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What Yemenis think of living standards



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Graffiti for a cause



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-Oarni.

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."

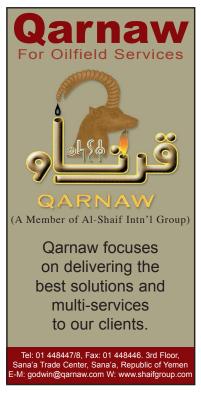
According to the representative, Houthi followers tolerated repeated aggressive attacks by the army in order not to breach the agreement because they care about peace and stability in the governorate. "We are closely observing how the authority instigates some sheikhs and tribal leaders of Khawlan Bin 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."

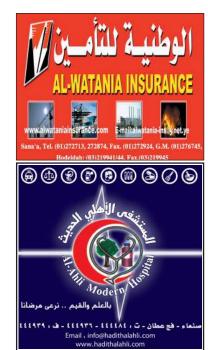
The Houthi representative claimed that the authorities should abide by the Doha-brokered peace deal, signed by the government and Houthis on February 1, which stipulates that the authorities must stop directing false charges to Houthi followers by accusing them of creating obstacles to the cease-fire 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







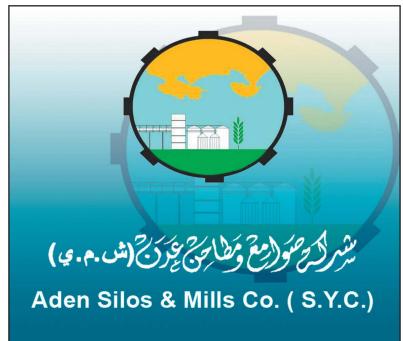














Over 5,000 tourists visit Shibam Kawkaban

In brief

A tourist source said that about 5,660 tourists from different Arab and foreign nationalities had visited the historical city of Shibam Kawkaban in al-Mahweet governorate last March.

The tourists groups, including from Italy, America, France, Germany, Austria and Arab nationalities, visited the famous historical buildings in the city.

As one of the most beautiful tourist places in Yemen, Shibam Kawkaban received more than 5,144 Yemeni visitors from all governorates of the

Its popular market and famous mountain caves are among its tourist landmarks. The most visible Islamic remains is the Shibam Mosque which is now 1,020 years old.

Yemen, ESCWA to sign agreement on hosting round

Yemen and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are expected to sign an agreement for hosting the ESCWA 25th round on 26-29 May, almotamar.net has said.

The agreement would be signed next Monday in Lebanon's capital Beirut by deputy UN secretary general, the ESCWA executive secretary Badr Omer al-Daf'a and Yemen's ambassador to Lebanon Faisal Abu Ras.

1st Int'l medical conference to be opened Monday in Sana'a

The First International Medical Conference will be commenced on Monday in Sana'a with the participation of 2000 Yemeni and Arab

The conference organized by the Yemeni Charitable Medical Association would be held during the period form 7th to 13th April.

The head of the association Mohammed Farhan told Saba that the conference would discuss four topics associated with medicine of accidents, surgical cases in Yemen, hepatitis disease, diabetes and impacts of blood pressure.

Many trainings courses will be launched within activities of the conference, Farhan said.

Kidnapped Yemeni fishing boat restored

Yemeni Fishing Brum Company restored on Saturday the fishing boat (Brum) kidnapped last Wednesday by Somali pirates, while it was fishing 60 miles off Mucalla coasts with 34 sailors on board.

Deputy Minister of Fishery Wealth Ghazi Lahmar told Saba that boat, owned by the company, arrived on Saturday to Ashaher Port in Hadramout and it was released by the International Coalition Forces, working in international waters, in coordination with Yemeni Coast Guard Forces.

Lahmar indicated that the fishermen were released using the Ships Detection and Surveillance System, imposed by fish ministry on all fishing boats.

German tourists visit Aden

Sixteen German tourists arrived in Aden on Sunday to get acquainted with the historical sites in the city. A tourist program had been prepared for the tourists to visit several places and archaeological landscapes and traditional markets in Aden.

Soldier dies amidst call to arms against government in southern Yemen

Bv: Saddam Al-Ashmori For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, April 6 — The situation in the southern governorates is still shaky after a one-week intensive security deployment backed with tanks attempted to control rioting that erupted when a protest turned violent. Around the same time, a soldier died during an attack in Hadramout following a Parliament member's call for armed struggle in the south. A soldier was killed and another seven were injured when unknown armed men attacked two separate military checkpoints in Hadramout province in southeast Yemen on Saturday.

The governor of Hadramout told the Yemen Times that the armed men shelled two checkpoints in Al-Qatn and Hawrah districts. He said security authorities are currently looking for the aggressors in order to bring them to trial, adding that preliminary investigations were unable to disclose the motive behind the attacks.

Yemeni Socialist leader calls southerners to arms against the government

The attacks came after Salah Al-Shanfarah, a Parliament member and prominent leader in the Yemeni Socialist Party, threatened to resort to armed struggle and revolution against the state authorities. In a statement last Friday in Al-Dhale', Al-Shanfarah said,

"We shall announce revolution and armed struggle in the mountains of Al-Dhale', Yafei, and Radfan."

"They [state's leaders] should know that our areas are not like those of Sa'ada and our men are not like Al-Houthi's, whom we highly respect. We have military plans that are accurate and scientific that can destroy their [state's leaders] army," he added.

He further noted that if the blockade continues and security forces conduct attacks on citizens' homes arbitrarily, then locals of Al-Dhale' province will carry out operations that target highranking figures in the state.

"Al-Dhale' city is about to see a large humanitarian crisis if southerners do not move now," said Al-Shanfarah. 'You southerners go to your positions in Radfan, Al-Dhale', Yafei, Al-Mahfad, Mukairas, Baihan and all the cities bordering northern Yemen that occupied our land and country," he

Al-Dhale' reels after last week's vio-

After last week's violent protests in Al-Dhale' and Lahj, security authorities arrested several people who organized the protests, which were held when local youths were refused entry into the army. One protestor was killed and more than 18 were injured.

A well-informed source in Al-Dhale' said though main cities were open and the tanks drew back, there is still one district in the governorate blockaded by security authorities. A source in the Ministry of Defense denied the presence of tanks in those areas and also denied that there was a state of emergency in the governorate.

Meanwhile, hundreds of citizens in Radfan city in Lahj governorate are protesting for the second week against the arrests carried out by security authorities.

Eyewitnesses said security and army forces in Radfan raided the more recent protests, also organized by youths. The forces used tear gas and live bullets to disperse the protesters, which caused several protestors to faint from the fumes. No one was hit by the bullets fired into the crowd.

At Aden University, security and army troops surrounded the Faculty of Education in preparation for any possible reactions on the part of students or university staff after one student from the university was arrested last week.

Authorities in the governorate said 30 people were referred to the prosecution after they were proven to be involved in the riots. Lahsoun Saleh deputy governor of Al-Dhale', said initial investigations on those people proved that they were involved in the riots and other 32 were released on bail.

Almotamar.net quoted the deputy governor online, who said that among the 62 soldiers arrested, 12 were referred to the military court system.

World Health Day 2008 focuses on global warming-related health risks

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, April 6 — The impact of climate change has become noticeable in Yemen, not only through seasonal modifications and increasing temperatures, but also through the increase of disease, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

This year, the April 7th celebration of World Health Day is concentrating on educating people around the globe about the increased risk of disease promulgation resulting from climate change.

According to the National Council for the Climate, there has been an increase in average temperatures in Sana'a over the last 20 years, though they do not have the exact percentage due to a lack of research. According to Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwahi, the Director General of Family Health in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, "Yemeni children are increasingly exposed to diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, and asthma because of the climate change."

Scientific evidence points to the impending expansion of infectious diseases, as well as an increase in severe natural disasters including heat waves, floods and droughts, and rising shortages of food and clean water leading to population displacement. These consequences pose major challenges for all countries, particularly developing countries and people living in extreme poverty. Among the most immediately affected are poor women, children and

Al-Mudhwahi explained that in Sana'a, where the weather is cooler than other areas in Yemen, malaria is uncommon. However, because of climate change in the coming years, Sana'a is predicted to become more like other, hotter-temperature cities in Yemen, causing more diseases to migrate to the city. The risk of infection is higher because of the country's weak infrastructure and lack of adequate sanitation



Climate change doesn't just affect the weather - it affects people's health too.

Climate-sensitive diseases are among the largest global killers. Diarrhea, malaria and protein-energy malnutrition alone caused more than 3.3 million deaths globally in 2002, with 29 percent of these deaths occurring in Africa. The average increase in the world's temperature as reported on the WHO's official website is 1.2 degrees centigrade.

Water scarcity encourages people to transport water from long distances and store supplies in their homes. This can increase the risk of household water contamination, causing illnesses. "With increasing temperature and scarcity of water, children can become dehydrated more easily and are increasingly vulnerable to infectious diseases," said Al-Mudhwahi.

Variable rainfall patterns are likely to compromise the supply of fresh water. Globally, water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. A lack of water and poor water quality can compromise hygiene and health. This increases the risk of diarrhea, which kills approximately 1.8 million people every year, according to the latest WHO report.

