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**Inside:**  **5** Hajjah governorate gets an elementary education overhaul  **16** Changing weather patterns pose challenges for agriculture  **18** Despite censorship, EU film festival will run for 12th time

## NDI: Revenge killing negatively impacts education system

By: Almgidaj Mojalli

SANA'A, May 11 — Closing schools, suspension of teaching, missing classes and examinations and the general spreading of ignorance are the main negative impacts on education system caused by revenge killings.

The revenge killings take place in three particular governorates: Marib, Shabwa and Al-Jawf, according to the National Democracy Institute (NDI) that released the results of its survey on tribal conflict's effects on education last week.

The NDI survey showed that tribal conflicts, such as an in Marib where there are 38 unresolved blood feuds, led to the evacuation of many families and prevented students from attending schools.

The presentation was a result of surveys compiled by three anti-revenge killing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the three governorates.

Future Association for

Development and Social Peace in Marib Governorate, a local NGO, indicated that the spread of illiteracy and ignorance were the direct results of widespread revenge killing. The report indicated that 347 university students in Marib governorate couldn't take their final examinations because of revenge killing incidents. The report added that many students left the examination halls and were enforced to stay at home because of the violence.

The report from the Brothers Association for Development and Social Peace (BADSP) in Shabwa revealed that the Setnan school, built in 1992, was blasted by mines in 2001 due to a revenge conflict. The report stated that the construction of Al-Jarasha, another school in the region, was stopped due to a tribal dispute over the land. The report added that many students were compelled to go to school carrying weapons because of tribal conflicts.

Continued on page 2



More than 1000 children at the age of schooling depended on this school in Al-Jawf, now that it is closed they are forced to live a life without education, but at least they are still alive.



Beer Al-Marazeeq School in Al-Jawf built in 1989, has been made to ruins because of conflict and exchange of firearms. Now the school instead of hosting its students is a shed for goats.

## Houthis block Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway, clashes resume in many areas

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, May 11 — Houthi supporters blocked the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway in the area of Amran governorate's Harf Sifyan district after preventing numerous military trucks filled with military supplies to be deployed to army personnel from driving toward Sa'ada, tribal sources and eyewitnesses said Saturday.

"The government tried to facilitate the movement of military vehicles via tribal mediations, but to no avail," the same sources stated, adding that the army has attempted to unblock the highway since Saturday morning, employing various types of weaponry such as fighter jets, tanks and Katyusha missiles to accomplish the task.

"Fighter jets intensified strikes on vil-

lages near Harf Sifyan district where Houthi loyalists are believed to be entrenched," the sources maintained.

According to other tribal sources, the commander of the 115th military division deployed in Harf Sifyan demanded citizens evacuate their homes in order for his troops to launch air strikes and land offensives in the area.

The same sources mentioned that area inhabitants appealed to Sheikh Hussein Bin Abdullah Al-Ahmar on Saturday to intervene and convince the relevant authorities not to attack the area, but Al-Ahmar told them the Yemeni army is insistent upon hitting the area, which is why citizens were coerced to evacuate the area and move to safe locations.

Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-

Houthi released a statement on Friday, warning the authority against waging a fifth war. "The authority currently is attacking several Sa'ada areas, preparing for a new war while not considering the Yemeni people's position, which rejects war against Sa'ada citizens," he stated.

"This unjust authority is wasting public funds and resources in its military operations that are destroying citizens' property when Yemenis need this money to pay for food, medicine and other basic necessities," Al-Houthi maintained, "The government is killing its citizens and damaging their property in order to satisfy the U.S. administration and Israel.

"We urge the authority to cease its military attacks and come to the dialogue table," he went on to say, adding, "We hope Arab states won't contribute to what is harming the Yemeni people; rather, we want Arab states to take positions favoring peace and the Yemeni people."

In the Monday issue of Al-Nass weekly newspaper, Al-Houthi said, "We're now stronger than we were in the past and have many supplies. Additionally, we have new internal coalitions due to

achieve their fruitful results at the appropriate time. We've gained experience from past wars and have much to benefit from during a potential fight with the army."

He added, "We're more able to engage in a ceaseless war, as well as bequeath the spirit of struggle to the next generation." The young leader didn't rule out the possibility of a new war between his supporters and the army, saying, "Some opportunistic criminals [referring to military officials] plan to fuel the fighting in this war-torn governorate again because they benefit from such bloodshed."

Al-Houthi further accused the authority of violating the Doha-brokered peace deal that ended a previous war between the two conflicting sides, pointing out that Term 7 of the agreement, which the government claims Houthis aren't abiding by, will be executed soon.

He indicated that the ceasefire agreement's various terms are clear, placed in a good sequence and take steps toward comprehensive peace, but the authority is not committed to implementing them.

Clashes between government troops and Houthi supporters escalated in various Sa'ada areas over the past two days,

leaving many dead and injured on both sides. Meanwhile, a new presidential mediation committee has done nothing to end the destructive fighting since it arrived in Sa'ada more than 10 days ago.

According to information obtained from reliable sources, government troops attacked Al-Houthi's main stronghold in the area of Matra, firing rockets at the area on Friday. This is the first time the area has come under attack in four months since both sides signed the second ceasefire agreement in Qatar.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh decided on Wednesday to form a new executive committee made up of Alawi Al-

Awadhi, Awadh Al-Wazir, Qasim Qabeidha, Mansour Al-Arjali, Ali Abdurabu Al-Awadhi and others from the National Solidarity Council and presided over by Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar to implement the terms of the Doha-brokered ceasefire agreement signed by both sides this past Feb. 1.

This new committee is expected to work in conjunction with the new presidential mediation committee, chaired by Member of Parliament Ali Abdullah Abu Holeiq, in an effort to create a good climate for accomplishing joint and interrelated tasks, according to sources from both Sa'ada and Amran tribes.

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## In Brief

## SANA'A

## Syrian Cultural Center to be opened in Sana'a officially next Sunday

The Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Najji al-Otari to open next Sunday the Arab Syrian Cultural Center in Sana'a officially on the sideline of the 8th meeting of the Yemeni-Syrian supreme committee that will be started tomorrow.

Mohammed Aim, head of the center told Saba that the center would enhance Syrian cultural activities in Yemen.

The center contains five sections, stage for plays, hall for cultural activities, hall for plastic arts and library, he said. He indicated that the center was set up in 2007 in cooperation with the Yemeni government.

## Yemeni ambassador opens photo exhibition in Tokyo

The Yemeni ambassador to Tokyo Marowan Noman opened on Thursday a photo exhibition of the Japanese photographer Raya Makmora.

The exhibition includes pictures taken by the Japanese photographer during her visit to Yemen, which reflect beauty of the nature in Yemen.

Many other Japanese photographers organized similar exhibitions to show civilization and beauty of Yemen.

## Authorities arrest Canadian carrying with him Yemeni antiques

Security apparatus in Sana'a International Airport arrested on Thursday Canadian citizen carrying with him 200 ancient arrows date back to Stone Age while leaving the airport. General Organization for Antiquities and Museums' (GOAM) Director General of Protecting Antiquities Hisham al-Thawr said a Canadian "working in Safer Petroleum Company has been arrested having with him 200 hundreds arrows date back to Stone Age while leaving Sana'a Airport" and referred to prosecution for investigation.

He added that ancient manuscript has been seized in a car in Subah checkpoint and the suspects have been arrested. He said that the GOAM has had the manuscript and the convicted have been referred to prosecution for investigations.

Earlier, the authorities in Sana'a Airport have arrested a French citizen working in an oil company in Yemen carrying with him bronze statues and ancient coins while returning back to Sana'a from Shabwa via his company's plane.

## AL-MAHARAH

## \$ 10 mln fisheries projects to be carried in al-Maharah

Director of the fifth Fish Project is implementing fisheries projects in al-Maharah governorate at sum of \$10 million, director general of the project Amr Awad said.

Awad said that the project would rehabilitate a seaport of the governorate and build seven fisheries facilities in the governorate such as ice factory and platforms for selling fish of the fishermen.

A center is to be set up to monitor exporting fishes, he said.

Awad pointed out that the project has prepared a training program for the fisheries societies in the governorate to improve their capabilities.

The program will be carried in this year, he said.

## ADEN

## Oil tankers to arrive in Yemen soon to cover local needs

A Singaporean oil tanker unloaded on Thursday evening 72,000 metric tons of diesel in the Aden refineries to cover the local market needs.

A source in the Aden refineries said this quantity of diesel was the second within a week, pointing out that a number of oil tankers loaded with diesel would arrive in Aden soon to cover the needs of citizens in all provinces of the country.

## SADA'A

## National Solidarity Council to mediate in Saada

Well-informed sources said that head of the National Solidarity Council (NSC) Sheikh Hussein Abdullah al-Ahmar would mediate between the government and the leader of al-Houthis Abdul-Malik al-Houthi.

The source pointed out that Sheikh Hussein had talked with al-Houthi on means of implementing the Doha agreement signed between the government and the al-Houthis for ending the clashes in Saada within 60 days.

"Sheikh Hussein has made a phone with al-Houthi, whom welcomed the mediation efforts of NSC to apply the agreement signed in Doha," added the source.

## JMP escalates protests as political detainees remain in jail

By: Mohammed Bin Salam

SANA'A, May 10 — A number of political activists from the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) and civil community organizations protested on Wednesday and Thursday against the government for not releasing political detainees.

The protesters insisted that the authority free all political detainees who were arbitrarily arrested and jailed in a manner contravening the Constitution and effective laws. They also demanded that the government disclose all those secretly jailed in the various security and military jails, as well as cease illegal practices, crackdowns and escalating attacks that seem to be threatening the narrow margin of democracy and press freedoms in Yemen, according to the protesters.

The protesters released a statement claiming that the government must question, interrogate and refer to court all those involved in crimes against humanity and unconstitutional practices to face announced, transparent and fair trials.

They confirmed that they are ready to continue such protests and sit-ins until the government responds to their legal demands, calling on all participants in the various political and social demonstrations in Yemen to continue their peaceful protests in order to press the authority to respect the Constitution and relevant laws, as well as protect rights and public freedoms.

Participants in a sit-in staged at the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) central committee condemned in a statement the illegal use of force and all internationally-prohibited forms of violence the authority practices against citizens. The statement accused the authority of violating the Constitution and effective laws, and committing crimes against humanity.

The protesters' statement contained a list of 137 political detainees, recorded until April 30, most of whom are from the YSP. According to the statement, some of these detainees are jailed in political security prisons in Sana'a, Aden and Abyan, while others are in criminal investigation bureau, military police and central prisons.

YSP Secretary-General Yasin Sa'eed Noman gave a speech to the participants, expressing concern that the country may face unprecedented crises in the event people resort to other violent actions if the government refuses to meet their demands. Noman indicated that the opposition parties will continue peaceful struggle for the sake of supporting and defending freedoms, which he described as "the main option" for the JMP to restore law and order.

Ali Al-Yazidi, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (part of the JMP), urged the protesters to include in their statement the case of Yemeni citizens who were burned by Saudi police on March 23 while trying to hide in the bordering area of Khamis Musheit. He criticized the authority for not reacting to the incident in which Yemeni citizens, trying to cross into Saudi Arabia in search of work, suffered an unprecedented holocaust in the Arab world, pointing out that the government only cares about maintaining relations with Saudi authorities.

## With the participation of more than 300 intellectuals

## Arab National Conference commences in Sana'a

By: Mahmood Assamiee

SANA'A, May 10 — Under the motto, "Arab Joint Work: Challenges and Horizons," the Arab National Conference, or ANC, kicked off activities for its 19th round in Sana'a with the participation of more than 300 intellectuals.

The four-day conference, which began on Saturday, will discuss numerous work papers on seven points including the challenges facing Arab nations, how to strengthen Arab integration and unite their efforts to face these challenges.

Opening the conference, Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, cultural advisor to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, talked about the importance of the ANC holding its 19th round amid the latest developments the Arab world has witnessed.

"With the developments the Arab world has witnessed since we met at this conference's 14th round in Sana'a in 2003, the Arab public's feelings now are positive and integrated in all Arab nations," Al-Maqaleh said.

"Despite feelings of frustration [in the area], the Middle East project adopted by the United States and the Zionist

entity is now deteriorating...None of us will forget that what's happening in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon and the horrible actions there are related to this project," he added.

Abdulmalik Al-Mikhlaifi, head of ANC's preparatory committee, stated that this conference is independent and neutral, adding that it consists of 700 intellectual and policy leaders from all Arab nations.

He noted that the conference will discuss joint Arab efforts, their mechanisms and obstacles, the mechanisms of Arab economic unity regarding a unified Arab Parliament, as well as a report on the conference's agenda.

For his part, ANC Secretary-General Khalid Al-Sufyani mentioned the importance of holding the 19th round of this conference during renewed Israeli attempts to extort Palestine and five years after the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

"We're holding a national Arab conference in a country that's nationalist to the bone," Al-Sufyani observed, adding, "The United States and its imperialist project in this region have been beaten and indications of the vanishing of Zionism and Israel have begun."

## International Day of the Midwife reminds everyone that

## Yemeni midwives are crucial to mother and baby's survival

By: Sarah Wolff

SANA'A, May 11 — May 5 was the International Day of the Midwife, which recognizes the importance of midwifery throughout the world, but especially in developing countries like Yemen, where the majority of women still give birth at home rather than in a hospital.

Midwives provide health care to women and their babies during pregnancy, delivery and newborn periods, as well as help give women access to vital reproductive health services and contraception. Yemen has one of the world's highest birth rates, with each woman giving birth to approximately seven children during her lifetime.

