

**Hertz**  
**HERTZ LEASE**  
 You are in safe hands...

Universal Rent a Car  
 Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625  
 Movenpick Branch (01) 546063

**Europcar**  
 YOU RENT A LOT MORE THAN A CAR  
 Special Offer from europcar Yemen

Rent 7 days pay 6 days

Email: europcar@y.net.ye  
 SAM CITY HOTEL AL-QIYADA ST. P.O. BOX 3072,  
 SANAA, Head Office Tel: (01)270751 Fax: (01)270804  
 Airport Office Tel: (01) 346566 - Fax: (01)346665

**Inside:**



**2**

Sana'a city government cracks down on street vendors



**7**

Indonesia where "soft Islam" is on the march



**8**

William Helz: speaks about competition and free market

## Security authorities crack down on rally activists

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

ADEN, Jan. 16 — Security authorities arrested 11 citizens, among them five senior military officers, and threw them in various prisons over the rioting that accompanied Sunday's Reconciliation and Forgiveness Rally, media sources said on Wednesday.

More than 16 citizens have been detained by the Aden security authorities since Sunday, bringing the number of detainees from rally-related riots to 27, some of whom were exposed to torture and beatings. Official sources at the Rally Preparatory Committee stressed that six people are imprisoned in Memdara prison, 15 in Sheik Othman Police Station and another 6 in the governorate's Military Intelligence Detention.

The sources clarified that the Military Intelligence Bureau in the Tawahi area captured the officers at their worksites in the Mansoura-based public works camp. The five officers are part of the recently reinstated military servants from Al-Dhale' governorate who were dismissed from their posts after the 1994 civil war.

Ali Monassar Mohammed, head of the rally's preparatory committee, threatened to escalate protests in Aden and other southern governorates if the authorities continue their arrest campaigns against activists.

He demanded that those who opened fire on innocent citizens at the rally be referred to relevant courts for trial, and that the injured be transferred abroad to receive treatment at the state's expense. The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) leader claimed the government should free all the people detained during the rally and release confiscated cars belonging to citizens who came from



Jan. 13 protestors, when thousands of Yemenis from southern areas assembled in Aden.

neighboring governorates with the intention of joining the rally.

A meeting held by YSP leadership on Sunday labeled the security crackdown on citizens for joining the rally as "a criminal act and a new addition to the government's arbitrary conduct against its citizens." Regarding official reaction to the rally, the meeting's participants said the government rejects any peaceful activities in all the Yemeni governorates.

Chaired by Yaseen Sa'eed Noman, YSP Secretary General, the meeting called on party leaders and staff to show a spirit of solidarity and cooperation during peaceful activities without hesitation. It also advised them to work harder for the sake of resisting any unjust policies and force the authority to respond to people's demands.

The meeting released a statement saying that the security crackdown on the rally reveals that the administration is bankrupt and has no national project to solve the noticeable problems listed by peaceful protestors. "The authority has a project for dominance, use of force against citizens, legal violations and human rights abuses," the statement read.

It continued, "The authority's project

doesn't defend unity as it alleges and deceives people. It only defends corrupt and influential persons, who obtain wealth illegally by looting public and private property and plundering lands."

"The government cheated the national democratic project begun when Yemen's Reunification was established in 1990. After the 1994 Civil War, it started to adopt irresponsible policies, destroying all the forms of national partnership in power and wealth. It also destroyed all the agencies of the previous southern government, laying off military and civil employees, exercising property theft, supporting backward policies and fueling conflict and violent acts among citizens," the statement further commented. "Through its practices and policies, the government works on splitting the nation's social fabric, based on its belief that fragmentation, conflict and revenge killings will help it control people forever."

Meeting attendees expressed their support for the idea of reconciliation and forgiveness, considering it a noble work and a step toward spreading the culture of forgiveness at the national level and reaching the kind of national reconciliation that helps rescue the

country from the consequences of violence and war.

Mohammed Abdullah Al-Yadomi, Acting Chairman of the Islah Party, stressed the necessity of continuing peaceful struggle as an effective means of helping people get rid of injustice and oppression. According to him, peaceful struggle will also help the country get out of the "gloomy tunnel" it is passing through as a result of the ruling party's successive governments and fake platforms.

Delivering a lecture Tuesday evening at Islah Party's Students Sector in Sana'a, Al-Yadomi said the government's poor policies are responsible for soaring prices in Yemeni markets and the destruction of ethics in society. "Bribery has become rampant over the past ten years, unemployment is at a record high and millions of people are forced to live under the poverty level due to the government's weak programs and policies," he stated.

He indicated that Yemeni society is currently experiencing strange phenomena because of the various wars and political conflicts the country has undergone in recent years. He pointed out that incidents of suicide, child trafficking and robbery were not seen in

## Controversy over ancient grave site

By: Hamed Thabet

IBB, Jan. 16 — A dispute between locals in Al-Asebiah in Ibb and the Yemeni government has arisen due to the discovery of an ancient grave dating back to the Himyarite period (850 B.C. - 525 A.D.)

Locals expressed that they found the grave and it is their right to keep the site for themselves, noting that the contents inside the grave would be taken by them as well.

However, government security forces arrived on the scene when they heard about the discovery and placed a heavy guard around the site to keep it safe and undisturbed.

Abud Al-Rahman Jar Allah, Museums Deputy in the Antiquities General Assembly, visited the site and noted that experts in archeology dug around the grave site carefully and reached the bottom of the grave. An ancient coffin with sculptured stone was found.

Jar Allah stated that locals are making problems and want the grave to be given to them because it is in their area. He went on to say, "Locals claim that they do not trust the government and are not sure that the antiquities will be in a safe place or not. That is why they want it for themselves."

Jar Allah explained that it is rou-

tine in Yemen for people to come and try to get a share of the wealth whenever they hear about anything related to antiquities. He added that it is very important to understand that these historic places and artifacts belong to the government, not to locals, who he said must not be careless about their own history.

However, Amin Al-Werafi, secretary-general of the local assembly in Ibb, confirmed that experts have found a sword and some gold pieces in the grave so far. Moreover, locals are highly curious and want to know every detail of the excavation. It is likely that, as the site is very ancient, the security forces will be ready for any problem that could happen.

According to Jar Allah, a special Yemeni archeological team of experts are working on the site, including two experts in ancient graves and digging and two experts specialized in reparation and mineralogy. In addition, Al-Werafi said that a German team will come to the site to assist the Yemenis.

Al-Werafi also mentioned that experts are still excavating the site in search of undiscovered artifacts and any additional information, as no precise knowledge about the grave has been found yet. Moreover, he said the coffin will be moved to Ibb museum once experts are done with it.

Yemen even before the north and south merged.

"We will continue the peaceful struggle in all the Yemeni governorates, districts and villages," Al-Yadomi affirmed, attributing the escalation of protests and sit-ins to GPC policies that never allow any peaceful transfer of power. "The ruling party and its foolish government have taken us to such a dire situation, although the country is rich in natural resources and its people are enthusiastic enough to create solutions to any notable crises," the Islah party leader expressed.

According to Al-Yadomi, the Reconciliation and Forgiveness Rally, staged Sunday in Aden, would have

been a positive step toward reforming the government if it had not been accompanied by unnecessary rioting and bloodshed. He called on all the political forces to support any serious steps toward reconciliation and forget about past conflicts.

Al-Yadomi urged those who advocate secession to reverse their ideas and remain adherent to national unity. "We have to strongly defend our unity and not give secession advocates any chance to damage it," he reacted.

Concluding his lecture, Al-Yadomi confirmed that only the JMP will be leading any peaceful protests and sit-ins nationwide, with the aim of reforming the country's dire situation.

Want service and value? ...Budget

**Budget**  
 Car Rental

National and International Reservations  
 Reservation Tel. 309618 - 506372,  
 Reservation Fax. 240958,  
 Hadda, Reservation Tel. 411727  
**24 hours (Hot Line) 733652317**

**ALSAEED TRADING COMPANY**  
 A Yemeni Closed Stock Company  
**Yemen's Major Exporter of FMCG products.**  
 Yemen, Taiz - P.O. Box 5351  
 Tel: +967 (4) 232727 (10 Lines)  
 Fax: +967 (4) 223851 / 231642 / 219112  
 E-mail: alsaeed@alsaeed.com.ye  
 Website: www.alsaeedtrading.com

**المنشئ الحديث**  
**Al-Hadith Modern Hospital**

بالتعلم والخبرة... نرضى مرضانا

سنعاء - فرع عطان - ت: ٤٤٤٤٤٤ - ف: ٤٤٤٤٤٤  
 Email: info@hadithalhi.com  
 www.hadithalhi.com

عبر العالم في الوقت تماماً  
**The World on Time**  
**FedEx**  
 Express  
 خدمات التخليص للعملاء مجاناً  
**SANA'A Tel.: 440170/67 صنعاء**

**Qarnaw**  
 For Oilfield Services

Qarnaw provides highest quality services through the provision of Competent personnel and State of the Art well-maintained equipment.

Tel: 01 448447/8, Fax: 01 448446, 3rd Floor,  
 Sana'a Trade Center, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
 E-M: godwin@qarnaw.com W: www.shaifgroup.com

**RAYMOND WEIL**  
 GENEVE

**Abu Tawfiq co.**  
 Famous Agents of Swislerland Watches  
 Sana'a - Tahriyr St.  
 Tel.: 00967 1 280712  
 Fax: 00967 1 273507  
 P.O. Box: 2526  
 Email: bimedeto@yemen.net.ye

imagine sharpness better than real

**SAMSUNG**

**SAM Digital**  
 IT-Telecom & AV  
 Tel.: +967 1 494700 - 494999

**KONICA MINOLTA**  
 كونيكا مينولتا  
 آلات تصوير متعددة الأغراض  
 www.konicaminolta.com

**HITACHI**  
 MULTI MEDIA PROJECTORS  
**InFocus**  
 أجهزة عرض

**MAGNER**  
 currency counters  
**LAUREL**

**KARDEX**  
 Storage & Archiving Solutions  
**كاردكس**  
 حلول آليه للحفظ والاسترداد  
 www.kardexinternational.com

**Thabet Son Corporation** مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة

صنعاء : 278546/7/8 - شارع حده : 207691 - شارع الستين : 446073  
 تيز : 214306 - عدن : 244625 - الحديدة : 204488 - المكلا : 316710  
 الموقع على الانترنت : www.thabetson.com.ye - البريد الالكتروني : tsc@yemen.net.ye

**SABA YEMEN INSURANCE CO. (Y.S.C.)**

ثقة . حماية . بلا نهاية ..

**Head Office**  
 47 Alzubairi St. - Jshag Bldg. - Sana'a  
 P.O.Box: 19214  
 Tel: (+967-1) 420908-240984  
 506115-506118  
 Fax: (+967-1)240943

**HODEIDAH BRANCH**  
 Al-Jahneer Square, Hodeidah  
 Opposite of Security Police Dept.  
 P.O.Box: 4256  
 Tel: (+967-3)219584-204390  
 Fax: (+967-3)219588  
 Mobile: 733570436

**ADEN BRANCH**  
 Queen Arwa St., Crater-Aden  
 P.O.Box: 70154  
 Tel: (+967-2)254866-253464  
 Fax: (+967-2)259469  
 Mobile: 77920997

**TAIZ OFFICE**  
 Gamal St., beside Yemen Commercial Bank - Taiz  
 Tel: (+967-4)251844  
 Fax: (+967-4)259444  
 Mobile: 744513208

**Aden Silos & Mills Co. (S.Y.C.)**



In brief

**SHABWA**  
SFD allocates \$ 4mln to carry out projects in Shabwa

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) has allocated \$ 4 million for Shabwa governorate for this year to carry out new 35 projects. Mohammed Ali al-Rowashan discussed with the SFD director in the governorate Mohammed al-Dailami steps taken by the fund to start implementing these projects which include educational, health, water and roads. Al-Dailami said that the SFD conducted a field survey in some districts of the governorate to know need of the citizens from development projects.

**ABYAN**  
Al-Wihda Cement Factory will start production soon

Abyan governor Mohammed Shamlan discussed on Tuesday with board chairman of Chinese CNBM company the executive procedures to complete setting-up the Al-Wihda Cement Factory in Batis region of Abyan at a cost of \$ 240 million. During the meeting, Shamlan said that local authority of the governorate would become supporter of the Chinese company and will offer all facilities for private sector investments to speed executive procedures to set up the factory. For his part, board chairman of the Chinese CNBM confirmed that the company carries out a number of industrial operations relating to cement in a number of world regions, reconfirming that all executive procedures to set up the factory are ready.

**SANA'A**  
Cabinet approves housing project

In its meeting held on Tuesday, the cabinet approved starting practical measures for carrying out Housing Project for Limited-Income People by ratifying the public tender for starting works on the first phase which includes 1000 units in Aden governorate. The cabinet directed Ministry of Public Works and Roads to announce the tender during this month according the timetable named for this project. The cabinet reviewed report of Supreme Housing Committee over different works achieved by the committee for following up measures concerning carrying out this important project. It valued efforts exerted by the committee for coordinating efforts between different bodies concerned of implementing the project, stressing on speeding up completing technical measures.

**British Queen Elizabeth II rewards Yemeni citizen**

The British Queen Elizabeth II has granted a honorary membership of British Emperor a Yemeni expatriate Tahar Qasam al-Sharabi, a director of Arab Center in Liverpool city. On behalf of the queen, the British Minister of Children, Schools and Families Affairs Ed Balls handed over the title to al-Sharabi in appreciation for his efforts in offering services for Yemeni and Arab communities in United Kingdom. The UK minister congratulated al-Sharabi for getting the honor which is the highest one granted by the Queen for a non-UK citizen. The Yemeni ambassador to Britain Mohammed Taha Mustafa expressed appreciation of all Yemeni with this honor, saying that such honorary title reflects the high level of the Yemenis' experiences in UK.

**Ghamdan Palace to be cultural, tourist center soon**

Culture Minister Mohammed al-Muflahi has said that studies have been conducted to turn the historical palace of Ghamdan into a cultural and tourist center, the state-run 26sep.net reported. Al-Muflahi notified the ministry has begun setting up solids of the palace in cooperation with international companies, pointing out the current condition of the palace would be assessed by archaeological experts and companies. Ghamdan Palace is one of the most important historic castles in Yemen and one of the most ancient skyscrapers in the world that attracts the attention of foreign tourists.

