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 **8** Ramadan Page: Gender equality in Qur'an

Yemen to establish three regional anti-piracy centers along the Gulf of Aden

By: Aqeel Al-Halali

SANA'A, Sept. 10 — The Yemeni government approved last Tuesday the establishment of three regional centers to combat maritime piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Bab Al-Mandab Strait and to protect international maritime traffic in these areas.

The government declared that the three centers would be established in the Aden, Mukkalla and Hudeidah governorates and claimed international support for these centers that will work to "enhance security and stability in the region and protect different ships from piracy."

Last Sunday, the Yemeni Maritime Forces were able to foil an attempted pirate attack on a Saudi trade ship in the international waters of the Strait of Bab Al-Mandab. The ship was 43 kilometers

away from the Yemeni coastline.

Since the beginning of the year, over 34 ships, tankers and yachts have been hijacked in the region of the Horn of Africa and in the Gulf of Aden. Eight of these piracy acts have taken place since July and have aimed to seize goods and kidnap crews of the ships in order to demand ransom.

For his part, Shuja Al-Deen Mahdi, general director of Coastguard operations, told the Yemen Times that international support for the three new anti-piracy centers would include providing them with equipment, modern liaison devices and boats, as well as new maritime platforms.

"We are in need of international support, especially from Gulf countries, to secure the coast of the Arabian Sea along the Abyan and Al-Mahrah governorates," said Al-Mahdi, pointing out that most

drug-smuggling operations from Africa and Asia cross this area on their way to Gulf countries.

He confirmed that Yemen was "currently unable to secure international navigation routes", noting that this was despite the Yemeni Coastguard running five anti-piracy centers in Aden, Al-Burayqah, Ras Amran, Khawr Al-Umrah in the Lahj governorate and in the Shaqrah region of the Abyan governorate.

He maintained that the Yemeni Coastguard Authority needs ten new fighter boats in order to be able to undertake its task properly and stay out at sea for weeks without coming back to the mainland for fuel. He said that the fighter boats available to the Yemeni Coastguard at present are incapable of carrying out long-term maritime tasks.

Al-Mahdi denied that Yemen had

deployed 1,000 soldiers and fighter boats in the Gulf of Aden and Bab Al-Mandab Strait to combat Somali pirates. "I have no information about this matter," he said.

The ruling-party-affiliated online web site almotamar.net had reported that a source from the Yemeni coastguard Authority had said, "The Authority deployed around 1000 soldiers and 16 fighter boats in the Gulf of Aden and Bab Al-Mandab Strait to enhance the protection of ship and prevent piracy."

Regarding coordination between Yemen and the international forces deployed in the Indian Ocean, Al-Mahdi said that the coordination between Yemen and the international coalition forces based in Bahrain included information exchange and training security cadres of the Yemeni coastguard authority.

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Gulf of Aden becomes world's top piracy hotspot. It witness many dangerous pirate activity, with 24 attacks between April and June.

While government announces unclear rescue projects Sa'ada refugees still seek urgent humanitarian assistance

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Sept. 10 — Occupants of Al-Anad refugee camp, accommodating thousands of displaced residents, and other camps at the Yemeni border with Saudi Arabia are complaining of bad living conditions that continue to worsen over time, tribal sources from the Sa'ada governorate said on Wednesday.

The same sources said that relief agencies were not providing aid directly to some refugee camps, but that most of the humanitarian assistance was delivered to governmental agencies. These agencies were showing nepotism in aid distribution, and depriving families suspected of sympathizing with Abdulmalik Al-Houthi of their shares

of such humanitarian aids.

The sources said that, as winter draws nearer, occupants of refugee camps need credible humanitarian attention, not false media speeches. They lack many basic necessities, healthcare and food.

"Through the official media outlets, we hear about a government project to rescue affected residents and reconstruct the war-ravaged areas, but we are not optimistic that the government may make progress in this regard," the tribal sources added.

A government source announced on Tuesday that efforts to reconstruct the war-torn areas and enhance security and stability in the governorate were resumed just a few days after the relevant governmental committee halted its activities on the ground. The committee's head has returned to Sana'a after he was fired and replaced by another official, according to media reports.