Some 365 women in every 100,000 live births die in Yemen each year due to delivery complications, a number that could be lessened if women had better access to trained local midwives. Additionally, 76 out of every 1,000 Yemeni babies die from birthing complications, giving Yemen one of the region's worst mother and child mortality rates.

The World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund commemorated the 17th annual International Midwives' Day with a speech by Hans Obdeijn, UNFPA's representative in Yemen.

He cited a recent study indicating that even in Sana'a governorate, there's only one midwife for every 900 women. "These figures affirm the need for such professionals," Obdeijn said, adding, "We can save Yemeni women by getting midwives into their communities."



Midwife Asia checking the blood pressure of a pregnant woman. Al-Garn health unit in Sayoun, where there is need for more midwives because of the scattered population and conservative society.

Although there are currently more than 1,000 registered members of the Yemeni Midwives Association, which was established in 2004, UNFPA says there's an urgent need for 5,000 more midwives and an overall need in Yemen for 20,000 midwives.

The Yemeni-German Reproductive Health Program, which began in 2006, is attempting to address this need by training female community volunteers in midwifery. "We talk about the four A's: accessibility, affordability, acceptability and availability," explained Dr. Ruth Hildebrandt, a reproductive health advisor working with the government's health office in Al-Mahwit governorate.

She added, "It's not enough to have midwives in Aden and Sana'a; they must be as close and as easily accessible as possible."

Citing Israeli aggressions against Palestinians and the Gaza blockade imposed by Israeli troops, he called on Arab nations to unite their efforts and stand firm to liberate Palestine.

"From this place, as Arab people [nationalists], we declare that we'll continue our struggle to liberate Palestine and all occupied Arab lands. We say many thousands of 'Yes!' that Israel has no place in Arab lands," Al-Sufyani stated.

He further mentioned the situation in Iraq, the killing and the use of weapons of mass destruction in that country since the 2002 U.S. invasion, noting that more than 1.5 million people have been killed in Iraq.

"The period 2007-2008 is characterized by unifying all Iraqis and their firm struggle against the U.S. occupation...This conference affirms that there's no solution in Iraq other than forcing the occupation, its forces and its agents out of that country," he said, further urging Iran to change its approach in Iraq.

Additionally, he called on all Arab peoples to organize demonstrations against U.S. President George W. Bush's visits to any Arab countries.

## British PM celebrates Israel while Arabs mourn 60 years of occupation



Palestinian girl with her mom participating in an event in Sana'a to condemn one of the Israeli attacks on Gaza.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 11 — Addressing a special event at a Finchley Synagogue on 8 May 2008 in London, Gordon

Brown, British Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party stated that "the creation of the state of Israel was one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century". Consequently, leading British Arab academic, who is located in Yemen to establish cultural engagement in the Arab and Muslim worlds, resigned his membership in the Labour Party because of what the UK Prime Minister said.

In his letter of resignation to Brown, Professor Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi commented, "While you are celebrating 60 years of the establishment of Israel I am mourning 60 years of the Palestinian catastrophe Nakhbah. Indeed, your statement has offended me personally as a British Arab. Accordingly, I am resigning my membership from the Labour Party with immediate effect".

In a seminar held in Yemen Times, on the occasion of 60 years since the creation of the Israeli state, El-Awaisi, who is also a Follow of the Royal Historical Society - UK introduced his two books on "Islamicjerusalem" as a new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies.

"We as Arabs have to stop playing the role of a victim and start creating actions instead of reactions. There is no single course in the Arab or Muslim universities that discusses the history of Islamicjerusalem. Now after 60 years of occupation it is time to reclaim our history," he said at the seminar.

According to El-Awaisi this occupa-

tion has resulted in 6 wars, 6 million refugees, 3 million under occupation, 1.5 million abducted, and 254 km of an Apartheid-Wall.

El-Awaisi explained to Yemen Times that it was high time Britain apologizes for its role in facilitating and creating the state of Israel in the Arab world. Instead, Brown made a public statement that ignores the suffering of millions of Palestinians and hurting the sentiments of Muslims around the world.

"Creation of the state of Israel was a political decision taken to create a buffer state in the Arab world. Now USA is carrying the legacy, which Britain started in the beginning of 20th century," he said.

The books aim to enable readers to develop their knowledge and understanding of the contemporary academic debates on the nature of Islamicjerusalem, the uniqueness of the Islamicjerusalem region and its effects on the rest of the world in both historical and contemporary contexts, and on the Barakah Circle Theory of Islamicjerusalem. Particular attention will be paid to examining the Islamicjerusalem vision and how Muslims have approached Islamicjerusalem. Several questions will be key to this study, such as: Whose is Islamicjerusalem? Can it be shared? Is it an exclusive or inclusive region? What are the reasons for Muslims having close links and concerns with Islamicjerusalem? What is the significance of Islamicjerusalem to Islam and Muslims? Does it have any special status compared with other regions? How do Muslims respond to the competing claims of other religions?

## Continued from page 1

## NDI: Revenge killing negatively impacts education system

The Association for Peace and Development (APD) in Al-Jawf disclosed that more than eight schools in Al-Mazareq and Al-Saidah districts, which contain hundreds of students, have stopped classes indefinitely since the outbreak of tribal war three years ago. The tribal warfare also killed more than 30 people while injuring 30 others.

As a result of these continued feuds, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) launched a campaign to reduce the impact of conflict on education in Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwa governorates under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi, and the head of the National Commission on Tackling Conflict Issues.

"We are only focusing on these three governorates because they are the most affected," stated Peter Dimitroff, the Resident Director of the NDI. "Certainly, we would like to expand these programs and replicate them through the rest of the affected areas."

Though blood money plays an important role in stopping revenge killing, NDI doesn't intend to pay blood money as it is a short-term solution. "The NDI don't have the ability to generate a fund towards

paying blood money. But even if we did, I think that would be the wrong approach because though it is effective in stopping in a short-term conflict, it is like putting on a bandage," noted Dimitroff. He also pointed out that most of the tribal conflicts in these areas are a function of the lack of viable government presence, especially regarding land disputes. "They lack a land registry system," said Dimitroff.

The campaign's general framework and activities were discussed and approved during a workshop which was held in Aden during April 20 to 23. It focused on uncovering the impact of conflict on education, reinforcing the role of local NGOs, media, mosque and religious institutions, tribal leaders, women and youth along with authorities in raising awareness about the impact of conflict on education. The campaign also aims to advocate and lobby the government to protect education from revenge killing and conflict.

The campaign will take action this Month and run through August. It is supported by NDI's Conflict Management Program, which is funded by United States Agency for International Development, known as USAID.

# Their News

## CAC Bank issues silver, golden and platinum cards



Cooperative and Agriculture Credit Bank signed an agreement with American Express company a membership agreement in order to issue silver, golden and platinum credit cards.

According to the agreement signed by the Bank's director Fakher Miyad and Middle East regional representative of American Express Omar Alawi Al-Baiti, CAC Bank will be able to issue VIP credit cards for its important clients.

Walid AL-Dubai consultative to the director considered this as a step forward in the bank's development being Yemen's second bank to become a member of the American Express international group for credit cards.

## A Farewell Party for the tenth batch of Amran Faculty, Department of English



The department of English, Faculty of Education and Languages (Amran University), organized on Tuesday, May 6, a farewell party for the tenth batch graduate students. Basheer Moflih a student celebrating his graduation reported that the party was largely attended and all the guests were impressed by its varieties.

The party was attended by many official men: the brigadier Yahya Ghawbar, the vice governor, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Komeem, the vice Rector of Amran University, Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Moa'almi, the head of water section, Dr. Abdu Mosed Humran, the dean of the faculty, Dr. Ebrahim Al-Shami, the head of the department, Dr. S. K. Mukul, the head of the department of languages

and other general directors. During the party, the vice governor delivered speech in which he expressed his pleasure to attend the party of this distinguished batch and wished the graduates a bright tomorrow. The vice chancellor, on the other hand, pointed out that the university is really proud of this batch and advised the graduate students to work hard and be optimistic regarding their future. Then followed the words of the dean and the head of the department, both referred to the glory of celebrating such occasion and enjoying the time of success and parting.

The graduate students enjoyed themselves in the party with their doctors, parents, friends and left the party fully satisfied with its programs.

## Industry Sees Fewer Fatalities Regional Work Needed To Further Enhance Safety



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released its 44th annual Safety Report today. The report showed that the 2007 global accident rate of 0.75 hull-losses for every million flights by Western-built jet aircraft was slightly higher than the 0.65 rate recorded in 2006. This was largely the result of tragic accidents in Africa, Indonesia and to some extent Brazil. IATA member airlines performed better than the industry average with an accident rate of 0.68 hull-losses per million flights.

The number of global fatalities declined 19% from 855 to 692, even as passenger numbers increased by 6% to over 2.2 billion passengers in 2007. In absolute numbers, there were 100 accidents in 2007 (57 jet, 43 turboprop) compared with 77 accidents in 2006 (46 jet, 31 turboprop).

"Air travel is the safest mode of transportation. In the ten years from 1998, the accident rate was reduced by almost half—from 1.34 accidents per million flights to 0.75. And the number of fatalities dropped significantly in 2007. That's good news. But our goal is always to do better: zero fatalities and zero accidents," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO.

The IATA Operational Safety Audit

(IOSA) is the global standard for airline safety management and a key tool in driving further improvements in global safety. All IATA carriers are required to complete audits and close all findings to join the IOSA Registry by the end of 2008. "Making IOSA a condition of IATA membership is a strong commitment by the industry to raise the bar on safety even higher. Our Partnership for Safety programmes are in place to help our members meet the standards and join the Registry. Safety is our number one priority and starting in 2008, IATA will finance the costs of the IOSA audits for its members. The results are transparent on [www.iata.org/registry](http://www.iata.org/registry) for all to see. And we will be tough. By the end of the year, carriers are either on the Registry, or they are out of IATA," said Bisignani.

Regional Results: Regional accident rates varied. Russia and the CIS had zero accidents in 2007, following a disastrous year in 2006. At 0.09 and 0.29 accidents per million flights, North America and Europe had hull-loss rates significantly better than the global average. A spate of accidents in Indonesia pushed the Asia Pacific accident rate to 2.76 hull-losses per million flights. Latin American accident rate was 1.61 hull-losses per million flights. IATA is working with the Brazilian government on a comprehensive programme to improve safety—from IOSA to infrastructure improvements.

Africa had the worst record at 4.09 hull-losses per million flights. "While this is an improvement over last year, it is still six times less safe to fly in Africa than the rest of the world. IATA is working side-by-side with our African members to bring them up to IOSA standards. And we just announced a US\$3.7 million programme to give up to 30 African carriers access to IATA's Flight Data Analysis service for a three-year period," said Bisignani.

Contributing Factors: Almost half (48%) of the year's accidents took place during landing. The majority of these accidents involved a runway excursion. Many of these accidents could have been prevented by the initiation of a timely go-around. IATA, in cooperation with the Flight Safety Foundation, is developing a toolkit that will address the issues linked to runway safety enhancement, including the prevention of runway excursions.

Almost 20% of all accidents in 2007 related to ground damage. Lack of standardisation can contribute to ground handling activities that result in damage

to aircraft. IATA developed the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) programme to drastically reduce aircraft damage and personal injuries in the ground environment. "Ground damage is a US\$4 billion cost to the industry. The launch of the first global standards for ground safety with ISAGO will improve safety, cut costs and reduce redundant audits," said Bisignani.

Almost half of the accidents in 2007 were linked to a technical issue; maintenance events contributed to almost 20% of all occurrences last year. IATA is revising its safety strategy to encompass maintenance activities and Safety Management System implementation for maintenance organisations.

## Human rights abusers poised to take seats on UN Council

A quarter of the countries vying for seats on the United Nations Human Rights Council have dismal human rights records that should disqualify them from membership, according to a new report from Freedom House and UN Watch. However, at least two of the five countries in question—Gabon and Zambia—are guaranteed seats because of a lack of competition from more democratic countries.

"Democratic countries are squandering a golden opportunity to promote human rights through this important UN body," said Hillel Neuer, executive director of the Geneva-based UN Watch. "Instead, they lend international credibility to repressive governments that routinely violate the rights of their own citizens."

UN Watch and Freedom House released their findings today at UN headquarters. Their report comes as the UN General Assembly prepares to elect 15 new Human Rights Council members, or one-third of the body's membership, on May 21. Each regional group is apportioned a specific number of seats. However, in two of the five regional groups—Africa and Latin America—the number of countries running does not exceed the number of open seats.

The study found five countries Not Qualified including: Gabon, Bahrain, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zambia. All of these countries except Bahrain are incumbent candidates. In addition, the report questioned the eligibility of Brazil, East Timor and Burkina Faso, whose human rights records are mixed.

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uated each of the 20 candidates based on its record of human rights protection at home and its record of human rights promotion at the UN. The evaluation included the countries' rankings in Freedom House and UN Watch analyses, as well as reports from Reporters San Frontières, The Economist Democracy Index and the Democracy Coalition Project.

Freedom House Advocacy Director Paula Schriefer said the council's membership already includes three countries—China, Cuba and Saudi Arabia—listed on Freedom House's Worst of the Worst report, a reality that has so far prevented the council from carrying out its stated work.

"With the exception of Burma, the UN Human Rights Council has so far failed

to adequately address any of the egregious human rights situations taking place in the countries included in our Worst of the Worst report," said Schriefer.

In addition to the council report, Freedom House released Worst of the Worst: The World's Most Repressive Societies 2008, and UN Watch launched 2007-2008 Scorecard: How HRC Members Voted.

