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Ruling party wins majority of governor seats amid absent rivalry

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam
SANA'A, May 18 — Yemen's Ministry of Local Administration has announced the results of Saturday's gubernatorial elections in the capital and in the other governorates, with the exception of Al-Dhale' where voting was postponed due to an inadequate quorum of voting staff, which are local councilors who are the only voters eligible to elect governors.
The process was hampered in Al-Dhale' governorate, where the majority of local councilors belong to the Joint Meeting Parties. However, the elections took place the following day, and independent candidate Brigade Ali Qassim Taleb (a local from Dhale') was the only candidate and a former socialist was elected as governor. This is the only governorate where members of the opposition Joint Meeting Parties participated in the elections, however, they did not represent their parties, and represented themselves as independent. According to JMP spokes person, there had been fraud in this process claiming that there should not have been any kind of elections in Al-Dhale' due to the incomplete quorum. Denying that their members could have participated in the voting. In response to this, Ali Saleh Abdullah head of the supervising committee emphasized that there had been no violations, and he is ready to

present the registration and voting cards with the finger prints of the voters.
In a statement released Saturday, the Local Administration Ministry said voter turnout was 87 percent, further affirming that the elections were conducted in safe atmospheres.
The statement revealed the voting results and the names of winners in the capital, where Abdurrahman Al-Akwa was elected mayor, and in the other 19 governorates. The results disclosed that Dr. Adnan Al-Jifri of Shabwa won the post of Aden governor, while former Civil Service and Insurance Minister Hamoud Khalid Al-Sufi was elected governor of Taiz by a majority of local councilor votes.
According to the results, Mohsen Ali Naji Al-Naqeb won the governor's post in Lahj, Ahmad Abdullah Al-Hajeri won in Ibb and Ahmad Ahmad Mohammed Al-Maisari won in his home governorate of Abyan, as did independent candidate Mohammed Nasser Al-Ameri, who won in his home governorate of Al-Beidha.
The statement noted that the following won governor's posts in their home governorates: Yahya Ali Mohammed Al-Amri in Dhamar, Nu'man Ahmad Saleh Duwaid in Sana'a, Ahmad Salem Al-Jabali in Hodeidah, Dr. Ali Hassan Al-Ahmedi in Shabwa, Dr. Salem Ahmad Al-Khanbashi in Hadramout and Ali Mohammed Khawdam in Al-Mahrah.

Likewise, Ahmad Ali Mohsen of Shabwa was elected governor of Al-Mahwit governorate, Farid Ahmad Mujawar, also from Shabwa, won as Hajjah governor, while Hassan Mohammed Manaa won the governor's post in his home governorate of Sa'ada, as did independent candidates Hamad Mohammed Al-Ezzi Abdan in Al-Jawf and Naji Ali Ali Al-Zaydi in Marib, both elected in their home governorates.
According to the ministry's results, Kahlal Mujahid Abu Shawarib of Amran was elected Amran governor by local councilors, as was Ali Salim Al-Khadhmi, who will serve as Raymah's governor.
The Local Administration Ministry declared the postponement of gubernatorial elections in Al-Dhale' due to an incomplete quorum, which is legally required in order for local councilors to vote. In its statement, the ministry said, "According to legal provisions regarding amending the 2000 Local Authority Law No. 4, as well as bylaws concerning gubernatorial election procedures, the ministry will dictate business procedures and rules to the elected governors to follow accordingly once the legal time period for filing relevant challenges – if any – to the competent judicial authorities ends.
In accordance with gubernatorial election procedures bylaws, candidates are entitled to appeal the results of Saturday's voting in any governorate by filing chal-

lenges with a newly formed judicial body comprised of the chair and members of the appeals court in each governorate within 48 hours of the announced voting results.
The relevant judicial body then must discuss any appeals within three days after the deadline to submit challenges, as well as inform the Local Administration Ministry's Supervisory Committee, which is in charge of overseeing gubernatorial elections, about any challenges submitted.
Bylaws concerning gubernatorial election procedures oblige the Supervisory Committee chair to inform the ministry about any challenges as they are filed, as well as any decisions made in their regard.
As many as 6,579 out of a total of 7,484 local councilors elected governor in Yemen's 20 governorates, as well as in its capital city. These local councilors represent voting staff in 21 governorates and 333 districts nationwide. Some 5,461 of the total elected local councilors are affiliated with the ruling General People's Congress, the party with the majority of local council seats in every governorate except Al-Dhale'.
Only seven governorates witnessed strong competition between candidates, while ruling party (GPC) gubernatorial candidates were unrivaled in the other governorates.

State Security Court jails Al-Banna

By: Yemen Times Staff
SANA'A, May 18 — The State security court ordered yesterday the arrest of Jaber Al-Banna, who is on the FBI's most wanted terrorist list.
Prosecutor Saeed Al-Akil requested from Judge Mohammed Al-Hakimi the arrest of Al-Banna, saying the man was already convicted and according to the law, he should be in jail.
Al-Banna made a surprising appearance in February when he attended trial session for him and 22 others charged after a series of attacks on oil facilities this year.
He denied the charges and said he "surrendered to President Ali Abdullah Saleh," then walked out of the courtroom. He attended the second hearing, but the prosecution required that he pay bail before leaving the court. He presented the bail and left the court again.
Political observers believe the decision was taken in response to constant pressure from Washington, which has been heavily pressuring Sana'a to extradite Al-Banna and Jamal Al-Badwi, who was convicted in 2004 of plotting and helping carry out the USS Cole bombing in the port of Aden on Oct. 12, 2000. He received a death sentence in absentia, which was commuted to 15 years in prison.
Washington was very upset by the release of Al-Badwi in October 2007. The Yemeni government, however, said Al-Badwi "was never a free man."
Since his release, the U.S. has demanded his extradition, which Yemen has said is not possible. Yemen's constitution bans extraditing Yemeni citizens to foreign countries.
The U.S. has tried to pressure Yemen in various ways. For example, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. agency that distributes foreign aid



Jaber Al-Banna

based on countries' track records for good government, halted a US \$20.6 million grant to Yemen. Then, it postponed the future forum scheduled for December.
Following the latest attacks on the U.S. Embassy, Italian embassy and a foreigners' housing complex in Sana'a, the U.S. government ordered all non-emergency staff and their families out of Yemen.
Robert Mueller, the FBI director, paid a visit to Yemen on April 9 to investigate the attacks and to renew a request for the extradition of Badwi, according to a source in the U.S. Embassy.
The U.S. State Department report on terrorism in Yemen in 2007 which was recently disseminated has been very critical to Yemen. "Despite United States pressure, Yemen continued to implement a surrender program with lenient requirements for terrorists it could not apprehend, which often led to their relatively lax incarceration," said the report.

Fighting between army and Houthis intensifies amid halted mediation

By: Yemen Times Staff
SA'ADA, May 18 — Fighting between the army and Houthi loyalists became fiercer in the various districts of the governorate and other densely populated

areas between Sa'ada's Haidan district and Harf Sifyan district in Amran governorate, tribal sources said on Sunday, adding that the government authorities cut off communication services in the restive governorate.
The same sources went on to say that the government troops are using different kinds of heavy artillery in the clashes, the reasons for which remain unclear. Official media outlets launched a campaign against the Doha-brokered ceasefire agreement the government and Houthis signed last February, saying it insulted the authority and damaged its status and reputation.
This encouraged the government to be tough in implementing the first five

terms of the agreement, such as releasing detainees, approving compensation for citizens whose property was damaged in the fighting, reinstating dismissed employees and reconstructing villages. The government also stepped up efforts with the aim of helping displaced families return home, and pulled its troops out of citizens' homes and farmlands.
The authority insisted that Term 7 of the agreement with regard to Houthis abandoning their mountaintop positions must be executed in order to help reinforce government rule and silence voices criticizing the government's performance in Sa'ada.
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In Brief

SANA'A

Religious TV channel to be launched in Yemen

Minister of Information Hassan al-Louzi has issued a decree to set up a religious television channel that will be affiliated with the Yemen General Corporation for Radio and Television.

The channel to be named as Aleman, will be managed by special clerics from the Yemeni Clerics Association and supervisors from the ministries of Information and Endowments and Guidance.

It will be dedicated for airing programs that will present Islam and its teachings as well as Islamic and Arabic civilizations.

It will also offer programs that will boost patriotism and loyalty to home and programs on fighting radical thoughts and extremism.

The channel will begin experimental transmissions over the upcoming few weeks.

Jordan princess arrives in Sana'a

Jordanian Princess Wijdan Al-Hashemi arrived in Sana'a on Friday to take part as honorary guest for the Arab Sana'a Meeting for Plastic Art that will be opened on Saturday.

The meeting is organized by the Ministry of Culture.

In her statement to Saba, the princess expressed to Saba her happiness to attend the meeting, adding that it will be chance to exchange experiences and information in field of plastic art.

She added that she would participate a painting within the Jordanian exhibition that will be held on the sideline of the meeting. She was welcomed by advisor of culture minister Hakim al-Aqal and Jordanian ambassador to Sana'a Ahmed Jaradat and other officials in the Yemeni ministry of culture.

HODEIDAH

Pakistani drug shipments seized in Yemen

Security sources said on Friday that a shipment of drug was on board a ship coming from Pakistan had been seized by the authorities in Hodeidah province.

The state-run almotamar.net quoted the sources as saying that the shipment of drug was found inside a paper box hidden inside a container of the ship.

The coastguard forces have seized another Pakistani ship off the coasts of Hadhramout province carrying drug shipments estimated at ten tons of hashish.

The sources affirmed that drug dealers were trying to enter the shipments of drug to Yemen for smuggling to the Gulf states including Saudi Arabia.

ADEN

European Film Festival to be launched in Aden

French Cultural Center in collaboration with German Cultural House in Aden would organize next Saturday the first European Film Festival.

In a statement to Saba, chairwomen of French Culture Center Sarah Delonoe said that the countries Netherlands, Czech, Germany, France, Italy, France, Britain and Turkey will participate in the festival which will last until the May 24. She pointed out to these activities come within the framework of cultural cooperation between Yemen and EU countries in the domains of culture.

AMRAN

SWF provides various training courses for Amran

Social Welfare Fund (SWF) of Amran branch implemented during the last year a number of training courses for SWF beneficiaries which aim to create self sufficiency and implement income-generating projects.

In a statement to Saba, SWF branch manager Mohammed al-Dalwani pointed

out that 505 beneficiaries are trained on various professions and will be granted soft loans estimated at YR 19.3 million.

TAIZ

EC official praises implementation of European projects in Yemen

Acting representative of European Commission to Yemen Michel Cravon highlighted on Thursday partnership between official bodies and local associations to carry out projects of the commission in Yemen.

During his visit to Taiz, the EC official paid visits for these projects which are in fields of health and population, expressing comfort for the work process in the projects which aim to reduce poverty and improve living standard of the citizens in the governorate.

He also got acquainted with the experiment of the council of health development in the governorate and its activities which are supported by the European Union.

Custody case raises questions about rehabilitating abused children

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, May 16 — The Sana'a Appeals Court is witnessing these days harsh sessions to determine the fate of a ten-year-old girl, whose parents appealed to get custody of her back.

Last December, Judge Aferah Badwilan ruled that custody of "T" be taken from her parents and given to an orphanage in Al-Saleh organization. The sentence came after the girl's claim that she had been forced by her father to commit burglary and her accusation that her parents mistreated her, said lawyer Shatha Muhammad Nasir.

According to the sentence, T will spend three years in the orphanage before being released. "Well, we are not treating T as a criminal. We are protecting her from her bad family and any kind of instigation to do bad things. Keeping her away from her family is better for her in order to have a better life," said Aferah Badwilan, the juvenile court judge.

However, T's parents appealed to the court immediately after they heard the sentence. "My daughter is too young to be taken from her family, and I want her back home with me," T's father Saeed said.

On March 18 the appeals court reopened the case to hear the parent's plea.

However, Judge Badwilan stated that "T will not go to her family as long as their treatment of her remains bad. Even after she finishes her period in Al-

Saleh, she will stay there if her parents are not qualified to protect her."

According to Article 24 of the 1992 Juvenile's Law, modified in 1997 by Article 26 of the same law, the government can take custody of a child and give it to another "trustworthy party who can take care of the child."

"We are trying to protect [T] as much as we can by the law, as she is still young and not too late to be changed, and stop her parents to continue forcing her to do illegal things," Badwilan said.

The story

The case began in November 2007, when T went to the police to confess that she was forced by her family to steal her neighbors gold. After she took the gold, she claimed that she was beaten by her father, who refused to give her money or a share of the stolen gold.

The ten-year-old claimed that she felt guilty and "wanted to go to heaven," so she confessed, especially because it was the first time that her parents forced her to steal.

T's father, who lives in Sana'a, denied the charges against him by saying, "I never beat my daughter, and her mother and I never told her to go and steal."

According to Yemeni law, a suspected person cannot accuse another, so for this reason T's testimony against her parents was not acceptable, as there was no evidence against them and no witnesses, said Shatha, who added, "Her parents should definitely be in jail

instead of her because they are the real culprits, but because there is no evidence against them they are free."

The juvenile court and the lawyer agreed that T's parents are not qualified to retain custody of T "as they are forcing her by torture or beating to steal."

"The law intervenes to stop families who mistreat their children or compel their children to break the law by taking custody from them," said Badwilan.

