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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Sa'ada security situation unstable Two military officers found dead

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, April 27 — Two army officers were found dead Friday under mysterious circumstances, tribal sources from Sa'ada governorate said Saturday, adding that one of the victims, Hussein Ja'afar, was a relative of a prominent tribal sheikh in the area known for backing the government in its fight with Houthis.

Ja'afar had previously escaped several assassination attempts, allegedly carried out by Houthi supporters, since the war first broke out between the army and Houthi followers in June 2004.

Security forces found both officers' bodies in the Khafji area, near Sa'ada city on the road leading to the Al-Talh district.

The same sources said that the assassinations may be part of an agenda of revenge killings between pro-government tribesmen and Houthi loyalists. According to the sources, the recent series of killings target social dignitaries, prominent tribal leaders and Parliament members belonging to Sa'ada governorate.



Series of killings target social dignitaries, prominent tribal leaders and Parliament members and security personnel.

The sources continued that the current liquidations also target army and security personnel, recalling to two army members who were killed in Haidan district by anonymous individuals while entering a mosque to perform Friday prayers. The incident led to fierce clashes between government troops and district citizens that continued for hours.

Such developments came following the return of the Qatari mediation team, engaged in the Joint Yemeni-Qatari Presidential Mediation Committee, to Sa'ada to resume their effort in taking government representatives and Houthis back to the dialogue table with the aim of executing the Doha-brokered peace deal signed by both conflicting sides on February 1. The Qatari media-

tion team returned to Sana'a after deliberations between the Qatari government and Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi in Doha, in which Al-Qirbi delivered a letter from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Ali Thani.

The letter stressed the necessity of continuing Qatari mediation efforts, while the Yemeni government pledged to make peace initiatives effective and overcome any obstacles to the ceasefire agreement created by military and security commanders.

President Saleh on Thursday issued a directive excluding the former presidential mediation committee, chaired by Mohammed Saleh Qara'a, from the current mediation efforts because it, according to him, failed to negotiate

with Houthis. Meanwhile, a senior government official said the new committee will be comprised of four members, with two representatives from each side.

Houthi representative Sheikh Saleh Habra told the Yemen Times that the former mediation committee failed to do its job because high-ranking officials interfered with its duties and military and security commanders in the governorate refused to pull troops out of villages and citizens' farmlands.

Habra went on to say that senior officials in the government don't want an immediate solution to the crisis. "If they have the will and determination to cease bloodshed, the crisis will be easy to resolve," he commented. "The government only wastes time forming ineffective and useless mediation committees."

The Qatari mediation team failed to convince both conflicting sides to return to the dialogue table last week. Since then, tension between government troops and Houthi followers has intensified.

In the same context, local sources from Sa'ada unveiled tribal mediation efforts initiated by some prominent tribal leaders, mainly Sadeq Al-Ahmar, head of Hashid Tribe's sheikhs, with the aim of settling disputes over implementing Term Seven of the Doha-brokered agreement. Under this term, Houthis must abandon their mountain-top positions and return to tents or villages that are free of army troops.

Other local sources in the government noted that Sheikh Al-Ahmar is communicating with many prominent tribal leaders in Sa'ada to end the standing disputes prior to forming the new mediation committee, expected to be announced today.

Al-Ahmar accused national security and intelligence organizations and the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a of withdrawing Yemeni citizens' weapons in a campaign the relevant security authorities have been launching for months in several governorates, acting on orders from the interior ministry.

Speaking to the Islah Party Shoura Council in Amran governorate, Al-Ahmar said that official parties, which he did not name, are fomenting disputes

between Yemeni tribes, and therefore provide them with weapons to fight each other.

"These parties provide weapons from army depots to the conflicting tribes so that the clashes between them get more complicated," he added, criticizing the poor living standards and dire economic situations countrywide. "All the revenues coming from the nation's resources are pocketed by particular individuals," he concluded.

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## Saudi authorities burn 18 Yemeni immigrants

By: Almgidaj Mojalli

SANAA, April 27 — Saudi policemen burned 18 Yemenis while they were trying to cross into Khamis Bani Mushait, a Saudi village bordering Yemen. Al-Sahwa opposition newspaper reported on Saturday that the police poured diesel onto the men, who were hiding in a hole in the area to escape the police.

The Yemeni illegal immigrants were trying to get jobs in the Saudi bordering cities.

The local media has said Yemeni authorities began an investigation of the incident, although no response from the Saudi authorities on the issue has been made. The victims are receiving medical treatment in Yemeni hospitals. Some were badly injured and were brought to Sana'a city.

Darweesg Salloum, who was among the group, said the incident took place a month ago. "We dug a big hole to hide ourselves from the Saudi police. The hole was seven kilometers from Khamis Bani Mushait district," he said.

The man said four Saudi police cars carrying 12 policemen chased them to the hole. "We hid in the hole, and didn't think the police would come to the hole. When the policemen arrived, they poured diesel over the straw covering the hole and set it on fire," he added.

Salloum further noted that seven people fled while the other 18 stayed inside the hole, not expecting the police would start a fire.

After the fire started, the remaining immigrants escaped from the hole, despite the blazing flames, he said.

Mohsen, another victim, faintly after he left the hole. A fire brigade came to the scene but it was too late, according to the men.

The 18 burnt men were transferred to a police station. They said police



One of the victim

interrogated them while they shouted in pain. "They questioned us quietly and with indifferent temperament," Salloum said.

After four hours of interrogation, they were taken to the civil hospital, where they were left with Philippine doctors for many days. The doctors changed their bandages every four days, which made their injuries worse.

After nine days in the hospital, the 18 burn victims were taken back to the police station and the officer offered them two choices; either to go back to Yemen and write waivers and confessions that the Saudi police weren't responsible for what happened to them or to stay in Saudi Arabia till they died.

They wrote waivers and then they were transferred in groups to the Yemeni border, where, according to

Salloum, "The only thing the Yemeni army did when they saw us is remark 'May Allah cause you to recover.'" Major Mohammed Abdullaheem Al-Asemi, spokesman for the Civil Defense in Asser governorate, stated to Okath newspaper that "the fire started first in tires and waste and then spread until it was 50 meters wide," indicating that the victims were there at the site of the fire to search for their belongings.

In answer to the victims' accusations, the Saudi police denied any connection to the fire. However, an eyewitness said that the police started the fire at the entrance to force the victims out, while another eyewitness said that it was the first time the police burned immigrants, usually arresting and then deporting them.

## Government denies diesel crisis

By: Saddam Al-Ashmoury  
For the Yemen Times

SANAA, April 27 — Yemen's capital and other main cities, including Aden, Taiz and Hadramout, are experiencing a notable shortage in diesel fuel these days, and the crisis became sharper over the past two days when crowds of citizens lined up for hours at fuel stations to get diesel.

Many citizens, who use diesel for agricultural and transportation purposes, complained that several fuel stations were closed over the past two days due to a lack of diesel supplies, while other stations faced long queues of vehicles and trucks. Owners of agricultural machinery and bakeries suffered the most, which is why security personnel were forced to patrol at fuel stations, particularly those affiliated with the Yemeni Petroleum Company, to organize citizens lining up to get diesel.

Fuel station owner Hussein Al-Beidhani confirmed that there is a notable shortage in diesel fuel, pointing out that main stations in big cities suffer large crowds of cars and trucks waiting for diesel, which is currently priced at YR 1,000 per 20 liters in some governorates, a 45 percent increase above its previous price.

In the capital city, trucks and cars which use diesel were massed at fuel stations in a terrible manner.

Many citizens fear that the current

diesel crisis indicates the government's intention to cease fuel derivative subsidies. They expect the phenomenon to contribute to raising prices of basic foodstuffs, thereby worsening their living standards.

Political observers warn the government against lifting fuel subsidies due to its citizens' poor living standards, saying that citizens are suffering greatly after prices of basic commodities rose by 150 percent.

The Yemen Times tried to contact the Yemeni Petroleum Company to explain the notable diesel shortage and its soaring price, but it refused to comment on the crisis. The diesel crisis began two weeks ago in Aden governorate and then shifted to other governorates. The relevant authorities have not intervened to resolve the crisis.

The Yemeni Petroleum Company denied that there is a diesel shortage in fuel stations, while Deputy Executive Director of Aden Refinery Yousif Qelaiqel announced that two diesel consignments arrived at the refinery on Thursday to meet the growing demand for diesel in the local markets.

According to Qelaiqel, the first consignment of 55,000 metric tons of diesel is currently unloading at the refinery and the second consignment of 33,000 metric tons will unload on Friday and be subsequently distributed to the various governorates.

He added that two tankers anchored

at the Mukalla and Hodeida ports unloaded 38,000 metric tons of diesel, stressing that the Aden Refinery purchases the product from international markets.

Qelaiqel disclosed that the refinery will receive other quantities of diesel estimated between 200 and 250 thousand metric tons by May, adding that the quantities will be distributed to the different Yemeni governorates.

Deputy Minister of Oil and Minerals Ahmad Abdullah Daris said the supply of fuel products is stable, indicating that diesel is available in almost all fuel stations without any increase in the product's price.

Other diesel consignments arrived at oil installations in Hodeida governorate and began supplying nearby areas as a first step before providing the other northern and eastern governorates with diesel.

The Deputy Minister of Oil and Minerals attributed the notable diesel shortage to a growing demand for the fuel in international markets, which resulted in the delayed arrival of diesel tankers to Aden port.

Daris called on all the relevant agencies, local councils in governorates and districts, as well as all Yemeni citizens, to cooperate with the Ministry of Oil and Minerals in reporting any violations that may be committed by fuel station owners, in order for the ministry to take firm procedures against them.

## Kidnapping attempt halted by security

By: Almgidaj Mojalli

SANAA, April 26 — The Central Security Police on Tuesday prevented members of the Bani Dhabyan tribe from kidnapping four engineers in Marib governorate, according to security and tribal sources in the area.

The foiled kidnapping attempt targeted four engineers, who annually check flood alarms in canals which lead to Marib dam. Sources in the tribe stated that the Central Security Police in the governorate injured three of the kidnappers at a police checkpoint while the police tried to release the hostages.

"We received notification of the abduction on Wednesday morning. At 8

am, the kidnappers reached the check-point and immediately they knew that we were looking for kidnappers. They fired at us first and our soldiers injured three of them and transferred them to the President hospital," said Mohammed Omer, the head of the Central Security Police in Marib governorate. "The engineers were released on Wednesday and escorted to the road divergence point of Hazm Al-Jawf," he added.

The attempt came one week after the release of five engineers and two children who were kidnapped by the tribe and held for nine months. Bani Dhabyan released the hostages two weeks ago for a YR 85 million ransom.

The five engineers and two children were abducted over a land dispute. Lead kidnapper Abd-Rabu Al-Tam claimed that he owned part of a plot of land sold to Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmer, the head of the northwest military district. But Al-Tam claims that despite the successful sale of the land, he never received his share of the proceeds. Instead his partners, Ahmed Obaid Shereif, Saleh Naji Khassa'an and Abdullah Al-Kumaim, sold the land to Al-Ahmer and never gave him his share of YR 70 million.

In addition to YR 70 million, Al-Tam demanded YR 150 million as the money that he spent trying to reclaim his share over one and a half years.

## Al-Qarni remains in jail after refusing to apologize to the president

By: Hamed Thabet

SANAA, April 27 — "I will not kneel and beg for forgiveness," said 34-year-old Fahad Al-Qarni in his first hearing session at court in Taiz on Wednesday, April 26, responding to a request that he give a written apology to the General People's Congress in order to be released. Al-Qarni, who is a singer and member of the media department in the Islamic opposition party Islah, was arrested on the first week of April by members of Taiz political security as he was heading to a festival in Aden. He is facing many charges, including motivating people to carry out armed revolt, resisting the government system and calling for revolution and secession. He also insulted in performances the ruling party as well as President Ali Abdullah Saleh publicly by referring to him as "not trustworthy" and that "he and his officials are corrupt, betrayers, thieves, and that they are a gang together."

Al-Qarni refused to apologize, saying that he did not do anything that deserved an apology. The Attorney General's Office ordered that he be detained in the Central Security Jail for seven days.

"These charges are not right, because I have never asked the people to rise up against the Yemeni government, and I do respect the unity between the south and the north," He stated.

"All my plays call for struggle against corruption and corrupt people in Yemen, but they never talk about secession," he added.

Ali Al-Mansob, Al-Qarni's defense lawyer, also stated that his client is innocent. "Al-Qarni did not walk in the streets armed, but he just sang some songs, and it is against the law to charge him," he said.

Al-Qarni's lawyer claimed that his client was arrested illegally and exposed to mistreatment by the security members. "We are going to file suit against the political security for its action and illegal behavior against Al-Qarni in the coming days."

If the court approves the charges, Al-Qarni may be jailed for one to six years, said the lawyer.

Judge Foad Al-Hamadai noted that all the charges are evident on a CD recording of Al-Qarni's songs, including both sound and image, so the final decision rests on this evidence. Many people are

visiting Al-Qarni's jail in order to help, like his family, friends and some organizations like HOOD, said Al-Mansob.

Al-Qarni had previously been jailed in July 2006, when some soldiers affiliated to the Criminal Investigations Bureau arrested a group of individuals, accusing them of selling a popular cassette entitled Shabaen (Fed Up), which was made by Al-Qarni. Making use of folk compositions in a humorous and sarcastic manner, the cassette bitterly criticizes the government's policies.

Al-Shoabi said that Al-Qarni's case is not the first time that the Yemeni political security has charged Yemeni pop singers for instigation and provocation, noting that their lives are endangered because of their songs or plays, as there is no law which can protect them.

In January 2006, the political security arrested popular artist Mohammed Al-Adhrou'ai under the pretext that he mocked the president following his participation in a festival set up by the Joint Meeting Parties in constituency no.8 of the capital. He was set free after numerous protests were made by non-governmental organizations in solidarity with him.

## New animated series tackles children's issues in Yemen

By: Alia Eshaq

SANAA, April 27 — A new cartoon short film called "Ahmed and the game of death" will be released soon by Shawthab Foundation for Children's Care. The animated film is an educational drama which focuses on the tradition of carrying weapons in Yemen.

The 20-minute cartoon, which was produced in Egypt with Yemeni actors playing the voices of the characters, is to be released by the end of May as part of a program series produced by the foundation. The series aims to enhance the media's role in dealing with children's issues.

The cartoon's main theme shows the difference between parents who educate their children and those who teach their children to carry weapons. The movie portrays two children; the first, "Salem," comes from an uneducated background, which is reflected during the movie by his father, who gives him fireworks. The second boy, "Ahmed," is portrayed in contrast, raised in a healthy educational environment.

In one dramatic scene, Salem is killed while playing with his gun with a friend, while Ahmed is seriously



injured, showing the danger and consequences of such a culture in Yemen.

The cartoon, which was written by Nader Mahmood Al-Hamady, is the second production by the foundation after the short film "Ahmed's Return," which was a great success, winning third place at Cairo's annual Cinema Festival for Children in 2007. At the festival, the foundation was also nominated for the Arabic prize of AGFUND which is a non-profit regional development institution,

sponsored by Prince Talal Ben Abdul-Aziz. "Ahmed's Return" tells the story of a Yemeni child who illegally flees to another country looking for work. The film portrays the child's suffering during his journey and the problems he faces with the smugglers, who show another side of their personalities later on in the film. The film, which presents a theme against child smuggling and labor, is considered the first Yemeni dramatic production in this field.

## National review reveals community needs to accelerate female education

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANAA, April 27 — A national review of program experiences in support of girls' education in Yemen was inaugurated on Monday. The review is the result of collaboration between the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF and GTZ.

The review stems from the Girls' Education Sector's desire to avoid "reinventing the wheel", repeating costly mistakes, and in general to ensure on a national scale the integration of the most proven and promising strategies to accelerate girls' education.

The review was conducted over a one year period aimed at providing the information base necessary to understand which strategies have been the most effective in improving the enrollment rates and quality of education of girls.

In addition, the national review demonstrates best practice recommendations to the MoE and donors, based on lessons learned. It also offers donors as well as the different sectors of the MoE data which will support the adoption of highly effective strategies for girls' education. Aboudou Karimou Adjibade, UNICEF Representative, explained "This review comes at a critical time, as we are standing less than half way to reaching 2015 and meeting Yemen's commitment in ensuring universal primary education for all." He further elaborated, "This review will guide us towards better utilization and integration of policies that we have all worked

hard to put in place. We can now operationalize these important policy guidelines into our program interventions."

