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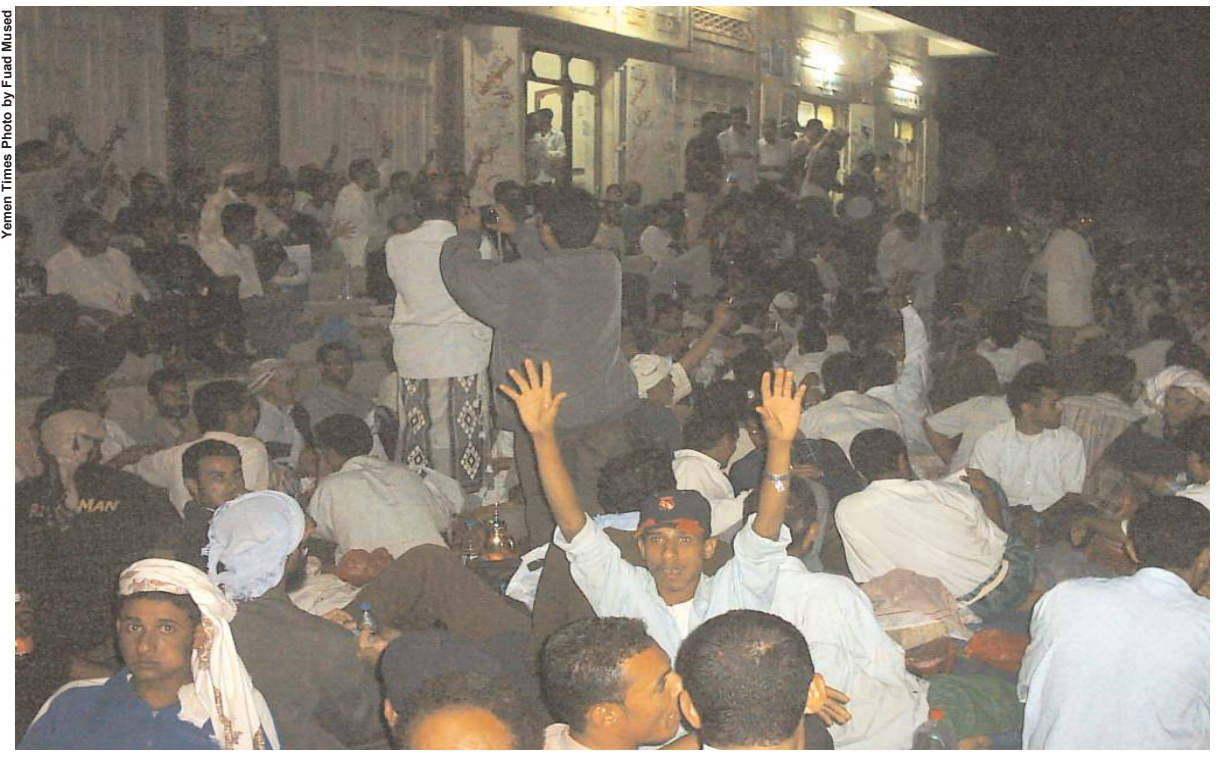
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 Only 4% of Yemeni land is used to feed the country

Protests around the republic

By: Mohammed bin Sallam
SANA'A, September 23 — Hundreds of military and civil pensioners staged a protest in Aden on Sunday, in solidarity with the head of the coordinating council for military pensioners associations Brig. Nasser Al-Nawbah, who is now in prison. The protest took place despite heavy security forces, who tried to disperse the protestors, in vain.
Al-Nawbah was arrested in his home because of his leadership role in the protests taking place in southern governorates since the beginning of this year. Because of his rank, he will be receiving a military trial.
In order to mitigate the situation, President Saleh met end of last week with around 850 officers reinstated recently in their military units. He directed concerned authorities to reinstate all officers suspended from work following 1994 war, while the absence period is calculated as part of service and they will be granted the deserved promotions, bonuses, etc.

demanding the state to create an independent committee to look into the ongoing protests issue.
They also chanted slogans against the price hikes, corruption and killing innocents together with arresting those participating in peaceful demonstrations and sit-ins in Aden, Hadramout and Al-Dhal'e.
Aden
The Coordinating Council of military and civil pensioners accused Aden's security forces on Thursday of preventing them from staging an open sit-in recalled for by the council and was due to be staged in Khour Maksar's Parades Square.
The Secretary General of the Coordinating Council Brig. Nasser Abdulqawi told media outlets they decided to suspend the sit-in after security forces laid a siege around Parades Square, hinting such a measure is taken for the safety of demonstrators and to avoid any potential clash with security forces.

norate building on Saturday, asking the government to respect people and limit price hikes, and corruption. They promised to continue protest until the government meets their demands.
Taiz
In Taiz, thousands of citizens demonstrated on Thursday in line with similar sit-ins and demonstrations staged in different provinces. Many opposition leaders delivered speeches in which they criticized starving policies of the ruling party as well as using force against protestors.
Lahj
Lahj's Habil Fadhl locals blocked the main road linking Al-Omari villages and districts in protest against the inordinate price hikes. They stressed their lives have become difficult especially when a sack of wheat reached YR 7,000, while a gas cylinder mounted to YR 1,000.
The locals said they blocked the way to prevent the monopolizing merchants' Lorries from passing by their areas, demanding authorities to quickly work on reduce prices, or otherwise they will continue their blockade.



Protests on Saturday in Dhal'e governorate. Keeping fast during Ramadan did not stop the protestors from gathering and making public statements. Hundreds of Yemenis especially in southern governorates had been going in demonstrations in protest against the hard living conditions and corruption.

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Bahran: Four years to build a Yemeni atomic reactor

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
SANA'A, September 23 — Yemen is still negotiating with US and Canadian investors on funding construction of a nuclear reactor in the country, Energy and Electricity Minister Mustafa Bahran said Saturday.
The minister stated to the official news Agency: Saba, that the last talks session between Yemen, American and Canadian

investment companies on producing electricity through nuclear energy would be held next week in Sana'a.
He said that the negotiation between Yemen and the companies aims at increasing the power capacity in Yemen to 5,000 Mega Watt to meet the electrification shortage. "It will take around four years to build the reactor," Bahran said without specifying the cost or identifying the potential investors.

Yemen has proposed some projects in the 51st General Conference of Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, to be implemented by the Atomic agency. The proposal included the production of electricity and desalination of water through nuclear energy and establishing a center for curing cancer patients in Aden city.
Bahran, who returned Saturday from the Conference, said in that he has informed the director general of the (IAEA) Mohammed El-Baradei on talks between the government of Yemen and foreign companies on investing in nuclear energy to generate electricity and purify water in Yemen. According to Bahran, El-Baradei has praised Yemen's steps toward such an experience of peaceful use of nuclear energy to generate electricity and desalinate drinking water.
The nuclear energy projects were part of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's election program. Saleh, who has backed Arab world's right to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful ends, has invited the private sector to participate in renewable energy activities in Yemen, and agreed to buy electric stations generated by foreign or local companies. Saleh has also declared during his election campaign that Yemen will use nuclear energy to cover the shortage of electricity in the country, which experiences frequent blackouts and daily power shutdowns.
Bahran has stated to Yemen Times earlier, that power ministry has long-term plan to construct a power plant in Mareb with a capacity of producing 341 Megawatts. This plant, when created, is expected to boost the national supply and therefore limit any power cuts. It will work on natural gas and can be converted to using nuclear power in the future.
However, the atomic reactor project has received criticism in the past due to the poor security level in the country. Others have challenged the government's ability to arrange for adequate disposal of nuclear waste.
Yet, according to Bahran, Tomihiro Taniguchi who is directing the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security Affairs at IAEA said the agency is ready to train Yemeni employees in field of nuclear safety, adding that the agency would dispatch a mission to the country to draw up a program in this field.
IAEA, which has spent around \$1.5 million so far to train Yemeni staff and offered nuclear equipment to hospitals to cure prostate cancer patients.

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In brief

SANA'A

Teaching Forum at Sana'a University

Sept. 20 — As an attempt to enhance education level at Sana'a University, the university established a forum for teaching in which lecturers and university professors will congregate along with other stakeholders and exchange experiences and knowledge. The forum is supposed to result new strategies and special courses in enhancing teachers performance and education techniques.

Scouts and girl guides camp launched

Sept. 22 — Due to last for five days, Minister of Youth and Sport launched the 18th Scouts and 6th Guides national camp in preparation for kindling 26th September torch. Six hundred scouts and girl guides will take part in the camp. Scouts and Girl Guides Association assistant secretary general Mohammed Al-Badawi noted the camp aims to develop the capabilities of participants in different aspects, hinting the camps further seeks to deepen the national unity and loyalty.

Training workshop for handicaps associations

Sept. 23 — Organized by Working Woman Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the first workshop for those working in handicaps associations was concluded last week. The workshop themed "Decent Work and Social Justice" aimed to educate 29 participants with the issues that concern their fellow handicaps as well as earning them the required skills to deal with handicaps. It also stressed the importance of earning handicaps the qualification and skills to join labor market and enable them to get public employment, especially when law and national regulations granted handicaps five percent of jobs at the public and mixed sectors.

