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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Aden to be slum-free by 2020

2020 is the year set by Aden's governor to remove all random construction and provide proper homes to those residents living in slums.

By: Ridwan Al-Saqqaf

ADEN, Dec. 4 — More than a million and a half Yemeni immigrants living in

than 30,000 people live in slums in Aden, barely surviving in desperate conditions where water and sanitation are non-existent.

ister for General Works and Population, states that the Yemeni government intends to designate YR 75 billion (approximately \$3.8 million) to building homes for young and poor families over the next three years.

"We have experts from Jordan who will help us plan development in Aden, Hodeidah and Sana'a governorates. We

ment." He and 10 of his family members have been living in a slum in Dar Sa'ad in Aden, surviving on occasional daily wages. Additionally, Abdulnoor Muqbil, 40, complains that slum residents have no water or electricity in their homes, which are constructed from cardboard boxes, junk metal and wood.

The Yemeni government has organized

the urban development initiative as part of an inclusive strategy to develop Yemen. Such random construction is considered one cause of bad traffic tie-ups, increasing crime and the spread of diseases.

Earlier this year, Aden's governor decreed a ban on such random construction in an attempt to control the influx of

slums into the city, but so far, the attempt hasn't been entirely successful, as the number of slum inhabitants has increased.

During last month's meeting in Aden, environmental specialists voiced their concern that such construction definitely will harm the environment and irreversibly damage the city's structure, if not controlled.



More than 30,000 people live in slums like this in Aden. Inhabitants construct the slums themselves, which have no electricity, water or sanitation facilities.

the Gulf at the time were sent home as a consequence of the 1990 Gulf War. Since then, many of those, who hadn't anticipated their return, have been forced to live in shacks in large numbers.

"We feel like refugees in our own country! We've been living in miserable conditions for 17 years," complained 60-year-old Ahmed Obadi, who lives in a slum in Aden's Al-Mimdira area.

Local authorities estimate that more

tent. According to Obadi, the number of slums has increased rapidly over the years due to increasing population and poverty. Such crowding means worse hygiene and more garbage.

Several urban development specialists from Yemen and other Arab countries met in Aden for three days at the end of last month to discuss this issue. The meeting was a follow-up to a regional one that occurred in Cairo in October, which resulted in agreeing on a common urban development strategy for the region.

Hussein Al-Wali, Yemen's deputy min-

aim to construct 5,000 residential units within the next 23 years, yielding 217 residential units annually," Al-Wali noted.

However, skeptical slum inhabitants sneer at such promises, saying they've had enough of "lip service."

"What do you want from us?" Salman Qaid yelled as his home was being photographed for this story, adding, "Last year, a newspaper interviewed my neighbor, who said some 'big stuff.' The next thing we saw was the police dragging him off to prison. Leave us alone! We'd rather live here than have even these slums destroyed under the pretext of develop-

## Man loses eye in attempt to save his home from demolition

By: Ridwan Al-Saqqaf

ADEN, Dec. 5 — For the second consecutive day, residents of Aden's Assalam neighborhood are holding sit-ins to prevent the looming demolition of their slums.

It took four hours of protest and struggle to save their shabby homes from being demolished by Khor Maksar district's general works department. When department personnel arrived at the scene with bulldozers on Monday, whole families rushed to block the main street into their area.

As a result, security forces backed the general works personnel by firing upon the residents and using tear gas bombs to disperse the angry protestors.

One young man lost his eye after a tear gas bomb exploded in his face, while several others, including five

children, were rushed to the hospital for smoke inhalation and suffocation.

Female police officers were summoned to the scene to forcefully evacuate those women and children refusing to leave their homes. In protest, the resisting women and their children fled into the smoke-filled streets, which

led to their injuries.

After four hours, police finally withdrew from the area and the families returned to their homes.

The residents now are holding permanent sit-ins out of fear that the authorities again will attempt to demolish their homes, which have existed in that area for several years.



With nowhere to go, the families will fight for their homes, even if it costs them their lives.

## Jabal Al-Tair volcano causes earthquakes in different areas

By: Mohammed Jabri

SANA'A, Dec. 4 — Yemen's Earthquake Observation Center (EOC) reported that it recorded a slight earthquake in the Red Sea Monday evening, measuring 2.7 on the Richter scale. It also observed another 1.9 magnitude earthquake in the same area on Wednesday. Two other slight earthquakes were recorded on Monday and Wednesday in Al-Baidha.

The announcement came after a volcano on Jabal Al-Tair, a tiny island on the Red Sea, erupted again on Monday. Officials said this eruption was strong, with lava shooting high in the air.

Geologists linked the eruption to fissures on the island that were caused by the previous eruption on Sept. 30. They added that the eruption would take a long time to subside.

According to the EOC, in late November two earthquake observation



The volcano eruption in its first hours end of September - Photo Archive.

stations were installed on Zuqar and Hunaish, islands in the Red Sea, to observe any seismic activity in the Red Sea area.

The Jabal Al-Tair volcano first erupted on September 30th, killing at least eight Yemeni soldiers on a military base established on the island since Yemen's 1996 conflict with Eritrea over Hanish and Jabal Zuqar.

The island witnessed eruptions in the

18th and 19th centuries, including one in 1883.

Geologists say Yemen has two types of volcanic districts, the first of which is mainland, and includes Sana'a, Amran, Marib, Sirwah, Dhamar, Rada'a, Bir Ali, Aden and Socotra. The second type is island, like Jabal Al-Tair, Hanish and other Red Sea islands.

According to the Global Volcanism Program database for northeast Africa

and the Red Sea, the area currently contains 69 Holocene volcanoes and 2 Pleistocene volcanoes with thermal activity, including Jabal Al-Tair, Jabal Zubair, Zuqar and Hanish, all located within Yemen's marine borders.

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## In brief

## ADEN

## Coast guard festival begins

Dec. 5 — The fifth coast guard festival kicks off today in Aden Port, involving a parade of watercraft, swimming and diving shows.

The event seeks to attract tourist attention to the city, as well as display the skills of Yemeni coast guards through the various performances.

## Mass wedding for 600 today

Dec. 5 — Sponsored by the Islam charity, 600 couples will celebrate their weddings today in Aden. It's the first event of this scale, organized by the charity for poor Yemeni youths who can't afford the wedding expenses.

The charity also will give the young couples gifts and money to support them in their new marriages.

## AL-BEIDHA

## Divorce awareness seminar held

Dec. 4 — Divorce, its causes and consequences was the topic of a two-day seminar organized by the Al-Beidha branch of the Women's National Committee.

Social and legal issues were among the main themes discussed at the seminar, which many local families attended.

## DHAMAR

## University cultural week begins

Dec. 5 — Beginning Tuesday, Dhamar University's department of extracurricular activities will initiate a cultural week affording talented students the chance to distinguish themselves.

In addition to activities such as quizzes, debates, story and poetry nights, the weeklong event will provide university management the opportunity to recognize talented students and award them accordingly.

Alongside the culture week will be several modern art exhibitions.

## IBB

## School theater festival to start

Dec. 5 — The seventh school theater festival begins this week in Ibb with the participation of many schools in the governorate.

The weeklong event will include plays, sketches, debates, poetry recitals and other artistic performances.

## SANA'A

## Phase two of Al-Sailah completed

Dec. 4 — As part of an \$8.9 million project funded by the U.S. government, Al-Sailah canal in the Old City of Sana'a has been extended two kilometers up to 60 Meter Road. The project also includes constructing walkways and bridges and reinstalling affected utilities in the area.

This particular phase provides a road for traffic during the dry season, a channel for water runoff during the rainy season and a settling pond to replenish the water table.

## SHABWA

## Military medical caravan offers free medical services

Dec. 5 — For its 13th mission, the Military Medical Caravan heads to Shabwa Friday. Free medical services are provided by the Military Hospital in Sana'a in coordination with the governorate's health department.

The 50-member team, including physicians, nurses and technicians, will offer health advice and medicine, along with free treatment.

## SOCOTRA

## Heavy rains close schools &amp; public facilities

Dec. 4 — The rainy season on Socotra forced numerous schools and public offices on the island to close.

Such structures were affected by the rains, which fell heavily over the past few days, and prevented islanders from carrying out their usual daily routines.

## Temporary solution to Yemeni teachers' protracted problems

Although the government has agreed to meet with the Yemeni Teacher's Syndicate later this month to discuss their problems, more demonstrations flared in Dhamar governorate, leading to the arrest of several teachers.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori  
For The Yemen Times

SANA'A, Dec. 4 — Teachers in Dhamar weren't as lucky as those in Sana'a in their protest against low wages. After taking to the streets in peaceful protest on Wednesday, security arrested dozens of demonstrating teachers.

The Dhamar protestors thought all was well as they marched to the governor's office and met with the general secretary of the local council, who sympathized with their needs and forwarded a memo to the prime minister on their behalf.

Ahmed Al-Rubahi, chairman of the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate, stated, "These arrests are a legal and constitutional breach. We call on all human rights groups to stand against such violations and demand the immediate release of the teachers in Dhamar."

## Sana'a rally

Following a peaceful rally in Sana'a — which wasn't expected to occur due to heightened security measures — leaders from the Sana'a branch of the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate have agreed to meet with government representatives on the third Wednesday of this month. The meet-

ing will be an opportunity for the teachers' representatives to outline their demands to the government in an attempt to reach a satisfactory solution.

As a result of the demonstration, Al-Rubahi noted that he and his deputy met Education Minister Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi and Civil Service Minister Khalid Al-Sufi, who agreed to sit with them at a later time due to the ministers' current involvement in Cabinet meetings.

However, it took hundreds of teachers marching in the streets Tuesday for this promise to come forth. Beginning from Tahrir Square, the marchers passed Parliament and ended at Freedom Square in front of the Yemeni Cabinet.

The protesting teachers carried satirical banners reading, "Save us from hallucination! Give us money to buy food!" and "Students, your government is killing education!" among other slogans.

Syndicate Chairman Al-Rubahi went on to say that the Yemeni government has ignored the teachers' demands, which is causing the Yemeni educational process to fail, as well as harming the Yemeni community. If the government doesn't respond to the teachers' legal demands, he threatened, a comprehensive strike will be instituted.

"The syndicate will continue protesting tomorrow in Dhamar governorate, expanding to other governorates until the teachers' full demands are met. This is being done because the Yemeni government has tampered with and escaped from the concerned parties," he explained.

The Dhamar demonstration ended in the arrest of several protesting teachers.

## Teachers' demands

Addressing the teachers gathering in Freedom Square, Al-Rubahi said, "Demands are granted via conducting such peaceful sit-ins and demonstrations. If such vehement demand continues, the government will respond to any demand willy-nilly." He further called on all segments of society to maintain solidarity with the teachers to improve their living standards.

Ibrahim Al-Uthmi, an administrative member at the syndicate, said, "Improving teachers' situations is better than wasting money in a futile manner," hinting at privileges such as cars granted to influential figures.

Al-Uthmi further emphasized the importance of distributing jobs and money fairly, as well as increasing the maximum wage level to YR 100,000 in the second round of increases and YR 130,000 in the third.

Moreover, teachers urge Yemen's prime minister to promptly approve the second round of wage increases begin-



One of the teachers wonders what will become of him, as many of his peers were forced to beg because of poverty.

ning from July 2006 and the third round from this past July, along with their differences.

In a statement distributed at the sit-in square, the teachers demand the Yemeni government grant them their entitled wages and differences associated with work beginning from July 2005 through August 2006 under the Wages and Salaries Law. They further demand increasing their salaries 60 percent to 110 percent.

## Old promises

According to minutes signed July 31 of this year by the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate and the appropriate committee

within the Education Ministry, granting suspended wages to those deprived of them includes inspectors, administrative staff and illiterate and Qur'anic teachers, among others.

Additionally, the teachers' statement demands implementing a judicial verdict issued early last month regarding paying teachers for their work, as well as paying their annual bonuses from 2005 to 2007.

The teachers urge the appropriate parties to pay them according to their qualifications and years of service, in addition to ceasing all arbitrary actions against them, which prevent them from conducting peaceful protests and exercising their constitutionally guaranteed rights.

## Increase in Internet users in Yemen, but mostly for entertainment

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, Dec. 4 — The number of Internet cafés has increased from 822 at the beginning of the year to 886 by the end of September, according to Amer Haza'a, General Manager for Internet Service at the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology and Communications.

He added, "This brought about an increase in users too, from 146,069 to about 194,943 subscribers. Furthermore, the number of ADSL subscribers reached 8,454 this year from the previous 2,781 users."

According to the ministry, the increase of Internet users is due to communication and information technology projects that have been set up and completed that facilitate Internet service.

The majority of Internet subscribers are Internet cafés, followed by companies, and lastly private users at their homes. Average Internet use in Yemen is between 3 to 4 hours per day.

## Chat and games

The increase in demand of Internet use is visible from increasing influxes of people in local Internet cafés. Most people use the Internet to chat, listen to music and play games.

Mohammed Lutf, the owner of an

Internet café in Sana'a, noted, "Sometimes students use the Internet for their researches, but this happens rarely." According to Lutf, the use of Internet varies during the day, as most morning customers use it for sending e-mails and browsing the web, and a minority for stock market trading.

In the afternoon, young kinds between 7 and 16 visit the cafés to play games and listen to music. But evenings are when the majority of users will be seen, when young adults and people of all ages use the Internet for chatting, playing games and visiting various entertainment websites, sometimes until the early hours of the morning.

Mohammed Hassan, 24, admitted that he just uses the Internet to chat and play games. "I'm not interested in anything except games and chatting," he said. On the other hand,

Faez Omidfar, a 22 year-old college student at Sana'a University, uses the web to stay up to date on issues related to his studies at the dental college.

Desirable sites youths usually go to are: Hotmail, Yahoo, Hi5, Face book, and music sites. There are ten computers in Mohammed's shop, and he confirmed, "Almost none of my customers come and ask for any scientific or educational site. The only thing that they ask is how to open the net, how to use chat rooms and

how to download music."

New users and special treatment for females

More and more Yemenis have started using the Internet to communicate with family members living abroad. "Since my brother traveled to study in Malaysia last month, I needed to learn how to use the Internet in order to stay in touch," said Ali Al-Maznaei, 23.

With the increase in Internet users, the necessity of providing special rooms for female users arose. Some Internet cafés devised a separate room for female customers. In fact, according to Internet Café owner Ali Al-Zobaidi, girls are given special treatment and priority. "Even if a guy was waiting his turn for a computer and then a girl comes later on, she has the right to use the computer before him. Ladies first," he smiled.

Despite the increasing demand for Internet cafés, shop supervisors keep a careful watch on users so that they do not use the service for porn. Most porn sites are blocked by the General Assembly of Telecommunication, yet some clever users find ways to view the censored sites. According to the assembly no other censorship takes place; however, several political websites have been intermittently blocked, especially those of opposition parties.

The Internet was introduced in Yemen



80 percent of Internet Café customers play games and use the Internet for chat and music. They are mostly male and quite young and spend on average 3-4 hours per day.

in 1996, and at that time there were only 6000 users, but now people are getting more acquainted with the net, and there is a possibility that the number of users will reach 200,000 in the near future. However, many people in Yemen still don't know what the word 'Internet' means.

Yemen was considered one of the countries of the world with low proliferation of computers and the Internet, which were limited due to social and economic problems. At present, 'TeleYemen' and 'Yemen Net' are the two companies that provide Internet services in Yemen.

## Yemen needs 124.4 billion riyals per year to combat poverty, says report

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Dec. 3 — A report on poverty assessment in Yemen, released on Sunday, revealed that Yemen has become the most impoverished Arab country, despite the decline of the poverty rate from about 40 percent in 1998 to 35 percent in 2006.