The review highlighted that programs devoted exclusively to girls' education rarely exist, i.e., most programs that deal with girls' education issues and objectives do so by treating them as program sub-components within a broader mandate. Additionally, funding for the programs ranged from US \$234,046 to \$121,140,000.

Abdulaziz Bin Habtour, Deputy Minister of Education, commented, "Girls' education still represents a problem in Yemen." He emphasized the importance of creating a girl-friendly environment to promote girls education. He also highlighted the significant implication of the review and the importance of translating its recommendations to actual procedures.

Moreover, the review indicated that Amran, Hodeidah and Abyan have been the recipients of the largest number of girls' education programs over the past ten years, while Dhamar, Raimah, Sa'ada and Al Jawf have received the fewest.

The review furthermore illustrated that programs mainly targeted rural girls, girls from poor families and girls who dropped out of school, while there were no programs targeting disabled girls and girls with low attendance.

In addition, the total number of programs addressing access and low enrollment accounted for 24 percent, while programs addressing drop-out and com-

pletion issues accounted for 19 percent and programs addressing quality and learning outcomes accounted for only 13 percent. Issues such as equality, relevance, and grade repetition had a lower percentage of focus in these programs.

The review reflected the opinion of community members. It was revealed that there was a positive impact of school fee abolition; however, most community members indicated that they still incurred other indirect school costs for different purposes. The community members also identified the availability of well-trained female teachers to be the key solution for increasing girls' enrollment as well as maintaining high retention rate.

Priorities identified by the communities to accelerate girls' education includes increasing female teachers, separate girls' schools, food aid, and increasing the involvement of the community in planning and supervising projects.

The national review concluded that it is vital to establish coordination among diverse and multi-sectoral girls' education programs, track budgets according to gender, use standard indicators to measure girls' education results, and set up a mechanism to accommodate emerging needs. The review also emphasized the importance of female teachers and incentive programs. In addition, it recommended ensuring a friendly school environment for girls and sustainability of girls' education programs.



WHAT IT MEANS...

Yemen Pre-Transitional Emerging Democracy;

Still More Democratic Constraints Over Opportunities

By: Ahmed Hezam Al-Yemeni  
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No doubt that Yemen 1990 unification, bringing together in one state the Socialist of the South and the Regime of the North, introduced an emerging democracy and a multiparty system that allowed all, if not some, kinds freedoms to flourish – being one of The Socialist main demands over President Saleh table during the unification negotiation process. The new sociopolitical democratic atmospheres compared to the ones before the unification (with/in South and North Yemen) compared and in contrast to Yemen's regional sociopolitical democratic surroundings is/was surely considered a great victory to/for Yemen. Political Parties were created, the/a second coming of credible independent media and press, the emerging of new promising civil societies originations, and the restricted sociopolitical democratic margins of debate that existed - being all very positive indicators in/to Yemen new democracy march. However, The unfair civil war of 1994 came to terminate all the gains of its four previous years that was granted and protected by the balance that the socialists created; their progressive elites and their way of thinking; their semi national patriotic contemporary history (especially comparing to that of the regime of the North). By its 1994 civil war assumed military victory over the deceived southern un prepared peaceful military and security forces , the pre 1990 Northern brutal dictatorship regime was reawakened declaring a new old era in Yemen sociopolitical contemporary history of The Royalist Republic and The Shrinking Margins of Freedoms even with Red Lines. An era of/to continue marginalizing national sociopolitical institutions and assuring, if not even protecting, the absence of institutionalism. A regime that is built on controlled blessed encouraged corruption. A regime of extreme radical tribalism and traditionalism that is mixed with radical Islamic touches. A president that enjoy his natural wit and cunning in such extreme fantasies and sick illusions of/in divide and rule keeping (in the best way he and his tools can) the sociopolitical level of awareness of his citizens at its lowest level without any clear present or future national patriotic agenda

favoring and siding with the Saudi and sometimes the American interests over that of his people and his land; if He is a Yemeni at all. The interests that will never fulfill his hunger and His European banks accounts. In addition to all previous constraints, a socio political corrupted assumed elites, if any at all, that has no national democratic missions, what so ever, except their own gains and interests regardless of their western liberal thinking and back ground, if any at all, as some may characterize them or affiliate them with – just makes it worse for Yemen. An emerging democracy or pre-transitional one, or pre-transitional emerging democracy cannot surely flourish with a general average weak, if not totally absence, public sociopolitical (and some time socioeconomic) level of awareness. The demands and the real progressive advanced steps, protection, and guarantees come first and last from the people. Weak Education System, public and individual enlighten ignorance, absence of elites and leadership models and guidance, absence of sociopolitical revolutionary movements, and lack of ideological approaches all helped in shaping and enhancing social public ignorance on the teaching spirits of democratic rights and freedoms; its tools, mechanism, and final destination. Moreover, one of the biggest constraints to full democracy if any (following the western example of liberal democracy; if necessary or perfect) beside the general sociopolitical public awareness is dictatorship. Authoritarian regimes; republics or monarchs, finds its best means to rule and flourish through strict unmerciful control sizing all the sources and preventing by all means and measures any democratic or semi democratic changes or even signs of it. The third major component that put constraints over any fair democratic process in Yemen case is the direct and indirect regional and international interference and dynamics. Saudi Arabia major interests in Yemen, thought a neighboring Arab Islamic state (whatever this means), were to keep it/us busy distracted and divided. The contemporary history of their interference before and after the 1990 shows all kind of support for religious social and even political factions, illegal aids for loyal elites and sheiks (including monthly salaries and cut payments), enflaming and sometimes starting conflicts and clashes, and interference in state domestic and international relations/affairs which led to what Yemen is about now. They

even monopoly Yemen natural and economic resources ending and reaching an agreement with the Yemeni regime to hand over all the bordering Yemeni lands that was ours for thousands of years in an unfair boarder treaty agreement that they, the Saudis, are not fully happy with yet. Therefore, any senses of democracy that may brought changes that will kick out their loyal president/servant - who initially was brought and supported limitlessly by them - in such very bloody takeover of authority that was marked with assassination of the previous president of North Yemen Ibrahiem Al-Hamdi (done with an American CIA blessings and green light and may be logistical aid) and the killing of Yemen best military and civil intellectual elites – will not be appreciated sharpening all their tools and weapons to work against, terminating any such signs or changes before it is even born or even thought about/of. Some secondary constrains to democracy in Yemen is the lack of institutionalism and corruption. In such poor developing country were state administrative priorities is set far away from institutional building - mainly for financial recourses reallocations and absence of a state vision and professionalism, strong institutional neutral performance - will never be created and if started will be gone with the winds. Thus, no doubt that the absence of the political presidential will in this regard is the/a main factor. It is very clear that any strong or even an average professional credible Institutional independence and performance (from the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum to Security and Intelligence Authorities) is not wanted and desired at all. Therefore, weak divided Gov. Institutions should be established and kept through loyal contacts and chairs where corruption, then, must flourish with the regime blessings. So, loyalty will be not to the land and people but to the dictatorship mechanism even if corruption systematically starts to destroy all aspect of state and public private lives attempting to create and encourage a new parallel traditional and tribal structures and individuals to only maintain and run the daily life of the so called State. One the Other hand, some small signs emerge from the previous social movements and inheritance and more from the new emerging politi-

cal Islam interactions. The muslim brotherhood from their organizational structure, through their dedicated ideological individuals, to their political Islam interpretations and sociopolitical performance gave lots of positive indicators even within the small shrinking democratic margins that Yemen still enjoys. Their leadership, networking, public and NGOs concerns and outreach are very promising. Moreover, many argue especially most recently with what is called the War on Terror that security is priority over democracy; a steady positive tangible development is more important than freedoms. All Rights and freedoms are granted and should be supported except the sociopolitical democratic electoral ones. Thus, all what we simply need is a just dictator and dictatorship. All nations should go through this era and time where all the modern physical and mental infrastructure should be build first. In the politics of reality, stability and economic prosperity may look different. Yemen as a poor developing country needs Saudi Arabia more than any democracy. Yemen has a hundred of thousands of immigrants in the neigh pouring Saudi Arabia resulting on huge economic benefits. Thus, Yemen does still need a big huge trade partner such As Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the continuous economic, financial, and tangible aid Yemen government and sometimes people receive play a major role in Yemen socioeconomic semi prosperity. So, who needs democracy if more important priorities are set? Obedience, submission, and keeping low profile is highly needed putting Yemen National Interests First through serving the Saudis policies! Still some may argue more that in such poor developing country like Yemen with lack of awareness and institutionalism takes time like other countries around the world. Actually some believe that the informal blessing and legitimizing of corruption, which in Yemen mostly and dominantly small government administrative typed, is the only way the majority of people, middle class and poor can earn and live a kind of an average accepted life with. To conclude, since more negative sociopolitical indicators can be easily identified, referred to, acknowledged, and control the dynamics of the scenes: from the lack, if not the absence, of a general public average sociopolitical and even socioeconomic awareness to the existence of the Just Dictatorship and the Royalist Republic – through the regional interference and lack of institutionalism - Yemen Pre-Transitional Emerging Democracy still will witness and be affiliated and characterized more with more Democratic Constraints over any real future sociopolitical opportunities except with the usual shrinking margins of freedoms that the regime keeps only for healthy security and intelligence reasons and more western aids and marketing more than anything else.

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

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 yeditor@gmail.com

Their News

**Earth Guest Day**  
A symposium was held last Tuesday in the Sofitel Hotel in Taiz on the occasion of Earth Guest Day, organized by the Mercure French Company in collaboration with The Yemeni Company for Industry and Trading. The national association for society development organized a session of lectures to train participants on environmental issues. The participants discussed the people's awareness of environmental issues and ways to get rid of waste, solid and liquid materials, glass, plastic and harmful cans, and how poor families can make use of them. A report was presented by Jamel Al-Maqtari, the manager of quality administration in the Yemeni Company for Industry and Trading, in which he highlighted the industrial processes of waste recycling. Nabel Sailan, human resources manager in Sofitel Hotel, presented a report dealing with the effects on the Earth's atmosphere. He touched on the damage done to the ozone layer from factory waste and gases. Esrar Al-Kobati a trainer and member of staff the association discussed the types and rate of the solid waste that is produced in Taiz. Samya Ahmed a representative of Saba Public School, gave a brief speech about the history of the environment, while Dr Abdulnaser Al-Kabab, Public Health and Population Office Manager, discussed the

ozone layer's importance to people's health, specifically with regard to the respiratory system and blood circulation. **YALI makes remarkable recovery**  
The Yemen-America Language Institute (YALI) has made an astonishing recovery over the past six months following last September' labor dispute by teachers at the institute. YALI Director of Courses Greg Olson reports that enrollment has tripled, from around 950 students in October to over 2,850 in the current term. The institute has increased the number of teachers to a total of 62, he said, by rehiring a number of former teachers who returned after YALI provided the contracts they requested, and recruiting additional qualified teachers who must satisfy factory complete a five-week training program in YALI's teaching methodology. YALI, sponsored by the US Embassy in Sana'a and managed by AMIDEAST, has made great investments in upgrading its facilities. Now available to students on 32 new computers in the Multi-Media Lab are English language software, movies, TV programs and the Internet. YALI recently opened a library, the first and only one of its kind in Yemen, where members can check out and take home reading material. The library also provides hundreds of fiction and non-fiction books for students in low-intermediate to advanced levels and has magazines and other reading material that can be read in

the library. YALI has also initiated free mini-courses on Thursdays, including conversation sessions with North-American and European students from the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies (YCMES, previously known as Yemen Language Center). YCMES, Yemen's oldest and largest Arabic language institute, through its exclusive partnership with YALI, also invites YALI students participate in YMCES field trips to share their culture and love of Yemen while conversing with students who are in Yemen to learn Arabic. The U.S. Embassy has continued to contribute extra-curricular activities such as performances by visiting U.S. musical groups and speakers. YALI graduates, who average over 20 students per term, now have an opportunity to further master their English skills through a course series called Real World English. The new courses focus on preparing graduates to manage "real-life" material and situations and deliver critical information on how to study in the United States and get jobs with international companies. "It has been an exciting privilege," said Mr. Olson, "to work with YALI's team of dedicated staff and teachers to make possible the continuation of YALI's proud 32-year tradition as the pre-eminent institution in meeting Yemen's English language training needs."

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Attn: Mr. Michele Cervone d'Urso, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
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Applications received after 10 May 2008 will not be taken into consideration.



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# Yemeni youths: Increasing awareness is the best solution to early marriage

By: Hatem Qubati and Abdullah Al-Riashi For The Yemen Times

Early marriage has been and remains one of the main topics occupying public opinion in Yemen. This subject also involves non-governmental organizations and national women's organizations, which attempt to highlight the situations and sufferings young girls experience through such marriages.

However, without a law to prevent the spread of this phenomenon, and with increasing poverty in Yemen, which can be heard as an excuse by those fathers who force their daughters to marry, any solutions still seem far off.

Sana'a University students share their thoughts and possible solutions to early marriage in Yemen.

**Nabil Ghailan, 24, Faculty of Arts, English Dept.**



"In my opinion, the best way to solve [this problem] is to educate parents so that they'll have an idea about marriage and the suitable

age to marry their daughters off in healthy way."

**Alia'a Qahtan, 23, Faculty of Languages**

"We first must ask ourselves why there's a bad phenomenon like this in our society. The problem is that parents don't know it's a problem, so if there was social awareness about the dangers and hazards of this problem, that would be a good way to solve it.

"Parents should know that girls aren't ready to marry at age 11 or 12 – neither physically, mentally nor psychologically – so social awareness is the first and best solution to this problem."

**Dhafer Mohammed Abduljalil, 22, senior, Faculty of Languages, English Dept.**



"I think the best solution to prevent this situation is to give people a general idea about what are the effects and damages resulting from early marriage. If people [parents] knew the effects upon their daughters, they would try to stop marrying them early."

**Nermeen Ma'amoun, 22, Faculty of Arts**

"The best solution is [for people] to know the advantages and disadvantages of early marriage."

**Maisa'a Al-Aqil, 22, Faculty of Languages**

"I think the [Yemeni] government and Parliament primarily are responsible to solve this social problem because this is how Yemenis think and it's not going to be solved unless the government and Parliament create actual laws to stop this dangerous phenomenon."

**Nafi' Al-Musa'edi, 21, sophomore, Faculty of Languages, Translation Dept.**



"The media plays the biggest role in solving this social problem by presenting good awareness programs on television, radio and in newspapers."

**Saif Hamoud Mas'oud, 22, junior Faculty of Arts, English Dept.**



"I think the [Yemeni] government should create and increase awareness, especially in rural areas, informing

parents about the effects upon girls who marry early."

**Abdulmughni Al-Sabri, 24, graduate, Faculty of Languages, English Dept.**



"I think education is the best way to solve all social problems and the key to reducing all bad phenomena like early marriage."

**Ahmed Ali Saleh, 26, senior, Faculty of Languages, English Dept.**



"The first responsible party is the government, which should enact strong legislation against those who force their

daughters to marry early. The second responsible party is the family itself, which should allow their daughters at least to complete their university education and gain enough knowledge about marriage and the relationship between husband and wife."

**Wafa'a Ghulais, 21, junior, Faculty of Education, English Dept.**

"Early marriage is a bad phenomenon in Yemen that has spread in rural

areas. I think the responsible party is the government, which should educate the public by broadcasting radio and television reports that early marriage has effects upon and damages girls."

**Ahmed Al-Faqeeh, 24, junior, Faculty of Languages, English Dept.**



"The economic system is our nation's the biggest problem, so if that was solved, then all social problems, such as early marriage, would be solved."

**Lura Sasmigha, 24, from Spain**



"I suppose that the best solution is education, especially in rural areas where this phenomenon is spreading more than in the cities. So, education and making girls complete their education before marrying is very important in order to teach them how they should care for their children and live their lives in a good way after they marry."

**Wazir Al-Sabri, 22, junior, Faculty of Education, English Dept.**

"The best way to solve this problem will come through wise individuals, who should advise families and societies via television programs, informing parents about the problems both partners may face after marrying early."