DHAMAR

47 prisoners on parole to be released

Sept. 20 — Forty seven of the prisoners in Dhamar prison who have completed their time and could not pay their debts to the state, or those who have completed three thirds of their time and displayed good behavior will be released soon. Charitable people and businessmen cooperated through the chamber of commerce and the local security to facilitate the release of those prisoners and pay their standing debts.

ABYAN

Ramadan's folklore canopy activities kick off

Sept. 22 — Abyan's Generation Club launched its Ramadan's folkloric and cultural activities on Saturday. The first evening included the inauguration of painting show by painter Nasser Awad, with different paintings reflecting Abyan's folklore, nature and culture. Musical critic and researcher Ali Mohammed Obeed gave a critical study of Omar Nusir's songs. Bana Band sang different songs of Mohammed Mohsen Attrush.

AL-HODEIDAH

Al-Hodeidah University starts its cultural activities

Sept. 22 — Al-Hodeidah University launched its Ramadan's annual cultural competition on September 22. Thirteen teams, representing the university's different facilities, will take part in the competition due to continue for four days. The activities coincide with the celebrations of Yemeni revolutions celebrations.

ADEN

Community students to receive training in Halwan University

Sept. 22 — Students enrolled in Community College's Tourism and Hotel Management Department are to receive training in Egyptian Halwan University's Tourism and Hotels college. The cooperation between both colleges includes receiving Egyptian experts to teach in the community college. As well as, building the abilities of Yemeni teachers working in Tourism and Hotel Administration Department.

Strategy to use emissions in creating energy

In an attempt to encourage environment protection in Yemen, the Ministry of environment launched a website for clean development mechanism, by which it encourages investors to create energy from collecting industry emitted gases.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Sept. 22 — Yemen is encouraging investment in alternative energy sources, especially in line with the Kyoto Protocol the government signed in Sept. 2004. As a practical step, Yemen's Clean Development Mechanism Website, which is supported by UNDP, was launched last week in a press conference.

The mechanism aims to direct private sector investment into emission-reduction projects in developing countries while also promoting sustainable development. In return the industrialized countries investing in projects will receive credits against their Kyoto target.

Abdul-Rahman F. Al-Eryani, Minister of Water and Environment, explained that there are promising projects such as using methane generated by the landfills existing in Aden and Sana'a to create energy. These landfills emit methane, which is one of the main gases that cause global warming. "If Yemen could attract investors to collect this gas and generate electricity power, it would be a good resource for investors as well as the country as a whole," he said.

He also pointed out that by launching Yemen's clean development mechanism website, the ministry received calls from outsider investors. They want to know the conditions and opportunities of investment in this area.

"This website is hosting a key outreach mechanism for countries to mar-

ket their national CDM programme as well as improving their country's competitiveness on the global market," Flavia Pansieri, UNDP Resident Representative to Yemen commented on the website.

In order to supervise the operation of the website the ministry established a national committee concerned with organizing investment opportunities inline with the clean development mechanism. This committee was established by a ministerial decree and is headed by the Minister of Water and Environment, Ministry of Local Administration, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Oil and Minerals, Ministry of Electricity and Power, Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment.

"Ideally, it will encourage additional capital flows into developing countries, accelerate technology transfer, create new job opportunities and enable developing countries to leapfrog to cleaner technologies," Al-Eryani remarked.

He also confirmed that any such investment would result in mitigating the emission of the well-known six gases causing global warming. For instance, if an electricity station is erected using wind or solar energy, the power generated will be counted as much as it takes when it uses petrol or diesel to be produced. This quantity that was supposed to emit gases is to be sold in the global markets for carbon as revenue for Yemen.

Ms. Pansieri noted that the coopera-



CDM website: www.cdm-yemen.org. Yemen is looking to keep pace with global goals to cut down on carbon dioxide by joining the Capacity Development for Cleaning Development Mechanism Project.

tion on CDM capacity has by far exceeded the originally planned outputs. She said: "Yemen has received enormous international recognition for these crucial steps taken. The country has taken the lead in the region to promote its CDM capacity to the global carbon market."

She also commended the efforts of developing countries regarding global warming saying: "this growing concern of the developing countries has a great effect. For this matter, the existing clean development mechanism experienced by most of the countries including Yemen makes me delighted".

Pansieri also said that this new mechanism would help the developing countries to introduce new technologies to reduce pollution as well as to find a clean environment, mitigating the emission of gases and global

warming.

Cleaning Development Mechanism Project

Yemen is looking to keep pace with global goals to cut down on carbon dioxide by joining the Capacity Development for Cleaning Development Mechanism Project.

The cabinet has approved of creating committee to promote CDM in February this year.

"On the global level job creation in the environmental sector, especially in the field of clean technologies, is large and expanding and global expenditures on the environment are in the range of US\$ 525 billion per year," Al-Eryani said.

Yemen needs 4 more million jobs over the next years to cope with the excessive growth of labor force in the country.

The project, funded by the Netherlands Government and implemented by United Nation Environment Program, will aim to enable Yemen to fully engage as a partner in the global carbon market.

The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement under which industrialized countries will reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2% compared to the year 1990 (but note that, compared to the emissions levels that would be expected by 2010 without the Protocol, this limitation represents a 29% cut). The goal is to lower overall emissions of six greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, HFCs, and PFCs - calculated as an average over the five-year period of 2008-12. National limitations range from 8% reductions for the European Union and some others to 7% for the US, 6% for Japan, 0% for Russia, and permitted increases of 8% for Australia and 10% for Iceland

According to Ian Johnson is Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank, up to now, with only 15% of the world's population, rich countries have been responsible for more than 75% of global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, and thus most of the environmental damage. However, it is the developing countries - and thus the world's poor - who are most vulnerable. It is unrealistic to ask poor countries, where more than 1.6 billion people do not have access to clean energy and technologies, to bear the costs associated with the much needed technological change.

The protocol resulted in establishing a clean development mechanism aiming at reducing the emission of the six gases causing global warming. This mechanism includes encouragement of mitigating the emission of these gases.

Locust control center announces most Yemeni governorates as locust free

While it may take until May next year to control locusts in Yemen, the Locust Control Center declared a number of governorates as locust free. And with the assistance from Saudi Arabia at the end of this month, more work will be done to prevent them from spreading further to neighboring countries.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

SANA'A, Sept. 23 — An intensive campaign, carried out by 19 anti-locust teams have already controlled the speedily spreading of locust swarms in Aden Gulf and some areas in the Lahj and Abyan coastline south of Yemen.

Some governorates towards the north have also been announced clear such as Marib and al-Jawf. However further to the far east of Yemen, Shabwa and Hadrmout are still suffering from increasing spread locusts, according to the Director-General of Yemen's Desert Locust Control Centre Abdu Fara Al-Romaih.

"We are in the final stages of controlling the spread of locusts in these two areas and we predict to control the locust movements by the end of this month," he confirmed.

The locust swarms are now departing towards the winter coastline areas; at the Red Sea and Aden Gulf.

"Recently the locusts control teams, which are provided with the all tools and spray cars to fight the locusts, succeeded in fighting locusts before they spread to Gulf of Aden areas, which are the most suitable areas for locusts breeding during the winter season." Al-Romaih stated.

Recently, Saudi Arabia has offered assistance to Yemen to fight locusts. The total assistance is estimated at 6 million Saudi Rials. "Such support is a part of the Yemen -Saudi Arabia Border Agreement signed in 2000. The agreement aims to protect the two countries borders from any dangers, and the locusts is one." Al-Romaih explained.

The Desert Locust Control Centre is expected to receive the aids at the end

to the prior team to work together..

Al-Romaih ensured that these experts would improve the performance of the Yemeni locusts fighting teams. He concluded that coming May Yemen would be clean form the locusts.

However, Al-Romaih confirmed that the serious locust blight currently affecting Yemen could spread to neighboring countries such as Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the Africa Horn if they couldn't control the locusts' movements in the few coming months.

The center reported that a limited number of locusts have been seen recently in some mountain areas in Taiz like Al-Hujariah. However, such numbers do not present a threat to agriculture because these locusts are under the age to breed.

Al-Romaih laughed that citizens in these areas don't allow locusts to multiply as they immediately rush to fill plastic bags and bottles to sell or eat. Some locals believe locusts' meat could cure many diseases, like diabetes.

Because even a small locust swarm can eat as much food in one day as about 2,500 people, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation said last week the country's losses could reach 600 billion riyals if locusts damage agricultural areas across the country.

Since July Yemeni authorities struggled to combat the worst locust outbreak in 14 years. The ministry of agriculture said that locust swarms have swept across 240,000 hectares of desert and farmlands in the worst plague to hit the country since 1993.

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Three hours in juveniles prison

By Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

Most of the detainees in the juveniles section at the central prison deserve to be out, said an official in the central prison in Sana'a. "Some 90 per cent of the people in this section should be released because they were victims in some way. They were victims of being in wrong place or wrong time," said Nashwan Ali an official in this section. "Many of them are here because of delay in the judiciary measures", he added.

The most common accusations against these detainees, aged between 15-19 years old, are murder, robbery, and sexual crimes. Many of these prisoners claim that they have already completed their terms but they still in prison. Others insist that they are innocent and they have been waiting for long time in the custody as their cases haven't been submitted to the court yet.

These statements came during a three hours visit carried out by four female lawyers, who represented the defence committee of the Democratic School, which is a non governmental organization established in 2002 to promote democratic awareness among children.