UN Watch is a non-governmental organization whose mandate is to monitor the performance of the United Nations by the yardstick of its own Charter. [www.unwatch.org](http://www.unwatch.org)

Freedom House is an independent non-governmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world. [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org)

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# Hajjah governorate gets an elementary education overhaul

By: Hamed Thabet

Although Yemen's formal education system began after the 1962 Revolution, many governorates like Hajjah still suffer from lack of trained teachers, poor schools and a drop in the number of female students.

However, two programs are attempting to remedy this situation. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation, called GTZ, began training Hajjah governorate elementary teachers in 2004 following similarly successful programs in other governorates. Called the Basic Education Improvement Program, or BEIP, the teacher-training project will continue until October of this year.

Likewise, in 2003, the Yemeni government outlined a national strategy to improve the quality of elementary teaching and increase female education. In this regard, it too has been implementing a project in Hajjah.

Both the German and Yemeni governments are cooperating and sharing resources in an effort to make their programs successful.

Most schools in Hajjah's 31 districts are hardly fit to be called that, with many resembling nests more than anything else, being made of stacked boxes, arranged underneath trees or sometimes meeting in small rented homes, remarked Jamal Al-Ghashimi, deputy director of the governorate's Education Office.

Those districts struggling against poor education conditions and "nest schools" include Al-Jumaima'a, Khara, Qatha'a Al-Sharafayn, Tihama and Qushar, noted Ahmed Al-Mu'alimi, who heads the governorate's Education Office.

It's a step in the right direction that

UNICEF, Yemen's Social Fund for Development, local councils and donors like the German Bank for Reconstruction and Development are attempting to build and improve schools in these areas. "However, problems still exist and without these donors, Yemen can't continue to improve its education sector," Al-Mu'alimi said.

According to Al-Ghashimi, the governorate has approximately 1,360 schools in general, with 970 elementary schools, of which 760 are coeducational, teaching boys and girls together.

"Although many schools have been built, [we] find that many still are needed," says Lise Voss-Lengnile, training advisor for GTZ's Basic Education Improvement Program. Although these new school buildings in poor areas undoubtedly are a great help, quality of education and lack of female student participation remain huge problems.

### Female enrollment starts high, but quickly drops off

Approximately 60 percent of Hajjah area children don't attend school, most of whom are girls, points out Ali Mohammed Noman, who works in the governorate in tandem with GTZ to help develop elementary education.

Because many Hajjah schools are coeducational, this often prevents parents from sending their girls to school. "According to Yemeni social standards, parents don't allow their girls to study with boys when they're nearly adults," explains Mohammed Al-Shadhowi, head of the education sector in Hajjah's Mabyan district.

However, he adds, "Because of minimal funding and lack of support from the Ministry of Education, we can't provide more classes for girls."

The number of girls enrolled at the beginning of every school year starts out well, but then quickly decreases.

Another problem contributing to the high rate of female student dropouts is lack of suitable bathrooms, as many schools have none, which makes attending extremely difficult for girls.

Additionally, because the distance between the school and their homes usually is quite far and roads often are unsafe to walk alone, according to Al-Mu'alimi, female students stay home instead.

"If the government would provide special schools for girls, many would come, but thus far, we can only counsel and make parents aware of the importance of educating their daughters," Al-Ghashimi said.

"The Education Ministry could give us a bigger budget to improve the education sector, to equip our schools with bathrooms, laboratories, etc. We don't even receive books at the right time and many times, they ignore us," Al-Shadhowi complained.

### Unqualified teachers can't properly educate students

Another major problem in Hajjah is unqualified teachers sent by the Ministry of Education. "Honestly, the teacher graduates the Education Ministry sends us aren't qualified at all, which is why we're trying to train them," Al-Ghashimi remarked.

"At first, we took into account the number of teachers, whether they were qualified or not, but now we only care about the quality of teachers in order to benefit the students better," Al-Mu'alimi said.

Since 2003, the Education Ministry's national strategy for teacher training and improving female education has trained more than 8,000



Hajjah governorate has approximately 1,360 schools in general, with 970 elementary schools, of which 760 are coeducational, teaching boys and girls together. Because many Hajjah schools are coeducational, this often prevents parents from sending their girls to school.

teachers in Hajjah's 31 districts, according to Al-Mu'alimi. In seeking to increase female access to education, the strategy targeted 20 districts in the governorate.

With GTZ's help, the national strategy is due to be completed in 2015 in accordance with the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, according to Al-Mu'alimi.

"The most important thing is teachers' skills," Noman pointed out, noting that many teachers had problems, such as difficulty preparing subjects before class, inability to solve students' problems and control the class, in addition to how to develop and improve themselves.

"The first training was 12 days each in science and Arabic," said Hamoud Al-Kuhlani, head of Al-Jadid School, adding, "They also taught the teachers how to deal with students."

"We as a program are watching the teachers to see whether they are doing well or not," Noman said, noting, "The teachers meet together in the governorate every three months to discuss and share their experiences." The meetings are staggered so that all 8,000 meet every three months.

"The project will finish this October and then we'll start another program," Lengnile said, adding that it has cost approximately \$1 million.

"We [GTZ] have trained 1,200 elementary teachers in 450 schools eight districts, choosing two mountainous areas, two coastal areas and four central areas," Noman explained, "We've also involved the communities themselves in participating with the school and encouraged parents to allow their

daughters to attend school in order to receive an education."

As Lengnile points out, "Following the national and GTZ training programs, most teachers have begun paying more attention to their students and the teaching style also has changed for the better."

"The training was very successful for all of us. Also, the parents' council that was established is participating with teachers and schools to improve students' future," Ali Al-Ja'afali, social worker at Al-Jadid School, said.

"The parents' council receives advice [from GTZ] to promote sending their daughters to school and allowing them to complete their education," Lengnile added.

### Background of the education program

"At first, we worked in two governorates - Ibb and Abyan - since 1996, focusing on health and environmental education," Lengnile explained, "Then, from 2002, it became the Basic Education Improvement Project."

The project is an agreement between Germany and Yemen, and was at the request of the Yemeni side, according to Lengnile.



Approximately 60 percent of Hajjah area children don't attend school, most of whom are girls



Since 2003, the Education Ministry's national strategy for teacher training and improving female education has trained more than 8,000 teachers in Hajjah's 31 districts.

# Child migrants return to tell their stories

By: Alia Ishaq

Ahmed\*, who is from Mahwit, looked like he was 12, but claimed to be around 17 or 18 years old. He was very excited to tell his story. "I went to Saudi Arabia three times already!" he began.

Ahmed left his family after experiencing problems with his neighbors, who had told his father that he had stolen money from them.

After getting in trouble with his father, he decided to leave, following the advice of friends who convinced him. "A man from our village went to Saudi Arabia and told us he earned a lot of money, which he keeps in the bank, so we automatically thought we'd do the same," Ahmed explained.

There are no official statistics recording how many Yemeni children annually leave home in order to cross the Yemeni-Saudi border, nor any studies to determine the reasons for their departures. Some travel because of family troubles, while others go to Saudi Arabia to eke out a living, although they earn only a small amount of money and face much danger.

However, in the past few years, Saudi Arabia has stopped accepting

these child migrants, instead returning them to two Yemeni reception centers where the children await their parents to pick them up, if they show up at all. One center is in Haradth on the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and the other is in Sana'a.

After a long journey with an anonymous truck driver, the children reach Haradth, where smugglers take them across the border. "Just before the border," Ahmed recalled, "the smugglers told us to get out of the truck and walk behind the check point so the police wouldn't be able to see us," after which they met up with the children again at the main road and took them to Jeddah.

Once there, Ahmed and his friends went to live with Ahmed's cousin, a legal resident of the kingdom working as a shopkeeper. "There were around 10 of us living with my cousin, who told each of us to find a job," he explained, noting, "Some of us were lucky to find jobs as construction workers, but I wasn't lucky at all."

Ahmed couldn't find a job and spent his days looking for a job as a construction worker like his friends, but without success.

He said police sometimes would show up unannounced at his cousin's house, so the fugitive boys would have to hide themselves. "It was scary!

We'd jump out of the windows and run away; we got hurt many times," he said.

After getting bored with doing nothing but chewing qat (which according to him, he got from qat traffickers in Saudi Arabia) and becoming further indebted to his cousin, who allowed him to stay on, Ahmed decided to return home.

He went to the Yemeni Embassy and told them his story, but surprisingly, some employees there advised him to stay. However, Ahmed was determined to leave, so he was returned to Yemen three days later.

The second time, he sought work in Saudi Arabia for two days before getting caught by the police, who threw him in jail for a few hours and then returned him to the Haradth receiving center.

The third time, he walked with friends across the border with no water, but was caught immediately after crossing illegally into Saudi Arabia. Although he knows it's dangerous to be smuggled illegally into another country, he says he may consider going again anyway.

Ali\*, a self-proclaimed 16-year-old from Hodeidah who looks like he can't be more than 12, said his journey to Saudi Arabia actually saved him from his abusive father. "He used to beat me



Every day, hundreds of Yemeni children between the ages of 9 and 18 find their way to the vast frontiers leading to Saudi Arabia, some accompanied by smugglers or relatives.

all the time; I don't know why," he said sadly.

Ali made the journey on his own, without the help of a smuggler or even a friend. "I went to Haradth square [a checkpoint for all buses and taxis traveling between Hodeidah and Haradth] and then went with a truck driver who took me and another boy all the way to Haradth," he explained.

That boy whom Ali met in the truck helped him get a job at a car wash

owned by a Yemeni man in Saudi Arabia. His job, which lasted only two days because he was caught by the police and sent back to Yemen, paid him the equivalent of YR 400 per day. Ali now is living at the Sana'a reception center and refuses to return to his abusive home situation.

Nobody knows where children like Ali and Ahmed will end up. The reception center is supposed to be a temporary residence for the children until

their parents show up.

Abdullah Al-Hamadi, director of the Sana'a reception center, notes that the shelter offers food, activities, sports and literacy training for some and schooling for others to catch up with their peers. However, he adds, "We were promised that a new residence for such children will begin operating, but we don't know when."

\*These names have been changed to protect their identities.

# VACANT POSITIONS

## Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Combating Exploitative Child Labor in Yemen

### Position Summary:

The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer reports directly to the Program Director (PD) and has overall responsibility for the successful implementation of CHF program monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system in-country to track activities and deliverables.

The M&E Officer is the point person for all M&E and Reporting activities, both within CHF and our local partner organizations.

The M&E Officer is responsible for developing and maintaining a comprehensive M&E Plan and Direct Beneficiary Monitoring System (DBMS) that is accurate and provides practical knowledge to inform CHF and USDOL management and counterparts. The M&E Manager will constantly assess and evaluate the current status of all aspects of the program's M&E, and will make concrete recommendations for improvement.

The program will focus on withdrawing and preventing children and/or youth from exploitative child labor through direct education and training opportunities. The goals of the program include:

1. Raise awareness on exploitative child labor and the importance of education for all children and mobilize a wide array of actors to improve and expand education infrastructures;
2. Support research and data collection on exploitative child labor
3. Strengthen country capacity to combat exploitative child labor and promote education;
4. Promote long-term sustainability of efforts to combat exploitative child labor

### Position Responsibilities:

#### Manage Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:

- Work with program staff, partners, and donors to carry out, evaluate and update the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

#### Manage Data Collection & Analysis Process:

- Finalize the direct beneficiary monitoring system (DBMS)
- Manage data collection logistics, entry, and analysis
- Design and adapt CHF International's research tools to monitor system performance and evaluate the appropriateness and relevance of the approved intervention strategies, including advice on research methodology, sampling design and multi-variant statistical analysis;
- Analyze and interpret data to make recommendations for program adjustment based on lessons learned, needs, and priorities;
- Develop quality assurance strategy, particularly to monitor M&E process of local implementing partners.
- Manage relevant research studies, including hiring of local firms, consultants, review of studies, and finalization of studies pending final approval by the Program Director

### Coordination:

- Support the design and management of effective information flows to, from and within CHF and its implementing partners, and ensure awareness of key planning and performance deadlines.
- Monitor and coordinate implementation of partner organizations' M&E activities to ensure timely and accurate reporting;
- Review and analyze surveys and studies conducted by CHF and other program partners, and stakeholders; act as a focal point for co-ordination of joint assessments conducted in collaboration with other partners and prepare reports on the findings and implications.

### Reporting:

- Coordinate with, train, and oversee local partner staff to ensure

accurate, thorough, and useful reporting of project activities and impacts, both internally and externally;

- Produce regular required program implementation reports to donors and CHF/HQ for approval by PD prior to submission;
- Provide monthly reports to PD on implementation progress, success stories, and to alert them to potential problems and risks;
- Coordinate with CHF/HQ Knowledge Management & Evaluation Unit to ensure that best practices are incorporated and lessons learned from program evaluations inform future program selection, design and implementation.

### Guidance and Capacity Building:

- Provide technical advice, guidance, and coaching to program staff for incorporating appropriate M&E systems into projects/proposals based on needs, donor requirements, resources, and capacities;
- Build capacity of partners to develop/strengthen and implement M&E systems and data collection tools;
- Prepare training materials and conduct or facilitate the training of CHF staff and partners on general design, monitoring and evaluation concepts, skills and tools.

### Qualifications:

1. Advanced degree in education, international development, statistics, or a related field required
2. Experience using quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methodologies required
3. Experience in database management required
4. Experience in indicator selection required
5. Knowledge of USDOL GPRA indicators preferred
6. At least 3 years experience progressively responsible for M&E of international development projects, such as child labor, education and training, or other relevant experience in strategic planning, performance measurement, indicator selection, database management, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methodologies, and knowledge of GPRA.
7. Previous experience managing local staff preferred
8. Demonstrated ability to build the capacity of the project team and partner stakeholders in strategic planning and performance measured highly preferred
9. Knowledge of exploitative child labor issues preferred

### Foreign Language Required:

Fluent in spoken and written English. Working knowledge of Arabic preferred.

