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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Community comes together for early marriage victims

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 10 — Around 80 people gathered last Thursday at Yemen Times' offices to celebrate Nojoud, Arwa and Reem: the three Yemeni girls who sought their freedom from unjust marriages. Members of the Parliament, businessmen, social figures, lawyers, journalists, human rights activists and representatives of the foreign community in Yemen shared their joy with Nojoud and Arwa for their escape from these marriages. However, Reem, who is 12 years old, has yet to get a divorce from a husband.

The guests sang happy birthday for the girls as a symbol of their new

beginnings. Following the singing, the girls cut a large cake that came as a gift from the Universal Group. Some of the attendees presented gifts to the girls who were delighted at the kind gestures.

While the girls were having fun at the Yemeni Equestrian Club, the remaining attendees discussed early marriage as a phenomenon in Yemen and debated different ways to deal with it. Although no one specific answer came about from the discussion, everyone agreed to participate each in their own capabilities to help such victims and prevent more early marriages from happening.

The main highlights of the discus-

sion were the need for a legislation that defines a minimum age for marriage, community awareness to help a cultural change and creating facilities to shelter girls who had run away from such marriages.

It was mentioned however, that there had been enormous efforts ongoing for the past seven years on this issue, and that members of the Parliament and powerful religious leaders had shown some positive changes towards helping stop early marriage, which is very crucial because the legislative proposals for defining a minimum age for marriage are to be forwarded to the Parliament for discussion in the coming months.



Nojoud (right), Reem (center) and Arwa smile at each other while exploring the piles of presents they received.

## Government denies authenticity of ICRC's scores war aftermath

By: Yemen Times Staff

SA'ADA, Aug. 10 — An official source in the Sa'ada governorate's local authority denied the authenticity of a statement released by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Friday the 8th, which claimed that thousands of displaced residents are still living in tents in various areas around the region as a result of previous fighting between the Yemeni army and Houthi supporters.

The source told Al-Sahwa.net that most of the civilians who were forced to flee their homes as a result of the bloody clashes in Sa'ada have returned home following President Ali Abdullah Saleh's declaration that "military operations in Sa'ada are over."

"There are only a small number of displaced citizens, who are still waiting for safety measures to ensure their safe homecoming," reported Al-Sahwa.net.

Other sources indicated that the relevant government agencies have been expending much effort to ensure and facilitate the homecoming of displaced residents since military operations ceased. They added that these agencies are providing relief aid and necessities for those who are still living in temporary encampments.

According to the sources, the Sa'ada local authorities are providing facilities to any humanitarian organization with a desire to help. The groups are specifically working to provide aid and shelter for those residents affected by the war. "These humanitarian organizations include ICRC, which sorrowfully exaggerated the number of displaced residents as a result of the fighting," the source said.

On Friday, ICRC released a statement that said that its aid workers faced difficulty in reaching needy people uprooted by the conflict in northern Yemen. "Insecurity and fierce fighting in the northern governorates of Yemen have had a dramatic effect on the civilian population in recent months, forcing more people to flee the area," said the statement.

The ICRC estimated that 15,500 displaced people are living in difficult condi-

tions in camps near Sa'ada city, and that thousands more are scattered around hard-to-access areas.

"The lack of clean water and medical care is particularly serious for the displaced, the sick, the wounded, and isolated communities," the ICRC said, warning that safety issues were preventing its workers from responding to humanitarian needs.

"Except in Sa'ada city and its immediate vicinity, it remains difficult or impos-

sible for the ICRC to operate in the conflict zones of northern Yemen," said the ICRC's statement.

To respond to the increasing needs of more than 100,000 people directly affected by the conflict, in May 2008, the ICRC appealed for additional funds to step up the provision of food, water, shelter, essential household items and medical care in all areas of Sa'ada governorate.

However, the security situation has often prevented the ICRC from respond-

ing to the most urgent humanitarian needs in a timely and adequate manner. Working closely with the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS), the ICRC has so far only provided basic emergency assistance, mainly to displaced persons in camps close to the city.

**Houthis agree to end clashes**

Last Friday, the Yemeni government and Houthi supporters reached an agreement to end the ongoing fighting between both sides. The Houthis' field leader, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, in a letter to the government, announced plans to adhere to the peace deal.

In the letter, first reported by the 26September.net, the news source affiliated with the Yemeni Army, Al-Houthi said he was "committed to the 10 points set out by President Saleh for an end to fighting."

Addressed to Saleh, the letter formally ends the long-running conflict in which more than 4,000 people have been killed

in the country's northwestern Sa'ada province, in surrounding governorates and in Bani Hushaish, a tribal region outside of Sana'a city.

The plan established a cease-fire and mandates that Houthi followers must disarm themselves, among other stipulations.

**Women protest against detention of male relatives**

Dozens of women whose husbands, sons, fathers, brothers or relatives were detained over alleged connections to Abdulmalik Al-Houthi during his fight with the army, protested in front of the Presidential Palace against continued detention of their relatives.

During the sit-in that took place during last weekend, the female protesters recited verses from the Holy Quran. They exchanged accusations and quarreled with the Republican Guard Members in charge of safeguarding the Presidential Palace.

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## Yemen-Palestine agreement to establish joint economic committee



Yemeni President receives the Palestinian Delegation.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 10 — The Yemeni government and the Palestinian Authority signed a memorandum of understanding concerned with establishing a ministerial committee for economic and technical cooperation between the two sides yesterday.

A Palestinian official delegation headed by Salam Fayyadh, Prime Minister of the Interim Government, visited Yemen this past Friday and discussed preparations with President Ali Abdullah Saleh for forming a Palestinian agreed-upon government as well as ensuring the future cooperation between Yemen and Palestine in different fields.

Yemeni Minister of Trade and Industry, Yahya Al-Mutawakel, considered the memorandum "a first step to put forth agendas and programs of the joint committee for the upcoming phase in different economic, technical and commercial fields." Al-Mutawakel also said that the memorandum included cooperation in the field of education as well as "executing the memorandum of commercial collaboration with relation to establishing a joint business board between the two sides."

Al-Mutawakel told the state-run Saba News Agency that the two sides

discussed encouraging Palestinian products on the Yemeni market through establishing a permanent showplace for Palestinian products in Sana'a.

The Palestinian Minister of the National Economy, Labor and Telecommunications, Kamal Hassona, said that there was a memorandum containing the outlines of a joint project in the economic and commercial fields, noting that the memorandum will contribute to promoting the interests of the two countries.

Salam Fayyadh has already said that his dealings with President Saleh focused on the preparations for a transitional government outside of the Palestinian factions to be concerned with running the state's affairs for a transitional stage in preparation for legislative and presidential elections.

He maintained that after preparations are carried out, Palestinian factions will resume dialogue based on the Yemeni initiative.

President Saleh called to accelerate efforts that aim to unite the Palestinian factions and bypass all disagreements between the Fatah and Hamas parties.

The spokesman for the Hamas office in Sana'a valued the role of the Yemeni leadership in supporting the Palestinian issue, adding that, "we learned from

Yemen that we should stand together with all the stakeholders."

Yemen has already offered an initiative this past March to patch up the disagreement between the rival Fatah and Hamas parties vying for power in the occupied territories. This initiative resulted in the agreement of the two movements on what came to be called "the Sana'a declaration" but the terms of the declaration were not carried out due to incessant disagreement between the two parties.

The initiative includes seven terms, the most outstanding of which is the restoration of Gaza to its state prior to June 2007. The initiatives also include conducting early elections and resuming dialogue between Hamas and Fatah based on the Cairo and Mecca agreements of 2005.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, discussed conducting national dialogue in light of the Yemeni initiative with Saleh this past June in order to patch up the disagreement. A Hamas delegation also visited Yemen, headed by Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' Political Office, last month in order to inform the Yemeni leadership of "the efforts exerted toward dialogue and achieving reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah according to the Yemeni initiative.

## A security patrol in Al-Mukalla was subject to grenades Hadhramout governor describes the attack "a terrorist act"

By: Aqeel Al-Halali  
For the Yemen Times

AL-MUKALLA, Aug. 8 — A security patrol station in Hadramout governorate's Al-Mukalla city was subjected to a grenade attack last Thursday by an anonymous group. The attack came after six days after an Al-Qaeda-claimed attack killed and injured people near the public security premises in Sayoun city.

While official statements said that a stun grenade exploded under Al-Mukalla bridge without any human damage, bystanders said that unknown men came on a vehicle and "threw a hand grenade into a security patrol station guarding the sea bridge in the city."

Salim Al-Khanbashi, the governor of Hadramout, confirmed in a phone call to the Yemen Times that the attack that he described as a "terrorist act" resulted in no human or material damage, pointing out that security investigations are on track to identify the attackers.

Al-Khanbashi didn't point fingers at Al-Qaeda or any other group. However, he maintained that the attackers are experienced. "We are still conducting investigations. Therefore, we cannot accuse any group of carrying out the attack as we have no proof," said Al-Khanbashi adding "We can say, however, that those who stand behind this attack have experience in executing terrorist acts."

Al-Qaeda organization, which claimed responsibility for the previous Sayoun attack on a security facility,

has already pledged to carry out larger armed explosives attacks unless the government releases Al-Qaeda followers detained in prison here in Yemen.

Al-Khanbashi said that Al-Qaeda moved activities to Hadramout governorate, which is the largest Yemeni governorate and confirmed that the governorate's leadership "has put in place a security plan to repel any terrorist acts."

"Security apparatuses in the governorate should be provided with more personnel and new techniques in order to carry out the plan successfully," said Al-Khanbashi.

Al-Qaeda had already targeted four security patrols in Hadramout in December, 2007 and this past April. The attacks resulted in the death of a soldier and 13 others injured.

Observers say that Al-Qaeda cells are active in Hadramout due to its isolated location, which is similar to Afghanistan, in addition to logistic support they receive from some tribes in the area.

In another event, a Yemeni driver was killed while serving in a construction company in charge of construction works for the Yemeni Natural Liquefied Gas (YNLG) Company in Balhaf region of Shabwa governorate, located 474 kilometers to the East of Sana'a.

The company's public relations manager, Khalid Eshaq, told the Yemen Times that investigations are on track to discover the causes of the event that took place some 80 kilometers to the west Balhaf liquefying gas station.

Eshaq pointed out that unknown

group open fired on the car and killed the driver who was from Shabwa. He denied that the event occurred due to problems between the company and the residents.

The French-owned Total Oil Company is considered the major partner in the Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas company with a holding of 36 percent. It is also in charge of the project's administration.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement last month to all its citizens in Yemen to be on alert as a precaution against kidnapping and terrorist attacks against foreigners.

This past March, Shabwa governorate's Osailan district witnessed confrontations between the army and residents who surrounded M. X. P. HOOK company, who was in charge of extending the company's gas pipelines from Marib through Balhaf.

In addition, 11 people were killed including five soldiers last November in confrontations between the security forces and armed residents who tried to break into the company's location in Osailan.

