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Médecins Sans Frontières: Yemen can't cope with the refugee issue alone

By: Wojoud Hasan Mejalli
For The Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 6 — Médecins Sans Frontières, also known as Doctors without Borders, warns that the high influx of refugees and migrants poses a major challenge for Yemen.

"To date, the humanitarian response to those arriving at the shores, as well as to those refugees and migrants already in Yemen, has been far from adequate; thus, more international assistance is urgently needed," according to a report by the initially French-based organization.

Alfonso Verdú Pérez, head of the Médecins Sans Frontières mission, stated, "Despite been one of the poorest countries in the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen is responding better to this

problem than many Western countries.

The magnitude of the crisis is so huge that the organization acknowledges the fact that Yemen can't cope with it alone. Thus, Yemen needs the support of donors and other governments, which is what Médecins Sans Frontières has asked numerous countries — the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, Australia, etc. — with its report.

Yemen is a signatory to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the only country in the Arabian Peninsula to have acceded to these international instruments.

With the escalating conflict in Somalia and the food crisis in parts of the Horn of Africa, the numbers of

refugees are increasing. For instance, by the end of May, more than 20,000 Somalis and Ethiopians had crossed the Gulf of Aden, more than double the number for the same period last year, said MSF, adding that lacking safe and legal alternatives to leave their country, they are forced to use the services of smugglers to cross the gulf.

Médecins Sans Frontières has published its first report since beginning their official work in Yemen in March, although they've been operating a medical facility at the newly established Ahwar Reception Center in Abyan, where they've been offering new arrivals medical, psychological and humanitarian assistance since last September.

Continued on page 2



The refugees arrive exhausted, many of them ill and emotionally shattered.

Sunday witnesses the fiercest clashes Hundreds killed in military operations against Houthis

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, July 6 — For the fourth day in a row, the Yemeni army has been attacking with heavy weaponry and fighter jets several villages in Mirran district and other areas in Amran gov-

ernorate's Harf Sifyan district, believed to be another stronghold of Houthi loyalists, tribal sources said Sunday, noting that hundreds on both sides were killed or injured.

"During direct clashes between the army and Houthi supporters, army fighter jets dropped bombs on Saturday, but they missed their targets, instead hitting military positions in the area of Mirran, resulting in an increased death toll involving troops," the sources continued, pointing out that the same mistake was repeated Sunday morning.

According to the sources, bloody confrontations between army personnel and Houthis have continued for many days in the Mirran mountains as the Yemeni army attempts to score a ground victory and seize control of

strategic positions in the area. However, despite backing from fighter jets, the army is facing fierce resistance by Houthis.

Backed by Hashid tribesmen, Salafi groups and jihadists, the Yemeni army launched two offensives this past weekend against Houthis after its military tactics failed to prevent necessary supplies from reaching Houthis over the past seven weeks.

President directs forming populist army

As the Yemeni army gathers brigades from various governorates to Sa'ada to wage war against Houthis' main stronghold in Mirran, according to presidential directives, the governors of Sana'a, Amran and Sa'ada have invited thousands of citizens to form a populist army to hinder Houthis' spread in rural areas.

However, other tribal sources disclose that citizens haven't responded to this invitation, despite the fact that the government promised to recruit them into the army, as citizens fear potential involvement in the armed conflict with Houthis in Sa'ada.

The ruling authority is gathering more military forces in preparation for a new war in Mirran, as 1st Armored

Division brigades have failed to make progress on the ground since the most recent war broke out in April.

Other brigades from the Abyan-based Amaliqa Military Division have been mobilized to the restive governorate to bolster troops serving in Sa'ada during potential military operations against Mirran district.

Deadly clashes are expected if the Yemeni army decides to raid Mirran where Houthi gunmen are displaying fierce resistance in defending the area, which is their main stronghold. Houthi gunmen in the area have been besieging 17th Military Division troops and their commander since the fifth Sa'ada war erupted.

Human situation worsens

The human situation in Sa'ada city and the surrounding areas continues to worsen, warning of an unprecedented catastrophe, particularly after Houthis blocked the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway and seized Buqea and Marahidh areas near the Saudi border.

Both areas served as crossings for the transport of food supplies and other necessities to affected citizens following the blocking of the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway.

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A'atif killing was professional, not random

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, July 6 — Manager of the former Prime Minister's office Abdul Elah A'atif was killed last Thursday evening while in the yard of his house in Sana'a. Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Salem Bin Salman, who was with A'atif, was also injured. A'atif and Salman were subjected to gunfire by unknown attackers, some of whom were wearing military uniforms, said witnesses.

"The assassination group planned it in a professional manner, as two of the group ascended to a nearby house at about 8:00 p.m. and tried to drag the gate guard out of the house," said A'atif's elder son. He added they quarreled with him in a fabricated way so as to prompt A'atif to go out of the house. "As soon as he got out of his house, a lot of snipers shot at him dead and injured his escort in his legs lest he might move and then flee," said A'atif's son.

He added that the gate guard was able to injure one of the attackers in his feet. "Some of the attackers were on a military vehicle wearing military uni-



Abdul Elah A'atif

forms and they ran away after the assassination, which means that the operation was deliberate," said A'atif's son.

When asked whether his father had enemies or not, his son answered that his father "had no enemies and we don't have any problems with neighbors as some media sources reported."

A'atif's family has not accused any-

one of the murder and the Ministry of the Interior hasn't yet issued a press release about the event, but it informed A'atif's son that security authority arrested four people whom they thought carried out the assassination.

A'atif's Yafi tribe in Lahj governorate, political and social groups were all surprised by the event. They issued a press release to condemn the assassination of A'atif and the injury of Salman. They also laid the responsibility on the government, demanding that the assassins be caught and prosecuted as soon as possible. Yafi tribe confirmed their solidarity with the A'atif and Salman families, stressing that revenge is their right if the government neglects its duty.

Tribal sheikhs, civil society organizations and the local authority in the four Yafi districts in Lahj governorate called on people to hold separate meetings to follow up the issue's developments. In their meetings, attendants decided to hold an extended meeting for all the districts belonging to the Yafi next Sunday in the Suq Al-Sallam region of Al-Awss town in Lahj governorate.

IFES concerned about new election committee delay

By: Wojoud Hasan Mejalli
For The Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 5 — The International Foundation for Electoral Systems, or IFES, has revealed its concerns about delaying the formation of a new election committee to observe the 2009 parliamentary elections.

"I have to say that we're really concerned about the delay in appointing a new committee. Time is running out and the parties must come to a solution and appoint committee members as soon as possible. There's no doubt that the longer it takes to appoint them, the more difficult it will be for them to do their job," observes Peter Williams, IFES country director for Yemen.

Yemeni opposition parties have been boycotting Parliament sessions since June 9 in protest against amending a law regarding the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum. The parties have even threatened not to run in next year's elections.

Williams stated his concerns at a seminar last Saturday entitled, "Public Funding of Politics in Transitional Democracies in the 21st century."

"This workshop's main objective is to generate dialogue in Yemen about the issue of political funding in the 21st century. Yemen already has some very good legislation and from our own discussions with the minister and the committee, as well as what we've seen, they're looking to implement such legislation; however, I must provide some help, guidance and advice," Williams said, noting that many political parties

are concerned about the quality of the voter registry.

"If they want us to be able to check it — survey the register and check its accuracy — then they need to appoint new committee members," he said, further suggesting the Yemeni Parliament appoint a female committee member.

As Williams pointed out, "The Yemeni Constitution guarantees opportunities for both men and women. It's important for women to play a role in senior government positions. For example, we know there was a female committee member before and we feel it's time to see a woman there again."

Gathering various NGOs and politicians, who presented numerous working papers, the seminar's topics included applying Yemeni legislation, a regional perspective, a Yemeni perspective and public subsidies in Australian politics, as well as an international perspective as the way forward for Yemen.

"There are many concerns about the various types of political financing, as well as foreign interests, terrorist interests and business interests, so those are the sort of issues we want to generate discussions about and help Yemen's political system find a way to control such interests. Also, the size and number of elections surely will require more financial support, especially given the current inflation in food prices," Williams noted, referring to his group's Yemen project in this regard.

"Our assistance with the next election mainly involves working with the SCER to enable them to enhance their enforcement capabilities, as well as,

obviously, the issue of political financing with in the SCER. We'll also assist the media in initializing the good work they did in providing an equal opportunity during the last election," he added.

International political analyst Marcin Walecki says, "It's misleading to assume that there's one ideal model to control political financing and different regulatory frameworks. Challenges such as systematic vote-buying, electoral fraud and corruption, which are exacerbated by extreme poverty, old-fashioned patronage politics and abuse of state resources can be more problematic than any aspect of the new media-heavy mass market approach."

He continues, "For sure, there's vote-buying in Yemen. For example, it's estimated that during the 2003 elections, the General People's Congress party set aside YR 40 to 60 billion (\$217-325 million) to buy votes, while the Islah party earmarked some YR 10 billion (\$54 million), according to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, which is helping to build democracy in Yemen."

Walecki suggests four steps for Yemen's imminent future, the first of which — considering that Yemen has an impressive legal framework — stresses implementation and enforcement.

The second step involves enhancing such enforcement by establishing closer cooperation among existing monitoring bodies. Third is introducing timely and comprehensive disclosure and lastly, increasing state subsidies and introducing free broadcasting for parliamentary elections, Walecki concluded.

Two embassies, two tourist groups, two oil facilities and six security checkpoints were targeted

Al-Qaeda claims rocket attack on oil constructions in Mareb

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 6 — An armed group—allegedly affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula—declared last week that it was responsible for a rocket attack that targeted an oil construction in Marib, located to the northeast of Sana'a.

According to a press release attributed to the so-called "Yemen Warriors Battalions," armed Islamists launched three Katyusha rockets on the Safer oil refinery in Marib on June 25 with the goal of "rupturing the artery of Zionist - Crusader supply." The press release didn't mention the success or the failure of the attack, which came less than a month after a similar attack that targeted oil refineries in Aden.

Al-Qaeda armed operations have been increasing since the suicide bombing that targeted a Spanish tourist group in Marib last July, especially in the governorates of Marib and Hadramout.

A recent American report on the topic said that the attacks that recently took place showed a lack of Yemeni and American security apparatus alerts. It criticized the Yemeni government's preoccupation with "facing the internal challenges that threaten its existence and ignored the Al-Qaeda organization as required," an indication to the war in Sa'ada between Houthis and the government.

According to observers, Al-Qaeda's new generation refuses to negotiate with the government as it depends a strategy that aims to undermine the security apparatuses by carrying out attacks against both security and the foreign interests in Yemen as well as striking the government's financial resources through attacking tourists and oil constructions.

The Jamestown Foundation, an American group concerned with terrorism issues, considers the recent attacks in Yemen as "a message to the Yemeni government and the international community to show that strategy of creating chaos that Al-Qaeda follows in Iraq is transferred to fighters in their original homeland."

The former Minister of Finance, Saif Al-Asali, told the Yemen Times that Yemen was affected by Al-Qaeda attacks, pointing out that war on terrorism has consumed the government's financial resources.

Al-Asali said that Al-Qaeda attacks have undermined the investment and economic atmosphere in Yemen, halting the international community's efforts to reduce poverty in Yemen, which is considered a "fertilized environment for ideological terrorism."

Hadramout, one of the largest Yemeni governorates consisting of 30 districts, witnessed two attacks on two



Al-Qaeda has stepped up attacks in Yemen since 2007

security checkpoints in Wadi Ser in December 2007, injuring six security soldiers. Last January, an Al-Qaeda armed group attacked 15 tourists from Belgium in Daw'an district resulted in two of the tourists' death, the death of a Yemeni driver and injuries to the others.

Two days after the Daw'an attack, two soldiers were killed and five others injured in a traffic accident, according to official sources, while they were carrying out a campaign to chase the tourist group's attackers in Daw'an.

Additionally, a soldier was killed and seven were injured in separate attacks by armed men who targeted two security checkpoints in Daw'an. The security authorities accused drug smugglers of launching the two attacks.

Marib received the worst of the Al-Qaeda attacks when the Spanish tourist group was targeted, shortly after the head detective in the governorate, Colonel Ali Qusailah, was murdered in March, 2007. The governorate witnessed a relative calm in the last quarter of 2007, during which time Al-Qaeda cells were notably active in Hadramout governorate.

Calm in Marib can be attributed to the extensive security deployment after the Spanish tourists were targeted and because security forces were able to get rid of an Al-Qaeda cell accused of killing Qusailah. The Ministry of the Interior declared last February that it had foiled a terrorist attack that aimed to explode an oil pipeline in Wadi Anshar, located in Sirwah area, Marib province.

The calm didn't last long though as Al-Qaeda was able to attack a military patrol in the old city of Marib resulting in the death of two soldiers in the middle of last April.

According to these reports, most Al-Qaeda attacks took place in Marib and Hadramout governorates. Some observers attribute that to the isolated geographical nature in the two

provinces, whose area tribes also cooperate with Al-Qaeda.

Last March, Sana'a city was also subjected to an Al-Qaeda shelling that targeted a girl's school near the American embassy that injured soldiers while they were serving their patrol in the embassy.

Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack a few hours after the blast that occurred in Ji'ar village in the Abyan province to the southeast of Sana'a.

Last April, Sana'a witnessed three armed attacks, two of which were claimed by Al-Qaeda. One of the attacks targeted a foreigners' housing complex in the Hadda zone and the other targeted the Italian embassy in Al-Safia neighborhood and caused some damage to the Yemeni Customs Authority. The third incident, which wasn't adopted by Al-Qaeda or any other group, two explosions went off near an oil company in the Hadda neighborhood. One of the bombs exploded but caused no damage and the other was foiled by the security apparatuses at the office.

Last May, Al-Qaeda activity slowed notably and was restricted to two press releases, the first of which saying that the group launched artillery shells on the presidential palace and in the other, threatened to launch attacks in the Arab Peninsula against non-Muslims including journalists and tourists.

Last month, Al-Qaeda declared responsibility for the two blasts that took place near the oil pipe line in Al-Buraiqah district of Aden governorate, pointing out that it targeted the oil pipeline with explosive shells.

Public prosecution is considering the case of 36 people accused of collaborating with Al-Qaeda and attempting to carry out attacks against oil constructions in Marib and Hadramout in 2006. Jaber Al-Bana, who the U.S. accuses of participating in the 2000 USS Cole bombing, is one of the accused.

YCIC cookie warehouse destroyed in fire

TAIZ, July 6 — A huge fire last Saturday destroyed a cookie warehouse belonging to the Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce, or YCIC, part of the Hayel Sa'eed Anam Group.

According to the company's official media office, "The fire was caused by an electrical failure. While there were no human losses, the financial losses were great."

With the help of civil defense and the company's own equipment, the fire was controlled within five hours of its outbreak.

Established in 1970, Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce was the Hayel Sa'eed Anam Group's first manufacturing company. YCIC is one of the region's largest manufacturers of cookies, cakes and sweets.

