

Under the slogan "Except for Education" students call for conflict-free education

By: Essam Adduais
For the Yemen Times

SHABWA, June 18— Under the slogan "Except for Education" a seminar entitled "Students-Society Dialogue" was held on June 11 at the cultural center in Attaq, the capital city of Shabwa.

The seminar came as part of an awareness campaign conducted in Marib, Al-Jawf and Shawba by the coalition of three non-government organizations (NGOs) and three media outlets, Marebpress News, Al-Neda Weekly and the Yemen Times. The awareness campaign is funded and supported by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), represented by the Conflict Management Program.

At the end of the seminar, the participants recommended that a tribal reconciliation agreement should be signed between conflicting tribes in the three governorates. They also advised that such seminars should be held to educate all levels of society about the impacts and risks of revenge killings. Security and judiciary systems should be reinforced to speed up the suspended issues, they further recommended.

They also concluded that educational institutions should be safe havens, saying that a code of ethics should be signed between the tribes. The code would make attacking students, teachers, schools and faculties a crime, among other phenomena. They advised holding a student conference and guiding religious discourses to stand against revenge killings.

A huge number of people attended the seminar, including local authority leaders, local councilors, executive office personnel in the governorate, judicial and social figures, and media personnel from the three governorates.

At the commencement, Nadwa Al-Dawsari, Conflict Management Program Manager in the NDI, emphasized that the NDI strives to spread culture of dialogue and mitigation of conflicts among communities.

She also said, "The NDI is an NGO



A boy who could not continue his studies because of conflict. Instead he is taking care of the sheep.

operating in more than 60 countries worldwide to enhance emerging democracies in those countries so as to build institutional capacities and democracies among political parties, civil society organizations and parliaments."

Al-Dawsari further stressed the importance of holding seminars aimed at exchanging viewpoints to educate the public about the impacts of revenge killing and tribal conflicts. The purpose of the Students-Society Dialogue is to reach solutions which put an end to the problems faced by students due to tribal conflicts and revenge killings in the local communities.

In turn, Ali Bin Rashed Al-Harithi, Deputy Governor of Shabwa, emphasized the importance of holding such a seminar to have a correct vision to resolve the community's problems.

Al-Harithi said, "Revenge killing is

a big problem, hindering development in the country. The government is striving to put an end to this issue which damages everything, including security, stability and social peace."

He further stressed the importance of the state's role in supporting social efforts aiming at reducing revenge killing and tribal conflicts taking place in the three governorates as well as deepening bonds of affection and peace in society.

Likewise, secondary school teachers spoke out, reviewing some of the difficulties and obstacles hindering the educational process due to revenge killings and tribal conflicts. They said some schools were closed, and teachers and students did not attend schools for fear of revenge killings.

Ayoub Ali, a teacher in Shabwa, shared his story, saying that he was injured during a revenge killing. He

left the school and now sits at home, handicapped.

Another student from Al-Jawf recounted, "We were six students studying together in one school, but [we] split up because of revenge killing. Revenge killing pursues us both inside and outside the governorate."

"Tribal sheiks can do what the state can't. Their prestige gives them wide authority and influence inside their local community," stated Hayam Al-Qurmoushi, a female officer in the BADSP.

Meanwhile, Shabwa's Oil and Minerals Faculty Dean, Fahd Khamees, stressed that revenge killing issues can be resolved by holding serious discussions and dialogues and by intensifying awareness among students and activating the judiciary and security's role.

Sami Al-Hajj's lawyer calls Gitmo inmates "heroes"

By: Sarah Wolff

SANA'A, June 21 — A lawyer for former Guantanamo Bay detainee Sami Al-Hajj called Guantanamo Bay inmates "heroes" and emphasized the need to "choose a new symbolic victim" at a conference about the U.S. military prison on Saturday.

Hassan Al-Mujamar, a lawyer for the family of former Sudanese detainee Al-Hajj, spoke to a crowd of over 30 people about the importance of choosing a "symbolic victim" in the fight to repatriate prisoners held at the U.S. military prison in Cuba. Al-Mujamar suggested Yemeni Ayman Saeed Abdullah Badharfi (sometimes spelled "Batarfi") for this role. "We need someone to be symbolic, [someone] who will be punished by the capital sentence," said Al-Mujamar.

The Yemen Times previously reported that Badharfi suffered from mental illness while in U.S. custody, according to accounts by the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD. One of HOOD's directors, Khaled Al-Anesi, said that Badharfi was chosen as an emblem for the detainees because of his humanitarian work as a doctor. He was arrested in Afghanistan during the U.S. incursion into Tora Bora to fight Al-Qaeda in December 2001. The U.S. has not made their charges against him public yet.

Badharfi is one of some 100 Yemenis still held at the facility. Many Yemenis have been cleared to return home for years, but the Yemeni and U.S. governments are still at odds about how to best deal with the former prisoners once they are repatriated. The root of the problem between the two countries is how to ensure the former prisoners do not attack Yemeni, American, or allied citizens either in the country or abroad. Yemen requires only a brief rehabilitation period with assurances from the former prisoners' family and tribal leaders that they will not continue to pursue violent jihad.

The American embassy in Sana'a said that there are important areas of counter-terrorism cooperation where progress can and must be made, including counter-terrorism legislation and the aforementioned rehabilitation programs for former prisoners. "We stand ready to cooperate with the Government of Yemen as it moves forward in these important areas," said the U.S. Embassy in a statement to the Yemen Times.

Speaking on Sami's behalf

Al-Mujamar began working with Sami Al-Hajj's family at their home in Khartoum in 2005 in order to secure the Al-Jazeera cameraman's release and afterwards founded his own non-governmental organization, Civic Aid International. He is one of approximately 300 lawyers who volunteered to work on Al-Hajj's behalf, though he never visited Al-Hajj while he was in detention at Guantanamo.

In the conference on Saturday, Al-Mujamar told members of the Yemeni Parliament and media that the Yemeni Parliament should reserve 20 minutes of each session to recite the names of the Yemeni detainees held in Guantanamo. "It's their right for these people to be mentioned as heroes...why can't those people who are jailed be honored?" he said.

Upcoming military trials

Though Al-Mujamar does not represent any of the five high-profile detainees,

including Khaled Sheikh Mohammed and Yemeni Ramzi Bin Al-Shaibah (also spelled Bin Al-Shibh), who recently had hearings for their upcoming military trials, he did comment on their refusal of legal aid and their request to defend themselves.

"There are some enlightened people among them who refused a lawyer...because they feel like the U.S. would give them their rights with one hand and take their rights with the other," said Al-Mujamar. When asked if any of these five men can be considered as "enlightened," Al-Mujamar changed the topic to the American invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan.

He added that he believed Khaled Sheikh Mohammed, the purported mastermind of the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., and Ramzi Bin Al-Shaibah had their confessions tortured out of them and that they are actually innocent. However, both Bin Al-Shaibah and Mohammed bragged about their role in the 9/11 attacks in exclusive interviews with Al-Jazeera before their arrest.

Mohammed is credited for thinking up the idea for the 9/11 attacks and setting up the decentralized cell structure for Al-Qaeda. Bin Al-Shaibah is said to be an accomplice who was originally meant to be on one of the hijacked flights but was denied a visa to enter the U.S.

Both men asked to defend themselves in their upcoming military tribunals, though it is still unclear if Bin Al-Shaibah will be permitted to do so.

Al-Hajj's plight

HOOD held the conference for Al-Mujamar, who had flown in specifically for the occasion, in their Sana'a offices. Al-Anesi clarified that Al-Mujamar's statements did not necessarily represent HOOD and that Al-Mujamar was expressing his own opinion throughout the conference. "We are looking for fair trials for these people and we want their right to be compensated for the last years," said Al-Anesi.

Al-Mujamar emphasized Al-Hajj's role in helping free the Sudanese prisoners detained at Guantanamo, as two other men from Sudan were released with Al-Hajj. "Sami Al-Hajj was jailed because he was a media person. He was allowed to go from Pakistan to Afghanistan to cover the events there. They [U.S. administration] said he was running camps."

Al-Hajj, who was released from Guantanamo Bay in early May after spending more than six years there, was captured on the Pakistan-Afghan border in December 2001 under suspicion of having transported funds to militant Islamic organizations. Al-Hajj said he was going to Afghanistan to report on the U.S.-led invasion there and that he had permission to be in the country, since he was working at the time as a cameraman for Al-Jazeera, the well-known Qatar-based news station.

Since his release, Al-Hajj spoken out against the military prison and waged a hunger strike for over a year during his detention. He said publicly that he thought the Bush administration detained him because of their dislike and mistrust of his employer. The U.S. military bombed Al-Jazeera's headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2001, in what they said was an accidental miscalculation.

Al-Mujamar said that he thanked everyone in the name of Al-Hajj and that he hoped Al-Hajj would be able to visit Yemen later this summer, possibly in August, for another conference on Guantanamo Bay.

Yemeni citizens should have access to information, say MPs

By: Almigdad Mojalli

SANA'A, June 21 — Many Parliament members (MPs) and journalists affirmed they would endorse a draft law ensuring Yemeni citizens the right to access government information. They said that the law will be an essential step in fighting corruption and keeping the government accountable.

In a workshop held last Thursday, MP Sakhr Al-Wajeh, the head of Parliament's Anti-Corruption Organization, said, "If we ask many MPs and Consultative Council Members about the oil production statistics, we will find contradictory figures from unofficial sources," emphasizing the importance of the prospective law.

"Sometimes we find that the Central

Bank bulletins report certain figures, while the Ministry of Oil and Minerals come up with different figures for the same statistic," he added.

MP Ali Ashal affirmed that there is no Yemeni law which applies to obtaining information yet, even for institutions. "In the past the government raised the motto, 'Be content that the government knows,' but now we want to change this motto and insist that citizens know," said Ashal.

The head of the Culture and Information Committee in Parliament, Ahmed Al-Swail, stated that many MPs will support the draft law, while head of the Political Forum Ali Saif Hasan affirmed the importance of keeping information classified. However, neither said exactly when Parliament will discuss the draft.

Another attendee, MP Mohammed Al-Dhahri, said that the main obstacle is in the law's implementation. According to the draft law, all citizens have the right to obtain information about any authority except for information related to the security and defense of the country.

The draft law also stipulates that any employee who prevents information from being published will be sentenced to one year in prison, and anyone who gives misleading information should receive a three month sentence.

In 1995, a presidential decree was issued regarding constructing the National Center of Information, which was supposed to provide citizens with information.

However, Khalid Al-Anesi, the executive manager of the National

Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), stated that the decree didn't include provisions to organize the circulation of and access to information. Al-Anesi pointed out that the decree didn't include stipulations obliging the center to make its information and data free for everybody.

Al-Anesi considered the decree an organizing decision which doesn't have any legal power. While revising the official newspaper, Al-Anesi discovered that the decree hadn't even been endorsed by Parliament.

According to Ashal, there are three authorities that are required to provide information: the National Center of Documents, the National Center of Information and the Central Census Apparatus.

Continued from page 1

Fears of potential wars in Hajjah and Dhamar

Media sources allege that Al-Sharaabi assumed the role of leader for a Houthi front in Dhahian city during Houthi confrontations with the army in 2007.

Other fierce clashes occurred Thursday in Amran's Harf Sifyan district after Houthis seized control of Saifan area on Wednesday and dispatched more gunmen in Shibariq Valley as part of their efforts to besiege the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway. Local sources from Harf Sifyan said the highway remained blocked as of the time of this writing.

Hashemite families suffer discrimination

In Sana'a, police have heightened security measures, searching vehicles in several areas of the capital city and inspecting the identity cards of their occupants amid fears of Houthis' potential entry into the city.

Police have imposed firm measures against any Hashemite families, alleged to be affiliated with Abdulmalik Al-Houthi's Shia sect, and this has made these families feel that the Yemeni government is encouraging discrimination against them.

Houthis revealed on Thursday that several gunmen loyal to them attacked a military position at the northern entrance to the capital city near Sana'a International Airport, according to Sana'a sources, who say residents heard sounds of the attack at 2 a.m. Tuesday.

Another Houthi report said the attack targeted a military position and checkpoint at the northern entrance to the capital city, alleging that Houthi fighters destroyed a military tank, burned an armored vehicle and killed several soldiers.

Houthis dig trenches

Houthis began digging trenches and creating strategic mountaintop positions in various areas of Hajjah governorate, west of Sana'a, well-informed sources said last weekend, adding that Houthis are preparing to wage a new war against the government in Hajjah with the intention of reducing government pressure on Houthis in Sa'ada and Amran.

In Dhamar, Houthi loyalists began entrenching on mountaintops and fleeing security crackdowns targeting all Shia residents in the city, which is only an hour's drive from Sana'a.

Sources from Dhamar say that Houthi loyalists in the governorate are mobilizing food provisions and arms to mountaintops around the city, predicting that a potential war between the Yemeni government and Houthi supporters may break out in Dhamar.

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In brief

SANA'A

Yemen, UNESCO in talks over protection of Yemen's oral heritage
Yemen and the UNESCO have discussed mechanism and support that should be provided to protect Yemen's oral heritage.

At the meeting that gathered minister of Culture Muhammad Abu Bakr al-Muflahi and the UNESCO deputy director general Marcio Barbosa and the organization regional director in Cairo Tariq Showqi, projects of mutual cooperation were brought up.

The meeting dealt with preparations for announcing the island of Socotra to be listed on the World Heritage List during the UNESCO meeting next July which would be held in Canada.

The meeting also brought up problems facing the efforts to protect the Zabeed historic city and discussed the possibility of providing assistance to the project of protecting oral heritage in the country.

The meeting suggested that the UNESCO send technical experts to develop Yemen capabilities of protecting oral heritage, due to the distinguishing features of this kind of heritage.

Barbosa expressed the UNESCO readiness to provide support Yemen to resolve difficulties linked to protect its heritage either oral or material.

Yemen and the organization are expected sign an agreement to protect Yemen's heritage during the participation of prime minister Ali Muhammad Mujawar in the next UNESCO meeting to be held in Paris.