## Program Director, Combating Exploitative Child Labor in Yemen

### Position Summary:

CHF International seeks an experienced Program Director to supervise a multi-million dollar program to address exploitive child labor issues and educational needs for children withdrawn from exploitive child labor in Yemen. The Program Director will be responsible for overall implementation of the program in line with US Department of Labor and CHF standards. The program has five major goals:

1. Withdraw and prevent children and/or youth from exploitive child labor through direct education and training opportunities
2. Raise awareness on exploitative child labor and the importance of education for all children and mobilize a wide array of actors to improve and expand education infrastructures;
3. Support research and data collection on exploitative child labor
4. Strengthen country capacity to combat exploitative child labor and promote education;
5. Promote long-term sustainability of efforts to combat exploitative child labor

### Position Responsibilities:

- Oversee program management and implementation.
- Ensure the timely, successful, and cost effective completion of program deliverables.
- Ensure the program complements existing efforts by liaising with international NGOs, local NGOs, ILO, federal government ministries, and other donor and international organizations with related activities in education and child labor prevention and eradication
- Mentor local staff to increase their capacity to run and implement programs.
- Provide technical and strategic guidance to local partners
- Serve as program liaison to CHF headquarters, local NGOs, other implementing partners, implementing units, and international donors.
- Provide financial management oversight, budget analysis, and budget recommendations to CHF headquarters.
- Assist in program development and proposal preparation.
- Hire and manage local staff, as program requires.
- Ensure a successful working relationship with local partners and local authorities.
- Prepare required progress reports to CHF headquarters, funding organizations and program partners, as required.
- Maintain the integrity of the overall mission, as well as CHF's mission and goals.
- Uphold and enforce CHF policies and procedures.

The duties listed above are not inclusive of all position duties at CHF International. CHF reserves the right to change and update position description at any time.

### Qualifications:

1. Advanced degree in education, international development, or a related field required
2. Experience managing child labor and/or complex basic education projects in developing countries in areas such as: education policy; improving educational quality and access; educational assessment of disadvantaged children, and M&E of basic education projects required.
3. Experience working with officials of ministries of labor and/or education preferred.
4. Must have knowledge of exploitative child labor issues and experience in the development of transitional, formal, and vocational education programs for removed children.
5. 10+ years of program management experience.
6. Previous work experience in the Arab world or Yemen specifically highly preferred.
7. Previous management experience on USDOL programs preferred

### Foreign Language Required:

Fluent in spoken and written English. Working knowledge of Arabic preferred.

## Education Specialist, Combating Exploitative Child Labor in Yemen

### Position Summary:

CHF International seeks an experienced Education Specialist to provide leadership in developing the technical aspects of the project in collaboration with the Project Director.

The program will focus on withdrawing and preventing children and/or youth from exploitative child labor through direct education and training opportunities. The goals of the program include:

1. Raise awareness on exploitative child labor and the importance of education for all children and mobilize a wide array of actors to improve and expand education infrastructures;

2. Support research and data collection on exploitative child labor
3. Strengthen country capacity to combat exploitative child labor and promote education;
4. Promote long-term sustainability of efforts to combat exploitative child labor

### Position Responsibilities:

1. Provide strategic guidance to the Project Director and implementing partners to improve the quality of interventions
2. Lead development of annual work plans related to direct educational services for children and the improvement of basic education in the target country
3. Provide strategic guidance to relevant ministries and national level policy makers on how to improve educational services in country and reduce child labor
4. Design and provide technical guidance for activities that complement basic educational services for children withdrawn from or prevented from entering exploitative child labor, including psychosocial support, teacher training, and curriculum development.
5. Design and provide technical guidance on awareness raising activities for community stakeholders (including parents, community leaders, and employers) that promote the importance and benefits of education.
6. Provide technical guidance on how program approaches can be modified to increase sustainability and ensure continuation of interventions after the program closes
7. Assess the educational needs of target areas and target schools to design interventions that address major gaps in educational services

### Qualifications:

1. Advanced degree in education, international development, or a related field required
2. At least 5 years experience in basic education projects in developing countries in areas including student assessment, teacher training, educational materials/curriculum development, educational management, and educational monitoring and information systems.
3. Understanding of child labor issues, particularly the specialized needs of children withdrawn from exploitative child labor when they enter/return to school, and/or have experience working with this target population required
4. Experience working successfully with ministries of education, networks of educators, employers' organizations, and trade unions or comparable entities required.
5. Previous work experience in the Arab world highly preferred.

### Foreign Language Required:

Fluent in spoken and written English. Working knowledge of Arabic preferred.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV's and applications by mail to

CHF Yemen@gmail.com

(Please type the position title in the subject box)

Learn more about the above positions:

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## INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

### WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS PROGRAM II – LOT 1: PROJECT TOWNS OF JA'AR AND ZINJIBAR, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The above Project is jointly financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and the Republic of Yemen through the Local Corporation for Water Supply and Sanitation Abyan. The Local Corporation, intends to prequalify contractors for three (3) Contract Packages for the following:

#### Contract Package 1:

##### Water Supply and Sewerage System Ja'ar

Drilling and equipping of one new deep well (capacity: 10 l/s; depth: approx. 60 m); Re-equipping of 6 well chambers; Replacement/Extension of water supply network (DN 50 - 300, length: 113.4 km); Installation of new chlorination units; Construction of new Reservoirs (200 m\_ elevated tank, 600 m\_ ground reservoir); Procurement and installation of approx. 2,600 water meters; Installation of house connections including lateral lines and inspection pits etc.; Procurement of various light and heavy duty equipment; Extension of the sewerage network (DN 200 to DN 450, length: approx. 30.6 km); House connections (DN 100 to DN 150, length: approx. 30.0 km); Manholes: 900 units; Inspection chambers: 4,160 units; Provision of building materials and planning support for cesspit construction

#### Contract Package 2:

##### Water Supply and Sewerage System Zinjibar

Re-equipping of 6 well chambers; Replacement/Extension of water supply network (DN 50 - 400, length: 120.3 km); Installation of new chlorination units; Rehabilitation and construction of new Reservoirs (200 m\_ elevated tank); Procurement and installation of approx. 1,400 water meters; Installation of house connections including lateral lines and inspection pits etc.; Procurement of various light and heavy duty equipment; Extension of the sewerage network (DN 200 to DN 450, length: approx. 17.8 km); House connections (DN 100 to DN 150, length: approx. 17.8 km); Manholes: 460 units; Inspection chambers: 1,740 units; Provision of building materials and planning support for cesspit construction

#### Contract Package 3:

##### Transmission Main, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Main Pumping Station including Force Main

Main transmission Sewer from Ja'ar to MPS, DN 600, length: approx. 17.0 km); Main Pumping Station (MPS); Q = 250 m<sup>3</sup>/h; Hman = 75.0 m; Force main from MPS to WWTP (DN 300, length: approx. 7.0 km); Wastewater Treatment Plant (stabilization ponds, 35 ha, incl. drying beds and operational building); Operation and Maintenance of the plant for one year after issuing the Taking Over Certificate

Pre-qualification will be governed by the KfW's 'Guidelines for Procurement of Supply and Work Contracts under Financial Cooperation with Developing Countries'. Pre-qualification documents may be purchased upon payment of a non refundable fee of US\$ 200.-.

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Applicants may submit applications for pre-qualification for any number and combination of the three Contract Packages, a separate application should be submitted for each Contract Package. Applications should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the above address on or before **7th June 2008** and be clearly marked as follows: "Application to Prequalify for Water Supply and Sanitation in Provincial Towns Program II, Lot 1 Project Towns of Ja'ar and Zinjibar, Contract Package No. (1, 2, or 3 as applicable)". Two hardcopies (original and one copy) plus one digital copy on CD of the completed prequalification documents should be submitted for each Contract Package.

## أعلان عن تأهيل المقاولين لمشروع مياه ومجاري المدن الثانوية – البرنامج الثاني للمشروع بتمويل مشترك من الحكومة الألمانية من خلال البنك الألماني للاعمار وحكومة الجمهورية اليمنية من خلال المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي محافظة أبين

تدعو المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي محافظة أبين المقاولين لتقديم بيانات التأهيل للمشروع المذكور أعلاه لعدد ثلاث مناقصات حسب الآتي:

#### مناقصة رقم 1:

##### شبكة مياه وصرف صحي مدينة جعار وتشمل:

حفر بئر مياه جوفية بعمق تقريبي 6٠ م وتركيب جميع المعدات الخاصة (إنتاجية البئر حوالي ١٠ لتر/ثانية). إعادة تجهيز آبار مياه جوفية عدد ٦. استبدال وتوسيع شبكة المياه أقطار من ٥٠ الى ٣٠٠ ملم بطول تقريبي ١١٣.٤ كم. بناء وحدة كلور. بناء خزان خرسانتي للمياه سعة (٢٠٠ م<sup>٣</sup>). بناء خزان خرسانتي سعة (٦٠٠ م<sup>٣</sup>). تزويد وتركيب حوالي ٢٦٠٠ عداد مياه. تركيب وصلات منزلية شاملة الخطوط وغرف التفتيش واي اعمال او معدات ضرورية اخرى. تزويد جميع المعدات الثقيلة والخفيفة الضرورية. توسيع شبكة الصرف الصحي للاقطار من ٢٠٠ الى ٤٥٠ ملم بطول ٣٠٠.٦ كلم. تركيب وصلات منزلية أقطار ١٠٠ و ١٥٠ ملم بطول تقريبي ٣٠ كلم. توريد وتركيب مناهل عدد ٩٠٠ مانهول. توريد وتركيب غرف تفتيش عدد ٤١٦٠ غرفة. توريد مواد لبناء حفر صماء وتزويد الاعمال الادارة والاستشارية للانشاء

#### مناقصة رقم 2:

##### شبكة مياه وصرف صحي مدينة زنجبار وتشمل:

إعادة تجهيز آبار مياه جوفية عدد ٦. استبدال وتوسيع شبكة المياه أقطار من ٥٠ الى ٤٠٠ ملم بطول تقريبي ١٢٠.٣ كم. بناء وحدة كلور بناء وتاهيل خزان للمياه سعة (٢٠٠ م<sup>٣</sup>). تزويد وتركيب حوالي ١٤٠٠ عداد مياه. تركيب وصلات منزلية شاملة الخطوط وغرف التفتيش واي اعمال او معدات ضرورية اخرى. تزويد جميع المعدات الثقيلة والخفيفة الضرورية. توسيع شبكة الصرف الصحي للاقطار من ٢٠٠ الى ٤٥٠ ملم بطول ١٧.٨ كلم. تركيب وصلات منزلية أقطار ١٠٠ و ١٥٠ ملم بطول تقريبي ١٧.٨ كلم. توريد وتركيب مناهل عدد ٤٦٠ مانهول. توريد وتركيب غرف تفتيش عدد ١٧٤٠ غرفة. توريد مواد لبناء حفر صماء وتزويد الاعمال الادارة والاستشارية للانشاء

#### مناقصة رقم 3:

##### خط الناقل، محطة ضخ مياه عادمة شاملة لخط الضخ، محطة معالجة المياه العادمة وتشمل:

خط ناقل لمياه الصرف الصحي من جعار حتى محطة الضخ بقطر ٦٠٠ ملم ويطول حوالي ١٧ كلم. محطة ضخ مياه عادمة بسعة ٢٥٠ م<sup>٣</sup>/ساعة. خط ضخ بطول ٧ كلم وقطر ٣٠٠ ملم. محطة معالجة المياه العادمة بمساحة حوالي ٣٥ هكتار (معالجة طبيعية) شاملة احواض تجفيف ومبنى الادارة. صيانة وتشغيل محطة المعالجة لمدة عام من تاريخ الحصول على شهادة حسن التنفيذ استتم عملية التأهيل بناء على الشروط المرجعية لبنك الاعمار الألماني. يمكن الحصول على وثائق التأهيل مقابل مبلغ ٢٠٠ دولار امريكي غير مرتجع. استلام الوثائق يكون بشكل شخصي مع رسالة تفويض.

مكتب دورنير شنابدر الاستشارية  
خور مكسر، حي أكتوبر  
عمارة العطاس  
الطابق الثاني، شقة رقم ٥  
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مدير المشروع من قبل المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي/ م. أبين  
لانتهاب المهندس جمال الصيادي  
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مدير المشروع من قبل الشركة الاستشارية  
نقال: +٩٦٧ ٧٣٤ ٣٠٨٨٢٢  
بريد الكتروني: georg@dr-veits.com

يحق لكل مقدم تقديم اوراق التأهيل لمناقصة واحدة فقط او اكثر بحيث يتم تقديم اوراق التأهيل لكل مناقصة على حدى. يتم تقديم الوثائق لكل مناقصة بمغلف منفصل ومحكم الإغلاق. يجب ترويس المغلف باللغة الانجليزية  
Application to Prequalify for Water Supply and Sanitation in Provincial Program II,  
Lot No. 1 Project Towns of Ja'ar and Zinjibar, Contract Package No. (1, 2 or 3 as applicable)

يجب ان يتم تسليم نسختين ورقيتين (واحدة اصل والاخرى صورة) ونسخة الكترونية على قرص مضغوط لجميع الوثائق المقدمة.



# Yemen LNG Company

# الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال



## Yemen LNG Company ... Robust Commitment to Social Responsibility

Yemen LNG is currently constructing a natural gas liquefaction plant on the coast of Balhaf, Shabwah, as well as a 320 km pipeline to connect the gas processing facilities in Block 18 in Marib to the liquefaction plant. The construction is currently involving around 10,000 people both in Balhaf and along the pipeline.

