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Al-Jawf receives displaced citizens fleeing Sa'ada area fighting

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, June 4 — Al-Jawf governorate near Yemen's northeast border with Saudi Arabia has received hundreds of displaced residents from Amran governorate's Harf Sifyan district who evacuated their homes over the past few days as a result of the ongoing bloody confrontations between the Yemeni army and Houthi supporters in the restive area of Sa'ada governorate, media and tribal sources said Wednesday.

The same sources surmised that those displaced residents who fled the fighting arrived in Al-Jawf's Marashi and Humaidat districts, noting that hundreds of families are suffering miserable conditions, particularly describing their health conditions as "tragic." The displaced citizens appealed to the relevant government agencies to help them after losing their homes and property in the destructive fighting. "We've become the direct victims of

the fighting, without having done anything wrong," media quoted the residents as saying.

They further appealed to international aid organizations to provide them tents, food, drinking water and other necessities as soon as possible in order to survive.

They also strongly denounced the Yemeni government, which they maintain hasn't given any consideration to their sufferings since they deserted their homes and fled to Al-Jawf governorate, demanding the relevant governmental authorities compensate them for their property that has been damaged in the four-year fighting.

Situations in Sa'ada

According to tribal sources from Sa'ada governorate, bloody confrontations between government troops and Houthi loyalists are occurring in several districts throughout the governorate, noting that Houthis have taken over Mahdha area, which is only 500 meters

from the Sa'ada city wall.

Other clashes between the two sides are occurring in Haidan and Saqain areas, which the Yemeni army previously had controlled before this latest war, which broke out last month. The government pulled its troops from the two areas following fierce Houthi counterattacks.

According to Sa'ada tribal sources, there are other armed confrontations between government forces and Houthi loyalists in Al-Ghabir and Al-Abqour areas following extensive military strikes on Houthi strategic mountaintop positions in Matra and Naqaa areas.

Local sources confirm that military troops struck other Houthi positions in Dhahian area, located 8 kilometers north of Sa'ada city, on Monday, adding that there are ongoing clashes between both sides in Amran governorate's Harf Sifyan district.

In Sa'ada's Majaz district, tribesmen backed army forces in their fight against Houthi supporters who are

showing strong resistance and foiling government troops' efforts to take control of strategic mountaintop positions in numerous areas.

In a statement published by the Islah Party-affiliated Al-Sahwa.net, Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi said what he described as "militants" (i.e., his supporters) destroyed two tanks and a military vehicle that was transporting food supplies to troops deployed in Mirran area. The web site also published video footage of what it called "military air strikes" on Fawt and Al-Ruwais areas, which injured seven women and children.

The Yemeni Times was unable to obtain exact reports on property losses and human casualties on both sides due to an information blackout being imposed by the Yemeni government and contradicting reports from both conflicting sides.

Contradictory statements

Sana'a Governor Numan Duwaid

announced Monday that Yemeni military and security forces had cleared Houthi fighters from Bani Hushaish area, adding that many Houthis surrendered themselves to government troops.

This declaration comes more than two weeks after Yemen's Defense Ministry announced that clashes between army forces and Houthis in Bani Hushaish had ceased. The armed confrontations on the northeastern outskirts of Sana'a between Houthis and Yemeni army forces continued more than two weeks.

In a statement to various media outlets, Governor Duwaid noted that many Houthi youths have surrendered themselves to the government. "They are youngsters whom Houthis had seduced to back them in their fight with the government," he added, urging all residents of Sana'a governorate to maintain a high level of vigilance and prevent the entry of any malicious individuals into their areas seeking to shake up

security and stability in the capital secretariat area.

According to political analysts and observers, the Sana'a governor's statements contradict a Defense Ministry announcement a week ago, thereby implying that the ministry's announcement was false.

Sana'a witnesses report that, "Security and military troops are deployed heavily on various streets and lanes in the capital city. They are inspecting any passing vehicles and searching their occupants, thereby causing traffic jams in various parts of the city. They're also asking pedestrians to show their identity cards."

Observers believe that excessive deployment of security troops and armed forces within the capital, as well as spreading fear, serves as an alarm to the worsening security situation. They predict a potential Houthi entry into the capital, which may constitute an imminent threat to the current government power holders.

Al-Qarni lawyers barred from courtroom as comic's verdict is delayed until July

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf and Sarah Wolff

TAIZ, June 4 — The verdict in the case of comedian and performer Fahd Al-Qarni was delayed until next month, while a crowd of nearly 300 waited outside the courthouse and watched as security forces blocked and turned away both lawyers and the media, who were trying to enter the court.

Yesterday's hearing was supposed to be the last for Al-Qarni, a comic singer and actor affiliated with the Islamic Islah Party. Al-Qarni's verdict was supposed

to have been announced yesterday, but the court deferred any decision until the final hearing on July 9.

Taiz security forces arrested Al-Qarni in early April on charges of sedition and harming national unity by his satirical performances mocking the Yemeni government and President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"We've [heard] certain leaked information that the verdict has been decided," one of Al-Qarni's attorneys, Abdulrahman Barman, reported. "The judge said he'll announce the sentence on July 9, which means it's no longer a trial, but that the defendant already has been found guilty." He added that he expects Al-Qarni to be sentenced to "many years" in prison.

However, Mansour Ali Alawi, who heads the Taiz appeals prosecution, denies Barman's claims about the verdict. "That's just talk among the opposition parties. If there indeed was a verdict, then why wouldn't the judge announce it today?" he asked, adding that, "The court is reviewing and listening to the evidence and the judge says he



Fahd Al-Qarni

needs to deliberate the case further."

Courthouse security barred all media from entering yesterday's hearing and allowed only five attorneys from each side into the courtroom. According to the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), a group of around 70 attorneys have volunteered to help work on Al-Qarni's case.

However, Al-Qarni's defense team, led by Abdullah No'man, reported that three of the five supposed defense attorneys permitted to enter actually were lawyers for the ruling General People's Congress Party. The remaining two defense attorneys allowed to enter the court were Ali Al-Mansoub and Mohammed Musa'id Naji. The names of the prosecutors were unknown at press time.

Al-Mansoub maintains that the case against Al-Qarni now is unbalanced, with only two of his defense team's

attorneys allowed to represent him in court while eight represent the government.

Defense team head No'man decided not to attend yesterday's hearing after Judge Abdulaziz Al-Ward refused to allow any other defense attorneys (besides the two already permitted) to enter the court. No'man remarked, "It doesn't honor me to attend such a court."

As Barman explained, "Whenever one of the GPC attorneys came [to the court], security personnel hailed him and told him to enter when he was among us." He added that security forces photographed supporters in the crowd outside the court.

Brawl erupts at Al-Qarni's last court hearing

Last month's second hearing for the Taiz-based satirical comic and singer turned brutal when security forces stormed into the courtroom after Al-Qarni's songs were played aloud before Judge Al-Ward to loud cheering.

At the hearing, a CD of Al-Qarni's quotations was played aloud in court for a crowd of attendees, including observers and members of the prosecution and the defense teams. Angered by the loud applause that erupted for Al-Qarni's CD, the prosecution team demanded it be turned off.

When the judge didn't immediately silence the music, an observer left the courtroom only to return shortly thereafter with the head of the Appeals Court, who confiscated the case files from

the court secretary without the judge's permission.

Appeals court director Alawi also arrived at the scene during this time and allegedly verbally abused the defense team with insults. Shortly thereafter, security personnel burst into the courtroom, beat members of the defense team and dragged them from the room. Security also forced Al-Qarni from the courtroom and took him back into custody.

"I had the right to intervene because the defense team clapped and whistled while Al-Qarni's CD was played as evidence in the court," Alawi said, adding, "They disrespected the hearing; they looked like clowns."

Defense attorneys protested outside of the court, claiming that the entire fiasco was rigged to prevent a decision in Al-Qarni's case and keep him incarcerated for even longer. The defense team requested the National Supreme Judiciary Committee look into the day's events and released a statement condemning the verbal and physical violence they say was perpetrated by the prosecution. Alawi described the lawyers as "rude rioters."

However, public prosecution denies the defense team's claim about the verbal and physical abuse in the courtroom. Prosecutor Abdulsalam Muqbil explained that according to the law, the defense team has the right to support Al-Qarni, but making a ruckus in court took their support too far. "Unfortunately, they created chaos in the courtroom in order to mislead the judge so he wouldn't see the evidence," he said, adding, "This is what happened at the last hearing."

Another defense attorney, Tawfiq Al-Shuaibi, accused the court of breaching the law for the sake of pleasing the government. He noted that numerous violations were committed against Al-Qarni, beginning with the manner of his arrest and followed by his jailing, which Al-Shuaibi says was extraneously long.

He maintains that Al-Qarni's case is

based on political motives and that it's unlawful because he's done nothing wrong. He says the case against the singer is a type of revenge to punish him for his satirical performances during the most recent presidential and local elections.

Barman indicated that Al-Qarni will be retried in Sana'a on the same charges, which he agrees are illegal under Yemeni law.

"[The prosecution] said Al-Qarni implicitly depicted the president in one scene, which could be considered an insult to him," said Al-Mansoub, one of the two defense attorneys permitted to enter yesterday's hearing. He maintained that such criticism — even of the president — is permissible because Yemeni citizens have the right to freedom of expression, which is one of the tenants of democratic rule.

The Joint Meeting Parties, the political bloc comprised of several opposition groups including the influential Islah and Socialist parties, condemned the charges against Al-Qarni. "Accusing Al-Qarni reflects the weakness of the Yemeni government's understanding of democracy and freedom of expression," JMP leader Amin Al-Maqatri said.

Mohammed Abdu Sufian, a GPC spokesperson in Taiz, urged the ruling party to take the suit against Al-Qarni seriously by sentencing him harshly for his insults against the Yemeni president and the government. There's an ongoing discussion within the Yemeni Parliament regarding passing a law to imprison anyone who offends the president, the ruling party or the Yemeni flag for up to 10 years.

Additionally, Mohammed Al-Adhra'i, another well-known Yemeni comedic singer, alleges that he and other supporters were attacked when they visited Al-Qarni at Taiz Central Prison.

Al-Qarni himself demands President Saleh release him and apologize to him, as well as to the Yemeni people, claiming that he has suffered abuse and mistreatment while in prison.