YCIC has grown from a small one-product line to a flourishing and expanding product line of some 15 different products. Beginning with only 120 employees, YCIC now has some 1,600 employees producing 8,000 tons of products annually. Such rapid growth is due to the company's highly productive state-of-the-art plants and high-quality products.

YCIC now has ultra-modern labora-



The fire causes financial losses but not human.

tories, facilities and the most modern equipment in its plants to ensure its consistent and reliable production of international-standard products. Additionally, the firm's warehouses are very modern and computerized, there-

by ensuring completely reliable deliveries.

YCIC products are exported to several Middle East countries, the GCC and Africa and it recently began exporting to the U.S.

Continued from page 1

Médecins Sans Frontières: Yemen can't cope with the refugee issue alone

"UNCHR should increase its presence on the coast and assume a more proactive and stronger role in fulfilling its protection mandate," the report stated, further pointing out that overall conditions at Ahwar Reception Center regarding registration, food and shelter still need to be improved. Additionally, new arrivals to the center frequently aren't given adequate information about the next steps and possibilities open to them.

According to the report, the refugees arrive exhausted, many of them ill and emotionally shattered, recounting harrowing stories of death and survival. For example, boats designed to carry 30 or 40 at most are crammed with more than 100 passengers, many of them stuck in small, windowless storage places in the hold, where they're forced to sit in the same position without moving and, in the large majority of cases, deprived of food and water. Smugglers take extreme measures to avoid being detected by Yemeni security forces. In nearly half of those interviewed, refugee passengers reported that the smuggling boats didn't come close to the shore, so they were forced to disembark in deep water.

If passengers are afraid and refuse to

jump, they are beaten and thrown into the sea. Because many people, especially those from the interior of Ethiopia and Somalia, can't swim, drowning deaths are frequent, with nearly one-third of respondents reporting deaths due to drowning.

The majority of smuggling boats approach the shoreline at night to avoid being spotted by the Yemeni military, which further exacerbates the risk of drowning.

The Médecins Sans Frontières report further notes that not only have many survivors suffered traumatic events themselves, they also have lost loved ones due to violence or drowning. Many refugees also arrive with headaches and general body aches, physical manifestations of the psychological consequences of the extreme hardship of their journey.

The report further notes an increase in the diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections (12 instances between this past March and April), which could indicate sexual and gender-based violence, although no such cases have been reported to the Ahwar Reception Center clinic.

Hundreds killed in military operations against Houthis

According to Sa'ada residents, wheat prices have jumped to YR 15,000 for 50 kilograms in rural areas and YR

8,000 in the city, while propane gas is YR 2,000 per cylinder.

The war-ravaged governorate has suffered frequent blackouts due to lack of diesel needed by electrical generators.

Due to the escalating fighting in Sa'ada, thousands of residents have fled to safe areas near the Saudi border, which has created shortages in public services and food supplies.

A Yemeni government source reports that four people were killed Saturday and another six injured when a 14-year-old threw a hand grenade into a group of people in front of the Sa'ada city government complex.

The attacker, believed to be a Houthi supporter, died in the incident. Other fierce clashes have been occurring since last Wednesday in Harf Sifyan district where authorities have gathered thousands of tribesmen to back the army in its attempt to unblock the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway. According to witnesses from the district, dozens of army members, pro-government tribesmen and Houthi loyalists were killed in the clashes.

In the area of Bani Hushaish, located east of Sana'a, witnesses say fighting between Houthis and the Yemeni army continues incessantly.

The most recent clashes between the army and Houthis renewed this past April, with both sides employing various types of heavy weaponry.

In brief

Yemen participates in 1st legislative environment conference

Yemen, Represented by Water and Environment Minister Abdurrahman al-Iryani, participates in the First Arab Conference for Environmental Legislation kicked off its activities here on Saturday.

The three-day long conference aims at creating suitable chances for concerned institutions, businessmen, industry makers and producers for protecting environment and enabling ministries and public bodies for choosing up to date equipments and sets to be used in home, industrial and health waste.

The conference discusses environmental topics, means of protecting environment against pollution and having integration between environmental changes and economic development for realizing sustainable development and protecting natural resources and realizing balance between international and local systems, laws and accords.

The conference is accompanied by a show in which environmental international, Arab and regional bodies are participated in.

The show contains seven boards, the first three ones are on combating different kinds of pollution, measurements of pollution and environment technology while the boards are on managing solid, liquid and agricultural waste and water technology.

Ibb**Heavy rains kill three women, injure four in Ibb**

Three women have been killed and four injured due to heavy rain that lashed the district of al-Sahool in Ibb province, the mouthpiece of Yemen's Defense ministry September 26 has said.

A security source was quoted as saying that the accident took place while the women were driving home at the Maitam area.

The women were moved to a nearby hospital.

DHAMAR**Yemen, South Korea discuss support- ing technical institutes**

Governor of Dhamar Yahia al-Ameri discussed on Saturday with a delegation of Education Ministry and Human Resources of South Korea the possibility of supporting technical and vocational education institutes in the province.

During the meeting, the governor praised the distinctive relation between the two countries, pointing out to the

importance of benefiting from the Korean experiences in the field of technical education and vocational training.

Dhamar's province seeks to develop and extend technical and vocational training to cope with labor market and create job opportunities and a suitable environment for investment, the governor said.

For his part, the Korean official reviewed the areas of cooperation in technical education and vocational training, particularly the support of information technology labs through training Yemeni cadres in this respect.

He pointed out that the Korean government provided about 30 information technology laboratories for a number of institutes in Yemen and trained Yemeni cadre in IT domain, affirming that the Korean delegation's visit comes to get acquainted with the needs of technical institutes in the areas of technology.

ADEN**Project of housing city in Aden discussed**

Aden governor Adnan al-Jafri held a meeting on Saturday with the director of Fardi Boll Bybos Company, an Italian Lebanese company, Walid Saeed over a project of building a housing city at Aden city.

They discussed arrangements taken by the company to carry out the project. Al-Jafri affirmed support the governorate's leadership for the project and offering all facilities.

The land of the project would be handed over by next week, the director of the company said, the project would last for three years.

The cost of the project is between \$ 60 to \$ 80 million, he said.

Training courses on HIV launched in Aden, Lahj

The National Program for Fighting AIDS launched on Saturday training courses on HIV for 35 health cadres and to lasted for five days in each of Aden and Lahj.

The courses are funded by UNICEF, World Health Organization and reproductive program in the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

During the session, participants would be introduced to the knowledge on the beginning of the emergence of HIV and methods of transmission and prevention, particularly ways of transmission from mother carrying the AIDS virus to child during pregnancy and after childbirth.

They will also discuss the current situation of AIDS domestically, regionally

and internationally.

SANAA**Yemen means to combating terrorism reviewed in AALCO meeting**

Legal Affairs Minister Rashad al-Rassas returned home on Saturday following his participation in the 47th meeting of Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) which concluded last Friday in New Delhi, India.

Speaking to Saba, al-Rassas said that he had briefed the participants in AALCO meeting on the measures taken by Yemen to combating terrorism and fighting corruption in addition to practical steps taken in the legislative sides and approving conventions and treaties associated with this area.

Al-Rassas noted that the participants had elected a new secretary-general of the AALCO succeeding the present Secretary-General Wafiq Kamil, his tenure will expire in August.

"The meeting also dealt with a number of topics and issues related to environmental and sustainable development and effective legal instrument against corruption and contemporary issues in laws of international social reform and international terrorism", added al-Rassas.

WB contributes \$ 20 to establish girl schools

Yemen signed on Saturday an agreement for establishing a number of girl schools in a number of governorates with a total cost of \$ 20 million funded by World Bank.

The agreement signed by Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul Karim al-Arhabi and Minister of Education Abdul Salam al-Jawfi. Under the agreement, the Public Works Project will build a number of girl schools in the framework of supporting high education and girls education project.

Following the signing, al-Arhabi affirmed the importance of implementing this project that underpins the government's efforts to realize the third millennium goals.

Saleh refers NGOs appeal to political dialogue committee

President Ali Abdullah Saleh referred the Non-governmental Organizations' appeal of woman representing in the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) to the political dialogue committee.

The appeal would be discussed during meetings being held currently

between General People Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), the state-run 26Sep.net reported on Saturday.

The appeal, sent on Friday by a number of CSOs, requested to enable woman to participate in the SCER that will be formed soon.

SNACC to refer 1000 officials to prosecution

The Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC) threatened 1000 governmental officials to be referred to the public prosecution due to not submitting their financial disclosures to the authority.

The head of the Financial Disclosure Sector at the SNACC Mohammad al-Matari said that the authority sent last week messages to 1000 officials in more than 12 ministries indicating to their financial disclosures' delay, the GPC-run almoatamr.net stated Saturday.

In strongly worded messages, the authority gave a week for those officials to submit their financial disclosures, otherwise it will refer them to the prosecution on charge of refusing implementing the Financial Disclosures Law.

Worth mentioning, SNACC received till the middle of last June 2400 financial disclosures for officials from various government bodies.

Project of carrying tunnels in capital to be started soon

Sana'a Mayor Abdul-Rahman al-Akoa said on Saturday that the project of main crosses in the capital will be started by coming few weeks after the parliament has approved the

loan agreement of the projects at the cost of \$ 36 million.

The Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development will offer \$ 30 million and the government will offer the rest.

Al-Akoa stated to Saba that the tender of the project would be announced by mid of this month to carry out three tunnels in the capital.

He highly appreciated concern of the parliament to approve the loan agreement of the project, affirming that the local council of the capital will do its best to achieve the project on time.

Parliament ratifies intersection project's loan in Sana'a

The parliament ratified on its Saturday session headed by the parliament speaker Yahya al-Rae'i the loan agreement of financing the project of main intersections in Sana'a (third stage).

The agreement was signed by the

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government and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) at a total cost of US \$ 30 million.

The parliament's recommendations emphasized the importance of providing monthly reports on the level of implementation of the remaining intersection projects of first and the second stages and the other intersection projects implemented by government finance.

The parliament also discussed reports concerning development project tenders, intersection projects, law of protect consumer, transport and telecommunication report over international agreements.

MUKALLA**Malaysian industrial experience to be applied in Yemen**

Hadramout governor Salim al-Khanbashi revealed the province and a Malaysian delegation had agreed establishing a training centre in the city of Mukalla for preparing and rehabilitating

professional skills of Yemenis.

During his meeting with the Malaysian delegation headed by chairman of the Malaysian Quality and Innovation Foundation Ahmed Bin Yahya, al-Khanbashi said that the delegation's visit to Yemen would strengthen the relations and partnership between the two countries.

Al-Khanbashi affirmed the importance of taking advantage of the Malaysian experiment in the fields of promoting quality and developing various industries.

For his part, director general of chamber of commerce and industry in Hadramout Badr Basalama said that the Hadramout chamber and a Malaysian foundation would sign next Sunday a memo of understanding to developing the quality of various industries are located in Hadramout.

The Malaysian delegation will meet next Sunday Industry and Trade Minister Yahya al-Mutawakel to discuss the outcomes of the delegation's visit to Hadramout.

Their News

NATCO expands Hyundai motors services in Yemen

Hyundai and NATCO, the distributor of Hyundai vehicles in Yemen join in launching new dealerships in Sana'a and Aden. This is an innovative marketing approach, the first of its kind in Yemen.

Today, due to the wide-spread recognition of Hyundai in Yemen and the increasing demand by the Yemeni consumers, NATCO has sought to expand its sales outlets throughout the country. A number of dealers for Hyundai vehicles have been appointed. They are Al-Nakeeb Agencies in Aden, Al-Jazeera Agencies and Auto Cars in Sana'a. These dealers will provide the same level of service provided by NATCO continuing on the path of success achieved by Hyundai's motor Company in Yemen.

This is a move designed to respond to the increasing demands of our customers and, yet, another proof to NATCO's commitment towards its customers. NATCO has been providing the highest level of after sales service.. NATCO has built Showrooms and well-equipped maintenance centers in most governorates of the country. In addition, NATCO has made available the mobile workshop, which is well equipped to provide quick response and emergency repair services around the clock.

NEW REPORT UNVEILS BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING THE POOR

Creating Value for All: Strategies for Doing Business with the Poor, a new and groundbreaking report released today by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) offers strategies and tools for companies to expand beyond traditional business practices and bring in the world's poor as partners in growth and wealth creation. Part of UNDP's Growing Inclusive Market's initiative,

the report draws on extensive case studies and demonstrates the effectiveness—both for human progress and for wealth creation—of more inclusive business models.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently issued a call to action on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), urging an international effort to accelerate progress and to make 2008 a turning point in the fight against poverty. This report demonstrates concrete ways the private sector can join in this vital effort.

The poor have a largely untapped potential for consumption, production, innovation, and entrepreneurial activity. But the more business models integrate and include the poor, the more likely companies successfully pursuing revenues will also help in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals.

Yet the private sector cannot meet the needs of the poor nor overcome all the obstacles to doing business with the poor alone. The report outlines what businesses, governments, communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), donors and international organizations can do to ensure the greatest good.

As UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş writes, “The power of poor people to benefit from market activity lies in their ability to participate in markets and take advantage of market opportunities. Business models that include the poor require broad support and offer gains for all.”

Creating Value for All highlights five strategies that private businesses have successfully used to overcome the most common obstacles to doing business with the poor:

- adapt products and services;
- invest in infrastructure or training to remove constraints;
- leverage the strengths of the poor;
- work with similarly-minded businesses, non-profit organizations or

public service providers;

- engage in policy dialogue with governments.

As the authors note, “There is room for many more inclusive business models. There is room for more inclusive markets. And there is room for much greater value creation. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, ‘The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems.’”

Creating Value for All showcases 50 case studies by researchers in developing and developed countries. These studies demonstrate the successful pursuit of both revenues and social impact by local and international small- and medium-sized companies, as well as multinational corporations.

In Morocco, the subsidiary of a European water and waste company has dramatically increased the percentage of people with access to water and electricity in the shanty towns of Casablanca. By hiring and providing technical and management training to “street representatives”, the company ensured local oversight. Now more than 30,000 new households are connected to Casablanca's electricity system, and monthly household budgets for energy in this area have dropped from \$17 to \$6.

In Egypt, a group of eight companies has specialized in sustainable agricultural production and organic products for the domestic market and for export. With 2000 employees and 850 small-scale farmers, in 2005 the group cultivated 3,500 hectares of land and reaped US\$19 million in revenues.

In Egypt, a sustainable development initiative at the Siwa oasis incorporates women's artisanry, sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry and renewable energy. The initiative employs local people and uses local building and art techniques to make the oasis a key destination for eco-tourists.

diversity of culture and history offered by Andalucía, North and Central Africa, The Middle East, Central Asia and China.

The photography is interspersed with world poetry and verses from the Holy Scriptures of different religions. The book gives the reader an opportunity to share Sanders reflections on the concepts of beauty, wisdom, poverty and the nature of happiness. He cajoles his audience into contemplating the “wealth of poverty” and the influence and importance of women in Muslim societies.

