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Inside:  **5** Yemeni child laborers, a culture of forced maturity **7** Signal for New Religious Tolerance **8** Yemen's Anti-Corruption Fight: Are we winning?

8-year-old girl's divorce is finalized while a law to prevent early marriage stalls

Eight-year-old Nojoud is now safe after an anonymous donor paid her 30-year-old husband to divorce her. Although this chapter of her life has closed, there are many other Yemeni girls who still suffer from early marriage and its consequences. Feminist groups in Yemen are urging the Parliament to legally define a minimum marriage age. However, there is a long way to go before girls like Nojoud can be free from detrimental early marriages.

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, 16 April — A few months ago, Nojoud was an average 8-year-old girl from a poor family. Then Nojoud's father decided to marry her off to a man more than three times her age. Overnight, Nojoud became a wife, enduring physical and sexual abuse for two months until she ran away with the help of her uncle and filed a court case against her father and her husband.

On April 15, with support from her lawyer Shatha Mohammed Nasser and Judge Abud Al-Khaleaq Ghowber, Nojoud paid her way out of marriage with YR 100,000 from an anonymous donor in the Emirates and happily became an 8-year-old divorcee.

"This was the first time a girl came to us for a divorce. We are going to do our best to push the parliament to change

the marriage law," said Judge Ghowber. "I am so happy to be free and I will go back to school and will never think of getting married again." Nojoud said joyfully. "It is a good feeling to be rid of my husband and his bad treatment."

She said that she felt lucky that she did not have to continue in such a marriage and a live out a life similar to her sisters, who had been married young [though not as young as Nojoud] and have already bore children.

"Although Nojoud does not know her real birthday, I believe this day she was born again and it would be apt to celebrate this day as the first day of her new life," said Nasser.

Early marriage in Yemen: According to the International Center for Research on Women's 2007 statistics, Yemen is one of 20 developing countries where early marriage is common. Nearly half of all Yemeni girls are married before the age of 18.

Most women have their first child immediately after their first menstruation cycle and are likely to have a child every 12 months during their reproductive lifespan. Yemen's fertility rate is extremely high, with an average 6.3 children per each woman, and the country also has some of the highest mother and infant mortality rates worldwide.

According to research on early mar-



Nojoud receiving gifts in Yemen Times office in Sana'a.



Nojoud with her lawyer in the court.



Nojoud after her divorce.

riage in Yemen from Oxfam and the United Nations Population Fund, there are severe physical consequences that result from early marriage and subsequent early childbirth such as nutritional anemia, post-partum hemorrhages, obstetric fistula (a disorder that affects the bladder and causes leaking of urine or feces), plus mother and infant mortality.

Additionally, many girls like Nojoud develop irreparable psychological complexes from early marriage and the forced sexual encounters that accompany it. Early marriage also contributes to divorce and family problems.

"I hated nights because they usually meant that my husband would come to my bed. I used to run from him and he would chase me and beat me and do his thing. I pray that my younger sisters do not face the same fate," said Nojoud. Now the 8-year-old is living with her uncle and his family in relative safety.

A divided society

The Yemeni personal status law stipulates that a girl cannot be wed until she is ready for intercourse, which in essence leaves the judgment up to the girl's parents or guardians.

Judge Ghowber explained that early marriages are usually the fault of the

parents. He insisted that there must be increased awareness among Yemeni families in order to avoid these serious mistakes.

A number of Yemeni religious scholars, including some in the Evaluation and Jurisprudence Committee in the

Parliament, say that since there is no religious statement defining a minimum age for marriage, then early marriage is perfectly fine if not desirable.

Other scholars and religious authorities, like Judge Hamoud Al-Hitar, the

Minister of Endowment, want to create legislation to prevent parents from marrying their girls off at a young age and to prevent religious sheikhs from endorsing such marriages.

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Child Marriage Around the World
 Percentage of girls marrying before the age of 18

1 - Niger	76.6
2 - Chad	71.52
3 - Bangladesh	68.7
4 - Mali	65.4
5 - Guinea	64.5
6 - Central African Republic	57.0
7 - Nepal	56.1
8 - Mozambique	55.9
9 - Uganda	54.1
10 - Burkina Faso	51.9
11 - India	50.0
12 - Ethiopia	49.1
13 - Liberia	48.4
13 - Yemen	48.4
15 - Cameroon	47.2
16 - Eritrea	47.0
17 - Malawi	46.9
18 - Nicaragua	43.3
18 - Nigeria	43.3
20 - Zambia	42.1

Source: ICRW 2007

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Government closure of newspaper triggers international concern

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For the Yemen Times

SANAA, April 16 — International non-government organizations raised concerns about the situation of freedom of press and expression in Yemen after the closure of Al-Wasat weekly newspaper.

Scores of journalists and human rights activist staged a sit in on April 16 in the capital city of Sana'a, condemning the information minister's decision to withdraw Al-Wasat's license. Protestors said the minister's decision represents a serious violation against freedom of the press and is part of a series of violations that increased early this year.

Article 19, an international human rights organization which defends and promotes freedom of expression, said it is alarmed by the recurring attacks against freedom of expression in Yemen. The organization observed three violations against freedom of expression and the press.

"In the past week alone, Tawakkol Karman, director of Women Journalists Without Chains, received death threats from an unknown caller. Comedian Fahd Al-Qarni was arrested by security agents, and the Al-Wasat's license was withdrawn on orders from information minister Hassan Al-Lawzi," it said in a statement released on April 14. The organization added that the ban on YemenPortal.net's alternative domains persists and there have been reports of a new law to control the Internet.



Yemen journalists say that Yemeni information ministry commits serious breaches against freedom expression

Article 19 Executive Director Agnes Callmard said the latest measures taken by the Yemeni government cast additional doubts on the country's continuing commitment to its reform agenda and to protecting media diversity and freedom of expression. "The positive trends recorded two years ago are being reversed," he said, calling on the government to return to its original commitments.

Yemen ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and is legally required, under international law, to respect the right of its citizens to freedom of expression as guaranteed under Article 19 of the ICCPR, the organization noted.

In 2006, under the National Reform

Agenda, the Yemeni government made further commitments to freedom of expression and to the creation of a diverse and pluralistic media environment. These steps have often been cited as an example for the region, Article 19 added.

Meanwhile, Reporters Without Borders, an international French organization, criticized the ban on Al-Wasat newspaper, accused by the government of reporting news that "undermined national unity, stirred up religious divisions and damaged relations with neighboring countries."

In 2007, the organization put Yemen at 143 in its annual index that measures the level of press of freedom in 196 countries worldwide.

calls for comprehensive reforms

JMP opposes gubernatorial elections

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANAA, April 16 — The Joint Meeting Parties are opposing amendments to the Local Authority Law to elect governors whom Parliament approved Tuesday at the request of the National Defense Council.

The JMP's Higher Council describes such legal amendments as "just a decorating project" with no real meaning, adding that such amendments contravene direct and free elections stipulated in the Yemeni Constitution.

The JMP council considers these legal amendments part of formal procedures taken by the authority in an attempt to reduce nationwide political congestion resulting from its own poor policies.

Opposition parties accuse these poor policies of encouraging the increase of such political congestion and worsening dire situations across the nation.

In a statement distributed following a news conference Monday, a copy of which the Yemeni Times has obtained, the JMP Higher Council declared its strenuous objection to holding the Parliament-sanctioned gubernatorial elections, denouncing what it describes as "a misleading campaign" conducted by official media to deceive the Yemeni people.

The council also objected to the authority's attempt to lead the nation into an unannounced clampdown by replacing constitutional institutions with the National Defense Council.

Further, it condemned "illegal decisions and measures" banning demonstrations, protests and sit-ins — all of which the Yemeni Constitution ensures — holding the authority accountable for notable human rights abuses, democratic violations and constraints upon public freedoms.

The opposition coalition demands the Yemeni government seriously address worsening issues in the southern govern-

norates by resolving the 1994 Civil War-related consequences, which have remained unchecked until now.

It further called for reforming the nation's system of governance to cope with growing demands over time, eradicating all forms of corruption and oppression, enhancing transfer of power and sharing decision making among the various political forces.

The opposition parties insist that the authority must initiate election reforms in order to ensure integrity and transparency in the upcoming parliamentary elections, as well as create an effective mechanism for change and peaceful transfer of power.

The JMP statement strongly condemned the crackdown and intimidation of citizens through heavy deployment of military troops and equipment, as well as arrest campaigns against human rights activists, opposition leaders and peaceful protesters in the various southern governorates and Taiz, labeling such actions as "unconstitutional procedures" aimed at aborting peaceful struggle and the available yet slim democratic margin.

The statement urged the authorities to pull troops out of major cities and roads, reform numerous dire situations and release all political detainees in various security and military jails nationwide.

The JMP Higher Council lashed out at government indifference and inability to improve citizens' poor living standards and control soaring prices for basic foodstuffs and other consumables, which has increased people's concerns and worsened their miseries.

"The government has failed to fulfill its promises made in the 2006 elections to fight all forms of corruption and improve citizens' living standards," the council's statement went on to say.

JMP member parties reaffirmed their united position on rejecting all forms of force and violence in political life and

renewed their adherence to peaceful and democratic struggle, as guaranteed by the Yemeni Constitution, to help oppressed citizens freely express themselves and voice their concerns.

Parliament on Tuesday approved Article 38 of 2000's Law No. 4 regarding the Local Authority after it amended specific articles related to electing governors and mayors of the capital city.

According to the article, a governor will be given the rank of minister, as well as elected via secret ballot by local councilors in governorates and districts. Following his win, the governor-elect then will be appointed by republican decree and commence his duties after being sworn in before the president.

The article establishes a minimum legal age of 40 for any gubernatorial applicant, adding that the applicant must have a university certificate (or any certificate equivalent to a university degree) and no less than 10 years' professional experience following graduation.

Some Taiz local councilors told media outlets that Parliament's amendments to the Local Authority Law don't represent a successful move in the experience of local governance with broad powers.

However, they stressed that granting local councils full power and allowing them to work independently in drawing up sustainable development policies will be a turning point toward enhancing community partnership and increasing public awareness.

"Having local councilors elect governors doesn't reflect a notable achievement, as claimed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh's platform and his local governance-related initiative," the local councilors commented, adding that the gubernatorial elections may not end the current security turmoil, address dire situations or reduce nationwide poverty and unemployment.

Judges threaten to sue government over unmet demands

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For The Yemen Times

SANAA, April 15 — Members of the Judicial System Employees Association established in February have announced that they will sue the Ministry of Justice if their demands aren't met.

Judge Abdulkarim Mahboob, founding member of the association and chair of its preparatory committee, maintains that they'll seek their rights to better wages, hardship allowances, promotions, etc., even if it means they must take the issue to the Supreme Court.

"A judge's salary doesn't exceed YR 100,000 (approximately \$500) and this is ridiculous!" he says, adding that members decided to create the judicial association when they found that this is the only way to be represented and obtain their rights.