Common illegal activities some parents compel their children into include forcing the child to carry out crimes like stealing, engaging in prostitution, or exposing the child to any kind of sexual abuse.

Parents who force children under 14 into crime are jailed for an average of three to six years, said Badwilan.

"For example, [forcing the child into] prostitution will result in a minimum sentence of five years in jail and will sometimes result in the death penalty, according to Articles 203 and 280 in the juvenile law," noted Badwilan.

However, she pointed out that there is a lack of resources and places that can take care of children who are victims of parental violence and abuse.

"It is time that the government must give some attention to these poor victims. So far there isn't any special program in Yemen for rehabilitating children who are exposed to violence and abuse," she said, adding that there are many cases in Yemen which need to be investigated.

Minister of Interior: Yemen's stability is secured through its unity

SANA'A, May 15 — Rashad Al-Alimi, the Minister of Interior, in a seminar with academics and journalists last week on the occasion of Yemeni Unity, confirmed that Yemen is stable and there are high measures to ensure the security within the country.

Al-Alimi mentioned that solving the border disputes with Oman and Saudi Arabia were the main achievements in the last decade that promoted Yemen's stability in the region.

He added that Yemen's ongoing process of joining the GCC is also another attempt to stabilize the economic conditions and enhance the country's economic, social, political relations with the gulf council members.

He acknowledged the "disturbing acts by terrorists in Sa'ada or other governorates," but said that they do not represent the Yemeni people or the peaceful Yemeni society in any way.

"If they have any political, economic or social agendas there are democratic and institutional ways of expression, as Yemen is a democratic country that encourages plurality," he insisted.

He condemned opposition in the south calling them secessionist and termed them as those who "sold their souls to the devil" and that they will "eventually fail and be exposed in front of the public."

The seminar was organized by the military newspaper 26 September, in cooperation with Sana'a University, under the title "Yemeni Unity: a guar-



Rashad Al-Alimi, Minister of Interior

antee of stability and security."

A number of academics presented papers praising the achievements of Yemeni Unity through increasing the democratic space and the participation of women in the public arena.

Participants insisted that Yemen has been taking the fight against terrorism seriously, and that despite the terrorist incidents the state is in control.

During the week, many similar events are taking place around the republic in celebration and support of national unity, in which high-level officials will deliver public speeches and endorsement keynotes. This Thursday, there will be a celebration of the 18th anniversary of Yemeni Unity, in which President Saleh will hold a reception accepting the congratulations of government officials, diplomats and community members in Sana'a.

At special presentation of Middle East-North Africa report in Sana'a,

World Bank says education in Yemen is nearly the worst in the region

By: Sarah Wolff

SANA'A, May 18 — The World Bank recently held a meeting for Yemeni civil society stakeholders at Sana'a University's Public Information Center to announce the findings from its most recent report, "The Road Not Traveled," which addresses changing problems in the education sector throughout the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region.

Yemen is one of the three lowest performers when it comes to regional education. Currently, Yemen's overall educational profile is perilously close to being the worst, with only Djibouti coming in behind regarding access, equity, efficiency and quality.

Yemen still faces problems with illiteracy and getting children to complete even elementary education, something that was a non-issue in the majority of the region.

Additionally, its low level of public accountability — because the majority of standards and educational expectations are dictated by the state instead of by citizens — made Yemen the absolute lowest scorer when it came to educational outcomes and political accountability.

The region in general is struggling to accommodate its huge youth population and enforces rote learning instead of creative problem solving. The report stressed problem solving as a major factor in bettering education by division: elementary, secondary and tertiary (at the college level).

However, the report stated that there's still hope for Yemen's education sector. The highest per capita income



Yemen is still struggling with illiteracy although there had been significant progress in basic education especially for girls. However, girls enrollment diminishes in higher education because of the conservative culture and traditional norms.

earning countries, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, still came in second in terms of education to lower per capita income earning countries like Jordan and Tunisia. This means that even countries that aren't rich still can perform well when it comes to education.

The WB report originally was presented in Jordan, the MENA region's consistently highest educational performer, on Feb. 4 in Amman.

"Education is central for the future of the MENA region," noted Dr. Marwan Muasher, the World Bank Group's senior vice president of external affairs, at the meeting in Amman. "It plays a crucial role in promoting poverty alleviation and economic growth, both at the national and household levels."

The report urged all countries in the region, but especially low-performers like Yemen, to become accountable to the public and not remain accountable

to the state.

It also identified watchdog and advocacy groups as a necessity for all such countries, exhorting Yemen in particular to strengthen its accuracy, access and transparency regarding information and statistics as simple as student outcomes, attendance, dropout rates and teacher absenteeism because there isn't enough reliable data in Yemen to even make clear statistical studies on these topics.

The World Bank has donated \$787 million in development aid to Yemen. A recent meeting in Sana'a between journalists and several World Bank executive directors revealed that assistance to Yemen has been increasing over the past two years due to its status as a focus area for the bank.

However, Yemen did spend some time out in the cold after corruption and opacity crippled its access to outside development funds, including



those from the World Bank. Aid donors shied away from giving money to a government that pocketed more than it gave to the needy, so financial assistance dried up.

Eli Whitney Deveboise, WB director in the United States, said at the May 13 meeting in Sana'a that there are currently 19 World Bank projects in action in Yemen, pointing out that the bank's highest board has adopted strict anti-corruption enforcements to ensure that loans and aid are distributed as they should be.

However, the executive directors all maintained that distributing the funds is the Yemeni government's responsibility and that the WB only looks at loans and aid from a policy angle.

The World Bank is running a long-term program in Yemen called the Basic Education Development Project, which began in 2004 and will continue until June 2010. The project's goal is to

establish quality basic education in grades one through nine for children of both genders by building new schools, creating more educational access for the rural population, better school curriculums and strengthening the Education Ministry's capabilities.

The project has a special focus on female education, since according to studies by the United Nations and the WB, Yemen is one of the most gender-unequal countries in the world. Only 35 percent of Yemeni women over age 15 are literate, while a mere 5 percent of women in the entire nation stay in school long enough to attain a university level education.

Although Yemen currently is on track to meet the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goal of universal elementary education by 2015, there are still 906,000 primary school-aged children not in school, two-thirds of whom are girls.

Continued from page 1

State Security Court jails Al-Banna

"The Government of Yemen's capacity for stemming terrorism financing remained limited. On November 6, the government presented a terrorism financing bill to Parliament for approval, where it remained at year's end. On August 6, the UN agreed to a study at the behest of the Yemeni government to rescind the 2004 UN 1267 sanctions against Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani, who was associated with promoting and supporting Al-Qaeda. Yemen continued to take no action to bar his travel or freeze his assets in compliance with its UN obligations. Throughout the year, President Saleh continued to voice public support for al-Zindani and his Al-Iman University," the report illustrated

Fighting between army and Houthis intensifies amid halted mediation

The bordering Kingdom of Saudi Arabia showed its support for Yemeni government,

mainly by the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister condemning the Houthis and praising the Yemeni government's pardon of Houthi followers.

Most importantly, the republican guards are involved in the Sa'ada fighting, which means further support for Commander of Northern Military Flank Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, a Salafi extremist, who calls for continuing the war and eliminating Houthis from the governorate. According to observers, the military leader opposes any reconciliation with Houthis.

Media reports said that most of the roads are still blocked due to escalating clashes, specifically on the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway, adding that army personnel are launching offensives in the Matra area, the main Houthi stronghold, and the aftermath of which is still unclear. These offensives coincided with other attacks against Houthi supporters in Harf Sifyan district in Amran, as well as air strikes on Dhehian district, north of Sa'ada city.

The reports from the area claim that Houthis are preparing themselves for a long war in the

Haidan district of Sa'ada, the starting point of the fighting, and added that the army is hunting down Houthis in Bani Hushaish area, east of Sana'a.

The official media said that Houthis may have connections with Thursday's clashes in Bani Hushaish, which claimed several lives and left others injured. According to the official media, Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi was quoted as saying by phone to his older brother Yahya who is currently living in Germany, that he would shift clashes to another area outside Sana'a.

So far, no casualties have been reported on either side. However, thousands of Sa'ada citizens are still displaced, while the Qatari mediation team has suspended its reconciliation efforts. The new presidential mediation committee chaired by Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar hasn't yet begun any effort to contain the escalating crisis.

Red Cross increases aid to Sa'ada
Renewed fighting in the northern Yemeni gov-

ernorate has resulted in a further deterioration in living conditions, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said today. The humanitarian organization scaled up its aid in response to increasing needs in the restless governorate.

The ICRC has asked donors for an additional 8.5 million in Swiss francs for its Yemen budget to respond to the increasing needs caused by the fighting. These additional funds have more than doubled the original 2008 budget for operations in Yemen, raising it to 14 million Swiss francs.

"As a result of the latest confrontations in the north of the country, thousands of civilians are currently fleeing their homes to seek refuge where they can be assisted and cared for," said Marcus Dolder, the ICRC delegation head in Yemen. "Our teams are working closely with the Yemen Red Crescent Society to provide these people with shelter and emergency assistance."

The ICRC is concerned about the security and living conditions of civilians affected by the

fighting and appealed to both sides to respect international humanitarian law. In particular, it urged them to distinguish at all times between civilians and people taking a direct part in hostilities, and to treat all casualties with humanity.

"The region has not yet recovered from four years of conflict. Even before the most recent fighting, more than 100,000 people had been directly affected, urgently requiring humanitarian aid," said Dolder. "These people have also been hit hard by the steep increase in food prices over the recent months."

The ICRC plans to use the additional funds to step up the provision of food, water, shelter, essential household items and medical supplies in all areas of Sa'ada governorate. It is also ready to provide life-saving surgical treatment for the wounded where required.

Over the past 14 months, ICRC staff has worked with the local branch of the Yemeni Red Crescent Society to distribute emergency aid to almost 120,000 people, and has facilitated access to clean drinking water for thousands of others.

Their News

Freedom House Welcomes China's Greater Media Openness Amid Quake

Freedom House welcomes the increased openness that China is demonstrating by allowing both local and international media to cover the effects of the country's earthquake, and calls on China's government to maintain greater transparency.

State-run media coverage of the earthquake, which has claimed at least 22,000 lives, has been far more extensive than in the past with independent outlets gaining similar access to sensitive sites. Previously, the government simply closed off access to disaster areas, or in the case of the SARS epidemic, simply denied its existence for several months.

"In the midst of this great national tragedy, China's government has apparently decided to allow the press more freedom to work," said Paula Schriefer, Freedom House director of advocacy. "This distinct break from its usual treatment of journalists deserves recognition from Chinese citizens and internationalists alike."

China typically maintains tight control on media through intimidation, imprisonment and harassment. New restrictions were put in place over the last few years including a 2007 law that allows media outlets' licenses to be revoked if they report "false information" about natural disasters, emergencies or government responses to them without obtaining prior authorization. Taboo topics for the media include criticism of Communist Party leaders, violations of minority rights in Tibet and Xinjiang, Taiwan independence and Falun Gong.

"It is too soon to know whether China intends to cultivate a more open relationship with journalists in the future, but its response during this crisis is an encouraging first step," said Schriefer.

China is ranked Not Free in the 2008 edition of Freedom in the World, Freedom House's survey of political rights and civil liberties, and in the 2008 version of Freedom of the Press.

Al Jazeera Network makes key distribution gains worldwide

The Al Jazeera Network today announces exceptional progress distributing its channels and content during the first months of 2008. 10 million households have been added to Al Jazeera English's reach, extending its worldwide audience to over 110 million homes. The audience of the original Al Jazeera Arabic channel is also climbing fast – the

service now reaches over 50 million households globally. Fresh distribution deals for both channels span the globe across Europe, Asia and the US as well as Africa and the Middle East.

New European deals:

The Network has clinched a groundbreaking agreement in France, a country with a large Arabic-speaking community. The new partnership with France Telecom takes Al Jazeera Arabic into 800,000 homes, making it the first-choice international news channel for millions of the nation's Arabic speakers. Al Jazeera Arabic is now also broadcast live on ONO, the leading cable operator in Spain, taking the channel to 900,000 households. In addition the Network has strengthened its already widespread distribution across Germany, with Kabel BW, one of the nation's premier cable operators, now including both the Arabic and English news channels as part of its digital offering.

In Ukraine Al Jazeera English is now broadcasting live to subscribers to Viastat's new nationwide digital DTH service, Vision TV, and to additional subscribers in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In Portugal, the Network launched the English Channel to around 100,000 new direct to home (DTH) subscribers with PT Comunicações and is also now available on the digital package of the country's second largest cable provider, Cabovisao. In the UK, the Network has unveiled an exciting partnership with Freesat, the new, free, digital satellite television service that can be received by almost all of the nation (98% of households). Freesat requires no subscription or contract, just a one-off payment for equipment and installation. The channel also launched with Hungary's second largest cable operator, T-Kábel Magyarország and with KPN, one of the largest IPTV operators in The Netherlands. Meanwhile an innovative deal with state of the art, internet (web) TV service, Zattoo also takes Al Jazeera English and Arabic 1.6 million online viewers throughout Germany, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland and Norway.