In a continuous effort to build a world-class company, the Company places social responsibility high on its agenda. Inherent within this commitment is the careful attention to mitigate and minimise any possible impact in the first place, whether to population, wildlife or the environment. Where harm cannot be fully redressed, Yemen LNG is committed to undertake measures to offset the impact to international standards.

As part of our social responsibility through our environmental and social management plans, Yemen LNG has built a breakwater off the shore of Jelaah village, 10 km West of Balhaf. The breakwater aims to offset impact on local fishermen who are no longer able to use the Balhaf bay due to its dedication to the project. The breakwater is 750 m long and can accommodate typically 225 fishing boats, thereby protecting fishermen from the strong sea conditions of the monsoon.





# C for censorship

**Egypt's Morality Police has confiscated a new graphic novel, Metro, by Lybian-born artist Magdi El-Shafee, claiming it offended public morals.**

By ALEXANDRA SANDELS  
www.menassat.com

It wasn't long after Magdi El-Shafee had toasted the publication of his new adult graphic novel, Metro, that his publisher was raided last week by Egypt's increasingly active Morality Police, Shoorta el-Adaab. Although the police apparently had no court order or even identification, they proceeded to seize all copies of Metro, accusing it of

offending public morals. "They turned the place upside down. It was a complete mess," Naira El-Sheikh, a spokesperson for the Dar El-Malameh publishing house, told MENASSAT, adding that the police also seized samples of other Malameh publications and a number of authors' contracts. Allegedly, the police also ordered booksellers to deny all knowledge of the book and to delete any relevant data from their computers.

**Stirring the pot**  
Billed as the first adult graphic novel in Arabic, Metro is set in modern Cairo and portrays a young man's struggle with the social, economic and political problems of his country. The book's main character is Shihab, a young software designer who has been forced into debt by corrupt officials. To solve his problems, Shihab decides to rob a bank with his friend Mustafa and ends up finding himself trapped in a story of financial and political corruption.

Magdi El-Shafee believes that the Morality Police pulled the plug on his publication because of its "touchy" and morally sensitive content.

"Metro stirs the pot because the story is published in a free speech manner. It contains modest sex scenes and a few comic political illustrations", he told MENASSAT.

Dar El-Malameh is not just any publishing house. It is run by former political activist and blogger Mohamed El-Sharqawy who was infamously kidnapped in May 2006 and subsequently sodomized and tortured by members of Egypt's state security police.

El-Sharqawy was arrested again at the beginning this month together with dozens of other activists who were involved in the April 6 street protests against rising commodity prices and low wages. El-Sharqawy was released from detention only on last night, April 21, after having spent two weeks at various Cairo prisons, including the same one in which he was tortured two years ago.

**'Annoyed and bitter'**  
But according to Malameh spokesperson Naira El-Sheikh, who is also El-Sharqawy's fiancée, El-Sharqawy was nowhere close to the street protests when he was arrested. He was fixing a flat tire on his car at El-Sheikh's home in a Cairo suburb.

"He was never even near the event. They detained him right outside my building," she said.

El-Sharqawy is currently in good shape but he is very tired as a result of going on a hunger strike during his detention, El-Sheikh said. And even though he was supposedly arrested as part of the April 6 protest, he said he was also interrogated about Metro prior to his release.

Meanwhile, author Magdi El-Shafee is about to get all tangled up in Egypt's

legal system. He has been told that he faces charges of "harming the public harmony" and "tarnishing [the reputation of] political figures."

When we spoke to him yesterday, he was disgusted and angry over the seizure of his book.

"I am annoyed and bitter," El-Shafee said. "It is shameful that a book is confiscated in this manner in the 21st century. I never imagined that it would go

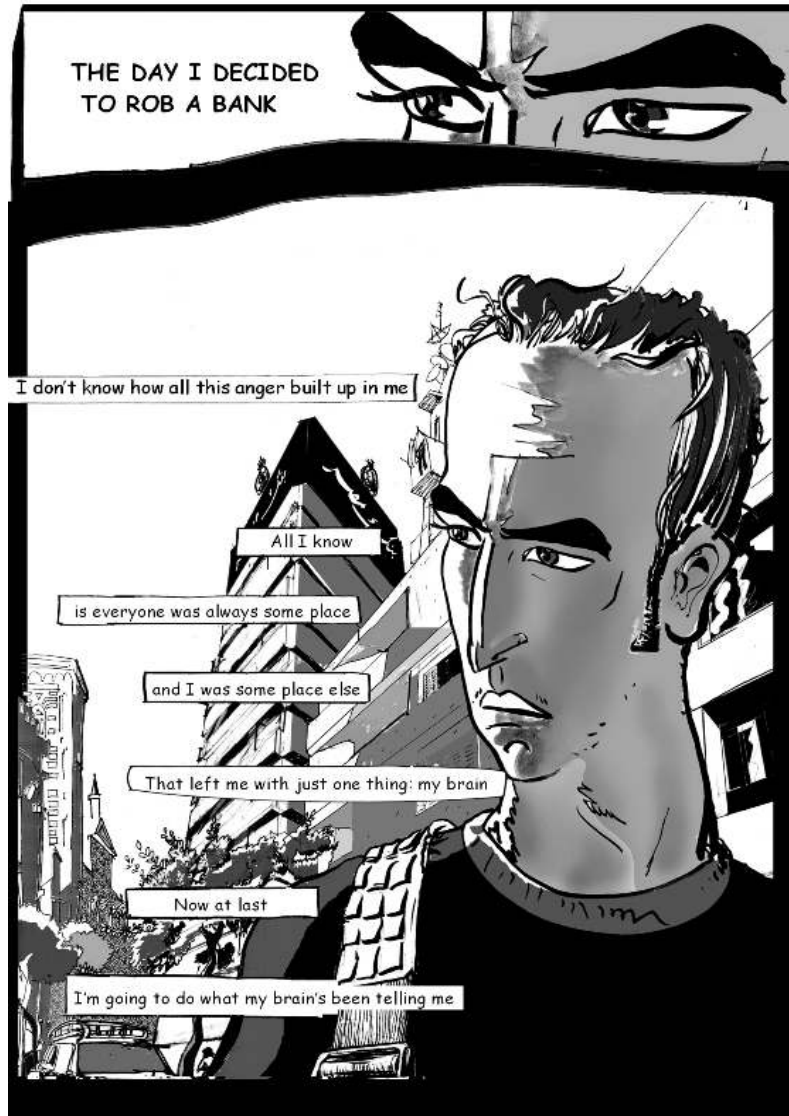
this far." Rights groups have condemned the incident, saying that last week's raid tempers with Egyptian law.

The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (HRInfo) said in a statement that Metro's confiscation is "a severe violation of freedom of expression" and that it is illegal under Egyptian law for the Morality Police to search a publishing house without a court order.

Egyptian activists are currently gearing up for another day of protests on May 4, marking President Hosni Mubarak's 80th birthday.

"The situation is critical in Egypt at this moment. The tensions are increasing every day," Mina Zekry, Program Director at HRInfo, told MENASSAT.

(Magdi El-Shafee's website is at www.magdycomics.com. Excerpts of his work can also be seen at Words Without Borders.)



## So history goes

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, WAN asked Li Datong his views on the press freedom situation in China.



Li worked for 27 years for the national newspaper China Youth Daily as a reporter, editor and managing editor. His career was cut off in 1989, when he led more than 1000 reporters in the Capital in addressing the CCCPC (Central Committee of the Communist Party of China) regarding the reform of the China's press system. As a result, he was dismissed from his editor position for 5 years.

Li's post was reinstated in 1995 and he launched the Bing Dian (Freezing Point) weekly. In 11 years, Freezing Point published feature reports that widely reported every realm of contemporary China and touched many controversial topics. Freezing Point's influence on its readers was quite remarkable. At the end of January, 2006, Freezing Point was shut down by the authorities and Li was once again dismissed from his chief editor position and prohibited from editorial work. He continues to live in China.

As the Chinese Communist Party was about to wrest power from its nationalist Kuomintang opponents, noted journalist and editor Chu Anping observed that while under the Kuomintang freedom of the press was a matter of more or less, under the Communists the question would be if freedom of the press would even exist. This prophecy came true soon after the Communists formed their government in 1949. In the early 1950s a democrat cautiously asked Mao Zedong what would have happened to Lu Xun, who Mao held in great esteem, had he survived. Mao answered "He would be silent, or jailed."

The imprisonment of Hu Feng, the anti-rightists campaign of 1957, the fall of Peng Dehuai in 1959 and even the Cultural Revolution - freedom of speech has been stripped from China's intellectuals, its people and even from within the Party. This caused not just tens of millions of deaths, but also ignorance among both the Party and the people.

In 1978, China was forced to 'reform and open up' and Western influences again made themselves felt. The concept of freedom of speech began to spread and China's journalists no longer considered themselves to be "the mouthpiece and tool of the Party." The majority now wish to report the truth about China and leave an accurate record for history. These efforts have started, and continue, to come into both public and private conflict with the traditional press mechanisms of a one-party state. Meanwhile the explosive growth of the Internet in China has revolutionized the free spread of information.

The overall trend is for news reports to have greater freedom, and critical commentary in the media is becoming more common, more incisive and more courageous. There is unprecedented open opposition to the closing of newspapers or the banning of books by Party authorities, and control over debate is being forced into the shadows due to a lack of legal or moral justification. Meanwhile the Party has been forced to publicly announce safeguards for the common global values of the right to information and free expression.

So history goes. Those who flow with it will prosper, while those who fight the tide die in their struggle. I believe that in no more than twenty

years China will see fundamental reform, and freedom of the press will be fully realized. This will be a long wait for any one individual, but for history it is a mere moment.

Source: www.wan-press.org



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## Words of Wisdom



At this juncture of human history, the lies of politicians have hit record levels. It may be that the lies of politicians have been at about the same level throughout history, but that now we are more aware of them given the extent of information flow. Even if that were the case, I contend that Yemeni politicians are working hard to hit the Guinness Book of Records in this aspect.

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

OUR  
OPINIONNationalizing  
the MDGs

A few weeks ago, I had a very gloomy picture of Yemen's development progress compared to what I thought we are supposed to achieve according to the Millennium Goals Yemen committed to in 2000. However, through a training course by the UNDP's regional office and the Bahraini Ministry of Social Affairs, I realised that our concept and understanding of the MDGs are not accurate. If we were to take the first goal relating to poverty reduction; which includes the reduction by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day, there are two ways of looking at it. The first, it either means each country around the world is to half the number of its poor people, or we could focus on a few heavily populated countries and eliminate the poverty in them. For example, India and China alone consist of half the world's population and if those two countries improve the situation of its poor, the world in general would have achieved the first millennium development goal. Statistically it would be correct to say that the world's poverty has been reduced by half although it was only reduced in two countries.

The other question is why one dollar? And if we were to really check who lives these days under one US dollar a day in Yemen for example, we would find very few people, because one dollar which is almost equivalent to 200 Yemeni Riyals, is very less money. And considering the prices, it would be safe to say that one-dollar could only buy one light meal and nothing else. My estimation is that there are less than 7 percent of the people living under 200 Yemeni Riyals a day in Yemen. But does this mean that if we decrease this number by half we have achieved the first goal?

And what happens in those countries where there is no poverty, like Bahrain where there is literary no one living below 1 dollar a day, should they cross that goal from their checklist and say that they do not need to work on poverty since there is no poor people according to the UN's definition?

What about the other development goals? What if we as Yemen don't want to work on the environment goal, number seven, which ensures environmental sustainability? What if we want to work on decreasing growth rate as a goal instead?

The answers to all those questions are there in the Millennium Development Agreement, which is a more general framework from which the eight goals and their indicators were developed.

The idea behind developing the MDGs is to create tangible, measurable goals that are common in the developing world. There is a concept relating to the MDGs that most of the leaders in the developing world do not realize fully. In Yemen, we complain about not being able to achieve the goals, while what we should do is examine whether these goals are what we need to achieve with the targets and indicators given. There is something called the national poverty number which is a translation of the one dollar poverty indicator in reality. And hence, the measurement of poor people would be based on how many people are living below the poverty national line defined by each country according to its living standards.

Also since Yemen is a poor country with limited resources we can breakdown the goals to objectives that could be achieved. So instead of halving poverty how about reducing it by 20 percent by 2015?

There are many things that our decision makers and intellectuals should keep in mind while planning development goals. Rather than beating ourselves for not achieving the international goals, we should create a national achievable version and translate it into strategies and work on development in line with the world, but by our own terms.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Contemplating on Arab-Islamic  
development obstacles

By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

How a serious examiner of the Arab-Islamic situations is likely to progress amid a spacious forest of darkness and through a path full of risks, which are the result of standing secondary disputes over minor ambitions. How it is possible for such an examiner not to turn sad or not to cry while realizing that situations of this Umma, which is capable to be the best one, is going from bad to worse, and the experiences of its peoples culminate with devastating failure.

The worst thing is that the tribulation of this nation and the reasons for its disputes are clearly traceable back to the very beginning of the Islamic Nation's appearance in the effective human theater and after this nation was armed with the divinely knowledge and spiritual signs that can not be dispensed with under any circumstances.

The just caliph Omar Bin Abdulaziz determined the prominent reasons behind deterioration of the Arab-Islamic Nation, by saying: "This nation has the same God, the same Prophet and the same Holy Book, but Muslims differ with each other

in the dinar and the dirham." This famous saying applies to the situations of the Islamic Umma since the age of the just caliph up until the moment when Muslims found themselves extremely engaged in sharp disputes over the dollar and other currencies.

Undoubtedly, all of them are Muslims, believe in Allah, recite the Holy Book and bear witness that Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) is the only messenger of Allah.

