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**Inside:**  **8** What Yemenis think of living standards

 **6** Graffiti for a cause

 **15** Omar AbdulKafi: "The biggest conspiracy against Islam is by the Muslims themselves"

## Protest in support of arrested singer

By: Imad Abdullah

TAIZ, April 6 – Over two thousand people demonstrated in front of Taiz political security office on Sunday morning in protest against the arrest of popular singer Fahd Al-Qarni, who is known for his satiric songs critical of the government.

Citizens were beaten and journalists were harassed while trying to cover the event. "The security confiscated my camera, my mobile phone and insulted me while preventing me from covering

the event," said Yemen Times journalist Imad Abdullah.

Al-Qarni and two of his colleagues were arrested on Saturday by a group of political security members. During the demonstration the protestors cried out condemning the attacks on freedom of expression around the republic. Chief of Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate Abdullah Noman called on soldiers to 'wake up' and not be part of the oppressive regime because they share the same interests in the welfare of Yemen with the majority of the people.

"If you open fire on us, we will open our chests to receive your bullets...our lives are only a price to pay for freedom," he said at the protest.

Al-Islah opposition party condemned the arrest of Al-Qarni and issued a press statement calling on the public to come to his support in defence of freedom of expression. Al-Qarni creates audiocassettes in which he records songs describing the situation and authority in Yemen using dark satire. The cassettes are sold on streets and some shops, although many have been confiscated.



Hundreds of Yemenis rallied in a peaceful demonstration in Taiz condemning the arrest of popular activist singer Fahd Al-Qarni.

## 12 killed, another 2 injured as Sa'ada clashes renew

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, April 6 – Tension and fierce clashes between government troops backed by some tribesmen broke out against Houthi supporters in different districts of the Sa'ada governorate, according to reliable sources in the governorate. Other confrontations between Houthis and pro-government Bakhtan tribesmen in Al-Salem district killed at least 12 people and left two injured on both sides.

The same sources said that government troops evacuated an area which, according to the Doha agreement, was to be under Houthi control. According to them, troops backed by fighter jets and tanks launched offensives against Houthi supporters and their leadership on Monday. Citizens reported seeing the fighter jets striking Houthi strategic positions in Al Salem area.

Army forces, positioned on a hill overlooking the main road fired at a car below, injuring citizen Ezzi Al-Mishet, who was left bleeding until he died

because soldiers did not allow other passengers to take him to the hospital, local sources noted.

Umma.net, the mouthpiece of Al-Haq Party, quoted Houthi loyalists as saying the authority still attacks innocent citizens on a daily basis in different parts of the governorate.

Speaking to media outlets by phone, Houthi representative Sheikh Saleh Habra warned the military and security leaders against breaching the Doha ceasefire agreement. "The authority continues to kill citizens and destroy their property. Following the arrival of the Qatari mediation team, the government troops set up more ambushes and killed more citizens, thus giving a message to us and the Qatari mediators that the agreement is merely 'ink on paper' through which the governments only wants to get more support from Qatar," Habra commented.

"We condemn such irresponsible attacks and claim that the authority should respect the agreement and abide by its terms," said Habra. "The govern-

ment must bring perpetrators, who committed massacres against detainees in the Fakhra Jail, to the competent courts. We also demand that these courts try the irresponsible soldiers who killed innocent citizens Qasim Al-Yousifi, Hassan Jaber Al-Gubeiran and Aziz Al-Mahram. The government should also bring to court the military soldiers who attacked Dhaiban Mosque while citizens were performing Friday prayers, thereby injuring four children near the mosque."

According to the representative, Houthi followers tolerated repeated aggressive attacks by the army in order not to breach the agreement because they care about peace and stability in the governorate. "We are closely observing how the authority instigates some sheikhs and tribal leaders of Khawlan Bin Amer tribe to kill innocent citizens and damage their property," added Habra. "We informed the presidential mediation committee and Qatari mediation team about such violations committed by the army."

With regard to efforts expended by the mediation committee, Habra told the Yemen Times that Saleh Qara'a, the mediation committee head, is too biased on the side of government authorities.

"We are happy about the involvement of Qatari mediators in the reconciliation efforts expended by the committee," said Habra. "The Qatari mediators are reliable, honest and trustworthy and we expect them to play a vital role in convincing both conflicting sides to abide by the ceasefire agreement and cease bloodshed."

The Houthi representative claimed that the authorities should abide by the Doha-brokered peace deal, signed by the government and Houthis on February 1, which stipulates that the authorities must stop directing false charges to Houthi followers by accusing them of creating obstacles to the ceasefire agreement. He said that the government has abided by only 10 percent of the agreement terms, ignoring or even violating the others.

Continued on page 2

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WHAT IT MEANS...

# Why Wilders will lead us all into the wilderness

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 yteditor@gmail.com.

**G**eert Wilders, the Dutch Parliament member who has planned to release an anti-Islamic film this month, will never lead his followers to the Promised Land. He does not promise milk and honey. He can only deliver civil strife. He is living politically on the very conflict he claims to want to prevent. The more extremist the reaction to his provocations, the more happy he will be. He needs extreme reactions like an alcoholic needs a drink. He is part of the problem. Not part of the solution.



By: Dr. Terry Lacey  
terrylacey2003@yahoo.co.uk

the Muslim reaction to his provocations needs to be measured and intelligent. The first is not to fall into the trap of giving him what he wants. This implies the need for new

approaches if the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and others are to play an effective role in combating Islamophobia. Second, to avoid the growth of right wing extremism, racism and anti immigrant feelings against a background of economic and social problems are wider phenomena which worry Europeans. They do not want to repeat the history of the 1930s. Third, all religious movements have a common interest to avoid religious symbols that are desecrated or anything that gives an opportunity for their religious identity to be hijacked by political extremists claiming to defend them.

militarily, precisely helping to avoid the clash of civilizations that extremists seek. They are free to criticize each other's religions or beliefs. We should all be better informed on what different religions really say and how this is applied in a modern context. But the contextualization of religion in modern multi-cultural society is the responsibility of religious leaders and must be improved.

Many years ago I studied a small Rastafarian political-religious splinter-group in Jamaica that contemplated, in the early 1960s, poisoning the public water supply on the grounds that the oppressors had water taps and the oppressed did not. They fought a small brief uprising, little-known outside of Jamaica. They were inspired by the Book of Revelations in the Holy Bible. I stress that most Rastafarians did not support this and we know the Rastas better for Bob Marley and the reggae music that was and is the cry of the sufferers and the poor for the Promised Land. I was also in the Gaza Strip when an extremist Israeli settler attacked a group of worshippers in a mosque in Hebron. Whatever arguments must be resolved between Israel, Arabs and Muslims are political issues covering human rights, land and water. The shared theological roots between the three great religions of the Middle Eastern Holy Books

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### Comments on Yemeni laws discriminate against women article

I have some comments and suggestions related to the article written by the activist: Hooria Mashhour published in Yemen Times Newspaper: "Yemeni laws discriminate against women".

- 1- Polygamy should be restricted and only permitted when the man has sufficient economic situation which enables him to maintain more than a wife.
- 2- Legislation should give women the right to divorce equal to men.
- 3- Decision of divorce should not be documented in absence of the concerned wife.
- 4- Blood money of women should be equal to that of men.
- 5- Prohibition of early marriage.

Legislation should fix the marriage age at 21 for both sexes.

Also you are kindly requested to write an article in relation with Retirement Law. Retired workers are discriminated, because the so-called "Strategy of wages and salaries" stipulates 50% to be given to the retired of any increase or bonus given to the employees. Retired workers spent their youth serving the country, and at the end they are subjected to injustice, abuses and unfair policies designed by corrupt officials. Government must recognize the right of retired workers and give them the recompense which they deserve.

Awadh Mubarak Salim  
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## Their News

### Yemen and Germany to discuss development cooperation



Shortly after the official visit of President Saleh to Germany at the end of last month, reconfirming the excellent state of German-Yemeni relations, the two countries will enter into discussions on the future of the development cooperation between Germany and Yemen.

The consultations which are to take place in Sanaa from April 6 - 9 are also held in preparation of the Government negotiations which are envisaged to take place in Bonn in spring 2009 where the German commitments for the years 2009-2010 will be decided.

German support for the Yemeni population has focussed so far specifically on the water sector, but also on education, sustainable economic development, health and good governance. In the future there might also be cooperation in the field of vocational training and on renewable energy, where Germany is one of the world leaders in so-called green technologies.

### Improving NGOs and civil society performance



A course to enhancing the capacity of NGOs and civil society activists concluded at the Media Women Forum (MWF last week). The course titled "communication skills and listening art" aimed to improve the performance of

Civil Society Organizations (CSO) by training 30 participants.

The trainers are from various 10 active NGOs in Sana'a working in the fields of human rights and civil society.

Following to this training, a series of trainings in other aspects will take place. The trainings include: translation skills, concept of gender quality, public relations, writing impressive development projects, writhing news and press releases, writing reports and working papers, secretarial skills, working systems of NGOs.

These trainings come within the framework of a project to "Improving performance of CSOs in Yemen" which comes as a response to a need for NGO capacity building.

### Ethiopia signs the Convention of the African Energy Commission



On 28 March 2008, Ambassador Sahlework Zewde, Director-General for African Affairs and Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the AU and the UNECA signed, on behalf of the Government, the Convention of the African Energy Commission. This Convention was adopted at the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in Lusaka, Zambia on 11 July 2001. It entered into force on 13 December 2006 after fifteen (15) ratification instruments were deposited. Currently, some nineteen (19) Member States of the African Union have ratified the Convention. The Convention has established an African Energy Commission which is based in Algiers. The Commission is entrusted, inter alia, with the task of:

- mapping out energy development policies for the AU, as well as strategies and plans based on sub-regional, regional,

and continental development priorities;

- advising and encouraging the development of human resources in the energy sector in particular through training; and

- providing technical assistance to States, Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders in the energy sector.

