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## Inside: ▶



**5**  
**Water shortage changes not only lifestyles but village customs too**



**7**  
**Al-Qaeda's PR strategy on the internet: Free propaganda**



**8**  
**Food Crisis Threaten Yemen's Stability**

## Promise of international aid will help combat screw-worm fly epidemic

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, April 23 — Yemeni National Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will donate goods and services worth US \$50,000 to Yemen for this and next year in order to combat the screw-worm fly emergency (also known as myiasis or fly strike), said Khalid Al-Ahmed, the general manager of examination and authorization in the Atomic Energy Agency.

The Ministry of Electricity and Agriculture recently participated in a conference held by the Atomic Energy Agency to help support Yemen's fight against myiasis.

According to Mansour Al-Qadasie, the general manager of the veterinary laboratory in Ministry of Agriculture, international experts will come to Yemen in the coming days to study the situation and then contact others in the region like Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

"We cannot just work in Yemen its

self, because countries in the region have the same problem, and screw-worm fly will move and travel to other countries, which is why there must be joint work," said Al-Qadasie.

One of the solutions to the problem could be circulating sterile insects to breed with the infected flies, noting that the sterile insect cannot give birth to a normal one," said Dr. Ghalib Al-Eryani, general manager of the Agriculture Ministry's Animal Wealth Administration.

"If the epidemic spreads, Yemen will suffer huge economic losses estimated in the billions from animal wealth revenues," added Al-Qadasie.

The danger of myiasis stems from its rapid spread, which makes it a fatal epidemic causing tremendous humanitarian and economic losses within a short period, notes Al-Ahmed.

Also, screw-worm fly can hurt people as well. The flies' eggs can be implanted into people, especially those with poor access to sanitation. The attacks may

lead to death, particularly among those children living in polluted environments. Additionally, it may kill the elderly unless the larvae are extracted and the site is purified via suitable antibiotics.

This epidemic could also decrease an animal's ability to produce milk and meat, in addition to widespread animal death. Treating the disease sometimes requires cutting out the animal's infected organ, Al-Eryani added.

The Ministry of Agriculture said that Yemen can rid itself of screw-worm fly in 10 years. The screw-worm fly appeared in Yemen for the first time in December 2007, and is now spreading to other areas. The seven governorates are already suffering from screw-worm fly are Sa'ada, Al-Hodeidah, Hajja, Taiz, Al-Mahweet, Amran, and Al-Jawf, according to Al-Ahmed.

10,592 villages have been surveyed since December 2007, and there are 10,902 infected and cured sheep, 268 cows, 229 camels and 4132 goats.



Myiasis has also caused 1,116 animal deaths, said Al-Ahmed. Over 63,000 other animals have been vaccinated since last December, and there are currently 34 field teams working on the problem.

The conference resulted in a contribution of US \$50,000 to combat the problem. The support will focus on finding a quick solution by strengthening the central veterinary laboratory and also improving the agricultural laboratories, adds Al-Eryani. To improve laboratories, the donation will provide advanced microscopes for diagnosis and have a



Myiasis has caused more than 1,000 animal deaths while over 60,000 other animals have been vaccinated since last December.

special training for Yemeni staff on the screw-worm fly. The training will also focus on controlling the disease through field observations of the flies' movement and biological characteristics. The training courses will be started as soon as possible, using international experts

and will take 30 to 40 days.

The most important thing is local participation. "There should be some real means that can be used to teach the locals and the farmers in order to make them aware [of the problem]," said Al-Eryani.

## Army leaders foil mediation, say Houthi supporters

By: Yemen Times Staff

SA'ADA, April 23 — Citizens in Sa'ada province, the scene of fierce clashes

between the army and Al-Houthi rebel group, are apprehensive that the army and the Houthis might resume warring after several months of respite, well-informed local sources told the Yemen Times.

"The Qatari delegation left Yemen last Monday after reaching an impasse due to the Northern Area Commander Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmer refusing to implement the agreement appendix signed by the government represented by Abdul-Karim Al-Eryani," the sources added. The appendix states that life should go back to normal with the army abandoning houses, farms, civil facilities such as schools, courts and local governance buildings. According to the agreement,

the army shouldn't set up more than one checkpoint in each county of the province.

"The Presidential Committee has settled down in Sana'a and suspended all types of mediation activity between the government and the Houthis," the source said.

In an exclusive statement to the Yemen Times, Sheikh Saleh Habrah, representative of the Houthis, commented on the Qatari Mediation Committee's failure yesterday saying that, "The reason why the Qatari efforts landed at a deadlock was the Military Area Command's refusal to implement the agreement article providing for 'bringing life back to normal' in Sa'ada."

"The departure of the Qatari Committee coincided with an unprecedented smear campaign launched by pro-police apparatus newspapers against the state of Qatar. Al-Shomoa Newspaper, one of the main military settlement advocates since the 2004 eruption of Sa'ada war, claimed last Sunday that Qatar aims to put an end to Sa'ada war, serving a hidden Iranian agenda with U.S. support," Habrah explained.

"The authorities had detained Sheikh Najee Saleh Bakhtan, a representative of Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi on the

Presidential-Qatari-Houthi Committee, last Tuesday and held him in an undisclosed location, giving no justification for the detention," He added.

Habrah said that they had spared no efforts to break the ice. "We have forwarded suggestions many times for settlement, all of which fell on deaf ears. The Houthis have repeatedly reiterated their intent to leave their mountain positions entirely and are willing to return to their villages, work, farms and houses. They said they are ready to abandon all counties and Azzan mountain no later than 15 days after the army's abandonment of citizens' houses, villages and farms."

He warned of the serious situation, pinpointing many breaches committed by the army and the security forces since the Houthis lifted the siege on Brigade 17's commander and two battalions in the Jum'a bin Fadhil area before several months.

"Frequency of breaches has increased. Military presence is visible in Khawlan bin Amer area and other areas. Citizens are harassed at checkpoints and gunshots are fired at villages and across roads," he said.

Commenting on the killing of MP Saleh Daghshan last Friday by unknown

gunmen, Habrah accused the military of the murder or at least collusion. "The man was murdered near a military post that directly overlooked the road where he was driving. This incident could not have been done without the military's

involvement or collusion. The authority hurled this charge at us on the grounds that the murder occurred in Al-Hadb area, within Sahar county, to south of Sa'ada.

Continued on page 3

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WHAT IT MEANS...

Point 10 of the presidential initiative

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

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

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

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

Fourth, acknowl-



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

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

It is very unlikely that the current clan-based Yemeni political regime will deliver anything meaningful in

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

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

The second article should read "Thirty percent of all elected public institutions at the central, regional, and local levels should be reserved for women, and political parties should compete for these seats under a proportional representation electoral system. The law should make it the duty of the electoral commission to make sure that female nominees

on party lists have been selected and ranked in the lists according to secret intra-party balloting." The third article should state "Thirty percent of all public institution positions which are fielded by presidential appointments at the central, regional, and local levels should be reserved for women, and the law should specify the cases where

exceptions can be made, provided that they do not violate the principle of equal citizenship, the principle of equal opportunity, and the qualifications required for taking a specific job."

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

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

Continued from page 1

Army leaders foil mediation, say Houthi supporters

The authorities claim that they have detained some suspects implicated in the murder, which is untrue and we have not been informed."