According to the WHO, increasing

global temperatures affect levels and seasonal patterns of both man-made and natural air-borne particles, such as plant pollen, which can trigger asthma. About 300 million people suffer from asthma, and 255,000 people died of the disease in 2005. Asthma deaths are expected to increase by almost 20% in the next 10 years if urgent actions to curb climate change and prepare for its consequences are not taken.

The main the causes of climate change are greenhouse gases emitted when fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas are burned. Many countries have taken some steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or lessen the health impacts of climate change, which could have positive health effects. For example, promoting the safe use of public transportation and active movement such as biking or walking as alternatives to using private vehicles - could reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve public health.

Although Yemen singed the Kyoto Protocols to protect the environment in 1997, greenhouse gases emitted by industrial plants and vehicles still pose a threat to the climate and to public

Abdul Malik Al-Mutawakkil, the Secretary-General of the Popular Forces Union, cautioned against the

Continued from page 1

Sa'ada clashes

"We request Yemeni authorities to terms, as well as stop creating problems and obstacles with the attention of foiling reconciliation

Regarding terms of the agreement signed by both sides in Doha, Habra said, "We are ready to abandon our mountaintop positions and hand them over to the authority in conformity with Term 7 of the agreement.'

government has not abided by any one of the agreement terms. It did not release those detained over alleged connections with the Sa'ada fighting," said Habra. "It did not pull out its troops from citizens' homes and farmlands, which were badly damaged during the four years of fighting. Army forces are still deployed in most Sa'ada districts."

The Houthi representative added that because of the government's arbitrary conduct and practices, Houthi followers cannot abandon their strategic positions, notably as their houses and farms are still occu-

evidence of the government's lack of commitment regarding the terms



Gov't closes Al-Wasat newspaper

amid cries of 'foul play'

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

and distributed since 2004. The news-

came as a result of Al-Wasat's viola-

stipulated in Yemen's press and publi-

the newspaper published articles that

were against national unity, spreading

propaganda and harming the overarch-

ing interests of the country. Saba

agency reported that Al-Wasat did this

by agitating the relationship between

Yemen and Saudi Arabia and attempt-

The resolution further specified that

the newspaper did not adhere to its pub-

lishing agreements according to law.

The accusations claimed that the paper

does not have an accredited lawyer, that

it did not organize accounting records

according to commercial procedure

law, that it did not have records of its

yearly budget since its establishment,

and that it did not have documents to

clarify the finances and expenditures

with the exception of its staff salaries

Al-Wasat newspaper publisher and

editor-in-chief Jamal Amir said he con-

sidered the information minister's reso-

lution to be politically motivated,

pointing out that the minister doesn't

have the right to cancel the newspaper's

license or stop its activity as prosecu-

tion is the only authority that has the

In a telephone interview with the

Yemen Times, Amir said that the minis-

ter's resolution was worded in two dif-

ferent ways when it was issued. "The

accusations are vague and unspecific,"

said Amir. "I don't rule out that Saudi

Arabia is behind this subject, especial-

ly given that my past case is still in

prosecution due to the paper's articles

Politicians and journalists warned

against the results of the Ministry of

Information's resolution to cancel Al-

Wasat newspaper's license and spoke

out about the dangerous encroachment

upon constitutional law that regulates

critical of Saudi Arabia.

the Yemeni Press Act.

right to take such a decision.

also its editor-in-chief.

ing to instigate feuds.

for 2007.

ministry's resolution, which coincides with security and military measures taken to suppress protestors in the southern provinces. "If people are not allowed to express themselves in peaceful ways, they will use the opposite," said Al-Mutawakkil, giving the government's actions in Sa'ada as an example. "Instead of allowing [people in Sa'ada] to read and learn at mosques, the government launched a war against

For its part, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform, commonly referred to as the Islah party, condemned the ministry's decision to cancel Al-Wasat newspaper's license in a press release. The party said that it considered the procedure a violation against the constitution and regulative laws, pointing out that such a step by the ministry narrows the scope of freedom. The release also said the resolution narrows the pioneering role of both the private and official press. The Islah party also called on the Ministry of Information to apologize immediately to Al-Wasat newspaper in particular and to the Yemeni press in general.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate has already called on the Ministry of Information to cancel the resolution to withdraw Al-Wasat's license, considering it a dangerous precedent and a transgression of constitutional law. The syndicate released a press statement asking the Ministry of Information to stop such unilateral acts that breach the

The journalists' syndicate advocated a strong stand against the resolution. "All the civil society and human rights organizations [must] join efforts with Al-Wasat newspaper in order to cancel the minister's decision as well as to stand against the ruling party's attack against the press and its policies that contradict the freedom of the press guaranteed by the constitution and

renew

remain committed to the agreement efforts," Habra went on to say.

"We have already evacuated more than 30 strategic positions, but the

pied by government troops.

Habra pointed out that the clearest of the agreement is its refusal to free

the 500 detainees from the various governorates, who are jailed over alleged connection with the Sa'ada events, their being Hashimis or affiliated with the Zaidi sect. "Under the agreement, the authority must release all these detainees within one month after signing the agreement, but this requires that government officials be serious about ending the fighting and ceasing bloodshed," he reiterated.

Asked about the causes of fundamental differences between them and the Yemeni government, Habra replied, "Prior to the war, our demands were limited to allowing us to practice our religious rituals freely like other Yemeni citizens. But now, we also demand that the government release the detainees and compensate citizens whose property was damaged in the war."

A recent international report recorded many abuses the authority committed against civil society organizations in the nation over alleged connections with the Sa'ada

Released by World Movement for Democracy and entitled "Defending Civil Community," the report revealed that the Yemeni government has disbanded tens of private organizations and societies, including the Sana'a-based Badr Cultural Center, for political reasons. The report added that the government took such a procedure based on its belief that these organizations are loyal to Abdulmalik Al-Houthi.

Yemeni governorates track health center spending

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, April 6 — The Basic Health Services Project (BHS) and Yemen Partners for Health Reform worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population on Sunday in order to provide a specific financial and social system to help decision makers in the health care field.

In 2005, the Ministry of Health and Population launched a US \$4 million initiative to improve the health system backed by USAID, the American government's international development organization, by providing financial reports about how much money is spent in health centers. The ministry also began a survey that counted the number of sick and ailing people in nearly every governorate to determine where the funds should go.

Out of Yemen's 21 governorates, five were chosen as sample governorates to begin the project. The targeted governorates are Shabwa, Amran, Sa'ada, Marib and Al-Jawf.

"USAID's evidence-based decision making chose, with the ministry, these five governorates because no services were running there," said Dr. Susan Coleman, party chief of Yemen Partners for Health Reform. She added that the project's goal is to involve all other governorates in this accounting system. "In the past, there was no system, which caused embezzlement, but with this system it will be hard to play around with the money," said Dr. Jamal Thabet, deputy in the health development sector in the Ministry of Health.

"We have a special committee from the Ministry of Health go to observe and report every six months," he added. "Within three years, all of the health sectors [private and public] will have this system, and public hospitals will have the same system as well."

Thabet said that the only problem the committees faced was from the private health sector, which was often hesitant to give over their documents and reports because they were afraid of future taxation.

"We aim to help the Yemeni people and in order to do that we have to get real information and facts, [to know] where this money comes from; taxes, donors, households; and to know where this money is spent, on big or

small health projects," said Coleman. "The aim is also to have a good system in order to know where the money goes." Coleman said that the program focused on child-delivery facilities and staffing. In order to obtain more data, the National Health Service is training approximately 200 people from all over the country and teaching them how to use the data collection system so that they can apply it in the approximately 3,000 health centers in Yemen.

"The decisions that you make every day can affect a million of lives, for example, which woman will have access to [safe] delivery and which will not, who will get malaria and who will not, who will be crippled and who will not, who will live and who will die,"

noted Coleman.

be sent to ytedthey could topics in which Yemeni Times, Contributions

of Yemen

experts.

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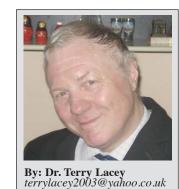
by itor

WHAT IT MEANS...

Why Wilders will lead us all into the wilderness

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 solu-

There are three good reasons why



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 Legislation should fix the

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

Retired workers spent their youth serving the country, and at the end thy are subjected to injustice, abuses and unfair policies designed by corrupt officials. Government must recognize the

deserve Awadh Mubarak Salim the Islamic Conference (OIC) and others are to play an effective role in combating Islamaphobia. 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.

approaches if the Organization of

The decision of Network Solutions, the US internet service provider, to suspend the proposed host web site for the movie and investigate possible legal contraventions is a sign of a new approach. So is the Netherlands Court Case to ask if there is any legal reason to ban the film. The new emphasis is on whether existing laws may be broken on racism, breach of the peace, or provocation of religious or ethnic groups. This is appealing to secularists and other religious groups to help establish legally that there have to be some reasonable limits to free speech to avoid the deliberate provocation of religious conflict. European citizens are free, but wrong, to blame their problems on immigrants. They are free, but wrong, to oppose Turkish membership into the European Union (EU) because it is a Muslim country, although this would make the EU stronger economically, socially and 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 politicalreligious 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 sup-

port 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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remain undeniable. The dreadful lessons of anti-Semitism tells us what happens when a religious or ethnic group finds itself abandoned to intolerance. At the start of the Spanish Inquisition moderate and liberal Christians, Jews and Muslims in Andalusia were oppressed together and persecuted

Jews found refuge and were welcomed in the Ottoman Empire, protected by a tolerant and cosmopolitan Islam.