New Asian deals:
The channel prides itself on the quality of its Asian reporting and a raft of new deals has greatly bolstered its audiences across the region. Vietnam's national platform, VTC is now taking Al Jazeera English into an impressive 2 million new households. In Singapore, a new partnership with leading operator SingTel is

takes the channel to mioTV's viewers, and in Hong Kong new partnerships with PCCW's nowTV and Hong Kong Cable (i-CABLE) make it available in the vast majority of the territory's pay TV homes. Five agreements have been signed in the Republic of the Philippines in recent weeks, expanding Al Jazeera English's reach to over 500,000 households nationwide. Filipino operators now carrying the channel include Global Destiny Cable, Eaglevision, Royal Cablevision and Ultravision – while partner broadcaster ABS-CBN is now simulcasting the channel every weekday on its ABS-CBN News Channel.

In Japan Al Jazeera Network signed a broadcast licensing agreement with Nippon TV's BS11 channel which will dub 30 minute Al Jazeera English news segments from Kuala Lumpur and rebroadcast them across the country. The agreement gives BS11 access to Al Jazeera exclusive news clips for inclusion in BS11 content. And in China, an agreement with the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games will make Al Jazeera Arabic available at all of the 2008 Games' official venues and sites.

New deals in the Rest of the World:
In the Middle East the Network's nascent syndication business signed a milestone deal, which sees 150 hours of Al Jazeera Arabic programming being licensed to New TV in Lebanon. Al Jazeera's groundbreaking programming will now reach an incremental audience numbering tens of thousands and the agreement demonstrates the value that Al Jazeera programming carries in the syndication marketplace. The Network has also renewed its agreement with ART for the carriage of Al Jazeera Arabic via the DISH Network in the United States.

New Al Jazeera Mobile deals:

Al Jazeera Mobile has newly-launched services on Al Madar and Libyana in Libya, on Etisalat in Egypt and Yemen Mobile in the Yemen – and existing IPTV platform partner Singapore's SingTel launches Al Jazeera English mobile TV later this month. These deployments strengthen the Network's role as a key multimedia player, enabling Al Jazeera to provide an array of SMS, MMS and live mobile TV services to a great number of users, delivering the latest news to subscribers on the move.

YouTube Anniversary:

Al Jazeera English celebrated its first year on the video sharing site YouTube, during the first quarter of 2008, having

become firmly established as one of the most popular news channels on the site (www.youtube.com/aljazeeraenglish), generating more than 21 million video views in the first 12 months since its launch. And with over 20,000 subscribers, AJE has over twice as many regular viewers as its nearest news competitor, putting the Network at the forefront of the social media revolution.

Phil Lawrie, Al Jazeera Network's Director, Global Distribution commented: "The last few months have seen aggressive growth in the distribution of Al Jazeera's channels and content across multiple markets. We remain committed to our goal of reaching an ever-wider number of viewers across the globe – via all forms of distribution technology."

Wadah Khanfar, Director General of the Network said: "We are very proud of what we are achieving as a network of channels. The Network's unique editorial mission to transform global news by balancing the flow of information from the global south to the north is supported by a family of channels that have strong editorial integrity and are never afraid to challenge perspectives. We hope to continue this success and to keep building on our achievements."

Al Jazeera English launched 18 months ago on 15th November 2006.

Five Interns Selected for YAL-Showtime 'Media Internship Exchange Program'

Young Arab Leaders (YAL) and Showtime Arabia, the leading pay TV Network in the Middle East and North Africa, announced today that five students have been selected for their Media Internship Exchange Program starting in June 2008.

The program, created out of a partnership between Showtime Arabia and YAL, opens the doors for Arab undergraduates to obtain experience in a world-class media environment. By working with seasoned professionals in the Showtime headquarters in Dubai Media City, the interns will gain experience in several areas including programming, marketing, business development, media law and sports programming.

In order to maximise the benefits of the internship, YAL and Showtime Arabia are organising a three-day "Management Capabilities Workshop" to provide training for the interns in areas like recruitment and retention, performance management, coaching, decision making and communication skills.

HE Dr. Omar Bin Sulaiman, Chairman

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Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
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of the Board of YAL, said: "The rapid growth of knowledge-based industries like media offers tremendous new opportunities for young professionals in our region. Exposing them to the work environments of industry-leading companies at the beginning of their careers will raise their aspirations and set them up for highly productive careers. Partnerships with companies like Showtime are critical for YAL to facilitate such opportunities."

Marc-Antoine d'Halluin, Showtime Arabia President and CEO said: "The internship program, part of an ongoing strategic alliance with YAL, gives young Arabs the opportunity to be trained in an international media environment. Showtime is proud to partner with YAL to offer a programme that contributes to the development of young talent in the

region." Assem O Kabesh, CEO of YAL said: "Our partnership with one of the region's leading media and entertainment providers is aimed at creating opportunities for young Arabs to prepare themselves for leadership roles in emerging industries. The youth are one of the key consumers of modern media and the presence of more talented and informed young people in this sector will contribute to the development of this industry."

The interns will each be assigned a mentor from the Showtime senior management team. Close guidance will help the interns enhance their understanding of the industry and sharpen their skills.

The YAL Media Internship Exchange Program offers internships lasting three months from June to August, 2008.

وين فونني

WAIN FONIE

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- الخدمة متوفرة على شبكات الاتصالات الراديوية
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Al-Shuaibi rape verdict exposes taboo topic: sexual abuse in Yemen

By: Kawkab Al-Thaibani and Nisreen Shadad
For The Yemen Times

The United Nations Development Fund for Women, or UNIFEM, states that one in five women worldwide will be exposed to rape or attempted rape during their lifetime. Anisah Al-Shuaibi is one of those women.

In 2003, Al-Shuaibi's mother-in-law accused her of killing her son, Al-Shuaibi's ex-husband, who later was found to be alive and was imprisoned at the time of the accusations and her arrest. Al-Shuaibi claims she was arrested illegally in connection with her ex-husband's disappearance and that while in prison, she was subjected to abuse and rape.

However, Al-Shuaibi broke from the societal norm by speaking out about the violence and sexual assault to which she was subjected. According to UNIFEM, regional incidents of rape usually go unreported due to the shame



Anisa and two of her children at the attorney office.

associated with the crime.

Al-Shuaibi not only called attention to the attacks, she prosecuted the alleged perpetrators, high-ranking security officials Rizq Al-Jawfi,

director of Sana's Criminal Investigation Unit, and Saleh Al-Salehi, head of the unit's investigations department.

The verdicts were announced last

month and Al-Shuaibi's prosecution team was less than pleased. Although presiding judge Mansour Shaya' found Al-Salehi guilty, he dropped all charges against Al-Jawfi and postponed Al-Salehi's prison sentence.

Ruling that Al-Shuaibi's arrest and subsequent detention were illegal, Judge Shayee awarded her YR 1 million in compensation; however, the court didn't specify when she would receive such compensation. The prosecution now is appealing the cases against both Al-Jawfi and Al-Salehi.

After she was freed, security authorities continued harassing Al-Shuaibi and her two children. After living with death threats and constant harassment for more than a year, she pleaded with Sheikh Sadiq Al-Ahmar to protect her and now lives in one of his properties.

"In many societies, the legal system and community attitudes add to the trauma that rape survivors experience," a 2006 UNIFEM report stated, "Women often are held

responsible for the violence against them, and in many places, laws contain loopholes allowing the perpetrators to act with impunity."

The Allawo Bar Group and Yemen's National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, helped Al-Shuaibi file her lawsuit against Al-Jawfi and Al-Salehi and are attempting to reopen the case because of irregularities in the court proceedings.

Al-Jawfi attended court sessions sporadically beginning in December 2006, but was absent for the majority of meetings. Additionally, two previous court sessions were held this past February without the attendance of Al-Shuaibi's lawyers or Al-Shuaibi herself.

"The general prosecution said it notified Al-Shuaibi by phone, but in fact, this method isn't legal, nor was the number [they said they called] hers," noted Abdulrahman Barman, one of Al-Shuaibi's lawyers. The usual process of calling for trial attendance involves issuing court papers with both parties' signatures.

In previous interviews, Barman said Al-Jawfi's interrogation was held without the prosecution's attendance. Without information from this interrogation, prosecution can't bring other charges against the defendants.

With the most recent study conducted more than 10 years ago, there is no current data on the prevalence of violence against women in Yemen.

Rashida Al-Hamdani of the Women's National Committee affirms that Yemen lacks rape statistics, further adding that there are no current plans to investigate the crime's occurrence in this country.

UNIFEM calls violence against women a worldwide "pandemic" affecting women in every nation, whether developing or industrialized.

According to a 2006 UNIFEM report, "At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime," adding that, "Violence against women and girls is perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation."

High season for Al-Qa'ida in Yemen

U.S. accuses Yemen of being lenient with terrorists

By: The Media Line / Mohammed Al-Asaadi

Following a spate of attacks against Western interests in Yemen, many Westerners are now fleeing the country due to travel warnings and a deteriorating security situation. Although Yemen is an ally of the United States in the war on terrorism, the U.S. feels 'Sana is not doing enough to fight terrorists in the poverty-stricken country.

Western families fill up the small and only departure hall of 'Sana International Airport over the past few weeks, queuing for European and American destinations. They have been instructed to leave Yemen for security reasons, though some have told Yemeni friends they don't feel threatened.

Last week four French families departed the capital, 'Sana, when Total Fina Alf, a French company operating in Yemen, advised its employees to evacuate their families as a result of a security assessment report made by the company.

Attacks on Foreign Interests

Credit for the April 30 attack that targeted the Italian embassy in 'Sana was claimed by the so-called Yemen Warrior Brigade, an affiliate of Al-Qa'ida, according to a statement run on a website. The two-mortar attack did not reach the embassy, exploding instead in the nearby parking area of the Customs Authority.

The Yemeni government - as is its policy - did not release any crucial details about this attack or previous ones, continuing to refrain from dealing with media.

The U.S. embassy in 'Sana urged its non-emergency workers and families to leave the country and also advised U.S. citizens not to travel to Yemen.

"Following the March 18 attack on the U.S. Embassy and the April 6 attack on the Hadda residential compound in 'Sana, the Department of State has ordered the departure of non-emergency Embassy staff and family members from Yemen," reads a warning message issued on April 11.

Al-Qa'ida claimed responsibility for all the attacks including the one of March 18, when three mortar rounds landed in the vicinity of the U.S. embassy and in a nearby girls' school, wounding 13 schoolchildren and five government security personnel.

On April 6 three explosions, claimed by Al-Qa'ida, rocked the Hadda residential compound, where foreigners, mostly American, live. No injuries were reported.

Later, on April 9, two small Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

were discovered outside the office of Canadian Nexen, an energy company in 'Sana. According to security authorities, one device exploded and the other was defused.

A day later two other IEDs were discovered unexploded in the vicinity of the western wall of the Hadda residential compound.

U.S. Disappointed

The U.S. State Department and FBI officials continue to show concern over Yemen's efforts to combat terrorism. The 2007 State Department Country Report on Terrorism accused Yemen of being lenient with terrorists despite U.S. pressure.

Dell L. Dailey, coordinator of the Office for Counterterrorism in the State Department, said on the release of the report last week, that Yemen continued to implement a "surrender" program with terrorists.

Dailey added that the Yemeni courts had released, pending their appeals, several subjects wanted by the United States for acts of terrorism.

"Most notably on October 15, the mastermind of the USS Cole bombing and February 2006 prison escapee, Jamal Al-Badawi, surrendered to

Yemeni authorities. He was released to house arrest on October 17, 2007 under the terms of this surrender program. Following substantial U.S. pressure, he was back in jail by October 29," says the report.

The report also says the government's capacity for stemming terrorism financing remains limited.

So far, there has been no official reaction to the report from the Yemeni government.

'Abd Al-Bari Tahir, a political analyst, said that while Yemen suffered from terrorism like any other country, details in the report indicated there were deficiencies in Yemen's security procedures and in its fight against terrorism. "Terrorism needs a whole package of solutions, including cultural, educational, and moderate mosque sermons," Tahir told The Media Line.

"The government fights terrorism either by confrontation or by conspiring with terrorists to achieve political gains, or using them against other parties. This is not enough in a poor country with a deteriorating economy and high rate of unemployment," he said.

Al-Qa'ida Changing Tactics

A recent statement by Al-Qa'ida

instructs its members to control the marine passages, mainly these surrounding the Arabian Peninsula, and particularly those in Yemen. The statement, entitled, "Marine Terrorism: A Strategic Necessity," appeared on The Ekhas Islamic Network, a website promoting Al-Qa'ida views and news.

"It has become very crucial to develop the battlefield to reach the sea," the statement urges the Jihadists. "The sea remains the strategic step forward to dominate the world and reinstate the Islamic Caliphate."

Generational Conflict

The former chief of the personal guards of the Al-Qa'ida leader said there was a huge conflict between the younger and older generations of the network. Na'sir Al-Bahri, a taxi driver in 'Sana, who is the subject of a security-monitoring program, said: "The new generation is very enthusiastic about Jihad. They want to just to fight, and they accuse the older generation of falling apart and getting weaker to continue the Jihad mission."

"The context of the recent attacks discloses the background of the attackers," Nabil Al-Sufi, a political and security writer told The Media Line. "It is the A-Zarqawi generation of Al-Qa'ida.


"This is clear from the immature operations, weaker attacks and easy and public targets.

