

**Hertz**  
 Take A Break From Your Work  
 Load and Take  
 Hertz  
 Along with you.....  
 Universal Rent a Car  
 Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625  
 Movenpick Branch (01) 546063

# YEMEN TIMES

**DHL**  
 EXPRESS  
 we move the world  
 Sana'a: Hadda St. (01) 441099/87/6, Zubairy St. 249878  
 Aden: (02) 245627/8, Fax: (04) 252455  
 Hodeidah: (03) 286689, Mukalla: (05) 354844  
 Seyoun: (05) 404288, Ibb: (04) 407418

Monday, 14 April 2008 • Issue No. 1146 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

**Inside:**  **6,7** A call for cultural engagement in the Muslim World

 **10** Yemeni men support the use of contraceptives to help plan families

 **11** Iranian Foreign Minister: All Muslim and non-Muslim states should open their embassies in Iraq

## Parliament refuses to legislate minimum age for marriage

Despite pressure of 8-year-old girl's husband refusing to set her free. Simultaneously, Yemeni Parliament does not consider early marriage as a priority and is not moving forward with legislation to prevent it.

**By: Hamed Thabet**

SANA'A, April 13 – The Yemeni Parliament, through its Evaluation and Jurisprudence Committee, rejected a request to amend the personal status law presented by the Women's National Committee (WNC). Women's movements and civil society in Yemen along with 61 Parliament members have advocated a law that legislates a minimum marriage age of 18 for both males and females. However, the Jurisprudence Committee claims there are no legislative grounds to impose such a law based on its understanding of Islam.

"Not only is it not Islamic, it is even inhuman to subject our girls to such an experience. We must continue to fight for the sake of a better future for our daughters," said Rashida Al-Hamadani, chairperson of the WNC.

Sixty-one Parliament members (MPs) were recently part of a Safe Motherhood project that included an item for early marriage. However, the issue was rejected by the Evaluation and Jurisprudence Committee, which said it is a health issue and cannot be generalized. The issue was passed to Parliament's Health Committee, where it will reside for an

unknown duration.

Yet a number of MPs feel that this issue deserves better attention.

"If it is my personal opinion I believe 18 is the right age, because marriage is such a big responsibility," said MP Fuad Dahaba, an Islah party member.

**A live case**

Shatha Mohammed Nasser, a lawyer in the Supreme Court, said that the case of Nujood Ali, an 8-year-old girl who was forced to marry, is an excellent opportunity to push such legislation forward.

"There are hundreds of Nujoods who have been subjected to sexual abuse by mature men. The problem is that there is no law to punish the father who marries off the child, the sheikh who allows the marriage, or the husband who takes the child home to serve him as a wife," said Nasser.

Although he is currently in custody, Nujood's husband has rejected her demand to be divorced.

"I will not divorce her, and it is my right to keep her. No need to sleep with her, at least I can have her as a wife. No power can stop me," the husband, Faez Ali Thamer, said.

"It is not a matter of loving her, I don't, but it's just a challenge to her and her uncle who think that they can put me in jail and also the judge has no right to bring me here. How did she dare to complain about me?" he threatened.

Nujood went to Sana'a West Court on April 2 and demanded that the judge grant a divorce between her and her 30-year-old husband, who had physically and sexually abused her for two months. She also filed a case against her father, who married her off to Thamer. Judge Muhammed Al-Qadhi was sympathetic and ordered both husband and father to be kept in custody; however, the latter was released later on health grounds.



Nujood Ali

However, neither the husband nor the father have legally committed any crime, according to Yemeni law. The husband is only in custody because the judge was sympathetic to Nujood, sheltering her for four days in his house before sending her

to her uncle's house. Nujood's uncle additionally supported her in her demand to be divorced. Today Nujood remains at her uncle's home until she is transferred to a care center, where she will be safer.

Nasser has taken the responsibility to follow Nujood's case and she calls on national as well as international organizations and individuals to apply pressure in order to put an end to such practices in Yemen.

"I am afraid that the husband will escape from punishment because according to Yemeni custom and law he has not done anything wrong. Even if there is a law, no one respects the law," added Nasser.

Nujood comes from a poor and broken family. She also has a six-year-old sister that might face the same fate as Nujood, if not worse.

Nasser hopes that the two girls can be rescued somehow and sent abroad, where they will find safety and a positive environment where they can grow and prosper.

**One issue, many victims**

Although Nujood's case is considered the first of its kind where a minor prosecutes her father for marrying her off at a young age and subjecting her to harm, there are many cases of Yemeni girls who have been married at a young age.

Early marriage is "one of the biggest development challenges in Yemen," said Naseem Ur Rehman, chief information officer for UNICEF in Sana'a, on a previous occasion, adding, "This is because no groups have yet outgrown the practice."

A 2006 field study revealed that child marriage among Yemeni girls reached 52.1%, compared to 6.7% among males. The study, conducted by the Woman and Development Study Center, affiliated to Sana'a University, looked at 1,495 couples, concluding that there is a huge age gap between the spouses.

**4U**

**To help end early marriage in Yemen send appeals to:**

**President**  
 His Excellency General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen  
 Fax: + 967 1 444 8147

**Attorney General**  
 His Excellency 'Abdullah al-Ulufi  
 Office of Attorney General  
 Fax: + 967 137 4412

**Minister of Human Rights**  
 Her Excellency Houda 'Ali 'Abdullatif al-Baan, Ministry for Human Rights  
 Fax: + 967 1 444 838

**Minister of Justice**  
 Dr. Ghazi Shaif Al-Aghbari  
 Ministry of Justice  
 Fax: + 967 1 222 015

**Yemeni Parliament**  
 His Excellency Yahya Al-Raei  
 President  
 Fax: + 967 1 276091

**Health Committee**  
 Fax: + 967 1 277935

The study established a comparison between ages of spouses in their first marriage through three generations. It disclosed that marriage age raised gradually from an average of 10.24 years to 14.70 years for women and from 20.97 to 21.54 years for men. It indicated that the average marriage age varies from one geographical area to another; for example, it showed that girls in Hodeidah and Hadramout married at the average age of eight, while in Mukalla the average age was 10.

Hasinah Al-Gader, head of the research center, stated that the study educated approximately 95 percent of religious men and a sampling of parents promoting early marriage, especially in conservative areas, about the importance of delaying marriage, as this is in the best interest of youth and society at large and not against Islamic principles.

**Budget**  
 Car Rental

**50**

1958 - 2008

Call + 967 1 411727  
 Fax + 967 1 411728

24 hours (Hot Line) 71100052

**الوطنية للتأمين**  
**AL-WATANIA INSURANCE**

Sana'a, Tel: (01)272713, 272874, Fax: (01)272924, G.M. (01)276745  
 Hodeidah: (03)21994144, Fax: (03)219945

**Shanghai Restaurant** 上海饭店

Take Away Service  
 Dine-In Service  
 Home Catering Service  
 Group Service

Yemen - Sana'a - Al-Wahdah St.  
 The Branch of 60 Meter St.  
 Tel.: 00967 - 1 - 450350  
 Mob.: 00967 734859966  
 Fax.: 00967 - 1 - 444858

**Qarnaw**  
 For Oilfield Services

**قرنارو**

(A Member of Al-Shaif Int'l Group)

Qarnaw focuses on delivering the best solutions and multi-services to our clients.

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

**KRUPS**  
 Beyond reason.

**كروبيس**  
 يفوق كل التوقعات

محللات الحبيبات التجارية

ص.ب 5274 شارع 26 سبتمبر، نجر، الجمهورية اليمنية  
 هاتف: 04-238312 فاكس: 04-238337/8

شركة آر كس التجارية المحدودة

ارتكس@net.ye بريد إلكتروني: 01-400447 الفاكس: 01-400445 ص.ب 3008 شارع صنعاء، صنعاء، الجمهورية اليمنية  
 هاتف: 02 263112 فاكس: 02 263110/1

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

**المستشفى الوطني الحديث**  
**Al-Hadi Modern Hospital**

بالمعلم والقيم... نرضى مرضانا

صنعاء - فتح عثمان - ت - 444444 - 444444 - 444444  
 Email: info@hadithalahl.com  
 www.hadithalahl.com

**KONICA MINOLTA** كونيكا مينولتا

Choose your best MFP Products Lineup

**Thabet Son Corporation** مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة

Sana'a: Tel: 278546-8 Fax: 283596, Taiz: Tel: 219057 Fax: 214306, Aden: Tel: 244625 Fax: 246787, Hodeidah: Tel: 204438 Fax: 204490, Mukalla: Tel: 316710 Fax: 316711  
 E-mail: tsc@yemen.net.ye, Website: www.thabetson.com.ye

**your music is calling**

تلمس الأصوات

Imagine sound as pure as music.

**SAM Digital**  
 Samsung mobile Center Tel.: 01 494844  
 Al-Kasr Showroom Tel.: 01 494797

**SHEAFFER**  
 The Signature Pen

**الهدية المثالية**  
 لأغلى من تحب

ضمانة مدى الحياة

**AGG**  
 المجموعة الخليجية للتجارة  
 AL-JEL AL-HADEED GROUP  
 www.agg-ye.com

Tel: 213164 Fax: 213163

Yemen Commercial Bank **YCB** البنك التجاري اليمني

**Child's Treasure Program**

for better future

Toll free 8008000  
 Phone 01-299988

www.ycb.com.ye



## In brief

## SANA'A

## French tourism agencies get acquaintance with Yemeni tourism plans

Minister of Tourism Nabil al-Faghih reaffirmed facilities which are provided by his ministry to local and foreign travel tourism agencies in Yemen.

During his meeting on Wednesday with a number of French tourism and travel agencies representatives, who are visiting Yemen currently, he spoke about services being provided by the ministry for foreign tourists and granting them the necessary facilities in the Yemeni embassies and consulates abroad.

The minister acquainted representatives of the French travel and tourism agencies over the developments in tourism sector in the country.

Worth to mention, the visit of chairmen of ATR, ATT, CETO, tourist associations, comes as a result of coordination between Yemeni embassy in Paris and French Tourism Authority in order to rise the number of tourists coming to Yemen.

## French institute chooses Yemeni hills to exercise gliding

The French Institute for glider flying Axis-Gana has chosen the Maswar hills in Hajjah province to be the venue for its members to exercise gliding sport annually, the state-run 26sep.net has said.

The institute head Gille expressed his admiration for the area saying the hills are suitable for practicing the glider flying sport.

Institute members glided at the area for three days; three hours a day and along eighteen kilometers.

The decision of the institute will help promote tourism in the province, especially after the authorities set out plans to boost the glider flying and mountain tourism.

## LAHJ

## Cement factory to be set up in Lahj

The Asas Firm for the Manufacture and Marketing of Cement has presented a request for the establishment of a cement factory in Radfan district of Lahj province.

Director General of the General Authority for Investment in Lahj Nazeah al-Shuaebi said that the company had made the technical and economic studies of the YR 37 billion project.

Al-Shuaebi added that the productivity of the factory would be estimated at one million tons per year and it is expected to provide 700 jobs.

## Campaign to vaccinate women against maternal, neo-natal tetanus launched

The ministry of Public Health and Population has launched a campaign to vaccinate women in the child bearing age against the dreaded disease of maternal and neo-natal tetanus.

According to a press release by the UNICEF, the campaign is launched by the government in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF, the World Health Organization WHO and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization) GAVI.

The first round of the campaign targeting 60 high risk districts in four governorates and the five-day campaign is targeted to reach over 900,000 women, with a focus on pregnant women in sixty districts in the governorates of Lahj, Hodaida, Dhale and Ibb.

The first round is focused on 60 districts that are characterized by limited access to routine vaccination for pregnant women and insufficient antenatal care, where skilled delivery attendants are not available.

The second round is scheduled for May and the third will take place after six months.

The 5-day campaign builds on Yemen's accelerated disease-specific strategies through micro-planning and community based communication strategies. A major part of the campaign is disseminating messages on safe motherhood and use of hygienic practices through radio, social mobilization campaign.

## Yemen's MPs debate female circumcision, pre-marriage tests

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April-13 — Preventing female circumcision and pre-marriage medical tests evoked turmoil and disagreement among Parliament members (MPs) in last week's session.

The session ended with a unanimous agreement to cancel the term 3, which would prevent female circumcision, and delay the discussion of pre-marriage tests.

The two terms were part of a draft written by the Safe Motherhood Law Project, and introduced by the health committee inside Parliament.

Najeb Ghanem, the Chairman of the Health Committee in Parliament, expressed his sorrow over the way Parliament discussed the two issues.

"These two topics are very important for guaranteeing women's rights in Yemen," he commented in a phone call to the Yemen Times after the session.

According to Ghanem, who belongs to the Islah party, most of the MPs who disagreed with the terms represent the conservative attitudes of most Yemeni citizens. "The committee is aware of the Yemeni conservative community's positions on these issues. So we [the committee] suggested applying the law of emphasizing pre-marriage medical tests after ten years... that is after we carry out extensive awareness campaign to educate people about the importance of such tests."

Zid Al-Shami, an MP who suggested delaying the approval of the two terms, confirmed that such topics are "sensitive and need more awareness."

"I suggested canceling term number three, about preventing female circumcision, for many reasons. First, the term, which was written in the draft, included inappropriate and shameful sentences. Second, female circumcision exists in few regions in Yemen, like in Hodeidah

and Hadramout, so it not common practice. And finally, there is still religious debate regarding the issue, so as we have no directives by the heads of religion to forbid female circumcision, we do not have the right to ban it," Al-Shami explained.

He confirmed that Yemen suffers from a lack of medical services to provide pre-marriage medical tests. "Yemen has a lack of doctors, labs, and medical facilities, so it's nonsense to approve a law which would prevent any couple from getting married unless they are certified as disease-free," Al-Shami added.

He went on to say, "Having a law which says that the marriage is not acceptable, is not practical for the present day, but I am still for and encourage all young people to get tested, which is good for their own well-being and to have a healthy and happy life with healthy children."

## 200 year-old house collapses, killing two

## Civil Defense arrived too late, say residents

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, April, 13 — An old house dating back 200 years in the old city of Sana'a, in Al-Madrassa neighborhood, collapsed due to a lightning storm last week. The collapse caused two deaths and two injuries.

According to Ibrahim Muhammad, the neighborhood's aql (zone leader), the house collapsed on Thursday at 4:30 pm while it was raining. "Immediately we came and started to dig to take out the bodies," he said.

"I saw lightning strike the house and in a few seconds the entire house was destroyed, so I called the neighbors and whoever was near the house to help the people," said neighbor Muhammed Al-Thamari.

The casualties were an 8-year-old boy Fraida Abud Al-Karim Shokri and his 18-year-old sister Farida, who were buried under the rubble. The father is in intensive care and another brother has a broken hand.

This is not the first time this has happened in the old city of Sana'a, but it is the first time that lightning caused a house to collapse, added Ahmed Al-Haimmi, secretary in the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY). The region's residents revealed their anger due to the delay of key services which could have prevented the tragedy.

"We called the Civil Defense and the ambulance in order to come as soon as possible. However, they arrived after we had finished digging, and they came without any digging equipment, first aid or oxygen," said Ibrahim Muhammad.

Residents who were present at the time of the collapse and helped with the digging said that the little boy and his sister were alive and breathing when brought out, but because they had been buried for many hours under the ground, their conditions were critical. "If the ambulance had brought oxygen,



The collapse causes two deaths in the old city of Sana'a.

maybe they would have survived. Also, instead of putting the girl in the ambulance, they shifted her to a police car. We are sure the two would have survived if the responsible authorities were qualified. Also, due to a lack of digging equipment, digging with just our hands took longer. Sadly, the 8-year-old breathed his last at 6 pm and the girl at 8 pm," said Muhammed Muhammed Jaila and Abud Allah Ali Maki, two residents who helped dig out the victims.

"This problem has been taken to the Sana'a local council, and we hope that there will be compensation for their house. Also, we will rent a house for them until they find a solution. We will also write to the governorate to help this family and compensate them," said Ibrahim Muhammad. He added, "We talked to the GOPHCY and gave them a report about the case and the damage that occurred, but nothing has been done so far."

The GOPHCY will make a report in order to evaluate the damage and assess repairs. According to Khalid Al-Jubari, the organization's deputy chairman, "We are doing as much as we can to

repair the collapsed house, but the problem is that we do not have enough money to do that, as it costs a lot, and at the same time we have many other houses, so maybe it will be difficult for us to bear the full cost."

Old Sana'a was placed on the listed of UNESCO heritage cities in 1986. However, the region's houses are subjected to collapse due to lack of maintenance

More than 80 houses in the old city are in danger of collapsing at any time, said Al-Jubari.

"We have to request the Ministry of Culture, the Executive Committee for repairing of the old city of old Sana'a and the Prime Minister in order to support and consider this problem and fix it, as it will be a very hard job for us with our little budget to do that," said Al-Jubari.

According to Al-Haimmi, many of the endangered historical houses are on the list to be fixed. However, he added, "According to my experience in the GOPHCY, I can say that the collapsed house will not be repaired at all, and nothing will be done for the victims."

## Don't play with state security, Saleh warns

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANAA, April 13 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has warned opposition parties and the media not to play with the country's security and stability and create disorder by disseminating what he described as a 'culture of hatred.'

In a meeting held on April 9, Saleh told members of Parliament, the Shoura council and the Cabinet, and civil society organization representatives that the meeting was held in response to Parliament's call in view of the current situation.

"Our hearts should be spacious, accept opinion and counter opinion, but within the frame of the constitution, law, security, safety, and stability. It is not allowed to play with the country's security, create security disorders, and foster misunderstanding between political parties that we have been doing for 18 years now," he said, adding all the

political forces should handle their responsibilities with credibility and seriousness.

Saleh's speech came following riots that erupted two weeks ago in some southern governorates, where hundreds of people were arrested by security authorities. Rights groups say over 200 people were detained as a result.

The president further noted that for a year and a half, attempts have been made to set up a 'culture of hatred,' which he defined as an irresponsible culture and a misconception of the multi-party system.

"Starting fires is useless and only those who start fire will be burnt," Saleh warned, adding, "An opposition figure outside the country starts a fire and thinks by this he can come to power one day?"

"If your project was to make every positive thing—whether security, stability and development—lay idle, with the

aim of changing the ruling party into opposition, the ruling party can disable your project. So, does a multi-party [system] means disabling, destruction, disturbing security and stability and creating a culture of hatred?" he went on to say.