Extremists seek to divide us and

to promote conflict. Moderates seek

to draw out the best in all our reli-

history tells us that to ride it is to ride a tiger which will one day turn and bite you. The Wilders of this world would lead us into the wilderness forever. If we learn to share the milk and honey then we can make the Promised Land together.

gions and cultures. In the end intol-

erance does not discriminate and

Dr Terry Lacey is a development economist who writes from Jakarta, Indonesia, on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic

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.
- 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. Prohibition of early marriage.

marriage age at 21 for both

employees.

right of retired workers and give them the recompense which they

mubarak334@gmail.com

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

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 priori-

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

• providing technical assistance to Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders in the energy sector.

In the coming years, the Commission is expected to a 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 industry. 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

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 capa-

Florida festival to celebrate young iournalists

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,

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

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.

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.

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-Unite 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

or 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

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

The zoo, meanwhile, also wishes to

research in conjunction with Sana'a

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.

improve its breeding, and conduct Yemenis must be asked to protect wildlife, on land, sea and in the air, which are increasingly threatened by

> 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

> 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



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

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

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.

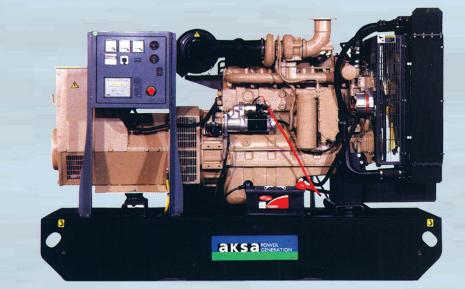


Yemen still imports more rhino horns than any other country because rhino horn is used in making expensive



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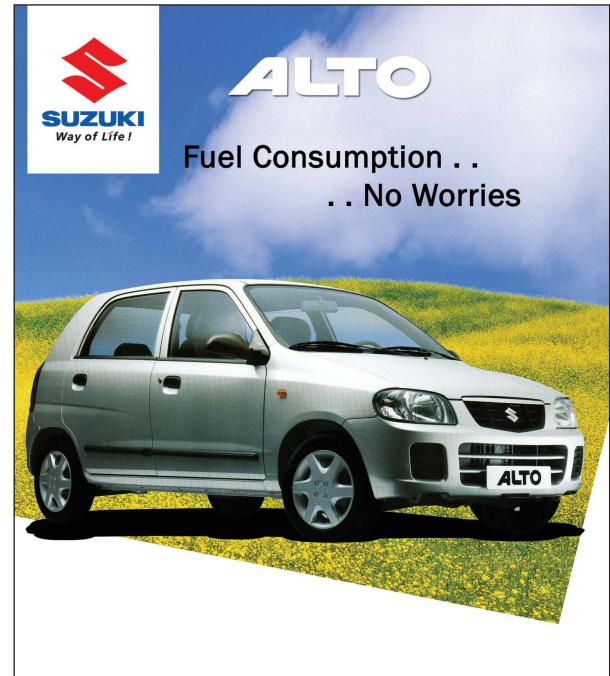
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Graffiti for a cause

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

According to the website, three quarters of the proceeds go directly to local NGO projects in the Palestinian territories. Benifiting 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

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

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

"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.liveleak.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 formulation 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 have spoken in an interview for the "Spectator" magazine of "Afghan or Sufi or Pakistani

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 muchcriticised 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

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

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 miss-

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 counteralance to the hail of headlines claiming the "Muslim threat" – for try. The second part of the film shows a tiest excesses of Muslim fundamental- against Wilders' anti-Koran film

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 car-

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 anning a hostile takeover of his coun.

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 mix

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 FII have already protested

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT



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

- Assist the Logistics Delegate in his duties
- Keep updated the stock level entries into databases (Excel) Write letters (Arabic, English), translate contracts and liaise with
- Process LOG requisition orders and manage the filing system Liaise with Log Sana'a office and send relevant Log internal documents

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



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

- 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.
- Maintains contacts with authorities at municipal degree, local Red Cross Branches, population, suppliers, etc. under supervision
- Supervises staff and contributes to appraisals
- Contributes to written reporting & budget follow-up

Selection requirements:

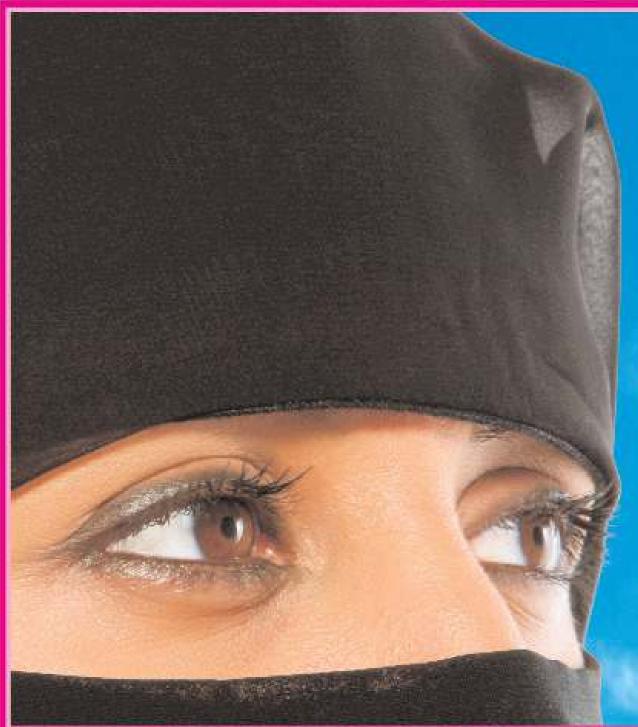
- Agricultural technical school or Agricultural University degree
- 2 years work experience in a similar field
- Basic knowledge in English Team leadership skills
- Good knowledge of the geographically assigned environment Good analytical & communication skills

Please submit your application (<u>letter of motivation</u>, <u>CV</u>, 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



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.



Rabab Al-Maswari, 25, housewife

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.



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



Ali Al-Hukairi, 32,

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

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 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 cor-

ruption 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.



Tahir Hazza, 36, shopkeeper

Corruption 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.



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 communi-

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



Khalid Hameed, 36, teacher

Some members of the Anti-Corruption Authority are probably corrupt. They deprived (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



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-



of deteriorating living conditions.

ent universities with higher qualifications can't find job vacancies. Qualified people can't find a position among such corrupt [officials]. I'm a teacher and my meager salary is not enough for transportation; then how can we live with such a high cost of living?

Please, tell me where we can find our rights and what the role of the Anti-Corruption Authority is!!

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

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 cor-



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.



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.

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The deadline for receiving cvs is 12:00 - 8th April, 2008. Only short - listed candidates shall be contacted.

Announcement



Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA) is currently working to classify and evaluate the sub-contractor companies which are conducting petroleum services in petroleum operations in the Republic of Yemen (particularly which are officially registered in the Ministry of Oil & Minerals and the Ministry of Industry & Trade) Therefore, they are requested to submit a copy of the original documents which specify and mention the undertaken activities and enclosed a "Scope of Business and Services Discretion" to the following address:

Republic of Yemen – Sana'a

Tel.: +967 -1- 444742 / +967-1-442630 Fax: +967-1-441224 / +967-1- 442632

Email: pepa-expo.com@y.net.ye P.O. Box: 7196

Submission must be within 10 days from the announcement.







Words of Wisdom



Malnutrition among children is dangerous problem. Its future costs are enormous. It leads to stunted growth and more vulnerability. Therefore, it deserves our immediate attention. Offering food supplements in schools in poor neighborhoods should be considered. Charity organizations and NGOs, in direct or indirect partnership with the state could handle this responsibility. Malnutrition is an issue we must

> Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times



Constitutional amendments

ver two weeks ago, the ruling party: the General People's Congress approved a number of amendments to the constitution, which the party proposes to present to the parliament for endorsement. The majority of the members of parliament are members of the GPC and so endorsing these amendments are just a matter of time.

The amendments include shortening the presidential term from seven to 5 years, and the parliament term from six to 4. This will only be affective once the current terms are over.

The most significant amendment is the inclusive of the Shoura (consultative) council as a legislating power in Yemen side by side with the Parliament. The way things are today is that only members of parliament or the government can propose any new laws or legislations, which are then forwarded to the parliament to be accepted or rejected.

There are 301 members in the Yemeni parliament elected directly by the people every six years. The last elections were in 2003 and the coming will be in 2009. Whereas the Shoura council was an advisory board established in 2001 and made up of 111 members appointed by the president. Their tasks are to propose suggestions and ideas to help the president and the government rule the country and make the right decisions.

