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Protests escalate as opposition calls for nationwide revolution

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

ADEN, Nov. 7 — Thousands of citizens gathered on Monday for a huge protest to express solidarity with oppressed citizens and demand that authorities address a variety of social and political issues in the Yafe' district, of Aden governorate. The angry protestors resolved to continue the peaceful sit-ins until all the citizens' demands are met and appealed to different social groups, and local and international NGOs stand against authorities' arbitrary practices against peaceful protests.

Representative of Joint Meeting Parties Abdulkhaleq Bin Shaihun, who is also a member of Parliament, confirmed in a speech before the rally that the JMP is ready to back all demands raised by the Yemeni people advocating reform, adding that the opposition bloc will support their peaceful protests. All the speeches given at the rally unanimously agreed to continue peaceful sit-ins, denounce any arbitrary use of force against demonstrations and express solidarity with families of the dead and injured.

In a statement released by representatives of the sit-in, participants deplored the continued detention of Nasser Al-Nuba and Hassan Ba Aum without considering their health conditions. The statement additionally requested that authorities reinstate those who were dismissed from their jobs, tackle educational and health issues and allow Yafe'a locals access to colleges.

The statement also denounced inflammatory *fatwas* delivered by mosque preachers, as ordered the state, fomenting murder of protestors. The statement referred to the sermon given by former Minister of Endowment and Guidance

Nasser Al-Shaibani in Al-Janad Mosque in the presence of President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Eid Al-Fitr, labeling demonstrators as disbelievers and dissidents from Islam. The statement insisted on punishing preachers who give such *fatwas*. According to the protestors, Al-Shaibani's sermon on Eid Al-Fitr implied the use of weapons against them.

In an unprecedented reaction since protests began in the southern governorates, President Saleh lashed out at some political leaders who ruled South Yemen prior to unification, citing the bloody events of January 1986, the assassination of former president Salimin Rabe'e and the mass graves.

During his visit to Abyan governorate, Saleh gave a speech, published by the official media, saying, "Our people have inherited nothing more than pain, tragedies, atrocities and murder by those who were accustomed to new waves of mass killings every 4 – 5 years in the southern governorates."

Saleh mentioned that the same elements, whom he didn't name, are the ones who compelled him to open the closed files. The Yemeni President, who has been facing increasing opposition since he was reelected in September 2006, warned those whom he described as defectors against playing with fire, with the intention of fueling chaos and violence, and shaking Yemen's security and stability.

"Citizens of the southern governorates were scattered between North Yemen and other Gulf states in search of safety during the Yemeni Socialist Party's rule," Saleh commented. "The protests organized by retirees' societies and opposition parties aim to hinder investment and freeze investor activities."

He interpreted the wave of wide protests in the southern governorates as a form of malice by those whom he described as 'bats of darkness', adding that they only target national development.

Upon Saleh's departure from Abyan governorate and its provincial capital Zunjubar, hundreds of Cultural Institute students and idle youths streamed into streets in a demonstration, the fiercest of its kind for months. Demanding that authorities improve their living standards, the protestors found that police were shooting randomly and arresting some of them, who are still detained in an Abyan prison.

Security forces beat the demonstrators with cudgels while dispersing them, leaving many of them wounded, different media sources reported.

Al-Dhale' governorate witnessed last Thursday a eulogistic rally involving thousands of locals. The rally was attended by many representatives of political parties, societies and organizations in the governorates of Taiz, Ibb, Lahj, Aden, Abyan, Shabwa, Hadramout and Sana'a, as well as civil community organizations leaders and members of Parliament (MPs) from different governorates.

At the rally, some participants delivered speeches vowing to continue their peaceful demonstrations until the government responds to all the legal demands of Yemeni citizens regarding changing government systems and stopping the steady deterioration in various political and economic areas.

Many of those who gave speeches stressed the necessity of staging peaceful sit-ins, by which retirees and youth could collaborate with social and political groups.



Protests in the southern governorates announced preparations for widespread protests in all Yemeni governorates on the 40th anniversary of Independence Day, which occurs on Nov. 30.

Civil community organizations provided the best examples of backing legal demands and denouncing policies of liquidation, starvation, corruption and price hikes.

Concluding the rally, participants announced preparations for widespread protests in all Yemeni governorates on the 40th anniversary of Independence Day, which occurs on Nov. 30. They called for holding activities in the different governorates at the same time of the anniversary, coinciding with a large festival planned to be staged in Aden city.

Journalist Abdulrahman Khabara said in an article published by Al-Ayyam

Daily on Tuesday that "citizens in the South will no longer tolerate their miserable situation. They will no longer allow authorities to abuse their constitutional rights. They will insist on their reinstatement into the military, security and civil institutions in which they were working."

"We told authorities to seriously deal with the current situation and suggest suitable solutions to the people's issues, as well as strengthen the principle of equal citizenship before the crisis exacerbates. But regrettably, it is the fault of the regime's arrogant policy that has been exercised since the 1994 Civil War ended," Khabara lamented. "The protests came to resist injustice and violations of basic rights and freedoms. The government finds itself in a critical position, as it has neither negotiated with concerned organizations nor suggested radical solutions to the problems."

According to Khabara, political instabil-

ity and poor investment opportunities are not results of the sit-ins and protests. Rather, they are symptomatic of the regime's arbitrary conduct and the use of force against innocent citizens. Such conduct will only pour more oil on the blazing fire while dialogue is the best option for containing the crisis.

JMP leaders in Sana'a called on citizens of the southern governorates last week to escalate what they called "a nationwide revolution" against the worsening situation in the South. They vowed to stand in solidarity with the oppressed citizens, who they claim suffer constantly and are denied their rights of justice and equality.

The opposition parties condemned the use of force against angry citizens claiming their constitutional rights, and demanded that the perpetrators who shed the blood of protestors be tried in courts to be punished for their actions against citizens in various governorates.

After oil pipeline bombing in Marib

Court convicts 32 suspects

By: Amel Al-Arifi

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Marib oil pipeline blown up by saboteurs Monday morning have been completed, said a Yemeni official on Tuesday.

Officials confirmed on Monday that the bombing did not affect export operations. However, Marib governor Aref Al-Zukua stated that the bomb caused leakage equivalent to 4,000 barrels.

The pipeline, which forms part of a network transporting crude oil from the Marib oil basin to storage tanks for export, was damaged by a bomb planted by unidentified culprits. There were no casualties.

Yemen's official News Agency SABA quoted Marib security official Ahmed Fander saying "a group of saboteurs was behind the explosion, which halted the flow of the oil."

He stated that the culprits placed a

time bomb under the pipeline. He added that Marib security is investigating the incident.

The pipeline has the capacity to transport 155,000 barrels of crude oil per day from the Safer oilfields in Marib, 170 kilometers (105 miles) east of Sana'a, to Ras Issa terminal on the Red Sea.

Senior official at the Ministry of Oil and Minerals Abdulmalik Alama stated that the incident caused minor damage, affecting only the quantity of oil pumped for exportation for one day. He added that overall oil export operations were not affected due to containment of the incident by Safer company engineers immediately after the incident occurred.

No one was hurt in the attack, according to the official.

Yemen produces just 380,000 barrels of crude oil a day, and exports approximately 200,000 bpd (barrels per day), but it is not a member of the giant oil cartel OPEC.

Oil facilities under attack

The attack occurred two days before the conviction of 32 suspects accused of

planning suicide attacks on oil and gas installations in the country and sentenced to as much as 15 years imprisonment.

The penal court, held on Wednesday, Nov. 7 in Sana'a, however, acquitted four other prisoners for lack of evidence, while six other top suspects, who were tried in absentia and remain at large, were sentenced to 10-15 years in prison.

The suspects were accused of planning to attack oil installations in the Marib and Hadramout provinces using rocket-propelled grenades in August 2006, when militants attacked a power station and a government building in Marib, some 140 kilometers (85 miles) east of the capital.

The attack occurred a day after Yemeni counterterrorism forces killed four Al-Qaeda militants suspected to be involved in a car bomb attack killing eight Spanish tourists and two Yemenis in Marib on July 2.

Al-Qaeda militants have been active in sabotage operations against petroleum facilities in the country. In 2002, militants bombed the French oil supertanker Limburg off Yemen's coast.

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In brief

ABYAN

Germany to support water, sanitation project

Nov. 6 — Abyan Governor Mohammed Shamlan on Tuesday discussed with a German Ministry of Water and Environment delegation, headed by water program director, preparations to implement a ¢20-million German-financed water and sanitation project for the governorate's Zunjubar and Ja'ar cities.

The German official confirmed that the project, which will begin in the first half of 2008, will gain the German government's interest within a framework of German support for Yemen in order to improve water resources and develop institutional infrastructures for water management institutions.

ADEN

Symposium on constitutional amendments prepared

Nov. 5 — Preparations were underway Monday at Aden University via committees established to hold a scientific symposium on draft constitutional amendments.

Aden University Secretary-General Ahmed Saleh Mansour told press Monday that the symposium's importance lies in highlighting the presidential system's current status to develop Yemen's political regime. The symposium will deal with all issues in draft amendments presented by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, touching on decentralization, expanding the powers of local councils and increasing women's participation in political life.

Mansour noted that a group of professors and specialists will participate in the event, the date of which will be set this month.

AL-DHALE'

University planned

Nov 5 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Monday directed his government to adopt a plan to build a university in Al-Dhale' governorate under a plan to meet the educational needs of the governorate's population, as well as the governorate's development needs.

Official sources report that the coming period will witness practical measures to establish a Faculty of Society, which, besides the current College of Education, will form the nucleus of Al-Dhale' University. Governor Mohammed Ahmed Al-Ansi says Al-Dhale' University will be one of the governorate's vital and strategic projects.

SANA'A

King Howtar Athat statue to be exhibited Saturday

Nov. 5 — The bronze statue of ancient Yemeni King Howtar Athat will be displayed at the National Museum in Sana'a on Saturday.

Total for oil exploration stated in a press release that it had funded the \$150,000 project to repair the statue in Paris, noting that funding the Bronze Man's repair is part of its support for social and cultural programs in Yemen. Standing 1 meter and 65 cm. tall, the King Howtar Athat statue is one of two statues of that large size and a very rare discovery in Yemen. It is from the Sabaean period and embodies a personality who lived in Al-Jawf governorate's Nashaq city during the 6th century B.C.

Repairs continued in Paris from December 2006 until May of this year, according to an agreement between Yemen's Public Authority for Antiquities and Museums and the Louvre Museum in France.

ZABID

Cabinet forms committee to protect city

Nov. 6 — The Yemeni Cabinet has formed a committee, headed by Yemen's culture minister, to implement measures to protect Zabid city, including banning new construction, as well as banning the destruction of city buildings.

The Cabinet also directed the Ministry of Culture and the Authority to Protect Historical Cities to ratchet up the process of enacting an architectural heritage law in order to create clear legal grounds to meet the requirements of protecting such cities.

Additionally, the Cabinet ordered a national campaign to remove all waste and ban new construction in Zabid.

While Japanese ship still under seizure by Somali pirates
Yemen welcomes 24 freed kidnapped Asians

By: Hamed Thabet

Aden, Nov. 7 — The Korean ships with a group of 24 Asian sailors held hostage by pirates in Somalia for more than five months was freed on Sunday off the Somali coast and has left for Yemen." The South Korean Foreign Ministry said.

"The two Korean-owned fishing boats were hijacked on May 15. The Mavuno 1 and Mavuno 2 were manned by four South Koreans, 10 Chinese, four Indonesians, three Vietnamese and three Indians." Said Officials.

"Three crew members of Korean ships who were wounded in fighting with pirates off the coast of Somalia and treated earlier by U.S. medics were admitted to al-Naqib hospital for treatment in Aden." said Yemeni Coast Guard officials in southern Yemen port city of Aden.

U.S. sailors and medics boarded the Korean-flagged vessel a week ago and

treated the three Koreans and three pirates, who had gunshot wounds, after the sailors overpowered the pirates.

U.S. military said "A helicopter had flown from the destroyer USS James E. Williams to investigate a phoned-in tip of a hijacked ship and demanded by radio that the pirates give up their weapons as the crew of the Dai Hong Dan regained control of the vessel and detained all pirates."

The release of the two Korean boats followed by a release of Taiwanese ship on Monday.

"The Taiwanese ship and its 12 crew, eight Kenyan and four Taiwanese, were freed from a pirate-held port north of Mogadishu," announced Andrew Mwangura, head of the East African Seafarers' Assistance Program.

Mwangura added, "The Ching Fong Hwa No. 168 has been released today (on Monday) off Harardheere. It has been there since May".

The Taiwanese vessel went free as five

U.S. warships were escorting two Korean vessels to Yemen.

The following day a North Korean ship was seized off Mogadishu but the crew eventually fought off the attackers with US Navy help.

The U.S. military has recently intervened several times to help ships hijacked by Somali pirates.

Somali pirates are still holding two other crafts: a Japanese-owned, Panama-flagged Golden Nori chemical tanker they seized last week and the Al Marjan cargo ship registered in Comoros. The U.S. Navy said it was monitoring those ships.