Saleh stated that he has welcomingly received all criticism and accusations of neglect against the government. "We have not taken any deterring measures against those elements that create a culture of hatred in Yemen."

The president said, "If you want to take power, you are welcome. We come to power through polls. There remains only one year to hold the parliamentary elections. Anyone with demands, rights or [claims of] injustice should go to Parliament, which represents the nation, instead of protests and burning wheels in streets and spreading a culture of hatred via the press satellite channels."

## Sa'ada landmines kill more than 8 women and children

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, April 13 — Landmines planted by the Yemeni army in Haidan district have killed more than eight people, all women and children, plus numerous cows, sheep and other cattle, over the past five months, Houthi sources say, adding that army personnel planted mines on citizens' roadways and farmlands.

Forty-year-old Olwa Ghabish Al-Aboud was the most recent victim of landmines planted by the army in Mirran area. Last Monday, Al-Aboud was hit by a mine that severed her right leg and injured various other parts of her body. She was taken to a nearby hospital in critical condition.

Yemen is one of the countries having ratified international conventions banning and removing anti-personnel mines, but its army planted thousands of them during its fourth Sa'ada War against Houthi loyalists throughout 2007.

Aleshteraki.net reports that it has obtained anti-personnel mine maps revealing the more than 25,000 anti-personnel mines still threatening citizens in Mirran and other areas of Sa'ada governorate.

According to the web site, on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007, an anti-personnel mine hit 35-year-old Olwa Ahmad Shala'a of Al-Sharqabi village in Mirran, severing one of her legs and leaving her incapacitated.

Likewise, 15-year-old Modera Mohammed Muqbil was hit by a landmine Aug. 17, 2007 while grazing cows in the Mirran area. Her hand was amputated.

The web site adds that the wife of Mohammed Shandaq from Sa'ada's Dhira'a Arman area lost her leg after being hit by a mine while gathering firewood in the area.

On Feb. 16 of this year, 15 days after the Yemeni government and Houthis signed a Doha-brokered peace deal, an anti-personnel mine exploded in Haidan district's Sasa village, injuring the wife of Hussein Ali Al-Abras and leaving her incapacitated. The victim lost one of her legs.

Four days later, 12-year-old Ahmad Qasim Dawan from the same district lost his hand after being hit by a mine while on his way home from school.

Additionally, 14-year-old Amran Mohammed Saleh Dallah from Mirran area was killed instantly after being hit by an anti-personnel mine while returning home from school. His body was torn apart.

Numerous cows and sheep also reportedly have been killed by landmines planted by the army on a road connecting Bajzar village to Juma'a Bin Fadhil area.

## Houthis accuse government of hindering reconciliation efforts

Army commanders are creating obstacles to efforts aimed at achieving reconciliation between the Yemeni government and Houthi supporters and implementing a ceasefire agreement both sides signed in Doha on Feb. 1 of

this year, Houthi representative Sheikh Saleh Habra told the Yemen Times by phone.

"Such army officials are dishonest and uncredible. They want the mediation efforts to go beyond Qatar, while we want such pressing issues to be resolved immediately. We don't need more mediators to intervene in this situation," he commented, adding that government troops have struck strategic Houthi positions over the past days, but for the time being, the situation remains relatively calm.

According to Habra, the head of the Qatari mediation team flew home while other team members are remaining in Sana'a.

As no official or neutral party has explained why the Qatari mediation team left Sa'ada, Habra pointed out that he's still optimistic about reconciliation between both sides. However, he has learned that senior government officials, including Sa'ada's governor, chief of the governorate's security department and the chairman of the political security organization, are creating obstacles to efforts to implement the ceasefire agreement.

Local observers fear that the Qatari mediation team no longer is optimistic about ending the crisis, particularly as Yemeni authorities aren't giving top priority to resolving the situation. They hold the view that the departure of the head of the Qatari mediation team signals an end to reconciliation efforts so far expended by the Qatari government, which succeeded in lifting a siege on Sheikh Shayea Bukhtan's followers, who support the Yemeni government, in Al-Salem area.

Fact-finding committees the government has sent to the restive governorate have pressed Houthis to lift their lockdown of tribesmen, backing the government in its fight with Houthi supporters, and visited five pro-government tribesmen detained at Qahza Jail. The men have been confined in isolated cells for more than a month after being harshly beaten and tortured by Houthis.

Yemeni government sources admit that there are numerous obstacles to efforts to implementing the ceasefire agreement and ceasing bloodshed in the war-torn governorate. The government has accused members of the Faithful Youth Organization founded by Hussein Badraddin Al-Houthi, whom the Yemeni army killed in September 2004, of breaching the ceasefire agreement and thereby hindering reconciliation efforts by the mediation teams.

According to the same government sources, the mediation committee mandated by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to oversee how the two sides are abiding by the Doha-brokered agreement met Saturday, but the Qatari mediation team didn't attend.

The meeting discussed possible mechanisms to execute the agreement's various terms, whereas the following days, according to the mediation committee, will be devoted to overseeing how committed the Yemeni army and Houthis are to the agreement.

## WHO denies knowledge of Al-Zindani's HIV/AIDS cure

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 13 — The World Health Organization (WHO) denied that it received any official letter regarding Abdul Majeed Al-Zandani's claim that he discovered a cure for HIV and AIDS, either from the Yemeni government or from the Ministry of Health and Population.

"The organization follows particular and scientific specifications in determining the efficiency of authorized medicines," said Rasheed Rajab, WHO administrative officer, claiming that there is no prove of the existence of any medication that can terminate the HIV virus.

Abdul Majeed al-Zandani, chairman of Al-Iman University, announced on Friday at a press conference during the first international medical conference in Yemen that nine out of ten sampled people have been proved to be free of the virus after they received his medicine. He noted that the samples were taken by the Ministry of Health and Population and given to the WHO, which then transferred the samples to the American Laboratory of the Marines in Cairo to prove whether they are HIV-free or not.

In December 2006, Al-Zindani stated to the media that he carried out tests on an herbal formula that cured HIV

patients, but he refused to expose the formula, claiming that international companies would steal it.

"I've been doing my own research to find a cure for this disease for twenty years now with a group of scientists and scholars known as the 'Miracle Team,' a team that is made up of people from different Arab countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and the main objective of this team is to work continuously to find cures for different diseases," said Al-Zindani.

He explained that he first began with a woman infected with AIDS and tried to find a cure for her. He gave her a prescription for a particular medicine, by which he claims she was completely cured within 45 days. After that, he applied his medicine to 13 other infected people and said that 10 of them were completely cured. Al-Zindani added that the second experiment could be verified by German and Jordanian laboratories. He accused the Ministry of Health and Population of hindering his discovery instead of adopting it and supporting him. "I'm really surprised by the ministry and their negative response. Though the tests have been proved by them, the ministry didn't react or even ask to adopt this medical discovery. In addition, I've been told to watch out for myself and not talk about it," said Al-Zindani.



WHAT IT MEANS...

Decentralization of Governance in Yemen

By: Khaled Fattah  
Doctoral Candidate  
University of St Andrews-UK

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the stage of international donors has been decorated with numerous banners under whose slogans countries in the developing world should march to good governance. One of these banners highlights that decentralization of governance leads to effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, transparency and responsiveness of local governments. Another big banner emphasizes that decentralization brings officials closer to the people, empowers citizens and creates a larger space for public participation. With united Yemen in mind, how true and applicable are these slogans?

Before jumping to answers and conclusions, let us first of all recognize the following important facts. First, decentralization of governance is not an event, but rather a long term, multidimensional and cross-cutting process that is dominated by the views of post industrial capitalist societies. Second, there is no single model of decentralization that is optimal for all countries. Third, decentralization and centralization are not 'either- or' conditions. Finally, when we talk about the vital role of local government in the decentralization process we should avoid limiting the discussion to the conventional administrative bodies such as municipalities and districts. An equal attention must be paid to

social units such as the family, school, university, and, in the case of Yemen, the tribe. These units are major suppliers of perceptions regarding important decentralization-related values such as delegation, empowerment and participatory decision making. Despite the criticism over the motives and the textbook approach of some international donors operating in Yemen, let us admit that it is foolish to dismiss the repeated calls of such donors for the ineffective and corruption-infested state agencies in Yemen to start marching towards all the great values associated with good governance. There is no argument here about the merits of, for example, bridging the wide gap between Sana'a-based governmental bodies and the millions of people residing in the 38284 villages of Yemen. For these millions and others residing in the hundreds of districts outside Sana'a, the bureaucrats and politicians who run the affairs of the central government are too far away from the daily experiences of individuals and their families, and too far away from the needs and problems of local communities.

Politicians and bureaucrats, on the other hand, often blame Yemen's topographic destiny as the main obstacle in bridging the central-local gap. They argue that the lack of physical communication, which is due to lack of resources and the scattering of the population in rigid and inaccessible mountainous areas, is at the heart of the centralization/decentralization problem. In my view, however, it is not the geographic distance that should be blamed. Rather, the psy-

chological distance of central government officials from the citizens they are supposed to govern. Most of the central government's policies and activities at the local level are seasonal and driven by short-term political interests that are developed within the context of concentrating power and maintaining the privileges of the ruling party. In addition, such imposed activities in the form of, for example, infrastructural projects are presented, when delivered, as gifts from the central government not as basic rights of local population.

Unfortunately, the existing dilemma of local governance in Yemen will get worse as long as the policies of central government are not driven by demand from local citizens. For planning and implementing state activities at local levels, it is essential for Sana'a-based decision makers to realize that failure at the local level of governance can pose a serious threat not only to government power but also to state legitimacy. In the minds of the people of Yemen, whether they live along coastal plains or on highland plateaus, the images of the political system are shaped by the degree of responsiveness of local governments. When civil servants in a governorate, municipality, district or sub-district can not solve simple problems such as doctors' absence from the local clinic or teachers' absence from the local school, people will defiantly question the ability of the central government to address the much larger and more complex problems related to national economy, security and politics.

What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to yeditor@gmail.com.

SANAA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR 35 YEARS

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Beautiful purpose-built facilities on a spacious 34 acre site in a countryside setting. Sports facilities include soccer and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts. Large indoor multi-purpose area for volleyball, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, table tennis, musical and dramatic productions. Bus service available.

Main Campus

- Performance-Based curriculum for 5 years of age through secondary school
- Personalized education/small class sizes run by highly qualified & experienced teachers
- Over 40 computers available for student use, and computer instruction for all ages
- Extensive after school activity program involving music, art, craft, drama, & sports
- Advanced Placement (AP) college level courses available for qualified students
- Graduates attend American, Canadian, European, and Middle Eastern universities

SIS Pre-School

- Specific age appropriate experiences for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Attractive premises near the French Embassy including a garden and play area
- Certified experienced British teacher assisted by paraprofessionals
- School hours are from 7:55 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Saturday through Wednesday)
- Arabic program from 12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Box 2002, Sanaa, Yemen Phone: 370 191-2 Fax: 370 193  
Email: gordonblackie@qsi.org Web site: http://yem.qsi.org



Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)  
Member of Quality Schools International

Their News

Aden Container Terminal handed over



Singaporean Company OPM has handed over the Aden Containers Terminal (ACT) to Aden Gulf Seaports Corporation to run it, official news agency reported Tuesday.

The terminal authority made use of international experts to facilitate the handing over operation which went smoothly post the end of contract on March 31, 2008. The executive director of the establishment Engineer Mohammed Abdullah Mubarak bin Aifan said that the handing over was successful and both side signed on the final memo which stipulated that all the station's contents and assets are under the authority of the establishment during a transitional phase until the partnership with Dubai International Port is formalized later. He added that the Stations Port has received a number of large containers and this comes under the good cooperation between the international ports and Yemen.

OPM Aden, associated with Overseas Port Management (S) Pte Ltd, called (OPM Singapore), won a one-year contract from April 2004 to operate and manage Aden Container Terminal (ACT).



Mövenpick Hotel Sana'a...on the road to success.

The Movenpick Hotel Sana'a team will be on the road for a Sales Blitz this April 2008. The campaign is designed

to visit the local market - Corporates, Embassies, Government offices, Ministries and Travel Agencies.

The Team lead by Mr. Nasir Saudi, General Manager and Mr. Fouad Hamid Saleh, Director of Sales have made the decision to create market dominance through brand visibility and the uncompromising standards and facilities that the Mövenpick Hotel Sana'a is known to offer.

Mövenpick Hotels worldwide is truly Swiss brand that truly celebrates 60 years of offering our customers the finest experience.

International Medical Conference and Exhibition

The medical quarter is witnessing a big activity and perceivable development during this period. This is due to the international companies which come to Yemen, the increase of investment in this field as well as giant international hospitals and specialized medical centers established in the country. In coincidence with the rapid rotation of the development circle in this sector based on cooperation between the government and the private sector.

Around 35 international and Arab companies representatives of about 300 famous trademarks in the field of medicaments, medical equipment, dentistry, hospital equipments and medical centers specialized in medication and health care participate in a significant medical scientific activity. This activity is the Forth International Medical Exhibition "Medi Pharm 2008" which continues from April 7 through 13, 2008.

Companies participating in the exhibition work to offer the most recent techniques and scientific innovations that contribute to the citizens' health.

Mr. Omar Al-Nihmi, marketing manager, said that the exhibition is held regularly every two years where in this activity is arranged and prepared for under the supervision of Ministry of Public Health and Population and Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Arab and International companies are drawn into Yemen. Al-Nihmi added that such medical role is supposed to be carried out by private sector as a main partner in the development process particularly under the wing of the great harmony that the country witnesses at present coupled with the government's serious directives in support of investment and bringing together international companies into Yemen in an attempt to achieve the main target which is Human Health.

For His Part, Dr. Sami Zayed, head of the committee in charge of organiz-

ing the conference and exhibition and vice-director of the Medical Charitable Association, said that the first International Medical Conference discusses for 7 days a number of topics paramount of which are the training courses, skills, symposiums, and scientific lectures delivered by International academicians. Additionally, Dentistry Committee will introduce two courses in the field of orthodontics and tooth transplanting during which doctors and academicians from Europe and America the most recent perceptions and techniques in dentistry. The symposiums will be attended by around 2000 doctors from the different Yemeni governorates.

Dr. Sami concluded his word by inviting all doctors and those who are interested in the medical field to attend the conference and make use of its activities as well as overlook papers that will be discussed throughout the conference.

Grand Finale closes with a bang! Qatar reigns again as it takes home title of The Million's Poet for second year in a row



Abu Dhabi: After 16 weeks of gripping suspense and endless tasks for contestants and viewers alike, season two of The Million's Poet has finally come to a climatic close with fireworks blazing as Qatari Khalil Al Tamimi won the sought-after title of 'The Million's Poet' and the One Million Dirham prize.

With Al Tamimi's win, the prestigious flag that symbolizes the Million's Poet title will undoubtedly stay in Qatar but be passed into the hands of another great poet.

With SMS votes closing a mere 15 minutes before the end of the show, tensions were high in the theatre as the 2000 strong audience waited in earnest to find out who was the winner of the TV competition. Emirati singer Wasmii entertained the crowd while they waited with a new video clip dedicated to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed

bin Zayed Al Nahyan and other members of the Abu Dhabi ruling family arrived last night to watch the grand finale with other ambassadors and dignitaries attending the event at the theatre to show their support of the poets. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince's brother and UAE foreign Minister was present on stage to award the winner with the coveted Flag and cheque of One Million Dirhams bringing an end to season two of the show.

Second and third place were not forgotten however and coming in third place was Yemen's Amr bin Amru with a prize of 350,000 Dirhams. His last poem during the show talked of his life in the UAE from when he was a child to the days of his youth. In second place with a prize of 500,000 Dirhams was Emirati, Mohammed Al Kaabi who recited a poem about his memories during the competition and praised Sheikh Khalifa and the UAE. Both contestants delivered stunning performances that impressed the judges and drew wild cheers from the audience.

As Amr and Mohammed stood to the side, three remained awaiting their fate. Khalil Al Tamimi, Aydah Al Thaqafi and Nasr Al Fara'anu stood to the side, holding hands in support of each other as the crowd screamed Nasr's name over and over. A favorite since the beginning of the competition, many expected Nasr to nab the coveted title but it was not to be.

Over the screams of the crowd, Khalil Al Tamimi's name was called by hostess Dureen Khalifa, as the new winner of The Million's Poet. An initial stunned silence overcame the Al Raha theatre but quickly erupted into loud cheers as fireworks blazed and confetti rained down onto the stage. A strong contender throughout the competition, his last poem was one of pride for his tribe. Surprised himself, about winning the competition, Khalil graciously accepted the flag as he stood speechless on the stage as the new winner of The Million's Poet.

Last night's episode concluded the 16 week show but is due to go back on air for season three next December. Fans should watch out for the next audition tour due to start this summer. Repeats of the shows and also extra exclusive behind the scenes footage can be viewed around the clock on the dedicated Million's Poet Channel on Nile Sat 11919 MHTz, Horizontal, 27500, \_ and Arabsat Bader 4 DL, 11804 Horizontal, 27500, \_.

This show has been commissioned by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage and is produced by Pyramedia.

Added new join Shipping line ...

M / V " Durban Bridge " Inaugurates the Beginning of the Shipping Line Activities

The call of the M / V " Durban Bridge " on Saturday 22 March 2008 at Hodeidah port has inaugurated the activities of the join Far- East Red Sea service between the Japanese Line ( K - Line ) , German Line ( Hapag - Lloyd ) and the Chinese Line ( Wan Hai Lines ) . The three lines will jointly deploy three ships that will call the port of Hodeidah weekly covering ports in China - Malaysia - JEDDAH - Aqaba- Hodeidah .

The addition of these Lines through this joint service is considered to be a qualitative insert to the services that the lines will provide to Hodeidah port customers in terms of competitive freight rate since the Lines are among the top ( 20 ) largest container lines in the world ( see Table " 1 " ) .

The lines are expected to deploy ships of size ranging from 1200- 1600 TEUs to cover the services they will render . Currently there are ( 16 ) container lines call Hodeidah port ( see Table " 2 " )

Engineer. Abdulrab Al - Khulaqui ( Deputy Chairman of the Board ) is expecting more shipping lines to be added soon to the port of Hodeidah which has achieved a growth rate in container handling of ( 19 % ) in 2007 compared with 2006 . He also added : shipping lines normally deploy their smaller ships and then change to bigger ones which the target of port .. concluding his speech saying : " the features of the port of Hodeidah makes it able to become a first class industrial and service port if its capabilities and capacities is being utilized effectively .