Local sources in Al-Hadb area told Yemen Times that the suspects had eaten lunch on the day of the murder in the house of an allegedly pro-state person. Al-Hadb is close to the ambush scene that claimed the lives of MP Daghshan, his son, one of his guards and injured six others, three of whom were hospitalized with serious injuries.

The Sa'ada local authority exchanged accusations with the Houthis over the murder. Each of them claimed the other side was involved in the killing of Daghshan.

On the other hand, tribal sources said that Al-Hadb tribes follow Sheikh Abu Ubaid and that they have not been infiltrated by the Houthis. "There are no Houthi supporters among our tribesmen," the sources said, suggesting that the murder might have been a revenge killing.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Daghshan family said that they thought the Houthis were unlikely to be involved in the death of their relative. They do not point the finger in any direction.

Earlier Al-Husaini tribes, clans known to have historical feuds with the Daghshan clan, tribally disclaimed any responsibility for the murder.

Sources said that representatives of the tribes that may have wanted to take revenge on the Daghshan clan participated in the funeral rituals to prove their innocence. The sources added they did not kill the deceased MP because they could have simply announced it according to tribal conventions. It is customary when a Yemeni tribe takes revenge for the killing of one of its members, they send out certain signs and fire gunshots near the grave of their deceased to "tell him" that they have taken revenge on the killer or one of his relatives and that he may rest in peace. The identity of the perpetrator or perpetrators remains to be seen.



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# Water shortage changes not only lifestyles but village customs too

By: Almigdad Mojalli  
almigdads8@yahoo.com

**T**he shortage of water made Mohammed Nasser and many others in his village of Basseq give up their traditional customs.

Mohammed used to host anybody whether they be passers-by, election committees, census-takers and anyone in between, but now he is not even able to provide the essentials for his own family because of the water shortage affecting their agricultural products.

"Ten years ago, we had a very happy life. Everything was available and we could buy and do anything we wanted, but now the water shortage and long absence of rainfall have turned our life upside down," said Nasser. "We have no water to irrigate our land, which is the main source of [our] livelihood. Consequently, we were compelled to abandon a lot of our customs and habits."

Ten years ago, Basseq villagers were content. Water was available and they grew wheat, all kinds of grapes, almonds and qat. The revenues were abundant and they didn't care about education or state employment because the income at that time was equal to the salary of a general manager in the state. Now, out of the 20 wells that used to provide the village with water, only two still function. "Each one could at least irrigate 90 square meters after providing people with drinking water. Now, 18 of them have run out of water and the other two provide for the entire village, whose population exceeds 1,000 people, with drinking water," said Sheikh Mohammed Mabkhout.

The two wells aren't providing enough drinking water for the village's people. At the same time, people need to irrigate their lands not for crops, but to keep trees alive. The only solution is to bring water by "whites," the name



Out of 20 wells in the village, only two still provide people with drinking water

for trucks that carry water tanks, from Bani Hushaish 20 kilometers to Basseq. However, some of the people can't afford to buy water. "Only the people who have whites can irrigate their land, while the others have difficulty getting water to drink because one white costs YR 3700 (US \$18.50) and this is a very big sum for them," Mabkhout explained.

In 1984, the villagers made a dam on the top of the village on their account but because this dam was made without government approval or help, it wasn't constructed well and it collapsed. During the past three years, the villagers demanded that the government build them a dam, but the project has stalled indefinitely. "I went to the Ministry of Agriculture, explained the situation of the water shortage in the

village and asked them to allocate funds to build a dam for the village but they procrastinated," said Yahya Ahmed, local council member.

The animal trade also provided wealth for the Basseq villagers but as a result of the shortage of rainfall and water, that source of revenue too has waned as there are no pastures. "Ninety five percent of the villagers depend completely on agriculture and animal wealth. In the past every family had at least a cow, ten sheep, goats and some chickens. Now there are no pastures and people can't provide food for the animals," said another villager, Ahmed Moqbel. "Most people sold their sheep, goats and cows to provide for other needs like sugar, wheat and rice."

The cessation of animal and agricultural wealth made the villagers live

very poor lives. People now are unable to provide many essential foodstuffs for their families like meat, milk, wheat, rice, and ghee. The lands are totally dry, prices unreasonably and people have no solution. According to Mabkhout, 80 percent of the villagers live on less than US \$2 a day, and more than 60 percent buy meat only once a month. Some families live like prisoners on bread and water only. "People suffer destitution. The cows, sheep and livestock that used to provide them meat, milk and eggs went away and the farms that provided them with the value of wheat, rice and ghee are dry now," said Mabkhout. "There are four families in our village that eat only bread and nothing else."

This compelled many people to leave the village in search of jobs. Many of the of them tried to work as soldiers, but were not accepted into the military because they don't have any qualifications. Others went to Dhamar governorate where wheat is grown in order to work and provide at least a little sustenance for their families, while some others trade qat. "About 50 percent of the villagers left their homes, some of them with their families, looking for a livelihood. This is the season of rainfall and nothing so far. Price hikes are unreasonable and people get poorer. I don't know how can people survive," Naji Mohammed, another villager, complained.

The water shortage, which led people to poverty, obliged them to give up many of their traditional customs, since they can't afford the cost.

#### Marriage Custom:

In the past, a wedding in Basseq lasted from four to seven days. The family of the groom invite around 400 people, slaughtering three cows and more than

five sheep for the occasion, served alongside many other kinds of food. Nowadays, these rituals have all but disappeared. The duration of the wedding has shrunk to just one day and the invitations are restricted to family members only. Instead of slaughtering many cows and sheep, people now slaughter at most two lambs. They also use a recorder to play music instead of hiring live musicians.

Murad Hameed, 28, got married eight months ago to one of his distant relatives. He invited only his close family members for one night and one day. "When I was young, I never imagined that my wedding would be boring like this," said Hameed. "I always dreamt of a very nice wedding attended by all of my friends, neighbors and relatives, but poverty and the water shortage obliged me to make it in a very short period and exclusively for close relatives. I bought only half a cow and my friends learned about my marriage two months later and blamed me for not inviting them," he explained.

But Hameed was more fortunate than Ziad Abdulkareem, who is going to be married in six weeks. Ziad realizes his circumstances and the rituals of the wedding aren't as important for him as having his wife. "My family and I can't afford a cow or to invite our relatives to attend my wedding. So my father-in-law is going to make a small party for my wife at his home. In the evening,

of the village's women. Residents looked pale, dirty and miserable. They dispersed and disappeared immediately after the burial, not wanting to invite visitors in to their homes. Only one man invited in visitors, Khalid Saeed. When the man served poor quality water, he apologized profusely. "Please excuse us, but the water that we had from the well in the morning has finished," he said. He explained why all the people disappeared after the burial; they are very generous but they do not have enough provisions to invite in guests, preferring to leave quickly rather than facing the embarrassment of inviting visitors inside.

"People have become very poor and can't even feed their kids. It is so difficult for them to invite people and they stop that," said Khalid Saeed

#### Delivery Occasion

In the rural areas of the northern governorates of Yemen, when a woman is in the delivery period after she had a baby, she spends 45 days at home and her relatives and friends visit her every afternoon. Usually, the husband is responsible for the expenditures of the first half of the 45 days and has to bring special food, water and drinks for the visitors as well as musicians. On the 20th day the father, brothers and sisters of the woman visit her and bring a lamb as well as money and many presents. They stay there till the second day when the



People import water 20 kilometers to their village at YR 3700.

my father-in-law and his brothers and sons will bring my wife to me," said Abdulkareem. "I have nothing to offer my guests, for I can neither do anything nor invite anyone. I gave all my money as a dowry to my father-in-law," he added.