Deteriorating living conditions and economic hardships — from which judicial employees, like most Yemenis, suffer — are the primary reasons 28 judges and a prosecutor decided to establish such an association.

While, in reality, the group still is being

formed, members were shocked last week when the Supreme Judicial Council summoned them for questioning, instructing the judicial inspection body to bring in the judges for investigation on grounds of illegally calling for the association's establishment.

Council chair Judge Essam Abdulwahab Al-Samawi issued 2008's order No. 9 stipulating that appropriate legal action be taken against association members.

The summons comes after numerous amendments restructuring Supreme Council units, including the administration. The order also falls near the April 13 court session, wherein the administration unit was to look into a complaint raised by several judicial employees demanding the annulment of numerous decrees violating the Judicial Authority Law regarding promotions and settlements.

According to association members, these decrees dictate promoting some judges while passing over more deserving ones. However, Al-Samawi declared to official media that any type of political collusion or organization by judicial staff

violates the law and is prohibited. He made this statement a week after the association's launch, further threatening that any violators will be prosecuted.

Reacting to the judge's statement and his summons, the association's founding members expressed their resentment and shock at the council's degree of inaccuracy, stressing that their group is a professional apolitical association and their legal right, especially as it seeks to defend the judiciary's independence, as well as rehabilitate and build up judges' capacities.

Mahboob doesn't believe this issue falls within the council's jurisdiction and that it interferes with the responsibilities of the Social Affairs Ministry, which supervises such unions and non-governmental organizations.

Judge Ahmed Saif Hasid, one of the association's 28 founding judges, commented that the group will be a tool to demand and protect employees' rights apart from politics. Judge Abdulrahman Dabwan, also a founding member of the association, further notes that its creation is a reaction to the deteriorating level of the judicial system and the dire need to reform it. Independent judiciary research and study at the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, affirms that forming such an association is a legal right under Article 58 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In a press release, HOOD emphasized that in the absence of the Judicial Forum, an organization created to represent judicial employees, Yemen's judicial system will remain inefficient and imbalanced.

Ongoing sit-ins paralyze work at Sana'a University

By: Almidgad Mojalli

SANAA, April 14 — Hundreds of Sana'a University employees have staged sit-ins since April 8, thereby causing 80 percent of working hours to remain idle. The protestors are calling on the Yemeni government to implement the Wages and Salaries Strategy and raise their wages, which they maintain are less than other government employees.

The protestors also call for amending the University Executives Bylaw and applying articles 3, 14, 17 and 59, which stipulate forming a committee to handle the employees' salaries. "However, that committee only handled teachers' salaries and neglected ours," noted Ahmed Al-Kawli, secretary-general of the Council to Coordinate Government University Syndicates. According to him, a university administration employee receives between YR 25,000 and YR 30,000 (\$125-\$150) per month, while a professor makes 10 times that, between YR 250,000 and YR 300,000 (\$1,250-\$1,500).

Additionally, Al-Kawli noted that the Yemeni government now is preparing a project law focused on raising university professors and neglecting administrative employees. "We ask the govern-

ment to give administrators all of the rights that academics enjoy. There's a wide gap in wages between professors and administrative employees," he said.

According to Mohammed Modhesh, head of the Council to Coordinate Government University Syndicates, the protestors have attempted to meet with Prime Minister Ali Mujawar to explain their problem, but in vain.

He vows, "We'll continue our protest until we meet with the prime minister. If our demands aren't met, we'll stage another sit-in in front of the Presidential Office."

Protestors maintain that they receive no allowances for health care or living accommodations, as opposed to professors who do receive such allowances.

As Al-Kawli points out, "Both professors and administrative employees work at the university, but we find that there's a big gap between us and them. For example, they've staged strikes and received what they asked for, while we've held numerous strikes and sit-ins, but to no avail. We don't ask for equality with the professors, but rather to obtain our own rights."

Additionally, the employees demand the 20 percent increase in their essential salaries that the government declared and endorsed for all state employees in

1999. "We haven't received this increase since 1999, although we have a directive from the prime minister to the Finance Ministry and two judicial decisions regarding this 20 percent, but they're still procrastinating about it," Al-Kawli said.

Contract employees

Approximately 300 employees working on a contractual basis also have participated in the sit-in, demanding the Civil Service Ministry hire them officially and increase their salaries.

"Some contract workers receive between YR 6,000 and YR 8,000 (\$30-\$40) a month, which isn't even enough for transportation," says protester Hamed Al-Faqih.

"The duties of contract employees are more than those of fixed employees. For example, the working hours for contract employees are from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., while fixed employees only work from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.," he added.

By law, contract employees must be contracted for no more than six months and then appointed as state employees. "However, many employees have been working on contract for as much as 13 years and haven't been registered by the Civil Service Ministry," protester Hadeyah Mohsen pointed out.

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Continued from page 1

8-year-old girl's divorce is finalized while a law to prevent early marriage stalls

"Those who approve of girls marrying at 13, 14 or even below 18, are barbaric men who abuse childhood and are irresponsible," said religious scholar Yahya Al-Najar, the former Minister of Endowment.

He explained that there should be a minimum age for boys and girls to marry in order to complete their physical and mental development and so that they can manage the responsibilities of marriage and raising a family.

Al-Hitar said that the minimum age of marriage should be 16-years-old, no less. He added that previous religious bodies in charge of jurisprudence wrote such laws in 1976 and in 1988.

□Those who say that defining a minimum age for marriage is un-

Islamic do not understand the religion at all, □said Al-Hitar. □Defining a minimum age of marriage is a need dictated by life's nature."

The Yemeni parliament is equally divided between MPs who believe in safe motherhood (and thereby banning early marriage) and those who don't. Deputy speaker of Parliament, MP Himyar Al-Ahmar, said that he supports the creation of legislation against early marriage, requested by the Women's National Committee, but prefers to forward the issue to the Evaluation and Jurisprudence Committee, which is strongly against such legislation.

Rasheeda Al-Hamadani, chair of the Women's National Committee, promised to continue to raise awareness about the issue by holding workshops soon with religious leaders, MPs and decision makers.

WHAT IT MEANS...

GOVERNANCE; The Character That Mark Modern State

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

Transforming from traditional state to modern state requires; transparency processes, decentralization authority, and anti corruption system, ...etc; that mean applying good governance. The word "Governance" coming from Latin origins that mean "Steering". World Bank defines "Governance" as "The exercise of political authority and the use of institutional resources to manage society's problems and affairs".

The term "Good Governance" is increasingly being used in development literature. Governance describes the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Good Governance defines an idea which is difficult to achieve in its totality. World Bank as an international financial institutions requires conditions that



By: Dr. Adel Al-Weshali

ensuring the undertaken of good governance to pass any aid or loans.

The logical purpose of governance aim to assure that an organization produces a worthwhile pattern of good results while avoiding an undesirable pattern of bad circumstances, by making decision that define expectations, grant power, and verify performance.

Politics provides a means by which the governance process operates. People may choose expectations by way of political activity; they may grant power through political action, and they may judge performance through political behaviour.

To make a clear distinction between the concepts of governance and of politics, governance conveys the administrative and process oriented elements of governing rather than antagonistic ones. In the other

hand, politics involves processes by which a group of people with initially divergent opinions or interests reach collective decisions generally regarded as binding on group, and enforced as common policy.

As a process, governance may operate in an organization of any size from single human being to all humanity, and it may function for any purpose good or evil, for profit or not. So, one can apply the concept of governance to as large a nation-state as desired, to corporations, to non-profits, to NOGs, to partnerships and other associations, to project teams, and to any number of humans engaged in some purposeful activity.

In general terms, governance occurs in three broad ways:

- 1- Though top-down methods that primarily involve governments and the state bureaucracy
- 2- Through the use of market mechanisms whereby market principles of competition serve to allocate resources while operating under government regulation
- 3- Through networks involving public-private

partnerships or with the collaboration of community organizations. There are many types of governance, the most important four types are; global, corporate, project, and information technology governance.

Global Governance used to denote the regulation of interdependent relations in the absence of an overarching political authority, as the example of the international relationships between independent states.

Corporate Governance consists of the set of processes, customs policies, laws and institutions affecting the way people direct, administer or control a corporation.

Project Governance used in industry to describe the processes that need to exist for a successful project, it is an active rather than just a controlling role.

Information Technology Governance is a subset discipline of corporate Governance focused on IT systems and their performance and risk management.

In order to measure the quality of governance of countries all around the world, members of World Bank developed the Worldwide Governance Indicators project. It reports aggregate and individual indicators for more than 200 countries for six dimensions of governance; voice and accountability, political stability and lack of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption. (See country report data for Yemen 1996-2006 at www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance).

Dr. Adel Al-Weshali is Assistant Professor - Faculty of Agriculture, Sana'a University. He could be reached at drweshali@yahoo.com

Yemen Times regrets to announce that "What it means" feature of Yemen Times will not continue after April 30, 2008. If you like this feature and you wish it to continue please send feedback to yteditor@gmail.com

Their News

The Executive Coordinator of the Global Environment Facility (EEG/BDP/GEF), Mr. Yannick Glemarec Visit to Yemen

SANA'A, 13 April 2008: The Executive Coordinator of the Global Environment Facility (EEG/BDP/GEF) and UNDP Carbon Finance Manager, Mr. Yannick Glemarec, visited Yemen from 11- 14 April 2008, in order to consult with Government Officials and the Private Sector on the progress made so far in the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism. During his visit, Mr. Glemarec met: H.E. the Prime Minister of Yemen Dr. Ali Mohammed Mojawar, H.E. Minister of Water and Environment and Chair of the CDM Approval Board, H.E. Minister of Industry and Trade, H.E. Minister of Oil and Minerals, and other Governmental officials. As a background to the topic, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is a flexible mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol with two objectives: The CDM shall help developing countries in achieving sustainable development and assist industrialized countries in meeting their emission reduction targets. For each ton of CO2 equivalent that is reduced as a result of a CDM project, a certified emission reduction unit (CER) is issued and can be used by industrialized countries for the fulfillment of their commitments. Ideally, it will encourage additional capital flows into developing countries, accelerate technology transfer, creating new job opportunities and enable developing countries to leapfrog to cleaner technologies. In 2007 Yemen became one of the first countries in the world to sign a host Memorandum of Understanding for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Millennium Development Goals MDG Carbon Facility activities. The MDG Carbon Facility, an innovative mechanism for the development and commercialization of emission reduction projects, was established to help mobilize the potentially significant benefits of carbon finance for the developing world. This reflects the strong support for carbon financing as a development tool in Yemen and the foresight and leadership provided by UNDP-Yemen. In December 2007, Yemen will become the first country in the Arab State Region in which project-level agreement has been signed with the MDG Carbon Facility The Sana'a Landfill Gas project has the potential to generate annual emission reductions of over 100,000 tCO2e and contribute to improved waste collection and management - a significant environmental problem in Yemen. The cooperation on CDM capacity building by far exceeded the originally planned outputs. Yemen has received enormous international recognition for these crucial steps taken. The country has taken the lead in the region to promote its CDM capacity to the global carbon market. The MDG Carbon Facility's compliance activities represent an innovative collaboration between UNDP and an

international financial services provider, Fortis Bank ("Fortis"), offering prospective emissions reduction projects a comprehensive "one-stop-shop" package of services. UNDP and Fortis contribute their particular area of expertise, UNDP providing project development services and Fortis providing carbon banking services, comprised of purchasing and marketing the emission offsets generated by the Facility's projects. UNDP's collaboration with Fortis encompasses an initial pipeline of projects issuing emission offsets during the first Kyoto commitment period from 2008 to 2012.