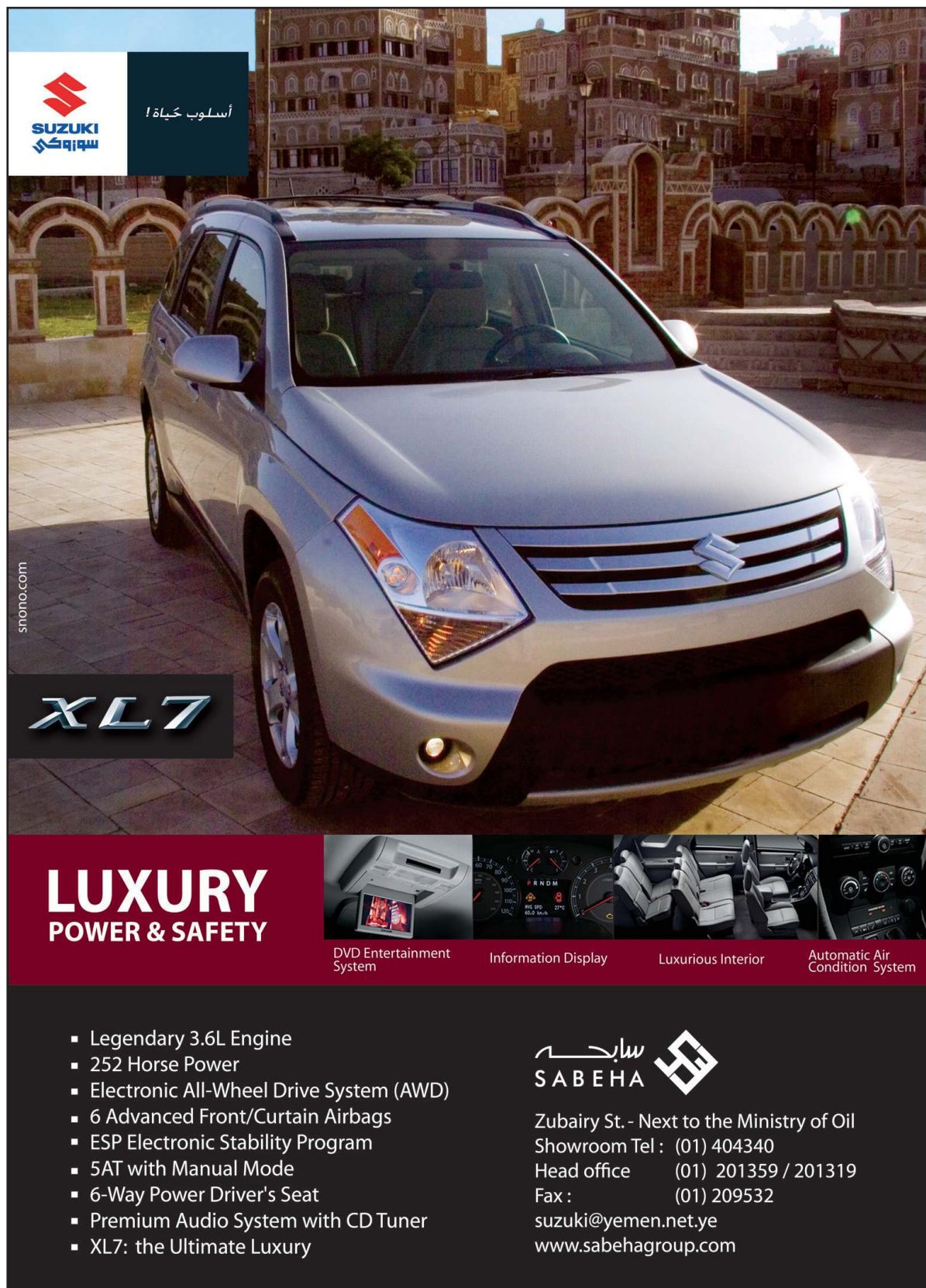
The title is inspired by the saying of the Prophet Muhammad “I am in this world like a traveller who takes shade under a tree, only to resume his journey.” Shaykh Hamza Yusuf elaborates further, quoting a Qur'anic verse: “Have you not considered your Lord, how He extends the shade, and had He willed He would have made it still? Then We make the sun its guide, then We withdraw it unto Us gradually.” (chapter 25, verses 45-46)

California-based Scholar Hamza Yusuf is a fan of the work, and commented: “In the Shade of the Tree is the result of many years of painstaking observation of shade. If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, then these pictures are a testimony to the beauty in Sanders' eye. He uses an odd yet wondrous mechanical device that captures for one brief moment a glimpse of beauty. The pictures in this book, while only brief moments of shade written in light captured by his discerning eye, will linger on in your memory long after you have closed the book.”

Further information about “In the Shade of the Tree” is available at www.inspiralbooks.com.

G8 should abandon current model of aid for health - new report

As the G8 gathers in Hokkaido, leaders will pledge billions more aid for health in Africa – despite the fact that previous aid



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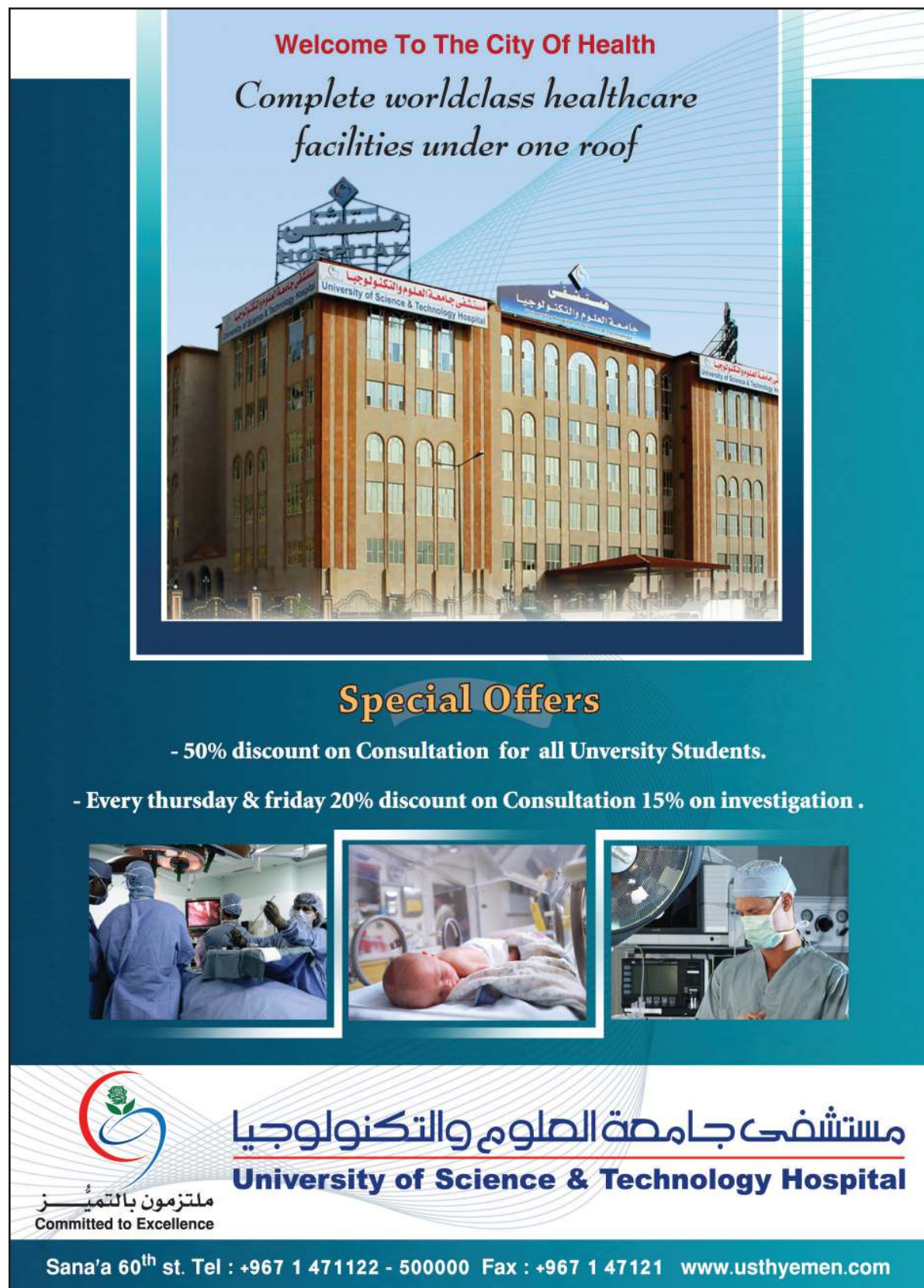
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Department of State Detainee Coordinator Tony Ricci to Yemen Times:

Transferring the Yemeni detainees is not a bargain or a trade-off

Last week a delegation from the United States paid a visit to Yemen to meet formally with Yemeni officials about the status of Yemeni inmates in Guantanamo Bay. Yemen Times interviewed Tony Ricci, the U.S. Department of State's Detainee Coordinator, who spoke about the result of the visit, the impact of the current events taking place in Yemen and the U.S. government's policy towards the Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo.

By: Sami Ghaleb
For Yemen Times

Q: Could you please tell us the results of the delegation's meetings with the Ministers of Interior and Religious Guidance?

A: The purpose of our visit is to look into and discuss how to deal with the issue of Yemeni detainees held in Guantanamo Bay detention. Along those lines, we had a number of meetings in and around Sana'a with various offices and ministries. As we all know, there is a fairly large number of Yemeni nationals remaining in Guantanamo. And it is the policy of our government not to hold any detainees any longer than we have to. The President of the United States has stated that we should be working towards the day when we close Guantanamo. Each detainee is assessed on an individual basis. Each one presents different sets of difficulties. But they all represent some level of threat. Some represent a very high level and some present something less than that. Now what we look for is a way in which we can transfer -

and this applies in all cases - a national to his home country in such a way where the threat is mitigated or accounted for in some way. This is by no means something we take lightly. It is something we take very seriously. There is a large amount of resources involved in doing this. So in terms of our visit here, we're trying to learn as much as we can learn to continue the dialogue we have established to try to find some resolution to these cases. I think we have transferred approximately 13 or so Yemeni detainees in the past, most recently in September of 2007.

Q: The Yemeni government said it presented a plan to the U.S. last month to rehabilitate and assimilate Yemeni Guantanamo returnees- did the U.S. government accept this program or does it have any comments or reservations?

A: I would not comment on any specific plan as we try to keep our discussions with the government confidential. I however; I would say that I think there have been some efforts to try to find solutions



Tony Ricci

and ways to go forward on this issue from both sides.

Q: What about the program itself?

A: We are learning about aspects of programs that may be available and the issues behind some of those aspects. We are going to have to assess whether or not these efforts could adequately deal with the threat that some of these [people] pose.

Q: How do you assess Yemen's experience in dealing with former Guantanamo returnees?

A: This is a part of what we are looking at. We have learned a lot over the past couple of days. There has been an effort at least since we have been here. I know that there have efforts in the past to try to provide as much information as possible to make important decisions.

Q: How many Yemeni detainees were referred to military tribunals?

A: I really do not how many Yemenis were referred to such tribunals because the Department of Defense is responsible for the military commissions. They are an independent entity. They do their own assessment of the detainees and make the determination of which ones really have committed crimes.

Q: How many Yemenis have been charged?

A: In terms of the Yemeni nationals who have been charged, I do not recall on the top of my head who many there have been but I believe there have been two in addition to a Saudi of Yemeni origin who

was charged by the Pentagon over the attack on the USS Cole in 2001.

Q: Previously the detainee issue was discussed solely between the two governments of Yemen and the U.S. Does the delegation's meetings with Yemeni non-governmental organizations (NGOs) indicate a new phase of transparency?

A: The short answer is that I do not know how this affects Yemen. However, our meetings with NGOs are not unusual. We meet NGOs in the United States to discuss these issues. We meet with NGOs in other countries. Some NGOs are very much involved in detainee issues in different countries. So this is not unusual. I think in some cases, the NGOs are very involved with the families of the detainees and it is always interesting to get their perspective. Because when we talk about returning detainees and if they are going to be integrated into the society then presumably the families are going to be great assets for them. I think everywhere we have gone where there was a reintegration effort, the families played an important role and this is common sense.

Q: Some detainees were recently allowed to telephone their families- can this be seen as an indication of optimism that the tough measures applied in Guantanamo will be lessened or at least that treatment of prisoners will be improved?

A: I do not agree with the term "tough measures" but we understand the significance that individuals are going to be returned. Again it is something that was able to be done. It made sense and I think it was very positive.

Q: Can the U.S. set a timeframe to realize President Bush's aspiration to see Guantanamo detention closed down?

A: I do not think we can set a timeframe for that. Again, I say that each of these detainees is assessed on a case-by-case basis. It is clear that we do not want to simply transfer or release detainees in a situation in which the threat cannot be mitigated resulting in the death of an innocent person, should they go out and

re-engage in terrorist activity. So if we simply put an official day that it will be closed by this time, I do not think they will be responsible in that respect. Many of the decisions involving Guantanamo have to be addressed at different levels and by different organizations. Again, whenever we can transfer someone, we transfer them. We want to do so as quickly as we can, consistent with our policies, and consistent with our concerns about the risk. We do not want to hold someone longer than we have to.

Q: What is the message a U.S. official involved in the detainee issue would like to send to the families of Yemeni detainees?

A: I am not the person to send the message out to the families and I think we are here trying to accomplish the task we have been given. That task is to determine or find ways in which to transfer those who are eligible to transfer, keeping in mind the policy considerations that we have and mitigating the security issue that some of those detainees pose. So we are not going to stop working or go back and forget about the issue. We are going to continue working on the issue and working with the embassy to work for solutions. We are going to continue to engage with the government to try to find a way ahead.

Q: Does the way that Yemen deals with counterterrorism and Al-Qaeda militants have an impact on the release of Guantanamo detainees?

A: I think we take into account the security environment and we look, and this applies to nearly every country, to see what mechanisms countries have available to deal with terrorism, such as whether or not they have effective counterterrorism laws and a if a detainee decides to return to terrorism, can the government cope with that and prosecute that and what sort of rehabilitative efforts can the government take, has it been successful in those areas and what level of commitment is there to rehabilitation. We look for this virtually everywhere. So there are situations that are specific to Yemen obviously. There have been incidences that have occurred this year and we take those into account but we are

still here.

Q: What is the role of counterterrorism law if Guantanamo returnees go back to terrorist activities?

A: A number of countries have laws that allow them to prosecute terrorist crime, but this does not mean that they have to prosecute. We do not ask that a person be incarcerated. We just ask that their risk be mitigated. If there is an indication that they are returning to terrorism you have to consider what sort of tools are available that the government has and certainly counterterrorism laws have proven effective in such a situation.

Q: Does the way Yemen deal with high-profile persons such as Jamal Al-Badawi and Jaber Al-Banneh have an impact on slowing down the release of Yemeni detainees?