The lawyers were recently allowed by the interior minister to visit the central prisons across Yemen. The lawyers started their mission in Sana'a central prison which contains 3000 prisoners.

On the way to the prison

As the lawyers showed the interior minister's permission to visit the juveniles section in the central prison, they were

The Yemeni government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. According to international standards, any child over age 18 suspected and accused of committing a crime and found to violate the law can be placed in a detention center. However, the age limit is lower in Yemen at 15. so age category that ranges from 16 to 18 is not included in the juvenile.



shocked to hear an official telling them: "There are no juveniles or children here". To prove the point the lawyers insisted on being shown around the prison. The official agreed to direct them to the department where they keep the "youngest prisoners."

They walked a wide yard, then through four gates, to arrive in a dark hall where there was no light except the daylight which enters through the open door. The official ordered the detention guard to open the iron gate of the room. The guard opened the door, wondering why the female lawyers were visiting the male section of the prison. "These ladies are going to ask you questions ...answer them ...tell them whatever you want," said the official. He turned to the guard saying few words to explain the lawyers' mission and instructed him to cooperate. Then the officer left. But after few minutes other officers entered the room, watching and answering the lawyers' questions.

Some 38 pair of eyes cautiously looked at the lawyers. They seem unsure of what exactly they had to do. Standing in front of their beds, they said nothing, glancing at the security guards and waiting for orders. Silence reigned. These minutes allowed the lawyers' to check out the rectangular room, measuring 4m x 8m

There were 24 shelves on the wall.

These shelves were the prisoners' beds where they can sleep and sit. The beds were packed with the prisoners blankets and belongings (if they had any). Their belongings were mostly clothes. The prisoners wear no uniform. Some were wearing clean thoub (long traditional dress) others were wearing clean trousers and t-shirt. The prisoners were standing on the bar flagstone floor, most were wearing slippers. A few were barefoot. At the corner of the prison there was a 14 inch screen TV, sitting on a small table. Beside the table was a big vessel containing cooked beans for the breakfast. Although there are small six ventilators, it was not enough and the air was full of moisture.

"Tell these ladies every thing, they are lawyers, they may help you" cried the guard in attempt to encourage the prisoners, who moved slowly and hesitantly toward the lawyers.

An official study, conducted by the Ministry of Interior showed that 77 percent of the juveniles in the Yemeni detention without any charges, as they are detained by the prosecution and waiting for long term in the jail for their trial.

Contrary to the jail official statement, there were prisoners whose features indicated that they are fifteen years old or even younger.

As most of these inmates don't have birth certificates which means that no one can be certain how old they are, the medical examiner is the one who defines the age of the detainees during the investigation and the judiciary measures, said one of the prison officials, insisting that the prison management only applies the orders of the court. He did not want to comment on the existence of prisoners aged fifteen years old.

"I am fifteen years old. I did nothing. The only thing I did was a witness a murder. For some reasons the judge considered that I was involved in the crime. The judge Afrah Badouelan requested to put me in juveniles center three months

ago. However, I'm still here in the central prison" said Saddam Ameen Qaied who pointed to the broken finger of his left hand saying that he was tortured by policemen during the investigation process.

Like Qaied, Fwaz Abdullah saleh, 16, was also accused of murdering someone when he was 14 years old "I have a gun machine. Once I was playing with my gun and I fired to the air, after a while I heard that I killed an old man in my village. I confessed my crime but yet I've never attended any court. I have been in the prison since two years." He added.

There are only nine juvenile centers throughout Yemen, which contains twenty governorates

Torture in the prison

After half hour, the prisoners began to give more information about their conditions in the prison. Some confirmed that they were mistreated and tortured during the investigation process in the police. Two of them only claimed that they were beaten by the prison guards inside the central prison. "The guards can enter any time and beat us on certain parts in our bodies where they leave no marks. They beat us if we raise our voice or create any noise" said S.A talking in low voice in order not be heard by the guards.

However Akrm, 17, contradicted what S.A had said, insisting "they don't beat us, but they punish us by more running exercises, preventing us from getting out the yard for playing, or more cleaning works inside the prison"

"They punish us only if they find us smoking or chewing Qat or creating noise" he added, confessing that he and some of the others smuggled in some cigarettes using money their relatives gave them.

The prisoner's official, Nashwan Ali, confirmed that the prison management doesn't accept sick or injured prisoners. He mentioned some cases where the accused arrived at the jail with serious injuries due to the violent investigation methods used by the policemen to get information. The official said that the jail department refused to receive such cases

because it could cause problems in the future.

Low hygiene condition

The residents were more open when they talked about the hygiene conditions inside the jail. They talked frankly in front of the officers. "whatever we are suffering, the only medication available inside the prison is two kind of tablets: one is yellow and the other is red. I think they are pain-killers. Once I broke my leg and the doctor gave me four tablets, no more" said Abdullah 18 years old "I'm suffering appendicitis and the only things that they give me is these medications".

The residents confirmed that the prison doctors lacked medical instruments to test the prisoners. They used only stethoscope the medical tests are carried out only when the prisoner asked for them. Moreover there are only two doctors in the whole prison and they are available for a limited time. "In many cases we send the prisoners with serious conditions to the hospital" commented the official. "Some jailbirds pretended that they are sick to get out the jail to the hospital". He later pointed out that the medical budget of the central prison, which contains 3000 prisoners, estimated to be 70000 YR.

"We are living in very poor condition. Insects and lice are everywhere. We keep on scratching. The soap they provide us in the prison is not good at all." said Akram. The room's capacity is twenty four, however, the jail contains 38. Some 14 residents are sleeping on the floor as there is no space for them. The jail provides them with a sponge mattress and blankets.

The same study revealed that the robbery crimes committed by those juveniles topped first with 29 percent. The sodomy crimes came in the second with 23 percent followed by crimes of drinking wines with 14 percent.

"we suffer a lot in winter as the prison becomes so cold and the prisoners suffer cold and coughs." 18 years old Mohammed said. However, the guard said that the prison changes their covers each six months. The floor used to be covered with carpet. However it became

dirty and full of insects, so the prison officers preferred to remove it.

The guard said that the juveniles lack breads. The prison management says each prisoner is given only four small loaves a day to be eaten with beans for breakfast and for lunch with rice and chicken. The meals are the same each day.

A report, prepared by the Committee of Rights and Freedoms in the Shura Council, says that there are "500 children" in prisons across the country.

T.V in jail

Regardless the poor conditions, the prisoners do enjoy some rights. According to the prison officer all the juveniles are allowed to finish their education inside the prison class. He did not give more details of the education system inside the prison. However, the prisoners confirmed that the prison management provides them with the books and pens and they were attending classes inside the prison. "Our class start at 7:30 am and finish at 2pm" said one of the inmate.

They also can be in touch with the outside world by watching the T.V, which show 20 channels including news, sport, local, religious channels.

The official said that such channels, which are controlled by the prison guards, help to educate the prisoners, as well as entertain them. The TV shuts down at midnight. They are also received religious lecturers weekly.

The prisoners allowed to walk in the yard - for a hour a day, each afternoon. They also can exercise and play football.

At this point the guard asked the lawyers to stop their questions as it was time for AlDhaheer prayer (midday pray); one of the prisoner becomes the muezzin (who calls for prayer). Slowly and peacefully, the young people moved to the small door inside the room. This door leads to the bathroom of the juveniles room. the lawyers feel that it is time to go. They left, giving promises to more than twenty young detainees that the "defence committee" will follow up and adopt their cases in the future. They left shocked, awed and worried about those they left behind.

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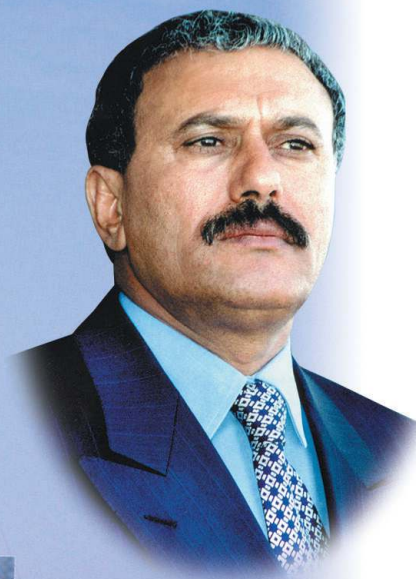
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Learning from Al-Ghad

By: Rashid Ali Al-Saqqaf

In a unique exchange between Arab newspapers, two staff members from the Yemen Times spent one week at the Al-Ghad paper in Jordan at the end of June 2007. Read about their impressions.

In the Arab culture they say travelling has seven benefits. I am not sure which these are, but I am convinced that gaining experience and learning from others must be one.

Together with Nasri Abubakr, the subscription officer at the Yemen Times, we visited the Amman-based Al-Ghad newspaper during one week in June. The trip happened within the framework of a bursary our newspaper received when our editor-in-chief Nadia al-Saqqaf won the 2007 Gebran Tueni Award. The purpose of the visit was to exchange experiences and get exposure to the marketing and advertisement techniques of Al-Ghad in order to benefit from them and apply whatever is suitable to the Yemen Times.

The reason we chose this newspaper, although it is not in English and Amman is definitely not Sana'a, is because Al-Ghad is an up-and-coming newspaper in the Arab world, which has made its marks in a remarkably short time, especially in the area of marketing and advertisement.