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In brief

Yemeni Guantanamo detainees call families

Yemeni detainees at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp have been allowed for the first time since their detention in the wake of the September 11 attacks against the US to call their families.

The move came as preparations for handing over 85 Yemeni prisoners to the government began.

However, the United States says Yemen has not provided enough guarantees that will ensure the freed detainees will not return to committing terrorist acts.

SANA'A

Appeal court upholds sentences against 34 of 1st Sana'a cell

The Appeal court upheld on Saturday in its Saturday hearing preliminary verdict against 29 members of First Sana'a Cell that is composed of 37 members.

They were accused of forming an armed gang for killing peoples.

The verdict stipulated approval of the death sentence against the defendant No. 1 Ibrahim Sharafeddin, and imprisonment for 10 years against 21 defendants, 8 years against 7 defendants and three years against 6 defendants. The court acquitted three defendants due to lack of evidences.

Hadhrumout

1700 Kg Hashish seized on Pakistani ship on Hadhrumout coast

Security forces seized on Tuesday 1700 Kg of Hashish on Yemeni coasts of Hadhrumout governorate.

The security sources said that the quantity of Hashish was smuggled from Pakistan and seized onboard of a Pakistani ship with 11 Pakistanis on their way to neighboring countries via Yemen. Director General of Drugs Combating Administration at the Interior Ministry Khaled Mutahar al-Radhi said that the operation was carried out in framework of cooperation, coordination and information exchanging between Yemen and the United Arab Emirates represented by drugs combating institutions.

Reproductive health campaign launched in Mukalla

Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs launched on Tuesday a national campaign for reproductive health and family planning in collaboration with Ministry of Public Health and Population and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to last for one week.

During opening of session, director of endowment and Islamic affairs Ahmed al-Batati pointed out the government's interest in family planning for the benefit of society in light of current economic conditions and the increasing proportion of births that is higher, highlighting that religion did not prevent family planning

Taiz

Lightning kills seven, injures three

At least seven people have been killed in the district of Muqabana in Taiz province by lightning strikes last week.

Informed local sources said seven persons including a woman and a nine-year child were killed and three young people were seriously injured when lightning struck the district along with heavy rains and thunder.

Lightning killed some livestock in the area as well.

However, the heavy rains damaged many houses in Ibb province but no human casualties were reported.

Roads also have been destroyed and blocked by floods and electricity was cut off due to uprooted electric posts.

Taiz Youth Court sues Youth and Sports Ministry

TAIZ, May 31 — The Taiz Youth Court, a project of the non-governmental organization called the National Center for Culture and Youth, sued Yemen's Ministry of Youth and Sports for negligence in providing the young people of Taiz with cultural and sporting events.

Representatives from the ministry and members of Parliament's Education and Youth Committee attended the mock voluntary trial at which Taizi youths aired their grievances about the lack of sports facilities and the ministry's seemingly carelessness attitude toward them.

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Ahmed Al-Ashari admitted before the 200 attendees that there is a real absence of cultural and social activities for Taizi youths and their clubs. He promised to increase the role of cultural and social committees for all Yemeni youths, but particularly for Taizi youths. "The sport ministry is now reconsidering its activities, and already has been planning with education ministry to carry out social, cultural, educational, and sports programs within summer camps in schools," he added.

The attendees recommended the Yemeni government create a project agenda, despite disagreements between the various political parties, because the



Representatives from ministry of education and ministry of sport attend the mock trial

programs implemented should be non-partisan in spirit.

The Youth Court also requested the Youth and Sports Ministry construct at least two facilities nearby — one sports hall and one multipurpose stadium — further requesting the ministry budget for clubs and events, particularly in the countryside, as rural residents make up three-quarters of Yemen's population.

Established in 2006 by an initiative from the National Center for Culture and Youth, the Youth Court now has more than 200 members of both sexes affiliated with various political parties, as well as Taiz University.

As the center's director, Abdullah Abdullillah, explains, "The Youth Court

seeks to improve youths' practical capacities and skills in the field, as well as [promote] the exchange of opinions because effective participation will help solve the problems [Yemeni youths] face."

Now in its second session (2008-2009), the Youth Court is dedicated to looking into youth problems, such as the absence of cultural and sporting activities, as well as increasing participation at youth clubs.

Additionally, the court hopes to compel the Yemeni government to expand its budget for youth activities by offering suggestions for current and upcoming youth program implementation throughout the country.

Parliaments discusses the laws on arms control and monitoring

Sana'a, June 1 — The Parliament discussed the legislative amendment concerning controlling firearms, light ammunition, and the trading of these items among the governorates' capital cities and countryside on Sunday.

The Parliament opened this discussion aimed at curbing the spread of light arms and limiting explosives importation in order to better security throughout the country.

The legal article forbids anyone who possesses weapons to carry them inside the capital city of Sana'a as well as cities throughout the other governorates, was put into law in 1992. The issue is still hotly disputed among members of Parliament (MPs), some of whom are tribal sheikhs who protest the anti-weapons law, claiming that bearing arms is needed for defense in remote regions.

Against strong protests, last year the Interior Ministry banned Sana'a city residents from carrying firearms. The minister's directive also banned weapons from entering the capital city

of Sana'a, canceled all the previously-held firearms licenses and even banned carrying licensed firearms. Anyone disobeying these orders is subject to arrest and punishment.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, this measure will reduce firearms-related incidents in the city and will encourage more tourism to and investment in Yemen.

Besides these efforts, the ministry also launched campaigns to shut down unlicensed gun and firearms shops. The government also launched a weapons buy-back campaign in 2005, which gave financial incentives to citizens to turn over their firearms. There are over 60,000,000 firearms in Yemen, with an estimated three weapons per each person.

According to recent statistics, incidents of crime have decreased by an average of 43 percent in Yemen's urban areas. The decrease is attributed to the implementation of a government ban on carrying weapons that encouraged many MPs support the approval

of article 40, which bans weapons throughout the various capital cities in Yemen's other governorates.

They stressed the importance of adjusting and expanding this article to contain rules on exporting, storing, and marketing weapons and explosives.

MP Abdullwahab Mwdha, a member of the human rights committee in Parliament stated, "All the Yemeni crises and tragedies have resulted from arms-carrying and its spread. Because of this, the Parliament should approve amending the law on the arms control and monitoring."

MP Ahmed Nasser Shai'a, a member of the defense and security committee in Parliament, pointed out the importance of this law in limiting bloody clashes between security members and criminals.

"We have to amend this legislative article on arms-carrying, and then we can limit and control many crimes committed by various criminals," he added.

Imams and morshidat counter misconceptions about family planning

By: Sarah Wolff and Alia Ishaq

SANA'A, June 4 — With training from various Yemeni ministries and the United Nations Population Fund, known as UNFPA, Yemeni religious leaders once again will be talking about family planning in their Friday sermons; however, this time, their sermons will address the common misconceptions Yemenis have about reproductive health.

Sixty-eight participants, including imams (religious leaders) and moshidat (female religious guidance counselors), as well as members of the Ministry of Endowments and the Ministry of Public Health and Population, met to discuss the next round in their ongoing work to educate Yemenis nationwide about the benefits of family planning.

The group met recently to brainstorm what issues were most confusing to Yemenis and how they can be addressed within an Islamic perspective. The religious leaders and ministerial staff identified a few main misconceptions about reproductive health, most surrounding the use of contraception, such as:

- Contraceptives cause cancer
- Using contraceptives can cause permanent sterility
- Contraceptives cause a woman's hair to fall out
- Using contraceptives causes disturbance of the menstrual cycle (amenorrhea)

Dr. Fardous Al-Bar, a Sana'a-based gynecologist with her own private practice, dispelled these fears, stressing that contraception, including contraceptive pills, injections and Intra-Uterine Devices, or IUDs, is harmless in nearly

all cases.

"Pills and IUDs don't cause cancer," Al-Bar pointed out. "If a woman has a predisposition toward cancer — for which there are tests — then these [forms of contraception] can be a reason [for illness], just like any other medicine."

She notes that because of certain women's predisposition to cancer, their lifestyle or for hereditary reasons, they should consult a doctor before using hormonally-based forms of contraception like the pill or the IUD.

Al-Bar added that contraception doesn't cause permanent sterility or hair loss and that rather than disturbing a woman's menstrual cycle, contraception actually can regulate it.

Islam permits contraceptive use and family planning. The workshop participants also felt that family planning could be shunned by citizens as a "foreign" concept unfit for introduction in Yemeni society. oHow

To the contrary, family planning is deemed permissible and sometimes even mandatory by Islam. There are more than 50 hadiths (sayings) of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) relating to contraception and family planning.

According to Hans Obdeijn, UNFPA's country representative in Yemen, nearly every Islamic country supports family planning. In a speech at the workshop, he said, "As many Islamic scholars have pointed out, regulating family size is fully consistent with Islamic law."

"The Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) declared that, 'The worst hardship is to have plenty of children without adequate means,'" former UNFPA executive director Dr. Nafis Sadiq pointed out. "Therefore, if planning one's fami-

ly is acceptable, it follows that some means of fertility regulation also must be acceptable."

Sources such as the Guttmacher Institute, a worldwide reproductive health organization, praise Islam as one of the most liberated religions in terms of contraception and family planning, with many different types of approved contraception methods in order to ensure happy and healthy families.

Planning for healthy families and healthy societies

With one of the world's highest birth rates, Yemen's population has tripled since 1975. The UNFPA found that the number of children desired per Yemeni family is between four and five, but the actual number of childbirths per woman is seven. This religious campaign to raise reproductive health awareness seeks to lessen this disparity, while producing healthy, happy and financially sound families in the process.

Some of the dangers of such a high birth rate include physical damage to both mother and child. Women who give birth to a high number of children risk their own lives, as well as the lives of their children, especially if they give birth once each consecutive year, as is often the case in Yemen.

With this large birth rate come social welfare problems of nearly every type: increased poverty, scarcity of resources and widespread unemployment for younger generations, according to the UNFPA. The UNFPA says it will continue partnering with Yemen to address the complex links between population dynamics, poverty and sustainable development in order to meet the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty in Yemen by 2015.