A: You have to look at the government capabilities in terms of what tools it has to deal with terrorism. We have all learned from this experience. But certainly it is not a trade-off or anything like where we can see something happens in a case and therefore we want something to happen in another case. If we can transfer a detainee consistent with our obligations such as human rights and security issues we do that. So it is not a bargain or trade-off or anything like that.

Q: What topics did the delegation discuss with Hamoud Al-Hitar, the Minister of Endowments and Religious Guidance?

A: Well I think I can say without getting into the specifics of the meeting that Minister Al-Hitar has a certain reputation on the rehabilitation side of the efforts. I think from what I understood he had been a leading figure in that area [since] several years back. Not just looking at Guantanamo, but you see in a lot of countries moving towards rehabilitation and reintegration efforts which have been successful in some places.

Q: So the delegation met with Al-Hitar for the rehabilitation role he has been playing and not because he is a religious guidance minister?

A: The purpose of the meeting was his reputation and his knowledge in this area.



Gitmo inmates like these will go through a rehabilitation program wen they return home.

The lie of a conservative society breaks down

Thursdays in Hodeidah: a day for begging or prostitution?

By: Abdulhif Al-Hutami
For The Yemen Times

Fifteen-year-old Maryam stands in front of a company in Hodeidah, along with hundreds of female beggars who fill the city's streets and roundabouts every Thursday. She and her friends say they're looking for the cost of a loaf of bread to provide for their poverty-stricken families living in Al-Salkhana neighborhood.

Maryam's father is handicapped and her mother leads a life of suffering, as she too is sick. Her brother, Khalid, died on the Yemeni-Saudi border while attempting to enter that country illegally, leaving behind his portrait hung in his room as a memorial for his family.

"I feel alone since I have three little brothers awaiting my support," Maryam laments, "All I want is enough money to provide them and myself with bread. The most important thing is to receive an essential living. For this reason, it's easy to suffer and bear the bad conditions in this country. However, some people exploit our poverty," she added with fear in her eyes upon looking at her friend.

Maryam feels no disgrace in finding herself in the house of those who exploit her. "We get together with men every day; there's nothing fearful about be with a man. What's important is that he has a house to accommodate us," adds her friend, who asked if I was a detective, meaning that I'll monitor what their real job. When I replied "No," she called her other friend, saying, "Come over here, Fatima, we have a customer."



Beggar women in Hodeidah sometimes have to resort to selling themselves for money.

Before I left, I tried to take a photo of the female beggars gathered in the area, but they refused, warning me that they would scream and gather all of the people in the area against me.

What attracts an observer's attention is that these girls wear nice with expensive clothing, as if their job is something besides begging. Near the city's Zayed Street, hundreds of girls rush downtown early every Thursday morning, remaining there until sunset.

Asking one of them, Saleha, what they do in that area and why they gather around, particularly on Thursday, she replied that they are there to "make a living."

"We beg every day, not just on Thursday. We're poor and as a result, we resort to begging as our sole source

of living and income. If we had jobs and our families were able to provide food, we wouldn't ask anyone for money," Saleha says, adding that their begging isn't a shame upon them, but upon the rest of society.

Asked why girls are deliberately well-dressed, creating doubts that their job isn't only begging but rather something else, implying prostitution, Saleha responded, "We know our going out looking like this isn't good behavior, but it attracts some people, especially those drivers from Saudi Arabia."

She adds, "Some girls also pay for immoral behavior with men from their own pockets."

According to her, the reason for prostitution is the spread of sexual

movies, CDs, immoral photos and other reasons dragging many girls to become involved in such acts.

Many female beggars come to the city from nearby rural areas, gathering in markets or in front of businesses and institutions. Some mothers bring their children with them for the purpose of begging while other mothers accompany their daughters while begging, lest their daughters be subjected to immoral acts other than begging.

According to Saleha, those girls involved in prostitution acts receive between YR 1,000 and YR 5,000, "based on whether they're good looking," she notes, affirming that many work not as individuals, but organized into networks.

While beggars earn only YR 300 to YR 1,000, "Even those who turn to the streets just to beg are exposed to sexual harassment," said one young man seated in the same location.

Running from the police

Last year, local security in Hodeidah arrested many for "immoral behavior," the majority of whom were females charged with disseminating vice and being involved in prostitution.

Security sources say some 320 instances of drinking alcohol and or in conclave were prosecuted in Hodeidah last year.

Risks everywhere

While many consider sex workers "disease vectors," particularly sexually-transmitted diseases like HIV and AIDS, there still are no statistics or studies linking those living with AIDS to girls who practice prostitution.

While Hodeidah's Health Office

recorded 158 HIV cases last year, the office never reveals any information on its patients as part of its protection and guarantee of confidentiality.

However, being subjected to sexual diseases isn't the only risk facing these young girls, as Hodeidah University sociology professor Ahmed Al-Muammari points to the psychological and social impacts of forcing young girls to beg or pushing them into immoral networks.

"These girls mostly suffer lack of self-confidence, underestimation and weakness.

They also are involved in organized crime," he says.

He adds that the reason girls beg is the poor living standards in which they live, noting that large numbers of children in a family as a result of polygamy causes fathers huge financial challenges. Consequently, the children become the victims and resort to begging on the streets.

"A man with more than one wife sometimes is controlled by one of them and the weaker wife and her children suffer due to her husband's bad treatment, so they leave home and head out to beg on the streets," Al-Muammari notes, adding, "Other social, economic and cultural factors also contribute negatively to these problems."

He says the media means in general, and satellite channels in particular, are among the reasons aggravating the problem of both begging and prostitution in society, noting that some girls desire to elope with their boyfriends and leave their families.

Subhaya Ahmad Rajeh, head of the Yemeni Women's Union in Hodeidah, stresses that the incumbent bodies

should thoroughly discuss the issue of female beggars in order to end the problem, adding that all authorities and members of society should tackle and address beggars and their issues.

"Late in 2007, the Yemeni Women's Union held a workshop in cooperation with the city's local council and the education office. During this workshop, participants discussed the phenomena of girls and adult women begging, as well as children begging," Rajeh says, adding, "We agreed that all concerned bodies should work together to solve these problems."

She maintains that during the last quarter of 2007 and the three months of 2008, 22 women were released from jail after being arrested for immoral behavior. Some of those released were beggars.

Rajeh says some families refused to receive their daughters who were in prison because they brought disgrace upon them. As a result, those girls were sent to Aden where there's a center that cares for girls who are rejected by their families.

"There's a real catastrophe being committed against women in this society. For example, within the past few weeks, we've discovered a man married to a handicapped wife who has eight children," Rajeh says.

"The husband dumps his children and their mother - who is pregnant - on the pavement, where they're provided food only by one of my friends. This poor woman's husband only visits them, leaving at night while offering them nothing. This criminal should be prosecuted for his behavior against his wife, his children and humanity as a whole," she concludes.

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Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Sharyoof Oil Field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr.

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals only* to apply for the position of **Front Desk Security**. The position will be based in Sana'a.

Position Title	: Front Desk Security
Location	: Sana'a
Deadline Date	: 17 th July 2008


Responsibilities:

- To carry out the day to day administration of the front office, including answering telephones, emails, and the distribution of post.
- Act as a backup provider of secretarial office support including typing documents, faxing, sending/receiving office mail etc.
- Assist Secretaries in maintain continuous stocks of consumables such as paper stationary, etc.
- Ensure good co-operation with other oil and service companies operating in the area and always project a good image of the company to non-company personnel.
- Assist in local preparations for any special events such as VIP visits.

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Should be Yemeni Nationality.
- At least Secondary school Certificate.
- Experience in receptionist Tasks.
- Good communication and writing skills in English Language.
- Good computer skills, in particular all aspects of MS Office applications.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: hr@doveyemen.com. (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V



DOVE ENERGY LIMITED

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Sharyoof Oil Field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr.

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals only* to apply for the position of **Night Drilling Supervisor**. The position will be based in Sana'a.

Position Title	: Night Drilling Supervisor
Location	: Field
Deadline Date	: 17 th July 2008


Responsibilities:

- Primary duty is to ensure the safety and preservation of life is first and foremost at all times during all operations.
- Direct the day to day drilling, completion, and work over activities as being performed as prescribed in the appropriate program. Discuss any Program concerns with the Drilling Supervisor / Dove Drilling Manager.
- Ensure control of all contractor & service personnel. This includes behaviour, confidentiality and job supervision.
- Responsible for double checking all service and contractor timesheets / tickets / invoices prior to signing.
- Conduct operational safety meetings prior to all critical and unusual operations with all personnel.
- Instruct all contractors on job requirements and monitor their performance and progress throughout.
- Discuss results of previous operations as well as upcoming operations and plans with the DOVE Drilling Manager to ensure that DOVE Yemen's requirements are being met.
- Responsible for monitoring the proper construction of the drill site location.
- Observe the setting up of the drilling / completion rig and other required equipment to ensure their suitability for the purpose intended. Ensure Rig Acceptance is accurately checked & Faxed to Drilling Manager prior to operations.
- Arrange for the timely arrival of all materials, equipment and personnel to effect and continuous and efficient operation. Ensure all required materials are available in adequate time.

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Should be Yemeni Nationality.
- Bachelor degree in petroleum Engineering, Geologist, or equivalent.
- Good communication and writing skills in English Language.
- 3+ years work experience in Oil Company.
- Multi-disciplinary team work.
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: hr@doveyemen.com. (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V



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Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals only* to apply for the position of **Logistic Co-ordinator**. The position will be based in Sana'a.

Position Title	: Logistic Coordinator
Location	: Sana'a
Deadline Date	: 17 th July 2008


Responsibilities:

- Assist in ensuring smooth importation of materials including customs clearance at ports and airports. Assist in the movement of materials, freight forwarder, trucking and local clearance agents to ensure fast clearance of company materials.
- Work under the directions from the Logistics Supervisor or his deputy in his absence.
- Maintain full and up to date accessible records of all trucking movements to and from Block 53 / 73.
- Follow up with Operation team on all outstanding items needed for shipment.
- Coordinate and follow up with QC on quality and shipment inspection matters.
- Assists in the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of daily operations.
- Assist in Local purchases if requested.
- Carry out any other duties requested by the Logistics Supervisor
- Has to maintain PSA Database for Dove and Contractors.

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Should be Yemeni Nationality.
- Bachelor degree or equivalent diploma degree
- Good communication and writing skills in English Language.
- 1+ years work experience in Oil Company.
- Multi-disciplinary team work.
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: hr@doveyemen.com. (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V



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Of Internet freedom in Yemen China to the rescue

A Chinese computer program is helping web surfers in Yemen break through government control of the Internet. It is part of a bigger trend by journalists and activists who are beginning to challenge Internet censorship in Yemen.

By: Rashad Al-Shar'abi
MENASSAT

Imagine a journalist having to use a special program in order to access the website of the very newspaper he works for.

Sound daunting? Well, for Yemeni journalist Waddah al Maktari it is as normal as it is for a Western journalist to make a cup of coffee before sitting down to read his or her newspaper.

Waddah works for the independent news portal Yemenat, and lately he has been raving about a new Chinese program that can break through any official restrictions on website access.

In fact, if anyone within ear shot of Maktari says they are unable to read Yemenat's articles, he will immediately launch into a tutorial about the program.

But he won't give us the name of the new Chinese program.

He doesn't want the Yemeni government to catch on to a program which helps him circumvent the restrictions placed on his own and seven other similar sites.

For now, word of mouth will have to do.

A multi-front battle

According to Waddah, the new tech-

nology fits in neatly with what he calls a rising tide of popular discontent about the Yemeni government's attempts to control the Internet. He also points to demonstrations in South Yemen over the government's continued crackdown on the press.

Indeed, there is a battle occurring between Waddah's peers and the government monopoly over Yemen's two internet providers, Yemotel and Teleyemen.

Through these two companies, the Yemeni government has put blocks on all websites publishing news about the war in the north between the army and Shia Muslim rebels. A recent escalation in the fighting in the north has put the government in a very defensive position, and any domestic news site depicting the situation in a way that differs even slightly from the government-run or pro-government news outlets is being banned.

Ironically, the regulations used by the Yemeni authorities to ban critical websites were originally meant to target pornography sites.

But that was before the 2006 presidential elections.

It was around that time that Yemen's Communication Ministry began to ban opposition or independent newspaper websites like al-Nas (The People), al-Majles al-Yamani (The Yemenite Council), Sawt al-



An Internet cafe in Sana'a: opposition to government control of the Internet in Yemen is growing. R.R.

Yaman (The Voice of Yemen), Hiwar (Dialogue), and Montada al-Moustaqila (The Independent Forum). Two more opposition news sites, affiliated with al-Shura and the Socialist Party, were also blocked.

It was a modern version of the same press restrictions that have prompted demonstrations by journal-

ists and activists in Yemen for the last 20 years.

Local groups fight back

Sources put the number Yemeni websites inside Yemen that have been banned at 15 news websites and an unknown number of blogs and on-line forums.

Eight newspaper websites were recently banned: alshurra.net, al-mustakilla, al-umma, yemen net, shamsan news, al-taghyyyir, yamanat and al-hadath.

Over the last month, the Sana'a-based freedom of expression group, "The Change and the Defense of Rights and Freedoms Organization"

said it intended to file a lawsuit against the Communication Ministry because of what it contends are baseless reasons for the banning of so many websites.

Parliamentary activist Ahmad Seif Hashed heads the organization. Hashed is also the publisher of Yemenat, the e-newspaper site Wahhad works for.

Hashed said his organization would not have considered a lawsuit had the popular support not been in place.

According to Hashed, the government's amendments to the 1990 Press and Publications Law have been primarily used to restrict e-media freedom. Critics like Hashed say these controls are meant to reign in the emerging new media, and bring them under the same kind of control the Yemeni government exercises over the traditional print media.

Waddah's crusade

But Waddah remains optimistic about the future.

"I am confident that we will continue to be successful at breaking the government's blocking attempts," he said.

Other aspects of the emerging new media in Yemen worry him though.

"That the two Internet providers in Yemen are both controlled by the government is worrying," he said. "And there is the fact that there are still very few people in Yemen who have access to the Internet at all. Many even lack the electricity to even run a computer."

Official statistics show that the number of internet users in Yemen at the end of 2006 was about 150,000 users in a country of more than 22 million. But statistics say that number is growing significantly given that there are more than 800 Internet cafes throughout Yemen.

Increased Taliban unity threatens Pakistan

By: Shaheen Buneri
The Media Line

Social and political forces are bringing the various factions within the Taliban close together. This new-found unity makes the Taliban an even more potent force on either side of the Pakistani-Afghan border. The Media Line's Shaheen Buneri reports from the frontier.

The ever-increasing influence of pro-Al-Qa'ida Taliban groups is forcing Pakistan authorities to re-think its policy of reconciliation and devise a more comprehensive mechanism to

deal with the militancy that is now threatening Pakistan's settled districts after sweeping the tribal belt along the Pakistani-Afghan border.