This past March, the Yemeni Government formed a committee to coordinating with the local authority in Shabwa and the YLNG project to solve the Yemeni people's employment problems with the oil companies carrying out the gas project. The government confirmed that strict procedures would be taken against oil companies working in Yemen if they are not cooperative in employing Yemenis in their projects.

## As his health deteriorates, NGOs calls for the release of Lu'ai Al-Muayyad

By: Jamal Al-Najjar

SANA'A, Aug. 7 — Thirty local and international human rights organizations sent a message last Thursday to President Ali Abdullah Saleh requesting that human rights activist Lu'ai Abdul Wahab Al-Muayyad, a member of the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, be released from prison because his health is feared to be deteriorating.

Lu'ai Al-Muayyad, 27, has been in an unknown prison since this past June 30 when he was secretly detained by security apparatuses in front of his house in Sana'a on the background of Sa'ada war between the Yemeni Army and Houthis.

In their message, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) revealed that Al-Muayyad is suffering from liver disease and lack of medication brought on by hepatitis B according to medical reports.

"He is in poor condition, especially since he was detained, and his family doesn't know where he is imprisoned and how to provide him with medicine," said the letter.

"Our concerns are increasing about Lu'ai particularly after many prisoners and detainees have died in prison, according to local reports. [These include people] such as Hashim Hajar who died in September 30, 2007 inside the Central Jail when the court refused to send him to the hospital despite medical reports confirming his health condition was poor due to liver disease," said the message.

The NGOs also maintained that Hajar's death was condemned by human rights organizations including



Lu'ai Al-Muayyad

International Forgiveness Organization, which demanded that an urgent, comprehensive and independent investigation should be conducted into his death and immediate procedures be taken to guarantee the other detainees receive proper medication.

The message said that Lu'ai Al-Muayyad will imminently face a similar tragedy unless he gets treatment. The organizations also condemned "the insistence of security apparatuses to detain Lu'ai although the war in Sa'ada has stopped and his health condition is serious." The letter pleaded with President Saleh to "end the secret detention of Lu'ai and release him immediately as well as direct security apparatuses to abide by the law when detaining anyone suspected of being involved in illegal acts."

The various organizations' collective message came after the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms issued a press release on July 20 warning that Al-Muayyad's health condition is deteriorating due to hepatitis B. The press released said that

Al-Muayyad's health condition was bad even while leading his normal life with his family. "His condition is worse in detention as security apparatuses have prevented him from accessing any medication," said the statement. It also called for local and international organizations concerned with human rights to intervene and put pressure on the Yemeni government to release Al-Muayyad. Attached to the press release were copies of Al-Muayyad's medical reports that confirmed his health condition is serious.

According to Ali Al-Dailami, director of the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, Al-Muayyad was detained in front of his house in Sana'a by security men. "At about 11 a.m., a central security vehicle accompanied by men in plain-clothes believed to be from the political security apparatus came to Lu'ai's house and first detained his younger brother, Nizar," said Al-Dailami, adding "They kept Nizar for a while and sent him home to tell Lu'ai that security men needed to ask him about someone they were looking for. When Lu'ai arrived, security men took him to an unknown place and came back to his house at night to take his laptop and medicine, telling his brother that they need Lu'ai for a day or two."

Al-Dailami said that he thinks the reason for Lu'ai Al-Muayyad's detention was because either his family is descended from the Hashemite clan or they are affiliated with Zaidi sect. Al-Dailami said that he figured this out from hearing complaints that the organization received from families of secret detainees, including Al-Muayyad's family.

## The first of its kind in the country, the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies is inaugurated in Sana'a

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 7 — The Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies was officially inaugurated in Sana'a last Thursday, and is considered the first private accredited institution in Yemen to teach students from all over the world about the Middle East and its issues.

Sabri Ahmed Saleem, President of the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies, or YCMES, maintained that the college will focus on its instruction of contemporary history of the Middle East region, a field that is rarely taught in the European and American universities, which focus more on the history before World War I. "While the study of the region's pre-history and pre-modern history, i.e., pre-Islamic, early Islamic and medieval Islamic periods, is often well served at European and U.S. universities, study of the contemporary Middle East is often underrepresented at these institutions," said Saleem, adding "To

offset this balance, the college's curriculum focuses on the study of the contemporary Middle East, with historical courses offered to students who feel the need for such background."

According to Saleem, the college underwent two establishment phases. The first phase was represented by the Yemen Language Center, established in 1989 to teach the Arabic language to foreigners such as students from Europe, North America and Asia. The second phase was the more recent establishment of the Program in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies. The instruction in the college will be delivered in both Arabic and English, with the Arabic language highlighted.

In his speech delivered at the inauguration ceremony, the Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, maintained that the college is expected to be a forum for dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures in order to show a real image of the Arab world and the reasons behind

conflicts in the region. "We expect that this project will be a new bridge for cultures," said Al-Qirbi. "A lot of conflicts in the Middle East are a result of wrong readings of the events. Through such college, we really can understand each other, even though we don't have to think the same way."

Al-Qirbi pointed out that the college will help display the real image of the Yemen to the rest of the world, noting that nowadays, people look at Yemen through a lens of terror, though this is not true. "Foreigners hear in their countries that Yemen is not a safe country but when they come and live with the Yemeni people, they discover the opposite," he said, adding that the warnings that some countries issue to their citizens against traveling to Yemen only serve terrorism and terrorists. He said that terrorism is a global problem and all efforts should come together to fight it. He maintained that dialogue between cultures is a means of fighting terror — not travel warnings.

## World Bank prepares giant water project in Yemen worth \$ 360 million

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Aug. 10 — The World Bank's Officer of Rural Development, Water and Environment in Sana'a, Naji Abu Hatem, said that the World Bank is preparing a large project to dealing with the water sector in Yemen for the cost of US \$360 million

In a statement to the state-run Saba News Agency, Abu Hatem made it clear that the World Bank will contribute US\$ 90 million to the project with additional contributions from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany.

Hatem, who recently participated in the Expo Zaragoza water show currently being held in Spain, has warned of the dangerous water situations in Yemen due to the continuously high population growth and the absence of social enlightenment on the importance of water and how to manage and conserve it.

"Despite techniques and expertise

Yemen learned throughout its history in dealing with water, the country has followed up on unstudied policies since 1970s such as transforming Marib Dam into storage dam, a matter that resulted people only benefited from nine percent of the water," said Abu Hatem.

He said that the World Bank is currently running five projects in the water sector. There is a drinking water project in urban areas to help supply 11 cities with drinking water, which costs US \$150 million, a project to improve irrigation in its initial phases in Zabid and Tuban for US \$21 million, an irrigation project in rural areas with the cost of US \$40 million, a Sana'a-based project costing US \$20 million and a project to organize ground water covers in 15 separate governorates for the cost of US \$65 million.

Most of the Yemeni governorates, namely Taiz and Sana'a, have suffered from water shortage problems since the 1990s and most of their residents depend on water tanks carried on

vehicles, a costly practice to cover their water needs.

Abu Hatem attributed Yemen's water problems to bad practices like qat farming, which wastes large quantities of water and random well drillings that either consume or degrade ground water. Abu Hatem added that he was counting on all farmers to help the country protect its ground water.

In 1997, a study made by Dutch experts in Yemen said that the country is in dire need of water and that the government might have to consider using oil revenues to treat sea water and provide people in all the governorates suffering from this problem with clean and drinkable water.

The government has worked on building many dams throughout various governorates to help protect the precious little ground water left and has cracked down on random well drilling in the Sana'a governorate as well.



In brief

ADEN

India intends to invest in Aden Free Zone

Deputy Chairman of the Public Authority for Free Zone Abdul Jalil al-Shoabi discussed here on Saturday with the Indian ambassador to Sana'a R.M. Aggarwal aspects of investment cooperation between Yemen and Indian. During the meeting, al-Shoabi affirmed Yemen's desire to attract Indian investors to invest in the industrial zone in the Aden Free Zone.

The Indian diplomat was briefed on the current activities of the investment project in the free zone in various industrial sectors. He expressed his satisfaction with the latest investment development in free zone.

He also invited chairman of Aden Free Zone to visit Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India to hold talks with a number of Indian investors, particularly in the Aden Free Zone, and affirmed his country's keenness to deepen cooperation and friendship and exchange economic delegations between both countries.

Yemeni, Indian investment cooperation discussed

Governor of Aden Adnan al-Jafri held Saturday talks on Saturday with the Indian ambassador to Sana'a R.M. Aggarwal on the development of bilateral cooperation between the two sides in the domain of investment, particularly in the area of hotel, tourism and scientific research.

During the meeting, governor pointed out to the investment opportunities in Yemen, in general, and the province of Aden, in particular, highlighting the facilities and guarantees of Yemeni Investment Law.

For his part, the Indian diplomat affirmed his country's keenness to strengthen aspects of mutual cooperation with Yemen in various fields, particularly in the investment area.

MAHRAH

CBY opens new branch in Mahrah Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) is going to open on Sunday a new branch in Serfit outlet in Mahrah province. The general director of CBY's branch in Mahrah Mohammed al-Akimi told

Saba that the opening of the new branch came to cover the growing economic and commercial activities in the outlet.

He noted that the bank has opened a branch in the custom Shahn outlet, hailing efforts of the bank's leadership in updating the performance mechanism of the bank in the different governorates.

TAIZ

Situations of African refugees coming to Taiz discussed

Governor of Taiz Hamoud Assoufi discussed on Saturday with delegation of the UN Refugees Agency headed by Aden agency's office director situations of African refugees coming to governorate's coasts.

The meeting dealt with importance of providing food and health care to the refugees and establishing reception station for registering them and giving them necessary requirements in coordination with the Yemeni Red Crescent in the governorate and then transporting them to Kharaz Refugees Camp in Lahj province.

SANA'A

Yemen, WB to implement Taiz Flood Protection Project

Yemen and World Bank (WB) reviewed here on Saturday current preparations for implementing the additional stage of the Taiz Municipal Development and Flood Protection Project.

Minister of Public Works and Roads Omar al-Kurshomi held talks with the WB's delegation headed by Sameh Wahba, who is currently visiting Yemen, on implementation progress of the WB-funded projects in the country.

The meeting also talked about the Taiz Municipal Development and Flood Protection Project that its additional stage would be initiated in the current month within the second stage of the project that costs \$ 22 million financed by WB with a governmental contribution amounting ten percent.

The meeting highlighted the great success the project has realized so far and its importance to serve the governorate's citizens and improve its appearance as well as the importance of carrying out the technical study to protect Ibb city from floods.

It also discussed the future projects

that would be implemented in cooperation with WB, topped by the project of the comprehensive urban development in Sana'a and Taiz.

The minister al-Kurshomi praised the partnership relations with the WB, noting to the great attention the government pays to projects of housing, urban development for random zones.