Over 19 tons of drugs seized in Yemen
Security sources said on Thursday that over 19 tons of drugs were seized in 44 operations during the five months of 2008.

The sources were quoted by the state-run almotamar.net as saying that Interior Ministry said that about 137 foreign persons were being investigated due to involvement in cross-border drug trafficking activities into Yemen.

A mouthpiece of Yemen's Defense Ministry has said the security forces seized few days ago 1.59 tones of drugs on an Iranian boat.

Last year, over 4 tons of drugs, 189.2 grams of Heroin were seized by Yemen's

security services.

HADRAMOUT

Conference on Hadrami immigration to be held next year

Preparations are underway for an international conference on the immigration of Hadramis to southeast Asia countries, the state-run 26sep.net has said.

The conference is planned to be held early next year.

General director of media and public relations at the Hadramout Chamber of Commerce and Industry Emad Mahdi said the conference will discuss several issues in relation to the dates of the immigration of Hadrami people to southeast Asia countries particularly Malaysia and Indonesia and the role of Hadramis in development in these countries.

The conference, which will be attended by Yemeni historians, businessmen and immigrants, will also bring up the social, cultural and economic impacts on the Hadrami immigrants to the countries.

DHAMMAR

2nd phase of excavation in Masnaat Mariya done

The American archeological mission has finished second phase of archaeological excavation in Masnaat Mariya in Ans district of Dhammar governorate.

Ail Daifullah al-Sanbandi, head of the General Organization for Antiquities and Museums office in the governorate said that the mission made a field survey for the place and detailed map for several sites in the region.

The mission registered 32 archeological sites in the region since its work in 2007, he said.

Head of the mission Krista Lewis said that the mission used modern tools to draw the maps, saying that the mission would continue its works in coming years after finishing maps and registration of sites.

Masnaat Mariya is pre-Islamic Himyarite archaeological site is one of the largest in the Yemen. In the local language the name means the fortress of Maria. A name such as this has obvious affinities to early Christianity. It is

important as a large escarpment site partly of late pre-Islamic date.

IBB

Spread health education courses concluded in Ibb

Yemeni Family Welfare Association has concluded a training course for 20 volunteers to spread health education in the community funded by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

During the course, the participants recognized skills and expertise on primary health care, the concept of reproductive health and family planning, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, childhood diseases and maternal and child nutrition.

HAIJA

Campaign on risks of smuggling children concluded in Hajjah

An awareness campaign on the risks of smuggling children was concluded on Thursday in five districts of Hajjah province.

The five-day campaign, which began on June 15, targeted families and citizens living in Hajjah to argue to combat the phenomenon of smuggling children.

In a statement to the weekly newspaper 26September, director of the social affairs and labor bureau in the province Haitham al-Jabri said that the campaign was achieved by the bureau in collaboration with the Access Mena project funded by the US Labour Ministry.

Al-Jabri pointed to the risks of child trafficking and its damages on societies.

AMRAN

Yemeni court sentences mosque attacker to death

A court in Amran governorate sentenced Saturday a man to death after he was condemned to killing 7 people and wounding 12 others in a shooting rampage last May in the Bayt al-Aqari mosque of Amran, north-western Yemen.

The court issued the verdict in its hearing headed by judge Abdul-Bari Uqbah, ordering the convict Abul-Elah Saleh to pay YR 4 million in compensation to the people injured in the attack.

HODEIDAH

Training course on media skills kicked off in Hodeidah

A training course on promoting media skills of Yemeni women leaders was kicked off on Saturday in Hodeidah province.

The four-day course aims at providing 25 woman participants with skills of writing a press release and preparing workshops, seminars and press conferences in addition to managing media campaigns.

The training course was organized by Women Journalists Without Chains, in collaboration with the Canadian program for developing self-help efforts.

ADEN

NCW launches family planning session in Aden

The National Commission for Women (NCW) launched on Saturday a awareness session on family planning for 50 participants funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

During the two-day session, the participants will be introduced to concepts of reproductive health, family planning, methods used to prevent pregnancy and prepare programs to improve the level of family healthy development.

TAIZ

Meeting on social monitoring program for juveniles held in Taiz

A consultative meeting was held on Saturday in Taiz on promoting social participation in the social care and monitoring programs for juveniles.

In the meeting, the deputy governor of Taiz Mohammed al-Hiajam said that the children care is care for the future of the nation and it is regional humanitarian and national duty.

He called for evaluating achievements done by social monitoring program during the previous period to come out with practical recommendations, voicing readiness of the governorate's leadership to offer all facilities to bring such program into success. Some 70 participants from ministries of social affairs, justice, interior, education, endowments and Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood took part in the meeting. Deputy minister of social

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affairs Abduh al-Hakimi said that the program of social monitoring aims at protecting children from abuse and violence. The meeting would discuss the program in Taiz and its activities, he said.

LAHJ

Symposium on health, population launched in Lahj

The Culture Center in Lahj province launched on Saturday a special symposium on a study of the national policies for health and population funded by the European Union.

In the symposium, the governor of Lahj Mohsen al-Naqeib affirmed the

importance the symposium to address many issues, including the national policies for health and population.

Al-Naqeib highlighted the comprehensive study in the area of health and population, arguing service bodies in the province to benefit from the study. Participants in the symposium pointed out the necessary of improving government efforts and services in the fields of health and population, calling for increasing support to those fields provided by donors. The study showed that the expenditure spent on the health sector in Lahj in 2006 amounted to 6.5 billion.

Their News

NDI Signs MOU with the newly established Election Monitoring Network

In preparation for its monitoring efforts, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) will sign on Wednesday June 18, 2008 a memorandum of understanding with various local none-governmental organizations which are as follows:

- Al-Aman for Blind Women Care;
- Sisters Arab Forum (SAF);
- Future Association for Development and Social Peace (FADSP);
- Brothers Association for Development and Social Peace (BADSP);
- Peace and Development Association (PDA); and
- National Organization for Social Development (NODS)
- Modern Youth Association (MYA)

Mr. Peter Dimitroff, Country Director for NDI Yemen, stated: "There is huge international interest in these upcoming parliamentary elections, and expectations that they be more developed and advanced than previous elections, and our partners in the Election Monitoring Network will play a critical. As a necessary first step, I would like to emphasize the importance of having political consensus on the formation of the SCER as soon as possible, in order to correct and overcome previous technical and administrative obstacles related to various electoral processes, especially in light of the fact that according to the current elections law the voter registration update shall be conducted in October 2008 at the latest"

Ms. Rabab Al-Mehdwhi, NDI's Senior Program Manager for Elections added "Our Election Support Program will focus on promoting, strengthening and building the capacity of the pre-mentioned NGOs to form the newly election monitoring network. Our program will be divided to two phases; the first phase will focus on awareness campaign and monitoring the voter registration update and the second phase will concentrate on get out the vote campaign and monitoring the parliamentary elections". She also emphasized "NDI will work closely with the SCER, IFES, UNDP and EU to coordinate all elections support programs".

Giovanni Bisignani IATA GM on avian crisis

Giovanni Bisignani Director General and CEO of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) key note on the avian crisis:

The high price of oil is changing everything—for airlines and for their passengers. In 2002, a barrel of oil was US\$25. And the total industry fuel bill was US\$40 billion. In that same year, the world's airlines lost US\$11.3 billion.

To recover, enormous changes followed. Fuel efficiency improved 19%. Sales and marketing unit costs plunged 25%. Non-fuel unit costs dropped 18%. And airlines rolled-out e-ticketing to every corner of the planet.

Airlines returned to the black in 2007 with a profit of US\$5.6 billion. This was an amazing achievement given that the industry fuel bill ballooned to US\$136 billion based on an average price of oil at US\$73 per barrel. Every dollar increase in the price of a barrel of oil, pushes industry costs up by US\$1.6 billion. Oil is now in the US\$135 range. If this price holds for the next 12 months—as the futures markets tell us—the added burden will be a staggering US\$99 billion. Losses in 2008 could reach US\$6.1 billion.

The situation is desperate and potentially more destructive for the industry than our recent crises—SARS, terrorism and war—combined. Large parts of the industry are being re-shaped. In the last six months 24 airlines went bust. To keep this vital part of the global economy functioning, governments, industry business partners and labour all have a critical role to play.

Some issues are quite familiar to travellers. Despite the investment of over US\$30 billion since 2001 to improve security measures, we still have an uncoordinated mess. Fear drives decisions; the infrastructure cannot cope; governments are not cooperating; and nobody is taking leadership. Passengers are suffering because they face a maze of duplication, bureaucracy and hassle. BASTA. Enough! Governments must focus on risk management, harmonise global standards, use technology and intelligence effectively and take responsibility for the bill.

We also have an unregulated mess with monopoly suppliers such as air-

ports. Airport charges increased US\$1.5 billion in 2007. Governments have failed to regulate airport monopolies. Too many airports are isolated from commercial discipline. Look at the UK Civil Aviation Authority's treatment of Heathrow. Service levels are a national embarrassment but still the CAA increased charges by 50% over the last five years, and plan 86% increases for the next five. This only happens in "Monopoly-land". BASTA. Enough! It's time for governments to get serious about regulating monopolies that abuse their position.

The fuel crisis is also a catalyst for governments to deliver results on envi-

ronment that reduce fuel burn. With oil at US\$135 per barrel airlines have the biggest incentive of any industry to improve environmental performance. Optimising routes and sharing best practices alone saved over 10.5 million tonnes of CO2 last year. And the investments we are making in new aircraft and innovations like bio-fuels that do not compete with food crops will drive even more progress.

Unfortunately, governments remain fixated on punitive economic measures. Travellers in Europe will have to absorb the 6.4 billion Euros cost of including aviation in Europe's emissions trading scheme. But politicians are failing to

take the measures that will actually save CO2. They have been talking for 19 years about a Single European Sky for air traffic management with no progress. This measure alone would deliver 12 million tonnes of CO2 savings. It's time to say BASTA to politicians who talk green but focus their actions on taking cash. Instead, governments must implement positive economic measures to stimulate innovation from bio-fuels to radical new aircraft designs.

The oil crisis is also highlighting a desperate need to modernise the 60 year-old bilateral rules governing the industry. Re-regulation or re-nationali-

sation is not the right answer. We must redefine the structure of the industry. Airlines fight crisis after crisis with their hands tied because national flags, not brands define our business. Airlines cannot serve passengers in new markets without an international agreement. And, we cannot look beyond national borders to try new ideas, grow our business, access global capital, or merge and consolidate. We must say BASTA to the bilateral system. It's time to change. Our responsibility is to work together with common goals to build a sustainable future. Thirty-two million jobs, 2.3 billion travellers and US\$3.5 trillion of global business depend on our success.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Translator / Administrative Assistant

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is an international humanitarian NGO, which has been providing development services in Yemen since 1995. ADRA Yemen invites applicants to apply for the position of Translator/ Administrative Assistant for the USAID- and ADRA International-funded Conflict Mitigation program. This position is based in Sana'a with occasional travel to al-Jawf, sa'ada, shabwa, Marib, and Amran governorates.

Qualifications:

- University degree in English, Translation, or a related field
- At least two years of related work experience
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills (both English and Arabic)
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The deadline for receiving applications is Sunday, July 6, 2008

Interested candidates are requested to submit their cover letter and curriculum vitae to ADRA Yemen by e-mail: recruitment@adrayemen.org or fax: 01-260528. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- The summer program is open to MANARAT and non-MANARAT students, starting on the 28th of June and ending on the 30th of July 2008. The program will run from Saturday to Wednesday, from 8:00 a.m till 1:00 p.m.
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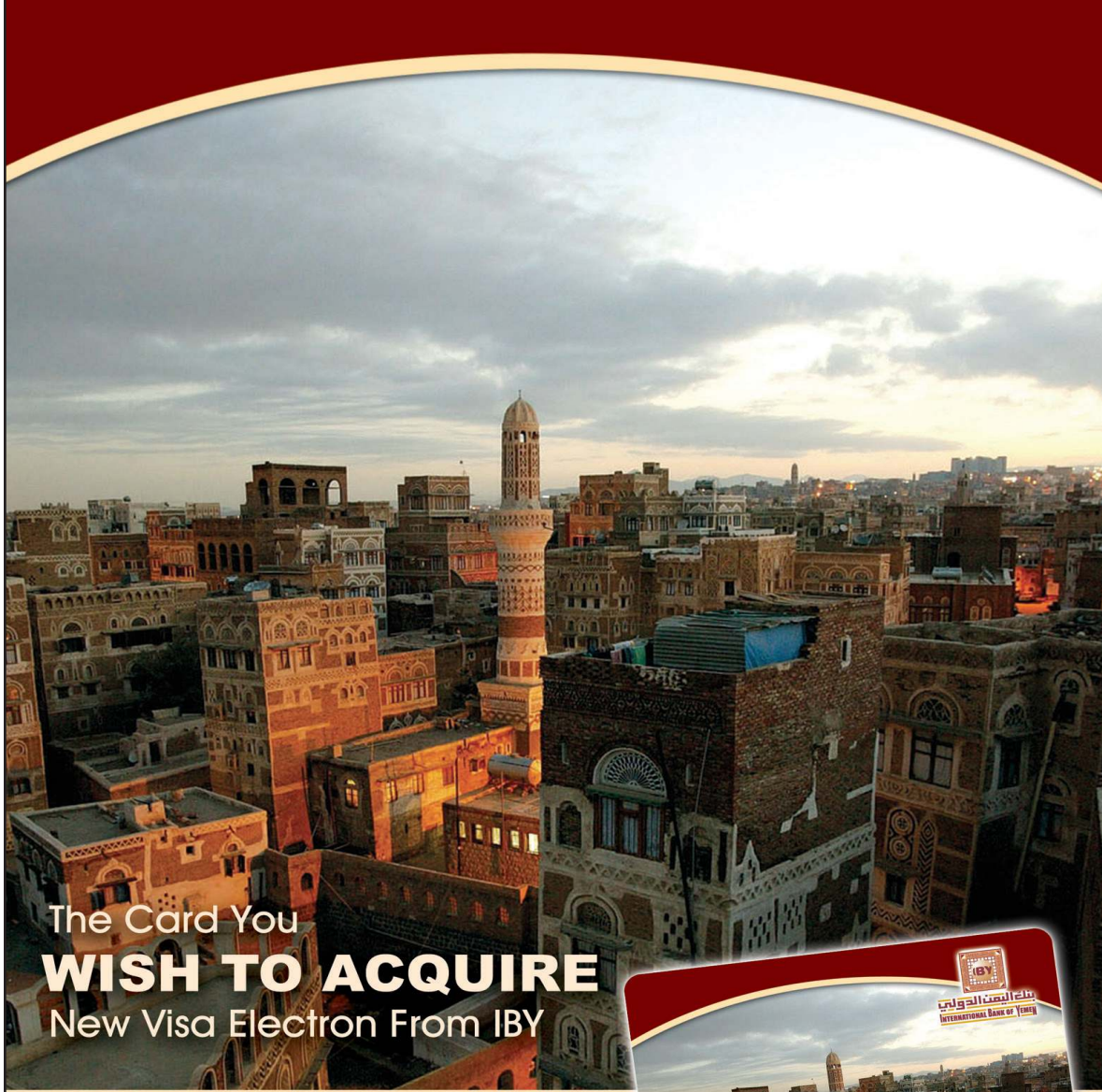
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Illegal Yemeni immigrants in KSA: The journey back home

More than 150 illegal Yemeni workers are deported from Saudi Arabia monthly. According to the immigrants themselves, they are returned to Yemen in batches of hundreds, sometimes reaching as many as 400 per month. They are usually poor young men between the ages of 12 and 30, who have a high school degree and come from rural areas.