#### Hospitality

Hospitality is one of the most praiseworthy traits that Arabs in general and Yemenis in particular are known for since time immemorial, but the water shortage compelled people to abandon this custom. In the past, visitors to this village were invited into the homes of its people for at least seven days. Two weeks ago, there was a funeral for one

husband has to slaughter for them. Nowadays, people have abandoned these rituals. "Now when the woman delivers, she stays at home for only for 15 days and her father and other relatives visit her only one day and bringing a few presents for them. Also, people cancelled the idea of the musicians and the women's sessions in the afternoon," said Um Abdulkareem Nasser. Water shortage led to poverty, which changed the rich traditions of Basseq. Everyday people get poorer and prices get higher.

"The state has to find solutions, build dams and support agriculture, otherwise this village will be free of people after five years," warned Mabkhout.



For Basseq village, the future looks dry.

## World Food Program feeds 77,000 Sa'ada residents despite ongoing conflict

By: Sarah Wolff

**W**hile price hikes and worldwide food shortages have affected all Yemenis, some of the most vulnerable to hunger and starvation are those residents in the north, who are being subjected to continued warfare. The World Food Program, or WFP, has been one of the few international agencies permitted to visit Sa'ada governorate throughout the ongoing fighting in the region. When the war in Sa'ada

escalated in 2007, the WFP established a field office in the region and rented storage facilities to help provide displaced Sa'ada residents with the food they needed.

Since then, the agency, which is part of the United Nations' team in Yemen, has expanded its services to include not only the original recipients of the food aid – the internally displaced people – but also Sa'ada returnees and those affected by the war in general.

The WFP now assists approximately 77,000 people in the area with the help of Islamic Relief, which distributes and monitors rations in

lieu of the WFP.

WFP Representative and Yemen Country Director Mohammed Al-Kouhene spoke with the Yemen Times about ongoing aid to war-ravaged Sa'ada and how the agency maintains neutrality in such a situation.

#### As an objective and neutral body, how does the World Food Program deal with the conflict in Sa'ada?

The WFP distributes food to all accessible conflict-affected populations in Sa'ada, regardless of race, gender, religion or political views. We ensure the delivery of food assistance to the right beneficiaries based on a long registra-

tion and verification process conducted by WFP trained staff.

#### How do they manage to distribute food to the needy in light of this?

Once the distribution lists are set, the WFP organizes the distribution points and delivers the food to the intended beneficiaries.

#### What channels does the agency use to distribute food in Sa'ada and how exactly is it distributed?

We've had a team deployed in Sa'ada since its operation began last June and the team is responsible for tracking commodities and supervising food distribution. The agency also has Islamic Relief as [its] implementing partner

responsible for food distribution.

#### Is the WFP able to distribute food throughout the region or only in certain parts?

We've been unable to reach some areas in Sa'ada due to security constraints; however, based on a recent survey, so far, we've been able to reach approximately 80 percent of the affected population.

#### Are there parts of the Sa'ada region that the WFP wishes it could have better access to?

There are affected areas that are inaccessible to the WFP; however, displaced people from some of those areas continue coming to Sa'ada city to col-

lect their food rations.

#### What does the WFP expect the food stability situation to be like once the Yemeni government and Houthis hold to their agreement and the fighting ends?

We expect the recovery process to take some time because some have lost their property, businesses and even their main sources of income. We're monitoring the situation closely and based on the variables of the situation, we'll determine whether to conclude, extend or elevate the operation to another level, including supporting recovery activities through the WFP's regular development program in Yemen or through a specific project.

# Why does the authority attempt to abort peaceful struggle?

By: Adel Ameen

**D**r. Yasin Sa'eed Nu'man, Secretary General of Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), is famous for his being more able to describe Yemen's status quo, analyze and diagnose its constituents, as well as explore its real reasons and potential consequences in an incomparable style. One hardly sees other experienced politicians in Yemen follow more or less the same style of Nu'man while dealing with pressing national issues.

During one of his meetings with YSP leaders and grassroots in Al-Dhale' governorate, Nu'man provided the attendees with his personal interpretation and analysis of Yemen's status quo and why it continues to worsen. He also unveiled his vision with regard to furious actions in the southern governorates, plus the relevant threats.

"The current turmoil in the nation is the result of an authority lacking the required capacity to adopt or discuss a successful national project," he said. "This authority has no national project, except for pursuing poor policies that encourage property theft and official oppression until the extent of making some people search for ethnical and sectarian strife to defend themselves and protect their property."

Regarding the furious actions in

South Yemen, he noted that the authority wants to make such moral and peaceful actions go indecent and violent so that it will be easier for it to ban them. Lacking an effective national project, the authority turned to behave in an extremist manner in dealing with issues of South Yemen, thus producing unprecedented aftermath in the Yemeni history, according to Numan.

Nu'man held the authority accountable for breeding extremism after its poor policies made people lead a miserable life, thus becoming pessimistic about the possibility of building a democratic state based on the National Unity's principles, ratified on May 22, 1990. He also blamed it for making the national crisis more complicated, confirming that this crisis will continue to worsen with the passage of days.

## What happens in the south?

The South part of Yemen experiences a difficult security situation, having become a ground for endless conflicts between the authority and citizens protesting against their government's failed policies and arbitrary practices on a daily basis. The authority has no good policy due to lacking a national project. Ongoing clashes in the southern cities, which first broke out in Al-Dhale' and led to the excessive deployment of troops and tanks in these cities, aimed to force legal actions go violent so that they can be easily prevented.

Claiming constitutional rights via

peaceful protests, oppressed citizens of South Yemen strongly rejects all the forms of violence and rioting. Strong determination to continue the peaceful struggle until demands listed by oppressed citizens are met is why protesters gain increasing popular support, and at the same time perplex the authority.

How one can imagine that an authority, claiming to enhance democracy and respect human rights and public freedoms, confronts peaceful and legal actions with crackdown and oppressive military operations. This authority can not behave in a way contravening the Constitution and Law unless it fabricates pretexts and inauthentic reasons justifying why it uses force and atrocity in dealing with such actions. This is what actually happened in Al-Dhale', Radfan, Al-Hawta, Al-Habelain and Tawr Al-Baha.

Away from the apparent and direct causes of clashes between citizens and government troops, what happens these days in the southern governorates is a process through which protests were transformed from peaceful struggle into scenes of violence, rioting and destruction. It is a malicious attempt machinated by the authority to restrict peaceful and legal protests, and place protestors in dock in order to get rid of them and their intolerable protests.

In the same context, one of the Islah Party leaders, requesting to remain unnamed, confirms that

mobilization of military troops and equipment to the protest scenes is meant to change legal actions into rioting and peaceful struggle into chaos. However, the YSP Secretary General describes what is happening in the southern governorates as an official attempt to abort peaceful struggle and bury alive an emerging democracy in a critical moment.

According to politicians and political analysts, what is currently happening in the southern governorates is an indicator of a regime on the way to losing its legitimacy. They hold the view that the authority mobilized military troops and equipment to the scenes of peaceful protests, thereby making protests go violent, in an attempt to escape addressing pressing economic issues – which continue to worsen – and responding to legal demands listed by oppressed citizens.