The WB's delegation affirmed the Bnak's keenness on developing relations with the ministry, adding that 6 studies within the projects would be carried out in the coming period concerning land managements and street numbering and update the traffic.

AOT to rehabilitate several hotels in Aden and Abyan

The Arab Organization for Tourism (AOT) agreed on Saturday with the Yemen to rehabilitate several hotels in Aden and Abyan governorates within preparations of Yemen to host 20th Gulf competition by 2011.

The agreement was reached in a meeting brought together Minister of Sports and Youths Hamoud Abad, Minister of Tourism Nabil al-Faqih, Aden governor Adnan al-Jafri and the AOT delegation.

The meeting focused on current cooperation between Yemen and the organization and current arrangements for hosting the Gulf event as well as assistance offered by the organization for Yemen.

The head of the AOT delegation Bandar al-Fahd expressed readiness of the organization to set up 100 beach cabins in Aden city within coming two years in cooperation with the Yemeni government.

GOII concerns to joint Yemen as 7th member, says secretary general

Secretary General of Gulf Organization for Industrial Investments (GOII) Ahmed al-Matawa affirmed concern of the organization to join Yemen into the organization as seventh member.

In a statement to Saba upon his arrival in Sana'a International Airport, al-Matawa said that the accession of Yemen into organization would allow it to benefit from the consultations, studies and reports presented by the organization over setting up industrial projects.

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دعوة للحضور والمشاركة

بمناسبة اليوم العالمي للشباب ٢٠٠٨/٨/١٢ يتشرف منتدى الإعلاميين الشباب بالتعاون مع برنامج متطوعو الأمم المتحدة بدعوتكم للحضور والمشاركة في فعاليات اليوم المفتوح للشباب حياة أمل والذي يهدف إلى نشر مفهوم العمل الطوعي وتعزيزه في المجتمع مركز صنعاء التجاري

ورش عمل ومبادرات «العاب» عروض فنية

الثلاثاء ٢٠٠٨/٨/١٢

تبدأ الفعاليات الصباحية ١٠:٣٠ والفعاليات المسائية ٤:٣٠

An invitation to participation in the World Youth Day 12/8/2008

The youth media forum in cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers invites you to attend and participate in the activities of the open day "Youth, life, hope", which aims to spread the concept of voluntary work in the society.

12/8/2008  
Sana'a Trade Center  
From 10:30AM to 01:00PM  
& from 04:30 to 07:00

Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Water and Environment  
Taiz Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation

الجمهورية اليمنية  
وزارة المياه والبيئة  
المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي محافظة تعز

ANNOUNCEMENT

Request for Expressions of Interest  
Provision of Consultancy Services  
For tender no (24) 2008

Taiz Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation has an investment budget, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this budget to payments under the contract for the provision of Consultancy services. The Services to be provided includes the following:

Feasibility Studies for different options to Desalination of Sea water

Taiz Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation invites eligible local and regional Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned Services. Interested Consultants must provide information that they are qualified to perform the requested services (brochures, description of providing similar services). In case of regional Consultants, joint ventures or associations with local Consultants are encouraged.

A Consultant (or a joint venture/association) will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Ministry of Finance's Guidelines: Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services August 2006.

- The firm should have a specialized section in the field of desalination.
- The firm has at least 3 similar assignments during the last five years.
- The firm has at least 10 years of experience in the water supply field of which at least 5 years in the desalination field.
- The qualification of the staff to be assigned for the project should be at least of BSC and 15 years experience of which at least 5 years in the field of assignment.
- The firm should provide the address of the previous client for whom they provide services and the names and addresses of the top level managers.
- Interested Consultants may obtain further information during work time at the address below.
- Two copies of the EoI must be delivered to the address below on 10 September, 2008 at 1.00 pm (Yemen Standard Time) to the address below.
- The minimum requirements for short listing are:
  - Submission of the latest company's prospectus/profile (with attachments, if necessary),
  - Description of / References from previous and ongoing similar assignments.

The Address  
Director General  
Taiz Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation  
Taiz , , Republic of Yemen  
Tel: 967 4230774 Fax: 967 4 222628  
E-mail: twslc@yemen.net.ye

Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Water and Environment  
Taiz Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation

الجمهورية اليمنية  
وزارة المياه والبيئة  
المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي محافظة تعز

ANNOUNCEMENT

Request for Expressions of Interest  
Provision of Consultancy Services  
For tender no (32) 2008

Taiz Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation has an investment budget, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this budget to payments under the contract for the provision of Consultancy services. The Services to be provided includes the following :

Detail Engineering Design and Tender Documents for Water Harvesting structures

Taiz Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation invites eligible local and regional Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned Services. Interested Consultants must provide information that they are qualified to perform the requested services (brochures, description of providing similar services). In case of regional Consultants, joint ventures or associations with local Consultants are encouraged.

A Consultant (or a joint venture/association) will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Ministry of Finance's Guidelines: Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services August 2006.

- The firm should have a specialized section in the field of harvesting/hydraulic structures/water resource studies .
- The firm has at least 3 similar assignments during the last five years.
- The firm has at least 10 years of experience in the water supply field of which at least 5 years in the harvesting field.
- The qualification of the staff to be assigned for the project should be at least of BSC and 15 years experience of which at least 5 years in the field of assignment.
- The firm should provide the address of the previous client for whom they provide services and the names and addresses of the top level managers.
- Interested Consultants may obtain further information during work time at the address below.
- Two copies of the EoI must be delivered to the address below on 10 September , 2008 at 1.00 pm (Yemen Standard Time) to the address below.
- The minimum requirements for short listing are:
  - Submission of the latest company's prospectus/profile (with attachments, if necessary),
  - Description of / References from previous and ongoing similar assignments.

The Address  
Director General  
Taiz Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation  
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# Some Yemenis would do "anything to get out of here"

By: Amel Al-Ariqi  
Alia Ishaq

The immigration of Yemeni youths is affecting our nation in various ways, one of which is what's sometimes called "brain drain," as many intelligent youths leave the country hoping to find jobs with companies that will pay them what they're worth and where they can expand their existing talents.

The Yemen Times interviewed several Yemeni youths living in Canada, asking them about their lives there and any problems they face. According to them, most Yemenis are satisfied with their new lives halfway across the world, apart from personal issues such as maintaining their Yemeni identity while attempting to integrate into Western society.

Acquiring citizenship and a Canadian passport is an unquestionable desire. "Nearly all of us would like to have a Canadian passport," says Lu'ai Ishaq, a 22-year-old university student living in Canada.

He notes that although not all of his Yemeni peers would like to spend their entire lives away from home and their families, obtaining a Canadian passport would secure other options for them if things don't work out when they return to Yemen.

Even though authorities, such as Immigration passport authority, don't have statistics, a noticeable number of youths either are leaving Yemen or at least desire to do so.

"I think it's quite natural," remarks Rizqullah Sufyan, a 31-year-old Yemeni currently working in Canada. "Being a young person full of dreams and ambitions that are very difficult to fulfill in Yemen, it's understandable that people look to immigrate." Sufyan decided to remain in his new country after completing his studies at a Canadian university.

He says he decided to do this so he'll be able to achieve more when he returns to Yemen in the future. "I want to return to Yemen strong, with solid work experience, financial stability and a back-up

plan," he explained.

He adds that he believes life is easier and better in Canada in terms of security, more freedoms, more family-friendly facilities, laws and moral behavior. "The real challenge is that once I fulfill all of my goals in Canada, will I have the courage to leave the good life behind and return to Yemen? Only time will tell," Sufyan says.

According to Ishaq, lack of good job opportunities and lack of appreciation for one's qualifications made him want to leave Yemen. "I can understand why a lot of Yemenis would rather stay here in Canada," he says. "The truth is that when they return to Yemen, they're never valued for their hard work and good positions usually are given to those with connections," he adds.

Asked if some Yemenis marry Canadian women in order to obtain citizenship, Ishaq concedes that while some Yemenis do marry Canadian women, it's not always possible to tell if they're marrying simply for citizenship or for love. "Besides, there are new laws that make it much easier to become a resident, so why go to all of that trouble?" Ishaq notes.

### Unpatriotic or not?

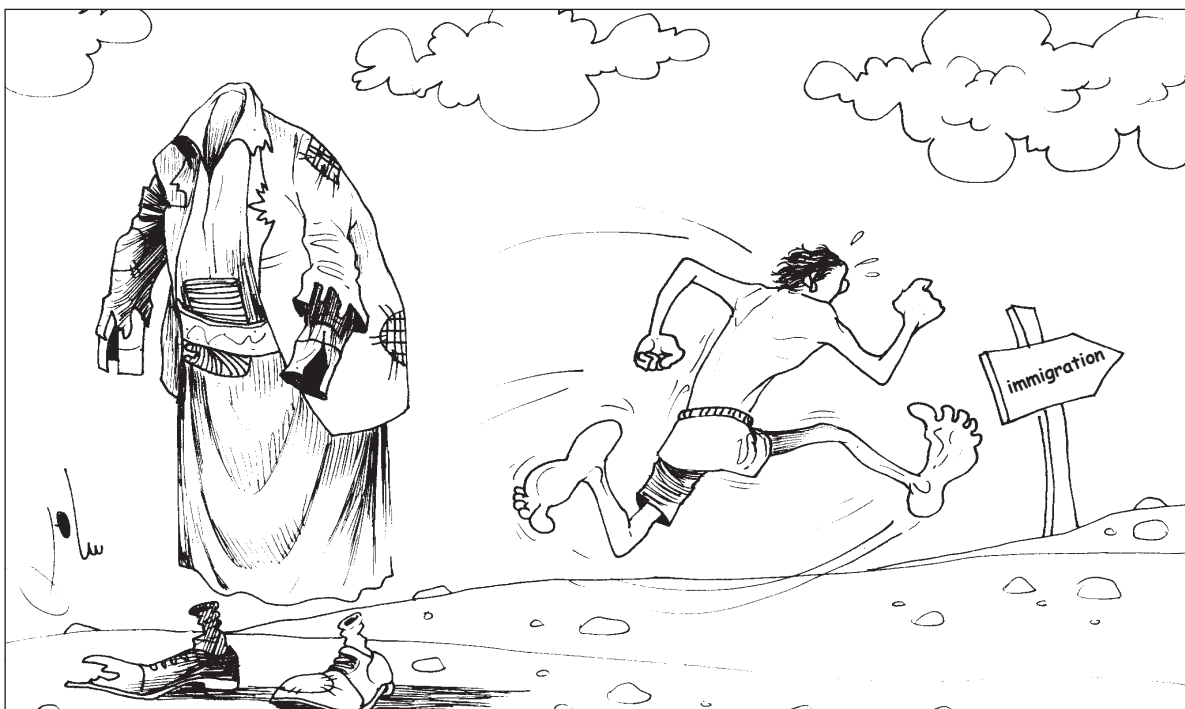
Some Yemenis feel that these intelligent youths, who have much to contribute to their society, are abandoning Yemen when they move to other countries, assuming that such youths have no love for their homeland.