They have no differences over such great facts, but disputes emerge over the earthly affairs and gains, and this is the primary reason behind the fragmentation of Muslims, who never reach a consensus on their daily issues. The behavior of Muslims makes one bear in mind that they belong to different religions without any uniformed principle or logic.

No wonder that this conflict, which has terribly proliferated, got sharper and become the key challenge in the lives of Muslims irrespective of their variable lands and systems, is primarily responsible for Muslims' weaknesses.

It is this conflict that attracted junior and senior enemies to occupy the Islamic soil and produce the western Zionist entity, which is dominating the holy

shrines of Muslims and splitting the Palestinian brothers.

Additionally, this conflict is the main reason behind the Zionist dominance over the Aqsa Mosque and excavation of trenches around it, as well as fencing it.

Conflicts over material gains and power between contemporary leaders of sects made one billion and half a billion of Muslims under a direct or indirect foreign occupation in their homelands without an exception.

Frankly speaking, the caliph Omar Bin Abdulaziz said the right thing about the Islamic Umma as Muslims differ with each other over material gains, but they believe in the same God, the same messenger and the same Book.

Certainly, this will remain the primary concern of Muslims until they manage to discover the real reasons behind their differences and disputes, as well as their fragmentation and internal conflicts.

They will also remain ruled and not rulers, importers and not exporters, and followers and not leaders. They will have no foreign forces to lend a hand in helping them overcome their persisting issues because they themselves decline to overcome their indecency, which is caused by the dirham and the dinar.

As evident through any prudence excerpted from studies of the real-life situation and experiences of peoples, all the standing situations will never help change what is inside the human souls, nor may they reduce destructive chaos and excessive engagement in earthly gains.

Turning point in international  
development:

Issues of Islamic and international development took center stage at the 2002 (UN-sponsored Johannesburg Summit, but the Middle East was virtually ignored in favor of partnerships with Africa and Central Asia. Indeed for the Middle East and other Muslim countries, issues of development and modernization have acquired new urgency in the context of transnational terrorist networks rising in the region.

The current war on terrorism, conducted by the United States in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, does not address the underlying sense of alienation among the Middle East's unemployed youths, who provide support for terrorist networks.

Sustainable human development in the region thus represents the ultimate solution to regional instability and to swelling

support for terrorism. Policies pursued by the United States under the administrations of US Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush adversely impacted regional conditions; even if the countries in the region achieve self-sustainable human development, continued US confrontations with Iraq and support for Israel at the expense of the Palestinians will surely aggravate the underlying conditions for terrorism.

The situation in the Middle East can be characterized as a new clash of globalizations that frames the processes of development and modernization in much of what used to be called the Third World.

Pressured to undergo extensive political and economic reforms, states in the region are caught between the imperialistic impulses of a neo-conservative Bush administration and other, apparently more benign, multilateral proponents of globalization, such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and United Nations.

Meanwhile, some of the more radical Islamist opposition parties stand pitted against any such reform-oriented forces.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

Gubernatorial appointments  
under the cover of elections

By: Abdulhazef Al-Faqeeh

A democratic state is usually based on a social contract (Constitution) between the government and people, and under this contract, the ruler acts as a representative of the people. When the ruler contravenes the nation's Constitution or effective laws, people are entitled to depose him via free and fair elections.

Under the Constitution, people are the source of powers since they select their president in a free and direct election, as well as elect Parliament members, governors, district directors and local councilors. Peaceful transfer of power is a basic principle in notably respected constitution while a ruling party may one day be an opposition party as such depends on its performance and popularity that vary from time to time.

The nation's Constitution must be respected by all. So a ruling party should not shape or interpret the constitution the way it wants, or according to its mood, in order to ensure its stay power. This fact is very evident in the Arab regimes, as one hardly finds a ruling party respecting the nation's Constitution and any effective laws.

When it comes to the Yemeni

context, the authority gives a top priority to violating the Constitution and laws, as well as amending them in order to extend stay of the ruling party in power, retain the same majority of seats in Parliament or appoint governors under the cover of formal and unrealistic elections.

The Constitution has turned to be 'dough' at the hand of the ruling party, thus shaping it however it wants and whatever it wants. This party spoiled the Constitution, which must not be amended except under a critically urgent circumstance and according to a consensus to be reached by all political partners and forces in the nation.

Amending the Local Authority Law for the sake of governor elections is the clearest evidence of the ruling party's disrespect to the Constitution and dishonesty, as well as its being apathetic to fulfill its electoral promises and implement an initiative it made for producing local governance with broad powers. Even worse, those claiming to back the ruling party and its government were shocked at the shameful result of amending the Local Authority Law.

Amending the relevant law, Parliament added a condition that candidates applying for governor posts must be registered voters in the same governorates where they want to run for governor. On the second day, Parliament nullified

such a condition in order to allegedly maintain the 'higher national interest'. If a gubernatorial candidate is not a registered voter in the same governorate where he is running for governor, which local governance is this?

After Parliament voted for the

proposed legal amendments, the ruling party learned that most of the current governors are not registered voters, which is why it insisted on nullifying such a condition in order to shape the relevant law in favor of the current governors. The result will be gubernatorial appointments under

the guise of elections.

What unjustly happened to the Local Authority Law provides clear-cut evidence that the majority of Parliament members are directed by a remote control device.

Source: Al-Ahali.net



By: Samer

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**Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)**  
Tuesday, May 6, 2008

**Top Stories**

- Wheat's price decreases by 40 percent in world countries except for Yemen
- NUPO warns of shaking national stability
- JMP Higher Council organizes open sit-in protesting against arbitrary security arrests
- Up to 50 people killed, other dozens injured in two-day clashes between army and Houthis
- Qaeda claims responsibility for attacking Italian Embassy in Sana'a
- President Saleh imposes names of governors on ruling party's branches in governorates

The successive scenes of the ruling party's comical play with regard to gubernatorial elections are reflecting how big the crisis and confusion are in Yemen, the weekly reported in a front page article. It added that the ruling party's permanent committee approved a list of gubernatorial candidates, which President Ali Abdullah, also Chairman of the ruling General People Congress (GPC), made earlier. This list distributes gubernatorial posts to military and tribal personalities that are due to take jobs under the guise of formal elections.

According to the weekly's sources, the notable media rumor and momentum, invented by the ruling party and promoted by the official media outlets

regarding the allegedly available actions within GPC, as well as the discussions in its regional offices to determine the final list of eligible governors to take jobs under the cover of formal elections, are merely an attempt to show the international community that there is effective democracy within the ruling party.

An official source in the ruling party confirmed that determining candidates for the potential gubernatorial election, in which the ruling party competes with itself, has to do with desires of President Saleh only, thus not considering the desires of party leaders. The party's permanent committee is merely mandated to formally approve a list of gubernatorial candidates suggested and determined by President Saleh.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source disclosed that Saleh faced great difficulty selecting candidates for gubernatorial posts, particularly in the governorates of Aden, Hadramout, Abyan, Lahj, Shabwa and the capital city.



**Al-Methaq.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party)**  
Tuesday, May 6, 2008

**Top Stories**

- Religious clerics call on all Yemeni people to resist all those attempting to harm national security and stability
- Anti-Corruption Authority unveils corruption cases worth YR 20 billion

- Up to 107 candidates made bids for governor until Monday
- General Committee approves GPC candidates for gubernatorial elections
- European Commission praises decision to elect governors

The European Commission team in Sana'a praised on Saturday the decision to elect governors in Yemen. Inaugurating the European Week in Yemen, European Commission Representative declared that his commission supports the idea of electing governors because it is one of the wise steps taken by Yemen towards decentralization and local governance with broad powers.

He wished that gubernatorial elections will be characterized by transparency and integrity in order to help achieve the required results in a just and equal opportunities manner. The European official pointed out that the European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) would participate in observing parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2009.

Activities of the European week in Yemen have been inaugurated this week under the motto of "Culture Forum Festival" and would continue up to May 7. The European cultural week includes many activities embodying European cooking week, the European football cup for schools in addition to cultural lectures in European schools to be delivered by a number of European diplomats.

It went on to say that Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar issued an order saying that any executive officials planning to run for governor in the electoral process, scheduled for May 27, must drop their current official jobs, adding that this is a

primary requirement that must be satisfied by all those making bids for governor.



**Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party**  
Thursday, May 8, 2008

**Top Stories**

- JMP Higher Council reminds authority of killing 30 citizens, arresting 487 activists
- Security authorities confirm abduction of two Japanese journalists, say armed men injured soldier
- Presidential committee releases policemen held captive by tribesmen in Lahj
- EC honors Yemeni journalists writing human rights issues

The weekly reported that European Commission launched on Wednesday a press conference on the occasion of annual Lorenzo Natali prize for journalists writing on topics of human rights and democracy in the developing world, adding that it is scheduled that the Lorenzo Natali prize will be granted to Yemeni journalists who defended human rights, democracy and development.

The Lorenzo Natali Prize was established by the European Commission in 1992. It commemorates Lorenzo Natali, a former European Commissioner for Development and a fervent defender of Human Rights. His work and commitment contributed significantly to increase the importance of development cooperation within the policies of the then European

Communities.

On a side note, the paper said that Yemeni Information Minister, Hasan Al-Lawzi, has ordered to not let Alwasat newspaper printed, despite a sentence issued last Saturday annulling the Ministry Information decree of revoking the paper's license. The paper's editor Jamal Amer said that the Information Minister's order is a clear challenge to the court orders, wondering whether the minister is behind the order or another parties.

"If the Ministry of Information is behind revoking the newspaper's license, that means he has become a superpower" the weekly quoted Amer as saying. Amer wished that Al-Lawzi respects the judiciary, praising efforts exerted by the President of Yemeni Journalist Syndicate, Nasr Mustafa, to let the paper printed. Alwasat's license was provoked on charges of issuing publications which was considered by the ministry harmful to Yemen's national unity and its relations with its neighboring countries.



**26 September.net affiliated with the Yemeni Army**  
Thursday, May 8, 2008

**Top Stories**

- Japanese tourists released just hours following their abduction
- World Bank team due to visit Sana'a to assess development plans
- Saleh congratulates his Russian counterpart for assuming top political post in his country
- Thunderbolts kill two in Hajja, wound three in Raima

# A fresh start for China and Japan?

By: Wenran Jiang

Chinese President Hu Jintao will make a high-profile visit to Japan from May 6-10, making him the second Chinese head of state ever to travel there. The trip is being carefully managed by both countries, and is being watched closely around the world, with good reason: Sino-Japanese relations over the past decade have been turbulent, to say the least.

When Hu's predecessor, Jiang Zemin, traveled to Japan ten years ago, bilateral relations were deteriorating: China was unhappy with the Japanese government's refusal to extend the same apology offered to South Korea for past aggression; Japan was worried about a rising China and thus turning more confrontational. The Japanese media's coverage of the visit was overwhelmingly negative, and it was remembered as a public-relations disaster.

aster.

Hu succeeded Jiang in 2002, almost as former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was coming to power in Japan, and encouraged a new thinking in China's Japan policy, which would entail moving away from historical grievances and promoting better ties. But, instead of accepting China's olive branch, Koizumi implemented a more nationalistic agenda, including annual visits to the Yasukuni Shrine, which is regarded as a symbol of Japanese militarism by Japan's neighbors. His hard-line approach isolated Japan and angered China, leading to an outburst of anti-Japanese demonstrations in China in 2005.

But both Japan and China recognize that further tension will serve neither country's long-term interests. Koizumi's successors, Prime Ministers Shinzo Abe and Yasuo Fukuda, have sought to engage China over the past two years, with summits in Beijing and a successful visit by Chinese Premier

Wen Jiabao to Japan last year.

Hu's trip is likely follow the example set by Wen. He will emphasize common strategic interests, highlight mutual economic benefits, generate positive public opinion, and promote further exchanges. Japan is not only one of China's largest trade and investment partners, it is also the most powerful neighbor with which China wants to be on good terms, partly to showcase that China's rise is not a threat to Asia and the rest of the world.

Japan, whose economic recovery is attributable largely to its deepening ties with China in recent years, is also eager to demonstrate that it regards China not as a threat but as an opportunity, at least in economic terms. It was 30 years ago that former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, the father of today's prime minister, signed a Peace and Friendship Treaty with China. The two governments will certainly use Hu's visit to celebrate the anniversary with new programs designed to

enhance bilateral understanding and friendship.

But, unlike three decades ago, when the Japanese regarded China as one of their most favored countries, public opinion in both countries nowadays registers more negative feelings than positive ones. Behind the smiles, the polite interactions, and the cautiously worded diplomatic language, strong undercurrents of suspicion remain.

One problem is the disputed waters of the East China Sea. Despite new joint projects in energy efficiency and environmental protection, areas in which China ranks Japan as the best performer among industrialized countries, the two sides remain in bitterly divided over these territorial waters, which contain huge potential oil, gas, and other mineral deposits. Even after many rounds of talks, no resolution is in sight, and Hu's visit is not expected to produce any breakthroughs.

Then there are strategic suspicions. Fukuda has dropped Abe's talk about

a march of freedom in an effort to forge a bloc with the United States, Australia, and India. But Japan remains concerned about China's rapidly modernizing military, while China worries about a potential US-Japan containment strategy for China, especially in the case of a crisis in the Taiwan Straits. So, although both sides endorse the idea of a mutually beneficial strategic relationship, and despite progress bilateral on military exchanges, mutual trust and confidence-building have a long way to go.