By: Esra Al-Nsour
For The Yemen Times

They are smuggled along risky routes with the help of specialized individuals who take their commission before hand. Yemenis believe they'll find a better life there, but the reality is otherwise, as they live in continual fear of being caught.

"Every day was a living hell. We were always looking over our shoulders lest someone was coming around to check for IDs. Our freedom was limited, as we just went from work to home and then home to work," recounts 16-year-old Waddah from Taiz who has been smuggled to Saudi Arabia and deported more than once.

"I know you'll think I'm crazy to go back again after that life, but the truth is that I need the money," he explains.

Illegal Yemeni immigrants typically work as waiters in restaurants or as guards or cleaners at businesses. They are paid daily, but much less than the average citizen because they are illegal. Employers take advantage of their situation and their need, employing them for less money and no benefits.

"Yemenis help each other find jobs.

We meet in common places and we tell each other if there's a need for workers in this place or that," says Jalal Al-Abbadi, 30, who's been deported from Saudi Arabia after working there for over five months.

He's one such illegal Yemeni immigrant who traveled to Saudi Arabia looking for a better life. In Yemen, he was under much stress because he couldn't find a job and he must help his father raise 12 children.

Al-Abbadi traveled to Saudi Arabia, first crossing the desert by bus and then continuing by walking for two days without eating or drinking. When he finally arrived, some Yemenis he knew from before welcomed him and helped him find a job.

He first worked in Dammam, carrying boxes and many things at a farm belonging to a Saudi citizen. He got the job due to the need for many seasonal workers, so he was hired immediately, but at a low salary and long hours, working for Saudi Riyals 700 per month (approximately \$175) from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and sleeping in a farm-affiliated camp with many other workers.

Al-Abbadi then moved to Riyadh to work in a factory. He spent three months in Saudi Arabia before police caught him



Earlier this month, about sixty illegal immigrants were deported by plane from Saudi Arabia. The airport security said a similar batch comes every three to four days.

after requesting his identity card while he was returning home after a long day's work. When they discovered that he was illegal, they imprisoned him in Dammam.

He says they abused him and called him bad names, also insulting him and his friends, who were caught the same day. After 12 days in Dammam and three days in Riyadh, they all were transported by bus to Bagha town on the Yemeni border where they were released or made to return to Yemen.

Constant fear

The illegal Yemeni community in Saudi Arabia consists of many individuals in

the same circumstances, around the same age and with the same hopes. All are looking for jobs to help their families and trying their best not to get caught before sending enough money to their families back home.

Border police, immigration and passport police are the main bodies responsible for tracking down and catching illegal Yemeni workers in Saudi.

According to those Yemenis deported from KSA, police often hunt them down after recognizing that they are Yemenis from the way they look, dress or if they hear them speak.

They also are reported by residents in their neighborhoods who tell police about illegal immigrants residing in a certain place. Otherwise, the police conduct regular campaigns in places where Yemenis likely are working, such as factories or farms. The first thing police ask is for their identity card and residence permit. If they discover that someone is in Saudi Arabia illegally, they detain him, escort him to collect his belongings and jail him for between 12 and 15 days. Afterward, they're taken by bus to the Yemeni border where they're on their own.



Earlier this month, about sixty illegal immigrants were deported by plane from Saudi Arabia. The airport security said a similar batch comes every three to four days.

Back home

Despite the circumstances under which they're deported, most of their families welcome their return and are happy to see them again.

Fifteen-year-old Ali's parents sent him to work in Saudi Arabia so he could help them with expenses. He was taken out of school and smuggled to Saudi where he found a job in a packaging factory for SR 800 per month. He lived there six months before police discovered him. He returned home only for his parents sent him back again.

Another illegal immigrant who worked in construction in Saudi promised himself never to return due to the terrible conditions in which he lived.

However, most deported illegal immigrants don't find work in Yemen, so they're forced to return to Saudi Arabia due to their poverty and need for money.

For some, the whole experience is like an adventure, especially for the younger ones. It feels like an adventure and it's a story to tell others. Many boast about the dangers they encountered and how they survived, exchanging life lessons and experiences.

Making the choice

Not all illegal Yemeni workers in Saudi Arabia are smuggled there. Some go for the Umrah pilgrimage and decide to stay behind. Others who go there and see the situation return home on their own, but illegally, as they must pay between SR 100 and 200 to be smuggled back into Yemen. Abdulaziz, 28, is one illegal immigrant who worked as a tailor in Saudi Arabia for 13 months, living a one-room apartment with more than six other people. Abdulaziz decided to return to Yemen because his freedom was limited. He couldn't go out or have fun with his friends because his world was limited to work and his apartment.

He paid SR 100 to a smuggler who deals with a Saudi center that helps illegal Yemeni immigrants return home. He walked for four hours until he arrived at the center, where he says they took everything from him, even the money he had saved up while working in Saudi, before they sent him on to the Yemeni border.

Abdulaziz had gone to Saudi Arabia to help his blind father raise his eight children because although he had an 87 percent high school average, he'd been unable to find work in Yemen.

In defense of morality

Reports on Saudi Arabia's morality policy have long been of interest in the West. Now, Yemen is set to follow suit, introducing its own Moral Authority, as The Media Line's Mohammed Al-Asaadi reports from the country's capital, 'Sana'a.

By: Mohammed Al-Asaadi
The Media Line

Educated and liberal, Ghaida Farouq likes to hang out with her family and friends in places like the Coffee Trader, a Starbucks-style coffee shop in 'Sana, capital of Yemen, and in the new variety of restaurants offering quality services and food.

Smiling, happy faces can be seen in such places, where men and women, locals and foreigners can enjoy drink or food. A first-time visitor might ask: "Is this really Yemen?"

People who hang out in these places spend on a cup of coffee more than the average pay slip of a regular citizen in Yemen. And the ambience provides a romantic venue for couples to enjoy being together without any kind of harassment.

However, this Western-like environment is deemed by some religious scholars in Yemen as a center of immorality. They believe that "international Zionism" and "materialism" of the owners will damage the morality of the Muslim nation.

These scholars can't tolerate seeing a man chatting with a woman freely in a coffee shop or a restaurant: it is considered a sin and their role is to defend "morality." These places - as well as hotels, parks and resorts - are targets for these "defenders of morality," who are working tirelessly to establish a novel entity that fights "immorality" in society.

Last month it was announced that a new body, to be called the "Morality Authority," would be established to defend against immorality.

Farouq, a women's rights activist, says she is disturbed by the news and can't believe this entity would really be established.

"It is a political game," Farouq told The Media Line. "We have discussed this issue thoroughly with family and friends. We decided to advocate against it and take a counter path to defend our personal freedoms. Such an authority could appear in the absence of law and order, for instance."

An obviously nervous Farouq says that in the event such an authority was

established, she would get herself a gun and defend her freedom.

"I don't want to do it, but I have no option," she says.

"It is a scary feeling to imagine that someone can really accuse you of being immoral or attack you just for hanging out with friends in a public place."

The American embassy in 'Sana has, in recent months, warned U.S. citizens not to hang out in these places, because they could be vulnerable to assaults by radical groups.

'Big Brother' is watching

A group of controversial religious leaders led the propaganda campaign prior to the establishment of the Morality Authority, including 'Abd Al-Majid A-Zindani, founder and rector of the Al-Iman Islamic University, whose name is listed by the U.S. Treasury Department as a terror fund-raiser, and Hamoud A-Tharehi, a former governor of 'Sana.

A-Zindani and A-Tharehi are both leading officials in the opposition Islamic party, I'slah.

A-Tharehi said this new authority would play a vital role in protecting the morality of the nation, which was being exposed to a "publicly destructive assault."

"The Morality Authority is called for after realizing a deficiency in the government's performance," A-Tharehi said. "We are suffering from corruption in morals and values which is being executed by large networks. This authority will mobilize the authorities and public to protect the values and morals of the nation."

The announcement of this authority created a huge controversy in the country, with dozens of editorials, round-table discussions and activities protesting the move.

Lawyer Khalid Al-Anesi, managing director of HOOD, the Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, and a member of the Islamic party, said this move reflected the failure of the government in protecting public decencies and morals.

"These scholars keep doing these things that don't upset the regime," Al-Anesi said. "I wish they would join us and defend the rights of people, which are abused by the state on a regular basis."

Political writer Fikri Qasim wrote an op-ed that was published in several newspapers in the country criticizing the move and those behind it. Qasim said these scholars should fight injustice, corruption, poverty and unemployment, instead of what they believe is immorality.

Defending his cause, A-Tharehi said there was a misunderstanding.

"The new authority will not be like that in the neighboring, oil-rich, Saudi Kingdom," he said.

The religious police in Saudi Arabia chases people in the streets to pray, and bans men and women from dining or shopping together in public. However, the Saudi regime has diminished the influence of this authority in recent years.

Operating illegally

In the Red Sea port city Hodeida, a group of youths has launched similar actions to the anticipated mission of the new authority. These youth, in violation of the law and constitution, chase boys and girls in the streets and storm residences where they expect to see men and women together. They report their findings to the police, who make immediate arrests.

Members of the group usually appear before investigators to testify that the subjects were caught red-handed in an immoral situation.

According to a recent report by the independent weekly Al-Nedaa, the group has caused the arrests of dozens of men and women, and at least 20 of the women are still in police custody.

The Media Line was assured by locals from the city of the existence and actions of the group, but were unable to verify the number of victims.

Composition

According to A-Tharehi, the Morality Authority will be composed of leading religious scholars and senior government officials, including four ministers and the public prosecutor.

"It is an advantage that it will be led by wise religious scholars, so it is not driven towards extremism and terrorism," said A-Tharehi.

He said Westerners must understand the authority would reduce extremism and terrorism in Yemen, but gave no further explanation.

The government has also revealed a plan to launch an Islamic satellite channel very soon to combat terrorism. It is believed the new channel will preach tolerance and moderation and will also counter immorality.

This move is also seen by local observers as a move to further radicalize society.

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2. The interested contractors must provide their prequalification documents
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5. The company is not obliged to accept any proposal without mentioning any reason.
6. For any queries, please contact the telephone numbers mentioned below.
7. Two hard and two digital copies of the prequalification documents should be delivered to the following address at or before 1:00 pm on 5 July, 2008

First hard and soft copy:

Yemeni Kuwait Real Estate Development Co
Contact person: Humoud Jassem Al Falah
Position: Deputed Member (Delegate)
Telephone: + 9671 (420563 – 420562)
Fax: + 9671 (420565)

Yemeni Kuwait Real Estate Development Co
Contact person: Rafat Mahmood Siddiq
Position: Manager of Technical Services
Telephone: + 9671 (420563) / +967-733 (706050)
Fax: + 9671 (420565)

Second hard and soft copy:

HS and associates
Contact person: Hani Al Sahooly
Position: general manager
Mobile: + 967-733-219098
Fax: + 967-2-238538
e-nauk: hs@sahooly.com



Invitation for General Bid NO. (5) For 2008 year

The TV and Radio General Corporation re-announces for the second time its interest in inviting for general bid number (5) 2008 year for importing, supervising installation, operating, confirming, and submitting an unwritten guarantee for two productive units with two recording and showing video with its multi-system stuff.

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

The TV and Radio General Corporation – Engineering Sector- General Administration for Projects - tel: (01/ 230752)

For buying and having the entire bid documents with receipt: (100 \$) non refundable.

The deadline of selling the documents is 14/7/2008.

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

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- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year (the insurance cards are only requested from those companies which have assets in Yemen and have the right to benefit from the revenues given by the general corporation for social insurance in Yemen).
- 4- A copy of valid certificate of registration and classifications.

The deadline of receiving the documents and opening the files at 11:00 am on Saturday morning 19/7/2008 at the main branch of the corporation.



Invitation for General Bid NO. (6) For 2008 year

The TV and Radio General Corporation re-announces for the second time its interest in inviting for general bid number (6) 2008 year for buying, importing, checking, operating, confirming, and submitting a guarantee of various TV tapes. All the interested importers and companies apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

The TV and Radio General Corporation – Engineering Sector- General Administration for Projects - tel: (01/ 230752)

For buying and having the entire bid documents with receipt: (300 \$) non refundable.

The deadline of selling the documents is 14/7/2008.

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

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount (17.000 \$) valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening the files or by a payable check.
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- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year (the insurance cards are only requested from those companies which have assets in Yemen and have the right to utilize from the revenues given from the general corporation for social insurance in Yemen).
- 4- A copy of valid certificate of registration and classifications.
- 5- A copy of the alms card valid for 2005.
- 6- Two tapes samples for each type.