Reports say that Taliban activity is not restricted to the lawless tribal belt, and the government's conciliatory approach has emboldened them to strengthen their support bases in the large cities of the violence-prone south Asian country.

The strong wave of Talibanization that has spread from the South Waziristan Tribal Agency has gradually engulfed the adjoining tribal agencies and has reached the Swat, Charsada, Mardan and Nowshera dis-

tricts in North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Starting with a social reform agenda by settling civil disputes and providing speedy justice through their Shari'a courts, Taliban groups have now begun targeting political leaders, civil society workers and rival religious groups, and have established parallel governments in the border areas.

Political analysts believe that government complacency and lack of political will at the center is responsible for the rising tide of militancy.

"We thought that [Taliban] operations were restricted to the tribal region; now they are knocking on our

doors," Brigadier Mehmod Shah, former Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) security chief observes.

Official sources say the newly elected government that formed in March, after a coalition of political parties defeated the pro-Musharraf party and a politico-religious alliance in NWFP, is now seriously thinking of reversing the much touted peace process and is planning a more comprehensive and realistic strategy to deal with militancy.

Pakistan Premier Yousuf Raza Gilani said on Monday that the government would ensure its control in tribal areas at all costs.

Gilani said the provincial govern-

ment had struck a peace deal with tribal chieftains three months ago, but the latter violated the agreement by resorting to hanging people publicly, kidnapping minority citizens and setting ablaze girls' schools.

"No government can afford a parallel government and we will never compromise the country's sovereignty, dignity and self-respect," he added.

Critics argue that the lack of a unified and consistent policy at the center, links of certain officials with armed groups, demoralized law enforcement agencies, the United States' presence in neighboring Afghanistan, unemployment and poor health and educational facilities in the tribal belt are the main reasons behind the escalating tide of extremism.

"It will take a lot of time, focus and energy to curb militancy in Pakistan," says Syed Irfan Ashraf, a Peshawar-based analyst. "Earlier, the Taliban were divided into small groups; now they have a well-organized and coherent structure. Their ideological bond makes them stronger as compared to Pakistan's embattled security forces."

U.S. authorities and NATO generals in Afghanistan have expressed their concern over growing violence in Afghanistan and say that Pakistan's tribal areas have become safe havens for pro-Al-Qa'ida Taliban groups.

NATO spokesman Mark Laity told a regular news conference in Kabul on Sunday that, "We know that as long as the insurgents operate safely on the Pakistan side of the border, there cannot be security in Afghanistan."

Since 2001, when U.S.-led forces dismantled the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Taliban groups developed strong relationships with insurgent groups across the border.

Ethnicity plays a pivotal role in strengthening Taliban support bases in Pakistan's tribal region.

Sami Yousafzai, a senior Afghan analyst, observes that it is routine for the Taliban to cross the border and launch operations against U.S. and

Pakistan interests.

"It is wrong to think that [the Taliban] only operate in the far-flung rural areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan; they are everywhere in different shapes and groups to pursue their agenda," he adds.

Pakistan has been applying a range of strategies to defeat militancy since President General Pervez Musharraf allied with the United States in its war against terror in 2001, but almost all of them failed to achieve the desired result.

More than 80,000 Pakistan security forces in Pakistan's FATA and 25,000 more in the Swat Valley of North West Pakistan have further complicated the issue.

The Pashtun nationalist Awami National Party (ANP) government in NWFP signed a peace agreement with militants in Swat Valley on May 21 to bring peace to the idyllic region. The agreement restored normalcy somewhat, but also provided breathing space for the militants to re-group and strengthen their position.

Locals say the government failed to follow up on the agreement to deploy police and security forces in the rest-less valley and to regain areas lost to the militants.

"They think signing peace agreements will magically change the situation. They are blind to the realities," Usman Shah, a resident of Mingora Swat says.

The recent U.S. aerial bombing in Mohmand, Bajaur and Waziristan tribal agencies of Pakistan have been viewed by the local tribes as attacks on the country's sovereignty. This fans anti-Americanism and the Taliban are there to exploit it to win more support from the local population.

The U.S. should also consider that bombing Pakistani areas is not the only option, say locals. First it should work on building its good image and launch developmental projects for the people who have suffered both Taliban violence and military operations by the

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمَا تَنْبَغِي إِلَّا أَنْ تَقُولَ لِلَّهِ مَا تَشَاءُ

نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَارِ التَّعَاذِي لِأُسْرَةِ الشَّهِيد / علي عبد الإله بن عاطف

الذي استشهد في حادث إجرامي مساء الخميس الماضي الموافق ٣ يوليو ٢٠٠٨م

نسأل الله أن يتغمد الشهيد بواسع رحمته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان

(إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون)

المعزون:

كافة آل جرهموم عنهم

اللواء / رشيد أحمد جرهموم

كما ونتقدم بخالص الأمنيات بالشفاء العاجل للأستاذ / سالم سلمان الوالي

والذي أصيب بعدة عيارات نارية في نفس الحادث الإجرامي

مع تمنياتنا له بالشفاء العاجل

Words of Wisdom



One issue that is so crucial that I can't exaggerate its importance is the need to catch up with the world in computers. I know it looks stupid to call for computer training and education when half the population is illiterate. But, we can't wait to become fully literate to start looking into computers. We can actually embark on multiple parallel efforts.

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

OUR
OPINIONProtecting
virtue by force

A recent social trend is that of a group of so-called religious people, men and women, who has taken the responsibility of defending the virtue of the country. They patrol some public areas designed for outings such as the beaches or the parks, to ensure that no "misconduct" takes place.

They have no authority, they are not operating under the law and they are present in every major city in various forms and concentrations.

A French journalist who had visited Yemen recently explained to me that she sees signs of change currently in Yemen similar to what she witnessed during Taleban's gaining power in Afghanistan. Indirectly, she predicted an Afghani future for us, and that scared me.

If it were about political change, it wouldn't matter much because governments come and go. But when the change is among the people, it is critical for intellectuals, media and NGOs to raise an alarm. I am saying this because I am witnessing social acceptance of the role of this virtue police. People accept their authority over them and allow them to take away their rights.

So now we have those people telling us what is acceptable and what is not.

Taking away our right to choose what to wear, what to study, what to work, or even where to go for entertainment.

Take for example the early marriage issue in Yemen. There is no legislation that defines a minimum age for marriage (although even Afghanistan has one), because some religious men in the Jurisprudence Committee in the parliament think there should not. They have made themselves the legislators of the country and the interpreters of the Quran so they claim there should not be an age to define the minimum age for marriage.

What do the rest of the parliamentarians do? Nothing. They just surrender the issue to a bunch of long bearded men, who decided there is nothing more important for the sake of protecting the religion and defending the nation's virtue than to allow men to marry 15-13- even nine year old girls.

As if virtue is only related to sex. That it has nothing to do with corruption, with bribing, with extortion, with abusing public properties or public money.

As for those verdure police patrolling our streets, they think nothing of endorsing Islamic behaviour in one's work. They don't mind a husband beating a wife until she bleeds, or an influential person taking away a land by force, or a businessman running away from taxes, or a governor hiring and firing as he likes, or a state VIP who thinks the national budget is his own private account.

To those religious men, these issues are not important to the welfare of the country and for creating a true religious nation. Eventually it seems everything those religious people fight for rotates around sex, and women. And I believe that they are using the religion and the public ignorance and submission to get away with many things that are not even remotely related to Islam. It is time we put an end to this, before another Taleban truly takes control of our country.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

JMP was absolutely dominated by Islah in 2007

By: Abdulmalik Al-Fohidi

In 2007 the opposition, Yemen's main opposition Islah Party, one of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) members with notable Islamic orientation, maintained political and media sway over the opposition coalition, which is also comprised of Yemen Socialist Party, the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization, Al-Haq Party and Union of Popular Forces.

Since the establishment of the JMP in 2003 the Islah Party tried to impose its hegemony on other members of the opposition coalition, tak-

ing advantage of their weakness and their internal problems, and at the same time utilizing its own financial capabilities that are bigger than those of other JMP members.

The Islah has found in the JMP as a political instrument to make up for breaking relations with its former ally the General People's Congress (GPC). Therefore, the major opposition party continued imposing its dominance over the JMP, especially after withdrawal of other parties from the block, mainly the Arab Baath Socialist Party and the September Congregation.

Islah hegemony on the JMP greatly emerged during the period that

preceded the presidential and local elections in Yemen in 2006. The Islah then played an influential role in the nomination of Eng. Faisal Bin Shamlan as the JMP candidate for president. Despite the fact that Bin Shamlan is independent, his aides are closer to the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Islah Party also demonstrated absolute dominance over managing the electoral campaigns for JMP ahead of the most recent presidential and local council elections that took place in September 2006 to the extent that it has excluded many of its allies in the governorates and even worse their participation in the campaigning.

In total contrast to expectations of some political observers in Yemen predicting that the parties of the JMP would prepare an assessment of their performance in the last year in line with results of the electoral defeat they suffered in the presidential and local elections, particularly the YSP and the Nasserite Organization which have lost much of their support because of their subservience to Islah party in the elections, the Islah intentionally worked to tighten its control on the JMP during the year 2007.

The situation made some observers bear in mind that Islah Party has succeeded in rendering its

two allies into tools helping it in running its political battle against the ruling party. More importantly, loss of the JMP presidential candidate in the election had represented a defeat for the Islah because of the fragile political background the candidate demonstrated while running for President.

The Islah hegemony over the JMP was clearly seen in many aspects mainly in decision-making and employment of the JMP as a fuel source for practices and activities run by civic society organizations that affiliate with the Islah Party.

Source: Al-Motamar.net

Dialogue of unity and democracy

By: Ahmad Abdulmalik Al-Maqrani

The national dialogue, which Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) initiated and made open to all civil forces and organizations, educated elite, scholars, opinion leaders, and political and social dignitaries, is a successful step. It is also a unique initiative that came on the right time and place.

At this point, I mean that judicious people in the ruling General Peoples' Congress (GPC) realize well the country's need for a broad dialogue. They also understand the reality of negative situations on the ground that necessitate dealing with the national affairs with a complete vision, not via a partial vision that only depends on

the party's attitude.

The homeland is expecting a courageous attitude on the part of GPC wise figures to positively deal with other political partners' calls for broad dialogue. Only this way can ensure that all the files are placed on the table of discussion and dialogue.

It is against the national interest that some people unearth the hidden reality of dire situations while all the efforts must not concentrate on the composition of Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) at the expense of discussing other vital issues on the ground. The critical issues in the country are deeper and fairer than the superficial thinking.

Citizens' living conditions continue worsening, and as do healthcare, judicial performance, education and public services while the dossiers of

South Yemen and northern Sa'ada governorate are getting more heated.

The hallucinating policy of oppression, crackdown and political trials is the clearest evidence of the political regime's bankruptcy. We recommend that effective dialogue must take place utilizing all the spared efforts of parties involved, their appropriate relations and professional communication channels.

Effective dialogue must take place before it will become impossible for all the political parties involved to dialogue on national crises. Tensions and congestions have escalated until they exceeded the reasonable limit while the communication channels have vanished and relations became tense.

However, we don't want all the parties involved to be coercively taken to dialogue. The invitation for a national

dialogue is open for all while presence of other parties, be they political forces, civic society organizations or politicians, is doomed effective to make the dialogue a success. All these parties have great influence on proceedings of the dialogue, and therefore are invited to examine the current situation and predict the anonymous destiny the homeland is progressing toward.

The ruling party is no longer able to reform the nation and help it get rid of the current turmoil as facts on the ground provide substantial evidence of this party's failure to contain any escalating crises in Yemen. In addition, facts on the ground indicate that the national interest necessitates cooperation and solidarity between all parties involved to conduct serious and broad dialogue in order to help rescue

Yemen from its currently dire situation.

All JMP member parties, social and political dignitaries and civic community organizations are required to put the account of profit and loss aside and concentrate their efforts on what helps serve Yemen and its future. By doing so, they will eventually realize the political profit that is, for sure, the product of adopting a unique position in favor of Yemen and Yemenis.

An available spirit of responsibility will attract all the political forces, civic society organizations, scholars, educated people, social and political dignitaries to dialogue, and therefore search for the most ideal means for managing the dialogue of unity, democracy and equal citizenship.

Source: Al-Ahali.net

Why does YJS deprive hundreds
of reporters of its membership?

By: Abdulwahid Al-Sharafi
Alsharafi74@yahoo.com

Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) has not accepted hundreds of working reporters, who already applied for its membership. Between its third conference last year and its fourth conference, scheduled for coming July, only 289 journalists were granted membership in the syndicate.

This number is very low, compared to the large number of applications submitted by reporters from the various governorates to the syndicate. Others complained that their applications were rejected for allegedly lacking requirements that they themselves didn't know, nor were they informed about these requirements prior to submitting their applications.

The only exception in this regard is a declaration made by one of the YJS Council members, saying that those deprived of the syndicate's membership have not met the requirement of obtaining a university certificate. He adds that other journalists' applications were rejected because most of the applicants work as reporters for newspapers. "They are not central editors," according to the declaration.

Having a glance at the university qualification, which is included in the list of requirements set up by the syndicate, we find that granting a valid membership to an applicant necessitates that he/she must hold a university degree in any major.

The most important thing for an applicant is to have a bachelor's degree in any major. This makes us question, "What is the value of a university certificate in a major

other than journalism?"

When it comes to university degree holders in majors other than journalism, we believe that this should be treated as equal to the cognitive qualification in the journalistic profession to be demonstrated by a membership applicant. Any data obtained by a university certificate holder with regard to journalism are the same as the data acquired by high school leavers and post-high school diploma holders.

This point has taken us to the role of experience in journalism and how vital it is to improving performance and personal skills of a journalist. Through experience, YJS can assess the performance and skills of a journalist applying for membership. And experience must include the applicant's ability to report, edit, attract the readership and deal with critical situations.

Experience comes first irrespective of the applicant's qualification, be he/she a high school leaver or a university degree holder. Experience should be seen as the primary and indispensable requirement to be met by an applicant in order to obtain a valid YJS membership.

Criteria applied in other countries:

A proof in support of this is that membership requirements listed by journalists syndicates in the majority of countries around the world concentrate much on the criteria of experience, competence and creativity. The three are inarguably successful, objective and professional requirements.

Another obstacle facing YJS membership seekers coming from the various Yemeni governorates is

the derogatory look on the part of the syndicate's registration committee staff who underestimates the role of local newspapers' correspondents. They see them as interlopers to the profession, immature, or as if they don't understand the arts of journalism.

On the other hand, YJS considers a central editor in any paper as the functioning journalist whose role is mostly limited to editing and modifying an available press material according to his mood, but underestimates the role of a reporter who collects data and reports facts on the ground. The latter is the one who usually works hard and contributes more 80 percent to the production of a press material.

While collecting data on the ground, reporters are often subjected to harassments and arbitrary practices due to their being available at the scene of any event. Central editors, on the contrary, confine themselves in the editing room to stain a good press material produced by a creative reporter.