Since last Sunday, the government has witnessed repeated visits by senior government officials including Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs Rashad Al-Alimi and other government ministers who declared a plan for developing projects in the governorate for a total cost of YR

60 billion.

Minister of Local Administration Abdulqader Ali Hilal said the government had ordered provision of food aids for 14,000 displaced residents for a total cost of YR 300 million.

He pointed out that the assessment process, carried out by the government-

tal committee, concluded that up to 6,700 public and private facilities had been damaged during the four-year fighting between the army and Houthi gunmen. The committee estimated the cost of restoring such damaged facilities at nearly YR 1 billion.

Hilal went on to say that the govern-

ment approved YR 10 billion for reconstruction and development projects in the Sa'ada governorate.

Houthis blamed for hindering peace efforts

Deputy Prime Minister Al-Alimi held Houthis accountable for hindering

progress of peace efforts in areas where the fighting between army personnel and Houthis took place over the past years. He added that Houthis are not receptive to government's initiatives, pointing out that they refused to abandon their mountaintop positions.

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President instructs building of school, mosque and health unit in Al-Dhafaer

By: Almgidaj Mojalli

SANA'A, Sept. 10 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh directed the government to build a mosque, school and health unit in Al-Dhafaer village 42 km from Sana'a. This came during his visit to the village that was exposed to a rockslide in December 2005.

During the visit which took place last Sunday, the president was briefed on the progress of the construction of residential units and found around 80 percent of the construction to be complete.

Al-Dhafaer was exposed to a rockslide that killed 65, mostly women and children, and crushed approximately 16 houses on 28 December 2005. At the time, the Saudi prince, Al-Waleed

Bin Talal, expressed his commitment to reconstructing the damage.

According to the villagers, Bin Talal has since built 100 residential units and a water network to provide the villagers with clean water. The units are now more than enough for the villagers, as most of those who were inside houses during the rockslide were killed and only their relatives survived.

Although a second landslide would be a serious threat to their lives, villagers who survived the rockslide refuse to leave their houses under the mountain. According to Khalid Nasser Al-Hajeri, one of the villagers, "Some of the houses which are under the mountain weren't crushed by the rockslide and, though many residents left

the village to stay away from the mountain, many others refuse to move and are waiting for new houses."

After the rockslide, the government allocated aid and compensation for the damaged villagers. However, many complain that some government employees, who were distributing aid, allegedly prevented some of the aid from reaching the villagers under the pretext that some of the villagers were pretending to be part of those who were affected while in reality they weren't.

"Initially, the affected people received everything but, when the government employees suspected some of the villagers were just being greedy, they cancelled many things," Al-Hajeri said.

Human Rights Ministry calls for the release of 166 indebted prisoners from central prisons in Yemen

By: Reyadh Al-Sam'ie

A report issued by the Ministry of Human Rights calls on the government and charitable people to pay the debts of poverty-stricken prisoners, in order for them to be released and also to alleviate the government's fiscal burden of maintaining them in prison.

The report was produced after visits paid by Huda Al-Ban, Minister of Human Rights, to central jails in a number of Yemeni governorates during the past four months. Following these visits, dozens of indebted prisoners were released, and many orphans and poor families were given financial support.

Prepared by the ministry, the report recommends that all incumbent bodies conduct a periodical evaluation on the situation of these prisoners, as part of the country's planned reform programs. It said that, in light of these evaluations, jail employees should improve any shortcomings in order to achieve planned targets. The report stressed the necessity of either activating surprise judicial inspections in all prisons, or of making the Prison Authority a part of the Ministry of Justice.

The report also recommended that a specialized physician and medical equipment be provided in every jail.

According to the report, the Ministry of Human Rights' visits were carried out based on directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. These directives stated that funds allocated to public celebrations should be instead redistributed to needy citizens, including indebted prisoners. Following these directives, the ministry received around YR 20 million from the government, who thereby showed its dedication to improving the situation of prisoners in the country.