In the coming years, the Commission is expected to play a pivotal role in encouraging the use of energy to promote and support rapid economic and social development in Africa and assist in the eradication of poverty, the fight against desertification and in improving the standard and quality of life of citizenry. For its part, Ethiopia has started the constitutional process for ratifying this and the other conventions of the African Union it has signed. Once it becomes a State party to this Convention, Ethiopia will play its part to ensure the success of the Energy Commission by working closely with all stakeholders.

### Growth in Middle East advertising industry hindered by skills shortages in key areas, says regional expert



Skills in advertising are expected to be in high demand across the Middle East markets until 2010. Expertise shortages will continue increasing vertically and horizontally, most significantly in roles that specialize in creative artwork and strategic planning says regional marketing expert.

"The past year has been a significant one for the advertising industry in the Middle East. As the region sees an unprecedented growth across various sectors, there will be further boost in

demand for creative specialists who really understand the nitty-gritty characteristics of the market. Currently, the major shortage continues to be in the fields of strategic planning and creative conceptualizing and development," emphasizes Shadi Al Hasan, Managing Director of Flagship Projects Marketing, one of the fastest growing integrated marketing solutions providers in the region.

Al Hasan adds: "As an emerging market, the region still has significant challenges to meet such as growing the pool of available advertising talent. The Arab world shares the same culture, language and understanding amongst its states. From an agency's perspective, this homogeneity should boost the advertising industry and reduce the people's shortage as markets with high advertising demand could recruit people from less demand markets who still have strong grasp of the region as a whole."

"In a cut-throat competitive marketplace such as the Middle East, it is a well known fact that the people who work for any agency are the driving forces behind its success regardless its history or international network. Little wonder, there is a fierce war for talent especially bilingual professionals."

The supply of professional expertise in the region is unable to meet the current demand and agencies are recruiting more from overseas to compete for the limited talent pool.

"We forecast that it will take about three years to prepare enough talent to meet the demands we face today to fill junior and senior positions," Al Hasan says. "We are largely short of Arab talent for more senior positions, especially candidates with strong English skills and wealth of international experience."

"The Gulf market is offering an ideal opportunity for Arab professionals to gain knowledge and experience from their foreign counterparts. We should bring our domestic talent up to speed, and this is something that will only improve with time," he added.

Al Hasan says: "There is an overall shortage of talent and this is both the main constraint on growth and on maintaining high standards across the indus-

try. In 2007 marketers were plugged into what was good and best in the communication world. Professional, talented and knowledgeable should be fostered in the region to cope with the proliferative number of brands arriving on a daily basis."

Al Hasan concludes that advertising associations should hold responsibility for enhancing the Arab advertising industry, taking it to a new level of professionalism and innovation through a 360° approach. This approach should include attracting the finest minds in the industry and nurturing new local capabilities."

### Florida festival to celebrate young journalists

The International Student Media Festival (ISMF) celebrates excellence in student produced media, and is sponsored by the Association for Educational Communication and Technology (AECT) a non-profit organization improving instruction through technology. Young journalists in kindergarten through college from across the globe can enter to have their outstanding classroom media projects celebrated at an international festival in Florida from November 5 to 8. The three-day International Student Media Festival includes workshops, screenings of winning entries, and an awards ceremony. The deadline for submissions is May 15.

There is a US\$20 entry fee with submission. Winners will be announced at the festival, to be held in Orlando, Florida.

### UNICEF launches 2008 International Children's Day Broadcasting Awards

UNICEF called for entries from broadcasters for the 2008 International Children's Day of Broadcasting Awards. The ICDB Awards will go to the radio and television broadcasters whose programming best reflects the 2007 International Children's Day of Broadcasting theme, The World We Want, and who demonstrate an overall dedication to youth participation in

media.

To be eligible for the ICDB Award, broadcasts must have taken place on or around Sunday, 9 December 2007 in conjunction with the 2007 International Children's Day of Broadcasting. The deadline for entries is 16 May 2008. More information and entry forms can be found at [www.unicef.org/icdb](http://www.unicef.org/icdb).

To encourage youth participation in media throughout the year, judges not only consider the quality of the work, but also the commitment broadcasters make to engaging with youth on an ongoing basis.

"It is very important to create opportunities for young people to express themselves," said Stephen Cassidy, chief of UNICEF's Internet, Broadcast and Image Section. "We want to honor broadcasters around the world that have made these opportunities possible."

The ICDB Award regional judging will take place in UNICEF's 8 regions. Entries are due to UNICEF's regional offices by May 16, 2008. The top-scoring entries in each region will compete for the ICDB Award, to be presented in New York.

Information about regional judging and entry forms are now available at [www.unicef.org/icdb](http://www.unicef.org/icdb).

Last year, the ICDB Awards went to National Broadcasting of Thailand (NBT), ONUCI FM and Radio Mozambique. NBT won for their program "From South to North, From East to West, Thailand ICDB-Unité for Children, Unite Against Aids," produced by Thai Youth News Center Association. NBT was one of 6 regional ICDB prize winners, in addition to TV Cultura (Brazil), Gambia Radio and Television Services (Gambia), ZDF (Germany), Citizen TV (Kenya) and Syrian Satellite TV (Syria). ONUCI FM and Radio Mozambique shared the first ICDB Award for Radio Excellence for their programs "ICDB Special" and "Child to Child Radio Programme" respectively.

Established in 1991, the International Children's Day of Broadcasting encourages broadcasters to produce programming by, with and for children.

# Sana'a Zoo, education through entertainment

By: Lucy Vigne and Esmond Martin  
For Yemen Times

For the Yemeni people, entertainment is the prime reason for Sana'a Zoo's huge and growing popularity. Green grass is now growing in many areas of the zoo. This attracts visitors, as it is a rare sight in Yemen's rocky desert landscape.

Visitors to the zoo have increased from 400,000 in 2003 to 560,000 in 2006. Yemenis love to picnic with their friends and families. A slope has been terraced with grass for this purpose. There are also two large playgrounds surrounded by grassy areas, flowers and small hedges. Facilities for visitors have improved. For example, there is a new café. However, more bathrooms are needed.

The animals provide great pleasure to visitors, who will stay at the zoo the whole day in a city lacking recreational areas and leisure facilities. While there were some newly-built cages waiting to be filled at the time of our visit in early 2007, we were disappointed to see the reptile house looking rather shabby and uncared for, compared with the past. Maintenance of what already exists is essential.

The zoo, meanwhile, also wishes to

improve its breeding, and conduct research in conjunction with Sana'a University.

Education should be an important component at the zoo to increase conservation awareness in Yemen. Some efforts have recently started. Although no education center has been built yet, as was in the original plans, the Netherlands' embassy staff wish to develop an area of the zoo where people can learn about animals and their importance to the environment. Visitors would also be able to have more contact with small animals in this area. One of the most popular exhibits is the baboon enclosure, where people can now feed the baboons nuts through a chute.

Vets from the Sharjah Wildlife Breeding Center have also assisted recently by providing information boards for some of the animals, as well as helping with veterinary care. Gradually, all the cages should have these information boards with distribution maps to teach Yemenis and foreigners alike more about the country's indigenous animals. Yemen has some of the richest fauna and flora of the region, a fact that needs to be highlighted. It is also part of a vital migratory route for birds from Africa to Europe and signboards explaining the birds' migration paths should be placed at the aviaries.

Yemenis must be asked to protect wildlife, on land, sea and in the air, which are increasingly threatened by man.

Yemenis have come a long way since we reported the desperate cruelty we witnessed in the late 1990s when the only zoo in the city was a private collection of animals in tiny cages that were taunted by their keepers to amuse the public.

Those days, thankfully, are over, and the animals in Sana'a Zoo are much better cared for. However, in order to improve the breeding of the four captive Arabian leopards (of which only about 200 remain in the wild in the Arabian Peninsula), more assistance and training are needed. Only one of these leopards was captive-born. There is a plan, with support from staff at the Embassy of the Netherlands, to extend the area behind the leopard cages (confusingly labeled tiger cages), which are presently too small. Lions are too numerous in crowded cages and need to be sterilized and exchanged for other animals.

There are also too many caracals, honey badgers, striped hyenas and jackals, and their cages are very small. On the other hand, the zoo needs a female oryx and a small gazelle. A new vet at the zoo is doing what he can to improve conditions, but would welcome greater



OLion cubs attract the attention of many children. However, the zoo authority had to separate the male lions from lionesses because there is no space for more baby lions.

assistance from other zoos.

The zoo is improving. The Sana'a authorities and people of Yemen value it. But it still has a long way to go and wants all the help and assistance it can get from the international community.

## Rhino vs. jambiyas

The zoo has given us the opportunity to educate the public about the plight of the rhino. Yemen still imports more rhino horns than any other country, horns poached in East Africa. Although it is illegal to buy and carve new rhino horns, which are used to make handles for traditional daggers called jambiyas, the trade unfortunately continues; this demand must be reduced.

As at Taiz Zoo, we put up two billboards and two large banners in the zoo, with funding from the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria. They show pictures of wild animals with messages to save wildlife and also illustrations of rhinos, jambiyas, and a religious edict that the Grand Mufti made for us in 1993 stating that it is against the will of God to kill rhinos for their horns. The rhino crisis and edict will now receive far greater publicity. We also made signs for the zoo, such as 'The zoo is not a market to buy and sell animals' and notices on keeping the zoo clean and about animal behavior.

There are two species of rhinos in Africa: the black or hook-lipped rhino and the white or square-lipped rhino. In fact, both are grey in color. What makes the rhino unique is that it is the only animal with horns on its nose. Also, rhinos are one of the oldest mammals on our planet, having existed for 60 million years. Rhinos are herbivorous but they can run at 55 kph in order to charge or escape from their predators. This survival strategy does not work against man and his gun, and thousands of rhinos have been killed for their horns. From 1970 to the late 1980s the world's black rhino numbers fell by 97 percent from 65,000 to 2,450. Today, with heavy protection, there are 3,800. Northern white rhinos have plummeted by over 99 percent to just four today to meet the Yemeni demand for horns. Millions of dollars have been spent against rhino

poaching, but females breed slowly, producing only one baby every two to five years. It takes a long time to build up numbers again.