**Mohammed Saleh Al-Muqri, 22, junior, Faculty of Education, English Dept.**



"I think a good way to face this phenomenon is to spread knowledge among fathers, as well as daughters, so that they'll have

information and know the disadvantages of this practice."

**Arwa Ahmed Al-Saithi, 19, Faculty of Education**

"I think [this problem] can be solved by encouraging girls to complete their education, which will delay marriage temporarily. Then they can be married after completing their education.

"Seeking employment is also a good idea because some parents force their daughters to marry early in order to get money, so if they have good jobs and salaries, their parents won't marry them off early."

## Despite high prices, demand for gold continues

By: Alia Ishaq

Gold prices continue rising due to the gradual fall of the U.S. dollar. Currently, an ounce of gold costs \$890, although this amount recently reached its highest at \$1,000

Despite this, demand for gold on the Yemeni market hasn't dropped, with even more people continuing to purchase the valuable metal. Many Yemenis believe the gold price will continue rising, so they keep buying it.

"Those who can afford to buy gold become obsessed with buying more and more," commented Abbas Al-Arifi, who runs a Sana'a gold shop.

He noted that only a handful of people have stopped buying gold because they can't afford its new price, adding that it's impossible for gold prices to decrease anytime soon.

Fellow Sana'a jeweler Hussein Al-Hashidi seconded Al-Arifi's views, saying some people buy more jewelry as soon as they hear that its price has jumped.

"I think they panic that the price will go even higher, so that causes them to buy more," he explained, adding that many people feel that the new price is very expensive and difficult to afford.

"Generally, the price hike hasn't affected gold sales because many people still feel that they need to buy jewelry, no matter how expensive it is," he remarked.

Another worker at a jewelry store, Ali Hussein, laughs ironically as he explains, "When people learn that the price of gold has risen, they rush to buy, but when the prices go down, they don't buy."

The need to buy jewelry is what keeps Sana'a housewife Um Abdullah Bin Jamil buying gold today. As she browsed jewelry in a store, she said, "While it's not easy to buy gold anymore, the price may go higher, so this is what makes me come here."

Yemen imports various types of gold from countries like Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, India and Saudi Arabia.

According to sellers, some types are more expensive because of their

quality and trademarks. For example, a gram of Bahraini gold costs YR 5,600, while Saudi gold costs YR 5,300, both of which are more expensive than Yemeni gold, which is YR 4,700 per gram.

**Reasons for gold price hike**

Analysts say the most important reason for the hike in gold prices is the fact that investors worldwide are redistributing their resources to hard assets such as gold and silver, which are known to retain their value.

According to Sana'a University economics professor Taha Al-Fusayyil, the gold price hike directly relates to the breakdown of real estate mortgages in the United States, which has gold speculation on the stock market, eventually causing more demand for gold and increasing its price dramatically.

But is the price coming down anytime soon? Al-Fusayyil points out that gold prices have increased several times before and eventually gone down again, "However, in this case, it'll go down if the real estate crisis gradually improves and if new areas of investment are discovered."

He adds, "It's all related to the U.S. economy, which in my opinion, will regain its strength, probably after two or three years, if everything works out well."

**Gold's importance to Yemeni women**

It's well known that buying gold is extremely important for Yemeni women. For many, jewelry is very precious and near to their hearts because the gold a woman wears has always been a sign of her class and wealth. According to gold traders, this causes many women to spend their money on jewelry in order to present a certain impression.

For many Yemeni women, having more jewelry also ensures security, knowing that they have something precious to sell if the need arises.


"Undoubtedly, many women feel more powerful if they have more jewelry. Many sell their jewelry whenever they need money, as do many people, especially these days as the prices increase," Al-Arifi explained.

He also noted that some women are so obsessed with buying jewelry, that they buy new pieces at least monthly. As for those who can't afford new jewelry, they'll sell their previous pieces and then buy new ones in order to look good in front of their friends.

Summertime and after the eid holiday usually are very busy times for gold sellers, as those are the wedding seasons in Yemen and the time of year when most Yemenis prefer marrying because many can be on vacation from school or work and therefore, have more time for wedding preparations, which include purchasing dowries for brides and other women buying jewelry in order to look stylish at these weddings.



Despite the gold price high cost, demanding for gold on the Yemen market hasn't dropped.



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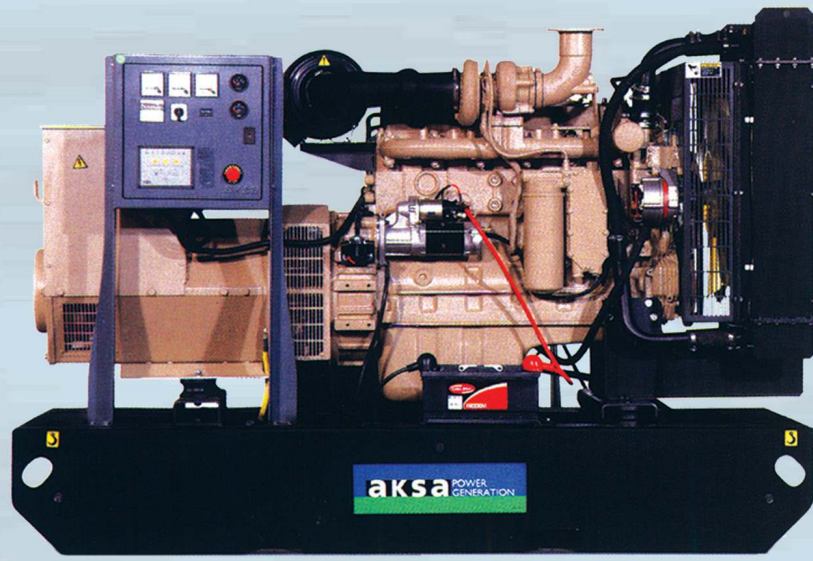
<p><b>1. Position:</b> Disaster Preparedness and Response Officer -Coordinator <b>Reference:</b> DPRO-C/IPD/190408</p> <p><b>Responsibilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and strengthen disaster preparedness capacity to respond to disasters in an effective and efficient manner</li> <li>• Assist to reduce the impact of disasters on people / communities most at risk through capacity building and organizational development activities</li> <li>• Design, implement, coordinate, develop, monitor and evaluate IRY's disaster activities in line with IRY strategy</li> <li>• Provide direction and support to programme staff</li> <li>• Establish linkages with GO, NGOs and other institutional donors</li> <li>• Prepare project related narrative and financial reports for IRY and donors</li> </ul> <p><b>Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate in Development studies or any other Social Science</li> <li>• Minimum of 3 years experience in development and emergencies</li> <li>• Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages (written and spoken)</li> <li>• Ability to write proposals and develop linkages with INGOs and GO</li> <li>• Skills in financial, time and management are essential together with working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Internet applications</li> <li>• database use, and advanced Internet search engine tools</li> </ul>	<p><b>3. Position:</b> Orphan and Child Welfare Programme Field Officer (Aden Based): (Females Only) <b>Reference:</b> OCWPFO/IPD/190408</p> <p><b>Responsibilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To participate in all orphan and child welfare programme activities</li> <li>• To be responsible for implementing activities of orphan and child welfare programme as per policy and procedure on the field level</li> <li>• To be responsible for continuous registration and monitoring of sponsored orphans for their welfare and development of livelihood status</li> <li>• To liaise with families, schools and other relevant authorities</li> <li>• To be an effective assistant to orphans programme team to improve and implement the project and to gather and analyse all related data</li> <li>• To implement all work related to programme objectives</li> <li>• To prepare timely reports</li> <li>• To organise various events for children</li> <li>• To be able to intensively travel to the field</li> </ul> <p><b>Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University degree in social science or equivalent</li> <li>• At least 3 years experience in development</li> <li>• Fluency in English and Arabic (written and spoken) are essential</li> <li>• To have a good understanding of child rights and protection issues</li> <li>• Good computer skills in (Word processing, Excel, PowerPoint &amp; usage of internet)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Position:</b> Programme Officer <b>Reference:</b> PO/IPD/190408</p> <p><b>Responsibilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new programmes and projects based on donor funding.</li> <li>• Assist in overseeing the implementation of all programme related activities and providing all needed support and direction.</li> <li>• Coordinate, develop, monitor and evaluate programmes and projects activities</li> <li>• Prepare periodic reports on the progress of operational projects and related plans both narrative and financial.</li> </ul> <p><b>Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate in Development Studies or any other social Science</li> <li>• Minimum 3 yrs senior development and emergency relief management experience.</li> <li>• Ability to write proposals and develop linkages with INGOs and GO</li> <li>• Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and internet applications.</li> <li>• Excellent command of the English language (advantage to have Arabic)</li> <li>• Good communication skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Please send a copy of your CV latest by 06th May 2008.</b></p> <p>Admin Department Islamic Relief Yemen, P O Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Fax No: 01-415998 Or Email: info@iryemen.org</p> <p><i>Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.</i></p> <p>Islamic Relief is an international relief and development charity with its headquarters in the UK that aims to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people</p>





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Wishing her all the best  
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# Let's put the money to work

When MENASSAT's project manager, Samer Mohdad, attended a conference for Arab media leaders in Sharm El-Sheikh recently he got slightly drunk on all the positive energy going around. But after the hangover wore off he came to some sobering conclusions about the "press freedom industry."

I had just pushed my luggage through the X-ray machine at Cairo airport and was stepping through the metal detector when suddenly the general security agent offered me his hand. For several seconds I asked myself, "What does he want?"

Just to shake my hand it turned out. So I did. It was the first time in my life that a security agent anywhere in the world just wanted to shake my hand.

For the record, I was leaving Egypt after having attended the Arab Media Leaders conference held in Sharm El Sheikh from March 14-16.

I was invited to the conference in my capacity as project manager of Menassat.com, a website specializing in Arab media issues. Admittedly, I had packed a lot of prejudices along with my underwear when I left Beirut for Egypt. These prejudices revolved mostly around my disbelief at the usefulness of such gatherings. As well, I also questioned the choice of this conference's location: a country well known for its lack of freedom of expression.

As it turned out all my prejudices were unfounded.

I was impressed with the professionalism of the organization as well as the quality of the people involved. Reports about the needs and the concerns were presented. High-level speeches were given followed by interesting debates with top-notch translation provided.

On paper at least everything looked encouraging.

A network of professionally trained journalists and lawyers had been established and a budget had been put in place for them to carry on training others inde-

pendently. Money was apparently not a problem because freedom of expression in the Arab world has lately become downright fashionable with Western non-governmental organizations.

The positive energy at the conference was so abundant that it was impossible not to become enthusiastic about the future of press freedom in the Arab world.

Change was coming. Soon, freedom of expression would take the place of repression as the hot-ticket item to be discussed.

In other words, I drank the Kool Aid. But I wasn't drunk enough on it to deny what I knew from my experience with Menassat. At least for the time being, there was little on the ground to show for all the positive energy at the conference.

In fact, we all needed the Kool Aid in order to believe that real change was coming any time soon.

One example of some of the prevailing attitudes that will make press freedom a challenge in the Arab world occurred during the first gala dinner.

I was sitting across from an Egyptian TV anchorwoman. Seated next to her was the director of perhaps the original Islamic portal on the Internet - a website said to be the leading source for Islamic content in the Islamic world.

I learned this by accident when I offered my tablemate, the Egyptian anchorwoman, a glass of white wine. Although she felt like a drink, she said she was self-conscious to consume alcohol in the presence of the director of this Islamic website.

Suddenly, I couldn't restrain myself. So I asked the website director, what the



Samer Mohdad

meaning was of his website's name?

My question proved to be an icebreaker. At first, he was unable to answer me, unaccustomed as he was to being questioned this directly.

One of the subsequent comments I remember went something like this: "What are you doing? Don't you know that you are in Egypt? You can't talk about such things here. There are Mukhabarat agents all over the place. Are you insane?"

After an animated debate, the group came to the conclusion that moderate Islam was not so far removed from moderated secularism and that each party should deal with the extremists in their wings in order to secure a better coexistence.

Eventually the dinner ended and a number of us went to the Hard Rock Cafe to continue the discussion. The Egyptian anchorwoman was there and since the Islamic website director had retired for the night she felt free to order a beer.

Strangely, none of the experts or media leaders from Europe who had been invited to the conference had turned up; only the Dutch were there since they were organizing the event.

What could be the reason behind this boycott?

Could it be that every European country has its own program for developing civil society in the region and they only show up for their own events?

Somehow, supporting press freedom and freedom of expression in the Arab world had become an "industry," and every country wanted a piece of the cake. They were willing to throw money at it too; inviting a collection of Arab media leaders to Sharm El-Sheikh doesn't come cheap.

And this is where the Kool Aid started to wear off.

Yes, these events are useful, especially in terms of getting people from different Arab countries to communicate with each other. But when the party is over, what is left?

If there is no follow-up all those good intentions and great decisions will remain only theory - as ink on paper. Worse, they will end up as unrealized promises for the participants who were

sold on the sensible ideas presented at the conference; the positive energy from Sharm El-Sheikh would thus evaporate as soon as it comes into contact with the stale air of their own countries' media environments.

As someone who has come to leadership from the field as a photographer and media worker, it is natural for me to have my doubts about the practical nature of such events.

I will always be the one who says, "Don't talk about it; just do it."

You may be saying: well, he spins a good yarn but where are the concrete suggestions?

So, at the risk of being too critical about those who have the demonstrated vision and have backed us financially with the valuable work we are doing, I have a request for the "press freedom industry."

From now on, instead of spending all that money on gathering media profes-

sionals in expensive tourist resorts, use it to help produce real journalism in the field with the media professionals themselves.

We have all seen more than enough reports on the needs and concerns of the Arab media community.

Now, let's do something about it. Let's see some concrete results instead of day-dreaming about it. Things will only happen when we build them from scratch with our hands, and this means moving out into the field and going to the people that can really make it happen in the media workers in the countries at risk.

It doesn't take a miracle. It only takes money and the right people in the right place.

The money is there; let's put it to work.

*Samer Mohdad is Menassat's project manager and the director of the Arab Images Foundation.*

## Job Vacancy

A national financial services company is seeking to fill the following position: **Accountant – Head of Finance**

Applicants should have :

- .University degree on accountancy with very good level
- .Minimum of 5 years of proven experience in accountancy field
- .Excellent command of Arabic and English with computer skills
- .Desire for development, and self-improvement
- .Cost accounting and payment systems is a plus

Those interested applicants should email their CVs to [hrd@yfsco.com](mailto:hrd@yfsco.com) with subject line that indicate the position applied for .

The body of the email should include the cover sheet which should indicate the applicants last salary .

All Certifications are to be attached to the e-mail .

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Aden Refinery Company (ARC) invites local contractors classified in Grade (1), and foreign contracting companies who can demonstrate that they are suitably qualified and experienced in turn-key projects as a prime contractor to submit bids for.