Table ( 1 ) : Top ( 20 ) container Line Operators as at April 2008

No	Operator / Line	No. Of Owned Ships	Size, TEUs
1	APM- Maersk	546	1,978,476
2	Mediterranean Shipping Co.	380	1,244,964
3	CMA-CGM Group	380	903,659
4	Evergreen Line	176	623,851
5	Hapag - Lloyd	139	496,914
6	COSCO Container Line	142	441,014
7	CSCL	138	429,978
8	NYK	122	409,777
9	APL	126	409,207
10	Hanjin / Senator	87	363,182
11	MOL	112	359,725
12	OOCL	82	347,633
13	K-Line	93	305,431

14	Hamburg- Sud Group	120	289,172
15	Zim	113	286,082
16	Yang Ming Line	83	274,281
17	CSAV Group	91	272,589
18	Hyundai M. M.	53	234,721
19	PIL	112	175,847
20	Wan Hai Lines	83	142,981

Note : TEU is Twenty - foot Equivalent Unit the measurement standard for sea freight containers .


Table ( 2 ) : Current container Lines CALLING Hodeidah port

No	Operator / Line
1	APM- Maersk P & O
2	Mediterranean Shipping Co. ( MSC )
3	CMA - CGM Group
4	Hapag - Lloyd
5	COSCO Container Line
6	American President Line ( APL )
7	K - LINE
8	Pacific International Line ( PIL )
9	Wan Hai Lines ( WHL )
10	United Arab Shipping Co. ( UASC )
11	Malaysian Int'l Sh .Co ( MISC )
12	NOR
13	MSN
14	SUMM
15	ECM
16	YGL



**شركة الحمداني**  
Al-Hamdani Co. for Trading & Real State Investment

The largest Property Project in Yemen...  
Your Real Estate as you want it  
**The Green City - Aden**



In the Green City, enjoy a new life and distinguished investment opportunities. Get your future house with multi-choices.

**Green City Features**

- **Infrastructure:** Complete infrastructure, electricity, water, telephone Lines, wide internal streets with main lines of 40-60 meters, and green landscape.
- **Available service utilities in the City:** Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary schools, mosques, clinics, commercial centers, public parks.
- **You can have a villa or (residential - business) land in the Green City with different sizes in installments for a period reached to seven years through International Bank of Yemen.**

**Villa with one floor - Ex1**

**Villa with two floor - Ex2**

**Villa with two floor - Ex3**

Almuthallath

The Green City - Aden - Republic of Yemen - Tel.: +967 2 355111/2/3/4, Fax: +967 2 355115, Sales Department: 777355111 - 777355112  
Sana'a 14 October St., Al- Sabeen District - West of the Republic Presidency Tel.: 01/424321/2, Fax: 01/424323, Mobile: 777355000  
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tel.: +966544217000, Fax: +966543355111

مع بنك سبأ الإسلامي فقط !!




**أرباح ودائعكم ..**  
**فاقت التوقعات !!**

AWAISS

**باناسونيك أفكار للحياة**

تلغاف بشاشة مسطحة عالية الوضوح  
**الشكل والجودة**

عندما يأتي الأمر إلى التقاط الحركات السريعة، والحصول على ألوان بأدق درجات الانعكاسات لتجعلها تبدو كحقيقة فلا شيء آخر غير باناسونيك فيرا يمكنه تحقيق ذلك. فقد طورت باناسونيك مؤخراً تقنياتها الرائدة والمتنوعة في مجال أجهزة التلغاف ذات الشاشة المسطحة خصائص حديثة التي تصدر أروع الصور بأجود تقنيات الصوت هاي - فاي.

TRUST 01 219 801



TH-50PV700 TH-50PV70 TH-103PF9WK TH-65PV600 TH-42PV70 TH-42PV7

فيرا لتلائم كل التوقعات الممكنة.

**Very Special Offer**

استجابة سريعة للحركة مثالية لمشاهدة الرياضة  
ألوان رائعة مثالية لمشاهدة الأفلام  
زاوية مشاهدة عريضة مثالية عند حضور الأهل والأصدقاء  
مرحبة لشبكية العين وغير مؤذية على المدى البعيد  
تقنية صوت حقيقي بلا صدى

PLASMA ADVANTAGES HD V real e VIERA HDMI SRS (Subwoofer) PC input

**عروض مغرية جداً** Panasonic ideas for life

www.panasonic.ae

الجمهورية اليمنية - صنعاء شركة ألفا المحدودة  
عصر: هاتف: ٢١٤٢٣٥/٦ • شارع حدة: هاتف: ٢٠٠٧٢٨-٢٠٠٧٢٢ • الزبيري: ٢٨١٧٠ • صنعاء: جملة: ٥٢٣٩٥٢  
الحديدة: تلفاكس: ٢٠٥٨٥٥ • عدن: هاتف: ٢٤١٢٧١ • المكلا: هاتف: ٣٠٤٦٢٢

**SUZUKI** Way of Life!

**ALTO**

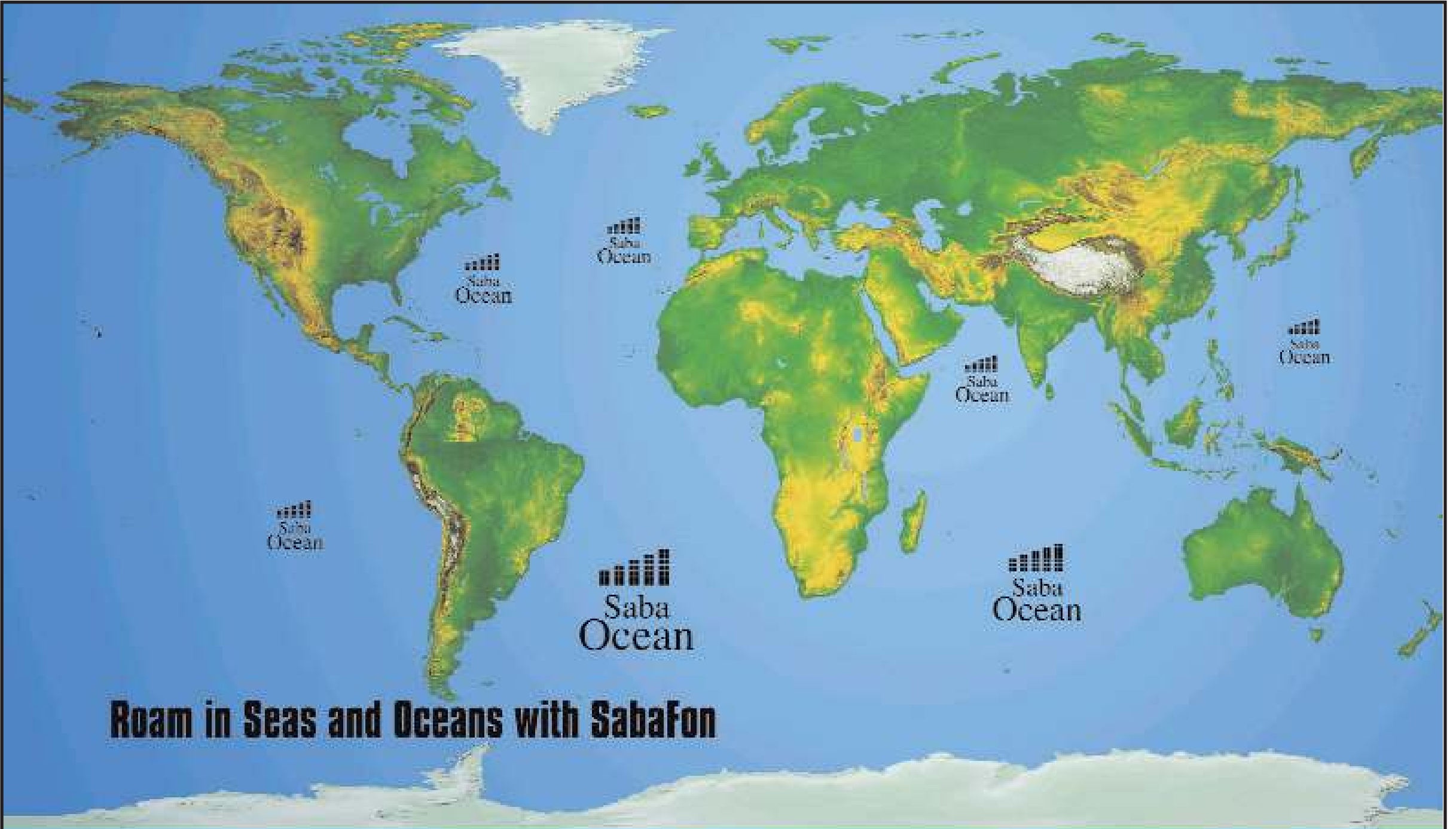
Fuel Consumption . .  
. . No Worries



**SABEHA** سابعه

Sana'a : Tel: +967 1 201 359 \ 1 404 340  
Fax: +967 1 209 532  
Branches : Hodaidah - Taiz - Ibb  
suzuki@yemen.net.ye - sabehagroup.com





**Roam in Seas and Oceans with Sabafon**

Now you can roam all over the seas  
Stay connected with SabaFon wherever you are.  
Don't miss communicating with your family and friends.

For more info call 711 111 211 or visit [www.sabafon.com](http://www.sabafon.com)



**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The position of **Executive Secretary** in one of the leading travel companies is vacant for immediate employment. The office is located in Sana'a, the incumbent should have the following main working knowledge:

**HE or SHE should be:**

- 1-Responsible for secretary work of the Director.
- 2-Administrative work of the office.
- 3-Responsible for all the Arabic and English correspondence.

**Qualification Required:**

University Degree preferred in Business Management/Commerce.

**Professional and personal skills required:**

- 1-Fluent written English and Arabic skills.
- 2-Excellent computer Literacy : Word, Excel, Power Point and Internet.
- 3-More than 2 Years Experience in Secretary work.
- 4-Able to work under pressure.
- 5-Working hours 8am-1pm and 4pm-7:30pm
- 6-Good team player.

Any interested applicant should send his/her CV with a recent photo attached to [anwar320@hotmail.com](mailto:anwar320@hotmail.com) with in 10 days from the date of this advertisement.

**SAMSUNG**



SAMSUNG

**LCD TV 40"**



With a Free



**P270 DVD PLAYERS**

**As low as \$1650**



Sana'a : Al-Kasr Showroom. Tel.: 494797 - Commercial Center For Marketing Tel.: 209844  
Aden : LuLu Hyber Market, Aden Mall. Tel.: 263333 - Al-Hakami Stores, Shamsan Comm. Center, Tel.: 397288  
Abu Khaled Stores, Maala, TL:249231



# A call for cultural engagement

**While Muslim and western cultures and faiths are turning against each other, the need to establish an entity to promote cultural engagement in the real sense has never been more urgent. Humanitarian and social sciences international expert Prof. Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi narrates what should be done to achieve this dream.**

**By: Professor Dr. Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi  
Fellow of the Royal Historical Society - UK**

The Study of Islam and Muslims has always been the focal point of my work and a field which I have enjoyed immensely. As a British Arab, I lived in both the Arab Muslim countries and the West, in particular the UK, and have a thorough knowledge of their history, politics, cultures, societies, and religions. I have not only studied Islam in depth, but have lived under conditions where different ideas and viewpoints were expressed and debated at length. I had the privilege

of meeting leading figures from many Arab, Muslim and Western countries, representing the whole spectrum of Arabic, Muslim and Western thought and various schools. This experience enabled me to form a much broader approach and understanding to the field and compare the differing views of Arab, Muslim and Western schools. This is a very clear indication of an ability to build strong research links between the Study of Islam and Muslims in the widest sense. It also helped me to play a key and wider role in cultural engagement.

For me, the Study of Islam and Muslims is a field which should include a number of disciplines and approaches, looking both at the religion of Islam and also Muslims in particular social and historical contexts within a number of different

methodologies, e.g. political sciences, history, geography, anthropology, and Islamic Studies. The aim is to gain understanding of a broad range of issues relating to the study of Islam and Muslims, looking at the field in many different ways, and in many global contexts, spanning a variety of disciplines and methodologies; and distinct from traditional approaches where the focus has been to study Islam and Muslims from just one limited perspective. My philosophy is to offer interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary training in the Study of Islam and Muslims within a number of different methodologies, e.g., history, political sciences, geography, as well as traditional areas in Islamic Studies.

#### The Vision

In the last seven years (2000 – 2007), my main focus has been to set the new agenda for cultural engagement to generate an atmosphere in which a constructive dialogue can take place rather than a clash. I firmly believe that through education as the key means to undermine and defeat religious and secular fundamentalism, extremism and radicalism, we will contribute to achieve a common ground and space, mutual understanding and respect, and peaceful co-existence between people, nations, religions, and cultures.

I recognise that not everyone will agree with this vision, and I do not pretend to have all the answers, but at least I am putting forward some ideas on how to improve understanding between people of different religions and cultures. For my part, I have been



Prof. Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi

doing all I can to promote cultural engagements that will see people acknowledging and respecting their differences BUT willing to share a common ground and space, living and working together in a peaceful co-existence.

#### The First Phase: An Institute in the West - UK

One of my central aims has been to promote a greater understanding of different religions, and cultures in a multicultural context, for the benefit of the wider community, and to build bridges between the Muslim and Western worlds of learning at this crucial time. My first step focused on establishing Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Dundee. In the last seven years (2000 – 2007), the Institute witnessed a vast number of developments to promote such a vision. For example, to institutionalise the new agenda for cultural engagements and promotion of multiculturalism, I have taken several structural steps, including electing leaders of the local communities into the Institute Council and establishing Al-Maktoum Institute Students Society. The diversity of the Executive members' countries of origin was yet another reflection of the multicultural ethos I have developed at the Institute.

The issue of multiculturalism is also firmly at the heart of the Institute's academic work. This includes, for example, the creation of a professorial chair in multiculturalism. The Institute was the first higher educational institution in the UK to create such a post, currently held by Professor Malory Nye. The chair was created in response to the dire need to engage in a more serious and structured way in research and teaching in multiculturalism. We also established 'The Centre for Research on Multiculturalism and Islam and Muslims in Scotland', which aims to contribute to the development of awareness of multicultural Scotland. Among other activities, it organised an international symposium in Spring 2006 on the Challenges of Multiculturalism. A special think-tank 'Multiculturalism Research Unit' was formed. The theme of the Institute Summer School for female students from the UAE (including female students from Qatar University) in the last four years (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006) was multiculturalism and leadership. The Multicultural Awards for Scotland we started with the

support of the Scottish Executive (Government) and are designed to recognise and encourage individual and institutional contributions to multicultural Scotland in which religious diversity, cultural equality, social justice, and civilisational dialogue flourish. The

awards are made up of a principal award combined with seven smaller awards, including multicultural education, multicultural healthcare, multicultural in the media, multicultural in sport, civilisational dialogue, Arab-British understanding, and Scottish-Emirates relations. The Honorary Fellowship of the Institute is given to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to the multicultural vision. Sponsorship and support is given to local clubs and societies who have demonstrated their commitment to multiculturalism and for projects to further this aim. Last but not least, the Al-Maktoum Multicultural Garden was established for the Fun Factory Out-of-School Club at Park Place Primary School in Dundee, Scotland.

We have clearly also established a niche for ourselves as a unique institute with a timely new agenda. I am proud to be one of the key leading scholars behind the development, implementation, and dissemination of this new innovative agenda in the Study of Islam

and Muslims, which defined the field as Post-Orientalist, Post-Traditionalist, Multicultural, and Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary in its methodology as well as its theoretical framework. The aim of this unique new agenda is to challenge and develop current teaching and scholarship, recognising that this is a time for change in Islamic Studies. There must be better education at university level on Islam and Muslims in today's world which reflects the needs of our contemporary multicultural society. The agenda has been developed to bring scholars together from all backgrounds, based on a principle of mutual respect, in order to develop a common intellectual goal in the field of the Study of Islam and Muslims.

Indeed, there is an urgent need for a new agenda to develop Islamic Studies into the Study of Islam and Muslims to challenge both the more traditional approaches that were often faith based and excluded non-Muslims and the orientalist approaches that often alienated Muslims. Indeed, the call for a new agenda is truly timely and necessary, particularly to prevent the misguided and narrow interpretation of Islam which is the source of so many problems in many societies. It is only through education that we can work to undermine and eliminate extremism, radicalism, and fundamentalism. We are promoting this agenda through our teaching of postgraduate programmes, which address the needs of local, national and international need in the twenty-first century.

The success of the Institute comes from its new agenda. To reflect this, the Institute, during the past few years, has seen significant developments, which address the exciting growth of the Institute and the wider network of relationships. The Institute, for example, started the process of disseminating and implementing this new agenda by working internally at the Institute and externally

*"I am proud to be one of the key leading scholars behind the development, implementation, and dissemination of this new innovative agenda in the Study of Islam and Muslims, which defined the field as Post-Orientalist, Post-Traditionalist, Multicultural, and Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary in its methodology as well as its theoretical framework."*

nally with our sixteen partner universities. I feel also very proud that we have established and are in the process of disseminating our New Agenda in the Study of Islam and Muslims. The success of our academic programmes has been clearly acknowledged by a number of indicators, not least the glowing reports and comments we have received from our external examiners.

#### How can cultural engagement succeed?

In the last seven years (2000-2007), I have successfully established a leading distinctive national and international centre of academic excellence for developing teaching and research in the Study of Islam and Muslims of the highest standard. This is based on critical and analytical debate in which better understanding of Islam and Muslims can be developed – both for Muslims and non-Muslims – in an environment focused on a common sense of purpose and belonging. I feel proud that the Institute is playing a unique and key role in setting the new agenda in cultural engage-

ment and shaping and developing teaching and research in the Study of Islam and Muslim at university level in the UK and internationally. Indeed, the Institute is now a unique seat of learning and research-led institution of higher education, which offers postgraduate programmes of study (validated by the University of Aberdeen).

Through the Institute, I have also been actively involved in educating the next generation of scholars both nationally and internationally to enable them to face the challenges and opportunities of a diverse and multicultural world. Indeed, cultural engagement and multiculturalism are now at the centre of the Institute's vision and structure. Our multicultural ethos is visibly translated and implemented in our day-to-day operation. Our staff and students come from diverse national and cultural backgrounds including both Muslims and non-Muslims, and our research is taken forward by a team of internationally renowned scholars. For example, the plan is to balance our student profile by having 50% home students and 50% international students.