**Yemen, ICRG discuss mutual cooperation**

The Permanent representative of Yemen at UN European headquarters in Geneva Ibrahim Saeed Al-Adoufi has discussed with the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Jakob Kellenberger the aspects of cooperation between Yemen and ICRC.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

SANA'A, Jan. 13 — The Sana'a Capital Secretariat has launched a campaign against street vendors to remove their goods and eradicate illegitimate markets. The campaign began four days ago when street vendors were exposed to blackmail or bribery by city employees, as well as confiscation of their goods, followed by imprisonment by the city. Eleven-year-old Hassan Al-Raimi alleges that a group of city police officers seized him and took everything in his pockets, as well as his goods, because he's a street vendor, indicating that he provides for a large family and can do nothing except work in public parks because he fears such authorities. Sana'a Secretary-General Yahya Al-Shuaibi declared to the media that secretariat authorities launched the campaign to remove all illegitimate markets, which he claims defame Sana'a because their owners neither remain in specified locations nor clean them. Additionally, Al-Shuaibi pointed out that there are more than 100 illegal qat markets and butcher, stating to Al-Sahwah.net that the local secretariat's government was obliged to conduct this campaign after media – including state media – criticized the city's cleanliness. "I was accused of being careless in this regard due to our sympathy with citizens' living standards," he explained. He further called on citizens to cooperate in removing all "bad and unpleasant scenes" in Sana'a. Al-Shuaibi added that this is in addition to solving the problem of street vendors, highlighting that the Yemeni capital suffers numerous problems related to random construction, population congestion and traffic, among others. "We are dealing with city employees to reduce their negative acts [blackmail, bribery and seizing goods], which we consider wrong," he further explained. Legislators and members of Parliament demand halting this prosecution of street vendors, deeming it illegal. They further warn against the dire consequences of implementing such a resolution, which may mean social disaster for thousands of families who primarily depend upon such street vendors. Moreover, they call on all concerned parties within the capital secretariat, including its leadership, the local council, the traffic department and the Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the issue and come up with a well-organized study to determine an appropriate solution for these street vendors so as to reduce such displeasing scenes affecting the capital city's aesthetics. Wondering why the roads are unclean, attorney and executive manager of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, or HOOD, Khalid Al-Ansi, considers such a campaign against street vendors sinful. Al-Ansi further demands "creating courts and prosecutions working around the clock regarding violations. These bodies should consist of three judges and three prosecution members so that city employees won't be able to use such campaigns as a means to blackmail citizens and take their money, nor restrict their freedoms and confiscate their rights." He adds, "Street vendors are a worldwide phenomenon, but they also are regulated, which doesn't deprive them of dignified sustenance and keeps cities clean." The Capital Secretariat authority has prevented journalists from reporting on the campaign. In fact, secretariat police arrested journalist Saleh Al-Suraimi as he was covering a scene where trucks were removing some vendors' stores in Mathbah area. Al-Suraimi was attacked during his arrest and later released. Sa'eed Thabet, first deputy of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, says such action clearly indicates that the campaign's implementers aren't well educated, further condemning the campaign for violating vendors' rights. He also warned those bodies perpetrating such acts against journalists by threatening to publish a list of press enemies. Thabet further demanded the secretariat's secretary general cease such violations against journalists. His comments came after the municipality of Ma'een district last Wednesday released journalist Mohammed Al-Azazi, who was detained arbitrarily for reporting on the street vendors' sufferings under the campaign. With his detainers impersonating National Security members, the director of Ma'een district had refused to release him until he paid YR 4,000. Al-Azazi was released only after journalist syndicate members and other interested individuals held a sit-in in front of the Ma'een-based municipality prison to demand his release. Thabet further stated that the journalists syndicate contacted Al-Shuaibi and Local Administration Minister Abdulqader Hilal to release Al-Azazi, but they didn't deal with the issue of imprisoning journalists in illegal prisons. Thabet considers journalists' imprisonment in such prisons a critical precedent and holds official parties accountable for harassing and imprisoning journalists.



Eleven-year-old Hassan Al-Raimi alleges that a group of city police officers seized him and took everything in his pockets, as well as his goods.

liness. "I was accused of being careless in this regard due to our sympathy with citizens' living standards," he explained. He further called on citizens to cooperate in removing all "bad and unpleasant scenes" in Sana'a. Al-Shuaibi added that this is in addition to solving the problem of street vendors, highlighting that the Yemeni capital suffers numerous problems related to random construction, population congestion and traffic, among others. "We are dealing with city employees to reduce their negative acts [blackmail, bribery and seizing goods], which we consider wrong," he further explained. Legislators and members of Parliament demand halting this prosecution of street vendors, deeming it illegal. They further warn against the dire consequences of implementing such a resolution, which may mean social disaster for thousands of families who primarily depend upon such street vendors. Moreover, they call on all concerned parties within the capital secretariat, including its leadership, the local council, the traffic department and the Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the issue and come up with a well-organized study to determine an appropriate solution for these street vendors so as to reduce such displeasing scenes affecting the capital city's aesthetics. Wondering why the roads are unclean, attorney and executive manager of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, or HOOD, Khalid Al-Ansi, considers such a campaign against street vendors sinful. Al-Ansi further demands "creating courts and prosecutions working around the clock regarding violations. These bodies should consist of three judges and three prosecution members so that city employees won't be able to use such campaigns as a means to blackmail citizens and take their money, nor restrict their freedoms and confiscate their rights." He adds, "Street vendors are a worldwide phenomenon, but they also are regulated, which doesn't deprive them of dignified sustenance and keeps cities clean." The Capital Secretariat authority has prevented journalists from reporting on the campaign. In fact, secretariat police arrested journalist Saleh Al-Suraimi as he was covering a scene where trucks were removing some vendors' stores in Mathbah area. Al-Suraimi was attacked during his arrest and later released. Sa'eed Thabet, first deputy of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, says such action clearly indicates that the campaign's implementers aren't well educated, further condemning the campaign for violating vendors' rights. He also warned those bodies perpetrating such acts against journalists by threatening to publish a list of press enemies. Thabet further demanded the secretariat's secretary general cease such violations against journalists. His comments came after the municipality of Ma'een district last Wednesday released journalist Mohammed Al-Azazi, who was detained arbitrarily for reporting on the street vendors' sufferings under the campaign. With his detainers impersonating National Security members, the director of Ma'een district had refused to release him until he paid YR 4,000. Al-Azazi was released only after journalist syndicate members and other interested individuals held a sit-in in front of the Ma'een-based municipality prison to demand his release. Thabet further stated that the journalists syndicate contacted Al-Shuaibi and Local Administration Minister Abdulqader Hilal to release Al-Azazi, but they didn't deal with the issue of imprisoning journalists in illegal prisons. Thabet considers journalists' imprisonment in such prisons a critical precedent and holds official parties accountable for harassing and imprisoning journalists.

Politicians: reform is impossible without serious political will

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Jan. 15 — "Reform is impossible unless the government has serious political will," said politicians at a political reform symposium organized Monday by the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies. They stressed the necessity of Yemen adopting political reforms to help limit the powers of the totalitarian ruler, activate the role of institutions and hand over security and military institutions to a civil authority. Symposium participants affirmed that the nation is experiencing a sharp political crisis, which may lead to unprecedented collapse in all economic, political and social areas, further attributing continued economic deterioration to political disorders. Inaugurating the symposium, the center's chairman and Sana'a University economics professor Mohammed Al-Afandi noted, "Political reform in Yemen is both an old and a new issue that emerged in the 1930s, but it has become an urgent demand since Yemen's reunification. Political reform is the basic demand and the national necessity advocated by all political forces, particularly as building the modern state of Yemen requires healthy institutions that reflect the peoples' will. "The symposium attempted to answer some questions regarding the issues and horizons of political reform, how it's implemented, where it begins and whether the government has serious plans and strategies to carry out reforms," Al-Afandi added. Like other academics, he was not optimistic that political reform can be achieved under the current government, but afforded numerous researchers the chance to share their viewpoints on the "complicated" issue. In this regard, Mohammed Al-Dhahri, chairman of Sana'a University's Political Science Department, presented a comprehensive study diagnosing Yemen's political situation by comparing the Joint Meeting Parties and President Ali Abdullah Saleh's initiatives regarding political reforms. In his study, Al-Dhahri praised the JMP's initiative for thoroughly diagnosing the actual situation and suggesting workable solutions to it whereas, according to him, Saleh's initiative is ambiguous and lacks detail. Al-Dhahri considered what he described as a "continual phenomenon of releasing initiatives and constitutional amendments in Yemen" as evidence of the regime's instability, adding that it implies multiple weaknesses in the state and society. The academic further cited the Sa'ada wars, protests in southern Yemen and the most recent presidential initiative as evidence of the regime's instability over the past time period. He ascertained that there are some prerequisites before implementing such a political reform process, such as institutional building, faith in the transfer of power and improving citizens' living conditions. "Yemen is living in a period of a peaceful *extension* of power, not a peaceful transfer of power," he commented. Noting that economic deprivation leads to political instability, Al-Dhahri urged the government and the ruling party to fulfill the promises in Saleh's electoral platform by which he won the people's support. He expects the opposition parties to win the majority of seats in the 2009 parliamentary elections if the ruling party continues performing this way. Official JMP spokesman Mohammed Al-Sabri presented the JMP vision for reforms, declaring that the opposition group strongly rejects any return to "the house of obedience," meaning not opposing government policies. He considered the ruling party's call for dialogue a type of misleading and deception, as, according to him, General People's Congress leaders have their own concept of dialogue. Al-Sabri continued, remarking that GPC members have a random approach, restarting everything from zero when dialogue fails to achieve the sought-after objectives. He affirmed that Yemen is in the midst of a "gloomy tunnel," which the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar warned against progressing toward at the Islah Party's third conference in 2005. According to Mohammed Saleh Ali, chairman of the Yemeni Socialist Party's Political Circle, political reform initiatives no longer are feasible, nor can they suggest workable solutions to the current situation. He called for creating true and effective initiatives to help rescue the nation from its current crisis and halt its progress toward unprecedented catastrophe. "Once [such] initiative is being made, we can talk about real political reform," the YSP official reacted. Ali likened today's government to an ailing man who is pessimistic about his recovery. "Saleh's initiative doesn't meet the requirements and conditions of true initiative; rather, it's merely composed of ideas presented for discussion, a fact President Saleh himself acknowledged before JMP leaders at an Aden meeting," he pointed out. Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakel, deputy secretary-general of Yemen's Popular Forces Union political party, remarked that "totalitarianism" is a persistent problem Yemenis have battled since the 1948 Revolution. During the symposium, which focused on JMP initiatives regarding political reforms, Al-Mutawakel highlighted the most prominent attempts thus far by national forces to deeply root institutionalism and end totalitarianism since the 1948 Revolution until 1990's national unification. According to Al-Mutawakel, formed after reunification, the Presidential Council helped bring balance between the two regimes of Yemen, but the 1994 Civil War ended such balance." He clarified that amending the nation's Constitution in a way befitting the totalitarian regime was the first thing done following that war. Al-Mutawakel stressed that there's no meaning to the system of governance – whether presidential or parliamentary – unless there's a transparent electoral mechanism to reflect the people's will. He added that the nation's military and security institutions must be neutral, stressing the necessity of affiliating both institutions to a civil authority. Political writer Abdalnaser Al-Mude described the government's insistence to form the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum, or SCER, of judges as a legal violation of the democratic process, mainly because it means that Yemen has no independent judiciary. Instead, he recommended the SCER be comprised of those from all political parties, adding that the Yemeni government needs to establish a special court to handle election-related issues. Further, political analyst Ahmad Sa'eed Al-Dahi emphasized the necessity of making essential amendments to the Yemeni Constitution in order to specify the powers of the ruler, Parliament and the army, maintaining that the government is responsible for the nation's deteriorating situations.



Symposium participants affirmed that the nation is experiencing a sharp political crisis, which may lead to unprecedented collapse in all economic, political and social areas.

be neutral, stressing the necessity of affiliating both institutions to a civil authority. Political writer Abdalnaser Al-Mude described the government's insistence to form the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum, or SCER, of judges as a legal violation of the democratic process, mainly because it means that Yemen has no independent judiciary. Instead, he recommended the SCER be comprised of those from all political parties, adding that the Yemeni government needs to establish a special court to handle election-related issues. Further, political analyst Ahmad Sa'eed Al-Dahi emphasized the necessity of making essential amendments to the Yemeni Constitution in order to specify the powers of the ruler, Parliament and the army, maintaining that the government is responsible for the nation's deteriorating situations.

Article 19 releases report on press freedom in Yemen

SANA'A, Jan. 15 —The Report examines the extent to which the right to freedom of expression is enjoyed by individuals and different sectors of society " including the media, political parties, non-governmental organizations and women " in Yemen. Drawing on a series of interviews with key stakeholders in Sana'a in August 2007, as well as background research, the Report calls for the cancellation of judicial procedures initiated against journalists before the Special Criminal Court on Terrorism, for the release of media professionals imprisoned for their writing, and for full investigations to be carried out into threats and attacks against journalists, as well as for ongoing investigations to be concluded. The Report also condemns slur campaigns targeting women journalists and activists, and calls for the implementation of CEDAW's recommendations, especially in favor of the adoption of anti-discriminatory legislation, to help empower women to exercise their right of freedom of expression. ARTICLE 19 also calls for reinforcing the judiciary's independence and for the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee, in particular to the effect that the proposed new Press and Publications Law fully complies with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Yemen ratified in February 1987.

As Jabal Al-Tair volcano still erupts  
Technical team conducts air survey on Yemeni Island

HODIEDAH, Jan. 13 — A team of Yemeni specialists are currently conducting air surveys for 150 Yemeni islands on the Red Sea following continuous volcanic eruptions on Jabal Al-Tair, a tiny island on the Red Sea. The team is present in the western province of Al-Hodiedah, to watch and follow up the volcano and what may happen as a result. General Authority for Developing Yemeni Islands (GADYI), a government body, said the surveys are conducted in cooperation with Earthquake Observation Center (EOC). So far, three surveillance and early warning stations have been created in the islands of Hunaish, Zuqar and Kamaran, on the Red Sea. Head of the GADYI, Yahya Al-Kainai, said Jabal Al-Tair Island's volcano is still experiencing continuous eruption, shaping smoke steams coming from the volcano crater heading toward northwest coast of the island. Al-Kaina'i added that a photograph team had taken sattalite photos for the volcano's crater from a lower height, considering such photos the first of their kinds since the beginning of spewing volcanic lavas in Jabal Al-Tair. Additionally, a team from the General Authority for Protecting Environment is assigned to specify the environmental impacts caused by the current eruptions. 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. Jebel Al Tair (Bird Mountain), island is about 3km long, covers an area of 3.9sqkm, and its highest peak is 1,200 meters. It lies about 100km off the nearest Yemeni coast and, according to geologists, is in a volcanically active part of the Red Sea. The last time the island witnessed a strong volcanic eruption was in 1883.

environmental impacts caused by the current eruptions. 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. Jebel Al Tair (Bird Mountain), island is about 3km long, covers an area of 3.9sqkm, and its highest peak is 1,200 meters. It lies about 100km off the nearest Yemeni coast and, according to geologists, is in a volcanically active part of the Red Sea. The last time the island witnessed a strong volcanic eruption was in 1883.