Due to the derogatory look demonstrated by YJS registration staff, local reporters are deprived of their right to affiliate with a union the maximum support it can deliver to a reporter when he/she faces assaults or harassments is releasing a statement denouncing what happened to him/her. This is all what our syndicate does in support of a journalist coming under attack.

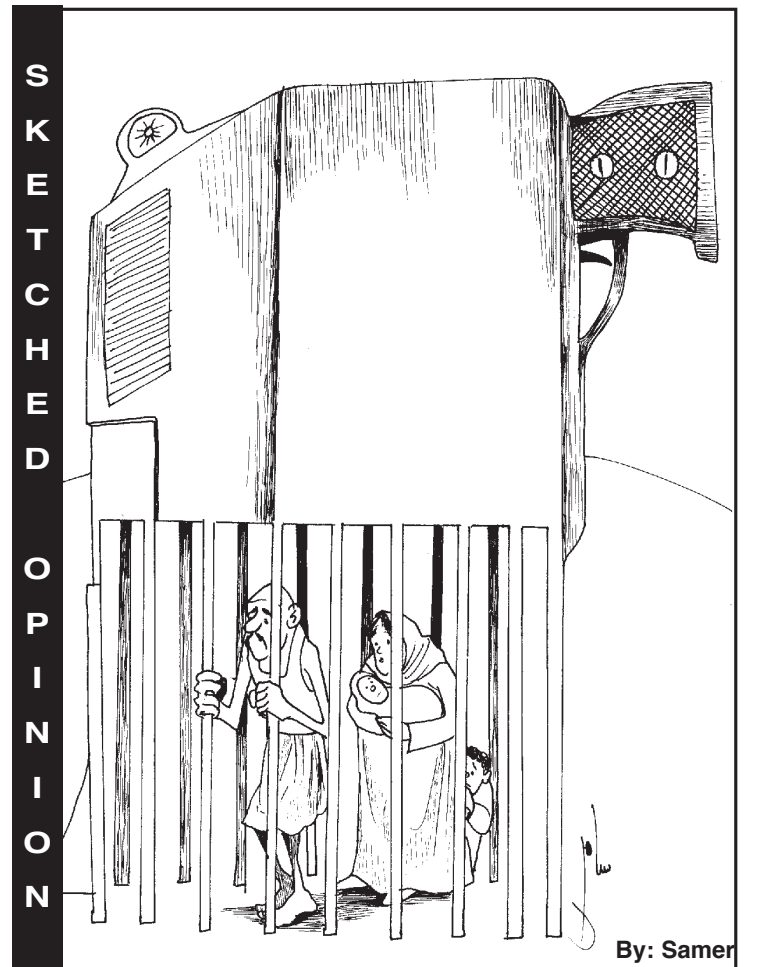
An YJS membership applicant doesn't seek post of the syndicate's president or secretary general. As far as I am concerned, the main reason why hundreds of reporters are denied their right to obtain membership is the syndicate's fear that these reporters may change the available scale of votes, thereby

risking stay of a currently serving president or secretary general in the syndicate, particularly as the fourth conference is drawing nearer and nearer. The syndicate doesn't want a new face to lead it, and this is why it attempts to maintain the same scale of votes reproducing the same leadership again and again.

The clearest evidence in support of this is that some members of the

syndicate's council postponed reviewing the situation of regional reporters applying for YJS membership until the fourth conference is over. This procedure is likely to enrage regional reporters and encourage them to comprise similar unions for them in the various governorates.

Source: Al-Tagheer.net



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Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, July 3, 2008

Top Stories

- Medical mistakes in Aden on the increase
- New arrest campaigns target opposition activists in Taiz
- JMP warns ruling party against disastrous consequences

Yemen's main opposition coalition, known as Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), has warned the ruling General Peoples Congress (GPC) against potential disastrous consequences if it continues pursuing exclusionary policies based on crisis management, the weekly reported.

It added that JMP affirmed in a press release on Wednesday that such policies have proved their failure repeatedly, and led to more crises and complications, and in the meantime, holding the ruling party responsible for what its described as 'disastrous consequences and repercussions caused by its failed policies and unjustified insistence to proceed until it takes the situation into an impasse.

JMP expressed its strong disapproval of unilateralism, which GPC follows through exclusively and illegally dealing with national issues alone, leaving no chance to other political partners to contribute to solving national issues.

According to the weekly, Yemen's opposition parties have been boycotting the parliament sessions for three weeks, protesting the ruling party's efforts designed to reform the election law

solely using its majority in parliament.

JMP described the GPC attempts to form the elections committee as "an unconstitutional step which comes at a very sensitive stage. The weekly maintained that observers expects that parliamentary elections which are set to be held in April 2009 may be delayed as both ruling and opposition parties have not yet reached an agreement on composition o Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER).



26 September.net, affiliated with Yemeni Army
Friday, July 4, 2008

Top Stories

- Interior Ministry Source: A cell of Houthi loyalists arrested in Aden
- Parliament to begin discussing draft consumer protection law
- Yemen discusses arrangements to receive prisoners from Guantanamo

The website reported in one of its lead stories that Endowments and Guidance Minister Hamoud Al-Hitar has held talks with a delegation from the US Defense and Foreign Departments on the necessary arrangements for handing over Yemeni detainees in the U.S.-run prison camp at Guantanamo Bay to their government.

The website quoted Yemen News Agency as saying that a dialogue program with the detainees after their return to Yemen in order to ensure their full reintegration into the society was discussed during the meeting.

Al-Hitar reviewed his country's preparations to receive its detained citizens, as well as to rehabilitate and

remerge them in society. He demanded the US to return quickly the Yemeni detainees to their home, affirming that the dialogue to be held with the detainees in the wake of their return would contribute to correcting any wrong concepts that permanently contradict the true tradition of Islam.

The US delegation members hailed Yemen's successful experiences of dialogue which contributed to rehabilitating a number of jeopardized citizens who had been arrested on terrorist charges.



Al-Ahali comprehensive Independent Weekly
Tuesday, July 1, 2008

Top Stories

- U.S. refuses inserting Houthi in terror list
- JMP leader: We called for national dialogue after we saw that the top leader failed to contain escalating crises
- Senior official wanted by authorities for describing President Saleh as 'dangerous'

High ranking authorities are conducting extensive investigation to identify a senior Yemeni government official, who told New York Times that "President Ali Abdullah Saleh constitutes the immense threat in Yemen," the weekly reported.

The paper went on to say that it obtained information from GPC leaders, senior officials and Saleh's tenure, who are exchanging accusations and their liquidations may target some ruling party officials. The American

newspaper's description of Saleh was very clear in describing its source as 'high-ranking official, not an ordinary civil servant.'

Some critics say that the most immense threat is Saleh himself while a Yemeni high-ranking official, who requested anonymity as he feared retaliation, said that Saleh's ignorance and his history of cuddling extremist Islamists for the sake of winning their political support, helped encouraged a revolution against the veteran leader himself.

Saleh's opponents say that he is a professor in mastering the art of political games, as well as fueling conflict between his opponents, thereby leaving the nation in a state of destructive chaos. According to them, Saleh did nothing to provide basic services in his nation such as water, education and development.

These opponents went on to say that rampant corruption in Yemen affected performance of the various ministries and hurt the army that couldn't even defeat a small rebellious group. Critics in and outside Yemen accused Saleh of manipulating election results, adding that he only cares about helping his relatives and members of his tribe to control senior and sensitive posts in the government.

On his part, the Yemeni President rejected such criticism, saying that the American officials consider Yemen's negotiations with Jihadists as 'a kind of conspiracy'. "This is wrong. It is complete misunderstanding," Saleh reacted.

Saleh slammed what he called American intervention in Yemen's domestic affairs', adding, "This intervention affects our capacity to deal with terrorism. I don't know why the Americans criticize us, however, they list numerous conditions for us to meet when we request them to hand over

Yemeni citizens detained in Guantanamo."



Al-Ghad Independent Weekly
Monday, June 30, 2008

Top Stories

- Minister of Education: 35 impersonators in primary and secondary exams face investigations
- HIV suffers die on roadsides
- Numan lists 'three don'ts' for allies unless political detainees are freed

Unannounced negotiations between ruling and opposition parties on General Election Law amendments failed, the weekly reported. The negotiations have been halted at Parliament for a week after JMP members in Parliament boycotted a meeting on this regard. Both sides are also waiting for outcomes of a dialogue currently held between General People's Congress (GPC) and JMP under the auspices of President Saleh and indirect European and American motivations.

The weekly learned from well-informed sources that JMP listed 'release of those detained over protests in southern governorates' as a condition for completing dialogue and negotiating with ruling party with the aim of solving problems associated with General Election Law amendments.

The sources said that Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Secretary -General Dr. Yasin Saeed Numan, listed 'three don'ts' for JMP leaders, most notably Islah Party Secretary

General Abdulwahab Al-Anisi: "No Negotiation, No Agreement and No Dialogue" unless political detainees arrested over protests in South Yemen are freed.

Numan has left Sana'a to attend International Socialism Conference in Budapest, capital of Hungary. The same sources said that negotiations between GPC and JMP made progress last week with regard to the most workable options for composition of Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER).

The sources added that President Saleh agreed that SCER can be chaired by a JMP nominee, plus other three members while the ruling party should select five members including Deputy Chairman of SCER.

They continued that JMP surprised Saleh by nominating Sheikh Mohammed Ali Abu Luhoum, member of GPC General Committee, to chair SCER as a compromise solution. However, Saleh made a forward step when he nominated Abdullah Mohsen Al-Akwaa, member of Islah Party Higher Board, as a potential SCER Chairperson because, according to Saleh, he gained enough experience through his service as Deputy Chairperson of previous SCER.

The sources labeled both sides' nominations this way as a kind of political maneuvering. Meanwhile, representatives of European Union and NDI are still communicating with both sides (ruling and opposition parties), encouraging them to continue dialogue in this regard.

According to EU and NDI, reaching an agreement on SCER composition earlier will lead to conducting the upcoming parliamentary elections on time, and convince both sides not to resort to other options that may lead to postponement of the elections or boycotting them by JMP.

Independence day message to Yemen

By: Marc Falkoff

Just in time for Independence Day, the Supreme Court of the United States has once again ruled that the Guantánamo detainees have a fundamental constitutional right to their day in court. President Bush, enabled by a Republican Congress, had tried to strip civilian judges of the power to decide whether the 270 men still imprisoned at Guantánamo – including nearly 100 Yemenis – are being detained illegally. But for the third time in six years, the Supreme Court rebuked the Bush administration's attempts to evade the rule of law at Guantánamo. The decision, called *Boumediene v. Bush*, is another great and hard-fought victory for the rule of law in the United States.

And yet, when my colleagues and I visit with our sixteen Yemeni clients next month at Guantánamo in order to

convey the news of this latest victory, their response will be predictable. "You have come to us before with good news from the Supreme Court," they will tell us, "but in six and a half years we have never seen a judge. You must understand that this is just politics. That this is all just a game." Indeed, we have had a number of such conversations with our clients over the years, and it is increasingly hard to convince them that, after more than half a decade of abuse and solitude in an American prison, they will get a fair shake in the U.S. courts.

They have excellent reason to be skeptical. When we visit with them, for example, we will not be able to promise them a speedy hearing. As the Bush administration has demonstrated repeatedly over the past six and a half years, it is content to delay and prolong legal proceedings for as long as possible in order to hold off the day of reck-

oning, when it will be forced to make public the accusations and evidence against the Guantánamo prisoners. Already, government lawyers have succeeded in "consolidating" the Guantánamo cases before a single judge, which will inevitably result in lengthy legal wrangling before any of the prisoners has his day in court. In addition, the government contends that it will not even be ready to come into court to defend its detention decisions for some of the prisoners until the beginning of the next calendar year, in January.

During our visit, we will also have to explain to our clients that, even though there may be little or no evidence that they were involved in any illegal activity, there is no guarantee that the judge will order them to be released. "Habeas corpus" hearings, as they are called, are not criminal trials. They are proceedings in which the

government has a very low standard to meet in order to justify detaining someone suspected of wrong-doing. Realistically, there is very little chance that federal judges will order large numbers of Yemenis to be released, regardless of the quality of the evidence against them. We have to expect that the judges will bend over backwards to avoid second-guessing the military's detention decisions.

It is therefore important for our clients – and for the Yemeni public – to understand that although these hearings are of fundamental importance, the fate of most of the Guantánamo prisoners still lies almost entirely in the hands of the Yemeni government and in its capacity to negotiate successfully with the United States government for the Yemeni prisoners' release.

That said, it is vitally important for the Yemeni people to recognize that

this moment offers a unique opportunity for the Saleh government to reach some kind of political accommodation with the United States. The U.S. military surely has no interest in trying to defend its detention decisions in the courts, where the arbitrariness of its determinations will be exposed for all to see. Indeed, if hearings actually occur, in a number of cases the military or other intelligence agencies will be forced to admit in court that prisoners – including some of our clients – have been abused or tortured. It is therefore in everyone's interest to strike now, while the iron is hot, and arrange for the Yemeni detainees to come home.

What can you, as Yemeni citizens, do to help? In this election year, you can contact your local member of Parliament and insist that he fight to ensure that President Saleh reach a settlement with the United States over the Guantánamo prisoners. You can write

to President Saleh himself, thank him for his efforts so far, but suggest to him that the repatriation of your countrymen is of paramount importance. You can support Judge Hitar, as he nobly strives to institutionalize his dialogue sessions to assure that Yemenis returning from Guantánamo, Bagram and elsewhere remain free of extremist or terrorist inclinations. Most important, you must raise your voices and insist on the repatriation of your fellow citizens.

We can only hope that the Supreme Court's decision in the *Boumediene* case will lead to a true independence day soon for our Yemeni clients at Guantánamo.

Marc Falkoff is a criminal law professor at Northern Illinois University. Since 2004, he has represented more than a dozen Yemeni citizens who are imprisoned at Guantánamo.

Turkey: Legal coup D'Etat won't work

By: Amir Taheri

Within the next few weeks the Turkish Supreme Court would examine what might be the most curious demand it has faced in recent years. The demand, coming from the country's Chief Prosecutor Abdurrahman Yalcinkaya is simple: he wants the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the country's governing party, banned and 70 of its leaders, including Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan barred from politics for ten years.

Translated into plain terms, Yalcinkaya hopes to use the Supreme Court to carry out a political coup d'etat. He claims that AKP is trying to sabotage the nation's republican and secular constitution by slowly imposing an Islamic system.

This is not the first time that a Turkish political party has been accused of harbouring an Islamist hidden agenda. The charge was first made

against the Democrat Party of Prime Minister Adnan Menderes in 1960s. Menderes was removed from power and executed after a mock trial conducted in a kangaroo court. In 1981, it was the turn of Adalet (Justice) Party of Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to be accused of having a secret agenda and thus dissolved. Next came the banning of Refah (Welfare) and Fazilet (Virtue) parties, both led by Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan in the 1990s. Demirel and Erbakan were not executed, a sign of Turkish political maturing since 1960 but both had to spend more than a decade in the political wilderness.