Statements by Danish officials regarding Fitna

Statements to the press by the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Prime Minister regarding Greet Wilders' film

Minister of Foreign Affairs Per Stig Moller
"It is important to respect and defend freedom of expression in Europe, but of course that does not mean that one is in agreement with statements that are made. I am not in agreement with Mr. Wilders' statements. I don't think it is possible to say that 1.3 billion people are deluded terrorists. That vast majority of Muslims want a peaceful development,"

Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen:
"I have heard and seen enough to know

that it can only be perceived as a point-less provocation. And as a matter of fact, I think there is every reason to pass less attention to persons who only want to provoke. The more attention they get, the more they will grow in numbers".

Dutch Government's reaction to Wilders' film

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende has reacted to the film Fitna that MP Geert Wilders has released on the internet on 27 March.

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende: 'On behalf of the Dutch government, I would like to respond to the online film by Mr Wilders.

The film shows images of violent acts and holds Islam and the Koran responsible for them. The government condemns such acts and those who commit them.

The film equates Islam with violence. We reject this interpretation. The vast majority of Muslims reject extremism and violence. In fact, the victims are often also Muslims.

We therefore regret that Mr Wilders has released this film. We believe it serves no purpose other than to cause offence. But feeling offended must never be used as an excuse for aggression and threats. The government is heartened by the initial restrained reactions of Dutch Muslim organisations. Muslims, Christians and people of other convictions can easily live together in peace. The problem is not

religion, but misuse of religion to sow hatred and intolerance. That is why we are calling for respect for everyone's deepest convictions.

We are aware of the concerns and the sentiments about this film in the international Muslim community. We have recently spoken with many people at home and abroad to promote mutual understanding. We will continue to follow this course.

The Dutch government stands for a society in which freedom and respect go hand in hand. Such a society demands dedication and commitment. We oppose extremism. Anyone who breaks the law is dealt with firmly. Let us solve problems by working together. Let us reach out to others and build confidence and trust. Let us conquer prejudice. We shall surely succeed.'



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- Routinely advise the organization's staff on proper disclosure procedures; provide expert advice to external audiences on the implementation of the policy and contribute to the country's media monitoring services. Provide input and content for the Public Information Center's web site and ensure its information is up-to-date.
- Under appropriate guidance, and as needed, implement partnerships with libraries, public institutions and organizations to extend and diffuse access to the organization's information and knowledge in various areas of Yemen. Liaise with information professionals from development agencies to build and sustain partnerships in information outreach activities.
- Draft, edit, produce, and distribute routine outreach materials such as brochures, email bulletins, press releases, etc.

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Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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AWAIS

Yemeni child laborers, a culture of forced maturity

By: Alia Ishaq

“I sell socks in Al-Saba'een Park,” explains 10-year-old Fawaz Mohammed, who works with his five brothers to provide food for their family. Questioned about their father, Fawaz replied, “My father doesn't work – we do.”

Fawaz is one of two million Yemeni children forced to act as adults before their time in order to help their families. However, work isn't the only cause of such premature adulthood. Early marriage and the added responsibilities of caring for younger siblings also are causing Yemeni children to grow up too fast.

“The sooner children grow up, the better is a common false perspective in our society and it affects children, which in turn will affect the way these children raise their own children when they grow up” says Fawziyah Omar, a social expert at Al-Furat public school

in Sana'a.

Sana'a University social science professor Qaid Al-Sharjabi agrees, pointing out that childhood is the only period of our lives when we have no responsibility. Children have freedom during this time, which is what helps them enjoy this period. “When a portion of their childhood is taken from them, they face physiological problems later that are difficult to heal,” he added.

Children's center seeks to lessen psychological burdens

Fawaz attends the Working Children's Rehabilitation Center in Sana'a, which was founded in 2003 as one of the few places where working children actually can experience their childhood and receive the special care they need. They study math, Arabic and other subjects at the center in order to catch up with their school peers.

Other children who come to the center aren't as lucky as Fawaz. Because they don't attend school, these children instead attend illiteracy classes in which

they're taught to read and write, in addition to other basic skills that may help them in their future careers.

Ten-year-old Gamar Abdu used to sell ice cream at Al-Saba'een Park, but nowadays, Gamar prefers drawing. Her most recent work features a picture of a girl saying, “I have the right to participate in Parliament.” With a shy smile, Gamar says she desires to enter a drawing contest and win first prize.

“Gamar stopped working after coming to us,” explains Safiyah Al-Sa'eedi, director of the Working Children's Rehabilitation Center, pointing out that hers is a rare case and one of the few who stopped working after coming to the center.

Typically finding children in the marketplaces, the center requests they fill out an application, after which one of its representatives then speaks with the child's parents to convince them to do what's best for their children – allowing them to stop working and return to school.

The center offers remedial classes in all basic subjects, illiteracy classes, pre-school classes and vocational handcraft training classes. In addition to rehabilitating children, the center also has a program to support their families by helping them initiate small business projects. So far, 25 families have benefited from this program. Overall, more than 1,000 children have benefited from the center's programs, according to its 2007 report.

“Many of us believe that parents force their children to work due to a certain perspective in Yemen that says children should take responsibility and become ‘man enough.’ The problem is mainly due to uneducated parents who think that treating their children this way is what's best for them,” Omar explains.

But Al-Sa'eedi has a different view. “Many parents would love for their children to attend school and play like normal kids, but it's very hard to convince them to stop their children from

working because it's sometimes a matter of survival that every family member works – including the children,” she notes.

Al-Sharjabi agrees and believes that need is what drives parents to send their children to work, nothing else. However, some parents undoubtedly blur the line between teaching their children the value of responsibility and forcing them to act like adults.

Omar points out that she's met young girls who have stated that they would hate to have their own children when they grow up due to the responsibility of having to care for their little brothers and sisters while their mothers go out to spend time with friends.

Al-Sa'eedi mentions that due to the large amount of responsibilities of those children attending the center, they change psychologically in several ways. For instance, some become prematurely adult in order to bear their responsibilities, but face severe mental depression, while others stop noticing what's occurring around them.

“These are the type of children we worry about the most,” Al-Sa'eedi notes, “Finding no love at home, they seek it elsewhere and as a result, they become easy targets for manipulators.”

Like Fawaz, 11-year-old Hakimah sells socks in Al-Saba'een Park, but loves going to the center. “I want my little sister to come here and study because I hope she won't have to work like me.”

Working children have special talents

Despite their tough jobs and their poverty,

these working children still hope for a bright future. What's surprising about the children at the center is that, unlike many non-working students, the library, art studio and handcraft classes are filled with eager children, even after that class time has ended. As a case in point, Gamar and her sister refuse to leave until completing their paintings.

“These children needing special care reveal more talent than ordinary children,” Al-Sa'eedi notes, adding that they are very motivated and have a lot of energy and creativity.

Abeer Abdullah, a 14-year-old student at the center, proudly states that she won the local children's council election representing the center and her friends,



Some children attend illiteracy classes in which they're taught to read and write, in addition to other basic skills that may help them in their future careers.



Unlike many non-working students, the library, art studio and handcraft classes are filled with eager children

adding that she earns money after school by painting the faces of other children in the parks.

The center's future

According to its director, the center is struggling to stay afloat financially but remains open thanks to money saved last year. “We were made promises, but so far, we've seen nothing,” Al-Sa'eedi said regarding the program's funding.

She notes that it would be like returning to square one if the center ceased operating even for a year, warning, “These children who have worked so hard to improve themselves will fall back into their previous situations and that will be a big loss for us all.”

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The sustainable failure

By: Sami Ghalib

A ny sincere effort aimed at alleviating the Arab sufferings in any part of the Arab region is required and appreciated. To save blood of the Palestinian people, the Yemeni leadership made an initiative that won regional and Arab support. Such an initiative is included in the list of successful achievements so far made by this leadership, particularly as Yemen showed a similar position about both conflicting Palestinian movements, blamed for hindering establishment of

the independent Palestinian state.

The Yemeni leadership, however, has not proved competent in resolving domestic issues. It awaited for a long time until 'deliverance' came from the Qatari capital city of Doha to end an ongoing domestic war in Yemen's northern province of Sa'ada.

With regard to the issue of South Yemen, the Sana'a-based authority did not exert any effort indicating that it has an effective policy for settling the turmoil in South Yemen and ending unprecedented protests in the southern governorates.

Is the Sana'a-based ruling elite wait-

ing for an initiative from another Gulf capital city to resolve South Yemen's turmoil or is it expecting fragmentation and splits between leaders of South Yemen actions? Governments are not like highwaymen or gamblers in remote islands.

In the whole world, no one can find a responsible government silently watching pressing issues that pose threat to its national security. It is customary for the Yemeni government to practice its usual behavior that is of opening fire on citizens when it is serious to tackle any escalating problems or pressing issues. Having seen that fences or walls of the

leaders' palaces and premises of executive bodies in Sana'a and other main cities are getting higher and higher, this doesn't exempt the country rulers from securing citizens' safe living and ensuring social peace.

Once again, the ruling elite confirm that ensuring its stay in power is given precedence over citizens' security. Over the past few weeks, protests in the southern governorates went violent, and were projected to lead to blind violence amid blindness that appeared to be the salient feature of the ruling elite, as well as some opposition leaders.

A few days ago, the one-sided regime

used force to crack down on innocent citizens who claim their constitutional and legal rights via peaceful protests. It justified its gamble to the rioting that took place in both cities of Dhale' and Habelain, and therefore spared no mercy in attacking protestors. The one-sided authority also arrested and detained dozens of innocent citizens in various political security jails in Aden and other cities.

Use of force to crack down on oppressed citizens implies the authority's sustainable failure to utilize lessons from year-long ongoing and escalating protests. It only proves competent in using its security instruments to crack down on protestors but lacks a national political vision to end any turmoil threatening unity and security of the nation.

Source: Al-Nedaa Weekly.

The metamorphosed terrorism

By: Moneer Al-Mawri

A few days ago, I received a telephone call from Mr. Hussein Al-Dharhani of Sana'a, who was once the escort of Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) presidential candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan. On phone, Al-Dharhani expressed his personal deep gratitude to me because I cleared him of the false terrorist charges attributed by the authority to him in a satellite channel some months before the competent court did so.