The visits, paid to governorates of

Aden, Taiz, Abyan, Lahj, Ibb and Sana'a, also resulted in the release of 166 prisoners, 95 of whom were released after the ministry paid the due amounts stated in their judicial verdicts. The other 71 prisoners were released after having completed three quarters of their sentence.

The report indicated that the amount of money donated to release prisoners together with the financial support provided to other prisoners amounted to YR 10 million.

Another YR 10 million was spent in the form of assistance to 1000 children in the Lahj governorate including 928 male and female orphans, 22 handicapped children, 10 deaf and dumb children and 40 paralyzed children. YR 1 million was spent on providing 600 female and 400 male orphans in the Lahj governorate with clothes and another YR 1 million was offered to 100 poor families in the governorate of Aden.

Al-Ban paid her first visit on 19 May 2008 to the Central Prison in Sana'a, during which the minister paid YR 180,000 to release 15 poor prisoners, in addition to YR 75,000 to the released prisoners in order to enable them to go home to their families. The minister also paid YR 20,000 to release two female prisoners who learned the Holy Quran by heart while in prison.

The report said that Al-Ban's second visit was paid to Al-Mu'allimi jail in Sana'a where 361 people were imprisoned at the time, despite the jail's capacity of 200 people. The report revealed that prisoners in the jail suffer from malnutrition, the spread of infectious diseases and a lack of financial support. During the visit, the ministry paid the amount of YR 50,000 in order to release one of the prisoners. Additionally, students who had been kept in custody on minor charges were also released on bail so that they could pursue their studies.

Al-Ban visited the Central Prison in the Aden governorate on 25 May 2008. The report said that Aden's jail was found to be in need of renovation in most of its departments. Seventy prisoners were released after the ministry paid YR 2 million to set 21 prisoners free and gave every released prisoner YR 5,000 as transportation allowance.

During her visit to the Central Prison in Lahj, the minister of Human Rights visited and paid YR 1,200,000 to release 12 prisoners and granted each of them YR 5,000 as transportation allowance. Al-Ban then visited prisons in the Abyan governorate, where 20 prisoners were released and given each YR 5,000, and YR 150,000 was donated to help one of the female prisoners get married. The minister also visited the Central Prison in Abyan and donated YR 1,772,000 to release 18 indebted prisoners. Three other prisoners were released as they had completed three quarters of their sentence.

The report said that the last visit was paid to the Central Prison in the Taiz governorate this past month. During the visit, YR 1,500,000 was donated to release 20 prisoners who were given YR 5,000 each for transportation. YR 50,000 was offered as support to the jail's health unit.

It added that the minister paid YR 250,000 to the Financial Affairs Department of the Attorney General's Office as part of the due amount imposed on the female prisoner Amina Hassan Nasser. The attorney general promised to pay the balance of her debt and release her.

The report concluded that education and entertainment means should be provided for prisons to enable prisoners to learn and improve their general knowledge, and to prevent them from returning to prison in the future.

Yemeni security forces learn English

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Sept. 8 — English-speaking expatriates and foreign tourists in Yemen can now communicate easily with security forces, thanks to the Ministry of Interior's initiative to equip their staff with essential language tools by sending them to the Frances Guy Institute (FGI), which is based at the Central Security Forces (CSF) in Sana'a.

Named after the last British ambassador in Yemen, Ms. Frances Guy, who welcomed the idea of establishing the institute and found support from the British Government to do so, the FGI provides English language and Information Technology (IT) training to the Central Security Forces (CSF), and a number of branches of the Yemeni Ministry of Interior such as the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU), the Forensic Department, the Yemeni Coastguard and the Immigration, Passport and Citizenship Authority.

"The idea of establishing an institute specialized in teaching English was developed in tandem with the security sector's development initiative, in particular to deal effectively with modern crime methods worldwide," said Brigadier Yahya Mohammad Abdullah Saleh, the chief of staff of the CSF.

Lamia'a Al-Jaradi, a policewoman who works at Sana'a airport's passports department, attests to how her job became easier in terms of communication with foreigners after she took a one year English course at the FGI. Al-Jaradi stressed the importance of English nowadays.

