respect because I do respect men and women in all aspects, and believe in the changes that took place in the process of time. Imagine, dear readers, one of the Prophet Mohammed's companions (sahaba) proposes a lady of this age!!

She reaffirms if there is a man with those values of the Prophet's companions, she will propose for him and she will pay the dowry herself. Really, it is a good idea to make men do best to be like Sahaba. But, is there an Islamic or social norm that instructs women to propose and pay the dowry to men? Never, never!

It is true that brides spend the dowry money for gold, cloths, ornaments materials, etc. And parents sometimes pay more for that. Is this a good thing for building good societies? Did the women of Prophet's Mohammed spend such amounts for such 'superfluous' things? Also, never, never!

Most men are not only without good morals to her, but also "irresponsible and indifferent". It is ok, dear "moralless, irresponsible, and indifferent" men!" May Allah forgive her.

She claims that getting married easily makes man careless, and may easily leave his wife. This actually happens with material things like cars, gold, etc. But with the partners of life, never! Women are taken as partners, and as a precious part of the individual's life. Lamis, however, insists to make women mere concrete materials that must be sold expensively in order not to be lost easily!!

These are Miss Lamis' comments. I do like and respect them all. It is you, dear readers, who know what is there in real life, not in the imaginary ideal world. For this, I hope that I am wrong in my viewpoints, and she is right!! The matter, nevertheless, is left open to you, readers, to look at it logically through the mind's eye.

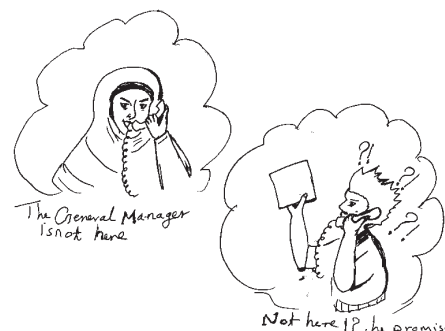
Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an ex-editor of English Journal of the University.

Please promise only if you can fulfill

By: Fatama Al-Subban
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People used to value the words they say and keep their promises. But these days it seems it is only lip service and words or especially promises have no meaning. The person who breaks his or her promise does not realize that what he or she says is a reflection of their character. Their speech defines their reputation among customers, friends, and even family.

An example that clearly describes this issue is the talk and promises that take place in governmental and even non governmental offices. You can't tell if the person in front of you is sincere or means what they say.



Only people with live conscience and strong faith respect their words. If you have some paper works to follow, the manager or the person responsible will tell you come back tomorrow and your paper will be done, but then when you do come back the next day you either can't locate that person or get his secretary to give you a blank look. It does not matter to them how much money and effort you spend while wasting your time in the many visits without result.

Of course the situation changes dramatically if you are a rich man or have influence, or even know someone who does. At that moment you will find the people standing up for you, grinning from ear to ear and sweating to please you.

I know an accountant who narrated the following story. One day he was requested by a sheikh to review the budget of the sheikh's company in return for a fee. The accountant took that budget for reviewing and he discovered many mistakes and many missing bills. He does his best and when he finishes the report the sheikh gives the accountant



much less than agreed. So the accountant refused to submit the final report and budget until he gets his fee in full. Finally the sheikh gives the accountant a check, which turned out to be worthless because the sheikh had no money in his account. So the accountant decides to take his money in cash. Because he has realized the sheikh is a

crook and an untrustworthy man.

Why do some people do this and exploit weak or ignorant people. There are people who still have faith in others and trust in their words. Islam teaches us to say the truth and respect others and never break our promises. We are not being good Muslims until we learn not to lie and to keep our promises.

Change yourself now

By: Ali Faraj Ali Al-ammari
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Changing is very important for human life but to the better not to the Worse. The change could be in your behavior, your dress, your talking methods with people, or your way to behave with people. So, you must look around yourself for a moment, and try to know things that you need to change in your life. As you look on how your classmates behave with you, you'll ask "are they well-behaved with you?"

If your answer was "No" you need to change yourself with them.

I'll give you some methods so you can own people's hearts:

First you should be humble.
Second you should be interested in them.