Al-Dharhani said he expended hard effort to get my telephone number for this purpose (express his deep gratitude to me). For my part, I told him on phone that it is kind of him to seek the person who acquitted him. What is more important is that the relevant court must prosecute all those who accused him of being a terrorist without providing any evidence, mainly President of the Republic.

Al-Dharhani needs to claim that President of the Republic must make a public apology at a news conference similar to that conference during which Mr. President raised Al-Dharhani's photo and accused him of being a terrorist in order to intimidate citizens and make them suspicious about voting for Bin Shamlan, who was then campaigning ahead of the subsequent presidential election.

Despite the fact that Al-Dharhani's

silence and being unserious to claim that Mr. President must apologize to him aroused our suspicion among us that he might have learned about details of the malicious plot machinated against Bin Shamlan in order not to win the election, the trust to clear Al-Dharhani of the fabricated terrorist charges doesn't originate from our relation with the man since it was the first time for us to hear about him via Mr. President speaking to Yemeni Satellite channel. Instead, the trust to acquit the innocent victim is based on our knowledge of the notorious regime that never hesitate to use 'terrorism' as a card to achieve political and electoral objectives without feeling that it played with an inflaming fire.

This doesn't mean that the regime may send its henchmen and loyal collaborators to carry out terrorist operations like the ones launched in the oil installations of Dhabba and Safer ahead of 2006 presidential and local elections. The regime, however, knows well how to give a gesture to the real terrorists to carry out terrorist plots at its convenience like it did to get rid of Jarallah Omar, former assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

Before Omar's assassination, the ruling regime mobilized Yemeni Satellite Channel staff to cover a general conference organized by the Islah Party. It is the same personnel that is always mobilized for such malicious purposes only and not

for covering opposition activities. The personnel included non-T.V. workers, thereby arousing suspicion that their duty was arranging for the last scene of the scheduled event before it was televised. The way the assassination was carried out confirms that the authority had known about what would have happened.

Suspicious conducts preceding terrorist attacks:

There are numerous examples of suspicious conducts preceding terrorist events. But what has been proved authentic is that most of the terrorist operations in our homeland were launched by individuals whom the authority metamorphosed and transferred from the Qaeda terrorist Network to a government-controlled terrorist camp. Therefore, most of the terrorists available in Yemen stopped receiving orders from Aiman Al-Dhawahri or Abu Al-Faraj Al-Leebi. Instead, they receive orders from officers in the Yemeni army and security institutions. The actual threat originates from this fact.

At this point, one can say that the terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a and the adjacent 7 July Girls' School was planned and launched by metamorphosed terrorists in a manner different from that followed by the real Qaeda Network comrades, who are known for enjoying a high level of exac-

titude in planning their plots and attacking their specific targets.

What provokes more suspicion is that one week ahead of the terrorist attack, some of the ruling party's websites shed light on a dispute between Principal of the 7 July Girls' School - a woman - and some elements, which these websites described as "reformists and extremists", implying that they belong to the major opposition party in the country.

The pro-ruling party websites published a story saying the school principal was beaten. Is it believable that such preparations were made by chance for the sake of attacking those named by the authority as Yemen's Taliban?

In conclusion, the Yemeni authority doesn't only metamorphose the beautiful things and empty out their content such as the unity and democracy. Rather, it did metamorphose even the bad things and made them worse. It changed terrorism from a political crime into a political depravity or evil.

As a result, Mr. Hussein Al-Dharhani is not the only victim that deserves apology by the authority since Bin Shamlan deserves a similar apology and so does the JMP leadership, the family of Jarallah Omar, families of schoolgirls killed in the most recent terrorist attack, the U.S. Embassy staff and the metamorphosed Qaeda elements.

Source: Al-Masdar.com

Cause and effect

By: Abdulhazef Al-Faqih

Good governance is the one that works during daytime and overnight on maintaining stability and security, and provid-

ing all the necessities required by stability of people such as food security, and peace living according to effective economic, political and social plans. These plans may help any system of governance suggest workable solutions to any pressing economic, political and social

issues while people can lead luxurious lives.

Unemployment in our country is symptomatic of poor policies pursued by a corrupt regime that never studies or examines issues before suggesting solutions to them. The authority already knows that there are thousands of idle youths who are still seeking job opportunities to help them provide for their families and themselves. More than once and on more than one occasion, this authority promised to put an end to unemployment, as well as assigned a specific time period (two years) for eradicating unemployment. More than one and a half years have passed while the government did nothing even to reduce the high unemployment rate.

Rioting and vandalistic acts occurred as a reaction to the state's poor policies and wrong conducts. As the government announced vacancies in the military institutions, youth from throughout the country rushed to any nearby recruitment offices to enlist their names, however, they were surprised to find that their applications are rejected. Where will they go?

Yemeni youths rushed to apply for military jobs as they found no other choices. They haven't found work in Yemen, nor can they migrate to the neighboring countries to search for better job opportunities. Only those who sell all what they have to pay for visas can migrate to the bordering countries to look for better job opportunities.

We don't support the riots and vandalistic acts that took place in the governorates of Lahj and Dhale'. Instead, we

reject and condemn such actions. We don't support the authority that neglects its responsibility toward its people. What happened in the southern governorates is the result of the government's negligence and being indifferent toward creating job opportunities for the idle youth. In case it has a strong will and determination, the government can create more job opportunities for the idle youth by establishing factories and projects, boosting investment and attracting foreign investors to initiate businesses in the country.

The country's dire situation continues worsening and is projected to take Yemen into a gloomy tunnel, particularly as the unemployment rate increases, coupled with the high cost of living as prices of basic foodstuffs skyrocket from day to day. The authority did admit that ten million of Yemen's 21 million strong population are in an urgent need of social insurance.

Where is the safe investment, which is projected to initiate giant projects and create more job opportunities for the idle youth? Foreign investors refused to initiate businesses in our country due to the behavior of influential persons, lack of safe investment climate and rampant corruption, which continue to spread.

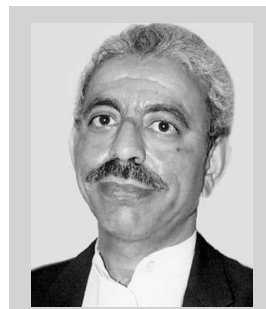
If the Yemeni authority doesn't review the dire situations countrywide and begin suggesting workable solutions to the pressing issues, mainly unemployment and the rampant financial and administrative corruption, it must be held responsible for the expected consequences of its poor policies.

Source: Al-Ahali Weekly.

COMMON SENSE

How ungrateful can one get!

Perhaps no people have made it so easy for the International Zionist Movement to plant its cancerous entity in the midst of a generally peace-loving people like those of the Middle East as the American people have. For sure, if it was not for the unbending support of the succeeding American Administrations, the world would be far better off without the existence of this serpent of evil that unleashes its venom throughout the world.. From Woodrow Wilson to the most open zealot of all American supporters of Israel, George W. Bush, the current President of the United States, Israel would have been wiped out of the map a long time ago, as all trespassers should be. But, it seems that the



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Americans are now getting a real good taste of the way the International Zionist Movement appreciates this unabashed support. They could have asked the former Zionist guardians, the British, who had been earlier blessed with the God despised mission of sponsoring this heathenous Zionist culture. Hundreds of the former custodians and former protectors from the British armed forces and security apparatuses were slaughtered at the hands of Zionist demagogues in Palestine and elsewhere in appreciation for the calamity they brought into being in the Holy Land.

So now it is the Americans, who shall get a generous portion of this form of Zionist appreciation. No one will be spared this great adulation that the Zionist ugly machine will exude to its sponsors and supporters without hesitation. One only can see how this dreadful venom that has eaten away at the fabrics of societies throughout the world, exerts every effort to make sure that even former Presidents of the United States are accorded the miserable mean cold shoulder of this heinous monstrosity that has been implanted in every meaningful corner of the world. Mr. Jimmy Carter might even get killed as he hopelessly tries to spread his mission of peace. Of course, after making sure that all protection is denied to this missionary of kindness and true believer in God's message of peace, albeit in its Christian context, and for all one knows, he might just enter the roll of hundreds of martyrs (Christians, Moslems and even Jews), who valiantly stood up to say that these criminals are not what God has in mind for the world to digest. There are definitely better ways to reflect God's will on this planet. Just look at what they are doing in Gaza (and then claim that it is the Palestinians who are besieging themselves!) Just look at the millions of cluster bomb ordnances that are scattered all over Southern Lebanon, still keeping the Zionist killing machine in operation after its cowardly armed forces decided that they were not at par with a small band of guerillas, who have out skilled their Zionist enemies in every field of modern warfare, while still being far from matching their more heavily armed adversaries. Ask the many thousands of academicians and any seeker of distinguished public service in the United States how much pressure they are subjected to if they dare divert from acceptable Zionist norms. Worse than that, God help them if they raise an eyebrow or bend their face in amazement at the evils of the Zionist machinery.

I quote from a very credible comrade in the journalistic and academic trade:

"One cannot imagine the kind of pressure that people who dare speak the truth about the tragedy that is unfolding in the Holy Land. They (The Zionist Lobby) actually have implanted a 'student' in my classroom, who has gone to the school administration where I teach to insist that I be terminated from employment immediately".

If such coercion is not convincing enough, one might ask former President Clinton how Monica Lewinsky brought hell to his family and political life, and ask the lady who financed the purchase of the recording of the talk between this erstwhile pleasure seeker that rose to public prominence as the lady who seduced the President of the United States and her former sleazy friend Linda Tripp! The lady (the owner of a "publishing firm" in New York) paid US \$ 500,000 to Linda Tripp for the purchase of the tape by her own admission in Larry King Live!