On all those occasions the army, that is to say the military high command, intervened to impose regime change. Today, the very idea of another military coup is unacceptable to the overwhelming majority of Turks, especially those dedicated to their secular constitution. That, however, does not mean that a legal coup d'etat could or should be tolerated.

What the Chief Prosecutor is doing

is a trial of intentions. He is accusing Erdogan and other AKP leaders of "wishing" to do things that might harm the constitution. But the trial of intentions is a speciality of Islamist radicals known as takfiris. It is they who accuse their critics and political adversaries of being non-believers in secret. If Yalcinkaya is a true democrat, as he claims to be, he should not employ the same dirty tactics as the Islamist takfiris.

The legal dispute raises two important questions.

The first is: who could be labelled Islamist? No one could claim that all believing Muslims are Islamists in political terms. In fact, a majority of Muslims are intelligent enough to make a distinction between religion as a matter of personal faith and politics as the art of organising the public space. In that sense all those who participate in the government of a Muslim majority country are Muslims. Some may even be very pious Muslims. Still others may even try to use their Islamic

piety as a means of gaining popularity pretty much as some American politicians, notably President George W Bush, advertise their Christian beliefs. But this does not mean that all those who have deep religious convictions are Islamists or Christian fundamentalists.

In any case, in any proper democracy people should have the right and the freedom to propagate their ideas, including religious beliefs. Being a good and pious Muslim who wishes to share his convictions with others cannot be a crime anywhere, least of all in Turkey where 98 per cent of the population are Muslims.

Using religion for political purposes becomes a crime only when it violates the basic freedoms of others. It is not religion as such that is the problem but its use as an instrument of intimidation and terror. If you force people to behave, dress and move in accordance with religious rules as interpreted by yourself then you are committing a crime by violating the rights of others. But if you merely do those things

yourself you will be exercising your own rights, even if by doing so you hope that others will imitate you.

The definition "Islamist" should be used only in the case of parties that openly call for an imposition of the shariah as the sole law of the land and declare that non-believers cannot have public office. The AKP makes no such demand. In fact, its leaders shy away from anything smacking of Islamism. As for shariah, they have made it clear that they do not regard it as a substitute for the Turkish judicial system.

The second issue that the current legal dispute raises is about the definition of secularism. Secularism is not the same thing as atheism. In atheism the powers of the state are mobilised to destroy all sorts of religions, except the official ideology. In secularism, the state is neutral on matters of religion. It does not use its resources to promote any particular religion, nor does it use its power to destroy religion. When different religions are in dispute among themselves, the secular state intervenes to prevent the strong from

destroying the weak. The secular state must have no religion so that its citizens can have whatever religion they choose.

Prosecutor Yalcinkaya, however, interprets secularism almost as atheism. He thinks that the state must move against any attempt at promoting religious freedom for citizens.

Whatever one might say about the AKP, one thing is clear: this party has learned the lessons of its predecessors and knows that a hidden Islamist agenda has no future in Turkey. In the last election the AKP won a second mandate with 46 per cent of the votes. This means that 54 per cent, or a majority, of Turks are not prepared to trust it. Thus, I doubt that Erdogan, one of the most intelligent political leaders I have met in recent years, would be foolish enough to even dream of creating an Islamist state in modern Turkey. The Supreme Court should remind Erdogan of the limits of his power but let him do his job.

Source: Asharq Alawsat newspaper

Invitation for General Bid No.(4) 2008

The Yemen Tourism Promotion Board (YTPB) announces its interest to invite bidders for general bid to deliver the work of reworking the current map of YTPB in a GIS format.

Objectives:

- 1- For the new map which will be done in a GIS format to be spatially accurate.
- 2- To be able to have a map to be updated and maintained in a more efficient and cost effective manner.
- 3- To allow the use of better and more sophisticated datasets, i.e digital elevation model (DEM) and 3D map representation.
- 4- Bidders must provide previous works.
- 5- Bidders who are willing to participate in this tender have to submit written applications to YTPB to receive Bidding Documents for an amount YR 10.000 non-refundable .
- 6- Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at (08:00-15:00) to:

YTPB - ALHASABA STREET- MINISTRY OF TOURISM BUILDING.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the YTPB mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump % 2.5 out of the proposal . Bank Guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank Guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- 2- Valid tax card (foreign bidders not conducting any business in Yemen have to submit VAT registration document in their countries).
- 3- Insurance card (insurance card is required for companies having business in Yemen and eligible for benefits of the General Social Security Corporation in Yemen).
- 4- Registration and classification certificate. (in case contract is awarded and the winning bidder has no registration documents, relevant registration document will be requested as a condition for contract implementation).
- 5- GST registration certificate.

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2,3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.

The deadline for submission and bids opening will be 11:00 AM on Tuesday 15/7/2008. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.

Bid Opening will take place at YTPB-ALHASABA STREET- MINISTRY OF TOURISM BUILDING office of Executive Director and the same time mentioned above, in presences of bidders or their authorized representatives.



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Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (5) of [2008] (One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The General Corporation for School Book Printing Press here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no (5/2008) for supplying (7200 tons) offset Printing Paper:

Bids are formed of 5 groups (A, B, C, D, E):

- A- White Roll Offset Printing Paper(70 grams) quantity (4200 tons).**
A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (30,000,000 YR)
- B- White Sheet Offset Printing Paper(70 grams) quantity (2300 tons).**
A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (16,000,000 YR)
- C- White Glazed Bristol Board for Offset Printing (190 grams) quantity (500 tons).**
A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (4,000,000 YR)
- D- (GREEN+BLUE) Glazed Bristol Board for Offset Printing (180 grams) quantity (170 tons).**
A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (1,600,000 YR)
- E- Roll Offset Printing Paper (CB 80gsm + CF57gsm) quantity (30 tons).**
A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (400,000 YR)

- Bidders may apply for the 5 groups or 1 group as the bank guarantee mentioned above valid for not less than 120 days from date of bid opening and bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- Tender will be financed from: Self-financing
- Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to:

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Al-Jraf – Air Port Street – nerby Al-Kibsi School
Tel: 00967 1 332634 FAX: 00967 1 334322
P.O. Box: 2782

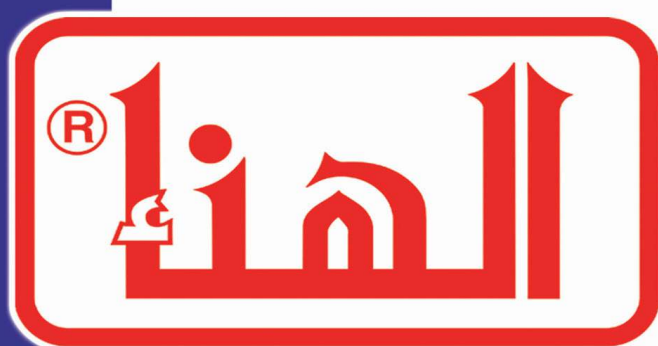
to receive Bidding Documents for an amount [100,000 YR] non-refundable.

- The deadline for selling bidding documents will be on [16/8/2008].
- Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the above address mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department.

The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (52,000,000 YR) of Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 120 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque in case of participate in the five groups.
- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)
- Valid Zakat certificate
- Valid sales tax certificate registration (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- Samples (80 paper A4) from each group for test them.

- A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.
- The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be on Wednesday [20/ 8 /2008] At 11.00 AM.
- Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened..
- Bid Opening will take place at [meetings hall-in the corporation's address mentioned above] and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
- Potential bidders may inspect bidding documents before purchasing during working hours for a period (40 days) starting from advertisement.



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المعشرون :

زملاؤكم وإخوانكم في شركة كنديان تكسن - مكتب صنعا

Organic farming important in producing clean, safe food

By: Ismael Al-Ghabri
yemenigoal@yahoo.com

Turning to organic farming has become a global goal to help clean and safe agricultural products get to the dinner table, particularly while insecticide-related diseases are increasing.

Organic farming depends on environmentally-friendly resources like natural fertilizer. It uses biological ways to combat agricultural problems and tries to stay away from chemical substances that can alter the food and its quality.

Importance of organic farming and its reflections on the surrounding environment:

Environmental pollution – i.e., pollution of the water, soil and air – and their negative effects on human beings are a source of increasing worry during the last two decades, especially in industrialized countries of the world. Organic farming has grown in popularity alongside an increasing resistance to the use of insecticides, growth hormones and antibiotics in agricultural crops and in commercial animal farming.

Concerns are also increasing about the use of genetically-modified substances and the genetic changes in natural food sources. This has become

a prevalent topic in the Western media since the appearance of epidemics like bird flu and mad cow disease, which originate in animals and then spread among human beings. There have also been E-coli outbreaks in spinach and other vegetable products, leading the consumers who can afford it to choose organic produce.

The definition of organic farming

Though organic farming is a new concept in the agricultural lexicon, the term refers back to the classical agricultural systems of history, which depended on natural means of food production and animal husbandry.

Organic farming is a term given to an agricultural system that produces food in a natural way utilizing environmentally and socially sound means without reliance on insecticides, chemical fertilizers, hormones or any other genetically modified substances. The aim of this system is to achieve a high level of food quality, environmental safety and well-being for humans.

Organic agricultural practices include:

- Following the normal agriculture production period.
- Using "green" fertilizers like crop waste and animal dung, also called compost, for soil.
- Using biological means to repel insects, pests and weeds.

The International Federation for the Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), which is made up of a number of organizations working in this field in over 50 countries, is considered the leading governing authority. It is responsible for setting the rules and standards according to conditions in every country. All producers worldwide are expected to follow these regulations and the federation's role is to evaluate the application of these rules in every country.

About 31.8 million hectares in the world are used for organic farming, according to 2006 records, but the world – and Arab world included – has witnessed a notable rise in this type of farming over the years.

Organic farming production throughout the world created an estimated profit of U.S. \$31 billion during the year 2000 alone. This profit is expected to increase within the upcoming ten years due to the demand for these types of products in the markets all over the world, but particularly in richer industrial countries.

"Organic" is a trademarked term protected by international laws. It means that the product has been examined carefully from the farm until it reaches the store by an independent monitoring organization. Because of this increased oversight for the



Almost half of the country's farms are already organic, according to Dr. Adel Qirtass

products, organic food is sold for higher prices compared to other products.

Organic farming is considered to be a promising field in Arab countries to increase revenue and consequently improve the economic situation for farmers in these places. Arab countries can also make use of the increasing demand for organic produce worldwide and the high prices consumers are willing to pay for it. Many Arab farmers still depend on natural agriculture production and never even began using pesticides, hormones or antibiotics.

Basic goals of organic farming

- To produce natural and healthy food with high quality and in enough quantities.
- To keep the environment healthy and develop a sustainable system.
- To maintain the fertilization of the soil and increase this for the future.
- To coordinate all agricultural products and livestock husbandry.
- To encourage biological activity in the agricultural system from microorganisms, soil, plants and animals.
- To maintain the biological variety and the natural hereditary resources.
- To pay attention to environmental

effects and the social dimensions for the agricultural system and its reflection on public health.

Dr. Mansoor Al-Houshali, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, said that organic farming is an alternative to chemically-dependent agriculture. "These are global trends due to the increase of diseases and environmental changes worldwide," he said. Al-Houshali added that Yemenis have played an important role in organic farming in the past and continue to do so at present, through the use of soil to combat the lesions that threaten grapes, WHAT IS THE METHOD THEY USE? noting that this method is considered an old form of organic farming.

He added that the Yemeni government wants to encourage organic farming especially after the agricultural technicians were able to find an insect that combated aphids, which helped protect fruit trees in the area. As a result of this discovery, Yemen won a prize from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Dr. Yahya Bakoor, the General Secretary of the Arab Agricultural Engineers Union, said that organic farming is of great importance at present as a result of the overuse of chemical substances in current agricultural production.

"Overuse of chemicals has a large effect on people's health and these effects appear after a long time," said Bakoor. "We realized that through organic farming, we can get produce of high quality, as it depends on natural resources for fertilization and biological pest-combating like those used by farmers in the past."

Lebanon's former Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Adel Qirtass, confirmed that organic farming has economic importance for exports between Arab countries particularly while the global food crisis rages on. "We should pay more attention to organic farming as it maintains the safety of the environment," said Qirtass. "If we look deeper into this issue, we will find that Yemen is one of the most important countries in terms of organic farming as almost half of the country's production doesn't use chemical fertilizers and insecticides."

Qirtass suggested that there should be an institution in Yemen and then a regional one for the whole Arab World that will be concerned with agricultural standards to help Yemeni organic farm products to reach the global markets.

In addition to the market for these products in Yemen, there are also important consumers in the gulf region, such as in Saudi Arabia, which



Organic farming and produce export could be a way to help Yemen's economy

To help reduce Yemen's maternal mortality rate,

Midwives trained to manage their own private clinics

By: Jamal Al-Najjar
alnajjar7@gmail.com

Sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, the National Association of Yemeni Midwives, in cooperation with Shahir Foundation for training, concluded a private business management training course for midwives last week to enable them to operate their own businesses and offer mothers better health services in targeted governorates.

The June 22-29 course sought to train 15 midwives from Amran, Sa'ada, Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwa governorates in how to run small private midwife clinics in districts of these governorates, supervised by Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Population.

Through these clinics, the midwives will map the residents of their targeted areas so they then may do field surveillance to evaluate the prenatal care situation and come up with statistics to determine mothers' health care needs. These midwives also will count the number of children who should be vaccinated in their work areas and then follow up their vaccination doses.

Hamouda Hanafi, director of USAID's basic health services project, says these trained midwives can play an important role by offering health services to mothers in these districts, as well as reducing Yemen's maternal

mortality rate, particularly given that most mothers living in remote areas lack proper maternal and prenatal care.

"In order to guarantee achieving reproductive health programs in Yemen, we should concentrate on female personnel working in the health field by giving them the proper training, as well as the chance to serve in this regard," Hanafi says, noting that the Basic Health Services (BHS) program is working in coordination with Yemen's Health Ministry to contribute to improving maternal and prenatal services in the five governorates.

He points out that USAID's support through the BHS program to those midwives trained to manage midwife clinics is part of encouraging the private health care sector to offer society health services.

Fatoom Noor Al-Deen, coordinator of the Midwives' Private Business Program within the National Association of Yemeni Midwives, notes that the association has been working since its September 2004 establishment to give midwives a chance to operate their own private clinics.

"This course has achieved one of the association's goals, as it has trained midwives to have the necessary information in the field of management and consequently, become an active element in improving prenatal care in Yemen," she points out.

As she explains, "We met with midwives in the five governorates, deter-



Midwife training session in Sayoun where more than 30 future midwives from around the area are trained every year in order to overcome the shortage in female medical workers in the governorate.

mining standards to select those to be trained to manage private clinics in their districts. Based on that, we selected three midwives from Sa'ada, four from Marib, three from Amran, two from Al-Jawf and three from Shabwa."