Third you should be quiet and smiling.

Fourth you should be friendly with them.

Fifth you should take care of your style.

Sixth you should not envy people and you should like for them what you like for yourself

Seventh you should give them a hand in anytime they ask you for.

This is one model to change your life.

Finally, I want to tell you that "when you start changing some things in your life to better perspective, and simultaneously increase your self-confidence, you will succeed in your life".

Let's dream

By: Hanan mohammed Al-Shabami
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Often, we dream about the future. Some of our dreams are realized, but a lot of them aren't.

However, we shouldn't care whether they are actualized or not. In fact, it is enough for us to live a wonderful world of dream, which we should enjoy, for it transfers us from

this world to another.

Just for one moment, let your mind think of which one is more beautiful dream or fact? A lot of people prefer fact more than dream because they can realize it. Any way, they can not accomplish the dream.

Actually, I agree with them, however, that doesn't mean we don't dream but we should dream as much as we can for, no one knows, the dream can not stop the pain of life but it can reduce it.



Everything is same

B: Syed Rehan ali
basil_7@hotmail.com

Everything is same....
The road where we have been walking
The shadows of trees where you promised
To live together... forever
The sea where you said
"Never leave me"

Still...everything is same
But you have changed
You left without any reason
There is no condition in love
But you did love on conditions
My love and my hope for you
everything is same
Our names are still there on trees
The moon still shines among the stars
Yes everything is still same
But you have changed....

A good friend

By: Alhamami Nasser
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Spend a few minutes on the INTERNET with friend sometimes and you come away thinking, "What a nice boy or girl ." He's/sh's thoughtful, articulate, bright. He/she has a good relationship with his/her friend, goes to institute some time, loves to learn English and spends hours each day practicing his/her conversation.

But once he's/sh's inside his/her

large public high school, everything seems to go wrong. He's /sh's 16, but he/she can't stay organized. He finishes his homework and then can't find it in his backpack. He/she loses focus in class, and his/her teachers, with 40 kids to wrangle, aren't much help. "If I miss a concept, they tell me, 'Figure it out yourself,'" says friend. Last year friend's grades dropped from high to low. The sophomore, who once dreamed of Stanford, is pulling his/her grades up but worries that "I won't even get accepted at community college.."

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معاهد

معهد يالي ت: ٤٤٨٠٣٩-٤٤٨٠٣٩ فاكس: ٤٤٨٠٣٩-٢٧
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فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥

معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٤٣٤/٥ فاكس: ٥٢٤٣٦
معهد لينك ت: ٢٤٠٨٣٣-٥١٠٦١٢ فاكس: ٢٦٥٥٧٧

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مأرب للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٠٦٦٢٩/٨١٣
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٨٤١٢٣

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ت: ٢٥٨٨١

شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٧٢٧٢/٢٧٢٧٢
عند ت: ٢٤٧٢٧
ت: ٢٥٠٣٤٥

مدارس

مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٣٧/٤٤-٤٢٢
مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٢٧٠١٩١/٢ فاكس: ٢٧٠١٩٣
مدرسة الزكية الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٥٨/٩
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

سفرات

التيسر للسفرات ت: ٢٧٠٧٥٠
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✦ برصيد طلاب 300 طالب دارس حالياً
✦ موقع استراتيجي ممتاز
✦ حائز على شهادات من جهات متعددة
✦ مجهز تجهيز من الدرجة الأولى
✦ السعر مغري جداً

للإستفسار يرجى الإتصال على الرقم التالي : 777844940

التحرير أمام فندق سبأ - ٤ غرف
بايجار شهري ٣٠٠ دولار و ٣ غرف
بايجار شهري ٢٣٠ دولار - نظيفة.
للتواصل: ٧٢٣٨٠٢٨٥٥