World Bank approves \$1.2 billion to 20 most food-insecure countries including Yemen

ROME, June 3 — The World Bank has approved US \$1.2 billion in emergency financial aid for the 20 countries most vulnerable to high food prices, including Yemen, at a three-day food security conference held by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

Last week, the World Bank created a program called the Global Food Crisis Response Facility to quickly get US \$1.2 billion to struggling countries, which was a priority for discussion at the start of the high-level conference in Rome. The aid, which includes US \$200 million of grants for especially vulnerable countries like Yemen, has already been put into operation here.

The World Bank estimated that another 100 million people could be pushed into poverty and starvation as a result of high and fluctuating global food prices. In Yemen alone, another six percent of the population — around one million people — has already fallen below the poverty line, living on less than US \$2 each day. Approximately one in five people are malnourished in Yemen, though with rising food prices, this number is likely to increase.

The World Bank's emergency funds will go directly to a "safety net" for the

poor, including school feeding programs, food for work, maternal and child programs, budget support and loans.

"This can be done through the World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Development Banks. After the direct food assistance of the WFP, this is where funding should go," said World Bank Group President Robert Zoellick.

Grant operations have been approved for Haiti, Djibouti and Liberia; operations are being processed for Togo and Tajikistan.

The World Bank will expand overall assistance for agriculture and food-related activities from US \$4 billion to US \$6 billion over the coming year, according to Bank statements at the Rome conference. Zoellick also said that the World Bank Group will aim to double global food production over the next 30 years.

The World Bank currently spends around US \$787 million to run 19 programs in Yemen, including anti-corruption, water and educational projects in addition to around US \$70 million in loans to the government.

Minister of Culture:

Old City of Sana'a building renovations are neglected

SANA'A, June 4 — The Ministry of Culture warned that it won't be lenient with any of the General Authority for Historical Cities' deficiencies in protecting historical cities in Yemen, particularly the Old City of Sana'a, which has many buildings on the verge of collapse due to the onset of the rainy season. "The officials will be referred to the judiciary if any default happens," said that Abu Bakr Al-Maflahi, the Minister of Culture. But the head of the General Authority for Historical Cities (GAHC) Abdullah Zaid said that no one in his organization has been accused of negligence and no one has been put on trial.

During his visit to some of the damaged buildings in the Old City of Sana'a, Al-Maflahi reaffirmed the necessity of the General Authority for Historical Cities' responsibilities to maintain the houses in the Old City of Sana'a that were damaged during the rainy season. Al-Maflahi also asked the

GAHC to take all the procedures necessary to avoid risks that have and will continue to threaten inhabitants of these historic buildings.

Al-Maflahi said during his meeting with GAHC director Zaid that his ministry was ready to present the required financial and technical support in order to start or continue with the buildings' renovation process as soon as possible. Additionally, he asked the concerned authorities and the local council members to intensify their efforts to prevent buildings in the Old City of Sana'a from collapsing, defacement and distortion.

Zaid reminded Al-Maflahi that the GAHC is working on these tasks, but face a lack of financial support and are still looking for donors. "There are eight buildings in the Old City of Sana'a that need to be renovated urgently but we have no funding," said Zaid. "Last year we received YR 5 million and this year we received YR 10 million from the local council," he added.

Marib locals don't trust their area medical services

MARIB, June 2 — A medical field study reveals that most local citizens in Marib governorate, located east of the capital city of Sana'a, choose to obtain their health services outside of their governorate.

"Our results show that the level of public awareness, revenge killings and lack of competent medical staff are the main reasons for most health service expenditures outside of the governorate," noted Dr. Abdurabu Muftah, general manager of Marib's Health Office.

According to the study conducted by Yemen's Health Ministry and the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, due to a low level of awareness, Marib residents believe the medical services offered in the capital city are the most developed.

They also avoid seeking treatment at their governorate's hospitals because they may become easy targets of revenge killings, which are widespread in Marib.

Marib is the first Yemeni governorate to do this health study.

USAID called on the nation's decision makers to use the study results to come up with appropriate plans and strategies. "We conducted this study and found out that most health service expenditures are spent outside of their true framework. The decision makers now must make use of such studies in order to create the right plans and

know the weak points to deal with," urged Dr. Fuad Al-Sabri, chargé d'affaires of USAID's basic health services project.

He highlighted the fact that that most government health service expenditures are spent on constructing buildings — Marib governorate has 123 health institutions — while very little is spent on diagnosis.

Thus, because citizens don't find efficient health care, they are compelled to travel to other governorates or even abroad.

In collaboration with donors like USAID and GTZ, the Marib Health Office has enlisted three mobile medical teams to visit each of the governorates 14 districts for one week per month, during which it will provide area residents medical services such as vaccinations, treatments and health education. The team consists of a doctor, two midwives, a health instructor and a health education team consisting of three people.

According to the study's report, organizational, private sector donors and the Yemeni government allocate \$16,386,734 — or \$66.88 per person — for health care services.

The report further indicated that Yemeni families pay 53.77 percent of health care expenditures, while the government provides 2.49 percent, joined by donors like USAID and GTZ, who provide 7.15 percent.

Walid Haykel has waged an 8-year fight against his looming execution

By: Wojoud Mojalli
For The Yemen Times

Although Yemeni law prohibits executing children, a 23-year-old is set to be executed for a murder he allegedly committed when he was 15.

Walid Haykel, who was convicted of murdering 27-year-old Najeeb Al-Sa'awani, although he maintains that he is innocent, has been in prison for nearly eight years. When Haykel's sentence – the death penalty – originally was handed down, he was only 15 years old. Al-Sa'awani was found dead of knife wounds in Sana'a city in September 2000.

The murder case was considered a challenge for the police, who arrested and detained in jail more than 50 people during the investigation because, according to the police report, Al-Sa'awani had many enemies and was

always in a fight.

A medical report derived from Al-Sa'awani's autopsy indicated that his death was at the hands of three to five individuals. Haykel, who was Al-Sa'awani's neighbor, became a suspect because the two had had a small fight just days before the murder.

Haykel was held in the criminal investigation jail for two months, during which he claims police tortured him until he confessed to the murder.

Haykel's first execution date was set for Nov. 20, 2006, but he and his father appealed the ruling in May 2007 on the grounds that his confession resulted from torture. However, the court refused his appeal and Haykel made his final appeal on Dec. 6, 2007.

The Supreme Court of Appeals refused to allow Haykel the Right of Innocence, instead ruling that Haykel should be executed, which was approved on April 9.

The youth may be executed at any moment because his sentence is ready

and only awaits President Ali Abdullah Saleh's signature on his execution order. He awaits his destiny at the Central Prison.

Legal debate

Yemen's Criminal Law stipulates that anyone between ages 15 and 18 who commits a crime shall receive only half the adult punishment, and criminals younger than 18 are required to be jailed for three to 10 years instead of facing execution.

According to the same law, the death penalty can't be applied to anyone under age 18, while imprisoning such underage criminals shall be at special jails where the prisoner is to be treated in accordance with international human rights standards. If a criminal's age is unknown when he or she committed the crime, the judge must bring in an expert to determine the age of the accused.

Under the same law, the judge must consider all evidence of this type, including whether the criminal is mature or not, as well as evaluating his or her mental state.

In Haykel's medical report, which was conducted in 2001 at the request of the prosecuting attorney for northern Sana'a governorate, Haykel was said to have completed 15 but not 16 years. However, the court ruled that the medical report was too speculative and wouldn't be accepted as evidence in the case.

Many Yemenis don't know their exact age because they have no birth certificate nor any other registration documents.

However, there were no specific criminal laws concerning juveniles at the time of Haykel's arrest, said a source close to the court who wished to remain anonymous because of the sensitivity of the material.

The source added that there was neither a juvenile court nor a juvenile prison eight years ago, which is why Haykel's medical report was not admitted into evidence during his original



Walid Haykel

against him.

"I confessed because I was being tortured at the jail," said Haykel. "They also forced me to say that I was 18. I didn't know or understand what was going on, so that's why I confessed."

After spending two months in the criminal investigation jail, Haykel was transferred to the juvenile prison facility in November 2000.

"There's no rule of law in Yemen. Although we brought in many witnesses, the court paid no attention," Haykel's brother Saddam said, "I asked the judge the whereabouts of the gun and the knife

my brother supposedly used, but he had no answer. Thus, there's no weapon [admitted] as evidence against my brother!"

"On the night of the murder, Walid was sleeping next to me, so how can they say he killed Najeeb?" his brother continued. "Najeeb's family bribed the investigators to torture my brother," he claims, adding, "My brother will be executed at any moment for doing nothing!"

Their father comments, "If my son really was the one who killed Najeeb, I'd let the law execute him, but there's no evidence against him, except that he confessed under torture while in jail."

Several witnesses came to the court to testify to Haykel's innocence, but the court didn't accept their testimony because they were in jail with him.

Appeal to stop death sentence

"Several witnesses testified that my son was tortured for nearly two months, but no one listened to them," Haykel's father says. "I now request and plead to the president and all of the authorities to save my child from being executed."

The Children's Parliament also has asked President Saleh to halt Haykel's execution because he was 15 at the time of the murder, so under Yemeni law, the death penalty can't be applied.

Haykel's death penalty order has been readied for President Saleh's signature twice before, but the decision was postponed after human rights organizations intervened and because Haykel's father requested an appeal.

As he points out, "We're a poor family with no money to bribe officials to help us with our case or even to hire a lawyer. All of the attorneys who have taken our case were volunteers."

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Young people give their opinions about mercy killing

Although mercy killing is practiced in other countries – sometimes legally and sometimes illegally – the issue has yet to become prominent in Yemen.

“Mercy killing” is another term for euthanasia, the medical word for the intentional ending of a terminal-ly ill person’s life through an easy or painless death. Euthanasia is practiced when someone suffering from a painful or incurable disease expresses their wish to end their own life with the assistance of medical staff

and loved ones.

This highly controversial practice splits families, friends and spouses all over the world straight down the middle, with strongly held beliefs on both sides of the argument.

The Yemen Times surveyed young people about their thoughts on mercy killing and what they would do if faced with that choice. Surveyed by Hatem Qubati

Hani Al-Qubati, 28, engineer



I'd do my best to restore him or her to health until the conclusive moment comes when they either live or die.