What will change once the proposed amendments are endorsed is that the Shoura Council will perform legislating duties jointly with the parliament. Both councils will be responsible for approving laws, general budgets and closing accounts. The regulation of the parliament and the shoura council will be changed and a new system will be created to adapt to this change.

Moreover, the number of members of the Shoura council is to increase to 151 members representing various governorates.

As it is the situation today is that there are at least 200 members of the parliament from the GPC, comprising a 66 percent majority. Only 150 members of the parliament need to congregate in order to discuss any new amendment and only 76 (50 percent +1) of them have to say yes in order to pass any new legislation. Now with the Shoura council members having the same power the idea of a balanced legislating power is turning to be a

It will be a one party system wearing a multipartism mask. It will be impossible to pass something that the president or the government does not want, and it will be impossible to protect opposition and independent movements or members from the wrath of a majority who disapproves of the other.

With the system as is, it is almost certain that there is nothing we can do about the situation and that Yemen's constitution will be changed. The only thing to do is that we raise awareness on the significance of such amendments and hope that someone with influence will care enough to stop this from happening.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Absenting himself from Damascus Summit, Mr. President killed his initiative

By: Anisa Mohammed Othman

ndoubtedly, President Abdullah Saleh learned that the United States would not welcome or accept his initiative via which he hosted Hamas and the Palestinian Authority delegates in Sana'a as part of his efforts to conciliate between both conflicting sides and bring them together.

President Saleh, who once declared that he would attend Damascus Summit, suddenly mandated Vice President Abdurrabu Mansour Hadi to attend the event instead of him because the U.S. Administration was unsatisfied with his initiative. It is the U.S. Administration that buried alive the Mecca Agreement between Fatah and Hamas.

The Yemeni initiative to conciliate between the two Palestinian conflicting movements was killed before its ink dried up. It was killed for the second time when Mr. President absented himself from the Damascus Summit held for the same purpose of Saleh's initiative.

We don't know why Saleh didn't attend the Damascus Summit to defend his own initiative, as well as work with those who attended the event on activating and studying his initiative, and add what may ensure its implementation. No one believes that Saleh's absented himself from the event because of the U.S. position, particularly as the Yemeni leader declared more than once that his relation with the United States is based on hostility.

Where did such 'hostility' go and what about its fate? The one who makes an initiative has to do his best to convince opponents that his initiative is serious to achieve its sought-after goals. Saleh should rather told his opponents that his initiative contains workable terms aimed at paving the way for establishing the Palestinian State, which the U.S. President George Bush is dreaming of in his last year of service in the White House. Otherwise, international observers and analysts may understand that Saleh made such an initiative to remind the outside world that Yemen has an authority.

As Yemeni people, we are in an Source: Al-Wasat Weekly

urgent need of such initiatives to resolve the pressing and accumulating problems plaguing our country. We need a good initiative to begin tackling bread crisis and the turmoil in South Yemen. Non one dare blame our brothers in South Yemen for denying that there is a unity, particularly as they once proved more adherent to the unity than we

The fault doesn't lie within the unity, but within those who manipulate, misinterpret and exploit "Unity" to serve their personal interests. They make out of the unity a divine and exalted concept in public but exploit it in favor of their own interests in private.

If the country leaders, claiming to be adherent to the unity, care about survival of the national unity - however they failed to meet people's expectations, they must quit power in order for the unity to survive. This is not a shame. But, by doing so (quitting power), they will prove to the outside world that they do care about and love their homeland unity.

Water crises in Yemen

By: Nasser Mohamed Al-Yazidi

Scarcity of water resources and the environment have become decisive factors that shape decisions of international agencies, national government, local communities, and more or less, individuals who understand the relationship between life and environmental ecosystems. Nevertheless, little if any tangible progress has been noticed on the ground, especially in developing countries where water and water-related ecosystems are constantly deteriorating in terms of both quality and quantity to result in many water-borne diseases and environmental disasters. Million of people still lack permissible drinking water, while millions others are suffering from flood disasters and hurricanes. Such environmental events are just part of reacting indications of the dilemma of our green planet.

Not only is nature starting to express its restlessness from people's selfishness, but also people themselves are starting to threaten each other, trying to get more shares from the scarce and diminishing water resources. Some pessimistic hypotheses expect bloody water conflicts on local, regional and even on global levels. In fact, somehow implicit or explicit conflict indications are already there in various countries including our dear Yemen. We are happier than others are, because we don't have considerable shared-water resources or trans-boundary rivers! However, at the same time, we are the saddest regarding our scarce and depleted water resources.

Both trans-boundary-shared and local scarce water resources can create water rights disputes leading to conflicts over accessibility to water resources, but local conflicts are more dangerous than trans-boundary ones. Therefore, increasing attention is paid to enact international and regional treaties and national laws that could regulate accessibility to water rights based on a holistic vision that emphasizes an equitable, integrated and sustainable development approach. More or

less, all countries are committed to such a vision that is encouraged and supported by donor communi-

While Yemen is one of the most water-poor countries, it receives considerable financial and technical support from different donor countries and international agencies. The most precious, credible and unconditional support is rather limited to the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Netherlands. These two countries are doing their best to enhance capacity development of Yemen Water Sector in general and water resources management in particular. Their support is accountable in terms of commitment to MDGs (Management Development Goals) and related declarations of the known Earth Summits.

The Federal Republic of Germany through GTZ- technical cooperation and KFW- financial cooperation with Yemen has been adopting comprehensive and integrated water sector development programs to cover all water resources management, water supply and sanitation and human resources development issues in different areas of Yemen territory. For these purposes, they have permanent follow-up and monitoring offices through which daily contact with relevant Yemeni institutions and other donor partners is taken place uninterruptedly to be sure of both efficient use and effectiveness of the support. Numerous milestones and targets have been achieved so far, from the establishment of water basin management committees, organizational strengthening and decentralized local water supply and sanitation corporations to human resources development, rural water supply projects and no end to reforming and development strategies, etc. Since the core problem is the physical scarcity and depletion of water resources, the GTZ-IWRM has been initiating and launching a holistic integration approach concerning water resources management that constitutes the base for sector-wide multi-stakeholder action. Based on such an insightful vision, the

GTZ-IWRM delivers technical support to central and local organizations of the National Water Resources Authority, the Basin Committees and try to secure effective coordination among related water sector authorities. With regard to its comprehensive approach, unconditional feature and planning period which will be extended until 2015, one may say that Yemen-German technical and financial cooperation as a whole is unprecedented by whatever measurements device.

Despite a critical water situation that claims efficient use of both national efforts and donor supports, it is experienced that Yemeni institutions are still not capable enough to digest and assimilate such multi-purpose support. On the occasion of World Water Day, one has to call on Yemeni counterparts to seize the opportunity to have better use of all technical and financial support in a way that bases for technically self-reliance and financial selfdependency to be reached at a reasonable time, and at the end, to repay some of the graceful and generous support, especially that of unconditional, honest and faithful delivered by the German people. Lastly, happy new water year.

SILVER LINING

On the edge of a precipice

he violet riots that swept through the southern provinces of Dhaleh and Lahj last week is an indication of the seriousness of the situation Yemen is going through.

For over a year, protests were staged to attract the authorities' attention to the serious problems people are plagued with. The regime did not move to genuinely address them. Rather, it used painkillers and appeased the loyalty of prominent and influential people in the south through public posts, or even creaming their hands with around 32 billion Yemeni riyals as well as 4,000 cars.



By: Dr. Mohammed

Billions of riyals were spent which could have been channeled to development projects. All these tactics which have been successful in the north could not hit the nail on the head in the south, for there seems to be a general consensus on

Under pressure of the irrepressible protests of the pensioners, which gained support all across the country, the regime set up a fact-finding committee to report the situation in the south, including the plunder of big chunks of land by influential tribal and military figures. The report was delivered to the president and Saleh Basurah, higher education minister and head of the committee, was vibrant in describing the shortcomings and the core of the headache as well as prescribing solutions. He said that the president has to choose either to give up a small number of corrupt crooks or the country at large.

Unfortunately, we have seen no recommendation of the committee implemented. Not even a single corrupt official was held accountable.

The protests sweeping the south for several months attest to the repression and injustice Yemeni people are going through. It is all about economic hardships that are pushing people to the extreme. They are totally fed up and frustrated and want change as their demands for an address to their problems has produced no echo. This, of course, does not justify violent riots which really serve the interests of the people in power, as they give them reason for cracking down on protests by force.

It seems the regime is losing its nerve and tends to use force to crack down on such rampant protests. Why pound the college of education in Lahj and round up university professors? Why arrest political activists? Such an unruly swoop of arrests and violent response on the part of the government gives a political dimension to such protests. People are against violent acts; however, excessive use of force on the part of the government will not address the problem but incite more hatred.

The on-off insurgency situation in Sa'ada seems cloudy as the Qatar-brokered ceasefire agreement between the government and the rebels seems likely to collapse. Reports coming from the scene show a sophisticated situation, and that the two sides are geared to start a war.

These challenges facing the tribally-backed regime have pushed Saleh not to forward concrete actions, but revamp cracks in his tribal coalitions with Al-Ahmar family. Suddenly, the president was able to normalize his relationship with the sons of Al-Ahmar, extending a gas tender to Hamid, appointing another as vice speaker of Parliament and another as deputy minister of sports and youth. Hussein, who set up the tribal National Solidarity Council to irritate the regime, has been seen on TV with the president in some events.