### Construction of Aden Refinery Administration Building

- Intending bidders may obtain the Tender Documents in English Language from the Project Department at (ARC) headquarter, Aden, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$1,500**
- Bidders should submit their sealed offers, one original and two copies, to the following address:  
**Aden Refinery Company**  
**Refinery Manager, Chairman of Tender Board**  
**Little Aden, Aden**  
**Tel: + 967 2 376258 Fax + 967 2 376600**  
**Email: aden.refinery@y.net.ye**
- Bids must reach the headquarter of (ARC) before 11:00 hours on **Sunday 22nd June, 2008** late bids will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who chose to attend at 11:00 hours on Sunday 22nd June, 2008
- Bids will be preliminary qualified to comply with the Instructions to Tenderers. Bidders shall accompany their bids the following:
  - Bid Security in the sum of 2.5 % of the tender value valid for 120 days from the date of this announcement obtained from a locally registered bank or in the form of a certified check.
  - Details of similar projects carried out within the past five years as prime contractor, details of the clients for whom the work was undertaken.
- The local bidder shall accompany by his bid the following:
  - Certificate of Grade (1) contractor.
  - Valid tax card.
  - Valid insurance card.
  - Valid commercial registry certificate.
- Foreign bidder shall accompany by his bid the following:
  - A valid company Registration Certificate.
  - A valid Certificate of Insurance.
- The successful bidder will be obliged to pay a city services fees in the sun of **1% of the bid value. Any taxes, duties, levies related to the works shall be paid by the successful contractor to laws of the Republic of Yemen.**
- ARC will facilitate a site visit for eligible bidders upon their request. Intending bidders may obtain further information from the following contact address (Sat - Wed 7:00 - 4:00)

**Aden Refinery Company**  
**Manager Projects/Deputy Manager Projects**  
**Tel: + 967 2 376231 fax + 967 2 376600/601**  
**Email: aden.refinery@y.net.ye**

# gtz

## Vacancy Announcement

The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is recruiting for 2 positions for the Project for the Development of Historic Cities of Yemen (PDHCY) for the position of **Local Community Development Officer/Expert in the duty stations: 1) Shibam / Hadhramaut and 2) Zabid / Hodeidah (Yemen):**

### Local Community Development Officer/Expert

**Qualification, skills and other requirements are as the following:**

- The position is reserved for national personnel only,
- Incumbents will be permanently residing in the duty station area for the period of the contract,
- An academic or professional degree in one of the following fields: social sciences, economics, business administration, and / or development studies,
- A minimum of 5 years professional experience working with development projects, with proven record of working directly on Women in Development issues,
- Good command of written and oral English and Arabic languages,
- Proven record of preparing professional reports,
- Computer skills include the use of most MS. Office applications,
- Good team spirit and excellent communication skills,
- Be ready to work in remote areas and hot climate.

**The main tasks of the post are as the following:**

- Work with women's initiatives and NGO's and cooperate with them to implement small projects for income generation, skills promotion and education.
- Enhance planning and organizational skills of women's initiatives and facilitate their participation in the urban management process, with emphasis on issues related to the environment and the preservation of cultural heritage.
- Organize training and exchange of information for actors related to women's development.
- Organize and conduct community education programs and awareness campaigns.
- Conduct monitoring procedures to evaluate women's development programs supported by the project.

Persons of suitable qualification are invited to send their application and include up-to-date CVs both in Arabic and English clearly indicating the duty station they wish to work in to the address below. The deadline for the receipt of CVs is 05<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

To:

The Human Resources Officer  
Vacancy " **Local Community Development Officer/Expert**" – 1) Shibam / Hadhramaut or 2) Zabid  
GTZ Office Sana'a  
P.O. Box 692  
Fax: (00 967 1) 412 539

Only short listed applicants will be invited for interviews after 10th



## Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen needs accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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

OUR  
OPINIONGrowth or  
development

Two terms often confused with each other and wrongly used interchangeably are growth and development. Development includes growth while maintaining social justice and fair distribution over various sectors in a sustainable way.

Therefore, growth is only one of the requirements of development. In the same time growth does not necessarily translate into development, in fact, sometimes it leads to the opposite. For example, growth in population does not necessarily indicate development, in fact for a country like Yemen, increasing population is an obstacle against development. Similarly the growth in the Qat industry is certainly a national disaster and definitely not development.

Mixing between these two concepts skews national plans and creates a setback in the country's progress. Because adopting an investment in a certain sector because it creates financial growth regardless of its impact on other sectors will eventually lead to long term difficulties despite the short-term euphoria. An example of this is oil exploration and its impact on water; For every one-barrel of oil, exploration companies have to extract 10 barrels of underground water. This means that for more oil based income, we are jeopardising an important resource that we need for future sustainability. Politicians who argue that this water is inserted back are even more at fault because this water has already been polluted especially in the absence of state supervision and environmental conscious systems.

Consequently trade-off policies, which victimize some groups of the society during the launch of some projects, have catastrophic results. Some decision makers who think that if they prioritize a sector to generate income quickly over development in other fields in the hope that when there is enough money the growing sector will automatically pick up the others, could not be more wrong. To start with, development does not happen automatically. And then secondly, if you encourage vertical growth the deterioration in the overall scene will cause new challenges to immerge. For example, if we put all our resources into creating a free zone in Aden and ignore the fact that the city needs improvement in the social, education, health, and human resources sectors then only the rich businessmen will benefit while the poor citizens will be even pushed further into the suburbs because of the increase in property prices. A free zone will not create more jobs, while the living conditions will deteriorate because no one took care of education and employment.

Another example is when a country depends on debts to enhance development. Global policies in the eighties realized this when a time came when Africa was financing the United States economy by paying interests in loans.

The point here is that we need to be careful how we think about development and how our development plans are made. It is not enough that a strategy brings out growth. It is more important that it is the kind of growth the country needs across sectors and in a sustainable way. So the message to our planning gurus, that before you sign off another strategy that you think will increase national income think twice, for certain damages can never be undone.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The need for a national  
strategy to fight corruption

By: Abdurrahman Saif Ismail

The talk about administrative and financial corruption usually associates with another talk about the administrative and financial reform project. In fact, there is notable relation and overlapping between both subjects. As long as there is corruption, we usually realize that there are reform programs that are intended to fight the rampant corruption spreading in the various government offices and agencies.

Every time, the reform programs face difficulties and challenges that usually deter any efforts aimed at fighting or reducing corruption in the various institutions. In the meantime, such programs fail to achieve their sought-after objectives due to the lack of a clear reform vision, as well as ineligibility and weakness of the tools being used to fight corruption. Therefore, the job in this regard becomes more complicated and very difficult.

As a result, eliminating corruption remains a social and political right, thus requiring involvement of all the political and social parties that have close relation with the community, mainly as there is a popular consensus regarding corruption and the required reforms. This means that the

process needs a broad popular alignment, plus a strong front to resist the phenomenon that is threatening our lives and the future of our children.

Although there is a consensus with regard to this issue, the position toward reform and resisting corruption has not yet crystallized as a cultural or intellectual concept necessitating a social revolution against the destructive phenomenon by all means available. Like terrorism, corruption remains without a definition and identity, nor is there a clear strategy to eliminate either phenomenon despite their worldwide background.

A comprehensive national strategy is needed to resist corruption, and such a strategy should have society as its wider frame. In addition, all the official and popular capacities need to incorporate on the basis of decentralization in order to show more flexibility and transparency in this respect.

To overcome corruption, there should be a balanced process to mobilize and activate the various relevant legal institutions. Reform is not a temporary or intangible process. Instead, it is a reality-based process that also necessitates increased awareness of people and interaction between the different social and political agencies. It is an intentional change process that has to be dealt with according to the principle of

decentralization, as said earlier, because corruption has expanded horizontally and vertically. And the local authority is a modern national institution that works on incorporating all the popular and official efforts and unifying all the development partners in this regard. This authority is also qualified to play an integral role in fighting corruption, particularly if the state succeeds in reforming its flaws and rebuild it on the basis of national and democratic principles, as part of local governance project with broad powers.

In order to attain successful results in fighting corruption, Yemen should have a local governance based on flexibility, transparency, collective vision and full social partnership, as well as electing governors, local councilors and executive officials in direct free and democratic votes. The executive officials have to be real and actual representatives for the local community and not for the central authority.

Sincere efforts are needed to activate role of the executive offices to become more able to achieve reforms and prevent corruption that has turned to be a horrible ghost threatening the country with further waste and destruction.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

Decentralization: Is it an  
internal or external need?

By: Abdulfattah Haidara

Decentralization experts say that during the early stages of a modern state, any state begins to apply centralization first in order to protect itself from division. When it comes to Yemen, it appears that the authority started applying centralization with the aim of minimizing the risk or harms to the republican principles, as perceived during the pre-unification times, and the national unity, as seen these days.

Following unity and emergence of political plurality, decentralization has become an internal need, but not an external one. Decentralization, however, can be applied through an external assistance to be determined in light of Yemen's situation. It is supposed that decentralization plans can be set up by Yemenis because they know much more about the Yemeni map from through all the cultural, social, political, economic and historic aspects, but not according to an external vision, the goal of which

is more political than reformative.

While talking about the culture of decentralization in the Yemeni society, it is noteworthy to mention the following points:

The unity state has inherited a kind of local councils that seemingly suffer various obstacles, all of which are mainly related with the times of Imamate's rule in the north and the British Occupation in the south. The Imamate's rule and British Occupation had a political and strategic goal to impose political dominance in both parts of the country, thereby devastating the infrastructure of the state of law and order and creating authorities with limited powers. In addition, they created numerous political factors, represented by achieving goals of the external central power, and at the same time shifting attention away from the local authority.

The potential for democratization in the Yemen has become a popular topic for academic and policy specialists alike. Unfortunately, the subject's dramatic appearance of late has not meant that its treatment has been

comprehensive. One key ingredient in a more satisfying treatment must be a comprehensive approach to the pressures and obstacles present at all levels of analysis.

Much of the work on democratization tends to concentrate on capturing the internal dynamics of reform and state/society relations which affect those dynamics. Hence, this literature often gives scant attention to the roles which external or international factors play. This is particularly perplexing in the case of our country since one of its defining characteristics is national porousness and vulnerability to external influences. A complete approach, therefore, must be cognizant of the effects which higher levels of analysis (regional and international systems) have on the dynamics at the state and society levels. Identifying and categorizing the various external factors shaping current or potential democratization is an important first step in achieving this.

## Factors hindering development:

The emergence of multiple factors confined development of Yemen's local development, as the pervasive culture in the Yemeni society was negatively impacted by the authorities that governed the society at that time. Consequently, the Yemeni citizen turned to gradually have a negative impression about the local authority, considering it to serve the tribal powers. Also, tribalism and regionalism restricted development of local authorities over the past years and their influence have extended up to the present time.

As a result, the phenomenon of nepotism has become rampant. After the two Yemeni revolutions, Yemen's central laws delegated broad powers to the local council leaderships to legislate and enact laws as soon as they hold posts in order to do things according to the central authority's desire. At this point, employment has become the tool, through which the central authority can control the local governance via recruiting supporters and followers.

Through this style, the authority

## SILVER LINING

When tribe handles  
state function

At last the problem of the al-Ja'ashin displaced people has been sorted out. The deal was brokered by the tribal-oriented Solidarity Council run by the parliamentarian Sheikh Hussein al-Ahmer. Some newspaper ran a humiliating photo for these people painted as beggars while counting the money paid as compensation. Al-Ahmer who was very critical to the president and his government's function defended the landlord influential Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Mansur who kicked al-Ja'ashin tenants away from their land simply because they refused his repression. Instead of holding the arrogant Sheikh accountable, the people were given some money. Money in the culture of these tribal figures at the power center makes a magic solution to all sorts of problems. This is how they think problems can be addressed. But money works as a pain killer providing a temporary relief to problems without addressing the causes.

According to al-Ahmer, who felt proud of sorting out the problem, the president paid the 6 million riyals compensation. Where from? The answer is simple: from the pockets of taxpayers. Why should we pay compensation for the arrogance of some outlawed officials or influential Sheikhs who never care about law and order? As an advisor to the president, Mansur is supposed to be the first person to respect law and order.

The president is very much liberal and lenient with such outlawed sheikhs to the extent that the sheikh was not even asked at least to pay what they called compensation. It seems he does not want to renounce a hypocritical poet for the sake of law.

This might be considered a success for the solidarity council and the young guys aspiring for more influence in the society but it is a genuine defeat to the state and its dignity. The president is forsaking the state constitutional responsibilities to the tribal figures to handle. He wants to appease al-Ahmer and gains his loyalty at the expense of the state sovereignty.

The naïve people of al-Ja'ashin turned to the state institutions for an address to their grief and plight; they approached the government, the parliament and then the civil society organizations for support. The government and parliament let them down; these people spent several weeks in Sana'a. The solution came through the solidarity council that tends to marginalize the state and its institutions.

Some newspapers quoted the helpless people as saying this was a victory for them against their sheik. I guess it is not; in my opinion, it is a reward for him for he was not even questioned about what happened.

When al-Ahmer initiated his tribal congregation, hell broke loose and the state media and their affiliates launched an attack on this tribal setup. Now, the difference is gone, the man is facilitated to open even branches for his council. Al-Ahmer is nowadays in Aden, opening the Aden branch for this council. Paradoxically, the branch is being opened in Aden, the most civilized city in Yemen. The council chief said he was in Aden to address the problems of the people. The man was pushed to go to Aden and try to show his magic powers in addressing problems in the south. He might be facilitated to handle problems here and there just to show tribal norms are better than the committee of Basurah which hit the nil on the head in its report which recommended forsaking a handful of corrupt cronies to save the country fragmentation. Al-Ahmer even said he would present an initiative to sort out differences of the ruling party and opposition concerning the setup of the elections commission. This is ridiculous and shows the people in charge will never align with rule of law. They are giving up the role of the state to the tribe which is a very serious issue.

Last week, foreign minister Abubakr al-Qirbi who I highly respect made a visit to the gulf countries. The state-run media outlets reported the leaders of the Gulf States expressed their support for "Yemen's stability and unity". Again, they said the US president George Bush expressed the same thing during a phone call with Saleh. However, I know that Bush never discussed the unity issue at all.

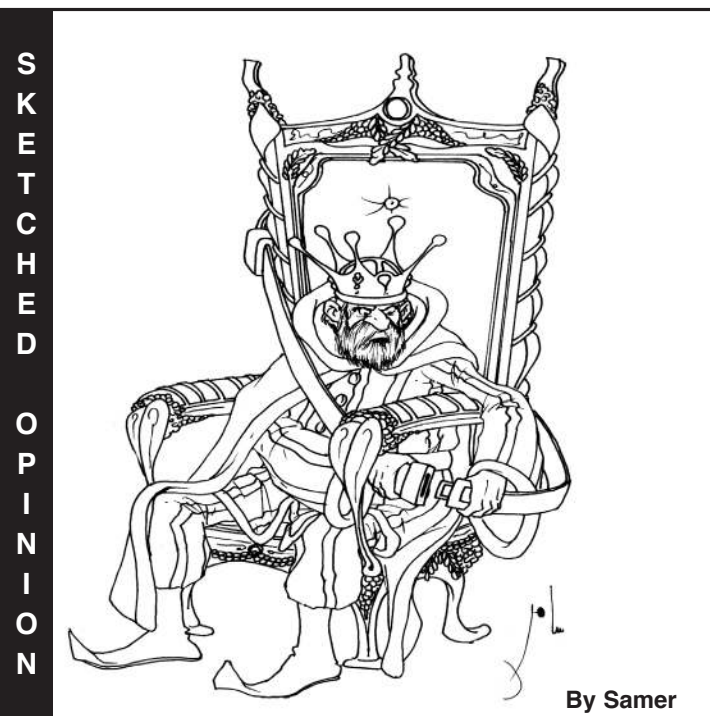
The people in charge think there is a foreign conspiracy behind the protests in the south and the protestors are being backed by some outsiders. This is a conspiracy complex that still haunts their mind. They do not know that injustice and absence of the rule of law are the main reason behind the protests of the southerners and most of the problems the country is going through. Guys, it is not conspiracy that threatens our stability and unity but your corruption and maintaining tribal thinking in running the country. Just respect the rule of law and address people problems and I am sure we will live in peace.

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

applied selectivity as a criterion for the distribution of job opportunities and managed to satisfy the local council members, taking into consideration their good contacts and influence on the influential tribesmen. In the meantime, the authority set up a policy for marginalizing or liquidating any opponents who disagree with its viewpoints.

Such a recruitment style ultimately led to weakening the local governance expertise and capacities, on the one hand, and creating poor modern administration means in organizing business of the local councils and running their affairs, on the other. In this way, the local council leader-

Source: Nabanews.net



SKETCHED  
OPINION

By Samer

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# Yemen Press Review



**Al-Wahdawi.net, affiliated with Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO) Saturday, April 26**

## Top Stories

- Corruption indicators on the rise despite government's commitment to combat the phenomenon
- Yemeni authorities sentences an Egyptian captain to 15 years in jail, fines him US\$ 15,000 over entering Yemen's territorial waters
- Gulf investors rescue a Yemeni bank from bankruptcy
- Yemeni governorates suffer diesel shortage, the product's price reaches YR 50 per liter
- Dhamar-based JMP office advocates ongoing peaceful struggle against corrupt government

Thousands of citizens left their houses in Maghreb Ans District, west of Dhamar city, and came to the provincial capital to join a huge popular rally against the rampant corruption spreading in almost all the government offices, the website reported. It added that the local authority failed to impede the event, which was organized by the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) leadership in the governorate.