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Kenya fears falling victim to Somalia conflict

As fighting rages on in Somalia after years of wars between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Kenya fears the bloodshed may soon be headed its way – lead by Al-Qa'ida.

By: Daniel Ooko
The Media Line

After pushing for African forces to be deployed in support of Somalia's transitional government, Kenya is having second thoughts about a possible showdown in neighboring Somalia.

A growing number of politicians and analysts fear a new war in Somalia could trigger hostilities against a badly-prepared Kenya, and turn it into a second battlefield of the Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict.

With Washington hostile towards the Mogadishu Islamists – some of whose members are close to Al-Qa'ida – the Horn of Africa may be set to become the next theater in the "war against terror."

Speaking about the Somali conflict, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has noted that any potential partner of the U.S. could not "allow terrorists in your midst." However, she said, "anyone who is willing to fight terrorism" in Somalia could expect Washington's support.

There are fears that the Al-Qa'ida cells in Somalia plan to retaliate for the killing of Al-Shabaab leader Sheikh Aden Hashi Ayro on May 1 in a U.S. air strike, by staging attacks on American interests in Kenya, according to an anti-terrorism officer familiar with the details of the threat.

Al-Shabaab is classified by the U.S. as a terrorist organization.

The May 1 attack, which Washington has described as a major

blow against an insurgency that has raged since 2007, was the fifth U.S. air strike in Somalia since the beginning of 2007.

On March 3 this year, the U.S. Navy fired two Tomahawk missiles from a submarine off the coast of Somalia at Doble, in southern Somalia, killing several people, including at least three women and three children and wounding another 20.

Ayro, trained in terrorist and insurgency methods in Afghanistan and believed to have been in his 30s, was killed in a house in the small central Somalia town Dusamareb, 250 miles north of Mogadishu, together with another five insurgents, including his brother and another commander, Muhiyadin Muhammad. At least a dozen civilians in neighboring houses were also killed by the missiles.

The missile strikes were carried out in advance of a U.N.-sponsored meeting in Djibouti, at which TFG officials and Islamic leaders are negotiating a possible truce.

Regional security analysts rank Somalia as a "secondary front" in the war against terrorism. They say that the country's profile was raised greatly following the Ethiopian invasion and the subsequent U.S. air strikes.

Al-Shabaab's spokesman, Sheikh Mukhtar Robow, has vowed the group will retaliate.

"This does not deter us from continuing our holy war against Allah's enemy," Robow told The Media Line. "We will target all Americans irrespective of who they are, because the American government is killing all our people," he said.

"Our leader Aden Hashi Ayro is a hero. Ayro's killing by the Americans will not deter fighters of Al-Shabaab from stepping up their battle. The infidel and their cohorts will pay dearly for their deadly act... We shall avenge the death of our leader," Robow said.

Several months before Ayro's killing, the group intensified its daily attacks on Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG), which is backed by Ethiopian army soldiers, taking control of substantial territories in central and southern Somalia.

Analysts said Al-Shabaab's aim was to destabilize the Ethiopian forces by increasing the chaos in central and southern Somalia, thus drawing off forces from the capital. It is also aiming to increase insecurity to the point that the population will call on the Islamists to save it.

But with the killing of Ayro, it is possible Al-Shabaab may either stage quick and violent revenge attacks or make a tactical withdrawal to plan their next move.

A Kenyan anti-terrorism official told The Media Line the May 1 operation succeeded after some Al-Shabaab members fell out and passed information to the Americans.

Kenya and the U.S. have been sharing anti-terrorism intelligence especially since the August 7, 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi and the Kikambala Hotel in November 2002. Their joint efforts have led to successful operations against Al-Qa'ida cells in Somalia.

According to Kenyan officials, the anti-terrorism unit is concerned the group may launch revenge attacks against Kenya following the killing of its leader. This has led to the beefing up of security along the Kenya-Somalia border, the officials say.

"We are very much prepared to avert these attacks. We have intelligence information that the terror groups are regrouping for possible attacks," said an anti-terrorism police officer, who declined to be named.

Two Kenyans and two Britons were killed in Somalia in mid-April when Islamist insurgents carried out an overnight raid on a school in central Somalia.



The move by the Kenyan defense forces to increase security comes only days after the U.S. said, in a global counter-terrorism survey, that the country lacked the laws needed to wage an effective war on terrorism.

The report, however, applauded Kenya's response to the upheaval in Somalia after the Ethiopian invasion in 2006. It noted that the Ministry of Defense's efforts largely prevented the flight of violent extremists across the Somalia-Kenya border.

War crimes

Amnesty International (AI) has called for an investigation of the role of the United States in Somalia, following publication of a report on May 6 accusing its allies of committing war crimes. The human-rights group listed abuses carried out by Ethiopian and Somali government forces, and some committed by Al-Shabaab.

According to the report, based on the testimonies of refugees who have fled Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, in recent weeks, Ethiopian troops have killed civilians by slitting their throats. Ethiopian and Somali forces were also accused of gang-raping women and attacking children.

The Ethiopian government last week issued a statement strongly rejecting the Amnesty allegations and criticizing the organization's "uncritical use of sources."

AI has called for an international commission of inquiry into the allegations of war crimes in Somalia and said the role of other countries that have given military and financial support to perpetrators should also be investigated.

AI's report describes widespread human-rights abuses by all sides in the conflict in Somalia.

The group said that armed groups, including remnants of the Islamic Courts Union, act "as bandits, perpetrating raids, robberies and other abuses against civilians, including rape and other forms of sexual violence."

"There are major countries that have significant influence," AI researcher Dave Copeman told journalists in Nairobi on May 6. "The U.S., the EU and European countries need to exert that influence to stop these attacks," he said.

"The international community has recognized the Transitional Federal Government and they have some level of influence and they need to use this influence to ensure that the people who are committing the crimes, particularly within the Ethiopians and the TFG, are aware of the fact that they are going to be held to account, because at the moment they are not," Copeland added. "There is an absolute sense of impunity."

However, the Somali and Ethiopian governments rejected AI's accusation that Ethiopian troops in Somalia had killed people by slitting their throats "like goats."

Zembkun Tekle, a spokesman for Ethiopia's minister of information, said: "We are not confident of the report that Amnesty is giving. They should be careful and need to see the facts on the ground."

"They should make every effort to include [the] other side of the story.

Our forces are not known for robbery and other problems that are facing the Somali people. They are known for their discipline and for their good relations with the public," he said.

"This is an outright, and deliberate, lie, fed to Amnesty by groups affiliated to Al-Shabaab, groups that use the cover of human rights to promote their terrorist agenda. We must deplore that one of the world's most prominent human-rights organizations should descend to the level of publicizing deliberately invented stories about the activities of Ethiopian troops."

The Somali government also denied claims by a rights group that its forces and their Ethiopian allies were committing atrocities against the civilian population, even as a civil society source said the report did not go far enough.

"Some people may get caught in crossfire but no civilian is deliberately targeted," said government spokesman Abdi Haji Gobdon.

Gobdon said the report was "pure propaganda and fabrication."

The United States has been a particularly strong backer of the Ethiopians and the transitional government, with some analysts and organizations saying that American cooperation with these groups on counter-terrorism issues has come at the expense of pushing for improvements in humanitarian access and human rights.

Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, a leader of the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, said from the Eritrean capital Asmara, where the group's leadership is based, that the group's fighters do not threaten civilians. "Our aim is to fight for the rights of all Somalis and not to threaten civilians. Those who facilitate attacks against enemy forces should be considered an enemy," he said.

He also denied the accusation that insurgents, along with Ethiopian forces, knowingly fire shells into civilian areas of Mogadishu, saying only Ethiopian troops have done so.

The faction Aweys leads, which brought together many of the leaders of the Islamic Courts Union that was dislodged from Mogadishu by Ethiopian forces in December 2006, is seen as more moderate than the Shabaab group.

U.S-Ethiopian Reactions

The United States and Ethiopia are calling Ayro's killing a victory against terrorism.

Addis Ababa said the attack by the U.S. would weaken the terror group in the Horn of Africa nation.

Ethiopian Information Minister Berhane Hailu said, "This... will further weaken the cells of Al-Qa'ida in Somalia. It has some value for peace and stability in Somalia."

Ethiopia deployed troops in Somalia to support its embattled transitional government in late 2006. The following year they defeated Islamist militants who had taken control of large parts of south and central Somalia. Remaining Islamist militia fighters have since waged a guerrilla campaign against the government as well as against allied Ethiopian forces and African Union peacekeepers.

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Words of Wisdom



In the Third World today, the rulers have no fixed budgets or allocations, even when these exist on paper. The rulers simply spend as they please. Actually, the only limiting element is the lack of funds or the general poverty of the country. Here in Yemen, this problem exists in a shameless way. Just a couple of weeks ago, a number of government palaces built by foreign aid were simply given away to the top president's men.

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

OUR
OPINIONEn avant
la musique

On Saturday night, the Yemeni Cultural Center in cooperation with the French Cultural Center in Sana'a organized a musical event "2ElectroDunes", which was very entertaining. It was on the occasion of World Music Day, and created fusion between traditional Algerian, Yemeni music with modern digital sound mixing. I can't say that I was aware of all the techniques behind the creation of that fabulous music but it was working.

Started in France in 1982, the "Fete de la Musique" (or World Music Day) has become an international festival that is celebrated on the first day of summer, June 21st, in over 100 countries across the globe. Fortunately, Yemen was one of them thanks to the French and Yemeni cultural centers.

For the first time in years, did I get the opportunity to forget politics, economy, development...etc issues and simply enjoy the music. There was a good crowd of Yemenis and French nationals among other nationalities and they all, especially the young ones, seemed excited with the music. They kept shouting and applauding and whistling. Can't deny I was getting excited myself.

What I realized, is that we need music to survive. We need some entertainment in our lives to help us get through difficult times such as the ones we are going through today.

There is nothing wrong in celebrating music even in the darkest times. In fact, I think the state, and civil society organizations should do more of these activities and create some kind of outlet for the citizens. An event that is inclusive and free, so that anyone and everyone can participate in.

Even during the music night, one of the lead singers gave a touching statement directed to politics and decision makers of the Arab world about hunger. He said that in the G8 countries recent meeting they decided the world needs an investment of 40 million dollars to overcome world hunger by 2020. He then commented that this should not be a big deal for rich Arab countries considering that their revenues from oil exceed 10 billion US dollars a year. The whole audience agreed strongly and applauded the statement. Music does not have to do only with entertainment. It could have a message and deliver it quite effectively. In fact, I have seen the influence of sports champions and artists much stronger than politicians.

Musicians have the ability to share their music, passion, and enthusiasm with the rest of the world in a delightful and meaningful way. Even from the religious or Islamic point of view, there is nothing concrete that says music should or is forbidden in Islam. Some extreme fundamentalists want to create a world without music, but it is totally against human nature not to enjoy or create music.

We owe it to ourselves to celebrate music and let go, even if for a few hours every now and then.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The delayed projects

By: Mohammed Al-Ariqi

Documents of projects and plans get circulated in the various government agencies, particularly those concerned with implementing service projects, which would be rather named 'delayed projects'. Such delayed implementation is not only limited to projects managed by the government, as the private sector and even individuals have hampered or halted projects.

Halting progress of project implementation adds extra burden on the national economy and development. We see many service facilities where construction is not finished, while foundation stones were laid in several other projects, which have been since then forgotten under construction for years.

It is regretful to see that progress of implementation is halted in numerous facilities, institutions and projects even if the construction process in any of them was about to be finished. Some of such projects are halted even after entering the furnishing phase, as the concerned officials and contractors draw their attention away from them and shift to other projects to do the same. They usually start the construction process

and then stop it after a few months, thus abandoning such under-construction facilities to become havens for birds and cattle, or debris over time.

Remorsefully, the largest number of hampered projects exists in the rural areas where people are in an urgent need of such projects, due to play a greater role in encouraging community development and creating more job opportunities for idle youths of these areas. Hampered implementation or delayed progress is often noticed in projects related with the sectors of health, education, roads, water and electricity.

The government, which discussed such an issue more than once, has understood the primary reasons and causes responsible for the phenomenon of delayed or halted projects. Such reasons include inadequate funding to cover the implementation expenses, soaring prices of construction material and other problems related with contracts and agreements between relevant officials and contractors.

It is strange to see that great efforts are expended to finish some projects while other projects receive funds from international donors, thereby helping implementation of such projects progress at a good rhythm until they enter the phase of furniture and indoor equipment. In other cases, one can see

that all the required equipment is provided and the new project is furnished well, but suddenly finds that operation-related problems emerge due to inadequate funding to cover the operating expenses.

The primary reason why implementation of many service projects is hampered or halted is symptomatic of mismanagement and preceding random planning. Most of such projects are handed over to contractors based on emotionalism, favoritism and nepotism, and as a result, these projects are found to be implemented in way contradicting the preceding real planning and specifications contained in the relevant contracts. Therefore, such projects don't often function as required.

Funds spent by the government on implementing such projects mounted up to billions of Yemeni Riyals while the targeted communities have not benefited from them.

The situation necessitates serious actions to be taken by the relevant authorities in the government to put a stop to the growing phenomenon of hampered or delayed projects that only waste public funds without providing real benefits to the targeted communities.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

A tear on the tomb of liberty

By: Hamza Al-Maqaleh

Philosophers of the past were not true while defining politics, often believed as the mother of all sciences since in the past, politics meant managing community and civil affairs, and meeting community needs and demands with a concept that is very close to idealism. Nowadays, we are more than two thousand years far away from this concept, coupled with a further distance in cognitivism and time.

These days, politics turned to be understood as merely cheap and trite concept that targets the entire human structure, splits the unified social fabric, and confiscates liberty and sells it in the slavery market. Such a concept also harms the institutional capacity and removes all the sights of human civilization under the pretext of public right. The current politics are limited to a circle having zero and selfishness as its point, aside from peoples' concerns, pains and problems, as well as the future of coming generations.