According to Abdulsalam Al-Arifi, who works in the investigation department of the Yemeni Coastguard and also studies English at the FGI, "The English language is important for us as coastguards to communicate



with international ships and immigrants when providing help or sending SOS signals".

Warrant officers Fatima Al-Hammady and Kabool Al-Sa'dee are the first Yemeni females to study at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom. Their distinctions in physical and English skills are what put them in a position to receive a scholarship to study abroad. "During our job in the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) we often encounter people who can't speak Arabic. If I can't speak English, how I can communicate with them?" Al-Sa'dee asked. "Knowing English also makes a person benefit from training by foreigners," she added.

Starting from this September, newly-trained military teachers will be replacing the previous civilian teachers at the FGI. According to Colonel Khalid Al-Mabrazi, the manager of FGI, ten military teachers have been trained and are now ready to teach at the institute. "FGI students are very committed and keen to study, which is why they have achieved very good results," said Abdu Al-Haddad, a civilian English teacher at the FGI, "I am very happy that all these students graduated with fluent English, and I am sad to leave them," he added.

Captain Phil Holihead, the UK Military Attaché in Sana'a, addressed military teachers in a ceremony to honor two of the last Yemeni civilian teachers to teach at the FGI, saying that Yemen and Britain were working together to improve security in Yemen, by enabling Yemeni students with sufficient English and IT skills to be pursue further military training in the UK. He said that the work of teachers at the Frances Guy Institute went much further than just teaching English, because it permitted Yemeni security forces to gain security and defense skills to help their country against threats such as terrorism and piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

About 725 male and female students from different branches of the Ministry of Interior have received English training since 2004. FGI English learning courses result in students being better able to communicate with international trainers and give them the chance for further training and development in the United Kingdom or the United States.

The British Government supports the Frances Guy Institute with equipment, staff, teaching aid and scholarships. The institute's educational program is supervised by the British Council.

Calm sea lures African migrants



SANA'A, Sept. 9 — (IRIN) — Hundreds of African migrants, mostly Somalis, have taken advantage of calm seas to make the perilous journey from Somalia to Yemen in the first week of September and more are expected, Hussein Hajji, the Somali consul in Aden, said.

Hajji told IRIN on 7 September that more than 2,000 Africans, mostly Somalis, landed on Yemeni shores after crossing the Gulf of Aden. "Between three and five boats arrive at Yemeni shores on a daily basis," he said.

Almost all the new migrants had arrived safely due to the calm sea. However, one incident claimed the lives of 14 Somalis who drowned in deep waters offshore. "Their bodies were buried," he said.

In one boat a girl died of lack of oxygen after being confined to a very small cabin.

"These are fishing boats and are not designed to carry passengers. After three hours at sea it is difficult to breathe in the cabins. When passengers try to get out [of cabins], the smugglers stop them," he said.

According to Hajji, 85 percent of the new arrivals intend to seek a better

life in the oil-rich Gulf states.

New security plan

Yemeni authorities, meanwhile, have prepared a new security plan to stem the illegal migration of Africans into Yemen by preventing the boats from entering Yemeni territorial waters.

Ahmed Hayel, head of the Ministry of Interior's Information Centre, said the plan would be implemented in cooperation with neighbouring countries as well as international marine forces operating in the Red and Arabian seas.

"The plan aims at decreasing the continuous African influx which overburdens Yemen."

It will put an end to the arrival of smuggling boats in Yemen," Hayel told IRIN.

Implementation will begin next month, he said.

Yemen has been receiving thousands of African migrants since 1991 as a result of civil wars and instability in the Horn of Africa. It is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that has signed the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its related 1967 Protocol.

Somalis are given automatic refugee status by the government of Yemen, while non-Somalis (mostly Ethiopians and Eritreans) must apply to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) for refugee status.

"When the African migrants reach the Yemeni shores, we are committed to receive them. Non-Somalis are not allowed to stay and so they get deported [if they do not qualify for refugee status]," Hayel said.

The Yemeni official said the new plan would not contradict the government's signing of the UN Convention. "Signing the convention does not mean we should receive large numbers of Africans."