Giving a speech on JMP's behalf, Hussein Mohammed Sanad, a prominent opposition leader, called on all the loyal people to participate in such protests in order to help rescue the country from an unprecedented

collapse, which it is being driven toward under a failed government that adopts poor policies. The rally warned the authority against continuant practice of human rights abuses and violation of public freedoms.

According to Sanad, peaceful struggle to protest against the government's poor policies is the only applicable option for all Yemeni citizens. He added that the opposition coalition selected peaceful struggle as the only appropriate option to restore the abused rights and confiscated freedoms, as well as help Yemen get rid of a gloomy tunnel, which it is experiencing under a corrupt government.

Sanad continued that "if we keep silent without reacting to the dire situations, poor living standards and abused rights and freedoms, the nation will enter a phase of conflicts and seditions between the various social groups," pointing out that more crises will be created in Yemen, chaos will spread, justice will pervade and the unified homeland will fragment.



**Almethaq.net, affiliated with the General People Congress (ruling party) Saturday, April 26**

## Top Stories

- U.S. President Bush confirms his government's support for Yemen's unity, security and stability
- Electricity Ministry cuts power off in Sana'a north areas as five of its

- engineers are attacked
- Security authorities arrest a person suspected of attempting to attack a Manakha hotel
- Qatari team returns to Sa'ada to resume mediation efforts
- University staff and teachers vows to continue strike until their demands are met
- Yemeni citizens stage democratic festivals ahead of gubernatorial elections

Under the auspices of the province's governor Sadeq Amin Abu Ra'as, the Taiz University is organizing an oratory and artistic festival Saturday, celebrating a new democratic day in Yemen, on which governors will be elected, the website reported.

The ruling party's website quoted a press release from the university as saying that "the festival is of crucial importance since it coincides with a new democratic experience in Yemen, represented by electing province governors in a democratic way through the local councilors who will cast their ballots in the process. Governors are elected for the first time in the history of modern Yemen."

The festival is projected to involve the various political parties and organizations, as well as civil community organizations based in the governorate. In the same context, civil community organizations based in Dhamar are planning to organize a public rally in the province's capital to celebrate the democratic day that coincides with April 27 every year and prepare for gubernatorial elections, which were postponed until May 15. Participants in the event see gubernatorial elections as the first democratic step ever taken at the Arab

level.

According to the website, Dhamar Local Council Secretary General Mujahid Shayef Al-Ansi stated that such a festival, due to be staged by the various civil society organizations based in Dhamar on Sunday, involves a very important connotation of such a great democratic day and how valuable it is in the eyes of Yemeni citizens.



**Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party Saturday April 26**

## Top Stories

- Border victims appeal to President Saleh and government to rescue them from Saudi authorities' torture
- Al-Dhalea JMP declares it will boycott gubernatorial elections
- An official report holds nepotism in government offices responsible for growing poverty and unemployment
- Disputes between ruling party members hinder governor elections in Hajja governorate
- Two killed, others injured in clashes between army personnel and citizens in Amran
- Dhamar rally urges citizens to escalate peaceful protests against corrupt authority

The Islah Party's website reported that thousands of people gathered on Thursday in Dhamar governorate to take part in a rally held by Yemen's opposition cartel, the so-called Joint Meeting Parties (JMP). It added that senior JMP leader Hussein Sanad

urged all people to participate in saving the state from an inevitable collapse due to wrong policies adopted by the ruling party, warning of serious violations committed by the authorities against citizens and activists.

Giving an address before the crowd, Sanad further noted that the best option for the people is to take into streets and protest against such policies and infringements. "JMP has chosen peaceful struggle to claim rights and freedoms and rescue the state from a dark tunnel it is living in under a corrupt government," he maintained.

On a side note, the website said that the central prison of Taiz province prevented leaders of Islah party from visiting well-known comedian Fahad Al-Qarni, who was referred lately to Prosecution. Al-Qarni was arrested while he was heading to Aden to cover a festival there two weeks ago.

According to Article 19, a British organization, Al-Qarni was arrested as a result of "higher orders." "It seems to have been a politically motivated response to Al-Qarni's position against corruption in the country" added Article 19.



**26 September.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Army Saturday, April 26**

## Top Stories

- Deputy Minister of Oil and Minerals confirms that diesel is available in all fuel stations
- Up to US\$ 2.5 billion have been

attracted by Yemen's investment for one year, says Chairman of General Investment Authority

- Son of former Cuban president heads a Cuban medical team to Yemen
- A scientific study confirms that Yemen has successful economic policies
- U.S. President Bush affirms his government support for Yemen's unity and stability
- President Saleh and his U.S. counterpart discuss joint cooperation

The army website reported in one of its lead stories that Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his U.S. counterpart George W Bush discussed by phone issues of mutual concern relating to fighting terrorism, plus other aspects of joint cooperation.

President Bush asserted that the U.S. Administration is keen to enhance its relations with Yemen, praising the democratic approach and the current reforms adopted by the Yemeni government and citing the most recent free democratic presidential and local elections as clear evidence of Yemen's democratic and political development.

Bush noted that Yemen is an effective partner in fighting terrorism and affirmed that his administration backs Yemen's unity, stability and security, adding that his administration is ready to support other fields of development and democracy in the Arab country.

"Terrorism is an enemy of security, stability, democratic freedom and development", Bush said while Saleh affirmed interest of Yemen to reinforce its ties with the US in different areas for the sake of the Yemeni and American people's interests.

## From olympia to impasse

By: Dominique Moisi

"Do not mix sports and politics!" That defiant cry from China's rulers to the threat of a boycott of this summer's Beijing Olympic Games does not stand the test of reality. Sport and politics have always been closely linked.

Obvious examples abound. The 1936 Berlin Olympics were dominated as much by Nazi propaganda as by the athletic events. During the Cold War, "ping pong diplomacy" helped revive official relations between China and the United States. In 1990, Germany fielded a single Olympic team before the country reunified.

To claim that politics and sports can be any more separated in today's

media age than they were in the past is especially naïve. The Olympics were awarded to Beijing for a mixture of economic and political reasons, and China wanted the Games for the same reasons. The current tension between China and (mostly) Western public opinion on the eve of the Beijing Olympics is the result of incompetence, hypocrisy, and illegitimate but potentially counterproductive indignation.

China's incompetence in its treatment of the crisis in Tibet should come as no surprise. The Chinese regime is, quite simply, a victim of its inability to reform itself. China saw in the Olympics a symbolic opportunity to consolidate and celebrate its new status in the world. Caught by surprise in Tibet, and by the virulence and popularity of what they described as "anti-Chinese" sentiments, China's

rulers have resorted to the traditional tools of authoritarian regimes, turning their citizens' deep nationalism and sense of humiliation against Western critics.

The Chinese today sound almost as stunned by the supposed mistreatment of the Olympic torch in London, Paris, and San Francisco as Americans were back in 2001: "Why do they hate us so much?" "What have we done to them?" Self-isolated from global political realities and incapable of grasping the meaning of "civil society," the Chinese regime encourages its public in expressions of defiance of all who fail to "respect China," which only reinforces negative reactions.

But the West's hypocrisy nearly matches the Chinese regime's incompetence. The moment the international community "bestowed"

the Olympics on China, the West demonstrated how little consideration it actually gives to human rights and democracy. The idea that the Chinese regime would quickly reform the country into an open, moderate, and benevolent giant was either a fraud, a gigantic misperception, or wishful thinking.

The dilemma posed by China for democratic regimes is understandable. Caught between their desperate need for finance and markets and their need to respond to their citizens' sentiments, they oscillate between condemnation and reassurance of China, struggling to find a coherent path that defends the West's principles without damaging its economic interests.

Now the West believes that it has found a "third way" by threatening to boycott the Olympics' opening

ceremony, but not the Games themselves. Thus, the Chinese people, the world's athletes, and a planet hungry for "bread and circuses" will not be deprived, and China's rulers will not "get away with murder" in their contempt for human rights and international public opinion. The problem is that such a choice requires governments' absolute determination to stand by their words.

The power of indignation is a necessary component of a transparent and interdependent world that has lost the privilege of ignorance. But selective responses to the actions of dictatorships can be problematic and counterproductive. China, for both good and bad, is a status-quo power that does not want to rock the boat of the international system – a power largely satisfied with its new status, but one that does not want to see its

regime transformed, especially through external pressures.

Let us have no illusions: no "conditions" imposed from outside will bring about the "China we deserve" in the way, after World War II, we got the "Germany we deserved" through a process of integration and reconciliation. If the Chinese reform their political system and improve their human rights record, it will not be the result of anything we in the West say or do, but because they realize that the absence of the rule of law jeopardizes their long-term ambition to be strong and respected.

*Dominique Moisi, a founder and Senior Advisor at Ifri (French Institute for International Relations), is currently a Professor at the College of Europe in Natolin, Warsaw. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.*

## Living in a non-polar world

By Richard N. Haass

Today's world is dominated not by one or two or even several powers, but rather is influenced by dozens of state and non-state actors exercising various kinds of power. A twentieth century dominated first by a few states, then, during the Cold War, by two states, and finally by American preeminence at the Cold War's end, has given way to a twenty-first century dominated by no one. Call it non-polar.

Three factors have brought this about. First, some states have gained power in tandem with their increased economic clout. Second, globalization has weakened the role of all states by enabling other entities to amass substantial power. And, third, American foreign policy has accelerated the relative decline of the United States vis-à-vis others. The result is a world in which power is increasingly distributed rather than concentrated.

The emergence of a non-polar world could prove to be mostly negative, making it more difficult to generate collective responses to pressing regional and global challenges. More decision makers make it more difficult to make decisions. Non-polarity also increases both the number and potential severity of threats, be they rogue states, terrorist groups, or militias.

Still, if non-polarity is inevitable, its character is not. A great deal can and should be done to shape the non-polar world. But order will not emerge on its own. On the contrary, left to its own devices, a non-polar world will become messier over time.

Resisting the spread of nuclear weapons and unguarded nuclear materials may be as important as any other set of undertakings. If internationally managed enriched-uranium or spent-fuel banks are established, countries could gain access to nuclear power but not come to control the material needed for bombs. Security assurances and

defensive systems could be provided to states that might otherwise feel compelled to develop their own nuclear programs to counter those of their neighbors. And robust sanctions could be introduced to influence the behavior of would-be nuclear weapon states.

Combating terrorism is also essential if the non-polar era is not to turn into a modern Dark Age. There are many ways to weaken existing terrorist organizations by using intelligence, law enforcement resources, and military capabilities. But this is a loser's game unless something can be done to reduce recruitment.

Parents, religious figures, and political leaders must delegitimize terrorism by shaming those who embrace it. More importantly, governments must find ways to integrate alienated young men and women into their societies, which requires greater political freedom and economic opportunity.

Trade also can be a powerful force in a non-polar world by giving states a

stake in avoiding conflict, generating greater wealth, and strengthening the foundations of domestic political order – thereby decreasing the chance of state failure as well. To this end, the scope of the World Trade Organization should be extended through the negotiation of future global arrangements that reduce subsidies and both tariff and non-tariff barriers.

A similar level of effort might be needed to ensure the continued flow of investment. The goal should be to create a World Investment Organization, which, by encouraging cross-border capital flows, would minimize the risk that "investment protectionism" impedes activities that, like trade, are economically beneficial and build political bulwarks against instability. A WIO could encourage transparency on the part of investors, determine when national security is a legitimate reason for prohibiting or limiting investment, and establish a dispute-resolution mechanism.

More effort also will be needed to prevent state failure and deal with its

consequences. The US and other developed countries should enhance their military capacities to deal with the type of threats being faced in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as establish a pool of civilian talent to assist with basic nation-building tasks. Greater economic and military assistance to increase states' ability to meet their responsibilities to their citizens and neighbors will also be essential.

Multilateralism will be critical in a non-polar world. To succeed, though, it must be recast to include entities other than the great powers. The United Nations Security Council and the G-8 should be reconstituted to reflect the world of today rather than the post-1945 era, and the participation of non-state actors in multilateral organizations and processes will need to be considered.

Multilateralism may have to be less comprehensive and less formal, at least initially. Networks will be needed alongside organizations. Getting everyone to agree on everything will be difficult; instead, we should

consider accords with fewer parties and narrower goals.

Trade is something of a model here, insofar as bilateral and regional accords are filling the vacuum created by the failure to conclude a global trade round. The same is true of climate change: agreement on certain aspects of the problem (say, deforestation) or involving only some countries (the major carbon emitters, for example) may prove feasible, whereas an accord that includes every country and tries to resolve every issue may not.

Multilateralism à la carte is likely to be the order of the day. This is less than optimal, but in a non-polar world, what is best may well prove the enemy of the possible.

*Richard Haass, a former Director of Policy Planning in the US State Department, is President of the Council on Foreign Relations. This article is drawn from an essay that appears in the May/June issue of Foreign Affairs. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.*



# Thirsty Jordan will struggle for water this summer

By: Mohammad Ben Hussein  
The Media Line

Jordan is this year facing a severe drought, the likes of which it has not witnessed in decades. The government is scrambling to find means of coping by reducing supplies to households and spearheading a nationwide campaign to encourage rationing.

Rivers and lakes are a rare commodity in this desert kingdom, with most of the water supply coming from dams that collect water during the rainy winter season or from springs that have been siphoning off the kingdom's underground reserves.

A disappointing rainy season has left most of the country's dams half empty. Precipitation registered during the rainy season constituted only 57 percent of the long-term annual average of 8.3 billion cubic meters.

The poor rainfall has forced officials at the water authorities to cut the quantities of water pumped to farmers in the north and western regions. The available amount for irrigation is 130 million cubic meters (mcm), while actual needs are estimated at 180 mcm.

The desert kingdom shares the spoils of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers with its powerful neighbors, Syria and Israel respectively.

Agreements have been inked by officials from the three countries on the amounts the kingdom should receive, but Jordanian officials complain both neighbors rarely stick to the agreements on a regular basis.

Officials in Amman say every drop will be needed this hot, dry summer, hoping Damascus and Jerusalem will meet promises to pump the kingdom its share of water.

"We are hopeful Syria will provide us with the needed water because this year is difficult for us and we need

every drop we can get," said Adnan Zu'bi, spokesman for the Ministry of Water.

Following a rare visit by King 'Abdallah to Syria last year, relations between the two Arab neighbors improved after years of tension over regional issues, mainly Lebanon.

Syria promised it would pump Jordan's share of the Yarmouk this summer, nearly 60 mcm.

Jordanians are now concerned Syria will drag its heels on sending the required amount, bearing in mind that the Hashemite Kingdom recently boycotted the Arab League summit in Damascus, along with Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The main river here is the biblically renowned Jordan, from which the kingdom took its name.

Once roaring in the Jordan Valley during the 1950s and 1960s, the river turned into a wispy stream of water trickling through the farms, serving as a natural barrier between Jordan and Israel rather than a lifeline for the kingdom's residents.

Most tributaries were diverted for industrial and farming purposes by neighboring Syria and Israel. Environmentalists also say it has become a dumping site for Israeli industrialists.

Last year, Jordan faced a similar situation with drought, though less severe.

Israel, which pumped the required amount to Jordan in 2007, will probably not reduce the amount of water mandated by the peace treaty between the countries, Israel Water Authority spokesman Uri Schor told the Associated Press. Jordan's drought is much worse than Israel's, he said.

The kingdom reached an agreement with Israel on sharing water in the 1994 Wadi 'Araba peace treaty, whereby Jordan gets around 35 mcm, equivalent

to 3 percent of the total amount of water streaming down the river. Israel holds the remaining 97%.

Figures from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in each country show the water consumption of one Israeli citizen to be equal to that of five Jordanians.

## Refugees add pressure

The kingdom's water shortage debacle can be blamed partly on its semi-desert climate and partly on the army of refugees who keep pouring into Jordan with each disaster that hits the region, and even from beyond.

The first wave of refugees appeared during First World War, when thousands of Armenians, Chechens and others settled in the country and helped found modern Jordan.

Palestinian refugees make up more than 60% of the population. They arrived after the 1948 and 1967 wars with Israel and in the 1990s when they were evicted from Gulf states for supporting Saddam in his invasion of Kuwait.