Customer satisfaction

The first thing we did, was to take a tour of the newspaper to see the different sections and get an overview of the way work is carried out at Al-Ghad. Needless to say, it was impressive!

I was impressed by the huge facilities and the large number of employees at the headquarters in Amman as well as around Jordan. I was also impressed by the common attitude that all of the staff shares

regarding the establishment's strategy, which is customer satisfaction.

The newspaper is technically well equipped, and also has many cars and buses for transportation, marketing and distribution. Moreover, Al-Ghad uses a special software to coordinate between the various departments and to monitor the progress of tasks, as well as record the files of clients and update their information regularly.

Our visit in Al-Ghad included an introduction to the different programmes used in marketing and advertisement, as well as the client archiving and subscriptions database. We also visited the technical and design departments and saw how advertisements are designed and approved, and how the newspaper layout is done. The process is rather similar to that at the Yemen Times.

Connecting with clients

A good point of learning was how the marketers and the salesmen connect with their clients on a regular basis, and how they create personal relations that involve more than just business. I believe this is a successful way of marketing since it leads to the client trusting the newspaper more and becoming attached to it.

Other marketing strategies, which we also use at the Yemen Times, were the discounts for special clients, free advertising space for regular clients, and the complimentary gifts.

We then focused on the marketing, sales and subscription departments, and met with the heads of departments and some of the staff. We learned about their strategies and what they do to stay above competition and gain customer loyalty. Although some of the things they told us are not applicable to the Yemen Times, it was interesting to see how another newspaper operates.

We asked the staff of Al-Ghad about their customer satisfaction strategy and

how to maintain the loyalty of clients. We also asked them about how they go about gaining new advertisers and the difficulties the marketing and distribution departments face in their work.

We also asked detailed questions about the daily routine such as assignment of daily tasks, reporting mechanisms, extent of independence given to the salespeople in terms of giving discounts and making agreements, and what other privileges are given to clients.

Differences between Jordan and Yemen

Following the discussions, we went on field visits with some of the employees. We accompanied them while they were doing their everyday work and learned from observation and direct questions.

They also asked us how we do things, and we explained to them the differences between our two newspapers, and how this influences the way we work.

Yemen Times gets 90% of its advertisements through direct marketing, compared to 10% through advertising agencies. Al-Ghad depends on indirect marketing where agencies generate around 80% of their advertisements, and only 20% through direct marketing.

Another difference is the high number of staff working within the subscriptions department, which is one of Al-Ghad's strengths. The Yemen Times depends on sales points much more than subscriptions, and this is one of the aspects we hope to work on in the coming months - how to increase our subscriptions.

An additional difference has to do with the economic differences between Yemen and Jordan. The purchase power in Jordan is much higher than in Yemen, and hence, the advertising agencies in Jordan can update the



Rashid Ali Al-Saqqaf: This experience helped us expand our knowledge of other media establishments and other cultures.

advertising agreements on an annual basis and adapt to the increase in prices without fear of losing clients. In Yemen, the number and strength of the advertising agencies is smaller, and because of the instability in the national economy, clients fear committing to one advertising agency for a longer period, and even fear committing to advertising in a newspaper on a long term, usually not exceeding one year.

Another significant difference is the readership and thus the difference in target market between the Yemen Times and Al-Ghad. Since the Yemen Times is an English-language

newspaper it targets a different readership and market than Al-Ghad, which is in Arabic. This influences the advertising techniques and the products or services advertised.

The awareness regarding the importance of advertising is more mature in Jordan than in Yemen. Many businessmen in Yemen still do not acknowledge the importance of advertising to their business. In Jordan it is a growing industry and companies dedicate large sums to advertising and marketing every financial year.

Throughout the six days we stayed in Amman we benefited both professionally and personally, as we

also visited several tourist attractions and met the delightful people of Amman. The infrastructure of the city made a strong impression on us.

This experience helped us expand our knowledge of other media establishments and other cultures. It is interesting to compare our work and our environment with others so that we can get a better sense of direction about where we are going and where we should be heading.

Rashid Ali Al-Saqqaf is the Marketing and Advertisement Manager, Yemen Times. This article was written to the Arab Press Network.



MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES France

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is a medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or man-made disasters. MSF provides assistance irrespective of race, religion, creed or political convictions.

MSF French section is opening a program in Saada Governorate to provide healthcare services to the population mainly in Haydan and Razih Districts and will run an office in Sanaa.

POSITION	REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
MEDICAL DOCTOR	Valid medical diploma (GP and/or specialist). At least 2 years of professional experience. Good communication skills. Good skills in English (spoken and written).
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	Valid medical diploma. At least 2 years of professional experience. Good skills in English (spoken and written)
MIDWIFE	Valid medical diploma (licensed midwife). At least 2 years of professional experience. Good skills in English.
NURSE	Valid medical diploma. At least 2 years of professional experience. Good skills in English.
PHARMACIST	Valid pharmacist diploma. Registered pharmacist according to the Yemen regulations. At least 3 years of professional experience in a similar field.
HR ADMINISTRATION MANAGER	University degree or business administration education. At least 4 year experience in similar function. Fluent in written and spoken English. Good knowledge of Yemen labour laws.
ACCOUNTANT MANAGER	Accounting degree. Work experience with an INGO. Computer skills. Fluent English
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	Secretary diploma or university degree. Fluent in written and spoken English. Excellent computer skills.
TRANSLATOR (both females and males)	Good translation skills. Good communications and organization skills.
LOGISTICS ASSISTANT	University degree or similar diploma. At least 1 year experience in similar function. Engineer or technical degree. Work experience with INGO. Computer skills. Fluent English. Good organizational skills.
DRIVERS/MECHANICS	Driving license over five years and valid. Experience with truck driving is an asset. Good English skills. At least two years experience in mechanic work.

Applications and CVs must be in English language.

Last date for applications: Saturday 29 September 2007

Please note that only short listed will be contacted. Phone call will not be attended.

applications must be sent to:

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 10/07

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni national for the following position:

Title: Programme Assistant
Level: GS-6
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duty Station: Sana'a

Under the supervision and guidance of the Programme Officer MNH of UNICEF Sana'a office, the Programme Assistant shall be responsible for the following duties

- (1) Collects information mainly from records and reports and prepare periodic and ad-hoc reports on programme and project activities.
- (2) Organizes data and information, prepares and maintains records, documents and control plans for the monitoring of project/programme implementation.
- (3) Contributes to the preparation of reports, project documents and submissions to government by providing information, preparing tables and drafting relatively routine sections. Prepares background information for use in discussions with governments and other organizations. Participates in the briefing and debriefing of project personnel.
- (4) Scrutinizes plans of operations, exchanges of letters and takes appropriate follow-up action. Assists in the administrative process of government requests for assistance.
- (5) May be required to carry out specific administrative operational/control tasks for project/program activities.
- (6) Performs any other duties assigned by the Supervisors.

Qualifications and Skills required:

1. Completion of secondary education preferably supplemented by technical or University courses in a field related to the work of the organization.
2. Six years experience and progressively responsible clerical or administrative work, of this at least one year is closely related to support of programme activities.
3. Proficient computer user and good knowledge of common computer applications.
4. Fluency in written and oral English and Arabic.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to: **Chief of Operations, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O.Box 725**

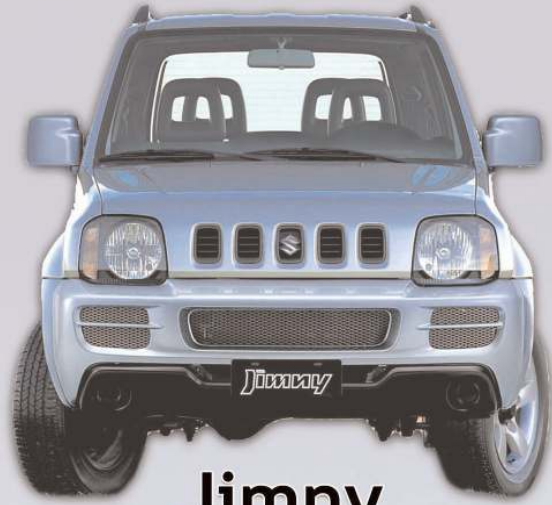
Applications received after **29 of September 2007** will not be accepted. Only the short listed candidates will be contacted.

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MTN Yemen celebrates Group Wedding of 50 Employees



Considered the first Group Wedding sponsored by the Company, MTN Yemen celebrated the marriage of 50 bridegrooms of its employees on Thursday, August 30. The celebration was held in Al-Madinah Hall in the capital city Sana'a.

Such a unique social event highlights MTN approach to bring all employees together as one family and promote sense of belonging, and reflects the Company initiatives to positive social impact.

The ceremony started early afternoon when the grooms were gathered at a hotel in the city center to get ready for a short tour before heading for the wedding hall. Led by 25 cavalry horsemen dressed in MTN Yellow T-shirts, they marched in procession throughout the main streets of the capital city, creating a fascinating moving yellow portrait which captured the masses' admiration.

At the hall entrance gate, the grooms were warmly welcomed by their relatives accompanied by Yemen traditional music and folk dances. Then, several memorial photos were taken to frame these joyful moments.

Soon the grooms moved into the hall that was overcrowded with hosts of guests. Chief Executive Officer – Mr. Raed Ahmed and Human Resources General Manager – Mr. Mohammed Nasher



Mr. Raed Ahmed addressing the gathering on the occasion of 1st mass marriage

received them at the stage, wishing them happy marriage and bright future.