However, Sufyan holds a different point of view. "The real question when it comes to patriotism is how much a person contributes to the betterment of his or her country. If he or she doesn't, then does it even matter if one lives in their native country or not?"

But to what extent is the dream of freedom and having a better life becoming an obsession for those Yemenis considering immigration as a possible solution?

"I'll do anything to get out of here," admits 33-year-old Khalid, who has a "strong will" to emigrate to a European country where he may seek asylum, or if he's lucky, obtain citizenship.

Khalid is a father of two sons working



in the marketing department of a private trading company in Sana'a. While he didn't complete university, he may be able to attain a high position within his company due to his honed communication and marketing skills.

"At first, I'm planning to go alone to a European country. Then, once I receive citizenship, my family will follow," he continued.

Although Khalid hasn't yet decided to which country he'll immigrate, he's already planning to obtain citizenship or at least claim refugee status. "First, I'll go on a tourist visa and once I arrive, I'll claim that I experience discrimination in my country and I'll appeal for humanitarian refugee status," he explains.

"So far, I haven't decided exactly what I'll tell them, but I could say that I was born a Shi'a and that when I changed my religious affiliation to Sunni, I experienced problems in my community," he added. "Or, I could say that I'm under threat from revenge killing, which is widespread in Yemen, and that the involved authorities can't protect me and my family."

Like many other young Yemeni men,

Khalid believes that whatever the situation is in his new country of choice, he'll be able to surmount any obstacle to get and stay there. "Even if I don't obtain refugee status or citizenship, I'll be fine," Khalid says, adding confidently, "These [European] countries are famous for respecting human rights, so they won't breach my rights as long as I live there."

However, Khalid's plan doesn't contain any thoughts about supporting himself in a new country where he doesn't speak the language. "I'm not worried about that too much. Because such countries have something called social insurance and medical insurance, if I become a citizen, I can enjoy this insurance even if I'm not working," he explains.

Another Yemeni man, 45-year-old business manager Qaid, has his own plan to obtain citizenship from a Scandinavian country. He plans to get there initially on a tourist visa. "I've agreed with Djibouti lady there to marry then I'll automatically receive citizenship," he says, noting that he must pay a woman he's never met more

than \$5,000 to sign the marriage contract.

"I know we must prove that we're married, since the immigration authority will investigate us. According to information I've received from my friends there, this authority will put us under intense observation and question us on very personal and private matters to ensure that we're married," Qaid explains.

"For this reason, I've decided to rent a room in her house - if she'll allow it - and then together, we can prepare ourselves for any type of questions," he says, noting that he isn't the only Yemeni man to marry a strange, anonymous woman simply to obtain citizenship.

Originally from the southern Yemeni governorate of Lahj, Qaid plans to establish a company with his friend, who also plans to obtain citizenship the same way, and then open and operate a supermarket in their new country.

Qaid sees no problem switching his career from general manager of a business to grocer, although he has no knowledge of that profession and some

may think he's taking a step down career-wise. "It would be a problem in Yemen, but there it's not. I can make more money there as a grocer than as a business manager in Yemen."

Arranging fake marriages and making false claims about discrimination and persecution aren't the only methods youths use to obtain citizenship in Western countries. Some Yemenis go above and beyond by distorting their official identification documents such as visas or anything declaring their Yemeni nationality, instead pretending that they are from war-torn regions like Sudan or Somalia by exploiting their superficial physical similarities.

Khalid recounts, "I know someone from Hadramout who said he was from Darfur and requested refugee status. He simply burned his documents and educated himself on Sudan's political, economic and geographic characteristics in order to be ready when the immigration authority questioned him and he did obtain refugee status."

Qaid and Khalid both feel confident that they can adapt to their new lifestyle, the different cultures and the mainly secular European countries. However such confidence may not last long, as many Yemenis have encountered difficulties integrating.

Fuad, 25, recently returned to Yemen from the United States after a few years of studying business at a U.S. university. He concedes that many Yemenis he met had difficulty integrating into their new society.

"I met some Yemeni men who prevented their wives from mixing with non-Yemeni women. Some even prevent their wives from leaving the house," Fuad noted, pointing out that many Yemeni families in the U.S. send their teenage sons and daughters to visit or study in Yemen for awhile in order to get in touch with the culture of their homeland.

But for men like Khalid and Qaid, who would do nearly anything - including lying, faking marriages, forging documents or pretending to be refugees - to obtain citizenship in the West, integration, finances and the living situation are of no concern. It's all about getting out.

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Fax: 967-1-469770

Re: YEMSA/HCR/ADMIN/08/0131

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2008

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
INTERNAL / EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE**

Title of Post:	<b>Public Information (PI) Assistant</b>	Entry on Duty:	<b>1st October 2008</b>
Post Number:	<b>10008196</b>	Duration:	<b>One Year</b>
Category and Level:	<b>GL6</b>	Closing Date:	<b>27th August 2008</b>
Location:	<b>Sana'a</b>		

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Under the direct supervision of the Associate Reporting Officer, in the Branch Office Sana'a, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

**Terms of reference**

1. Provide assistance to Reporting/External Relation Officer in preparation of interviews to the local media and background briefings to the international media. Keep track of evolving issues concerning displaced persons and refugees to be able to suggest stories and topics for the media to cover; monitor the daily press and keep inform the Representative, keep proactive relationship with the local media;
2. Draft briefing notes, talking points, minutes and other papers for high level meetings and visits; keep updated the fact sheet;
3. Provide daily inputs for the national website on relevant local developments and ensure that briefing materials from other offices are available; conduct interview of refugees, asylum seekers or IDPs to be published on the website on a monthly basis;
4. Accompany when appropriate visits of foreign delegations and the media to refugee sites in the region, giving appropriate briefings and commentaries;
5. Establish contacts with local organisations to promote general interest and understanding of refugee issues and UNHCR operations in Yemen;
6. Draft reports, briefings, updates, etc.;
7. Translate documents from Arabic to English and vice versa;
8. Ensure that the office is kept informed of local developments which are of vital interest;
9. Perform other duties as required.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Knowledge and Skills:** Post-secondary training in Social Science, Journalism, Humanities or related field. Communication and computer skills are required. Excellent drafting skills as well as translation and interpreting skills are very important.

**Experience:** One needs to have not less than 6 years of relevant job experience.

**Languages:** Excellent knowledge of English and Arabic. Knowledge of another UN language is an asset.

**For internal UNHCR candidates:**

Priority consideration will be given to staff members whose grades are equal or below that of the post advertised. Only candidates who have served one year in their present post will be eligible for consideration as internal candidates in connection with the vacancy. Candidates who do not meet the criteria as internal candidates can be considered as external candidates.

**For external candidates:**

If no suitable internal candidate will be found, external candidates will be considered.

**IMPORTANT:**

Applications received after the above mentioned closing date will not be considered. All applications should be sent to:

The Administration Officer,  
UNHCR BO Sana'a  
P.O. Box 12093  
Sana'a

Fax No.: + 967-1-469 770

**Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation**

**SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS  
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
CONSULTING SERVICES OF CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF  
HASSAN DAM PROJECT – ABYAN GOVERNORATE**

The Republic of Yemen has received a Loan from Government of Abu Dhabi, represented by Abu Dhabi Development Fund, and The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, intends to apply part of the budget proceeds to make payments under the contract for Consulting Services of Construction Supervision of Hassan Dam Project. The services include the supervision consultancy for:

- Package AC-01:** Hassan Dam and Appurtenant Structures and Access Road to the Dam Site  
**Package AC-02:** Construction of Irrigation works including Weir, Off-takes for Canals and related conveyance structures, roads along canal and to the weirs, access roads wadi training works.

All the construction packages are proposed to be completed within 3.5. years. The estimated period of construction of each package is given below:

- Package AC-01:** 42 months  
**Package AC-02:** 36 months

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the High Tender Board's *Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services*

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 08:00 a.m. to 14:00 p.m.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 30/08/2008.

**Dr. Eng./Yousef Ahmad Fara'a**  
**Project Manager**  
**General Directorate of Irrigation (GDI)**  
**Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation (MAI)**  
**Al Meethaq Street – Sana'a – Republic of Yemen**  
**Tel./Fax: +967-1-226462**  
**Mobile: 967-734116908**  
**E-mail: [HassanDam@yemen.net.ye](mailto:HassanDam@yemen.net.ye)**

## Tender Announcement No. 2/2008

The Maritime Affairs Authority (MAA) here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender No. (2/2008) for the construction, equipping, completing, selling and supplying a maritime tugboat that is integrated and specializing in towage, salvage and fire fighting in high seas and capable of working in all high-humidity weather conditions as well as during the summer season. The tender will be funded by a government financing approved by the government of the Republic of Yemen.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to [the MAA headquarters to buy and receive Bidding Documents for USD 1,000 non-refundable.

Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at:

**Al-Mesbahi Roundabout, Hadda Street,  
Near Yemen-German Hospital, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**  
**P.O. Box: 19395**  
**Tel: +967 1 423005 - +967 1 414412**  
**Fax: +967 1 414645**  
**E-mail: [MAA-HeadOffice@y.net.ye](mailto:MAA-HeadOffice@y.net.ye)**

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 3 September, 2008.

Bids have to be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the MAA, mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder. The following documents must also be attached to the envelope:

1. An unconditional Bank Guarantee for a lump sum of only \$150,000 (only US dollars one hundred fifty thousand) that is valid for not less than 120 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable check.
2. Valid tax certificate and a copy of VAT registration 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.)
3. 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)
4. Valid registration and classification certificate. (foreign suppliers must provide equivalent documents from their respective countries.)
5. All other documents mentioned in the Tender documents.

- These documents have to be submitted not later than 1:00pm on Wednesday 3 September 2008. Bids received after the deadline for submission will be returned unopened.
- Bid opening will be at 1:00pm on Saturday 6 September 2008.
- Bid Opening will take place at the Bids Committee Director's Office, MAA in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs prior to purchasing during working hours for a period of 27 days starting from advertisement.

## إعلان المناقصة العامة رقم (٢) لسنة ٢٠٠٨ م

تعلم الهيئة العامة للشؤون البحرية- الجمهورية اليمنية- عن رغبتها في إنزال المناقصة العامة رقم (٢) لعام ٢٠٠٨ بشأن بناء وتجهيز وإتمام وبيع وتوريد ساحبة بحرية متكاملة متخصصة في أعمال القطر والإنقاذ البحري وإطفاء الحرائق في أعالي البحار، وقادرة على العمل في ظروف الطقس عالية الرطوبة وكذلك أثناء فصل الصيف. والتي سيتم تمويلها بموجب تمويل حكومي معتمد من حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية، وعلى الراغبين في المشاركة في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلباتهم الخطية خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي إلى مقر المركز الرئيسي للهيئة الكائن في العنوان التالي:-

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لشراء واستلام وثائق المناقصة نظير مبلغ وقدره (١٠٠٠) دولار لا يرد .  
وآخر موعد لبيع الوثائق هو تاريخ ٩/٣/٢٠٠٨ م.