The latest arrivals are some 750,000 Iraqi asylum seekers, who settled here after the American-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"Part of our problem with water is imported. Waves of refugees have caused a massive strain on our water resources," says Ellias Salameh, water expert at the University of Jordan.

Jordan is considered one of the 10 most water-impovertised countries in the world, with annual individual consumption reaching 140 cubic meters a year. The average annual individual consumption worldwide is 2,000 cubic meters, according to officials from the Jordanian Ministry of Planning.

During a recent meeting with donor countries to discuss the status of Iraqi refugees in Jordan, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Planning Nasser



Jordan is one of the driest countries on earth and this winter's lack of rain bodes ill ahead of the heat of summer and for the people of the Hashemite Kingdom.

Shreideh pointed out that JD 430 million (\$606 million) was needed to provide new water resources, construct treatment plants and refurbish sanitation networks in different cities to help accommodate the refugees.

The extra demand on water by Iraqis has led to an increasing water deficit of 580 million cubic meter annually, he said during the meeting.

Moreover, the high value of the dinar has also attracted Arab expatriates, with figures from the Ministry of Interior showing that an army of 500,000 Egyptian and Syrian expatriates are adding further pressure on the precious

water resources.

"I did not see one refugee coming carrying water with him," Shreideh said.

An added burden is expected between June and September from nearly half a million Jordanian expatriates who return during the summer holidays.

The available water for the capital this summer is estimated at around 70 mcm – well below the actual needs of Amman residents of 100 mcm, according to Ministry of Water spokesman Zu'bi

To that end, the government has

announced a contingency plan ranging from rationing supply to households by pumping once a week for five hours, to stopping supplying certain farms and encouraging others to grow less water-consuming vegetation.

Jordanian officials, however, see the light at the end of the tunnel, as they point to an ambitious project to draw water from the Disi Aquifer in the south to Amman in a \$600-million project.

The government is in the final stages of negotiations with Turkish investors to launch the project, which is expected to supply Amman with water for 100 years.

## Once upon a time in Somalia

By: Dr Terry Lacey

My first trip to Somalia was as a young European Commission official accompanying my Director General for Development in 1976 on a mission to see President Siad Barre about the implementation of the African, Caribbean & Pacific Agreement (ACP), between the European Community and Somalia.

We did not realize how lucky we were that Somalia was in one piece with one President. It's still not clear if and when we will see that again. There was an illusion of normality in Mogadishu contrasted to now, but the destabilization process had already started because the Ogaden war was just beginning. Somalia is now in at least three or four pieces - the Baidoa Transitional Federal Government

and the South, Mogadishu, and Puntland, the relatively stable statelet in the North.

Inbetween warlords and factions what was once at least nominally a nation tries to decide if it wants to be a nation once again (if the Irish, with their similar history of colonialism, occupation, militias and partition, will forgive borrowing the phrase).

In our 1976 visit we flew in a little plane from Wilson airport in Nairobi, refuelled in Southern Somalia, and then to Mogadishu. We stayed with President Barre in his Guest House. In the daytime we flew in a Russian helicopter to see projects and refugee camps, or had meetings. The role of the refugee camps was to attract refugees in from Ethiopia, to strengthen support for Somali claims on the Ogaden.

In the evenings the President was most hospitable, and we had fine dinners.

Then at night, being then a young chap, I could go off to visit the town! When I wanted to get back to my guesthouse in the morning moonlight I did not need to find a taxi. The security people discreetly looking after me found me and brought me home.

Although I remember more the novelty of seeing Mogadishu for the first time and the contradictions of the life style we visitors could lead there contrasted to the reality unfolding in front of us, some of the discussions I sat in on were more to the point. Barre requested trucks and bulldozers for agriculture, and my astute boss, who was an agricultural engineer and an ex general, told him he could have enough heavy equipment to do what was needed in Somalia, but not enough to improve Ethiopia!

I remember Barre replied "so Somalia proposes and Europe disposes." I should

have understood better what it all meant for the future of Somalia, but at the time it was hard to grasp that these were the seeds of the destruction of national stability.

I remember my boss asked Barre if he minded that the new Lome Convention might have a civil rights clause. I remember him answering that so long as he could talk about Northern Ireland, he didn't mind Europeans talking about Somalia.

I also remember asking him why he got his police planes from East Germany and his military planes from West Germany (or was it the reverse?) and he replied that it was because he had a great sense of balance. My great grandfather was an Irish trick cyclist in an American circus, so I agreed that a sense of balance was very important. Since the 1950s many African leaders must have felt like

trick cyclists in an American circus, although during the Cold War the Russian circus put on quite a good rival act.

President Barre showed practicality in balancing his aeroplanes between East and West whilst ensuring he had reliable German technology up until 1976. However once he made his move in support of the Front for the Liberation of Western Somalia and started the Ogaden war then he destabilized his regime, leading to breaking links with Russia and Cuba and subsequently undermining his economic relations with the West. The seeds for the break up of modern Somalia were scattered then, and the rest was history unfolding as the difficulties caused by the war, along with drought, undermined the economy and social cohesion, creating political tensions within the army.

getting away from feudal monarchs and war lords and the Reformation, the Europeans also resorted to religious fundamentalism whilst working up ideas on parliamentary democracy and progress.

Western powers have to learn to distinguish between political Islam they can live with and genuine threats to national security. Turkey has an Islamic party in power, is a member of NATO, has security cooperation with Israel, and has mass seaside tourism on the South Coast which is frequented by Western and Israeli tourists.


If and when Turkey joins the EU, the hijab may become more common in the country, alongside economic and social progress. When political Islam is against corruption and old style politics and for economic and social change, but retaining Islamic identity, then it may not be a threat to the West. This applies in Indonesia to the PKS and the Malaysian PAS seems to be learning the same lessons.

The United Nations, the European Union and others are now trying to see if Somalia wants to be a nation once again. Somalis needs services wherever they live, and not a lottery on infant mortality depending on local political status. In the long term economic and social development is the strongest card of the international community and the best lever to help Somalia arrive at a constitutional set up which people can accept, recognizing local identities but providing a framework for service delivery. The design of this entity has to be locally contrived to suit Somali conditions.


There is no standard Western style unitary state model. The USA itself is a federal state. The EU is a kind of confederal entity of national states, although with some federal attributes. Switzerland is made of autonomous Cantons and Belgium is increasingly a federal state, so why not Somalia?

It is clear the reunification of Somalia will not be achieved by military means. The way forward is to let Somalis work it out for themselves without interfering too much, and slowly rather than too fast. The right context is to minimize foreign interference and maximize external support for positive Somali-led measures to provide services people need. In other words, to end the war on terror and to fight the war on want.


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



**dia**  
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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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**Deadline to apply: May 07<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

(CV + application letter in English) have to be delivered to the address below:  
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# International NGO and think tank funding

By: Anne Marie Brooks  
Taqrir Washington

The earliest international NGOs were church missions, who dedicated themselves to 'civilizing' the peoples of non-Western countries. It was very clear who funded these NGOs and how that funding influenced the work of the organizations. Now that internationally operating NGOs and think tanks have greatly grown in number, scope and variety of projects, financial resources, and influence, their funding sources are less clear but more important than ever.

The funding that NGOs receive can come from a wide variety of sources, and they are often criticized for potentially allowing their funding sources to impact their work. In particular, international NGOs and think tanks often have operating budgets based on both financial investments and donations, and they must balance the need for funding with the need to keep their projects independent from the perceived or real potential influence of donors.

## Financial Investments

Some NGOs have large endowments, which provide them with funds through investments. For example, the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, had over \$10 million in income from \$98 million in investments in 2005 and over \$13 million in investments on \$119 million in 2006. The Brookings Institution, a think tank that is officially ideologically neutral but is widely viewed as liberal-leaning, has a \$253 million endowment, which provides approximately 25 percent of their \$50 million annual budget, according to the organization's 2006 annual report.

## Donations

While some organizations use portions of their endowments for operating costs, most of the funds that NGOs and think tanks use throughout the year come from donations. For example, the Heritage Foundation received 96% of its 2006 budget from contributions, and 14% of its 2006 expenses went towards



fundraising to receive future contributions. Unrestricted donations may be used for general operations, meaning that the NGO can use the money for whatever project it wants to, or for general operating costs, such as office materials, building rental, or electricity. Alternatively, often donations are restricted, in portion or entirety, for the funding of certain projects that the donors wish to support.

These donations can come from individuals, foundations, corporations, or governments. According to "A Guide to Successful NGO Funding," published by the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, it is very important for NGOs to maintain a "diversification of financial resources" in order to obtain funding for projects but remain independent from the

pressures of the people or organizations that fund them.

## Individual and Foundation Donations

Donations from individuals and foundations are generally seen as less likely to affect the research or projects of NGOs than corporate or government funding. Individual contributions are often much smaller than those from foundations; however, individual donors generally do not expect a great deal of follow-up on the projects they fund. Foundations can provide a great deal of funding to NGOs, and although they expect extensive reporting on the projects they fund, foundations will often fund the same non-profit for years, offering a great deal of financial stability. For example, two of the earliest contributors to Brookings were the Rockefeller

Foundation and the Ford Foundation, which continue to fund the organization 90 years later. Even individual and foundation donations can have a slight influence on the work of an NGO, since restricted funding could mean that some projects receive greater funding than others, further demonstrating the need for diversification of funding sources.

## Corporate Funding

Corporate funding can also make up a large portion of the donations an NGO receives. In 2006, Brookings received donations of \$100,000 or more from AT&T, Allstate, DaimlerChrysler, ExxonMobil, Reliance Industries, State Farm, and Visa. In return for their contributions, corporate donors to the organization were invited to participate in events and discussions with Brookings scholars. In 2006 the Heritage Foundation received donations of \$100,000 or more from Pfizer Inc., PhRMA, and the United Parcel Service. It received \$50,000 or more from Altria Group Inc., the Boeing Company, and ExxonMobil. To thank them for their generous donations, the Heritage Foundation gives its donors updates on their work and key congressional issues and invites them to participate in opinion surveys and attend events throughout the year. (The number of events a donor is invited to corresponds to the size of the donation.)

There are many potential benefits for a corporation in funding NGO projects. Research projects that corporations fund can be a way of increasing the knowledge of the public about issues that impact the corporation, and these partnerships can also increase the knowledge of their own senior staff on these issues. More development-focused NGO projects can also give corporations an opportunity to improve their PR by positively impacting the communities in which they function.

However, corporate donations are an area in which NGOs are most careful to balance their needs for funding and for independence. For example, if a think tank were offered a large donation from an oil company for research on whether or not corn is a viable alternative energy source for automobiles, the funding partnership would at the very least look suspect, even if the research was not affected by the source of funds. Some organizations restrict corporate funding to projects that are not directly related to the company's work in order to avoid undue influence.

## Government Funding

Government funding is often the most specified and difficult to receive funding for NGOs. In order to receive funding for projects, NGOs must submit a

proposal for funding for a specific project in response to a government agency's request for proposals. The proposal must describe how the project supports the organization's interests, the objectives and goals of the project and how they will be measured, the plans for evaluation (often independent evaluation) of the success of the project, future plans for the project and how the organization will fund these plans, and a detailed budget for the project. Organizations are also expected to provide general information about the success and credibility in a proposal for government funding.

According to the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, "only in about 20% of the cases the submitted NGO proposals are successful." Government agencies are also often reluctant to fund projects in their entirety, expecting organizations to find other additional funding sources to support projects. Once organizations do receive funding for projects, they are expected to keep the agency updated with their progress, perhaps with a report detailing activities and financial information each

6 months.

For very well-established international NGOs, finding government funding can be significantly easier. For example, in November 2005, the European Commission gave 3.5 million Euros (approximately \$4.4 million) to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for global disaster response work. There are also a small number of think tanks that receive government funding, such as the RAND Corporation, which was originally designed to provide information to the US armed forces.

Some international NGOs and think tanks may feel that being accepting funding from a government is counterproductive to the success of their projects, because of how that relationship appears abroad. For example, the World Security Institute does not accept funding from any government so that its projects remain completely independent from governmental pressure. Much like corporate funding, government funding is beneficial for the financial health of NGOs but must be balanced with the need to remain independent from outside influences.

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# Director General of National Malaria Control Program: Climate changes lead to high proliferation of malaria in Yemen

By: Sarah Wolff

**M**alaria still kills more than 1 million people every year, said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon on Friday, April 25, which is marked as World Malaria Day. The United Nations is calling for the elimination of all malaria-related deaths by the end of 2010, which is less than 1,000 days from now.

Malaria is one of Yemen's most serious health problems, according to the World Health Organization, which estimates between 800,000 and 900,000 malaria cases in Yemen.

Sarah Wolff interviewed Dr. Adel Al-Jasari, the Director General of the National Malaria Control Program in the Ministry of Public Health & Population about what Yemen is doing to fight the disease, to review the malaria situation in Yemen and the national program's efforts to distribute mosquito control equipment to curb the disease.

## How many people in Yemen currently are infected with malaria?

There were 233,000 malaria cases (clinically diagnosed and confirmed by laboratory investigation) reported in Yemen in 2007; however, numerous factors indicate that the estimated number of malaria cases is more than that.

Access to public health facilities is 60 percent, but only half of these facilities report regularly. Many patients seek treatment in private health facilities, which also don't report. For this reason, WHO estimates that the annual malaria incidence in Yemen ranges between 800,000 and 900,000 malaria cases.

## How many people annually die of malaria in Yemen?

Studies indicate that annual deaths from malaria are approximately 1 percent of the abovementioned figures. Consequently, the national malaria strategy has emphasized forming a medical committee in each governorate to investigate any malaria deaths. Results reveal that some cases were misdiagnosed, while in others, death was due to a different disease or complications unrelated to malaria.

## Which Yemeni regions are most vulnerable to malaria?

Sixty percent of Yemen's population is prone to malaria infection in the coastal plains and in the valleys from the mountains to coastal areas. The inhabitants in these two areas comprise 30 percent of Yemen's total population.

Thirty percent of the nation's population inhabits mountainous areas between 500 and 1,500 meters above sea level, where the prevalence is lower at such higher altitudes.

Malaria is rare in those areas between 1,500 and 2,000 meters, while areas above 2,000 meters, as well as the deserts, are free of malaria.

## Which groups of Yemenis (such as children, farmers, the elderly, etc.) are at most risk of contracting malaria?

Pregnant women and children under age 5 are the most affected groups, whereas all age groups are at great risk in those areas prone to epidemic.

## Will malaria increase with climate change?

Definitely. Unusual climatic changes such as heavy rainfall, unexpected warming and increased humidity are followed by an extreme increase in malaria epidemics; thus, climate changes lead to a high proliferation of malaria.

## What other organizations partner with the ministry to help fight malaria in Yemen (i.e., non-governmental organizations, the World Health Organization, etc.)?

WHO, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – often commonly called the Global Fund – and Gulf Cooperation Council states are the primary supporters helping us fight malaria in Yemen.

In addition to the Global Fund's valuable support, Yemen also receives substantial support from Saudi Arabia. Cooperation between our two nations' malaria control programs has led to joint implementation of malaria control interventions along our borders. Such cooperation, which began after signing a border determination agreement, has been supported by strong political will and continuous follow-up by their two ministers.

Technical representatives from the two countries meet twice annually to coordinate mutual activities such as household indoor residual spraying, which has expanded extraordinarily, joint supervision missions, implementing entomological and parasitological surveys and sharing information and epidemiological data.

This distinguished cooperation between the two malaria programs is a unique experience within the Eastern Mediterranean region and, in fact, in the world. We're proud of this experience, believing that we've achieved the awareness goal and the key message of World Malaria Day – "Malaria, a disease without borders" – through our cooperation with Saudi Arabia along our border regions.

Yemeni-Saudi cooperation to fight malaria and numerous success stories from the field have led to creating the "Arabian Peninsula Free of Malaria by 2015" initiative, called for by WHO's Eastern Mediterranean regional director, Dr. Hussein Abdulrazzak Al-Gezairy.

Our main local partners are the Yemeni Parliament, the Shoura Council, governors and local councils, development-related ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, Public Health and Population, Planning and International Cooperation, Agriculture and Education offices within the governorates, health colleges and training institutes and local NGOs.