In his speech, CEO- Raed Ahmed expressed his great happiness on this occasion, noting that the company always attempts to support the Yemeni



community through such upliftment activities. He further indicated that Group Wedding would be an annual tradition and this blessed congregation encouraged the company to continue donations. Concluding his speech, he thanked all those participants who made this event a great success.

To increase the level of happiness, seven flights to Cairo with accommodation for one week each were announced through a draw as special gifts for the grooms. Others were granted one week accommodation at Sheraton Hotel in Aden.

Meanwhile, the guests expressed their gratitude for the well-organized preparation and the hospitality presented by MTN Yemen, hoping such initiatives would continue as they have positive impact on the Yemeni society.



Yemen Times holds Iftar with clients

In a friendly atmosphere, Yemen Times held an Iftar session at the Movinpeck Hotel with a number of its clients on Wednesday.

During the event, Mr. Amer Toqan General Manager of the Al-Bahrain Shamel Bank presented Nadia Al-Sakkaf editor in chief of Yemen Times with an honorary souvenir in appreciation of the paper's professionalism and efforts in promoting development in Yemen.

Photos by: Nasri Abubaker Al-Saqqaf



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Only 4% of Yemeni land is used to feed the country

By: Hamed Thabet
For Yemen Times

Wide areas of agricultural lands in Yemen are exposed to deterioration, said official report published last week.

According to the report, which was issued by the Centre of Natural Resources at the Ministry of Agriculture, 85 percent of the agricultural lands are subject to deterioration due to natural causes such as water shortage and desertification.

The report said that the percentage of deteriorating lands increases by 5 percent because of human expansion and 3 percent because of desertification annually.

These numbers are very significant especially that only 13.6 percent of

Yemeni land (about 6.2 million hectares) is fertile. Moreover, only 1.2 to 1.6 hectares is actually used in agriculture.

Construction and deforestation are the main challenges in the agriculture sector in Yemen. Additionally wrong methods in land cultivation, cutting down trees, dry weather conditions, low rainfall, national and international emigration of people are also hindering this sector.

Moreover, random well drilling, overpopulation and land pollution due to sewers and other pollutants are additional disadvantages facing the agriculture industry in Yemen.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, called on Yemenis to invest more in agriculture especially that around 80 percent of the country's poor

people live in rural areas and most of them depend on agriculture for their living.

Last week, IFAD held a workshop in Sana'a to discuss cooperation strategy between the Republic of Yemen and the UN agency for agricultural developments during the period 2008-2013. Yemeni Agriculture Minister pointed out that there are preparations underway to inaugurate new agricultural projects particularly in Lahj, Mahra and Hodeida governorates, which are considered the poorest coastal and agricultural areas in Yemen.

"Such projects would help in fighting poverty and employing poor rural women and men to generate income and for food security." Said the Minister at the event.

"The project particularly is going to help poor producers to upgrade and diversify their agricultural and livestock production, strengthen their processing and marketing systems, in addition to protecting their assets (soil, water, rangelands, seeds and animals) and increase off-farm household income through the development of new income-earning activities. The project also aims to empower rural poor communities through community-based development planning and project execution. This will result in improving their access to public and private services and to the local and international markets." He added.

The official report stated that over 54 percent of Yemeni labor works in agriculture. Which increases the importance of developing this sector.

IFAD confirmed that low-level technology, poor of production support services, difficult access to markets and financial resources, which are main problems that must be tackled in the near future.

In its early stages, IFAD-funded projects that supported the nation's development strategy of the 1970s, promoting crop intensification in the most suitable areas and fostering institutional capacity building. The primary goal was to improve food self-sufficiency. However, in its later stages the projects have adopted a sharper focus on reducing poverty by addressing the isolation and marginalization of poor rural people and their exclusion from the benefits of economic activities. Since 1979, IFAD has financed 19 projects in Yemen through offering loans for a total value of US \$174.3 million with a total cost of some USD 600 million. Of these



85 percent of the agricultural lands are subject to deterioration



Fishery industry is the biggest source of foreign currency, second to petroleum. Workers in this sector provide for 1.7 million people, that is 8.6 percent of Yemen's population

projects, thirteen have been completed, six are still on-going projects and one is just got approved (Sept. 2007). Within the period of current country strategy opportunities program COSOP (2000-2007), the interventions that funded by IFAD- have provided benefits to some 160 000 poor rural households throughout the poorer governorates in Yemen. The program helped participating communities to establish some 450-community development committees.

"The Yemen program has shown some improvement within the period (2005 - 2006) as a result of active involvement of the Yemeni authorities and IFAD to resolve problems facing projects. It is through learning from experience that better implementation and better future program design and impact can be achieved. Also, the impacts of Knowledge sharing and learning through farmer exchange programs both in Yemen and the agency's projects are highly recognized. It is worthwhile to mention that IFAD's experience in Yemen indicates fragile institutional and management capacity, which is being addressed through a comprehensive training program under NENAMTA (Yemen) grant," said, Mr. Avraam louca, a consultant with the agency.

The IFAD Director in the Middle East and North Africa division Ms. Mona Bishay said "IFAD also promised to donate \$70 million in order to support the development projects in Yemen". She explained that the projects include the establishment of 90 school classes, 18 primary health units, 15 women community centers, 25 village electricity supply systems, 6 village sewage and sanitation systems and a number of economic infrastructure facilities and services that would help living conditions to about 120,000 households from 163 villages."

Mr. Abdullah Rahman, consultant in the agency, said that its strategy is to support the government's development plan, and to work at influencing changes and improvements for poor rural people with farm support services such as credit, extension and roads in order to improve their living standards and income by better management of the resource base and increased opportunities for income. Moreover, to enhance food security of rural households, it must enhance agricultural productivity, and invest support for water harvesting for irrigation to increase crop yields.

The UN agency also stressed on the importance of investing and improving

on the fishery industry which is considered also a major source of employment for the country's poor, especially those inhabiting coastal areas. As it is the biggest source of foreign currency, second to petroleum.

According to Ministry of Fisheries statistics, the fishing sector provided 316,000 job opportunities; 65,000 job opportunities for fishermen and 250,000 for those working in marketing and other fishing industry activities. Workers in this sector provide for 1.7 million people, that is 8.6 percent of Yemen's population.

"Therefore the strategy also intends to give support to poor fishermen in order to increase fish catch through investments in boats, fishing gear and marketing cold chains. As for marketing purposes, it is planning to build private institutions as farmer organizations, trade organizations and apex institutions." Said Abdullah Rahman

Supervision of the IFAD funded projects is currently undertaken by UN office for project serves (3 projects), World Bank (2 projects) and IFAD direct supervision (1 project). Supervision will focus on providing implementation support towards the attainment of results and the realization of IFAD requirements.

Money can't buy you health

By: Adam Gonn,
The Media Line Ltd.

Sahha, tihye bari, a votre santé – live long and prosper.

There are many ways of wishing someone good health, but what makes a life a healthy one? Some argue a long life is a healthy life; others suggest it is the quality of those years and not the quantity that counts.

The Media Line (TML) has tried to come up with an answer to the question of which is the least healthy country in the Middle East and North Africa.

One of the simplest, but not necessarily the best, ways to measure is by comparing life expectancy. The World Health Organization (WHO) in its statistics differentiates between life expectancy at birth and healthy life expectancy at birth (HALE).

HALE is defined as the number of years that a person can expect to live in "full health" by taking into account years lived in less than full health "due to disease and/or injury."

According to this measurement the least healthy country is Afghanistan, followed by Somalia and Djibouti. However, one could argue that the reason these countries rank the way they do is not because of unhealthy lifestyle but simply due to a poor standard of living in general.

At the other end of the HALE index Israel ranks first, followed by Kuwait and Qatar, all wealthy and well-developed countries with high standards of living and quality medical infrastructure.

WHO's statistics do not answer the question of whether or not the citizens of these countries live longer and are healthier because of their lifestyle or because of the structure of their society, meaning they might live an unhealthy life but the healthcare infrastructure, public or private, helps keep them well as opposed to similar lifestyles in less-developed countries.

Poor lung health is a major public problem that affects millions of people in the Middle East. It is estimated some 20 percent of all deaths in the region are attributed to lung diseases, according to Dr Akihiro Seit, the head of the WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, located in Cairo.

Tuberculosis, or TB, is still the leading communicable disease in the Middle East, spread through sneezing, kissing or spitting, killing an estimated 100,000 to 120,000 adults every year. WHO statistic shows that overall one-third of the world's population is currently infected with the TB bacillus and that 5-10% of people who are infected with TB bacilli become sick or infectious at some time during their life.

Currently no vaccine against TB is available but once discovered there are treatment drugs available. The problem with many of the medicines is that when not taken as instructed, the bacteria becomes resistant and another round of more expensive drugs is needed in combination with chemotherapy.

The country with the highest prevalence of TB is Djibouti, followed by Sudan and

Pakistan. At the other end of the scale are Israel, Jordan and UAE.

Smoking is increasingly becoming a problem throughout the region according to Seit. Awareness has only recently increased among the public and officials. In Cairo airports and shopping malls are now smoke free. Reports claim that there are similar plans in the UAE.