## WHAT IT MEANS...

## Point 10 of the presidential initiative

*What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih (dralfaqih@yahoo.com).*

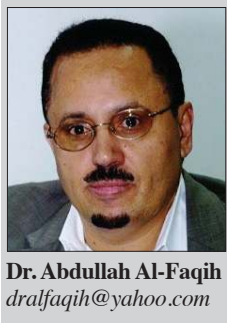
In his ten-point constitutional initiative, President Ali Abdullah Saleh proposes in point 10 that "in the elections of members of the House of Representatives (HR), 15% should be allocated to women and the elections law should include a clause to this effect." This last point, unlike all the other points, is very vague and the embedded ambiguity is not accidental. It is the essence of politics in Yemen when it comes to women and their political rights.

First of all, it is not clear whether the president is talking about a constitutional or legislative amendment. In this regard, it could be argued that a constitutional amendment is unavoidable for any type of quota to be adopted. But that is only one way of reading point 10. Second, and more significant, it is not clear whether point 10 offers women a quota of parties' candidates or of the HR's seats. If point 10 means the former, the political representation of women will remain the same. Each party is expected to let women run on its behalf in every district it knows for sure it is going to lose.

Third, assuming that point 10 is offering women 15% of the HR's actual seats (a very unlikely move), one might still wonder how the regime is going to fulfill such a promise, especially under the current electoral system—the so called single member district plurality system. Reserving certain districts for women will be very problematic constitutionally and practically. In fact, it is almost certain that Yemen's "strong men" in every district will resist such a move even if they advocate gender equality.

Fourth, acknowledging the women's right to political representation in the HR only begs the question: "What about the Shoura Council, the Council of Ministers and elected local councils?" Additionally, if Yemen has committed itself in international agreements to give women at least 30% of all political positions, why should it not fulfill its obligations to Yemeni women?

It would be a mistake on the part of Yemeni



Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih  
dralfaqih@yahoo.com

women if they think the current administration will stop cheating them when it comes to their political, civil, and social rights. They must recall unfulfilled promises by the government in many past instances. In the last presidential and local elections of September 2006, for example, the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) failed to deliver on its pledge of allowing women to run for 15% of elected local positions. Furthermore, wherever women decided to run as independents, they were intimidated by GPC members and forced to opt out of elections. The opposition parties are not much different from the GPC, except that they are willing to give women their share as long as their men's share is not affected.

It is very unlikely that the current clan-based Yemeni political regime will deliver anything meaningful in terms of rights to Yemeni women because before it extends these rights to women, it must extend them

first to men. Women should also realize that rights are often taken and not given as hand-outs. And whenever they are given by a regime, they can be easily taken by the same regime or by its successors. It is evident that under the current regime, political representation of women—and for men as well—will remain the same. From time to time, a woman who can perform the role of a man and represent the men in power will be appointed in a position where she has no real power and cannot do much for women.

In light of the current situation, Yemeni women and their supporters should ask for the addition of three new articles to the constitution. The first article should state: "Citizens are equal before the law; they are equal in public rights and duties, and discrimination on the basis of sex, color, origin, language, profession, social status, or belief, is prohibited except in cases where discrimination is positive and enhances equal citizenship rights, and the law should specify punishments in cases of violations." Such a statement is very important not only for women but also for all

other excluded groups.

The second article should read "Thirty percent of all elected public institutions at the central, regional, and local levels should be reserved for women, and political parties should compete for these seats under a proportional representation electoral system. The law should make it the duty of the electoral commission to make sure that female nominees on party lists have been selected and ranked in the lists according to secret intra-party balloting." The third article should state "Thirty percent of all public institution positions which are fielded by presidential appointments at the central, regional, and local levels should be reserved for women, and the law should specify the cases where exceptions can be made, provided that they do not violate the principle of equal citizenship, the principle of equal opportunity, and the qualifications required for taking a specific job."

*The author is a Yemeni activist, analyst, and professor of politics at Sana'a University.*

## Their News

## Call for science and technology experts

The Merit scholarship programme of the Islamic Development network is forming a directory of experts to be used for forming a panel of external reviewers.

The panel will review and assess applications for Ph.D. and post-doctoral applications in the following fields of study

- Biotechnology (genetics, medicine, pharmacy, agriculture and food technology, environment, water research)
- Nanotechnology (chemical engineering, Material sciences, conductors and semi-conductors, laser and fiber optics)
- Information and communications technologies (Electronics, telecommunications, computer science)
- Fuel technology (renewable energy, fuel technology)
- Physical sciences (nuclear science, polymers, system engineering, metallurgy, space sciences)
- Technology management

Thus, if you are interested to be included in the directory of experts, please send the following information to Wagdy.sawahel@scinedev.net:

Your CV  
The field of study, from the above-mentioned 6 fields, to be reviewed.

The preference language for reviewing (English, French)

It might be worth mentioning that there will be a symbolic honorarium in return to your valuable efforts.

Independent Television Services seeks documentary film producers. The Independent Television Services is seeking producers from outside of the United States to create documentaries for U.S. Television. ITVS's International Call is asking for submissions that will represent diverse communities, advance underrepresented points of view and inspire public dialogue. Documentaries must be completed within one year of contract. Deadline for submissions: February 1.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have previous film or television experience in a principal role (as a producer, co-producer, director or co-director). ITVS will not accept submissions of lifestyle or children's programming documentaries.

Primary applicants must reside outside of the U.S. Dual foreign/U.S. citizens are eligible to apply if they do not reside in the U.S. American citizens may only apply as secondary applicants or as co-applicants (in co-production relationships with primary applicants). The program will last up to five months.

To learn more about this program or to complete an application, go to [http://www.itvs.org/producers/international\\_guidelines.html](http://www.itvs.org/producers/international_guidelines.html).

## Foreign reporters are warned in Iran

The Ministry of Guidance and Culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran has warned foreign reporters not to write stories that are unacceptable under Iran's new Press law.

In a recent move, the Iranian authorities expelled the last remaining reporter

from the British newspaper The Guardian. Two other Guardian reporters were previously expelled for reporting on the Bam earthquake and interviewing a human rights activist.

In his last article from Iran, Robert Tait of the Guardian wrote, "Liberal-minded newspapers critical of the government have been closed and journalists jailed for misdemeanors ranging from printing 'lies' to insulting Islamic mores. Criticism is not welcomed and is being met with decreasing tolerance."

Recently, the daily Kayhan, associated with hardliners in Iran, has been targeting Shirin Ebadi, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. In response, Ebadi ridiculed the newspaper by saying that "Kayhan is not very good at fabrications."

Ahamdi Nejad, in his last visit to the US, insisted that Iran enjoys complete freedom of the Press.

## Middle East journalists invited to apply for Samir Kassir Award

Journalists from the Middle East can now apply for the third "Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press." Last day to apply: March 30.

The award will be open to journalists from the following countries: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Syria, the Palestinian Territories, Tunisia and Yemen.

Participants should be print journalists. Submissions should have been published between March 15, 2007 and March 15, 2008 and should tackle issues of the Rule of Law—good governance, struggle against corruption, freedom of expression and human rights, etc.—explained the organizers.

The winner will be awarded EUR15,000 (around US\$22,000).

Samir Kassir is a Lebanese journalist who was assassinated in 2005 by unknown assailants.

For more information, visit <http://www.prixsamirkassir.org/> or send an E-mail to [coordination@prixsamirkassir.org](mailto:coordination@prixsamirkassir.org).

World Association of Newspapers releases report on young readers

A new report by the World Association of Newspapers entitled "Engaging Young Readers" has found that newspaper companies are confident about their success attracting a new generation of readers. This optimism comes amidst criticism that print media is shrinking as an industrial format in an increasingly digital world.

The report, produced by WAN's Shaping the Future of the Newspaper project, surveyed newspaper executives and editors to assess strategies for attracting young readers. The study also used case studies to analyze youth media habits.

## Reuters to offer business news course

Reuters Foundation is offering a business course to help journalists who wish to develop skills in presentation and news gathering. The course will take place in London from June 9 through June 20, and hopes to pro-

vide an understanding of international financial markets through instruction and site visits to financial institutions. Last day to apply is April 14.

Applicants must have at least two years of journalism experience, English speaking and writing skills and a demonstrated commitment to the field of journalism in their countries.

To apply, each applicant should submit a biography of up to 250 words, two recent examples of published work (with a brief summaries in English), a statement between 250 and 500 words describing how this course will be beneficial and a short essay on the state of the national economy in the applicant's country.

Tuition for this course is £200 (around US \$391) a day or £2000 (US \$3913) for the entire 10 days. This will include travel and living expenses. The Reuters Foundation will offer full bursaries to journalists from the developing world.

For more information, contact [foundation@reuters.com](mailto:foundation@reuters.com). To apply, visit [http://www.reuterslink.org/apply.htm?course=/courses/wbn\\_london\\_june08.htm](http://www.reuterslink.org/apply.htm?course=/courses/wbn_london_june08.htm).

## GULF NATIONAL SECURITIES CENTRE BECOMES NEWEST MEMBER OF DIFX

The Dubai International Financial Exchange (DIFX) today welcomed Gulf National Securities Centre International Ltd. (GNSCI) as a Member firm able to trade shares and other securities.

GNSCI is the sixth UAE-based firm to join the DIFX. Major shareholders of GNSCI include The National Investor and Finance House, both based in Abu Dhabi.

Adil Al-Souri, General Manager of GNSCI said: "The DIFX is an active market that offers an exciting range of opportunities to individual investors based in the UAE and the region. Through GNSCI services as a broker, it is easy for investors to trade on the exchange."

"We look forward to playing a creative role in the development of the DIFX as the region's capital markets hub as it attracts further listings and asset classes."

GNSCI is licensed by the Dubai Financial Services Authority to operate as an authorised firm inside the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

Per E. Larsson, Chief Executive of the DIFX, said: "The DIFX provides issuers with high liquidity and has hosted significant trading volumes. We expect these to grow as we expand our range of securities. GNSCI provides as a new channel for UAE and other investors to access the opportunities on the exchange."

Hamed Ali, Executive Officer of the DIFX, said: "GNSCI's arrival at the exchange further strengthens the DIFX's links with the local and regional financial services community. These will develop further as new Members join the exchange."

## Frost &amp; Sullivan plans foray into the Middle East Market

Chooses Dubai, as the strategic base. Mumbai, India, January 16, 2008 – Frost & Sullivan, a Global Growth Consulting firm that has been partnering

with clients to create value through innovative growth strategies plans to expand its operations in the Middle East by the first quarter of 2008. The addition of this new office will mark Frost & Sullivan's footprint in the lucrative Middle East region and will be a key addition to the firm's 32 other global offices.

Through its global network of offices, Frost & Sullivan has served an extensive clientele that includes Global 1000 including fortune 500 companies, emerging businesses, and the investment community by providing comprehensive industry coverage that reflects a unique global perspective and combines ongoing analysis of markets, technologies, econometrics, and demographics.

According to Anand Rangachary, Managing Director, South Asia and

Middle East, "Our entry into this market is in response to an enormous growth potential for diverse industries in the Gulf region. In recent years, with the oil rich economies looking at alternate avenues for investments, the global exposure for the Middle East has been tremendous, and this has resulted in an incredible demand for Frost & Sullivan's services across the Arabian Peninsula."

"With this new office, we expect to strengthen our foothold and at the same time work closer with companies to design their strategies in an increasingly global marketplace. This on-ground presence will play a strategically important role for the firm to serve its existing and prospective clients operating in the region." He added

Headquartered in Palo Alto, USA,



USAID  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY

A full time position is now available for a Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) for a project funded by USAID. The DCOP will be broadly responsible for ensuring the effective administrative, financial and operational management and integrity of the project. Among other responsibilities, he/she will, in collaboration with the Chief of Party:

1. Guide the Project in all aspects of its financial management;
2. Ensure the Project's effective administration and human resource management;
3. Ensure the effective management of the Project's vehicles, equipment, offices and physical resources, and of the responsible staff;
4. Provide effective management and oversight of project information and communications technology resources and products;
5. Provide guidance and support to sub-contractors to ensure consistency in policies and procedures in implementing the project activities;
6. Facilitate the establishment and implementation of effective program monitoring and evaluation processes and reporting;
7. Oversee the procurement process of technical and administrative services, including the recruitment of consultants and firms.

## General Requirements:

1. Bachelor's Degree in one of the following or related fields: Business Administration, Education Planning, Public Administration and Public Policy required or equivalent combination of education and work experience (Masters preferred);
2. 10 year(s) of relevant experience in managing large scale international development projects;
3. Knowledge of USAID strategies, policies, and procedures preferred;
4. Project design and management;
5. Financial, administrative and operational management of international development projects;
6. Project monitoring and evaluation concepts and applications preferred;
7. Contract management, including institutional sub-contractors; and
8. Excellent written and English skills essential.