## How does the National Malaria Control Program obtain funding for its projects?

Part of the funding comes from internal public budgeting in terms of salaries, operation costs for the program and its governorate branches, as well as implementing all malaria control interventions.

However, outside funds are crucial to expand malaria control projects throughout all regions of the nation. Limited resources have forced us to prioritize our plans for the most-affected regions, restricting our intervention to those particularly burdened areas.

So, advocating the program's support is one element. Additionally, two national conferences were held during the past seven years to draw the attention of policymakers and international donors

about the burdens of malaria and the necessity of funding this program.

Due to growing demands and a financial gap periodically analyzed within the framework of malaria project expansion, with full support from the minister and deputy minister of health, the malaria issue was placed atop the ministry's agenda during discussions with regional and international funding agencies, as well as through the national coordinating mechanism to fight AIDS, TB and malaria.

During the past seven rounds of Global Fund support, Yemen submitted four proposals regarding malaria and two were accepted. The "Arabian Peninsula Free of Malaria by 2015" initiative and the promised support from GCC nations will enable us to fill the financial gaps and finance all planned projects.

The private sector, which we seek to attract to work with us, is considering partnering with us and negotiations have begun with trade, industrial and oil companies.

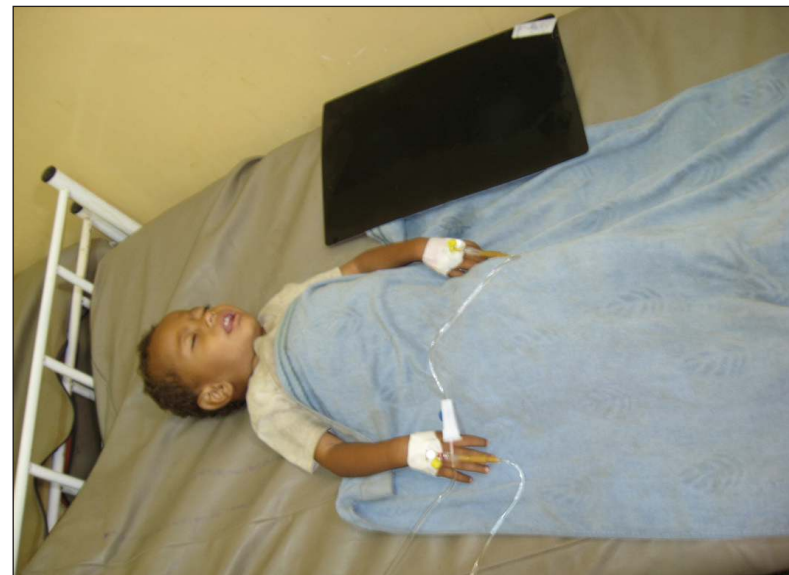
## Did the National Malaria Control Program launch any programs or awareness campaigns to mark the first-ever World Malaria Day?

Yes, there was coverage on Yemen's television channel, as well as newspaper coverage. There also will be an exhibit on malaria control efforts in Yemen during a multi-sectoral workshop next week on using DDT to control vector-borne diseases. Several activities also will be organized in the governorates in this regard.

## What types of programs has the Public Health and Population Ministry undertaken recently to prevent the spread of malaria and are there any notable upcoming projects?

One notable upcoming project is the commencement of the seventh round of Global Fund support for the National Malaria Control Program from June 2008 to May 2013 at a total cost of \$27 million.

Also this week is the beginning of a short training course for 20 participants on applied epidemiology organized in cooperation with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in Sana'a as part of the program's human resources



Sixty percent of Yemen's population is prone to Malaria, Children under age 5 are the most affected groups.

development strategy.

This is the second course organized in conjunction with the Liverpool School; the first occurred earlier this month at Abyan's Malaria Center, training 39 laboratory technicians for a month regarding quality assurance.

Additionally, a regional meeting of malaria control program managers will convene in Sana'a June 1-4, followed by the annual meeting of HANMAT (the Horn of Africa Network for Monitoring Anti-Malarial Treatment) research group.

The program also has conducted entomological and epidemiological surveys in Wadi Zabid, Raymah and Siham and we're embarking on similar surveys in Ibb, Al-Dhale' and Taiz within the next three weeks. The results of these surveys will contribute to developing action plans for indoor residual spraying and long-term mosquito net distribution campaigns.

Regarding malaria detection and appropriate treatment, a refresher course for 120 lab technicians will be conducted with support from the World Bank.

The program also is embarking on publishing the newly endorsed policy for managing malaria cases using the new Anti-malaria Combination Therapy. A summary of this policy and its treatment protocols will be printed as a guide to be distributed to doctors and health

staff. Additionally, the first shipment of 200,000 co-blisters of Anti-malaria Combination Therapy, or ACT drugs, also is due to arrive in Yemen.

## What can everyday Yemenis do to help protect themselves from malaria?

Educate themselves and their families about malaria prevention and treatment, having at least the key elements of prevention. Avoid any actions or behaviors that can lead to malaria such as storing water in open containers either inside or outside the house, which can lead to manmade malaria.

Additionally, listen to doctors' instructions regarding the use of anti-malaria medicine, taking the complete dose, as inappropriate use of such drugs may lead to developing a resistance to them.

## It's well known that malaria medication has side effects such as hallucinations, nightmares and extreme dizziness. Are there any new medications available in Yemen to protect people from malaria without these strong side effects?

New ACT drugs have fewer complications; however, while the safety of their ingredients is higher and efficacy is greater, they still should be used according to a doctor's guidelines.

# Bilharzia is the road to liver failure

By: Mahmoud Assamie

**F**orty-four-year-old mother Khuzam Bint Qayed was unable to survive cirrhosis. The mother of seven, who traveled from her home in Taiz governorate to a public hospital in Sana'a, died after a 10-year fight with the incurable disease.

In fact, her suffering began when she was a child, swimming, washing and drinking from a well in her village, where she got bilharzia. She paid no attention to the blood accompanying her urine or stools, nor the strong stomachache. Thus, such ignorance led her to develop cirrhosis, wherein the liver gradually loses its ability to function normally. This is called liver failure, sometimes referred to as end-stage liver disease.

Ghulam Rabbani, the World Health Organization's representative in Yemen, noted that WHO statistics reveal that 3 million Yemenis are infected with bilharzia, 20 percent of whom are suffering dangerous complications, while 20 percent have liver failure or cirrhosis.

"Bilharzia leads to liver failure or cirrhosis, which is incurable and leads to death," Rabbani explained, calling for the media's assistance in achieving success in WHO's mission to eradicate bilharzia.

According to Rabbani, Yemen and Sudan are the only countries in the Middle Eastern region still suffering bilharzia, while similar countries such as



Bilharzia is commonly found in areas with water contaminated by fresh water snails

Egypt and Afghanistan, which were plagued by the disease, have succeeded in eradicating it through continuous anti-bilharzia campaigns.

In this vein, Yemen began conducting anti-bilharzia campaigns last March 2008 in Al-Mahwit, Al-Dhale', Taiz, Abyan, Dhamar and Lahj governorates. These five-year campaigns provide anti-bilharzia medication to children between ages 6 and 18 in these targeted governorates.

Dr. Abdulkarim Zaid, internal medi-

cine consultant and head of the Endoscopy Department at Kuwait Educational Hospital in Sana'a, indicates that there's a strong link between bilharzia and cirrhosis.

"Bilharzia is caused by several species of flatworm, two of which are Schistosoma mansoni and Schistosoma hematobium. If an infected individual is not cured, bilharzia will lay eggs in the colon. These eggs then are transmitted to the liver via the hepatic portal vein. When they gather in the liver, they damage it, causing

liver failure," Zaid explained, adding that this parasitic disease most commonly is found in areas with water contaminated by freshwater snails, which may carry the parasite.

Zaid further noted that Sana'a and Hajjah are the two Yemeni governorates most plagued with bilharzia.

Symptoms of bilharzia are a severe allergic reaction or itching of the entire body, blood in the urine or stool and a strong stomachache. Zaid says bilharzia may reach the liver within a month of

infection, but it takes many years to cause liver failure.

He continues, "Humans can live on 10 percent of the liver without feeling any complications, which is why liver patients don't feel the symptoms of the disease, often discovering it in its late stages."

"In order to eradicate bilharzias, wells containing [such freshwater snail] shells must be filled, the water must be cleaned and a sanitation network must cover those areas infected with bilharzia," says internal medicine and liver consultant Dr. Abdulhafiz Al-Silwi.

He adds that medicating children is useless, further pointing out that bilharzia will remain in Yemen as long as its streams and pools are vulnerable to uncleanliness caused by the urine and stools of those rural peoples without bathrooms.

According to Al-Silwi, although liver failure also can result from other diseases such as Hepatitis B and C, as well as disorders resulting in enzyme shortages or increasing the quantities of iron and copper in the liver, the most common reason for liver failure in Yemen is bilharzias. "We don't have statistics, but we're now working on counting these cases since 1996," he added.

Complications due to bilharzia include liver failure and vomiting blood, followed by death, if the sick individual doesn't undergo a liver transplant. However, Zaid noted, "Such surgery doesn't exist in Yemen because it costs

\$1 million."

Dirhem Thabit, 41, has cirrhosis of the liver caused by bilharzias and has had two surgeries to repair his liver, one in 2004 and the other in 2006.

"I developed liver cirrhosis from bilharzia. When I was a child, I used to swim in pools in our village in Taiz," Thabit recounted, "I didn't have any bilharzia tests during that time and only discovered the disease when I felt its serious complications once it reached my liver." He notes that although he no longer has bilharzia, his liver now is damaged and his body is weak. He adds, "Liver failure brought me hypertension, for which I now have medicine for this new disease."

## Correction

The Yemen Times would like to apologize for the following error in issue #1148. In the story, "Media must educate society about population problems, say experts," the Yemen Times incorrectly referred to Nasser Al-Absi as a member of UNFPA staff. Mr. Al-Absi is not part of UNFPA staff. He is an engineer and director general of the Ministry of Public Health and Population's Health Education Center. The Yemen Times regrets the error.

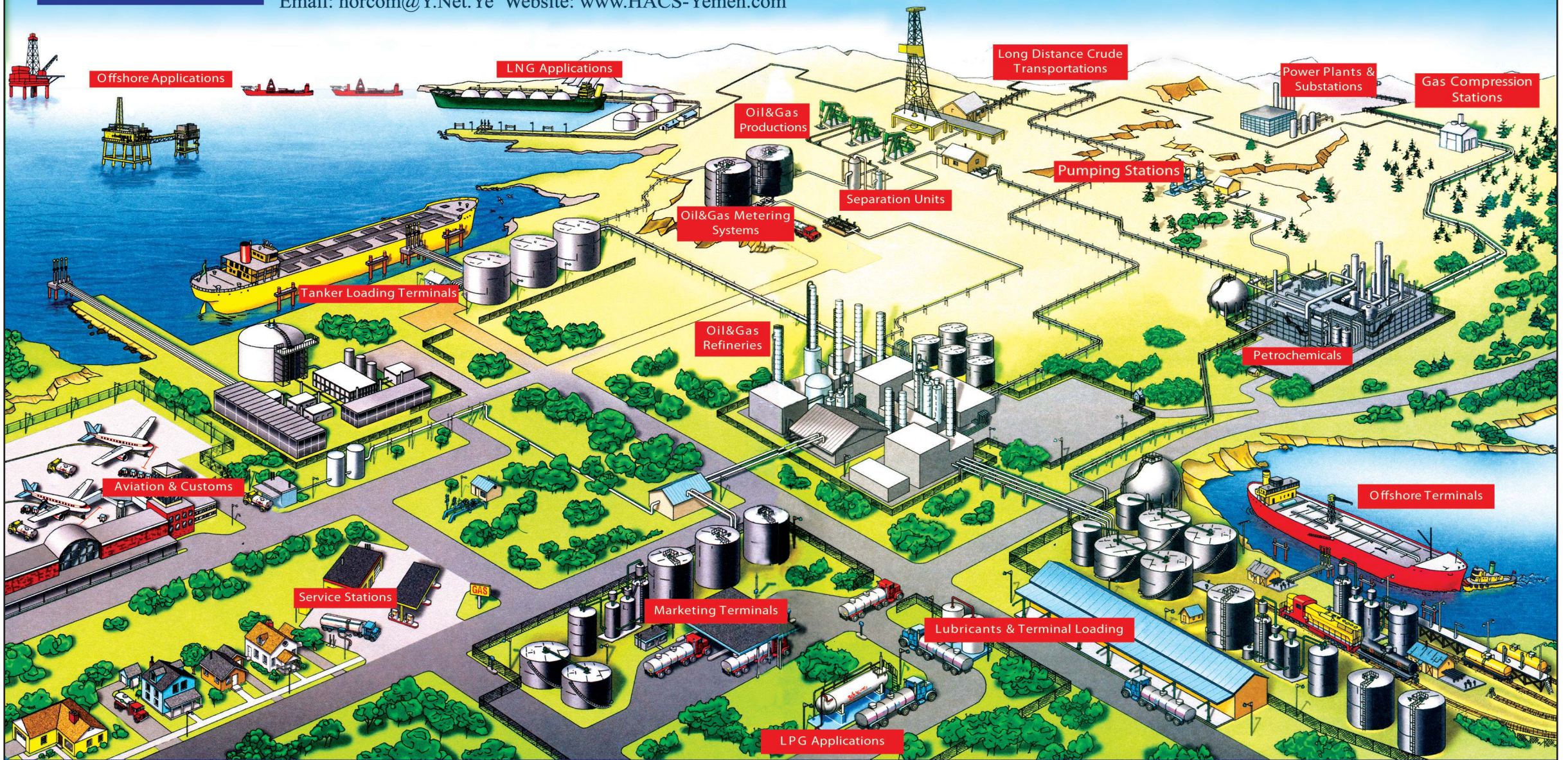




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# Yemeni folk dancing: A celebration of weddings and war

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri  
yemenigoal@yahoo.com

**T**he art of folk dancing in Yemen dramatically correlates with its people's life on Earth.

Dancing is a visual representation of language, communicating with others and expressing the impacts of environmental conditions in one's life.

This method of expressing one's interaction with his or her surrounding environment comes in the form of body movements developed over the passage of time so that they become a characteristic feature of a society's folk arts practiced and staged whenever a social or religious occasion arises.

Dancing stems from the Latin word, choreography, meaning, "dance-written," which later referred to the current art of dancing. It is defined as an instinctive human activity resulting from a spontaneous reaction to the sound of musical rhythms.

Dancing is the combination of regular body movements performed in conjunction with musical or drum rhythms, which form the outlines of traditional and folkloric heritage in a particular society's art of dancing.

Folk dances traditionally are performed during social events by those with little or no professional training,



Brandishing jambias is an essential part of the Al-Baraa folkloric dance.

with new dancers often learning informally by observing and/or receiving help from others.

Folk dancing is viewed as more of a social activity rather than competitive, although there are professional and semi-professional folk dance groups and occasional folk dance competitions.

Yemeni folk dancing is linked closely to the daily activities of its people, their customs and religious occasions, also involving other occasions, such as giving birth, welcoming guest tribes,

celebrating victories or preparing for imminent war.

Such social conditions form the background and framework of each type of dance, its rhythms, its particular set of movements and its art in general, which has survived throughout the ages.

One of Yemen's most important folk dances, which originated here, is pipe dancing. This type of dance is popular at wedding parties in the capital city of Sana'a. A team dance of not less than four participants, men, women or both

may perform it.

However, before this is the Baraa or jambiyya (dagger) dance, which is the most famous among Yemenis and has spread nationwide.

The Baraa is a war-related dance expressing war preparations in a regular tone.

It consists of four different rhythms, ending with a fast rhythm signifying fighting capability and the fighters' utmost readiness to carry their weapons and go to battle.

Every Yemeni district has its own folk dances with special rhythms, costumes and movements.

For example, Hadramout city is well known for its diverse dance rhythms, one of which is Al-Edda dancing, performed by only males.

The Tihama also has different types of folk dances, including Al-Hukfah and Fursan, which display the dancers' skills at leaping over camels. The rhythms in Tihama music are similar to those of Africa due to migration, trade exchange and close borders with Africa.