Meanwhile, Yemen's demand for rhino horns continues unabated. It is essential to reduce this trade in order to curtail rhino poaching in East Africa. The most serious recent poaching has been in Garamba National Park in the

water buffalo horns from India, if just a handful of rhino-horn jambiyas are made per month it threatens the survival of the rhinos. While a jambiya with a good new water buffalo horn handle may sell for US \$75, much more money can be made from crafting and selling one with a new rhino horn handle.

An average horn weighing 1.5 kg can produce three jambiyas costing perhaps



Honey badgers eat wide range of food including birds and wild fruits.

Democratic Republic of Congo, where the last remaining wild population of northern white rhinos was nearly wiped out.

From 30 rhinos in 2003 there are only four left. In Kenya, a minimum of 25 rhinos were illegally killed in Solio Game Reserve, Aberdare National Park, and Tsavo East National Park from 2003 to 2006.

In Sana'a, craftsmen continue their centuries-old tradition, carving jambiya handles. Although most are made of

US \$ 1,000 each. Over the last few years, there has been a large and dramatic population increase in Yemen, and as nearly every male in the north of the country upon reaching puberty needs at least one jambiya, the trade flourishes. There are now more workshops and handle makers in Sana'a Souk (market) than ever. This growing demand for jambiyas, the most expensive of which always have rhino horn handles, gives even greater economic incentives to kill and trade in rhino horns.

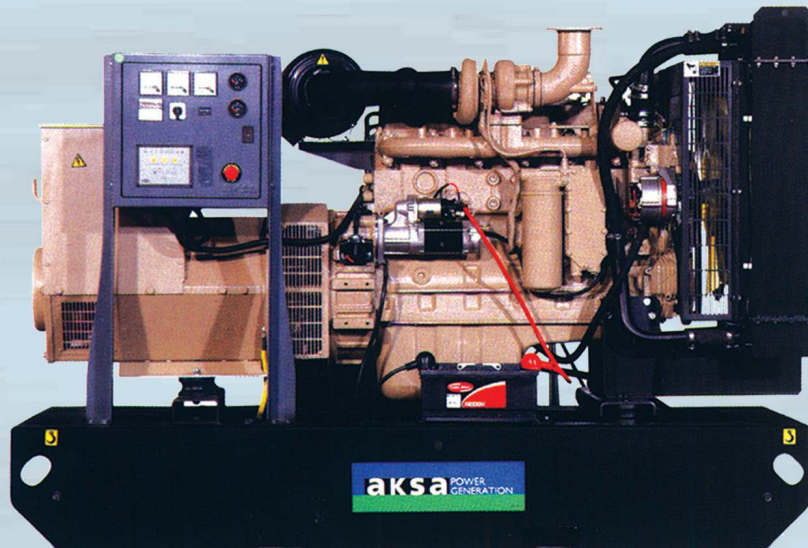


Yemen still imports more rhino horns than any other country because rhino horn is used in making expensive jambiyas

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# Graffiti for a cause

**Looking for that special way to propose marriage? And show your support for the Palestinian cause at the same time? A joint Dutch-Palestinian initiative, Sendamessage.nl, allows anyone in the world to spray a message on the Israeli separation wall in the West Bank from behind their computer.**

By ALEXANDRA SANDELS

(MENASSAT) – "Elizabeth and Jakob. Forever in my heart," reads one slogan signed Anna. "Kasbah Rockers," says another. They are just a few of a number of intriguing slogans that have been appearing on Israel's controversial security wall in and around the West Bank.

Ostensibly created to keep Palestinian terrorists out of Israel proper, the wall has proved an irresistible target for artists and activists.

One of the latest initiatives is sendamessage.nl.

Launched in December 2007, it allows anyone in the world to email a message to the website which is then sprayed on a section of the wall in Ramallah by Palestinian volunteers in exchange for a 30 euro fee.

Any message, from poetry and cooking recipes to political statements and marriage proposals, is allowed in almost every language but hate speech against either Israelis or Palestinians is not permitted.

"You can basically write anything you want in any language want, except for Chinese which is due to a problem with our computer settings. We do ask you to give us an English translation of your message and we will double check before it actually gets painted," Justus van Oel, one of the founders of sendamessage.nl, told MENASSAT.

Until now, most spray orders have come from people in the United States or from European countries. A few have been from Jews supportive of the Palestinian issue; one of them reading, "In memory of Noah from his parents, American Jews against this Wall and all oppression of others."

The idea behind sendamessage.nl came from a series of Dutch-sponsored workshops for Dutch advertisers and young Palestinian artists in Ramallah. The group was seeking ways to empower the Palestinian point of view in the world arena.

Van Oel's own visit to the Occupied Territories three years ago served as a catalyst for his personal interest in the Palestinian cause.



"We were looking for a creative way to change the perception of Palestine on a low budget. It had to be cheap and different. We knew that we couldn't win on the [traditional] media front. So

we decided to go with this project," van Oel said.

The site has received over 40,000 visits since it was launched in December.

According to the website, three quarters of the proceeds go directly to local NGO projects in the Palestinian territories. Benefiting projects include a children's garden, a basketball court, and

materials for cinema students at Birzeit University in Ramallah.

Although the workshops were sponsored by the Dutch Christian NGO, ICCO, van Oel emphasized that sendamessage is a self-funded and independent organization.

"ICCO promotes and supports our project, but not money wise," he said.

Reaction so far has been positive. "People have found it amazing," said van Oel.

In the future, the group hopes to establish a partnership with Israeli human rights organizations in order to extend the project to the other side of the wall.

"We want to serve as an inspiration for both sides of the wall," said van Oel.

So far though, no Israeli tag orders have been placed to van Oel's knowledge.

**He recalls only one minor incident.**

"There was one time when the Israeli border police demanded a translation of one of the messages PFF had sprayed on the wall," said Van Oel.

The patrol had apparently asked for a correct English translation of a slogan that translated into "Mark married Cynthia."

"They were told that it really meant 'Mark married Cynthia' and nothing else," said Van Oel.

## Geert Wilders's Film "Fitna"

# Learning from the Enemy

**For months, the information had been circulating that the Dutch right-wing populist politician, Geert Wilders, had made a film denouncing the Koran for its allegedly fascist character. Now the film has been made available on the internet – and, says Angela Schader, it largely tells us things we've read before**

Geert Wilders's "Fitna" was surrounded by mystery and argument until the last minute. No public broadcaster was prepared to show it; the website which was to have hosted it was suspended by its provider on March 22nd; a British internet portal copied the way "Fitna" was presented, and then declared the whole thing to be an April joke.

Last Thursday, the film was available for viewing briefly on www.live-leak.com, before the site's operators took it off after they received threats. But the video is already being distributed from other websites.

Wilders restrains himself from carrying out provocations which could be seen by Muslims as open sacrilege. At the start and at the end of the film, he shows the cartoon of Mohammed with a bomb in his turban (ticking dangerously in this version). The cartoon has recently been reprinted frequently following death threats against the cartoonist.

And when at the start of the final section a hand begins to rip out a page of the Koran, the screen is blacked out – and we are told that the sound we can hear is merely that of a page being torn out of the telephone book.

### Minor manipulations

This manipulative way of dealing with the Koran is more subtle than obviously destructive gestures. Of course the same old suras are quoted in connection with jihad and intolerance – whereby, in two cases, it is instructive to compare the quotations with the original. In verse 60 of the eighth Sura, which calls for mobilisation against the unbelievers in order "to cause them to fear", the Arabic word is "turhibuna."

In the context of the period in which the Koran was written, the translation given above would be quite adequate, but Wilders uses an English translation which blows the whole thing up so that it reads, "to strike terror – to strike terror into the hearts (of the enemy)."

Verse 56 of the fourth Sura paints an unedifying picture of the tortures which await unbelievers in hell: "See, We will burn in fire those who deny Our signs. As often as their skin is cooked, We will give them another skin, so that they will taste the punishment."

In Wilders' version, the words "we"

and "our" are given without capital letters, so that, when the quotation from the Koran is shown on screen directly following pictures of charred and lacerated terror victims, the words cease to those of God, but are put in the mouth of the Muslims.

Is this just an insignificant detail? Not if one knows the warning given by God to the Prophet: "It is for you to preach, and for Us to draw up the reckoning." (Sura 13, verse 40; there are similar formulations in Sura 3, verse 20 and Sura 64, verse 12).

By making these points, it is not intended to hide the aggressive potential which readers who are more used to the New Testament will identify in the Koran. But where just five verses are made to stand for the spirit of the entire text – as is the case with Wilders' film – then nuances begin to matter.

But it does not seem that Wilders is interested in making distinctions in his approach to religious material, otherwise he would have not spoken in an interview for the "Spectator" magazine of "Afghan or Sufi or Pakistani law."

There never has been a Sufi justice system, and it is somewhat ironic that Wilders brings Sufism – the most open version of Islam, which is entirely directed towards the spiritual dimension – into connection with his much-criticised Sharia.

It's also amusing when he says in the same interview: "It would be good if there could be a new Koran, as there is a New Testament" – as if the rabbis, dissatisfied with the hard line of their holy book, had sat together and magicked the Christian Saviour out of a hat.

### One-eyed

In the same way, "Fitna" – the Arabic word has a relatively wide range of meanings, ranging from "discord", and "dissension", via "civil war", to "con-juring" or "seduction" – cannot be seen as a serious attempt to deal with Islam, either on the religious or the social level.

The film, which claims to argue in favour of enlightened Western attitudes, in fact takes its cue fairly precisely from the propaganda works of the Islamists; the only difference is that it uses the familiar anti-Muslim

polemic. None of the old polemical images are missing here – there's the hate preacher and his fanaticised public; there are the video images of terror attacks, the beheading of a Western hostage or the shooting of an Afghan woman; there's the poisonous polemic against the Jews; there's a postcard montage featuring a collection of mosque buildings with the caption "Greetings from the Netherlands."