Moreover, today's warm politics, cool economic trend is the reverse of the cold politics, warm economic pattern under Koizumi. Last year, Japan's committed investment projects in China fell 24% from 2006, while actual investment volume decreased by 25%, partly owing to regulatory changes in China regarding foreign investment. Recent food safety issues, such as the poisoned dumplings cases, have clearly heightened the

Japanese public's sensitivity about Chinese exports.

Finally, historical issues could still resurface to cause new problems. While Fukuda has made it clear that he will not visit the Yasukuni Shrine, 160 other parliamentarians paid homage at the site last month, an indication that conservative forces in Japan remain strong and that future prime ministers may not abstain from visiting Yasukuni. And Japan has so far failed to live up to its treaty obligations to clean up between 700,000 and two million chemical weapons that were abandoned in China by the Japanese army at the end of World War II, another potential flash point if any of these weapons causes casualties in China.

*Wenran Jiang is the Acting Director of the China Institute at the University of Alberta and a senior fellow of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.*

# Europe by degrees

By: Giuliano Amato

A year ago, few people would have bet that the European Union, still reeling from the trauma of the Constitutional Treaty's rejection in 2005, would be poised to ratify the new Reform Treaty, adopted in Lisbon last December. For some, the fact that the United Kingdom might ratify it even earlier than traditionally "pro-European" countries like Italy merely underscores the Treaty's lack of new and bold initiatives to accelerate European unification. But they are wrong.

To be sure, impatient dissatisfaction has been a driving force behind

European integration since its initial years. But, as Robert Schuman wrote in his Declaration in 1950, Europe could not be built all at once. Likewise, Altiero Spinelli, another of the EU's founding fathers, wrote late in life that without visionary Europeans there would be no Europe, but without pragmatic statesmen, the visionaries would have gotten nowhere.

The Reform Treaty's shortcomings are obvious. Abandoning the name "Constitution" was probably necessary to bring all member states on board. But not equally necessary is the enduring uncertainty about the common political platform upon which Europe's voice in foreign policy will have to rely. Moreover, the Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice still requires unanimity for essential

decisions in the fight against crime and terrorism and therefore, implying excruciating slowness. Nor does the Treaty do enough to strengthen coordination of Europe's economic and budgetary policies.

But it is equally obvious that, as the European Parliament's Resolution of February 20 puts it, "the Treaty of Lisbon is a substantial improvement on the existing Treaties, which will bring more democratic accountability to the Union and enhance its decision making." The adoption of EU legislation will be subject to a level of parliamentary scrutiny (both at the European and national levels) that exists in no other supranational or international structure.

Moreover, agencies such as Europol and Eurojust will be similarly subject

to greater parliamentary scrutiny, and the budgetary procedure will be simpler and more democratic. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights will become legally binding and the judicial protection of citizens will be enhanced by facilitating their access to the European Court of Justice and by extending the Court's jurisdiction. The Union's capacity as a global actor will be enhanced by merging the High Representative with the Commissioner for External Relations and establishing a single diplomatic service.

The list could continue, but we already have reason enough to conclude that getting the best out of the new Treaty will be the best that the EU and its member states can do. The first ingredients of a common collective identity have been injected into the

EU's enlarged membership, which is still marked by diverse positions, sensitivities, and expectations. Asking everyone to do more than what everyone is unanimously ratifying would undermine Europe's fragile harmony.

Nothing, however, prevents smaller groups of member states from aiming at bolder goals through separate agreements, if their mutual trust and similarities encourage them to do it. After all, this was how the Schengen Treaty - which later became part of the *acquis communautaire* (the body of EU law) - came into being. More recently, the Prun agreement has elevated police cooperation to police integration among the participating states.

There is reason to hope that some of the EU's member states will embark on

this venture in fighting crime and terrorism, defense matters, or in financial and budgetary harmonization. In whatever area, a group of more deeply integrated member states would give the Union a *noyau dur* (a hard core), which might be very helpful in strengthening the EU as a whole. But let them do it separately, and in the meantime let the Union be energized by the improvements that it has already adopted. Fifty years later, this is the lesson for us of the Schuman's declaration.

*Giuliano Amato, a former Prime Minister of Italy, is Chair of the Action Committee for European Democracy (www.eui.eu/RSCAS/Research/ACED). Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.*

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## Today's American: How Free?

Has America sacrificed its essential values in the war against terror? Has it lost its moral clarity and ability to lead the world by example on issues of freedom and democracy? Freedom House, whose annual survey of freedom around the world has called dictators and despots to task for decades, turns its full attention to the United States for the first time in its new study *Today's American: How Free?*, due to be released on May 2nd, 2008.

The answer is not only important for Americans, but for everyone around the globe influenced by the world's only superpower.

Several elements of President George W. Bush's counterterrorism effort—such as the monitoring of domestic telecommunications and the detention and interrogation of suspected terrorists—have drawn criticism from both the public and civil libertarians and have been contested by the nation's courts. At the same time, racial inequality and an overburdened justice system present challenges that have been ongoing throughout America's history.

Yet America remains home to some of the world's freest press and continues to provide a level of religious freedom that is unparalleled around the globe. Despite a heated and polarized national debate over illegal immigration, America con-



tinues to remain a coveted destination for immigrants from poor and wealthy countries alike.

True to Freedom House's hard-hitting analyses of political rights and civil liberties in other countries, *Today's American* pulls no punches on highlighting the real deficiencies affecting the freedom of many Americans. In so doing, the book looks at America's current challenges both in the context of how they compare to those facing other liberal democracies in the 21st century, as well as to how they have fared throughout America's brief history.

"Today's America: How Free? is a timely and incisive assessment of the contemporary deficiencies of American democratic practice as well as the enduring strengths of its political system. Freedom House has applied the same keen, independent, analytical eye to the United States as it has done to the entire world over the years. The result is a vital resource for the reform and improvement of democracy in America, and an effective reply to those who allege that American advocates of democracy abroad don't take a critical look at their own system."

**Mike McCurry, former State Department and White House spokesman**

"This is an honest, balanced analysis of American democracy. Its comprehensive nature, global comparisons, and historical context make *Today's American: How Free?* an essential document in the dialogue over the American future."

**Francis Fukuyama, professor, The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and author of *America at the Crossroads***

"For America to advance democracy abroad, we need to acknowledge our

Its central conclusion, that today's American remains quite free despite serious problems and challenges, is neither an endorsement of the current administration's record, nor an indictment of the serious and often valid claims of its detractors. Rather, it is an acknowledgment of the strength and resiliency of America's major institutions in responding to trying to address enduring inequities. As such, the book provides the basis for an educated dialog between individuals from all sides of the ideological spectrum. *Today's American: How Free?* is a thoughtful and compelling depiction of the state of individuals' freedom in the United States and is a must read for everyone who believes that freedom matters.

"Freedom House has produced excellent annual assessments of the state of political rights and civil liberties worldwide, so it is appropriate at this juncture in our nation's history that this respected organization turns its attention to the matter of freedom in the United States. Only by ensuring the liberty of our own institutions and practices can we serve as an honest exemplar to -- and critic of -- other nations."

- **Former Congressman Tom Lantos, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs**

"Freedom House's comprehensive and timely look at the state of freedom in the United States reveals that despite our flaws, the self-correcting nature of the American democratic system is continuously at work. *Today's American: How Free?* will be an important tool in efforts to engage other peoples in a global dialogue on freedom"

**Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), Co-Chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus**

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on the demise of his father

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Deadline for application: May 20<sup>th</sup> 2008

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الأسيفون:

كافة موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز

# DDT use discussed at national workshop

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

In cooperation with the World Health Organization, Yemen's Public Health and Population Ministry along with the National Malaria Control Program kicked off events for the National Workshop on DDT Reporting held in Sana'a May 6 and 7.

The workshop's main objective was to raise awareness among all concerned government health and agricultural sectors as well as other development fields in charge of importing, storing and using pesticides in Yemen.

The 30 participants representing various governmental sectors reviewed several topics, including a regional overview of vector-borne diseases and judicious use of insecticides. They also discussed reports on pesticide management and regula-

tions, as well as using DDT alternatives.

The workshop came out with a number of recommendations, summarized as follows:

- setting up a special high committee concerned with pesticides
- focusing on the role of media in increasing public awareness about the hazards of using pesticides in agriculture or any other fields
- asserting the effective role that coast guards should play in inspecting and detecting the smuggling of such chemicals
- enhancing inspection campaigns in the markets in search of banned pesticides
- establishing all cautionary measures in this regard and advising the public about the probable dangers in using pesticides in general

Dr. Adel Al-Jasari, director of

Yemen's National Malaria Control Program, notes that DDT currently isn't available in Yemen and hasn't been on the Yemeni market since its importation was banned in 1990.

Before that time, he explained that DDT was used between 1981 and 1990 to fight anopheles mosquitoes, the main cause of malaria. However, since then, he says Yemen has remained completely DDT-free for the past 18 years.

The Yemeni government prohibited importing the pesticide in compliance with the Stockholm Convention to control DDT use in the world.

Al-Jasari highlighted that this workshop sought to stir up the joint work of concerned ministries and other sectors involved in this issue in order to develop a mechanism for proper and more organized use of pesticides in Yemen in general.

The director further asserted that Yemen no longer will need to use DDT in the future, despite the fact that the Stockholm Convention permits its restricted use in only one instance - to fight malaria - and must implement precautionary procedures, including a mechanism to detect and report any other use of DDT. Yemen has begun utilizing DDT alternatives, which have proven to have no risk to human health.

Al-Jasari points out that Yemen's success in controlling and managing pesticide use is attributed to its ongoing cooperation with WHO, further noting that Yemen is receiving necessary support and assistance from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Additionally, Yemen has an effective cooperation scheme with neighboring Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states in terms of mechanisms to combat malaria.



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Yemen no longer will need to use DDT in the future, despite the fact that the Stockholm Convention permits its restricted use in only one instance - to fight malaria

Year	No. of villages	Population	Population protected	No. houses sprayed	No. rooms sprayed	Surface area sprayed	DDT used 75% wdp gm
1988	167	-----	31261	6677	17439	871950	2585840
1989	167	30110	29604	6519	17339	953645	2821000
1990	171	35396	34929	7144	19738	1030590	3137400

Source: National Malaria Control Program

# Changing weather patterns pose challenges for agriculture

(IRIN) Yemen's agricultural sector faces challenges as a result of changes in rainfall patterns and an extended low temperature season in recent years, experts say.

"Normally, the rains start in March, which was not the case this year or in the past few years. The rainy season has not started [and this] will affect agriculture dramatically," Anwar Abdulaziz, head of the Climate

Change Unit at the General Authority of Environment Preservation, told IRIN.

"Yemen is still experiencing cold weather conditions, although the temperature is expected to be higher at this time of the year," he said.

A March 2008 UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report on the Near East said: "Yemen is particularly at risk because of its existing

low income levels, rapidly growing population and acute water shortage."

Climate change is affecting three main spheres in the country - water resources, agriculture and coastal areas, according to Abdulaziz. "We worked on a plan to adapt with climate change and focused on priorities in these three areas. We put forward a number of procedures that could help these sectors adapt with climate change," he said.

Citing examples of adaptation in each sphere, Abdulaziz said: "The programme suggested building small water catchments and dams to preserve the rain that falls in desert areas and increase groundwater [levels]. The water can be used in times of drought for irrigation purposes. It recommended building breakwater systems in areas prone to high levels of sea water, and preserving mangrove trees and planting them in new areas to protect coastal areas [from flooding]. Terraces were also one of the suggested procedures to avoid soil erosion."

In April, Yemen hosted the Least Developed Countries Fund, a body set up under the auspices of the Global Environment Fund and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to help least developed countries adapt to climate change. "We presented Yemen's work plan during this meeting and await the experts' feedback," Abdulaziz said.

### Cold weather

"Cold weather... has delayed the ripening of fruit that should be on the market by now. This might decrease production by 25 percent. Most affected are figs, mangoes, apples, quinces, guavas, dates, grapes and pomegranates.

These fruits are important for food security and limited quantities go for export," Mansour al Aqil, director-general the General Department for Agricultural Information at the Ministry of Agriculture, told IRIN. "Around 50 percent of prunus tree blossoms were destroyed and this will affect production rates," he said.

According to the Agricultural Statistics Report 2007, Yemen had 1.3



Khat is cultivated on 136,138 hectares of land in Yemen

million hectares of irrigated land in 2006, of which 661,152 hectares depended on rainfall for irrigation. Sorghum was planted on about 453,000 hectares of land, millet on 82,276 hectares, maize on 65,890, and wheat on 27,745 hectares.

### Sorghum not yet planted

Sorghum is planted in all areas... and is used in rural areas as the main grain for producing bread," Al Aqil said. "Sorghum is usually planted in April with the advent of rain. So far, farmers have not planted sorghum and will have to replace it with maize if rain falls in May. But this will be no substitute because sorghum is used as grain, fodder, fuel and as a raw material for building shacks for people living in rural areas - 73 percent of Yemen's 21.7 million population," he said.

According to him, 52 percent of Yemen's workforce (9.8 million according to the 2004 census) works in agriculture.

Item	Hectares	Production
Sorghum	453011	401843
Khat (qat)	136138	147444
Millet	112955	82276
Wheat	110709	149173
Maize	43301	65890
Barley	36985	27745
Mango	23436	345265
Dates	13774	50090
Grapes	12544	117580
Almond	4746	8547
Pomegranate	2499	23270
Peach	2366	11277
Apple	2129	18728
Apricot	733	1509
Guava	581	3714
Fig	445	4569
Quince	231	1263

Source: Agricultural Statistics Report 2007

Irrigation sources	Hectares
Rain	661152
Wells	429182
Floods	148172
Streams	35347
Dams	19142
Tank on car	15650
Other	634
Total	1309279

Source: Agricultural Statistics Report 2007

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# Despite censorship, EU film festival will run for 12th time

By: Sarah Wolff

The conference for the upcoming 12th annual European Film Festival, to be held in Sana'a, Aden and Sayoun, revealed the tribulations behind the festival's organization, with sparks flying between European Union (EU) member state representatives and the censorship division of the Ministry of Culture.