In my homeland, the matter is totally different since a particular group of opportunists is managing the urban and rural affairs, as well as pain lands and mountainous areas, and history and geography. These opportunists are the only people entitled to print the documents of patriotism, which is why we in Yemen are experiencing an unprecedented catastrophe.

We have no choice but to perceive and admit how huge the catastrophe is, specifically as we have no adequate time to list negative consequences of the catastrophe here. It is also illogical to waste much of our valuable time in political arguments and controversies that are not in our favor as a nation and human beings.

What we have to do today is search together for a real deliverance that can rescue our homeland from unprecedented catastrophes and give a top priority to addressing issues of Yemeni society and people, aside from the language of politics and fragmentations, which may not be tolerated by those having no faith in the intellectual and political diversity.

Nowadays, we are experiencing a critical stage of time as there is a notably huge difference between the ruling party and the opposition, represented by Joint Meeting Parties (JMP). There is a presidential platform and agenda that shyly encourage Yemeni people to do something seriously wrong while time has turned to be inconvenient for this agenda, and the tasks gets more complicated due to emergence of other issues such as the turmoil of South Yemen, Sa'ada fighting, poor living standards and the economic crisis Yemen is currently suffering.

Democracy aborted:

In addition, there is a real abortion of the democratic project inside the country, plus the remarkable restriction of freedom of the press, even the image of press freedom in Yemen is beautified by many of those exploiting the dire press situation to achieve certain interests.

What is hovering over our heads is larger than what we see before our eyes while the outcome is more congestion and escalating chaos. I don't want many people to be infected with the ache of chaos, mainly as separating people from each other is no longer feasible.

The world has become one information system while any man may know more about the outside world via an electronic device without any monitor or surveillance. It is no longer possible for anyone to control the space transmission of news and facts from other parts of the world into our territories. As everything has become clearly known to everyone, why we do escape identifying our problems and setting with citizens of the same homeland. Having diagnosed our pressing problems, it will be easier for us to suggest workable solutions to them one by one.

Unity is a first-class Yemeni popular product, and in the meantime, nobody - irrespective of his status and reputation - is entitled to control or privatize such a unique national project. And, any coupe against this project is a

historical crime against people and humanity. We still remember much more about covenants of the unity and the various institutional and civilized projects contained in these covenants, which also embrace other vital projects based on pluralism, freedom of expression, free economic climate and autonomous judiciary.

The unity-related projects also include national military institutions based on competence and eligibility, aside from favoritism and nepotism. Unity may become an easy victim as a result of irresponsible actions and practices, as well as other acts contradicting covenants and agreements of the unity.

The 1994 War led to privatizing unity, jailing and hunting journalists and closing newspapers.

A remorseful tear will be shed on the tomb of liberty as an inevitable result of victimizing our unity unless we establish the kind of national project that helps rescue our homeland from repeated calamities.

Source: Maribpress.net

SILVER LINING

Universities
everywhere!

Last Monday, President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued a decree establishing five new universities in Hajja, al Baidha, Abyan al Dhalé and Lahj. Some might consider the decision as strategic and has a noble objective. But, in my point of view, it is really unwise and does not serve the need of the people and development at large.



By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi

We already have eight universities. And it seems it is becoming a fashion for whenever the president visits any governorate, he gives promises and instructions to set up a university. This is very much wrong.

Most of the existing universities are duplicating each other in terms of the specializations and the courses they offer. You find a faculty of medicine in all these universities; the same applies to faculties of education...etc.

I believe in order to strengthen the market-oriented education, we need universities that offer courses that match with the labor market need. In other words, we can have two to three main universities and the rest should be specialized schools offering courses that go in line with the need of the surrounding environment and the available resources. There should be, for instance, a marine science school in Hodiedah and Aden which make use of the sea there. Similarly, there should be an agriculture school in Ibb and Thamar. This does not necessarily mean preventing such governorates from running their own universities. It rather means that each of such school should be distinguished in and focus on a particular science and can be thus a hub for students from all over the country. We do not necessarily need a university in each town and each village.

I doubt the president consulted the leadership of the ministry of higher education before taking the decision to establish five new universities all at once. Do we have the resources to operate these universities? Of course, we do not. And is there a vision for how these universities will function? I doubt.

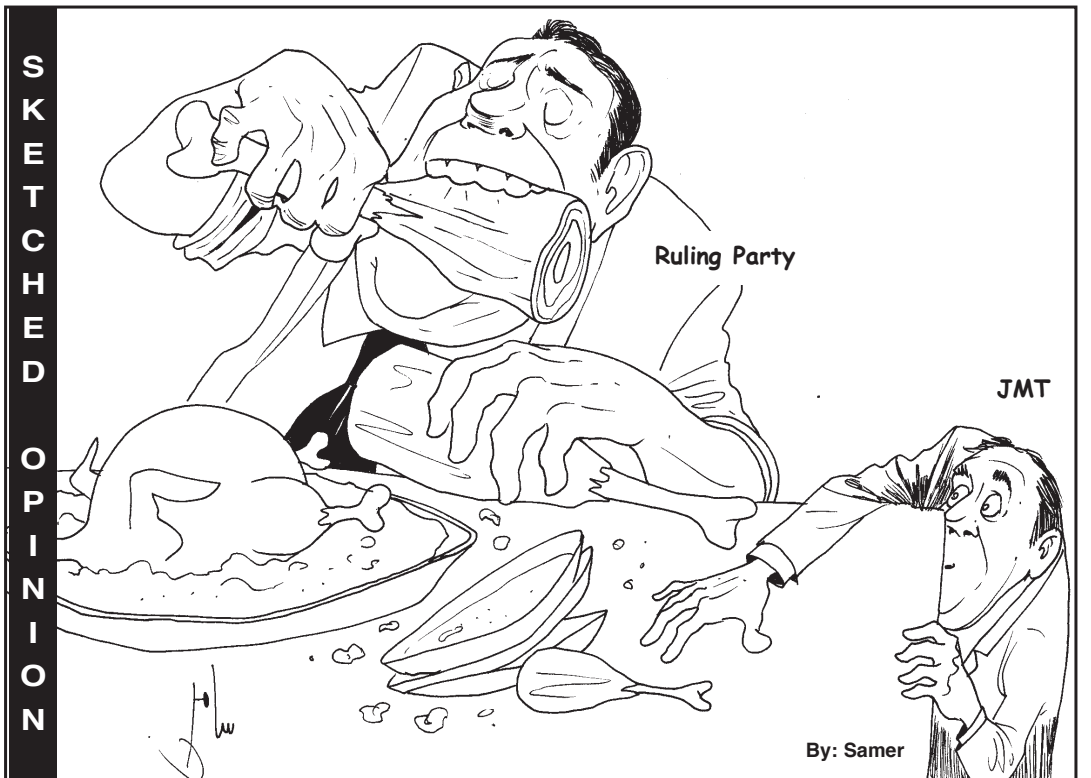
Such a policy of operating universities in each governorate definitely means wasting resources for the budget that can be channeled to running three or four universities efficiently will be distributed among the rest of the universities. Consequently, this means weak institutions with less facilities and the result is a weak and unprofessional output that does not address the society welfare. In addition, bringing universities and colleges to each village turn such institutions into primary schools which make students lose enthusiasm about higher education.

Another issue is that the donors who are supporting education in Yemen will think the government is not serious about promoting education quality and thus might stop funding the programs they have now with the ministry of higher education.

Educational institutions should be established on ground of the need for them rather than political whims meant to appease a particular Sheikh or group.

I believe the president can take decisions about anything but not the education. If education is politicized and falls under the whims of politicians, the consequence is certainly catastrophic.

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



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Yemen Press Review



Al-Wahdawi.net, affiliated with Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO) Friday, June 20, 2008

Top stories

- Broad meeting for JMP member parties to discuss current turmoil
- Arab campaign in solidarity with Yemeni journalist Ezzat Mustafa
- Interior Ministry orders police to close arms trade shops in the various Yemeni governorates
- Ruling party pressures Yemeni Journalist syndicate to postpone its fourth conference
- JMP denounces ruling party's insistence to amend election law alone

Higher Council of Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) strongly denounced ruling party's insistence via its parliamentary bloc to amend the currently effective General Election Law alone according to its own visions with the aim of dominating the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) alone and excluding other political parties, the website reported.

The council accused the ruling party of ignoring other partners in the political equation and underestimating role of their Parliament members, describing the procedure as a flagrant violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and other effective laws. It added that GPC breached a previous agreement it signed with

opposition parties in this regard.

The opposition bloc's council released a statement, of which a copy was obtained by the Al-Wahdawi.net, saying that amending the General Election Law concerns all the political parties involved in the electoral processes. It added that reaching a consensus on amending this law is an indispensable condition for maintaining the law's legitimacy and constitutionality.

"The ruling party's parliamentary bloc is not entitled to amend the law alone...this bloc has no right to violate the constitution in this regard," the statement reads. "Such a procedure taken by the ruling party (excluding opposition parties in amending the election law) implies that this party is not serious to help Yemen conduct free and fair elections on time."



Al-Sahwa Weekly, mouthpiece of the Islah Party Thursday, June 19, 2008

Top Stories

- Private fuel stations complain of bankruptcy as government refuses to supply them with diesel
- Kidney patients in Hodeida appeal to government to provide them air conditioners
- Finance Minister admits that his ministry is unable to fighting diesel smuggling
- International organizations: Al-Khaiwani faced baseless charges
- JMP rejects election law

amendment, blames ruling party for worsening situations

Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) bloc in Parliament has renewed its strong rejection of the General People Congress's attempt to amend the General Election Law, placed in effect, individually, the weekly reported on its front page story.

The weekly added in a statement that JMP clarified that such amendments contradict the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, democratic values, equal citizenship, hurt political life and undercut all reform ways. In the meantime, it accused the ruling party's parliamentary bloc of seeking to help the current worsening conditions continue, manipulating the country's future and insisting to undermine the election system.

According to the weekly, the opposition coalition further stressed that any amendments taken solely by the ruling party would be meant to emasculate the constitutional principles and the multiparty system, pointing out that the solutions to those crises lie on holding fair and free elections in which all citizens could practice their freedom without forgery or intimidation.

According to JMP, forming Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) from judges will not ensure managing the electoral process in a neutral and transparent manner, adding that judges, unlike party leaders or political activists, are not eligible to run general elections, nor can they be questioned over any violations that may take place during elections.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party) Thursday, June 19, 2008

Top stories

- Sa'ada rebels attack girl school in Sihar
- Tadamun International Islamic Bank raises capital up to YR 20 billion
- Journalists concerned as government not receptive to their demands
- Parliament refers election law amendment proposal to Speaker for approval

Parliament referred Monday a proposal via its Speaker Yahya A-Raei on amending the election law so that the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) is composed under an agreement signed by Yemen's political parties, the website reported. According to the agreement, parties will have memberships in SCER in proportion with their seats in parliament or the votes each bloc had gained in 2003 elections. Otherwise the procedure will be followed according to the amendments draft proposed by the government to form the commission from judges.

Parliament member Dr Jaafar Basaleh described the idea of ruling out judges' eligibility to manage the electoral process as 'politically motivated'. He added if an agreement between the parties is not reached, the task should be referred to President of

the Republic to select SCER members.

MP Ali Al-Amrani supported Basaleh by saying that management of the electoral process needs politicians and technical persons, but in case of proceeding with the government amendments the judges nominated to be members of the commission must be stripped of their judicial capacity.

On the contrary, Head of parliamentary constitutional committee Ali Abu Hlaqqa said the judicial capacity would inevitably end with nomination of judges, a suggestion that was strongly opposed by head of parliamentary workforce committee Azzam Salah.

In the meantime, some General People's Congress (GPC) MPs stressed the importance of the agreement in amending the elections law.

Mohammed Balghaith, the only Parliament member from the opposition who was present at the session, opposed the idea of forming SCER from political party representatives, explaining that such procedure may influence independence and neutrality of the election commission. He supported forming SCER from judges.



26 September.net, affiliated with Yemeni Army Friday, June 20, 2008

Top Stories

- Sana'a set up mechanisms for reconciliation between Palestinian conflicting factions

- President Saleh orders forming committee to implement housing project for army ad security personnel

- Army besieges rebels in their main strongholds, drives others off mountaintop positions

- President Saleh calls on youths to utilize summer holiday

- President Ali Abdullah Saleh called on Wednesday youths to utilize the summer holiday by going to summer camps, the website reported in its lead story. It added that during his meeting with directors of sports, youths and education offices nationwide, President Saleh stressed the necessity of utilizing summer holiday by organizing cultural and sporting events to improve skills and creativities of youths.

The relevant official, on their part, briefed Saleh on the various activities their offices prepared for youths during the summer holiday with the aim of developing youths spiritually and physically, as well as spreading national culture and principles of democracy and freedom among youths.

According to the website, President Saleh pointed out the role of all, especially families and mosques to educate new generations on values, tolerance and rejection of extremism and fanaticism.

President Saleh urged ministries of education, youths & sports, and technical education & vocational training to shoulder their responsibilities to set up summer camps for youths, calling on intellectuals to organize lectures for youths to protect them from wrong thoughts and concepts.

A Peek at Bernier's briefing notes

President George Bush had a few choice words for Canada's Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier when he saw his official companion Julie Couillard.

"Well, well, well," Mr. Bush said, "haven't you been keeping good company."

The president was probably referring to Couillard's attractiveness, but it might very well have been her controversial ties to the Hell's Angels as world leaders are generally well briefed about all types of issues.

For instance, Pierre Trudeau's own wife, Margaret, was briefed by the Canadian Ambassador to Moscow about the woman she would meet when the Prime Minister made his first historical visit to the Soviet Union in 1971.

Such 'briefing notes' can be quite candid. Mrs. Brezhnev is a "homely, rather hefty person, who knows she is married to the boss" with a "rather flashy" divorced daughter.

"Although dumpy and rather unattractive looking, Mrs. Gromyko has a great deal of natural charm and is a very intelligent woman."

Mrs. Gvishiani "is by far the most attractive Russian woman in the hierarchy".

They "all share a certain sense of inferiority" and "none of them seems particularly involved or interested in her husband's political life."