Abeer Al-Madwali, 22, university student

If I had a terminally ill loved one, I'd ask God to cure him or her. I wouldn't wish him or her to die because it's so difficult parting with a loved one. Seeing that person ill is better than not seeing him or her at all.

Mohammed Al-Makramani, 21, university student

If I had an ill relative, I'd ask Allah to heal him or her; maybe a miracle would happen to keep him or her alive.

Mohammed Al-Sharabi, 22, university student



If a person was so ill and there was no hope of reviving him or her, death actually would be the best solution so that he or she wouldn't wear down others.

Yasmeeen Al-Shuaibi, 22, university student

You can't imagine how difficult this situation is until you live it yourself. I experienced this situation with my father, who died five months ago, and it was the most difficult time in my life. Nobody would wish for his or her relative to die, even if that person was very ill, especially when dying would destroy all of their dreams, wishes and ambitions for the future.

Fahman Al-Qubati, 28, accountant



If he or she was very ill with a dangerous disease and couldn't be revived, then dying would be better than staying alive.

Nadheem Al-Yousfi, 22, university student



Even if he or she had a chronic disease, I couldn't wish for my sick relative to die because we must face our fate and accept it.

Bassam Al-Qubati, 19, university student



I'd do everything – even the impossible – to restore him or her to health, but if couldn't, I'd entrust him or her to God to either live or die.

Abdulqader Hassan, 21, Sana'a university student

If I was sure that the ill one would die, then I'd say that death was the best thing for him or her.

Zainab Asserouri, 24, university student

If I had an ill loved one, I'd ask Allah to heal him or her because there's no good reason for one to wish for his or her relative to die.

Yasir Garadi, 25, university student



If someone could confirm that the sick person actually was going to die – although no one can do this, not even doctors – then I think dying



is better. However, no one but Allah can be sure that a sick person will die.

Um Ahmed Hadi, age withheld, university student

I'd wish for him or her to stay alive because it says in Islam that if one's illness increases, his or her misdeeds will diminish.

Samir Sailan, 24, university student



I'd ask Allah to do the best for him or her – either to live or die – and then I'd accept His judgment. God does what He wants, so we should

accept the results, whatever they are.

Arif Al-Ruqaimi, 23, university student



I couldn't wish for that person to die, even if dying was better for him or her than staying alive.

Wadhah Al-Athwari, 26, engineer



There's a difference if the ill person is young or old. Between ages 20 and 60, it's difficult to wish for him or her to die, but if the person is older than 80, dying is better, especially if there's no hope of them being revived.



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In solidarity with political detainees

By: Dr. Abdullah Awbal

What hampers progress toward civil life is the kind of government policies that encourage arbitrary crackdown on journalists and restriction of press freedom. The past few years have been full of conflicts between particular forces with a strong desire to build the modern state of law and order and other forces that defend their traditional positions through tools of an oppressive authority.

Remarkably, Yemeni authorities continue to violate the constitution, restrict press freedoms and abuse basic human rights, mainly after they turned to behave as if they are a unified security system at the expense of protecting public freedoms. The government has no effective presence in conflict areas, which is why

law, order and human rights guarantees are missing.

All the political battles launched by the opposition are merely a reaction to the government's arbitrary procedures and the way this government places its hostile policies in effect. I imagine that the peaceful democratic action might have been a product for large elite of political activists, human rights defenders and field leaders who are able to exercise effectively positive influence on the urban communities. There is no value for opposition activities unless they at least convince the authority to modify its behavior and consider interests of the community.

Two common factors are believed to be responsible for the notable deterioration of press freedom and the various obstacles facing efforts to defend and protect human rights. The first factor has to do with the opposition and its direct

relation with society, which is why the government sees the opposition groups and civil community organizations as a decorative face for people because they lack the authentic contents. Consequently, the government tightened the noose around the opposition and civil community groups via its instruments, power and money.

The second factor is attributed to the government's exploitation of its facilities to control and oppress moves and directions of people and the way they think under the pretext of building the modern state of Yemen. Only certain forces (senior officials) have benefited from their relation with the authority to defend their social values, culture and statuses, as well as demonstrate their dominance over all the aspects of life. These forces use power to reproduce the same kind of culture and values again and again.

Jails turned to be homes to activists: I want to say that jails are currently housing journalists, educated people, politicians and human rights activists. Having a thorough glance at this condition helps annuls all the viewpoints and visions labeling the government's policies and the way it behaves as logical. We all know and the authority knows that such political detainees don't create a threat to a state heavily depending on heightened security to ensure and maintain its survival.

Since 1997, the authority has been used to jail political activists and then release them after weeks or months without any charges. This is nothing more than a policy aimed at halting progress of human rights, civil and political developments, as well as hindering the tendency and move toward civil society and a state of law and order.

At this point, I mean that the govern-

ment strictly resists any peaceful civil activities and is more serious and tougher in this regard than in dealing with highway robberies or other illegal practices.

Seemingly, the security authorities are addicted to arresting activists and restricting public freedoms. Whenever a peaceful action develops, the government then launches a massive arrest campaign against activists and throws them in security and military jails with the intention of foiling their wills and destroying their determination, as well as warning other activists to avoid behaving the same way.

Please see how many times Dr. Saood Ali Ubeid of Abyan has been jailed. The man has become a permanent target for the political security. When there is a demonstration or sit-in, the man has to prepare himself for a separated cell in prison and the main reason for his agony is attributed to his journalistic writings.

This is also the case of many political

activists and opinion writers such as Ahmad Al-Qama, Hassan Zaid and others. Ubeid has been released, but others are still detained while their relatives and beloved ones know nothing about places of their detention.

Yemeni security authorities achieve their objectives via insulting and oppressing political activists, human rights defenders and opinion writers. The authorities don't target any of these activists unless they are sure that the community has dispensed with them. They admit how vital the community's role is to providing distinctive activists with power and strong determination.

Finally, my message is that we must not be late in expressing solidarity with all the political detainees who remain thrown in the various security and military jails without clear charges.

Source: Al-Masdar.net

Significance of economic diplomacy

By: Mohammed Abdulwasea

Some consider economic diplomacy to be a fairly recent addition to the work of professional diplomats, who previously tended to concentrate almost exclusively on political tasks. Commercial work, like other functional sectors, consular or cultural, was traditionally viewed with disdain, and represented a secondary career track for high-flying diplomats. However, in a globalised and interconnected world, economics is more important than ever as a determining element in international affairs. It is also a sizeable component of relations between states. Thus, economics has moved to center-stage in diplomacy and now extends beyond 'commercial diplomacy'. Aside from foreign trade, it includes external investments, financial flows, aid, bilateral and multilateral economic negotiations and technology exchanges, which all 'brand' countries and contribute to image-building.

Economic diplomacy is an active and interconnected factor in integrated diplomacy, where the lines of division

between functional areas are blurred, and each sector influences the other.

In some ways, we have evolved back to the earliest recorded days of relations between kingdoms and principalities, when commerce was an important motivation for reaching out to other foreign entities. It led ancient civilizations to exchange spices, silks and other precious commodities with distant lands, thereby creating the norms and procedures within which the exchanges could be carried out. These were the first 'international' accords and treaties that were not only concerned with conquest and territory, but with mutually beneficial commercial dealings within a legal framework.

The importance of economic diplomacy as a driving force for political development is well known and understood. After all, the reason why policy makers consider globalization to be the most important economic and social trend of our era is because localization and its attendant underdevelopment still reign supreme in large parts of the world.

International trade and other areas of global international economic relations

are increasing in importance. As a result, if one considers the internal market in Europe, or the United States, and compares it with the level of economic relations between and within other regions of the world, it is clear that there are large areas for progress, prosperity and dynamism that could result from effective economic diplomacy.

By economic diplomacy, we mean the use of our political influence and relationships to: Promote international trade and investments to improve the functioning of markets, reduce the cost and risks of cross-border transactions, achieve internationally accepted standards, secure private property rights, develop international telecommunications, energy and transport networks, and consolidate the right political climate to facilitate and institute all of these objectives.

This is a great challenge, especially for governments which must contend with the forces of economic nationalism, cultural anxieties, embedded corruption, and resistance to reform.

Conflict prevention: Economic diplomacy is also of great

importance as a long-term instrument for conflict prevention. The most obvious example, and one of the greatest success stories of the past 60 years, is the creation and astounding success of the European Union.

When the Union was first established as the European Coal and Steel Community shortly after the Second World War, its basic idea ? explicitly discussed by its founding fathers ? was the strengthening of the economic ties between member states and nations as an instrument for preventing future wars in Europe.

Indeed, for more than 60 years, Europe enjoyed unprecedented economic growth and political stability. So strong are the mutually beneficial economic bonds and interests that, today, conflict is unthinkable between the member states of the European Union.

However, this success is not the work of Europe alone. The United States played a crucial role, providing within the NATO alliance an immensely important security component. America's long-term commitment, lasting more than 40 years, until the major security threat of the Soviet bloc was

eliminated, was essential to Europe's success.

The United States and Europe complemented each other, combining their respective strengths time and again, working together and with other powers and important nations of the international community within the framework of international organizations. That partnership, between Europe and America, is and will remain for the foreseeable future the most important factor for conflict prevention in the world.

But Europe utilized its unique historic experience only partially after communism collapsed and the continent was confronted by the inherent instabilities of emerging democracies and economies in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Europe did succeed in enlarging the EU to embrace Eastern Europe, but failed to use the same instruments in time in the case of former Yugoslavia.

This partial success can be explained if one considers some of the obvious disadvantages that limit the usefulness of economic diplomacy in conflict prevention ? namely the need for long-term commitment to achieving objectives. Economic diplomacy is necessarily a

long-term process. Its results start showing not in mere months or years, but rather after a decade, or even longer. So it cannot be effective by itself when a situation rapidly and unexpectedly deteriorates toward conflict.

Also in recent years, the importance of cultural differences as a fundamental cause for conflicts has influenced policy makers all over the globe. So much so that in some cases policy making has reached the other extreme of the pendulum. It has moved from excessive trust in economic tools and markets to the deterministic belief in cultural schisms. This is a dangerously effective concept, because it can act as a self-fulfilling prophecy. It can make us lose our focus on the fact that all the great achievements of Western civilization, involving human security, technological modernization, economic development and individual freedom, are still desired by billions of people today ? men, women, and children of different cultural backgrounds, but all sharing the same fundamental human needs, the same fundamental human aspirations.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

Yemen's Unity and UAE Federation:

Failed centralization and successful federalism

By: Moneer Al-Mawri

During my brief stay in the United Arab Emirates over the past two weeks, I met businessmen and officials in the federal government, as well as in the local authorities. I also met educated people in the Gulf country and found that most of them, if not all, are closely observing what is happening in Yemen with grief and sadness.