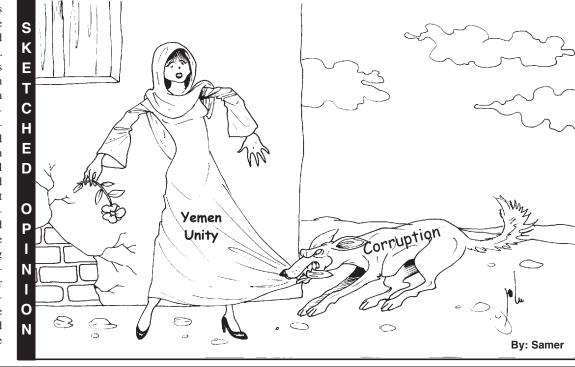
This attests to Saleh's allegations that these vocal and critical "boys" want their share of the cake and nothing more. Yes, this is the question. This restructuring of the tribal coalition is meant to challenge disturbances in Sa'ada and in the southern provinces. It is a coalition against the public's demands. People were naively fooled when they believed that the sons of Sheikh al-Ahmar would side by the public and their pains.

Saleh has tried to develop a loose coalition with the tribe and Al-Ahmar family in particular but found it difficult, and therefore preferred to compromise with the new young leaders of Hashid. Such a technique might serve to extend the hold up of his regime, which is going through hard times, but will not rein in the outrageous people who felt disappointed in the man who promised to improve their living standards in the 2006 elections and now tells them to drink 'sea water," a gesture of recklessness.

At the same time, the protesters demanding separation are serving the regime's interests, for the people are not in favor of separation. The solution to our problems which are embroiling the country into turmoil is not splitting again into south and north. The country cannot simply split into north and south. It would rather mean complete disintegration and fragmentation of the whole country, which means a bleak future for everybody, without exception.

Now, as the country is on the edge of a precipice, concrete solutions are urgently needed before it is too late and everything falls apart.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.



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The YSP General Secretariat closely

observed a random arrest campaign

waged by security authorities in the

governorates of Aden and Al-Dhale'

against many political activists and

YSP leaders among them members of

YSP Political Office and General

Secretariat since Monday, the website

reported on one of its main stories. The

party called on its affiliate

organizations to reject what it

described as 'official terrorism'

practiced by the government

authorities against innocent citizens.

The website continued that the

government's arrest campaign is

launched to crack down on peaceful

protests via which oppressed citizens

claim their constitutional and legal

rights, which have been for a long time

confiscated by unjust and inhuman

regime. YSP leaders strongly rejected

the government policies, saying that

such wrong policies are bound to take

the country into another crisis. They

went on to say that these policies

threaten the nation of an



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party Thursday, April 3

Top Stories

- Al-Dhale' JMP condemns city lockdown, attacks on innocent citizens
- JMP leaders hold sit-in in protest against political detentions
- Dozens killed and others injured in renewed clashes between army and
- Houthis in Haidan district
 Parliament plans a meeting for discussing Al-Dhale' events
- Aden University staff protest against government for not cashing high living cost allowances
- Al-Dhale' JMP: South Yemen's issues can be resolved by law and equal citizenship not by force

"South Yemen's issues can only be resolved by law and equal citizenship, not by force or arbitrary practices," the weekly quoted JMP leaders from Al-Dhale governorate as saying. The JMP member parties strongly denounced the way the government authorities attack citizens and fire live ammunition at them, leaving many of them injured, some seriously.

The opposition parties also condemned the massive arrest campaigns, which the authority waged against 'leaders of political dynamics' and citizens, demanding that the security agencies must release detained opposition leaders and stop their unconstitutional and illegal crackdown of innocent citizens. They accused police of fomenting violence and looting private property.

According to the weekly, local sources in Al-Dhale affirmed that security forces arrested the head of the

Retired Army Association, Abdu Al-Maatri and a number of former army officers, believed to be leading the demonstrations in the South. It quoted eyewitnesses as saying that security forces are still searching for a number of top former leaders.

The paper continued that Yemeni security authorities arrested on Tuesday 5 men out of 18 wanted by police on charges of provoking rioting and chaos. The other men are captured later on, according to Al-Dhale governor Abdullah Al-Haddi. Local sources said that tanks deployed on streets of Al-Dhala'a, pointing out that clashes broke out between security forces and disaffected youths over unfulfilled promises to reinstate them in the army. Riot police dispersed protesters in several southern cities, fired in the air and used tears gas.



Aleshteraki.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Ton Stories

- YSP extraordinary meeting describes politicians' detention as "terrorism" JMP calls for nonviolence
- Government military helicopters attack Sa'ada popular market with rockets
- Senior military commander jails government employee, bargains him on taking his plot of land
 Authorities launch broad arrest
- campaigns against YSP leaders in South Yemen, deploy tanks in cities YSP calls on affiliate organizations to reject 'official terrorism' holds sit-in at central committee's

premises in solidarity with detainees

unprecedented catastrophe, of which the consequences may be the worst every in Yemen's history.

On Tuesday morning, riot police exploited high-ranking orders to fire in the air to disperse demonstrators and roads were sealed by tanks and barricades, turning southern cities into ghost towns, witnesses said. Police exploited such orders to kill innocent citizens and loot their property. Protesters responded by blocking the highway to the port city of Aden, the

ghost towns, witnesses said. Police exploited such orders to kill innocent citizens and loot their property. Protesters responded by blocking the highway to the port city of Aden, the witnesses said. The rioting underlined increasing tensions between northern and southern Yemen 14 years after a civil war. Northerners dominate the government and economy in this impoverished country of 22 million people, and protesters are largely former members of the defeated southern arm.

المسلط

Al-Wasat Comprehensive Independent Weekly Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Top Stories

- Ruling party accuses evils of fueling new wars, YSP holds authority accountable for escalating crisis
- Mediation committee member: Houthis have not abandoned mountaintop positions, their representative absents himself from negotiations
- Houthis leader: The government is not serious to abide by the ceasefire agreement
- Penal court tries government employee on forgery charges, jails two individuals for impersonating National Security agents
- Opinion poll backs oversight over Central Bank of Yemen during elections
- Renewed armed clashes in Al-Dhale' put end to relative calm

Extensive exchange of gunfire between security personnel and citizens in the southern Yemeni city of Dhale' on Tuesday put an end to a state of relative calm, which began prevailing the city after 35 Military Division troops intervened to control armed confrontations between policemen and locals, the weekly reported. It quoted its Dhale'-based correspondent as saying that the exchange of fire occurred at a newly established security checkpoint on the highway connecting Aden with Al-Dhale'.

The authorities ordered tanks deployed to the streets of southern Yemen to prevent further rioting on Tuesday by disaffected youths and retired military officers over unfulfilled promises to incorporate them into the army, officials and eyewitnesses said. Over the past three days, security forces have arrested dozens of former army officers and lawmakers believed to be leading the demonstrations in the country's southern cities, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the media.

Tensions have long simmered between Yemen's northerners, who dominate the government and the economy, and the southerners in this impoverished country of 22 million that was rent by a north-south civil war in 1994.Officers and soldiers from the southern army fled into the mountainous hinterlands and into Saudi Arabia for years, returning only after the government issued an amnesty and promised to readmit them to the army _ a promise the southerners say has not been kept. Southerners also complain that they are kept out of government jobs _ a main source of employment in the south _ in favor of northerners brought in to fill the bureaucracy and security



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army Thursday, April 3

Top Stories

- Defense Ministry Source: Many service-related requirements set for recruitment in military institutions
- Presidential mediation committee discusses Sa'ada rebels' violation of ceasefire agreement

- Local Authority Law to be presented to Cabinet for approval soon, says Legal Affairs Minister
- Yemen's Foreign Minister to meet U.S. Secretary of State in mid April
- Yemeni government's team visits Sudan to discuss land investment for wheat cultivation
- NCO calls for tackling all irresponsible actions in South Yemen

The weekly reported in a front page story that the National Council of Opposition (NCO) in Yemen considered riots that occurred in the provinces of Al-Dhale and Lahj as blatant infringement and unprecedented violation of law and order. It went on to say that NCO strongly denounced such acts of sabotage and barbarism, labeling them as 'having nothing to do with freedom of expression and democratic practices'.

In a statement, the opposition council urged the local authorities in the provinces of Lahj and Al-Dhale' to assume its responsibility and react to all acts of sabotage and irresponsible actions. NCO held particular organizations and parties accountable for these unfortunate events and vandalistic acts, affirming the right of expression is obtained through legitimate means stipulated in the constitution, effective laws, moderate methods, and civilized democratic means away from personal mood.

In its weekly meeting on Tuesday, the Cabinet directed the competent security and judicial authorities to take strict legal actions against unrest and criminal act inciters in Radfan and Habilin areas in Al-Dale governorate. According to the weekly, the meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Ali Mujawar, condemned these acts that led to sabotage, robbery and frightening people.