The Institute takes great pride in the continual growing success of our Master and PhD students. With the 14 graduates in 2006 (7 with PhDs), this brings the total of PhD and Masters Graduates to 54. Indeed, as the Founding Principal and Vice-Chancellor, I feel very proud that we have now a community of 54 graduates working across the globe at several levels. These students are to be highly commended for their hard work. They are truly one of the Institute's greatest assets. I am absolutely delighted that we are playing our part in educating the new generation of scholars who will take that message of cultural engagement and multiculturalism out into the wider world, and will go out into the world of work ready to challenge the old ways of thinking, teaching and learning.

In May 2007, the Institute celebrated the excellent achievements of the foundation and first stages of the Institute's history in this very short period. There is much I can look back on with pride. Indeed, the Institute's success is not only impressive but also well deserved. I feel very proud of the progress and growth in the last seven years. I am enormously privileged and honoured to be the Founding Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the Institute, which has been extremely successful in achieving its vision, mission, aims and objectives in the first seven years of its existence and beyond. It has been a remarkable period for the Institute, demonstrating our uniqueness at both academic and communities levels.

If the first year was the phase where we worked hard to set up the foundations for a successful endeavour, the following years were spent more on building on the foundations and developing our core competence. Our hard work in these seven years was in order to ensure that we continue to foster excellence in everything we do, especially in teaching and research. Indeed, the Institute has generated and established a very strong foundation and framework for solid and continuous delivery of results, which will help the Institute to continue playing its leading role at both academic and communities levels.

The Institute's achievements demonstrate our continuous success in developing our academic activities, in particular the development and enhancement of our research culture, enhancing the learning environment and community, our quality assurance systems, our new agenda, and the widening and strengthening of our international academic network and collaboration. Our reputation

4U

*If you need more information, or if you are interested to be involved in setting up this project email me at (a.elawaisi@gmail.com).*





# ent in the Muslim World

as a centre of academic excellence is well established, acknowledged, and recognised. Our name is now becoming more and more recognised nationally and internationally, at the levels that we hope will bring benefits to the Institute and to the communities that we are part of.

Through the Al-Maktoum Institute, I have been actively setting the new agenda for cultural engagement and encouraging dialogue across cultures and people which has enhanced greater understanding and appreciation between the Arab and Muslim worlds and the west in general and between the UAE and Scotland in particular. Indeed, the Institute has played a fundamental role in building progressive links between the UAE and Scotland. We have been continually striving to implement the vision to further facilitate the creation of mutually beneficial relationships between the two people. Our strategic aim was to help promote a two way traffic for this developing relationship between the two nations.

At the personal and professional levels, the last seven years of establishing and building the Institute have been challenging, demanding, hard and tiring work BUT an enjoyable experience. In each successful step, I have felt very

strongly that we are making a positive change and making history. I believe that we have made a groundbreaking development both at the academic and communities levels. Indeed, the last seven years have been inspiring years where we have set the new agenda for the Study of Islam and Muslims globally, and through the results of our major academic research we have begun a constructive dialogue and debate on how the future of the study of Islam and Muslims should be developed in the twenty first century.

## The Second Phase: An Institute in the Muslim World

In the last seven years, the Institute has been clearly focused upon the niche of Al-Maktoum Institute's Vision, Mission and New Agenda and should continue to maintain the passion and ambition demonstrated so far towards the strategic attainment of its collective goals at the local, national and international level.

Yet even while we celebrate our achievements, we know there is still much to do to promote our vision for cultural engagements, and to get our message across that we are playing a major part in trying to bring peace to the world. To deliver real impact in the Muslim and Western worlds in countering radicalisation and tackling extremism, we must engage with Muslims, at all levels, in a much more systematic way through much larger scale educational and cultural project. I firmly

believe that education is the key means to undermine extremist narrative and ideology.

To break down the barriers that separate and divide the contemporary world and to undermine/defeat/eliminate religious and secular fundamentalism, radicalism, and extremism, there is an urgent need to establish and develop this new agenda for cultural engagement through education in both the west and the Arab and Muslim world. Although we were successful in setting the new agenda for cultural engagement in Scotland and the UK at both academic and communities levels through the establishment of Al-Maktoum Institute in Scotland, we urgently need to establish this new agenda in cultural engagement in the Muslim world.

Through the Institute in Scotland, we have done everything possible to encourage a two way traffic in developing cultural engagement, in particular through serving the local, national, and international communities, and by forging international academic links, scholarship and collaborations with sixteen of the world's leading Universities in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Gulf States, and South East Asia, BUT this is not enough.

At this stage of setting the new agenda in cultural engagements, it is time to establish a similar institute in the Muslim world which will hopefully complete the circle of laying the foundation for the new agenda for cultural engagement. Indeed, to ensure really successful cultural engagement, it should be well established and accepted by all the peoples in the world including China, Japan and Africa BUT at least at this stage by both the Western and Muslim worlds.

Setting this new agenda in the Muslim world is at the top of my priorities in the coming years. I have devoted all of my professional and personal life to education. As a scholar and leader who established several academic projects nearly from scratch, I enjoy innovative, creative, and challenging big ideas. As a person and a professional, I am very passionate about progressive education, research and community welfare. One of my central arguments is that, to improve the quality of life in a country and to transfer that country into a knowledge-based society, the leaders of that country need to work with scholars to provide world-class educational opportunities for its citizens. In addition, I am a great supporter of higher education institutions in the Muslim countries who are trying to maintain their credibility as leading public institutions in their own country and be responsive to the local and international market needs. To address the needs of our local and international societies, and to prepare our graduates to take their place in developing their society, there must be better education at university level in the fields of humanities and social sciences,

*"I am still searching to find the right place and environment to establish a leading, innovative and creative academic and cultural institute where I can transfer my expertise, passion, extensive experience, outstanding knowledge and skills, and personal qualities."*



Intercultural Leadership Initiative is to help ease racial tensions at Lakeland Union High School, USA.

in particular Islamic Studies and the Study of Islam and Muslim.

**Invitation for partnership**  
To implement and develop this idea, I decided to change my place from being in a western higher education environment in the West and return back to the Arab counties. I have moved temporarily

on August 2007 to Sana'a in Yemen to establish for the University of Science and Technology a research centre "Humanities and Social Sciences Research Centre".

I am still searching to find the right place and environment to establish a leading, innovative and creative ac-

ademic and cultural institute where I can transfer my expertise, passion, extensive experience, outstanding knowledge and skills, and personal qualities.

After nearly eight months of living in this part of the world, I am more convinced of the need to establish this Institute in this region: either in Saudi

Arabia, or Yemen: Sana'a, or United Arab Emirates: Dubai/Abu Dhabi, or Qatar: Doha.

I am looking forward to continue working with colleagues in both western and Muslim worlds to face the challenges and opportunities of the twenty first century.

## 'Multiculturalism and Cultural Engagement: Mapping an Agenda for the Twenty-First Century'

To gain the support of the Arab and Muslim elites to this vision, I successfully organised a joint international academic symposium between Zayed House for Islamic Culture (United Arab Emirates) and Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (Scotland-UK) on 'Multiculturalism and Cultural Engagement: Mapping an Agenda for the Twenty-First Century', on Sunday 8 April 2007 at Emirates Palace (Abu Dhabi).

Five prominent scholars and intellectuals presented papers on the following topics:

- Multiculturalism and Cultural Engagement in the Twenty-First Century
- IslamicJerusalem as a Model for Peaceful Co-existence, Cultural Engagement, and Multiculturalism
- Education in Multicultural States: UAE as an Example
- How to Bridge the Trenches amongst Cultures, with special focus on the relation between Islam and the West
- The Challenges of Multiculturalism

In the conclusion of my paper, I presented the vision and argument for cultural engagement body and called for the establishment in the Muslim

world of an institute for cultural engagement. This call was adopted in Abu Dhabi Declaration for Cultural Engagement.

Following their intellectual discussions of these distinguished papers, the delegates of the Symposium have agreed to make the following declaration of their common ground, and shared values and goals (This final statement is known as Abu Dhabi Declaration for Cultural Engagement):

1. Multiculturalism not only requires a toleration of others, it also necessitates finding ways of mutual co-operation and cultural engagement between communities and individuals at all levels of society. It is both concerned with the mutual acceptance of, and mutual respect for, difference and the requirement for common ground.
2. The differences between our cultural and religious backgrounds are what give strength and importance to our communities, and the different cultural lenses that we each bring add to the pursuit of our common goal.
3. We share a common aim to build bridges, to provide a meeting point between the Muslim and Western worlds of learning, and to encourage scholarship,

academic co-operation, and cultural engagement at this crucial time.

4. We seek to work towards cultural engagement at all levels: within both academic and community contexts, and between religions and cultures, and also within and between religious and cultural communities.
5. The Arab Muslim history provides us with several examples of peaceful co-existence between peoples, religions and cultures. 'Umar's Assurance of Safety and the central principle of IslamicJerusalem provide a key model for multiculturalism, cultural engagement, and mutual understanding and respect. Indeed, IslamicJerusalem gives us a model of a common space in which people from different backgrounds can live together in a centre in which diversity and pluralism thrive.
6. We have to work at all levels to break down the barriers that separate and divide the contemporary world, particularly in the areas of cultural engagement and education.
7. To improve understanding between people we need to promote cultural engagement that will see people acknowledging

and respecting their differences, but being willing to work together in peaceful co-existence.

8. Multicultural education is the key means to defeat fundamentalism and extremism and will contribute to the achievement of common ground and space, mutual respect, and peaceful co-existence between and within people, nations, religions, and cultures.
9. We recognise the need to develop Islamic Studies at higher education level, to address the needs of our local and international societies, and to prepare our graduates to take their place in developing their society.
10. To develop Islamic Studies in the twenty-first century and enhance cultural engagement and constructive dialogue, universities in both Muslim and Western countries should ensure that the teaching of Islamic Studies should be in both Arabic and English languages (should go hand-in-hand)
11. The call for this new agenda for cultural engagement through education is timely and necessary, particularly to prevent the misguided and narrow interpretation of Islam, which is the source of so many problems in our societies.

## About the author

Professor Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi has been studying, teaching and researching in the Study of Islam and Muslims at both Arab and British universities for 30 years (from 1977). In addition, he received training in Political Sciences, History, Middle Eastern Studies, and Islamic Studies; and taught for a number of years in History departments, Religious Studies department, Arabic and Islamic Studies department, and the Study of Islam and Muslims Department. For him, education is not a career, it's a passion.

As a conclusion of the 'Multiculturalism and Cultural Engagement: Mapping an Agenda for the Twenty-First Century' Symposium, the delegates have agreed to work together to achieve a practical step, which is the establishment of an academic and cultural

institute in the Arab Muslim world, which seeks to enhance two-way traffic between and within people, cultures, and religions.

This institute will lay the foundations for the new agenda for cultural engagement through higher education. The mission of this institute should be:

- to educate the next generation of scholars and practitioners, locally, regionally and internationally, to enable them to face the challenges and opportunities of a diverse and multicultural society and world in the twenty-first century
- to be a research-led centre of excel-

lence, to promote intelligent debate and understanding on cultural engagement and Islam and the role of Muslims in the contemporary world to generate an atmosphere in which constructive dialogue and engagement will take place rather than a clash



## Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge. This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

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

OUR  
OPINION

## Stop another Nujood's story from happening

None denies that the Yemeni society is a male dominant one whereby men have the upper hand in almost everything. It is also known that early marriage for boys but especially for girls exists. However, the story of Nujood the eight year old girl who was forced into marrying a man 22 years older is a sign of warning.

In any society, it is the women and children that get affected most by social, political, economic, health or educational problems. If the child is a female then the double vulnerability automatically falls upon the child girl and makes her victim number one. She is the first to be sacrificed and the last to be fed. First hand information show that because of poverty, basic needs such as nutrition, health care or education get channelized to cover the male members of the house. The first priority is generally the father since he is the bread earner or even just because he represents the male domination if he does not work. Second comes the male children who represent the continuity of the family's name and future supporters, then comes the mother since she is the care taker and finally it is the female children who are seen as a wasted investment since they eventually get married and go away.

The issue is not a personal case of an eight year old girl who was forced to grow too soon and live with a man who demanded so much from her. It is the story of hundreds of Yemeni girls who have lost their innocence to a cruel society and harsh circumstances. It is the story of the absence of a good law, the lack of implementation and monitoring systems that make sure whatever legislation is being applied in reality. It is the story of an ever-growing social tension and economic deterioration that forces humans into a state of barbaric crudeness. What was not reported in Nujood's case is that her two elder sisters have been equally abused by the father and married off to abusive husbands at an early age, although not as young as Nujood. This shows a scary trend as the father's conscience is getting worse with the years as the age of his daughters sold out in a marriage contract gets younger. Luckily Nujood is the youngest female in that family.

It is my firm belief that the solution for such an issue must start immediately and through society mobilization. People must start taking responsibility for their neighborhoods and not turn a deaf ear as if it does not concern them. Although I appreciate the uncle's position to support her in her trial against her husband and take the role of the guardian, I cannot help but wonder where was he when the marriage was discussed or even during the two months this child was sexually and physically abused.

As educated Yemeni people we must start advocating for children's rights and stop such violations. We must live up to our Islamic teachings which tell us to stop harm from being inflicted on others.

The feedback we got in Yemen Times for following up this case is amazing, especially from outside Yemen. Salute to all the kind people who expressed their support for Nujood and wanted to help. Special thanks to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who offered support to Nujood.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Good education quality key to comprehensive development

By: Sadeq Ghassan

The United Nations claimed various countries to work harder toward achieving the goal "Education For All" by the advent of 2015 as part of a set of multiple development-related goals, which the international organization adopted and considered as new Millennium goals. To ensure hard efforts for reaching such goals, UNESCO released many reports, the most recent of which concentrated on improving education quality, helping people worldwide have broad access to schools and eradicating illiteracy among the male and female population by the advent of 2015.

The report analyzed the amount of progress that has so far been made toward achieving the six education-related goals in order to help all citizens of the underdeveloped and developed countries have good access to education. Although the Arab world appeared to have made successful progress in this area, the report revealed that many Arab countries still show no concern about education-related issues and what has been so far achieved is still below the level of sought ambitions.

UNESCO placed the Arab countries in the bottom of the list along with the African countries located to the south of the Large Desert and the other poorest countries in the sense that such countries are not concerned about improving education quality for preschool children (in kindergartens). According to the report, only 20 percent of children in the Arab countries are enrolled in kindergartens, thus indicating that the majority of children in the Arab world have no access to pre-school playgroups.

On the contrary, many countries worldwide such as Malaysia and Indonesia, which once were being labeled among the underdeveloped states, achieved commendable progress and sustainable develop-

ment in different areas within a short distance of time. These countries have strong faith that good education quality, as of the early grades, is key to comprehensive development in all the economic, political and cultural areas. "Acquisition of knowledge at a younger age is like engraving in stones" is a famous proverb of an Arab origin, but has been utilized by the Asian tigers and the likes.

Authorities and citizens in the Arab countries appeared to be indifferent toward education in kindergartens, or primary and secondary schools. The Arab states made no progress in increasing school enrollment rates, as the rate of school age enrollment grew by 11.3 percent only between 1999 and 2005 despite the fact that the Arab countries are known for their young population and high birth rates. As the average birth rate in the Arab world is estimated to grow by 5 percent per year, during the 6 year-span, the number of school age children jumped by 20 percent while school enrollment increased only by 11.6 percent. This means that 20 percent of school age children have no access to education.

The Arab world did make progress in illiteracy eradication over the past few years, but the situation remains almost the same because of the rapid population growth, observed during the same time period. Consequently, adult literacy remained below the international average, as only 75 percent of Arab population can read and write. In addition, the phenomenon of school dropouts is still high in the Arab world, mainly among girls, as 40 percent of them don't attend schools.

The teacher-student ratio, which is estimated at 1:40 is another challenge facing education in the Arab countries. In light of such scores, a teacher seems to be in charge of teaching 40 pupils, thus making it impossible for educators to monitor and assess students' progress at different rates, taking into account the individual differences among stu-

dents, in order to obtain the required feedback.

## The need for joint efforts:

The Ministry of Education and UNICEF have stepped up efforts to support 'Education for All' by giving priority to basic education and gender equity programs, focusing on the country's most vulnerable groups. UNICEF supports Yemen's Basic Education Development strategy and emphasizes accelerating girls' education through a novel approach in six Governorates: Sana'a, Hodeida, Abyan, Lahej Dable.

There, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF are conducting a series of district workshops to help communities and community leaders find ways to overcome barriers and challenges to girls' education. The workshops are designed to stimulate active roles of people with influence, teachers, religious leaders and parents to help them understand the issues that impact girls' education and generate an increase in girls' enrolment and retention in schools. Yemen is involved in the UN Girls' Education Initiative (a lynchpin of efforts to achieve education for all), and urgent efforts to promote girls' education are needed. UNICEF is mobilizing the media and has supported field visits by journalists to create awareness on gender parity and barriers to education.

In a practical demonstration of its commitment to the issue regionally, UNICEF is supporting the meeting of the Second Arab Media Forum in Dubai from 2-4 May on the Rights of the Child, where girls' education will be in sharp focus. Leading media representatives from the Middle East and North Africa will discuss the situation of girls' education in the Arab World in terms of enrolment, drop-out rates and social factors that influence girls' education. A team of Yemeni journalists will participate in the Forum and share stories from the field.

Source: Al-Thawranews.net

## I won't drink from seawater

By: Jamal Jubran  
jimy34@hotmail.com

For me, I am not ready to drink from the Arab Sea or the Red Sea under any circumstance due to health reasons, and not for reasons related with rejecting desire of Mr. President, who called on those objecting to the dire situation in the country to drink from seawater.

First, I suffer high blood pressure, which I genetically inherited from my mother, thereby preventing me to drink from seawater. Second, my kidney is ailing due to multiple problems. Surely, water from the Arab Sea or the Red Sea will not help cure my ailing kidney. Seawater will be - in case I drink from it - a primary factor in worsening my kidney problems. This salty water will also hinder me from becoming a healthy and productive citizen having the capacity to serve his homeland and defend its unity and protect it from any hostile plots. I want to be a healthy citizen in order to protect my homeland unity from highway gangs and thieves of child milk and bread.

Therefore, I will never drink from seawater in order to protect my health first, as well as make a modest and simple service for the future of this country whose citizens are suffering from numerous chronic diseases and pressing problems.

In fact, I was not surprised by Mr. President's statement saying "Those

objecting to the current situation in the country may drink from the Red Sea or the Arab Sea." Such statements are usually repeated in many occasions. What really surprised me and infected my stomach with ulcer are the various articles and writings in the official newspapers interpreting Mr. President's statement in a way different from what we understood.