Yemeni Officials of the Coast Guard noted, "The International coalition forces stationed in international waters adjacent to the island of Socotra, surrounded spare Japanese warship vessel (Golden Mori) loaded with oil after Somali pirates on Monday 5th November had climbed the board."

A Japanese chemical tanker with 23 crew on board including two South



Somali pirate

Koreans was hijacked on October 28. The source added, "Unfortunately, the Japanese ship itself is still under the Somali pirates' control. But the International Coalition Forces will attack in order to release the Japanese crew." as told by a source in the interest of the Yemeni Coast Guard sector of the Gulf of

Aden.

The Japanese ship's crew are from the Philippines, South Korea and Myanmar.

Piracy has been rife off Somalia since the country slid into chaos after warlord's toppled military dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. Many pirates claim to be "coast guards" protecting their waters

Arab Sisters Forum affirms right to access financial info

By: Abdul-Wadood

For The Yemen Times

SANA'A, Nov. 5 — The Bank Information Center, or BIC, has announced that Yemen's indebtedness to international financial corporations totaled \$3.5 billion at the end of August.

At a seminar organized with the Arab Sisters Forum for Human Rights, BIC reported that Yemen's indebtedness is distributed as follows: \$2.5 million to the International Development Association (IDA), \$165 million to the International Finance Corporation (IFC), \$205 million to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and \$360 million to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

In a statement published by Kuwait News Agency, BIC stated that international evaluations on the failure of previous programs of the International Bank in Yemen are true, as it depends on oil as its only source. It also noted that Yemen suffers continuing unemployment problems.

The Arab Sisters Forum organized a workshop Monday in Sana'a on interna-

tional finance corporations and civil society's role in monitoring and interrogation. Nikki Reisch, BIC's official in Washington, and Amy Ekdawi, its Middle East and North Africa director, attended.

Attendees discussed the outcomes of World Bank and IMF programs regarding the economic system, as well as pressures formed at the societal level.

They also discussed the effects of locally implemented loans and development programs and how they can be done to realize prospective targets in order to eradicate poverty and unemployment and lift subsidies on basic necessities.

Additionally, the event shed light on civil society's role in monitoring development funds and ways to monitor spending, interrogation and transparency in those programs.

At the workshop, Arab Sisters Forum Chairwoman Amel Al-Basha stressed the importance of discussing and dialoguing about the tasks of financial corporations in Yemen, highlighting the nature of such and the importance of addressing international financial corporations' role and

Yemen's relationship with them.

She also pointed out that activists and journalists lack information in this regard, stressing the necessity of obtaining information and knowledge in order to establish transparency.

Reisch considered the workshop a chance for civil society organizations and international finance corporations, as well as citizens, to begin serious dialogue in Yemen.

She focused on BIC's information and its role in ensuring access to information about corporations and their applied policies. Reisch concentrated on citizens' right to obtain correct information about what's happening at the World Bank and the IMF and enabling citizens' voices to gain access to these authorities regarding their complaints and demands in an attempt to interrogate such authorities.

As Ekdawi further explained, "The Bank Information Center isn't a bank. It neither belongs to the World Bank, nor is it a source of funds, as stipulated in its message and objectives. Rather, it's simply an associate partner of civil society in developing countries, actively working

together to influence the World Bank and international finance corporations in order to achieve social, economic and environmental justice. It maintains solidarity through protecting rights, transparent participation and general interrogation in the administration and work of the World Bank, as well as regional developmental banks."

Ekdawi summarized BIC's primary activities as establishing and spreading awareness, delivering information services, establishing coalitions and a communication network, monitoring projects and policies and advocating institutional reforms, as well as reforming policies of international financial corporations.

She noted that international financial corporations active in Yemen are: the World Bank Group; the International Development Association, which joined in 1996 and has loaned Yemen approximately \$2.5 billion thus far; the International Finance Corporation, which joined the World Bank Group in 1970 and has loaned Yemen \$165 million, in addition to the Multi-Investment Corporation Agency (MICA), as well as

the IMF, to which Yemen owed \$205 million as of August.

The Islamic Development Bank also is active in Yemen, which has received approximately \$630 million over the past three decades, thus indicating that the bank is likely to increase funds to Yemen.

Ekdawi stressed the role of civil society organizations to influence international financial corporations, noting, "We must work with international financial corporations for important reasons, including adherence leading to funding policy and investment reforms, as an information source to pressure governments and companies and access international adherence networks and media outlets. Banks owned by the government, in addition to societal and media mobilization, will influence such corporations."

She further emphasized citizens' right to access BIC's information and educated individuals using its instruments as tools, as well as obtaining modern documents on countries and policies, analytical work, strategic support, analyzing policies and advocacy.

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BRIDGE project to develop girls' education in Taiz



By: Fatima Al-Ajel

TAIZ, Nov. 7 — In a move to expand local initiatives to develop girls' education in Yemen, the Broadening Regional Initiative for Developing Girls' Education, or BRIDGE, program, in cooperation with the Yemen Times, has launched a project in 59 schools in six regions of Taiz governorate.

A four-day workshop that concluded Wednesday focused on the importance of developing girls' education in Taiz, as well as discussing the BRIDGE program's process to improve basic education levels (grades 1 to 9) in rural schools and communities.

Journalists, civil society activists, businesspersons, policymakers and other interested individuals from Sana'a and

Taiz participated in the workshop and a field survey. Media coverage and reports will be released to reflect the true situation of girls' education in Taiz.

BRIDGE seeks to encourage girls to attend school by improving and expanding activities, as well as teachers' competence, by promoting the importance of girls' education among parents and civic leaders and by improving local communities' planning and administrative capabilities.

Under the theme, "Improve schools' strategy," the Japan International Cooperation Agency initiated the three-and-a-half-year BRIDGE project in June 2005, in cooperation with local authorities. The project grants schools YR 500,000 to improve their girls' education strategy.

Yemeni inventors
win gold and bronze

By: Sa'eed Al-Batati

HADRAMOUT, Nov. 5 — Hani Mohammed Bajalla, a Faculty of Engineering student at Hadramout University of Science and Technology, recently won the gold medal at the International Exhibition for Inventions held in Kuwait Oct. 23-26.

Bajalla submitted his invention, the "Little Giant," a lighted clock 60 meters in diameter. He won the gold medal from among 15 inventions from all over the world.

Likewise, Ali Abdulrahman Ba-Ajeel, a fellow student in the same faculty, won the bronze for inventing an electronic

tourist guide, a device that gives information on tourist sites, as well as information about those visited by tourists.

The Kuwait Scientific Club organized the exhibition in conjunction with the Geneva-based International Office for Inventions. An international scientific committee composed of members from Switzerland and the United States judged the event's 200 inventions hailing from all over the world. The Yemen Times previously published a report about Bajalla's "Little Giant," for which he sought support for the project, which would make Yemen's Mukalla city home to the world's largest clock.

Arab Journalists Union calls on Yemeni authorities to stop trying journalists

Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 7 — The Arab Journalists Union called on Yemeni authorities to cease trying journalists, including Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani, editor-in-chief of the Yemeni newspaper Al-Shoura.

The union also announced in a statement issued in its annual meeting early this month that the union supports efforts of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to enact a new law giving the press greater freedoms. The law would also prevent imprisoning journalists based on opinion and publication issues.

The office additionally affirmed that freedom of the press is part and parcel of general freedoms, rights and democracy. Therefore, the union seeks to stabilize Yemeni society, as well as rescind legislation imposing restrictions on the press.

The source also expressed its concern regarding the deteriorating freedoms of journalists in most Arab countries because of their struggle to express their opinions. It also praised the efforts exerted by many Arab countries supporting press freedom and independence.

The Cairo-based permanent office of the Arab Journalists Union held its annual meeting on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, directed by Ibraheem Nafa', union chairman. Secretary generals of the union also attended the meeting.

It is worth noting that the Center for Rehabilitation and Human Rights recorded eleven violations against journalists and press corporations in Yemen in October alone. These violations consisted of physical torture, censorship of web sites and newspapers, preventing journalists from covering peaceful sit-ins, detaining correspondents, and trying opinion writers.

Violations registered

Security authorities assaulted Saddam Al-Ashmouri, a freelancer reporter for the *Yemen Times* newspaper, on Oct. 2, while he was covering a peaceful sit-in carried out by military retirees staged in Freedom Square in front of the Cabinet. A press release told the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate that a group of peo-



Saddam Al-Ashmouri

ple dressed casually and carrying sharp lancets and cudgels attacked Al-Ashmouri and confiscated his camera.

A second violation was carried out by security personnel who attacked the editor-in-chief of Al-Balagh newspaper, Abdullah Al-Wazeer, on Oct. 15. Using cudgels, they attempted to drag him to one of the military vehicles as he tried to photograph the actions of anti-riot and central security forces. The sit-in was held in Al-Sabe'ean square in Sana'a. Although Al-Wazeer told the security personnel that he is a journalist, they continued assaulting him before protesters intervened.

Confiscation

On Oct. 8, the Ministry of Information confiscated the latest issue of Al-Diyar newspaper without any justification. Al-Diyar editor-in-chief A'bid Al-Mahthri confirmed that the Ministry of Information was behind the confiscation, as the issue contained criticism of the regime. Al-Mahthri also said that the ministry ordered the paper not to print the issue.

Censorship

Yemen Net censored detailed news downloaded by Al-Ishtiraki web site. The news concerned what was said in a Friday sermon delivered on Oct. 12 by former Minister of Endowment Nasser Al-Shaibani, in Al-Janad Mosque in Taiz. The organization denounced Al-Shaibani's words because he had denounced protestors in South Yemen as 'unbelievers', inciting citizens to oppose them. The source also demanded that the authority apologize to the Yemeni peo-



Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani

ple.

In his sermon, Al-Shaibani launched a severe attack against the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), with the president and a number of officials present.

Yemen Net also blocked Shamsan news website administered by Omar M. Omar on Oct. 12, because it had reported that huge security forces were deployed to Radfan district in Lahj governorate as the 44th commemoration of the October 14th revolution was to be celebrated in the district.

In addition, security forces prevented Al-Jazeera news from airing photographs of the celebration. Al-Jazeera, as well as well-informed sources, confirmed that the news agency received threats that its Sana'a office would be closed in case photos of the event were aired.

Releases

Security forces in Abyan province released political activist and journalist Ahmed Al-Qama' on Oct. 21. The latter had been detained in Al-Bahrain Central prison in Ju'ar city in Abyan governorate since the beginning of last September. He was arrested in Aden province as he was participating in a peaceful sit-in organized by military retirees last September.

After being released, Al-Qama' said that during investigations he was threatened by authorities while detained. He claimed he was also intimidated in order to stop his peaceful activity.

Trial

On Oct. 21 and 24, Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani appeared in person before the

Penal Court on state security charges. The authority accused Al-Khaiwani of being affiliated with the Houthi group. He was also accused of spreading information about the Houthi group by conducting an interview with Al-Houthi in order to promulgate his ideas, inciting people to rebellion. However, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate considered the interview a work of journalism.

Moreover, one of the security guards of the Consultative Council mistreated Abdulkareem Al-Shaleef on Oct. 24 without any justification.

Al-Shaleef went to the council to cover events for private and partisan newspapers. When he arrived at the outer gate of the council, the soldier refused to allow him to enter. Al-Shaleef waited for an officer or official of the council to come in order to know why he was refused entrance. The soldier could not stand it and beat, abused and pointed his weapon at Al-Shaleef.

Appeal

The family of Sabri Al-Der, detained in the political security prison since May 2007, appealed to civil society organizations and political parties to release their son. Sabri was suspected of being affiliated with Al-Houthi group. However, his wife said that political security has not charged Sabri of anything and that he has nothing to do with Al-Houthi group. She claimed that he is just a student studying in Badr Center and a teacher working in Bani Hushaish district. She demanded the release of her husband, who is the only provider for their family, or to be tried if guilty.

Seizure

Security forces detained Al-Jazeera news correspondent Ahmed Al-Shalafi, as well as cameramen Mujeeb Suwaileh and Ali Hussein, before 6 pm on Oct. 27, confiscating their cell phones after breaking into their hotel rooms in Al-Khail hotel.

As-Shalafi told Al-Sahwah net that security personnel confiscated the crew's cameras and cell phones after inspecting transmitting devices, and kept the team from leaving the hotel for more than three hours.

Women discuss quota system for Yemen

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

The National Democratic Institute suggests ways to increase women's representation in the next elections by allocating 15 percent of parliamentary seats for them under a quota system in Yemen.

NDI program representative Flour Borming affirms that it is important to call for such a system's implementation, but this will happen only if Yemeni political parties accept the seating quota system as a way to ensure women's representation in the next elections.

NDI praises President Ali Abdullah Saleh's initiative to allocate 15 percent of Parliament seats for women, hoping to start implementing such system before the 2009 elections. "Yemen must be realistic about implementing a quota system because there isn't much time. The next elections may begin without making any step toward working on the quota system," Borming warns.