The government has to take all necessary measures to stop their influx. Yemen cannot stand the burden," he said, adding that large numbers of African migrants were expected in the coming days.

According to UNHCR, more than 22,532 people have arrived in Yemen since the beginning of 2008. Some 165 died while trying to reach the shore, and another 220 are missing, presumed dead. UNHCR has registered over 100,000 Africans, mostly Somalis, in Yemen.

Continued from page 1

Yemen to establish three regional anti-piracy centers along the Gulf of Aden

A fighter ship of the international coalition forces in the Indian Ocean, last Monday foiled an attempted hijack of a Brazilian ship by Somali pirates as the ship was 118 maritime miles to the east of the Gulf of Aden.

The maritime coalition is comprised of forces from the United States, Britain, France, Denmark, Spain and Italy.

Malaysia asked Yemen last week to help free two Malaysian tankers hijacked by Somali pirates who are demanding US\$ 4.2 million to release them.

Somali pirates currently hold around ten ships captive in the coastal city of Eyl in Somalia, located some 800 kilometers to the north of Mogadishu.

The city of Eyl is considered to be the main coastal base for armed Somali pirates who launch piracy operations against ships, tankers and yachts for financial purposes,

accusing other countries of exploiting their water and fish wealth.

Yemeni economic experts have warned against the major risks to local economy caused by the aggravation of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and around Horn of Africa. They pointed to the negative impacts of ongoing Somali piracy, in particular the increase in the cost of insurance for ships crossing Yemeni waters.

Sa'ada refugees still seek urgent humanitarian assistance

During his visit to the Sa'ada governorate on Monday, which is the fourth one since the war first broke out between the army and Houthis in June 2004, Al-Alimi threatened to stop all the efforts to reconstruct affected areas and compensate citizens whose property was damaged during the fighting, if Houthis were not receptive to these efforts.

Al-Alimi further accused Houthis

of building trenches and taking over other strategic mountaintop positions in areas from which military troops have withdrawn. "Houthis still have control of 60 schools and this signifies their intention to maintain insecurity and instability in the governorate," the official said.

A Houthi source denied the charges, which Al-Alimi attributed to Abdulmalik Al-Houthi and his followers. The source told NewsYemen.net by phone that "such charges are baseless and inauthentic."

The Houthis' representative, Sheikh Saleh Habra, described the government's promises to enhance peace and security in the war-affected governorate and reconstruct damaged villages as lacking in credibility.

"The government wants to breach the Doha-brokered ceasefire agreement, which both sides signed last February," Habra noted, criticizing what he described as "a government's attempt to involve Sa'ada residents in a new civil war."

In Brief

Turkish Deputy Premier to visit Yemen next October

Turkish Deputy Premier Mr. Nazim Ekren is going to visit Yemen next October to head a delegation of Turkish officials and businessmen.

Well-informed sources were quoted on Tuesday by the state-run 26sep.net as saying that the Turkish delegation would participate in meetings of the Yemeni-Turkish Ministerial Committee to be held on 11-13 October.

The sources pointed out that the committee would discuss the results of its previous meetings held in the Turkish capital Ankara in addition to reviewing a number of cooperation documents in the economic, trade and investment fields.

"During the visit of the Turkish delegation, a symposium on investment opportunities in Yemen will be attended by Mr. Ekren and a number of representatives of the major Turkish companies specialized in a number of commercial and industrial domains", confirmed the sources.

Joint meetings between Yemeni and Turkish businessmen will be held in Sana'a in order to discuss establishing joint investment projects and increas-

ing trade and investment exchange between the two brotherly countries.

Yemen to take part in parliamentary conference on WTO

Yemen is going to participate in an annual session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (WTO), which to be held in Geneva next Thursday.

A delegation of the parliament headed by deputy speaker Akram Attia headed on Tuesday for Geneva to take part in the conference.

Speaking to Saba, Attia said that the conference would discuss several topics, particularly the impact of differences among WTO members.

"The meeting will discuss the organization's contribution to developing solutions to the supply and demand in unstable markets of some countries as well as identify the laws and legislations that lead the success of the negotiations with WTO", said Attia.