The country with the highest percentage of male smokers over the age of 18 is Jordan (66.8%), followed by Yemen (60%) and Tunisia (52.9%). For females, the highest tobacco counts are in Yemen (29%), Israel (19.7%) and Syria (16.7%). Despite the fact that so many Israeli women smoke, they still have the longest life expectancy in the region.

Seit points out a third factor affecting the lungs of Middle Easterners: traffic pollution. Among the worst offenders is Tehran, which is

also one of the most polluted cities in the world.

Much of the problem in Tehran emanates from the fact that gasoline used to be so cheap that people used their cars far more than they needed, said Seit. Gas rationing was imposed in mid-2007, and while people have started to drive less there are no conclusive studies yet on the effect on air quality.

In May 2007 fighting diabetes was listed as top priority among a series of recommendations from the 63rd Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting of health ministers held in Geneva on the sidelines of the 60th Annual World Health Assembly, organized by the WHO. The GCC is comprised of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, U.A.E., Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

"Thirty years back we were talking a prevalence rate of 2% and now we are approaching 24%" in Saudi Arabia, says Dr. Khalid Al-Rubeaan, the director of the University Diabetes Center at the King Saud University in Riyadh.

This increase in the incidence of diabetes has also been detected in Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco.

Much of the increase, especially in the Gulf, can be explained by the double-edged sword of development funded by huge oil revenues. On the one hand, it has changed the region from an arid desert to an expansive

modern hub. On the other, many new and unhealthy habits have gained a foothold in the region.

"I think it can be attributed to basically lifestyle change... in dietary habits, physical activity and the spread of obesity," says Al-Rubeaan.

Many Saudis have stopped eating traditional foods, which are rich in fiber and plant protein, turning instead to a diet of animal protein, fried food and cream, all new ingredients in the Saudi diet.

Recent studies show ethnic Arabs have a genetic predisposition to developing diabetes, Al-Rubeaan adds. For example, a review of Yemenites living in Detroit also showed an above-average prevalence of diabetes.

At the moment most of the countries in the Gulf region are spending a lot of money on healthcare, says Callan Emery, the editor of *Middle East Health Magazine*, based in Dubai. The region's governments are using part of their huge oil revenues to improve the healthcare infrastructure in general and deal with a rise in lifestyle diseases, such as obesity and type-2 diabetes.

Emery also points out that while the various governments are aware of their populations' health problems, building new hospitals and running awareness campaigns, the public itself does not seem equally alert when it comes to health matters.

Asked to name the least healthy

country, Emery encapsulates the problem of trying to determine the criteria for making such a choice.

He offers the example of Yemen. It is one of the poorest countries in the world and lacks a sophisticated healthcare system. It is not the place you want to be if something happens to you, yet its people are not succumbing to lifestyle diseases.

The truth is there is no complete answer to our initial question. It is clear the people in the poorest countries in the region suffer from a lack of advanced healthcare and fall well short of other nations in the longevity stakes.

However, such a measure is not an absolute indicator. The Saudis seemingly have the wealth to put in place a modern system of hospitals and clinics, but the lifestyle in the kingdom has left doctors fighting one of the world's highest rates of diabetes.

Experts are convinced in all cases that money must be injected into the system, but where it is expended will vary from one country to another. Basic infrastructure is a necessity in Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan, but in the richest of nations in the Middle East there is a desperate need for education – for the good of future generations.

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Islam and the West: "Allah's Long Shadow"

German Islam scholar Michael Lüders has written a new book to counter the skewed perception the West has of Islam. It is an attempt to dispel prejudices and point toward a path of dialogue. Kathrin Erdmann has reviewed the book

A veiled woman stares up at the reader with big eyes. The first impression of Michael Lüders' new book seems no different from the many others on the market that address the world of Islam, whether fiction or non-fiction. The table of contents boasting chapter titles such as "Mohammad and the Koran" or "Enemies and Brothers: Sunnis and Shites" also seems to promise few new insights and even appears somewhat haphazard.

But the 220 pages of the book are not haphazardly written. Lüders delivers some harsh critique, and he clearly aims to provoke.

Already in the first chapter he draws a parallel between Islamophobia and anti-Semitism: "To a certain extent I

see Islamophobia as a new form of anti-Semitism under different auspices. In both cases a group is collectively under accusation and a majority declares a minority to be a threat. Qualitatively, the statement "The Jews are our misfortune" is no different from saying "Islam is a fanatic religion."

Lüders says he by no means intends to relativize the Holocaust, but he finds a certain "parallel in the demonization" of both minorities.

Straightforward information plus analysis

This is a cumbersome comparison that does more harm to his arguments than help them along, given that the explanations on the development of Islam that follow come across to the average layperson as a didactic lecture. Lüders offers insights to Islam as a religion that are formulated with clarity and sensitivity, and he elucidates many key terms. He mingles straightforward information with analysis, for example in addressing the subject of sharia.

The Islamic legal code is applied in full only in Saudi Arabia today, yet

Turkey is the only Islamic country to have completely abolished it. For Lüders, fully abolishing sharia is important in order to protect the individual in relation to society and the state.

What he finds problematic are the various interpretations of the Koran and its prescriptions, which do not lead the way toward modernity.

This becomes particularly apparent in regard to the contentious issue of headscarves. Lüders points to two passages in the Koran to show that the holy Islamic text does not necessarily prescribe a partial or full veiling of women's bodies, but he also shows that there are grey areas open to interpretation. Women who decide to wear the veil should not be dismissed as subjugated.

Lüders suggests that the decision to wear the veil may be a sign of Arabic women's self-assertion in the struggle against Westernization.

Islam as a kind of "American way of life"

But the issue of why many Muslims react to Western culture with skepticism or outright rejection is more fully addressed at a later point in the text. He first reminds us of famous scientists such as the Persian physician Avicenna, whose work in the medical field was influential from the twelfth through the seventeenth century. Islam was once a cult in the same way that the "American way of life" is today, Lüders tells us. It is thus inaccurate to characterize it as medieval.

In the third part of his book Lüders points first and foremost to colonization to explain the downfall of Islam. Borders were drawn in straight lines, without consideration of the various clans and their respective cultures. A civilization that could have continued to thrive was brutally wiped out.

What these countries are missing, says Lüders, is a solid middle class. But only democracy would be able to conjure one and thereby lead the Arabic nations and Iran into modernity.

The Islamic people are suffering today, and their frustration has led them

to turn to the ruling elite in the mosques because that is where they find aid in daily life, from social services to food and clothing. Lüders offers a sobering series of examples of how this elite is becoming stronger and hindering progress.

The Western nations' greed

But this is not the only reason the people are turning to fundamentalism, he says. The Western nations are also responsible for the current trend because they continue to support the fundamentalist elite out of pure greed, for example in Libya. French Premier Nicolas Sarkozy has further set the tone by recently entering into nuclear negotiations with the Libyan head of state.

Whether in Libya, Iraq or Afghanistan, Lüders systematically lists the failures and mistakes of Western nations in the past and present. His main criticism is the lack of inclusion of the various ethnic groups as well as neighboring states in approaching these issues. Only common dialogue can promise an eventual solution to the various crises.

Germany in particular, he notes, should participate in this dialogue, given its many Muslim citizens. Distrust and ignorance characterize current interactions. This leads to frustrations and only plays into the hands of fundamentalist forces.

"The Long Shadow of Allah" is well structured and addresses the many different crises in the Arabic world in a concise manner, going far to explain the key terms in Islam today. Anyone who has little previous knowledge of these issues will find a good overview and many insights.

Lüders shows that he has a solid grasp of the various developments and a differentiated take on politics in the region and the terms such as fundamentalism and Islamism commonly used to describe them. And given the current climate, this alone is worth a lot.

© Qantara.de 2007. Translated from the German by Christina M. White. *Allahs langer Schatten* ("The Long Shadow of Allah") by Michael Lüders has been published by Herder and is available for 19.90 euros.



In the first chapter of his new monography Michael Lüders draws a parallel between Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.



Upon hearing the word "Islam," the majority of Germans think of violence and terror, according to a survey by the respected Allensbach public opinion research institute. This is a narrow-minded and dangerous reaction, says Michael Lüders.

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TOYOTA

RAMADAN 2007



By: Harun Yahya
www.harunyahya.com

Only love can defeat terrorism-3

Atheist Ideologies and the Rise of Terrorism

If a sick person is to be treated properly, an accurate diagnosis is essential. Whatever treatment follows that diagnosis must be followed meticulously and decisively, until the sickness is finally expelled from the body. If not, the illness will inevitably recur. The same applies to one of the most serious ills affecting society. One of the chief reasons why we can't find effective solutions to this century's social problems is that their causes aren't properly identified. When dealing with any social problem, the first thing to do is establish what causes give rise to it. Otherwise, whatever measures are taken can only be temporary.

The roots of terrorism are often sought in concrete matters; and thus the fight against it, aimed at these superficial targets, cannot provide lasting results. In order to free the world from terrorism, the principal factors behind it must be identified and eliminated.