The Yemeni government, in collaboration with the World Bank and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), published the report, entitled, "Yemen Poverty Assessment Report."

The report was based on a household budget survey conducted from April 2005 to March 2006. The report stated that the current population growth rate will cause the number of poor people to remain at around seven million, the same amount as in 2000. In addition, the report said poverty in Yemen's rural areas, where at least 75 percent of the population resides, did not decline as much as it did in urban areas.

According to the report, the percentage of poor people declined from 42.4 percent in 1998 to 40.1 percent in 2005/06 in rural areas, but in urban areas poverty declined from 32.2 percent to 20.7 percent in the same period because the urban areas benefited greatly from oil-led growth.

"Oil-based growth does not benefit the poor, especially the rural poor. The oil sector does not contribute to employment among the rural poor

population, being a highly industrialized sector demanding mostly imported skilled labor," the report mentioned, noting that poverty increased by 10-15 percent in 12 governorates in central-northern, central-southern and eastern parts of Yemen. It revealed that the poorest areas in Yemen were located in Amran, where the poverty rate is estimated to be between 63 and 70 percent.

The assessment, which linked poverty with a decrease in the number of children enrolled in schools, as well as malnutrition and poor health among children whose families cannot afford vaccination or proper health care, said that the poverty gap index is 8.9 percent, implying a monthly poverty deficit per capita of about 1,431 riyals (about US\$7). In other words, on average a poor person would need to get another 1,431 riyals a month to be lifted out of poverty.

"Providing all the poor in Yemen with enough to fill the gap between the actual spending of poor households and their incomes, thus lifting everyone out of poverty, would require only about 124.4 billion riyals per year (about 4 percent of GDP). The food poverty gap averages about 2,100 riyals for the poor, some 75 percent of the average consumption of the poor," the report added.

In a statement, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Minister of Planning and International

Cooperation, Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi said "The National Poverty Reduction Strategy of 2003-2005 marked the first national initiative which reflected the government's commitment to the priorities of poverty reduction in its overall policies." He admitted that the reduction of poverty in Yemen is still small when compared to the Millennium Development Goals that aim for the number of Yemenis living in poverty to be reduced by half by 2015. "However, the achievements in reducing poverty over the past seven years make a case for a rigorous review and renewal of joint efforts to combat this problem," he added.

Flavia Pansieri, UNDP resident representative, said that in rural areas poverty rates more or less stagnated, which means development didn't affect these areas as it did urban areas. "Attention should be drawn to rural areas both by providing services and also making it possible for the people there to grasp opportunities to pull themselves out of poverty," Pansieri stated, adding that it would be difficult to achieve the Millennium Development Goal in rural areas.

"For the first time, we have developed reliable poverty projections at the district level for Yemen," said Thirumalai G. Srinivasan, a World Bank country economist for Yemen. "These detailed poverty projections will help direct development efforts more accurately in the future," he added.

## Yemeni mass media portrays negative image of women

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

SANA'A, Dec. 5 — Due to negative representations of women and their role in society, several journalists recently were trained on how to analyze the content of women's programs in Yemeni mass media and make positive changes in mass media policies regarding women's issues.

At a recent workshop, approximately 15 print and broadcast journalists discussed and analyzed Yemeni mass media's role in reflecting negative images of women via their program content. Media and communication expert and trainer Nashwan Al-Sumairi described women's image in such media, basing his analysis on studies done in Yemen and other Arab countries.

"Most Yemeni media depict women as inactive members of society, wholly dependent upon men in all affairs of life," he noted.

At the same time, he told the trainees, most women-oriented programs in Yemen focus on the latest fashions, encouraging their female audience to give more importance to their outward beauty as their primary role in society.

Al-Sumairi further clarified that such programming presents a simple message of women's traditional roles as wives and mothers who must care for the home, regardless of other roles they can play in life.

"Rarely do such media convey women's participation in development, production or politics," he pointed out.

According to the studies, Al-Sumairi

noted that most Yemeni dramas depict either successful women or those struggling within their society, acting as tough women and behaving like men so much so that they are divested of their femininity to the point where society treats them like men, which is a negative portrayal.

A study of several women's radio and television programs on Aden's channel 2 found that only 4.2 percent portray women's role in development as active members of society, while only 5.8 percent portrayed other issues related to women and social causes.

Nutritional topics pertaining to motherhood and childhood comprised 37 percent of such shows' total timeslots, while health awareness and national campaigns seized 36 percent. Educational problems and issues made up the third largest portion of women's radio and television programs at 17 percent.

The National Women's Committee arranged the three-day workshop Saturday under the banner, "Techniques to analyze the image of women in Yemeni mass media." The workshop sought to study the reality of Yemeni women's image in mass media and then seek practical solutions to correct and improve this image and their position within Yemeni society.

Wafa Nayif, women's affairs specialist for the National Women's Committee, described the committee's aim, noting that it seeks to reform those legal statutes pertaining to women, which reduce women's rights or make them unequal to those for men.

# More casualties of Sa'ada war

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Dec. 5 — Three citizens were killed and another injured in the Haidan district of Sa'ada due to confrontations with Seventh Division infantry on Tuesday. Tanks and armored vehicles from the division struck Al-Thalawth village in the district, destroying ten occupied homes and the village mosque.

Armed clashes between government troops and Houthi supporters have become a daily phenomenon, locals in Sa'ada governorate claim, adding that some tribal groups have joined different sides in the conflict.

Three Houthis were ambushed Tuesday in Dhehian district's Al-Ja'amala area. Fellowmen of Sheikh Salem Derham, who was shot dead last week, are reported to be behind the ambush. In the same area, a small tribal group backing the army fired at a bus with heavy machine guns, leaving one passenger dead.

Since the shootout between army and Houthi supporters erupted nearly three months ago, Sa'ada and Amran have experienced unprecedented standoffs,

including assassination attempts and arrest campaigns against Houthi loyalists. Army units in both governorates have set up ambushes against tribesmen with suspected Houthi connections, killing three, injuring six and detaining dozens.

Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, leader of the Sa'ada rebels, said that his allies in both governorates are suffering from flagrant crimes, adding that Sa'ada citizens will no longer tolerate any arrest campaigns or attempts to assassinate his followers. A source close to Al-Houthi denied media reports that the man's supporters carried out offensives on army units deployed in various areas.

Military forces, affiliated with the Kahlan and Katfa divisions, raided Al Salah village in Nishour after assaulting it with tanks and heavy machine guns last week, tribal and media sources said last Thursday. They went on to say that the raiding soldiers evicted locals from their homes and separated the men and women, under the pretext of inspecting the homes for weapons and Houthi militants.

The soldiers claimed that the villagers opened fire on the army, and hav-

ing found neither militants nor weapons, the soldiers bombed three houses belonging to Al-Houthi supporters.

## Local outrage

The Al Salah incident and arrest of a household head and one of his sons fuelled rage and tension among the village inhabitants in particular and Sa'ada citizens in general. They consider assaults on the village and searching its inhabitants barbaric conduct and an attempt to humiliate Sa'ada citizens under the guise of cracking down on rebels.

"Sheikh Jaber and his sons are highly respected and have high social status in their village. They have never been involved in past fighting between the army and Houthis. But what the soldiers did is a barbaric act, reminding people of the brutalities the village suffered during the Othmani occupation," one of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi's relatives said.

A military campaign against the village and other nearby hamlets was launched in retaliation for the killing of five soldiers in the area more than one

week ago. According to local sources, army units deployed in Sa'ada have been reshuffled and new security checkpoints set up on roads leading to some of Sa'ada villages, as part of a calculated plan to wage a fifth war in the restive governorate.

Soldiers at checkpoints searched and taunted by-passers, accusing them of being loyal to Al-Houthi, eyewitnesses told media, adding that over the past ten days, many peasants were shot dead on their farms by soldiers over charges of having connections with Al-Houthi, as part of the alleged plot to fuel another war in the province. According to locals, Askar Zuail, Manager of Commander Ali Muhsen Al-Ahmar's Office in Sa'ada, gave a sermon in one of the area's mosques which the army gained control of after forcing the Houthis from the area, in which he described those supporting Abdulmalik Al-Houthi as 'disbelievers'.

"Kill all the Shiite Houthi supporters for the sake of Allah and the Prophet Mohammed, not for the sake of President Ali Abdullah Saleh," the preacher said, demonstrating defiance of the agreed-upon ceasefire.

## Human situation in the restive governorate

There are approximately 7,500 displaced Sa'ada citizens near the Saudi border, of whom most are living in tents, while others were given shelters by host families after their homes were destroyed in the fourth war between government troops and Houthi militants.

"The human situation in Sa'ada is deteriorating over time and displaced citizens are suffering from deadly diseases, including respiratory track pains, anemia and malnutrition," Islamic Relief-Yemen said in a statement.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Sana'a, the war-ravaged governorate suffers from polluted and unhealthy water after the water system was damaged during the war.

International relief organizations operating in Sa'ada fear that the human situation in Sa'ada may go from bad to worse as clashes renew and the conflicting parties refuse to obey the ceasefire agreement, which was reached with help from the Qatari government last

June. The Houthis complain that the government is not committed to the agreement, nor does it allow displaced citizens to return home. They accused the relevant authorities of being indifferent toward reconstructing citizens' damaged property in conformity with the Qatar-sponsored agreement.

The government has given no reaction to the human situation in Sa'ada, nor did it provide information about renewed clashes in different areas of the province. In the meantime, observers of the situation expressed high concern that a fifth war may break out, thereby destroying any remaining infrastructure in the war-torn governorate. Observers unanimously agree that there have been no clear motives behind the four Sa'ada wars since the first erupted in June 2004.

Regarding circulated rumors that the Qatari mediation failed to end the crisis, informed sources said that Qatar pulled back its representatives in the mediation committee because it differed with the Yemeni government over the mechanism of distributing compensations to citizens whose property was damaged in the repeated wars.

# Gitmo returnees need rehabilitation program, lawyers speculate

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Dec. 5 — While U.S. military in Guantanamo released hundreds of different nationalities recently, American lawyers representing Yemeni detainees at the remote Cuban island claim that the Yemeni government does not do enough to release its citizens.

"We lawyers have not been given a seat at the negotiating table, so all we can do is speculate. There have been many public statements from the U.S. to the effect that Yemen and a handful of other countries are not willing to negotiate in good faith for the return of their countrymen. As I have frequently stated, if President Saleh really wants to bring the Yemeni men back home, he has to do more than have his spokesmen make empty public statements about "demanding" repatriations. Other countries -- like Bahrain, for example -- have successfully negotiated with the Americans for their citizens' return. The plain fact is that President Saleh's government has so far failed to deliver. We measure success by results, not by the volume of public statements," stated Marc Falkoff, who represents sixteen

Yemeni men who have been detained at Guantanamo (Gitmo) for nearly six years.

## Yemen less proactive than other countries

Falkoff, who is also a professor of criminal law at Northern Illinois University, revealed that more than 770 men from dozens of countries have been detained at Gitmo since 2002, but more than 400 of them have subsequently been released. Saudi Arabia, for example, has had 100 of its 130 citizens returned from the prison camp. He elaborated, "Yemen is now the country with the largest number of prisoners at Gitmo and only 12 of its 110 citizens -- including 1 of my clients -- have been released in the last 6 years. A thirteenth Yemeni came home in a body bag, having died under suspicious circumstances in the prison. Even more frustrating, a number of the Yemeni detainees -- including 2 of my clients -- were designated years ago by the military as eligible to return to Yemen, yet they are still in prison on the remote Cuban island."

The American Boston Globe newspaper quoted U.S. officials saying that Saudi Arabia has been more assertive

than Yemen on the issue. Former detainees have been reintegrated into society with an expensive rehabilitation program that includes religious reeducation, psychological counseling, and furnished apartments - even brides.

The program, which began in 2003, has processed 2,000 extremists, of which 700 have been released. Part of the counseling process is to encourage them to settle down and get married and have kids.

According to the newspaper, the Saudi Gitmo returnees enter a special version of the program; they remain in custody but are allowed meals with loved ones and relatives.

"I personally believe that for many, if not most, of the Guantanamo prisoners from Yemen, any reeducation or rehabilitation program is unnecessary because they are in fact innocent of any wrongdoing whatsoever. But if all that stands between my clients' continued imprisonment and their transfer back home is the lack of a similar rehabilitation program, then surely it is in the Yemen citizenry's best interest to demand that their leaders establish a similar program," commented Falkoff.

State of returnees, rehabilitation efforts

So far, Yemeni Gitmo returnees are directly put in political prison, where they are not allowed to see their lawyers or relatives, and stay without facing clear charges. In 2005 and 2006 the Yemeni government placed some of them on trial. None were charged with terrorist-related activities.

"We have not carried out any kind of dialogue with Gitmo detainees" said judge Hamoud Al-Hitar, the head of Yemen's Dialogue Committee, which aims at steering extremists away from violence through a number of dialogue sessions.

Hitar, who has been the chairman of the Dialogue Committee since it was established in 2002, confirmed that the idea of inserting the Gitmo returnees inside the committee program is not new. However, he added that the Yemeni government has not sent any of the thirteen Gitmo returnees. "We are coordinating with the government to talk with the suspects believed to be sympathetic to Al-Qaeda and other extremist groups. Our program consists of two parts: one is theoretical, where we discuss elements related to tolerance. The second part is security, in which subjects are monitored to insure that they are no longer danger-



Yemeni nationals are said to be the largest group of detainees still existing in Guantanamo Bay Prison.

ous," he explained. He did not explain why the government has not sent Gitmo returnees yet. "We have announced many times that we don't mind receiving the returnees," he commented.

Recently, local human rights organization HOOD declared that it is working with the International Justice Network to provide Yemeni doctors with training courses about psychological rehabilitation to the detainees to

enable them to cope with their new lives at home. "They were isolated for a long time, separated from their families; none were treated in accord with the Geneva Conventions. Many of them have now spent a quarter of their lives behind bars, uncharged and untried. And when they came back they were rearrested by Yemeni security without charges," noted Ahmed Arman, lawyer and human rights activist.

# UAE embassy celebrates National Day amid prospering commercial relations with Yemen

SANA'A, Dec. 4 — In a huge celebration that included many social and diplomatic figures, Emirates ambassador Ali Saif Sultan Al-Awani commemorated the 36th anniversary of UAE National Day last Sunday at the embassy's premises in Sana'a.

Al-Awani welcomed the guests and commented on the achievements the United Arab Emirates has accomplished throughout the years, especially with regards to tourism and commerce that has made it a pioneering country in the region.

At the celebration, Yemeni officials praised the support and influence UAE has in Yemen and commented on the good relations shared between the two countries. UAE is one of the GCC members in favor of Yemen's joining the council, and has provided continuous support to develop Yemeni economy.

"GCC countries believe that Yemen would be a vital addition to the council, hence asking Yemen to join some establishments was a preliminary step towards full membership, when the circumstances are right," said Sheikh

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE's Foreign Minister during the recent gulf summit.

On the same front, end of last month, Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance and Industry, welcomed economic and investment cooperation and affirmed the UAE's readiness to offer its expertise to Arab brotherly countries.