Noor Al-Deen notes that USAID also will support these midwives financially to establish their own private clinics. The next step will include courses to give them the necessary knowledge and skills to reduce preg-

nancy and delivery complications, as well as about transferring mothers to hospitals for further health care when necessary.

Amran midwife Za'afan Saleh Al-Haddi says this most recent course was a source of encouragement for her and her fellow midwives because it equipped them to run their own clinics and receive income on the one hand, while offering better health services in the field of midwifery on the other.

"Although I am a midwife, I had no idea how to create plans or strategies to be conducted in the field of midwifery because no one was concerned about this. However, through this course, I learned a lot about surveilling a target area and coming up with statistics on pregnant mothers, those who are vaccinated and also those doing family planning. Such data helps me to determine their needs and follow up those mothers in need of health care," she explains.

Dr. Abdurabbu Muftah, general director of Marib's Health Office, says pregnant women living in remote districts of these governorates suffer much while traveling from their districts to hospitals to receive necessary health services during pregnancy and delivery.

"These trained midwives will offer services in these districts so mothers won't have to travel from their districts to city hospitals, except for those requiring greater care or surgery," he says, noting, "These midwives will offer better services because they'll be working within their own communities where they live."

Yasmin Mohammed Al-Yareemi, a midwife and trainee in the course, notes that she's benefited from the course by receiving necessary information about organizing and operating a clinic, as well as creating plans to survey a certain area to determine mothers' health situations and needs. Regardless of this training, mid-

wives in Yemen still face many problems concerning training and qualification. "We have only a diploma in midwifery. We can't pursue higher studies because there's no such system in Yemeni universities," Al-Yareemi says.

She continues, "We hear that a new midwifery department soon will open at Sana'a University to be taught for four years, after which its graduates will have a bachelor's degree in midwifery; however, instruction will be in English, so we won't be able to study in this department because we first must study English, as we studied for the midwifery diploma in Arabic at the institute."

As noted previously, apart from sponsoring the midwives training course, USAID also is providing them financial support to establish their own clinics, according to Amin Ismail Naji, an engineer with USAID's basic health services program, noting that the amount of support will differ according to the number of rooms in a clinic.

As he explains, "Clinics consisting of three rooms will be given \$1,000 and those consisting of two rooms will be given \$800, while those consisting of only one room will be given \$600."

Naji points out that these funds are to help the midwives either establish or amend their own clinics, adding that such funding will be given to the midwives in three stages in an effort to guarantee that they use it for the intended purpose.



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Short Story

Bushra's Crisis

By: Zaid Muttee' Dammaj
Translated by: Shaker Al-Molsi

- Hello. Who's speaking?
- Uncle!
- Hi, dearest Bushra!
- My father is wondering where you'll chew qat today?

As usual, I told her the place. She always called from their neighbor's house because her father had no telephone.

Thus did my relationship with the little girl, Bushra, continue by phone. I didn't know her in person, but my familiarity with her from her voice on the telephone was almost daily, as her father would send her to ask me the qat chewing location with essentially the same friends every day.

We were a host of friends connected to each other via a harmonious cultural, literary and political bond, as well as reason, respect, unending friendship, unstoppable affection and constant eternal love. We scarcely disagreed about important issues, but even then that didn't affect our profound friendship.

Nevertheless, in the beginning, as much as possible we were reserved about exposing our political identities, even hiding it from each other for fear of sleuths and "the walls." Bushra's father was the only one whose capricious political identity we knew because he was frank and fearless, so perhaps he was affecting us in that way.

However, his audacious stubbornness sometimes hurt us and we'd become angry with him whenever he mistook our advice. While his newspaper and magazine writings weren't undeserving of a bit of criticism, it was no business of ours.

He'd been subjected to several random campaigns by semi-fundamentalist scholars and mediocre thinkers, researchers and academics. He used to call them "local Europeans," or sometimes, when angry, "colonial Orientalists."

- Hello!
- Yes?
- Good morning, uncle.
- Welcome, you wisest and cutest girl in the world!
- Thank you, uncle, for this flattery. I don't want to trouble you, but my father wants to know your chewing place today.

As he sat opposite me at our usual qat chewing location, I pondered deeply about him, watching as he shouted, raising his right hand and then lowering his left. Sometimes, he nearly even stood up, with his chest out and, as usual, laughing invariably after each statement to mask his skewed logic.

The other qat chewers were excited, exerting themselves in an effort to stop him so they could talk and explain things to him, but to no avail, as his voice often became even louder as he asserted his often more feeble illogical arguments!

He glanced at me from time to time because I was the only one silent. He felt my agony at his relentless controversy, which, as my countenance displayed, I deemed unpalatable. He then would remain silent for a few seconds, giving my friends a chance to express their opinions in opposition to his.

- Hello, uncle!
- Yes, my clever darling. Why is your voice weak?

She paused and sighed.

- My father asks where is today's chewing location?

I don't know why, but I felt that she was writhing under some sort of pain, so I asked,

- How is he? Is he tired?
- She was late in replying before saying, "It seems so."
- Is he sick?
- No.
- Has anything bad happened?
- No.
- What's happened, little darling? Ease my mind.
- He returned yesterday in pain. He didn't write like usual, instead plunging into a discussion with my mother about "necessaries," as she said, and then going to bed earlier than ever.
- Is that everything, my dear?
- There's nothing else; I just didn't want to tell you.
- I know, just as I know he'll overcome it as usual.

She sighed.

- I know that, uncle.

- Your father is a hero.
- I know that, uncle; he's always a hero.

He greeted us collectively and then sat opposite me, beginning to talk right away while looking at me.

- All of you are flatterers to the extent of exaggerating common sense issues that hardly require interpreting. All of you are against democracy and for dictatorship and intellectual terrorism, dreaming of a fair tyrant and slaughterer who will unite our homeland through blood, not democracy!

He stared at me reflectively and found me frowning painfully at the aggressiveness with which he'd inaugurated our qat session, while all were engrossed in listening to news of the crisis on their small handheld radios.

Some responded to him quietly and some with more tension in their voices, while others responded with a bit of toughness. However, remembering Bushra's words on the telephone, I remained silent, never uttering a word throughout the entire session.

I was waiting restlessly when the telephone rang as usual. I grabbed the receiver anxiously, not waiting for the second ring.

- Uncle?
- Yes, Bushra?
- Without allowing me the chance to inquire about her father, she asked, "Uncle, which birds do you like?"

I wondered at her unexpected question. I paused awhile before answering her question, which had made me suspicious because I didn't really remember my favorite birds or those I'd liked since my childhood days in the village up until today. However, I smiled impulsively and replied with convincing hesitancy,

- I like sparrows...and colorful birds...and nightingales...and turtle-doves.
- Just those, uncle?
- I was at a loss and nearly laughed at the notion of saying "crows, kites and Egyptian vultures," but I remembered the names of birds that might please her, as I added,

- Penguins...swans...ducks...and parrots.
- So you like only these birds, uncle?

Without awaiting my response, she continued,

- I admire eagles...and falcons – and oh, I love the Suspenseful Falcon!

I almost laughed, but I was extremely curious, as I said,

- I've never heard of a "Suspenseful Falcon."

- How come, uncle?
- Maybe do you mean the Sad Heron?
- I awaited her answer for some time, believing her to be astonished. She then asked with surprise,

- Is there such a bird as a Sad Heron?
- Yes.
- Why is it sad, uncle?
- It's like the suspense of that favorite falcon you admire!

She laughed, but asked me entreatingly,

- For God's sake, why is your bird sad?

I expounded to her what I knew about the Sad Heron, remembering much old information as she skillfully unearthed it. I then surprised her with a question.

- Why are you so happy today?
- With a laugh, she answered,
- My father returned home proudly yesterday. I saw him caress my mother merrily and tenderly, his arms moving up and down. Hugging her in his arms for the first time, they twirled around twice until they were nearly dizzy. He then went to his room to read and write, as was his second nature.
- I was indeed glad about that, as I asked with a laugh,
- Any other statements?
- She laughed and said,
- Oh, my father always utters this to us as he leaves home every morning. You didn't tell me, uncle, where you'll chew today...

Thus, he dove into our qat chew with a smile, greeting us almost laughingly; however, we paid him no attention, some doing so deliberately. Some held transistor radios in their hands as they surfed the world's radio broadcasts. News of the crisis had developed for the worse.

The radios were switched off and we started chewing qat. All of us were silent, but he barked as usual,



- Didn't I tell you? What's the justification for this silly adventure?

We didn't answer him, so he continued,

- It's a conspiracy against our homeland!

Receiving no response from anyone, it was a chance for him to express what he wanted, just the way he liked it.

- Enough of this farce! I swear by God that what you've written about our history is empty and false! What you've chronicled in your articles is bullshit and foolish randomness, if your opinion of the crisis we're experiencing is so superficial!

Being excited, one friend suddenly declared,

- From here on, I'll never attend a qat chew where you're present, so long as you persist in this annoying sadistic style!

Likewise, harsh words came at him from the rest of my friends in semi-unanimity.

The telephone remained the only connection between me and Bushra concerning the qat chewing location. The crisis exacerbated gradually, nerves were set on edge and thinking was inconsistent. International and local media coverage was deceptive, misleading and unstable, which drove all of us into confusion, frustration and despair.

- Yes?
- My father asks where you're chewing today.

I thought her voice indicated that she was unwell and suffering pain.

- Why is your voice unusually sad and anxious, dear daughter?

- Oh, just tell me where your damned qat chew will be today?!

At the peak of the crisis in its last days, my friends were irritated by his presence at our qat chews and his enthusiasm against our opinions.

The situation became unbearable due to his presence, although all of us told him the crisis had become a national issue, a matter of life and death for our nation, and that it was unjustifiable to repeat his incredibly boring remarks about democracy, dictatorship and a fair tyrant.

At one of our sessions, I was surprised when most of my friends blamed me for the fact that he found out the location of our qat chews through me, whereas the rest had been lying to him about its location.

That night, I stayed up until dawn grappling with my conscience and my soul. Should I lie to her like my other friends did? Even though I'm one who strongly believes that lying is an unforgivable crime, even if it's meant to prevent calamity.

- Hello...
- Yes?
- Where's your chewing location today, uncle?

I'd never experienced a situation as embarrassing as this one. I searched for a cigarette to light, hoping it would soothe my tension, but couldn't find one. I felt her breaths in the telephone receiver as she awaited my response.

- I'm sorry, my darling, I've been sick and languid since early morning.
- I wish you a speedy recovery. So, where will you chew?
- I don't know...maybe in the east of the city...or in the west; perhaps in the south or in...

I abruptly hung up before I had stopped talking.

I arrived unusually late to that afternoon's qat chew, pensive and upset, but not because of the sorrowful developments concerning the national crisis. I

neither said hello, nor looked at my friends' faces. Despite their attempts to draw me from my utter speechlessness, I refused to exchange small talk or smile at them.

- Hello?
- Yes...oh...

Her voice was sad, trying hard to hide her sobbing tension and forcing her voice to be strong to overcome her mental agonizing weakness and disappointment.

She said carefully,

- I never expected that you would lie to me like others did because I knew you through your voice. Thank God, I never knew you by face!

- Listen to me, daughter... She interrupted me.

- My father is great, my father is respectful, my father is noble, my father is honest

and my father is patriotic. My father is a hero and a struggler...a great intellectual and historian...

I tried to interrupt her, but she gave me no chance, continuing,

- My father doesn't need to sit or chew with you because he's greater than you!

She hung up, her excited breaths stinging my ear.

I waited beside the phone for several days, anticipating her usual call. My tension and anxiousness were observable to my wife and children. Pensiveness and tension accompanied me daily, both with my friends and at home as well.

Days passed and missing his counter-arguments at our qat chews, our topics of conversation became repeated and hackneyed. We missed him indeed. We missed his mulishness, his shouting and his provocation because he used to stir up controversy at our sessions and excite our emotions. While indisputably, he may have been wrong, equally as indisputable was the fact that he was goodhearted. We may be bothered by his

presence, but likewise, we missed him if he was absent.

I was extremely delighted to see during some of our more recent qat chews that my friends were asking about him, wondering where he was, inquiring about his home address, his neighbor's phone number and our contact medium, his daughter Bushra.

My qat chewing mates unanimously believed it necessary to look for him, being convinced about finding him and having him attend our permanent chewing location and being among us with both his good and his evil points.

Thus, my fellow chewers assigned me to search for him and bring him back to our specified chewing place. I was happy with this assignment. Being unfamiliar with his address, I was told that his home might be in the new Al-Nahdain residential city, where he was lucky enough to get a home after much toil and a lengthy wait.

I became exhausted trying to find his home in Al-Nahdain city. I wanted to find him early in order to attend my mates' qat chew promptly. I finally found it, whereupon I rang the doorbell and waited, not anxious about meeting him, but rather at seeing the girl, Bushra, for the first time. I was certain it would be she and nobody else who would open the gate.

I rang the bell again, hearing light footsteps approach from inside.

- Who is it?
- Me!

The gate opened very slightly for a careful view. Although I don't know why, I eagerly asked,

- Bushra?

She retreated a little, managing to lessen the gate's opening, and looked at me. I thought surely she knew me by my voice – that was definite.

- What do you want?
- I want to see your father.
- What do you want with him? He's busy reading and writing. He doesn't want to see anybody.
- Tell him that uncle wishes to see

him.

- All of my uncles are in the village and I know them.
- My dear daughter, I'm sure you know me. Maybe I'm now the "Suspenseful Falcon" or the "Sad Heron!"

She opened the door and turned her face from me after pointing out her father's whereabouts. I tried to hug and kiss her, but she shied away like a rebellious little dear.

I entered. He was seated, leaning sideways on a madka with trimmed qat in front of him, a cigarette in his mouth and writing on some papers in his hand. Before him was a cluster of both old and new history books, references and pictures. Seeing me, he rose to his feet to welcome me with a smiling face. He seemed astonished at my arrival, as he hadn't anticipated my coming for it was the first time I had come to know his home.

I didn't talk much and he didn't delay going outside with me to the yard, where I was anxious to see Bushra. She was beneath a grapevine, playing with some pebbles in her hands. She looked at me askance, as though she was "suspenseful" or "sad," but perhaps she just didn't want her father to go out with me.

We headed for the gate, which Bushra had to come forth to close behind us.

He walked alongside me as I watched her. Not shutting the gate completely, she left a slight crack from which to look out. She watched me reflectively, to which I returned looks filled with love and affection.

Little by little, she began to smile, until her smiles burst into merry laughter. I waved to her with both of my hands, as did her father. She in turn received our greetings with both of her hands as her countenance was nearly engulfed by mirth.

Zaid Muttee' Dammaj (1943-2000) is Yemen's foremost novelist and short story writer, having authored Yemen's most famous novel, "The Hostage."

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CONSULTANCY

Within the Social Fund for Development support of the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labor in developing the National Strategy of disability, SFD wishes to engage the temporary services of a consultant in disability for six to eight months.

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- 5- Excellent skills of verbal and written English and Arabic.
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