More importantly, a state of grief and sorrow was even noticed among businessmen who are planning to invest in a virgin country like Yemen, but they avoid adventuring their capitals due to a lack of trust in Yemen's current government.

All the Gulf states, not only UAE, see the Yemeni Reunification as a fragile unity as the nation may fragment and split at any time in the future. They also see the political leadership in our country as failed since it proved unable to build necessary basic structures despite 30 years have passed since it first assumed power.

According to the Gulf states, Yemen's political leadership views investment as one of the forms of trading that must be lucrative to it irrespective of its benefits sought by people. Great portions of populations in the Gulf states project that changing Yemen's system of governance may help attract huge investments needed by Yemen and investors in the various areas.

Yemeni regime impedes investment:

The Gulf people hold the view that current system of governance in Yemen creates numerous obstacles to their plans aimed at initiating investment projects in the vulnerable country.

The current regime in Yemen tries to get closer to the Gulf States via imitating the negative aspects of those regimes in terms of bequeathing power to the sons and distributing wealth and resources to particular families and groups, but at the same time depriving the absolute majority of Yemeni citizens of benefiting from the natural resources in their homeland. These imitators don't understand that the ruling dynasties in the Gulf did not once bear any malice against their peoples. Instead, they expend hard efforts for the sake of their peoples' happiness and prosperity.

These dynasties, which we describe in Yemen as 'nomadic' managed to exploit returns from oil and other natural resources in favor of their peoples by establishing giant projects and providing all the basic services such as electricity, road networks, health and education. Except for Saudi Arabia, all the Gulf states are competing with the world's superpowers in the sense of reached achievements and services offered for their people.

The Emeriti people, for instance, enjoy the kind of social liberty whose influence is superior to that of the political free-

dom, which we are proud of in Yemen. The cities of Ain, Abu Dhabi and Dubai are topping the list of world cities in terms of attracting foreign investments to their territories, thanks to the nomadic wisdom demonstrated by rulers in the Gulf state.

The government of UAE Federation never intervenes in what is happening in Dubai, Sharjia or Ajman, and any local activities and projects in each emirate are exclusively handled and utilized by the emirate itself without any interference of the other emirates.

On the other hand, a small project in the Yemeni city of Aden may require a special permission from Ali Maqsa, an official in charge of Mr. President's projects, and it is impossible for anybody to approach Ali Maqsa except via Abdullah Al-Bashiri, Ali Al-Anisi, Abdu Bourigi or Aziz Mulif, the close tenure to President Saleh, who also work in his office, as administrators, journalists or top security guards.

We celebrated the 18th Anniversary of 22 May central and fragile unity, which the exiled Ali Salem Al-Beedh, President of once People's Democratic Republic of Yemen or South Yemen before the north and south merged in 1990, is responsible for announcing in such a fragile structure.

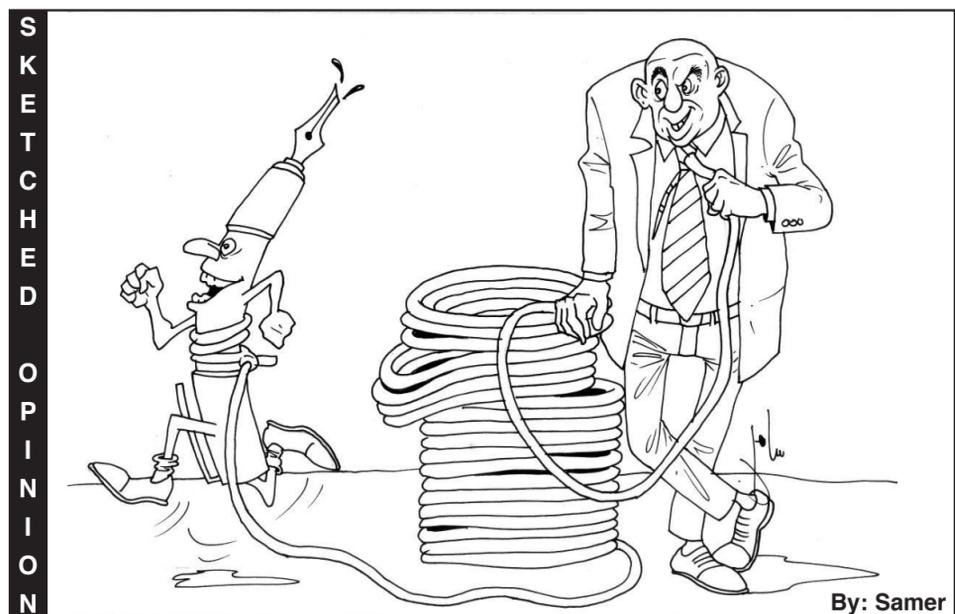
Thanks to the nomadic wisdom and prudence of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan, the Emeriti citizens have understood that centralization is the strongest enemy of unity. Consequently, the late

leader established a successful federation, which is one of the forms of decentralized unity and this federation may last for hundreds of years to come. The Emeriti people are due to celebrate the 38th Anniversary of establishing the federation next December.

Yemeni people are likely to be plagued by wars and fighting. Ultimately, they will understand how vital the late Sheikh Zayed's experience is to their unity and then think about establishing a federal unity to survive for hundreds of years in lieu of fragile merging due to expire on

the first day of the death of its founder President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Until now, Saleh left no clear mechanism for his tenure to share power following his demise.

Source: Al-Masdar.com



By: Samer

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Can liberal societies combat radical islam?

By: Elizabeth Broadwin

“With our usual genius for timing AEI [the American Enterprise Institute] just scheduled this seminar on the subject The Suicide of Reason just after Columbia University held what it styled a discussion session with a terrorist madman who is delighted to have American blood on his hands and whose madness, as Lee Harris will tell us, has a method to it.” With that opening, Christopher DeMuth, the president of AEI set the tone for an event surrounding the release of Lee Harris’s new book, *The Suicide of Reason, Radical Islam’s Threat to the West*. Mr. Harris presented his provocative arguments about the inability of societies based on enlightened liberal thought and reason to combat radical Islam and fanaticism in what was to be a rather confusing greatest-hits tour of the Enlightenment, Islamic philosophical thought, and Classical philosophy. The figures cited included the likes of Abelard, Aristotle, Hagel, Hobbes, Hume, Ibn Khaldun, Lacan and Socrates to name a few. Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a former member of Dutch parliament and current AEI fellow responded and then critiqued Harris’s arguments. They then squared off against each other, and against Islam.

Lee Harris, heralded by Mr. DeMuth as an “independent free lance intellectual” given his lack of affiliation with a think tank, university or any kind of organization, lives in the rural mountains in Georgia where he pursues his writing. He has previously published in *Policy Review*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and is the author of *Civilization and Its Enemies: The Next Stage of History*. Ayaan Hirsi Ali is currently a resident fellow at AEI where her research areas

include the relationship between Islam and the West, women’s rights in Islam, and violence against women propagated using religious and cultural arguments. Known for her staunch atheist and secularist beliefs, Ms. Ali has been a vocal critic of Islam and in her book speaks of her personal transformation from the “the world of faith to the world of reason.” In 2004 Ms. Ali made the film *Submission* about the oppression of women in conservative Islamic cultures with the director Theo Van Gogh. The film, aired on Dutch television, led to the Theo Van Gogh’s assassination by an Islamic extremist who called for a holy war against the West.

Mr. Harris described his inspiration for his book as born from a “shock, like an earthquake and then a series of after shocks,” beginning with 9/11, and then followed by, “watching Palestinians celebrate the event [9/11 attacks] in the street.” Another “after shock” was the propensity of scholars in the United States to draw analogies between the attacks on the World Trade Centers and the attack on Pearl Harbor and to suggest that the U.S. was on the brink of World War III. Between what Mr. Harris perceived as lack of mourning throughout the Muslim world and the WWII analogies he was hearing at home he realized the West was not facing a “Clausewitz style war,” but rather a threat more insidious and harmful to liberal values and what he termed an “ideological epidemic,” that causes “psychological and cultural damage” relying on a psychology of fear rather than on large-scale military attacks.

In addition to philosophical discussion, Mr. Harris critiqued Samuel Huntington’s *Clash of Civilizations* as offering an inadequate model to address and remedy societal differences. In his take-down, Harris argued that it is impossible to adopt a policy of non-involvement between Eastern and Western cultures, saying that in



“Radical Islam the pretension [is] not simply to grow but to bring down the entire system, the status quo.” Reason, in the sense that the West as influenced by the enlightenment understands it says, “you do not want to have ruthless people take over your society,” but Mr. Harris continued, “there are people who

actually like being ruthless” (meaning radical Islamists). Mr. Harris pointed to 9/11 and its aftermath as “a crash of civilizations” in which those whom he called “anarchophiles” (a term he coined) would use any means to gain power and upset the current system.

At its core, Mr. Harris’s depiction of

Islamic culture was as pre-modern and ruled by “the law of the jungle.” In this depiction, jihad is not only “the essential glue of Islam,” but also seemingly the articulation of a might-makes-right philosophy. To Mr. Harris’s thinking, then, Islamic culture will never respect the individuals, and tribalism trumps all. This characteristic above all defines the dichotomy Mr. Harris sees between Islamic society and, to use his term, Western enlightened society, which respects individualism.

Mr. Harris did not appeal to every clichéd critique of Islamic civilization, however. He argued that the term “Islamofascism” deludes and misleads. Whereas fascism was tyrannical minority rule, Mr. Harris argued jihad is a popular revival movement, with deep roots within Islamic society going back to the prophet Mohamed. Notably absent from Mr. Harris’s presentation was any acknowledgement of the debate among Muslim scholars and communities about the definition of jihad.