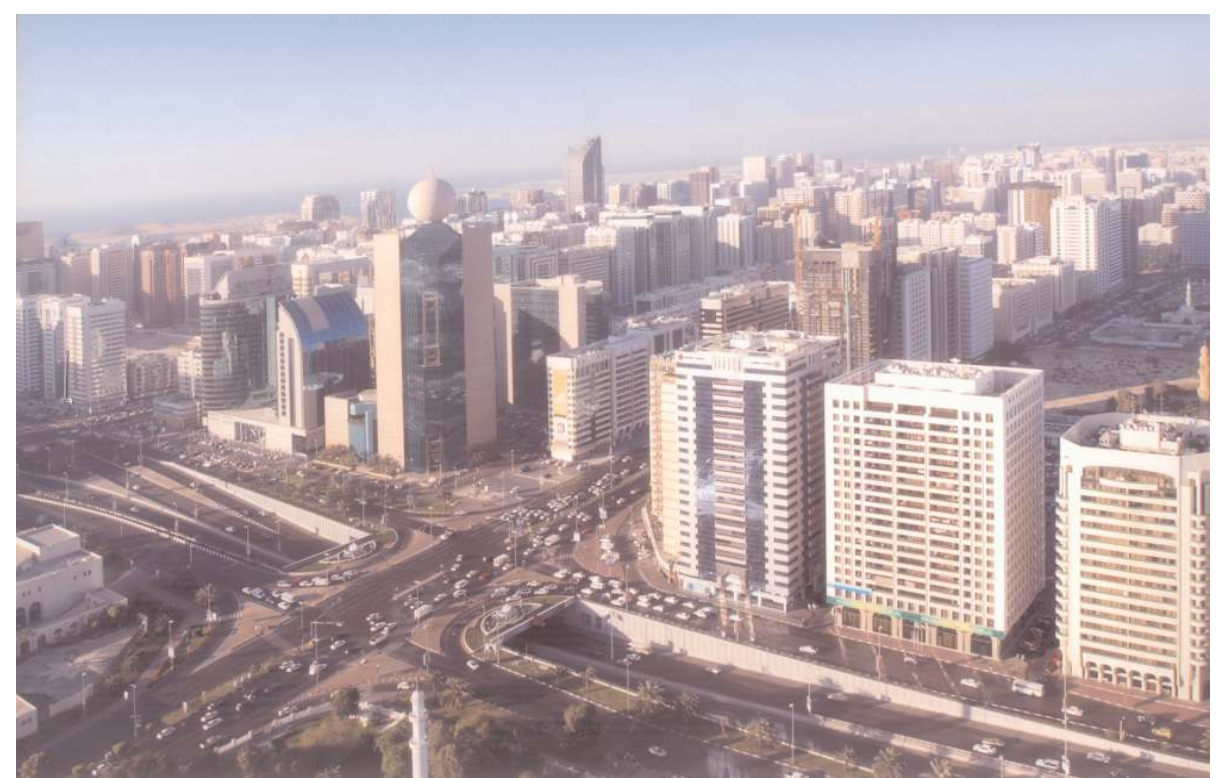
Consequently, on Saturday, Transportation Minister Khaled al-Wazir revealed that Yemen and International Dubai Seaport Company signed last Wednesday a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint Yemeni-UAE Company to develop and operate Aden Container Terminal. The memo was signed during the visit of Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi to the United Arab Emirates. The agreement stipulates a 50-50 percent share for the signing parties.

Yemeni authorities at the ministries of trade, and planning have continuously expressed their optimism at this

agreement hoping that Yemen can benefit from the Emirates expertise in development.

When the UAE was first established, President Sheikh Zayed and his colleagues had the foresight to decide that the revenues from oil, and later, gas exports should be used to fund a major program of development of the country's infrastructure. Over the next three decades UAE government was able to lay down the essential elements of a thriving society, including housing, medical services, airports, ports and a modern transportation infrastructure, as well as a system of state education for the country's citizens that provides free schooling from the primary stage to university level.

During the embassy's celebration in Sana'a, a documentary was displayed in honor of late Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan, the founder of UAE in 1970. "The people of UAE are now enjoying the development fruits that resulted in the stability and prosperity we see today, which was led by Sheikh Zaid who devoted his life for building this state," said Al-Awani.



A view from Abu Dhabi. Both real estate and business services, and the building and construction sector benefited directly from the construction boom, which has spread throughout the country



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## University grads seek to develop Yemen via their shared experiences

Scores of Yemeni graduates from British universities gathered Dec. 1 at the British ambassador's home in Sana'a to share their experiences in various fields as they seek to contribute to their country's development. **Hamed Thabet** attended the gathering and talked with them.

**R**oughly 70 Yemenis having graduated from British universities and now holding high government and non-governmental positions in Yemen discussed creating a network to keep in touch with each other, as well as their alma maters.

The students were recipients of Chevening scholarships to study at the postgraduate level in the U.K., awarded locally by the Sana'a-based British Embassy and the British Council. Some graduated last year, while others graduated several years ago. The group intends to share about their experiences in various fields via a planned network.

According to Edrees Al-Qadasi, information and marketing project manager at the British Council, the council's main aim is building relationships between the U.K. and Yemen. "These graduates gathered here tonight in order to keep in contact and share their experiences. Now that they're back from the U.K., have completed their studies and obtained good and influential posts within the Yemeni government and in other sectors such as NGOs and the private sector, they can use their influence to help others advance their nation."

He added that the British Council plans to establish a committee to organize the alumni.

At the gathering, the graduates offered specific suggestions about what they want and what they need. The most valuable goal they hoped to achieve was forming a British Alumni Society with the help of both the British Embassy and the British Council.

British Ambassador to Yemen Tim Torlot remarked to those gathered, "Welcome home to this year's returned Chevening graduates, all now back from a year's intensive study in the U.K. and with a very strong record of receiving excellent degrees from excellent univer-

sities. Particular congratulations to the two of this year's graduates who achieved distinctions."

He continued, "The British Embassy and the British Council will support an alumni association, but it's for you to lead and I know you're not short on leadership skills."

The ambassador pledged his support for the Yemeni graduates, hoping for their help in return. "I've seen how alumni associations in other countries can work, develop and be very useful, as well as enjoyable, for their members. Given the quality of Yemen's Chevening scholars, I have no doubt that you have the ability to establish something as exemplary as you scholars here tonight."

Sana'a British Council Director Elizabeth White's face displayed obvious happiness at seeing the Yemeni graduates indicate their clear and strong desire to organize a committee for scholarship recipients to remain in regular contact.

She enthused, "I'm really happy to see all the students come back and doing their best to develop their country. I think there's a lot to gain from a network such as this one gathered at the British's ambassador's house tonight. This network and gathering will allow them to share what they learned in Britain and work with each other, so I believe this is a good beginning."

The director remarked that she's amazed by the hope and realism of Yemeni students, noting that her impression about Yemen is positive. "I've worked in five different countries, interviewing potential scholarship students in all of them. After three years in Yemen and seeing its scholars return with excellent degrees from excellent universities, my first impression of it was correct."

**The scholarship process**  
White said selecting the scholars is hard



University grads gathering at the British ambassador's home in Sana'a.

YT PHOTO BY HAMED THABET

for the British Council because there's such strong competition; for example, only 15 to 20 students will be chosen from among 200 applications for this year's program.

"The scholarship covers nearly everything, including tuition, living expenses in Britain - which isn't cheap - and apparel for the British winter," she noted.

The British Council usually looks for those individuals with a bachelor's degree and who have worked two to three years after graduation. Good knowledge of English also is essential.

White explained further, "We look for those who we think will be important in the future in developing their country. They may be in any field - health, education, human rights, journalism and many others."

Torlot noted, "This week, we'll begin interviewing those candidates hoping to be next year's Chevening scholars. In looking through the applications and talking with my colleagues, I'm struck by the very high quality of the applica-

tions we receive for the scholarship.

"Granted, that's not the case for each and every one, but in general, applicants are young people eager for the chance to study, who are clear about their path to success and confident in their abilities and their prospects, and above all, determined to work for the future of their country."

Eilidh Hamilton, English director at the British Council in Sana'a, explained, "These individuals go to the U.K. to study and take advantage of the opportunities there in order to help develop their country when they return. Because they are chosen to be the future leaders and greatly impact their society, the British Council and the British Embassy feel the need to provide them with the best opportunities upon their return and that is to maintain their network of contacts."

She continued, "Most hold high and influential posts, so it's good for them to gather and share their experiences, as well as establish communication and rapport. It's a social support."

Upon the students' return from the U.K., the British Council keeps in touch with them, but never seeks any promises from or imposes any duties upon them. White noted, "The only thing we tell them is, 'We believe in you because you have an important future in Yemen.' Some don't do this, but most do well and succeed."

She went on, "Sometimes, those who've lived abroad previously and those who've recently returned need to know each other, so this is brought about by bringing them together in a setting such as tonight's. This involves cooperation between the British Council and the British Embassy, as both work together. The embassy bears the students' expenses while the British Council interviews, selects and prepares them."

"Of course, the program also is to encourage youth to go for further studies," White noted, "Currently, we send eight to 12 students to the U.K. every year, but we plan to send more."

### Graduates' experiences and suggestions

The Yemeni graduates who studied in the U.K. shared their experiences at the gathering and offered their suggestions. While the gathering certainly sought for the scholars to get to know each other by sharing their backgrounds and what they want to accomplish, the main goal was to bring together their experiences and try to create a better future for Yemen by better developing their specific fields.

"It's difficult to return to Yemen and invest what you've learned, but it's time we talked about these issues," said Hashem Awnallah, a previous Chevening scholar and now assistant deputy minister for externally funded projects, programming and evaluation at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

He further suggested, "It would be good if scholars are really interested in their particular field so they can use the time and opportunities in a fruitful way. Additionally, when they return to Yemen, they should think about, be optimistic and benefit from the lessons they learned."

"It would be interesting to know how many have graduated since the beginning of this scholars program, where they are now, what they're doing and what difficulties they're facing," Awnallah added.

Moreover, he noted, "I applied for the scholarship in 1997, studying at and graduating from the University of Wales College of Medicine. It was an extremely interesting and useful program, so I hope the British Council continues the scholarship."

Fahmia Al-Fotaih, a research and knowledge management associate at UNDP, commented, "My yearlong scholarship in 2005 and 2006 was in media and communication studies. During that time, I was exposed to many different experiences, on both an educational and a personal and professional level."

She added, "I'm very glad to meet those here tonight from different communities and who hold various posts. I can see that everyone is so comfortable with each other and about what they're doing for Yemen."

### AMIDEAST/YEMEN JOB ANNOUNCEMENT AMIDEAST/Yemen offices are expanding!

AMIDEAST is recruiting for an Assistant Country Director who will be based in its main offices in Sana'a. The Assistant Country Director will oversee the internal operations of AMIDEAST/Yemen's Sana'a, Aden, and Mukalla offices, providing guidance and support to the Country Director on educational advising and testing, program management, and financial and administrative management of AMIDEAST programs, services, and projects. The Assistant Country Director will be required to travel in Yemen for outreach purposes and to AMIDEAST's branch offices in Aden and Mukalla.

#### Tasks and Responsibilities:

Tasks and responsibilities for this position include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Accounting and Finance
- Personnel and Supervision
- Site Management
- Procurement
- Advising and Testing Program Administration
- Corporate and Customer Relations

#### Qualifications:

##### Required:

- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English. Non-native speakers must submit recent (less than two years old) TOEFL® or TOEIC® scores;
- Bachelor's degree in education, business, or a related field;
- A minimum of five (5) years of professional work experience directly involved in the field of education, business administration, customer service, or marketing;
- Strong communication and organizational skills, including attention to detail;
- Strong people skills;
- Ability to work under pressure;
- Ability to work flexible hours;
- Strong ability to work within a team environment;
- Proficiency in the Microsoft Windows environment, specifically Word, Excel, Access, and Power Point applications; and
- Familiarity with computerized accounting systems and applications.

##### Preferred:

- Master's degree in related field
- Arabic language proficiency

#### Understanding:

This description is not intended to be all-inclusive, and the incumbent will perform other reasonable business-related duties as assigned by his/her supervisor, when necessary. AMIDEAST reserves the right to change duties and responsibilities of this position as the need arises.

#### To Apply:

Individuals interested in applying for this position should submit an expression of interest, three letters of reference, and an updated resume via e-mail to eprados@amideast.org by December 19, 2007.

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**AMIDEAST/YEMEN JOB ANNOUNCEMENT****AMIDEAST/Yemen offices are expanding!**

AMIDEAST is recruiting for an Accountant who will be based in its main offices in Sana'a. This position has primary responsibility for maintaining vouchers, participant and administrative accounting on all projects, payroll, billing, accounts receivable and payable reconciliation, and associated administrative duties.

**Tasks and Responsibilities:**

Tasks and responsibilities for this position include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Help monitor the office's fiscal affairs in accordance with prescribed policies and procedures, including timely and accurate financial reporting to AMIDEAST Headquarters and compliance with host country laws dealing with financial and personnel matters;
- Maintain a property inventory of fixed assets;
- Solicit and evaluate bids and offers to determine best value and to ensure that specifications meet requirements of solicitations;
- Ensure timeliness of technical deliverables and financial and technical reporting;
- Verify and submit all vouchers relating to the monthly cycle on a daily basis;
- Reconcile and monitor accounts;
- Verify participant-related vouchers, prepare vouchers for approval, and upon approval generate participant checks;
- Prepare income entries;
- Assist in preparing trainer and staff travel reports;
- Process accounts receivables, accounts payables and project billings;
- Review bills and vouchers for accuracy; and
- Monitor financial transactions, ensuring that all recurring and one-time bills are paid promptly

**Qualifications:****Required:**

- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken Arabic and English. Non-native speakers must submit recent (less than two years old) TOEFL® or TOEIC® scores;
- Bachelor's degree in accounting;
- Professional work experience directly involved in accounting;
- Strong communication and organizational skills, including attention to detail;
- Strong people skills;
- Ability to work under pressure;
- Ability to work flexible hours;
- Strong ability to work within a team environment;
- Proficiency in the Microsoft Windows environment, specifically Word, Excel, and Access; and
- Familiarity with computerized accounting systems and applications.

**To Apply:**

Individuals interested in applying for this position should submit an expression of interest and an updated resume via e-mail to [yemen@amideast.org](mailto:yemen@amideast.org) by December 12, 2007.

**Invitation for Expression of Interest**

Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Water & Environment  
**WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM (SWAp)**  
Financed through  
**Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP)**

This request for Expression of Interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. 660 dated 16 August 2005.

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for an "Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Study."

The services include the conduct of a strategic ESIA for the proposed Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) to be implemented under a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) by the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The main objectives of the WSSP are to improve access to urban and rural water supply and sanitation services, to increase returns to water use in agriculture, and to strengthen sector institutions for sustainable water resources management and environmental protection. The ESIA will review and assess the planned interventions in WSSP and prepare a fully integrated and strategic assessment making use of (i) reports of on-going sector interventions; (ii) the planned update of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Program (NWSSIP); (iii) the recently completed Poverty and Social Impact Assessment (PSIA) of water reforms in irrigation, rural water supply, and ground-water management; and (iv) the planned PSIA for urban water reforms. The ESIA is planned for completion by July 30, 2008.

The SBWMP now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines: Selection and employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999) and (May 2002 the Consultant Guidelines).