Other opposition leaders accused the authority of preplanning such apparently violent events in order to justify any subsequent action it may take to abort peaceful struggle and crack down on protestors. They described the events as 'a micro war', which is projected to magnify.

What is done by the security and military forces can be understood only from the viewpoint that notable procedures, taken by the government to eliminate peaceful struggle, had been prepared for months ahead of the bloody events.

Source: Al-Sahwa Weekly

## COMMON SENSE

# Americans, look out!

**T**here can be no peace in this region. That is what many Arabs are saying, as they see so many forces vie for filling gaps here and there, with most of the political structures of all the Arab States showing no signs of ever placating to the wishes of their people, while they rush to placate to the wishes of their masters in Washington or even Tel Aviv. On the other hand, one cannot help wonder why some of the richest of the Arabs find ways to spend millions in one night on gambling or even worse on the pleasures of the bed, while half of the people in the Arab World are hungry and the other half are illiterate.

We need to really look at ourselves as a nation, not some individual "sovereign" cantons that were created by cartographers in the drawing rooms of former greedy imperialist powers.

It is the work of these cartographers that gave us the tragedy that continues to unfold daily in the Holy Land, the holiness of which evaporated when Lord Balfour gave his promise to the sleazy Rothschilds and their partners in the very active International Zionist Establishment. In return for Balfour's "promise", the Zionists were able to change the Isolationist Woodrow Wilson into a belligerent war monger in advocacy of a war that had no justification then if viewed in the context of American interests.

But then American interests have never of any worry to the International Zionists, particularly the American elements in that sleazy international mafia. In fact, no one has brought more harm to the interests of their sponsors than the IZE (see Common Sense, Issue 1147).

One is not worried about American interests anymore, because even the American people have been taught now to avoid taking that into consideration when thinking politically. How could they? A large chunk of the American public is now beginning to feel the crunch of the heavy indebtedness, which the Neo Cons powered by the IZE have left their country in.

Even their own finances have been put in disarray as their inability to meet mortgage payments becomes a haunting dilemma for which no end is in sight. Even the big banks in the US are seeking ways out of this inability to meet debt service by their customers, so they begin appropriating a sizable chunk of their yet unearned profits to cover "doubtful debts" of their customers.

This is what happens when even the most reputable bankers (Citibank, Bank of America, etc.) are caught unaware that their ability to manage their assets is not very much better than the financial management of developing countries, which can't even manage enough funds to meet the daily bread needs of their populations, let alone cover the debt service on the mortgages of their homes. The latter is another matter, which will be dealt with separately, because there is the issue of corruption and the prevalence of narrow selfish interests in the latter over all other interests.

Here, one wants to try to comprehend how educated societies can be railroaded to accept Zionist tyranny and the horrendous misguidance to public opinion in the West, which the IZE has managed to instill so systematically, across all levels of public scrutiny.

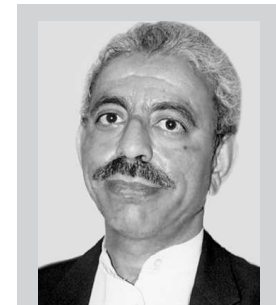
An American friend has just informed this observer that two of his colleagues in an academic institution of a high caliber have lost their jobs because they refused to placate to the requirement of the dissemination of the Zionist distortion of the history of the Holy Land and insist that the land of Palestine has been with the Palestinians since anyone can remember in all the history books that go back to the Epic of Gilgamesh.

Because of this insistence on sticking with the truth, two distinguished professors are out of a job and surely will not meet any mortgage debt payments until God knows when. When you have hit the blacklist of the Zionist Lobby in the United States, there is no telling when you could ever get another job again.

It is hard to believe that in the United States, one of its founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin had warned that the American people should be careful about a certain element that will work to take over the major areas of the American economy and then render all the decisions related to the undertakings of the United States without regard to the interests of the overwhelming majority of the United States. The dramatic thing about this discovery is that this was predicted by Franklin to occur two hundred years after the Establishment of the United States.

So now it is the United States along with Palestine and later it is the world!

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

# Yemen and Somalia share insecurity

By: Mosa Al-Namrani

**T**hree consecutive blasts hit a public girls' school based in Sana'a near the U.S. Embassy, believed to have been the potential target, and such an event was followed by a huge fire destroying a tourist hotel downtown but the perpetrators have not been identified.

The authorities claim that the fire was caused by a rehearsal aircraft that broke the sound barrier while hovering over Sana'a, but such an official statement was denied by military experts. Other blasts targeted a foreign residential

compound in the Hadda area, occupied by foreign experts working for the American Hunt Oil Company, which filed a lawsuit against Yemeni government to a French court last year after the government failed to fulfill its obligations to the company.

The northern province of Sa'ada has been suffering bloody confrontations between Houthi supporters and army personnel, backed by pro-government tribesmen since June 2004. In the south part of the country, dozens of political leaders and human rights activists have been detained over riots and vandalistic acts that swept major cities in the south. Leaders of angry protests are exchanging accusations with

intelligence agents over the security turmoil in the southern governorates.

Official sources were quoted as saying that at least a security soldier was killed and another seven injured in an attack on a checkpoint on one of the highways leading to Hadhramout. The sources doesn't rule out that the assault was launched by terrorist groups while others attributed it to quarrels over drug trafficking.

The Political Security Organization kidnapped popular artist Fahd Al-Qarni and took him to an anonymous place in a manner, which attorneys described as 'illegal'. In the meantime, Yemeni Information Minister issued a decision disbanding the independent Al-Wasat

weekly, which was assessed by Yemeni Journalists Syndicate as a flagrant violation against press freedom while the minister insisted that the paper deserves to be closed.

Oppressed citizens from Ibb's Ja'ashin district, who were evicted by a powerful sheikh from their villages, still sleep outdoor in one of Sana'a areas overnight without any blankets. Do pictures of Mr. President and his party's slogan protect them from the hot sun during daytime? Parliament directed the relevant authorities to investigate the case. But as these authorities did not respond to Parliament's directions, Ja'ashin women deserted their homes and joined their husbands and relatives camping in Sana'a in search of justice.

Until the time of writing this article, many construction engineers are still held captive in Khawlan area, east of Sana'a, while their kidnapers listed numerous demands for the government to meet. The country's interior ministry is negotiating with these kidnapers via mediators in an attempt to release the abductees.

All such events are the outcome of less than two weeks of Yemen's age, and therefore terrify those concerned about Yemen's dire situation that continues to worsen. Although the turmoil is very obvious, the government claims that there is security and stability in its territory. During its meeting with western officials, Yemen's Justice Minister declared that there are neither political detainees nor opinion prisoners in his country. A quick glance at the current situation nationwide persuades one to believe that Yemen and Somalia share the same security turmoil.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com



By: Samer

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# Food Crisis Threaten Yemen's Stability

By: YemenTimes Staff

The skyrocketing prices of wheat, cereals, and other grains have had a tremendous impact on populations reliant on the international markets to supply the needed grains, and Yemen has been affected significantly where the price of a 50-kg sack of wheat has increased from 3300 in the end of 2007 to over 7200 today. This increase affects primarily families which spend most of their income on basic foods and necessities, and now having to stretch their budgets more in order to be able to continue to afford buying the same quantities of food.