يقدم العطاء في مظروف مغلق ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر إلى عنوان الهيئة ومكتوب عليه اسم الهيئة والمشروع ورقم المناقصة، واسم مقدم العطاء، وفي طيه الوثائق التالية:-

- ١- ضمان بنكي غير مشروط بمبلغ مقطوع قدره \$١٥٠,٠٠٠ (فقط مائة وخمسون ألف دولار)، صالح لمدة (١٢٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف، أو شيك مقبول الدفع.
- ٢- بطاقة ضريبية وشهادة تسجيل ضريبة مبيعات ساريتا المفعول (على المناقصين الأجانب الذين لا يقومون بأي أعمال في اليمن عليهم تقديم نسخة من وثائق التسجيل لضريبة القيمة المضافة من بلدانهم).
- ٣- بطاقة تأمينية، سارية المفعول (تطلب بطاقات التأمين فقط من الشركات التي لديها عمال في اليمن والتي يحق لها الاستفادة من العوائد المقدمة من المؤسسة العامة للضمان الاجتماعي في اليمن).
- ٤- شهادة تسجيل وتصنيف سارية المفعول لدى الجهات المختصة (على الموردين الأجانب تقديم ما يعادل هذه الوثائق من بلدانهم)
- ٥- بقية الوثائق التي تنص عليها شروط وثائق المناقصة.

- آخر موعد لاستلام العطاءات هو الساعة (١) ظهراً من يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٢٠٠٨/٩/٣ م، ولن تقبل العطاءات التي ترد بعد هذا الموعد وسيتم إعادتها مغلقة.
- موعد فتح المظاريف هو الساعة ١ ظهراً من يوم السبت الموافق ٢٠٠٨/٩/٦ م.
- سيتم فتح المظاريف بمكتب رئيس لجنة المناقصات الرئيسية بالهيئة بحضور أصحاب العطاءات أو من يمثلهم بتفويض رسمي موقع ومختوم.
- يمكن للراغبين في المشاركة في هذه المناقصة الإطلاع على وثائق المناقصة قبل شرائها وذلك خلال الدوام الرسمي لفترة (٢٧) يوماً من فترة الإعلان.





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## Words of Wisdom



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

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



## OUR OPINION

## The story of Nujood, Arwa, Reem and many other Yemeni girls

There were three girls, each sharing only the same tragedy but for almost totally different reasons and under varying circumstances.

First there was Nujood, 9 years old, who comes from an extremely poor and illiterate family at the suburbs of Sana'a. Nujood's family was one of those many poor people who were crushed into submission. In other words they were passive to the extent that nothing much mattered. At the prospect of getting some money, Nujood's father happily married her off to a village in Hajja where she stayed for two months. Her older brother didn't see anything wrong in getting his sister married off at such a young age. "All girls get married, what the problem? She is with her husband." He said.

When she ran away to the court and got a sympathetic judge to look into her case and a strong lawyer who advocates for children's rights, she finally was divorced. Especial thanks were to national and international media who embarrassed the father into reclaiming his job as the protector of Nujood. Now she lives with her family and is considered a source of income through her connections with civil society and media who give her money to simply be there and talk about her story or accept to be photographed.

Second there was Arwa, a child of 8 who also belongs to a poor family but this time in Jibla of Ibb governorate. Her family was relying on a relative who lived in their house and helped support their living. This man eventually asked to marry Arwa's older sister. Her father being quite old left the decision to his young careless wife, who decided it would be better if Arwa was married off instead since she needed the older daughter to help at the house work anticipating that the new couple would eventually move out. The man stayed in the house for two weeks until Arwa fled and with the assistance of a woman she knew, she arrived at the local police station only to be claimed by a distant relative who took care of her until she got divorced. Today she is rotating between her home and her relative's home, while her ex-husband is still living in her father's house. Through his tears, her ageing father says he regrets it, the mother has no comment. And Arwa seems much traumatized by the whole issue.

Finally there is Reem, the classic story of father and mother divorced. Father kidnaps daughter, gets her married off to get back at the mother. Reem runs away to her mother who hides her from dad and pleads with the judicial system to get her 12 years old daughter divorced from a husband who raped her every day for at least two weeks before her escape. She is still in the hiding, and the judicial system is on vacation for the next two months because the judges are keeping fast.

Today, we celebrate those three girls because they have one thing in common in addition to getting married at an early age; they said no, and ran for their lives.

There are thousands of Yemeni girls who do not have the courage or who are afraid that the alternative to their hellish marriage is a lot worse. And this is why we, as responsible human beings need to create an institutionalized mechanism to shelter those girls and provide them with a better alternative. There would be no point in sympathizing and praising those girls if at the end of the day we all go home and they have no where to turn to. We need to put our heads together and reach out to Nujood, Arwa and Reem, and many more who are still living in the shadows of a passive society that when injustice befalls on its most vulnerable members, prefers to turn the other way.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Contemplating on a unique political and humanitarian experience

By: Nasr Taha Mustafa

Any observer of the history of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his reign over the past 30 years is bound to discover very important notes in the style and the way the veteran leader administers affairs of governance. The system of governance seems to have clearly and evidently developed despite all the difficulties Saleh faced when he first assumed power. Saleh managed to overcome the numerous difficulties and complications facing his rule despite weakness of the central state during his early days in power. In addition, his intelligence by instinct and his direct interaction with the political life helped him run the country affairs efficiently.

Since an early time, his intelligence and direct interaction with the political life helped him understand the governance requirements very quickly, however, he is a professional soldier, who came from a military institution and was involved in many battles in defense of the Revolution and the Republic since it was first established and until the national reconciliation in 1970.

Saleh maintained closer relations with political and military leaders, who had been partners in administering the nation until the July 13th Movement in 1974 came for him to be an effective partner in decision making, particularly as he enjoyed good relations with late presidents Ibrahim Al-Hamdi and Ahmad Al-Ghashmi while he was serving as Commander of Taiz Military Division.

These matters help us realize the multiple internal political issues, as well as other issues related with the external relations, but not with all their details as Saleh necessarily realized them when he was elected President of Yemen.

The surprising thing, which aroused curiosity of the veteran leaders who were present when Saleh first assumed power and were casting doubt on his capability to contain more sensitive and complicated issues at the internal and external levels is that he demonstrated great self-confidence since the first moment until the extent that he took partial decisions by measuring thorough conditions during the first months of his reign. Saleh's predecessors could not take such decisions he made over the first four years of his reign.

Undoubtedly, his competence which appeared quickly encouraged all those veteran politicians to review their fears and concerns, as well as back him to remove all the booby-trapped mines, which had been planted in the different spheres of political business.

It was a transformation without any political deduction and then strong development in the various economic and political areas.

In fact, whenever I contemplate on Saleh's historical decision with regard to return of the former presidents Marshal Abdullah Al-Sallal and Judge Abdurrahman Al-Eryani, may Allah have mercy on them, to the homeland from exile, I find myself surprised by his bravery and self-confidence for two simple reasons. First, I personally know the great efforts expended by Al-Sallal

during the reigns of presidents Ahmad Al-Ghashmi and Ibrahim Al-Hamdi as he saw no response from either.

Second, President Saleh allowed both leaders to return home in September 1981 while conditions in the northern part of Yemen were inflaming as a result of fierce clashes between the army and Marxist militias in the midlands.

The exaggerative individuals had been continuously suggesting to Al-Ghashmi and Al-Hamdi that return of both exiled leaders will destroy a verdict issued against them since they enjoy notable popularity and nationwide respect. They were of the opinion that their return might constitute a real risk to the system of governance.

Source: YemenOnline.info

## Summer centers and success requirements

By: Najla Al-Baadani

As the school year ends and the summer vacation begins, we usually heard and read statements and invitations by several officials in the various ministries and other government agencies calling male and female students to immediately join summer centers.

They also appeal to students' parents to encourage their sons and daughters to join such centers, which were established to offer multiple activities and functions, believed to be of high value to male and female students. These centers help students avoid the pains of leisure and lengthy vacation.

Afterward, we see consecutive

statements and meetings praising the great success these centers achieved, thanks to positive interaction and response on the students' part. Student's enthusiasm to join such centers reflects their care to benefit from such camps in the various areas.

However, there are some centers, which we usually visit and see what happens in them, as well as how their affairs are administered by those responsible and how many male and female students are enrolled in such centers. We also know the invisible reasons behind establishment of the numerous summer centers and students' turnout to them. A clear example in support of this is provided below.

One week ago, I made a surprise visit to a girls' school to view any activities and functions taking place

there. And, as my visit was not expected, nor did I communicated with the school principal in advance, I found that the school is empty with the exception of some girls playing volleyball in its yard.

The teacher in charge of supervising the game found no justification to indicate why there are no many girls in the school. Therefore, she told me that the principal has taken girls in an entertainment journey with her as part of the center's program.

Having asked one of those girls, who were outside the school, about the number of participants in the camp and the relevant activities, she innocently replied that she doesn't know, adding that principal told her to come in the early morning to play with her classmates and go home at noon.

The case is similar in the Boys Center, located in the vicinity of the school. The center is closed and the main reason behind that is related to the numerous problems faced by the schoolmaster. This case was found in a city. Therefore, there is no need to talk about centers of remote areas were residents complain of shortage in public services and lack government attention toward them. These residents complain of a lack of basic necessities and recreation tools.

Ministries of youth & sport, education, endowment & religious guidance, technical education and culture prepared a complete program and plan sometime earlier in order to help these centers achieve success. These ministries provided millions of riyals for the sake of making work in these centers a success.

In fact, some centers are established as required. All of us know well what a summer vacation means for male and female students and how they wait for it with tolerance and patience. These students count days and nights until they leave school, dreaming of spending a joyful vacation and taking a rest for months.

So, what are the motives that encouraged them to return to school to attend summer centers? And does the term 'Summer Center' convince them to return back to school during their vacation? The answer will be surly 'no'. The relevant government agencies are recommended to make use of the available money for organizing useful activities in sporting centers throughout the year.

Source: NabaNews.net

## Virtue Protection Authority: Between religion and politics

By: Mustafa Ahmad Al-Numan

The former U.S. President Harry Truman issued in 1947 the Executive Order No. 9835 under which each American citizen was exposed to questioning about his/her activities, viewpoints and intents. Several auditing committees were formed to be in charge of interrogating any individuals promoting secular ideas.

That time period was described as 'Macarthy', derived from the name of Senator George Macarthy despite the fact that it was Edgar Hoover, President of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who played an effective role in issuing the Executive Order. And the relevant campaign involved workers in the areas of media and arts, who had become subjected to questioning and interrogation for their ideas and intents.

It was usual to accuse anyone opposing the campaign of being Secularist or a hired individual while Macarthy justified at that time that members of the American Secular Party numbered up to 50,000 in 1942. This provoked rage and concern among extremists, thereby coinciding with dominance of the Red Army in China in 1949 and the First Nuke Experiment by the Soviet Union in the same year.