Interested consultants may obtain further information by contacting the PCU office during official working hours (08:00 to 15:00) at the project's address below:

Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below by January 15, 2008

**Sana'a Basin Water Management Project**

**Project Director: Mr. Saleh Al-Dubby**

**West Side of Al Setteen Street at end of 20th St.**

**Email [saldubby@yemen.net.ye](mailto:saldubby@yemen.net.ye);**

**Tel: (+967 1 469156/7/9; Mobile: +967-777148872)**

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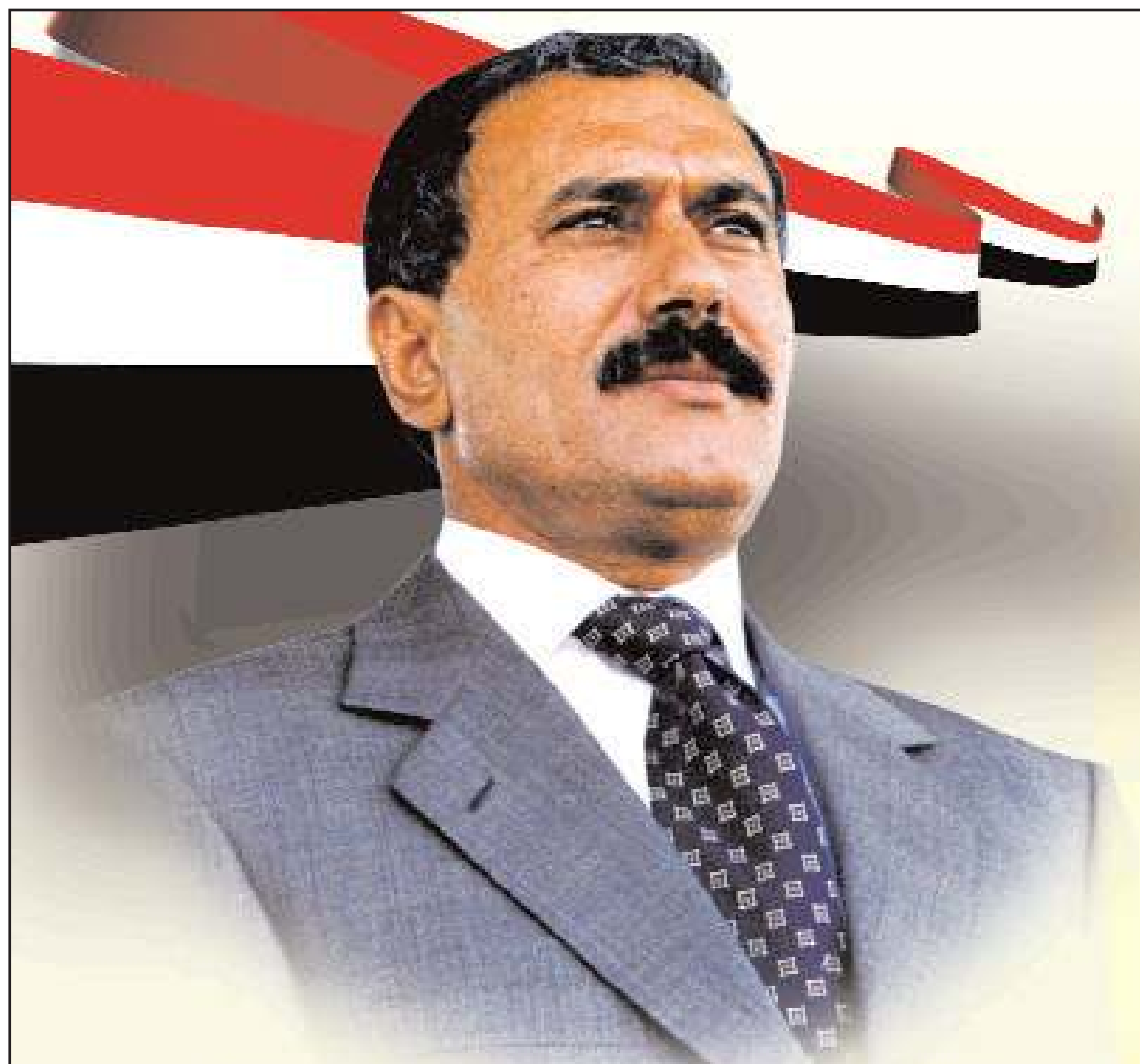
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## Thank You, Mr. President

Celebrating the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Independence Day, November 30th, Safer Exploration & Production Operations Company (SEPOC) has the pleasure to convey its best felicitations and congratulations to the Yemeni people and the political leadership represented by the national figure and sponsor of investments

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شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج  
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## شكر و عرفان

بمناسبة إحتفالات شعبنا بالذكرى الأربعين لعيد الإستقلال الـ ٣٠ من نوفمبر، يسر شركة صافر لعمليات الإستكشاف والإنتاج أن ترفع أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني والقيادة السياسية وفي مقدمتها رمز الوطن وداعم الإستثمار الإقتصادي فخامة الرئيس

علي عبد الله صالح

كما يسرنا أن نرف بك فخر واعتزاز يا فخامة الرئيس إليكم وإلى الوطن بشار عامين من النجاح تحققت لشركة صافر بفضل رعايتكم الكريمة ودعمكم اللامحدود منذ تولي الشركة إدارة قطاع (١٨) والذي كان لتوجيهاتكم السيدة لنا الأثر البالغ في تحقيق ما وصلت إليه الشركة اليوم.

حيث تعد شركة صافر الشركة الوطنية الإستكشافية والإنتاجية الأولى في اليمن بكل كفاءة واقتدار.

وإذ نعاهدكم على المضي قدماً وتحقيق نجاحات أخرى لتصبح رافداً جديداً في تطور البلد وخدمة الإقتصاد والشعب اليمني لتبقى شركة صافر رمزاً للطموح والنجاح لكل مؤسسة وشركة حاضراً ومستقبلاً.

إننا إدارة ومنتسبي ومهندسي وموظفي وعمال شركة صافر نثمن عالياً جهودكم لدعم هذا المشروع الوطني العملاق.

المدير التنفيذي ونائبه وكافة منتسبي  
شركة صافر لعمليات الإستكشاف والإنتاج

# The SCER's Crisis!

Once again, the formation of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referenda (SCER) is becoming a crisis situation. The General People's Congress (GPC), which has been Yemen's one ruling party for the past 12 years, sidelined the issue of SCER until its term in office has expired. Only then, the GPC's block in the Yemeni House of Representatives (HR) decided to take the issue up for a floor discussion. In terms of policy orientation, the GPC seems to pursue business as usual, which means in this case to dominate the SCER and to decide elections' results even before voters cast their ballots. But the old ways of doing things are no longer tolerated. With the country sliding into chaos, the last thing the Yemeni opposition and independents want is to heat yesterday's meal and serve it as today's dish.

In the past, President Saleh, who has complete control over party rank and file, was viewed by the main competing social and political forces as an arbitrator. In that capacity, and for many years, Saleh maintained a delicate balance that kept his regime afloat. He largely drew his support and legitimacy from an extraordinary ability to build, maintain, and balance alliances. For the most part, he was indirectly elected by members of the HR whom he had personally selected and supported during elections. As a result, he always had the final word on almost everything, including the formation of the seemingly independent SCER. He has single-

handedly picked up members of every SCER formed during the past 14 years. And every SCER formed has mostly acted on Saleh's wishes.

But things have dramatically changed over the past few years. The causes of change are many. Some are indigenous to Saleh's regime; others are exogenous. In terms of indigenous factors, Saleh, the long serving soft dictator, lost interest in building, maintaining, and balancing alliances. Instead, Saleh started to concentrate power, wealth, and force in his relatives, in-laws, and undoubted loyalists. In terms of exogenous forces, the country's unification, the population's explosion, and increase in literacy all led to increasing demand for resources, including political power. They also made Saleh's job harder than ever before. To meet the challenges, Saleh followed a policy of exclusion and deprivation. He sought to weaken his current and potential political rivals by employing flawed electoral processes. At the same time, Saleh's ability to rule effectively significantly diminished. While the world is rapidly changing around him, Saleh appears to be increasingly preoccupied with political survival.

And, as the country's political, social, and economic conditions ran from bad to worse, Yemen's main opposition forces



By: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih

joined hands and formed the Joint Meeting Parties (the JMP) in 1993. By the end of 1995, the JMP adopted a broad platform called the JMP's Initiative for Political and National Reforms. The initiative, which resembles in its significance the British magna carta, called for comprehensive political, economic, social, and cultural reforms. Electoral reforms, in particular, are seen as the first step in a long process of nation building. By electoral reforms, the JMP and independents refer to reforms tacking the electoral system, process, and administration.

In terms of the formation of SCER, the JMP seeks to ensure that the SCER enjoy genuine independence and neutrality. To achieve that goal, various reforms should be carried out, including the alteration of the electoral system. The JMP proposes that membership in the commission is equally divided between the ruling party and opposition parties. The 9 seats should be divided 5-4 with the presidency of the commission counted as two seats.

By contrast, the GPC insists on staffing the commission by judges. The JMP rejects the GPC's proposal on the ground that such an approach does not promote neutrality of elections' administration. It is argued by many in Yemen that the judicial system itself lacks independence and its members are

socialized into an environment full of corruption and patronage. Judges' chances of appointment and promotion depend largely on personal and clientele relationships to those in power.

The GPC's second option is to distribute the SCER's seats according to parties' seats in parliament. The JMP rejects the option arguing that the SCER is a referee and, as such, it should be neutral and the political weight of competing parties should not be used as a criterion for determining the distribution of SCER's seats.

So far, the situation seems to have reached a deadlock. The GPC is adopting a hard-line position threatening to go ahead and use its super majority in the HR to form the SCER alone. The GPC leaders whisper in the ears of their associates that only the president can soften the position and no one in the party has the power to make concessions. Likewise, the JMP views the formation of SCER as a defining step of what politics will look like in the future. They are convinced that the regime is preparing a coup det' against democracy.

While both parties defend their standpoints, one thing seems to be certain; if the upcoming SCER is not made neutral enough, the serving HR will be the last elected parliament in today's Yemen.

The author is a professor of politics at Sana'a University. For comments, please email the author at: dralfaqih@yahoo.com

## COMMON SENSE

### Winds of change

One is bound to think about the trends and the way the world is shaping up to be, especially with everything having gone so long-sided for the last seven years now going on eight. For the people of the Near East there are some good tidings for a change. In fact there was a time when one thought that this part of the world would never see the light of the day. Thanks to the shrinking geography of the world and to the untiring efforts of many people in this world who want to be viewed as the infinite seekers of the truth, it seems that the shouting voices of wisdom are beginning to see all their screaming and shouting come to the opening of the tunnel.

For the good part of the past decade, the media was controlled by the evil forces of the world that sought to actually mislead and then direct public opinion to have a distorted image of the world and how it should be managed. For a while, it seemed that the evil elements of the "international community" represented by a misguided United States, with a menacing Administration that hedged all its bets on narrow and sleazy minded interests, that thought that the world was for the taking to do with as they please and to divide its spoils to the benefit of a few corporate cutthroats, who believe that profit is the only justification for which the world is turning and only for them and no one else. Thus to these monsters of this age, one can even kill for a profit and get away with it so easily. Indeed it would be foolish if anyone thought about such things, as morals, ethics and goodwill, especially when all the laws and international conventions, for which humanity has struggled to put in place for so many centuries, have been thrown to the incinerator of lost conscience.

For the many in this world, who really held on stubbornly to the premonition that humanity simply could never stoop so low as to live without morality, even if corporate America and the International Zionist Establishment clogged all the media channels to make sure that such decadence of human naivety are forever removed from the mindset of those with the God sent privilege of knowing better and who are stubbornly insistent that humanity must move forward in matter and in spirit. It is God's will and so let it be. For those privileged few, God has indeed shown those subtle signs that it really isn't all that bad, if you just carry on your struggle without fear and hesitation. Oh sure, the evil forces of the world have the gun and they are using it and aiming it recklessly (even from the air as Yemen's gun slinging security showed last week in Aden). But then, they lack the mind and the wherewithal to stand up against the determined human drive to be free and to tear down the walls of arrogance and tyranny, both anathema to any true God-fearing person, even if the international mob of Zionism and Western chauvinism decides to unleash its killing machine against every already impoverished person of the world. Even if the very dictators that rule this part of the world think their mentors in Washington would never let them go (forgetting what happened to Saddam and now Lebanon), their time is slowly going by. If America took eight years to realize the folly of bad leadership and the dominance of foolish interests in the shaping of America's policy towards the rest of the world, thanks to the enlightenment of so many Americans, who valiantly said, hey what we did in Iraq was wrong; what our Israeli allies and their friends in the International Zionist Establishment are goading us towards in the Persian Gulf is both self-defeating and somewhat irrational, let alone unjustified and of course illegal. Arrogance is the biggest of man's follies and there is no room for it, if man is to bring about a world free from all the agonies of inequality, repression and selfishness.

As the world nears the end of the Year 2007, it should begin to make the scattered and disparate voices of the world that are crying for a world free from injustice, needless bloodshed, disease, pollution, hatred, chauvinism and arrogance a greater chance to illustrate the world humanity should have. They are not guided by selfishness, but a sincere desire to really see a better world. In other words, it is time for a world as God would only have it. A world of peace.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Bicameral legislature in the United States of Yemen

By: Safa Abdussalam Karaman

The initiative that President Ali Abdullah Saleh declared on September 24, 2007 aroused numerous questions and created a verbal structural problem in the prevalent political mind. This problem came to existence as things are given names other than theirs, and this reminds us of the famous saying by Imam Mohammed Abdu that is "Allah puts his damnation on a politician running politics in the wrong way".

The initiative, which suggested constitutional amendments with the aim of developing the political democratic system and replacing the local authority system by local governance, is merely an evident example of political misguidance covered by a superficial democratic program.

Having a look at the course of the national unity, starting with the Cairo Agreement on October 28, 1972 and ending with the most recent presidential initiative to amend the constitution made me, as a student in the Faculty of Law, criticize the fabricated means to falsify facts.

Mr. President gave us a kind of initiative assuming homogeneity between the Yemeni and American political mindedness by transforming the political system in the country into a fully presidential system. Adopting a full presidential system in Yemen is quite impossible because such a system entails separation between authorities. Employing the style of Dr. Haitham Mana'a, I raise two questions: 1) Is it possible to apply a full presidential system in the absence of real pluralism in the society and in our political and intellectual visions? 2) Isn't it necessary to have a real pluralism that doesn't restrict activities and efforts of the opposition?

A full presidential system can never be applied unless there is a real partisan plurality that makes the majority equal the half plus one, as well as makes competition and political dynamics between parties very active. There should

be real negotiations between parties and actual conflict for obtaining supportive votes concerning any proposed amendments like what is working in the U.S. Congress.

### A presidential system necessitates a bicameral legislature:

As long as the initiative proceeds on the path of the Boss (U.S.), a question will be raised about the Shoura Council's identity under a full presidential system. Will this council have powers similar to those devolved to the U.S. House of Senators? Paragraph Two in the First Article of the Constitution of the United States of America reads, "Only the House of Senators has the power to run trials of all parliamentary indictments. When President of the United States of America is standing trial, Chief Judge of the Supreme Court shall chair up the hearings."

Nobody may be convicted unless two-thirds of the attending members agree." So, will the Shoura Council in Yemen run trials on parliamentary indictments? And if the trial is done, will the suspected member be convicted in case of votes by the overwhelming majority? Who is the independent Chief Judge of the Supreme Court to try Mr. President?

The Shoura Council has no powers while Parliament, amid the overwhelming majority, is merely a functional body for implementing will of the executive authority. At this point, we reached the highest level of shrewdness in emptying out content of the bicameral parliament's role by making this legislature a consultative authority for the executive, represented by Mr. President.

Under a full presidential system, the executive authority is not entitled to propose draft laws to Parliament, even when it comes to the Budget Law, which is the most important one among these laws. It is Parliament that prepares the state's general budget through its technical committees, as well as discusses and approves this budget. In his book entitled "Legitimate Policy in Reforming the Ruler and Ruled", the Islamic Scholar Bin Taimeya (May Allah has mercy on him) argued that "Rule has

two pillars: Power and honesty.