Briefing notes help world leaders navigate complicated situations plus formulate responses to perplexing situations. Top-secret briefing notes generally remain classified, despite the 20- and 30-year rules that govern access to most government documents.

We will probably never learn what was in the package of information and briefing notes about the NATO summit in Bucharest in April that Mr. Bernier carelessly left behind. But we can guess about their likely content as leaders at the Riga summit faced more than seven controversial issues.

The issue of burdensharing in Afghanistan would have required that Foreign Minister Bernier know which countries are becoming more reluctant to contribute forces. Who doesn't want to contribute any more forces at all?

The controversial issue of NATO enlargement, and questions surrounding possibly accepting Ukraine but bypass-

ing Georgia, would have been examined in light of strong Russian opposition, especially by Russian President Vladimir Putin, to NATO expansion.

Internal reaction within NATO to a controversial report by five retired high-ranking NATO officials and generals on the prospects of a more global NATO partnership, possibly including Australia and Japan, would no doubt have been brought to his attention.

An internally-driven review by NATO's Secretary-General of NATO's Strategic Concept, which nobody can reach any agreement about, might have been explained in light of domestic opposition from a range of Canadian NGOs opposed to relying upon nuclear deterrence.

Facts about the hundreds of tactical nuclear weapons that remain in Europe under NATO auspices might have been revealed, including news about a possible American strategy of negotiating a reduction or quid pro quo in Russia's tactical arsenal in exchange for withdrawing the European nuclear weapons entirely.

Mr. Bernier assuredly would also have been brought up to speed about behind-the-scenes attitudes toward the tremendously problematic issue of reintegrating France into NATO's force structure and planning. France is often privately considered more of a threat to NATO's internal harmony than Russia.

Moreover, how might the United States and Canada cope with currently-stymied plans to set up a European crisis management force of 60,000 personnel, which would essentially compete with NATO for European citizen's allegiance?

In short, the Canadian government's favoured approaches to all these controversial issues would probably have been explained, attacked and defended in the information package that Bernier left in Couillard's apartment.

Of great concern to the NATO alliance, Mr. Bernier's briefing package may well have included some analyses by Canadian officials in the PCO, the PMO, DFAIT and DND of highly-classified guidance issued by the NATO Council, NATO's Military Committee, or NATO's Nuclear Planning Group, which secretly discusses the use and introduction of nuclear weapons.

Information emanating from NATO headquarters is considered to be so

secret that it is usually never declassified. Cabinet documents that refer to other countries' decision-making about NATO issues are whited out for pages at a time. For example, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mitchell Sharp advised the Cabinet in September 1968, fifty years ago, that he had been handed an aide-memoire by the (whited out) setting out how the (whited out) government considers the alliance should react to Soviet aggression against Czechoslovakia. Their secret Cabinet discussions considered the option of doing nothing because they could not come to a decision about the level of Canadian military participation in NATO. Fast forward fifty years later and the same sort of Cabinet discussion may have already taken place in Harper's Cabinet regarding Afghanistan prior to the NATO Summit. That is why former Ministers of Foreign Affairs, like Mitchell Sharp, Joe Clark, Barbara McDougall, and Lloyd Axworthy, are all sworn to Cabinet secrecy because leaks about Cabinet discussions can irreparably damage governments.

A possible leak from this package could damage Canada-US-European-Middle East relations. For example, a top secret foreign policy strategic overview in 1986 pointed out that in response to efforts to inject increases into the US defence budget, "there has developed a strong Congressional lobby determined to ensure that the USA's allies assume their fair share of defence expenditures...The House of Representatives and Senate reportedly have recent studies which identify Canada and Japan, in particular, as being deficient in their contributions to defence."

We cannot know whether Mr. Bernier's briefing package contained similar types of complaints by the U.S. about Canada or other countries in Europe or the Middle East.

Due to their potentially-damaging international and national implications, many high-level policy-makers around the world must be hoping right now Mr. Bernier's briefing notes were not leaked to the Hell's Angels—or any journalists bent on hellfire.

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What should be the definition of a millionaire?

**By: Ivan Simic
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Millionaires, millionaires. Day after day, we watch and read about millionaires – actor millionaires, singer millionaires, heiress millionaires and others. Every day, the number of the world's millionaires increases with lightning speed.

This "millionaire" phenomenon has become very important in our global society. In fact, millionaires and billionaires sometimes are front-page news, ahead of even domestic or global issues. In relation, large numbers of companies, newspapers and television stations are conducting detailed research on these treasured assets...but are they all really millionaires?

According to the encyclopedia, a millionaire is an individual who resides in a household whose net worth or wealth exceeds a million units of any currency. However, it also may be one who owns a million units of any currency in cash, bank or savings accounts.

Because the world has faced rapid development in its global economy from the 19th century to today, it's come to the point where being a millionaire isn't prestigious like it was before. Now that there are plenty of millionaires and billionaires around the globe, they need a new expression in order to distinguish themselves.

Thus, today we have multimillionaires (a net worth of two or more million), hectomillionaires (a net worth of a hundred or more million) and billionaires (a net worth of one or more billion).

In the past 10 years, with the enormous growth of hectomillionaires and billionaires, millionaires and multimillionaires with just a few million are considered middle class millionaires. In contemporary language, they just aren't super rich.

Looking at the 2007 World Wealth Report (a report on individuals with a net worth of at least \$1 million in all assets except their primary residence) - Annual World Wealth Report from Merrill Lynch compiled by Capgemini, we can see that the world's High Net Worth (HNW) pop-

ulation grew to 9.5 million, with their assets increased to \$37.2 trillion.

Merrill Lynch also reports that there are 9.5 million HNWI millionaires worldwide and 95,000 multimillionaires (UHNWIs with more than \$30 million). In 2007, Forbes Magazine reported 946 billionaires in the world, with total accumulated wealth of \$3.5 trillion.

Looking at private banking, a High Net Worth Individual (HNWI) is one with a net worth of \$1 million or more in investable assets (not including primary assets). An Ultra High Net Worth Individual (UHNWI) refers to those individuals or families with at least \$30 million in investable assets.

According to the previously mentioned definition, a millionaire is any individual owning a million units of any currency, but according to private banking, a millionaire is one who owns a million U.S. dollars. Thus, those with \$800,000 aren't counted as millionaires in their countries.

No one, including beneficiary banks, recognizes these individuals as millionaires, but if we exchange this amount for U.S. dollars, these individuals become millionaires, so can this report on the number of the world's millionaires be true?

There's no definition or internationally recognized model for the U.S. dollar being the currency to identify or count the world's or individual wealth. Yes, the United States dollar has been the "defacto" world currency since the 20th century, and even as of 2007, the dollar still had the largest share at 63.3 percent of foreign reserve holdings, while the euro had some 26.5 percent.

However, since 2000, the dollar's share has been falling and the euro's has been rising. As of December 2006, the euro surpassed the dollar in combined value of cash in circulation. The value of euro notes in circulation has risen to more than \$610 billion, equivalent to \$800 billion; therefore, the euro has become the currency with the highest combined value of cash in circulation in the world.

A million U.S. dollars exchanged in other currencies doesn't always make a millionaire. For example, \$1 million at the May 23 exchange rate was equivalent to \$634,698.99, £505,114.98 or 265,450.01 Kuwaiti dinars.

Looking at the above example, we can see that the Kuwaiti dinar was the strongest currency unit. In fact, the Kuwaiti dinar is the world's highest valued currency unit, having been re-pegged to a host of currencies since May 20, 2007. However, the Kuwaiti dinar isn't so called "hard currency," isn't of very much use outside of Kuwait and is tied to that nation's economy.

On the other hand, Britain's pound sterling and the euro are hard currencies. They are reserve currencies and currencies with good buying power that are widely accepted as a reliable store of value, yet we don't see them as a model for counting world wealth.

The U.S. dollar isn't the strongest currency unit, especially now, when even the Cuban convertible peso and the Azerbaijani manat are stronger than the dollar! Therefore, using U.S. dollars as the currency unit or as a model to identify millionaires is giving the wrong picture of who is a millionaire in the world.

It's very simple: companies that conduct research and others should conduct their research based upon the highest valued currency – if not the Kuwaiti dinar, then the euro or the British pound sterling, those higher currencies that remain so.

Thus, what should be the definition of a millionaire? Perhaps a millionaire is an individual whose net wealth exceeds a sufficient amount of units of any currency when exchanged at a million units of the world's highest valued currency unit or the world's highest anchor currency unit.

It also may be one who owns enough units of any currency when exchanged worth a million units of the world's highest valued currency unit or the world's highest anchor currency unit in cash, bank or savings accounts.

If an individual has enough currency to buy a million of the world's highest valued currency unit or the world's highest anchor currency unit, then that person should be counted as a millionaire. This way, we'd have only around 100 billionaires and much fewer millionaires, which would make some sense and bring back the original meaning of being a millionaire or a billionaire.

Yemenia honors its outstanding employees



Yemenia اليمنية

Yemenia airlines recognized the most outstanding employees in its all departments and appreciated their well performance in the field in attendance with the chairman of the Yemenia Airlines, all the general managers of the departments, senior employees, and many members of Media.

The chairman of Yemenia Airlines, Adbulkhalek Saleh Al-Kadi, started welcoming all the attendants and gave a short background about Yemenia Airlines. He briefly stated that the history of Yemen Airways goes back to the second 40s. Form 1949 until 1977, Yemen Airways had experienced moderate developments and different kinds of structural reforms.

In July 1978 Yemen Airways took a big step forward and new Company, Yemenia – (Yemen Airways) was formed with 51% share by Yemen government and 49% by Saudi Arabia government. The formation of Yemenia had reflected an ideal international investment that is lasting unit now. We can say that 1978 is considered as a landmark in the Aviation history of Yemen. It had witnessed the beginning of a new era in air travel services and progress.

By the end of 1979, Yemenia had taken delivery of 4 brand new B-727-200 and 2DHC-7 in 1980. During the period of 1980 to 1995, and with a fleet of 4 B727, B-737 and 2 DHC-7, Yemenia had undergone many developments in all aspects of its activities. It had set up a big program for training its human resources in Operation, Maintenance, and finance. In the infrastructure side had expanded its maintenance capability and introduced automatic reservation system



and electronic data processing. Its service had covered around 23 international destinations within 3 continents – Asia, Africa, and Europe and with good reputation in service and excellent safety records that it was awarded the Certificate of Membership for the years 1988/1989 form FSF (Flight Safety Foundation) Inc. Also it had become a member of IATA, AACO and ICAO. Except for the year 1982, its bottom line of income statement was always positive.

had happened in Yemen. One of the major in Yemen's history was the unification of the two parts of the country; North & South into one State called Yemen Republic. As a consequence of this event, Yemenia had consolidated with DY, the former South Yemen Airlines, in May 1996 and added to its fleet 2B-737-100 and 2DHC-7 airplanes.

objectives so as to adapt to changes to economic, regulatory, and market condition.

By the end of his speech, he appreciated all the staff and focus on those who performed well in the last year. Besides, he encouraged all the employees to perform as well as possible. He said, "We have many prizes and certificates of recognition next year. We encourage all the employees to do their best as possible as they can and we hope to honor them all. We don't mind if we honored one employee for two times or three times. We recognize the hard working ones".

In addition, throughout the 90s many developments

With a good vision in airline business and fully aware with the recent development in the industry, We all in the new leadership had set up Yemenia goals and



In Solidarity with AbdulKarim Al-Khawiani

"Thank you for having the courage to make public what the world needs to know. There are countless numbers of people around the world who depend on your strength and perseverance. Wishing you health and strength. Thank you again."

Erica Razook, NY, USA

"I will remember you and hope for your release every day of your unjust detention."

Marco Goldschmied, London

"It testifies to the importance of your work, and that of Amnesty that there and now hundreds of us here who know for the first time of what is happening in Yemen. Take comfort from that as you endure your unjust imprisonment."

Richard de Friend

"Abdul - can't wait until your out and writing again. Hopefully it will not be as long as six years till we are hearing from you. All the best!!!!"

Adam Smith, London.

"You are an inspiration to us all, and your hardship and efforts will not be for nothing."

John

"I was so moved by your acceptance speech, and congratulate you on your exceptional bravery in continuing your excellent work in the face of such powerful opposition. My thoughts and best wishes are with you."

Alexandra Marks (Lawyer, London)

"You are an inspiration. Unbelievable courage. Protect the love inside of you. I don't know you but I will be thinking of you lots."

John Parnell

"You are not alone, don't ever forget it and also that the world is watching, you are such an inspiration for other people. I am sure you will not stay in prison as so many people and amnesty international are teaming up to get you released as soon as possible... Keep strong."

Warm regards.

Isa Suarez

"On behalf of the Trade Union Network of Amnesty UK we send you all our solidarity and heartfelt support in the struggle for journalists' and human rights in Yemen. We are proud in Amnesty of our contribution as trade unionists to the organisation as we celebrate the 60th



anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights we must remember the trade union slogan "an injury to one is an injury to all". We are with you."

Shane Enright

Amnesty UK Trade Union Network

"I am an Armenian writer and I simply want to send you my support, admiration and very best wishes for your courage and perseverance. 500 people were here tonight. We all wish you the very best."

Nouritza Matossian

"Being at the Amnesty Media Awards highlighted the sacrifices that you and countless other journalists have made to document the many horrors happening around the world. I am sending my support to you, I hope you are safe, and return to your family soon."

Jenna Soame

"With much more bravery that i could ever imagine having. To your wife and children I send not just best wishes but also my care and compassion. Hoping to read about your release soon in our media."

In solidarity.

Vic Langer

"At the Amnesty Awards tonight we heard of your bravery which is incredibly inspiring. I hope that these messages also bring you inspiration and hope. Good luck with your continued fight for justice and equality, one that we all share and one that we hope, you will succeed in."

Stephen Brown,

National Union of Students UK National Secretary

"I was very moved by what Alan Johnston said about you when you won the Amnesty award, and I now send you all my best wishes and good thoughts. And wish you strength and courage to face this difficult time. You should know that many people here in England are thinking of you and wishing you well."