Ms. Ali first responded to Mr. Harris’s characterization of Islamic culture as one monolithic entity without individuals with individual thought, and she countered that culture is dynamic and changeable and that individuals, “are able to innovate and respond.” For instance, Ms. Ali said that there is a danger in categorizing “all Muslims,” as any one thing, saying that there is a “difference between Ahmadinejad and the Iranian people,” especially in terms of their perceptions of the West. While Mr. Harris seemed to suggest that it is impossible to appeal to a sense of reason from those within Islamic cultures, Ms. Ali said people all over the world “use Enlightenment reason in daily life,” and that “we should appeal more to [Muslims’] sense of reason,” maintaining that the Enlightenment is a threat to radical Islam. At the same time, Ms. Ali had harsh words for trib-

alism and tribal Islamic society saying, “enlightened tribalism is an oxymoron,” because the elevation of group interests inherent in tribal life inevitably evolves into totalitarianism. Ms. Ali continued with, “Once individuals get enlightened they are no longer tribal.”

Ms. Ali was also more optimistic in her belief that democracy and reason will triumph, and even pointed to her own personal transformation from tribal society to Western ideals and enlightenment reason. In addition to her own life, Ms. Ali highlighted the West’s ability to transform Japan and Germany into liberal democracies after WWII. Ms. Ali said that the West must “confront words with words,” and “attack when attacked.” More provocatively, Ms. Ali suggested that to combat the spread of radical Islam, the West must promote individualism and secularism, saying, “for every madrasa in the world, we can place a school next to it, spreading what we believe in, secular liberalism.” Ms. Ali said the source of her optimism about the future of individualism in Islamic society comes from the teachings of groups like the Islamic Brotherhood who advocate a personal relationship with the Koran without reliance on an Islamic state or Imam for religious guidance. While groups like the Islamic Brotherhood promote ideas at odds with Western liberal democracy, the individual relationship with religion they promote will lead to greater rates of literacy and promote individual thought.

In response to a question from the audience that asked Ms. Ali to reconcile why she and Mr. Harris, without hesitation, could compare Islam – a religion – with the West – a civilization – Ms. Ali responded, “Islam is a religion and political philosophy,” and Mr. Harris would certainly agree. Perhaps next time AEI will have the foresight to include a panelist who wouldn’t.

Source: *Taqdir Washington*

Wars against women

By: Heleen Mees and Femke van Zeijl

Truth is often said to be the first casualty in wartime. But if the real truth is told, it is women who are the first casualties. In conflict zones, the United Nations children’s agency UNICEF recently observed, sexual violence usually spreads like an epidemic. Whether it is civil war, pogroms, or other armed conflicts, all too often women’s bodies become part of the battlefield. The victims of large-scale sexual atrocities range from baby girls to old women.

In Darfur, *janjaweed* militia kidnaped a 12-year-old girl and gang-raped her for a week, pulling her legs so far apart that she was crippled for life. The biggest fear of rape victims in Darfur, however, is that they will never find a husband. Under sharia law, raped women are prosecuted for adultery or

fornication. Last year, at least two young women in Sudan were sentenced to death by stoning. As Refugees International observes: “The government is more likely to take action against those who report and document rape than those who commit it.”

In the wars now savaging the Democratic Republic of Congo, rape victims also take most of the blame. After being raped, Congolese women are banished by their husbands and ostracized by their communities. Often they are genitally mutilated by a gunshot or tossed on a fire naked.

In cultures where girls and women are married off and chastity is central to womanhood, all is lost for a woman who loses her honor. The subsequent stigma often is a heavier burden than the assault itself. So it should be no surprise that most of these wounded girls and women keep silent.

During the Balkan wars of the 1990’s, women were raped for the purpose of

bearing the enemy’s children. According to European Union estimates, 20,000 women in Bosnia alone were victims of rape. The women have been largely left to themselves, traumatized by their experiences and condemned to a life of poverty.

In 1945, an estimated two million women were victims of the Red Army’s sexual cruelties – not only German women, but also Jewish women in hiding, concentration camp survivors, and resistance fighters. According to the German journalist Ruth Andreas-Friedrich, the shame felt about “lost honor” created an “atmosphere of suicide.” In April 1945, there were more than 5,000 suicides in Berlin. Husbands, fathers, and teachers pressured women and girls to end their own lives after Russian soldiers raped them because their “honor” was their major concern.

For many girls and women, non-marital sex remains worse than death. So it is all the more striking – and painful –

that for so long this specific war crime has received little attention. During World War II, the prohibition on rape by soldiers was well established in international law, but the post-war Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes tribunals prosecuted only a handful of cases.

During the genocide in Rwanda, mass rape was the rule. But sexual assault was included only accidentally – and secondarily – in the Rwanda Tribunal’s indictments. After a Rwandan woman spontaneously declared before the tribunal that she and other women had been raped before the massacre, a female judge followed up and revealed the enormous scale of sexual violence against women. The Rwanda Tribunal was the first in history to describe rape as a possible act of genocide.

In 2001, the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia in The Hague condemned the systematic rape of women as a crime against humanity. In the landmark *Foca* case, the ICTY

convicted three Bosnian Serbs of rape, torture, and enslavement of Muslim women in 1992. Girls, some of them just 12 years old, were gang-raped for weeks.

Yet the perpetrators of wartime mass rape and other forms of sexual violence usually are not prosecuted. Recently, the Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga became the first prisoner to be tried at the International Criminal Court in The Hague for the recruitment of child soldiers. Yet the indictment’s failure to mention violence against women is a “huge shock” to the victims, according to Congolese human rights organizations. In a petition, they asked the ICC to investigate mass rapes committed by all parties in the conflict.

The impunity that is characteristic of these heinous crimes must stop. Rape and other forms of sexual violence against women should be openly discussed by governments, members of parliament, militia leaders, and opinion

leaders. Prosecution must become the rule. The ICC and other tribunals must give a clear signal to the perpetrators.

For women who have been victims of rape, there are no monetary benefits, memorials or mourning rituals. That must change as well. There should be a monument to the Unknown Raped Woman at the ICC. Maybe then its judges would pay closer attention to sexual violence against women.

*Heleen Mees is a Dutch economist and lawyer. Her most recent book *Weg met het deeltijdfeminisme!* examines third generation feminism. She is also the author of a book on European Union law and founder of the women’s action committee *Women on Top*; Femke van Zeijl’s most recent book *Een nacht in een vijzel* looks at women’s lives in Mozambique, Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.*

Source: *Project Syndicate, 2008.*

Exploiting Hezbollah’s coup

By: Tariq Alhomayad

Amidst the blaze of forming the Lebanese government, numerous statements have emerged here and there from the conflicting factions with each group justifying its position by relying either on the Taif Accords or the outcome of the recent Doha meetings. However it is evident that the opposition; Hezbollah specifically, is only relying upon the May 7 coup and the occupation of Beirut. How should we interpret Hezbollah MP Hassan Fadlallah’s warning to the majority in parliament that, “If it [the majority] is convinced and follows the

correct path then we will walk with it down this long road and together we can build a state and society and live with happiness and pride. If it does not accept the past experience, then it will be incapable of changing or achieving anything.”

But even graver were the comments made by Sheikh Abdul Amir Qabalan, Deputy President of the Higher Islamic Shia Council in Lebanon who stated: “The absence of the Shia signature from the government will not be permitted,” and called for “creating a vice presidential post to be filled by a Shia so that the Shia may take part in the decision-making process, in the case of them not getting the Ministry of Finance.”

Sheikh Qabalan did not stop there; he continued to speak about [the ministries of] justice and interior and the necessity of having neutral judges and officers as it is not right for innocent people to be imprisoned without having recourse to a fair trial, he said. What Sheikh Qabalan seeks is the release of the four officers embroiled in the case of Rafik Hariri’s assassination. This matter is shrouded in suspicion and it foreshadows bigger things to come in near future. Moreover, it is clear that there are roles being doled out by Hezbollah and its followers.

Sheikh Qabalan launched an attack on Sheikh Mohammed Rashid Qabbani, the Grand Mufti of the Lebanese Republic the day that he

warned against the sedition of the May 7 coup. Sheikh Qabalan said, “If some leaders are happy to become tools in the hands of Israel so that it may achieve its goals, then is it conceivable for those in religious positions to be dragged behind them and cover them [leaders] with their evocative speeches?”

But Sheikh Qabalan took it even further when he defended Iran in response to Walid Jumblatt’s call for the expulsion of the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon. He said that such questionable demands “fall under the framework of Israeli and American incitement.”

All of the above suggests that Hezbollah and its supporters act based on the coup that they carried out and

their occupation of Beirut and not in accordance with the Doha Agreement. Hezbollah and its supporters want the sovereign ministries and want to create a vice-presidential post to be filled by a Shia and they brag about what happened in Beirut rather than apologize for what they have perpetrated. And why not? In his most recent speech to his supporters, didn’t Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah say “I have promised you victory” in reference to his martyrs in comparison to the victims on the other side? So this means that his affiliates are martyrs while others rank lower in life and death!

The danger of all of the aforesaid is that it can only aggravate matters, in addition to firmly establishing the

belief amongst some that accumulating weapons and preparation are necessary – whilst there is nothing to guarantee that Hezbollah will not repeat its actions, especially since the party’s supporters continue to remind their opponents of the Beirut coup. The gravity does not lie in the fact that this comes from a Hezbollah MP but rather that it comes from a man of considerable status and who occupies the position of Deputy President of the Higher Islamic Shia Council in Lebanon.

Tariq Alhomayad is the Editor-in-Chief of Asharq Al-Awsat, the youngest person to be appointed that position. Source: <http://www.asharq-e.com>

Dr. Nabeel Alsohybe:

Budget reports will be timely and transparent

For almost a year the ministry of finance has been working on a devising a system that will ensure more efficient, transparent, and timely financial management within the ministry in managing government and public finances. The ministry has put together the Accounting Financial Management Information System Project (AFMIS) in order to serve this particular purpose. The project started implementation in January 2008, and achieved praiseworthy progress so far. YemenTimes interviewed the executive manager of the project Dr. Nabeel Al-Sohybe, and asked him a few questions about the project.



Dr. Nabeel Alsohybe executive manager of the AFMIS.

1) Can you start by providing us with a brief overview of your project and its objectives?