Yemeni and international candidates are encouraged to apply. Qualified candidates should send their CV's with cover letters in English no later than one week after the date of this announcement to the following address by mail or fax:

P. O. Box 14793 Sana'a – Yemen Fax: (01) 494507





# شركة صناعة السفن والكبرى الوطنية المحدودة - عدن

## Calendar 2008 كل عام وأنتم بخير Season's Greeting

### January

### يناير

### February

### فبراير

### March

### مارس

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
4	3	2	1			
11	10	9	8	7	6	5
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
25	24	23	22	21	20	19
	31	30	29	28	27	26

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
1						
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
15	14	13	12	11	10	9
22	21	20	19	18	17	16
29	28	27	26	25	24	23

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
14	13	12	11	10	9	8
21	20	19	18	17	16	15
28	27	26	25	24	23	22
	31	30	29			

### April

### أبريل

### May

### مايو

### June

### يونيو

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
4	3	2	1			
11	10	9	8	7	6	5
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
25	24	23	22	21	20	19
	30	29	28	27	26	

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
2	1					31
9	8	7	6	5	4	3
16	15	14	13	12	11	10
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
30	29	28	27	26	25	24

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
6	5	4	3	2	1	
13	12	11	10	9	8	7
20	19	18	17	16	15	14
27	26	25	24	23	22	21
	30	29	28			

### July

### يوليو

### August

### أغسطس

### September

### سبتمبر

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
4	3	2	1			
11	10	9	8	7	6	5
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
25	24	23	22	21	20	19
	31	30	29	28	27	26

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
1					31	30
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
15	14	13	12	11	10	9
22	21	20	19	18	17	16
29	28	27	26	25	24	23

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
5	4	3	2	1		
12	11	10	9	8	7	6
19	18	17	16	15	14	13
26	25	24	23	22	21	20
	30	29	28	27		

### October

### أكتوبر

### November

### نوفمبر

### December

### ديسمبر

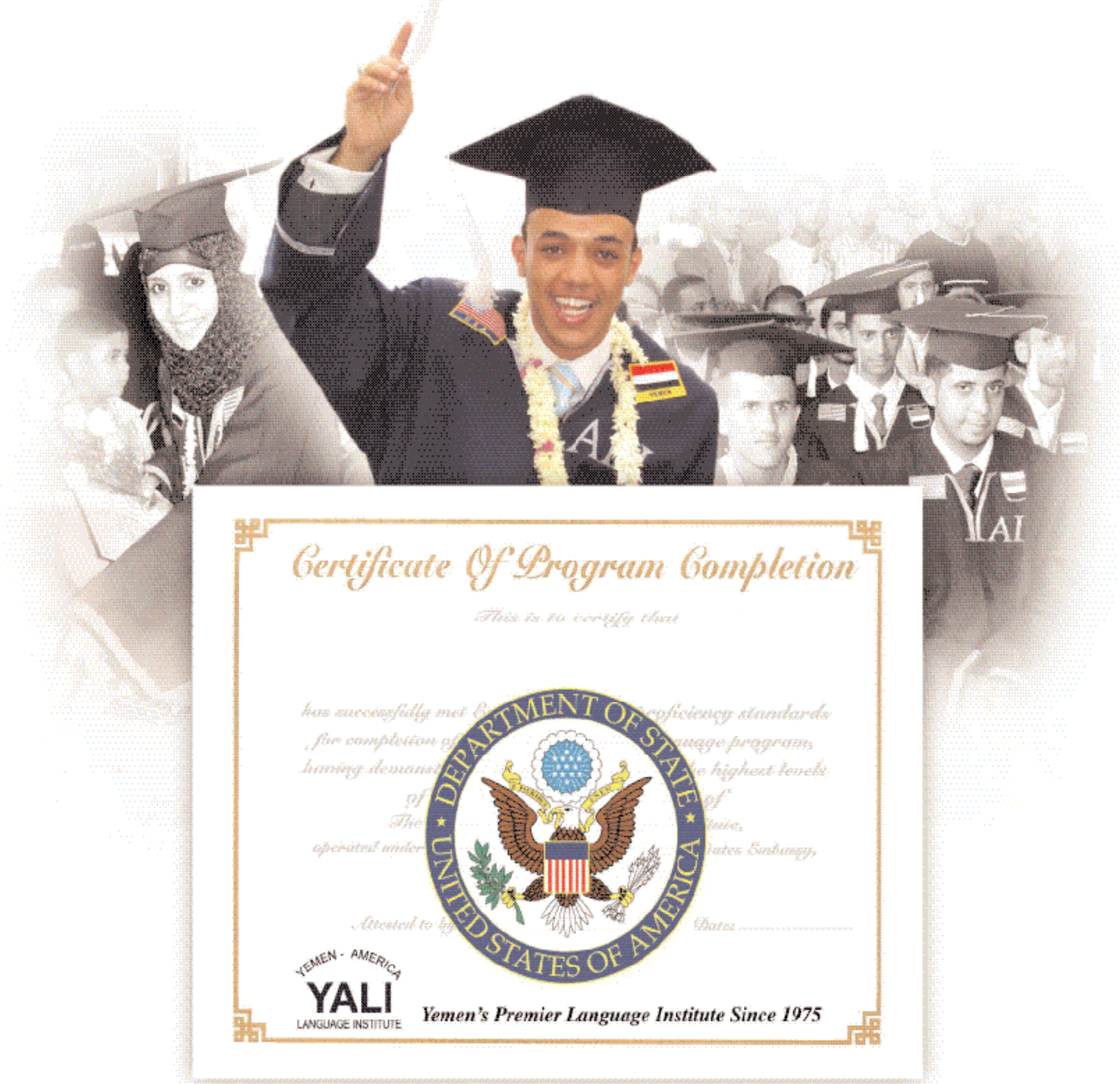
الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
3	2	1				
10	9	8	7	6	5	4
17	16	15	14	13	12	11
24	23	22	21	20	19	18
31	30	29	28	27	26	25

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
14	13	12	11	10	9	8
21	20	19	18	17	16	15
28	27	26	25	24	23	22
	30	29				

الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الأحد	السبت
FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
5	4	3	2	1		
12	11	10	9	8	7	6
19	18	17	16	15	14	13
26	25	24	23	22	21	20
	31	30	29	28	27	



# Seal Your Future



YEMEN - AMERICA  
**YALI**  
LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

**Yemen's Premier Language Institute Since 1975**

For more information call +967-1-445482/3/4 or 448039

Fax: +967-1-448037 • Email: [info@yali.org.ye](mailto:info@yali.org.ye) • Website: [www.yali.org.ye](http://www.yali.org.ye)



# Yemen's judiciary sill lacks independence

By: Abdulwahid Al-Sharafi

Although the Law stipulates independence of judiciary, this authority is still weak and frail, thus contradicting confirmations made by lawmen in various texts. In order to inform the readers and observers of the poor judiciary lacking the required independence, we here list three similar cases of victims being arrested over practicing their religious rituals while marking the Ghadir Day or helping others learn about the Zaidi Sect.

All these cases are related with the freedom of intellectualism and sectarian pluralism, ensured by the Constitution and Law, as well as the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and the International Convention for Civil and Political Rights. In addition, Yemen's Attorney-General has given directions to the relevant authorities to release those detained over exercising their religious and political rights, but these authori-

ties refused to do so.

The Attorney-General directed security officials to free the religious Shiite cleric Mohammed Meftah, Chairman of Haq Party's Shoura Council, who was arrested a few days ago following his participation in celebrations of the Ghadir Day in Bani Heshaih areas, northeast of Sana'a. Also, the security authorities refused to hand the detainee over to the relevant prosecutor, in obvious defiance of the judiciary. In the same context, Security Department of the First Area in Sana'a refused to release the eight detained children, who have not attained 14 years of age, defying orders given by the Attorney-General. The security department captured them under the pretext that they had been reserving historic information about Ghadir Kham, which was distributed to participants at the Ghadir Day celebrations in the Old Sana'a City-based Nahrain Mosque. The detained children were said to have taken part in marking the religious occasion.

Another scandal putting blame on

the weak judiciary is that of the tragedy of ten people detained in Dhamar's Political Security Jail since February of 2007. The victims were arrested over allegedly having connections with the Sa'ada events, however, they know nothing about Houthis and their fight with the government troops. Some of these detainees suffer from chronic diseases and health problems like what happened to Abdullah Al-Dailami, whose condition worsened because of continued imprisonment.

The Attorney-General directed the concerned authorities at the Political Security to release the inmates or refer them to Prosecution in case they are found guilty of any crime, but they showed no response to the directions. Moreover, they prevented a group of rights activists, among them the MP Ahmad Saif Hashid, member of the Parliamentary Rights and Public Freedoms Committee, and media personnel from visiting the prisoners, however, such visitors were carrying a court verdict to the political security officers in order to allow them have

access to the jail. Repeated appeals by civil community organizations, rights groups and political parties failed to free the detainees. They faced obstacles and difficulties like those posed to efforts expended by the Attorney-General.

Nevertheless, it is not logical to urge citizens to respect judicial verdicts and decisions and remain voluntarily or forcibly committed to them in exercising their rights and daily activities whereas the government agencies don't consider any of the judicial directions and therefore appear to defy them.

The consultative board for implementing platform of President Saleh has to be reminded that nothing of the item concerned with independence of the judiciary, which occupied a larger space in the platform, was implemented. Cases of these victims constitute live evidence of what we are saying and the ordinary citizen seems to have lost his/her trust in the government.

Source: Al-Thawri Weekly

## COMMON SENSE

### Is Yemen at war with ytsel?

Lately one hears or reads about incidents of death and injury that are occurring almost on a daily basis in Yemen. Of course death is imminent to all things living but one is flabbergasted by the relatively large numbers, many of which are in the teens that have become a per diem norm. Some of these deaths are due to outright warfare between the state and the citizenry, which have now become widespread from Aden to Sa'ada [with a few forays in between (Ta'ez, Shabwa and other governorates)], while others are due to drowning (also almost on a daily basis as half the population of Somalia become victims of conniving regional and international wheeling and dealing) and of course there are the automobiles crashing into each other or hitting defenseless pedestrians and the unfortunate accidents of misfired weapons that either kill their owners or some nearby spectator, not to mention those fired in jest on the pretext that the holder is unaware that the gun is loaded.

The accidents and the ill-fated early deaths are digestible to a certain extent, but when the killing is done by the armed forces or the security organs of the Government against mostly helpless civilians, who may have legitimate gripes against the incompetence of Government, which has driven a sizable segment of erstwhile well off people to the abyss of poverty and despair. When the country needs all the peace and stability it could muster up, to convince the world that Yemen is a safe haven for investment, one finds our eager trigger happy military brass looking for any incident so they can engage in target practice against peaceful demonstrators with live targets. This is repression and oppression in their most deprecate manifestations. What is the Government doing to handle the gripes that people in both the South and the North of the country are screaming about to ears that are blocked by the epitome of deaf Government, which has decided to declare all its citizenry (north and south of the Al-Rahida and Al-Habilayn crossing) persona non grata and enemies of a regime persistent on thriving on its own incompetence! This is absolutely unbearable to many a people, who have been grounded beyond what any normal human beings could bare, in terms of trying to subsist on their own earnings, which have come to approach worthlessness, no matter how hard they try to earn an honest living.

Those protests in Aden, Shabwa, Ta'ez, Sa'ada and in many of the places we do not even hear about, are not the workings of outside elements conspiring against the people of Yemen. These protests emanate from frustration, helplessness and contempt from the corruption that has become so widespread that Yemen may soon even surpass the corruption level of some of the long established states of fame in this genre of statecraft (like Nigeria or the Dominican Republic). The demonstrations that one hears or sees erupting here and there are really being carried out by normal citizens craving for an opportunity to prove their desires for obtaining an honest living and collect earnings that are derived from the sweat of their labors and not from the Treasury that is being bled by the wanton corruption of those responsible for channeling its proceeds to the development and welfare of the people it claims to serve. Who are these corrupt elements, who think that they have a Divine right to bleed the country of all its resources for themselves alone, while the overwhelming majority of the population is left to seek to fulfill their nutritional needs from the garbage bins, or eating the crumbs left from the over-extravagance and overindulgence of its mischievous officials and leaders? Isn't it enough that logic, age and good sense would have it that the latter should have been gone a long time ago, and even then they were already wealthy! So, the time has come to tell those troops out there to control their craving for flying bullets, whether they are northerners or southerners, those people they are shooting at are their fellow citizens and not foreign agents of imaginary enemies concocted by the cheaply bought propaganda agents of the regime. The Government should be grateful that the citizens of Yemen have not turned to mob rule and chaos as they see the people who are supposedly overseeing the public state of affairs live high on the hog while many of them are left to squander homeless and without any fulfillment of the most basic of life's needs, until they are dead frozen in the streets (See this link: <http://www.al-yemen.org/vb/showthread.php?t=221434>). If the Government wants war, why doesn't it try fighting the causes of poverty, overpopulation, and unemployment and against all the corrupt officials who brought on all the maladies that are bringing the people out to the streets in desperate contempt of their rulers?

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## When demise causes a nationwide shock

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar died. But such a short sentence can not clarify any traces and allegations emerging in the wake of the Sheikh's demise. What we can say in this respect may have something to do with the past only. But, how things will go on in Yemen without Sheikh Al-Ahmar entails that Yemeni people still need the power of inspiration in order to be enabled to exercise imagination. In short, decease of Sheikh Al-Ahmar shocked the whole nation.

The Late Sheikh has spent an age full of military and political events, developments and conflicts, and during which time, Yemen saw great transformations, some of which forward while others backward. During those transformations, Al-Ahmar has been demonstrating a key role in their progress, and he used to move to another braver and riskier role, as soon as he finishes the previous one. His movement from one role to another proved to leave behind a great influence in time and place until the extent of making it impossible for anyone to imagine the late man's life without hearing the sounds of fire shooting, sound judgment or brave positions.

When Imam Ahmad killed his father and his brother Hameed in 1961, the destiny selected Sheikh Abdullah, who was at that time a youngster having no experience in politics and political conflicts, to place him on the front-line of the theater of Yemen's dramatic events, the rhythm of which has not slowed down since that day. The jail penalty, which Sheikh Abdullah faced following the execution of his father and brother, prepared him psychologically to quit the hard life he led during the early days of his age.

Those surrounding the Sheikh used to push him toward the political theater, and lights remained being shed on the social dignitary from different directions.

Regardless of the various positions of those surrounding him, be they proponents or opponents, all of them agreed that the Sheikh was not that simple, nor was his role secondary in the sequence of events and developments. Rather, his proponents viewed him as



By: Ali Al-Sarari

the bystander and supporter of their issues while his opponents were seeing Sheikh Al-Ahmar as a powerful man with a stronger influence on the trail of transformations.

The most important thing is that Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar remained an intimate and honest friend for his proponents, as well as a noble rival in the eyes of his opponents. As a result, the man retained the same unique living style, thereby leading observers to label him as "an uncomplicated character that gives no wrong impression about its reality". Reality of the late man discloses that both his opponents and proponents unanimously acknowledge that honesty and credibility are the most prominent qualities of his actions and sayings. When he says, "This is wrong," he used to do so innocently without any trickiness. And, when he says, "I differ with this," he used to do so without any exaggeration.

In general, the Sheikh remained a unique political and social phenomenon, having its own an uncontrollable

context, throughout his life. He was not a separated or enclosed phenomenon. Over decades of his political and social activities, he had demonstrated a pioneering role in the formulation and direction of events.

The scene of his funeral services was unprecedented in the history of Sana'a, especially as his funeral combined the official style with the popular one. Thousands of tribal leaders and ordinary citizens came from different governorates with the sincere intention of attending his funeral services, praying for him and carrying him to his final resting place. The unprecedented event implied the prestigious status the late Sheikh had in the Yemeni society and his demise is judged by all means as a great loss for Yemen, particularly amid these critical conditions in the country.

In fact, Sheikh Al-Ahmar was not careless about the tragic fate Yemen is awaiting because of the corrupt and random policies pursued by the government. That was demonstrated in his description of the government's policies a few years ago, saying "they took Yemen into a gloomy tunnel since this government neither review its plans nor assess its performance". In the wake of Sheikh Al-Ahmar's death, talk about avoiding or escaping an inevitable catastrophe for Yemen has become useless.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.  
Source: Al-Thawri Weekly

## Who complicates the population problem?

By: Mohammed Al-Ariqi

Despite the significant work papers presented at the National Population Council's Fourth Conference, which were discussed in groups, the ideas and remarks highlighted by group members had been reflecting scenes of the population problem that was not indicated by the papers themselves. The problem is supposed to be necessarily included and highlighted in the papers' findings and recommendations in a manner helping participants understand the problem well and then think of possible solutions to this problem during its stage of infancy and before it becomes more intricate.