للإيجار: فيلا - الموقع: مدينة
الاصبجي الجديد - خلف شارع
الأربعين (المفروشات) وجولة ٢٢ مايو -
الدور الأرضي ٤ غرف - حمامين -
مطبخ وصالة - الدور الثاني (جديد) ٤
غرف ، حمامين - مطبخ وصاله كبيره
- الدور الثالث ٢ غرف كبيره وحمام.
حوش وموقف لسائرتين.
الإيجار الشهري: ٧٠٠ دولار
للتواصل: ٧٢٣٨٠٢٨٥٥

للإيجار: فيلا مساحتها ١٤ لبنه
مكونة من ٥ غرف مع صالة وحمامين

كوبون للإعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)

بيع شراء إيجار إستئجار طلب وظيفة وظائف شاغرة غير ذلك

تفاصيل الاعلان:

قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء
لتزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢٣)

عنوان التواصل:

مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي
للخدمات العقارية
حده - احي السياسي - الاصبجي - بيت بوس
سيار: ٢٨٥٥ - ٧٣٣٨٠ - مكتب: ٦٧٩١٦٦

للإيجار
دورين وملحق في الدور الثالث بمدينة الاصبجي الجديد
الدور الأول: ٤ غرف ، حمامين، صاله ومطبخ مجهز بالدواليب
الدور الثاني: جديد ، ٤ غرف، حمامين ، صاله كبيره ، مطبخ مجهز
بالدواليب.
الدور الثالث: جديد ، ٣ غرف كبيره ، حمام وسطوح.
حوش يسع ٣ سيارات - قريب جداً من شارع الأربعين "المفروشات"
الإيجار الشهري: ٧٠٠ دولار. \$700.00

للبيع
فيلا جديده ، دورين في حده ، حجر دائري ، تشطيبات درجه أولى. ديوان
، ٤ غرف ، صاليتين ، مطبخ مجهز ، غرفة حراسه ، حوش يسع ٥ سيارات،
على شارع الاتجاه الشمسي جنوباً .
سعر البيع: خمسة وأربعون مليون ريال. 45.000.000
سعي لتقديم الأفضل والأحسن في مجال الإستثمار العقاري

وظائف شاغرة

مطلوب للعمل في المملكة العربية
السعودية - مدراء مشاريع صغيره
براتب مغري. على أن تتوفر في المتقدم
الشروط التاليه:

- بكالوريوس إدارة أعمال
- إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً
- خبره لا تقل عن ثلاث سنوات في هذا
المجال. (تأشيرات الفيزا والإقامة على
حساب الشركة)
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٢٠٠٠٠٧

باحثون عن وظيفة

دبلوم برمجة حاسوب (جامعة العلوم
والتكنولوجيا) - حاصل على شهادات
CCNA1, CCNA2, CCNA3
- عمل لسنوات في مجال تنصيب
وبرمجة شبكات الحاسوب - يجيد اللغة
الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً.
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٠٤٥٥٨

بكالوريوس محاسبة - تقدير جيد
جدا - من أوائل الدفعة - خبرة في
الحسابات والمراجعة والإدارة المالية
في شركات معتبرة وبتقوية - نظام
محاسبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت) -
قدرة على التعامل مع أنظمة محاسبة
آلية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - قدرة علي
التعامل مع الحاسب الآلي والمراسلات
عبر الإنترنت - يرغب في العمل في
مجال تخصصه.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩١٣٢٠٩

شمسان الرصاص - يجد اللغة
الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - سنة ثالثة في
كلية الآداب - قسم إنجليزي - خبرة
في استخدام الكمبيوتر والتعامل معه -
حاصل على رخصة قيادة - يرغب في
العمل في أي مجال.
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٧٢٠٤٢٢

كمبيوترات

للبيع: كمبيوتر لابتوب (جديد) نوع
Del Inspiron ٨١٣ بنتيوم ٤،
RAM 1GB, H.D 40 GB ,
CPU GHZ 1.8 GHZ
للتواصل: 711135907

عقارات

للإيجار: شقتين مكاتب فقط - الموقع

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للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال على
تصويبة ٢٦٦ ٣٦٨٦٦١