At the third session of the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights held Monday in cooperation with NDI, Yemeni women discussed the possibility of implementing a quota system in Parliament by dedicating 15 percent of seats for women.

Numerous members from different political parties, deputies of the French and German ambassadors, media and other interests participated in the discussion.

According to NDI, the ruling General People's Congress plays a role in making a quota system effective by forming a legal committee to study practical options for such a system in Yemen.

Borming explains that adding women's seats to the Yemeni Parliament is a way to increase their quota, just as it was the most practical option for Jordan and Morocco's quota systems. Under such systems, women candidates with the highest percentage of votes in their electoral centers win seats in Parliament.

Borming stresses that Yemeni political parties must accept such a quota system in order to ensure women's representation in elections. Parties will find it advantageous to nominate women as

candidates and support them to succeed in elections; thus, they will gain more seats in Parliament.

Additionally, Borming advises Yemeni women to follow the process of implementing the quota system with the higher committee for the upcoming 2009 parliamentary elections, as well as cooperate with the ruling party, which is in charge of implementing the quota system.

Further, NDI expressed its willingness to support its suggestions with all of its facilities in order to implement such a quota system in Yemen. "We can help by bringing together legal expertise, assisting the political parties' women's committees to lobby Parliament, helping to organize media awareness campaigns, and of course, by training women candidates," Borming adds.

SAF director Amal Al-Basha called on political party representatives to enhance women's participation in politics and expressed her dissatisfaction with the percentage the ruling party has allocated for women's representation in elections.

"We're looking for more than 15 percent. Why we don't get 30 percent as a legal right for women, according to the International Beijing Declaration that Yemen signed?" Al-Basha asked.

Wameedh Shakir presented a paper attempting to answer why society needs women representatives, not only in elections, but in all government facilities. "We call for 30 percent of women's representatives under the quota system in order to guarantee society's total development as a whole.

"The presence of women is to represent women, not to compete with men," she clarified.

Shakir noted that several Arab Islamic countries formerly were in the same situation as Yemen, but they already have implemented such a quota system successfully. For example, Egypt allocated a certain number of seats for women in 1979 and Morocco did likewise in 1997 under their respective quota systems. The measures passed and the quota systems were implemented successfully.

Vacancy announcement (PSDP/ GTZ)

Post Title: Local Expert
Duty Station: Sana'a
Duration: 01st January 2008 – 30th September 2010 (after 3 months of probationary period)

The national Expert in the field of BDS (Business Development Services) for the private sector will be responsible for coordinating and managing the PSDP (Private Sector Development Project) interventions related to BDS towards the private sector and in particular towards the SMEs. In this context, s/he will have to cooperate with SMEPS (Small and Micro Enterprises Promotion Services) in assessing and defining measures and activities proposed by SMEPS based on applied cooperation agreement, PSDP concept and the overall project objectives. While doing this s/he will have to keep close coordination and consultation with the project management and will report to and supervised by the project management.

Main Responsibilities & Tasks:

- Planning and coordinating the implementation of BDS related activities with SMEPS, other stakeholders (partners) and the project regional coordinators based on the project goals, applied plans and any applicable team agreements or arrangements.
- Initiating and facilitating the provision of professional advice and inputs to partner institutions at both the national and the regional levels.
- Following up and accumulating of results and experiences into team efforts towards the overall project objectives in all BDS fields.
- Supervising, assisting and supporting the regional coordinators on various technical and administrative management aspects related to BDS fields.
- Identify and assess the needs of target groups and partner organizations for external technical supports and advice; elaborate adequate proposals and measures and participate in developing strategic approaches in BDS fields.
- Prepare and assess, together with related PSDP partners, activities that contribute to achieving project objectives, considering priority needs of the target groups.
- Coordinate efforts to develop and implement project plans and activities in coordination with the project management.
- Participate in preparing and implementing the consultation process, the project's activities and the efforts of the entire project.
- Active participation in developing concepts for improving the performance of the private sector organizations and/ or public sector institutions.
- Ensure that the cooperation with key partners is consistent with/ not in contrast to the cooperation and implementation agreements signed with the main partners.
- Observe all relevant developments and activities (projects and project supported by other donors, changes in laws and regulations etc.) and propose proper actions to relevant parties and the project management.
- Define TORs, selects and supervises contracted third parties in carrying out project activities, in coordination with the BDS partners and the PSDP management and in line with GTZ rules and regulations.
- Prepare for workshops, seminars, advisory services, studies and other activities on subjects that are related to BDS activities.

Minimum Requirements:

- university degree in any BDS related field
- at least 5 years of proven experience in BDS related fields
- good command in English and Pc applications
- good knowledge on private sector in Yemen
- abilities to work under pressure and team spirit
- knowledge of German language is an extra asset
- Experiences in technical and vocational training system is an advantage

Applications must be received by the deadline (30.11.2007) to any one of the following addresses:

1. Mail: Private Sector Development Project (PSDP), P.O. Box 692, Sana'a.
2. Fax: 413 295.
3. Email: info@psdp.ye

Only short-listed candidates shall be contacted

Vacancy Announcement

(For Yemeni Nationals only)

Job Title: HR Manager

Location: Sana'a

An international oil and gas company based in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, is seeking a Human Resources Manager with at least ten (10) years experience in the HR field within the oil and gas industry. Candidates must have work experience in the Middle East or the Far East, post-secondary education at a recognized educational institution, and be fluent in English. Experience in recruitment and hiring is also a must.

The Human Resources Manager will be expected to manage the day-to-day operations of the Human Resources office as well as be responsible for the development, management and administration of Human Resources services, policies and programs for the entire operation of Block 9 in the Republic of Yemen. The HR Manager will be responsible for carrying out the following functional areas: departmental development, employee relations, training and development pursuant to the Yemenization Program of the Ministry of Oil and Minerals in Yemen, benefits, compensation, organizational development and employment. Please note that this position is not a rotational position.

Duties and responsibilities:

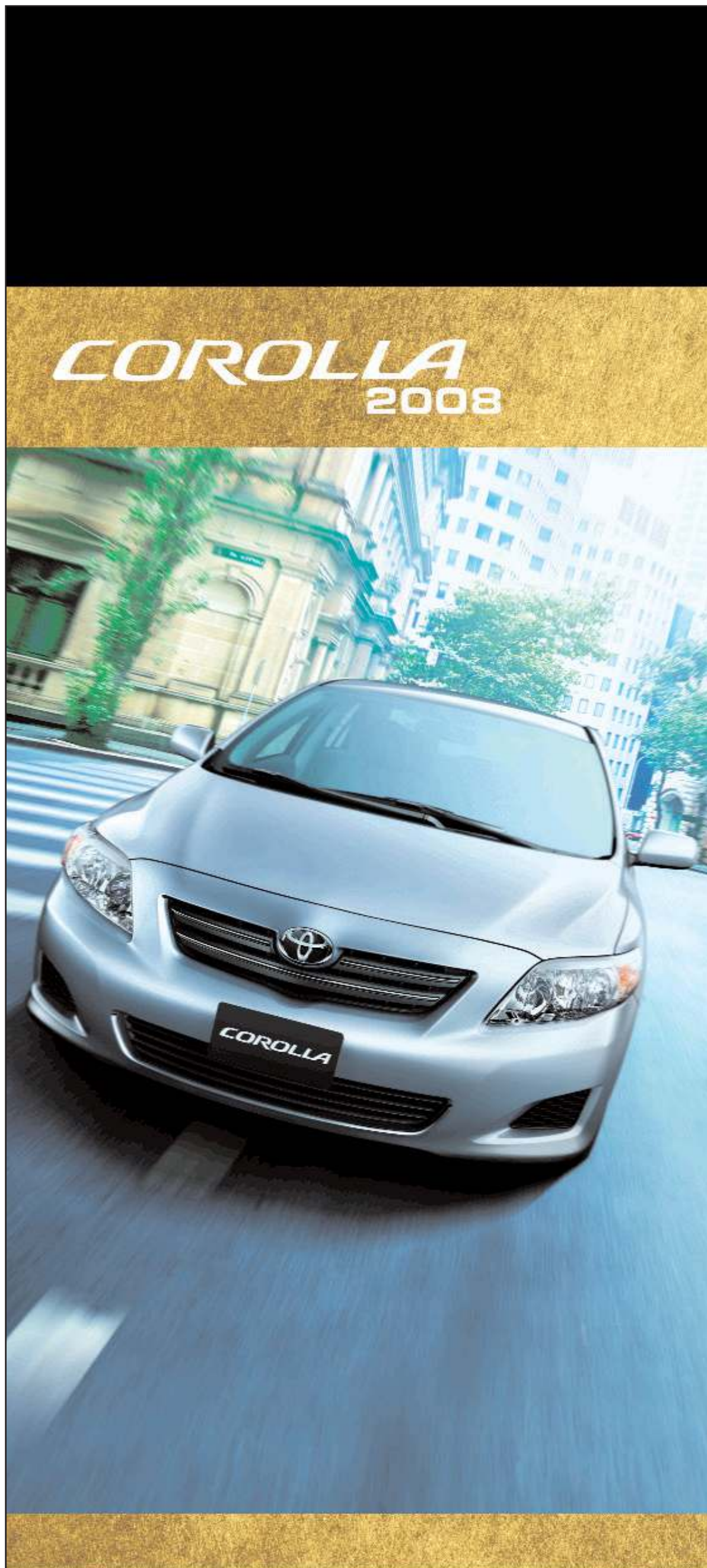
The HR Manager will be responsible for all or part of these areas:

- recruiting and staffing logistics;
- organizational and space planning;
- performance management and improvement systems;
- organization development;
- employment and compliance to regulatory concerns and reporting;
- employee orientation, development, and training;
- policy development and documentation;
- employee relations;
- company-wide committee facilitation;
- company employee communication;
- compensation and benefits administration;
- employee safety, welfare, wellness and health; and
- employee services and counseling.

All applications along with C.V.'s must be submitted through fax No. 01- 423 580.

Applications must be submitted no later than **Nov 22, 2007**

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Hafidh Ibrahim, after his narrow escape from death sentence: “I will study at the Faculty of Law and Human Rights.”

By: Emmad Al-Saqqaf
Taiz Bureau

Hafidh Ibrahim's case aroused large-scale interest among those interested in delinquents' issues. Ibrahim was sentenced to death for murder. The court insisted on carrying out the verdict, but both civil society and international organizations, including Amnesty International, as well as media outlets publicized the case.

Such intervention resulted in the court halting the death sentence. President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered negotiations with the victim's blood relatives in order to settle their claim. It worked and the verdict was overturned, thus securing Ibrahim's release from prison. He immediately

went to the Yemen Times Taiz bureau to give the following interview:

How long were you in the delinquents' prison?

I spent seven years there, since I was 12. Despite the fact that I was an underage delinquent, they put me in the general prison. I appeared in person before the court to be tried as a suspect below the legal age or even the age of puberty; however, they forged my age in the lawsuit. They put me in the Central Prison and sentenced me to death as well.

As a delinquent inside the prison, what were your impressions?

They treated me well, particularly the head of the prison, and allowed my family to visit me. I found some others the same age as me, so I acclimated to the living conditions inside the prison.

I also was allowed to pursue my studies, earning a high school certificate with an 84 percent average.

Did your death sentence affect your concentration while studying?

First, I'd like to say that it was terrible. I was very confused because it was the first time to hear it. However, I trusted Allah and my attorney, who I was sure was very clever, professional and believed in my acquittal, so I kept in touch with him. For these reasons, the verdict didn't affect me while studying.

I want to continue my studies by studying law because I like that field and I saw the value of being a lawyer because such profession has a very important role in defending justice. Therefore, I'll study at the Faculty of Law and Human Rights because the legal profession is a noble one.

How did you feel when they overturned the death sentence?

It was an indescribable feeling. I felt like I was born again. I felt the value of life; it was priceless. I thanked God, who caused me to feel this and to know the value of being alive. I think most people don't know this, but when they are in the same situation as me, they'll realize it.

Additionally, I hope those attorneys who are unfaithful and disloyal to their profession will be placed in the same situation in order not to issue verdicts like mine until they verify and seek justice before issuing any such verdicts.

What do you plan to do after your release and what do you want others to do?

I'll pursue my studies by enrolling in university where I'll study law and human rights so that I can defend justice. I want others to put away their firearms, which lead to calamities, as

it did in my case. My problems were caused by my carrying firearms, although I didn't mean for it to happen. For this reason, I call on all not to carry any type of firearms.

Additionally, I request the Yemeni government continue its campaign against carrying weapons in order to reduce this phenomenon. I also urge parents to prevent their children from doing so as well, so they won't be involved in such tragedies. Those who carry weapons may kill themselves or others by mistake.

I further demand suing judges and reforming Yemen's judiciary system because there is a lot of corruption there. Additionally, I demand encouraging the press due to its vital role in correcting the existing regime.

If the Yemen Times hadn't made a big deal of my case, I would have been executed because it was the Yemen Times' coverage that made them correct and review my case. Otherwise, I would have been a victim of corrupt judicial action. I want to promote such newspapers in order to follow up human rights issues, especially those involving children and delinquents.