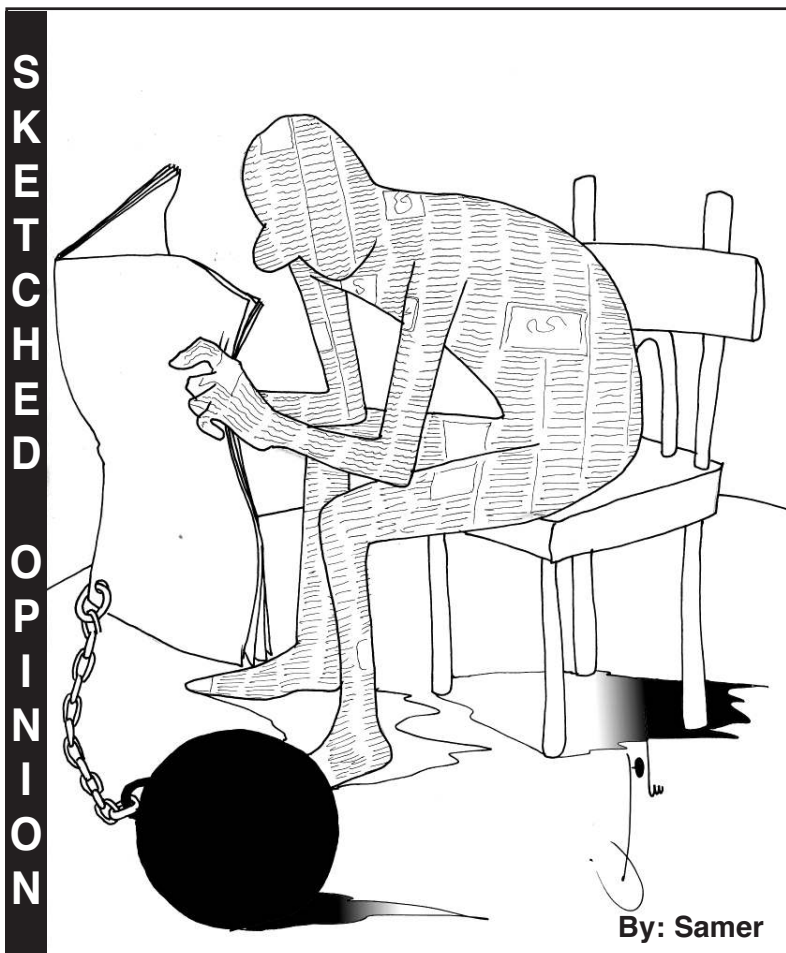
Ask another valiant American friend, who has dedicated his life to unveiling the ugly crimes of Zionism, not just in the Arab World, but even in the United States, by insisting that the Zionists are actually behind 9/11 and all the tragedy on a global scale that followed it. He will tell you how many times he has been subject to threats and then when that failed they were directed at his girlfriend!

Ask what Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer are being subjected to for trying to remind the American people how unnecessarily exaggerated and somewhat immoral American support for Israel has become and how dangerously influential the Zionist Lobby has become to American interests in the Middle East and at home!

Ask the relatives of Rachel Corrie why the Government of the United States has not relieved the latter's family of the tragic misery of losing one of their dear ones in a brutal case of repression against free expression as anything history has shown and why this Government has not sought to obtain justice for these relatives and for the deceased defender of human rights and civil liberties from her Zionist killers and by an American Caterpillar bulldozer of all tools?

There are so many people who can expose the ugly doings of this machine all over the world. But the avenues for such exposure have been closed by uncrossable barriers similar to the hundreds of barriers that are keeping the Palestinians from reaching their loved ones in the village just across the street, unless they travel for at least 2 hours just to bypass these barriers. How long will Mr. Carter be able to continue his genuine crusade against real terror and bona fide apartheid? May God help him deliver his message of peace and tolerance. Such things are of course anathema to Zionist culture, but for one who truly believes in God's message of peace, "God's will must truly be our own". Shalom, Peace and Salam!

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



By: Samer

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Catholic Church in Qatar

Signal for New Religious Tolerance

The first catholic church was recently dedicated in the Muslim Gulf State of Qatar. Among those taking part in the dedication was Bishop Paul Hinder, apostolic vicar for Arabia. He told Ina Rottscheid about the new reality of religious freedom in the Gulf States

The church will provide a place of prayer and a community centre for the 60,000 mainly foreign catholics in the country. Are there enough catholics in Qatar for a new church like this?

Paul Hinder: We don't know exactly

how many catholics there are. We're assuming that there are currently around 100,000 in the whole country. Of course, they are all immigrants from the Philippines, India and other countries. But there's no danger that the church won't be needed, since we

already have so many people attending the services which we've been holding in other places that I think we'll fill the big church several times a week.

In Qatar Islam is the state religion. How hard was it to get the plans for this church approved?

Hinder: It was of course a process of asking questions, making requests and engaging in negotiations, which lasted years. I think the first attempt was made over ten years ago. That of course has to do with the general situation in the country. As you say, it is a country influenced by Islam – and by a very

strict form of Islam, similar to what one finds in Saudi Arabia – and that's one of the reasons why it took so long.

In the end, it has something to do with the fact that the current Emir of Qatar is trying to open up his country. He's not just trying, he's succeeded in several respects, and we have profited from this development. And it's not just we catholics who have profited, but the other churches as well. And I'm sure he will carry this process further.

Was it then finally straightforward, or were there problems and restrictions on the project?

Hinder: Yes, we had the usual restrictions that one has in such a country. That doesn't just apply in Qatar, it also applies in the Emirates and in Oman. One is not allowed to have any explicitly Christian symbols visible: no tower, no cross, no statues. Such things can only be inside the grounds and may not be visible from outside – from the street, for example.

I can live with such restrictions; I don't have any problems, so long as we are then free within the building. And also that we have freedom to conduct our services as we want.

Bishop Hinder, you are the head of the largest diocese in terms of area. You're in charge of Yemen, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. These countries are well-known for their restrictive policy on religious freedom, especially in the case of Saudi Arabia. How difficult does that make your work?

Hinder: Yes, of course there are restrictions, because mobility is restricted, especially for the bishop. But above all, the freedom to hold gatherings is only granted to a limited extent – in other words, essentially it's



Bishop Paul Hinder says he can live with restrictions, so long as services can be conducted freely.

restricted to those premises which are made available to us to carry out pastoral work. Otherwise one usually needs a special permit, or one has to take risks.

When you live in such a country, as I do now, then you get used to such restrictions and you try to do what you can. Of course I sometimes wish for a greater openness and I hope that the process will move in that direction, not just for us, but also for other religions.

Bearing in mind that the Emir of Qatar has contributed to the church and has supported you – is this project a first signal for an opening up of these countries towards more religious freedom?

Hinder: Yes, we shouldn't forget that in all the other countries – except for

Saudi Arabia – such communities already exist officially. We've had a church in Bahrain since 1938. In the United Arab Emirates we have seven parishes, in Oman four.

What is new is that Qatar has brought something like this to fruition as a separate Emirate. But in fact Qatar is simply following on with something the other countries have already been doing.

Bishop Paul Hinder, who was born in Switzerland, is the apostolic vicar for Arabia. He heads the largest diocese in the world, including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen.

Translated from the German by Michael Lawton © Deutsche Welle 2008.



The new church in Qatar has to do without a cross or a steeple.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

El. Eradah CSOs Governorate network in Aden Governorate is an implementation partner for the Good Governance Project of Oxfam GB Yemen. Comprising of 10 member organizations, the network works in partnership with the Local Government Authorities, in monitoring the implementation of district plans for mainstreaming priorities of the poor. The Network announces a vacancy for the post of "Development Worker", within the activities of Good Governance Project - Oxfam GB, Yemen.

Job Title: Development Worker in Aden Governorate.

Main roles:

- Coordinate with the Project Manager, Project team and the network chairperson to develop and implement project strategies and plans at governorate and district levels
- Coordinate and communicate with relevant stakeholders to enhance partnerships with the CSOs networks.
- Provide intensive and continuous technical support to the networks through appropriate mechanisms such as training, on-job training, accompaniment, etc.
- Support CSOs networks in the areas of organizational development, working with poor people and communities, local councils and media.
- Supervise and monitor the implementation of plan and activities, by the networks, in the target governorate.
- Contribute to documentation of project experiences in the target governorate.

Qualifications:

- University degree social sciences or any other relevant field.
- Minimum of 3 years work experience with civil society organizations; work experience with INGOs will be added advantage.
- Good understanding and practical experience in development field, especially issues of poverty and gender.
- Strong abilities in coordination, especially coordination between civil society, and government/donor/ private sector.
- Ability to work with others as part of a team and with little supervision.
- Experience in training and facilitation of workshops.
- Good monitoring and supervising skills.
- Good reporting skills.
- Fluency in Arabic and English.
- Computer knowledge.
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time.

To apply

Please send your CV to the following:

The chairperson of Aden network

Fax: 02 246 488

Email: saeechild_2@yahoo.com

The deadline for receiving applications is 30 April 2008

CSOs Coordination council is a district Network in Hadramout Governorate. It is an implementation partner for the Good Governance Project of Oxfam GB Yemen. Comprising of 15 member organizations, the network works in partnership with the Local Government Authorities, in monitoring the implementation of district plans for mainstreaming priorities of the poor.

The Network announces a vacancy for the post of "Development Worker", within the activities of the Good Governance Project - Oxfam GB, Yemen.

Job Title: Development Worker in Hadramout Governorate.

Main roles:

- Coordinate with the Project Manager, Project team and the network chairperson to develop and implement project strategies and plans at governorate and district levels
- Coordinate and communicate with relevant stakeholders to enhance partnerships with the CSOs networks.
- Provide intensive and continuous technical support to the networks through appropriate mechanisms such as training, on-job training, accompaniment, etc.
- Support CSOs networks in the areas of organizational development, working with poor people and communities, local councils and media.
- Supervise and monitor the implementation of plan and activities, by the networks, in the target governorate.
- Contribute to documentation of project experiences in the target governorate.

Qualifications:

- University degree social sciences or any other relevant field.
- Minimum of 3 years work experience with civil society organizations; work experience with INGOs will be added advantage.
- Good understanding and practical experience in development field, especially issues of poverty and gender.
- Strong abilities in coordination, especially coordination between civil society, and government/donor/ private sector.
- Ability to work with others as part of a team and with little supervision.
- Experience in training and facilitation of workshops.
- Good monitoring and supervising skills.
- Good reporting skills.
- Fluency in Arabic and English.
- Computer knowledge.
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time.

To apply

Please send your CV to the following:

The chairperson of CSOs coordination council

Fax : 05 356 500

Email : altanmea3@hotmail.com

The deadline for receiving applications is 30 April 2008

Hais CSOs District Network in Hodaidah Governorate is an implementation partner for the Good Governance Project of Oxfam GB Yemen. Comprising of 15 member organizations, the network works in partnership with the Local Government Authorities, in monitoring the implementation of district plans for mainstreaming priorities of the poor.

The Network announces a vacancy for the post of "Development Worker", within the activities of the Good Governance Project - Oxfam GB, Yemen.

Job Title: Development Worker in Hodaidah Governorate.

Main roles:

- Coordinate with the Project Manager, Project team and the network chairperson to develop and implement project strategies and plans at governorate and district levels
- Coordinate and communicate with relevant stakeholders to enhance partnerships with the CSOs networks.
- Provide intensive and continuous technical support to the networks through appropriate mechanisms such as training, on-job training, accompaniment, etc.
- Support CSOs networks in the areas of organizational development, working with poor people and communities, local councils and media.
- Supervise and monitor the implementation of plan and activities, by the networks, in the target governorate.
- Contribute to documentation of project experiences in the target governorate.

Qualifications:

- University degree social sciences or any other relevant field.
- Minimum of 3 years work experience with civil society organizations; work experience with INGOs will be added advantage.
- Good understanding and practical experience in development field, especially issues of poverty and gender.
- Strong abilities in coordination, especially coordination between civil society, and government/donor/ private sector.
- Ability to work with others as part of a team and with little supervision.
- Experience in training and facilitation of workshops.
- Good monitoring and supervising skills.
- Good reporting skills.
- Fluency in Arabic and English.
- Computer knowledge.
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time.