Most important is that these attacks have a security nature with no political agenda, which is the main objective of the older generation of Al-Qa'ida," he said.

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Invitation for General Bid No. (6) 2008 year

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (6) 2008 year for selling, importing, checking, confirming, submitting, and guarantee various TV tapes.

All the interested companies and importers apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

TV and Radio General Yemeni Corporation – engineering section – General Administration for Projects – Tel: (01/230751)

For buying and having the entire bid documents with receipt: (700 \$) non refund. The deadline of selling the documents is: 8/6/2008.

The file should be enveloped with the red wax and submitted to the secretary of bids and out-bids committee of the corporation. The file should be addressed with the name of the authority, the name of project, the number of the bid, and the name of the applicant; and the file should include all the following documents:

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount 17.000 \$ valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening files or by payable check.
- 2- Submitting a copy of the taxing card valid for 2008 year; all the foreign bidders, who don't work, submit a copy of the register documents for extra value taxation form their countries.
- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year(the insurance cards are only requested form those companies which have assets in Yemen and have the right to utilize from revenues given from the General Corporation for Social Insurance in Yemen).
- 4- A copy of the alms tax valid for 2008 year.
- 5- Submitting a copy of valid register certificate and classification.
- 6- Submitting two tapes of every type.

The deadline of receiving the documents and opening the files at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday 14/6/2008 at the main branch of the corporation.



Invitation for General bid No. (5) 2008 year

TV and Radio General Yemeni Corporation declared a general bid NO. (5) 2008 year as following:

- importing and supervising installing, operating, validating, submitting, two non-written production units with a valid warranty as well as video set to show and record with its multi-system objects. It will be funded by the extra financial allowances (central fund)

All those interested participants apply for this bid with a written document during the official work time to the following address:

TV and Radio General Yemeni Corporation – engineering section – General Administration for Projects – Tel: (01/230751)

For buying and having all the documents of the bid with receipt: 100\$ non refund.

The deadline for selling the documents: 31/5/2008.

The file should be enveloped with the red wax and submitted to the secretary of bids and out-bids committee of the corporation. The file should be addressed with the name of the authority, the name of project, the number of the bid, and the name of the applicant; and the file should include all the following documents:

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount 6500 \$ valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening files.
- 2- Submitting a copy of the taxing card valid for 2008 year; all the foreign bidders, who don't work, submit a copy of the register documents for extra value taxation form their countries.
- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year(the insurance cards are only requested form those companies which have workers in Yemen and have the right to utilize from revenues given from the General Corporation for social insurance).
- 4- Submitting a copy of valid register certificate and classification.
- 5- The deadline for receiving all the enveloped files; and opening all the files will be at 1:00 A.M. on Monday 9/6/2008 at the main branch of the corporation.

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-varient 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 influence 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 exploitative 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

CHFYemen@gmail.com

(Please type the position title in the subject box)

Learn more about the above positions:

www.chfhq.org/section/employment

The deadline for submitting applications is 05/30/2008.

Humanitarian Forum brings together Islamic and Western charities

By: Yemen Times Staff

In today's world, even something as simple as donating money to the needy has become politicized. Western charities working in Muslim regions sometimes are seen as interferers with ulterior motives, while Western countries have accused various Islamic charities of financing terrorism.

Amid this confusion and mutual distrust, victims of humanitarian disasters, such as those currently suffering after a recent cyclone in Myanmar and an earthquake in China, get overshadowed.

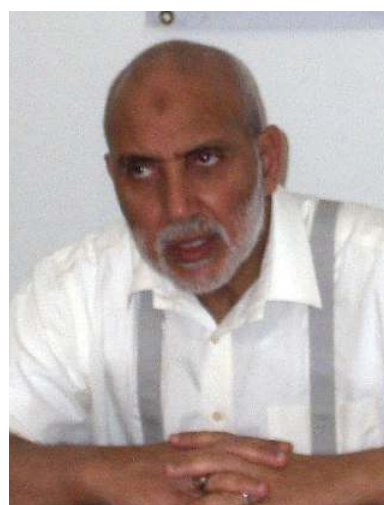
However, an organization called Humanitarian Forum is seeking to change this by helping Islamic-region and Western charity organizations work together to end suffering throughout the world.

Established in 2004, the Humanitarian Forum, or HF, gives aid organizations a way to unite and learn from each other, as well as foster better understanding and communication between them. Yemen has been chosen as one of HF's four focus countries; the others are Kuwait, Sudan and Indonesia.

HF partners local groups such as the Yemeni Red Crescent Society and Al-Saleh Foundation with international organizations like OXFAM and Islamic Relief Worldwide. The larger non-governmental organizations help the local ones coordinate relief efforts



Almost half of the Yemeni population lives under the upper poverty line. Minorities and immigrants are usually of the poorest in the society. Micro credit programs and charities working with these groups can make a difference in their lives.



Dr. Hany El-Banna, the chairman of the board for Islamic Relief Worldwide.



James Hamilton, assumed the directorship of Humanitarian Forum in the United Kingdom in April this year.

and access needed resources to help victims of disaster, war and dire poverty.

"What we do is provide the opportunity to sit down together," explained James Hamilton, newly appointed [TK] of HF. In Yemen for the first time last week, Hamilton was accompanied by Dr. Hany El-Banna, who chairs the board at Islamic Relief Worldwide. The two men met with journalists, members of civil society and the government to discuss their upcoming work in the country.

Over the past decade, Western and Islamic world charities have grown apart due to their different approaches to development, lack of familiarity and deep suspicion of each other following the September 11 attacks and the ongoing war in Iraq.

"There was a suspicion that certain charities were involved in terrorism," Hamilton noted, which led to two results: it became risky for Western institutions to partner with NGOs in this region for fear of being blacklisted as a terrorism financier and secondly, it created an image problem for the West.

Hamilton says the sense among residents of the Islamic world – even the highly educated and moderates – was that the West was shutting down Muslim charities for its own political or religious reasons; thus, beneficial partnerships between NGOs withered away as this rift widened.

Now, HF is looking for ways for local and international humanitarian programs to talk as peers and work together – regardless of their differing backgrounds.

"The starting point is a humanitarian response that doesn't look at one's home village, religion or ethnicity. People are suffering as humans in their own right," Hamilton points out,

adding, "So we – the humanitarian community – need to support victims."

HF's mission statement says the organization focuses on communication, cooperation, transparency and capacity building between NGOs.

Over time, smaller local charities or

aid organizations have grown into larger, more solid and active organizations. Hamilton notes that his job is to help grow Yemen's NGOs into mature and efficient groups that can help as many people in as many places as possible.

Although HF itself doesn't provide financial aid for charities or work in the field, it does bring different groups together and help them work together.

HF held a 2006 workshop in Yemen for 20 NGOs currently working in the country. Both OXFAM and Islamic Relief Worldwide were eager to work in Yemen, Hamilton said, because of its diversity and its burgeoning yet underdeveloped NGO sector.

According to him, the local NGOs and international organizations attending the workshop saw an opportunity to work together to facilitate the operations of humanitarian groups in Yemen.

Hamilton says HF in Yemen will build on "the enthusiasm that's [here] locally."

The Humanitarian Forum (HF) is a group that helps charities and aid groups from the Muslim and Western worlds work together to better understand each other and to offer more comprehensive humanitarian aid to victims suffering from war, famine and natural disasters among other issues. Charities like Islamic Relief Worldwide, the British Red Cross and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth are all HF board members. Together, they can build understanding – something lacking in the Western and Muslim worlds' perceptions of each other for some time now – and help more people in the process.

worldwide organizations like OXFAM, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with local organizations like SOUL for the development of women and children, the Al-Saleh Foundation and the Yemeni Red Crescent Society. The larger aid groups help add their expertise and resources, while local charities provide their inside knowledge of the culture, the people and society at large. HF established the Yemeni branch of their operation in November 2007.

Worldwide can be found at www.islamic-relief.com
More information on the World Assembly of Muslim Youth can be found at wamy.co.uk
More information on the British Red Cross can be found at www.redcross.org.uk
More information on the International Committee of the Red Cross can be found at www.icrc.org
More information on OXFAM International can be found at www.oxfam.org
More information on the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) can be found at ochaonline.un.org

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الرويشان للسيارات والمحركات
Al Rowaishan Motors

Words of Wisdom



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

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

Governor elections: The horse is racing with its shadow

Seemingly, gubernatorial elections, which the ruling party wanted to be a solution to some pressing issues in the country, have transformed into an internal problem for the party. And this problem may go beyond limit of the ruling party, notably in some governorates.

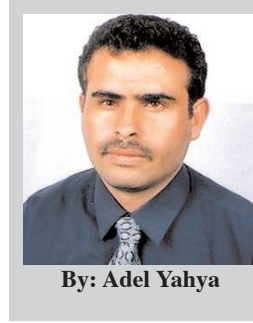
After the General People Congress (GPC) general secretariat approved the final list of gubernatorial candidates, numerous problems and reactions arose in many governorates.

The situation implies that GPC grassroots reject or are unsatisfied with the list of gubernatorial candidates approved by their party general secretariat. In the first reaction to the GPC leadership over naming Shabwa gubernatorial candidate, the

Zubeir Tribe of the governorate closed the Shabwa-based GPC branch, protesting against nomination of Dr. Ali Hassan Al-Ahmadi for the governor post.

The tribe announced its backing for former Local Council secretary-general Dr. Nasser Mohsen Ba-Aum as the eligible candidate to run for governor. Meanwhile, reliable sources said that other tribes protested against the ruling party general secretariat dropping local councilors from gubernatorial candidates' list.

These tribes sent a letter to GPC Chairman Ali Abdullah Saleh, threatening to prevent GPC staff from entering the ruling party's branch in the governorate until they negotiate and reach a consensus on the GPC gubernatorial candidate. They accused GPC staff in the



By: Adel Yahya

governorate of dropping their tribe's candidate from the list.

In the Beidha governorate, staff of the GPC branch rejected a gubernatorial candidate selected by the party's general secretariat, wondering why the secretariat responded to the desire of Parliament member Yasser Al-Awadhi in determining the candidate and edging out role of the majority of local councilors, of whom 223 voted in favor of the

governorate GPC branch Mohammed Nasser Al-Ameri as the eligible gubernatorial candidate.

Conveners who hold an emergency meeting in the Beidha governorate described the decision taken by the GPC general secretariat as merely "an attempt to fuel conflict between GPC members".

More than 150 local councilors, who attended the emergency meeting, vowed to drop the GPC general secretariat-selected candidate from the list and support Al-Ameri.

In Aden, head of GPC branch in the governorate Dr. Mohammed Al-Abbadi is still insisting to compete with Dr. Adnan Al-Jefri, a gubernatorial candidate selected by the ruling party general secretariat.

Al-Abbadi said to

Newsyemen.net, the general secretariat should have resorted to GPC leaders in the governorate to nominate three persons of whom it can select one," confirming that he will run for governor as an independent candidate to compete with Al-Jefri for the post because he is confident that local councilors will vote for him.

Having a glance at the applications and bids made by GPC bidders in the various governorates, mainly as the Joint Meeting Parties have not named any gubernatorial candidate to run for governor in any governorate, it has been made apparent that the horse, being the symbol of GPC, is racing with its shadow amid the growing conflict between GPC leaders who failed to agree on certain candidates.

OUR OPINION

Gubernatorial elections and shooting ourselves in the foot

Two days ago over six thousand and five hundred members of the local councils headed to election centers to choose the first batch of elected governors in Yemen. About a thousand boycotted the elections, mainly of the opposition parties. Initial results indicate all of the elected governors are GPC except for three of the 20 governorates where the elections took place on Saturday. Al-Dhale' was the only governorate where elections took place yesterday. The supervising committee in Al-Dhale' province postponed the voting due to the incomplete quorum.

Al-Dhale' is the only governorate where an independent pro-opposition candidate has taken lead in the elections, as opposition members of the council voted for him representing themselves as independents and not on behalf of the political party. While the three independent candidates are of Mareb, Sa'ada and Al-Baidha.

The elections have been reported to go smoothly, except for Al-Dhale'. After all the voters are selective few as only members of the local councils can elect, and around 13 percent of them (opposition parties members) have boycotted the whole process.

According to the Ministry of Local Administration, the Main Supervising Committee

of Governor Elections, seven of the governorates witnessed strong competition between the GPC and the independent candidates. Reports also indicate that there has been some disputes within the GPC members themselves as the local members of the party wanted to nominate different candidates than who the party's central leadership wanted to nominate. This indicates that the local affiliation or loyalty of the members at times became stronger than their loyalty to the party. From an anthropologist point of view, this is natural in a country like Yemen where the clan or the tribe ties and connections are stronger than any ideological relations.

Hilal, Minister of Local Administration, had told me in an interview recently that he regards the opposition's decision to boycott the elections as wrong and not helpful to the democratic development of Yemen. I totally agree with that because you can not make a difference by refusing to be involved. I believe that they boycotted the elections because they realized they don't stand good chances, and frankly speaking as Hilal also pointed out, "They are reaping what they sowed" referring to their performance in the local council elections in 2006.

All opposition parties and their affiliated newspapers have been putting down the governors' elections in every way they can. A recent article in one of these newspapers explained in figures how all 21 governorates with one exception (Al-Dhale') have the GPC as a smashing majority in the local councils.