The government of Yemen is conducting a Civil Service Modernization Project (CSMP), which comprises, among other components, the computerization of a Financial and Accounting Management Information System (AFMIS), supervised by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and funded by the government and the World Bank. AFMIS is considered as the basis for public finance management reform. It is designed to address budgetary activities; budget preparation, budget execution, and final accounts and the system should provide decision makers with meaningful reports of such activities. The system would also support capacity building in the area of financial administration in the Ministry of Finance, line ministries (all other ministries), budgetary units, governorates and districts. The system should provide greater fiscal transparency by posting

We started implementing the system in the largest 4 ministries, which covers about 80% of the total budget. These ministries are: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Public Works and Roads.

approved budgets, allocations and monthly, quarterly, annually budget execution reports on the web of Ministry of Finance. Fiscal transparency will

increase as the system incorporates a medium term budgetary framework and commitment accounting procedure. Initially, the implementation of the system was divided into three stages:

By using the system from start (budget preparation) to finish (budget execution)

- First Stage: to implement the system in the largest 4 ministries, which covers about 80% of the total budget. These ministries are: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Public Works and Roads. Besides connecting these ministries electronically, and electronic communication between the main center in the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Yemen will be established.

- Second Stage: to deploy the system to all other ministries within the Capital of Yemen, Sana'a.

- Third Stage: to deploy the system to all governorates and districts.

The project faced some serious issues in the past that led both government and World Bank to sit around the table and discuss project available options that included the closure of the project. Ministry of Finance made it clear that AFMIS is a strategic reform and eventually government and World Bank have agreed on a set of actions that warrant its success. The past two years have witnessed the implementation of these actions and AFMIS has achieved important milestones. The 2008 budget was fully prepared using the AFMIS system, and the results have been encouraging

and the feedback from pilot ministries has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, the budget execution module is being implemented in the four mentioned ministries since January 1st, 2008, and these ministries are working live with the system. The project team is working with the contracting company along with independent international testing company to address and resolve all technical comments and/or needs raised by the super end-users, end-users. Once the contracting company finishes all fixes raised, the testing company will come to Yemen to test the system one final time and issue certificate to that regards before Ministry of Finance final acceptance.

2) How will this project help improve the government's management of public funds and allocations to different government agencies?

Automating budget processes will definitely improve the government's management of public funds. By using the system from start (budget preparation) to finish (budget execution). Each agency or ministry cannot reallocate, transfer or exceed any amount that is not assigned in its budget. Real-Time reports will be issued automatically through the chain of command in the ministry of finance for every transaction in any agency or ministry connected in the system, which will help officials take sound decisions based on these real reports.

Real-Time reports will be issued automatically through the chain of command in the ministry of finance for every transaction in any agency or ministry connected in the system, which will help officials take sound decisions based on these real reports.

3) How will the computerization of the government's financial system revolutionize the government's effectiveness in financial management?

We all know that Data processing of any activity will revolutionize all aspects of such activity. We are talking about time saving, cost, efficiency, ...etc. When it comes to financial activities these seen advantages are far-reaching and impor-

tant. Not only will it improve operations and save agencies cost, but it will have spillover effects on all people and organizations who are involved in public finance. Computerization should result in the efficient and swift delivery Ministry of Finance and other government agencies services to employees, cit-

Computerization should result in the efficient and swift delivery to Ministry of Finance and other government agencies services to employees, citizens, and businesses.

izens, and businesses. To citizens and businesses, would mean the simplification of procedures and streamlining of the approval process and hence speedy payment system. This should result in lower costs on all parties involved and would hopefully lead to lower costs of goods and services provided to the government. Computerization would mean ensure appropriate and timely decision-making, appropriate execution of budgets, to the lowest level of desegregation.

4) The ministry have legislated several reforms in the accounting and auditing systems within government agencies as a step towards computerization, how do you see progress in this regards?

Since 1995, the date of economic reform inception, Ministry of Finance has played a key role in the reform processes. Economic and financial reform package includes amendments of several financial laws and introducing several new others. Ministry of Finance has introduced a new budget classification system; a new government chart of accounts and Ministry of Finance has played a key role in introducing the new government procurement law. Ministry of Finance believes that reform is a continuous process and right now is in the process of implementing Financial Management Reform Strategy that was developed in a partnership between Ministry of Finance and donor community. The strategy involves amendments of several financial laws and regulations that includes the Financial Law itself and a comprehensive training program of Ministry of Finance people as well other agencies cadre on how to adopt to recent changes in the legal framework of the government financial system.

5) What are the tangible benefits of these reforms?

The goals of any reform basically are to improve business environment. In the finance environment this should lead to efficiency and prioritization and better allocation of public funds. It should mean lower cost of goods and services and hence more services and higher coverage of these services. It should mean enhanced transparency and accountability.

6) When do you expect to complete this project?

As I mentioned, we are approaching the end of the first phase of this project (in the largest four ministries and the Central Bank of Yemen). Hopefully, the system will be rolled out to the rest of the ministries with the capital, Sana'a, by the end of next year (2009), and will start implementing the system in the governorates and districts as soon as we are done in the capital. By then the system will cover both central and local government.

Ministry of Finance believes that reform is a continuous process and right now is in the process of implementing Financial Management Reform Strategy that was developed in a partnership between Ministry of Finance and donor community.

7) Any last words?

Any implementation of an automated processes will face a resistance from employees because they fear that technology will put them out of jobs and they think the demand will be only for the IT professionals and in some cases IT means elimination of vested interest in the manual system. As a result, Ministry of Finance as well as other government agencies will have a major task to train their employees about IT related material from the basic level to the level needed to perform their jobs once any automated system is implemented. Employees need necessary skills that include an understanding of information society, information management, and IT literacy to accept such systems and we need to work hard to achieve that.

Business in brief

El-Kouhene: Wheat prices increased 333 percent

Director of the World Food Program in Yemen Mr. Mohamed El-Kouhene stated in a symposium held in the ministry of trade that the price of wheat imported from the U.S. has increased from US\$ 180 per metric ton to US\$ 600 per metric ton between the years 2006 - 2008, while other agricultural commodities such as rice and cooking oils increased by 236 percent.

SNACC: 8753 corruption cases detected in three years

The Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC) has issued a report stating that it has detected 8753 between the years 2005 - 2007, adding that most of these cases were reported by the Central organization for Control and Audit and the public attorney's office, adding that statistics indicate that cases of corruption are increasing due to the improved detectability of corruption.

Yaqoub: A stock market will take two years to be established

Deputy Minister of Finance for International Affairs Jalal Yaqoub has stated that it will take two years to research what are the prerequisites to establish a stock market in Yemen, adding that domestic business enterprises and banks need the existence of a stock market to expand their operations and capital.

Saudi's SAMA airlines to expand to Yemen

Saudi Arabia's budget airline SAMA announced plans to expand its network to Yemen by upcoming July. The airline has a fleet of six airlines and serves a total of 21 destinations in Saudi Arabia and in the Region.

Volvo opens showroom in Sana'a

Al-Agel trading company, agent of Volvo automotive, has launched the first Volvo showroom in Sana'a. With a campaign to focus on marketing Volvo's award winning 4x4 vehicle the Volvo XC90 in Yemen.

Private sector honored for their contribution to girls' education in Yemen



The education Minister hands over the certifications.

The summer campaign for "Let me Learn" initiative spearheaded by Business Partnership for Girls' Education (BPGE) was launched last Monday 26th of May. The Business Partnership for Girls' Education was formed in 2006. It was initiated by the UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and three leading business houses, including Arwa Mineral Water Company, MTN Yemen, and Universal Group. Later in 2007, Fast Print another leading printing and designing company joined.

Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Joufi Minister of Education, acknowledge the private sector's important role for accelerating girls' education. He described the let me learn campaign as a positive step in the mobilization of efforts of the different sectors and local communities to address one of the major challenges facing Yemen.

Dr. Kamel Ben Abdallah, UNICEF

Acting Deputy Representative, stated "This Summer Campaign of the Business Partnership for Girls' Education will add vigor and energy and bring dividends for enrollment and retention of girls in schools."

The summer campaign aims at raising awareness on the importance of Girls' Education to increase girls' enrollment and maintain their retention at the coming academic year. The campaign voice out "Dear Mothers and Fathers: the School is waiting for your daughters" along with the general theme "Let Me Learn" serve as a reminder for parents to enroll and retain their daughters in schools. The campaign will include advocating for the issue through targeted distribution of advocacy messages through different means including posters, flyers, and mobiz in the governorates of Al-Dale'e, Lahj, Taiz, Ibb, Hodiada, Sana'a, Aden, Mareb, Shabwa, Hadramout, Amran, Dhamar, and Hajjah. Additionally, the campaign will extend to the beginning

of the academic year emphasizing the message of the Let Me Learn Campaign by sending 1.5 million text messages (sms) to the MTN subscribers especially in rural areas. The campaign will also include the distribution of more than 10 million Shamlan mineral water bottles that contains the Let me Learn Message on their label and which is expected to widely reach everywhere in Yemen. More importantly the BPGE have up to now secured 50,000 notebooks to be given to the children at the beginning of the academic year.

In recognition of the business partners major leadership role in accelerating girls education, the Business Partners were honored by the UNICEF. Certificates of acknowledgment were handed by the Ministry of education Dr. Al-Joufi to Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Universal Group, Mr. Malek El-Koussa - Communication and Public Relations Senior Officer of MTN Yemen, Mr. Jameel Murshid - General Manager of

Arwa Mineral Water Company (Shamlan), and Mr. Sanad Huraibi - General Manager of Fast Print.

Mr Mazen Al-Shaibani, Marketing Manager of Universal Group commented "Our group of companies constantly supports activities that will take Yemen a step further to achieve the millennium development goals." He added "our partnership with the private sector is a way to work hand in hand with any organization to bear the burdens for our precious country in facing any challenges."

Mr Malek El-Koussa, illustrated that MTN's Yemen Strategy is based on creating genuine partnership within the private sector, governmental and non-governmental organizations, that aim at developing the community. He added "MTN International announced MTN Charity to specialize in undertaking developmental projects to serve local communities." He further explained that the Let me Learn Campaign also coincide with the annual MTN's 21

Campaign that involves all MTN employees in community services to the local communities and more particularly to the poor.

Mr Walid Al-Maqtari, Media Officer in Fast Print stated "Girls' Education is one of the major priorities in Yemen. We are happy to be part of this partnership. We hope to make it sustainable and we invite our fellow business men and women to take leadership and get involved in this partnership."