There's also a famous dance in Lahj governorate called Al-Sharh, which is known to all Yemenis, as well as Arabs in neighboring countries. This dance is performed by a couple of male and female dancers to the accompanying fast musical rhythms of the oud, drums and other musical instruments.

## Common Yemeni superstitions

By: Almigdada Dahesh Mojalli  
almigdads8@yahoo.com

**Y**emenis believe in many superstitions that, most of the time, have no basis in truth. However, out of custom, even highly-educated Yemenis buy into these myths. Some of these superstitions are religiously oriented and some are social habits, while others seem to come from nowhere.

Arwa Othman, a Yemeni literary figure specializing in Yemeni popular culture, notes that although superstitions exist worldwide, most people don't believe they have any basis in reality. "Superstitions are everywhere, indicating people's views toward things in their lives. Some indicate bad omens, while others reflect good omens for them," she explained.

One of Yemen's most pervasive and believed superstitions is that one will receive money if his or her hand itches. "I know this is a superstition," admits Sana'a University student Younis Ali, "but it really has happened to me many times where I really did receive money."

Another Yemeni superstition dictates that when the bottom of your left foot itches, it means someone is bad-mouthing you, whereas if the bottom of your right foot itches, it means someone's praising you.

"This is 100 percent true because it happened to me," claims Saleem Al-Olaibi, a manager at Yemen Mobile, "I guessed who was talking about me, so when I asked my male relative the next day, he told me that he and his friends had been talking about me at that time."

In Sana'a, Amran, Dhamar and

Marib governorates, women throw eggs at the door when a bride enters her new home in order to keep the devil away. Others believe that wearing a ring made of agate will protect against evil. Still others believe that if their eye twitches, death or something very serious will happen to someone they know.

Another Yemeni superstition is that when an infant cries for weeks on end and no medicine stops its colicky behavior, the reason the child is crying is because it was named incorrectly. To stop the incessant crying, the parents should change the child's name.

Um Abdulkarim, 50, named her son Omer, but he cried almost continually for weeks until she renamed him Abdulkarim. "My son cried for more than a month, so my neighbors and relatives asked me to change his name from Omer. At that time, I laughed at them ironically, but I did it anyway,

believing that this was only a superstition. However, once I did it, he really did become quieter," she recounted.

Popular Yemeni superstitions aren't restricted to waking life; they also extend to dreams. Some believe that if one dreams about meat without blood in it, something horrible will happen to the dreamer, one of his or her relatives or friends. However, if a person dreams that there's blood in the meat, it means nothing will happen and everything is fine.

Just because you aren't dreaming about meat doesn't mean you've escaped trouble, though. Yemenis believe that if you dream about black grapes, you or one of your relatives is at risk. Luckily, if you dream about white grapes, you have nothing to worry about, so may all of our readers have only sweet dreams of white grapes!

## Yemeni hip hop event lets talented young dancers and lyricists express themselves

By: Alia Eshaq

A workshop for Yemeni rappers and hip hop dancers arranged by the French Cultural Center and the German Cultural Center in Sana'a began on Wednesday, where young rappers and dancers participated in a competition at the Center for Study and Research, where they showcased their talents and were judged by foreign artists. The winners of the rap-off and dance-off were rewarded with training from the artist-judges in their respective fields.

The rappers and dancers battled head-to-head while the crowd of hundreds cheered wildly. The event was so well-attended that a crowd of at least 70 waited by the center's gates to get in, desperate to see the rap and dance-

off competition, which was followed by special performances by Yemeni-American rapper Hagag AJ and international DJs El-Jaro from Germany-Emirates and Malik from France.

Participants in the hip hop dance-off will continue to attend a week-long intensive studio with French choreographer-in-residence Farid Berki and his dancers, Ludo and Romu. The Yemeni youths, Ludo and Romu will all dance one of Berki's works on April 30 at the Yemeni Cultural Center.

"This is like an adventure to us. It's the first time for us to come to Yemen and train Yemeni dancers and rappers and we hope that it's going to be a great experience," said DJ Malik, who will be spinning for the dancers on April 30.

"We sensed that there is a big interest in hip hop among a lot of Yemeni

youth," said Joel de Chezlepretre, the director of the French Cultural Center. "We used to watch them come regularly to the center and dance, and that's where the idea came from."

The Yemeni artist Hagag AJ said that the event and hip hop itself promotes sounds from all over the world. "You will find different types of music from Yemeni to western, all mixed together," he said. Choreographer Farid Berki agreed, "Hip hop is about mixing different types of music - that's what makes it special."

A lot of eager young men are planning to participate in the event, one of which called himself "D. Ali." According to D. Ali, the "D" can mean either "DJ" or "Doctor," since he is studying medicine. "A lot of people think that we are blindly acting like

westerners, but it's not true. Even early Arabs used to free-style poems, the same thing we do these days with rap," said D. Ali. "I want everybody to know that we don't just copy the west, we add to their art!"

His friend, dancer Saif Al-Thaman, said that he and his friends feel that their dancing is appreciated among other youths who look forward to seeing them perform at special events.

Rapper Hagag AJ thinks that hip hop has a future in Yemen. "Once the songs start touching issues related to our society like social issues and politics, hip hop songs will start being very popular in Yemen," he said.

The hip hop dance show, hosted by the French Cultural Center, will take place at 7:30pm on April 30 at the Yemeni Cultural Center.

## Al-Naqash's articles collected in a book

**T**he articles of Egyptian literary critic Rajaa Al-Naqash, who died two months ago on Feb. 8 after battling cancer, have been gathered for republishing in a book issued by the Emirati Dar Al-Sada Press. The book contains 23 articles by the writer, considered one of the most prominent symbols of culture and enlightenment.

Previously published in Dubai Al-Thaqafiah magazine, the selected arti-



cles narrate the relationships between famous figures and political leaders. The book also contains criticism of the literature of famous Arab poets and authors like Syrian poet Nizar Qabbani and Egyptian writer Najeeb Mahfouz.

Born in September 1934, Al-Naqash dedicated his eventful journalistic career to criticism and enlightening not just Egypt, but the entire Arab world.

Graduating from Cairo University's Arabic department in 1956, he served

as editor of numerous Egyptian magazines until becoming chief editor of Egypt's Radio & TV magazine in 1971. Al-Naqash became chief editor of Qatar's Doha cultural magazine in the 1980s before returning to Cairo in the 1990s to continue working as a critic privileged to introduce various artists, writers and poets.

Additional source information:  
[www.asharqalawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=2&id=11816](http://www.asharqalawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=2&id=11816)

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### Cortázar, Julio (An Argentinean Master of Antinovel and Experimental literature)

• Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

**C**ortázar, Julio (1914-1984), Argentinean novelist, short-story writer, translator, and intellectual.

Cortázar was born in Brussels, Belgium, to his Argentinean parents on August 26, 1914. Once World War I began, Cortázar's family forced to remain in Barcelona, Spain, for a year and a half.

When Cortázar was four years old, his family returned to Argentina where he spent the rest of his childhood in Banfield, suburb of Buenos Aires. Cortázar attended the Escuela Normal de Profesores Mariano Acosta, a teachers training college and in 1935 he received a degree as a secondary-level teacher.

Due to economic reasons, Cortázar was forced to discontinue his studies at University of Buenos Aires and begin teaching in remote provincial towns of Bolívar and Chivilcoy. From 1944 to 1945, Cortázar taught French literature at University of Cuyo in Mendoza. Then he joined a protest against Juan Perón, then President of Argentina, and was briefly imprisoned.

Cortázar was a director for the publishing group Cámara Argentina del Libro from 1946 to 1948 in Buenos Aires, completed a translation degree in record time, and worked as a public translator until the early 1950s. In 1951, in opposition to Perón's regime, Cortázar moved to Paris, France, where he worked for UNESCO as a freelance translator and divided the rest of his time moving between Paris and Saïgon, town in northeastern France. Cortázar visited Cuba in 1961 and decided to assume his commitment to the struggle for liberation of Latin America. Consequently, he became a member of the Second Russell Tribunal for investigation of human rights abuses in Latin America.

In 1975 Cortázar was a visiting lecturer at the University of Oklahoma and in 1980 he was a lecturer at Barnard College in New York. When the seven-year ban on his entry into Argentina was lifted, he visited his home country in 1983.

Cortázar belonged to the boom generation of Latin American writers who broke new ground with their works during the 1950s and 1960s. His literary career, which lasted almost 40 years, includes short stories, novels, plays, poetry, translations, and essays of literary criticism. His work is strongly influenced by surrealism with attempting to raise consciousness above reality in his fantastical short stories. He combined existential questioning with experimental writing techniques in his works and many of his stories follow the logic of hallucinations and obsessions.

Cortázar's first literary book, "Presencia" (Presence, 1938), was a collection of poetry that he published under the pseudonym Julio Denis. One of his earliest poetic works, "Los Reyes" (The Kings, 1949), is a prose poem dealing with the legend of the Minotaur, the mythic Greek monster.

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"Bestiario" (Bestiary, 1951) is his first short-story collection which appeared in the review "The Annals of Buenos Aires". The collection includes "Casa Tomada" (A House Taken Over) in which a middle-aged brother and sister find their house is invaded by unidentified people. In the title story a young girl senses that a tiger is roaming through her house. Cortázar published in 1956 the volume of short stories "Final del Juego" (End of the Game) which included the story "Los Venenos" (The Venoms) which he considers autobiographic. Other collections such as "Las Armas Secretas" (The Secret Weapons, 1959), "Todos Los Fuegos el Fuego" (All Fires the Fire, 1966), and "Someone Walking Around" (1977) contain many of the best examples of surrealist writing in postmodern literature. His story entitled "Las Babas del Diablo" was filmed under the title "Blow-Up" in 1966.

As a novelist, Cortázar gained first attention with "Los Premios" (The Winners, 1960) which centered on a group of people brought together when they win a mystery cruise in a lottery. Cortázar is most well known for the highly experimental novel entitled "Rayuela" (1963; Hopscotch, 1966). This masterpiece is an open-ended anti-novel in which the reader is invited to rearrange the material. The general idea behind "Hopscotch" is the proof of a failure and the hope of a victory. The novel was also intended to be a revolutionary novel by opening the door to linguistic innovation of Spanish language and influencing deeply Latin American writers. His novels "62: A Model Kit" (1968) and "Around the Day in 80 Worlds" (1986) became extensions of "Hopscotch", yet other chapters which must be read and incorporated. The English version of "Hopscotch" won the 1967 United States National Book Award.

Cortázar also published poetry, drama, and various works of non-fiction. His book, "Libro de Manuel" (A Manual of Manuel, 1973), focused on the political condition of Latin America. "Cronopios and Famas" (1969) is an experimental literary collection of interconnected short pieces in which Cortázar incorporates elements of fiction, science, horror, and comedy into one work. His translation projects included Spanish renderings of Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe" and the stories of Edgar Allan Poe. One of his last works was a collaboration with his Canadian wife, Carol Dunlop, entitled "The Autonauts of the Cosmoroute" (1983) which related the couple's extended expedition from Paris to Marseilles in a Volkswagen.

In June 1981, the French government conceded him the French nationality. He also received numerous awards including Médicis Prize for Libro de Manuel in 1974 and Rubén Darío Order of Cultural Independence in 1983.

Cortázar passed away of leukemia and heart disease on February 12, 1984. Cortázar is a stunning Latin American writer who can induce the kind of chilling unease that strikes like a sound in the night. The renowned Chilean Nobel writer, Pablo Neruda, once said: "Anyone who doesn't read Cortázar is doomed."



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## Women victimized by motorcycle thieves

By: Hamed Thabet

Many Yemenis work as motorcycle drivers in order to earn a living; however, others use it to steal women's purses and harass female pedestrians on the street.

There are more than 10,000 motorcycles in Sana'a, nearly all of which have entered Yemen illegally from entry points such as Oman and Saudi Arabia. These motorcycles don't have any documentation or insurance and are unregistered, notes Yahya Shubail, former head of the Sana'a Traffic Department.

Many motorcyclists in Yemen consider it a job in order to make a living, says Yahya Al-Hadtha. "I tried to find a job for nearly a year, but with no success, so one day, I decided to buy and become a motorcycle driver in order to earn money. I don't have a number for my motorcycle and it's unregistered."

The real problem in Yemen is that most of these motorcycles are unregistered and have entered the country illegally, so no one can go after these criminals and find them, Shubail notes.

This is why the Yemeni government must give some attention to this problem and come up with solutions. Besides Sana'a, Hodeidah governorate and the Tihama region also are experiencing an increased number of motorcycles.

Many motorcyclists use their vehicles to steal women's purses, for sexual harassment and to break the law by not heeding traffic signals, Shubail said.

While walking to her home in Al-Qaa'a area of Sana'a one afternoon last year, a motorcyclist came up to Abeer Mohammed and tried to steal her purse. "I fought with him while he was holding my purse. I beat him until we both fell down. Then some people saw us and came to help me and the driver drove away," she recounted.

During the past three years from 2005 to 2007, the phenomenon of hooligan motorcyclists has increased. They steal women's purses while they're walking on the street, as well as sexually abuse women pedestrians, and then flee quickly, explains Ahmed Sa'ad, an official at Al-Saba'een area police station in Sana'a.

Following such incidents, Sa'ad noted, "We came up with a plan to stop and fight these motorcyclists. In the beginning, it was a very hard job because many of the cycles were unregistered. However, working hand in hand and with the help of security officials, it worked."

After working hard to stop gangs and illegal motorcycles, police succeeded in 2007 in stopping and catching nearly all of the thieves. Approximately 40 to 50 motorcyclists have been caught and imprisoned. While most were organized gangs, some acted individually, Sa'ad added.



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According to him, "We used to follow them by car and taxi, keeping our eye on them in order to learn more about them and we succeeded. We then sent them to criminal investigation, which transferred them to the attorney general's office."

Despite such successful action, the phenomenon has begun to reappear in Sana'a and there must be solutions as soon as possible, Sa'ad urged.

However, not all motorcyclists are bad; in fact, most work hard to earn a respectable living. At the same time, many people - almost exclusively men - prefer getting around by motorcycle because it's faster than other vehicles.

"They're fast because no one can follow them because there aren't any numbers on our motorcycles," adds Ali Mohammed, who has been a motorcycle driver for almost two years.

He explains, "Because I'm poor and couldn't find a job, I started working as a driver, taking people from place to place." However, he admitted, "I know

many drivers who use their motorcycles to steal from people on the street or to bother women and girls."

Riham Ahmed, 19, was walking to her car with her friend from their friend's house. She recalled, "The neighborhood was dark. A motorcyclist came from behind and tried to take my purse, but I kept holding onto it so he couldn't take it. He failed and drove off."

She continued, "I then got into my car and tried to go after him and find him, but without success. Since then, I've stopped going out at night alone and started carrying my purse on the side facing the sidewalk so that no one can do anything."

Bushra Al-Liswas likewise had a bad experience seven years ago while walking on Iran Street in Hadda area. She said, "It was 8:30 p.m. and I was walking alone when a motorcyclist carrying another passenger with him came from behind and tried to take my purse by force and he did. I screamed, but when

people came to help me, he'd already fled with my purse. I lost my mobile phone and some money."

Eid season is a good time for thieves because everyone goes to the market to buy things. At that time, their purses and pockets are filled with money.

For example, during this past Eid Al-Fitr, while Mona was in the market buying some clothing, a motorcyclist came up, hit her hard on the back and seized all of her purchases.

### Other motorcycle crimes

Some girls have encountered extremely dangerous situations involving motorcycle hooligans. One day during Ramadan, a group of girls was in the market when a group of four male motorcyclists suddenly drove past, threw acid on them and then fled. Some of the girls' clothing [that they were wearing] melted and two girls were injured because of it, Majeda recounted.

She continued, "We didn't report it to the police because we thought that even if we did, nothing would happen because there's no law to protect us, so we just decided to walk on and be careful."

Besides using their motorcycles, thieves also use weapons. According to A.J., "Last year, I was walking to my friend's house at sunset to attend her wedding when three individuals came up on their motorcycles, threatened me with knives and demanded all of my gold. Having no other choice, I gave them everything."

Shubail points out that there is a law pertaining to stopping smuggled motorcycles, but so far, it hasn't been implemented. He concluded, "I recommend creating stricter legislation in order to stop traffic congestion and confusion in order to benefit the public."

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