As a follower of the democratic process of the gubernatorial elections I too have my reservations. For example, I am not sure how inclusive the process would be since the elections of the governors come after the elections of the members of the local councils. In other words, it is possible that the members of the local councils would elect a governor who would "take care of their interests" using his undoubted influence when the coming local council elections take place. And so it could turn out to be a closed circle of mutual interests or "I scratch your back you scratch mine". But nevertheless, I still think the ability to make a difference is more possible from within the system than from without.

Are there flaws in this new process, sure there are. But overall I think this is a positive step that we should embrace and work on perfecting. There is no point in shooting ourselves in the foot every time there is change, and ruining our chances of becoming a better country.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Shoura Council not enough to accommodate governor election victims

By: Ghamdan Al-Yousifi

Six of the current governors will retain their posts, however, the government found that it is too difficult to place some of them in other posts, which is why it then resorted to create new positions as assistant governors. One of the currently serving governors Yahya Al-Amri has forgotten how to lead a life without being a governor.

He is projected to take job as Dhamar governor, which will be the fourth governorate controlled by the man, following Marib, Sa'ada and Al-Beidha. He is a strong man with numerous question marks that have revealed why he has been serving as governor for a long time.

Similarly, Judge Ahmad Al-Hajri, who served in Taiz and Hodeida, is projected to be Ibb governor while Farid Ahmad Mujawar will be given the governor post for the third time in Hajja where he is currently serving after he was appointed as governor one time in Mahweet and another time in Abyan.

Ahmad Ali Mohsen, the current Mahweet governor, will retain his post after serving in Shabwa earlier. We still have two of the previous governors, namely they are: Noman Duaid, due to be Sana'a governor after serving in Amran, and Fadhel Al-Qawsi, the current Jawf governor, who is projected to retain post in the same governorate.

For the first time in 15 years, Taiz will have a governor from its natives, and so are Aden and Hadramout. Questioning will follow when well-known names are dropped from the list of senior posts. The government will need to satisfy well-known dignitaries such as Ahmad Al-Kuhlani, current Aden governor, Yahya Mohammed Al-Shuaibi, current

Mayor of the Capital City and Mutahhar Rashad Al-Masri, presently serving in Sa'ada.

Other dignitaries the government will need to satisfy include Abdulwahab Yahya Al-Durra, Ali Al-Qaisi, Ali Mohammed Al-Maqdashi, Taha Abdullah Hajer, Mohammed Saleh Shamlan, Mansour Abduljalil, Arif Al-Zawka and Ahmad Musa'ed Hussein, who are currently serving as governors in the various governorates.

The government may not find suitable posts for such names, even the Shoura Council will not be enough to accommodate such a list of dignitaries the regime relied on for a long time period.

Two minister posts will be vacant for the potentially sacked governors to struggle over, one of which is the Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance while the other is still unannounced. Al-Kuhlani is predicted to serve as Minister of Civil Service and Insurance because he is the most related with the regime while street talks reveal that he may compete with Mujawar for the post of Hajja governor.

The situation may need Mr. President to issue a decree to reshuffle the Cabinet in order to satisfy these dignitaries, a talk which has been spreading in streets for a short time period, and during which time, several ministers have been expecting to be the first victims of gubernatorial elections.

The matter may undergo slight change, but other posts will be announced as being vacant like those in the General People Congress (GPC) general secretariat. Post of the GPC secretary-general is expected to be given to one of the dignitaries due to be jobless as a result of governor elections.

Consensus on candidates in some

governorates impossible:

Political analysts are anticipating what will happen to some governorates where reaching a consensus on gubernatorial candidates from the ruling party may not be possible, mainly in Beidha and Aden where chairmen of GPC branches nominated themselves to compete with candidates nominated by their party's general secretariat. They did so in furious reactions to the ruling party's general secretariat that hadn't selected them as eligible candidates in their home governorates.

Many Parliament members criticized naming Secretary-General of Beidha Local Council Naser Al-Khadher Al-Sawadi as the ruling party's candidate in Al-Dhalea governorate for being a

member of the voting staff (a voter since new governors will be elected by local councilors according to the most recent amendment to the Local Authority Law) in his home governorate.

These MPs hold the view that naming Al-Sawadi as gubernatorial candidate came in response to the desire of Yasser Al-Awadhi, deputy head of ruling party's caucus in Parliament.

On the other hand, Chairman of Aden-based GPC branch Dr. Mohammed Al-Abbadi is still insisting to compete with the party general secretariat's candidate Dr. Adnan Al-Jefri as an independent candidate since he is confident that the voting staff will vote for him for his being aware of the governorate's needs, according to his speech.

After more than a week of argument, the ruling party general secretariat made its list of gubernatorial candidates in all governorates but the party local councilors in many governorates seemed to be unsatisfied with the decision, saying it edged out their role in the selection process.

Expecting Al-Dhalea to have a governor from outside the ruling party, the government may attempt to create legal obstacles to the electoral process in the governorate. And, the war-ravaged Sa'ada governorate may benefit from having a governor from its natives. Despite all these details, it is said that the list of potential governors is already made.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com



By: Samer

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Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, May 15, 2005

Top Stories

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- YSP Secretary General: Unity is our national project, which we must defend
- Yemeni Journalists Syndicate signs memo of understanding with NDI
- Ruling party offers deals to gubernatorial rivals in exchange of withdrawal

The weekly reported that the ruling party named on Tuesday Dr. Adnan Al-Jefri as its gubernatorial candidate in Aden without any rival. This came four days prior to the deadline of candidate selection after the party pressured Mohammed Al-Abadi, who made a bid to run for governor in the same governorate, to coercively quit the race via strong influence practiced on him by deputy of outgoing Aden governor Abdulkarim Shayef, who is also Chairman of the Aden-based General People Congress (GPC) Office.

It went on to say that it obtained information that Al-Abadi left Aden for Sana'a two days ago after being summoned by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who persuaded the bidder to quit in the wake of failed pressure and directions given by high-ranking officials in the ruling party to Al-Abadi to withdraw in favor of Al-

Jefri.

It quoted sources as saying that President Saleh's intervention to convince Al-Abadi to quit followed numerous deals and offers from the ruling party to Al-Abadi, one of which is the pledge to appoint him Manager of Aden Education Office in exchange for his withdrawal.

The ruling party realized that the bidder enjoys notable popularity among the governorate local councilors, mostly affiliated with the ruling party, and the only staff who are entitled to vote in this gubernatorial election, which the opposition parties boycotted for contravening the Constitution, which stipulates in one of its articles that any elections shall be direct and all eligible voters shall participate in the process.



Al-Eshteraki.net, affiliated with Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)
Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Top Stories

- Security authorities detain 14 people over participating in Radfan sit-in
- Hodeida-based YSP office expresses concern about deteriorating health in the governorate
- Fifth Sa'ada war breaks out, Houthis hamper army supplies
- Yemeni Parliamentarians Against Corruption discuss annual report
- Elections with one color amid Baj Jammal's absence and JMP boycotting

Many Yemeni political analysts and

observers believed that governor elections, scheduled for May 27, is merely a bad reproduction of the previously adopted appointment system, as well as confiscation of local governance with broad powers, which the authority has been for long time urging the educated elite to boost as a primary solution to pressing issues, the website reported.

Currently, arrangements are made ahead of a hasty electoral process in response to President Saleh's desire. Monday, May 12 was announced as the closing date for receiving applications of bidders for governor elections. And, earlier, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Local Administration Omar Al-Akbari, who is also member of the main supervisory committee mandated to oversee gubernatorial elections, declared that up to 193 people made bids for governors in the capital city and other governorates.

Al-Akbari added that his committee will only announce the names of 42 people as eligible candidates to run for governors in the various governorates on Friday after 53 applicants quit the race, according to the recently amended Local Authority Law and its executive bylaw. The official went on to say that up to 98 applicants failed to satisfy all the application-related requirements.

The nomination is excluded to one candidate in the capital city, Taiz, Ibb, Hadramout, Mahra, Mahweet, Amran and Al-Dhalea while other governorates have from two to three or four candidates each. According to the website, the opposition boycotted the election because it violated the constitution, which states that election is a suffrage granted to every citizen to participate and vote in the process.



Al-Ahali Comprehensive Independent Weekly
Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Top Stories

- President Saleh authorizes his son Ahmad to settle Sa'ada fighting
- Yemeni Ambassador to Ethiopia slams Eritrean regime
- No reason why women are excluded from gubernatorial elections
- Marib receives up to YR 10 billion in support for development
- Gubernatorial candidates begins their jobs as governors

From now onward, local communities will know in advance about their governors before a republican decree is issued, which is the basic and only difference between appointing governors by republican decrees to the knowledge of people and the most recent appointments under the guise of gubernatorial elections, the weekly reported. It added that governor elections are futile since the voting staff is almost exclusively affiliated with General People Congress (GPC).

Al-Ahali said that except for Hajja, Sa'ada, Beidha, Marib, Raima and Al-Jawf, candidates in other provinces already began their jobs as governors.

All the meanings of local authority and local governance with broad or restricted powers have evaporated, yielding the result of gubernatorial appointments under the cover of formal elections contested by candidates from the same party. And, when the opposition parties boycotted the poten-

tial governor elections, they offered a gift to the ruling party that should have taken the opportunity to quit strong competition between its candidates. Regretfully, the ruling party made uncorrectable mistakes by backing certain tribes and individuals at the expense of others.

According to the paper, there are nine governorates without even formal competition or rivals to contest with GPC candidates. These candidates are currently serving governors, who are only waiting the issuance of a republican decree appointing them once again to their posts.

The weekly went on to say that other governorates organized farewell ceremonies for their expectedly outgoing governors, but the ruling party general secretariat committed a flagrant mistake by granting itself the privilege to select 7 people as candidates for governor in seven of these governorates. The list of gubernatorial candidates included candidates who are closely related with President Saleh, as well as others related with Vice President Abdurabbu Mansour Haddi.



26 September.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Army
Thursday, May 15, 2008

Top Stories

- Politicians: governor election is courageous step toward enhancing democracy and popular participation
- President Saleh to give address before new batch of graduates from military academies

- Republican decrees promote hard working officers in the army
- Sa'ada gubernatorial candidate: resolving sedition consequences and improving human development top our priorities

"In case I win in this election, I will give top priority to resolving consequences of sedition and fighting and boosting human development in the war-affected governorate that is suffering dire situations and vandalistic acts caused by irresponsible rebels in many of its districts," the website quoted Sa'ada gubernatorial candidate from GPC Sheikh Hassan Manaa as saying.

According to the website, Manaa added in a statement that he has a complete program, which is part of the GPC Platform made by President Ali Abdullah Saleh ahead of 2006 elections that gave the veteran president another seven-year mandate. The gubernatorial candidate highlighted that Saleh's platform gives top priority to establishing service projects and improving road network in the fighting-affected governorate.

Manaa promised that in conjunction with the governorate's local council, he will work on reconstructing the damaged villages and areas, tackling issues of displaced families that evacuated their homes to escape the fighting, and encouraging farmers and granting them loans to foster production.

The ruling party candidate further continued that if elected, he will address issues of idle youth and create more job opportunities for them in the public or private sector. "In cooperation with local councilors, I will pay close attention to saving youth from harmful and extremist beliefs and ideologies," Manaa concluded.

Vacancies

An Oilfield service company is looking to recruit the following posts:

MWD Engineer

Responsibilities:

- Fully responsible for pre-job planning and mobilization
- Assists in the preparation of MWD and LWD tools at the well site
- Assists Technicians in repairing and checking MWD/LWD tools.
- Fully responsible for delivering superior Service Quality to the client.
- Maintains good communication with the Client's well site representative and rig crew and field support staff.
- Helps in the preparation of End of Well Reports and final Client data delivery.

Requirements:

- Degree level education with engineering background
- 3 to 5 years experience in oilfield
- Able to work autonomously with good interpersonal and teamwork skills
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Excellent knowledge of essential computer applications

Directional driller Engineer

Responsibilities:

- Demonstrates knowledge of all DD techniques and all surveying methods used in the location.
- Manages all phases of a directional drilling job to deliver services that meet client expectations
- provides technical support to clients and other members at the well site
- Fully responsible for pre-job planning and mobilization
- Assists Technicians in repairing and checking DD tools.
- Fully responsible for delivering superior Service Quality to the client.
- Maintains good communication with the Client's well site representative and rig crew and field support staff.

Requirements:

- Degree level education with engineering background
- A minimum of 3 to 5 years experience in Oilfield
- Able to work autonomously with good interpersonal and teamwork skills
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Excellent knowledge of essential computer applications

Workshop Forman

Responsibilities:

- plans maintenance requirements, identifies technical problems or equipment design limitations and contributes to engineering solutions
- Provides quality and safety guidance for the department to promote a high level of service quality and continuous improvement.
- Works in the preventive maintenance, failure analysis and repair of the drilling tools and equipment.

Requirements:

- Works on various tool modules to develop expertise and support the day-to-day activities of the location.
- 2-4 years experience.
- Good experience in ordering of parts and manage the stock level.
- Driving license.