Many people know nothing about their issues, so they become victims of illegal violations. If newspapers like the Yemen Times discovered and revealed the news, many things would be corrected. Therefore, I call on human rights organizations to support such newspapers because they can facilitate many of their humanitarian goals.

Do you have any message for civil society organizations?

I thank all of the civil society and human rights organizations for their support of me because they took a serious stand in my case and this is a great achievement. Special thanks to the Sisters Arab Forum, Amnesty



Hafidh before his release.

International, the European Union, the French Embassy, the Yemen Times, President Saleh, attorney Essam A. Hamoud and those others who supported me.

Again, I call on human rights organizations to unite their efforts with newspapers in order to see their goals come to fruition; otherwise, there will be human rights violations.



Talking to the reporter in the police station.

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Conspiracy against unity, democracy and Mr. President

By: Mohammed Qasem Nu'man

On several occasions, I said that there are malicious elements, who conspire against the ruling regime, unity and democracy, and target Mr. President. Of course, these elements don't belong to the opposition, but they are influential persons in the regime. Below are some of the events in evidence of what I say such as practices that followed 1994 Civil War. These practices brought aforth many of those interested in personal gains and interests.

They were opposing the national unity, but after the war they turned to behave as unionists or unity proponents as they realized that by doing so, they can maintain their interests and get new ones. In order to protect their interests and maintain them, they found no means other than allegedly defending unity in lip service while in fact they defend their own interests.

Frankly speaking, these elements are the real enemies of unity, and they are the ones who paid harm to the national unity and damaged its

national, human and democratic project. This is why we usually find them holding influential positions at different civil, military and security institutions of the government.

Also, these people are the ones who insist on continuity of the wrong policies produced by the 1994 Civil War and consider their results as the best means for them to maintain their interests. Via such wrong policies, they could become wealthy and build luxurious villas, palaces and tall buildings, plus trade projects and opening accounts at different local and international banks. Obviously, these opportunists reject any serious steps to tackle consequences of 1994 Civil War, take unity and democracy to their true course. They oppose any comprehensive reforms aimed at building the new state of unity and democracy.

These opportunists are the ones who plundered lands, dominated public property and insisted on suspending civil and military staff and from work and depriving them of the right to be reinstated in order contribute to national development in conformity with the President's Amnesty.

It is these people who helped widen the social gap and discrimination between Yemeni people, which 1994 Civil War left behind, through their wrong policies and practices. They converted the unity into a process of affiliating the South to the North by employing a wrong political approach, the wrong and negative results of which are manifested by the current public rage. Citizens in the southern governorates, even those who declared their alignment with President Ali Abdullah during the Civil War in 1994, could no longer tolerate such wrong practices and policies.

Since the emergence of trends to fight corruption and promote democracy, which were backed by President Saleh's political platform and the comprehensive reform program, the society has been awaiting tough measures to transfer the first batch of corrupt officials to public prosecution.

Regretfully, the opportunists changed the comprehensive reform program into a small project for protecting their personal interests and maintaining their influence and

dominance over the wealth they reaped from corruption.

The opportunists then moved to implement the second part of the plan meant for protecting their individual interests and the illegal wealth they gained. Via this plan, they aim to destroy anything posing threat to their illegal wealth. Their plan also targeted President of the Republic, who began to displease them through his positive interaction with the call for fighting corruption and corrupt individuals, and carrying out comprehensive political reforms in accordance with his platform.

It is those corrupt officials who opposed President's directives and decisions to address the consequences of 1994 Civil War and conspired against any attempt or effort for a serious dialogue between both partners of the national unity (General People Congress and Yemen Socialist Party). Facing any sort of criticism for exercising corruption, these corrupt individuals responded with threats to damage the national unity and defect from the regime.

Source: NewsYemen.net

Failed regime leading us toward an unprecedented catastrophe

By: Ashraf Al-Reefi

The political regime is leading us toward an unprecedented catastrophe after more than one year of reelecting Mr. President via elections, which featured all the forms vote result manipulation, coupled with the exploitation of state's property and facilities in favor of the president, or the then GPC candidate. Citizens are suffering prohibitive prices, lawlessness, and sharp political congestions and crises while the ruling party has not achieved any successes as much as it makes promises in its platforms, however, the real-life situation denies these promises.

Despite voices by official media about illusionary achievements that have been allegedly reached one year

after the ruler was reelected, the real-life situation tells us of insurmountable national congestions produced by the regime's wrong policies. President of the Republic had been always shouting loudly in many of his campaign rallies, "Yes to security and safety". This slogan was understood by many judicious people as an implicit threat to voters in case they vote for the incumbent president's top rival, Faisal Bin Shamlan, presidential candidate of Joint Meeting Parties. Despite Saleh's victory, social security is currently ill and is therefore threatened by calls for defection, apostasy and sectarianism, which emerged due to the absence of an effective national platform in the standing regime.

Frankly speaking, we can say that Mr. President did not fulfill any of the promises contained in his electoral platform, and that he faced complete

failure in running the country and leading it toward the 'Better Future & New Yemen'. More than one year now since the presidential elections were conducted, the southern soil is inflaming with the fire of mismanagement and people there complain of a lack of equality and justice. In addition, angry citizens took to streets in huge protests in most of Yemen's main cities, thereby alarming of the outbreak of starving people revolution, which will never stop until it exterminates corruption and corrupt officials.

The time period between September 20, 2006 and September 20, 2007 saw an immense difference in the country's situation, which terribly exacerbated. Hopes for change and ambitions for new Yemen were hovering in Yemen's airspace a head of the most recent elections, and Bin Shamlan's platform contained a lot of

real promises in favor of Yemen, however, some people were of the opinion to give Saleh the last chance to improve the country's deteriorating situations.

Today, we are experiencing a miserable scene after the ruling party and President of the Republic failed to wisely manage the country's affairs. This unprecedented failure helped unemployment rates go higher and prices skyrocket while corruption seized the opportunity to spread more rampantly in government offices. It is now that we saw various statements made by some ruling party officials, putting the blame on their party's performance. Head of the ruling party's parliamentary bloc Yasser Al-Awadhi, who is also member of the party's General Committee, accused President Saleh of giving senior government posts to his relatives and being partial to his own tribe.

The General People Congress's leader, who stood by President Saleh in the most recent presidential elections, had been admitting that an invisible force other than GPC was responsible for running the country's affairs. Al-Awadhi also acknowledged that the president usually adopts wrong policies for dealing with tribesmen and distributing wealth.

What shocked us is that Secretary General of GPC Abdulqader Bajammal said in a statement to the media that "I can not say that President of the Republic is professional at politics", even this man had been strongly backing President Saleh in last year's presidential elections to remain in power. This is the case of Mr. President one year after he was reelected. Other prominent personalities, including Sheikh Senan Abu Lohoum, criticized President Saleh for imprudently defaming his partners in the national unity when interviewed by the press.

Source: Al-Wahdawi.net

COMMON SENSE

Coming to terms with the truth Wherever one goes, military rule is a flop

The recent events in Pakistan and history has shown that for all intents and purposes, whenever the military decides to take over the reigns of authority in any country, they are doomed to a successive streak of failures that eventually turns their rule into a chaotic unsystematic means of running the affairs of state. If one is to refer to the historical background of military rule, one is bound to detect a clear pattern of states that eventually face degradation, misuse of authority, abuse of natural and material resources, the misapplication of law, the pilferage of public assets, the rise of public apathy and the loss of access to all the avenues of public participation in all forms of political and social interaction.

If one recalls, the introduction of military rule began with the glory inspired imperial rule that topped the long span of military adventures by the Roman General Julius Caesar, just a few decades before the Nativity of Christ (Peace and Blessings of Allah be Upon Him). That was indeed be a quick indication of the folly of military rule, for that move was enough to bring about the collapse of the Roman Empire, just when the military (albeit under the control of a civilian government) brought Rome to the height of its glory.

A more recent takeover by the military also brought France, during the Napoleonic era, from one misadventure to another, eventually compromising the role of France as an effective world power in the early decades of the 19th Century, and its leadership as a promoter of democratic ideals.

Even more recently than that we have the takeover of the Japanese Government by General Togo and his ambitious staff of imperial maniacs, who compromised the shining example that Japan was to many of the world's impoverished and backward nations that thought there was no way to achieve progress and catch up with the advances then (1850s), which would cause them to be at par with the hungry imperialist crazed nations of Europe and its younger offspring across the Pacific, the United States. Japan then embarked on the only way possible for progress to be achieved. The once feudal state of Japan, with its oppressive Shogun regime quickly adopted a democratic government and within a half a century was able to militarily beat Czarist Russia forcing the latter to sell Alaska to the United States for a meager US \$ 5,000,000 so it can meet the cost of confronting the mighty power of Japan, which it did not anyway.

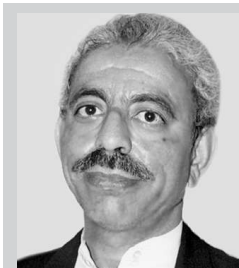
In our times, there are so many examples of failure of military rule spanning the length and breadth of our home planet Earth, especially those countries that had hopes of rising stardom amongst the club of advanced nations, economically and socially. To speak of matters closer to home, one recalls how Egypt once promised to be a shining beacon of Arab and Islamic culture and social cohesion, until the Generals ended the hope of millions of enlightened Arabs and Moslems, who had hoped that the beacon's light would come their way soon. The Generals of the Nasser Regime ended that dream within a decade of confusion and useless play of the emotions of the masses, which shattered all the looming signs of progress that the regime of the Khedives of Egypt seemed to display far better than their autocratic successors, who introduced excessive state sponsored torture and rule by terror in a society that had once symbolized the hopes of so many of their blood and religious brothers throughout the world.

To come even closer to home, we have the Sudan and then our dear Republic of Yemen. In the former, thanks to prodding by regional "financial" powers, the Sudan's entry to democratic rule was shattered by a military regime that never let the Sudan see the light of day again, since the early days of this tragic metamorphosis of political development, beginning in the 1980s to this day!

As for the Republic of Yemen, the recent situations in Yemen and in many of the downtrodden states that are under the mercy of oppressive regimes like the one we have here needs to be viewed in the global context that the bigger fish in the world want the world to fall under. This is not to say that the world is a victim of a "conspiracy theory", but certainly, the people of the world seem to have lost control of their destiny. As far as the major powers are concerned, as long as their interests are accommodated, they are the least concerned about the fate of those who face the end results of the oppression that regimes like the Saleh, Mubarak or even Musharraf regimes mete out against their people. It is a chain of arrogance, which does not necessarily start at home, but those who inflict it, at home and abroad, are untouchable by the social nightmares faced by their respective constituencies, which such oppression results in over a relatively short span of time. In Yemen, the picture was so different thirty years ago, with so much to look forward to and wide open avenues of hope and greater anticipation. Logic and common sense would have been supportive of these aspirations and the factors were there to help us get there. However, as time passed, all access to these factors were cut off from the people systematically and selfishly-inspired. It is a sad and tragic reality that can only be changed by a monumental overturn of the status quo, which in itself is unpredictable and scary in terms of the outcomes that such an overturn would create. This actually works in favor of oppressive military regimes, because it instills a fear of the unknown if the existing regimes were suddenly removed. Afghanistan and Iraq provide daily attestations of the horrors that could happen, when the status quo, as horrible as it may have been, is abruptly changed. In either case, the suffering goes on and on.

When there is a more responsible world leadership, perhaps we might have some cause for hope, but for the foreseeable future this would be rather elusive, if not far-fetched.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi



By Samer

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Ennobling democracy

By: Jan Maria Rokita

Ever since democracy appeared in ancient Athens, it has generated suspicion among those who believe that humanity's highest purpose is virtue, not freedom. In the Eighth Book of *The Republic*, Plato rather unceremoniously defines political leaders in a democracy as "those who deprive the rich of their estates to distribute them among the people, at the same time taking care to reserve the larger part for themselves." Of course, Plato's disdain for democracy is never far from the surface of his prose, yet he has a legitimate point: how, after all, can high ethical standards be ensured when democratic elections tend to reward self-interest and the lowest common denominator?

The citizens of today's free societies are (almost always) democrats out of conviction, custom, and habit. Only a small minority exhibit populist tenden-

cies that, if they gained power, could lead a society from democracy to dictatorship. Nevertheless, today's democratic citizens mostly lack confidence in the public sphere, and are suspicious of their own economic and political elites. Among the youngest voters, indeed, this impulse is very strong, with their participation in elections falling sharply.

In Europe, this apathy is often seen as a reaction to the slowdown of what once looked like an unending postwar economic boom. But this is really only part of the story. Of course, if we could guarantee rapid and universal economic growth, democracy's other weaknesses would probably be forgotten. But we can't, instead what is offered is a hollow vision of the common good that consists merely in successive rounds of cuts in state expenditures. It is little wonder, then, that democratic citizens nowadays focus increasingly on the low ethical standards of their national elites.