I have heard from people, who participated in discussing the theme related with balance between population growth rates and sustainable development, a number of essential points that made the discussion more dynamic and effective. Similarly, I used to hear louder voices from the neighboring hall where others were discussing the reproductive health theme. Enthusiasm for closer observation, as demonstrated by one of the female participants speaking

at the event, made all the attendees give her a hand although the nature of discussion in such groups doesn't necessitate hand clapping or applause.

But the woman might have said something vital to reproductive health in a brave way. Likewise, discussion between members of my group moved toward listing some issues that are mostly repeated at every debate or meeting. Such a repetition may confirm that all the people are serious enough to search for possibly actual solutions to our persisting problems that are the result of various reasons and causes. Therefore, it is illogical to select the problem of rapid population growth as the only reason for all the obstacles we are facing and suffering.

The event revealed multiple causes and pictures, which have been all contributing to slow and ailing economic growth. Such causes need to be immediately addressed through suggesting workable cures and solutions before the problem exacerbates and goes complicated.

Prepared by a group of researchers and academics, the paper indicated that continued economic deterioration will lead to continuity of uncontrollable

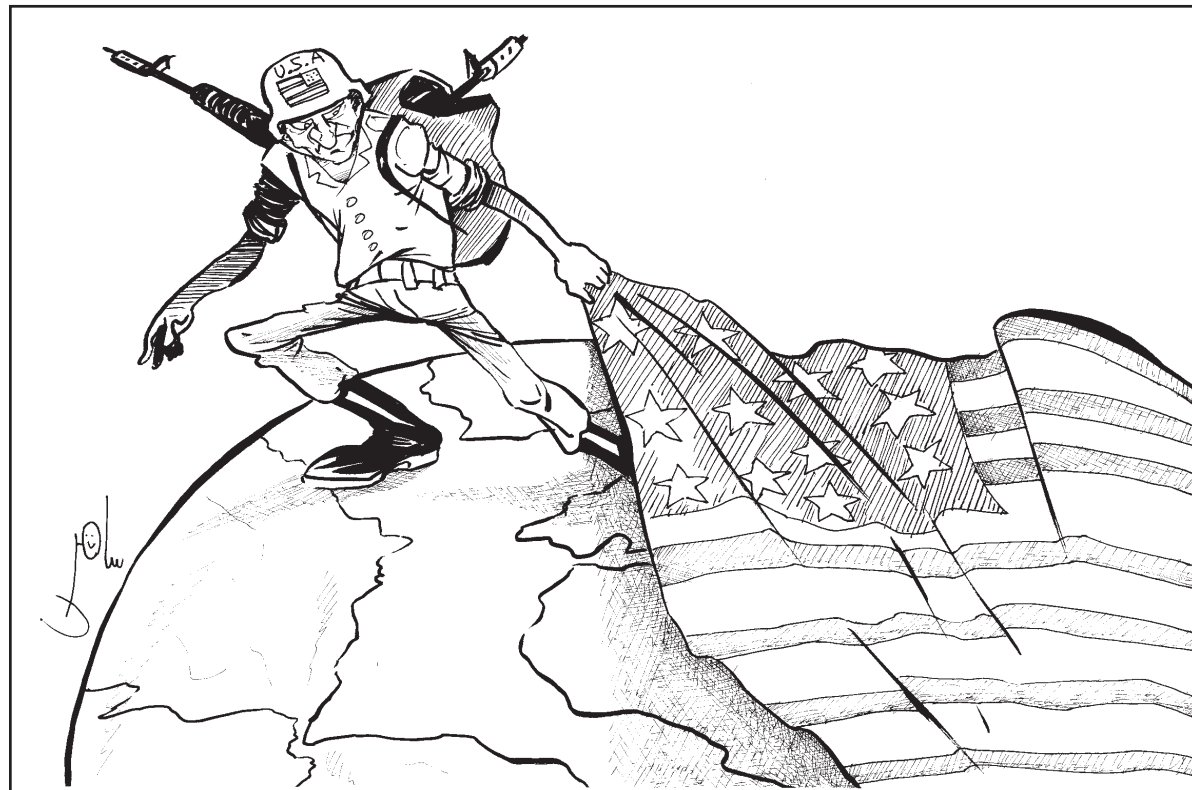
population growth. Such a persisting gap between economic development and rapid population growth is bound to make poverty more severe and rampant, as well as worsen citizens' living standards and weaken Yemen's capacity for achieving population policy objectives and third millennium development goals.

In order not to be excessive in talking about rapid population growth rate, we have to move toward correcting our economic, administrative and health systems, create sustainable human development, exploit our available resources efficiently and rationalize spending.

Having done this, we will find that ghost of the population problem, notably the rapid population growth, is overcome by expedited progress of economic and social growth, thanks to the serious efforts of man.

Via randomness, impoverishment and absence of responsibility, we may make out of man a complicated problem. But, via strong will, determination and hard work, we can make out of man a miracle for creativity and luxurious living.

Source: Al-Thawra State-Run Daily



**YEMEN TIMES**  
www.yementimes.com

First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661  
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276  
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen  
E-mail: [editor@yementimes.com](mailto:editor@yementimes.com)  
Advertisement: [ads@yementimes.com](mailto:ads@yementimes.com)  
Letters: [letters@yementimes.com](mailto:letters@yementimes.com)

**Publisher & Editor-in-Chief**  
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakka

**Managing Editor**  
Amel Al-Ariqi

**Feature Editor**  
Mohammed Al-Jabri

**Copy Editor**

Dana Patterson

**Head of News Dept.**  
Mohamed bin Sallam

**Senior Reporter**  
Ismail Al-Ghabri

**Head of Design Dept.**  
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

**Editorial Staff**

Al-Ajel, Fatima  
Mojalli, Almgidad  
Addu'ais, Essam

**Offices**

**Aden Bureau:**  
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed  
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596  
Fax: +967 (2) 347056  
Email: [ytaden@y.net.ye](mailto:ytaden@y.net.ye)

**Taiz Bureau:**  
Imad Ahmed Abdullah  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,  
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157  
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz  
Email: [yttaiz@y.net.ye](mailto:yttaiz@y.net.ye)

**Subscription rates:**

Individuals: YR 7,000  
Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000  
Foreign companies/organizations: \$ 80

**Policies:**

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices



# Indonesia where “soft Islam” is on the march

**Indonesia has some worrying radicals but it seems to be following Turkey, with Islamists moderating as they get closer to power**

**By: Hasni Essa  
Peace & Pluralism**

Is Indonesia, the most populous Muslim-majority country, undergoing creeping Islamisation? It is not hard to assemble enough recent evidence to give Western Islamophobes goosebumps. In late December a mob attacked and burned a prayer house in West Java belonging to Ahmadiyah, a sect deemed heretical by some mainstream Islamic scholars. Earlier in the month the country's Christian leaders complained that Muslim radicals, helped by local officials, had carried out a string of attacks on churches. Ten Muslim militants were jailed for attacks on Christians on Sulawesi island, including the beheading of three schoolgirls. In late November the religious-affairs ministry barred a liberal Egyptian scholar, Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd (who calls the Koran a “cultural product”), from public speaking in Indonesia.

Behind many recent incidents is a vigilante group, the Islam Defenders' Front (FPI), which in September assaulted bars, cafés and hotels in Bogor, near Jakarta, accusing them of violating Ramadan. Another rising radical force is the Indonesian chapter of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, which wants a caliphate to rule the whole Muslim world. Last August it gathered perhaps 90,000 supporters in a Jakarta stadium. Its leaders condemned democracy on the basis that sovereignty lies in God's hands, not the people's. A not dissimilar attack on pluralism was made in a headline fatwa issued in 2005 by the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI). This same semi-official body recently demanded the banning of the liberal Egyptian scholar.

In 2006 a poll found that one in ten Indonesians supported terrorist attacks like the 2002 Bali bombings if intended to “protect the faith”. Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the terror group behind the Bali attacks, is still running several dozen pesantren (boarding schools), putting who knows what into impressionable teenage heads. The Bali bombers are due to be executed in the next few weeks, possibly triggering a backlash by radicals.

This all sounds worrying. But Indonesia is a huge, varied and complex place, and the radicals—even though some have a semi-official platform—are a small and not very influential minority. Contrary evidence abounds: liberals as well as radicals are making inroads. They have won a big battle over a “pornography” law that Islamists proposed in 2006. It would have banned bikinis and short skirts, for non-Muslim women too, and prohibited the Hindu minority's traditional dances. But a public outcry forced lawmakers to strike out all the controversial bits—and it still has not passed in parliament. Two new anti-terrorist police squads have made much progress in arresting and breaking up JI's leadership. There have been no attacks on foreign targets for two years.

As Indonesia democratised after the fall of the (secular) Suharto regime in 1998, local authorities gained autonomy and became directly elected. Many seized the opportunity to pass sharia-based laws, stoking fears of Islamisation. However, Greg Fealy, an Australian expert on Indonesian Islam, says these laws, though successful in winning votes for the local politicians pushing them, have usually had little practical impact. He recently revisited one such district, Tasikmalaya, where he found “there were more schoolgirls

wearing the headscarf but just as much gambling, prostitution and drinking as before.”

The formerly separatist region of Aceh was allowed, under a peace pact with the rebels, to introduce strict sharia. The move was popular at first, says Sidney Jones of the International Crisis Group, a think-tank, but there was widespread revulsion when the authorities started publicly whipping miscreants. As a result the religious police were drastically reined in. Overall, Indonesians seem to prefer the idea of living under “God's law” to the practice of it. Indonesian Islam has always been distinct from the Middle Eastern kind, infusing influences from Hinduism and other religions. This will make it hard for fundamentalists to get far, says Muhammad Hikam, a political consultant.

Whereas a relatively small number of fiery militants and fundamentalists get most attention, Mr Hikam says that liberal Islamic scholars have successfully broken the link between religious piety and political Islam. Indonesians seeking a more overt expression of their faith, as many do nowadays, can still believe in separation of mosque and state. As the 2009 presidential and parliamentary elections approach, secular parties have been attracting voters by creating Islamic—but not Islamist—wings. The in-pharse, says Mr Fealy, is Islam Lunak, “soft Islam”. Pollsters are telling politicians that it helps to add a mild religious tinge to speeches about social justice and anti-corruption. But radical stuff, like preaching an Islamic state, is a turn-off.

Indonesia's two biggest Muslim organisations are Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)—whose long-time leader, Abdurrahman Wahid was president of Indonesia in 1999-2001—and Muhammadiyah, which together claim around 70m members. They indeed used to call for an Islamic state. Nowadays Masdar Farid Mas'udi, a senior PKS figure, says all they mean by an “Islamic” state is a just and prosper-



ous one. In some ways the two bodies have come to resemble Europe's mainstream Christian churches: “Catholic” NU stresses traditional rites and the authority of religious leaders, whereas “Protestant” Muhammadiyah stresses the primacy of scripture. As with Catholics and Protestants it is family tradition, rather than theology, that usually determines which group one belongs to. Both now accept Indonesia's secular founding creed, pancasila, which preaches religious tolerance (though you are supposed to believe in God).

#### Moderate success

Several of the country's political parties began life as the political wings of religious movements such as NU and Muhammadiyah. But the parties and their parent bodies have drifted apart, even as all have mellowed. In recent elections a more religiously conservative group, Prosperous Justice (PKS), has gained votes—but polls now show its support slumping. One reason is that it backed the pornography law and has suffered in the backlash against it.

Another, admits Zulkieflimansyah, a senior PKS parliamentarian, is that it has joined the (secular) coalition of

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Its popularity has suffered because of tough policies such as cutting fuel subsidies. Mr Zulkieflimansyah sees his party as undergoing a desirable process of moderation as it “encounters reality”. PKS—like longer-established Muslim parties before it—is now having to ditch the fire and brimstone to transcend minority appeal. Rising younger figures in the party, like him, are more comfortable with this than its older generation, who studied in the Middle East. In general, the country's larger Muslim parties are echoing Turkey's ruling AK party—ditching Islamism while still appealing to the pious. Smaller ones still holding to a hard line may fare badly in 2009: Mr Fealy reckons that in 200 regional elections in the past two-and-a-half years not a single “sectarian” Muslim candidate has won.

Indonesia is, overall, edging away from radical Islamism. But the trend is not irreversible, and the authorities must avoid fostering fundamentalists by pandering to them. The MUI (the council of mullahs) and the FPI (the vigilantes) provide a lesson: both were created, for temporary reasons of expediency, by the Suharto regime but both

have lingered to haunt its democratic successors. Mr Yudhoyono now seems to be trying to channel the MUT's radical enthusiasm into issuing fatwas against “deviant” Islamic sects like Ahmadiyah. But this only encourages the FPI to take up its cudgels.

Other, more important ways to make sure Indonesia stays on the path to democratic pluralism are to keep the economy growing and to boost sluggish efforts at reforming graft-ridden public institutions. High unemployment provides recruits for communal violence like that in Sulawesi—whether or not religion is the spark that ignites the tinder. Poverty, combined with disgust at corrupt officialdom, push some people towards the Utopian promises of groups such as Hizb-ut-Tahrir. In Indonesia, unlike most Muslim countries, the ideological struggle between various forms of Islam is being fought largely by democratic means. The violent and the intolerant are still at the margins and, while the country's steady progress persists, look likely to stay there.

Indonesia has some worrying radicals but it seems to be following Turkey, with Islamists moderating as they get closer to power.

*Source: The Economist print edition*

## Uncertainty and action on climate change

**By: Thomas Schelling**

The uncertainties about climate change are many and great. How much CO<sub>2</sub> may join the atmosphere if nothing is done about it? How much global warming will it cause, and how will local climates, ecosystems, and vulnerable species be affected? What impact will such changes have on productivity, comfort, and health? And, of course, what are the likely costs of shifting to renewable energy sources and energy conservation?

As more becomes known about climate change – for example, the role of clouds and oceans – more uncertainties emerge. Nevertheless, the greenhouse “theory,” as it is sometimes disparagingly called, has been established beyond responsible doubt. There is uncertainty about the quantitative parameters, and there can be doubt about whether the warming of recent decades is entirely due to the “greenhouse effect.” But the basics of global warming are not in scientific dispute.

If we know that the earth is warming, but are uncertain about how fast and with what effects on climates worldwide, what are the most urgent steps that we should take to address it? One, of course, is to keep studying climate phenomena and their ecological impact. Another is to promote research and development aimed at remediation. We urgently need to understand what alternatives to fossil fuels there will be, how much energy can be conserved, how to extract CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, and, if necessary, how to increase the earth's albedo, its reflectance of incoming sunlight.

One way to ensure the necessary R&D is to rely on the market to finance and direct the work by using taxes, subsidies, rationing, and – most important – by convincing firms and consumers that fossil fuels will become progressively more costly. But private interests will not undertake some essential R&D under any circumstances; the “market” will not induce the necessary outlays, because investors cannot capture all the benefits of moderating global warming for the human race.