Long essays and reports seemed to be playing the role of a defense-advocate and the last defense line for Mr. President. All these writings explained that Mr. President doesn't mean what his statement means, adding that such a statement was manipulated by those who heard it. They ultimately confirmed that Mr. President is right and credible while in fact we are the cause of the problem. Our problem is that we don't hear or understand well.

This reminded me of a joke when someone went to the engineer to have a problem in his Television receiver fixed. Unfortunately, the engineer was not professional or competent enough to fix the problem. After two days, the man paid the engineer for the repair and took his T.V. receiver home. Having it switched on, the equipment remained on for only five minutes for the problem to occur once again. The man then returned to the engineer and informed him of what happened but the engineer told him, "Your T.V. is working but you can't watch well."

I admit that this is a futile joke,

but it at least fits the futile situation we are living. Only such jokes can speak of our miserable conditions, sufferings and poor living standards.

There is nothing worse than a corrupt tenure, hypocrite officials and perjurers, who are only concerned about beatifying image of the miserable and dire situation, and transferring it into a paradise before eyes of the ruler.

Source: Marebpress.net

## SILVER LINING

## Unity &amp; the psychological cracks

People expected that the National Defense Council and the joint meeting of the president with the lawmakers last week would bring about concrete solutions to the nagging problems the country in general and the south in particular is going through. The outcome was disappointing as it was just an attempt from the president and his ruling party to disclaim their responsibility for the exacerbating problems people are painfully facing.



By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi

I believe the attack on the opposition in the joint meeting of the lawmakers by the president was not logical at all. It is not the fault of the opposition that angry rioters are going uncontrolled. It is rather the recklessness and indifference of the government towards such growing ailments. Neither the opposition nor the government is, of course, representing the genuine issues of the public. They have been busy themselves with the composition of the elections commission and the amendments of laws, while the people are hungry and need concrete actions to their living hardships.

The National Defense Council came up with a magic solution which is electing the governors by the local council representatives. This is not the stroke that broke the camel's back guys. It is rather corruption, lawlessness and absence of accountability. Current problems Yemen is facing do not need any further painkilling policy techniques but rather a national project to salvage the country from a potential collapse into chaos.

People are hunting for any tiny opportunity for employment. This is very clear in the case of the youngsters in Dhaleh province; when they heard of recruitment to the army, they rushed to it. They felt frustrated when their applications were rejected and went to the street to demonstrate their anger. I understand violent riots are wrong. I do not, however, dismiss the idea the government facilitated protests to go violent in order to find reasons for repressing them.

The president talked as if he were in another country. He said any inflicted people should seek the parliament to get their problems addressed. He forgot that the al-Ja'ashin people went to the parliament and the cabinet to complain the repression of their influential Sheikh but they were repeatedly let down. Similarly, the military pensioners shouted loudly and peacefully for over a year but with no echo. I believe there is a cultural background behind this hatred temper in the south, but it has also a psychological factor for the hatred to the repressive regime has psychologically transferred to the geography of the repressor. Such temper makes the protestors lose sympathy of the people in the north and this is the purpose of the people in charge. It is also because there are no experienced people to lead such protests which, of course, make their protests with no defined objectives and this is risky.

Now, the gulf is getting wider and wider. It is the emotional and psychological cracks in the hearts of the people that need also a prompt address. We remember how people both in the north and south were thrilled with joy and pleasure in the eve of May 22, 1990. It was cheerful and great moment when people were singing to the achieved dream with its potentials. The 1994 civil war was, however, catastrophic and caused serious cracks in the hearts and minds of the people. Now, this violent response to the growing angry protests broadens, adds fuel into injury and broadens the gap. I understand unless serious actions are taken to address the problems and consequent fractures, these cracks will widen further and this is not in the interest of a unified Yemen.

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



By Samer

YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

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

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com

Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief  
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO  
Khair Aldin

Managing Editor  
Amel Al-Ariqi

Feature Editor  
Mohammed Al-Jabiri

Copy Editor

Dana Patterson

Sub-Editor

Sarah Wolff

Head of News Dept.  
Mohamed bin Sallam

Senior Reporter  
Ismail Al-Ghabri

Head of Design Dept.  
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Mojailli, Almgidat Thabet, Hamed

## Offices

## Aden Bureau:

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

## Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,  
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157  
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz  
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

## Subscription rates:

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

## Policies:

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



# Yemen Press Review



**Al-Ishteraki.net,**  
affiliated with Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)  
Thursday, April 10, 2008

**Top Stories**

- A Blast hits Canadian Oxy Petroleum Company in Sana'a
- YHRO forms teams of lawyers to defend those detained over protests
- New official arrest campaign targets YSP leaders and activists in Abyan
- YSP leaders describe government as "politically bankrupt"

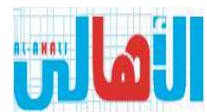
Member of YSP central committee Abdulhamid Talib held the authority accountable for the poor conditions of political detainees, among them reputed YSP leaders, who were arrested by police in the southern governorates last week, the website reported. It quoted Talib as advocating the relevant agencies to allow other party members to visit the detainees and bring them medicine and other necessities.

In a statement to the Ishteraki.net, Talib said that YSP political office member Hassan BaAum is thrown handcuffed in the Sana'a-based Military Police Jail, pointing out that BaAum is in an urgent need of medicine due to health problems he has been suffering for a long time. According to Talib, Ali Munassar Mohammed, another YSP political office member, is also detained in thrown in the same jail.

According to the website, the YSP Organization based in the Jawf governorate threatened to escalate protests in Jawf and other nearby governorates in event the authorities don't release the political detainees in various security and military prisons. During its Tuesday's meeting, chaired by Mohammed Abdullah Rakan, a YSP political office member, the organization warned that government's practices against activists in South Yemen is the clearest evidence of its 'political bankruptcy', as well as its being unable to manage the nation and address its problems.

The organization also warned the government against continuing its 'criminal acts against peaceful protests', quoting Rakan as saying, "We will not remain silent toward what is happening to

our brothers in the southern governorates." The organization demanded that the government must immediately release jailed YSP activists, call for a national reconciliation, create a serious strategy to eradicate corruption and conduct effective economic reforms to reduce poverty and unemployment, and improve citizens' poor living standards.



**Al-Ahali**  
Comprehensive Independent Weekly  
Thursday, April 8, 2008

**Top Stories**

- Dozens injured, others detained over protests staged by military service applicants
- Yemeni Economic Corporation refuses to appear before Parliament for the second time
- Abs community college staff on strike over poor living standards
- Late report claims that influential persons in South Yemen must be eliminated
- Opposition MP questions Oil Minister about delaying payment of oil revenues
- Kuwaiti official: We did not allow Yemeni people to enter our territory because most of them are beggars

The weekly reported that Gen. Abdullah Al-Rowaih, General Director of Kuwait's General Immigration Department told Al-Raay that Yemeni people were not allowed to enter Kuwait because most of them are beggars. He pointed out that the majority of Yemeni people residing in Kuwait entered the Gulf state via commercial visits, but they were arrested while begging in streets of main cities, and as a result they were deported from the country.

The Kuwaiti official was quoted as saying, "I personally caught as many as 13 Yemeni people over the past few months as I found out that they were begging in streets. Therefore, I ordered the competent authorities to deport them from our country and halt granting bails to the companies that facilitate their travel to Kuwait."

Al-Rowaih clarified that most of the Yemeni citizens enter Kuwait via commercial visit cards and the likes, and then start begging in the different governorates statewide by showing forged documents to by-passers that they

are in need of money. Al-Rowaih, due to be referred to pension on April 22, stressed that his department will not allow Yemeni people to enter Kuwait after it has been verified that the majority of them are beggars.

According to the weekly, begging – as practiced by Yemeni citizens – has taken various organized methods and styles to the extent of organized professionalism. Beggars often do so by reading the Qur'an in public places or using girls to beg in an effort to arouse greater sympathy. Additionally, beggars sometimes present documents signed by a judge or an area leader attesting that they need the money.



**Al-Sahwa Weekly,**  
Mouthpiece of the Islah Party  
Thursday, April 10, 2008

**Top Stories**

- Yemen receives as many as 157 trafficked children from Saudi authorities
- JMP caucuses announce collective boycotting of President's meeting, protesting against NDC's decisions
- Judiciary investigates 13 prosecutors for founding a judicial league
- Ruling party's local councilors in Shabwa distribute donated cares among them
- Court assigns Saturday for ruling on Al-Wasat weekly's issue
- Activists, journalists lash at authorities for not releasing political detainees

Yemen Human Rights Observatory (YHRO), a local organization, called for Yemeni authorities to immediately free all political prisoners, stressing the necessity of conducting a fair and all-out investigation on violations and human rights abuses practiced against the inmates, the weekly reported. It added that YHRO urged all local and international human rights organizations to press on Yemeni government to stop such abuses.

The human rights organization inquired about the fate of top opposition leaders among them Ali Monasar and Hassan BaAum and Yahya Al-Shoabi along with the well-known activists Ahmed Bin Frid and Ali Al-Gharib. According to the weekly, Hundreds of

journalists held a sit-in on Tuesday in Sana'a, demanding the authorities to free all political prisoners seized in various security and military jails, along with a well-known comedian Fahd Al-Qarni. The protestors released a statement, denouncing threats practiced against women journalists including Tawakal Karman and Nabila Al-Hakim.

The statement also advised Yemeni authorities to end their repressions and remain committed to the Constitution and Law. The protestors affirmed that they would go on their protests until all prisoners are freed. Mohammad Al-Harbi, a senior JMP leader, gave a speech during the event, accusing the government of being unable to lead the nation. He commented that the Yemeni government behaves in a way endangering the national unity.

The authorities have arrested several party members, dozens of protestors and deployed armored vehicles in several parts of the southern provinces to restore order. In recent months, protests spearheaded by former soldiers demanding pension rights have met a tough response from the security forces, and several people have been killed or wounded.



**Al-Nasir**  
26 September  
Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army  
Thursday, April 10

**Top Stories**

- President Saleh receives FBI Chairman, demands U.S. to extradite Al-Moayyad and Zayed
- President Saleh discuss national developments with Parliament members
- NGOs welcome legal amendments with regard to gubernatorial elections
- Educators in Abyan condemn vandalistic acts, demand instigators of violence referred to judiciary
- Instigators of violence transferred to the competent courts

Public Prosecution began investigating the irresponsible individuals, who instigate violence and vandalistic acts, thereby damaging public and private property in the areas of Al-Dhale' and Hablein, the weekly reported. Such rioters provoked broad official and

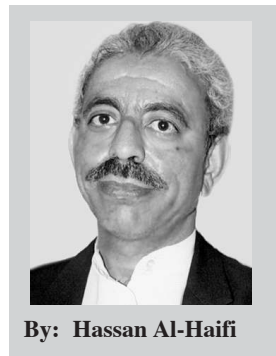
popular denunciation, because their actions, according to people, threaten the national unity, security and stability.

It continued, "During its meeting, the Cabinet discussed the report presented by Prime Minister Ali Mujawar over recent riots in some governorates. The report included measures taken by the follow-up committee headed by vice president Abdu Rabu Mansor Hadi to tackle violence and development issues as well as enhance public stability and ensure that those involved in the rioting receives fair trials.

After listening to the report, the Cabinet authorized a ministerial committee from the competent ministries to conduct field visits to these cities to follow up works in development and service projects there, emphasizing the necessity of reinforcing the law to overcome all obstacles facing implementation of these projects. Moreover, the cabinet decided to suspend current procedures for military recruiting until approving a new system suggested by the Defense Minister in this regard.

## COMMON SENSE

### Bombs away At best, an unpredictable future



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

It goes without saying if there is any method of being able to predict where the beloved country of Yemen is heading and how it is going to get there, it would be through an analysis of the trends which are outstanding in the various spheres and sectors that govern the way life is progressing. When one looks at the past week's events, it would seem that a really grim picture is being smeared on the walls of the crystal ball that helps tell the people of the country our future destinations. This unfortunate state of affairs is without a doubt the doings of the regime, which has forgotten that it is also made up of citizens of the country, who have taken it upon themselves to regard themselves as divinely ordained rulers, who have an inalienable right to rule by impulse and nothing else!

These are some of the highlights of last week's events: a list of mysterious bombings; the events in the South; the tragic resumption of fighting in the already war torn region of Sa'ada; the ongoing uncontrollable price hikes in just about everything the people eat, drink and even breathe (since pollution has now degraded the quality of air we breathe and the obvious costs of treating respiratory diseases and the maladies of poor sanitation disposal) and the continuing untiring efforts of the regime to do away with any semblance of freedom of expression and all channels of criticism against the mockery that the regime has made of Government. How do the leaders of this country truly find themselves aloof from all the heartaches of crying children whose mothers can no longer pay the cost of nursing milk, if they are unable to breastfeed their infants (as for disposable diapers; well they are now regarded as a luxury item)? How do the leaders of our land still find themselves possessive of the right of perpetual contempt for all those who criticize their incompetence and their corrupt and evil intents in just about everything they do "on behalf of the people, for the people, .... etc" and in total dishonor to the Constitution and laws of the country.

A late old friend of this observer once said that when laws are issued in Yemen, if that law is violated by anyone, especially in Government (especially if they are among the icons of the regime), then that law is penalized by the introduction of amendments that justify such violations and make our rulers free from all accountability, no matter how many they kill, no matter how much they steal and no matter how much they mismanage the affairs of state in Yemen and overseas! There is an apparent corollary to that statement that become bona-fide non-fiction as well: If anyone calls for the imposition of the law on an equal basis on all citizens and if anyone criticizes the unforgivable blunders of the Government and the several icons of the regime, then the respective applicable laws will be interpreted or amended to make sure that these critics never see the light of day again.

The recent spate of bombings do not help in "hiding" or disguising the sad state of affairs in the country and will hopefully not continue to receive the sympathy of the "West", even if they were against the uninhabited homes of Jewish citizens, supposedly destroyed by Houthis in Sa'ada, when in fact they are more likely to have been destroyed by the regime's covert agents, who carry out the dirty work of the regime, in an effort to disguise the real terrorists and their backers among the regime and to tickle the emotions of western supporters of the regime (<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/ServletServlet?cid=1207486208257&pagename=JPost%2FJPostArticle%2FShowFull>). Incidentally, on the latter, it was amazing to see how the Jerusalem Post would have first billing of such news before anyone else inside and outside of Yemen would even hear about it!

The future of Yemen is indeed bleak amidst all the agony and sorrow of children, who do not have access to any bright future as more than 55% of the children of primary schooling age in Yemen are not even enrolled in schools and these register to be a potentially explosive time bomb, the effects of which will be too scary to try to predict.

When words, declarations and commitments do not stand a chance of projecting their real true and implied meanings, the country is bound to be enmeshed in a cobweb of confusion and disarray, with the victims being the already silenced majority of the country, whose mouths have been silenced by the sheer agony of hunger as the regime has made even the basic commodities needed for sustenance as far away from access as the desks of Ministers, senior military and security officials and the magistrates of justice, the latter of whom seem to have forgotten that they are supposed to be the tireless guardians of our freedom and liberties and the real protectors of the Constitution of Yemen, and not the fat cats driving around in their luxury vehicles, which are their rewards for letting the boys in the regime carry on as they please at the exorbitant expense of their fellow citizens – the silent majority.

**Jamal Amir, Keep the Faith**

The recent closing and revocation of license of Al-Wasat Newspaper only goes to confirm that the regime does not yet have the cultural "feel" of democracy and the lack of enforceability of the right of the people "to know". By relying on its own engrained bigotries and stereotyping, the regime has turned to the insinuation that there is a North and South divide in the country to smear any genuine cries for genuine and concrete reforms in Government, some of which entail that a lot of those in the Government have really outlived their usefulness a long time ago. This is a lot more than could be said for Jamal Amir and the hundreds of Yemenis in the media, who still struggle with great difficulty to get the truth out to the people amidst legal proceedings, physical harm and slander!

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

## I want the Palestinians to win

By: Bradley Burston

JERUSALEM—"I and the majority of the Palestinian people are ready for a historic agreement based on international decisions that will allow a Palestinian and Israeli state to coexist, side by side, in peace and stability."

Jailed Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti, in letter to be read at ceremony marking 30th anniversary of Peace Now movement.

These are devastating times for people who believe that the Palestinians need and deserve and will live to see a state of their own. A poll taken last month showed that 68% of Palestinians believe that the chances for the establishment of a Palestinian state during the next five years are non-existent or weak.

That same poll found that fully 84 percent of the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza supported the Mercat Harav yeshiva massacre which killed eight students, and that nearly two-thirds back Gaza rocket attacks against Sderot and Ashkelon in southern Israel.

Opponents of Palestinian statehood, right wing and religious Jews and Christians at the fore, have seized on the poll as conclusive proof that Israel must abandon efforts aimed at aiding a two-state solution.

They have also pointed to the crushing despair of the Palestinians as evidence that Israel is finally winning an epic struggle for the future of the Holy Land. They quote Zakariya Zubeidi, until recently the charismatic commander of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades militia in the West Bank flashpoint of Jenin:

"We failed entirely in the intifada," Zubeida told Ha'aretz Ami Issacharoff in an interview published at the weekend. "We haven't seen any benefit or positive result from it. We achieved nothing. It's a crushing failure. We failed at the political level — we didn't succeed in translating

the military actions into political achievements ... We are marching in the direction of nowhere, toward total ruin. The Palestinian people are finished. Done for."

The right has taken a degree of satisfaction in this turn of events, even a measure of credit. The assumption has long been that in a battle of this tenacity, there can be but one winner.

It's a useful assumption if what you're after, deep down, is a guarantee that settlements will stay right where they are, with new ones to follow, and no end of new housing for veteran enclaves. It's a useful assumption if you believe that settlements are essential to Israel's security and its future.

I must, therefore, beg the right's pardon when I say that in the long run, the assumptions appear to me to be dead wrong.

I'm a fairly patriotic sort, as these things go. A California native, I truly love the nation, and especially the state, of my birth. I love this, my adopted homeland, no less. I deeply want Israel to be a success. And that is why I wanted the Palestinians to win.

Not win as in "throw the Jews in the sea." Not win as in "set the ground ablaze under the Jews' feet."

Win as in "gain what the Jews have gained — independence, statehood, responsibility over their own fate, and a sense of proportion over what is attainable in a world and a region of limited resources and manifold hopes."