CV's can be sent to the below contacts:
e-mail: oilfield.yemen@gmail.com
Fax: +967 1 503961



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

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

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

Duties and responsibilities:

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

Qualifications and Experience Required:

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

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience. Please send your application to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a. Deadline for application: **2 June 2008** Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified. UNFPA is offering equal opportunities however qualified females are strongly encouraged to apply.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Vacancy No: 3
 Post Title: **Project Officer**
 Organization: SFD (Social Fund for Development) **SMED unit.**
 Location: Sana'a
 Duration: Full time, including three (3) months probationary period
 No of Post: 2
 Date Announced: 15 May 2008
 Closing Date: 31 May 2008

Background:

SMED Small and Micro Enterprises Development Unit SMED was set up in 1997 with a goal to provide financial services to rural and urban households through retail microfinance service providers Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) Banks and other financial institutions) As of the end of 2007, the total outstanding portfolio of 12 SMED partners has reached 1,560 million YR, and the active clients reached nearly 30,000, 80% of them women.

SMED also provides technical assistance and on-lending funds to MFIs partners for promotion of small and micro enterprises development in Yemen.

Duties & Responsibilities:

The Project Officer (P.O.) is a key position within SMED management structure; He/She will serve as the main cooperation person with SMED partner institutions (MFIs, banks, other financial institutions) and will be responsible to lead contract negotiations with SMED partners, to take the lead in promoting new initiatives to expand financial services. The P.O. will report to the Head of SMED Unit. He/She will be supported by Senior Project Officer within the SFD. The specific tasks related to this position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Take the lead in managing SMED's working relationship with implementing microfinance partners (MFIs) and banks
- Ensure that P.O is able to effectively perform key duties related to:
 - Monitoring performance of SMED partner.
 - Capacity assessment of SMED partners and facilitating customized technical support.
 - Appraisal and recommendation of new investment proposals to SMED Managing Director.
- Ensure that P.O is able to effectively perform key duties related to:
 - SMED investments in MFIs, banks, etc.
 - Capacity building of MFIs, banks, etc.
- Responsible for coordinate the evaluation process and developing goals and objectives for MFIs, including hiring and training of new consultants.
- Be a part of the SMED management team and assist the Unit in coordination activities with other units.

Qualifications required:

- Bachelor's degree from a reputed University; master's preferred
- Sound knowledge of microfinance products and delivery mechanisms; experience in senior managements at a reputed MFI preferred
- Proven ability to nurture a smooth working relationship with varied stakeholders (MFIs, banks, technical assistance providers, international donors, research research agencies, etc)
- Proficiency in written and spoken Arabic and English

Compensation:

Compensation will be determined according to the qualifications, relevant experience and skills of the selected candidate. It will be based on the current salary standards for professionals in Yemen.

Submission guideline:

The application should comprise of a one-page cover letter explaining the applicants interest and suitability for the position, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and detailed CV.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: Oshami@sfd-yemen.org. Before 31-5-2008.

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي آتَانَا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ الْيَوْمَ وَإِنَّا لَآئِيهِ رَاغِبُونَ

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أمير دولة الكويت

وإلى أسرة الصباح والشعب الكويتي الشقيق

لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

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Freedom goes online

On World Press Freedom Day 2008, Alexandra Sandels looks at the importance of Internet activists for freedom of expression in the Arab world. Has the real struggle for press freedom gone online?

(MENASSAT) – May 3 marks World Press Freedom Day, a concept initiated by the United Nations in an attempt to spur awareness of the importance of press freedom and to "remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression," as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Freedom of expression: a human right.

How beautiful.

If only these words were implemented and practiced as often as they are spoken – especially in the Arab world.

Although much of the focus on World Press Freedom Day 2008 is on China – because of Tibet and the Olympic Games – the Middle East and North Africa remains one of the regions most deprived of press freedom and freedom of expression.

MENA region lags behind

In a newly released report, U.S.-based Freedom House, recognizes only one country in the MENA region as "free" – Israel. Three other countries – Kuwait, Lebanon and Egypt – are qualified as "partly free," while all others are considered "not free."

It is not always governments that prey on press freedom either.

Paris-based Reporters without Borders (RSF), in a report released today, identifies 39 so-called "predators of freedom," which include individual leaders but also groups such as the FARC guerilla in Colombia, the drug cartels in Mexico and "armed groups" in Nepal.

Among the "predators" in the Arab world, RSF identified Lybia's Muammar Ghaddafi, Syria's Bashar Assad, Saudi's Abdullah Ibn al-Saud, Tunisia's Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali as well as several warlords in Somalia. Among the newcomers this year are the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), "who were added to the list after they began again to target journalists covering their incursions into the Palestinian Territories."

But RSF also singles out the security forces of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas' armed wing in the Gaza Strip. "Each faction systematically hounded journalists suspecting of siding with the other camp," RSF said.

Despite these worrying trends, there is one other Big Truth in the Arab world: much of the censorship is self-censorship. Arab journalists know the "red lines" that apply to their trade and most operate within their relative safety.

Some very courageous ones – most notably in Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen – refuse to do so and they pay the price.

Egypt is celebrating World Press Freedom Day 2008 by putting three newspapers editors on trial.

In Morocco and Tunisia, two journalists went on a hunger strike today to protest their imprisonment.

Online activism

Increasingly though, in the Arab world, it is bloggers and other Internet activists who are challenging the status quo – and who are going to jail for it.

With much of the traditional media muzzled by authoritarian regimes, the Internet has become a vital tool in the fight for freedom of expression. Armed with nothing but a keyboard and dedication to their cause, Arab Internet activists take use of the blogs, online networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and video-sharing pages like YouTube as means to further their calls and provide readers with the news that otherwise would receive little or no coverage in mainstream media.

Recently in Tunisia, bloggers and activists turned to the Internet to tell the story about the protests of thousands of workers employed in the rich phosphate mines of Gafsa, Redyef and Oum el Areyess against inflation and the rising cost of living – an event that went unreported in the official Tunisian media.

In Egypt, a leaked video depicting two police officers abusing and sodomizing a micro-bus driver with a stick resulted in the landmark sentencing of the two to prison sentences in November 2007. It was the celebrated Egyptian blogger Wael Abbas who got a hold of the clip and subsequently uploaded it on his blog. The footage sparked outcry from Egyptian society and attracted much unwanted international attention.

Esra'a Al-Shafei is the Director of the student-run web portal Mideast Youth, a website aiming to provide "constructive dialogue and understanding within the Middle East and North Africa." The site often features discussions on taboo-labeled topics, including religious minorities and homosexuality.

For Al-Shafei, the Internet is key in the promotion of free speech in the Arab world today.

"It is offering us a wealth of things and they are actively being used as anti-censorship tools. There is a major increase in the number of Internet users in the Arab world and [governments] are beginning to realize the impact of it," she told MENASSAT.

But with Internet penetration in the Arab world still very low compared to Europe and the U.S., and some countries so poor that many people can't even afford to go to an Internet cafe, is Internet activism really reaching the masses?

Al-Shafei thinks it is.

Even in a country like Mauritania, where the percentage of Internet users is in the single digits, she says, "the word still gets out somehow. People print posts from the Internet, talk about them with their friends. Eventually it reaches the countryside as well."

Walid Al-Saqaf, administrator of the news engine Yemenportal (which is constantly outrunning Internet censorship in Yemen), echoed Al-Shafei's claim, saying that the Internet now plays an important role in Yemeni society even if less than one percent of Yemenis have access to it.

"In a country like Yemen, culture plays a crucial role in disseminating information. If one person reads an article on the Internet, for example, he will spread this message to literally hundreds of people. Word of mouth is extremely powerful in our society," Al-Saqaf said in an interview with WAN.

In Egypt, Internet activism will be put to the test on Sunday, May 4, when President Hosni barak turns eighty.

Egypt's activists and cyber-dissidents are planning to mark the President's birthday by organizing a day of strikes and protests. Through various Facebook groups and blogs, they are urging their fellow countrymen to wear black and strike on Sunday. One of the Facebook groups promoting the May 4 strike has almost 74,000 members at this point.

Egypt has recently witnessed a string of workers' uprisings against rising commodity prices and stifled wages. In the latest strike on April 6, it was again the Internet activists that shed light on the event – as well as arrests of their colleagues.

Tighter control

Not surprisingly, oppressive regimes are trying to bring the Internet under their control. Tunisia reportedly dedicated a special branch of the police tracking cyber-dissidents, whereas the blocking or banning critical websites is the tool of choice for the regimes in Syria, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Syria, in an Internet crackdown in November 2007, blocked access to more than one-hundred web sites, including the video-sharing site YouTube, the blog platform Blogspot and the social networking site Facebook.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Rank 2008	Country	Rating	Status
1	Israel	28	Free
2	Kuwait	54	Partly Free
3	Lebanon	55	Partly Free
4	Egypt	59	Partly Free
5	Algeria	62	Not Free
6	Jordan	63	Not Free
7	Morocco	64	Not Free
	Qatar	64	Not Free
9	United Arab Emirates	68	Not Free
10	Iraq	69	Not Free
11	Bahrain	71	Not Free
	Oman	71	Not Free
13	Yemen	78	Not Free
14	Saudi Arabia	81	Not Free
	Tunisia	81	Not Free
16	Syria	83	Not Free
17	Israeli Occupied Territories / Palestinian Authority	84	Not Free
18	Iran	85	Not Free
19	Libya	94	Not Free

Status	Number of countries	Percentage of total
Free	1	5%
Partly Free	3	16%
Not Free	15	79%
TOTAL	19	100%

Censorship set apart, the cyber activists themselves increasingly claim to be subject to harassment, intimidation, or even arrest.

Syrian blogger Ahed Al Hendi claims he was detained by security in December 2006 for posting a comment on an opposition website from a Damascus Internet cafe. He remembers the following from the holiday season of 2006:

"I want to tell you about Christmas 2006 which I regret to say was spent groveling in a Syrian prison. It was no Christmas by any means. It was more like hell," Al Hendi wrote in email to MENASSAT.

Esraa Abdel Fattah was held in Egyptian custody for more than three weeks for creating a Facebook group urging Egyptians to take part in an April 6 general strike.

Most recently, Saudi Arabia released reformist blogger Fouad Al-Farhan, the first cyber-dissident to be detained the Kingdom. No official statement for neither his arrest nor release was ever given, but the reason behind the affair is thought to be Al-Farhan's outspoken

blog posts.

Despite continuous hardships, it will prove a hard task to stop the determined army of Internet-savvy activists, using the Internet as their weapon.

"The internet has been a godsend for freedom of expression in the Arab world," the Egyptian-American syndicated columnist Mona Eltahawy told MENASSAT.

"A reader of my blog said it right when he left me a message saying:

"In the USA and most of the western nations, they have so many ways to express their opinions. They have freedom of press, speech and so on. So they use the blogs and Facebook to keep in touch with family and friends. But in Egypt, blogs and Facebook became a great method of expressing your opinion since most of the media are controlled by the government."

"When a blogger like Wael Abbas helps to put away police officers for three years," Eltahawy said, "then dictators around the region know they're being watched. Bloggers are the watchdogs that the media have been prevented from being for too long."



Even in countries like Yemen, where less than one percent of the people are online, the impact of the Internet is real. © Samer Mohdad / arabimages.com

Marriage Notice

I, Timothy John Holmes, of Cilmelyn, Penrobyn, Valley, Holyhead, LL65 3BE, Gwynedd, United Kingdom, intend to marry Rehab Ali Hassan Omar Al Ahdal (Single) of Saba Wedding Hall Apartment Building, Asr Street, Off Zubairy Street, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen at the Yemeni Courts, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen where marriage has to be solemnized on Monday 9th of June 2008.

Any person knowing of any lawful impediment to the marriage should without delay notify:

PO Box 1287, Consular Section, British Embassy, 938 Thaher Himiyar Street, East Ring Road, Near Movenpick Hotel, Sana'a Republic of Yemen.

VACANT POSITIONS

An International Investment Company in industrial field has the following vacancies:

Job Title: Commercial Manager

Location: Yemen

Qualification & Requirements:

- Bachelor Degree with an experience not less than 10 years in international correspondence in commercial trade.
- Experience in business letters & contracts with companies of industrial equipment.
- Fluent in English & Arabic writing & speaking.
- An advance computer operating skills.

Job Title: Sales & Marketing Manager

Location: Yemen

Qualification & Requirements:

- Bachelor Degree with an experience not less than 10 years in Sales & Marketing of industrial products.
- Fluent in English & Arabic writing & speaking.
- An advance computer operating skills.
- Experience in Marketing planning & its implementations.
- Ability to deal with a lot of distributors & sales representatives in professional manners.

To apply:

Pls e-mail your C.V. to starsindustrialgroup@yahoo.com

Advertisement for Expressions of Interest for Consultant Services for Tender No. 15 / 2008

The Local Water And Sanitation Corporation Aden Governorate (LWSCA) hereby announces it's desire to invite Consulting firms to indicate their interest to participate in providing the following consultative services:

Technical Consultancy Services for the Aden Water and Sanitation Utilities Development Project (AWSUDP) which includes:
(i) preparation of Detailed Feasibility Study
(ii) Preparation of Detailed Designs and Tender Documents and
(iii) Tendering and Construction Supervision of the project works

which will be financed 100% through a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Interested consultants have to provide evidences for their qualifications to carry out the whole of the above services specially:

- General information and experience of the firm, previous projects they were involved in, work experience in similar conditions, references, etc. A firm may associate to enhance its qualification.
- Specific experience of the Consultant in the field of the assignment, main task of the consultant and years of experience in the required service (water supply and wastewater studies and designs and construction supervision of water and wastewater projects and related topics)
- Qualifications of key personnel and availability of required skills among staff for both studies and design as well as for construction supervision and management.
- Agency that can be referred to for confirmation.