So the other option is for govern-

ments, cooperatively with business, to finance and direct R&D. For example, it has long been understood that CO<sub>2</sub> produced in large stationary plants like electric power stations can be “captured” and piped to where it can be injected into underground caverns (or possibly ocean beds). Twenty-five years ago, it was estimated that this process would double the cost of electricity; it now appears that costs may be more modest. But investment in the required R&D – in the technology of capture, transport, injection, and sealing, and in geologic exploration for sites suitable for permanent storage – will be beyond the purview of any private interest.

So-called “geo-engineering” is another area of research that deserves attention, but will not receive it from the private sector. Some sunlight reaching the earth is absorbed, and some is reflected away. Likewise, some volcanic eruptions, namely those that produce lots of sulfur, can cool the earth significantly. Indeed, it is estimated that the sulfur currently in the atmosphere, mainly from combustion of coal and oil, may be masking a significant part of the expected greenhouse effect.

So it would make sense to conduct small, reversible experiments to determine what substances might be put at what altitude to reflect incoming energy, and to include the results in global climate models to ascertain where they would be most effective and benign. Needless to say, this is not a task for the private sector, and some international sponsorship might be appropriate.

For some, particularly the Bush administration, uncertainty regarding global warming appears to be a legitimate basis for postponing action, which is usually identified as “costly.” But this idea is almost unique to climate change. In other areas of public policy, such as terrorism, nuclear proliferation, inflation, or vaccination, an “insurance” principle seems to prevail: if there is a sufficient likelihood of significant damage, we take some measured anticipatory action.

At the opposite extreme is what is often called the “precautionary” principle, now popular in the European Union: until something – for example,

genetically modified foods – is guaranteed safe, it must be postponed indefinitely, despite substantial expected benefits.

Neither of these two principles makes sense, economically or otherwise. We should weigh the costs, benefits, and probabilities as best as possible, and not be obsessed with extreme cases.

Of course, the uncertainties about climate change make a few actions infeasible for now, and probably for a long time. The acknowledged uncertainty about the “climate sensitivity” parameter implies that it makes no sense to decide now, through some multinational diplomatic process, what the ultimate ceiling on greenhouse gas concentrations must be, and then using this ceiling as a basis for allotting quotas to participating nations.

But most issues concerning climate change are not so clear. The most terrifying possible consequence of global warming that has been identified is the “collapse” of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, which rests on the sea bottom and protrudes a kilometer or two above sea level. Unlike floating ice, which does nothing to the sea level when it melts, there is enough of this ice sheet above the surface that it could raise the sea level by something like 20 feet if it glaciated into the ocean, inundating coastal cities everywhere.

Estimates of the likelihood of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet's collapse, or the likely time of collapse, have varied for three decades. Recent studies of the effect of ocean temperature on the movement of ground-based ice sheets are not reassuring. In my reading of the latest research, the likelihood of collapse in this century is small – but uncertain.

In responding to such uncertainty, we should neither wait until the uncertainty has been

completely resolved before we take action nor act as if it's certain until we have assurance that there's no danger. These two extremes are not the only alternatives.

*Thomas C. Schelling won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2005.  
Copyright: Project Syndicate/The*

## UNICEF YEMEN

P. O. BOX 725  
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
TEL: (967.1) 211 400  
FAX: (967.1) 206 092

### EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 10/07

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

Title:	Administrative Assistant
Level:	GS-4
Type of Contract:	Fixed Term
Duty Station:	Sana'a

Under the supervision and guidance of the Chief of Health & Nutrition (L4) the Admin Assistant shall perform the following main responsibilities:

- (1) Provide secretarial support to the Chief of Health & Nutrition and other staff of the section ensuring the smooth and efficient flow of information to and from the section.
- (2) Prepare regular reports on implementation status of the health section.
- (3) Screens all telephone calls for the Health Section and obtains connections to outside UN agencies, NGO's and government offices.
- (4) Files and retrieve letters/reports/documents for the Programme Officers. Assist Programme Officers to prepare donor reports and end of year reconciliation reports.
- (5) Translate letters/documents from Arabic to English and vise-versa.
- (6) Maintain filing system for all programme monitoring and control documents.
- (7) Carry-out any other tasks as required by the Supervisor.

#### **Qualifications and Skills required:**

1. Completion of secondary education.
2. Five years of progressively responsible experience.
3. Proven experience of working in a multicultural environment...
4. Good knowledge of common computer applications
5. Fluency in written and oral English and Arabic.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to: **Chief of Operations, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O.Box 725**  
Applications received after 29th January 2008 will not be accepted. Only the short listed candidates will be contacted.

Qualified women candidates are encouraged to apply  
**‘UNICEF is non-smoking environment’**



William Helz:

# “Competition in a free market is healthy and should only serve to make competitors better at what they do”

**T**he recent launch of Exceed English language Training Center has highlighted not only the educational benefits but also the business prospects of investing in the sector. The incredible success of Exceed came only to remind us of the need for quality education and the potential for growth in the language training niche. YemenTimes made this interview with Mr. William Helz, the Director of Exceed Training Center to understand more about the success of this business venture.

**Mr. Helz, we understand that you have had some prior experience working in Yemen in the Educational Sector; can you brief us on your background?**

Yes, I'm happy to say that this is my third stint working – and living – in Yemen.

I was here, initially, from 1990 – 1993, as Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development-sponsored Yemen-America Language Institute (USAID-YALI), a program that was designed to prepare selected scholarship students for Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. degree study in the U.S. This was really a wonderful program and I still meet former students of this program who went on to complete their studies in the U.S. and are now back in Yemen, with many serving in rather prominent positions in the private and public sectors. This program, unfortunately, fell victim to international politics in the wake of the first Gulf War when USAID eventually withdrew completely from Yemen for a number of years; even since USAID's return (in about 2002 or 2003), this program has, unfortunately, never been reinstituted even though it is my belief that it played an important and beneficial role in helping to forge a positive relationship between the U.S. and Yemen.

During my second stay in Yemen, from 2000 – 2005, I was the Director of the remaining YALI program originally implemented under the U.S. Information Service (USIS) which was later integrated into the U.S. State Department. I was fortunate to be a part of this YALI program during an unprecedented period of growth and creative development in its history, particularly since it had almost been shut down by the U.S. Embassy about a year and a half prior to my return. The perceived need for English language training blossomed during this five year period and I was blessed to be a part of a team of dedicated professionals who brought great credit to our efforts to achieve a first-rate language institute. When I left at the end of 2005, I thought I was retiring and I never expected that I would return except, perhaps, on vacation to revisit old friends.

However, I'm back again now and greatly revitalized by the vision of former colleagues at YALI who have launched their own English language institute, Exceed Language Center, with aspirations of going beyond, or exceeding, the level of quality we had previously reached. To date, this has proven to be both rewarding and challenging, and we have done a pretty good job of meeting

the challenges presented to us thus far.

**How do you evaluate the development of the educational sector, particularly language training in Yemen?**

I can speak primarily about English language training, my own educational field, and I can see clearly that there is a world of difference in the number of English language learning opportunities available in Yemen – and, particularly, in Sana'a – between when I first arrived in 1990 and the present time. A lot of this change occurred between my first and second stays, with the birth of a multitude of new language institutes and of private secondary schools and universities with English-based curricula.

*“While in our first term of operation we exceeded 500 students, we now have more than 750 students in our second term...”*

In 1990, there were really only two language institutes of significance – YALI and the British Council – and the latter reduced its presence greatly in the

mid-90's, while other new institutes, largely YALI imitators, gained some prominence in the English language teaching field here. Still, consistent quality of such new programs was seemingly limited; some of them seemed to be paying attention primarily to making short-term profit, and many seemed to lack the experience and knowledge for operating quality programs. And, in the public schools it remained obvious that quality of English language instruction and cur-



**“We already have “football” and “ping-pong” and will soon have basketball and volleyball.”**

riculum still needed a great deal of improvement. In my estimation, a good teacher training program for prospective language teachers was what was most needed – and, most likely, is still what is most needed if the quality of language



**Mr. William Helz**

instruction in Yemen is to improve significantly in the future.

I've only been back in Yemen this time for two and a half months, so I'm not sure about what has happened with English language teaching and learning in secondary schools and universities.

Regarding language institutes, I've seen no evidence of any significant improvements having been made in the overall quality of language institutes during my two year absence, and I find this somewhat disappointing.

But I am also hopeful for the future. I personally know of two new institutes – including our own Exceed Language Center – where quality teaching and learning is taking place, and there may be other institutes with similar philosophies and aspirations (and with qualified personnel) where pursuit of quality – and of real learning – is occurring. And, although I know my former

*“we have a board of directors and a group of shareholders with long-range vision, who are more interested in developing an educational product that can achieve world-level quality than in just ‘making a quick profit’”.*

developing an educational product that can achieve world-level quality than in just “making a quick profit”. Our facilities, our educational materials and some creative programming – plus certain marketing initiatives we have undertaken – have certainly also contributed to our initial success.

However, perhaps most important of all is that we are not easily satisfied and never wish to become complacent. We are committed to continual improvement and, I hope, students will sense this commitment.

**Can you tell us more about Exceed's competitive advantages over its rivals?**

I know that it is the nature of students to always compare various language institutes with each other (in the same way that they so readily compare various teachers with each other), I'm less concerned about these comparisons than I am about simply ensuring that we at Exceed are the best that we can possibly be.

At the same time, I realize that competition in a free market is healthy and should only serve to make competitors better at what they do – and that, in the case of competing language institutes, students will benefit from this competition. I can freely say, without

any feelings of guilt or regret, that we are willing to take good ideas from our competitors and implement them in our own way, if this serves to make us a better institute (and, especially, since many of the ideas implemented at other institutes were originally our own). We have also noticed that several of our primary competitors have not been at all shy about adopting some of Exceed's new ideas and approaches. Again, whether we at Exceed respond to what our competitors have done or they copy our ideas, I agree with the maxim that “imitation is the most sincere form of flattery.”

Finally, in regard to specific strengths that Exceed may have that some of our competitors do not have, I can again say that everything begins with excellence in teaching, continues with quality of curriculum and materials used, and goes further in comparing programming creativity and administrative systems – and such tangentially related things as flexibility, adaptability, creativity and reduction of bureaucracy, as well as ensuring an environment in which our students (who are our clients, or “customers”) are made to feel welcome and comfortable. We have pledged ourselves to attempt routinely to strive for excellence in all of these areas and to exceed our client-students' expectations.

Students have claimed that linguistic abilities in English help their careers in academia and in the job market, how true is this statement from your point of view.

Over the more than seventeen intervening years since I first came to Yemen, the importance of English has grown immeasurably, both in real terms and in terms of the perceptions that upwardly mobile aspiring individuals have regarding English, both professionally and academically.. English is certainly necessary

for professional employment opportunities with almost any multi-national company, and is also recognized as being important in Yemeni companies and organizations which conduct business

with foreign companies or individuals. And, in academia, the need for English language skills has also become increasingly important, with many “competent” courses being taught through the medium of English, with certain university faculties imposing English proficiency standards, and with opportunities for studying abroad often requiring fluency in English.

From what I can see in the present, I project that for the next generation, this trend will continue – through needs generated in commerce, international politics, the internet and other media, etc. – and that the importance of English will continue to increase exponentially across the world, as the world becomes a smaller place in which we all live in one “global village”.

Please tell us about the growth and expansion plans, especially if the number of applicant students exceeds your current capacity.

Right now, I'm not yet concerned about exceeding our capacity, since with our spacious compound we currently have a capacity of serving more than 7,000 students each day in English classes. However, there are a number of areas which we have targeted for development. For example, beginning next term we are planning to offer women-only classes in the morning for beginning level female students. And, beginning this summer, we plan to implement a year-round Teen program to accommodate the growing number of Yemenis who realize the importance of English for their children's futures and who are not satisfied with

“summer only” programs offered by most institutes (which permit teens to study for 2-3 months and then force them to wait until the next summer vacation before they can continue, ensuring that much of what they have gained will be lost during the 9-10 month period that follows).

We also have “grand” facility development plans, with our large “back yard” in which spacious prayer facilities, a restaurant, and recreation and game areas will soon be built. And, such things as a bi-lingual (English/ Arabic) day care center (with concurrent English classes for mothers) are also under consideration for the future. In addition, we are introducing certain game and sports activities (and attempting to teach the English needed to participate in these games and activities). We already have “foozball” and “ping-pong” and will soon have basketball and volleyball. We further intend to make a “Women's Exceed Recreational Center” inside one of our buildings for our female students, with “foozball” and “ping-pong”, as well as board games, beginning in the next several weeks.

And, finally, if we ever do outgrow our current space, we would likely build our own facilities in the future, tailoring them to our precise specifications for the ideal language center. This could be ten years from now but, as I mentioned earlier, we have a group of people here at Exceed who have visions for the future and the word “impossible” is not in their dictionaries (although the word “exceed” is on the first page of everyone's dictionary here).

**Any last comments?**

I would only like to say that I am really (and, I mean really!) happy to be back home again in Yemen, a place I have long considered as a “second home”. Everyone has been so very hospitable to me and has made me realize that, perhaps, I'm simply the kind of person who shouldn't “retire” As the flower that is “Exceed” has blossomed so quickly from the seed of an idea that existed only three months ago, I too feel like I have blossomed again. For this, I thank all of my co-workers – and our students – here at Exceed Language Center.

## Business in Brief

**Al-Atiya: GCC is studying a Saudi proposal for Yemen's accession**

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperative Council has stated that the GCC countries will be discussing a Saudi proposal to speed up the process of Yemen's accession to the GCC. This comes at a time when Saudi Arabia is constructing a fence on its borders with Yemen.

**PM denies increasing prices of petroleum products**

In response to a statement issued by the Joint Meeting Parties denouncing the increase in Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), the Prime Minister's office has denied increasing the prices of LPG and other petroleum products. However, a YemenTimes survey exposed that LPG prices has increased from 450 Riyals per cylinder to 600 Riyals in two weeks time.

**UAE funds dam construction with US\$ 70 million**

The Abu Dhabi Development Fund has signed an agreement with Yemen, to finance the construction of the Hassan dam in Abyan governorate, in order to help manage rainfall waters to be used for agricultural purposes, in turn improving the lives of up to 100,000 persons residing in neighboring agricultural areas.

**Four new bridges to be constructed in Sana'a**

Mayor of Capital Secretariat Dr. Yahya Al-Shoa'abi stated that the construction of four bridges and crossovers will start during 2008 in the capital, thereby increasing the total number of such projects to 16, out of which 8 are on-going, and four have already been finalized.

**Aden governor to make the first tourist map in Yemen**

Costing US\$ 18,000, the governor of Aden has announced that the first tourist map of Yemen will be that of Aden, and will indicate the roads and touristic destinations of the city in order to help tourists navigate their way around. Only 1,000 copies of the map will be printed on an A1-sized paper.

**Cabinet approved bankruptcy draft law**

The cabinet has approved a law to protect the right of bank depositors in the event that any bank declares bankruptcy, the law aims at safeguarding the interests of Small businesses which have taken advantage of banking services, in the wake of the Watani Bank insolvency in 2005.