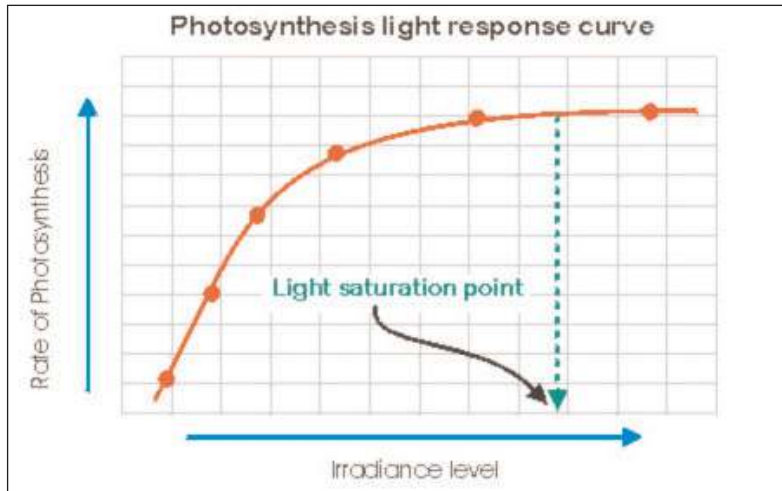
The Tangled Web of Terrorists' Logic

It's not possible to defeat terrorism by security measures. By itself, military force is only likely to meet with increased violence, producing a vicious circle in which bloodshed continues to be answered with more bloodshed. When embarking on the fight against terrorists, we need to understand—and then combat—their way of thinking, the way they view life and other human beings, and how they justify their use of violence.

A terrorist believes that he can succeed only by using violence. He wants people around to fear him, and cloaks himself in pitilessness, ruthlessness and aggression to bring that fear about. Anyone opposing his ideas is an enemy, whom he regards as an object that needs to be eliminated. In his article, "Terrorists View us as Targets, not as Humans," psychotherapist and *Journal Sentinel* writer Philip Chard examines the terrorist mindset and how they justify violent attacks aimed at defenseless people:

"Researchers have glimpsed aspects of [the terrorists'] psyches. Most prominent among these is their capacity to view their victims as things, as objects, as statistics that, they hope, will show up on a casualty list.

"They don't want to experience their victims as human beings, as they would a friend or loved one. Rather, they strive to view them as pawns on a political chessboard. Consequently, from their own vantage point, terrorists don't perceive themselves as killing 'people.' In order to slaughter with ease and callous indifference, they mentally dehumanize us into 'targets' ... Their 'cause,' whatever it may be, is sufficiently sacred, noble or desperate that it justifies the carnage they instigate ... For most terrorists, their chief interest resides in effects, not persons ... They are after ... the impact of the massacre, not the experience of the massacre itself. Terrorists want to murder hope, or a way of life, or the spirit of a



group of people or an entire nation. They destroy human beings because they believe doing so is the fastest and most direct route to that goal.¹¹

Philip Chard draws our attention to a most important matter: that terrorists feel not the slightest pang of remorse at the death of others. On the contrary, the more they can kill, the more successful they consider themselves to be, and rejoice in that fact. Such minds can quite happily shoot innocent people and bomb small children. For them, shedding blood becomes a source of pleasure. They cease to be human and turn into savage monsters. If one of them does evidence the slightest remorse, he is immediately

... It may be that you hate something when it is good for you and it may be that you love something when it is bad for you. God knows and you do not know. (Surat al-Baqara: 216)

branded a traitor by his more radical comrades. Being more radical and more bloody is considered to be more devout in the cause, so the zeal to kill increases constantly. Since any dispute can easily be defined as treacher, terrorists invariably use guns against each other, and carry out attacks on other splinter groups within their own ranks.

This passionate attachment to violence goes deeper beyond political ideologies and in fact stems from an underlying misconception about human nature. The terrorist mindset finds its inspiration from the materialist philosophy and Darwinist thought. Darwinism regards human beings as animals and maintains that living things evolve through a struggle for survival in nature. Eliminating the weak, so that the strong can emerge victorious, forms the essence of any terrorist's twisted thinking.

Moderate Islam-In Other Words, True Islam

For half a century after the first verse was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (may God bless him and grant him peace), Islam underwent such an expansion as has seldom been seen. It spread from the Arabian Peninsula to the whole of the Middle East, North Africa and even Spain, drawing the attention of many in the West. In the words of the famous Islamic expert John L. Esposito, "What is most striking about the early expansion of Islam is its rapidity and success. Western scholars have marveled at it."¹²

Over the next centuries, Islam reached all corners of the world, from Indonesia to Latin America. Today, Islam is accepted as the fastest growing religion, and its roughly one billion followers represent about one-fifth of the world's population. Interest in Islam particularly increased after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. (For more details, see *The Rise of Islam* by Harun Yahya).

Looking at today's Islamic world today, we see a wide range of religious practices, depending on societies' different customs and traditions, their cultural heritage, and world views. This has led some individuals researching or trying to understand Islam to form mistaken impressions. Those differences may symbolize only the traditional values of the society under examination, but Islam itself. The only way of arriving at an accurate opinion of Islam is to put aside these differences and turn to the Qur'an, where the essence of Islamic morality is set out, and to the actions of our Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace).

Even if Muslims comprise the majority in a community, that does not mean that community's behavior, views and judgments will necessarily be Islamic, nor that they need be defended in the name of Islam. When evaluating an individual's—or community's—view of Islam, that must always be borne in mind. Differences may stem from prevailing conditions. The only way to ascertain whether those views are correct is by turning to the Qur'an, the most accurate source of truth about Islam, and to the actions of our Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace).

It is most unfair to pass judgment on Islam and Muslims without studying the Qur'an to learn whether a particular practice appears in it. Examining the lifestyle of a single community only can seriously mislead anyone who tries to understand Islam and form opinions about it. First, what needs to be done is to learn about Islam from its true source. Then, once the various models in different parts of the world are considered in the light of those criteria, many who only imagined they knew about Islam will actually come to do so for the first time; and can free themselves from the errors they have

been laboring under so far. (To be continued)

Quick grasp of faith

* Does Allah reward the believers in this world for their faith? Allah provides great rewards to His sincere servants during their lives in this world. He guides them to the right path, provides them with ease in their affairs, sends down serenity and peace upon their hearts, multiplies His blessings to them many times over, and helps them in return for their services in His way. He may also send them some difficulties to test their faith. However, in addition to all of these, He provides them with a good life. Allah states that He will reward the believers' good deeds:

Anyone who acts rightly, male or female, being a believer, We will give them a good life and will recompense them according to the best of what they did. (Surat an-Nahl, 97)

Say: "O My servants who believe. Be in awe of your Lord. For those who do good in this world there is good, and Allah's Earth is spacious. The steadfast will be paid their wages in full, without any reckoning." (Surat az-Zumar, 10)

So Allah gave them the reward of this world and the best reward of the Hereafter. Allah loves good-doers. (Surah Al-Imran, 148)

* Can any reward be expected from people in return for conveying the religion's message?

The believers convey this message in order to earn Allah's good pleasure and to fulfill the related Qur'anic command. In return, they expect no worldly wage, but only Allah's good pleasure and Paradise. All Prophets strove with this purpose in mind until the end of their lives; however, they never asked for any worldly recompense from the people and made it clear that they expected none. This greatness of spirit is exemplified in the Qur'an, as follows:

So heed Allah and obey me. I do not ask you for any wage for it. My wage is the responsibility of no one but the Lord of all the worlds. (Surat ash-Shu'ara', 179-180)

(For further reference, please see, *Quick Grasp of Faith 1-3*, by Harun Yahya)

Miracles of the Qur'an

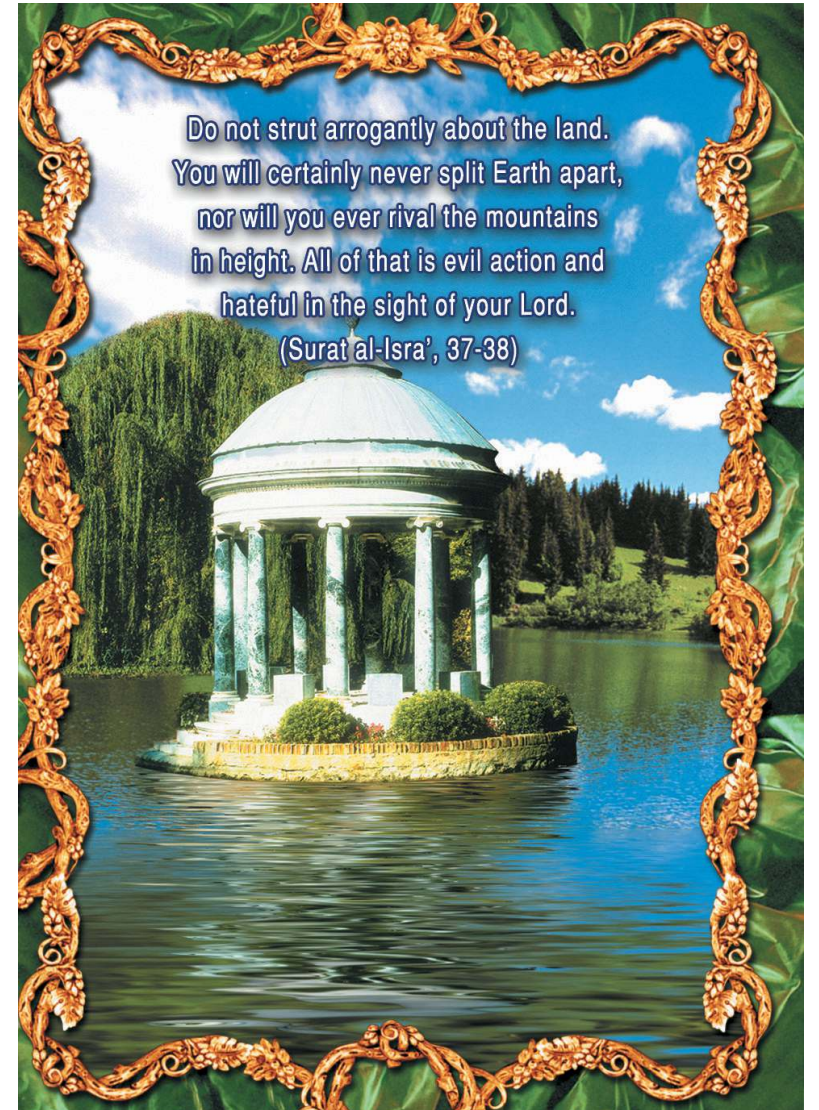
How the process of photosynthesis begins in the morning