To be a member of Yemeni Parliament, you need to meet the requirement of honesty but power, which is represented by experience and knowledge, is not included. Mr. President, why do you condition honesty for any applicant for membership in parliament while your second requirement, which is power, necessitates only the ability to read and write?

In Yemen, the Country of Belief & Wisdom, one hardly finds any relation between theory and practicality of the presidential system, as well as between political reforms and the initiative recently declared by Mr. President. These are only fake tributes, which you Mr. President and your advisors suggested as the presidential system has nothing to do with this matter.

### The United States of Yemen:

Having a deep glance at the so-called paragraphs contained in the initiative, recently declared by Mr. President, one can find that they are impossible to be applied in real-life situation unless there is a compound state not a simple one. At this point, it is necessary to make a distinction between forms of the regime and the state. Such an initiative is rather required to change the state from simple to compound: having a bicameral parliament.

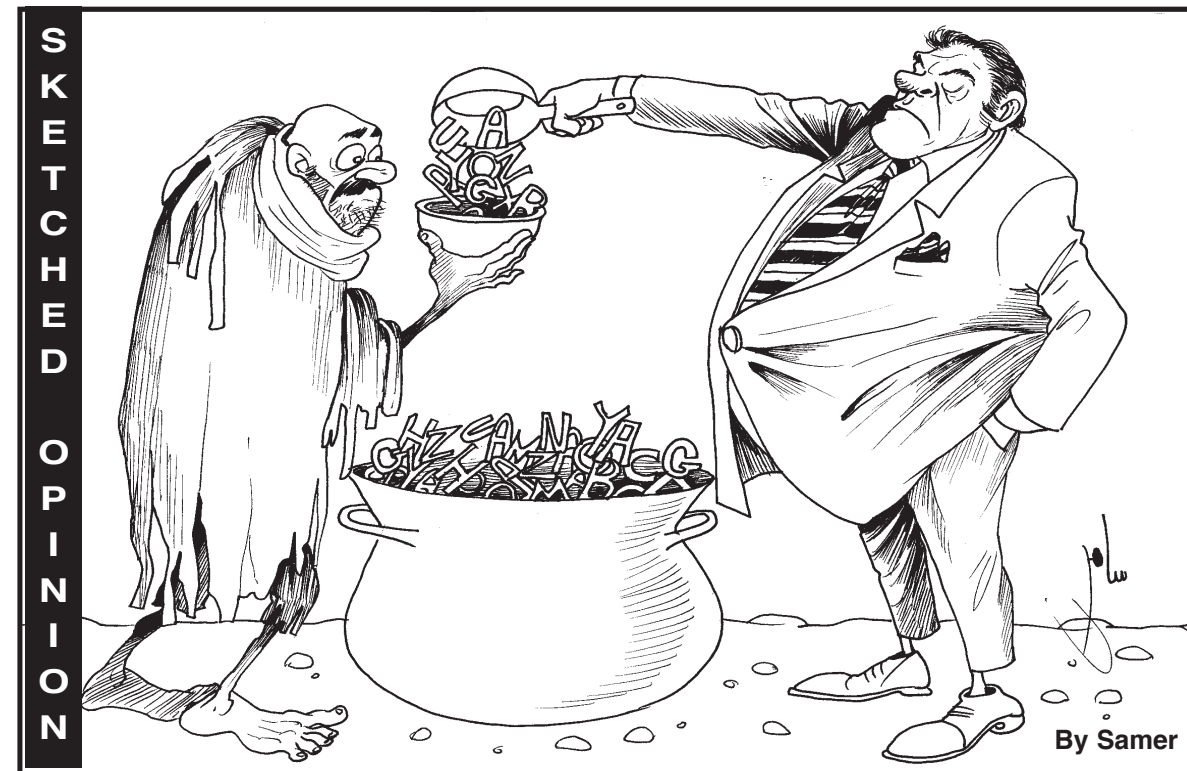
Bicameralism means two chambers, the first of which is Parliament whose members are equal in number to the government agencies. And, the second is the Shoura Council where all the governorates must have equal representation regardless of their areas and population density. Instinctively, Parliament represents people while the Shoura Council does represent the states.

With regard to replacing local authority by local governance, I refer here to Dr. Dael Al-Mekhlafi's book (Administrative Decentralization), one of the subjects being taught in the Faculty of Law. The book states that "Local governance can only be built in the compound state the authorities of which are distributed over the central unit and the government consisting of

several states with each state having its own legislature, executive and judiciary. On the other hand, the simple state has a unified government without any division except in the administrative function while the legislative and judicial jobs remain at the hands of the central government. So, the simple authority has only a local administration.

The detestable exploitation of the prevalent political illiteracy and emptying out the core meaning of what is available at the hands of others is merely a vision for the political elite. This helps widen the gape between the rulers and ruled, as well as enhance the logic of totalitarianism at the expense of the logic of democracy and the republican government.

In fact, Yemen doesn't need any constitutional amendments, nor does the country's situation require changing the standing system. What the country needs is only changing the general conduct of the rulers and ruled.



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# The Kingdom: heavy on action, light on cultural understanding

By: Taqir Washington  
Judith McClintock

Through heart-pumping action and comic relief, *The Kingdom* takes on the often contentious U.S.-Saudi relations, and the even more litigious relationship between America and the Muslim world, with limited success.

The film follows FBI special agent Ronald Fleury (played by Oscar-winner Jamie Foxx) and his secret team of U.S. counterterrorism officials through their adventure in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where they attempt to jump through bureaucratic hoops in an effort to uncover the perpetrator of a recent deadly attack on American civilians and forces in the Saudi capitol.

With lots of bloodshed, the 2007 film directed by Peter Berg is a typical blockbuster action smash with long sequences of fighting and car chasing, leaving audience members glued to the screen and holding onto their seats.

However, because of the film's plot it does explore (albeit limitedly) some deeper issues, including the cultural and political differences that exist between the United States and the Muslim world. For the most part, these differences are exhibited through a comical approach, most likely with the effort to minimize potential offense. The film creators have brought in two comedy heavyweights – Jeremy Piven of *Entourage* and Jason Bateman of the

recently deceased sitcom *Arrested Development* – to offset the often serious matter explored in the film, such as violence inflicted on civilians on behalf of Muslim zealots.

In *Kingdom*, Piven and Bateman play re-creations of the characters that have made them famous – the high-strung Hollywood agent Ari and the dry-humored Michael Bluth respectively. Piven, playing an American diplomat living in Saudi Arabia, for instance, pokes fun at the sole female FBI agent (played by Jennifer Garner) on the counterterrorism team for her negligence to properly cover herself when meeting the Saudi Prince; "Let's tone down the boobies," Piven says in classic Ari fashion.

Bateman, in his dry-humored manner, brings up several cultural misunderstandings between Muslims and Americans, including a scene where he quizzes his colleagues on Islam while reading *The Koran for Dummies*; "how many virgins are there waiting for you in paradise?" he asks. He also offends the Saudi Arabian police officer (Ashraf Barhoum) playing babysitter to the Americans while in the Kingdom by his foul language. Barhoum's character draws a laugh from the audience by claiming he will wash Bateman's mouth out with soap if the profanities continue.

As one can expect in a blockbuster action movie focused around Americans and Muslims, *Kingdom* exhibits its fair share of stereotypes. From portraying Saudis in Jihad-like

training facilities to a pivotal, yet typical, scene where Bateman's character faces death by knife as his masked kidnapper yells about America and Allah to a recording video camera, the film is not shy to show the classic American prejudice attitude of "all Muslims are terrorists."

However, to the filmmakers' credit, stereotypes of Americans are portrayed as well. The typical attitude of American arrogance is heavily exhibited throughout the film, primarily on the part of the FBI team and its attitude that it should, can, and will do as it pleases while abroad, despite being on Saudi soil. In addition, the notion of American ignorance is displayed as well. For instance, in one scene where Foxx is inquiring a man about his wife who died in the attack, the man (played by country music singer Tim McGraw) points to Saudi police officials standing behind Foxx, implicating them merely, exclaiming, "was this for Allah?!"

Despite the stereotypes, the film does explore a positive cultural storyline with the friendship between American Foxx and Saudi Barhoum. Resistant toward each other initially, they gradually become friends through their common goal of finding the bombing perpetrator, who not only killed Americans, but Saudi police officials – friends of Barhoum – as well. As they investigate the bombing, the two become close, learning about one another's lives, and bonding over their mutual careers in public service. Their friendship, mirroring the larger rela-



tionship between America and the Muslim world, offers the notion that peace between these two disparate cultures can be reached, if only on a personal level.

On that note, the end of *Kingdom* is perhaps the most profound in terms of its political and cultural message, when the audience is faced with the realiza-

tion that Americans and Muslims are nothing more than two cultures fighting one another for seemingly futile reasons. Cutting the scene from Foxx and his comrades to a Saudi boy and his mother, the ending dialogue in the film leaves the movie-goer with something deeper to ponder.

Overall, however, while the end of

the film brings some political and cultural philosophy to light, do not expect to find a meaningful discussion on why Americans and Saudis, in particular Muslims, are continually fighting one another. If you're in for intense action – guns, blood, car crashes, gunfire, and killing – with comical banter than *Kingdom* is a must see.

## Farewell to development's old divides

By: James D. Wolfensohn

The notion of a divide between the rich north and the poor and developing south has long been a central concept among economists and policymakers. From 1950 to 1980, the north accounted for almost 80% of global GDP but only 22% of its population, and the south accounted for the remainder of global population and 20% global income.

But the north-south divide is now obsolete. The dynamic process of globalization has resulted in unprecedented levels of growth and interdependence. However, while this has blurred the old division, new ones have emerged, splintering today's world into four inter-connected tiers.

The first tier comprises the affluent countries, notably the United States,

European nations, Australia, and Japan – with a combined population of around one billion and per capita incomes ranging from \$79,000 (Luxembourg) to \$16,000 (Republic of Korea).

For the past 50 years, these affluent countries have dominated the global economy, producing four-fifths of its economic output. However, in recent years, a new set of economies has emerged that is contesting the affluent countries' economic dominance.

These emerging economies – call them the Globalizers – constitute a second tier of about 30 poor and middle-income countries (including China and India), with per capita GDP growth rates of 3.5% or more, and a total population of 3.2 billion, or roughly 50% of the world's population. These countries have experienced unprecedented levels of sustained economic growth that may

well enable them to replace the "Affluents" as engines of the world economy.

The Globalizers are a large and diverse group of countries – in size, geography, culture, and history – that have learned how to integrate optimally with, and leverage, the global economy to catalyze their development.

A third tier is made up of roughly 50 middle-income countries with a combined population of 1.1 billion. They are also home to many of the world's critical natural resources, possessing around 60% of proven oil reserves. But these "Rentiers" have not been able to translate the rents of their natural resource wealth into sustained economic growth.

The fourth tier comprises countries that are lagging behind – the world's poorest economies, with more than a billion people. They continue to

stagnate or decline economically. Mostly located in sub-Saharan Africa, these "Laggards" are largely isolated from the global economy, and they face crucial development challenges.

**This emerging four-tier world presents three key challenges.**

First, we need to increase our efforts to ensure that the Laggards are no longer left behind. This requires policy changes as well as more generous and more effective aid. If one considers the issue of aid flows, one finds that though development aid rose in 2005 to \$107 billion, most of the increase was geared towards "special circumstances," such as debt forgiveness and for Iraq and Afghanistan.

The sad truth is that development aid to Africa has decreased from \$49 per person in 1980 to \$38 per person in 2005. The true development needs

of Laggard countries and other parts of the world are not being met, despite the rhetoric of scaling up aid.

Second, the old powers need to accommodate the rise of Globalizer economies – particularly China and India – by reforming our international order. The Affluents will continue to be major global players, but as the Globalizers' relative economic power rises, they will demand a greater role in international affairs. Most Affluents seem unprepared for this change, but such demands will need to be accommodated.

Finally, while the Globalizers have lifted millions of people out of poverty and reduced global inequality, this has not resulted in a more equal world, because star economies like India and China are experiencing a rise in domestic inequity.

Whether it is coastal versus inland

or rural versus urban, these countries must tackle the widening disparities, because high inequality may well threaten their very ability to continue growing as they have.

If we are to create a more equitable world, then traditional levers of development such as trade, investment, aid, and migration need to be scaled up comprehensively and coherently, and global institutions must be reformed.

This would improve our ability to address global challenges and better our prospects for building a more equitable world. Otherwise, we might bid farewell to old development divides only to welcome new ones.

*James Wolfensohn, a former President of the World Bank, is President of Wolfensohn and Company.*

Source: [projectsyndicate.com](http://projectsyndicate.com)

## Iraqis sold out; oil sold off

By: Linda Heard

The White House's criticism of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki is muted nowadays. And no wonder. Last Monday President Bush and Iraq's leader agreed a cozy "declaration of principles". This permits the US to keep permanent "long-term" military bases within country – expected to house up to 50,000 personnel – and opens the door to American control of Iraq's oil sector – illegal under the 2008 US Appropriations Act, which expressly forbids such control.

The same act and the 2008 Defense Authorization Act preclude the US from establishing "any military installation or base for the purposes of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq".

The deal, which was effected without the approval of Iraq's Parliament or Congress, gives grist to the mill of those who claim the

invasion of Iraq was primarily carried out to further Washington's regional hegemony and cement its control of Iraq's rich oil and gas resources. It's couched in terms of "two fully sovereign and independent states with common interests" – laughable if it wasn't so tragic.

From the standpoint of the Bush administration it's a coup. It facilitates an eventual showy withdrawal of US troops, which will please the public and quiet Democrat demands, while all the while an unspecified number of soldiers, Marines, airmen and intelligence officers will remain behind fortified walls. The voters will then be conned into believing Iraq is old news.

But what is the benefit to Iraqis and why the long-term US presence?

One would imagine that most Iraqis would like their country back, thank you very much. To witness one's homeland being bombed, invaded, and ravaged by foreign armies and mercenaries must be deeply painful and humiliating for a proud people. If this unprincipled "declaration of

principles" were to be voted upon it would no doubt end up as waste paper.

Why would Iraqis want armed-to-the-teeth Americans around for the foreseeable future smashing in their doors, manning checkpoints and telling them what to do? It is surely the presence of a foreign force that is fueling the insurgency; an argument that is supported by the British pullout from Basra and the relative stability that followed.

Why would Al-Maliki give the go ahead? Does he believe Iraqis need to be protected from each other or does he think his country is threatened by predatory neighbors? I suspect neither. Iraq survived without foreigners since its inception and with international support in terms of training, weapons and equipment it could do so again.

Moreover, bitter sectarian divisions emerged after the 2003 invasion and provided oil and gas revenues were evenly distributed throughout all provinces and a process of forgiveness and reconciliation

implemented, it's probable the country could be re-glued.

The most likely scenario is Maliki has been somehow coerced. It gets worse. The Iraqi leader is also set to ask the United Nations to renew the multinational forces' mandate in Iraq for another year, which translated means "US forces" since the so-called coalition of the willing has been decimated with even Britain and Australia preparing to quit.

Shouldn't he instead be appealing to the UN to call for US withdrawal, especially when almost everyone agrees the invasion was illegal and based on false pretences in the first place?

The firebrand Shiite cleric Muqtada Sadr and his followers believe so. They are said to be seething over the prime minister's capitulation effected without their consent. Iraq's Vice President Tarek Al-Hashemi is equally scathing, while the tribal heads of Anbar province who have recently been cooperating with the Americans against Al-Qaeda are threatening to change allegiances.