**Domestic Air Carrier Al-Saada announced**

Yemenia Yemen Airways has announced that its domestic subsidiary, Al-Saada, will start operation in the second quarter of 2008. The airline is currently owned 75 % by the Islamic development fund, with a plan to sell its shares to the privet sector, and 25 % by Yemenia. The total paid-up capital of the airline stands at US\$ 80 million.



**“We have pledged ourselves to attempt routinely to strive for excellence in all of these areas and to exceed our client-students' expectations.”**



**AL-MUTAHAR FOR IRANIAN CARPETS**

A leading multinational oilfield chemicals company plans to recruit Yemeni nationals ambitious to work as chemical engineer at various oilfields throughout Yemen.

**Qualifications:**

1. University degree in Chemical Engineering or Chemistry
2. Fluent English and Arabic languages, both verbal and in writing
3. Good computer skills

**Experience:**

- Candidates with oilfield experience have preference

**What do they get:**

- Good career prospect
- Extensive training in oilfield chemistry
- Opportunities to travel domestic and internationally

Interested and eligible applicants can deliver their application and detailed CV in English to P.O.Box 19202, Fax-01-420739 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.



Way of Life!

**2008  
Arrived**

SPECIAL PRICES

**\$ 6,800**

\*3 Years Warranty or 60.000Km

سابحة  
**SABEHA**

Sana'a - Zubair Street  
Next to Ministry of Oil  
Showroom: 01-404340  
Offices: 01-201359 / 201319  
Fax: 01-209532

suzuki@yemen.net.ye  
www.sabehagroup.com

**Republic of Yemen****Public Telecommunications Corp.**

**General Telecommunication Institute (G T I)**  
Education & Training Affairs Management

**الجمهورية اليمنية**

المؤسسة العامة للاتصالات السلكية واللاسلكية  
المعهد العام للاتصالات  
ادارة الشؤون التعليمية والتدريبية

The General Telecommunication Institute (GTI), which is a part of the Public Telecommunication Corporation (PTC), is pleased to announce to ministries, corporations, companies, organizations, associations as well as to governmental & private sectors that it will hold the training courses mentioned below and any other training courses according to demand in different specialization (Technical, Financial, Administrative, Accounting).

The GTI has become as member in Prometric & Pearson VUE (Virtual University Enterprise) companies in addition to Cisco, Oracle and Microsoft Academies.

The GTI provides Diploma (6-8) months in the following domains:

- Cisco Networking
- Oracle Curriculum
- Microsoft Curriculum
- Computer Science
- Computer Maintenance
- Computer Applications
- ICDL (International Computer Driving License under UNESCO supervision)

- Computerized Secretariat
- English Language
- Wireless Telecommunication
- Programming (3 months)
- Programming (6 months)
- Graphics Design
- Website Design
- Exchanges (Switching)
- Power & Air-Conditioning
- Easy Learning (Self-study through electronic cards)
- Hosting Symposiums, Meetings, Conferences
- Renting Halls, Labs, Classrooms

To contact us:

Al-Hasabah, TV-Road (in front of Al-Shura Council)

Tel. 331387 or Fax. 331293 or

Visit our website [www.gti.edu.ye](http://www.gti.edu.ye)

We have branches in Aden, Mukalla, Taiz, Hodaidah, Dhamar and Ibb

P.S: Seats limited



## You® View

Every month, there will be a fixed topic on which we would like to encourage Yemen Times readers to participate in. It could be an article, a short story, a poem, or even a picture. The person with the best contribution will receive a Yemen Times cap, T-Shirt or Mug. Send your contributions under the title of YOUR VIEW to: [eljabree@gmail.com](mailto:eljabree@gmail.com)

This month is about: *An experience with a nutcase*

Have you ever encountered a crazy person and lived through a worth telling experience?

## Just a few minutes to ponder

By: **Lamis Abdulkarim Shuga'a**  
[lamis\\_shuga@yahoo.com](mailto:lamis_shuga@yahoo.com)

Several times, we've heard worthy speeches, especially from those with considerable experiences, but haven't realized their importance or value until pondering them more deeply and seriously. What I mean is that if we consider them carefully, we can determine their value on one hand, while benefiting from them on the other.

An important sentence uttered by famed Islamic propagandist Amr Khalid caught my attention. I concentrated upon a particular sentence in his long speech, considering it for a couple minutes.

Khalid said that most, if not all, problems around us arise for one reason: each person's ignorance of his or her rights, first toward himself, and then toward others. In other words, if everyone knew their exact rights and duties toward others, as well as the duties they should receive from others in return, there most certainly would be fewer problems in our societies in general and in our lives specifically.

Such a useful idea must be taken into account, but also adhered to and practiced faithfully in our daily lives.

First, I must admit that no one is perfect. In fact, every one of us makes different types of mistakes and fails to fully accomplish our duties – whether ours or others' – for one reason or another. Moreover, we often continue doing those mistakes, even if we know their consequences.

Maybe it's our nature, but we must obey the rules and do our duty as best we can in order to avoid expected problems on one hand, and receive reward, whether in this life or in the afterlife, on the other.

As the Qur'an says: "Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has faith, to him will We give a new life, and

life that is good and pure, and We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions." (Surat Al-Nahl: 97)

Using some examples, I'll explain what I mean and what I wish to convey in detail, thereby showing to what extent we can benefit from Khalid's idea, beginning with the smallest segment of society – the family.

Many problems occur can between husbands and wives due to the carelessness or failure of one or both to fully carry out their duties. For example, a husband may become angry if he notices some housework being neglected, especially if the reason is insignificant, or if his wife or children don't obey some of his orders.

Another situation that may disturb a husband is if he sees his wife not restricting the household budget by thoughtlessly buying many things or cooking more than necessary.

On the other hand, a husband may have some unreasonable or bad behaviors that annoy his wife, thereby causing problems for himself, for example, neglecting household demands, being careless toward his wife or children or treating them rudely. Selfishness can prevent him from sharing housework with his wife, etc.

Additionally, due to problems at work, many husbands return home with loud shouting and nervous behavior, however, this common problem can be solved if husbands do as one of my relative's friends does. Upon returning home, he throws all of his work problems onto a small tree near his home. Calling it "the problems tree," he takes them back when he goes to work again. In this way, he can reduce a lot of troubles with his family.

Wives can avoid many problems if they're more satisfied, patient and can bear with their husbands, while at the same time, accepting their fate and per-

forming all of their required duties sincerely. Likewise, children should adhere to their duties and the house rules according to Islamic instruction.

Moving on to another segment, schools, we can apply the same concepts. For one reason or another, some teachers don't fulfill their work obligations completely or don't obey school rules, which consequently lead to continuing problems with either the school's director, students' families or sometimes the students themselves.

On the other hand, students may be rude to teachers if questioned about their homework or if they don't study well, etc. Hence, students must obey their teachers and do their duties; otherwise, they'll almost certainly face problems and fail to be successful in their school work. It's not amazing to say the same thing regarding politics. Some nations unrightfully interfere in the affairs of others, which leads to conflicts. Such matters wouldn't occur if those countries perceived the precise limits of their treatment of others.

In many places and with different types of people, we can observe other types of failure in various areas; for example, at work, in public places, in streets, in markets, with neighbors, etc.

In conclusion, what I want to say can be summarized in the following hadith by the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh): "One good thing about those in Islam is that they let alone what doesn't have meaning for them."

A Yemeni proverb further asserts, "No one will abuse you if you remain silent," which, in this case, means that the one who is silent fulfills his duties and doesn't cause problems.

Lamis Abdulkarim Ahmed Shuga'a is an English teacher from Taiz currently pursuing a master's degree at Taiz University's English Department Language Center.

3) Human rights violations and the beating of monks in Burma, 4) Global inflation, including in the Gulf, 5) Benazir Bhutto's assassination and the instability in Pakistan and 6) that I haven't gotten a role in the movies (the pay is better than in management).

Beginning in a very subdued manner due to the brutal assassination of Bhutto, 2008 promises to be a challenging year. The grim message during the last week of 2007 was that we live in an increasingly dangerous world. Inflation, discrimination and unequal distribution of wealth and income added to 2007's woes and there may be no major paradigm shifts this year either. Inflation, unemployment and income disparity result in frustration and anger. Food prices world-

wide could rise 10 to 15 percent, thereby adding to the burdens of those with lower income.

Terrorist and insurgent activities will ensure greater worldwide insecurity. Governments will face new challenges for which they may not be able to handle because they are accustomed to soft management. A new generation of leaders with new ideas is the need of the hour.

I hope 2008 will be a more enlightened year for all of us. Let's hope that we'll realize that while money is important, without good human relations, there can be no profit in the long run. As the Bible teaches, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world at the loss of his own soul?"

Besides hasty and irresponsible drivers, pedestrians are the most pitiful and at the same time, the most entertaining sides of daily traffic. I am always surprised by dressed-up women, showing off slender bodies in exceptionally tight abayas and taking their time crossing a crowded street. I am equally surprised by an oblivious man hurdling cars and forcing himself through a red light to catch a bus or chit-chat with a driver he knows. My entertainment ends when I see young kids wandering alone in busy streets, as if they're hanging out in their living room. I cannot stop myself from occasional frantic leaps when little boys and girls cross roads without a warning and without guardians – almost crushed by reckless drivers. Pedestrians are certainly an interesting case in daily commute.

My favourite part is the symbol of justice and discipline: policemen, who are – most of the time – the real cause behind traffic jams. Usually, they are either pathetically chitchatting or gruesomely chewing Qat or hideously practicing bogus authority on poor crowds. Most Yemeni policemen do not understand their duty. When they decide to understand, they hurdle traffic to investigate drivers for wrong and lame reasons, banking on people's willful ignorance. The most intriguing part of a policeman's life is his ability to stand for endless hours under unbearable sun, staring at

hundreds of dabbabs and taxis, inhaling carbon by-products, deafening his ears by motorbikes' noise, and clutching to fancy cars for a "private toll" – a disgraceful 100 or 200 rials. I end up not knowing whether to despise or pity policemen for having such a job.

Despite all traffic madness, I should take off my hat to all Yemeni drivers for managing driving on narrow and wrecked streets. Most, if not all, roads lack proper signage and clear marking. A two-lane street amazingly becomes a four-lane street. I could see an expansion to a fifth lane, if there is a way to drive on pedestrians' pathways and if such pathways existed to begin with. A good driver in Yemen is obviously equipped with different skills than those known internationally. By the end of any commute, my head is spinning and my mood is ruined. Commuting in Yemeni cities is an irritating and frustrating experience. As a driver or a passenger, I always opt to shut my windows, suffocate and roast in the car's heat rather than expose myself to all the smoke, dust, and noise. To survive driving in Yemen, you must be bold with a strong instinct guiding you and you must have an incredible patience to put up with unpredictable pedestrians' wanders. I am not sure if Darwin would agree with me, but commuting in Yemen, whether on foot or by car, is beyond doubt survival of the maddest.

## Through The Mind's Eye

By: **Maged Thabet Al-kholidy**  
[maged\\_thabet@hotmail.com](mailto:maged_thabet@hotmail.com)



## “Violence against women” as a matter of culture

First of all, I want to thank all those who emailed me or sent their responses to Yemen Times, either for or against my article "There must be violence against women", issue no. 1117, 3 January 2007. Such responses do really widen the horizons of my understanding of many relevant points. I liked all the reactions though some have used 'offensive words against me'. I want, however, to shed some more light on the subject and the negative replies I got.

The number of responses was about 80. Really, it is the first time for me to receive such number of responses for one article. What surprised me more was the persons themselves. Most of them were of different cultures like British, Indians, Americans, only some Arabs and few Yemenis.

As a reaction to these responses, I want to confirm that Islam has given women a high position as a mother, sister, daughter, wife and a partner of life in all aspects. It asks men to be careful and merciful about women and treat them in a special way. In spite of this, it allows her to work and in order to support herself if there is no male supporter. Women do sublime duties either at home or at any other field like study and work. For that she is constantly respected.

Islam, in return, asks both women and men to follow certain religious, social and moral principles. It asks them to follow these principles and norms for their own sake and for the stability of the society.

It, for example, limits the relation between the two genders if there is no

relation among them. This protects them from being tempted to do any immoral acts that may occur in case they cross the boundaries. If anyone- man or woman, breaks such a norm, he/she must be stopped by a means that suits him/her.

When I say, 'he/she must be stopped', I do not mean that any person has the right to stop them. But, there are some who have the authority to do so. Parents, for instance, have the authority to do so with both sons and daughters. And this normally happens. In spite of this, sons (men) never move earth and heaven if parents used any means. It is only in the case daughters (women) that the earth and the heaven are turned against any uneasy going procedure taken by the parents to stop that bad behavior.

This was the basis of my argument in my article entitled "there must be violence against women". And I used the term 'violence against women' because the same violence is in similar cases are used with men. Nevertheless, It is only "violence against women" that is adopted by some organizations.

Of course, in other cultures, this perspective may not be acceptable. I know this, because there are many differences among these cultures in terms of religions, societies and morals.

Some cultures, for example, do not treat women as Islam does. A woman in the Islam constitutes a part of the society, honoring her to be at home as a queen, while the man (father, husband, brother) is the responsible of offering her all needs. Is this 'violence' or it is 'to throw her away to be from the hands of a boyfriend to another'?

Other cultures, on the other hand,

give freedom of women in all respects. In some Western countries, a father is no more responsible for his daughter if she gets 18 years old. She is not treated as a queen to be offered all the needs of study and good life. Instead, she carries that burden though she is still too young to work and fight life to run after her basic needs. Is violence to stops bad behaviors or to abandon such poor daughters at the age of purity and innocence, leaving them for the tides and ebbs of life to chisel their dignity and humanity as well???

For us, or 'at least for me', such a woman gets a high respectable status in the case of Islam. The kind of violence (as some organizations call it) is 'only used' in some cases in which other better treatments, like advising, instructing and any other gradual procedures, fail to redeem any unacceptable religious, moral and social cases.

Anyway, what I wanted to say in my article "There must be violence against women" is a comparison between the solutions offered by some organizations who call women to complain to the police and courts if they faced any kind of violence and the solutions that Islam has offered.

All in all, I look at the topic from this perspective. Those who reacted against me may call me "crazy" as some of them have already done. It is ok, I am not angry for that because I respect their viewpoints though some of them did not respect mine.