In explaining the bigger picture, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicated that the growth in global demand for grains is increasing by 3 %, while production is at lower rates, and have increased to 2.6% this year as grain producing countries slightly increase their grain plantations. This indicates that the gap in supply will continue to push the prices of grain higher, forcing grain importing countries like Yemen to rather pay a bigger bill or start searching for other sources of grain,

including reliance on domestic production.

Indeed, several measures in that front mainly driven by the high prices of wheat and grains has resulted in increasing domestic production of grains from 730 thousand tones in 2006 to over 940 thousand tones in 2007, with a direction to continue increasing production and yield per acre of agricultural land. However, Yemen's imports of wheat have doubled since 2004, while the percentage of domestic production of grains is providing the local market with around 8 % of the total market demand of grains.

This indicates that there is a long way to go until Yemen decreases its dependence on the international market for supplying the Yemeni consumers with their grain demands, thereby making Yemen more vulnerable to the shocks of the international markets and the increasing costs of grains, which have resulted in considerable economic hardships for the people of Yemen.

#### Revival of Yemen's Agriculture

There are approximately 1.5 million households in rural Yemen, 79 percent of which depend on farming or livestock as the prime source of

income-generation, constituting 15 percent of the economic production of the country. This means that 1.18 million households produce 21 percent of the non-oil economic production while the other 1 million households are responsible for the remainder economic activity. Paradoxically, agriculture employs 55 percent of the workforce in producing the 15 percent of non-oil economic activity.

The process of agricultural production in Yemen is highly subjective to the availability of water resources as well as types of irrigation, for example the middle highlands are dependent on rainfall receiving an average annual rainfall of 500 to 800 mm resulting in the cultivation of 44 percent of the area, representing 61 percent of the total farms in Yemen, while other areas such as the Tehama region receive an average annual rainfall of 50 to 100 mm, resulting in cultivating 26 percent of the area and representing 10 percent of the total farms in Yemen. Therefore, rain is key factor with regards to the quantity of production. This pattern of agricultural production also explains the population concentration in the middle highlands, constituting slightly over half the population of the country.



The governorates of Taiz, Dhamar, and Lahej are the top three producers of grains in Yemen.



Grain and cereal production in Yemen is dependent is almost completely dependent on rainfall.

Cereals constitute 50 percent of agricultural production, with the governorates of Hodieda, Dhamar, and Hajja leading the way, depending on rainfall to play a prime factor in determining the quantity of output. However other measures have been put in place to help improve production of cereals, including using genetically modified crops, improved irrigation, harvesting, and extension services provision to farmers, and the cultivation of new lands to be used for agricultural purposes. However, the prime risk which faces domestic cereal production is the availability of water resources and rainfall.

#### Dependence on Rainfall

The currently experiences draught is raising concerns among farmers regarding this agricultural season during the summer of 2008, where

rainfall is usually expected in the beginning of April in order to start plantations, farmers across the country are worries if a limited amount of rainfall this year will affect not only their production in Yemen, but will push the price of wheat higher in the domestic and international market, thereby resulting in more economic hardships, famine, and instability in the country.

Livestock and fishing also provide importance sources of rural incomes: 91 percent of all households involved in agriculture hold some kind of livestock, whether it is cattle, sheep, goats, camels or chickens. FAO indicates that the growth rate of the volume of livestock products reaches 5 percent per annum, making livestock products one of the most important sources of income and key to improving livelihoods in rural Yemen.

## Business in Brief

#### CBY reduces interest on commercial bank deposits

The Central Bank of Yemen has decided to reduce the mandatory deposit percentage of commercial banks from 10 % to 7 %, and remove any interests paid on that amount. The central banks justified this measure by reducing the burden on the central bank as a result of paying the interest, and motivate commercial banks to invest in the local economy.

#### Endowments to adopt a business plan

The Ministry of Endowments and religious affairs announced a business plan to reinvest endowments funds in business enterprising, and to manage endowments in a commercial manner with the objective of profit, expansion, and increasing the total worth of the endowments.

#### Yemen's Mango production increases

Yemen's production of Mangos has increased by 25169 tones in 2007 compared to 2006, totaling production to 369434 tones in 2007. While estimated in 2008 indicate that production will exceed 400 thousand tones.

#### PM: Government will support joint investments

Prime Minister Mujawar has reiterated that the government of Yemen is fully supportive of joint ventures with businesses from the gulf, he indicated that while meeting with the board of directors of the Arabia Felix domestic airline, which a joint venture between the government of Yemen and Saudi counterparts.

#### First quality control conference held

The first conference on quality control was held last week in order to discuss issues of quality systems and monitoring, as well as benchmarks of quality among domestic industries in Yemen.

#### Yemen's rail system to start in 2011

Yemen's ministry of transport indicated that the studies of Yemen's railroad system will conclude by 2010, following which Yemen will bid out the rail system through the Build-Operate-Transfer mechanism.

## Reinventing energy

By: Jeffrey D. Sachs

The world economy is being battered by sharply higher energy prices. While a few energy-exporting countries in the Middle East and elsewhere reap huge profits, the rest of the world is suffering as the price of oil has topped \$110 per barrel and that of coal has doubled.

Without plentiful and low-cost energy, every aspect of the global economy is threatened. For example, food prices are increasing alongside soaring oil prices, partly because of increased production costs, but also because farmland in the United States and elsewhere is being converted from food production to bio-fuel production.

No quick fix exists for oil prices. Higher prices reflect basic conditions of supply and demand. The world economy – especially China, India and elsewhere in Asia – has been growing rapidly, leading to a steep increase in global demand for energy, notably for electricity and transport. Yet global supplies of oil, natural gas and coal can't keep up easily, even with new discoveries. And, in many places, oil supplies are declining as old oil fields are depleted.

Coal is in somewhat larger supply and can be turned into liquid fuels for transport. Yet coal is an inadequate substitute, partly because of limited supplies and partly because coal emits

large amounts of carbon dioxide per unit of energy, making it a dangerous source of man-made climate change.

In order for developing countries to continue enjoying rapid economic growth and for rich nations to avoid a slump, it is necessary to develop new energy technologies. Three objectives should be targeted: low-cost alternatives to fossil fuels, greater energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The most promising technology in the long term is solar power. Total solar radiation hitting the Earth is about 1,000 times the world's commercial energy use. This means that even a small part of the earth's land surface, notably in desert regions, which receive massive solar radiation, can supply large amounts of electricity for much of the rest of the world.

For example, solar power plants in America's Mohave Desert could supply more than half of that nation's electricity needs. Solar power plants in Northern Africa could supply power to Western Europe, while solar power plants in the Sahel of Africa, just south of the vast Sahara, could power much of West, East and Central Africa.

Perhaps the single most promising development in terms of energy efficiency is plug-in hybrid technology for automobiles, which may be able to triple the fuel efficiency of new automobiles within the next decade.

The idea is that vehicles would run

mainly on batteries recharged nightly on the electricity grid, with a gasoline-hybrid engine as a backup to the battery. General Motors may have an early version of this by 2010.

The most important technology for the safe environmental use of coal is the capture and geological storage of carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants. Such carbon capture and sequestration, or CCS, is needed urgently in major coal-consuming nations, especially China, India, Australia and the U.S. As key CCS technologies already have been developed, it's time to move from engineering blueprints to actual demonstration power plants.

For all of these promising technologies, governments should be investing in the science and high costs of early-stage testing. Without at least partial public financing, the uptake for these new technologies will be slow and uneven. Indeed, most major technologies that we now take for granted – airplanes, computers, the internet and new medicines, to name just a few – received crucial public financing in their early stages of development and deployment.