Another point of contention within Iraq is the controversial oil law, which the US government is asking the Iraqi Cabinet to pass into law as swiftly as possible. Again, no wonder, as it allows foreign oil companies to develop the country's oil fields and retain a substantial proportion of revenue for decades to come.

It's known that Iraq possesses a wealth of untapped reserves so private foreign corporations have much to gain and little to lose. And in light of the Bush/Maliki "declaration of principles" it's probable that most of the foreign oil companies awarded exploration permits would be American.

Could this provide a clue as to why the US is so keen to maintain a military presence? Perhaps it isn't the Iraqi people that require protection but rather oil fields and pipelines. Here it's worth recalling those post-invasion days when the US military stood by as the country's ministries and museums were being ransacked while ensuring the security of the Oil Ministry and oil installations.

Iraq's Oil Minister Hussain Al-Shahristani, who fled Iraq after being jailed by Saddam for refusing to help build a nuclear bomb, says final approval of the oil law is just months away. He welcomes the law as an instrument to encourage foreign investment.

It will do that alright but while most other oil producing countries have painfully rid themselves of foreign control and interference it begs belief that the Iraqi oil minister seems to be opening his arms to a plan that, on the face of it, is tantamount to theft and smacks of a bygone imperialist age.

In fact, the Kurds have beaten him to it. They've already had a yard sale signing 15 exploration contracts with 20 overseas oil companies.

It looks as though elements of the Iraqi government are virtually saying to their nation's occupiers, "Our house is your house. Stay as long as you like and help yourself to the fridge". I don't know why and I suspect neither do the Iraqis.

Source: [arabnews.com](http://arabnews.com)

متعة القراءة في كل بيت  
أحلام القبلي : فهد القرني .. نقد مبالغ فيه وحركات تخدش الحياء!

Family & Development  
العدد ( 44 ) ٢٠ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٧ - السنة الخامسة  
شهر القراءة في كل بيت

**اللقيط .. متهم بلا جرم ومواطن بلا وطن !**  
عيوب الزوجات تجعل الأزواج يصرخون :  
زوجتي أنتي برأس ماعز .. وآخر : عطرها يخنقني

**ينسون ضمايرهم في البيت ، ومقاصاتهم  
في بطون المرضى ..**

**قتلة بشهادات وتراخيص رسمية !!**  
المرأة تلطم ثوب الرومانسية  
ورجال ينتحرون لقصص حب فاشلة !

الحمل المفيد أسبابه .. علاجه  
جمالك في سن العشرين  
ونصائح لماكينج عذراء الجليل  
أضيفي إلى مطبخك وجبات جديدة  
نصائح سحرية لطفل أكثر ثقة

الكوعية السعودي  
الشيخ / محمد العريفي للأسرة والتنمية :  
إنشغال الشباب والفتيات  
عن قضايا أمتهن من أبرز المشاكل

أهل مجلة يمنية تقدم الأسرة بين يديك ..  
الصدقة والطفولة والفن والجمال وأناقاة التناول الجديد  
لمواضيع تهتم سيدات المجتمع وأخرى يُدبها الرجال

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SANA'A BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SBWMP)

### Environmental Management and Monitoring Specialist

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Sana'a Basin water Management project and it is intended that apportion of this credit will be used against eligible payment for recruitment of Environmental Management and Monitoring Specialist EMMS. Under the supervision of the PCU manager, He/She will be responsible for the supervision and monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of Environmental Mitigation Plan (EMP). He/She will liaise with relevant line agencies and contractors and to ensure that they fully understand and undertake their responsibilities. In particular, the EMMS will support the line agencies to-

- Monitor the improvements to the WWTP and the quality of its effluent and sludge.
- Monitor construction activities and ensure chance find procedures are carried out if required.
- Ensure dam safety procedures are carried out.
- Monitor the incidence of bilharzias in the project area.
- Oversee the pest management pilot plan for Grape and develop a plan for Qat.
- Undertake the particular provisions of the EMP and report on activities and progress.
- Any other Tasks.

#### Qualification

- M.Sc or Ph.D Degree in the field of environment or any related field (Preferable Master Degree).
- Fluent in English and Arabic.
- Excellent Computer skills
- Minimum of (5) years work experience in related field.

#### Duration and Time

One Year contract extendable.

Applications accompanied by CVs may be submitted to the PCU office on or before December 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 to the following Address:

Sana'a Basin Water Management Project

Al Setteen street Tel; 469159/6, Fax: 469158 e-mail [saldubby@yemen.net.ye](mailto:saldubby@yemen.net.ye)

## Erratum

The Environmental Management and Monitoring Specialist vacancy, which was announced by Sana'a Basin Water Management Project at the Ministry of Water and Environment published on issue 1108 page 6, had an error in the Qualification requirements. The minimum number of years of experience required is FIVE years only. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the mistake.

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بمناسبة الزفاف الميموه  
فألف ألف مبروك

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- عبد الرحيم السقاف - تاجر وخالق السقاف - يسلم وروضي جميل  
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بمناسبة الخطوبه وعقد القران  
الف مبروك وعقبال الفرحه  
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كافة الامل والاصفاء

# Yemen Times Readers' Opinion Questionnaire

*Dear Reader*

*The Yemen Times editorial management would like to take a few minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. It is important for us to know what you think about our paper, and how you think we might improve our performance. Either send your reply by post or submit it to Yemen Times offices in Sana'a, Taiz or Aden. Replies will be entered into a surprise draw.*

*Thank you.*

*Nadia al-Sakkaf  
Publisher and Editor in Chief*

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Name: ..... Nationality: .....

Age group:  <15       15-19       20-29       30-45       >45

Gender: ( Male  Female)      Marital status: ( married  single)      No. of children ....

Occupation .....

Level of education:  high school       diploma       university       postgraduate

Contact information and email: .....

.....

**1. How often do you read the Yemen Times?**

- Every issue
- Occasionally
- Once a week
- Whenever it comes to my hands

**7. Have you ever written to / for Yemen Times?**

- Yes, more than once
- Yes, once
- Never

**2. How do you get the Yemen Times?**

- From bookshop in ..... (street or area name)
- From friends
- Subscription
- It is provided in my workplace
- Online

**8. If you have, was the feedback satisfactory?**

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, to an extent
- Not at all
- No feedback

**3. What do you like most about Yemen Times?**

- Availability
- Ads and vacancies
- Language
- Quality of paper and size
- Other.....
- Design and layout
- News coverage
- Features article
- World news

**9. Would you like to visit the Yemen Times and see its operation?**

- Yes
- No

**4. What do you dislike most about Yemen Times?**

- Availability
- Ads and vacancies
- Language
- Quality of paper and size
- Other.....
- Design and layout
- News coverage
- Features article
- World news

**10. Do you know any of the Yemen Times staff?**

- Yes, I know (please give name/s)  
.....  
.....
- No

**5. Which section/s do you enjoy reading?**

- Front page
- Polls
- Business
- Health and environment
- Youth
- Editorial
- Local news
- Opinion
- Culture
- Letters to the editor
- World News
- Op-ed
- Community
- Press review
- Back page

**11. How can the Yemen Times improve?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**6. Which section/s do you dislike reading?**

- Front page
- Polls
- Business
- Health and environment
- Youth
- Editorial
- Local news
- Opinion
- Culture
- Letters to the editor
- World News
- Op-ed
- Community
- Press review
- Back page

**12. What topics, features would you like the Yemen Times to cover in the future?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

# Yemen's health care industry: untapped potential

By: YemenTimes Staff

The increase in the number of hospitals from 121 in 2000 to 178 in 2005, with a 47 percent increase, indicates that there is an increasingly large demand for healthcare services in the country. Particularly in urban centers and the largest cities of Sana'a, Aden, and Taiz, the quality of hospitals has seen a substantial transformation, where specialized, fully equipped, and purpose built hospitals are competing amongst each others in the prices charged for health checkups, surgeries, and other medical procedures.

However, the public health sector suffers from serious drawbacks with regards to healthcare services provided. Including quality, availability, accessibility, and sustainability. The Health budget since 2002 is ranging from 4 -5.3 percent from the government budget, which is barely enough to finance the running operations of government-owned facilities.

In consequences, the third national plan for development and poverty reduction (2006 - 2010) relies on the role of the private sector in the development of the health care services industry. The plan includes nine components relating to improving health care, ranging from basic health services and reproductive health to medical insurance. Partnership with the private sector is at the core of the development of the healthcare industry, and in this report we examine that partnership through the largest private sector investment in the Health care sector.

## Yemen International Hospital

Member of the Hayel Saeed Group Board of Directors Mr. Shawqi Ahmed Hayel has described the

group's most recent investment in the healthcare sector as a perfect fit with government policy and the directors of President Saleh. The group has recently finalized bidding out a purpose - built hospital costing an initial investment of US\$ 25 million. The hospital will provide top-notch healthcare services including open-heart surgery, brain and nerve surgery, and a large number of complicated medical procedures that were, otherwise, not possible in the country.

He also stated that local staff have been extensively trained in order to make sure that they are capable, stating that foreign trainers and international expertise has been called in order to help facilitate the training. He also stated that all furnishing, medical equipment, and systems are the most advanced technologies in the world and the very latest in the medical sphere.

He also added that the hospital will be managed with a famed India-based corporation - the Apollo Group, which has strong expertise in managing medical establishments in the region and beyond.

Shawqi concluded that the hospital will be inaugurated within a few months, and that its services will be of competitive pricing to be affordable for large segments of the society.

## Medical Insurance

Inline with the third national plan, the government of Yemen through the Minister of Health and Population in cooperation with the Ministry of Legal Affairs is currently formulating the legal framework required to establish health insurance schemes, starting from a pilot program in selected locations and training of staff in order to manage health insurance programs. The government has also held discussions with the World Health Organization in order to



The private sector has provided a number of healthcare insurance programs, for example Hayel Saeed Group is already providing health insurance for 11,000 affiliated employees in Taiz, with possible expansion to 20,000 with the inauguration of the Yemen International Hospital (above) within the next months.

receive technical assistance to manage the proposed healthcare insurance programs.

However, the private sector has provided a number of healthcare insurance programs, for example Hayel Saeed Group is already providing health insurance for 11,000 affiliated employees in Taiz, with possible expansion to 20,000 with the inauguration of the Yemen International Hospital within the next months. While other hospitals in Sana'a and other cities have agreements with selected corporations to offer them exclusive health insurance packages, which are included among employee benefits. Selected Insurance companies also offer International Medical Insurance packages, however, such packages are usually over priced for the affordability of the average Yemeni.

**Healthcare: A mismanaged sector?**  
In a recent session in the parliament,

The Minister of Healthcare and Population Dr. AbdulKarim Rase'e stated that his ministry fails in maintaining good monitoring for private-sector healthcare providers, practices, and clinics. He stressed that the tiny budget of his ministry is barely enough to sustain the ministry's and government operations, including financing the operations of 50-odd government hospitals. He also stated that medicine subsidization programs are exhausting the budget, and whatever donor support they receive is usually focused in reproductive health and population growth issues.

The third national strategy emphasizes on the importance of facilitating healthcare services to the largest segments of the population, its objectives include building and equipping 798 clinics in rural Yemen and reforming the Ministry of Health of Population.

# GCC countries to launch common market January 1st 2008

By: YemenTimes Staff

Following the 28th annual Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) summit held in the Qatari capital Al-Doha between December 4 - 5, leaders of the six Gulf cooperative council countries have stated that the GCC common market will be launched on January 1st, 2008. According to the final press release of the event, The Gulf Common Market aims to create one market ... raising production efficiency and optimum usage of available resources and improving the GCC's negotiating position among international economic forums.

The Doha declaration has also stated: "The Gulf common market aims at realizing one market through which GCC nationals benefit from opportunities in the Gulf economy and opening broader spheres for inter and foreign investment." GCC leaders also agreed to accelerate preparations to launch a single common currency by 2010, and also maintain the current peg to the U.S. dollar.

Inline with the initial plan for regional economic integration, the

first phase included establishing a customs union, which has started in 2003, while the second phase includes the establishment of a common market by 2007. The third phase is to launch a single common currency by 2010, towards the establishment of a European Union-style bloc.

In his opening remarks, Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani reviewed the progress the GCC has made in the past year and called on all parties to tackle the serious crises in the region, including the Iranian nuclear program and the conditions in Iraq. He said: "The agenda of our summit includes a number of political, economic and security issues on which we hope to take the resolutions that would achieve the aspirations and ambitions of our peoples."

The Qatari Emir also brought forward a 12-point proposal to strengthen relations between the GCC and Iran, whose president Mohamad Ahmad Najad was the first Iranian president to attend the summit.

On his part, Secretary-General of the GCC Abdul Rahman al-Attiya stated that the establishment of a



Regional economic intergration between Yemen and the GCC bloc is an economic need for the region.

common market will be in the interests of the Gulf people, who yearn for the Gulf citizenship and boosting competitiveness of the Gulf economy. He also added that the common market is aimed at achieving fairness for the people in the six Gulf Arab states in business, investment, employment, education and medical care.

This common market will have a profound impact on Yemen's regional

trade, given that over a third of Yemen's imports are channeled through the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Standardizing the terms and conditions of trade amongst these countries will affect Yemeni businessmen who import goods through the Gulf common market, especially businessmen who rely on price differences or special differentials or favoritism in terms of trade.

However, the other important outcome of the Gulf summit is the agreement on a mechanism to regulate currency values, generally pegged against the US dollar. This is an important step if the six countries will succeed in reaching a single currency and a monetary union.

Analyst Michael Ganske, head of emerging markets research at Commerzbank in London told Gulf Times: "In my opinion it's surprising they made no reference to dollar weakness. All these peg regimes are highly political ... It makes sense from an economic (point of view) but Saudi links to the US and its dominance in region are really big. "I'm surprised they didn't mention anything and I can imagine it was a political decision not

## Business in Brief

### Yemen, UAE to form joint company to manage Aden Port

Minister of Transport Khalid Al-Wazeer has indicated that negotiations are on-going with Dubai Ports to establish a joint venture company to manage the port of Aden. Adding that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the two parties regarding the establishment of the joint company, where both partners would own 50 percent of the company's shares.

### Russian Businessmen to invest in strategic infrastructure projects in Yemen

Yemen's Ambassador to Moscow Dr. Mohammed Al-Helali has stated that negotiations are on-going with Russian businessmen to invest in strategic infrastructure projects in Yemen, including the establishment of the coastal railway system. He added that a delegation of Russian businessmen will visit Sana'a during December to discuss the details of these strategic investments.

### 70 percent of Capital's new bridges completed

Chief Engineer of the seven Sana'a bridges project has stated that around 70 percent of the construction work, adding that the bridges will significantly reduce travel time and traffic congestion in Sana'a main highway. 90 percent of the project's cost was financed by the Arab fund for economic development, while the other 10 percent was financed by the government of Yemen, totaling the cost of the project to around US\$ 34.5 million.

### Government to force businesses to set maximum retail price

The Ministry of Trade has announced plans to force all businesses importing or producing foodstuff to indicate the maximum retail price on the packages of the product. The ministry stated that this regulation will be enforced within sixty days. Director-General of domestic trade within the ministry stated that any business which does not comply with the regulation will be fined up to 2000 Riyals (US\$ one thousand).