Socatra

Yemen, Italy discuss supporting Socatra Island

Minister of Water and Environment Abdul Rahman al-Iriyani held talks on

Monday with the Italian ambassador to Yemen Mario Bofo on the Italian support to maintain and development Socatra Archipelago.

The meeting also discussed the Ministry's plan to convened a meeting for the donors interested in preserving Socatra Archipelago under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Aden

More people to enroll in literacy programs

Director general of Office of literacy and adult education in Aden said on Tuesday that the number of people enrolled in literacy programs may increase by 15 to 20 per cent during the coming school year.

Speaking to Saba, Sa'aed Ahmed Numan said that Yemen had made much progress in literacy among a large number of illiterate male and female and developed a national strategy for the school year which will begin next October.

"The Office seeks to coordinate with local councils to assist in the eradication of illiteracy in the province", added Numan.

He pointed out that 1593 people

enrolled in literacy programs of the last year in Aden, noting that the number of literacy centers in the province reached 53 centers.

Marib

PM asks to tackle obstacles facing project of gas plant

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar asked on Monday ministry of electricity and energy to put deadline to resolve all obstacles facing project of Marib Gas power plant and link it with the national network.

During his visit o the building of the

ministry, Mujawar ordered the ministry to announce tender for the project of Mabar gas power plant as soon as possible.

He also asked the ministry to prepare detailed report on means of carrying out these projects to reduce shortage in power.

For his part, the minister of electricity Awad al-Socatri made it clear that first phase of the Marib plant has been achieved at capability of 340 MW .

He said that the ministry would announce tender for carrying out the second phase of the project soon.

Wanted man killed in traffic accident

Ministry of Interior announced on Monday killing of a wanted man in case of kidnapping Italian tourists in Marib governorate in 2006.

The ministry said that Ali bin Naji Dihiban, 35 , was killed in traffic accident last week. The media center of the ministry said that Dihiban had driven a car and due to over speed the car turn over and he died immediately in the accident.

He was accused of kidnapping five Italian tourists in Sarwah region of Marib governorate.



Program Assistant – Temporary position (4 months)

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following position:

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- 5) Facilitate and oversee in-country partners/sub-recipient submission of reports, including financial and activity reports.
- 6) Meet with in-country partners/sub-recipients as needed.
- 7) Travel outside Sana'a to oversee implementation of activities by partners/sub-recipients.
- 8) Handle all normal routine administrative issues.
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Deadline for receiving applications is 20 Sep 2008.

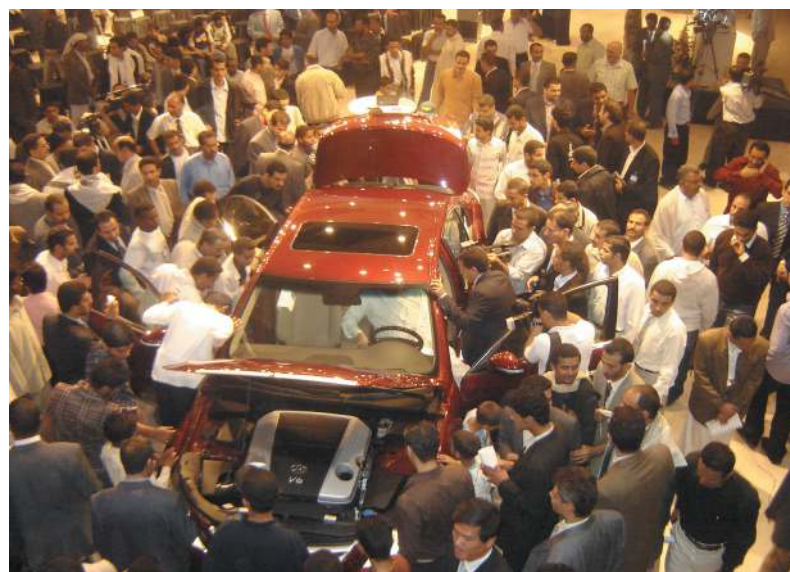
Their News

Hyundai, the delivery of a new star

The National Company (NATCO) held a great party on the occasion of the delivery of the new star from Hyundai, Geneses. The ceremony was attended by a number of the country's very important personalities, including foreign and Arab diplomats and Yemeni businessmen.