And [I swear] by the night when it draws in, and by the dawn when it breathes in. (Qur'an, 81:17-18)

When plants undergo photosynthesis, they take in carbon dioxide, a harmful gas that human beings cannot consume, from the air, and give off oxygen instead. Oxygen, which we breathe and which is our basic source of life, is the main product of photosynthesis. Some 30% of the oxygen in the atmosphere is produced by plants on land, the remaining 70% being produced by plants and single-celled living things in the seas and oceans.

Photosynthesis is a complex process, and one which scientists have still not yet fully understood. This process cannot be observed with the naked eye, because the mechanism employs electrons, atoms and molecules. However, we can see the results of photosynthesis in the oxygen which enables us to breathe, and in the foodstuffs that keep us alive. Photosynthesis is a system which involves complicated chemical formulae and units of weight, and on very small scale, and consisting of the most sensitive equilibria. There are trillions of chemical laboratories that carry out this process in all the green plants around us. Furthermore, plants have been meeting our oxygen, food and energy needs non-stop for millions of years.

The productivity of photosynthesis is measured by the level of oxygen output. The greatest point is in the morning, when the Sun's rays are most concentrat-



Do not strut arrogantly about the land. You will certainly never split Earth apart, nor will you ever rival the mountains in height. All of that is evil action and hateful in the sight of your Lord. (Surat al-Isra', 37-38)

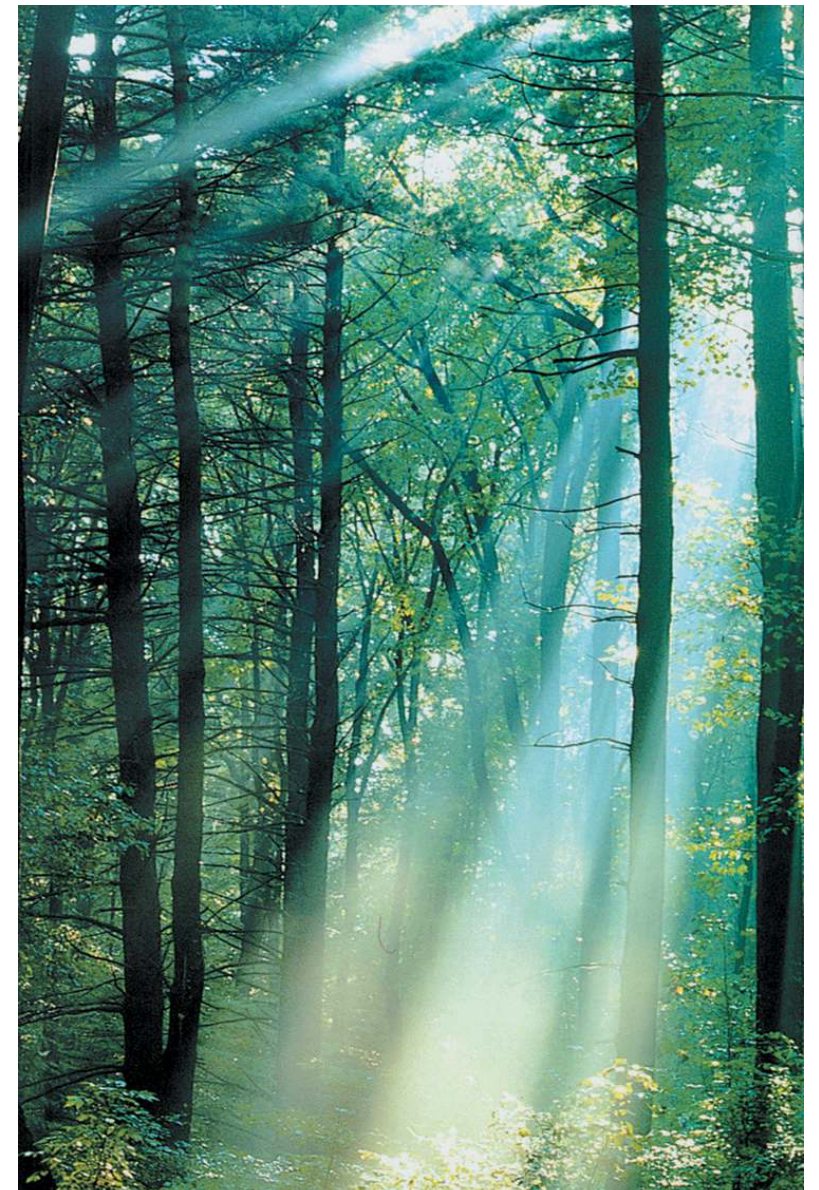
ed. At dawn, the leaves begin to sweat, and photosynthesis increases accordingly. In the afternoon, however, the opposite applies; in other words photosynthesis slows down, and respiration increases because as the temperature rises perspiration also increases. At night, as the temperature falls, perspiration declines and the plant rests.

The term "itha tanaffasa" in Surat at-Takwir, in reference to the morning hours, in other words, "when it breathes in," is a metaphorical reference to breathing, respiration, or breathing deeply. This term particularly emphasises the way that the production of oxygen begins in the morning, and that the greatest levels of oxygen, essential for respiration, are given off at that time. The importance of the phenomena is also emphasised by the way that Allah swears upon it. The way that Allah indicates the action of photosynthesis, among the most important discoveries of the 20th century, in this verse, is another of the scientific miracles of the Qur'an. (For further reference, please see, *Miracles of the Qur'an*, by Harun Yahya)

To purchase the works of Harun Yahya, please visit www.bookglobal.net

ⁱ Philip Chard, *Journal Sentinel*, 24 September 2001, <http://www.jsonline.com/lifestyle/advice/sep01/charco125092401a.asp> (emphasis added)

ⁱⁱ John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, Oxford: Oxford University, England, 1991, p. 33



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Female Pioneers in the medical field

By: Yemen Times staff
Curtsy of the directorate general for working women

Atiqia Al-Shami



The first female nursing services in northern Yemen was initiated by a woman with chains in her legs. She was Atiqia Al-Shami who established nursing homes in Sana'a. Post the revolution in 1962 she started nursing homes in Taiz, Hodaidah, Ibb, Dhamar and Hajja governorates.

"I found myself desperate for work after the death of my husband leaving me with a new born baby girl, a widowed mother and a young brother to support. During that time, no one would approve of women's work in public place. The soldiers of Imam Al-Badr put chains in my legs because of my work in nursing and still I continued," described Al-Shami the

beginning of her career. The soldiers upon instructions from the Imam came to the center and put chains in her legs, although she along with 15 young women received training in nursing. However, she was the director of the center and was the one to face the music, as they say.

The World Health Organization sent at that time trainees, from Lebanon, Egypt and Syria. "Bait Al-Halali" a small house near the Imam Al-Badr's residence was the place from which female nursing movement was launched. That was in return to a monthly rent.

The other pioneer women were also oppressed, but they continued providing health care services to women. She used to walk from her home to the center with restricted steps, and when the soldiers came to remove the chains after some time, she refused. She wanted more people to see her struggle so that she conveys a message to the world. And the world did hear. With time she gained respect and positions in the republic, until she headed the nursing sector in the republic of Yemen as a whole.

Zainab Laliji

She is a bilingual woman, who was ahead of her time. She spoke in both English and Arabic and was of the pioneer women educated in south Yemen. After Zainab Laliji graduated from high school in 1955 she talked her father



into letting her study nursing.

"During that time the society did not receive women working in nursing with open arms. But my father was very liberal, and not only did he allow me to enter nursing college, he also convinced other parents of the same," said Laliji.

For the first time, the college of nursing received 10 female students to study side by side with ten male students in 1956. Laliji did not waste time, for in that year she also enrolled in a nursing training course at the Queen's Hospital in Aden. She also trained as a midwife in the motherhood home and started working there after completing the course in 1958.

When she graduated from college, she took a high level midwifery course for two years. In 1963 she flew to London to study at the Royal University for Nurses which required an entrance exam conducted by the World Health Organization, needless

to say, she passed with flying colors.

Laliji came back as head of nurses at the Motherhood Hospital (today known as China Hospital). However, in 1966 she changed careers and moved to teaching at Ameen Nashar's Institute for Health Sciences.

Despite the long experience and continuous giving, she does not feel well cared for after retiring in 1996. Such is the story of many pioneer women in Yemen.

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