Crushed childhoods; cruel choices

By: Rania Al Abdullah

yman is a soft-spoken 14-year old boy from Jabalia City, Gaza. His family is poor, as his father has been unemployed since March 2006. Ayman's parents have already sold almost all their furniture to pay for food and schooling for their children. Recently, after collecting a governmental food handout, Ayman's father had to sell the milk to get the money for the journey back home.

Ayman works very hard in school. He dreams of a future career. But with 47 students in his cramped classroom and double shifts the norm, his learning environment is very stressful. Home is no refuge: The recent incursion of Jabalia was 200 meters from

where Ayman lives. The shooting and shelling so terrorized his 5-year old sister that she still wakes up screaming in the night.

Ayman's experience is all too familiar in Gaza's crowded, crippled neighborhoods, where those who are least to blame for the troubles are the ones who are suffering most. Indeed, among Gaza's 840,000 children, out of which 588,000 are refugees, Ayman has a luckier story than many. Since the recent escalation of violence that began last month, at least 33 Palestinian boys and girls have been killed and many more injured or maimed – caught in the crossfire, shot in their living rooms, struck by explosions in their own backyards. On February 28, four children playing soccer were hit by a missile, which dismembered them so completely their

own families could not identify their bodies.

Ayman, his siblings, and all Gaza's children are finding their lives diminished each day - a cruel, slow suffocation of their spirit and their dreams. Instead of enjoying expanding horizons, they are trapped in a virtual prison, where things every child should be able to take for granted are being taken away instead. The right to play. To go to school. To have enough to eat. To have a light to study by at night. To feel safe in their own homes. The weight of one of the world's longest conflicts is resting on their thin shoulders, crushing their childhood and inflicting psychological scars that may never heal.

Palestinians were once reputed as being among the best educated in the Middle East; today, after years of violence, closure, and poverty, their proud tradition of educational excellence has been shattered. Almost 2,000 children in Gaza have dropped out of school in the last five months. Those that remain must share tattered textbooks and do without crucial resources. The January 2008 semester exams at UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) schools in Gaza found fifty to sixty per cent failure rates in mathematics, and forty per cent failure rate in Arabic - the children's native language. Despite this, Ayman insists, "I want to be an educated person. I want to be an engineer to build my country."

On Palestinian Child Day, let the world recall, Gaza's crisis is a manmade disaster. And let the world take note, things are worse today than at any time since the occupation began.

Seventy-nine percent of Gaza's households live in poverty; eight out of ten depend on food assistance. Almost half the labor force is unemployed; local industry has collapsed. Water and sewage systems are failing; garbage is piling up in the streets.

UNICEF is working around the

clock to restore a sense of normalcy for Gaza's youth – developing remedial worksheets to help children keep up with their studies; creating sports and recreation programs in schools; and working with communities to establish play areas where kids can be kids in safety. UNICEF works with partners to get water, hygiene, and medical supplies to households and health facilities. And UNICEF-supported counseling teams are spread across the area, helping Palestinian parents and children cope with the burden of stress.

But if UNICEF is doing all it can to comfort those in the midst of Gaza's madness, political leaders are the only ones who can bring the dreadful nightmare to an end. It is time for new engagement. The siege must be lifted. The killing of civilians has to stop, on both sides. Children deserve to grow up in peace, on both sides. And leaders on both sides, supported by the international community, must join in the kind of honest dialogue that is the only viable path toward lasting peace.

Ayman's father quietly says, "My children are my hope." The children of Gaza are a light in the darkness. They deserve a chance to shine.

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is UNICEF Eminent Advocate for

Arab Leaders: Approach the public

By: Ori Nir

he League of Arab States has re-adopted its six-year-old peace initiative, offering comprehensive peace and normal relations with Israel by all its members in return for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, and a resolution of all outstanding issues between Israel and the Palestinians. This initiative is to be commended!, but it has a major flaw: it is addressed to the international commun ity at a time when the Arab League really needs to focus on the Israeli public.

The initiative, reaffirmed in Damascus this weekend at the meeting of several Arab nations, was aimed at showing the world that Arabs are concerned about finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict,

Mohammed Sobeih, the Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, told reporters. But any such political initiative must garner wide popular support in Israel to be successful. An element of drama – like directly addressing the Israeli public, as Egyptian president Anwar Sadat did 30 years ago – could be a transformative step.

Sadat captured Israelis' imagination and trust, addressing them from the Knesset over the heads of sceptical Israeli leaders in November, 1977. I was a high school junior at the time, studying Arabic in Jerusalem. I remember how excited my classmates and I were when our teacher had us translate Sadat's speech into Hebrew as a homework assignment. I had never been so happy about homework.

Israelis actually thought that comprehensive peace with the entire

Arab world was within reach at the time. It was not then, and it still isn't today, but the current Arab peace initiative shows that it could be in the foreseeable future, if Israelis and Arabs try hard enough.

Israelis, as well as Palestinians, could very much use a Sadat-like initiative to re-inspire them, to reestablish their faith in peace. Recent public opinion polls show that although most Israelis and Palestinians support a two-state solution to the conflict, most also think such a solution – or any peaceful solution, for that matter – is impossible in the near future.

Granted, in the current atmosphere, it is difficult to expect Arab leaders to follow in Sadat's footsteps. It would be a great challenge to go to Jerusalem and address the Knesset when the Arab public is so livid about

Israel's policies. And understandably, Arab leaders do not want to be perceived as having normalised relations with Israel before the Israeli government makes significant progress toward resolving the Palestinian problem.

But I would argue that a direct address to the Israeli public is hardly normalisation. It's a signal, a challenge, an invitation. And it could transform Israelis' attitude toward active support for a robust peace process.

Besides, those "marketing" the initiative could be members of the Arab League who already have peace accords with Israel, such as Egypt and Jordan.

There are also other things Arab leaders could do – short of addressing the Knesset in West Jerusalem – to demonstrate to Israelis that accords

based on withdrawal to the 1967 lines will be followed by true peace and normal relations with all members of the Arab League. It could be a televised address. It could be an appearance at an Israeli university.

Since it was adopted six years ago, the Arab League's peace initiative has never received the attention it deserves by Israelis. No credible Arab leader has ever presented the plan directly, publicly and forcefully to the Israeli public. Not even through a televised speech or an interview. As a result, Israelis paid very little attention to the plan. They were deterred by the misperception that the proposal demands the return of all Palestinian refugees to their homes inside Israel.

A direct appeal to the Israeli public could give a new lease on life to the initiative. It could go a long way toward cracking the thick veneer of cynicism, scepticism, indifference and despair that are so commonplace in Israeli society today (as well as among Palestinians) in relation to the peace process. By showing Israelis that investment in peace with the Palestinians would have enormous dividends, Arab leaders could make an invaluable contribution to the peace process.

Ori Nir, former West Bank correspondent for the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, is the spokesman for Americans for Peace Now, a Jewish organisation that promotes Israel's security through peace. His e-mail is onir@peacenow.org. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed

www.commongroundnews.org.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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 ACCOUNTANT / ADMINISTRATOR Job Title: 1 ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR 1 INCOME GENERATION FIELD OFFICER Job Title: 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;

Aden, with frequent travel along the coast

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

Job Title: MONITORING AND ADVOCACY FIELD OFFICER Starting date: Salary: 674 USD gross per month (plus benefits) Duration: 1 year with possible extension

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

Organize workshops and trainings to raise awareness of partners on the rights of migrants and refugees

Minimum qualifications:

Location:

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.

RECEPTION OFFICERS (6 positions) 6. Job Title:

Starting date: 1 May 2008

376 USD gross per month (plus benefits) Salary: Duration: 6 months, with possible extension 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
- Collect basic information and maintain database on number of people arriving, travel conditions, routes followed, places of orign,

- 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

VERY MPORTANT: 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

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 Personal 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

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 – 4th Floor Tel: +967(1) 252224 - Fax: +967(1) 251622 Email: <u>hrsp@y.net.ye</u>



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 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

Deadline for application: April 30th 2008



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

- 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 (<u>letter of motivation</u>, <u>CV</u>, copies of certificates/diplomas) to the ICRC, Administration, Baghdad Street, Street No 19 – PO.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**

initiative launched by the United Population Nations 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 sexuallytransmitted 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 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working in 22 participating countries, allowing them to access shared Y-Peer training materials and learn from each other's experiences.



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/AID S and The Y-Peer network has so far other dieases 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

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 peerto-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 leadership, communication, focuses on promoting this health- mentoring opportunities and future job

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

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

he 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 white substance that makes plaque 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

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

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

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

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:

properly brushing and flossing to

remove plaque, debris and control tartar buildup

- eating right to ensure proper nutrition for your jawbone and
- 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 dav. 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.



للأدوية والمستلزمات الطبية والعناية الصحية

The 6th International Medical

Supplies, Pharmaceuticals & Health Care Exhibition

7-13 April 2008



إنعقاد المؤتمر الطبي الدولي الأول 1st International Medical Conference

مركز اكسبو صنعاء - صنعاء - شارع الستين - أمام فج عطان 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

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.