When the Secular risk reached its climatic point, the Macarshies

talked excessively about it in order to intimidate those differing with their viewpoints and opposing their policies.

Over the last few weeks, the intellectual and political arenas in Yemen inflamed after Mr. Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani and Mr. Hamoud Hashim Al-Dharihi declared the so-called 'Virtue Protection Authority', which is merely a replica of the well-known Saudi Committee to Promote Goodness and Prevent Evil. The notable difference between both organizations is that the latter pursues official business and receives funds from the Saudi government.

The former, however, appeared during its first meeting to have an intention of helping traditional forces in society. The government and other political and intellectual forces, even leaders of the Islah Party to which Al-Zindani and Al-Dharihi belong, were excluded from the meeting.

The idea of "Virtue Protection" has been infected with deformity since it was established. Mr. Al-Dharihi turned to slam critics of Virtue Protection Authority, using an irresponsible language. He used statements and words, which are hardly said by a man claiming to promote goodness and prevent evil.

Al-Dharihi's behavior compelled senior leaders in the Islamist party to leave him chat with other Parliament members, affiliated with the extremist Islamist current.

The leaked information confirms that higher leadership of the Islah Party denounced behavior of Al-Zindani and Al-Dharihi, labeling it as irresponsible.

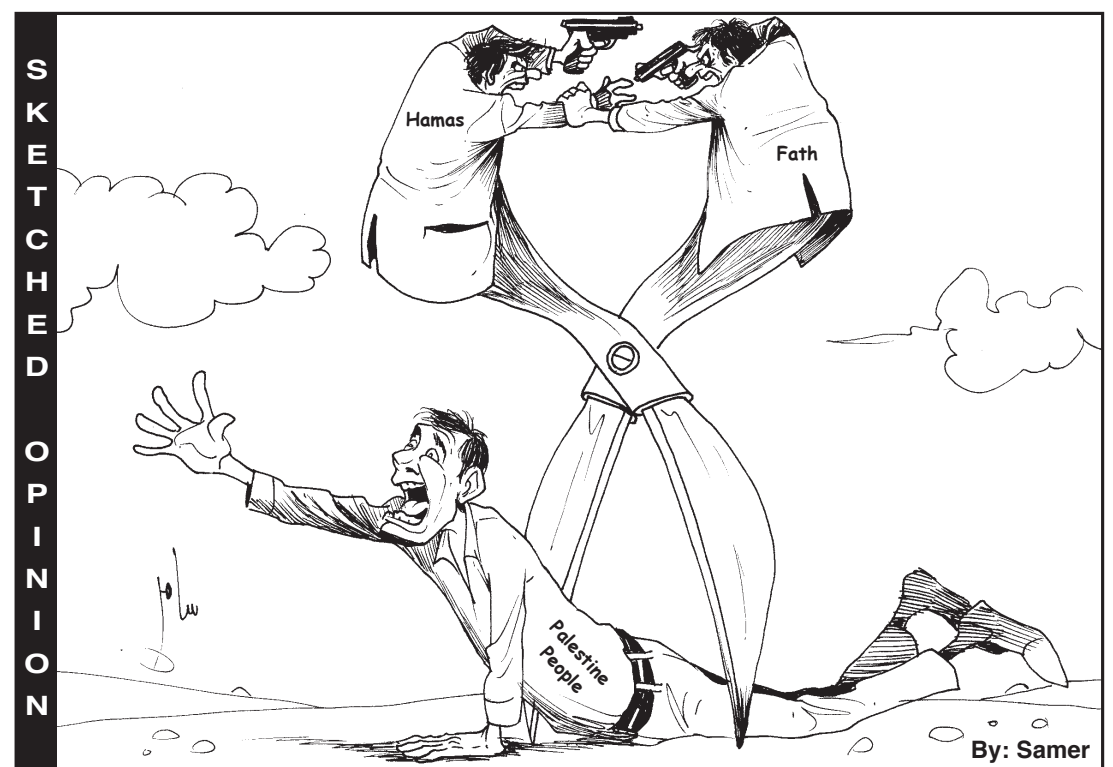
The Islah Party's position was viewed as a positive and successful action. It restored confidence to supporters of this party that it is more able to adapt with the pervasive social conditions and welcome the differing viewpoints.

Absence of the highly respected scholar Yasin Abdulaziz Al-Qubati and all Islah Party leaders from the conference is a clear and strong indicator that the idea of both Al-Zindani and Al-Dharihi faced strong objection. The idea was labeled as a hurried action and is aimed at creating an atmosphere of animosity between members of Yemeni society.

Protecting virtue in any society

is not the responsibility of a certain group though very strong it appears to be and though a huge number of supporters it has. The state and its Constitution are the only responsible for enacting such laws meant to protect society from evil and suggest workable solutions to evil-related issues if any.

Source: Al-Eshteraki.net



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# Yemen Press Review



**Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with Islah Party (Major opposition party) Thursday, August 7, 2008**

**Top Stories**

- JMP denounces ruling party's exploitation of social security as an early electoral propaganda
- Shabwa citizens enraged over government's false promises to provide them with basic services
- Authorities deny authenticity of media reports regarding departure of 200,000 Iraqis

Competent authorities in the Yemeni government have denied news reports with regard to halting renewal of residence permits of almost 200,000 Iraqis, urging the various media outlets to verify authenticity of such reports, the website reported on its lead story.

It went on to say that news reports has said that Yemeni authorities refused renewing 200,000 residence permits of Iraqis as a result of backing Al-Houthi rebellion in Saada, north Yemen.

According to previous media reports, Yemeni authorities have refused renewing 200,000 residence permits of Iraqis because of their involvement and loyal support for Abdulmalik Al-Houthi fighting against the government troops in the war-ravaged Sa'ada province.

Officials from Yemen's Interior Ministry and the Iraqi Embassy to Yemen declined to comment on the issue.

Yemeni security official, who spoke to Al-Arabia Satellite Television on condition of anonymity, said that renewing Iraqis' residence permits were refused as a result of arresting Iranians, having Iraqi passports, involved in supporting Al-Houthi rebellion in Saada, north Yemen.



**Marebpress.net, an independent news website Wednesday, August 6, 2008**

**Top Stories**

- Mareb local councilors appeal to Prime Minister to take firm procedures against Local Administration Ministry over legal violations
- Women activists demand that women rights must be included within school curriculum
- GPC and JMP agree on election law amendments, Al-Shami says

Head of Media Sector in the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) Tareq Al-Shami said that his party and Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) agreed on Sunday on the amendments of the elections law following a series of dialogue sessions held over the last few weeks, the website reported.

It added that Al-Shami said some small details were referred to parliament to be decided by the MPs as the parliament is the only agency concerned with studying draft amendments of laws and legislations, discussing them and voting on them.

"It is impossible in any case to marginalize the role of Parliament in order to appease desires of any political party or organization due to its limited representatives at Parliament," Al-Shami continued.

He pointed out that it is not acceptable to agitate the street and excite seditions in the form of demonstrations and sit-ins as long as the dialogue is stopped, indicating there is no problem concerning the practice of peaceful political activity as long as that is done within the constitution and the law.

On his part, Abdul Wahab Al-Anesi, Chairman of JMP Higher Council,

said that the opposition coalition and the ruling party are about to reach an agreement over the amendments in the elections law.

He said, "There is a communication between JMP and GPC over some points in the amendments and it is expected to come to an agreement during the upcoming days."

"The minimum level of the JMPs' demands was agreed upon," Al-Anesi added. He denied that there is a dialogue between the GPC and JMP saying what is going on now is a communication but not a dialogue because dialogue has its own conditions and there is a difference between dialogue and communication.

"Failure of dialogue between JMP and GPC is a normal result for the disparagement of the GPC for the dialogue," he said. "The GPC is bidding for the time and it does respect dialogue results." He said that JMP views dialogue as a civilized value that should not be harmed and during the dialogue, a top priority should be given to protecting this civilized value.



**26 September.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Army Thursday, August 7, 2008**

**Top stories**

- Government-wide committee resumes visit to Sa'ada to complete assessment of damage as a result of fighting
- Sana'a security authorities arrest wanted individuals, large quantities of Hashish seized in Bajel and Marahidh
- Parliament refers election law amendment proposal to relevant authorities to study it
- Yemen to partake in 33rd International Geological Congress

in Norway

Yemen is due to partake in the 33rd International Geological Congress (IGC) which will be held on 6-14 August in Norway, the website reported in one of its lead stories.

It continued that Head of the General Authority for Geological Survey and Minerals Ismael Al-Janad, who will represent Yemen in the congress, said that Yemen will introduce several work papers that will focus on geology of the nation and display the participants to investment opportunities in the minerals field.

According to the army's news website, Al-Janad said that Yemen will also participate in a geological exhibition to be held on the sidelines of the congress.

At the exhibition maps that show investment opportunities in Yemen would be displayed and distributed to the participants.



**Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party) Wednesday, August 6, 2008**

**Top Stories**

- Al-Abed advises capital city educators against being deceived by partisan supporters
- Three security soldiers injured as they were trying to thwart Hashish smuggling attempt
- GPC urges Parliament to speed up approving election law amendments

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is also Chairman of ruling General People's Congress (GPC) on Thursday presided over a meeting for the party's General Committee, which was devoted to discussing many political and organizational issues, the website

reported.

The committee discussed developments of the political situations and issues of dialogues with different poetical parties and organizations. It has also urged Parliament to speed up discussion and approval of election law amendments in away facilitating quick composition of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER).

The committee considered the amendments made in the elections law as a step for the national accord and enrichment of the political life via dialogue, thereby leading to the fulfillment of constitutional dues, mainly the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2009.

The committee affirmed keenness of the GPC to hold elections in their constitutional and legal date, based on its commitments and pledges included in its electoral programs and the

presidential platform, plus parliamentary and local elections.

The GPC General Committee also praised the establishment of the National democratic Alliance between the GPC and parties of the Opposition National Council, the Yemeni League, and the September Organization, considering the alliance as a political framework open to all political parties and forces that wish to join it.


The meeting called on political parties and organizations, Yemeni civil society organizations and all Yemeni people to condemn the terrorist acts and to stand as one rank against all forms of extremism.

The ruling party's general committee listened to reports on necessity of strengthening GPC organization and future plans. It has also approved appointment of Dr Ahmed Ubaid Bin Daghr Assistant Secretary General of the party.

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- 2- A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2008. (Foreign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration certificate from their home countries).
- 3- A copy of valid Insurance Certificate for the year 2008. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
- 4- A copy of valid registration and classification certificate for the year 2008.
- 5- A copy of valid Zakat Certificate for the year 2008.
- 6- A copy of valid Zakat commercial registration valid for the year 2008.
- 7- A copy of valid Profession registration Certificate.
- 8- A copy of valid sales taxes registration certificate for the year 2008.