### Bin Shamlan: The ex-socialist regime is better than the current regime.

Candidate for the 2006 presidential elections Faisal bin Shamlan has stated that the ex-socialist regime in the south was better than the current regime because of its ability to provide the people with the basic necessities such as food, shelter, education, and health services. He added that public resentment during the socialism days was far less than the resentment of

to do so. But I think it would have been the right thing to do.

"We think they should do it as they have so many imbalances... There was expectation that something would come out of the meeting as there was a perfect set-up with dollar weakness and in the end they didn't do it. Now it depends very much on what's going to happen with euro-dollar going forward.

"The goal to implement a currency union is a very tough thing to achieve. It's better to go to a currency basket, have a fair-value currency and then in time come up with a single currency. "(Creating a common market and allowing cross border share trade) is significant in my opinion. It's always good to integrate economies and allow cross shareholdings.

"The success stories in emerging

these days.

### Abyan governorates competes for tourism investments

The governor of Abyan and a technical team affiliated to the general authority for tourism development has visited locations on the Abyan beach which can be used for tourism projects. The governor stated that seven million square meters of sea-front land will be offered for investors willing to invest in the governorate.

### IFC to buy into Yemen Gulf Bank

Chairman of the Yemen Gulf Bank Mohammed Al-Zubairi has stated that the Kuwaiti Commercial Bank and the IFC will invest up to US\$ 30 million to buy 80 percent of the shares of the Yemen Gulf Bank. He added that the Kuwaiti bank will be the majority shareholder, and that the paid-up capital of the bank will increase from 1.25 billion Riyals to 6 billion Riyals.

### Al-Lawzy: Public Media is a tool at the disposal of SNACC

Minister of Information Hassan Al-Lawzy declared that public Media establishments will be at the disposal of the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption. He made that declaration during a symposium discussing the role of Media in combating corruption.

### MoPIC launches new poverty assessment report

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has recently launched the 2006 poverty assessment study, which was based on the findings of household survey of 2005/2006. Minister of Planning Al-Arhabi said that the findings of this assessment will be an integral part of designing poverty reduction strategies and activities.

### Yemen's Debt to Saudi Fund increases to US\$ 318 million

Yemen's debts to the Saudi Fund increased to US\$ 318 million by September 2007, compared to US\$ 309 million in December 2006. Yemen's overall external debt increased to US\$ 5.74 billion in September 2007, compared to US\$ 5.47 billion in December 2006.

### 2,000 housing units to be constructed starting January

Minister of Works Khalid Al-Kurshimi stated that 2,000 housing units will be constructed in Aden, Abyan, Lahej and Al-Dhale'e governorates in order to provide housing for limited-income segments. The project will start in January by the construction of 1,500 housing units in Aden.

markets have been about opening up local markets and globalisation. It's better to do the first step in a regional context.

"(2010) is a possibility (for currency union) but not likely. "These economies are not homogenous. In the European Union, there was a strong institutional framework on the political side which is not the case in Gulf."

If neighboring countries will successfully create a monetary union, the opportunity for Yemen to peg its own currency with the GCC currency will create more homogeneity in the region and in turn will help the Yemeni economy maintain stronger trade ties and investment ties with GCC countries. However, this is conditional to the success of the GCC countries in forming a successful monetary union.

# The cost of Telecommunications fraud

By: Iskandar Saeed

Telecommunications fraud is one of the largest causes of revenue loss for service providers in Yemen and abroad. With the advent of new services, such as 2.5G, 3G and VoIP, and as telecom fraud becomes increasingly sophisticated, this problem will become compounded. To combat this, service providers will need advanced systems that can detect all types of fraud. Such systems are not yet used. So, operators can't handle all known types of fraud such as subscription, internal and

inter-carrier fraud. Failure to do so may result in substantial revenue loss and no operator can afford that today.

One example of how fraud techniques had grown is the number of new malicious programs that have been created. Statistics show that 212,101 new threats were reported during the first six months of 2007 worldwide, which is a 185% increase in the number of threats which had been reported in the last six months of 2006. The economy had rapidly become specialized and now every service was widely available for criminals who intend on carrying out attacks.

The U.S.-based Communications

Fraud Control Association (CFCA) announced the results of a comprehensive survey that was conducted by them. It was estimated that the annual worldwide telecom fraud losses to be over \$55 billion. That is a huge amount of money by any standard and this is more than sufficient in confirming that telecom fraud is a really lucrative criminal business.

An example of such fraud is a man who was charged with stealing more than 10 million minutes of VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone service and then selling them to unsuspecting customers for as little as US\$0.04 per minute.

The association of certified fraud examiners (ACFE) has conducted a study about 508 cases of fraud and found the following interesting facts:

1. Organizations on average lose 6 percent of their bottom lines because of fraud.

2. Once fraud is committed, it is very unlikely that losses will be recovered.

3. Fraud losses from executives are six times higher than losses from managers and 14 times higher than losses caused by lower level employees.

For those reasons several operators have implemented different kinds of systems to detect fraud and help them signif-

icantly minimize types of fraud and avoid revenue leakage. However, their systems still need more developments to not only prevent fraud, stop revenue leakage, and detect the latest fraud techniques, but also to enable operators to combat fraud in real-time which means that when creating real-time (RT) system there is no place for error. The nature of the final system will be powerful, efficient, and highly reliable and allow authorized users to send commands to the network elements in response to suspected fraudulent activity in real time. Although all current systems greatly assist in the reduction of fraud, but no system can

guarantee that all fraud will be covered. So, most of the operators noted that they can't stop all fraudulent techniques but they can detect some types of fraud in real time which can provide some level of security. Telecommunications companies can achieve this by creating their own plan to combat the expected fraud and understanding their organization's need to help them reach a satisfactory security level to combat the fraud and track down the perpetrators of such attacks.

Iskandar Saeed is the Fraud & Revenue Assurance Manager at Sabafon, Yemen.

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- Proficient in computer usage (Windows & Excel applications).
- Fluency in English and Arabic languages.
- Good interpersonal skills.

**ACCOUNTANTS (Budgeting and Planning)**

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- Well developed analytical skills.
- Competent in preparation of financial statements.
- Proficient in computer usage.
- Fluency in English and Arabic languages.

**CASHIERS**

- High school graduate.
- Good computer skills.
- Able to maintain accurate records.
- Asset management and account knowledge.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

- Diploma in related function.
- High level of diplomacy, integrity and confidentiality.
- Minimum 3 to 5 years experience in similar capacity.
- Proficient in computer usage (Word/Excel/Powerpoint applications).
- Fluency in English and Arabic languages.

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

## Jealousy not a right at all, Dear Maged!

By: Lamis Abdulkarim Shuga'a.  
lamis\_shuga@yahoo.com

In the first instance, I need to say thank to Mr. Maged for his usual interesting articles which, besides, have been various, i.e., social, moral, religious, cultural and so on. In other words, they are related to different aspects of life. His last article, which was published on the 22nd of November, issue no. 1105, was really an important and serious topic that must be taken into account because of its danger whether among members of a family in general or between a husband and a wife in particular. However, there are some points in which, I think, I have different opinions. Maged has asked whether jealousy is men's or women's right. Actually and firstly, I want to ask him a question: is love or hate, which is a part of human beings nature, a right for men or women?! What I need to say is that jealousy is considered to be inner sense exists inside every normal person just like love, hate, hunger, fear, hope, etc., and that what is, consciously or unconsciously, confirmed by Maged himself when he says 'jealousy is considered as a basic human feeling'. Then, it is somewhat a strange matter to make any kind of feeling, whatever it is, as a right. But, we can say, the difference may lie on: to what extent men and women are jealous, the degree of jeal-

ousy in each one, the way of thinking about or using it in daily life and so on. Consequently, it can be inquired: who is more jealous and why? Until now, we may agree that everyone has this feeling. Some of them, on the other hand, don't believe or care about it at all, others don't like to show jealousy even if they feel it. For a reason or another, some people are very jealous and, moreover, they deliberately show that, whereas the last kind of people, which is the most dangerous kind, is represented by those who are blinded by jealousy. In other words, those people, whether men or women, cause many troubles and problems in their lives to others and to themselves as well justifying that that 'abnormal behaviors' as a kind of love. For me, that last kind is increasing more and more, spreading just as a malignant disease which spreads in a body destroying everything. It will be better to call that suspicion but not jealousy, and there is absolutely several differences between both of them. People who always suspect of others I considered them as ill ones, needed to be cured.

Shedding some light on another point, I like too much Maged's words when he has said "the reason of this feeling -jealousy- is a matter of culture. I completely agree with him since, one day, I argued with a Christian friend about jealousy. He told me that in their Bible there is nothing called jealousy, because it is

regarded as a bad feature, bringing many problems. He justified that if there was confidence between husbands and wives, there would be no need for jealousy at all. I think, that dear friend, has a difficulty to differentiate between jealousy and suspicion.

Hence, we can say, a little of 'soft' jealousy isn't a danger. Instead, as it is known, jealousy is related with love. I mean, wherever love exists, jealousy also exists. In my opinion, moreover, it is an evidence of love, since some lovers become happier when they feel the other side is jealous. It is not a surprising matter to the readers if they know that some husbands feel sad if they notice that their wives aren't jealous, thinking that their wives don't love or care about them and vice versa. What's more, that may lead to the lack of emotion and coolness relationship between them. However, 'hard' jealousy almost certainly leads to unexpected problems. I knew a 21-university-girl made suicide just a couple of months ago because of her 'silly' jealousy from her little sister who was treated somewhat kindly by the mother.

Another point in Maged's article paid my attention. Some people reject women's jealously claiming that they are men and they can do anything since it is not considered as a social shame as in the case of women!! Additionally, they are men and can marry more than one wife according to our religion.

Suppose a woman asks her husband divorce, telling him that she will marry another one living with him happily and comfortably for economical reasons, for example. According to our Islam, she doesn't make wrong and socially she is allowed to do so because it is her life and she is free. But, what is the husband's feeling at that time?! I think the word 'jealousy' is not enough at all in such a situation. Can we ask that husband to not feel jealous because what his wife asks is her right?! Absolutely, it is impossible! Thus, I am going to conclude by saying that jealousy is not considered as a right. It is, in fact, a normal feeling inside everyone, even children and infants. But we should control ourselves as possibly as we can for a safe life that is because showing jealousy excessively will definitely bring troubles.

Finally, I have noticed that Maged has already presented others' opinions, wishing to present his personal own points of view regarding this exiting topic. I hope from all to get my points kind-heartedly.

Lamis Abdulkarim Ahmed Shuga'a: is an English teacher from Taiz, currently doing her M.A at English Department, Language Center, Taiz University. This article was written in response to Maged Al-Kholidy's article in issue 1105 titled: Jealousy: Is it men's or women's right?!

## Through The Mind's Eye



By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy  
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## Youths and the past, present and future

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy  
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In many developed countries, youths are paid much attention because they the pillars of the present and future prosperity. While Yemen also considers them as such, what youth actually receive indicates something opposite, mostly reflecting their role as good listeners of speeches, promises, advice and sometimes, the courtesy of high-ranking personnel and authorities.

Good education, good health, suitable job opportunities, good living standards, etc., are the basics to be offered to youths. However, comparing these things with those offered to youths in Yemen, neither all nor even some of them are basic demands. Rather, they are the utmost wishes and unreachable ambitions of Yemeni youths. I don't deny that the authorities offer youths nothing because they do - especially at festivals. They offer them courtesy speeches, life-long promises and above all, interesting stories from the past. Of course, all of these improve youths' listening skills, which is the only quality they have to build only a good present and future.

Compared to Yemen, youths in other countries are offered facilities in which to study, work and create. Consequently, they study not just for diplomas and work not only to earn money and create not only for reward. Rather, they do all of these things to offer something to their society and their country as a whole. In contrast, the only facility Yemeni youths receive is a hall with good acoustics and microphones, speakers and amplifiers. Such a hall helps them, their elders and even the deaf hear the speeches delivered by high-ranking personnel at festivals and on national holidays.

They really do hear and understand well at the same time. The purpose of such speeches is to direct youths to become more productive and creative in society. This really is a significant aim and we hear about it daily in the media.

If any youth from any other countries were invited to hear such speeches, they'd be interested immediately.

Such guests would hear these speeches well, doing their best to understand them as well. Daily, they may request attending such speeches anywhere, even if the acoustics aren't well-prepared. If we drew closer to such individuals to discover their interest in such speeches, they'd reply, "They narrate a nice story."

Respecting their desires, they

may have many chances to attend festivals, at which such speeches usually are delivered. By the time they leave, those who are curious may ask their impressions of Yemen, particularly the speeches that interested them and which they specifically asked to attend.

Such guests may or may not have a good impression of Yemen, but we don't care about that! What we care about are their impressions of the speeches by such high-ranking personnel. Of course, we know why they liked them in the beginning, because, as they said, "They're like a story." However, after hearing more and more speeches, their reactions may surprise us when they observe, "They repeat the same story!"

If we discuss the details with them further, we'll realize that most speeches have the same content, which is narrating the past and the achievements of some individuals. I really wonder what would be the harm if such high-ranking personnel didn't narrate such stories of achievement repeatedly. Would Yemenis and history itself forget them or attribute their acts to others?

While it's ok to remind citizens of past achievements, this could be done once a year or even every two to three years.

If this happened with the older generations, there would be no objection because such people praise their lifetime achievements, considering this a matter of good memories. However, youths should concern themselves more with the present and the future so that they may be able to praise their achievements when they become the elders in the future.

Stories from the past can be used as models for a better present and a better future, but Yemeni youths must be offered more than to think about building a similar glory to those of the past.

This advice isn't meant for the authorities to change their policy, but rather to exhort Yemeni youths not to be paralyzed, doing nothing in their lives. They should abandon the old routine of listening to past stories and request new, practical solutions and advice in order to become aware of their roles as pillars in their society.

Only by doing this will Yemeni youths take their future seriously, considering it 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.

## A Yemeni and American intercultural moment

By: Ammar Al-Hawi  
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Taiz University

On my way to the Faculty of Education in Taiz, where the American Cultural Days program was being held jointly by Bridges, a U.S. organization for international communication, which recently visited Yemen, and the Student Affairs Deanship at Taiz University, I was too excited and anxious to be present throughout the various activities of such an interesting event offering a great personal life experience.

However, the spontaneous overflow of my feelings of excitement and anxiety suddenly were interrupted by the large overcrowding of hasty and thoughtful speculations on the contemporary universal debates of culture v. identity and East v. West in the clumsy shadow of Arab, in this case Yemeni, and American intercultural discourse.

Caught in the narrow middle of the fierce battle between opposing thoughts, I continuously strove to escape influence by any false or negative representations about either Eastern or Western culture.

Although, for awhile, I doubted whether the two nations could establish better cultural understanding and stronger ideological communication, I

immediately rejected the validity of my presumptions and quickly restored my trust in our mutual ability to draw closer to each other against all cultural or societal discriminations, to transcend national and geographic boundaries and increase the chances for direct and constant contact between the peoples of the world.

Consequently, I soon felt more comfortable and hopeful as I thought deeply about the significance of the distance I was crossing in order to attend this cultural program. Such distance manifested a clear example of the many bridges established daily between the two cultures by several great individuals on both sides as a concrete means of connecting and asserting their own international identity.

Having emerged from this battle with self-realization and self-assertion about the cosmopolitan spirit of all cultures, I finally found myself standing in front of the function room door.

As I stepped into the room, I was fascinated by the wonderful scene of intercultural togetherness between a brilliant cluster of American presenters and the wonderful audience of Yemenis, all of whom seemed to enjoy being together in one room and under one roof. "What a joyful and unforgettable moment this is!" I whispered to myself, surprised.