The expressions of interest will be evaluated using a points system based upon the following:

General qualifications of the Consultant 20 points
Specific experience of the Consultant in the field of the assignment 40 points
Qualifications and availability of appropriate staff for the assignment 40 points.

To be qualified to receive an invitation to bid Consultants must achieve a minimum points score of 80 points. Preference will be given to consultants if 50% or more of the staff are from Arab consulting firms.

A Consultant will be selected using Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the Executive By-law of Procurement Law and it's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services issued in the year 2007 by the Ministry of Finance and which are explained in the RFP.

The deadline for receiving documents will be on Saturday May 24th, 2008.

Interested consultants may obtain further information about the assignment between 09:00 a.m. and 13:00 p.m. Saturday to Wednesday at the address shown below.

Three hard copies of the EOI and a digital copy on CD must be delivered to the address below not later than 1:30 pm (Aden Local Time) on Saturday, May 24th, 2008.

The Project Manager
Local Water and Sanitation Corporation Aden (LWSCA)
Office of the Project Implementation Unit
For attention of Mr. Khamis Ghithan Mobile : 733876033
Crater – Aden, Queen Arwa Road
P.O. Box 4004 Aden
Aden, Republic of Yemen
Tel. (+) 967 2 251269 (Procurement Manager)
Fax. (+) 967 2 266921
e-mail address: water-aden@y.net.ye

Book Review

Restoring Dignity: The Yemeni experience of ending the isolation and ostracism of leprosy patients

By: Dr. Yasin Al-Qubati
For The Yemen Times

The history of leprosy is closely intertwined with the phenomenon of stigma, which is the main subject of a new book by Dr. Yasin Al-Qubati, offering a panoramic historical narrative of leprosy in many regions and countries of the world, with extensive coverage of Yemen.

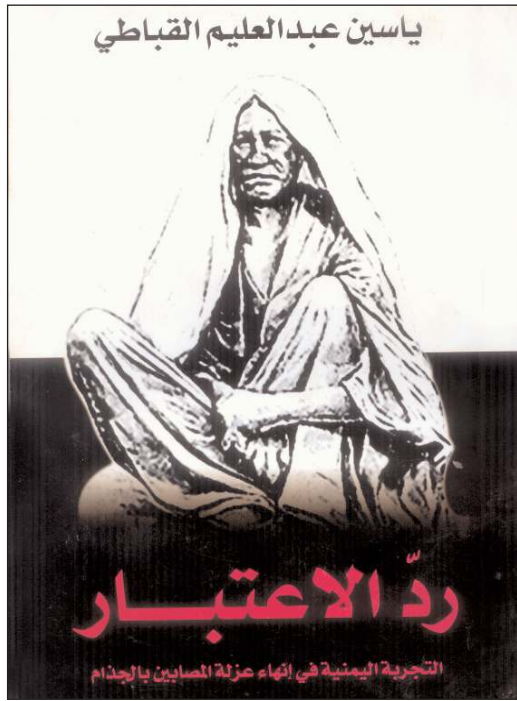
An overview of stigma associated with numerous diseases, including vitiligo (a chronic skin condition causing loss of pigment resulting in irregular pale patches of skin), psoriasis and scleroderma (a chronic disease characterized by excessive deposits of collagen in the skin or other organs), precedes an in-depth examination of stigma in leprosy. To trace the origin of the stigma, the author has used 179 references, including the Bible and the Qur'an.

He discusses the linguistic origin of stigma in ancient Arabic language and Arabic poetry. Some 179 references are cited to pinpoint the origins of stigma regarding this disease, among which are ones from both the Bible and the Qur'an.

Al-Qubati examines fear, particularly fear of infection, which causes people to isolate those affected by leprosy and even ostracize them from their communities. The effects upon the ostracized are detailed.

Unfair laws regarding those affected by leprosy also come under scrutiny. Linguistic confusions and mistaken diagnoses, which have perpetuated stigma in leprosy, also are probed.

Considerable attention is given to describing health education methods used in Yemen to educate and mobilize the community and inform them about the nature of stigma. Such initiatives have had the positive effect of ending



lives of isolation for those affected by leprosy.

The extent of the irrationality and unjustness of stigma and stigmatizing behaviors is underlined by the author's comparison of the minor likelihood of contracting leprosy with the much higher risks of being involved in a car accident, contracting tuberculosis or the risks associated with smoking.

In the first part of the book, Al-Qubati highlights the danger of isolating leprosy sufferers and the consequences of such ostracism by both the community and individuals, including the danger of the spread of communicable diseases due to the fear of infected individuals being isolated, which leads to hiding the source of infection.

In the second part, he describes leprosy itself, beginning with its history in ancient Egypt, followed by a descrip-

tion of leprosy in ancient Arabic medical books and treatment of the disease by ancient Arab physicians, which mostly depended on snake extracts and a special diet.

Al-Qubati then describes the wrong linguistic notions, mixing between leprosy and vitiligo, and the relationship of the stigma in both diseases.

In the same chapter, he describes the definition of isolation, as well as the history of isolating those Persons Affected by Leprosy, or PALs, highlighting verses appearing in the Old Testament book of Leviticus in the Bible.

He also offers some hints about leper hospitals begun during the Abbasid period of Khalifa Al-Walid (a member of a dynasty that ruled an Islamic empire from Baghdad from 750 to 1258) between 668 and 715 A.D.

He further mentions the magic powers or prodigy of some communities said to be granted to PALs by God.

In the third part of the book, Al-Qubati talks about medieval leprosy, its historical trend in Europe and the development of societies against it in Europe, beginning from the Middle Ages. He then describes leper colonies and their wrong interpretation in the holy scriptures.

Next, Al-Qubati discusses the history of leprosy in the East, including India and China, as well as its history in the West, including Canada, the United States and Latin America, particularly concentrating on Carville, La., Hawaii and Father Damian.

In the fourth part of the book, he describes the history of leprosy in the Arabian Peninsula, particularly in Yemen, highlighting the roles of British physicians, as well as Irish and Scottish missionaries in Aden during the British colonization of Aden between 1839 and 1967.

Following this is the role of Mother Teresa and her organization, the Missionaries of Charity, during the period 1973-1992, with special mention about the assassination of nuns in Hodeidah and the conversion to Islam of a nun in Yemen and Mother Theresa's reaction to both incidents.

Al-Qubati then talks about the leprosy situation in Yemen prior to implementing the National Leprosy Control Program and how the program started with support from the German Leprosy Relief Association, especially highlighting the support of friends in the U.S. and the World Health Organization.

After this, Al-Qubati recounts numerous tragic stories about the suffering of leprosy patients in various parts of Yemen.

The author's visit to the U.S. and England, as well as his training in Carville, Louisiana, offers some other nice descriptions of places and stories about leprosy and organizations fighting leprosy, including his meeting with well known activists of Britain's Leprosy Mission, and ILEP, the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations.

He describes the development of World Leprosy Day by Raoul Follereau, comparing it with Yemen's Leprosy Day initiated by a saint approximately 700 years ago. On this day, healthy individuals celebrate the memory of the holy man's death from mixing with PALs, believing that there's no such infection on this day.

Al-Qubati's book further discusses

the different social attitude of communities in southern Yemen toward PALs and how rural villages deal with leprosy members by building a small hut outside the village, as well as how they serve his or her food and other beneficial treatment.

The book then describes the different methods of health education implemented in Yemen to educate and mobilize the community to end isolation and fight the stigma against leprosy.

It also discusses various hadiths (sayings) of the Prophet Mohammed in light of different religious and scientific books.

Al-Qubati then discusses civil law in Yemen and Egypt and their unfair treatment of PALs.

In the 30 pages after this, he

describes leprosy itself, including its types, diagnosis, treatment, complications, leprosy control and rehabilitation.

Finally, Al-Qubati talks about the International Leprosy Congresses and the stakeholders in controlling leprosy, including ILEP members and WHO. In the end, he compares the risks of leprosy, cancer, tuberculosis, car accidents and smoking.

Dr. Yasin Al-Qubati is secretary-general of Yemen's Leprosy and Tuberculosis Elimination Society, the German Leprosy Relief Association's local representative in Yemen, assistant professor of dermatology at Taiz University's School of Medicine and initiator of Yemen's National Leprosy Control Program.

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Yemen Gulf Bank

Pioneer Yemeni Canadian Company specialized in Petroleum Engineering and Oil Fields' Services and Transport announces the following vacancies:

Post title 1: Engineer

According to the qualification and experience as the following conditions.

Position Profile: Lead Electrical & Instrumentation Engineer
Reports to: Project Engineer

Position Summary:

The role of the Lead Electrical & Instrumentation Engineer is to oversee all Electrical, Control and instrumentation requirements a Project from start to finish. This position requires interaction with other disciplines such as process engineering for P & ID development, electrical for PLC I/O schematics, mechanical for the correct location of instrumentation, and because of these requirements requires excellent written and oral communication skills. Project management responsibilities require interfacing with clients, vendors, and Company personnel, preparing const and manpower estimates, requests for quotation and purchase orders, understanding project scope, following project schedules, and working with management to complete quality projects on time and within budget.

Responsibilities

1. Develop Project scope definition, capital cost estimating and manpower estimates, and reporting on progress, working within project man-hour budgets and schedules.
2. Participate in P & ID development.
3. Produce instrument indexes, specifications, and instrument data sheets
4. Produce I/O schematics, control system narratives, and shutdown keys.
5. Assist with short circuit, load flow, power factor and relay coordination studies.
6. Assist with design of protective schemes for power distribution systems.
7. Design of low and medium voltage power distribution systems, switchgear, MCC's and variable frequency drives
8. Prepare specifications and purchase orders/requisitions.
9. Responsible for identifying, reporting and assisting with reconciling and deviation to project standards, practices, policies and specifications.
10. Mentor junior personnel.

Credentials

1. Electrical Engineer with a minimum 10 years electrical/instrumentation & control systems design experience, preferably within the oil and gas production industry.
2. Self- Starter who can take a project from concept, through to detailed design and commissioning and has superior oral and written communications skills
3. A thorough knowledge of electrical equipment and systems, switchgear, MCC's, VFD's cabling, and schematics
4. First hand engineering knowledge of PLC/DCS controls and HMI's as it relates to all types of facilities that require automation
5. Strong working knowledge of instrumentation as it relates to all types of Facilities that require automation.
6. Experience at preparing estimates for all Electrical, Instrumentation and Controls portion of a project.
7. Experience overseeing all aspects of the project, including designing and commissioning

Post title 2: Office secretaries (2 vacancies)

Requirements:

- Females
- Yemeni nationality
- University degree
- Fluent in English, speaking and writing; preference to candidates with more than one language
- No less than three of experience; preferred in oil sector
- Computer literacy (Windows, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Internet)

Post title 3: Receptionist (one vacancy)

Requirements:

- Female
- Yemeni Nationality.
- University degree.
- Computer literacy (Windows, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Internet)
- Phone operating skills

Post title 4: Drivers (four vacancies)

Requirements:

- Yemeni Nationality.
- Driving license.
- Ability to communicate in English

تعلن شركة يمنية كندية رائدة في مجالات الهندسة النفطية ونقل وخدمات حقول النفط عن حاجة إلى الوظائف التالية

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2. المشاركة في تطوير P&ID.
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4. إنتاج برمجية المدخلات والمخرجات، مسارات أنظمة التحكم البدائية، ومفاتيح الإقفال.
5. المساعدة في تصميم الطريق الدائرية القصيرة، و تحميل الفائض و عامل الطاقة ودراسات التنسيق والتتابع.
6. المساعدة في تصميم البرامج الحامية لأنظمة موزعات الطاقة
7. تصميم العداد الكهربى لأنظمة موزعات الطاقة المنخفضة و المتوسطة، و مفتاح الجير و MCC'S و قيادات التردد المختلفة.
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- تحمل شهادة جامعية
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Qawza: Inshad can fix what politics has ruined

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

Abdulqader Qawza, one of the famous *munshideen* (religious singers) in the Arab world and Yemen, stood onstage on Thursday to criticize "the weak and cowardly attitude of Arab governments, as well as Arab nations, toward what's happening in Sudan."

The Yemeni performer was among some 15 performers selected by the Charitable Society for Social Welfare to celebrate the first Sana'a Spring Festival, which was held for only three days and concluded on Thursday. The purpose of the festival was to collect donations for Yemeni orphans.

Qawza's performance began amid loud whistling, clapping and chanting of his name from the audience.

"I'm dedicating this performance to a nation to which I believe none of us are paying much attention to their suffering - the people of Sudan!" Qawza said over the sound of the audience clapping. He noted that Sudan suffers while



words offended them," Qawza said after finishing his performance, "however, I believe that any *munshid* who stands on this stage should have a message about and play a role in what's going on in the Arab nations.

"We [the performers] should interact with people's sufferings and not ignore their pains, reminding our governments about their role and duty toward their nation," he said, urging the other performers that followed him to take the responsibility toward their audience and interact more with their issues.

The audience again clapped warmly for Qawza, asking him for more. They even danced to his second *nasheed* (a religious song).