It's shocking and worrisome that public financing remains slight because these technologies' success could translate into literally trillions of dollars of economic output.


For example, according to the most recent data in 2006 from the

International Energy Agency, the U.S. government annually invested a meager \$3 billion in energy research and development. In inflation-adjusted dollars, this represents a decline of roughly 40 percent since the early 1980s and now equals what the U.S. spends on its military in just a day and a half. The situation is even more discouraging when we look at the particulars. U.S. government funding for renewable energy technologies (solar, wind, geothermal, ocean and bio-energy) was a meager \$239 million – or just three hours of defense spending. Likewise, spending on carbon capture and sequestration was just \$67 million, while spending for energy efficiency of all types (buildings, transport and industry) was \$352 million.


Of course, developing new energy technologies isn't America's responsibility alone. Global cooperation on energy technologies is needed to increase supplies and ensure that energy use is environmentally safe, especially to head off man-made climate change from using fossil fuels.

This not only is good economics, but also good politics, as it can unite the world in our common interests, rather than dividing it in a bitter struggle over diminishing oil, gas and coal reserves.


Jeffrey Sachs is an economics professor and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.



**dia**  
social justice & development



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التعاون الفرنسي



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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

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Interview with Olivier Roy

# Muslim radicals are perfectly “westernized”

Olivier Roy is one of the most renowned experts on political Islam. In this interview with Michael Hesse, he talks about religious fundamentalism, Islam in Europe, and explains why the Muslim middle classes in the West ought to be recognized as a western faith community, not as an alien culture



Olivier Roy, author of “The Failure of Political Islam”

**Mr. Roy, are Europe’s difficulties with its Muslims a subject of hysterical oversimplification?**

**Olivier Roy:** At least oversimplification. The picture usually presented is that of a “Muslim community” – meaning they are all the same, all stick to Islam – united in refusing “western values” and bringing into Europe the conflicts of the Middle East. In fact the Muslim population in Europe is very diverse, not only because of different origins, but because they made different and often complex, even contradictory, choices.

Some tend to preserve as much as possible a pristine culture in terms of language, diet or endogamous marriages, other play on secularization, speak better French and German than Arabic or even Turkish and just try to be integrated; others, also largely westernized, try to recast a purely religious practice in a Western secular environment by taking models on protestant and Jewish forms of religious belonging; and finally some young “born-again”, joined by converts, are fascinated with a de-culturalized fundamentalist brand of Islam, like e.g. *salafism*, which criticizes as much traditional Muslim cultures – the culture of their parents – as they do with western cultures.

**If the – for want of a better word – “traditional Europeans” enable Muslims to feel at home as new Muslim Europeans, could they become a source of cultural enrichment and economic dynamism?**

**Roy:** We should make a distinction between “faith communities” and “ethnic cultures”; integration is usually implemented at the expense of traditional ethnic cultures, but Islam can be, and should be, recast as a “faith community” and should then be treated on an equal foot with the other religions. Practicing Muslim believers call for equality, not for a status of a cultural minority, but they are systematically sent back to a status of a “foreign” ethnic culture.

But the ascending Muslim middle classes in the West want to be recognized as a western faith community, not as an alien culture. This brand of religious practice and perception is usually advocated by a growing educated middle class, who is a factor of economic growth.

But links with the country of origin could also be an asset, not in terms of

culture – Turkey for instance is westernizing itself at a very high speed – but of economic exchanges: in the case of Turkey, where there has been a tremendous economic growth and social change in the course of the last 20 years, the mutual benefit between the guest country and country of origin is obvious. Joint-ventures and coming and going of educated and business people are changing the patterns of “emigration”: it is no more a pressure from unskilled, poor workers longing for settling in the West; it is now more an exchange. Immigration has also contributed to the development of the country of origin, and both societies are more converging than diverging.

**And what if we fail, will there be regular suicide attacks in London, Paris, Berlin ... ?**

**Roy:** I don’t think that the situation is so dramatic. The issue will not be “Muslim migrants” versus “white society”, because too many Muslims are already integrated, even if their integration is not sufficiently acknowledged.

In fact if we fail, there certainly will be three kinds of radicalization: a fringe of second generation Youth, whatever their social and economic background, will be tempted by a violent Islamist radicalization; the bulk of the young, disenfranchised, jobless, school dropouts will better indulge in petty delinquency and grey economy, with outbursts of clashes with the police but no religious dimension, and finally some traditional conservative milieus will lock themselves in a cultural and religious ghettos.

**Would you say that in Europe, European culture and Muslim culture are clashing?**

**Roy:** The debate – Danish cartoons, blasphemy, freedom of expression – is not between a liberal west and an obscurantist East. Most European religious conservatives are in favour of limiting freedom of expression, the French Catholic Church, for instance, won a court battle two years ago to ban an add using “The Last Supper” in a supposedly offending way – the apostles being replaced by half-naked young women. Most catholic bishops are opposed to gay-marriages. And by the way many Muslims are very critical of the lack of freedom and democracy in Arab countries, whose regimes we are precisely supportive, Tunisia and Egypt

for instance.

It is not a debate on cultures, it is a debate on values, and the debate is inside Europe – should we consider the Spanish catholic Church as Muslim just because they oppose secularization, separation of church and state, gay marriage and absolute freedom of religion?

A last point: the modern brands of fundamentalism (*wahhabism*, but also protestant evangelicalism) are not the product of traditional cultures, but on the contrary the product of a crisis of traditional cultures, the product of deculturation and globalization. Religious tensions are linked with the crisis of traditional cultures, and are not their expression.

**Scientists emphasize the cultural diversity of Muslim immigrants in Europe. So is it at all feasible to assume that there is such a thing as religious unity in Islam?**

**Roy:** Immigrants don’t belong to a specific culture or to a specific ethnic group. Inter-marriages, linguistic changes, change of citizenship shake the traditional identities. But what we are doing, when we speak of a “Muslim community” is to use religion as a way to create a new ethnic and cultural identity. We use the term of “Muslim” as a neo-ethnic term. In fact, the only common factor among many second and third generation migrants is Islam as a mere religion, not as a culture. And we do not want to see the growing de-connection between Islam as a religion and Islam as a culture. We push young Muslims to an ethno-cultural identity that most of them reject. They want to be considered as “Muslim” and “citizens”, and not as “Muslim citizen”. But they do not feel welcome in this direction.

As far as Islam as a religion is concerned, there are many currents. I stressed the role of *salafism* in the phenomena of young “born-again” believ-

ers, rediscovering faith and religious practice. But in many cases, people don’t consider themselves “born again” for the rest of their lives. Radicalization is a generational phenomenon. Individual trajectories are far more complex and span all the diversity and trends in Islam.

Sufism, for instance, enjoys a remarkable development in the West as well as in Turkey, Egypt or Morocco, and it attracts many converts. New thinkers openly speak of “reformation” while many conservatives stress the fact that *sharia* is more about values than about laws. Due to Western democracy, new Muslim thinkers find more room in Europe than in so-called secularist – but nevertheless authoritarian – Arab regimes.