When I was first here, and young, and knew nothing, it seemed to me that a pre-requisite for a viable, thriving and, yes, permanent Israel was to have a neighbour state of Palestine that was itself viable, thriving and permanent.

I spoke with many Palestinians who felt the same. Their vision of the future was an independent country alongside Israel, a place in which Palestinians could

earn a respectable living, live calm lives and raise well-educated children free of undue fear, ire, and resentment.

They bore wounds, emotional and, in some cases, physical, having directly to do with Israel. There were going to be ways in which, no matter how a deal was cut, Palestinians would be forced to swallow a number of doses of injustice. As would the Israelis. There were past injustices, lost birthrights, dashed hopes, shattered promises, which would never be redressed.

Still, the Palestinians with whom I chanced to speak, some of whom I came to work with and know, believed that a peace, an actual peace, a sulha to put a halt to a horrible history, would come with two states, Israel and Palestine.

Later on, when secret peace talks in Oslo yielded agreement between bitter enemies, there was a shocking sense of elation on both sides. It seemed that the path to two states had been found.

I know. You're not supposed to say that anymore. People on my side, people who have never spoken to a Palestinian in their lives, are doubtless cracking their knuckles at this point, getting ready to set me straight about these people, why the very word Oslo is an obscenity, why those Jews who spearheaded the process were criminals, why those Jews who supported it were dupes at best and traitors at worst.

It is in the direct interest of hardliners to do everything in their power to convince their side that this is a zero-sum game, that only one side can emerge triumphant.

In fact, though, there are two additional options, the first, of course, being that both sides can lose. The second, the one of which we've largely lost sight, is that with an element of compassion, both sides can win.

There are well over three million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and they are not about to go anywhere.

We lack the will, the capability and, in fact, the failure of conscience that it would take to persuade or force them to leave.

There are more than seven million Israelis, and they are not going anywhere either. A poll conducted last month by Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Center showed that 82 percent of Israeli respondents said rocket attacks either had no bearing on their decision to stay in Israel, or even strengthened their resolve to do so. True, peace, as a concept and a hope, has gone underground. But a close examination of all recent polls showing the depths of Israeli and Palestinian fear and anger, is that a majority on both sides still believes in a two-state solution — even people who, for the present at least, reject the idea of negotiations, argue for attacks against the other side, and have no faith in their leaders or the those of the enemy.

It may be many years before Palestinians and Israelis can again begin to feel confident in a future that promises their children life. But none of us can abide in this present, a reality in which we kill their children and they kill ours, in which we kill their hopes and they ours.

If there is to be peace, people who have sacrificed and suffered, Israelis and Palestinians alike, will face further sacrifices, further pain, further renunciation of long-held dreams. This is the cost of peace. There are those who will continue to try to convince their side that the price of permanent war is somehow preferable.

I am no longer young, but I still want the Palestinians to win. For that to happen, both sides have a lot of growing up to do. I hope I live to see it.

Bradley Burston is Senior Editor of Haaretz.com, the newspaper's online English language edition. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at [www.commongroundnews.org](http://www.commongroundnews.org).



# Yemeni men support the use of contraceptives to help plan families

By: Hamed Thabet

Most Yemenis believe they should abstain from sex until married, but afterward, they think it's their duty to have as many babies as they can, no matter if they are poor, unhealthy or their wives are too weak to bear many children within a short period. However, other Yemeni families practice family planning using the available forms of contraceptives on the market.

Yemen's population is growing 3.1 percent annually and will double in 23 years. "Yemen has one of the world's highest fertility rates, so this is where we look for solutions," says Hans Obdeijn of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

According to UNFPA studies, the average Yemeni woman has six children, and if growth and fertility rates remain as they are, Yemen's population will reach 60 million by 2050.

"No one is of the opinion that Yemen should stop growing, but it should be slow and controlled," Obdeijn said, explaining, "Birth control is a term and a method to help women avoid becoming pregnant. It includes a wide range of methods ranging from contraceptives to avoiding intimacy."

Some Yemeni men do believe that it's not a matter of quantity, but quality, according to Nadim Al-Saqaf, who has two sons. Although he has the ability to

have more children, he prefers to keep his family smaller and well cared for. "I don't want 10 children playing in my house if I can't raise or educate them well," he said, "Hence, I've decided to have fewer, but well-educated and well-behaved children."

Hassan Al-Auodi, 26, says that because he's poor and doesn't have enough money to raise a child, he uses condoms whenever he's intimate with his wife, claiming that this helps him avoid a financial debacle which would affect his child's future.

Other Yemeni men promote using birth control pills in order to space out births. For example, Hani Al-Harazi, who has two wives, supports their decision to use the pill. "Of course I want children, but not until later because at the present time, I want to be happy with them and enjoy life," he says, adding, "Imagine my two wives being pregnant at the same time!"

"If you don't want to have a baby, there are two main options: either abstain or use contraceptives," Al-Harazi says, "I advise all men to enjoy their life before having children."

Sana'a pharmacist Ahmed Thabet says that in the past, men used to be very embarrassed when they would come in to buy condoms; however, in the past two years, things have changed and buying condoms is something normal.

"I sell 15 boxes of condoms a day, with each box containing three condoms," he says, "Most of my customers

are between the ages of 18 to 35, but particularly 25 to 30. These days, even the number of women coming in by themselves to purchase contraceptives has increased."

Married for five years, 28-year-old Ali Al-Naqib already has three children and has begun using condoms to help plan his family, worrying about his wife who has become weak due to giving birth every year. Additionally, he decided to begin using contraception when he realized that due to her annual deliveries, his wife has been subjected to sub-par services and treatment at public hospitals in Yemen.

Some Yemenis use birth control to cope with residential space problems because their homes aren't big enough to accommodate many children. With five children living in a three-room house, Ali Al-Maznaei explains, "I don't have enough money to move. My house is too crowded now, so this is why I won't have any more children until I become wealthy."

Al-Maznaei uses the "rhythm" or "pull-out" method where he doesn't ejaculate inside of his wife; however, this is the least reliable form of contraception because women also may conceive from pre-ejaculation fluids, which contain a small amount of sperm, emitted during intercourse.

Miriam Ali, 23, vows that she'll have no more than four children after she marries, explaining, "I want a rest and it's not good for my health to have many children. If my husband forced me to have children, for sure, I would use contraceptives."

Na'isa'a Mohammed, 25, says she'll ensure that any prospective husband will agree – before marrying – to have only the three or four children she desires. "And it must be during a spaced out time period over four to five years," she said, adding, "I'll use methods myself in order not to have children because I have to ensure that I can raise my children well."

Dr. Faezah Sanai, a gynecological specialist working in Yemen, says, "Most women in Yemen deliver a child every year, which obviously is dangerous for both the health of the mother and the child."

When a woman delivers many children within a short time, she faces health problems such as anemia, calcium deficiency, exhaustion and loss of blood in the womb because when a woman delivers children within such a

short period, her womb weakens, which can cause bleeding. Having no rest from childbearing also causes the same problem, as Sanai notes, "Many women have died in my clinic because of these problems."

He points out that a major problem in Yemen is that there's no awareness about the availability of contraception, with even women themselves having no knowledge about family planning.

Sanai says, "I advise them not to have children every year, but many tell me that it's not in their hands because their husbands want children, so they must obey. However, I advise them to use contraception in order to have a rest."

Many products helping to prevent pregnancy are available in Yemen, such as condoms for men, female condoms, intra-uterine devices or IUDs, diaphragms, Depo-Provera, spermicides and the contraceptive pill and loop, which is a metal object used to prevent pregnancy.

## Condoms for men

The male condom is one of the best methods of contraception that couples can use. It's a rubber prophylactic closed at one end like the finger of a glove so that when a man uses one, it stops the sperm from entering the woman. One advantage of using male condoms is that a husband can take an active part in family planning and it's not just left to the woman to worry about.

A condom should be used only once. Most condoms are made of rubber latex, although others are made from lamb intestines, called lambskins.

## Female condom

The female condom is a fairly new barrier method; thus, it's not as widely available as the male condom and is more expensive. However, it's very useful when a man either won't or can't use a male condom. It's like a male condom, except it's bigger and worn inside the vagina.

It's a good idea to try practicing using the female condom before having sex, getting used to touching it, etc., as it may help one feel more confident about using it during sex. To use, insert the condom into the vagina right before sex and use it only once, like a male condom.



Women birth control contraception pills.

## Spermicides

Spermicides are chemical agents that kill sperm and stop it from traveling up into the cervix, which is the lower part of the uterus, or womb, where babies develop. Spermicide comes in different forms, including the sponge, vaginal pessaries (which melt in the vagina), gels and foam, which are squirted into the vagina using an aerosol. Young people who use spermicide mostly choose foam.

To use, put the spermicide into the vagina at least 10 minutes before having sex. One dose of spermicide usually works for one hour. Spermicide is recommended for use in tandem with other methods of contraception, such as condoms or diaphragms.

## Diaphragm

A diaphragm is a rubber disk inserted into the vagina before sex so that it covers the cervix, or neck of the womb. To protect against conception, place a spermicide into the dome of the diaphragm before inserting it.

Women must be fitted for a diaphragm at a doctor's office or clinic because diaphragms come in several different sizes.

A diaphragm must remain in place at least six hours after intercourse before it can be safely removed, but shouldn't remain in place for more than 24 hours.

## Cervical cap

round rim that is placed into the vagina to fit over the cervix, or neck of the womb. A cap is smaller than a diaphragm, but sometimes more difficult to insert.

A woman must go to a doctor or clinic to be fitted for a cervical cap, as it too comes in several different sizes.

## Depo-Provera

Depo-Provera is a form of progestin, similar to the hormone in the birth control pill. A doctor must inject Depo-Provera with a needle into a woman's buttocks or arm muscle and she must receive an injection every three months for this method to continue working.

## IUD

An intra-uterine device or IUD is inserted into the womb by a doctor. Some IUDs release copper and others release progesterone, a form of progestin. An IUD must be replaced annually by a doctor.

## Contraceptive pill

Birth control pills are a synthetic form of the hormones progesterone and estrogen. They prevent ovulation by maintaining more consistent hormone levels. With no peak in estrogen, the ovary receives no signal to release an egg; thus, no egg means no possibility of fertilization and pregnancy.

The pill also thickens the cervical mucus so that sperm can't reach the egg



Men Birth control methods, condoms.

# Yemeni doctors' stress can affect their quality of care

By: Jamal Al-Najjar  
For Yemen Times

A recent study conducted a few months ago by a group of Sana'a University medical students found that Yemeni doctors suffer physical and psychological symptoms of stress as a result of administrative, financial and social issues while working in public hospitals. Not only is such stress negatively affecting the physicians' health, it also is affecting the quality of health care they give to patients.

The study sought to identify the source and symptoms of stress among Yemeni physicians at Sana'a teaching hospitals, namely Kuwait, Al-Jumhuri, Al-Saba'een and Al-Thawra.

After surveying 405 physicians in varying medical specializations, the study revealed that the majority experience physical symptoms of stress such as feeling exhausted, back pain, gastric upset and heartburn.

Additionally, they complained of psychological symptoms of stress including difficulty awakening in the morning and weak concentration. These symptoms were coupled with habits that indicate psychological stress, such as tapping the fingers.

Regarding stress-related diseases,



Compared to the number of field doctors, the number of administrators at Yemeni public hospitals is large.

the study showed that 12 percent of the sampled physicians had peptic ulcers, eight percent had dermatological diseases and seven percent suffered hypertension (high blood pressure). Physicians with peptic ulcers experienced more physical and psychological symptoms of stress, whereas those with dermatological diseases particularly

had more psychological stress.

According to the study, financial difficulty is the primary source of stress for physicians and general practitioners, whose average monthly income is around YR 40,000 (approximately \$200). Because such salaries can't cover their basic needs, consequently, physicians remain preoccupied with

their financial situations and this preoccupation can negatively impact a physician's performance.

Administrative and systematic problems also are among the outstanding factors causing both physical and psychological stress-related diseases. How public hospitals are run, patient admission procedures and performing medical checks-up are all obstacles to physicians who can't handle them without encountering difficulties from hospital administration.

Compared to the number of field doctors, the number of administrators at Yemeni public hospitals is large and because of this, administrators consume a great portion of hospital finances in the form of rewards at the expense of doctors.

Additionally, patients face difficulties because they must deal with numerous administrators during any medical check-up or surgical procedure, which delays their treatment, according to Dr. Mohammed Al-Mahbashi, an ear, nose and throat, or ENT, specialist at Al-Thawra Hospital.

"Administrators are supposed to help both patients and doctors, but what we see is the opposite. For example, sometimes, if we need a piece of equipment, we must follow a lengthy routine of procedures and wait a long time until the administrators meet to decide upon

it," Al-Mahbashi explains.

He further claims that Finance Ministry officials pay no attention to hospitals' financial needs, thereby hindering doctors' performance.

His colleague, Al-Thawra general practitioner Mohammed Al-Allie, says that due to negative administrative routines and lack of proper services at Yemeni hospitals, many patients wait a long time either to conduct medical tests assigned by their doctors or to receive the results of such testing.

"We face multi-faceted problems at our hospital, especially those related to handling patients. For example, some patients remain in the admissions department more than a week in an effort to obtain their results of medical investigations assigned by their doctors, such as those needing echocardiography [a type of heart examination]," Al-Allie laments.

He adds, "Some are delayed because they can't pay the testing fee. In this case, we as doctors feel obliged to discharge such patients and ask them to do these tests outside of the hospital."

Al-Allie points out that the majority of patients are poor and can't afford the often-costly check-ups. "For example, one particular type of tuberculosis test is very expensive and patients can't afford it, so this affects both patients and doctors because the treatment pro-

cedure doesn't meet patients' needs," he explains.

The study also found that female physicians were subjected to more stress and consequential diseases than males, which was attributed to the dual responsibility placed upon female doctors, who have both their work duties at the hospital and home duties such as caring for their children. Married physicians – both males and females – were less affected by stress than singles.

Doctors also affirm that crowding at public hospitals yields both physical and psychological problems. As a solution, they suggest establishing qualified hospitals in all Yemeni governorates with the required equipment and specialized personnel to enable physicians to offer quality health services.

"Public hospitals in Sana'a are crowded because they receive patients from all areas of Yemen," Al-Allie points out, "If the government would build and equip hospitals in the various governorates, the situation of both patients and doctors would improve."

Finally, the study recommended immediate steps be taken to provide hospitals with required equipment and grant doctors more authority in decisions related to dealing with patients and conducting medical investigations.



Iranian Foreign Minister Manoucher Mottaki to the Yemeni Times:

# All Muslim and non-Muslim states should open their embassies in Iraq

Interviewed by: **Mohammed Bin Sallam**  
sallammoh@yahoo.com

“Yemen and Iran are deliberating and exchanging viewpoints on bilateral, regional and international relations, Iranian Foreign Minister Manoucher Mottaki says, adding that his current visit to Yemen sought to discuss numerous issues, specifically those related to economic and development cooperation.

“We’ve had positive dialogue in Yemen, focusing on how to enhance bilateral relations between our two countries,” he maintains.

Mottaki, who arrived in Sana’a last Tuesday and flew home Friday, said, “From the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic [of Iran], Yemen is an effective nation in the region. Yemen and Iran have formed a joint committee due to commence meetings in the coming months. Iran may adopt many projects in Yemen, particularly in electricity.”

He continued, “We stressed the necessity of implementing what has been agreed upon, mainly because Yemen and Iran enjoy good capacities and both states intend to embody their agreements and projects in reality.

“We talked with Yemen’s Minister of Electricity and Energy, Mustafa Bahrani, about possible means of resolving any pressing problems and removing obstacles hindering implementing a huge electricity project in Yemen under Iranian supervision. This project is projected to play a vital role in meeting Yemeni citizens’ growing power demands,” the Iranian official

went on to say, “Moreover, we agreed that trade chambers in both states should hold a joint focus group to strengthen communication between businesspersons and investors in both nations.”

Interviewed at the Taj Sheba Hotel, Mottaki pointed out that bilateral relations between Yemen and Iran must develop at different levels and spheres. “We are in urgent need of establishing good diplomatic representation and enhancing communication between the peoples of both nations,” he noted.

Mottaki stressed the necessity of media playing a notable role in fostering positive and transparent relations between both countries. “A crucial part of the good diplomatic representation we’re planning to establish should be reflected in media activities and cooperation. We discussed this subject, as well as how to strengthen media communication between the peoples of Iran and Yemen,” he said.

“We agreed to work on improving the performance of media outlets in Yemen and Iran in order to be more capable to deal with developments in both nations and diagnose their positions on various regional and international issues,” he added.

“Yemen and Iran enjoy very good relations in economic and political areas, with such relations being based on common interests, traditions and history. We’re trying to do our best for the sake of improving citizens’ living standards in both countries,” he noted.

Regarding Iran’s position on what’s occurring in Iraq, Mottaki said, “Iran has clear positions on what’s happening in various parts of the world. For example, it strongly opposes American dominance over small states, with the



Iranian Foreign Minister Manoucher Mottaki.

Iranian leadership’s positions receiving support from peoples in the region.

“In our view, the U.S. administration is unjust and oppressive, as evidenced by its treatment of mainly Islamic nations. Westerners seek to wage a fierce attack against the Islamic community, which views their democracy as contravening our values and ideologies. The U.S. administration waged a military attack on Iraq without consulting the international community, with the Iraqi people opposing its ongoing occupation of Iraq up until now.”

He continued, “I can confirm that the U.S. is experiencing a dilemma after

finding itself mired in a swamp of blood in Iraq. President George W. Bush’s policies have failed in Iraq, as well as in other territories. We can see that these U.S. policies are facing strong opposition, even from within [from the American people themselves].”

According to Mottaki, under Bush, the U.S. administration has sought to hold others accountable for its mistakes, but “in my opinion, the era of American dominance in the region has come to an end and the American people will contribute to changing their government’s current policies.”

The Iranian minister further maintains that foreign troops must be pulled out of Iraq, while Arabs and Muslims, as well as the international community, seriously should support the legitimate Iraqi government. Once all foreign troops leave Iraq, the legitimate Iraqi government must be exclusively in charge of running the nation.

“Because foreign companies such as Blackwater – which claims to have maintained security in Iraq – have committed the most flagrant crimes in that country, such firms must be put on trial and their operations in Iraq banned,” Mottaki said.

Additionally, “The various Muslim and non-Muslim countries should open their embassies in Iraq mainly because that nation’s stability and security is key to enhancing the stability of the entire region. But in order to achieve this goal, we must support Iraq’s government.”