### Context and differentiation are missing

What is missing (and what was not to be expected from Wilders) is contextualisation and differentiation. There is no mention of the fact that the majority of Muslim immigrants in Europe, whose increasing numbers are underlined with threatening statistics, take a position which is far distant from the kind of understanding of the their religion which is presented here.

One looks in vain for any counterbalance to the hail of headlines proclaiming the "Muslim threat" – for

example: the results of a recently published Gallup poll of 50,000 Muslims in 35 countries.

According to the poll, Western values like freedom and prosperity are highly popular in Muslim countries, while most people reject both violent confrontation and religiously defined legal systems.

If a banner is held up at a demonstration with the slogan "Freedom go to Hell" on it, then those who are holding up the banner are referring to the kind of freedom of expression which allows the publication of the Mohammed cartoons.

There's a need to consider carefully whether such injured religious feelings – which are naturally no longer comprehensible in a secularised society – ought automatically to be regarded as something unworthy of consideration.

Evidently too, Wilders seems to think that Dutch Muslims – who make up six percent of the population – are planning a hostile takeover of his country. The second part of the film shows a

future for the Netherlands which is under the influence of a sinister Islam.

### Islam – or fundamentalism?

The call to Muslims made at the end of the film "to tear out themselves the hate-filled verses from the Koran" hangs in the air as a hollow phrase.

Every Muslim who holds moderate attitudes must find the polemical broadside which precedes this call as a negation of his whole existence. Following his call to the Muslims, Wilders turns once more to Western viewers who have it once more hammered into them that Islam desires to "dominate, subdue and destroy" our civilisation.

According to Wilders, following Europe's victory over Nazism (which of course originally grew up in Europe) and Communism (which of course had already collapsed under its own weakness) Europe now has to defeat "Muslim ideology" on the battlefield.

A film which mixes together the nastiest excesses of Muslim fundamental-

ism and extremism cannot stand for "Islam" as a whole, as the film itself suggests it does.

It deals with a phenomenon which, as every informed reader knows by now, is of relatively recent origin and is primarily fed by political and social grievances: a deep frustration which is turned disastrously into a fatally bigoted and reactionary way of reading the religious texts.

It goes of course without saying that this extremism has to be fought with all available effort. Whether all available means should be used: that is a debate which, if it were held seriously and with integrity, would be one way in the West could demonstrate the values it says it upholds.

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A calculated political provocation: politicians from both the Arab world and the EU have already protested against Wilders' anti-Koran film

## URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT



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The ICRC is a neutral and independent international organisation

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Yemen is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following vacancy:

### Logistics assistant

Based in Sa'ada

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#### Selection requirements:

- Academic: Higher diploma, B.A or higher degree only (Medical studies would also be an asset)
- 2 years of experience in a similar field with good references
- Good knowledge of the Sa'ada region, preferably having grown up or lived there during a relevant period of time
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good analytical and communication skills
- Good computer skills (Word and Excel)

Please submit your application (letter of motivation, CV, copies of certificates/diplomas) to the ICRC, Administration, Sana'a, Baghdad Street, Street No 19 – PO.Box 2267, fax 467 875, or ICRC, Administration, Sa'ada, Yemeni Red Crescent Street fax 07517301.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

## URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT



ICRC

The ICRC is a neutral and independent international organisation

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Yemen is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following vacancy:

### Agro Field Officer

Based in Sa'ada

#### Your tasks:

- Assists the delegate in running field activities for specific sectors
- Participates in, or leads, relief and agriculture evaluations. Contributes to the planning and execution of relief and agriculture interventions for the displaced and resident populations in the Sa'ada Governorate.
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- Supervises staff and contributes to appraisals
- Contributes to written reporting & budget follow-up

#### Selection requirements:

- Agricultural technical school or Agricultural University degree
- 2 years work experience in a similar field
- Basic knowledge in English
- Team leadership skills
- Good knowledge of the geographically assigned environment
- Good analytical & communication skills

Please submit your application (letter of motivation, CV, copies of certificates/diplomas) to the ICRC, Administration, Sana'a, Baghdad Street, Street No 19 – PO.Box 2267, fax 467 875, or ICRC, Administration, Sa'ada, Yemeni Red Crescent Street fax 07517301.

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# What Yemenis think of living standards

Corruption is a big concern; whether on public transportation, qat chewing sessions, or senior officials' speeches, it has been on everyone's lips. Recently, the Anti-Corruption Authority was established, but no single government official has been sent to justice. Shafeeq Al-Homaidi and Talal Al-Khawlani walked around streets in Sana'a and discussed this issue with some locals.



**Akram Abdullah, 29, employee in a private company**

We often hear about the Anti-Corruption Authority through media outlets. Its main aim is to fight corruption and corrupt individuals in our country. But we have not heard or seen any corrupt person in high government positions sent to trial by the authority. The main source of corruption in our country is those high-ranking officials. If they remain as such (being corrupt without trying them), then it is impossible to fight corruption by settling an account only with low-ranking officials.

We have not seen any fruitful steps made by the Anti-Corruption Authority. As we know, the government has allocated a budget to fight corruption, but we haven't seen anything. I'm wondering for how long we will dream of a society free of corruption, or should we just wait for more price hikes?



**Mohammed Al-Badhani, carpenter**

The chairman of the Anti-Corruption Authority is an ideal character and [there is] no person like him in Yemen. We really understand that eliminating corruption does not happen in one day. My suggestion and everyone's suggestion is that in order to make this government body (Anti-corruption Authority) work, it must involve opposition party members to show a clear image and realistic duties for the public.



**Rabab Al-Maswari, 25, housewife**

I think that corruption is widespread and tangible in all aspects of our lives. [One example is] the crazy price hikes and absence of control over the sellers who control the prices according to their own will. The meager salaries are a mark of corruption in the governmental sectors. Moreover, there is no justice regarding giving scholarships to prominent students who deserve them. We are all still optimistic that our leaders can save this country and its people from corruption and those who are corrupt.

Corruption is not the authority's responsibility; it is everyone's responsibility. Yemeni people should not pay bribes when they have something at government bodies and ministries. I am blaming those Yemenis who give chances for those to be bribed. Bribery is the main source of corruption which adversely affects economic conditions. We are all aware of corrupt people who consume the private and the public budget. I hope the Anti-Corruption Authority will do its best for the public interest and change the country for the better.



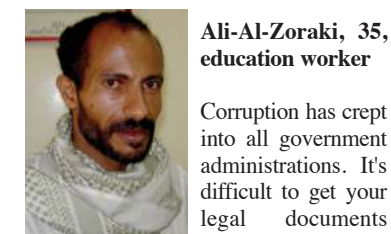
**Tahir Hazza, 36, shopkeeper**

Corruption has made our lives meaningless. The problem we all face in our society is corruption. I really get amazed noticing our daily needs changing constantly from good to bad.



**Rashed Al-Awadhi, 33, teacher**

Eliminating corruption stands only at 10 percent. I believe that it has dominated all aspects of life and affects our incomes. If you look over the education, health and social sectors, they are not evenly distributed. We don't find our rights that the constitution has ensured.



**Ali-Al-Zoraki, 35, education worker**

Corruption has crept into all government administrations. It's difficult to get your legal documents signed without bribes; ministry employees on all rungs of the ladder are corrupt. It is like a rampant disease spreading all over the community.



**Ali Al-Hukairi, 32, tailor**

Many years have passed while the situation of our lives has been getting worse and worse.

I personally heard that the members who work at the Anti-Corruption Authority get higher salaries. But are they aware of the country's corruption they have themselves never suffered from? I hope they don't serve themselves, but put our rights first; otherwise, we will wind up in this lost jungle.



**Khalid Hameed, 36, teacher**

Some members of the Anti-Corruption Authority are probably corrupt. They deprived us (Yemeni teachers).

Frankly, holding the corrupt responsible doesn't exist in our community in general. Security and peace in every place around Yemen have even disappeared due to corruption. We can't walk on the street or stay at home safely.



**Abdul-Wadood Mohammed, 23, teacher**

Corruption sprang first from this government body which is known as 'The Anti-Corruption Authority'. People who fight corruption must be honest and must also be selected by the people themselves. They must not be chosen by the corrupt. We should support those who fight corruption and the corrupt.



**Jobran Saleh, 26**

The idea of the Anti-Corruption Authority is a good step. We are really hopeful of this authority's role and what reforms it will make. I think fighting

corruption is not the authority's responsibility; it is everyone's responsibility. Yemeni people should not pay bribes when they have something at government bodies and ministries.

I am blaming those Yemenis who give chances for those to be bribed. Bribery is the main source of corruption which adversely affects economic conditions. We are all aware of corrupt people who consume the private and the public budget. I hope the Anti-Corruption Authority will do its best for the public interest and change the country for the better.



**Amani Al-Saifah, 23, teacher**

Certainly, corruption affects my life particularly and the whole community in general.

It affects economic conditions by making the prices soar. I really keep asking myself if we will one day find ourselves living in a society that is similar to a jungle. Corrupt government officials have even destroyed our dreams of an honest society. Graduates who come from differ-



A little boy trying out a new shoe as traffic goes by. He is one of many Yemeni children left to beg in the streets because of deteriorating living conditions.



**Afrah Mohammed, 33, teacher**

Corruption is not caused by the government; it is the citizens themselves who create and live with this issue.

Do we fulfill our jobs and responsibilities in a way that satisfies ourselves and the

government? Unfortunately, no; we all complain about corruption but are not willing to be good examples of good principles. We should all first start with ourselves and change for the better; then, I'm sure no corruption will exist in society. It is enough to do the jobs or assignments given to us without oversight, but do them satisfactorily. Nobody is really willing to do better for himself and it is wrong when we still criticize the government.

**Jamilah Al-Katta, 28, teacher**

I think that corruption creates a lot of problems in our lives. Who is responsible for the confusion (resulting from corruption) that takes place in every aspects of life?