**What is your view of the notion of Islamo-fascism?**

**Roy:** It simply does not make sense. Fascism is a system of laws, institutions and ideology centered on a dominant and all-encompassing state power. But if we refer to Islam as a religion, it is like Christianity: a mix of beliefs, norms and values; state and ideology are not an issue. *Sharia* is not a political ideology, it is a legal system, which may be seen as obsolete, conservative, patriarchal, but has been used as a political reference only very recently. *Sharia* is never developed by a state; on the contrary: any endeavour by a state to promote *sharia* is either at the expenses of the judiciary, or of *sharia*, when the state transforms the evolutive process of adapting norms to reality into a state code. On the contrary: fascism means that the law is defined by the state, not by an independent corporation of the learned.

Political Islamism, as in the case of Iran or the Muslim Brotherhood, is on the contrary based on Islam as an ideology, not as a legal system. There may be some elements in radical Islamist movements reminding us of communism and fascism, as well by the way in the secular Arab Baas party, but it is an instrumentalization of religious references in the political field, not a logical development of the Koran and the Tradition of the Prophet.

If we refer to Islamism, that is Islam as a political ideology, it is something rather new, it goes back to the 1920’s, and has given birth to a broad spectrum of political attitudes, from the Muslim brothers to the AK party in Turkey. The same way that Marxism gave birth to Walter Ulbricht and Willy Brandt.

**What is to be done against Islamic fundamentalism and the terrorism of Al-Qaeda?**

**Roy:** It is not the same thing. Not all

fundamentalists are political radicals, and there is in fact little religion in Al-Qaeda. Fundamentalism is a permanent trend in any religion and it does not make sense to promote from outside a “good” Islam; fundamentalism will always attract some people. The issue is to make room for a credible mainstream Islam, which will fill the religious demands of the bulk of the Muslims. We should avoid the trap of Ben Laden: the West thinks that Islam is at the root of radicalization, hence we automatically see in Ben Laden the vanguard of the Muslim world. On the contrary, we should fight him as a terrorist, not as a Muslim.

In fact, young terrorists don’t become terrorists because they went to the mosque and read the Koran. They go for action. They are the real heirs of the ultra-left of the 1970’s: obsessed by America and the Wall Street, they are anti-imperialist more so than supporters of *sharia*. Look at the video-filmed staging of the beheading of the hostages in Iraq: it reproduces the killing of Aldo Moro by the Red brigades in Italy, and it has nothing to do with traditional Muslim imagery.

The narrative of the young terrorist is that of an individual hero jumping to save the *umma* from the western barbarism. Religion does not play a big role in the process of individual radicalization. We should delegitimize this heroism, debunk the narrative of heroism, instead of calling the Muslim community to condemn terrorism.

Let’s stop speaking of religion and culture, which are rather irrelevant, and speak about politics and generational radicalization.

**What does multiculturalism mean?**

**Roy:** Nothing. It is a slogan which pretends to manage the co-existence of different cultural groups, at a time where cultural identities are in crisis. Multiculturalism supposes that Islam as a religion is embedded in a distinct culture that maintains itself from one generation to the next. One can be a good citizen and at the same time identify primarily with a culture that is not the dominant one. In other words, the citizen’s relation to the nation can be mediated by a communitarian sense of belonging.

But the problem is that today’s religious revival – whether under fundamentalist or spiritualistic forms – develops by decoupling itself from any cultural reference. It thrives on de-culturation: the young radicals are indeed perfectly “westernized.” Among the born-again believers and the converts, Islam is not seen as a cultural relic, but as a religion that is universal, global and that reaches beyond specific cultures, just like Evangelism or Pentecostalism.

**Tariq Ramadan, a Muslim reformer, insists that Islam, properly interpreted, need not conflict with a democratic Europe. Is he right?**

**Roy:** Yes of course, the same way that conservative orthodox Judaism, evangelical Protestantism or conservative Catholicism don’t conflict ... or do conflict. They have a different agenda, they flourish in a different space, but they agree on some basic rules about democratic institutions and settlements of disagreements. Nobody asks the Pope to reconsider his stand on abortion in order to be admitted as a “true” European.

Religions cannot be brought under the yoke of politics and it is why, at the end, democracies have established a more or less consistent separation between church and state.

**Europe’s problem with its migrant Muslims, the pathology of the In-between People, would exist even if there were an independent, flourishing Palestinian state, and if the United States, Britain, and some other European countries had not invaded Iraq?**

**Roy:** Yes, of course. We tend to overestimate the influence of the Middle crisis in the radicalisation (or lack of radicalisation) among Muslims in the West. In Paris a pro-Palestinian street demonstration never brings more than some 10,000 people in the street, while there are some 2 or 3 Million potential Muslims in and around Paris. The murder of Theo van Gogh in Holland never mentioned Iraq, Afghanistan or Palestine, but only the blasphemy. We are confronted here with a generational problem (which was exactly the case, by the way, in the seventies with the European ultra-left), not with a geo-strategic issue. And, by the way, Bin Laden had attacked New York before and not after the US invasion of Iraq.

The roots of radicalization are inside the West, not in the Middle East. Let’s deal first with integration of Muslims and of Islam as a Western religion, and stop to focus on Middle East wars on which we have no leverage, and from which European Muslims are far more distant than we often think. The so-called Muslim anger against the West did not touch the bulk of the Western Muslims except in Great Britain, but in continental Europe radicalization of Islam concerns only a fringe of uprooted second-generation Muslims. They have no real existence, except in our nightmares.

Source: Michael Hesse 2008  
Part of this interview was previously published in the German daily, *Kölnner Stadt-Anzeiger*.

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فندق فرساي  
 فندق شيراتون  
 فندق موفيميك  
 فندق تاج سيا  
 فندق ريلاكس ان  
 فندق واجحة الخليج السياحي

**معاهد**

معهد بالي ت: ٤٤٤٤٨٢ ٢٢٦-٤٤٨-٣٩ فاكس: ٣٧-٤٤٨  
 المعهد الألماني ت: ٢٠٠٩٤٥  
 المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢  
 معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٢٤٤/٥ فاكس: ٥٢٢٤٤٦  
 معهد ليكك ت: ٢٤-٨٢٣-٥١-٦١٢ فاكس: ٦٣٥٥٧٧

**البنوك**

بنك اليمن والخليج  
 فرع عدن ت: ٢٣٧٨٩٩ - ٢٣٧٨٩٩ فاكس: ٢٣٧٨٩٤  
 بنك التضامن الإسلامي ت: ١/٦٦٦٦٦٦  
 البنك التجاري ت: ٣٧٣٢٤ فاكس: ٣٧٣٢١  
 مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٣٦٧٥٣٦٧٥٣ فاكس: ٣٦٤٧-٣٥٠-٣٥٠  
 بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٤٠٧٠٣٠  
 البنك العربي ت: ٣٧٥٥٥/٤  
 بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ١-٥٢٣٨١٣  
 البنك المركزي ت: ٣٧٤٢٤٠

**تأجير سيارات**

زأويه (Budget) ت: ٢٠٩٦١٨٠٥-٢٣٧٢٣ فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨  
 يورب كار ت: ٢٧-٧٥١ فاكس: ٢٧-٨٠٤  
 هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعاء ت: ٠٤٤٠٣٠٩  
 فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٥٩٥٥  
 عدن ت: ٢٠٢٤٥٦٢٥

**شركات للتأمين**

الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٢٧٧١٢/٢٧٧١٣ فاكس: ٢٧٧١٢٤  
 مأرب للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٠٦٢٢/٨١٣  
 الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٨٤١٣٣  
 عدن ت: ٢٤٤٣٨٠  
 فرع: ٢٥٨٨١١  
 شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٧٢٨٠٦٧٧٢٢/٢٤٣  
 عدن ت: ٢٤٧١١٧  
 فرع: ٢٥٠٢٥٥

**مدارس**

مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٣٧/٤٢٤-٤٢٣  
 مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٣٧-١٩١٧٣ فاكس: ٣٧-١٩٣٣  
 مدرسة التوكيد الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩  
 مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

**مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر**

أبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (مركز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١.