Subconsciously, citizens expect their leaders to display the ancient leadership virtues of disinterestedness, courage, and devotion to service. But what they see is small-mindedness and the pursuit of narrow self-interest. Moreover, the dramatic democratization of mores in the last 20 years has resulted in a tremendous increase in ordinary human curiosity about people in the limelight: who our leaders are, how they live, and what they really believe.

Former French President François Mitterrand was probably the last European statesman who was treated by his nation like a monarch of old. His numerous personal failings and indiscretions were never publicly judged. Today, tabloid media show us everything, and subject everything to public judgment. So the heads of our democracies are treated like a famous person living next door. The door is open, and we don't like what we see.

During a recent hearing before a Polish parliamentary investigative

committee, a state functionary responded to the simplest questions of fact by repeating the phrase, "I don't remember." When pressed about his failing memory, he impatiently responded, "Why am I expected to remember things in a country in which the president does not remember whether he graduated from university?" The former Polish president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, had, it seemed, provided a perverse lesson in virtue when, having been caught lying about his educational credentials, protested that he did not remember whether he had actually defended his master's thesis as required to receive his degree.

In such an environment, can public ethics be revived?

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, as one of his first initiatives, proposed a ban on "golden parachutes" for departing managers of firms traded on the stock exchange, in order to halt the practice of taking huge severance pay-

ments without the consent of shareholders. Sarkozy correctly assumed that managers of publicly-traded firms, much like politicians, are public figures who should be held to a minimum ethical standard of behavior.

In Switzerland, Thomas Minder, the head of the cosmetics company Trybol, is fighting the same battle, and demanding a national referendum. In Germany, the Federal Constitutional Court has ordered parliamentarians to reveal their outside income – often from lobbying activities on behalf of big business – on the Internet. In Poland, where for many years such practices have been considered criminal, a proposed law would require full financial transparency for politicians and high state functionaries. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, for his part, has proposed lifting the immunity that past prime ministers enjoyed in connection with the sale of peerages.

Even if these initiatives are motivated by party rivalry, they nevertheless

pose an essential question: do we know how to ennoble our democracy? Can we impose on ourselves a corset of higher ethical standards, thereby refuting Plato's objections to democracy, which are no less our own?

Europe can take the lead in writing ethics back into politics. The reform treaty that is to be adopted in 2009 is aimed at overcoming the EU's supposed "democratic deficit." But rendering Europe's political institutions accountable to citizens is only half the battle. Preserving the democratic life of the EU and its member states implies a duty – which should be enshrined in the treaty – to uphold standards of official behavior that today's citizens demand.

Jan Rokita, an activist of the "Solidarity" movement, MP in the Polish Parliament since 1989, was a candidate of Civic Platform for the office of Prime Minister in 2005. Copyright: Project Syndicate/Institute for Human Sciences, 2007.

Homeless in Iraq

By: Sharouk Alabayachi and Robert Lowe

American officials report that the number of sectarian and other killings in Iraq has declined since the onset of the military "surge." But, while the number of killings may, indeed, have fallen, does that mean Iraq is really safer?

Insecurity in Iraq is most strikingly illustrated by the number of people fleeing their homes. The United Nations estimates that, since July, the number has risen by 60,000 every month. The best estimate is that around 16% of Iraq's population, or one in six Iraqis, no longer live in their homes.

Roughly half of those who have fled have also left the country, implying two million refugees. This leaves another two million who have been displaced internally, and who represent an emerging humanitarian tragedy.

There have been international reports and fundraising campaigns to support

Iraqi refugees in Syria and Jordan, but the internally displaced have received less attention, despite their greater vulnerability, owing to their proximity to the conflict and the poor standard of basic services in Iraq. They tend to be less visible, and it is more difficult for donors and agencies to assist them.

Internal displacement predates the 2003 Iraq invasion. During former President Saddam Hussein's rule, large numbers of people were forcibly relocated through either conflict or government policy. Since 2003, displacement has affected all the peoples of Iraq, and the central reason remains the same – the use of violence to expel people from an area with the aim of increasing political and economic power.

Mixed neighborhoods across Iraq have been targeted by one side or another as sectarian violence has risen and local militias wield power. The inability of the government or the multi-national force to curb this intimidation reflects the absence of the rule of law. Other factors causing displacement include operations of the

multinational force itself, crime, the lack of basic services, and desperate poverty. The complexity of Iraq's society and history means that many people have been displaced more than once, or have returned from exile only to become internally displaced. According to the UN, 69% of those displaced since February 2006 come from Baghdad, which demonstrates the extent of the "sectarianization" of the capital. Thus, one reason for the "success" claimed by supporters of the military surge may well be that sectarian cleansing in Baghdad has been hugely effective and is now nearly complete.

Displaced Iraqis who remain in the country move to areas where their community is strong. Displaced Shi'a tend to move from the center of the country to the south, Sunnis from the south to the center, and Christians to Nineveh province. In mixed cities such as Baghdad and Baquba, those forced to move gravitate towards newly homogenized districts.

Most displaced people rent accommodation, stay with family or friends, or

squat, while a smaller number take refuge in camps. There are big refugee camps in Kerbala, Wasit, Diyala, and Nineveh, but most of the displacement is urban rather than camp-based, and thousands of displaced families live in major cities such as Baghdad and Mosul. These people now account for many of the eight million Iraqis who are in absolute poverty and in need of emergency assistance.

Education is minimal, health care is inadequate, and many die without even being accounted for. Whereas between 25% and 40% of Iraqis may require food assistance at any given time, this figure is much higher for displaced people, owing to their poor access to the public distribution system. Only a third of the displaced had access to the system last year, while half reported receiving food rations only occasionally.

It is a new phenomenon in Iraq to see people, particularly women and children, looking in the rubbish every day for something to eat. In such conditions,

many young people feel they have little choice but to join violent groups, if only to provide some income and a level of protection. Female-headed households, in particular, face great difficulties in protecting and supporting their families. There are increasing reports of Iraqi women resorting to prostitution and of trafficking in women and children to neighboring countries. The government recently announced the extension of a program of emergency cash allowances to widows. However, this is insufficient to help most of the three million widows, while corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency hamper efforts further.

Another tragedy of the current conflict has been its impact on minority communities, which make up 10% of the population and are targets for eradication. Violent attacks have caused a huge exodus, jeopardizing the existence of Christians, Yazidis, and Mandaeans, who have lived in Iraq for hundreds of years.

Despite the vulnerability of minorities,

the religious breakdown of displaced people closely reflects that of the country: 64% Shi'a, 32% Sunni, and 4% Christian. But the ethnic breakdown of displaced people – 93% Arab, 4% Assyrian, and 1% Kurd – illustrates the grave insecurity in central Iraq and the relative stability of Kurdistan.

With the prospects of return continuing to deteriorate, prolonged displacement may well become permanent. Should levels of displacement remain high, as appears likely, the humanitarian crisis may deepen further, especially because strained local resources have led some governorates to begin refusing to admit displaced people. Their predicament, too, must be reflected in any calculation of Iraq's security conditions.

Shirouk Alabayachi is Head of the Iraqi Studies Center, Baghdad. Robert Lowe is Manager of the Middle East Program at Chatham House.

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The "limits to growth" revisited

By: Joschka Fischer

Since the Cold War's end, all kinds of barriers have come down, and the world economy has fundamentally changed. Until 1989, the global market encompassed between 800 million and one billion people. Today, it is three times larger, and growing. Indeed, we are witnessing one of the most dramatic revolutions in modern history, and it is occurring almost unnoticed. From a model applicable to the minority of the world's population, "Western consumer society" is becoming the dominant economic model of the world, one to which there is increasingly no alternative. By mid-century, the lives of seven billion people might be governed by its laws.

The West has established the economic model of the twenty-first century, with its hitherto unheard of standard of living, and almost all nations and regions are trying to equal it, no matter what the cost. When, in the 1970's, the Club of Rome issued its famous report on the "Limits to Growth," the reaction was one of concern. Over the years, however, as the world economy continued to grow without interruption – and, in the current age of globalization, seemingly without limits – the dire predictions of the Club of Rome have become increasingly an object of ridicule. And yet the Club of Rome's basic insight – that we live and work in a finite global ecosystem, with exhaustible resources and capacities – has returned to challenge us again.

The world is not preoccupied today by the "limits to growth," but awareness of the consequences of growth on the earth's climate and ecosystem is becoming prevalent. China, for example, needs annual growth rates of 10% to keep its huge economic, social, and ecological problems under control. There would be nothing sensational about this if China were a country like Luxembourg or Singapore. But China has 1.3 billion people. So the consequences of its economic growth are much more serious.

Global demand for energy, raw mate-

rials, and food is increasingly influenced by rising demand in China and India, whose combined population is 2.5 billion. Other large and populous emerging countries in Asia and South America are following in these giants' footsteps. Steadily rising prices of raw materials, agricultural products, and energy already reflect fears about future shortages.

These undesirable consequences of the expansion of world markets have assumed alarming proportions within a relatively short period of time. China is on course, this year or next, to overtake the United States as the world's largest CO2 emitter, even though its per capita emissions are only one-fifth or even less of the US level. What will the world look like when China reduces this difference to one-half? And India is following close behind China in its level of carbon emissions.

Will the global ecosystem be able to absorb these additional pollutants without considerable changes in the ecosystem? Obviously not, as a large majority of climatologists are now warning. These basic data have been known for a long time, and only a few deny that rapidly accelerating man-made climate change is occurring. But one might conclude from the bizarre debates we engage in about climate change that what the world needs is a change in its political and psychological mood, rather than a profound social and economic transformation. So, despite grand rhetoric, very little is being done. Emerging countries continue to grow every year. The US has almost totally backed away from the global fight against pollution, and, through uncontrolled growth, solidifies its position as the world's leading polluter. The same pattern holds true for Europe and Japan, albeit on a slightly smaller scale. In view of this global challenge, the G-8 countries have made a heroic decision: the eight richest industrial countries – which are also the largest polluters – promised to "seriously examine" cutting their emissions in half by 2050. This rhetorical heroism is enough to leave the world speechless. Indeed, it remains to be seen if the

European Union will even be able to implement its promise to cut CO2 emissions by 20-30% by 2020. So far, the EU has not really come up with any practical ways to do this.

But the solution to the challenge of global climate change is as plain as day. The only chance of improvement is to decouple economic growth from energy consumption and emissions. This must happen in the emerging countries, and even more urgently in the old industrial economies.

Such decoupling can occur only if we do away with the illusion that pollution is cost-free. We can no longer get away with subsidizing economic growth and standards of living at the expense of the global environment. Human population has simply become too large to be able to afford it.

Doing away with this illusion requires the creation of a global emissions market – still a very distant goal. It also requires more energy efficiency, which means a reduction of waste in both energy production and consumption. Rising energy prices already point in this direction, but this knowledge has yet to register. Finally, it requires a technological and politico-economic breakthrough in favor of renewable energy, rather than a return to nuclear power or coal. In essence, then, we are confronted by a three-pronged challenge of a new "green" industrial revolution. Coping with this global challenge also offers an enormous opportunity for future prosperity and social justice that we must seize.

Of course, there will be many powerful losers as we make these changes. They are not about to accept their "disempowerment" without a struggle. At the moment, they still seem to have the upper hand, as evidenced by much talk and no action. This is precisely what needs to change.

Joschka Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor from 1998 to 2005, led Germany's Green Party for nearly 20 years.

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لواصقة ممتازة

National Banks vs. Newcomers: Threats and Opportunities

Yemen's economic performance has recently been improved somewhat. Still it is reflecting exogenous factors as well as domestic political difficulties nowadays. Yemen exerts many efforts to reforms all sectors which include the banking sector that might represent a very crucial one for the economy of the nation. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, Yemen's "banking system is comprised of the Central Bank of Yemen, 15 commercial banks and two specialized state-owned development banks. Of the 15 commercial banks, nine are private domestic banks including four Islamic banks. Two are majority state-owned.... The largest commercial bank in the country is the National Bank of Yemen, which is fully state-owned and targeted for privatization." The EIU also reports that the state-owned Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development is being restructured with a view to eventual privatization, although it suffers from a large number of non-performing loans and is undercapitalized, and that the inadequacy of the legal system discourages loans to other than certain preferred clients.

Yemen banking system is still weak therefore the new entrants will create big threats to them unless they can emerge or make a joint venture with these newcomers. If this happens, then the banks will make a kind of creation of enormous national players.

Newcomers or foreign banks which may come to our market will come in a great variety and shapes and sizes. Some people call them as a gatecrasher as they enter the market strongly with big capitals on the contrary they don't think they are gatecrashers but they exploit the situation and potentially profitable commercial opportunity. So the challenge posed by these new coming banks is great unless our banking

system can reform their regulations to meet these challenges.

These new comers will be well placed in the banking business, they are as follows:

They will have a known brand name or they can establish new brand names with stronger capitals than the local ones.

They will have a large customer base to market the new service to

They will have the financial resources

They will be experienced at operating in a competitive environment

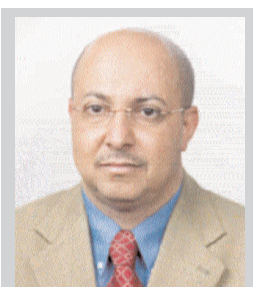
Above all they can offer very good opportunities for well trained staff with high income and distinctive bonuses paid to them.