- 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.

hillim inaugurate 🕏 Zimaks in Yemen

l-Mufaddal Pharma, one of the Al-Jabal Trading Group of Companies and the sole agent for **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

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

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/certi ficates_awards.aspx

Mile Stones

- 1953 Founded in 1953 as one of the first pharmaceutical manufacturers in Turkey.
- 1974 Acquisition of H. Arsan Pharmaceuticals.
- 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.

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.

realizing our high exportation goals.

The plant having an enclosed area of 40.000m2 on a total area of 60.000m2 has been on the project level since February 2005 and some ¤60 million has been foreseen for the

pharmaceuticals manufacturing plant was undertaken by the German G+P Günsav Projektentwicklung GmbH engineering

increasing manufacturing requirements and

investment in the plant. Project development for the new

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."

Gebze New Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing

Gebze 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

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 Industrial Zone, with a view to meeting our National Quality Movement, is responsible for For more information please visit:

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 pharmaceuticals 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, Inlicensing, 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 th knowledge their possesses. And the most important of all
- who is loyal to humanistic self values.

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 cermony of al-Mufaddal

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

Bilim strengthens its position in the market 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:

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









We create values out of similarities

A leading pharmaceutcal distributor in Yemen

Omar AbdulKafi to Yemen Times

"The biggest conspiracy against Islam is by the Muslims themselves"

mar Abdul Kafi, a well-known Islamic preacher, was born in al-Saeed, Egypt in 1951. While he was ten years old, he memorized the Holy Quran. As a young man, Abdul Kafi studied Islamic law under scholars' supervision. Furthermore, he memorized both Al-Bukhari and Muslim, two of the most authentic collections of the Prophet's Hadith, by heart.

In 1972, he graduated from Agricultural College in Egypt and took a teaching position in the same college. During this time, he acquainted himself with Islamic and Arabic studies and received a Masters degree in Comparative Figh.

Additionally, he became a cleric and began preaching about Allah in mosques. Now he is a member in the Institution of Wise Men for the International Union of the Muslim Scholars.

Abdul Kafi studied under scholars such as ash-Sha'arawi and al-Qaradhawi. Among his students are Khalid al-Jundi and Amr Khalid.

By: Nadia al-Sakkaf

Q: What is your massage to the Muslims living in the West?

A: You are our Muslim ambassadors in these countries, so be a good ambassador of your religion. A Muslim should be aware that others are looking at him cautiously. Muslims, whether here in Yemen or in any other country, must know that they are under the microscope, therefore their actions must carry out their words, not the opposite.

Q: Is there a war against Islam?

A: There is – no doubt – a war and conspiracy against Islam, but the biggest one is made by Muslims themselves. Muslims became lazy and slothful to raise the flag of Islam.

[i.e.: They are lazy in terms of studying Islam and working to present the core beliefs of Islam.]

They are neither undertaking Islam's duties, nor uplifted by them. Muslims left the religion of civilization and development.

Q: Do you think the Muslim reaction after showing the Prophet Muhammad cartoons was reasonable?

A: I think such emotions and feelings are but flightiness. Ignoring such behavior will make it disappear. However, when we give the issue more attention than it deserves, then what is

the outcome? What Denmark has done after this reaction? They haven't apologized or even valued the reaction of Muslims worldwide. They only know that Muslims' emotions reach sky-high and then plummet again in minutes. Reactions that are not directed in the right way are worthless.

Q: What about the role of young people in society and religion?

A: The problem is that youth don't determine their aims. They should know what they want to be in the future, and how he or she can serve his or her nation and community. Youth who neither have an identity nor thoughts are going to be lost in this world. We want a youth who have an identity, goals and who know the ways to achieve their aims.

Q: Some Muslim intellectuals say that nowadays, Arab youths are going through a deadly crisis, which is looking for fun at any price.

A: Actually all nations are going through this crisis nowadays. But the nations that are looking for fun life are the advanced ones. The backward nations are neither aware of the chemical compounds of petrol under their feet, nor how to use it. They study Surat Al-Hadid (iron) in the Holy Quran repeatedly. However, there is not even one Muslim inventing a machine made of iron in the Arab



Last year thousands of Yemenis came to listen to Omar Abdul Kafi when he visited Yemen on the invitation of Gubari Group.

Editor in Chief Nadia Al-Sakkaf with Omar Abdul Kafi as he looks through Yemen Times. Editor in Chief Nadia Al-Sakkaf with Omar Abdul Kafi as he looks through Yemen Times. Countries, as if this sura is directed to Quran and the prophet Mohammad?" Countries, as if this sura is directed to Quran and the prophet Mohammad?" Countries, as if this sura is directed to Quran and the prophet Mohammad?"

countries, as if this sura is directed to others, but not to Muslims. At this point, I demand the awakening generation to take heed.

Q: What do you mean by awakening

generation—and how can people

indulging in pleasure be awoken?
A: The awakening generation is different from their mothers and fathers. They are the youths who are between 20 to 30 years old. I found such impressive Muslim youths around the world, but they are mostly in Europe. They are also here in Yemen. They are more liberated from the wrong kind of cultural beliefs, which people begin to believe in strongly as if they are a part of Islam. But they are only traditions.

Q: How can we have a religious dialogue with non-Muslims?

A: The religion actually is one, and each Prophet came with a particular part. If we go deep down to the foundation of all the parts, we will find it one: Islam, submission to God.

"Truly, the religion with Allah is Islam. Those who were given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) did not differ except out of mutual jealousy, after knowledge had come to them. Whoever disbelieves in that Ayat (proof) of Allah, then surely Allah is swift in calling to account." (Al-Imran, 19)

Q: What is the message you want to convey to non-Muslims?

A: If a Jewish man says, "I will be in Paradise and dwell in Heaven," I will tell him that I will be with him because I believe in Moses and the books sent to Him, the Torah. Moreover, my faith doesn't get completed unless I believe in them. If a Christian says, "I will dwell in Paradise because I believe in Jesus," I will tell him that I will be with him there because my faith doesn't get complete unless I believe in Jesus and his Gospel.

The fact is that Christians take a part of the religion, Jews take another part and we take the last. The problem is that each group believes in its part and denies the other part. However, for me as a Muslim, if I deny these religions (Christianity and Judaism) then I will be a disbeliever.

I will say to them, "The problem is with you. Why don't you believe in the

Quran and the prophet Mohammad?" My calling to my religion doesn't mean at all to abandon your religion, but to believe in mine.

Q: What about the different beliefs they have, particularly the concept

Muslims, whether here in Yemen or in any other country, must know that they are under the microscope, therefore their actions must carry out their words, not the opposite.

of Jesus' divinity?

A: Will someone discuss principles with me in order to find the truth? Will he first discuss the point that the book they believe in today is a book written by monks and saints with me? "Say (O Muhammad): O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians): Come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but Allah (alone), and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah. Then, if they turn away, say: 'Bear witness that we are Muslims.'" (Al-Imran: 64.)

Q: What is your opinion of Yemen?

A: I'm an avid reader. I read about the history of Yemen's civilization— Arabia Felix — such as Bilqis and the Ma'arib Dam. In fact, I have said during my lecture in Yemen that any country can be located in a point of history, but history itself is located in Yemen. In addition, I have said that if we compare a big country like America to the history of other nations, we will find that America is a tiny dwarf. Whereas when we put Yemen's history next to the history of other nations, theirs will decrease. Yet new generations fail to carry the massage of their ancestors.

Q: Any final words you want to say? A: A newspaper is a dangerous platform. We should call people to Islam, its principles and moralities. I hope to spread what is good, so that we either neutralize the other [i.e., when someone understands Islam well, they know it is the religion of peace, and won't be against Islam, even if they refuse to convert] or integrate them with us.

FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Al-Fodhool (Abdullah Noman)

The witty talented poet and defiant sarcastic journalist)

Abdul-

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

bdullah

Wahab Noman, also widely known as Al-Fodhool, was a Yemeni poet, journalist, and official. Al-Fodhool was born in 1917, in Dhubhan, a district in Taiz governorate. Al-Fodhool got his primary education with the help of his father and then his cousin, the professor Al-Noman. Al-Fodhool then moved to Zabid, a city in southwest Yemen, to continue his studies in Arabic and religious sciences. After he graduated in the early 1940s, Al-Fodhool worked as a teacher in Al-Ahmadiah School in Taiz for 3 years and returned to his village in 1944. In the same year, many free Yemenis were arrested and imprisoned by guards of Imam Yahya and Crown Prince Imam Ahmed, among them Al-Fodhool's father. Being affected by this incident, Al-Fodhool wrote a poem about the imam's injustice and tyranny and mailed it to Fatat Al-Jazeera, a newspaper in Aden. After the crown prince read his published poem, he ordered his guards to arrest Al-Fodhool. Fortunately, Al-Fodhool escaped to Aden and joined free Yemenis there who had preceded him, such as Muhammad Al-Zubairi and others.