بنك اليمن والخليج
فرع عن: ت/ ٢٣٧٨٢٩ - ٢٣٧٨٢٩ فاكس: ٢٣٧٨٢٩
بنك التجاري ت: ٣٧٣٢٤ فاكس: ٣٧٣٢١
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٣٦٤٧٥, ٣٦٤٧٠ فاكس: ٣٦٤٧٠, ٣٦٤٧٠
بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٤٠٧٠٤٠
البنك العربي ت: ٢٧٦٥٥١٢
بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ٠١-٥٢٣٨١٣
البنك المركزي ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٢٤

بنك اليمن والخليج
فرع عن: ت/ ٢٣٧٨٢٩ - ٢٣٧٨٢٩ فاكس: ٢٣٧٨٢٩
بنك التجاري ت: ٣٧٣٢٤ فاكس: ٣٧٣٢١
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٣٦٤٧٥, ٣٦٤٧٠ فاكس: ٣٦٤٧٠, ٣٦٤٧٠
بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٤٠٧٠٤٠
البنك العربي ت: ٢٧٦٥٥١٢
بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ٠١-٥٢٣٨١٣
البنك المركزي ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٢٤

تأجير سيارات

زاوليه (Budget) ت: ٢٠٦٦٢٣-٢٠٦٦٢٣ فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
يورب كار ت: ٢٧٠٧٥١ فاكس: ٢٧٠٨٠٤
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٥٨٥٥
عند ت: ٢٠٢٤٥٢٥٥

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

أبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية)
شهادة ايزو ١.

صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٢٨٣٠
فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٧٤١٩
عند ت: ٢٠٠٣٧١٩٩
ت: ٤٠٢٥-٢٤٣٤
المكلا ت: ٥٠٣٠-٧٤٩٢

البريد السريع

Infinit Education T: 444553
NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٠٧٣

FedEx
صنعاء ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧
الحديدة ت: ٢٤٨٢٣
إب ت: ٤١١٨٨٨
المكلا ت: ٣٠٣٤٤١
شبه ت: ٢٠٣٣٦٦
سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٢٩

Roasted locusts: A Yemeni treat



Emad and Saddam have returned from 'locusts hunt.'

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafnfr@yahoo.com
Foto by: Abdussalam Al-Ajel
For Yemen Times

While many national and international organizations warn the public about the danger of oncoming locust flocks, there are some Yemenis who are eagerly awaiting their arrival. These people have been able to turn something that, to most Yemenis, is an environmental nuisance, into a delectable treat. In fact, locusts have become a favorite meal among many Yemenis.

In the past, when Yemenis suffered severe food shortages due to poverty, they would eat locusts. Locust flocks attack Yemen once or twice a year. People would wait for the annual attack of these grasshoppers, only to surprise the locusts with their own attack. Locals would then store hordes of the bug to last throughout the entire year. "We had specialized stores for the locusts in dry places after we roasted them on the coals," a 50-year-old Yemeni woman narrated.

Locusts were often the main meal for both breakfast and dinner. Yemenis would eat them along with a cup of tea. "The locusts were the only [thing] for us to eat for the breakfast and dinner," the elder Yemeni woman added.

Yemenis depended on what they grew on their land for sustenance, however, shortage of rain in some seasons caused dry and unfruitful crop production, forcing locals to eat locusts instead.

Most from the new generation do not like eating locusts. However there are many Yemenis, including some young,

who still indulge in this old Yemeni treat. The most common method of preparing locusts is by roasting them.

In 1993, Yemen faced a major locust attack. Yemenis successfully caught the insects within a few hours. They were able to do so by opening all their house doors and windows and then trapping the locusts once inside.

Recently, a small locust flock stumbled into Sana'a, giving locals, young and old, a chance to practice their locust hunting skills. Many children and youth gathered on Al-Sabeen Street where the locusts had migrated. It is safe to say that the meal of choice in many Sana'a homes for the next couple of weeks will be roasted locust.



After removing the wings, locusts are placed on coal fire.



When the locusts are red and crispy, they are ready to be eaten. Roasted locusts are more tasty than roasted chickens, they say.



Bon appetit!

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Fax: 00967 - 1 - 418549 - 418564
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