However, they will surely face certain problems might affect their performance in the country which is:

They will not have a track record which is a clear problem for them and it amounts to just about the only thing the national banks have going for them in a competitive sense in relation to the threat posed by newcomers. They have not experience of offering banking services and delivering them easily.

They may only have unprofitable customers which may be more persistent problem for new coming banks. They can not have creditworthy and wealthier customers because this kind of customers is likely to have their banking arrangements already deeply embedded in relationship with national banks. But this problem can not be an obstacle for newcomers if they can offer new products and competitive services for these customers.

Their entry will only be credible if they use reliable and staff highly trained in customers services. Still it is not a big problem if they make use highly technological and remote delivery systems. That's why, their customers staff must



By: Moneer Saif

be of the highest caliber in terms of their personal qualities in the often difficult and sensitive business of handling bank accounts and providing advice regarding financial matters.

From the abovementioned information, the new coming banks to our country will represent a big challenge for national banks but good opportunities for the nation. The Yemen cadres can get chances to improve their incomes, however; they must be qualified enough to meet this requisite. What's more, these new banks coming to our local market can be the most virulent competitive threat of all to national banks. They are here to stay and the impact they have on national banking scene is only likely to increase in the future. They will come with services that meet customers' needs more precisely than those being offered by national banks. Additionally, it will be much easier for newcomers to make impact in the market if it has an existing base of customers who can be targeted as prospective customers of the new products and services. Furthermore, they will attract the most skillful and qualified employees of national banks as they can offer them good opportunities with high income.

Yemen Banks and the absence of Risk Management

For sure, increasingly it is being realized that risk management is the hub of what banking is all about. Recent finan-

cial disasters in financial and non-financial firms and in governmental agencies point up the need for various forms of risk management. Financial misadventures are hardly a new phenomenon, but the rapidity with which economic entities can get into trouble is. The savings and loan (S&L) can create crisis in the Yemen and lead to serious regulatory ineptness.

It is universally acknowledged that commercial banks are in the risk business. While they are providing financial services, they assume various kinds of financial risks. Over the last years in Yemen our understanding of the place of commercial banks within the financial sector has improved substantially. Over this time, much has been written on the role of commercial banks in the financial sector, both in the academic literature and in the financial press. These arguments will be neither reviewed nor enumerated here. Suffice it to say that market participants seek the services of these financial institutions because of banks' ability to provide market knowledge, transaction efficiency and funding capability. In performing these roles they generally act as a principal in the transaction by facilitating it and absorbing the risks associated with it.

As noted here in our local market, banks are still in lack of full sets of regulatory requirements. These requirements might be imposed on banks in order to promote the objectives which can protect them from any imminent risks, therefore; they can have reliable risk measures to direct capital to activities with the best risk reward ratios.

Banks need estimates of the size of potential losses to stay within limits imposed by readily available liquidity, by creditors, customers, and regulators. They need mechanisms to monitor positions and create incentives for prudent risk-taking by divisions and individuals.

What we need to do? Risk management can create the process by which managers satisfy their needs to identify key risks, obtain consistent, understandable, operational risk measures, and choose which risks to reduce and which to increase and by what means and establishing procedures to monitor the resulting risk position. Based on the previous information risk management may be defined as reductions in firm value due to changes in the business

environment. Typically, here are the key risks for banks that can monitor them while they perform their activities: Credit risk, Currency risk, Custody risk, Interest rate risk & Market risk, Technology risk, Performance risk and Operational risks.

We are not here to give details on them just to point out these key risk encounter banking system and how banks can make decisions to control risks successfully.

Yemen banks still have an unconvincing knowledge of risk management. It has seen slow-moving in banks' ability to understand the nature of the risk that faces them which enable them to develop methods for assessing it. The risk sentiments is still absent in some other banks. They are acting based on the: "the Act of Allah is there". As a result, there is a lack of risk management cadres which leads us to the fact that we might face hard time in the future. Despite of this, some banks attempt to recently have risk management departments but they should be furnished with international standards of risk management.

As a result, Yemen banks must have the full banking regulations requirements and the most important minimum requirement in banking regulation is minimum capital ratios. In operating risk management system, it requires a significant knowledge of the risks considered and the approaches used to measure them. It is inconceivable that Boards of Directors and even most senior managers have the level of expertise necessary to operate the evolving system. Yet government regulators represented by Central Bank of Yemen seem to have no idea of the level of complexity of this subject, and they must increase accountability even as the requisite knowledge to control various parts of the banks increases.

The Central Bank must strongly supervise the licensed banks for compliance with the requirements and should respond to breaches of the requirements through obtaining undertakings, giving directions, imposing penalties or revoking the bank's license.

Above all there should be increasing awareness on risk management and adopt the new methods of measuring and managing risk especially many Yemeni banks direct their investments in international markets. So they have to

apply these risk measures such as Value at risk (VAR) which has become especially prominent, and now serves as the basis for the most recent BIS market risk based capital requirement.

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Business in Brief

Mujawar: Population growth is a matter of national security

Prime Minister Mujawar stated that Yemen's population growth rate is very high and will have dire consequences on the society and economy, he stated that while meeting the country director of UNFPA in Yemen who emphasized that unless serious measures are undertaken in order to reduce the population growth rate, The Yemeni population will exceed 60 million by 2050.

Tax collections hit record high

Deputy director of the tax authority Dr. Jamal Sorour stated that Tax collection throughout the period January – September 2007 has reached 181.9 billion Riyals, in excess of last year's collections by 25.2 billion Riyals, which a 16 percent increase.

US\$ 250 million Saudi Development funding

The Yemeni Government signed an agreement with the delegation of the Saudi Fund for Development to finance three development projects in Yemen totaling US\$ 250 million. The three projects include funding the Social Fund for Development, the Public Works Project, and the Rural Road-Construction Project.

COCA warns the Ministry of Finance, Central Bank

The Central Organization for Control and Audit warned the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of the consequences of continuing the sale of ADhon (treasury bills), stating that selling ADhons limits the role of the banking sector in financing development projects, due to the fact that several banks opt to buy treasury bills due to the high rates of returns being offered, and in turn retracting from providing loans to business and entrepreneurs.

Islah charity to launch retail complex

Islah charity has announced that it will launch a four-story retail complex in Aden which was financed by donations from Gulf-based businessmen. The returns of renting shops in the complex will be used as a sustainable source of income to run the charity's operations and orphanage.

Safer to finalize LNG deal with Total next month

Reuters reported that state-owned Safer aims to conclude a gas supply deal to Total's Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas plant by the end of November. The deal states that Safer will supply up to 1.2 billion cubic feet per day of gas from Yemen's Marib basin Block 18 to Yemen LNG company under a 20-year contract, the supply would start next year and will steadily increase to 1.2 billion cfd in 2009. Delays in signing the gas supply contract with Safer have threatened Yemen LNG's end-2008 start date. The LNG terminal will have output capacity of 6.7 million tonnes a year.

Made in Yemen exhibition next December

Al-Ghanim Corporation for Trade and Investment announced that the Made in Yemen exhibition will take place in Aden from the 29th of November to the 15th of December. The exhibition will showcase Yemeni products which are of international standards under the theme of "Investment in my own home country is the pride for my offspring"

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JOB VACANCIES

Nexen is a Canadian-based, global energy company growing value responsibly. We are strategically positioned in some of the world's most exciting regions: the North Sea, deep-water Gulf of Mexico, Middle East, offshore West Africa and the Canadian Athabasca oil sands. Nexen has attractive compensation package with a great focus on individual training and other benefits including medical coverage for the employee and his Family including parents. Nexen has job opportunities at two projects in YEMEN. Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen - Masila (BLK14) & Canadian Petroleum Yemen East Al-Hajr (BLK51).

Oil Movement Operator Position #03112

Job Duties:

- Carries out visual inspections of all receiving, loading and related plant and equipment at the Terminal on a regular planned basis. Includes checking such equipment as power generators, air compressors, carrying out area checks, logging inspection results, reporting all defects and equipment failures to enable work order to be raised.
- Ensures that all equipment used in loading operations such as generators, booster pumps, metering systems, cargo loading pumps and associated equipment functions efficiently and safely. Includes carrying out visual checks and logging parameter readings on a continuous basis during loading, and taking appropriate action to rectify faults and abnormalities as authorized. Notifies his supervisor or Foreman as necessary.
- Carries out a variety of routine maintenance tasks. Includes such work as checking and replenishing lubricating oil in pumps, cleaning up minor oil spills, changing filters in the R.O. unit, carrying out chemical cleaning of R.O. plant, checking for leaks and rectifying as necessary.
- Drains water from crude oil tanks. Includes checking volume in tank using dipping equipment and water finding paste, determining volume of water to be drained and opening appropriate valves as required. Carries out periodic checks during draining operation.
- Carries out gauging checks on tanks. Includes comparing manual checks with read out on Varec tank gauges. Informs the Foreman / Lead Operator of any abnormalities.
- Accompanied by surveyor and government representative, checks and gauges tanks from which oil will be loaded to export tankers, checks meter readings and passes information to the Foreman / Lead Operator.
- Monitors potable water distribution throughout the site, conducting daily checks of chlorine content. Ensures that water storage tanks are kept at normal operational levels includes starting and stopping of R.O. units.
- Starts and stops diesel transfers to the Day tank to ensure that operational levels are kept constant.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as test running fire water pumps, stroking motor and hand operated valves for opening and closing capability, pigging the sea line, retrieving pig from the main oil pipeline, batching diesel fuel from CPF, pumping waste oil from slop tanks to crude tank and draining water from slop tanks, and assisting in the training of junior staff. Will conduct all other reasonable Operational tasks as required.
- If required to drive shall:
 - (1) Know and understand CNPY "Safe Driving Practice"
 - (2) Report unsafe acts and conditions (vehicle, driving or roadway).

Minimum Requirements:

- Secondary school and a minimum of 2 years experience in Terminal Operations in an oil exporting facility.
- Good knowledge of English.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

❖ To Apply for this Job and for further information on the Job duties and responsibilities you can visit our website

www.nexeninc.com/careers/yemen

❖ Applications should be submitted NO later than November 20, 2007. Faxed applications will not be considered.

Toyota launches new models

The Automotive & Machinery Trading Center (AMTC) has recently launched the latest models of Toyota Land cruiser and Toyota Corolla for 2008. The General Manager of the Center Mr. Aydarous Bazara stated that Toyota is the leading automotive in Yemen, and with the introduction of the new Land Cruiser and Corolla, Toyota increases further the gap between it and its nearest competitor.

He also added that new Land Cruiser has passed through an extremely rugged testing period in order to ensure that its off-road capabilities are unprecedented and unmatched, he stated that a number of advanced technologies have been specifically designed in order to ensure that the Land Cruiser is unstoppable in any terrain. These technologies include the All-Terrain Full-Time four-wheel drive system with Torsen

LSD, Multi-terrain ABS, Crawl control system, and the Hill-start Assist Control.

Director of Sales in AMTC Mr. Saeed Bamashmous stated that in spite of the advanced technologies and capabilities, the new Land cruiser is competitively priced, as there is a large range of models and choices of engines, from a 4.0 liters V6 to a 4.7 liters V8, as well as the expected introduction of a 5.7 liter V8 next year, in addition to the diesel option.

The New Corolla was also launches, features a completely new design which offers safety and comfort in a compact design, and a powerful 1.8 liter engine that guarantees performance and economy in fuel consumption.

The Pricing of the New land Cruiser starts around US\$ 40 thousand for the G standard model, while the Pricing for the new Corolla starts at around US\$ 18 thousand for the standard



The New 2008 Toyota Land Cruiser

“Yemen & Nexen; the Legacy of Friendship!”



The relationship Nexen has with the Yemeni people, from the highest levels of government to residents in local communities, is critical to the company's success and sustainability in Yemen. Nexen has a firm commitment to playing a role in its development. Through partnering with the Government of Yemen and the Yemeni people, the company is investing in the country's human resource potential, its physical infrastructure and progress.

In 1997, Nexen celebrated ten years of operations in Yemen by developing a scholarship program directed in disciplines critical to the country's economic growth and development. It was originally envisioned that 20 Yemeni students would be given the opportunity to study at post-secondary institutions in Calgary, Canada. To date, Nexen and its partners have awarded scholarships to 90 deserving Yemeni students. The first group of ten students graduated in 2003 and by the end of 2007, the program will have 40 graduates. Ten additional scholarships will be granted in 2008, bringing our total award to 100.

Each scholarship underwrites the completion of a four-year post-secondary degree program and includes the provision of tuition, books, accommodation, meals, health care insurance, monthly living allowance, and annual travel to Yemen. The value of each scholarship is approximately (Canadian Dollars) CD 145,000 over a four-year period and each student is given the tools, resources and grounding for personal success in the program. It is Nexen's belief that the scholarships are amongst the most lucrative and comprehensive offered anywhere in the world today.