Al-Fodhool worked as an Arabic

language teacher during his stay in

Aden. In late 1944, Al-Fodhool quit his job as a teacher and started writing political speeches and long essays in Fatat Al-Jazeera which were addressed to imams under the pen name "A Yemeni without Shelter." In 1947, Al-Fodhool worked in operating and administering Sawt Al-Yaman newspaper's main printing office in Aden. He also contributed sarcastic and satiric articles to the same newspaper in response to articles issued by Al-Iman newspaper, the mouthpiece of the imams' regime. After the outbreak of the 1948 revolution ended with the death of Imam Yahya, Crown Prince Imam Ahmed fled to Hajjah and shortly seized power in Sana'a. In December 1948, Al-Fodhool founded Al-Fodhool, a weekly political newspaper in Aden which overtly opposed the imamate's policy in Yemen. The comical sarcasm and satiric political critique was prevalent in the newspaper's different issues. The nickname "Al-Fodhool" was dubbed on the newspaper's founder for the rest of his life in appreciation of his witty and outstanding press work. In late 1953, Al-Fodhool newspaper was closed by British authorities due to Imam Ahmed's political pressure. Accordingly, Al-Fodhool had to work as a businessman in early 1954, at the same time pursuing his press activities by editing and writing a whole page entitled Al-Bisbas in Al-Kifah weekly political newspaper, the mouthpiece of the National Unionist Party in Aden.

Al-Fodhool spent the period of his life in Aden in contact with free Yemenis until the outbreak of the 1962 revolution which toppled the thousand-year-old dynasty in Yemen. Afterwards, Al-Fodhool lived the next four years moving between Sana'a and Aden. In 1966, Al-Fodhool was arrested along with other Yemeni politicians by the Egyptian authorities existing in Yemen at that time and was imprisoned in Al-Radi'a, a famous



prison in Sana'a. Al-Fodhool spent nearly a year in the prison and was released only after the Arab-Israeli War of 1967. Later on, he settled in Sana'a and was appointed general manager of the Customs and Economy Office in Ta'izz in 1968. In September 1969, Al-Fodhool was appointed Minister of Information and Unity Affairs in the 16th republican Yemeni government. In the early 1970s, he was appointed Counselor of Unity affairs in the Cabinet.

Al-Fodhool's literary and

intellectual works are not plentiful but his literary work is full of national and humanitarian themes. Al-Fodhool is considered a Yemeni poet of those who compose in both classical and colloquial Arabic. He also excelled in lyrical poetry with his magnificent poems sung by several Yemeni singers like Ayoob Tarish and Ahmed Qasim. Among his well-known lyrical poems are "Doq Al-Qa'a Doqoh" (Hit the Floor, Hit it) and "Aden Aden". His poem entitled "Lak Ayyami" (My Days are for you) was dispatched to Umm Kulthum, the most renowned Arab singer, but she died before singing it. Among his other famous anthems: "Ya Samawat Biladi Barikina" (O My Country's Skies; Blessed Us) and "Fill the World with Smiles". Al-Fodhool's song entitled "Raddidi Ayatuha Addunia Nashidi" (Iterate O World My Anthem, also "United Republic") was selected as the Yemeni national anthem after Yemen was united on May 22, 1990.

Among his other few literary works is his unique poetic divan entitled "Al-Fayrozah" (The Turquoise) which was published posthumously in 1986. The divan included some of his classical Arabic poetry. Al-Fodhool also wrote a booklet entitled "Knowledge is the Battle's Weapon" during his campaign for establishing the Faculty of Bilquis in Aden in the early 1960s. In early 1982, Al-Fodhool tried to collect his scattered poems and publish them. He also planned to publish a book entitled "Al-Fodhool's Analects" containing selected writings of his work as a journalist, but he could not achieve that. Al-Fodhool also was twice awarded the decoration of Literature and Arts in Aden 1980 and later in 1982 in Sana'a. Al-Fodhool died of a heart attack on July 5, 1982, at the age of 65 and was buried in Al-Turba district in Taiz. Al-Fodhool, the witty and innovative poet, had a special way of sarcasm of the imams' weak regime and its arbitrary actions against Yemeni people. This way was the only one available for changing and struggling against all aspects of injustice and tyranny that Yemen suffered for a long time

Al-'Uhda Al-'Umariyya; 'Umariyya Covenant'

By: Nisreen Shadad For Yemen Times

l-Uhda Al-Umariyya is a treaty containing a truce made between Umar and the governor of Jerusalem, Sophronius. After successfully defeating the Byzantines in the Battle of Yarmuk, Umar went to Jerusalem by horse. He called every local Christian and Jewish religious leader to meet him.

A servant of Umar says: When Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, came close to Syria he stood aside for a little while. He rode the camel of his servant which had a cover of fur turned upside down. He let his servant ride on his camel. Al-Abbas was in front of him riding a beautiful horse. He was a nice looking man, so the patriarchs started to greet him thinking he was Umar so he began to signal to them

saying: "I am not, Umar is the one there."

Umar entered Jerusalem on foot. There was no bloodshed. There were no massacres. Those who wanted to leave were allowed to, with all their possessions. Those who wanted to stay were guaranteed protection for their lives, their property, and their places of worship in the 'Umariyya Covenant'.

For the first time in its long history, Jerusalem had been spared a bloodbath. It is said that Umar accompanied Sophronious to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and that he was offered a place to pray in. Umar declined, fearing it might establish a precedent which would threaten the church's continued use as a Christian house of worship. He prayed instead to the south of the church, now the site of the Mosque of Umar in Jerusalem.

Umar then asked to be taken to the site of Al Aqsa Mosque. Accompanied

by hundreds of Muslims, he found the area covered in dust and debris and immediately initiated its clearing. A huge timber mosque which held three thousand worshippers was erected on this site in the time of 'Umar, at the southernmost wall of the Noble Sanctuary

'Umariyya Covenant'

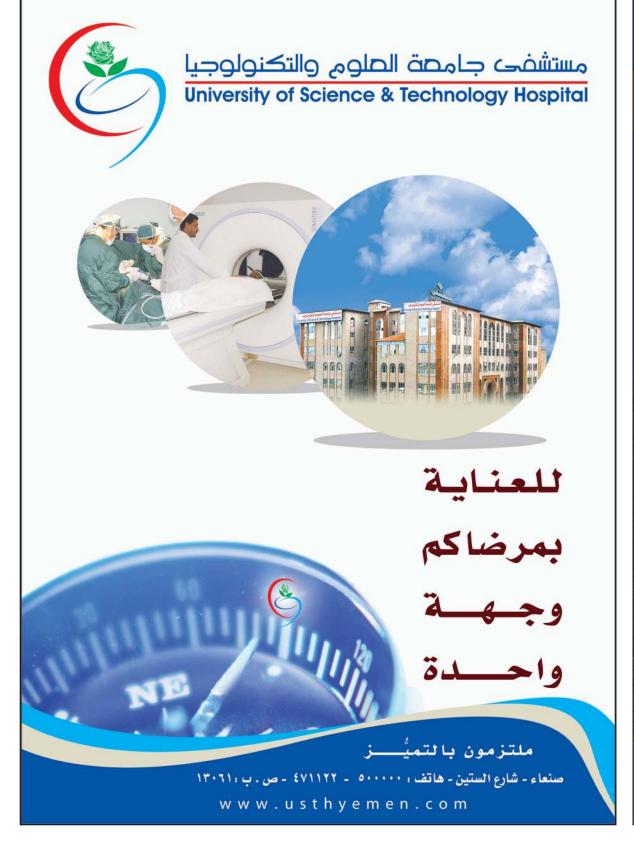
In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Beneficent

This is what the slave of Allah, Umar b.Al-Khattab, the Amir of the believers, has offered the people of Illyaa' of security granting them Amaan (protection) for their selves, their money, their churches, their children, their lowly and their innocent, and the remainder of their people. Their churches are not to be taken, nor are they to be destroyed, nor are they to be degraded or belittled, neither are their crosses or their money, and they are not to be

forced to change their religion, nor is any one of them to be harmed. No Jews are to live with them in Illyaa' and it is required of the people of Illyaa' to pay the Jizya, like the people of the cities. It is also required of them to remove the Romans from the land; and whoever amongst the people of Illyaa' that wishes to depart with their selves and their money with the Romans, leaving their trading goods and children behind, then their selves, their trading goods and their children are secure until they reach their destination. Upon what is in this book is the word of Allah, the covenant of His Messenger, of the Khulafaa' and of the believers if they (the people of Illyaa') gave what was required of them of Jizya. The witnesses upon this were Khalid ibn Al-Walid, 'Amr ibn al-'As, Abdur Rahman bin Awf and Muawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan. Written and passed on the 15th year (after Hijrah)











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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 sin

Morten Bryde Han Regional Vice President









Donkeys becoming extinct in Yemen

By: Almigdad Mojalli almigdads8@yahoo.com

onkeys in Yemen are threatened with extinction, due to breeding practices and zoo pro-

"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 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-

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.



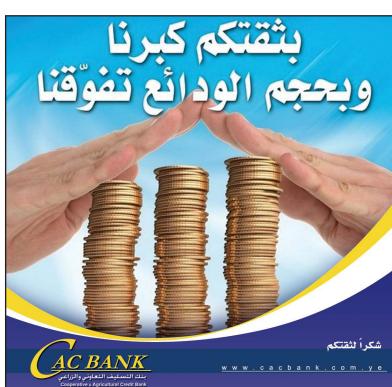


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