All kinds of corruption, including financial and administrative, are spread all over the country, leading to an increase in unemployment and bribes. Corrupt government officials care more about their positions than people's rights. Our government doesn't even care about our demands and has ignored fighting the corrupt.



**Basheer Al-Hada, principal**

Corruption is a worldwide issue; it is not just a Yemeni problem. We really heard about the Anti-Corruption Authority

and its role. It is a good step and fighting corruption takes a very long time. I personally appreciate the role of the authority in fighting corruption.

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## Announcement

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Republic of Yemen – Sana'a  
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عدن دار سعد : ٢٠٣٣٠٩ / ١٤ ، المعلاء : ٠٢ ٢٢٠٢٣٤  
تعز : ٢٤١٦٦٠ ، الحديدة : ٠٢ ٢١٦٥٧٨

[www.toyotayemen.com](http://www.toyotayemen.com)



**THE FIRST YEMEN ETHIOPIAN COMMERCIAL EXHIBITION HELD ON SANA'A ON 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL UP TO 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008 AT 70<sup>TH</sup> PARK**

**المعرض التجاري اليمني الاثيوبي الاول**

الداعمون  
SUPPORTED BY



وزارة الصناعة



الرفة التجارية



مقارة الجمهورية الاثيوبية  
الديمقراطية الشعبية

المنظمون  
ORGANIZED BY



مؤسسة عبد الرحيم سبر للتجارة العامة  
ABDULREHIM SEBER CORPORATION & GROUP

The organizing Committee from **ABDULREHIM SEBER GENERAL BUSINESS CORPPORATION**  
Welcoming All for this Colorful Exhibition.

- Famous sponsoring companies from Ethiopia & Yemen
- Tradition show from both countries
- Many unique shop display's from both countries
- Variety of food from different restaurant
- Other a lot amazing entertaining activities

**Our services**

- Import and Export.
- Commercial fair and trade.
- Exhibition organizer.
- Contracting cleaning and lab our supply.
- Commission agent.
- Social security service



**ETHIO - YEMEN Trade Fair and Bazaar**

አትዮ - የመን የንግድ ትርጉምና ባዘር  
የመን ሰከተዮድዎ ምርቶች ስጂን ዘርግተሰኙ

Al-Zubairy Street-In Front of Al Ruwaisan's Building (YCB) Third Floor Flat Number (11)  
Tel: 00967-1-512444- Fax 512555- Mobile: 00967-1-734627761  
E-mail: Saber@yemen.net.ye





## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DRC is an international humanitarian non-governmental, non-political, non-confessional organization based in Europe. DRC works in over 20 countries around the world assisting refugees, IDPs and other people in need. Our organization is currently starting a programme to assist African migrants arriving to the Yemeni coast and refugees living in Aden. With this objective, DRC kindly invites qualified candidates to apply to the following open positions based in Aden, Yemen:

1. Job Title: **1 ACCOUNTANT / ADMINISTRATOR**
2. Job Title: **1 ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR**
3. Job Title: **1 INCOME GENERATION FIELD OFFICER**
4. Job Title: **1 VOCATIONAL TRAINING OFFICER**

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL ABOVE POSITIONS

- College or university degree;
- Minimum of 3 years of proven experience in similar position with INGO preferably;
- Perfect command of spoken and written English, Arabic and (for position No.3) Somali;
- Excellent organizational skills, self-motivated and efficient, with willingness to pay attention to details;
- Very honest and trustworthy person;
- Excellent computer skills – especially Microsoft Excel and Word.

5. **Job Title:** **MONITORING AND ADVOCACY FIELD OFFICER**  
**Starting date:** 1 May 2008  
**Salary:** 674 USD gross per month (plus benefits)  
**Duration:** 1 year with possible extension  
**Location:** Aden, with frequent travel along the coast

### Brief description of responsibilities:

- Work closely with Government partners to improve the management of the migrant workload upon arrival to Yemeni shores;
- Work closely with local communities supporting and guiding them in their ongoing efforts to provide humanitarian assistances to migrants;
- Organize workshops and trainings to raise awareness of partners on the rights of migrants and refugees.

### Minimum qualifications:

- Masters degree on Social or Political Sciences or related field;
- At least 5 years experience with INGO in a mid-level position;
- Good command of written and spoken English and Arabic;
- Good communication, negotiation and diplomatic skills;
- Excellent computer skills.

6. **Job Title:** **RECEPTION OFFICERS (6 positions)**  
**Starting date:** 1 May 2008  
**Salary:** 376 USD gross per month (plus benefits)  
**Duration:** 6 months, with possible extension  
**Location:** Aden, with extensive travel along the coast

### Brief description of responsibilities:

- Provide guidance, support and advise to migrants upon arrival to Yemeni shores;
- Work closely with Government and non-governmental partners to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants arriving to Yemeni shores;
- Collect basic information and maintain database on number of people arriving, travel conditions, routes followed, places of origin, etc.

### Minimum qualifications:

- Secondary education degree, college degree desirable or extensive relevant experience;
- Good command of Amharic, Somali or Oromo, fair command of English and Arabic desirable;
- Excellent organizational skills, self-motivated and sympathetic to others people's needs;
- Fair computer skills – especially Word and Excel.
- Willingness to work long hours.

### HOW TO APPLY

CV with cover letter can be submitted by mail to the following address: Technical Office, P.O. Box 18159, Hadda St. Sana'a.

By email, applications with cover letter can be sent to the following address: [drc.yemen@drc.dk](mailto:drc.yemen@drc.dk)

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please make sure to specify which position you're applying to, otherwise the application cannot be processed.

**Deadline for application is Sunday April 20, 2008.** Interviews will be conducted shortly after in Aden. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

**Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply**

## Invitation for Bids

Republic of Yemen  
 Ministry of Public Health and Population  
 Health Reform Support Project – Cr. 3625

### PROCUREMENT, SUPPLY, and INSTALLATION OF HARDWARE

The invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue no. (607) on 16th May 2003, Al-Thawra Newspaper issue no. (131214) on 2th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue no. (641) on 12th June 2003.

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the National Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement and supply, and Installation of Hardware for Inventory and Personnel Affairs Bid NO. (121).

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for procurement, supply, Installation of Hardware for Inventory and Personnel Affairs as follows:

Description	Amount of Bid Security Required
Lot No. 1 Servers, Workstations, Network Components	800
Lot No. 2 Printers, UPS's Scanners	600

The bidders may bid one or more Lots, and should quote separate prices using the forms provided for one or more Lots. The bid evaluation will be conducted per Lots.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Credit Administration Unit (CAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** during official working days.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD \$50.00** for local bidders, the method of payment will be in cash or certified check and documents will be submitted by hand.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by **11:00 am on 5th May 2008**. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security as indicated above. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **11:00 am on 5th May 2008**.

**Credit Administration Unit – Health Reform Support Project (HRSP)**  
**Ministry of Public Health & Population**  
**P.O. Box 1330 – Al-Hasabah – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Tel: +967(1) 252224 – Fax: +967(1) 251622**  
**Email: [hrsp@y.net.ye](mailto:hrsp@y.net.ye)**



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

MSF France is providing healthcare services to the population mainly in Haydan, Razih and Altalh Districts.

### Open positions in Sana'a Office:

#### - Country Pharmacist

To support and supervise the overall pharmacy supply (procurement, management, use,...) of MSF in the country in collaboration and by delegation of the medical coordinator.

### Required qualifications:

- Valid Medical Diploma

#### - Head of Mission Assistant

The Head of Mission Assistant contributes to the smooth coordination of the mission via his/her relations with local authorities, nationals and other Non Governmental Organizations.

### Required qualifications:

- High stress tolerance
- Excellent organizational skills and strong detail management
- Flexible and committed
- Able to work independently and exhibit strong judgment

#### - Medical Coordinator Assistant

The medical coordinator assistant supports the medical coordinator, who delegates certain tasks to him/her.

### Required qualifications:

- Valid medical diploma (general practitioner)

### \* Required qualifications for all positions:

- Able to make frequent, short or long visits to the fields in Sa'ada governorate
- Minimum of 2 years professional experience
- Arabic speaker
- Fluent English spoken and written
- Computer literate
- Sense of organization and initiative
- Communication skills

Applications must be in English language. Applicants should submit a Cover Letter, CV, copies of diplomas, relevant training certificates, work certificates, ID card, and any recommendation letter from previous employers to:

**Medecins sans frontieres France**  
**P.O. Box 12565 Old University Post Office,**  
**Sana'a**

Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. No face to face contact or phone contact will be considered.

**Deadline for application: April 30<sup>th</sup> 2008**



**ICRC**

The ICRC is a neutral and independent international organisation

**The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Yemen is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following vacancies:**

### Administrator Based In Sa'ada

#### Your tasks:

- Handles all administration files in Sa'ada
- Handles general cash disbursements of delegation in various currencies
- Explains cash procedures to the "clients"
- Responsible for the HR (Human Resources) Management
- Controls the maintenance of the ICRC buildings & residences
- Handles complex administrator work independently (manage a team)
- Deals with external interlocutors, companies and authorities when needed
- Ensures respect of administration procedures and guidelines
- Reports to the Administration in Sana'a

#### Selection requirements:

- Accounting or Administration diploma
- 2 years minimum work experience in a similar field
- Good command of English and very good computer skills
- Rigorous and trustful person
- Good analytical & organisation skills
- Ability to work with expatriates
- Autonomous and able to live and adapt himself to another city (Sa'ada)

### Cashier Based In Sana'a

#### Your tasks:

- Handles general cash disbursements of delegation in various currencies
- Explains cash procedures to the "clients"
- Handles routine and basic cashier work mainly independently
- Makes the link between the Finance Department and the other Departments
- Ensures respect of financial procedures and guidelines

#### Selection requirements:

- High school level or business and administration education
- 2 years work experience in a similar field
- Good command of English
- Good computer skills
- Good communication skills
- Rigorous and trustful person

#### What we offer:

- Interesting, rewarding work
- Humanitarian and international organisation experience

**Please submit your application (letter of motivation, CV, copies of certificates/diplomas) to the ICRC, Administration, Baghdad Street, Street No 19 – P.O.Box 2267, fax 467 875, Sana'a. Please indicate on the application the post you apply for. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The last date for receiving the applications is 15.04**

# Y-PEER lets youth educate youth about Reproductive Health

By: Yasmine Al-Eryani  
For Yemen Times

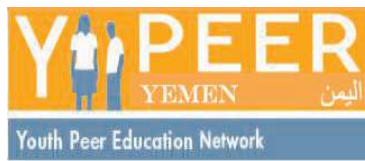
A global initiative launched by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has its eyes on the future by educating Yemen's youth, which constitute more than half of the population.