Every corner of the room practically was engaged in echoing the Americans'

vocal articulations and visual representations of the various aspects of their culture, joined by the sonorous applause and claps of appreciation and enjoyment by the Yemeni attendees.

The pleasures of discovery and recognition drew forth an extremely charming smile of oneness upon their lips, inspiring the room to wake up and engrave the uniqueness of the moment on the calm silence of its walls.

While the American team wholeheartedly invited attendees to explore and identify numerous aspects of American culture and society through a variety of oral and visual presentations, the Yemenis reacted by listening attentively and watching curiously, allowing their imaginations to tour America's rich cultural heritage.

The customs and habits of marriage and weddings in American society, the magnificence of their local songs, their interesting achievements in literature, particularly poetry, their splendid newspaper and journal publications, their distinguished sports and preferences, and above all, their marvelous advances in industry and technology - all garnered considerable interest and great appreciation by the Yemeni audience.

Like the other attendees, I was thoroughly delighted to witness the Bridges team's group spirit clearly displayed throughout the various aspects of their

program; for example, the same individual often would present, sing and act.

In short, the Bridges team ended their three-day cultural program at Taiz University and returned home; however, they left behind unforgettable memories of oneness with Yemeni people. Such memories forever will grow into lasting monuments of understanding and harmony in the minds and souls of these two friendly nations.

## My heart's demand

By: Fuad Noman  
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Behind the mounds,  
Among the mountains,  
A far cry  
On the moon's ground.  
Extending its wings  
To the bird's land,  
Hugging the scent of Rosa Eglantaria,  
Composing the bouquet of Rosa  
"Natalia."  
What a glamorous, glamorous aria!  
Right now, I hear  
The cheers of happiness surround.  
What an awe-inspiring song  
Inward of my soul and mind.  
Bringing to bear  
The tunes of the bees' ballet,  
Shading the crack of dawn  
In blond and brown.  
Getting around my heart's hometown,  
The sunlight calling rainy clouds  
To fill all my eagerness' sand  
Before the beats of love,  
Falling down  
Since time began.  
My favorite color that  
I rummage around for,  
Only in her shining eyes  
Can be found.  
Yet again,  
To be my time's sword,  
To be in life and end,  
My first and last word.  
Let me hear your soul's rebound  
Or haul me to your faith's core,  
To always feel happy and warm  
To settle down my storm's roar.  
Once your whispers swim in my  
blood,  
The current of oceans' rumba be so  
glad.  
In your eyes' lea,  
I wish I could live safe and free.  
What's more,  
To be my real home and country  
From the ancient time.  
You're the one I'm looking for.  
Nothing remains pure,  
Only your love,  
Which I can save or store.  
So please, my dream,  
Come, come closer to my soul's land.  
This is my heart's only demand.

## Wedding hall smoke - what a headache!

By: Minal S.  
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I had the wonderful opportunity to witness a few weddings in Taiz. Honestly, Yemeni weddings are very beautiful, attractive, full of excitement, fun and simply fabulous!

However, imagine being locked in a hall filled with smoke and without ventilation. What would you experience? Obviously, you would choke from the smoke and the result may even be fatal.

I attended the first wedding day, called "the arusa." The aura of the wedding hall was lovely, but unfortunately, it was filled with smoke from the meda'a and shisha (smoking various flavored tobacco, which is ignited by charcoal, via long, slender pipes) and of course, smoke from cigarettes too.

The only drawback to this wonderful and lovely event was that the wedding hall was filled with smoke, for which there was

no exit in this particular hall.

Every country is supposed to have norms and conditions regarding constructing public halls and premises. If such norms and conditions aren't followed, the government reserves the right to suspend the construction of such massive halls.

It's fun to dance to the songs at Yemeni weddings, which, surprisingly, is the only thing one can do because the loud volume of the music prohibits anything else. The human ear is designed to bear a certain intensity of sound called decibels; thus, public places aren't permitted to play music above a certain decibel. Those who do so are held responsible either via legal punishment or their operating permit is canceled.

The security afforded to attendees at such occasions, particularly for women, is quite bleak. For instance, such large halls usually have only a single entry and exit point. In case of catastrophe, outside help is nearly impossible, the main reason being that men are restricted from entering; thus, the more time required for assis-

tance, the more urgent help is denied.

Moreover, fire extinguishers should be installed throughout such public halls and other safety measures should be made mandatory in order to prevent any mishaps and casualties. Unfortunately, here in Yemen, these measures aren't followed, which may turn out to be a fatal mistake.

As the saying goes, "Nothing is impossible." Everything is possible in this world and there's a solution to every problem.

I think such large public halls should establish norms requiring multiple entries and exits. Additionally, they should be well ventilated, fire extinguishers should be placed at all important locations and warnings and instructions displayed throughout.

Music also should be played only at decibels the human ear can tolerate. Indeed, then you, me and all enthusiasts may participate, enjoying and dancing to the tunes.

Doesn't that sound nice and cheerful? After all, "Where there's a will, there's definitely a way."

## Just for your sake

By: Mohammed Saleh Ali Al-Moqri  
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To do it, I will do it  
Just for your sake.  
For your sake,  
God creates me as innocent  
And makes me so patient,  
But you deserve it, O, elegant one.  
Say how I can find you,  
Because it's not easy to do.  
Who can dare part us? Who?  
Would God maybe help me?  
Oh, how glad I would be

To be granted success to get thee.  
Then Rome's bell would ring  
And birds would sing.  
They would elect me as king  
And build me a palace  
Of diamond and glass  
There above, my dear lass.  
Gathering as much mass  
To watch our precious position.  
In that world, upon word of condition,  
You achieve every small ambition.  
No enmity, no hate,  
No evil or anything unfortunate,  
Just such superb fate.  
To do this, I will do it  
Just for your sake.

عصمما يتضح الرؤيا ..  
فأعلم انها طبقت بمطبخ يمن تايمز



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الاستعلامات ١١٨، حوادث (المرور) ١٩٤،  
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٢٥٠٧١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٥٧٢٢٢٠٢،  
الإذاعة ٣٢٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ٣٢٢٠٠١/٢،  
مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٣،  
وزارة المواصلات للنقل داخل المدينة ٣٢٥١١٠/١/٢/٣، السياحه ٢٥٤٠٢٢،  
المصليب الاحمر ٢٠٢٣١٢/٣، تيميم ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

**البنوك**

بنك اليمن والخليج فاكس: ٢٦-٨٢٤، ت: ١-٢٦-٨٢٣-٩٦٧  
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**معاهد**

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معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٢٤٤/٥، فاكس: ٥٢٢٤٤٦  
معهد أبتك ت: ٢٤٠٨٣٣ - ٥١٠٦١٢ - ٢٤٠٨٣٣، فاكس: ٢٤٠٨٣٣

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باسم محمد عبده الشيباني

صنعاء - شارع حده - أمام مركز الكيم التجاري  
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للتواصل: ٥٢٤٢ ٧١٢٨٠٥٢٤٢  
٧٣٣٧٤٣٧٢٩

• عبدالله محمد - دبلوم عالي (برمجة حاسوب) - حاصل على شهادة خبرة في مجال تدريس البرامج التطبيقية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في مجال الكمبيوتر أو في أي مجال مناسب  
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٢٠١٩٣٣

• شوقي أمين أحمد - ثانوية عامه - سنة ثالثة تجارة (قسم محاسبة) - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - خبرة في مجال المخازن لمدة ست سنوات (أمين مخازن - مراقب مخازن - متابعة مشتريات) - يبحث عن عمل مناسب  
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٠٩٦٥٢

• سدام أحمد العامري - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - يجيد التعامل بالمراسلات الخارجية والتجارية - يريد العمل في هذا المجال أو اعطاء دروس خصوصية في الفترة المسائية.  
للتواصل: ٧٧١٦٠٧١٤٠

• عبد المجيد - ثانوية عامه - دبلوم لغة إنجليزية وكمبيوتر - حاصل على رخصة قيادة - يجيد التحدث باللغة الإنجليزية بطلاقة - يرغب في العمل في مجال السياحه.  
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٣٦٤٧٥٨

• عيسى أحمد الديبي - دبلوم صيدلة - دورة في مجال الإسعافات الأولية - خبرة لمدة ست سنوات في مجال الأدوية - عمل في مجال التوزيع والتحصيل والتسويق والترويج والصندوق ومدير لفرع شركة أدوية داخل تعز - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه داخل محافظة تعز.  
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٠٩٦٤

• محمد أحمد محمد - ليسانس آداب - لغة فرنسية - دبلوم برامج تطبيقية (حاسوب) - يجيد التحدث باللغة الإنجليزية - يعمل حالياً في إحدى الشركات الشهيرة - خبرة في الأرشفة والمراسلات التجارية.  
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٦٥٣٢٠

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للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٠٩٦٤

## كوبون للاعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)

بيع    شراء    إيجار    إستئجار    طلب وظيفة    وظائف شاغرة    غير ذلك

**تفاصيل الاعلان:**

**عنوان التواصل:**

قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب ( ت ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣ )

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## Don't wait to be asked, volunteer now!

By: Nawal Ali

Only recently has Yemen started to celebrate the International Volunteer Day. It is celebrated around the world Dec. 5, and this is the first year when the

Yemeni government sponsored such a celebration.

Ministry of Youth and Sports, adopted this year's celebration, which was organized by a Yemeni NGO: The Young Leadership Foundation.

During the celebration, success YLF dedicated this day to introduc-

ing the concept of volunteerism to Yemeni youth through conducting a training workshop on Wednesday. A trainer from the foundation briefed members of several local NGOs on the concept of volunteerism using games and flipcharts and role-play.

The Minister of Youth Hamoud Obad was taken by surprise when the presenter of the celebration asked him when was the first time he volunteered to do anything.

It appeared that when he was a boy scout at school, he went with his scout group to help in the search and rescue operation during the Dhamar earthquake in 1982.

"I was only a little boy, and it was my passion to be a scout and help the others. Unfortunately at that time, the society did not understand the significance if volunteer work and while trying to assist affected families, I used to get beaten and shoed away," he remembered smilingly.

Included in the celebration's program was to narrate successful stories

of volunteers. Hana Al-Kibsi, who now works as a coordinator with SOUL, a Yemeni NGO, told her story.

"I never had a clue what volunteering was. When I had just graduated from high school, one of my friends pushed me to come and work as a volunteer with the YLF. My work as a volunteer gave me so much experience and gave me the opportunity to work anywhere and be successful," she said.

She asked every one to be initiative and go any where and look for a chance to be a volunteer. "Don't wait for others to ask you. You take the initiating step, this will lead you to success."

YLF's founder Dr. Intilak Al-Mutwakel encouraged the audience to adopt a sense of volunteerism, and mentioned that the foundation facilitates volunteering work for its students and whoever is interested.

On the same day the United Nation Development Program in Yemen celebrated this day in order to get people working in this field to come together



A sketch by the YLF students displaying a lazy father who does nothing but chew Qat, and his enthusiastic active son who volunteers all the time, and is not appreciated.

and benefit from each others' experience.

Volunteerism in Yemen is not popular in the modern sense of the word, and many Yemenis think it is a foreign concept. Others because of deteriorating economic conditions would rather work for money than spend time volunteering.

However, there is an increasing acceptance and understanding of the concept, especially because of the works of many local and national NGOs.

Moreover, today's market demands require youth to be multi talented, a skill that comes from a lot of volunteering and social work.



Minister of Youth telling the story of his first time as a volunteer in 1982.

## German Hip-Hop Artist Sahira

# "The Hijab is no obstacle to my artistic career"

Sahira is a German Muslim Hip-Hop singer with a headscarf. In this interview with Nelly Youssef she talks about Arab inhibitions to express feelings, about Muslims in Germany and about why she started wearing the hijab after 9/11

When did and how did you start your career?

Sahira: My first album appeared in 2005 and was entitled "Frei Schnauze" ("Say What You Want"). I produced it from my personal funds and with some help from my mother, but it sold remarkably well. Right now I am negotiating with German record companies and labels to fund my new album. It will contain songs on love, the homeland and personal ambition. My message to young boys and girls is that it is okay to make mistakes and that they should not be embarrassed by because of them, but try to learn from them.

German street; everyone notices any woman wearing the hijab and it is hard to find employment, but I can cope with that kind of situation. With regard to my performance in a hijab - I did not encounter any difficulties on the part of Germans. They love culture and are eager to see new faces and appreciate, very much, anyone offering them beautiful art. So my hijab posed no obstacle in that regard.

I started wearing the headscarf after the events of September 11. Before then I did not know much about Islam beyond uttering the credence of faith, prayer and fasting. In the past I used to perform concerts where the audience



"Islam is about moderation": Sahira is one of the few singers in Germany who publicly confess their Muslim faith

The new album features a song on Palestine which I sing in Arabic. In it I ask till when will the current situation remain the way it is! Of course, the search for a company that would sponsor and produce my albums or even the video clip is very difficult. It is not easy for anyone to take this gamble: a German Muslim with a hijab who sings about Palestine.

What was the reaction of your audience when you started wearing the hijab on stage? How long, in your opinion, would the tolerance of a German audience to the hijab last? Sahira: The situation is difficult on the

lyrics. Now, I feel the value of the lyrics and I have become more picky about the gigs that I agree to.

My performances have actually increased since I have worn the hijab. Often these gigs are events like marriage, graduation, birthdays and such - often they are gatherings where no alcoholic beverages are served because I want the audience to pay attention to the lyrics. I choose my gigs now but I am not rigid in the sense that I do not put a condition like banning alcohol. I would much prefer when the audience listens and is aware of the message I am sending through my art.

Give us some detail on the topics that your songs are about.

Sahira: I sing about love and romance and how pure love is a kind of striving or jihad. It is easy in Germany to meet someone, fall in love and then leave them. No one cares and maybe that happens in Arab countries as well. So the love I sing about is really a type of striving and I want young boys and girls not to be afraid of it, or of Allah if they commit mistakes, we must never forget that Allah loves us and has mercy and this is what my songs are about.

What are the artistic characteristics that set you apart from others?

Sahira: I talk about what is in my heart and I do not act out a "role". I consider art a form of thought as well as a message. My aim is not solely entertainment; I want my audience to be conscious and to think. My heart and my emotions are Palestinian and my mind is German. I express what is on my mind without fear or shame, very much unlike most Arabs who are usually afraid of all kind of traditions that tell you what is wrong and forbidden.

I also sing about the situation of Arabs and Muslims in Germany. I sing about mothers and fathers who are raising children in this society and fear for them.

There are families who do not speak German and live in total isolation from the society at large.

What I see is that as Arabs and as Muslims we give customs a priority over Islam and we raise our children according to a personal image. That is why in my songs I try to encourage teenagers to go out and discover life for themselves while at the same time maintaining and valuing respect for their parents.

Moderation is key here because that is what our religion is about. It is not important to just go to the mosque five times a day - we also need to think for ourselves, and we need to live life in a natural way.

Do you see music as a bridge between East and West?

Sahira: Of course, I am invited to many discussions and forums sponsored by organizations and political parties to engage in a dialogue about the role of music as a means of authentic communication between East and West and where we discuss many issues relating to Islam.

Germans want to know us more and

they are confused by the experiences they have made so far, and that is actually quite understandable since we Arabs and Muslims are not easy to understand.

So I try engage with Germans in a constructive way.

Tell us about your son and how it is like raising him on your own?

Sahira: My son Selim is seven years old and his father is an American Muslim and we have been separated for a few years now. I have raised my son not to know anything called hell in

Islam but I tell him that he must love Allah and try to pray and fast gradually without forcing him.

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Translated from the Arabic by Mona Zaki

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