Impact of Program

The Yemen Scholarship Program is building a legacy of personal achievement, creating access to higher education and cross-cultural experiences, and contributing to enhanced governmental and institutional expertise that will ultimately be of benefit to the Yemeni people.

The students who had scholarships from Nexen have come back and they are serving their country with what they studied.



I studied International Affairs. In addition to that I studied Information Technology. I'm the Director of the Information Center in the American Embassy and my study meets the needs of my position. When I applied for this scholarship, we were about seven hundred sixty. There are three stages for the tests. The first stage was according to the information available in your application; your GPA in secondary school, your English, your skills of communication. The second stage is test by Nexen. The third stage is the test in the American Yemeni Institute (YALI) and British Council.

I'm of the first batch in 1999. When I arrived at Calgary, I lived in the hostel. The financial allowances were more than what we needed. In Canada, we had the chance to apply what we studied. This scholarship has affected my life totally. Most of the students who had this scholarship didn't focus only on their specialization fields, they focused much more in acquiring other skills. The students in Canada participated in many other activities, so they acquired many other skills. For example, my specialization was International Affairs but I also studied Information Technology. The university gave us chances to apply for many courses at the same time. We participated in NGOs.

I applied in to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but I withdrew because the income and the position weren't satisfactory.

I want to say to all students: "Develop your skills!"

Hisham Al-Omeisy
1st batch (1999-2003)



I studied Reservoir Engineering. I work now for Nexen. I put in mind, since I was in Canada, to work for Nexen when I come back to Yemen because the Canadians are considered one of the best people we have ever known. I wanted to work for the company that sponsored me. I applied for Nexen in Canada as a full-time employee in June 2007. I didn't think of applying for any oil company outside Yemen because I am a family-oriented guy. I'm now satisfied with my work here in Nexen and I don't think in leaving Nexen because money isn't everything. The dealing of Nexen with its employees is very good. Also, they provide us with courses. For example, we will have a course in Dubai

in December. Actually, I didn't think of working in governmental position but we work hand in hand with the Ministry of Oil & Minerals.

The scholarship of Nexen is considered one of the best scholarships and I hope that the government will adapt this system.

Ammar Mahdi (2001-2007) 2nd batch



I studied Information Technology majoring in Network Management. I'm working now with the American Embassy. The process of application and selecting students was transparent. I'm sure that if there had been a kind of mediation, I wouldn't have had succeeded. I failed in the first time and went to Sana'a University. I applied again in the next year and succeeded. For the test of the first and second batches, it was approximately the same. Nexen published an advertisement in newspapers. Then, I presented my application in which I mentioned my GPA in secondary school particularly my grades in scientific subjects, my level in English and to write an article why I need this scholarship. According to the information in the applications, Nexen chooses about forty students who then subject to interview and then to choose ten students. The applicants were about one thousand from which ten students were selected. In the interview, they check to what extent I'm able to get benefit from this scholarship. After the interview, I was worried because the competition was very strong. When I arrived at Canada, I lived with a family and the purpose was to know the city well and the daily-life system. This scholarship increased our self-confidence and widened the perceptions of person. When we studied in Canada, we established some organizations in addition to our study like Yemeni Canadian Relations Council. In 2003, we had the Youth Development Conference. Right now my position is satisfactory for me but I should develop my career.

This scholarship was a time well-spent. You never repent that you spent four years of your age in Canada because you find the return of your effort. I wish that the French and Americans will adapt this idea to consolidate the bilateral relations.

It is difficult for us to apply for governmental position because our qualifications are very high and the governmental sector can't compete the private sector. I don't think that it is necessary to work in a governmental position to say that you serve your country. You can serve your country by working in the private sector too.

Adeeb Qasem
2nd batch (2000-2004)



I work at the American Embassy, the office of Military Cooperation. I'm the Administrative Assistant. I studied International Affairs in Canada. I find that my study meets the needs of my work. My friends who had applied for this scholarship told me about it. For my family, they asked the AMIDEAST about the scholarship. Everything was clear about this scholarship and they were enthusiastic. I didn't face any problems or cultural shock in Canada because Canadians are liberal and understanding for the others cultures. In my batch there were four girls. I had the chance to apply what I studied and most of the chances of application were voluntary and inside the university itself. I had the chances to spend summer in my country every year on the account of Canadian Nexen.

It is really a chance to learn more and acquire more skills and to apply them when you come back to your homeland.

Nada Al-Ariki
3rd batch (2001-2005)



I work at Canadian Nexen. I studied Information System Development. I knew about the scholarship of Nexen through newspapers and applied like any other applicants. My GPA of secondary school was %95.5, the only concern I had when applied was my English as I studied in a public school. When I applied for the first time, they took ten students and two other reserved. I was one of the reserved. Then in the next time, they taught me English and I

succeeded in the next year. I find that my position is the field of my specialization. We are still in contact with the students who are studying there and those who came back.

When we arrived at Canada, Nexen had arranged for everything. They received us. The hostel was well-organized and we shouldn't be worried about such things at all. The students who were already there received us. During our study, there was always a challenge.

We have to change our country and not to blame others always.

Sahar Al-Arami
4th batch (2002-2006)



The Nexen scholarship enabled me to acquire new international level skills that made me one of the best in my country. I was worried that I might not find a job, being away for long, but when I came back I was able to provide advisory services to many clients and started teaching in an institute right away. I found my dream job within several months in the UNDP as ICT Manager. I said for my colleagues coming back to Yemen after me, if you don't like the first job you got, wait 6 months something will come up. Yemen has a lot of opportunities for professionals who are interested in assisting in its development. I really enjoy every moment I am home with the knowledge I gained from the scholarship.

I went to SAIT for a Bachelor of Applied Information Technology. Within the past three years I have been the team lead for the ICT Department in UNDP and now a team lead for the Service Center dealing with logistics, contracts, travel and ICT. My knowledge, although in the ICT field, enabled me to expand my experience to other departments and to management because of the diversity of the course.

Tarik Al-Sharafi
1st batch (1999-2003)



The Canadian Nexen Scholarship Program Steering Committee, for which I am proud to chair, adopts high standards for selecting the most eligible students to receive education opportunities in Canada to come back as leaders in their relevant fields. Such standards include educational excellence, proficiency and competence in the admission test conducted by the Scholarship Steering Committee.

The Scholarship Steering Committee focuses mainly on the proficiency and competence in the scientific subjects besides the English language. I am proud that this program has been successful for the last nine years.

H.E. Abdul-Aziz Abdul-Ghani
Shoura Council Speaker
Scholarships Program Steering Committee Chairman



“We are tremendously proud of our Yemen Scholarship Program. It is our way of giving back to the communities that have always supported us.”

Charles W. Fischer
President and Chief Executive Officer
Nexen Inc.



Augmenting our project's contribution in creating economic development in the Republic, jobs for Yemenis, and diverse community affairs projects the Scholarship Program Initiative, likewise, contributes to the capacity building and human resource development national efforts.

Gregor Mawhinney
President and General Manager
Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen, Masila Block “14” And Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd., Block “51”



Nexen was the first oil and gas company to win an award for international cooperation in the category of social and ethical responsibility*. In this regard we are deeply grateful for the cooperation of the Scholarship Program Steering Committee Chairman and members and the many other local contributors for their remarkable inputs.

*The award was presented in year 2000, by the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters and the Canadian International Development Agency. In making their selection judges for the award were particularly impressed with the Scholarship Program for Yemeni students.

Ali Sohaiki
Executive Director
Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen, Masila Block “14”
And Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd., Block “51”

“We are immensely proud of the caliber of the students in our scholarship program. Not only do they perform well in their studies in Calgary, they act as extraordinary ambassadors for Yemen in Canada.”

Andrea Bosnjak:
Senior Analyst, Government Relations- Nexen Inc.

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

The virtuous city is in our parents' eye

Aspiring to be ideal and perfect is the major aim and the extreme hope in all of our minds. It guides us directly to a type of incredible and legendary thought of a virtuous city. Each of us dreams of the image of an upright city full of what we're eager to achieve – and spread all over the world – such as reasonableness, enthusiasm, tolerance and innovativeness.

From the beginning, we ought to know that being virtuous has no specific classification; you may have your own because of your own reflection. Moreover, it has no limitations because it exists beyond our imagination.

We seek to escape the bitter reality of

life, which caused our devilish desires, including what could only be imagined. Instead of living life as human beings and having relaxed lives, we become like machines, freezing our compassions, taking life as an immense challenge and resisting life's difficulties as the way to the perfect heavenly city.

The perfect city is the inspiring meaning of life for which we're searching. It's a place where we won't cheat or compli-



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ment, we won't follow or guide others, we won't be biased or unjust and we'll be truly and rightfully alive.

This entire straightforwardness surrounding us absolutely will have its influence on our behavior, making us do the right action at the right time. However, how we can attain at least part of this massive purpose? Here, I suggest my own method to discover the secret of this worthy city.

To reach this soaring position, let us reckon ourselves, beginning with parental obedience. Do we do what we're supposed to do toward our parents? Do we reward them for what they've given us? Do we listen to them in a polite manner?

Here's the first step to attain our goal of replicating the perfect city in our minds. The precious reward for them beams in their eyes. We can't let them go away because among them, we are who we are. "No one wants to see somebody better than himself, except parents." This statement shows parents' intense love for their children and this is why we should be humble toward them forever.

They are the fundamental references for us; we need their advice, which will make our life's journey easier than we think.

"Nothing comes easily" is priority wisdom we must be taught by them in order

to teach us perseverance and patience, which is required in the virtuous city. Such wisdom didn't come from nothing; to the contrary, it came from what they withstood of anarchy and troubles, in addition to the daily, rotten and boring routine.

Hazel, exulted eyes teach us the fruit of their vast experiences over time, which is passing across their rugged faces that tell us that life is not a bed of roses. In other words, teaching us to be self-sufficient is another requirement in the virtuous city.

Once we ignore their advice, depending on our growing minds, we believe that we were wrong unless we realize the cruelty of failure. Parents give us the immunity to be a loser; nevertheless, we're determined to do what is accepted as true.

This reminds me of the wisdom of Alexander Pope, who said:

We think our fathers fools,
So wise we grow
Our wiser sons will
No doubt, think us so.

This also teaches us righteous comprehension, another requirement in the upright city.

Indeed, parents indirectly teach us the way to the virtuous city, and for this reason, we must appreciate them. I hope I have alarmed you, for something could be just as significant for you as it is for me. I also hope you pay attention to appreciate what we have rather than regretting its loss. Eventually, all will stand together to present a word of gratitude for the countless efforts of our dear parents.

The Martyrs' Saint

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

Rejected,
The moments of knell.
Respected,
The strike of heaven's bell.
As a response to God's call,
Elected.
Your heart's affluence,

The greatest sacrifice,
As a holy oblation
Earlier than your tranquil flood
To the gardens of the eternal paradise.
On the brink of a blessed day,
Poised, proud
Glorified, glorified,
The honest safeguard.
Time's legend Thou art.
Only your brave heart
Struggled, defended, lionized,
Embraced
The immortal message.
You dressed the earth's glory
You set the faith reflection
On the flag.
"Allah is the greatest!"
In heaven's meadow and skies,
Rousing cheers
Designed your sacred rest.
The gates of heaven
Hugged God's gift
In a golden shield.
All birds applauded
The knight's accolade

To be
The martyrs' saint.
By the Lord's command,
Thy soul's splendor,
Will always kneel.
All roses will always bloom
And shall never wilt.
The gates of heaven hailed
The greatest guest.

The earth's glory has forever left
Whilst all seas and oceans
Are still in vehemence.

Inglorious scene,
Fiends, ogres
Insincere, insidious insignia,
Such strange savages.
In an abrasive manner,
The rope of veiled abhorrence
Hanged virtue's quintessence.
Justice murdered
On the iniquitous gallows.
Shameful, hateful.
Time without end will curse
The evil souls of those
In that rumpus brouhaha.
Degrading, humiliating, beating
God's values down and down.
In due course,
They will shell out the owed price.

My dignified God,
As a believer in your divinity and dignity,
Grant the martyrs' saint your peace and mercy.

Rejected,
The moments of knell.
Respected,
The strike of heaven's bell.
Farewell, farewell, farewell...

The Last Moment

By: Ahlam Al-Awkabi

Sculpted on
The walls of this place...
And you were one of them.

Your fantasy still passes
Before my eyes.
You frolic with your friends,
Who are very nice.
You're still here as you were.
Your soul dwells here with us,
Your voice still fills this place,
You're still here and there.

You can't cause an end to our love
Because you are human, as we are,
And you have a heart, as we have.
You and we must fight our enemy,
Who wants to kill our love
without mercy.

We will fight and fight strongly
Because you said,
"We should be strong."
Therefore, you and we should be strong
And be hand-in-glove with your friends
evermore...

Ahlahm Ahmed Mussa'ad Al-Awkabi was born in Kuwait on Feb. 12, 1983. She received a Bachelor's in English from Sana'a University's Faculty of Education in 2006 and was involved in drawing, writing poetry and speech. She died Jan. 19 of this year in Sana'a, may God have mercy and blessings upon her.