The program is called Y-Peer, or Youth Peer Education network, and was created to support reproductive health through peer education for young people aged 17 to 27-years-old

in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and now the Arab States. One of its missions in Yemen is to raise awareness to prevent sexually-transmitted infections with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS, which has become a significant to public health in Yemen, as well as introducing family planning methods.

Y-Peer was launched in April 2004 to help coordinate 185 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in 22 participating countries, allowing them to access shared Y-Peer training materials and learn from each other's experiences.

The Y-Peer network has so far



trained three young Yemenis abroad at the UNFPA's international training of trainers and has selected 20 more young volunteers in Yemen to be part of the network.

These 20 teens and young adults will help educate their at-risk peers through distributing materials containing information about HIV/AIDS and other diseases through local training for

young people in different areas of the country. The Yemeni Y-Peer program will be launched sometime in the next few months and will commence with a kick-off event to be held in Sana'a.

The program's goal is to raise awareness, share knowledge, and promote behavioural change to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS cases. The network includes education on reproductive health and drug awareness for young people. There is an increasing demand for information about these issues among young people throughout the world, and the network focuses on promoting this health-

sustaining knowledge.

The network facilitates trainings for peer educators through a new CD-ROM designed for distance learning. Once the Y-Peer in Yemen is launched, more young Yemenis will be trained and can spread the word to their friends and colleagues.

According to the UNFPA, the peer-to-peer teaching methodology has proven to be the best way to reach young people, since it allows them to talk freely about private subjects with people who are dealing with the same issues. It also promotes life skills such as leadership, communication, mentoring opportunities and future job

contacts.

The network will focus on promoting knowledge especially in areas where there is a high percentage of early marriage and lack of knowledge about reproductive health, which may result in high mortality in young child bearing women. If you would like to join the network and you are 17 to 27-years-old or you would like more information about Y-Peer in Yemen, please don't hesitate to contact or visit the UNFPA Country Office in Yemen or write directly to yaleryani@unfpa.org. You can also visit the official Y-Peer website at www.youthpeer.net.

## Periodontal Disease and Your Health

By: Dr. Essam Dhaifullah,  
periodontology department  
chairman  
Sana'a University, Faculty of  
Dentistry

The majority of people coming to our dental faculty have no idea that they have periodontal disease, also known as gum disease, including gingivitis and periodontitis, which are infections of the gum and bone that hold teeth in place. It is often painless and you may not be aware that you have a problem until your gums and the supporting bone are seriously damaged. The word periodontal literally means "structures around the tooth." These include supporting tissues which attach teeth to the jawbone, such as gums, periodontal ligaments and alveolar bone. The prevalence of gingivitis is especially high for males aged 13 to 17. Also, males have worse cases of gingivitis than females, especially in younger age groups. Although the reason for the existence of these gender differences is not known, poorer plaque control among males

could likely explain much of the higher prevalence and extent of gum disease among them.

### What's gingivitis?

It is an inflammation of the gums — the initial stage of periodontal disease. At this early stage in gum disease, damage can be reversed, since the bone and connective tissues that hold the teeth in place are not yet affected. The classic signs and symptoms of gingivitis include red, swollen, tender gums that may bleed when you brush. The direct cause of gingivitis is bacteria found in dental plaque, which are soft deposits that form a biofilm adhering to the tooth surface or other hard surfaces in the oral cavity. Food products are an important source of nutrients for bacteria. Dental plaque accumulates and persists, especially in crevices and spaces or around rough or broken fillings. If the plaque is not removed by daily brushing and flossing, bacteria in the plaque produces toxins that can irritate the gum tissue, causing gingivitis. Plaque that stays on your teeth longer than two or three days can harden under your gum line into tartar (calculus), a

white substance that makes plaque more difficult to remove and that acts as a reservoir for bacteria. Unfortunately, brushing and flossing can't eliminate tartar — only a dentist can remove it.

Left untreated, however, gingivitis can become periodontitis, a serious infection that destroys the soft tissue and bone that support your teeth. In time, plaque can spread and grow below the gum line. Toxins produced by the bacteria in plaque stimulate a chronic inflammatory response in which the body turns on itself and the tissues and bone that support the teeth are broken down and destroyed. Gums separate from the teeth, forming pockets (spaces between the teeth and gums) that become infected. As the disease progresses, the pockets deepen and more gum tissue and bone are destroyed.

### Symptoms of periodontal disease include:

- gum swelling and redness
- ease of bleeding, particularly when brushing teeth
- tender gums
- receding gums, making your teeth

look longer than normal

- New spaces developing between your teeth
- Loose teeth or a change in the way your teeth fit together when you bite

Another possible symptom of gingivitis and periodontitis is halitosis, commonly known as bad breath. While most people think that gingivitis is an oral disorder for adults, studies have shown that it is an almost universal occurrence in children.

Another cause of gingivitis is poor nutrition. If you suffer from a diet poor in calcium and vitamins B and C, you've unfortunately made gingivitis more likely to strike you.

Tobacco use is linked with many serious illnesses such as cancer, lung disease and heart disease, but studies also demonstrate that smoking is the most significant risk factor for periodontal disease. Smoking in any form damages your immune system, putting you at greater risk of periodontal infection. It also creates a favorable environment for harmful bacteria and interferes with the normal mechanisms for limiting bacterial growth in your mouth. Because

smoking impairs healing, smokers are less likely to respond to treatment than nonsmokers are.

A number of health problems can take a toll on your gums. One of the most significant of these is diabetes, which makes you more prone to many infections, including gum infections. But the relationship between diabetes and periodontal disease doesn't end there. Gingivitis and periodontitis impair your body's ability to utilize insulin, making diabetes harder to control. And because diabetes and periodontal disease may make you more susceptible to a heart attack or stroke, having both conditions increases your risk of cardiovascular disease. Hormonal changes which occur during pregnancy, menopause or even menstruation can make your gums more susceptible to periodontal disease.

### How can I prevent gingivitis?

Prevention includes a good daily oral hygiene routine. The toothbrush is a most important tool for plaque removal. You can help stop gingivitis before it develops by:

remove plaque, debris and control tartar buildup

- eating right to ensure proper nutrition for your jawbone and teeth
- avoiding cigarettes and other forms of tobacco
- regular checkups with your dentist

Brush your teeth regularly, preferably in the morning and before bed, and floss your teeth at least once a day. Make sure that you use a soft toothbrush and that the bristles reach the gum line when you brush. Have your teeth professionally cleaned every six months to a year to prevent plaque from becoming tartar and remove any tartar that may have already formed.

Children need to be taught how to practice good hygiene early by brushing and flossing to avoid oral disorders in the future. If you are a parent, practice good oral hygiene habits yourself as part of educating your child. Being a good role model is extremely beneficial to both you and your child. Remember that oral hygiene also involves the dentist, so it is important to schedule regular checkups and cleanings.




**المعرض الطبي الدولي السادس**  
للأدوية والمستلزمات الطبية والعناية الصحية  
**The 6<sup>th</sup> International Medical Supplies, Pharmaceuticals & Health Care Exhibition**  
7-13 April 2008

يُصاحب المعرض } إنعقاد المؤتمر الطبي الدولي الأول  
1<sup>st</sup> International Medical Conference

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هاتف: ٤٤١٠٠٠ - فاكس: ٤٤٨٠٨٦  
E-mail: apollo.exb2@y.net.ye - www.exposanaa.com



**SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT**

## Engineering Consultancy

- The Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation (YGAPC) invites local and foreign companies who can demonstrate that they are suitably qualified and experienced to submit proposals to provide consultancy services to investigate, report on and prepare designs and tender documents for the repair or replacement of two dolphin/bunkering berths in the inner harbour of the Port of Aden. These are designated Berth 6 In and Berth 6 Out.
- The project is self-financed by YGAPC.
- Intending bidders may obtain the bidding documents from the Statistics and Planning Department at the headquarters of the Corporation in Tawahi, Telephone +967-2-202669, on payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00.
- Bidders should submit their sealed offers, one original and two copies, to the following address:  
Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation (Port of Aden)  
Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board  
Tawahi, Aden  
Tel: +967-2-204638/202669 and fax +967-2-205805/205802/201541  
Email: [ygapcplanning@y.net.ye](mailto:ygapcplanning@y.net.ye).
- Bids must reach the headquarters of YGAPC before 11.00 hours on **Wednesday 30 April 2008** and will not be accepted after this date and time. Envelopes will be opened at 11.00 on the same day. Bids must remain valid for 90 days from the date of submission.
- The successful bidder will be obliged to pay any taxes and duties relating to the work, according to the tender price and to the laws of the Republic of Yemen.
- The local bidder shall accompany by his bid the following:-  
Valid tax card.  
Valid Al-Zakatt card.  
Valid insurance .  
Valid commercial registry certificate.
- The foreign bidder shall accompany by any required documents, such as:  
VAT Registration Certificate:  
A valid Certificate of Insurance;  
A valid company Registration Certificate.
- Bidders should include in their submissions details of similar projects carried out within the past five years, details of the clients for whom the work was undertaken and cv's of the personnel who will be employed to undertake the work.
- YGAPC will facilitate access to the dolphins for bidders, their personnel and equipment before they submit their bids.