Regarding the Palestinian cause, the minister stated, “We support unity between Hamas and Fatah and we back Yemen’s initiative in this regard. There’s an invisible conspiracy meant to serve the United States at the expense of establishing an independent Palestinian state, but this conspiracy must be revealed.”

He continued, “The Palestinian history of struggle and resistance and the brave Palestinian people affirm that it’s impossible for anyone to bargain with or confiscate Palestinians’ constitutional rights.”

Regarding Iran’s nuclear program and American and Western concerns about it, Mottaki noted, “The U.S. administration should address the issues of its own people in order for us to judge whether it is capable or has the

power to discuss issues related to other nations’ nuclear dossiers.

“Those who have used the atomic bomb in the world and tested the third and fourth generation of nuclear weapons aren’t entitled to advise the world to use such energy only for peaceful purposes. The U.S. administration has no right to express its views about other countries’ peaceful nuclear activities.”

Additionally, he noted, “According to the laws and regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran is entitled to possess nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and thanks to our strong will and determination, we’ll continue our activities.”

The Iranian foreign minister visited Yemen at the invitation of his Yemeni counterpart, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, who received him at Sana’a International Airport. The two officials discussed numerous regional and international issues.

Mottaki also met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

In a statement to local media, the Iranian official highlighted the available facilities that may help develop cooperation between Tehran and Sana’a at varying levels.

Saleh briefed the same media outlets on regional and international developments, affirming his government’s determination to enhance regional cooperation with Iran.

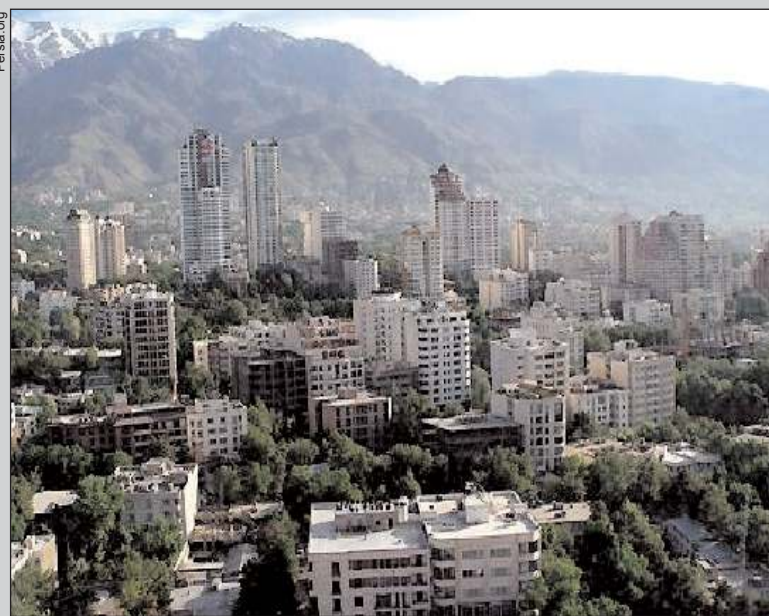
Additionally, Al-Qirbi told media personnel that there are malicious parties – whom he refused to name, but accused of opposing any good relations between Sana’a and Tehran.

The Iranian foreign minister has visited Sana’a twice within the past two years.

## About Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran (Jomhuri-ye Eslami-ye Iran) covers 636,300 square miles (1,648,000 square kilometres) in southwestern Asia. It is bounded on the north by Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, and the Caspian Sea, on the east by Pakistan and Afghanistan, on the south by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and on the west by Turkey and Iraq. Iran also controls about a dozen islands in the Persian Gulf. More than 30 percent of its 4,770-mile (7,680-kilometre) boundary is seacoast. The capital is Tehran (Teheran).

Among Middle Eastern countries, Iran is unique in many ways. Its official language, Farsi (Persian), is Indo-European. While Iran adopted a modified version of the Arabic alphabet, it refused to lose its separate identity after the establishment of the Arab Empire in the 7th century. From the beginning of the Islamic era there was strong support for the house of ‘Ali, Muhammad’s son-in-law. ‘Ali’s claim of succession to the Prophet was disputed by the Sunnite majority, but his supporters proclaimed him first *imam* of their party. The party came to be called Shi’ah (Shi’ism), from *shi’at ‘Ali*, “party of ‘Ali.” When conversion to Islam began, Shi’ism was adopted by many, even though it was considered heresy at the time. Despite persecution the Shi’ite branch continued to grow, and in the 16th century it became the official religion of Iran. The concept of divine or sacred kingship, which originated in Mesopotamia, was an integral part



of pre-Islamic Persian political culture and persists in the beliefs of the Shi’ites, who hold that sovereignty evolves from God and is expressed through his spokesmen on earth.

Iran is the only country in the Middle East that uses the Islamic solar calendar, which originated before the beginning of the Persian Empire (550 BC). After the conversion of the vast majority of Iranians to Islam, the ancient Iranian calendar was adjusted to begin with the year of the Prophet Muhammad’s immigration to Medina (the *hijrah*), equivalent to AD 622 in the Gregorian calendar. To convert from the Islamic solar calendar to the Gregorian, 621 or 622 years, depending on the time

of year, are added to the Iranian year. (For example, the Iranian year 1361 began on March 21, 1982, and ended on March 20, 1983.) *No-ruz* (New Year’s Day) falls on March 21, the vernal equinox. The Arabic lunar calendar is used for religious observances.

Iran has played an important role in the Middle East, as an imperial power and as a factor in rivalries between East and West. Its strategic position and its vast resources, including petroleum and natural gas, make it a nation to be reckoned with in the modern world.

Source: Iranian Cultural & Information center.

## Advertisement

A leading and well established medical company representing many international major companies in Yemen is seeking applications from candidates fulfilling the following qualifications for the post of Sales Manager in the Imaging division of the company:

The candidate should be a qualified graduate in science / engineering (Electronics) or with medial back ground. Should possess an experience of at least 3 years in sales and marketing of Imaging products like CT-Scan, MR systems, X-ray & Fluoroscopy systems and Ultrasound systems.

The candidate should be highly proficient in using computer software like MS-Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet Explorer, Outlook Express etc...

Apart from other standard computer s/w’s. Should have high capability in understanding different imaging modalities and have high skill in making customer presentations on products. Should be highly skilled to read, write & speak and communicate in English. Knowledge of Arabic is preferred. The candidate should be prepared to travel extensively in Yemen and sometimes abroad.

Applications should be sent to the following address in order to reach not later than 30/4/2008.

Address to be sent: Fax: 537 021, Sana’a



**PASSPORT LOST**  
Mr. Jeganathan Fernando Goodwin, an Indian citizen having a valid passport number (B3120469) issued in Piruchirappali-India, has lost his passport during his visit to Dhamar  
If found, kindly call Jotun Yemen Paints Co. Ltd.  
01-635081 02-820547/8

بلاغ عن فقدان جواز سفر

الاج جودوين جيگاناثان، هندي الجنسية صاحب جواز سفر ساري المفعول برقم (B3120469) صادر من بيروتشيرابولي-الهند قد اضع جواز سفره خلال زيارته لمدينة ذمار. الرجاء ان يعثر عليه الاتصال بشركة جوتن يمن للدهانات المحدودة على الارقام التالية: ٠٢- ٨٢٠٥٤٧/٨٠ ٠١-٦٣٥٠٨١



# Nokia, growing together

**NOKIA**  
Connecting People

At the Growing Together 2008 conference held last week in Johannesburg, Nokia revealed new products that accelerate the company's leadership in emerging markets. Also introduced was a local mobile email solution exclusively for people in South Africa. Highlighted by the Nokia 5000, which offers a 1.3 megapixel camera and a large QVGA display – Nokia's first megapixel cameraphone at this price point – as well as music and email capabilities, each new product brings a balance of features, design and affordability to meet every lifestyle and budget. The new mobile devices are expected to begin shipping by the third quarter, with an expected price range from ₨50 to ₨90, before applicable taxes or subsidies.

With the industry's largest portfolio of mobile phones and support for more than 80 languages, more than one billion people worldwide currently use a Nokia device. In recent years, the majority of first-time buyers have come from the emerging markets. However, a significant shift is under-

way - while the first-time buyer market continues to grow, the number of replacement buyers – consumers seeking to replace their current mobile phone with a newer, more advanced model – has also grown substantially in emerging markets. In 2008, Nokia anticipates that for the first time, the number of replacement purchases in emerging markets will exceed those of first-time buyers.

"People in emerging markets like Africa are increasingly demanding more from their mobile phone – their expectations and demands in terms of functionality and design are similar to people in any other part of the world – they simply have less income at their disposal," says Alex Lambeek, Vice President, Entry, who oversees Nokia's efforts in emerging markets.

"From the introduction of Nokia's most affordable megapixel cameraphone, to a localized email solution in South Africa, we believe today's announcements demonstrate Nokia's firm commitment to bringing products and services that serve the varied needs and tastes of people in emerging markets."

## Nokia unveils four new devices and local email solution aimed at 'replacement buyers' in emerging markets.



### Nokia 5000 – a powerful package at an accessible price

Boasting a 1.3 megapixel camera, a high resolution QVGA display, FM radio with recording functionality, MP3 ringtones and more, the Nokia 5000 will set a new standard for functionality and affordability. For mobile entrepreneurs as well as people on the move, the Nokia 5000 supports email and other essential benefits including Nokia Xpress Audio Messaging, Bluetooth and GPRS connectivity. The Nokia 5000 is expected to begin shipping in the second quarter of 2008 with an estimated retail price of ₨90, before subsidies and taxes.



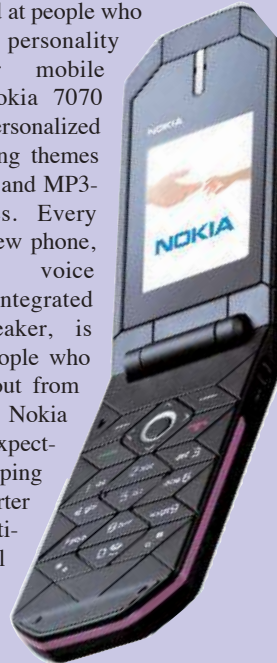
### Nokia 2680 slide – entertainment and Internet access in a sliding design

Nokia's first slide device for entry markets, the Nokia 2680 slide is a slim cameraphone that offers a balance of ease of use and entertainment functionality, including an FM radio with recording capability and MP3 ringtones, and core mobile phone features such as an expanded phone book. Its integrated digital camera ensures spontaneous moments are captured and shared. The Nokia 2680 slide is expected to begin shipping in the third quarter of 2008 with an estimated retail price of ₨75 before subsidies and taxes.



### Nokia 7070 Prism – stylish, fold design sets it apart

Featuring a distinctive folding design with geometric patterns and external light effects, the stylish Nokia 7070 Prism is targeted at people who express their personality through their mobile phone. The Nokia 7070 Prism offers personalized content, including themes and wallpapers, and MP3-grade ringtones. Every aspect of this new phone, including its voice recorder and integrated hands-free speaker, is designed for people who want to stand out from the crowd. The Nokia 7070 Prism is expected to begin shipping in the third quarter of 2008 with an estimated retail price of ₨50 before subsidies and taxes.



### Nokia 1680 classic – first phone, first camera

Nokia's most affordable cameraphone to date, the Nokia 1680 classic offers essential mobile phone functionality with the added benefits of a basic digital camera. The phone with VGA camera and video recording features one-touch access for photos and videos. For families or small businesses, the Nokia 1680 classic also offers phone sharing functionality and easy access to email. The Nokia 1680 classic is expected to begin shipping in the second quarter of 2008 with an estimated retail price of ₨50 before subsidies and taxes.



## Joint ventures

### Mobile Email for South Africa

With the demand for mobile email on the rise, Nokia and Webmail International (PTY) Ltd introduced Webmobile, a locally hosted mobile email solution exclusively for South Africa. The solution, configured for the new Nokia devices launched today, will be available in the second quarter of 2008.

### Nokia Siemens Networks Village

Nokia Siemens Networks announced that its Village Connection with Internet Kiosk will enable people in remote villages to access the Internet. Internet Kiosk allows them to connect, and access online information with an opportunity to improve their quality of life. Nokia Siemens Networks has introduced Internet Kiosk to its Village Connection to provide a holistic solution which brings voice, SMS, and Internet access to rural locations untouched by the power of the

Internet and mobile communication. Internet Kiosk will utilize the IP backhaul connection of the solution.

The key challenge for the rural connectivity is affordability, and typically consumers with low income in rural areas can spend only very little on mobile and Internet services. Nokia Siemens Networks Village Connection addresses these challenges by combining technology with business model innovation to create a solution which is self sustaining, easy to implement and benefits everyone involved.

For rural consumers Nokia Siemens Networks Village Connection is, in many cases, the only way to access voice, mobility and the Internet. It helps them communicate across geographic boundaries, and access information to realize greater business and social opportunities. In areas such as healthcare, education and business, the power of

the Internet can transform lives. By enabling the people to have affordable access to online information services such as commodity prices, healthcare and education, Village Connection Internet Kiosk will improve the wellbeing, knowledge base and economic prospects of rural consumers. Village Connection Internet Kiosk also provides rural consumers with shared access models similar to those available to Internet café customers in urban areas.

### South African pupils seek to improve maths results using a mobile phone

Nokia, the South African Government's Department of Education and not for profit organization Mindset Network today announced the launch of "M4Girls", an innovative pilot project using Nokia 6300 mobile phones loaded with educational material to help improve



mathematics performance of Grade 10 girl learners.

"This project demonstrates the potential of mobile phones to enable social development and improve education especially in underprivileged areas," says Micheline Nturu, Head of Nokia's Community Involvement Programs in the Middle East and Africa. "Young people are increasing-

ly using their phones to gain knowledge via the internet, social networking and interaction with their peers, so it makes sense to introduce learning through these devices. By combining Nokia handsets with innovative content, and the enthusiasm of the teachers and pupils this scheme creates an opportunity to really help create new skills and opportunities."

*Nokia is the world leader in mobility, driving the transformation and growth of the converging Internet and communications industries. We make a wide range of mobile devices with services and software that enable people to experience music, navigation, video, television, imaging, games, business mobility and more. Developing and growing our offering of consumer Internet services, as well as our enterprise solutions and software, is a key area of focus. We also provide equipment, solutions and services for communications networks through Nokia Siemens Networks.*





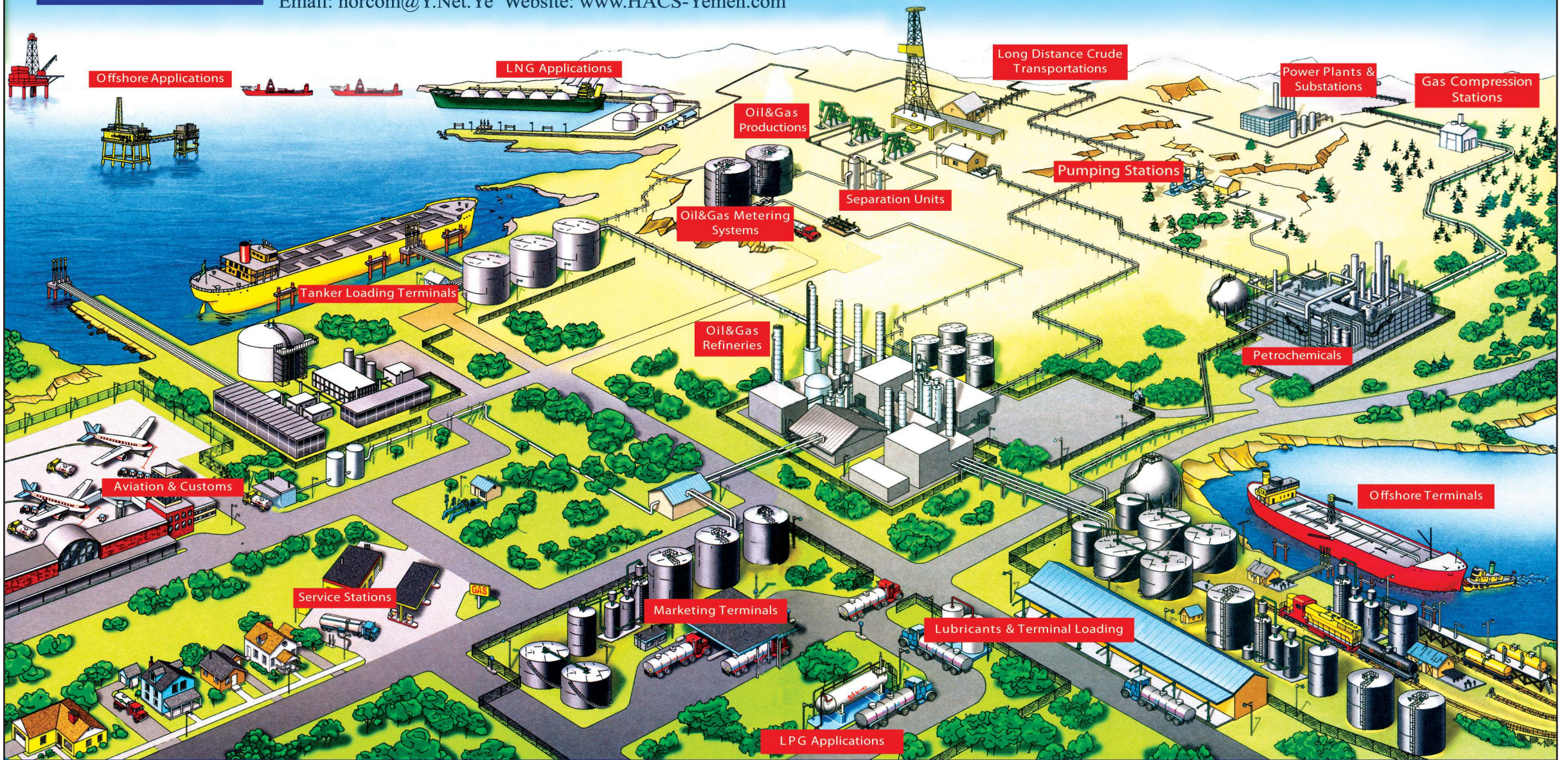


**HORIZON AGENCIES & COMMERCIAL SERVICES (HACS)**

P.O. Box : 15408 Sana'a , Republic of Yemen  
 Tel : + 967 - 1 - 421508 / 421532 Fax : + 967 - 1 - 421514  
 Email: horcom@Y.Net.Ye Website: www.HACS-Yemen.com

**Served Markets**

**Typical Market Applications**



**AGENT FOR:**



**الشكل الجديد وبنفس الطعم**

**الطاقة الحقيقية**

www.metcotrading.com

**\$769 Only for 7 days**

شواطئ اليمن للسياحة والسفر  
 Showate Al-Yemen for Travel & Tourism

**Our first flight... with non-recurring advantages**  
 Gain advantages of our first flight to Sharm el Shiekh

- The Program includes return tickets: (Sana'a- Cairo- Sharm el Shiekh- Cairo- Sana'a).
- Reception & Farewell at each of Cairo & Sharm el Shiekh Airports.
- One day accommodation at 5 Stars hotel in Cairo, including breakfast and the tourist program.
- Five days accommodation at 5 Stars hotel in Sharm el Shiekh, including breakfast- lunch- dinner (the three meals) and the tourist program.
- The program includes transportation in each of Cairo & Sharm el Shiekh.
- You can also buy tickets by installments through "Credit of Good Faith" from International Bank of Yemen.