Vacancy Advertisement

The World Bank Middle East and North Africa (MNA) Region intends to hire an experienced **Procurement Specialist**, who will be located in the World Bank Sana'a Office to work on projects in Yemen. He/she will also work on procurement system improvements. The work implies frequent interaction with Managers and Technical Specialists in the work unit and staff from other agencies, donors, consultants and borrowers. More specifically, under the direction of the Country Manager in Sana'a, the Country Procurement Coordinator based in Cairo, and the Regional Procurement Manager (RPM) based in Washington, the incumbent will:

- Work independently on procurement matters across sectors in the performance of the Bank's fiduciary and service functions, seeking guidance on complex projects/issues from senior procurement staff;
- Review and handle the technical, commercial and legal aspects of procurement (in consultation with Legal and Policy departments as necessary) at all stages of the project cycle;
- Provide operational advice to clients and Bank staff on concepts, policies and procedures for international and local procurement;
- Participate in missions as procurement expert on projects; assess procurement implications of project design, evaluate institutional capacity of borrowers and develop suitable procurement plans; conduct prior and post reviews of Bank-financed contracts;
- Participate in country procurement assessments; prepare background analysis; collaborate on developing appropriate public procurement legislation and practices;
- Negotiate and resolve difficult procurement issues with Borrower agencies and handle questions/ complaints from senior officials and contractors on bidding and award issues;
- Design and conduct workshops to educate procurement professionals in the Bank and in borrower agencies.

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- Knowledge and understanding of technical, commercial and legal aspects of procurement at all phases of Bank lending operations;
- Demonstrated analytical clarity, problem-solving skills and negotiating skills with ability to balance project objectives and procurement requirements with client needs;
- Task/ Project management skills;
- Strong communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues, both orally and in writing, and excellent listening skills;
- Ability to deal sensitively with a multi-cultural environment and build effective business relationships with clients and colleagues;
- Ability to function effectively in multi-disciplinary teams with a matrix management environment;
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Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



To love or not to love? This is the question!

Love is a basic requirement for good human relations. In marriage, it's essential for establishing happy and stable families and, in many cultures, is considered the basis for marriage. This sometimes occurs in our society, but oftentimes, due to social conventions, it isn't considered a criterion, and subsequently, love-based marriages fail. This has caused many youths – both male and female – to doubt the role of love as a bridge to marriage, strongly questioning whether to love or not.

In a conservative society such as Yemen, many social customs restrict people from behaving like those in other societies. I'm not saying these customs are good or bad, but I am commenting on how some members of society unwittingly pay the price for these traditions and customs.

Regarding love before marriage, not all families in Yemen accept it. Although the reasons differ from one family or area to another, it's mostly a matter of customs and traditions.

Some families refuse their sons' marriage to non-related families for financial, social and moral reasons. Financially speaking, according to them, marrying relatives means there will be some available means in terms of the dowry and other demands.

Socially, they believe that marrying among relatives reflects the strength of such families' relations. Morally, they claim to know well and leave no room for doubt about the bride's morals and behavior, unlike if she was from an unrelated or unknown family.

On these bases, such families don't care if their sons and daughters love – or even like – each other or not.

Other families have no objection if a son takes a bride from an unrelated or unknown family; however, they have a huge objection if a daughter is proposed to by a suitor from such a family.

Additionally, some families reject marriage if a couple knows each other beforehand because to them, it's shameful if there's any type of relationship between them. For this reason, they fight and may create huge problems, especially for the bride, to stop this type of marriage.

In some cases, families will accept potential husbands from non-related families, but in return, they impose many conditions and make many demands, claiming that they want to guarantee their daughters' future. Because such suitors often don't want any conditions, they end

up giving up and marrying one of their relatives.

On the other hand, some families do allow their sons to take brides from unrelated families; however, before accepting the match, they absolve themselves of any responsibility by stating emphatically and repeatedly, "This is your choice and your responsibility."

Thus, when problems subsequently arise, the family amplifies them in order to show the son that he was wrong in choosing his wife. This doesn't happen if parents choose their sons' wives in the traditional manner.

In such cases, families also don't help pay the wedding costs, using that as leverage to manipulate the son into returning to them, as well as a lesson for their other sons; thus, their sons don't even attempt or think about marrying for love.

Some couples realize this only at the end, i.e., at the time of engagement or marriage. They either fight the family, which costs them a lot in terms of time and money, or they surrender, giving up the idea of marriage based on love.


There are some cases in Yemeni society where love isn't considered at all and many couples, youths, husbands, wives and even children are the victims of such social traditions and customs.

This issue has become a crisis in our society, particularly for youths who still are not having love relationships. They consider it as something in their future, but then end up hesitating or sometimes giving up the whole idea of love, since it will be of no use in their marriage.

Anyway, the entire issue revolves around how social customs, which seem good to older generations, shake the younger generations' self-confidence in making such a critical and personal life decision. Such youths wonder from time to time whether to love or not due to the unknown consequences they may face.

We should respect such customs and traditions; however, it's the duty of every one of us to change only those concepts and ideas that may harm relations between society members, as in the case of unstable or broken marriages. Such change can be achieved gradually, not by force, but convincingly, asking those who are against the idea to view the matter through their 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.



مؤسسة تنمية القدرات الشبابية
Youth Leadership Development Foundation

Employment opportunity

Title: program coordinator – Girls World Communication Center
Youth Leadership Development Foundation

Location: Sana'a Yemen

Application deadline: 12/11/2007

Youth Leadership Development Foundation

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Program coordinator will provide support for coordination, implementation and evaluation of the program for a whole one year 2007-2008.

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- Filed visit to the governorates.
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- Ability to travel to governorates.

Language requirement

- Ability to communicate oral and written in both Arabic and English.

Please direct your resume with covering letter explaining your motivation in applying to GWCC email:
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Yemeni traditional games: Remembering our childhood

Yemeni traditional games: Remembering our childhood
Without disrupting their specialized small world, children still enjoy their childhood by playing traditional games. Traditional Yemeni children's games are many, but some have disappeared while others remain popular. *Fatima Al-Ajel* explores these various types of traditional games in a series. This third part highlights some girls' games.

While some may classify popular children's games according to such games' rules or children's skills, part three of this series describes games suitable for girls. Some boys even refuse to play them because they are considered 'girl games' and easy to play; thus, because they consider themselves men, they prefer games that show off their strength.

Girls' games create mothering emotions and build a social atmosphere between girls living in a particular zone. Most girls' games involve dolls, toys, stones, etc., and require two or more players. Girls also like to sing as they play. The following are some Yemeni girls' games:

Waqal or hopscotch is a favorite among girls, who enjoy drawing grids either on their neighborhood sidewalk or in their house's yard and then jumping or hopping from one end of the grid to the other.

"Most afternoons, I play games with my friends in our neighborhood and Waqal is my favorite," 11-year-old Hanan Al-Nimr expresses.

There are two types of Waqal, one consisting of 10 grids, which girls older than age 8 like to play, and the other consisting of five grids for girls between ages 5 and 7.

Requiring only a stone, any number of girls may play Waqal, which begins with the first player throwing the stone inside square number 1 and then hopping into each square, beginning with square 1 and ending at square 10.

If a player falls, steps on the square's lines or the stone rolls outside the square, her turn is stopped and another player goes. All players must accept these rules



Gomayda (hide and seek) is a very popular girls' game.

and follow them in order for play to continue successfully.

Before her turn ends, the winner throws the stone outside of the Waqal grid, jumps out to it and again throws it into the Waqal in order to win a square or "house" for herself. She's then free to keep the other players from jumping into it.

Girls practice a particular skill from Waqal and that is walking with closed eyes between the squares without touching the lines. This teaches them how to balance and walk gracefully. Waqal also teaches patience and respect for another's turn.

Wardah, ya Wardah, meaning flower, and **Salwa, ya Salwa** are two girls' games played in a group. Other games have similar rules and atmosphere. Play commences with the girls holding hands and forming a circle, which is a flower. They then sing, telling the flower to open and close.

Salwa, ya Salwa is similar to Wardah, ya Wardah in that a group of girls forms a circle, but the difference is that one girl pretends to be Salwa, the game's heroine. After being selected by the others, she stays in the middle of the circle and cries. The girls and Salwa then dialogue through song. They ask Salwa why she's crying, to which she replies that she wants her lost doll. Play continues until Salwa stands, closes her eyes and randomly selects another girl to be Salwa.



Two girls play Waqal (hopscotch) in their neighborhood.

Sometimes, everyone wants to be Salwa, so play continues until each has her turn.

Nata Al-Habel or jump rope is popular worldwide, with many countries considering it a girl's game. Done individually or in groups, one version uses a long rope.

An individual holds the two ends of the rope in her two hands, then jumps quickly over it repeatedly, bringing the rope over her head and then in front of her again in order to jump over it. Precise timing is required between jumping and turning the rope, whose pace can be controlled depending on the individual's skill and stamina. This movement is repeated until the player either tires or steps on the rope.

Ten-year-old 'Awhoud Al-Sokhimi, who describes jump rope as a girls' game because boys never are allowed to play, enthuses, "I play Nata Al-Habel in my neighborhood with my friends in the afternoons. We spend hours playing it and we never get tired of it because we have such a good time."

Group play requires two or more girls, as two players hold each end of the rope and then move it around in a large circular motion. A third player then jumps over it as it turns continuously. If the jumper misses, she must switch places with one of those holding the rope. Two or three girls sometimes jump at the same time and whoever falls or steps on the rope at the wrong time loses her turn.

Gomaydah meaning "blindfold" is a very popular girls' game among 4- to 10-year-olds played by three or more girls. One player is chosen to be blindfolded with a scarf and she then tries to catch the others. If someone is caught, she then becomes the new blindfolded one and play begins again.

'Ara'yas, meaning dolls, is one of girls' most favorite games. In the past, they were creative and made their own dolls using small sticks for the body and a piece of cloth for the face, on which they would draw the eyes, nose and mouth. They would gather together with their dolls in the afternoon, but arrange to make them the day before, beginning with the mother, then the daughters, etc.

'Ara'yas is one of the few things a girl can play alone, but most prefer to play it together, acting out the roles of their elders, such as their mothers, sisters, etc. Especially in 'Ara'yas, some girls attempt to replicate their lifestyle in their play, imitating their mothers and how they deal with each other in real life.

Nawal Mohammed, a 38-year-old mother of five, notes the differences between the past and now. "I've never forgotten how much fun it was to play this, but I realize the times are changing. We were so creative and innocent; we had fun in a simple way. In the past, girls made their own special dolls in different sizes and named each one. But today, girls simply go and buy dolls, some of which already are named, so I think children today don't enjoy it like we did."

Girls practice their future life roles by



One variation of Al-Khal.

playing such games, subconsciously qualifying themselves as women who are mothers, sisters, wives, etc. Motherhood and kindness are what girls mostly acquire from playing such games.

Games played with stones

Some girls' games are played using stones and there are different ways to play them. **Al-Khal**, which means uncle, is one such game requiring two or more players who use only their hands and fingers during play. According to some researchers, using the fingers during play, for example, helps develop a player's mental abilities.

Players collect five small stones, sit on the ground and choose who will start. A player throws the five stones on the ground. She picks one up and tosses it into the air, eventually doing the same with all of the stones by picking up two stones at a time, then three stones and so on. This game is similar to a game called jacks in other parts of the world.

After this, the player crosses her index and middle fingers and then places her thumb and other fingers on the ground to form a bridge or hole through which she throws stones without touching any others. The last stone thrown is called Al-Khal.

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If she succeeds in doing this, she reaches the last step, wherein she must toss them all up and try to catch them in both of her palms held together. She then must toss them into the air and catch them on the backs of her two hands put together in order to win. If a player fails to catch them, it's another's turn.

Another variation of this game is **Naqaes**. A very traditional game, it mostly has disappeared, especially in cities, because it requires collecting at least 100-200 stones and it's rare that children can find that many stones on the paved roads in their zones.

Naqaes usually is played in pairs, with each pair sharing their collection of stones. Players agree beforehand on the number of stones each pair must bring. They then start to play in turn.

The rule is that a player must throw one stone into the air and then pick up at least two stones. If she can't, she loses her turn and another goes. This game teaches children how to count correctly, encourages pairs to work and creates competition.

A third variation of the same jacks-like game involves digging a hole in the ground. At least two players place the same number of stones into the hole and then play in turn. Each attempts to show her skill by throwing a stone into the air and, before it falls, collecting other stones. Whoever picks up the most stones wins. This game also promotes competition.

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Connecting People

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Affordable and user-friendly, the Nokia 1200 features One touch shortcut keys, cost management features, power saving mode, and MP3-grade ringtones.

NOKIA 1200

الربيعي: 275106 - القيادة: 561700 - مركز صنعاء التجاري: 448504 - حدة: 513900 - عصر: 269477
عند: 243321 - الحديدة: 03 22 44 42 - تعز: 250817 - 04 - نكلا: 05 302412
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