# bilim inaugurate Zimaks® in Yemen

**A**l-Mufaddal Pharma, one of the Al-Jabal Trading Group of Companies and the sole agent for Bilim Pharmaceuticals celebrated the launch of new drug Zimaks now available in Yemeni markets.

Al-Mufaddal Pharma's general manager, Mr. Ali Mohammed Al-Jabal, confirmed that the company has high ambitions in expanding its medical services and becoming a large provider of high quality and effective medications that are trusted by European doctors, in reasonable costs in order to be accessible to the Yemeni patient.

The celebration was attended by a number of the medical and health related individuals and organisations from public and private health institutions.

Dr. Ameen Abdulrab specialist in Internal and Infectious Diseases at the Medical College in Sana'a University presented a lecture on the Cephalosprins revolution group of medications including Zimaks and its uses.

Georken, exports manager of Bilim Pharmaceuticals reviewed the company's progress and its strategic position in the international market in the pharmaceutical industry.

**Introduction**  
Founded in 1953, Bilim started as one of the first domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers in Turkey. Since then the company has focused on the development, manufacturing and marketing of strong brand equivalents.

Currently with its competitive product portfolio composed of 120 products, state of the art R&D laboratories, modern high capacity manufacturing sites and a sales force of 850 medical representatives Bilim is one of the top 3 players in the very dynamic and highly competitive domestic market.

Having a firm position in the domestic market, within the last decade the company's strategy has been to gain a firm position within the international arena as well. Currently, Bilim is present in 26 countries all over the world and expands its territories every year.

Bilim aims to further grow both in the domestic and international arena by developing and launching niche products every year. By being a family of 1400 workers, Bilim has committed itself to increase the quality of life.

**Our Mission:**  
To protect human life by enabling better treatment of the diseases and enhance the quality of life. We believe that our responsibilities include working for common good with respect to environmental sustainability.

**Our Vision:**  
- to further expand our domestic and international market share.  
- to strengthen our global presence in the pharmaceutical market.  
- to maximize value for our customers, workers and owners.

**Certificates and Awards** - Please visit: [http://www.bilimpharma.com/en/company/certificates\\_awards.aspx](http://www.bilimpharma.com/en/company/certificates_awards.aspx)

**Mile Stones**  
- **1953** Founded in 1953 as one of the first pharmaceutical manufacturers in Turkey.  
- **1974** Acquisition of H. Arsan Pharmaceuticals.  
- **1975** Bilim moved to its current production plant.  
- **1998** Beta-Lactam Facility started manufacturing.  
- **2005** Foundation of state of the art Gebze Manufacturing Plant.  
Today In the domestic market, Bilim ranks among the top 4 companies in terms of unit sales. Internationally, Bilim is present in 26 countries.

**News**  
National Quality Grand Award Goes to Bilim Pharmaceuticals. Bilim Pharmaceuticals has



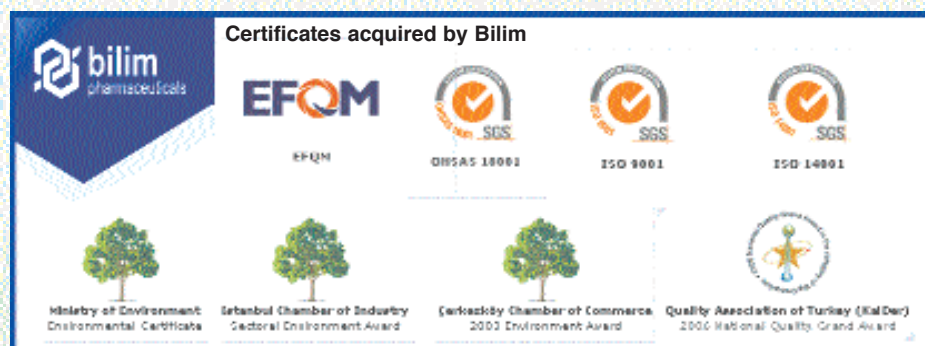
won the National Quality Grand Award in the category of Big Enterprises, which has not been won for the last 4 years.

At the National Quality Awards, organised annually by the Quality Association of Turkey (KalDer) which is the branch of EFQM (European Foundation of Quality Management), Bilim Pharmaceuticals has won the National Quality Grand Award, in the category of Large Scale enterprises, after careful screening of candidates' performances based on EFQM Excellence Model.

increasing manufacturing requirements and realizing our high exportation goals.

The plant having an enclosed area of 40.000m<sup>2</sup> on a total area of 60.000m<sup>2</sup> has been on the project level since February 2005 and some €60 million has been foreseen for the investment in the plant.

Project development for the new pharmaceuticals manufacturing plant was undertaken by the German G+P Günsav Projektentwicklung GmbH engineering company, which has international reputation and



Bilim Pharmaceuticals started its systematic approach to Total Quality Management in 1998 with Strategic Planning. Bilim Pharmaceuticals received the "Recognition of Excellence" certificate in 2004, the second one of EFQM Excellence Stages, showing that a company was being managed successfully and progressing on the path to becoming an excellent company. CEO Erhan Ba, emphasized that the success of the award belongs to the whole Bilim Pharmaceutical family with its employees and managers. He stated:

"We worked very hard to come to this point and we succeeded. We have taken our place among the firms with best practices of the Total Quality Management in Turkey. We have serious and challenging targets. We want to be among the front - runners of Europe in Total Quality management. Our main target is to be able to compete with international generic drug producers in the European markets by 2009 and to become a global pharmaceutical company."

#### Gebeze New Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Plant

Gebeze New Drug Manufacturing Plant, intended to be put into service in 2008, is a significant step taken for the health sector, in order to set up a model plant at highest international standards. We are moving our manufacturing plant in Ayazaga, Istanbul, which has been active for 32 years, to our premises in Gebze Organized Industrial Zone, with a view to meeting our

experience in the sector. The plant, for which construction work was initiated in August 2005, is expected to be put into service in July 2008 according to the goals.

#### Bilim Pharmaceuticals is "Recognized for Excellence" by EFQM!

In 2004 Bilim Pharmaceuticals was "Recognized for Excellence" by the EFQM Europe and became the first organization in the Turkish pharmaceuticals sector to document such a recognition.

The EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) excellence model serves as an intermediary, which verifies whether organizations proceed on the right path for excellence and supports them to improve their management systems. Furthermore, it enables the organizations to realize their power and their weak aspects open to improvement, thereby encouraging them to generate solutions.

Bilim Pharmaceuticals achieved the EFQM certificate in respect of its compliance with the criteria such as: results orientation, customer focus, leadership and constancy of purpose; management by processes and facts, people development and participation; continuous learning, innovation and improvement, partnership development, corporate social responsibility.

In Turkey, KalDer (Turkish Quality Foundation), which plays the leading role in the National Quality Movement, is responsible for

the management of this model.

#### Bilim Pharmaceuticals on the CPHI International Pharmaceuticals Exhibition

Bilim Pharmaceuticals participated in the CPHI International Pharmaceuticals Exhibition, held in Madrid on November 01-03, 2005, for the 6th time. The exhibition, participated by large multinational and international corporations.

#### Bilim Pharmaceuticals on the Moldavia National Pharmaceuticals Exhibition

The Moldexpo Exhibition, participated by Bilim Pharmaceuticals, is organized every year in September, with the participation of the large pharmaceutical companies in Moldavia.

#### Global Presence

The Export Department operates under Business Development which is divided into two groups Licensing-In and Licensing-Out.

The company pursues a steady growth of its exporting activities and expanding its presence throughout the world with the support of enhanced marketing systems for international sales and promotional activities.

Today, Bilim's products are safely used in 26 different countries of the world and our marketing know-how is the most important value that we share with our partners.

With the keen studies of Regulatory Affairs Department Bilim Pharmaceuticals managed to register more than 360 products in 26 countries all over the world.

#### Partnering Philosophy

Bilim provides a wide variety of products to its global network of customers. Fast response time to rapidly changing customer demands and market needs is a core strength of Bilim.

Bilim provides global partnership opportunities ranging from Joint Product Development, Distributorship/Agencies, Licensing, Co-Marketing & Co-Promotion Agreements to Contract Manufacturing for its potential partners.

- EU standardised dossiers with BE/BA studies,
- Strong medical and marketing know-how,
- Dynamic pipeline,
- Benefits of the economies of scale,
- Tailored product-dossier development.

#### Vision of Human Resources

By providing the utmost level of the satisfaction to our human resources, which is our most precious asset and the systems that we will start applying within the framework of our company targets, it will be the most preferred company to work in the medicine sector.

#### Mission of Human Resources

- to create a learning environment in order to utilize our Human Resources in an efficient and productive way
- to present career opportunities by preparing a professional work environment
- to maximize employee satisfaction by acquiring the values of the company
- to employ people, who are open to all kinds of innovations and learning
- who are able to use their training and the knowledge their possesses. And the most important of all
- who is loyal to humanistic self values.

For more information please visit:

[www.bilimpharma.com/en/human\\_resources](http://www.bilimpharma.com/en/human_resources)

#### Policy of Human Resources

Within the framework of our company's strategic plan and targets, to apply the human resources system that will provide the dynamism of organization structures.

In order to utilize our Human Resources in the most efficient and productive way, to create an organization that learns through application training that would enable the corporate and individual development.

#### Research & Development

Research & Development is dedicated to perform all formulation development tasks and projects with the most up-to-date regulatory and scientific approaches. It has adequate facilities, trained personnel for pharmaceutical and analytical development, validation and approval. The department has successful records in launching new products.



Dr. Essa Al-Shuga'a Supervisor of Bilim during award ceremony of al-Mufaddal prizes.

The Department is also responsible of ensuring its conformance to the company's quality system in accordance with the market needs. It is highly committed to enhance current products as well as applying and developing improved techniques.

For more information please visit: [www.bilimpharma.com/en/production/research\\_development.aspx](http://www.bilimpharma.com/en/production/research_development.aspx)

#### Bilim strengthens its position in the market by:

- launching new and highly in demand products every year
- investing in Research & Development.
- increasing the number of employed specialists

#### Quality Assurance

Production quality is assured by complying with the cGMP and cGLP standards.