The first flight date is 27- April- 2008.

Amurthalal

JATA  
 Showate Al-Yemen Travel  
 P.O. Box 2040  
 10000 Sana'a, Al-Badr Building, 5th floor  
 Tel: 01-511160/01-511161  
 Fax: 01-511162  
 E-mail: showate@yemen.net.ye  
 Web Site: www.yat.net.ye

TRAVCO GROUP  
 KITE  
 MCTCO



# Some Reflections on the Asian Journalists' Perceptions on Value-based Journalism: A Survey

By: Dr P.L. Joshi,  
University of Bahrain,  
Email: prem@acadjoshi.com'



Globalization has churned up a paradigm shift in value system in many professions including journalism. Consequently, journalists today may face ethical dilemma daily in their jobs. There are varied opinions that journalists are ethically challenged (<http://www.poynter.org/column.asp?id=53&aid=75962>) though some claim that journalists are more ethical than people realize.

Recently, in the world of professionalism journalism, some discussions have been made on Value-based journalism (VBJ) in order to derive journalism to serve more to public interest and for a self-regulatory mechanism. Essentially, the concept of VBJ focuses on journalist's ethical values and attributes. Professional sentiments or attitudes to the profession are translated into work values held by journalists. In 1997, Borden stated, "values are generally beliefs that make sense of work related activities and serve as judgment criteria during decision making scenarios". It is also argued that if the owner or founder of some publication ignores

ethical values, then the journalists who work with them will not be able to adhere to all the ethical standards". Ethical values and codes may make journalists more responsible. And, if journalism is to be professionalized, its practitioners must adhere strictly to such values. (<http://www.asiapac.org/fj/cafepacific/resources/aspac/phil.html>)

With a view to enlighten and create more interest in the public on the evolving concept of Value-based journalism, Dr. Prem Lal Joshi, Profssor, University of Bahrain, has conducted an online global survey of the perceptions of journalists who are engaged in newspapers reporting, on a universal set

of core values which they are supposed to follow or adhere to. A questionnaire was used to solicit the replies. Dr. Joshi has also conducted few public interest surveys in the past on other issues.

Out of 126 responses, 55 (43.6%) respondents who participated in this survey were from Asian countries. Additionally, more than half of the Asian respondents were from India, followed by China-HK. However, only 6 responses were received from the Middle East region. On an overall basis, responses were received from 36 countries. A total of 1,164 emails were sent out to more than fifty countries. Here, the responses from Asian journalists are mainly discussed.

About 93% respondents from Asian continent stated that they adhere to 'Truth and Accuracy' while reporting news and views. This was similar to the findings on an overall basis for the five continents. This finding is important because public may judge daily by how accurately newspapers portray news stories and headlines. If public believe that newspapers lack credibility, it would be difficult for them to survive.

Furthermore, more than 80% of respondents from Asia stated that they also follow or adhere to Verification of facts, Public interest, Objectivity, Independence, Accountability Fairness, Completeness Courage and Inquisitiveness in their reporting of news and views. Aggressiveness and loyalty were ranked the lowest in the order. These responses were very similar to an overall basis; however, significant differences were also observed in responses between Asia and Rest of the World (ROW). Results reveal significant differences in respect of Truth and Accuracy ( $t=3.3$ ;  $df=124$ ;  $p<0.01$ ), Fairness ( $t=2.88$ ;  $df=124$ ;  $p<0.01$ ), Objectivity ( $t=2.21$ ;  $df=123$ ;  $p<0.05$ ), and Transparency ( $t=2.06$ ;  $df=122$ ;  $p<0.05$ ). The mean scores for Asian respondents was lower than the respondents for the ROW. This may indicate that respondents from other continents may have more tendencies to adhere to these values than the respondents from

Asia in their reporting of news and views. Responses from India reveal significant difference only in respect of Truth and Accuracy ( $t=2.37$ ;  $df=124$ ;  $p<0.05$ ) with the ROW. However, one of the respondents from India commented, I think by and large the media is objective and independent. Trouble is taken to research and confirm facts. Another states, We have to follow trend or else we will be called unprofessional and then it will be too hard to survive in this profession. We have got principles, values but we can change the world what is in our hands is just to change our attitude towards the world. Another respondent states, "we must maintain an independence from others whom we cover in interviews or in news stories. We should not be unduly influenced even if we agree with others opinions".

One of the possible reasons to be less transparent in their responses for Asia may be attributed to the fact that according to various international transparency surveys, a majority of the countries in Asia are one of the least transparent

(<http://www.international.ucla.edu/article.asp?parentid=5299>). In this survey, responses were received from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, China-HK, Bhutan and a few countries from the Middle East region.

However, a comparison of responses from India and other countries within Asia also showed some significant differences in their responses. Particularly, mean scores in respect of "Aggressiveness" was higher for respondents from India than for the respondents from other countries in Asia. Female journalists have a higher tendency to adhere to "Fairness" than male journalists. This may be attributed to the gender characteristics because males may be generally inclined to be aggressive.

Other findings were that respondents from Asia also have somewhat a higher tendency to resort to sensationalize the news stories. One respondent strongly stated that media sensationalism is almost out of control with respect to human decency and values.

Sensationalizing may be when it relates to general public. Respondents also stated that there are a number of hindrances in following a value-based approach to journalism. Some of them may be editorial problems, lack of creativity, access to information, political control and pressure, and commercial and marketing strategies of the media houses.

In view of the sensitivity of the topic, the survey may have suffered from certain limitations, e.g., small sample size, response bias, some of the value indicators may be related. Nevertheless, the survey findings provide some reflections on the concept of VBJ, which is still in the evolving process. Once the former Editor of Dainik Tribune, India, Vijay Saigal strongly urged the need of VBJ with honesty, truth and non-partisan reporting as corner stones. He further added that accountability to one's profession should be upper most criterion in the mind of a journalist, who, despite having the power of the pen, should also try to exercise self-restraint while reporting on issues of public interests."

Table 1. Percentages of responses on Value-based journalism in Asia and Rest of the World

Set of universal core values	Overall Basis	Rank	N*	Asia N= 55	Rank	India N= 30	Rank
Truth and Accuracy	96.2	1	126	93.0	1	92.6	1
Verification of facts	90.4	2	126	88.2	2	86.6	4.5
Public interest	89.6	3	126	86.8	3	86.6	4.5
Objectivity	89.2	4.5	125	85.8	5	88.0	3
Independence	89.2	4.5	126	86.2	4	84.6	8.5
Accountability	88.2	6	126	85.8	6	86.6	4.5
Fairness	87.8	7	126	83.6	8.5	84.6	8.5
Completeness	85.8	8	124	84.6	7	88.8	2
Inquisitiveness	84.2	11	122	80.6	10	81.2	11
Courage	83.6	9	125	83.6	8.5	85.4	7
Transparency	83.2	10	124	79.6	11	82.6	10
Compassion	81.0	12	125	78.4	12.5	80.0	12
Perseverance	80.4	13	123	78.4	12.5	76.6	13
Avoiding violation of others privacy	77.8	14	126	75.2	14	74.0	14
Loyalty	69.0	15	125	68.4	15	68.2	16
Aggressiveness	66.2	16	125	67.4	16	68.6	15

\* N=number of responses

## Termination Notice

It is hereby notified for the information on general publication that the franchise granted to M/S Injaz Learning Center, Baghdad Street Sana'a, Republic of Yemen has been terminated by karROX on 14th July, 2007. Any use of karROX Logo, Name, Identification Mark, Courseware, Certificate or any other mean that shows any affiliation with karROX by M/S Injaz Learning Center is illegal. Any person/ organisation dealing with the center shall do so at its own risk and karROX shall not be liable for any act done by M/S Injaz Learning Center or its owners/employees.

By Order Of  
karROX Technologies Ltd.  
Mumbai, India.

**karROX**



The United Nations Population Fund is pleased to announce the following vacancy:

UNFPA National Programme Officer for Population and Development (NOB Level)

Under the direct supervision of the Assistant Representative and the overall guidance of the Representative and the Deputy Representative, the National Programme Officer is responsible for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNFPA's Country Programme Action Plan 2007-2011 outputs in the area of population and development.

### Duties and responsibilities:

- contribute to evidence-based advocacy and advancing a policy oriented agenda in the area of population and development;
- manage effectively internal and external financial and technical resources to achieve results. Moving from basic research to programme and project management, to programme design and conceptual leadership;
- establish, maintain and utilise the existing network of relations with existing and new Implementing Partners, as well as with other national and development partners for strategic alliances, in order to keep on top of issues and to achieve the required CPAP population and development outputs;
- provide technical support to Implementing Partners in the preparation and implementation of work plans, and monitors and assesses progress;
- represent UNFPA Yemen in key meetings and gatherings relevant to the population and development programme areas.

### Qualifications and Experience Required:

- Master's degree in population, demography or other related and relevant social sciences;
- at least five years of professional experience in programme/project management in the public or private sector preferably in the area of population development or related fields;
- demonstrated management skills;
- fluency in oral and written English and Arabic. Knowledge of a third UN language is an asset;
- initiative and sound judgment, ability to work under pressure;
- interpersonal skills and ability to work in harmony with colleagues;
- excellent negotiation skills, advocacy and public speaking;
- excellent computer skills;
- Yemeni nationality only

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience.

Please send your application to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a.

Deadline for application: **27 April 2008**

Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified.

UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status.

UNFPA is offering equal opportunities however qualified females are strongly encouraged to apply.



**dia**  
social justice in development



DIA is a French international development NGO working in Yemen, Morocco, Cape Verde and Comoros. Its main objectives are the promotion of social justice and the improvement of living conditions for the most marginalized people. DIA has been active in Yemen since 1999 mainly in Taiz Governorate in two geographical areas (rural areas along the Red Sea coast by implementing Watsan projects and Taiz city for the social integration of the marginalized people). Our current projects are funded by the European Commission and the French Embassy in Yemen.

DIA is looking for:

**Education Coordinator**

Intervention area: Taiz and surroundings

The Education Coordinator will be under the responsibility of the head of project and will be in charge of all education activities towards the targeted beneficiaries.

### Main Tasks

- To improve marginalized children access to education in the zone of intervention
- To mobilize the communities for the education of children
- To support the local associations involved in the education of marginalized children
- To involve the local authorities in a collaborative process on the education issues of marginalized children

### Profile

Professional experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 3 years of educational projects management</li> <li>• Social background notably with marginalized people</li> <li>• Experience of a humanitarian organisation may be better</li> </ul>
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent ability to write and speak fluently English (or French) and Arabic.</li> <li>• Ability to communicate easily with people and to create strong and fair relationship</li> <li>• Knowledge in computer (Excel and in Word Software)</li> <li>• To be able to analyse the context and the situation among the marginalized community</li> <li>• To be able to create tools linked to activities</li> <li>• Good knowledge of humanitarian issues and stakes</li> <li>• The Education coordinator must be autonomous and should be dynamic, motivated, patient, flexible and diplomatic.</li> </ul>

Deadline to apply: **April 15, 2008**. (CV + letter + works certificate in English) have to be left on DIA office before this date.

Address: Kalaba / next to Al Saffa' Mosque – Taiz

Phone: 04 274 927



**CLASSIFIED  
ADVERTISEMENTS  
PAGE**



Hostmann-Steinberg huber group  
PRINTING INKS أجبار طباعة

Distributors :  
**Thabet Son Corporation** مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة  
Showroom Telefax 269924 - Sana'a - Mujahed St. - Beside Al-Basha Grocery

**YEMEN TIMES**  
Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

ASHIBAMI AGENCIES  
For Stationery Supplies  
المركز الرئيسي : صنعاء شارع الزبيرى  
243064 - 630000  
كشور : 422069 - 422059  
E-mail: ashibami@y.net.ye  
www.ashibami.com

Post-it 3M  
Scotch

## Pencak Silat: The art of self-defense

By: Jamal Al-Najjar  
For the Yemen Times

**P**encak Silat is a set of martial arts first appearing in Indonesia in approximately the sixth century A.D. and quickly spreading to Malaysia and Singapore. Both of the words "pencak" and "silat" mean self-defense, but they are used in different regions of Indonesia. The two words were combined in 1948 to describe the hundreds of regional self-defense styles.

Throughout the archipelago's history, this martial art has been used in Indonesia to defend the islands or help expand its territory via trained warriors. Although it went underground during the period of Dutch colonization, Pencak Silat played a large role in Indonesia's 19th century war of independence.

Pencak Silat is based on combining physical and psychological processes, with the physical side focusing on animal-like movements essential to defending oneself, such as kicking, grappling and hitting. Unlike many other types of martial arts, Pencak Silat trains its fighters to use weapons alongside the various elements of hand-to-hand combat.

The psychological aspect derives from Indonesian ideologies about mental control and critical thinking. Some forms of this martial art focus completely on spirituality and mysticism, rather than battle combat or self-defense.

With its two sides, physical and mental, play functions under four principal values: moral, technical, art and sport. These dimensions are passed down over time from master to student through oral recounting and demonstration.

Some Pencak Silat styles, which are more artistic rather than brutal, involve dance-like motions and intricate hand and footwork. Other styles include movements dating back to medieval times, while other movements developed only half a century ago.

Following a protocol it signed with Indonesia, Yemen was the first Arab country to import Pencak Silat in 2003, the same year Yemen's Pencak Silat Federation was formed.

Eddie Napalaraya, director of the International Pencak Silat Federation, visited Yemen in July 2004, during which he appointed Mohammed Al-Faqih, who is advisor to the Youth and Sports Ministry, as president of the Pencak Silat Arab Federation, which is located in Sana'a.

The federation immediately began its activities in 2003 by sending coaches to Indonesia to receive proper training and establishing Pencak Silat branches in 10 Yemeni governorates, including



The performance of Pencak silat Yemeni students is good and witnesses a continues improvement. However, shortage of support is one of the biggest obstacles in front of these students .

Sana'a, Ibb, Dhamar, Sayoun, Hodeidah, Aden, Taiz, Mukalla and Abyan.

According to Al-Faqih, there are more than 300 Pencak Silat students in Yemen, with Taiz topping the 10 governorates for the number of students due to support from the private sector, particularly Hayel Sa'eed Anam Group.

In 2004, Yemen participated in the international Pencak Silat championship in Singapore, placing fifth among the 12 participating nations.

As a sport and an art, Pencak Silat was exported to Europe in the 1960s when Indonesians of Dutch descent emigrated, eventually making its way across the ocean to the United States

during the ensuing decade.

The sport arrived in the Arab nations in 2003. Besides Yemen, Pencak Silat also is taught in Jordan, the Palestinian territories, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, but through individuals. "Yemen is the only Arab nation with a Pencak Silat branch," noted Fakh Al-Deen Jamal, the Indonesian coaches' translator, adding, "While there are no Pencak Silat federations in other Arab countries, the game has spread through individuals who both learn and then teach it to others."

Pencak Silat in Yemen suffers a financial shortage from the Youth and Sports Ministry. "The federation receives YR 3 million per year, which is

too little, as we need at least YR 20 million annually for proper training and to increase the number of participants," Al-Faqih explained.

He further revealed that Yemen's Pencak Silat branches haven't received their budgets or uniforms since the beginning of 2008, maintaining that their Yemeni coaches receive only YR 10,000 per month.

"With only two Indonesian coaches in Yemen, we still need one, so we were surprised when the ministry issued a resolution canceling an Indonesian coach under the pretext of budget shortages because such a decision is made only by the federation, not the ministry," Al-Faqih pointed out.

CCTV  
Permeates anything  
Observers everything  
Doesn't Miss a thing  
Panasonic like nothing else

ALFA شركة ألتا المحدودة  
الوكيل الوحيد في الجمهورية اليمنية  
Panasonic ideas for life



**CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - SAL**

CONSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL AND HEAVY CIVIL PROJECTS

- ⊕ Petrochemical plants, refineries.
- ⊕ Heavy, light industrial plants.
- ⊕ Power and desalination plants.
- ⊕ Fuel and water storage tanks.
- ⊕ Oil fields ancillary installations.
- ⊕ Air purification for industry
- ⊕ Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- ⊕ Offshore structures and underwater works.
- ⊕ Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- ⊕ Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities.
- ⊕ Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
- ⊕ Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs.
- ⊕ High quality buildings & sports complexes.
- ⊕ Water treatment plants, reservoirs & distribution systems.

Sanaa  
Tel: (967-1) 441638  
Fax: (967-1) 441630  
E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye

Aden  
Tel: (967-2) 377328  
Fax: (967-2) 377716  
E-Mail: cccaden@y.net.ye

بثقتكم كبرنا  
وبحجم الودائع تفوقنا

شكراً لثقتكم  
www.cacbank.com.ye

CAC BANK  
بنك التمويل التعاوني والريفي  
Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank

وراء... اي شيء قيمة  
ووراء... كل قيمة إستفادة

خليك مع غمضان...  
خليك اكثر تواصل...  
خليك اكثر نوكيا...

**FAGOR** The best of Spanish products

Zubayen Trading & Industry Company شركة زبيّن للتجارة والصناعة  
Sana'a (441575/571) Fax: 441579, E-mail: zubayen1@y.net.ye  
Aden (205060/1/2) Fax: 205063, E-mail: zubayenA@y.net.ye

ZTCO

**NOKIA**  
Connecting People

**MAXIMUM TELECOM**  
ماكسيمام تيليكوم

733 11 33 55  
إتصل على هذا الرقم  
لعرفة سعر اي هاتف نوكيا