Bids submission and opening date is at 1:00 PM – Wednesday, corresponding to 10/9/2008 at the Corporation's headquarters.



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# Yemen's hardy native flora can help fight climate change, provide food and create fuel

By: Sarah Wolff

As most people know, Yemen is in danger of desertification; however, a few native plants are paving the way – literally – by offering new options for ethanol, in-country grain production and a financial boost.

Plants like mangrove and seagrasses tolerate salinated water and have been suggested for use both in preventing desertification and as possible biofuel sources that could enrich petrol-limited Yemen.

According to energy researcher Harry Valentine, such saline-resistant plants can be cultivated in desert areas near oceans, much like northern coastal Yemen and northern Oman. Valentine's research was published on the Energy Central Network, a web site devoted to both news and scholarly articles about



Plants like mangrove that survive on saline water can be used to help stop desertification in Yemen. Photo courtesy of dgukenvis.nic.in.

energy.

Plants like these thrive on seawater by filtering out the salt, making them able to survive in desert areas located close to an ocean. Already known for its lush mangrove forests, Yemen could

possibly expand them further for use in fighting desertification.

If planted near the ocean, along with other similar plants fed by salt water, these saline-tolerant plants would make sparse areas lush again with their own miniature ecosystems, according to Valentine, who cited a similar successful experiment with saline-tolerant plants in Kenya.

Other plants like seagrasses can be planted on the floor of the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf and then harvested for use as ethanol, a plant-based fuel made by fermenting biomaterials into energy. Biofuels typically are made from complex sugars and cellulose, with previous

experiments having used corn, sugar cane and even grasses.

While converting sea plants into biofuel isn't what usually comes to mind when people think of ethanol, scientists are beginning to see their possibilities.

The well-known drought-resistant Arabidopsis thaliana, also known as thale cress, is another plant that could help Yemen fight desertification. While Arabidopsis thaliana isn't found in Yemen, scientists already have mapped its genomes in order to identify its drought-resistant properties and apply them to those plants that are grown here.

Arabidopsis thaliana already has been used to produce other crops such as drought-resistant rice and its secrets could be used to help prevent drought regarding Yemen's edible agriculture as well.

However, plenty of other plants in

Yemen already have adapted themselves and have become drought-resistant over time, including several types of wheat. "Most Yemeni plants that grow in the wild are drought-resistant by nature," explains Yemen's Minister of Water and Environment, Abdul-Rahman Al-Eryani, adding, "Even sorghum and millet [edible grains] have become drought-resistant in the wild."

Perhaps if these new salt- and drought-tolerant varieties were planted more often, Yemen could accomplish President Ali Abdullah Saleh's goal of reducing the nation's dependence upon foreign grain imports, as it currently purchases 92 percent of its grain from Australia, the United States and Canada.

Yemen still is able to capitalize on its naturally drought-tolerant species that thrive here, such as aloe, juniper and prickly pear cacti, which can grow to

enormous sizes. The country has 79 species of aloe alone and aloe vera – whose juice is used for everything from treating burns to being used as a natural laxative – grows prolifically in the wild.

According to folklore, aloe vera even lured Alexander the Great's troops to the island of Socotra to collect its miraculous sap. Al-Eryani says Yemen is losing out on a multi-billion dollar business by not exporting the precious succulent. "If properly promoted, it could be a significant crop," he said, "It's a major crop everywhere except Yemen."

Al-Eryani further pointed out that frankincense and myrrh, two other drought-resistant plants that are native to Yemen, also could help turn a profit, if planted properly. "Yemen is famous for these plants, so it could create a good market for the local population," he noted.

## Common misconceptions about HIV increase discrimination

By: Alia Ishaq

While Yemen is considered one of the countries with the world's lowest number of HIV and AIDS infections, some concerned organizations are worried that this is simply due to unreported cases and lack of surveillance.

According to Yemen's National AIDS Control Program, the country has 2,431 reported HIV cases. However, the program concedes that these numbers probably don't accurately indicate the true number of HIV patients in Yemen, since few people even realize they've contracted the disease while others choose not to report their infection.

In 2003, the World Health Organization estimated that the number of HIV patients in Yemen could be as many as 24,000 due to unreported cases.

A 2007 report published by Yemen's Public Health and Population Ministry in conjunction with the Marie Stopes Organization, a U.K.-based international reproductive health service

provider, asked Yemenis if they knew of any HIV/AIDS cases.

Surprisingly, 15 percent of both rural and urban residents surveyed mentioned that they knew of at least one such case. However, attitudes toward those with HIV or AIDS were overwhelmingly negative, with more than half of the 1,400 respondents maintaining that those with HIV/AIDS should be "separated" from the rest of society.

The National AIDS Program reports 108 new cases discovered in the first half of 2008, 94 of which were among Yemenis and only 14 among foreigners – a fact challenging the Yemeni perception that these diseases mainly affect foreigners and refugees.

The program also has been promoting a new service – an HIV/AIDS hotline reachable by simply dialing 175. While the hotline purportedly is designed to help answer questions about HIV/AIDS, the call was never picked up, despite the fact that the Yemen Times phoned the hotline more than five times throughout its hours of operation and on different days of the week. Based on this complete lack of response, it's unclear whether the hot-

line even exists.

### Misconceptions

According to a report by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, there are many misconceptions and a lack of information about HIV and AIDS, particularly among those living in rural areas, which includes approximately three-fourths of all Yemenis.

The report's surveys revealed that Yemenis still often believe that HIV can be transmitted through shaking hands, hugging, mosquito bites or other actions as innocuous as sharing drinking glasses or plates. Such misconceptions are a large reason for the discrimination many HIV/AIDS patients feel.

Such discrimination against HIV/AIDS patients is apparent even at hospitals, with some hospitals refusing to treat such patients altogether.

In August 2006, the Yemen Times published the story of Khalid Mahyoub, a former nurse at Aden's Al-Jumhuri Hospital who became infected with HIV through contact with an HIV-positive patient.

A few weeks ago, Mahyoub formed an association called "Life Impulse" to

correct misconceptions about HIV/AIDS and fight against HIV/AIDS discrimination. The association is sponsored by Yemeni businessman Abdu Sammak.

Mahyoub notes that because 60 percent of the association's staff is HIV-positive, they are determined to do their best. As Adel Mahyoub says about his brother, "He's in a fight, not just against this disease, but also against the discrimination he faces from society."

He points out that the situation hasn't affected only his brother Khalid, but their entire family, including himself and his children. He recounts, "My daughter had to leave her school because she suffered unbearable discrimination. Other children avoided her because they were scared she might have the virus like her uncle."

He adds that he too faces daily discrimination from his work colleagues and even from his own relatives because he shares a house with his sick brother.

Khalid Mahyoub notes that he had to leave his job as a nurse at the hospital. "Even though my colleagues were nice to me, I chose to leave the hospital.

However, patients usually were scared when they learned that I was HIV-positive, requesting that I not come near them."

He adds that because he faces much discrimination, even from within his own family, he knows how other HIV patients feel, further explaining, "I try to give others all the help they need so they won't face the same situation that I do now."

Mahyoub maintains that Yemenis have a deep misunderstanding of HIV/AIDS patients and how they contracted the virus. He says many believe that all HIV-positive individuals contracted the disease by behaving immorally, ignoring the fact that HIV may be transmitted to innocent wives and children, as well as through accidents such as what happened to him.

There's a clear gap in awareness if people believe on one hand that HIV may be transmitted by a handshake and yet, on the other, that those living with HIV must have engaged in forbidden sexual relationships.

Next week, Life Impulse will conduct a training course for between 20 and 25 military officers. The group



seeks to raise awareness by explaining the truth and dispelling the myths about contracting HIV/AIDS.

Mahyoub explains that his association chose to combat common misconceptions about HIV/AIDS among military officers first because they have the potential to impact the hundreds of other soldiers with whom they live and work.

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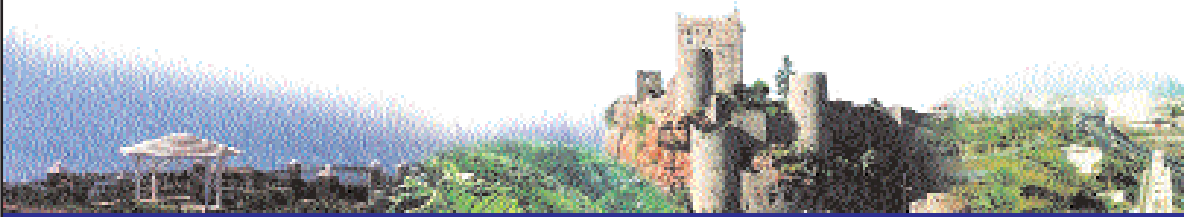


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# The new age of "nasheed," or Islamic songs

By: Firass Shamsan  
For the Yemen Times

In the past, nasheed, or Islamic song, was restricted to spirituals performed on some occasions such as childbirth, deaths, mystic groups' meetings called "zaweyah" and other religious celebrations. Nasheed themes focused on eulogies, jihad and revolutionary songs. But during the past 10 years, nasheed began addressing public life and the societal issues as well. The famous Islamic singer Sami Yousif is considered the first to begin the new trend of nasheed and Islamic video clips, which represent a major departure from the nasheed known throughout history.

Following that, other singers followed Yousif in addressing different societal issues such as the plight of Palestinians, family disputes and romantic relationships. These other singers like Abdul Fattah Awainat, Yahya Hawwa and Ashraf Yousif produced songs on cassettes and in books. Nasheed became an organized artistic movement, with Islamic singers spreading their songs through internet forums and websites.

The nasheed artistic movement was led by talented singers whom people admired, and gained popularity because the songs addressed their real-life concerns. Islamic songs opened a new venue for youth to express themselves through music that followed religious guidelines.

Abdul Fattah Awainat, an Islamic singer, said that he tries to offer what youth want in his songs and not what he himself likes. "We select the songs that appeal to the young," said Awainat. "If we try to impose our songs on them, they will not accept it and our songs will receive no attention." He pointed out that Islamic singers focus on songs through which they can deliver a message that emphasizes the importance of collaboration and optimism among people. Awainat said that if nasheed follows the old patterns, which some people consider slow and

gloomy, the message will not reach the intended target.

Awainat said that Islamic songs are performed similarly to non-religious songs in terms of a quick rhythm and using informal, everyday language. He added that the use of video clips is the key to attracting youth and school-aged fans. "Students are no longer confined to their school curriculum to get culture, since audio-visual means appeal to youth more than reading," said Awainat. "Therefore, we try to call them to the good behavior through nasheed."

Yahya Hawwa, another Islamic singer, views that nasheed, as well as the Holy Qur'an, and mosque sermons, is a way of delivering Islamic teachings to society.

"I use my voice to call people to Allah through reciting the Holy Qur'an and preaching in the mosque," he said, adding, "and I also use my voice to call people to Allah and pay their attention to their behavior through nasheed."