High-quality of production is the key to success which gained in the periodical inspections done by local and international health authorities.

Quality Assurance System plays an important role in accomplishing the prerequisites of the daily business activities and maintaining the high production standards. Our Quality Assurance System is based on the following principles:

- Qualified and well-trained personnel
- Laboratories working under GLP conditions
- Controlled logistics and material flow
- Continuous drug safety supervision
- Comprehensive documentation



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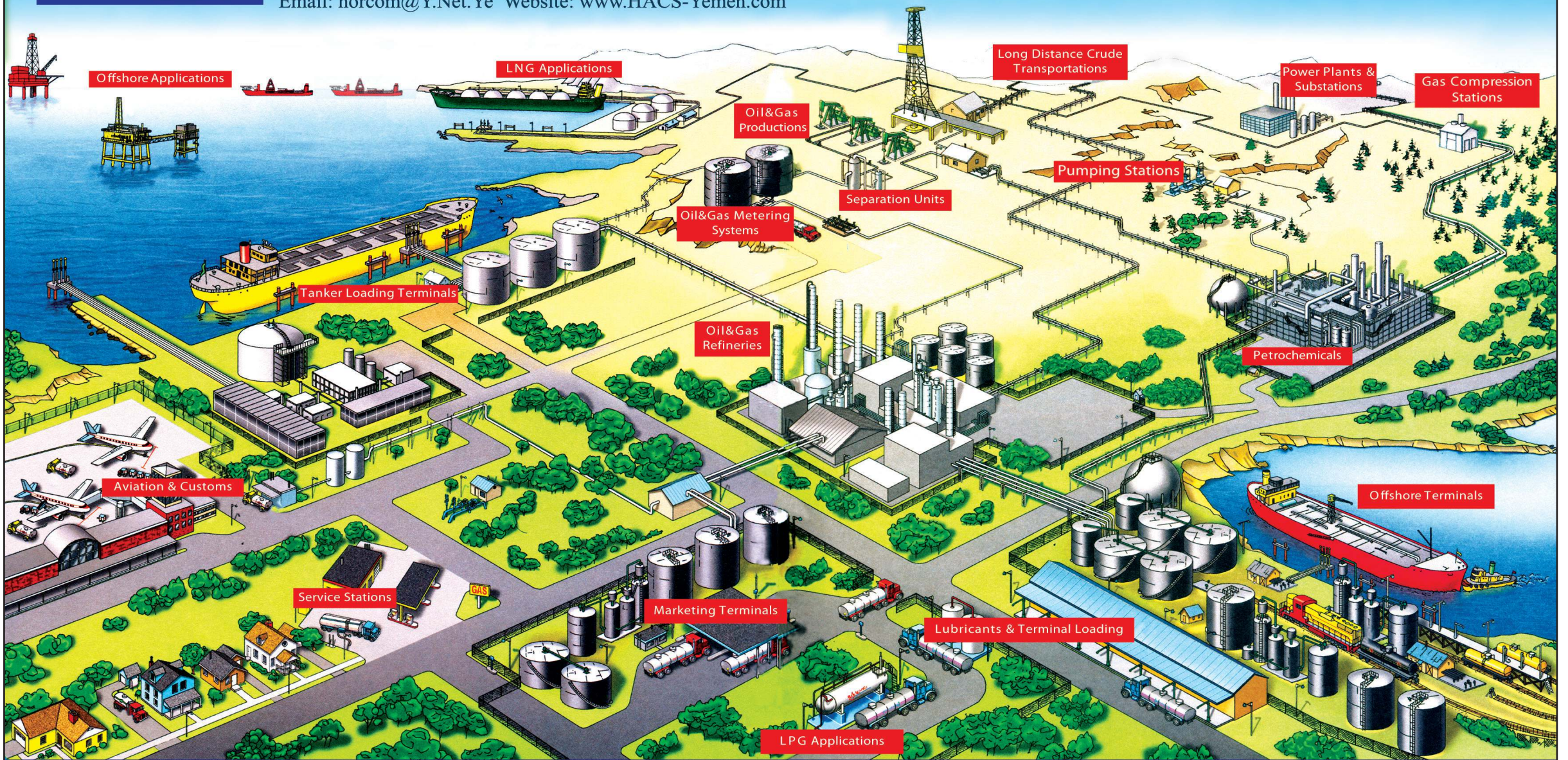




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**CONDEMNATION FROM LUNDBECK FOR THE DRAWINGS  
AGAINST THE MOSLEMS PROPHET MOHAMMAD**

Dear Colleagues

As you may have noticed, some of the drawings originally printed in the Danish daily newspaper Jyllands- posten 2 years ago have recently been reprinted in a range of Danish newspaper.

It is important once again to emphasize that these newspapers are not at all representatives of the Danish community. We fully understand the sensitivity of the issue in the Islamic community **and never approve any offence against any religion and / or belief.**

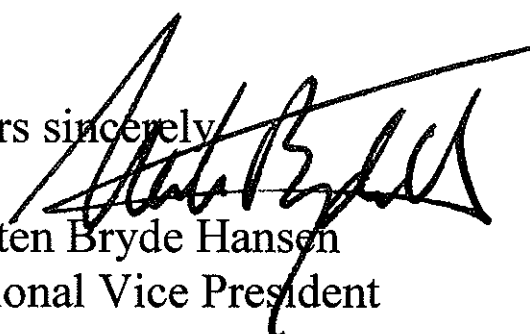
**Lundbeck**, as an international pharmaceutical company based in Denmark, seeks to respect the individual and his or her choices in respect of religion and other thoughts or believes. **Lundbeck respects Islam as one of the world's major religions.**

Therefore **Lundbeck** refuses and strongly condemns these actions and any action or expression that attempt to disrespect Islam, prophet Muhammad or any other religious symbol.

In keeping with this objective, **Lundbeck's** management philosophy is based on **“respect for the individual.”** This is reflected in the way in which we treat our employees, partners, customers and colleagues. We also have a policy of Diversity, which encourages employment of and teamwork among people coming from a broad and diverse geographical, cultural and religious background. We do respect all religions and have no wish at all to act disrespectfully.

**Lundbeck** has operated in Islamic countries for many years and had very good relation with the medical community. I sincerely hope that we can continue this good co-operation also in the future.

Yours sincerely



Morten Bryde Hansen  
Regional Vice President

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# Donkeys becoming extinct in Yemen

By: Almgidaj Mojalli  
almigdads8@yahoo.com

**D**onkeys in Yemen are threatened with extinction, due to breeding practices and zoo protocol.

"Indeed, donkeys are in real danger. They decrease day after day. People castrate them, preventing them from reproducing," said Hussein Al-Shawtari, a donkey seller who follows the national donkey market.

"Additionally, people working in the zoo slaughter them and offer them to the zoo's lions as food," he added.

The donkey, or Equus Asinus, likely came to Yemen from Egypt, where the species is thought to have originated with the Nubian wild ass. There is evidence that donkeys have existed for around 6,000 years in the Middle East, and were domesticated around the same time as horses and camels.

The workers in Sana'a Zoo used to slaughter seven to nine donkeys every day, offering them to lions and tigers in the zoo. However, the zoo said that they have stopped this practice in order to keep the species alive in Yemen.

"We used to buy very old, ailing and sick donkeys at YR 1,500 to 2,000 each, avoiding the healthy ones. However, it wasn't easy for us to find seven ailing or very old donkeys every day. At the same time, it wasn't possible for us to buy seven healthy donkeys at YR 40,000 each," said Dr. Ameen Obad, the veterinarian in charge of health care for the zoo.

"In order not to use all the donkeys, we thought of other alternatives," said Obad. "We decided to buy old and ailing goats, cows and even fish and chickens, since they are available in larger quantities and cheaper than donkeys."

Donkeys have traditionally been one of the main means of transportation in Yemen for centuries, especially in agricultural and mountainous areas. "Donkeys are very important for people in rural areas. They are as important as cars and sometimes they are more important than cars," said Ahmed Al-Garah, a rural resident of Bani Hushaish district. "We use them to transport us and our goods, especially in mountains where there are no car roads," he went on to say.

Donkeys are also used as an agricultural tool to help plough or carry equipment. "In rural areas, if you don't have a donkey, you aren't a farmer. Without donkeys, we can't do things - and people aren't ready to lend you theirs everyday," said Mohammed Al-Matari, a farmer in Bani Matar district.

The recent nationwide price hikes have also affected the donkey market. "The price for donkeys was raised unreasonably, particularly for the



Donkeys have traditionally been one of the main means of transportation in Yemen for centuries.

young ones. The value of some donkeys is up to YR 80,000," said Al-Shawtari.

He added that donkeys coming from some northern governorates are preferred over others.

"People don't buy just any donkey. They prefer the donkeys coming from the suburbs of Sana'a and some from Amran, because their owners train them to plough and carry things, while those from Abyan and Hadramout aren't in demand because they can't plough or carry things and are difficult to control," Al-Shawtari explained.

The age and the health of donkeys

are very important factors in the buying process. "We know the age of the donkeys by checking their teeth. If all the teeth are still fine and bright, this means that [the donkey] is still young and able to work well," said Al-Shawtari.

A donkey's life span is 25 to 40 years, and they are able to work for the majority of their lives if properly cared for. Both male and female donkeys can pull about 25 percent of their body weight for seven hours a day and need only small amounts of water to sustain themselves.

A Ministry of Agriculture and

Irrigation report from 2002- the most recent date for which information was available -stated that there was very little information available on the number of donkeys in Yemen. However, the report warned that the country's donkey population was rapidly decreasing and in danger of extinction.

As the donkey market becomes sparse and the cost of work animals is on the rise, zoo workers continue to look for other food sources to offer the wild animals. However, castrating and offering up donkeys as food for other beasts is still in practice and is harming the species' survival.

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