To apply

Please send your CV to the following:

The chairperson of Hais network

Fax : 03360151

Email : moust360@yahoo.com

The deadline for receiving applications is 30 April 2008

Yemen's Anti-Corruption Fight: Are we winning?

By: Yemen Times Staff

The steps Yemen has taken in the fight against corruption were more than noticeable, acting as an indicator that the president and the Yemeni government are working together to take measures that aim at reducing corruption and limiting the influence of corrupt officials in government circles. Since 2004, Yemen has revised a large number of legislation to support the anti-corruption movement, with the help of international donors, Yemen was able to bring a revised procurement law into effect, forming a committee to combating corruption, undertaking several awareness and publicity campaigns against corruption, and restricting and empowering the Central Organization for Control and Audit. However, spectators still believe that there is a long way to go for Yemen as corruption will be illuminated, starting with the political will to promote an independent judiciary system that will be able to prosecute high ranking officials involved in corruption, as well as recovering some of the government assets

which were lost to corruption.

Steps to Combat Corruption

The step to combat corruption – in principle – aim at improving the performance of the administrative governance system and speeding up financial and administrative reforms in order to strengthen the integrity of the governance system and close the loopholes that will allow for corruption. Following that, several presidential directives synergized with a package of instructions regarding reducing government bureaucracy, improving efficiency, and remove obstacles that hinder some of the primary reforms needed in Yemen, such as civil service reforms, tenders and public procurement reforms, as well as other supplementary actions such as financial disclosure, and empowering the parliament to investigate into corruption cases and reject any government decrees that may involve corruption.

Opposition Stance

However, the Yemeni opposition state time and again that these reforms are only symbolic and are not being implemented

in good faith, stating that the regime is doing these anti-corruption reforms simply for political gain and to increase the faith of the international community in the regime – hoping to be rewarded with more assistance, grants, and funds in turn for these reforms. The opposition maintains that top officials including the president should've taken the leads in reforms, and disclosed his net worth and the assets of his family members, emphasizing that top officials within the regime and surrounding the president are the one benefiting the most from corruption, therefore the opposition rules out that any high official close to Saleh will be prosecuted.

Regime's Stance

Official voices continue to downplay the opposition remarks and focus on the accomplishments so far, emphasizing that the financial disclosure law is enforce and includes civilian and military officials and members of the House of Representatives and the Shura, governors and ambassadors contains specific procedures regarding identification of their wealth and their children beginning of

each year. Adding that the President is taking the lead in the anti-corruption movement through issuing special laws to govern bidding and public procurement to protect public money and maintain the property and assets of the State, and fighting corruption and promote integrity, transparency, accountability, control and identification procedures for bidding and auctions, stores and economic efficiency in the bidding. The bid, supervision and control over the work and bidding procedures and bid and stores. And to ensure safety to maintain public property and public interest, payment and encourage contractors, suppliers and consultants to develop their professional and economically.

The Way Forward

With the formation of the Anti-corruption committee, the donor community and other stakeholders are optimistic about the fight against corruption in Yemen, but looking forward to witnessing real progress and a strong plan of action to support the role of the committee by the government in the fight against corruption.

Made in Yemen: Survival or Turnaround?

By: YemenTimes Staff

Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Yahya AL-Mutawakel has stated time and again that Yemen needs to push forward its manufacturing industry, emphasizing at this sector of the economy if properly supported will significantly help in reducing unemployment and poverty. In line with that, last week AL-Mutawakel has announced the formation of a higher council for manufacturers to play a role in the development of several manufacturing industries in Yemen.

AL-Mutawakel emphasized that one of the obstacles to the development of manufacturing industry in Yemen is the lack of government coordination, adding that this council will have representatives from the ministry of trade and industry, customs authority, tax authority, and the general investment authority in order to decrease the administrative burden on

manufacturing industries as well as provide facilities to support manufacturing in Yemen.

Industrial zones

In December last year, he Ministry of Trade and Industry has confirmed plans to establish eleven industrial zones throughout the country. The Ministry had indicated that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are the targeted business organizations which will play a major role in the development of the industrial zones, contrary to other statements that industrial zones will thrive as a result of foreign direct investment and large-scale projects.

The largest proportion of Yemeni SMEs are focused within twelve subsectors, mainly within the service sectors. While there are very limited SMEs in other subsectors particularly within the industrial sector, thereby raising questions if Yemeni SMEs will be interested in venturing into the industrial zones.

The strategy for developing SMEs focused on improving financial services and sources of funds for promising SMEs, while the industrial zones promise tax free business operation, as well as an opportunity to attract large number of SMEs in order to create a viable collective subsectors within the industrial zones. Such models have proven to attract multinational corporations to invest in industrial zones where supplementary industries already exist.

Small and Medium Enterprises are the second-largest employer in Yemen, giving direct employment for around 700,000 workers, and indirect employment to another 200,000. However, there are around 350,000 SMEs working in the country, indicating that SMEs average 2 – 3 employees each.

The Government of Yemen through various agencies aim at stimulating the growth of the SME sector, through providing grants and technical assistance through the Social Fund for Development

and its Subsidiary the Small and Micro Enterprises Promotion Service (SMEPS), which has had a notable impact on the growth of SMEs in the country.

Legal reforms

Minister of Trade AL-Mutawakel has stated that his ministry is working on the development of two laws to protect local manufacturing, the first law is the local industrial development strategy, while the second is the protection of local production. The two laws aim at providing the legal framework to help protect and strengthen local manufacturing industries in the light of intensive global competition and the smuggling and dumping of goods into Yemen. The local manufacturing industry in spite of several competitive advantages has been unable to push forward with double digit growth due to the aforementioned reasons, therefore, the manufacturing community is hopeful that these reforms will revive the manufacturing industry in Yemen.

Business in Brief

Korea increases assistance to Yemen to US\$ 100 million

South Korea has announced increasing its assistance to Yemen to US\$ 100 million from the initial US\$ 55 million promised during the 2006 Consultative Group donors conference held in London. Director-general of cooperation with Asia Mr. Omar Abdulaziz stated that this exhibits the stronger bilateral relations between south Korea and Yemen.

CBY: Financing through leasing will spur economic growth

Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen Al-Samawi has stated that the law of financing through leasing will open new financing prospects to small and micro enterprises, stating that the law was presented to parliament as a part of set of reforms that aim at spurring economic growth in Yemen.

Yemen signs 10 Oil and Gas agreements

The Ministry of Oil, Gas and Minerals has signed agreements for exploration, production, and marketing of oil and gas in seven blocks, awarding ten companies these rights. The agreements included – for the first time – clauses relating to environment protection, human resources, and other relevant specifications that may be of concern.

Tadhamun Bank Approves dividend for 2007

Tadhamun International Islamic Bank has approved the dividend for shareholders for the year FY 2007, standing at a total of 1.129 billion Riyals. The high dividend was caused by a profit of 12.5% per share.

Government Agencies sign executive agenda for tenders

Following the conclusion of the transparency in public procurement workshop, participating government agencies has signed on the executive agenda for tenders which regulate public

procurement and maintains transparency in the management of tenders. Deputy prime minister for economic affairs Al-Arhabi has stated that the government is fully supportive of more transparency in public procurement.

Government pushes forward with rail system

The government has announced plans to recruit a consulting company to help with the development of the specifications of the planned rail system to connect coastal areas of Yemen. The government plans to call for foreign investors to invest in the system once the specifications agreed upon are finalized.

CSO: 13.3% of Yemeni people are impoverished

Director of the Central Statistical Organization Dr. Amin Muhiaddin stated that 13.3% of Yemeni people are impoverished and cannot afford to buy food. He also stated that 16.1% of eligible and willing workforce is unable to find working opportunities. This was discussed at the Shoura council as a part of measuring process on Yemen's poverty reduction strategy.

High vegetable prices cause consumer worry

The high vegetable prices in local market has caused consumer worry, where the price increase during the last one month has ranged from 25 – 100 % in local markets, driven by the high demand for exporting vegetables to neighboring markets.

Fisheries Minister: Fish Farming is the way to go

Minister of Fisheries Al-Saghiri has stated his ministry is working on developing several fish farming projects, as it has been convinced of the viability of these projects comparing to open sea fishing, he stated that while meeting with a Delegation from the European Commission's office in Sana'a.



Save the Children
Sweden

VACANCY

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- To support the Country manager to develop and implement functional and secure administrative and financial proceedings and routines for the offices in the country.
- To assure that all the financial and administrative requirements for the other Save the Children Alliance members operating in Yemen within the structures and support of SCS are fulfilled.
- To assure that all the financial and administrative requirements of external donors are met

Requirements

- Bachelor degree in Economics, Finance or Business Administration. master's degree preferred
- Minimum seven years of relevant work experience international NGO's or UN agencies, preferably in the Middle East/North Africa region.
- Excellent knowledge of donor policies, compliance regulations, and reporting requirement such as USAID, EC, ECHO, SIDA etc.
- Advanced knowledge of computer software, including financial software
- Ability to work under pressure, independently, and meet deadlines consistently
- Experience hiring, training, and supervising personnel
- Excellent management, interpersonal, team leadership, and strategic planning skills
- Strong, demonstrated English and Arabic oral and written communications skills
- Culture sensitive

Application

Qualified and interested individuals are kindly requested to send their CV with cover letter to Save the Children Sweden only via email to nalabdallah@scsmena.org Applications are accepted no later than April 27 2008 Please do not send supporting certificates and documents at this stage. Short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. For more information about Save the Children Sweden, visit website www.scsmena.org or www.rb.se

An Announcement for General Auction No.(1) for the Year 2008-04-10

The Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority has an intention to invite all bidders to participate in the Auction for Leasing Duty Free Shops at Aden International Airport, through applying in writing during the working hours and shall be addressed to:

**Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority
Directorate General of Finance
Purchases & Stores Directorate**

Therefore, all competitors who intend to bid shall follow the following conditions:

• bids must be submitted sealed with red wax as original and contain the following documents:

- A bank Guarantee 10% of the total value of the proposal payable by check or non conditional bank guarantee valid for (90) days from date of submittal, if the proposal is accepted, 30% the of the proposal value shall immediately be paid.
- A copy of valid Tax Card
- A copy of valid Commercial Registration Card
- A copy of valid Insurance Card
- A copy of valid "Zakat" Card
- A list of the copmany's previous experiences in this filed.

To purchase and receive a copy of the Bid's related Documents, bidders shall pay a non - refundable free of (10,000 Yrs.) and the deadline for selling such documents is on 30/04/2008.

The deadline for receiving the bids and opening the envelopes will be on Saturday, 10/05/2008 at 11 a m at the Office of Tenders' Committee Head.

Bidders can look into the documents before purchasing during the working hours of CAMA for 15 days from date of this announcement.