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For more information about joining the partnership the Let me Learn website also launched during the ceremony provide good information. (www.letmelearn-yemen.com).

Al-Swaidan to Train in Leadership in Yemen



Tariq Al-Swaidan

In cooperation with the University of Science and Technology, The Gulf-based Innovation Training and Consulting Company (Al-Ebda'a) has announced the launch of its prominent training program entitled: Scientific Techniques for Modern Management, which will be presented by the renowned management consultant Dr. Tariq Al-Swaidan, head of the company.

The training program will take place between upcoming 7 and 10 of June, and will include strategic planning, functional and operational planning, as well as leadership development and management. The training will also discuss change management towards investing more in people who are the real asset of any company, as well as employee retention and motivation towards achieving organizational objectives.

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The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the post of
Post Title: **Technical Assistant for the BDN program**

To provide support to the MoPH&P in the area of Community-Based Initiative (CBI) / Basic Development Needs (BDN) as Technical Assistant.

Type of contract and Duration: SC contract, one year renewable.

I. Objectives / Overview of the Programme:

To work with the National authorities, especially the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPH&P) in the area of CBI in order to develop a sound workable BDN model that can be replicated nationally for wider population coverage.

1. To develop a model socio-economic development programme based on the BDN approach for improvement of health and better quality of life.
2. To build national capacity for institutionalization of the BDN approach and its expansion for wider population coverage.
3. To advocate for national ownership of the programme and its inclusion in the national development plan.

II. Main duties and responsibilities

The incumbent will have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Maintaining record of all programme related activities including progress documentation and financial record;
2. Maintaining communications with staff of the BDN partners and offices;
3. Organizing meetings with government officials, BDN partners and other stakeholders;
4. Preparing background documents for, and drafting minutes of meeting and other panel recommendations;
5. Providing summaries on programme policies and procedures to the BDN partners and ensuring that all partners performing in line with those policies;
6. Monitoring the implementation of work plans and the corresponding budget;
7. Responsible for grant awards, training and capacity building management;
8. Perform any other duties as requested by the programme.

III. Qualifications and Experience Required

1. University degree in social science, public health, economics, or other related disciplines;
2. At least 5 years of professional experience in a relevant development field;
3. Sound analytical, conceptual and problem solving skills;
4. Knows and manage herself/himself
5. Excellent written and oral communication skills;
6. Ability to work under pressure, manage multi-task requirements and high degree of initiative;
7. Excellent interpersonal and diplomatic skills and the ability to reach out to multiple audiences;
8. Ability to recognize politically sensitive issues and the judgment to handle them appropriately;
9. Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English;
10. Knowledge of computer softwares (word processing, spreadsheet, database, etc) and database management skill and experience.

Please send your application with a covering letter to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a.

Deadline for application: 20 June 2008

Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered as notified. UNFPA is offering equal opportunities however qualified females are strongly encouraged to apply.



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Requirements:

- 1- Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.
- 2- A minimum of five years relevant experience in Industrial Sector.
- 3- Knowledge of:
 - DC/AC Motors & Controls
 - DC Drives
 - PLC's
 - Power distribution & Protections.
- 4- Fluency in both written & spoken in English and Arabic Languages.
- 5- Very good experience with computers and office software and programs.
- 6- Very good interpersonal and communication skills.

B- Shipping Manager:

Responsibilities:

- 1- To manage all aspects of the company transport and shipping.
- 2- To liaise with European Equipment Suppliers.
- 3- To organize Goods to be shipped to Yemen from: Europe, India, China & Korea.
- 4- To ensure speedy compliance with all Government/Customs regulations relating to shipping/imports.
- 5- To ensure efficient trans-shipment of Goods within Yemen.

Requirements:

- 1- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in relevant field.
- 2- A minimum of five years experience in relevant field.
- 3- Good understanding of Government/Customs regulations & procedures relating to Imports.
- 4- Good contacts within the shipping industry.
- 5- Good contacts for internal road transportation.
- 6- Fluency in both written & spoken English and Arabic Languages.
- 7- Very good experience with computers and office software and programs.
- 8- Very good interpersonal and communication skills.

Both positions are initially based in Sana'a but will eventually require to locate in Mukalla. We offer excellent remuneration packages for the right person in these senior company positions.

Applications with CV's, should be submitted within **THREE** weeks of this advertisement for these positions to the Email Address: ind.yemen@gmail.com

The selected candidates will be contacted for an interview. He/She should bring copies of their supported documents.

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The new face of Sana'a

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Nearly everyone notices that Sana'a is receiving a makeover. Construction and infrastructure development has been expanding since the 1990s, giving historical Sana'a a facelift and transforming the city – albeit slowly – into a modern metropolis.

Residents can see the construction, spanning everywhere from east to west and north to south, beginning to eat up the rural landscape and the mountains surrounding the city. Not only is Sana'a getting new buildings, but also a surface expansion and infrastructure projects such as roads, schools, hospitals, electricity and water networks.

Construction is expanding at a record pace in Sana'a

Sana'a is on the receiving end of increasing local migration from all Yemeni governorates and now has more than 2.5 million inhabitants, according to the Central Statistic Organization's (CSO) last survey in 2004.

The capital city also is a destination for those seeking better employment opportunities; thus, Sana'a is attempting to sustain all of its new residents. To help manage the situation, new buildings are being constructed across the city.

Investors have begun turning their attention to the outskirts of the city, where they can build modern homes and large buildings on open land. Areas in western Sana'a like Aser, Assounainah and Madhbah were desolate and uninhabited as recently as 10 years ago.

Expansion also has extended south to Assawad, Haddah village and Attan areas, which were just vacant borders of the capital city a decade ago.

Construction to the north has reached Arhab, which borders Amran governorate and promises to continue in that direction, while eastward expansion now has reached its end at Nuqum Mountain.

Yemen's capital city, whose tallest buildings once were found in its Old City section, now has structures 15 floors high and made of expensive stones imported from the Yemeni countryside. Brought in from such places as Dhamar, Rada'a, Marib and Hodeidah, they are named for their governorates, such as Dhamari, Rada'i and Maribi.

The most famous of the tallest buildings comprising the new face of Sana'a are Sana'a Tower on Zira'a Street, Ribat Tower near Hayel Street, the Zaid Al-Qubati building on Baghdad Street and the Lailah Illa Allah Building Right building on the Al-Dhairy and Zubairi crossroads. Built of white and red stones, these new buildings and towers are constructed with a very advanced and unique architecture.

The newest and most beautiful buildings and construction reflecting the uniqueness of Sana'a construction are the new Foreign Ministry building in the Siteen-Aser area, the Movenpick Hotel in Nuqum and the Oil Ministry building on Zubairi Street. These buildings are built of the most expensive and beautiful marble in Yemen, which is Hanashi or Rada'i, from Rada'a. The color of this type of marble is reddish-gray.

Besides these beautiful buildings and towers, others like Al-Asimah Tower on Hadda Street currently are under construction.

According to the CSO, there are 164,421 buildings in the capital secretariat, 49,194 of which are constructed of stone, while 22,864 are made of stone exteriors, 12,349 are made of mud brick and 64,378 are made of concrete blocks and bricks.

According to Khalid Al-Madani, owner of Al-Madani Stone Workshop, the best and most expensive type of decorative stones are red and gray ones brought from Rada'a and called Hanashi. A single stone measuring 25 x 25 x 7 centimeters costs YR 250, whereas other types cost YR 200 for the same size.

Where there's construction, basic services also are needed

Health service also are increasing and expanding in response to the increasing



The new Ministry of Foreign Affairs building is one of the many modern structures to grace the updated façade of Sana'a.



Marble, granite and sandstone are popular materials used in the new constructions cropping up around town.

needs of the capital city's ever-growing population. According to Dr. Adel Assamiee, information management director at the Public Health and Population Ministry, Sana'a has some 121 hospitals, with numerous others currently under construction.

As the Yemeni population centralizes in the capital city, traffic jams have increased, so the government is increasing the number of strategic projects such as tunnels and bridges at Sana'a's main major crossroads.

In this regard, Amin Juma'an, secretary-general of Sana'a's local council, notes that five tunnels have been constructed at Sana'a crossroads in an effort to ease problems, while eight others remain under construction.

The largest and most important of

these strategic projects is the Yemeni-Chinese Friendship Bridge at the crossroads of Zubairi Street and Bab Al-Yemen near Safiah and Tahrir Square.

New roads have been built and others still are underway in an effort to keep pace with the widespread construction and help ease traffic jams resulting from the more than 260,000 vehicles in Sana'a.

One major road project involves Siteen Street, which is 60 meters wide (this is where the street gets its name). The street will extend around Sana'a from Al-Rawdha area in the north to Taiz Street in the south of the city.

Additionally, another 50-meter-wide street is being constructed around Sana'a, stretching from Amran Road in the north, crossing Aser in the west and

ending at Beit Baws in the south. The street primarily will be for large trucks in an effort to decrease noise within the city center.

The advantages of this construction boom are the beautification of the capital city and the opportunity to display Yemen's unique stones and building style, which draws the attention of many foreign visitors to Sana'a.

Disadvantages

Such expanded construction in Sana'a also has consumed many agricultural lands, including 5 to 8 square kilometers of acreage north of the city in Al-Rawdha and Shamlan areas. This spread can affect climate change if rural areas are gobbled up by construction.

Another disadvantage of this expansion is pollution. Besides the 260,000 vehicles in Sana'a, construction exhaust and asphaltting of roads also create pollution in the capital city.

Additionally, CSO statistics indicate that 7,881 industrial facilities and more than 62 stone workshops serve to increase this problem. As stones are cut and shaped in these workshops, dust goes into the air causing air pollution. The same goes for other industries such as carpentry and chemical spraying.

Sana'a environmental director Sharaf Al-Hamazi notes that the increasing population, vehicle exhausts and construction all lead to environmental pollution.

"Respiratory disease have increased due to diesel machinery, which is the main cause of pollution in Sana'a," Al-Hamazi says, adding that, "Work such as cutting and shaping stones in workshops and constructing roads and tunnels are other causes of pollution."

However, he adds, "We're working to plant more trees and conducting pollution awareness programs in order to contain this problem."

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