The representative of the Ministry of Culture, Jamal Majam, spoke along with representatives from participating countries including Italy, Poland, France, Germany and an attaché from the European Union about the difficulty of selecting, acquiring and dismissing films for the festival at the French Cultural Center in Sana'a on Saturday.

Eight films from across the European Union and Turkey will be shown in Aden, Sana'a and for the first time, in Sayoun, all at the end of May through the beginning of June. The films, which will be shown in Sana'a at the Yemeni Cultural Center, are free and open to the public. Because of scheduling conflicts at the YCC, the exact dates have been changed a number of times.

Films such as award-winning "The Lives of Others" from Germany and "The Queen" from the United Kingdom were chosen for their ability to convey the attitudes and ideas about contemporary Europe to all types of Yemeni audience members – young, old, families and singles. However, the Ministry of Culture's Director of Censorship reviewed and censored all of the films, ensuring that audience members won't be able to decide what they think of the films for themselves, nor will they see them in their original form as they were intended to be viewed.

Majam added that the films "should be



The 12th annual EU film festival will be shown in Aden, Sana'a and for the first time, in Sayoun.

censored" in order to "take care of some ideas." When Majam was asked why the public can't decide for themselves about the films' content, he maintained that his ministry had a responsibility to voters to protect them from any images or perspectives they might find unacceptable. "We are responsible for Yemeni voters," he said. "We can't make everything permissible." He also said that next year, each participating European country should select two to three films that his ministry could choose from.

The commercial attaché from the European Union (EU), Barbara Engelstoft, remarked that the European countries were happy to oblige the Ministry of Culture when it came to

deleting certain scenes but said that she found it disappointing that two films were completely rejected by the Ministry of Culture. "We make a strong effort to find films that are acceptable to Yemeni and Muslim cultures," said Engelstoft. "We'd like to see a further accommodation of our culture in Yemen too."

Two films, one from Spain and one from Italy, were rejected. Italy was able to obtain the rights to show the Oscar-winning film, "Life is Beautiful (La Vita E Bella)" but the Spanish delegation was unable to get another movie in time and will not show anything at the film festival.

The Italian film that was rejected, called "Once You're Born You Can No Longer Hide (Quando Sei Nato Non Puoi Più Rasconderti)," deals with a young well-to-do boy who is saved from a yachting accident by a boat of refugees immigrating to Italy. According to private organizational documents for the event obtained by the Yemen Times, the Ministry was "really worried about by everything related to religion," and thought that the film "deals with religion, [and] it doesn't give a good image of the Arab and Muslims." However, there is no mention of religion, Arabs or Muslims in any of the reviews available for the movie.

The Spanish film that was rejected, called "Iberia," is about the tradition of flamenco dancing in the Andalusia region of Spain. According to the same internal documents, the film was rejected because it features "only dance and a lot of women almost naked and some of them are dancing with 'hijab'."

Both film have been lauded by the international film community and received numerous awards for their portrayal of their respective societies. Neither of the films received criticism by

Islamic organizations, nor was there any demonstration against them by the European Muslim community.

Additionally, the Oscar-winning film from the United Kingdom, "The Queen," will likely have numerous scenes cut out, though there was no specific reason listed in the documents obtained by the Yemen Times. "The Queen" won raves for its portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II's struggle to connect with her subjects during the week after Princess Diana's death in 1997.

## Film is a valued form of expression in Yemen

The French embassy is this year's host of the festival since France currently holds the EU presidency. The director of the French Cultural Center, Joel Dechezlepretre, praised the film festival for its longevity and cultural importance while also reiterating that the French Cultural Center remains a permanent partner with the Yemeni Ministry of Culture. Dechezlepretre said that there would also be a short explanation of each film before its premiere in Yemen and added that in future he would like to present accompanying lectures about the cinematic traditions of each country.

The Ministry of Culture does, however, recognize the value of film as a medium and Majam said that the government donated over US \$100,000 to help support burgeoning Yemeni documentary films. The ministry plans to show of 10 documentary films made in Yemen sometime during winter 2008 on the themes of heritage, the relationship of tourism to culture and the socio-political and cultural links between the EU and Yemen.

Italy, France and Germany in particular are involved with supporting Yemeni film, and Frank Werner, the German cultural attaché attending the conference,

said that Germany is cooperating with the Ministry of Culture and working on establishing a base for film production in the country. "We're sending a German expert to help set up film and cinema structure in Yemen," said Werner, "to help Yemen to become a part of the international film community."

The EU representatives said that it is much harder than it seems to obtain rights to the movies for these for public viewings. Werner said that the films have to meet three important criteria: to be contemporary and address issues in European society, to have Arabic subtitles and to be appropriate for Yemeni sensibilities. After the film passes these three standards, the legal rights to show the film in public for free must be attained. "It is not easy for all of us," said Werner. "We have to obtain the commercial rights to show the film."

European Union legal directives concerning copyright law specify that authors have the exclusive rights of distribution to the public of their works or copies of their work. Governments, private companies and citizens must obtain the rights to show to the films from their

authors. Without these permissions, the various EU embassies and organizations participating in the film festival would be subject to lawsuits.

## Censorship out in the open

"You know we have censorship," said Majam. "We have many sick people that we are facing," he said, as an explanation why his ministry censored or rejected certain films.

The Yemeni government has often used cultural mores and national unity as an excuse to censor various types of material. This includes banning of Al-Jazeera television network from filming protests in southern governates earlier this year and blocking access to websites. Such blocked websites include Yemenportal.net, a search engine affiliated with the ownership of this newspaper, Maktoob.com, a web host for thousands of blogs, and Armiesofliberation.com, a website that is frequently critical of the government. Yemen is currently ranked at a lowly 143 out of 169 countries in Reporters Without Borders' most recent Worldwide Press Freedom Index.

## Put yourself in her shoes

On Labor Day 2008, Human Rights Watch calls attention to Lebanon's domestic workers who are still denied the most basic rights. With the slogan, 'Put yourself in her shoes,' the NGO hopes to enlist the support of the Arab media in order to better the lives of Lebanon's nannies and housemaids.

By Simba Russeau  
www.menassat.com

Wednesday's press joint conference by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Lebanon's Insan Association and Caritas was entirely in Arabic. A deliberate choice, explained Human Rights Watch's Nadim Houry.

"The press conference was specifically geared towards the Arab media as an appeal to Lebanese employers, recruitment agencies and the Lebanese government to ensure that these women are protected by law," said Houry.

"We have to find some allies in the media to help change mentalities through the way they cover the issue of migrant workers."

Domestic workers' wages in Lebanon average between \$100-250 per month. They work up to 110 hours a week with no off days.

"In two years no day off," said Amelia Cortez, a 25-year old domestic worker from the Southern Philippines.

"I ran away from my Madame because she's not good. She locked me in the house. Every night she locked the door and every day she watched what I am doing. She didn't want to give freedom to me."



Elsa and her Madame: there are close to a million foreign domestic workers taking care of 4 million Lebanese. © Simba Russeau

### Kafala

Traditionally, Lebanese households employed young Lebanese women – mainly from poor rural areas –, Palestinians, Syrians or Egyptians as domestic workers. These days, such work is rarely done by Arab women, who view it as degrading and instead leave it to the migrant workers who often have to accept poor working and living conditions and low wages.

16-year old Elisa is from Ethiopia. Her mother died last year, and 6 months ago she came to Lebanon to work and send money home to her family. Awakened daily at 5.30 a.m., she was subjected to 18 hours of backbreaking labor without any time off. For \$100 per month, she maintained five houses every day.

"When I started work with this family I was sexually abused all the time by the father of my employer," says Elisa.

"The kids would beat me everyday and I would try to explain to Madame but she wouldn't do anything. Sometimes the father would come to sleep with me and threaten that if I refused he would beat me. So I left the house."

In Lebanon, labor laws generally do not cover migrant workers because they are considered servants not employees.

Instead they are covered under the Kafala or sponsorship system, which

states that women must have a legal sponsor for the duration of their contracts. One result of Kafala is that the migrants become completely dependent on their employers and vulnerable to abuse.

"For those women who face abuse it's tough because they carry the pain with them and keep working," says Linda from Nigeria.

"It helps if you have employers who understand the pain in leaving your families."

### Passports confiscated

Lebanese employers typically spend up to \$3000 in fees to recruitment agencies in order to secure a domestic worker from Sri Lanka, the Philippines or Ethiopia.

Once the domestic workers arrive in Lebanon, a new agency usually substitutes the contract signed in the workers' home country with a new one in Arabic. Unable to read the new contract, the newly arrived migrants often sign away their rights without being aware of it.

"Now we are working to create a unified contract that is clear for both the employee and the employer and which has to be signed by both parties. One is in Arabic and the other is in the language of the worker," said migration lawyer Roland Tawk.

"We have these agencies that take money and this money is what creates this problem of poor working and living conditions."

Upon arrival in Beirut the employer typically confiscates their maid's passport and other identity papers, which are returned only when the employee is "released" at the end of their contract.

"Employers confiscate the passport in order to protect the money they've invested," said Tawk.

With the slogan, "Put yourself in her shoes," Human Rights Watch is specifically targeting the Lebanese employers in the hope of erasing the concept of the master-servant relationship from their minds.

"Many Lebanese themselves have been forced by wars and hardships to emigrate looking for a better life," said Houry.

"We hope that they will see the parallels with the experience of these migrants that came from far away to care for Lebanese families."

If Human Rights Watch has chosen to target the employers directly it is in part because of the failure of the Lebanese government to address the problem.

"The Lebanese government has failed in protecting the rights of these workers. We have seen official steering committees for the last two years

debate a proposal but they are not getting anywhere," said Houry.

"We can't wait for the current political situation in Lebanon to clear before we start addressing this issue."

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## Decorative stone export is weak despite huge stock

By: Almgidaj Mojalli  
almigdads@yahoo.com

Yemen's annual production of decorative stone, which includes materials such as marble and granite, is estimated at 2.5 million tons and valued at YR 2.13 billion. The country still has a large stock – approximately 4.96 billion cubic meters – of decorative stone, which could make it a promising business, but only if transport and export infrastructure are improved.

Noaman Al-Molsi, general secretary of the Supreme Council for Developing Exports, notes that Yemen exports only YR 850,000 worth of decorative and building stones, whereas it imports more than YR 1 billion in stone.

Ahmed Al-Sheleif, head of the Marble and Granite Exporters Association, attributes the huge gap between import and export trade of stone to weakness of investment in this field. According to him, investment in the field of decorative stone suffers from poor infrastructure, lack of funds to finance quarrying projects and the non-existence of railways that could connect quarries to Yemen's seaports.

As Al-Sheleif explained, "Transporting one ton of stone to the port costs \$20 to \$22, but if we had a rail system, the cost would only be between \$1 and \$2."

The Ministry of Industry and Trade emphasizes that decorative stone is a promising investment opportunity in the field of extraction, adding that most extraction sites are near main roads.

Stone is specified geologically according to how it forms in nature. Yemen has metamorphic stones such as marble and quartzite (not to be confused with the mineral quartz), sedimentary stones like sandstone and limestone and volcanic stones such as granite and basalt.

According to the Trade Ministry, Yemen has 6.1 million cubic meters of granite reserve located in Abyan, Al-Beidha, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Marib, Sa'ada and Taiz governorates. Approximately 121 cubic meters of basalt reserves are located in Dhamar, Ibb and Taiz governorates, while the nation's marble reserve exceeds 1 billion cubic meters.

A geological survey conducted by the General Authority of Mineral Wealth in collaboration with foreign specialists discovered that Yemen's decorative stones are distinctive, with unique characteristics in terms of color and shape, comprising an estimated 600 different types of stone.

According to the geological survey, 22 types of stones are suitable for industrial and building purposes, including limestone and dolomite, which total 13.5 billion cubic meters in Abyan, Amran, Hadramout, Hodeidah, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Shabwa and Taiz gov-



Decorative stones like marble, used here for a new building's decorative entryway, are plentiful in governorates like Abyan, Hajjah and Marib.

ernorates.

Marble quarries estimated at more than a billion cubic meters also have been discovered in the governorates of Abyan, Hajjah, Marib, Sana'a and Taiz, while 13 million cubic meters of crude quartzite is in Hajjah and Sa'ada.

The geological situation of decorative and building stones

A study by the General Authority of Mineral Wealth stated that the most important decorative and building stones are found at volcanic sites covering approximately 40,000 square kilometers throughout Amran, Hajjah, Marib and Sana'a governorates. These

volcanic stones, such as granite and basalt, represent 56 percent of domestic stone consumption.

The second most prevalent type of stone is sedimentary, including sandstone and limestone, which mainly exist in the northern and western districts of Sa'ada governorate.

Yemeni stone has traits not found elsewhere, in addition to more than 15 colors of Yemeni marble and granite. "Yemeni granite and marble are distinguished by their strength and solidity, which is what we noticed while participating in a bid in Dubai against competitors from Syria, Palestine and

Jordan," Al-Sheleif said.

"In analyzing the stones, we found that the age of the Palestinian, Jordanian and Syrian stones was 100 years, while the Yemeni stone was 300 years old," he added.

However, despite its good quality and large reserves ready for extraction and export, Yemeni decorative stone still faces obstacles in the form of export infrastructure and transportation. "It isn't a big problem," Al-Sheleif concluded, "it's just a matter of having export roads [from the quarry] for stones, sand and gravel."

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