Hawwa said that nasheed urges young people to change their life for the better by instilling in them political inclinations. "Nasheed also focuses on the songs that urge people to hold out on the enemy during fighting," he said.

Hawwa said that he holds sessions with his peers to discuss the concerns of young people and come up with issues they should highlight in their songs. Hawwa is interested in making songs that offer hope and optimism. "I realized that this side is marginalized, since many Islamic songs are overwhelmed by sadness and lamentation," he said. "Because young people are full of hope and vitality, we have to make songs that go along with their dreams and aspirations." Hawwa said that in the past, nasheed was totally dependent on the singer's voice without background music due to some scholars' ban on the use of instruments in Islamic song.

Though the old style of nasheed – the one that focuses on sadness and scolding – is still around, the newer style is now dominating the market because of the way these singers focus on youth and reach their audience



Nasheed performers, like those pictured above, now use contemporary themes like family issues and love

through the use technology, according to Hawwa.

He maintained that the young should be encouraged to live their life for the sake of Allah in the way that doesn't deprive them of the permissible things in life according to the Islamic regulations. "A lot of religious scholars concentrate on issues of death for the sake of Allah and neglect life for the sake of Allah," Hawwa added.

Nasheed hasn't yet reached the stage where it is competing with the other kinds of songs on the television and radio, but it succeeds in addressing society's issues through youth-centered satellite channels, according to Musa Mustafa, a Syrian nasheed performer. In his songs, Mustafa discusses issues of love between couples or those who are still engaged, relationships between family members, and issues of expatriates who live outside of their countries. Some of these songs, particularly the love songs, created controversy among religious men who consider such topics to be forbidden.

However, Mustafa stressed that nasheed should deal with all kinds of concerns, including love, as they are inherent in human nature. "We should include love issues in nasheed since the

young are interested in such songs," said Mustafa. "A girl told me that her fiancé refused to listen to nasheed because he thought it only dealt with revolution and jihad and didn't address love," he added. Mustafa said that he thinks his version of nasheed presents love in its clear and real image in order to protect people from indulging themselves in the illicit love and relationships.

Mustafa emphasized the importance of educating young people and opening them up to the world in a positive way, particularly given that people nowadays have unlimited access to information through the internet as well as universities. "Religion is not confined to performing prayer and other kinds of worship," said Mustafa. "There are other issues that youth should learn in Islam, and religious scholars should display a clear image of Islam," he said.

People must understand religion properly in order to distinguish between good and bad and to stay away from extremism, according to Mustafa. He said that nasheed performers have a purpose, which is to discuss all the aspects of life according to the Islamic regulations, and listeners can in turn disseminate that message to others.



Nasheed used to be thought of as gloomy, but now young people are using the traditional Islamic song form to help them in their daily lives



Nasheed singers reach out to their audience through concerts and technology like video clips online

## CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

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

### Abdulrahman Badawi, one of the Arab world's prominent existential philosophers

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Egyptian philosopher, intellectual, historian, textualist and translator Abdulrahman Badawi was born into a wealthy family on Feb. 4, 1917, in Sharabas village in northern Egypt's Damietta governorate.

Badawi completed his primary education in 1929 and then graduated from Giza's Al-Sa'eedia School in 1934. That same year, he enrolled in the philosophy department at King Fuad I University (now Cairo University).

During his academic studies, Badawi went to Europe to study German and Italian languages, returning to Egypt in 1937 and eventually obtaining his degree in philosophy in 1938. After graduation, Badawi was appointed a lecturer in Cairo University's philosophy department, where he continued his postgraduate studies. He earned a master's degree in 1941, followed by a doctoral degree in philosophy in 1944 at age 27.

Also politically active, Badawi joined the Fascist Misr Al-Fatah (The Young Egypt) Party from 1938 to 1940, then becoming a member of the New National Party's high commission from 1944 to 1952.

Badawi continued working as a lecturer in 1945, later becoming assistant professor in the philosophy department in July 1949. He left Cairo University in September 1950 to establish and head up the philosophy department at Ain Shams University.

Between 1956 and 1958, he was a cultural counselor and manager of the educational community in Switzerland.

Following the outbreak of Egypt's 1952 revolution, which replaced the monarchy with a republic and issued the Agrarian Land Reform Law, Badawi's family lands were requisitioned for eventual distribution to the long-oppressed peasants.

In 1953, Badawi participated in drafting the Egyptian Constitution formed after the revolution. He had obvious reservations about the critical political and intelligence situations prevailing in Egypt during the 1950s and the early 1960s.

Badawi and his family's properties were placed in state custody in 1966, when he became a target for security detachments. Consequently, he moved to Libya to lecture at the University of Benghazi from 1967 to 1973, but was unexpectedly imprisoned following accusations of atheism and heterodoxy.

After his release, he moved to Paris, where he remained for nearly three decades, only returning to Egypt at the end of his life. During his voluntary exile from Egypt, Badawi was a visiting lecturer at several universities, including Lebanese universities (1947-1949), the Institute of Islamic Studies, the Sorbonne (1967), Tehran University (1973-1974) and the University of Kuwait (1974-1982).

Badawi is one of the 20th century's most prominent Arab existential



philosophers. Discussing Badawi's doctoral thesis, Egyptian intellectual Taha Hussein said, "Today, we see the birth of the first Egyptian philosopher."

Fluent in several Indo-European languages, Badawi wrote more than 120 books on numerous issues. His first book, 1939's "Nietzsche," discussed the philosophy of German philosopher and classical philologist Friedrich Nietzsche, while his second book was 1940's "Greek Heritage in Islamic Civilization."

Among his philosophical works are "Humanism and Existentialism in Arabic Intellect" (1947), "Aristotle with Arabs" (1947), "The Existential Time" (1954), "The Philosophy of the Middle Ages" (1962), "The Problem of Death in Existential Philosophy" (1964), "Plato in Islam" (1973), "A New Introduction to Philosophy" (1979) and "Philosophy and Philosophers in Arab Civilization" (1993).

He further composed "The Encyclopedia of Philosophy" (1984), which was issued in three parts and coauthored with Zaki Mahmoud.

As a textualist, Badawi excelled in textual critiques of Islamic heritage, spending a major part of his life on it. Accordingly, the Sorbonne in Paris adopted some of his books to be taught to students thoroughly studying the philosophy of the Middle Ages.

However, Badawi's most renowned work was 1945's "The History of Atheism in Islam," in which he tackled the history of skeptics in Islamic history and the philosophy of atheism in Islam during the Abbasid period. A subsequent book on atheism followed in 1946, entitled, "Anxious Characters in Islam."

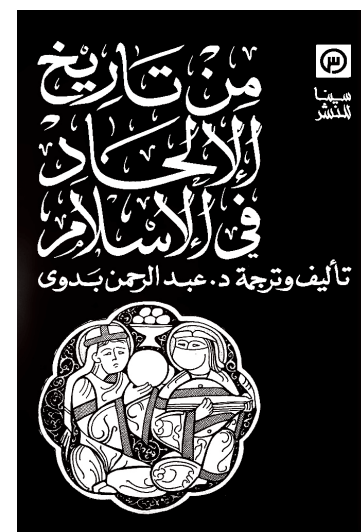
Badawi translated many books into Arabic, including French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre's major philosophical work, "Being and Nothingness" (1943; trans. 1966), Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote" (1615; trans. 1965) and German dramatist Bertolt Brecht's plays, "Drums in the Night" (1922; trans. 1977) and "Galileo" (1947; trans. 1977).

Badawi also penned several Islamic books in French, including "Défense du Coran Contre ses Critiques" (Defending the Qur'an Against its Critics, 1989), "Défense de la Vie du Prophète Mohammed Contre ses Détracteurs" (Defending the Prophet Mohammed's Life Against his Detractors, 1990) and "Islam in the Viewpoint of Voltaire, Herder and Hegel."

Badawi's final work was his autobiography, published in two parts in 2000, entitled, "My Memoirs." In the book, he recounts in the form of a confession his former and perplexing relations and confrontations with numerous political and academic entities in Egypt.

In more recent years, Badawi was honored with the issuance of a 1997 book memorializing him by Egypt's Culture Palace, as well as receiving President Hosni Mubarak's 1999 Social Sciences Award.

Badawi died at age 85 in Cairo on July 25, 2002 during his last visit to Egypt. His prolific productions in philosophy and textual critiques of Arab-Islamic heritage are considered a substantial threshold every serious researcher should examine in order to profoundly understand the past and present of eternal Arab and Islamic civilizations.



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# Indian Embassy celebrates Punjab region's rich folk culture

By: Tariq Al-Adil, Bashir Al-Selwi, Iskander Mamari and Ayman Zain For The Yemen Times

The Indian Embassy celebrated the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of that nation's independence with a bit of local color – the vibrant dancing and music of the Punjab region.

More than 300 people attended last Tuesday's performance, which showcased performers who had journeyed to Sana'a from India's northwestern Punjab region to perform their traditional dances and songs for the crowd of foreigners, Indians and Yemenis alike.

A group of more than 10 dancers, both male and female, wore brightly colored traditional garb from their region while dancing to music performed on a *dhol* drum and the stringed *tumbi*, instruments particular to the Indian subcontinent.

Bhangra is lively form of traditional dance usually performed by men, although sometimes with female accompaniment. It first was danced during harvest time, but now has spread to any festive occasions, such as weddings and New Year's celebrations, according to the region's web site, punjabonline.com. Its popularity has



Punjabi men show off their bhangra moves for a crowd of hundreds in celebration of India's National Day.

spread worldwide due to Bollywood films featuring this type of music and dance in elaborately choreographed scenes, which are the hallmark of Indian films.

The movements of Bhangra are swift, light-footed and happy, which is appropriate since it is danced at festivals and celebrations. They recount sto-

ries, such as ones of love and good harvests. Women's traditional Punjabi dance is called *giddha*, which uses rhythmic handclapping in its performance.

The male dancers wore *salwar kamis*, which is a long hemmed shirt worn over pants and topped by elaborate turbans. The women likewise wore bright colors in the form of a tunic and trousers, with a brightly-colored and decorated headscarf draped around them as well.

India's Ambassador to Yemen, Shri Alagapurian Karuppaiyah, expressed his thanks to the Yemeni government on his country's independence day. "On this day, they allowed cultures from all over the world to come here," he said, "We thank the government for accepting our dancers."

While the Punjabi dancers were excited to present their culture to a larger audience worldwide, they did not know about Yemen's own traditional dances, such as the *baraa*, which also may be performed after a harvest.

Dancer Ravinder Singh from Loti Ana in the Punjab region has danced professionally for more than 15 years. "I've represented [my culture] numerous times in about 17 countries," he said, "Now that I've visited Yemen, I think it's a very old and very good country."

This was the first time for the group to perform at the embassy in Sana'a, although there were follow-up shows in Aden, Dhamar and Hodeidah, which finished on Friday. There will be another cultural performance at the Indian Embassy in Sana'a this October.

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