صنعاء ت: ٠٤-٤٣٨٣٠٥  
 فاكس: ٠٤-٧٤١٩  
 عدن ت: ٢٠٠٣٧١٩٩  
 فرع: ٤٠٢٥-٢٤٣٢  
 المكلا ت: ٠٢-٢٤٧٤٢٠

Infinit Education T: 444553  
 NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر ت: ٤٤٥٥١/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

**سفرات**

النسيم للسفرات ت: ٣٧-٧٥٠  
 العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٨/٦٠

**مطاعم**

مطعم ومخازنة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)  
 تلفون: ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - فاكس: ٢٦٦٦١٩

**البريد السريع**

صنعاء ت: ٤٤-١٧٠/٧٧  
 الحديدة ت: ٢٤٨٢٣  
 إب ت: ٤١١٩٨٨  
 المكلا ت: ٣٠٦٤١  
 ضوه ت: ٢٠٣٣٦٦  
 سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

**كوبون للإعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)**

بيع | شراء | إيجار | إستئجار | طلب وظيفة | وظائف شاغرة | غير ذلك

**تفاصيل الاعلان:**

**عنوان التواصل:**

قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء  
 لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣)



## Addis Ababa's former fuel wood carriers lead bright, colorful new lives as weavers

By: Sarah Wolff

Yemenis and other visitors to Addis Ababa long have been struck by this city full of colors. Mosques and churches are painted bright turquoise and banana yellow; restaurant interiors and even roadway billboards are resplendent in tropical greens and pinks. But the most vibrant colors are found in the cloth woven by former female fuel wood carriers.

Located in the foothills of the Entoto Mountains lies a barracks-like concrete building filled with 13 looms and numerous spare parts stacked up against each

other. Light filters in through the wire covering the windows, creating a pattern on the floor. This might not seem like an optimal work environment, but for the group of women looming cloth here, this is a paradise far from the horrors of their past of collecting fuel wood in the nearby eucalyptus forests.

According to the World Bank, which funds a program for an estimated 15,000 female fuel wood carriers – known as WFCs – in the capital of Addis Ababa, 90 percent of Ethiopia's energy comes from biomass fuels like wood and charcoal.

Women like Kiongete Jemal, who carried fuel wood from the mountains into

Addis Ababa for 15 years, risk their health and sometimes their lives just to make their living this way.

The work is physically strenuous and the women constantly fear attack or rape by Ethiopian security forces monitoring the forests to ensure that the women aren't cutting down the eucalyptus trees, which are protected by law because they are an endangered resource. The women technically are only allowed to collect branches or wood that falls off the trees naturally.

"There were no options and no other jobs," said Jemal, who began carrying fuel wood at age 10. "Even if we knew it was bad, it was the only choice."

"The guards hassled us and there were rapes," said Kozoi Kunta, another WFC who spent 18 years carrying wood down to Addis Ababa from the Entoto forests. She said she was overjoyed when she heard about the opportunity to work in a safe and stable environment, earning living wages for herself and her family.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Former Women Fuel Wood Carriers Association, or FWFCA, administers the project, which recruits women in the forests and offers them an alternative: learning how to loom, embroider and design everything from tablecloths to dresses with high-quality Ethiopian cotton.

The association spends eight months training the women, but only after they've proven themselves ready and able to truly change their lives. They are asked, "If you have an alternative, are you willing to start from zero again?" explained Elias Enat, an employee working on the financial end of the program. "We then prioritize the real [serious] ones."

"They came to the forest to talk to us and said, 'You'll be able to have a better

### 4 U

If you're in Addis Ababa and want to buy any hand-woven textiles, look for the sign advertising the Women's Cooperative Shop, run by the Former Women Fuel Wood Carriers Association in the Entoto neighborhood.

life," Kunta recalled while spinning yarn on a low wooden stool, "When I heard this, I was so happy."

FWFCA's weaving workshops are close enough to the hills to be able to see the current fuel wood carriers trekking back down to the city, huge bales of sticks strapped to their hunched-over backs. It's hard to imagine Jemal ever doing that job, as she looks completely comfortable and even dainty while pushing the loom back and forth.

The association also has 12 designers, including Jemal, who are trained in tailoring for two and half years. She has been weaving for eight years now and her favorite things to create are dresses.

Once the designing and weaving are completed, the tangerine scarves and pale yellow bedspreads are sold at a nearby women's cooperative shop, from which the weavers receive the bulk of the returns. It's a small shop, but tended with care, also by former fuel wood carriers. The saleswoman offers customers beverages as they peruse the tiny sales floor, which is packed to the brim with the cotton creations.

Although, as Jemal said, "Anything is better than collecting wood because of the hard labor," this job in particular seems to suit her. For Jemal and the other WFCs, the loom creates not only new garments, but new lives as well.



Ethiopia is famous for hand-loomed textiles. Former women fuel wood carriers must be trained for eight months before they are able to weave creations like these. Photo courtesy of www.smallplanetfund.org.



Women and young girls like this one who carry fuel wood are in physical danger because of the hard labor and security conditions in the forest. Photo courtesy of the World Bank

## Crown Agents Britain And JK Trading Yemen Introduce their Partnership

Moneer Al-Homaidi

Sana'a, April 14 — Held at Sheba Hotel, Crown Agents and JK Trading introduce their partnership in front of the British Ambassador and very important foreign and local traders.

In the beginning of the session, Mr. Jamal Al-Kershi, The General Manager of JK Trading, started the session by welcoming warmly all the attendants and introduced in brief the two companies and the mutual relationship between them in a gentle manner. In addition to that, he introduced the Business Development Manager of the Crown Agents Company, Middle East Mr. Steve Brady in order to explain in depth to all attendants the key role of their company and the partnership of the two companies.

Mr. Brady mentioned that the Crown Agents Company has been an international development company providing direct assistance, consultancy and training for public sector modernization, particularly in financial management, banking, and procurement and logistics for 176



years of experience. He added that, for long time, Crown Agents was a British public corporation; but today, it is owned by the Crown Agents Foundation. The members of the foundation are organized with a keen interest in their activities including firms, non governmental organization and international bodies.

Furthermore, one of the most important things is that Crown Agents helps countries and pub-

lic and private sector entities so as to grow. He said, "To achieve that is to work in partnership with our clients to transfer the skills, ideas, and material resources each needs at every stage of their development. Then, our client will be able to identify the best solution to their particular problems."

Not only that, but also, Mr. Brady stated that there are many training courses provided by Crown Agents in order that it can develop the partnership with its clients. Moreover, Crown Agents has now established a permanent office located adjacent to JK Trading. The Yemen Country Manager, Mr. Mark Pegler, is currently administrator for three governmental development projects and Crown Agents will continue to grow their business in Yemen through 2008/2009.

On the other hand, by the end of the presentation, all attendants were obviously impressed with the two companies and the successful partnership between them. Then the session ended with delicious dining banquet mixed with long conversation on every table.



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