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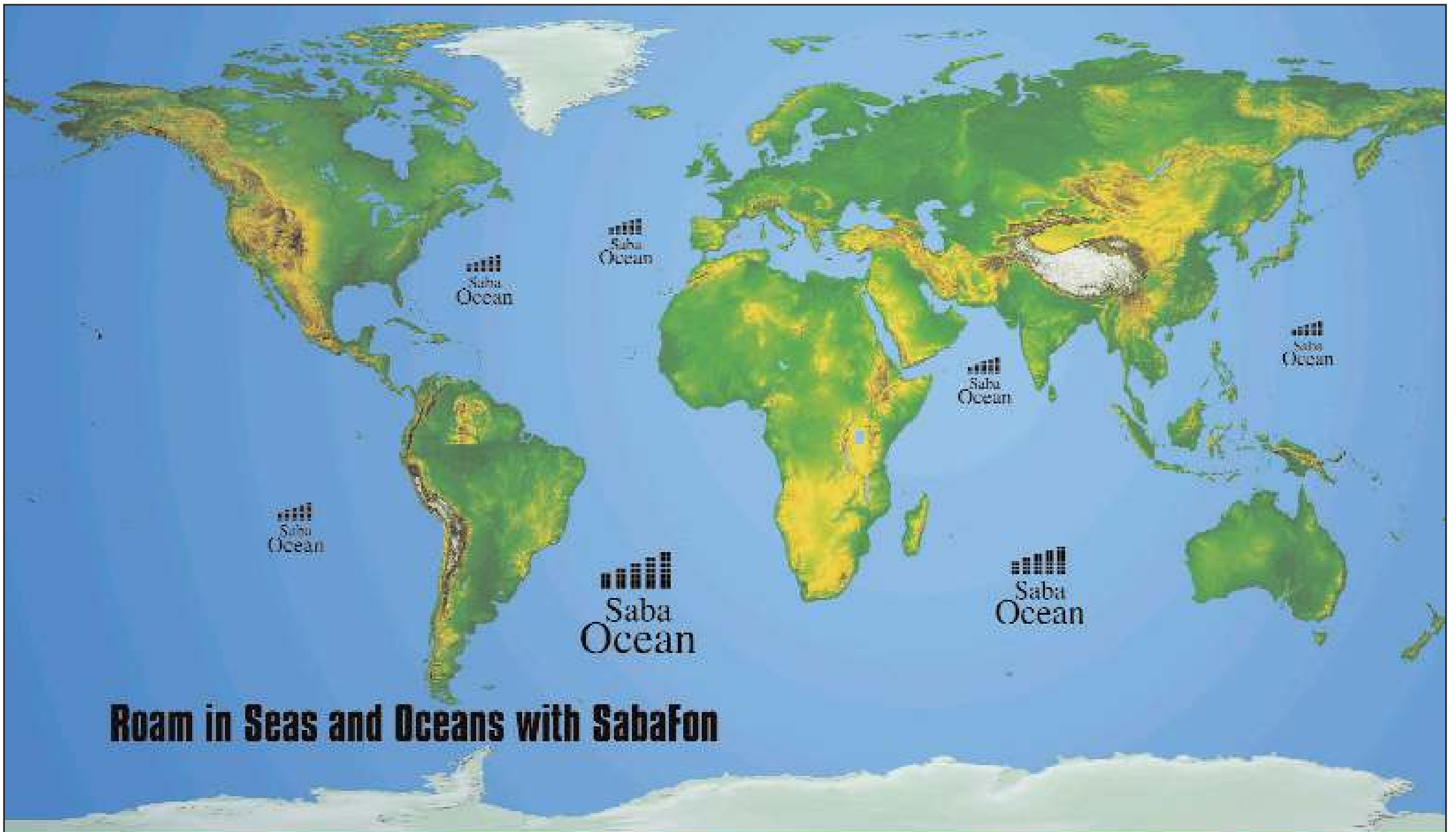
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Muslim children in danger

By: T. Hani Al-Sharaai
Al-Nahda Private School
hani_hasen2000@yahoo.com

WE all know who children are – innocent children, the lovers of Allah, the seeds of society and our future. Today, these children (Muslim children) all over the Islamic world are exposed to numerous incurable risks – some internal while others are external. Although such risks are innumerable, my subject mainly regards one in particular and that is foreign schools, that external epidemic threatening not only our children, but our nation as a whole. This fatal organization generally is established to serve the hidden schemes

of the new Western invaders who have been persuaded of the difficulty of dominating the aforementioned Muslims by force of weapons. The history of such schools in Islamic lands dates back to the early 18th century and they are of two origins – some followed missionaries while others were secular. As a result of their well-organized curriculums and qualified teaching staff, such schools quickly earn a good reputation among Muslims; hence, Muslim parents run to enroll their children, unaware of their evil schemes. So, why do these schools focus on Muslim children? These new invaders concern themselves with these children in the hopes of assisting in controlling the bountiful resources of Muslims. In an effort to create nonreligious genera-

tions outside of morality and an entity, they employ these skillful schools to enhance vice in Islamic nations via coeducation. For example, the atmosphere in such schools is quite different than that in Islamic instruction as children are gathered together in classes, even at advanced levels. Further, in a few bold schools, the curriculum is even outside of Islamic disciplines and the staff are non-Muslims. Not only that, but Arabic isn't allowed. Thus, they do their best to pervade hatred among small children toward Islamic principles.

So, what is our response to these challenges? As jealous Muslims, we have demanded our Islamic rulers bear their responsibility toward these youths of the future. They must take serious

steps to reform public education and root out the corrupt and these fruitless schools. Additionally, we must advise the parents of these schoolchildren to check for themselves, for they wrongly believe that their precious children will grow up better by acquiring Western customs and languages in such schools. Maybe they are slightly right, but surely they forget the Day of Judgment when they'll be asked about their children and what they learned. All in all, our entire nation must join hands to unmask the hidden schemes of the new invaders; otherwise, it will be a great loss. Civil community organizations, religious scholars, intellectuals and the media must play their important role in raising awareness about the risks of these types of schools.

The glories of Old Sana'a

By: Ghaleb Hassan Al-Ahlasi
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IF you love delving deeply into history or have ever wished to live during the periods of the last 3,000 years, then visit Sana'a, the city of history, beauty and magic.

From the first moment, even before entering the city, as you stand before its obsolete door known as Bab Al-Yemen, you'll find yourself standing where the first cannonball of freedom was fired on the morning of Sept. 26, 1962 and you can relive the moments when real men witnessed the dawn after the long night before. Upon passing through that massive door, you'll breathe in history and afford your eyes unlimited pleasures. Then, automatically, your eyes will move among its side alleys and buildings with the greatest surprise at their beauty and magic and you'll behold the most perfected architecture on the planet.

You'll see the most beautiful and well-made perfection you've ever seen – these hundreds of year old buildings, which usually are from three to seven floors. The first two or three are built

of black stone known as *habash* and then comes red limestone, called *yagour*.

Between these floors are beautifully engineered belts of a very attractive form drawn by a career artist.

Over these charming belts are the most wonderful windows you've seen or ever will see, but these windows aren't like any made of glass because two things make them special.

First, these windows have small wooden doors for many reasons such as moderating the weather, although Sana'a's weather is warm and great year round. Second, the amazingly engineered forms made of colored glass and placed precisely atop the windows are known as *qamariyyas* and mirror light into the room. Additionally, on the rooftop of every home is a single room with a large window, furnished with a carpet and some cushions and pillows usually different in colors. This room is for receiving guests and for sessions and meetings between friends. These beautiful rooms are called *mafraj* or *mand-hir* in Sana'a and there isn't a single building without one. Another unique aspect about these buildings is their doors, which are like a Picasso draw-

ing – and maybe even more beautiful. You may not believe it, but when you see how fantastic the sculptures on them are, you'll say they are even greater than that.

Then, impulsively, you'll move deeper into the Old City only to find yourself in the world's oldest organized market named for the goods sold there. For example, there's the spice market fragrant with the great smile of its spices.

The gold market includes all types of jewelry and many very professional jewelers. There's also the silver market – or the market of "the new old" – containing antique *jambiyyas*, necklaces and everything crafted by the most perfect silversmiths – some of whom are just teenagers. Other markets for copper, *jambiyyas*, iron and others share just one thing in common – their organization.

Then, if you're lucky, you'll be in the area at prayer time when you'll be thrilled by the tender, soul-stirring call from the more than 50 mosques all around the Old City, which gives a spiritual feeling and transports you to heaven, even if you can't speak Arabic.

If you should visit one of these

mosques, you'll discover a perfection of architecture, one striking aspect of which is the large and clean open space with pillars and a beautiful dome adorned with Qur'anic verses and written in ancient Arabic script. Another amazing thing is the bath-rooms in these mosques. Upon entering, you'll find a stone floor and a higher stone upon which to sit. Just sit there if you desire to do ablutions or simply to wash. If you wish to shower, just in front of your head you'll find a large wooden nail where you may hang your clothes after removing them. No wondering at all, as they'll remain dry and just under your eye. Sana'ani people are very kind, gentle and friendly, which you can see from their smiles and how they deal with foreigners. You'll never feel like you're a visitor far from your homeland.

So this is Sana'a, the city of history, art and beauty. The poet was absolutely right when he said, "Sana'a contains the entirety of art and beauty." It's no wonder because it's more than 3,000 years old and many civilizations have stood there. In nearly every location, a war happened or there stood a history maker. It's no wonder that it's the star's sister and the meteor's neighbor!

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
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Water shortage an indicator of a "better future?!"

BECAUSE water is the most essential requirement for people's lives, its shortage was promised in the last presidential election to be solved not only in the cities, but also in the villages. In short, our nation was promised a better future, but the water shortage is worsening day by day until many wonder if this really is "an indicator of the better future."

Water shortage threatens the entire nation with human catastrophe while the government has initiated no real solutions. A year and half has passed since the last elections, during which time the "future" is progressing, but it's coming without any "better," as promised.

A year and half ago, Yemeni residents received water every 20 days, but it wasn't enough. Citizens complained and constantly displayed their anger, but there was no real response by the authorities. Instead, the responses were from the people themselves, who sought to obtain more tanks to store more water so it would be sufficient for them during those 20 days.

With our dear president's promise of a "better future," people were hopeful that the water problem would be solved. For example, some said that instead of distributing water every 20 days, "it will be every 10 days." They thought the president said "a better future," so it would be only 10 days, but if he had said "the best future," it would be every day, but this may be the case in the next presidential election.

A year and a half has passed and water now is distributed every month and a half. This is the case now, but maybe after another six months, it'll be every two or two and a half months. This means that by the time of the next presidential election, water will be distributed every five

months. Even if water isn't distributed at all, there will be no problem in the next elections; people won't be angry because they'll be too wrapped up in the election propaganda.

What's more interesting is that water bills are distributed regularly every month. A friend of mine received a bill for February and another for March; however, during the period covered by these bills, water wasn't even distributed in his area!

This really is a matter to be investigated because how can these bills be calculated monthly when no water has been distributed for more than a month? Bills are calculated by taking the number of units on the meter; however, since no water was distributed during this period, the units on the meter must be the same as that of the previous month. What surprises everyone is that the amount for March is similar to the amount for February.