Gregory Evans

"Abdul, your absence was marked at tonight's ceremony. I have been inspired by the work you have done and continue to do. I wish you love and fortitude in these impossibly difficult times."

Rose de Larrabeiti

"I'm editor of the British journalists' magazine, the Journalist and a colleague of Jim Boumelha, who spoke on your behalf tonight. I'm very proud to say I was here to see you being honoured by Amnesty. Journalists everywhere are proud of you."

Tim Goppsill

"You are an inspiration to all of us who yearn for freedom. I know that God will protect you and He will preserve you for yet greater things that lie ahead. You are in our thoughts and prayers."

Costa Vaggas, Photographer

"You are a true inspiration and i know i wouldn't have your courage to stand up and be counted like you have. Please take strength from the support on this blog and hopefully our small actions may add up to raising your profile more and hope beyond hope the authorities that have detained you will see reason and release you."

Tony Price

http://blogs.amnesty.org.uk/blogs_entry.asp?eid=1477



وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاغِبُونَ

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى

الأخ / **عمر محمد عمر يعقوب**

نائب رئيس مجلس إدارة مجموعة شركات العالمية

لوفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى /

والدته الفاضلة

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيدة بواسع رحمته ومغفرته ويدخلها فسيح جناته و يلهم أهلها وذويها

الصبر والسلوان.... إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

م/ خير الدين النسور
المدير العام التنفيذي

وجميع موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز

الأستاذة/ نادية عبد العزيز السقاف
الناشر/ رئيس التحرير

الأستاذ/ محمد بن سلام
مدير قسم الأخبار

Sana'a Central Prison's medical state: Under the microscope

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

Sana'a Central Prison last year recorded eight deaths among its more than 2,200 inmates.

Although prison officials admit that the facility has one of the highest fatality rates, compared to previous years, they insist that its medical services have increased remarkably.

However, this view is the opposite of what was published last month by a former medical employee, a bone specialist who had worked at the prison for two months and now is calling on international organizations to investigate the facility's true medical state.

Dr. Ahmed Abdulaziz Numan, who is also head of Manar scientific establishment for health studies and research, says that ill prisoners at Sana'a Central Prison "are in desperate need of human attention."

He harshly criticized the prison management in his blog article entitled, "To whom it may concern," published in both Arabic and English at <http://msehsr1.pbwiki.com>, accusing the prison's medical staff of carelessness, negligence, misusing medicines, committing medical errors causing deaths and mistreating and discriminating against prisoners.

In response, prison management recently opened the prison gates to the Yemen Times in order to investigate the facility's true medical situation.

Located in the north of the capital city, Sana'a Central Prison consists of three residential sections for men, women and young men between ages 16 and 20.

A clinic sees and attempts to treat sick inmates. "There are various widespread diseases among the inmates. Skin diseases, kidney infections, kidney failure, liver diseases, hepatitis, diabetes, heart disease, rheumatism and even gum diseases - they're all there," clinic director Dr. Mohammed Ma'aid explains.

The clinic, at which two doctors, a surgeon, and three nurses work, is a small building consisting of four rooms: one for receiving and diagnosing patients, the second contains an ultrasound and a heartscanning machine, the third is a dentistry office and the last is used for medicine storage.

The three doctors work according to a certain timetable in order to be able to follow up patients' cases.

"Some cases are transferred to hospitals, especially those requiring intensive medical care, such as surgery or tests that we can't perform in this clinic," Ma'aid explains.

The clinic's monthly budget is YR 270,000 (approximately \$1,350) provided by the capital's Health Office and used to cover the expenses of medication and testing. In addition to this amount, the Military Hospital provides the prison medicines.

"We still need more aid, especially medicine," Ma'aid says, pointing to the difficulties of giving certain patients the medical care they need. "Liver patients, kidney failure patients and those who've had surgery need certain medical attention, besides special nutrition that prison management struggles to provide."

More tests needed

There are 69 female inmates at the central prison, where nine children live with their mothers in the same section.

"When a female enters the prison, she's given a pregnancy test," explains Najiba Naji, director of the facility's women's section.

Prison administration conducts no other tests, such as a fitness test or a general health examination. "We don't give a malaria test or any other tests unless the prisoner requests it, as they sometimes must pay for such tests," explains the inmate Aisha, who has spent three years at the prison.

Prison director Mutaheer Al-Shubi stresses the importance of periodic medical testing, which may help prison

management follow up health cases instead of discovering them at the prison. He says he wrote to the Health Ministry many times for help in this regard, but got no response.

"Last year, when the Ministry of Health conducted random medical testing among the female prisoners, we discovered many hepatitis infections and three HIV carriers," confirmed Naji, who is also nurse.

"We did the tests only when obvious serious symptoms like fever and coughs appeared. We either do the tests at the prison or send them outside," she explains, adding, "We also need a gynecologist to follow up cases and examine patients."

As prisoner Fatim observes, "The doctors here are good; however, medicines sometimes aren't available, so some of us who still receive financial support from our families can pay for medicine from outside pharmacies, while others must wait until the prison administration provides them the medicine."

The prison's laboratory is supplied with one microscope, and a basic blood analysis machine.

Al-Shubi further notes that the prison clinic still needs medical equipment such as an X-ray machine to help determine prisoners' ages. According to Dr. Numan, young delinquents often are mixed in with prisoners of the wrong age and thus are mistreated by the other prisoners, which leads to the spread of skin diseases.

Qat and cigarettes are one's best friends behind bars

Most ill inmates - particularly men - become infected in prison due to practicing bad habits. "Most inmates have poor health and hygiene, insisting on smoking tobacco and chewing qat. Such practices cause numerous medical problems among prisoners," Ma'aid notes, referring to cigarettes and qat that prisoners receive from their visitors.

He adds, "They get the worse kind

of qat, full of pesticides, which causes many diseases, particularly teeth and gum infections."

However, smoking and chewing qat isn't monopolized just by the prison's male population; female inmates also are greedy due to their addictions to qat and smoking. "Eighty percent of our female residents are smokers and qat chewers," says one security official who wished to remain anonymous.

Thus, women holding cigarettes in their fingers while chatting with each other is a very common sight at the prison.

"We prevent illegal substances from entering the prison, but qat and tobacco are legal, so we can't keep it from those who already have a strong addiction to cigarettes or qat. Only if we want to punish a prisoner do we prevent him or her from having qat or cigarettes," he added.

Despite these unhealthy and hard-to-break habits among inmates, doctors continue examining and testing ill prisoners, prescribing medication and recommending those patients requiring extra attention outside of the prison's bars, according to Dr. Mohammed Nasser, who works at the clinic daily.

"During the first two weeks of June, we sent four patients for surgery at government or private hospitals: two were Caesarean sections for Somali inmates and two were appendectomies," Al-Shubi noted.

Wounded inmates

Some inmates, particularly those who were involved in gangs, arrive at the prison with deep wounds, from which they may have to endure the consequences during their stay at the prison, according to Al-Shubi. Most injured prisoners are victims of gunfire or stabbing.

He explains, "It's really bad because these individuals have been charged and already have medical issues, so we as prison management must deal with their situations and provide extra med-

ical attention, depending on our limited resources."

Psychiatric ward

A sanatorium was established at the prison in the 1980s to receive homeless and unknown psychiatric patients from the streets and in parks who were disturbing citizens by committing aggressive acts against women, children and pedestrians and spreading fear and terror on the streets and in alleyways.

The facility also contained those prisoners who went mad inside the prison and were transferred to the sanatorium to serve out their sentences. However, in 2005, the sanatorium came under Health Ministry supervision and now only holds mentally ill prisoners.

"At the sanatorium, those who have committed illegal acts and claim a mental disorder may be examined under a specialist's observation to determine his mental state," Al-Shubi explains, confirming that some 70 prisoners now are receiving psychological treatment at the facility.

Accusations and denials

Al-Shubi denies claims that prison management has ignored some prisoners' medical cases. "That's not true. All prisoners receive the same medical services, regardless of the crimes they've committed," he stressed.

"I could be rich by taking bribes from these prisoners who can get medical reports stating that they are suffering critical health situation and then get a conditional release," Al-Shubi continued, "However, I follow certain procedures whereby I ensure that prisoners receive real medical care and have no access to obtaining fake medical reports."

"For example, I sent a prisoner to an honest good doctor without telling the prisoner's relatives or revealing the date of the visit in order to ensure that I would receive an objective result," he recounted.

Al-Shubi further emphasized the prison management's responsibility to ensure prisoners' safety while receiving medical care outside of the prison bars, explaining, "In many cases, convicted murderers need protection from their opponents. When I send them outside the prison for medical examination or surgery, management should pay more to the security members who guard these prisoners, so I prefer if we can perform simple treatment at our clinic rather than sending them out."

The prison director denies most of what Numan asserted in his article, responding, "We don't hide anything."

Food from inside and outside

Because nutrition is an important aspect in keeping prisoners healthy, the facility provides inmates three meals a day. However, most - if not all - strongly depend upon food supplies from their visitors, who come daily. "We have around 400 visits per day," stated one security official wishing to remain anonymous.

"Seventy percent of prisoners' nutrition comes from such visits, which really covers their needs; otherwise, it would be difficult to meet all of the prisoners' food needs," he added, smiling.

Why did eight inmates die?

Despite prison management's efforts to provide medical services, problems are possible, Al-Shubi confessed, adding that the deaths occurred at his prison not because of its limited or poor medical services, but due to the serious illnesses they suffered, such as heart attack, cirrhosis and geriatric diseases.

However, he does admit that one female nurse caused the death of a 2-year-old suffering from burns by allowing his mother to give him an injection during the nurse's absence.

"I don't say that we're perfect; I'd say that we're doing our best. Whoever works may make mistakes, whereas those who never work never make any mistakes," he concluded.

A "portfolio" approach to climate change

By: Gary Yohe

The world has tried with little success to cut carbon emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. The enormous effort expended to bring the Protocol into force nonetheless indicates how much work will be required to produce the next treaty, due to be agreed in Copenhagen in December 2009. Campaigners will push for tough and far-reaching policies, but strong resistance will continue from countries concerned about their economic vitality.

The new negotiations will have one advantage over the earlier efforts, because governments now understand the need for a portfolio of adaptation, mitigation, and research efforts. New research that my colleagues and I undertook for the Copenhagen Consensus Center in Denmark explores the effectiveness of different

responses to this global challenge, but it strongly supports the portfolio approach for several reasons.

First, we now know that adaptation will be essential, because temperatures will rise by another 0.6°C by 2100 even if greenhouse gas emissions are eliminated tomorrow. We also know that the impact of climate change will not be evenly distributed across the globe.

In some areas, modestly warmer temperatures could produce higher crop yields if associated changes in precipitation patterns are not adverse and/or irrigation remains viable. Even with 0.6°C warming, however, Africa and South Asia will experience almost immediate reductions in the viability of many crops and, eventually, increased vulnerability to infectious disease. These impacts will clearly hit the planet's worst-off inhabitants hardest: the "bottom billion" who already bear the heaviest burden of disease, poverty,

conflict and malnutrition.

Ensuring that adaptive capacity is expanded and exploited where it is most needed is thus a key challenge. Long-term development may give countries more capacity to soften the impact of climate change on the environment and citizens' health, but in the meantime the planet's poorest people will need help from the rich.

Our analysis investigated, for example, the merits of more targeted policies for the near term: purchasing mosquito-resistant bed nets and oral rehydration malaria therapy for children in the poorest nations affected by climate change. The goal was to deal aggressively and proactively with some of the marginal health impacts of global warming. Benefits would appear almost immediately, but would dissipate over time as economies developed. Even as development improves conditions, however, reducing carbon emissions would become

increasingly important over the longer term as the impact of climate change become more severe.

Since the effects of climate change have been observed in many areas around the world, thinking about mitigation makes sense everywhere. But we found that mitigation alone did not meet a standard cost-benefit test. We allowed specified annual costs of climate policy to grow in proportion with global GDP through 2100 from an initial annual benchmark of \$18 billion. The discounted cost of the resulting stream of fixed annual costs totaled \$800 billion, but damages avoided by this approach amounted to a discounted value of only \$685 billion.

The Copenhagen Consensus study also examined a portfolio option of the sort heralded by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We allocated \$50 billion to research into greener technology, so that only \$750 billion could be

absorbed by the economic cost of adaptation and mitigation. The gap between the cost of carbon-free and carbon-emitting technology fell, and the taxes designed to mitigate emissions became more effective. As a result, the research and development program essentially paid for itself, and total discounted benefits for the \$800 billion investment climbed to more than \$2.1 trillion.

Ensuring that research and development is part of the world's climate change response portfolio would make mitigation efforts more efficient and significantly enhance their ability to reduce carbon emissions over the next century.

But these favorable net benefits reflect very conservative assumptions regarding the timing of emissions reductions and when the developing world would "come onboard." Optimizing investment in the portfolio over time would, for example, increase

the discounted benefits by more than a factor of three. Expected benefits would increase further if we included the chance that potentially higher climate sensitivities would exacerbate damages, even though doing so would require including similarly plausible lower climate sensitivities, which would push in the opposite direction.

Fighting climate change can be a sound investment, even though neither mitigation nor adaptation alone will be enough to "solve" the problem. To make a real difference, especially in the near term, the world must combine mitigation and adaptation with increased research and development into carbon-saving and sequestering technology, which in turn requires designing and exploiting market-based incentives.

Gary Yohe is Professor of Economics at Wesleyan University.

Source: Project Syndicate, 2008.