*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.*

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

## VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the costs of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of the installation of Different Irrigation Systems/Networks. Now the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) invites qualified and experienced local Specialist/Engineers to apply for the following posts:

### National Irrigation Systems Engineer (Specialist in Irrigation Agronomy)

Under the overall supervision of the Director General of Sana'a Basin Water Management project, and Senior Irrigation Engineer, he/she shall have the following tasks:

1. Participate with the Social Mobilization Teams of the Project in reviewing and assessing the applications received from farmers for installation of appropriate irrigation systems on their farms;
2. Conduct detailed field assessment on the status of farms selected by the Social Mobilization Teams for final approval, and to ensure that the criteria set for selection is been adhered to;
3. Prepare detail designs of different irrigation systems including production of detailed designs and complete bill of quantities for both pressurized and gravity irrigation systems to be installed on pilot demonstration and private farm, based on the surveys conducted by the project's surveying team, (Drip, bubble, sprinklers, and water conveyance networks...etc.);
4. Supervise installation of the pressurized irrigation systems(drip, sprinklers, bubblers)and the gravity systems (conveyance and distribution)on both pilot demonstration and private farm, and provide farmers with initial training on site in operation and necessary maintenance for the systems;
5. Assist the Senior Irrigation Engineer and the IPAC staff in the dissemination of appropriate irrigation practices and technologies to farmers through field day demonstrations, training courses seminars and workshops;
6. Collect data related to the efficiency, equitability and effectiveness of distribution of irrigation systems under the project, and on their adequacy to meet the needs of the irrigation water sector in Sana'a Basin;
7. Regular monthly report on progress of implementation of the approved Irrigation Component work plans, quantify the achievements, highlight obstacles encountered, and present recommendations for the smooth and timely implementation of the work plan; and
8. Carry out any other related duties as requested by the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project.

### Qualifications and Requirements:

- University degree in Irrigation Engineering/Agricultural Engineering with major in Irrigation Agronomy.
- At least five years of field experience in irrigation systems design, installation, supervision, operation and maintenance and engineering related works. Specifically, experience in field installation of on-farm pressurized irrigation systems including drip, bubbler and sprinkler is essential, as well as experience in operation and maintenance of these systems.
- Good computer literacy.
- Fluency in English language is an advantage.

### Duration of Assignment:

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contracts will be offered thereafter.

Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow: SBWMP, 60M.Street, Sana'a ROY. Tel.: (00967-1-469159/7/6), Fax: (00967-1-469158), E-mail: [saldubby@yemen.net.ye](mailto:saldubby@yemen.net.ye).

**The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday 26th January 2008.**

By: **Raju Aneja**  
[rkaneja@emirates.net.ae](mailto:rkaneja@emirates.net.ae)

The best news from 2007 has been: 1) Some degree of peace in Iraq and refugees' return, 2) More focus on the global climate, 3) Continued dialogue between U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin, 4) No war with Iran, 5) Talks between Israel and Palestine and 6) Latin pop singer Shakira attending university!

The worst news from 2007 has been: 1) Continued global poverty, wherein three billion people live on \$2 per day and one billion are short on drinking water. 2) No cures for AIDS and cancer,

## Commuting in Yemen...Survival of the Maddest

By: **Najwan Al-Junaid**  
[www.shababiyemeni.com](http://www.shababiyemeni.com)  
[alnajwa@hotmail.com](mailto:alnajwa@hotmail.com)

A day after my plane landed in Sana'a, a traffic sign caught my eye, "slow down, a school ahead." I was pleasantly surprised by this sign, but my joyful moments evaporated as a taxi driver sped and bypassed us in the school zone. Few minutes later, an unannounced dabbab (small shuttle bus) driver decided to jump from his lane to our lane without signaling and without checking his blind spot. Out of no where, a number of loud and obnoxious motorbikes took off, suffocating us with dust and engine waste and stirring streams from nearby sewage slough. The abundant amount of fumes produced from ill-maintained vehicles blurs any driver's vision and suffocates any pedestrian's nostrils. Honking, of course, is a continuous melody throughout any ride. Moreover, most motorbikes' drivers take a "noise-inhibiting" piece out of their exhaust to produce a deafening noise. Unfortunately, these drivers are usually teenagers who should be in school. Instead, they are enjoying undeserved freedoms and projecting a wrong perception of manhood by speeding or showing off their zigzag driving.



**CLASSIFIED  
ADVERTISEMENTS  
PAGE**



## Combat sport attracts Yemeni youths

By: Robert Franklin Drapper  
For the Yemen Times

**B**razilian Jiu-jitsu (BJJ) is making its debut in Yemen through the skilled hand of

Captain Bilaal Broadway. BJJ is a style of martial arts that focuses on ground fighting, known as grappling, with the goal of gaining a dominating position through using chokeholds, joint locks, and eventually forcing the opponent to submit, which basically means to admit defeat.

Captain Broadwat, a Muslim American practitioner of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, is bringing BJJ to Yemen as a "means to raise morale in people and promote real life self defense".

Broadway has a martial arts history that started with him studying Sanucus Ryu ui-Jitsu, which has enabled him to further comprehend and implement different styles of Jiu-Jitsu, such as Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. a

He has lived off and on in Yemen since 2004, I started BJJ in the summer of 2006. Yemenis seem to like it and the price is affordable, he said.

Mohammad Al-Godamy, 16, a university student and a convert to BJJ says: "I like it because anyone can do it regardless of size and strength and I feel I can protect myself from any threats on the street."

There are other types of martial arts such as Karate, Teakwood Do, Kick Boxing, and even Judo, but they lack the holistic approach to real life self defense. These types of fighting only work if you are standing up, and they won't guarantee the defeat of the opponent. Additionally, BJJ is geared toward ending the fight quickly. Even Khalid Al-Anesi, 25, a university student, and novice martial artist who has studied some of these above limited styles



believes BJJ is superior. BJJ is more affective because you use more leverage to submit your opponent, rather than using a lot of hits and physical strength.

Captain Broadway has studied and trained in many of the above styles of martial arts, and he earnestly believes that Brazilian Jiu-jitsu is the best, and he is here to tell us why.

BJJ gives its practitioner "self respect, self awareness of ones physical abilities, and self confidence." Captain Broadway proudly explains. In fact, Al-Godamy is proof of the above statement. His self confidence has improved and he is a better person than what he was before.

BJJ is used for close combat that is geared towards taking a person to the ground, thereby reducing their threat to you. As shown throughout the world, most martial arts is focused on punches,

blocks, kicks, and chops from a standing position, but none of these are effective from the ground, and if you take away a man's affective ness, you take away his ability to hurt you. Once the person is on the ground the BJJ practitioner uses "joint manipulation (locks) chokes, submission, and overall totally dominants the opponent," says Captain Broadway.

As one can tell, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) is a real street fighting art, which requires a partner to learn it. "A person who studies BJJ is more likely to know how to deal with a real life street attack from an attacker because in training you are constantly training with a partner using those same self defense techniques," says Captain Broadway.

BJJ teaches people through real combat experience in a practice situation to defeat an opponent compared to some-



one who is just doing shadow boxing, or practicing techniques without a partner. "Yes, practicing techniques alone is good," says Captain Broadway, "and you will develop a certain level of fighting proficiency, but that person won't know how to control his adrenalin and channel his adrenalin" in a real fighting situation, and as expected he may seriously injure his opponent" or he may not fight hard enough, and then "he will be overcome by the assailant," says Broadway. Captain Broadway further explains, "With BJJ we answer the call of threat with the appropriate amount of force," and this enables the fight to be controlled and ended quickly without killing the opponent.

Captain Broadway is the only known trained practitioner of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu living in Yemen.

He was trained by Clint Leon, a 5th degree black belt in BJJ from Holland, for 6 months, 3 times per week. Under the watchful eyes of Clint Leon, "I learned close to 100 BJJ submission techniques," says Mr. Broadway. If that is not enough for the novice martial artist to learn from Mr. Broadway, than listen to this. The Emirates Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu brought Mr. Broadway on as a training partner. Carlos Santos, head coach of the

Emirates Braziliam Jiu-jitsu team monitored Mr. Broadway, and yes Mr. Santos even asked Mr. Broadway to join the team. What an honor, only the skilled are even permitted to practice with the elite team of the Emirates. But here's the big question. Did Mr. Broadway accept the offer? "I postponed the offer until later when I will return to the Emirates in May 2008 to join the team and compete in the Abu Dhabi International Cup," he says.

Mr. Broadway is not a black belt, he is only between a white belt and blue belt, but that doesn't hinder him from being able to defeat an opponent. Mr. Broadway jokingly says, "belts are awarded to many students learning karate, Teakwood Do, or Kung-Fu to further encourage their progress in that art, even if they are not proficient in that level. On the other hand, "BJJ focuses on a student having the ability to execute a technique with proficiency while he is under duress. Gaining a belt is the second objective because in a real fight," Mr. Broadway laughingly says, "a belt won't save your life."

Learning Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is fun, energetic, and yes, everyone can learn it. "Anyone can learn BJJ if they are willing to come to the class," Mr. Broadway says. BJJ is for anybody of

"average health," says Mr. Broadway. Mr. Broadway, a certified fitness trainer, and former body builder is obviously without a doubt, a well learned martial artist who can improve the fight game for any person willing to learn the combat sport of BJJ. "My desire is to start an official BJJ team in Yemen," says Captain Broadway.

**YALI**  
LANGUAGE INSTITUTE  
Yemen's Premier Language Institute Since 1975

**Announcing Term 107:**  
February 9 - March 12, 2008

**Registration:**  
February 3 - 6  
Classes Available at 9 Levels  
(Mornings, Afternoons & Evenings)  
- Extra Computer Lab for all Students  
- Plus Many Special & Elective Courses

**TOEFL Preparation Courses:**  
• Internet-Based Test  
• Paper-Based Test

For information, contact YALI at:  
448 039 or 445 482/3/4 • FAX: 448037 •  
E-Mail: info@yali.org.ye

## "The Lion" roars for a title shot

By: Yousef Mawri  
For The Yemen Times

MICHIGAN — Boxer Brian Mihtar, aka "The Lion," a nickname his trainers gave him due to his heart and determination in the ring, is seeking to add another victim to his winning list as he prepares for his highly anticipated Feb. 1 boxing match at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Michigan.

With an impeccable record of eight wins, seven knockouts and zero losses at this point in his career, it'll be the undefeated Yemeni boxer's first shot at competing for a world welterweight title. He'll first compete in the World Boxing Foundation's All-Americas Title Eliminator, and if successful there, he'll fight for the WBF All-Americas Title just 16 days after the Palace fight.

Asked if his upcoming fight at the Palace may be a turning point in his career, Mihtar says, "I fight every fight as if it's my last. The Feb. 1 bout is a very big fight for me because it'll give me the chance to showcase my talent in front of my home crowd and also bring me one step closer to a title shot, in sha'allah."

2007 was a defining year for Mihtar, who won all four of his fights, giving him solid recognition as a force to be reckoned with in the boxing world. His impressive record and his unique ring tactics captured the attention of famed American boxing trainer Emanuel Steward.

Having trained world champion boxers Lennox Lewis, "Prince" Naseem Hamed and many more, Steward gives his input on "The Lion": "Mihtar is a very well-coordinated boxer with high intelligence. He has pure instinct to catch his opponents' mistakes and make them pay for it in the ring. Most fighters must train day



It's a KO.: Lion thurst a left hook at his opponent (photo by Bob Ryder)

and night in the ring to get that instinct, but Brian was just born with it. If he keeps doing what he's been doing, he'll become world champion very soon."

Asked if he has any advice for fighters up against "The Lion" in center ring action, Steward quickly replied, "Don't make any mistakes because he'll make you pay."

In addition to becoming a furious competitor and a fan favorite, 2008 is said to be the year Mihtar will receive his well-deserved world welterweight title shot, as he plans to partake in many more bouts than in 2007. The boxer and his management, aka Team Mihtar, expect to close out 2008 with at least 10 more victories, giving him a professional record of 18-0 and putting him in line for a shot at the world title.

Previously training at Dearborn's Kronk Boxing Gym, Mihtar was invited to Puerto Rico this past summer to train with Welterweight titleholder Paul "The Punisher" Williams. Mihtar claims to have learned all of the tricks

of the ring from the champion fighter, which hopefully will assist his development in becoming a champion one day, or according to Steward, "very soon."

Mihtar began his professional boxing career with an impressive 2001 knockout in front of his home crowd at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena. His great start carried momentum to his second professional fight, which was broadcast live on ESPN (the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network). In that fight before a Florida crowd, it was Mihtar who emerged victorious by delivering a TKO (total knockout) to heavily favored Joe Benjamin.

London's Boxing News magazine terms Mihtar "a crowd pleaser," which is why fans from many diverse groups across the U.S. travel to see him fight. With most of his professional fights broadcast nationally on ESPN and Fox Sports due to high fan demand to see his fights televised, it's those fans Mihtar calls upon to support him Feb. 1.

## Odd News

### Don't send in the clowns



LONDON (Reuters) - Bad news for Coco and Blinko -- children don't like clowns and even older kids are scared of them.

The news that will no doubt have clowns shedding tears was revealed in a poll of youngsters by researchers from the University of Sheffield who were examining how to improve the decor of hospital children's wards.

The study, reported in the Nursing Standard magazine, found all the 250 patients aged between four and 16 they quizzed disliked the use of clowns, with even the older ones finding them scary.

"As adults we make assumptions about what works for children," said Penny Curtis, a senior lecturer in research at the university.

"We found that clowns are universally disliked by children. Some found them quite frightening and unknowable."

### Waving at girls costs man his arm

CANBERRA (Reuters) - An Australian man who waved out of a car window at two young women was expected to

lose his arm Monday after it was almost severed by another passing vehicle.

The 20-year-old was a passenger in a pick-up truck at Bunbury, in Western Australia state, when he waved at two women in a car wash.

But as he put his arm out the driver made a right hand turn and the man's limb was struck and almost torn off by an oncoming four-wheel-drive.

"His left arm was partially severed and doctors believe the limb may need to be amputated," police said.

### "Oh, I'm not actually recording, honey..."

ROME (Reuters) - Recording secret videos of sex with your partner is not illegal, Italy's supreme court has ruled.

Rome's highest appeals acquitted a 49-year-old man who, unbeknown to his girlfriend, had recorded and kept films of them having sex.

It overruled two previous verdicts which had given him a four-month jail sentence.

The woman had agreed to the man using a video camera to project live images of them having sex on to the bedroom wall, but did not know he was recording the action.

The court acquitted the man because he had not distributed the films to other



people.

When the relationship ended the man gave the videos to his partner in a package accompanied by a note saying: "These are my last thought for you."

### Police ask suspect: aren't you dead?



VILNIUS (Reuters) - Police in the Lithuanian city of Klaipeda were baffled to discover that a woman arrested for shoplifting last weekend had been registered as dead a month earlier.

The woman's parents had mistakenly identified a body found in a forest as that of their 27-year-old daughter, Natalya Pavlova, who disappeared from home in November, police said on Wednesday.

It emerged that Pavlova was alive and well and living with her boyfriend in the same town.

"Her parents identified the corpse as their daughter. What could we do?" Petras Mikalauski, a deputy police chief for the area, told Reuters.

"It was the first such case in my experience."

The real identity of the dead woman was not known. The police have launched an investigation.