As an urgent solution, citizens began buying water tanks, with a 1,000-liter tank costing YR 1,200, but suddenly, the price rose to YR 2,000. For such a period of time, a family of five may require at least three tanks. Additionally, they should pay their water bill every month; otherwise, the water office will remove their meter.

This is just one indicator of the "better future" Yemenis received as a gift for their "loyalty" during the elections. There are other indicators, such as price hikes, unemployment, poverty, etc., but life goes on. It's really a matter of wonderment for all residents, who ask themselves thousands of times, "What's coming after all of this?"

Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an ex-editor of English Journal of the University.

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- محاسب يمني الجنسية لديه شهادة جامعية وخبرة ٣ سنوات للتواصل: ٧٧٣٦٦٧٨٥ - ٠١/٦٨١٣٩٧

أدبي) ثلاث دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية - دورة تدريب مبيعات من شركة الجدول (شركة كندية لبنانية - يرغب في العمل في أي محافظة

التواصل: ٧٣٤٨٧٢٤٩٩ - ٥٤/٤٠٦٩٧٧

- مستوى ثالث - كلية التجارة محاسبة + دبلوم كمبيوتر - دورات إنجليزي وانترنت - دورة في النظام المحاسبي يمن سوفت - خبرة في مجال الحسابات - خبرة في مجال السكرتارية والعلاقات العامة
- بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب (تقنية معلومات) - جامعة صنعاء - يجيد التعامل مع لغات C.net , visual basic.net
- يجيد صيانة الكمبيوتر
- للتواصل: ٧٣٤٥٧٧٤٣٦
- ثانوية مهنية صناعية - دورات في الكمبيوتر - دورات في الإنترنت - دورة مكثفة في صيانة الكمبيوتر - دورة في المحاسبة - دورة تطبيقية في مجال الاتصالات السلكية والاسلكية - شهادة خبرة كمساعد إداري - شهادة خبرة (Times Keeper) - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال
- للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٦٧٥٨٣
- بك محاسبة - خبرة في برامج الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - ٤ سنوات خبرة في مجال المحاسبة - يبحث عن عمل في الفترة المسائية في أي مجال (يفضل الحسابات) للتواصل: ٧١١٠٢٢١٢
- عبدالرحيم محمد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية (جامعة حضرموت) - دبلوم برامج تطبيقات الحاسب الآلي - خبرة ٩ شهور في الإستقبال وإدخال البيانات - لديه رخصة قيادة - يبحث عن وظيفة.
- للتواصل: ٧١١٦٦٠٧٣٠
- أيمن شريف عباس - بكالوريوس محاسبة - تقدير جيداً مع مرتبة الشرف - خبرة في الحسابات - دورات محاسبية من مصر - نظام محاسبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت)

باحثون عن وظيفة

- مهندس اتصالات والكرونيات - خبرة ٨ سنوات للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٧٠١١
- محمد صادق - دبلوم محاسبة - تقدير جيد - دورات في مجال التسويق - حاصل على رخصة قيادة - لبق ويجيد إقناع العملاء
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٢٤١١٥
- محمد عبد الرحمن - دبلوم محاسبة - تقدير جيد - دورات في الكمبيوتر - دورة في مجال التسويق - حاصل على رخصة قيادة - يجيد التعامل مع العملاء
- للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠
- أحمد فؤاد الريفى - ثانوية عامة (قسم

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* للإيجار في الخي السياسي يرجى الإتصال ٧١١٧٠٢٦٤٢

- ١- شقة ٣ غرف ، حمامين ومطبخ . الإيجار الشهري ٢٥٠ دولار
- ٢- شقة ٤ غرف حمامين ومطبخ . الإيجار الشهري ٣٥٠ دولار
- ٣- شقة جديدة، تشطيب لوكرس ، ٤ غرف، ٣ حمامات، مطبخ ٥٠٠ دولار
- ٤- شقة مفروشة ٣ غرف، حمامين، مطبخ، الإيجار ٤٠٠ دولار
- ٥- فيلا دور واحد ، ٤ غرف ، حمامين، مطبخ وحوش للسيارات ٨٠٠ دولار
- ٦- فيلا دورين، ٩ غرف، ٤ حمامات، مطبخين وحوش للسيارات. ١٢٠٠ دولار

للإيجار في فرع بيت بوس يرجى الإتصال مع ٧٣٣٤٧٢٩٨٤
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فنادق

فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٧٧-١/٢
 فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠
 فندق موفيميك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
 فندق تاج سبأ ت: ٠١-٢٧٣٣٧٥
 فندق ريلاكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
 فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٥٥٠ - ٦٠٢١٥٨/٨

البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ ت: ١-٢٦-٨٢٣-٩٦٧
 فرع عدن ت: ٢٣٧٨٩٩ - ٢٣٧٨٩٩ / فاكس: ٢٣٧٨٢٤
 بنك التضامن الإسلامي ت: ٠١/٦٦٦٦٦٦
 البنك التجاري ت: ٧٧٣٢٤ فاكس: ٧٧٣٢١
 مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٦٨٥٧٣٧٥٧٢٠٢
 فاكس: ٢٦٨٥٠٣٥٠-٢٥٠٣٥٠
 بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٠١-٤٠٧٠٣٠
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 بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ٠١-٥٦٣٨١٣
 البنك المركزي: ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٢٤٠

تأجير سيارات

زايوه (Budget) ت: ٠١-٢٦٣٧٢-٠١-٢٦٣٧٢-٠١-٢٦٣٧٢
 فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
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 فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٩٥٨٥
 عدن ت: ٠٢-٢٤٥٦٢٥

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صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٢٨٣٠٥
 فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٧٤١٩
 عدن ت: ٢٠٠٢٣٧١٩٩
 تعز ت: ٤٠٢٥٠٢٤٣
 المكلا ت: ٠٥٠٢٠٧٤٩٢

مدارس

مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٢٧/٤٢٤-٤٢٣
 مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٣٧-١٩١٧/٢ فاكس: ٣٧-١٩٢٣
 مدرسة التوكية الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٥٨٥٨
 مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

سفرات

النسيم للسفرات ت: ٢٧-٧٥٠
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مطاعم

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 تلفون: ٥٠٢٩٠ - ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - فاكس: ٢٦٦٦١٩

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The wall of the Old City of Sana'a: salient evidence of a great civilization



Photos by Fadi Al-Anani

The Old City's beauty stems from its abundance of high towers that bewitch trekkers.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Throughout hundreds of years, the wall surrounding the Old City of Sana'a has preserved its marvelous capacity to surprise its beholders, manifesting its presence in numerous books of great historians and the diaries of trekkers and visitors.

In fact, one would be hard-pressed to find a book about the Old City not containing information about the wall, one of the most attractive ancient sites in the capital, which is believed to be one of the world's oldest cities, as it's often said that the Old City of Sana'a was built by Noah's son, Shem.

If talk about Sana'a is always linked to its ancientness and its marvelous capacity to preserve its ancient characteristics, the wall is one of the city's most salient historical sights, and therefore, clear evidence of the ancientness, the glorious history and the uniqueness of Yemeni civilization.

Erecting walls around cities seems to be a general phenomenon in the history of ancient civilizations. Walls were built around cities, thereby functioning as defense barriers to protect cities and hamlets from conquest.

Yemen had practiced the phenomenon since pre-Islamic times, with ancient remains revealing that most of its old cities, such as Aden, Zabid, Sa'ada and Marib, were walled.

Such walls typically were erected around cities located in plains areas to protect them, unlike cities and hamlets in mountainous areas, which used the

surrounding mountains to protect themselves from their enemies.

Conflicting details

A city should be able to protect itself from any attacks against it. Due to lack of political stability, Sana'a was subjected to invasion and looting by tribes in neighboring areas. For these reasons, a strong wall was built around the city and is considered one of the city's most ancient sights, despite the fact that it has been rehabilitated several times.

Historical books and narratives differ about when the Old City wall was built, but numerous references and studies depend upon the legacy of Yemen's great historian, Abu Mohammed Al-Hassan Al-Hamdani (893-947 A.D.).

In his book "Al-Iklil," Al-Hamdani argued that Shar Autur, a Sabeen King built the wall and some of the marvelous palaces, which Imam Abu baker Al-Razi affirmed in his book, "The History of Sana'a." According to Al-Razi, Shar Autur was a Sheban king who ruled many areas of Yemen during the final days of the second century A.D.

Other historians believe the wall's pillars belong to the Sheban era, substantiating their view on identical structures at Marib Dam and other walls of the Sheban city. On the old city's wall there are forts, towers and 128 naabas.

A naaba is a cylindrical-shaped room built on a wall and used to guard a city. Built of red brick, some naabas still remain, but due to ignorance and lack of maintenance, they've been subjected

to erosion.

In his book, "Al-Masjed Al-Masbouk," Abu Al-Hassan Bin Ali Al-Khazraji explained how Sultan Ali Bin Hatim Al-Hamdani destroyed the Sana'a route nearly 860 years ago in 570 Hijra, demolishing its trenches and removing other ancient attractions upon hearing of the arrival of Turan Shah Al-Ayoubi, an Ottoman army commander to Sana'a. Afterward, Taghkeen Al-Ayoubi, another commander rebuilt the wall in the same century.

The wall was ruined again in 1036 and a few years later, Mohammed Ali Basha, a ruler at that time, order the best builders to restore it.

Its gates

According to Ibn Al-Mujawer, there are seven gates on the Old City wall: Bab Ghamdan, Bab Damashq, Bab Al-Sabah, Bab Khandaq Al-Aala, Bab Al-Khandaq Al-Asfal, Bab Al-Nasr and Bab Shara'a.

However, in a recent narrative, Judge Mohammed Al-Qadhi said they knew of only four gates around the Old City of Sana'a: Bab Al-Yemen, Bab Shaoub, Bab Al-Sabah and Bab Al-Qasr.

Architectural beauty

The Old City's beauty stems from its abundance of high towers that bewitch trekkers. Homes in the form of towers constitute the main infrastructure of Sana'a and give the city an optical impression different from other Islamic cities.

Gazers realize that most Old City



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homes consist of five to eight stories, each with a particular function. For instance, the fourth floor contains the mafraj, a room for receiving guests. Well-furnished due to its distinctive location, this room also has many windows.

Additionally, the diversity of decorations on the front of these homes is unique and eye-catching.

Old City homes typically occupy a small area, with their gates leading directly to the road or lane outside. Large homes aren't easily distinguishable from small ones and tall homes prevent any beholders from viewing the basatine, or gardens.

Numerous factors are considered in designing Old City homes. Some of these factors are natural such as cold,

heat and air, while others are social or human. Builders shouldn't ignore these factors because they assist in the choice of construction material in order to ensure that their inhabitants lead happy lives. For example, the sides of the structure, particularly its front and how many floors are to be built, should be decided upon before construction begins.

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