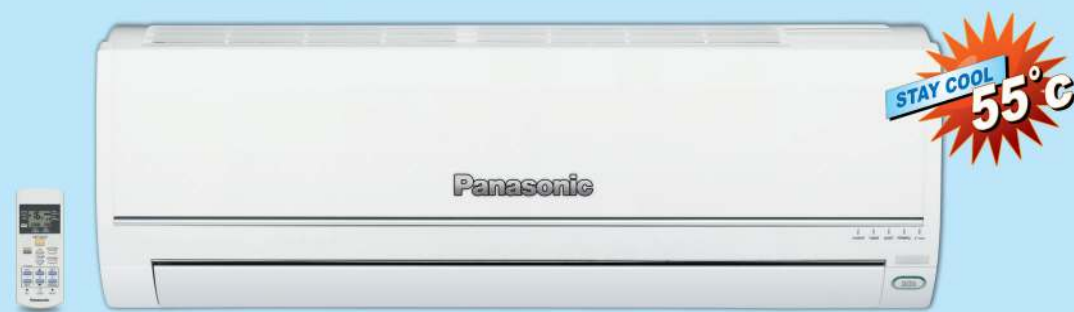
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Reintroducing Yemen to Great Britain

In an attempt to attract British tourists, Yemeni Ministry of Tourism has appointed Edinburgh-based Dunira Strategy as its PR Representative in the UK and Ireland. To learn more about this initiative, Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Benjamin Carey, who is UK & Ireland Director of the Yemen Tourism Promotion Board, and the Managing Director of Dunira Strategy and Chairman of Tourism Society Scotland.

Over the coming months in the lead-up to World Travel Market Dunira will work closely with the Yemen Tourism Promotion Board (YTPB) to promote one of the world's least visited countries. A roadshow will be held across Europe with a London event in September. In Carey's opinion, Yemen

based in Edinburgh but does most of its tourism consultancy overseas. Services range from PR and marketing, organisational strategy and business plans, training courses and environmental management of tourism.

Al Biel hoped this new partnership with Dunira would be the beginning of a wider economic and cultural exchange, bringing Yemen and UK

Yemen's greatest attraction is Hadhramaut honey, but I will try not to tell too many people about Yemen's best kept secret! The point is to show how much the country has to offer – extraordinary cultural and natural heritage, history and hospitality. We will promote this message through consumer and travel trade media. There are of course some serious security issues, which are being addressed by the Yemeni Government and through international mediation. We are working with the British Foreign Office to ensure that the official travel advice is more balanced and accurately reflects the situation on the ground.

YT: Is there a particular event you think would help promote Yemen as a tourist destination that you would like to talk about?

BC: The most recent activity was a

one that sees his work will recognize why he was so drawn to that fabulous and extraordinary country.

Mairi McInnes from the Voodoo Rooms hosting the exhibition described the photos as amazing. In his own words: "Yemen looks awesome!"

When people arrived, they were asking why anyone would go to Yemen. By the time they left, they all wanted to know which UK operators were offering Yemen programs and asking why on earth the Foreign Office was advising against travel to such a safe and wonderful country! The power of the lens...

YT: Where in Yemen do you promote the UK tourists to go to?

BC: Everywhere (except perhaps for Sa'ada)! The list is too long. There is enough to keep visitors busy and excited for many months, whether it's visiting mediaeval sites, following the incense trail, scuba diving or enjoying the sights and sounds of the Souk!

YT: Do you arrange for them the whole package?

BC: Tour operators in the UK tend to offer full packages, including flights, and these typically involve two-week itineraries. Although some independent travellers do visit Yemen, the vast majority from the UK and Ireland prefer to travel in groups, as this enables them to see more that Yemen has to offer in a relatively short space of time.

YT: Do you have enough materials and info on Yemen to give to potential tourists?

BC: No. We do have a great deal of material, but it can be hard for consumers and operators to access information that is sufficiently detailed and current. This is a serious problem, which we intend to address by working with the YTPB and guidebook publishers in the English-speaking world and through media events and trade workshops in the British Isles.

YT: Who are your main targets?

BC: There are three main target groups. The Yemeni diaspora in England, friends and relatives of people from the British Isles working in the Middle

Benjamin Carey, UK & Ireland Director of the Yemen Tourism Promotion Board is the Managing Director of Dunira Strategy and Chairman of Tourism Society Scotland.

Aged 39, he spent twelve years as a risk analyst and marketing manager for Europe's leading tour operators, developing revenue management systems and sustainable tourism policies.

In 2002, he founded Dunira, which has a focus on the sustainable development and environmental management of tourism and has established a reputation in many of the world's emerging destinations. Although it works with many stakeholders on product development, marketing plans and PR strategies, Dunira's emphasis is on building local capacity for long term sustainability. With experience that



includes assignments in Armenia, Georgia, Laos, Lebanon, Nepal, Rwanda and Serbia, many of which have outstanding cultural and natural heritage coupled with poor international profiles, Benjamin is passionate about helping to unlock the sometimes hidden potential of less established destinations and creating enduring social and economic opportunities through tourism.

East and adventurous travellers looking for a new destination. This last group represents a very significant opportunity for growth. The age profile is typically 25-65 and includes a higher proportion of professionals, who are educated, wealthier, culturally sensitive and environmentally responsible. We estimate that the number of visitors in this last category was less than 1,000 in 2007, so there is work to be done. We estimate that the first category – British passport-holders of Yemeni descent – is about 6,000, but this group can really help to promote Yemen by sharing their passion for this amazing country.

YT: Do you have any relations with the British-Yemeni Society? How would such a relation help?

BC: I am a member of the British-Yemeni Society and my two sisters went on the BYS tour to Yemen last year. Not only does the Society raise the cultural profile of the country, but they also actively promote good relations between the two countries, especially through their very successful programme of events and tours. The Society is keen to work with us and we are looking at possible areas for future cooperation.

YT: What is the role of the Yemeni Tourism Ministry in this particular project?

BC: The Ministry of Tourism has appointed Dunira Strategy as PR Representative of the Yemen Tourism Promotion Board in the UK and Ireland. Yemen Tourism Promotion Board (www.yementourism.com) is an executive agency of Yemen's Ministry of Tourism. In 2007, Yemen received 379,390 visitors, primarily from the Middle East. Last year YTPB appointed its first European PR agents in France, Germany and Italy. Journalists wishing to attend the YTPB's roadshow event in London can obtain an invitation by contacting Dunira.

YT: Do you have any statistics on the number of British and Irish tourists who have visited Yemen?

BC: There has been 8,892 British passport holders visited Yemen in 2007. High season for the British market was December-February, although the peak month for arrivals was June. The highest ever number of visitors was 9,230 in 2006, which means that there was a relatively modest 3.7% fall last year. The number of Irish visitors is currently insignificant.



A view of Sana'a city at sunset

is an extraordinary country, which deserves to be more widely recognized as an outstanding and unique destination.

UK visitors to Yemen reached a record high of 9,230 in 2006. However, the 2008 number is expected to be lower following a recent spate of violence targeting foreign interests, for which an action plan is in place, and civil unrest in the North, which is being addressed through international mediation.

Despite all this, Dunira Strategy is optimistic about promoting Yemen to the British people.

YT: Why Dunira?

BC: It is a privilege for Dunira to have been appointed Yemen's representative in the UK and Ireland and we look forward to working in partnership with everyone that shares our passion for raising the country's profile, promoting cultural exchange and creating social and economic opportunities through tourism. Ahmad Al Biel YTPB Executive Director confirmed that UK and Ireland are key markets for the board with direct non-stop flights from London Heathrow with Sana'a a gateway to the whole country.

Simultaneously, founded in 2002, Dunira Strategy (www.dunira.com) is

closer. "Dunira struck us as being particularly passionate about Yemen. With a strong track record of successful project delivery and a commitment to sustainable economic development and environmental management underlying their previous PR and marketing work, their values and vision of Yemen's standing in the UK and Irish consciousness perfectly matches our own," he said.

YT: What is your strategy for the promotion of Yemen especially with the news on security and it being a haven for Al-Qaeda?

BC: Our first objective is to raise awareness of the country. Yemen does not have a good reputation or high profile, but this is mainly because the little news that does come out of the country is negative. Few people are aware that Socotra is known as the 'Galapagos of the Indian Ocean', that part of its fishing fleet was destroyed in the Tsunami of 2004 and that ecotourism represents an outstanding opportunity for sustainable development on the island. It was featured in an exhibition at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in 2006 'Soqatra: Land of the Dragon's Blood Tree', which certainly helped to raise the profile of this extraordinary destination. My personal view is that

photograph exhibition on Yemen that took place in Edinburgh by Aidan Stephen, a leading Scottish photographer, who visited Yemen last month. The exhibition is called 'A Gateway to Yemen' and has already been featured in the Scotsman, Scotland's national newspaper. Describing Yemen as "any photographer's dream", Aidan admitted that "no matter how good the photos may look, the real thing is even better." Aidan Stephen is the head photographer for the Edinburgh-based agency Shot and Captured. A retired soldier, he relishes a challenge and each year he chooses a personal project; last month year he went to Yemen and this exhibition is the result. "Nothing could have prepared me for the beauty and culture of Yemen. The almost timeless streets were filled with goats, greetings and charm. Many times my camera lay idle as I stopped to take it all in. I think the images show why I want to go back and see it all again."

YT: Do you think Aidan has been able to present Yemen through the exhibition?

BC: Aidan has really captured the essence of the country. You can almost smell the frankincense and myrrh coming out of the images. I think any-



Kholan village, one hour North East of Sana'a.

Combining Yemeni heritage and contemporary art

By: Alia Ishaq

SANA'A, June 15 — "Melody in Color," an exhibit of Yemeni painter Nasser Al-Aswadi's work, opened at the French Cultural Center in Sana'a this week, featuring 32 different pieces by the internationally acclaimed artist.

Born in Taiz in 1978, Al-Aswadi has worked in the art field for more than 13 years. Although he graduated with a degree in architecture and taught art at several private schools for six years, he

found himself practicing his lifelong passion – painting – instead.

The works in this exhibit, which will continue until June 30, combine common Yemeni heritage with contemporary art techniques and style. As Al-Aswadi explains, "When you first look at the paintings, they look contemporary, but when you take a closer look, you realize it's about our heritage.

"They [the works on display] employ different types of artistic techniques,

such as painting and engraving, in addition to photo transfer," he says of the current pieces on display. The pictures use hazes of color and layers of shapes, sometimes interspersed with Arabic words, to create abstract images referencing Yemeni heritage.

According to Al-Aswadi, these works were inspired by mosque interiors and Yemeni-style stained glass windows called qamariyyas, along with the elegance of Arabic calligraphy. He notes that the goal of his exhibit is to

increase exposure to contemporary art in Yemen.

While he admits that many Yemenis have responded positively to his latest works, which he calls "a good sign," he says Yemenis "still are way behind" when it comes to appreciating contemporary art, adding, "We need to start introducing this type of art to them more often."

This is the seventh solo exhibit for Al-Aswadi, who has participated in other group and solo exhibitions in both

Yemen and France.

French Ambassador to Yemen Gilles Gauthier, Italian Ambassador to Yemen Mario Boffo and Yemeni Culture Minister Mohammed Al-Maflahi all attended the opening of the exhibit, which is part of a continuing program at the French Cultural Center where new exhibits and artistic activities will be presented each month.



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Algerian-French musicians ElectroDunes bring eclectic mix to Sana'a

By: Sarah Wolff

A group of Algerian, French and Yemeni musicians rocked the stage at the Yemeni Cultural Center Saturday night in a display of cultural diversity, heritage and love of music for the annual presentation of the France-based, French Cultural Center-sponsored "Fête de la Musique."

Known as ElectroDunes, the band is the brainchild of the French musician known as Barbes D., a composer and digital sound mixer, and Algerian musicians Said Touati, Hafid Douli, Houari Douli and Djalila Rebouh.

The group began more than two years ago, although Rebouh is a new addition, replacing a male singer who recently married and left the troupe.

The remaining band members say Rebouh's vocal stylings add a positive feminine element to their sound, which combines elements of traditional Saharan Algerian music with percussion,

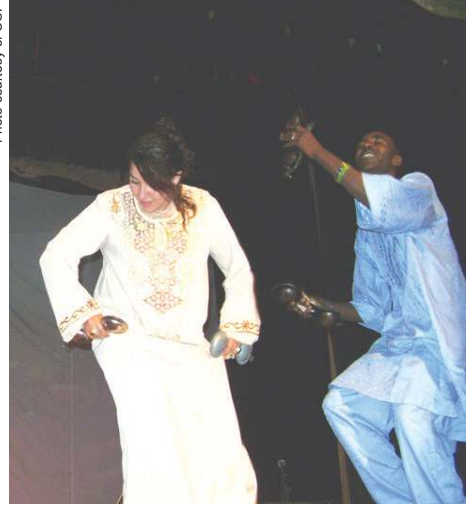


Photo courtesy of CCF



Photo courtesy of CCF

chanting, electro-dub beats and Jamaican reggae flavor.

"The artists create new music, new words and ideas," says Marc Ambrogiani, another member of ElectroDunes.

Algeria's Sahara Desert is a particular inspiration for the group, which divides their time between Marseille, France and

Beni-Abbes, Algeria. "It's a meeting point for all cultures," Ambrogiani explains.

The four musicians jammed together at Saturday's concert with the haunting, wailing sounds of the Algerian Sahara transposed over thumping electronic reggae beats while pictures of Algeria looped onstage behind them.

ElectroDunes held a workshop with renowned Yemeni singer and oud (Yemeni lute) player Abdulatif last week before the big concert on Saturday. "We're very interested in Yemeni music and we'd love to do something [collaborate] with them from this meeting," Rebouh says.

Band member Hafid Douli notes that he especially likes the use of the oud and complimented Yemeni vocalists on their technique. "I want to understand it because I think it's very complicated," he says, adding, "We'll find out more about it and learn something new."

The annual "Fête de la Musique" (meaning music party) began in Paris

years ago and usually celebrated throughout the world on June 21 with a full night of musical performances by both amateur and professional talents lasting until dawn.

"This party began in Paris and now is held throughout the world on June 21 in more than 100 countries," explains Joel Dechezlepretre, director of the French Cultural Center in Yemen, which organized the event. He adds, "All forms of music are performed - folk, classical and contemporary."

In all of the places where the annual music party is held - including faraway locales such as Medellin, Columbia and Yogyakarta, Indonesia all the way to Oakland, California in the U.S. - the celebration is free and open to all revelers.

Although this year, only invitees ElectroDunes performed at the Sana'a event, other venues throughout the world are open to amateur and professional musicians. Dechezlepretre says he'd like to open the event to amateur Yemeni musicians next year, if possible.

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