After the show, Qawza explained his onstage comments to the Yemen Times. "I strongly believe that a performer must have a role and a message to convey. I chose Sudan because I felt that it is receiving less attention from the Arab world because most attention goes to Palestine and Iraq - which are important - however, poor conditions in Sudan also require consideration."

Answering the Yemen Times' question about whether he made his comments simply to attract more attention, Qawza responded, "I have a good audience and a good reputation, so I didn't need anything to reach them or attract their attention.

"I don't take any political position. I'm not a politician; I'm a performer who believes strongly in his role," he added, referring to a festival that took place in Algeria last month under the slogan, "Let inshad fix what politics has damaged!"

A *munshid* is a person who performs *inshad*, which is the term for a performance centering on a religious poem whose themes are supplication to God, glorification of God, devotional praise to the Prophet Mohammed and exhortations directed at the listener. However, many *munshideen* recently have included themes such as calling for global peace, unity and resisting occupation.

Inshad has become massively widespread among young Arabs, particularly in Gulf states.

Photos of "The Earth Viewed From Above" entrance and educate

By: Sarah Wolff

Satellite photos taken from miles above the earth don't just provide tranquil images of the world below - they also help researchers and scientists track everything from climate change to agricultural output.

On Saturday morning, the French Cultural Center in cooperation with Sana'a University, presented an exhibition of satellite photos along with information to encourage aspiring scientists to use such technology. The photo show, called "The Earth Viewed From Above," will be on display at the Jamal Abdul Nasser exposition room at the old University of Sana'a campus until May 28 and then after that at the French Cultural Center in Sana'a.

"There is a lot natural impact: the tsunami, earthquakes, climate change and environmental pollution problems," said Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Subary, professor of sedimentology and vice rector of student affairs for the university. "From these satellite images, the faculty and students can better understand how to



use technology in their field."

Dr. Khaled Khanbari, who helps run the satellite imaging department in the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, agreed that digital aerial photos like the ones on display can better all kinds of work from urban planning to farming by tracking the earth's environmental changes from above. "Satellites can take photos of the whole earth in 18 days," said Khanbari, referring to a satellite's ability to rotate quickly around the globe. He added that when

satellites first came into use in the 1970s, their photos could only clearly observe 75 meters at a time. Now, satellite technology has improved to the point where it can photograph down to 60 centimeters with clarity - a huge improvement that has global benefits. "This is much easier to make an archive of images that follow the changes in the land," said Khanbari. Though Yemen currently has no satellites of its own, it does have a receiving station where it gathers images from different satellites circling the earth. Khanbari, who is the

vice chairman of the Yemen Remote Sensing and GIS Center, said that though it's under construction, the center has already been in use for two years. The "GIS" in the center's name stands for "Geographical Foundation System," according to Khanbari.

He added that satellite photos can use infrared light to sense vegetation growth, something that the naked eye is unable to perceive. In addition, digital images taken by satellite are delivered in pixels, which can be processed separately to yield finely-tuned information.

Joël Dechezlepretre, the director of the French Cultural Center, said that France is happy to share its satellite technology with Yemeni science students, researchers and professors. He added that there might be additional aerial photos of Yemen, which wasn't featured specifically in any of the pictures at Sana'a University available on view, when the show moves to the French Cultural Center in June.

Gilles Gauthier, the French ambassador to Yemen, co-sponsored the event with Khaled Tamim, the president of Sana'a University.

CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Hussein Al-Mihdhar: a Hadrami poet of romantic songs

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Yemeni poet, playwright, composer and parliamentarian Hussein Abu Bakr Al-Mihdhar was born in 1931 in Ash Shihr city in southeastern Yemen's Hadramout governorate. Raised in a high-ranking puritanical Sufi family, his grandfathers were renowned public poets in Hadramout who renewed modern Hadrami public poetry.

Al-Mihdhar received his primary education at his city's Makarim Al-Akhlaq School where he memorized the Qur'an. He then joined Ash Shihr's Scientific Ribat (a religious school hosting and teaching students) for three years, studying jurisprudence, theology and Arabic literature.

In his 20s, Al-Mihdhar moved around to many Yemeni cities, most notably Aden, before going to work in Saudi Arabia in the late 1950s. He spent nearly three decades of his life as an expatriate in Gulf countries such as Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Returning to Yemen in the 1980s, Al-Mihdhar settled in Hadramout, working in the Ministry of Culture Office and then as an archaeological officer's assistant. In the early 1970s, he participated in establishing the first union of Yemeni authors and writers.

In February 1986, he was elected a member of Aden's People's Council, followed by his appointment as a member of the presidency staff of the Supreme People's Council. After forming unified Yemen's first Parliament in mid-1993, Al-Mihdhar was elected a Member of Parliament, a post he held until 1997.

Al-Mihdhar began poeticizing at age 12. He began participating in poetry meetings when he was 14 and within several years, various Hadrami singers started singing his poems.

His classical Arabic and colloquial poetry became known in many cities in his region during the early 1950s. Al-Mihdhar continued moving about numerous Hadrami cities in the 1960s to recite his poems at poetic meetings attended by many poets.

Al-Mihdhar is considered a prominent artistic phenomenon in writing classical Arabic and colloquial poetry, as well as being a talented composer. His lyric poems contain many humane and emotional meanings and their effects surpassed Yemen, reaching most neighboring Gulf countries and the Arab world.

His first poetic divan written in colloquial language was 1966's, "Dumu'a Al-Ushaq" (The Lovers' Tears). Among the poems in this divan are "Hikmat Al-Hawa" (The Wisdom of Passion), "Kul Shai Ma'aqool" (Everything is Possible) and "Nar Walla Nar" (Fire, I Swear, Fire).

Al-Mihdhar's other divans include "The Lovers' Smiles" (1987) and "The Lovers' Sorrow" (1999). His last divan was 1999's "Haneen Al-Ushaq" (The Lovers' Longing) and included more than 70 poems on various issues. Among the romantic poems contained in this divan are "The Repentance of Love" and "The Edifice of Love."

Religious poems in the same divan described Al-Mihdhar's fondness for Islam's prophet and the holy lands of Mecca and Medina. Among these poems are "We Returned to Tayba" and "Allah is Almighty." This divan also included poems about the various cities Al-Mihdhar lived in, such as "Al-Dammam," "We saw Kuwait" and "The Emirates."

Al-Mihdhar's divan, "Buka'iyyaat" (Cryings), containing 43 classical Arabic and colloquial elegies, was collected and published posthumously in 2001. In these elegies, Al-Mihdhar eulogized many of his late friends among Hadramout's writers and famous characters.

Along with Yemeni singer Abu



Bakr Salim Bilfaqih, Al-Mihdhar created an artistic phenomenon wherein they generally presented and spread Yemeni art widely, particularly the Hadrami art of singing.

Some of Al-Mihdhar's well-known lyric poems sung by Bilfaqih include "Ya Zari'een Al-'Ainab" (O, Peasants of the Grape), "Aadih Hina Aw Sar?" (Is She Still Here or Has She Gone?), "Sirr Hubbi Feek Ghamidh" (The Secret of Loving You is Still Vague) and "Law Khayyaruni" (If They Let Me Choose).

Al-Mihdhar also was considerably distinguished in the Hadrami art known as *al-dan*, a lyric art consisting of two poets spontaneously reciting two lines of poetry, which then are sung by a singer. A literary collection entitled "Al-Mihdhar in Al-Dan Poetry" was published posthumously in 2000.

Because Al-Mihdhar loved his birthplace of Ash Shihr, he penned several poems about it, calling it "Si'aad," "Um Al-Yatama" and "Al-Kahila." Among his poems about the city are "Si'aad" and "Ash Shihr, My Mother."

Before Yemen's 1990 unity, Al-Mihdhar penned political poems like "Al-Bakirman" and "Nobody Should Talk to Sa'ad" and then wrote about the nation's reunification in the poem, "The Knower of the Invisibles."

Al-Mihdhar's dramatic works treated numerous aspects of social behavior and inherited traditions in Hadramout. These works also recount national victories throughout various periods of Yemeni history.

One of his most renowned lyric dramas is "Nida'a Al-Watan" (Call of the Homeland). The book, "Al-Mihdhar's Dramatic Poetry," was published posthumously in September 2007, containing 10 lyric dramas written in the form of operettas, including "The Victim," "The Seven Martyrs" and "The Ten Candles."

Al-Mihdhar was awarded the first-class decoration of merit in arts and literature in May 1998 in Sana'a for his remarkable literary and cultural contributions.

Al-Mihdhar died February 5, 2000 in his beloved Ash Shihr at age 69. A special and unique marvel, he provided many prominent distinctions in Yemen's contemporary art movement throughout his life, but particularly the original singing of Hadramout.

Furthermore, with his spontaneous and effective poetry, he was able to address people and include in his poetry their natural worries, longings and sufferings.



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Two blind women fulfill their dreams with help from a special association

By: Alia Ishaq

“Ever since I was a young girl, I used to dream of going to school carrying my bag, but that wasn't possible,” says Jamila Ahmed Al-Raimee, a 30-year-old blind woman.

Jamila, who was born blind, was the only daughter among her three seeing brothers. In her home in Raymah governorate in a village near Hodeidah, she learned how to cook and clean from an early age, despite her lack of eyesight.

“In my village, we didn't have the instruments we have nowadays, so cooking and cleaning were a lot of hard work,” she explained. After all of her brothers married, Jamila was lonely and forgotten by her brothers, who focused on their wives instead of her. Tired of all the hard work and misunderstanding, Jamila decided to move to Sana'a and live with her uncle.

However, what she thought would be a better life turned out to be nearly the exact same as her previous life. While living with her uncle, Jamila did most of the housework and was treated like an outsider.

“I don't blame him much because I'm not his daughter, so what if I didn't receive but one dress every year?” she said. But as her cousins set off for school every day, Jamila would sit on the stairs and cry.

In 1997, she heard about Al-Aman Association for Blind Women and set out to join it.

The organization was established in 1995 by Fatima Al-Aqel, herself a blind woman, who had a dream of integrating blind women into Yemeni society instead of begging on the streets, as they often must do.

The idea to form such an association came to Al-Aqel after she witnessed and felt for herself the struggle that blind women face as they try to fulfill their dreams, which sometimes are as simple as continuing their education, something many of us take for granted.

Having begun with two teachers and two students, the association now takes care of some 700 blind and disabled women and children in four centers throughout Sana'a.

A similar center is in Taiz and a new branch soon will be established in Hodeidah. The association provides women and children housing, illiteracy classes and general education through curriculums printed in Braille, the reading system for the blind.

Later, the association helps integrate these women and children into schools and universities where they study alongside sighted people, as well as helping blind and disabled women find jobs.

After joining the organization, Jamila began studying subjects usually learned in first, second and third grades. Because of her motivation and determination, she completed these studies in only six months, whereas it normally takes students three years.



Sabah carries illiteracy classes and general education through curriculums printed in Braille, the reading system for the blind.

Afterward, Jamila continued her studies with the help of Al-Aqel, who pushed her to improve herself. “Fatima Al-Aqel was more than a mother to me. Every day, I thank God for bringing her into my life,” Jamila says.

Even after joining the association and coming closer to achieving her educational dreams, there were times when Jamila needed her family, but she says they chose not to bother with her, leaving her with the only family she knew – Al-Aman Association.

The same year she joined the association, she underwent an operation to permanently remove her eyes, which already were in very bad condition. “I spent two weeks at Fatima Al-Aqel's home until I recovered,” she said, a period of time that bound the two women even closer together.

Jamila achieves her dream

Jamila now is a sophomore at Sana'a University's College of Literature, after taking less than 10 years to complete grades one through 12 and start university. While she admits that university studies are a bit harder, she insists that she'll never give up. “I've made my dreams come true,” she proudly declares.

Once illiterate herself, Jamila now teaches other illiterate women Quranic studies at Mu'ath Bin Jabal School. “Every woman on earth should educate herself – even if she's 60!” Jamila states, adding that, “Women's education is the reason for societal development.”

Sabah's story

Another woman with an extraordinary story is Sabah Huraish, who struggled

with her blindness until joining Al-Aman Association, which she said changed her perspective on life.

Sabah went blind at age 17 as a result of a brain disorder that left her not only blind, but also paralyzed. She visually recalls entering the hospital on her own two feet, then leaving it blind and carried in her father's arms.

Sabah says she used to pray to God to take her eyes, but just enable her to walk again. Her prayers were answered and slowly, over time, she regained the ability to walk, but she remained blind and deprived of what she calls her true passion – reading.

“Before I went blind, I used to escape from my cooking and cleaning chores to go read. It used to drive my mom crazy!” she recalled, laughing at her seeing past.

Thinking her blindness would be the end of her life, a friend later told her about Al-Aman Association for Blind Women. By joining, Sabah regained hope and eventually completed her high school education, graduating with an 82 percent average.

“It was the turning point in my life when I realized that I still could go on with my life normally,” she said, adding, “I finally was at peace with my destiny.”

Sabah didn't stop there, but went on to continue her education at Sana'a University, graduating with a psychology degree. Now Al-Aman Association's secretary-general, she helps other blind women integrate into society and fulfill their dreams.

She also married a partially blind man and had two children – both of whom can see. “There's nothing harder than not being able to see your children, but I always thank God because unlike many blind people, I once saw the sun,” Sabah says, “and for me, that's enough.”

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