During the ceremony, the latest models of Hyundai cars for the year 2009 were displayed. Their amazing designs and unique shapes attracted the attention of the audience. Many were assisted by sales agents to acquaint themselves with the luxurious vehicles and were further briefed on what the cars have to offer.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, cut the ribbon to reveal Geneses, the star of the show, which amazed the audience with its unique design, elegance, luxurious interior as well as improved and strengthened mechanical design.



Hyundai Yemen affirms their great commitment to providing Yemenis with the latest cars from different international trademarks.

UNDP and the Government of Italy signed the Cost Sharing Agreement for the Extension of Improve Trade and Industry License Registration Capabilities project

United Nations Development Programme UNDP and the Government of Italy signed today the Cost Sharing Agreement for the Extension of Improve Trade and Industry License Registration Capabilities project. The signing ceremony was patronage and attended by H.E. Dr. Yahia Al Mutawakel, Minister of Trade and Industry.

The initial project, that started early in 2006, aimed to improve trade and industry registration through the introduction of Information Technology in the Ministry of Trade and Industry MoIT. The main goal of the project was to build up the capacity in this sector to improve a modernized business environment. Also, it aimed to strengthen Trade and Industry License Administration to reduce the bureaucratic procedures and time consuming processes in acquiring business permit. The USD 413,589 extension of this project, funded by Italian Government, is an opportunity to mod-

ernize and strengthen Licensing Administration procedures to enable business environment thus to facilitate investment procedures in Yemen. Particularly, it aims at supporting business services at the central and local level, enhancing e-government, capacity building in the MoIT, and supporting the statistic department as an advisory body focal point for trade policy related issues, under the Integrated Framework approach. The CSA was signed by Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative and H.E. Mr. Mario Boffo, the Italian Ambassador in Sana'a. The signing ceremony was attended by:

H.E. Eng. Hisham Sharaf, Deputy Minister of Planning for International Cooperation, Mr. Selva Ramachandran UNDP Country Director, Mr. Walter Di Martino, Deputy Head of Mission in the Italian Embassy, officials from the Yemeni Government, UNDP, Italian Embassy, and others

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

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مختار أحمد القعود
 بمناسبة ارتقاء المولود البكر والذي أسماه
عمر
 فأنه ألف تبروك
 المغنوه :
 والدكم / أحمد محمد القعود وأخواتك - م/ مطهر - د/ فاضل
 الشيخ / عثمان - م/ زياد - أ/ هده - المقاتل / أبو الحارث يحيى القعود
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Logistics Materials Coordinator

Job Number Y005

Essential Job Duties

This position is responsible for coordinating with internal and external companies and governmental agencies to ensure the timely delivery of materials and equipment purchased for use within our Yemen operations. The specific responsibilities and task for this position include but are not limited to the following:

- Contact suppliers to confirm receipt of orders, inspections, shipment of goods and other miscellaneous requirements applicable to the PO
- Monitor vendor performance and provide statistical feedback of both vendor and purchasing staff
- Participate in resolution of any vendor invoicing problems or material discrepancy disputes
- Check incoming shipments for any signs of damage or discrepancies and issues a Material Discrepancy Report in the event of shortage/overage or damages.
- Updates inventory for received materials.
- Takes the necessary precautions when processing hazardous materials and follows the storage recommendations as per the MSDS's.
- Updates files for MSDS's for all chemicals and other hazardous materials.
- Actively monitors warehouse stocks to assure timely replenishment of materials.
- Coordinate incoming and outgoing shipments with Logistics and Customs personnel.
- Coordinates personnel transportation to and from the field.
- Other duties as assigned by your supervisor.

Required Qualifications

- College Degree with 2 years of Logistics experience preferably in the oil industry
- Fluent English and Arabic (written and spoken)
- Working knowledge of Oracle is a plus
- Proficient in Excel & Word
- Excellent interpersonal skills, high degree of comfort working in a team-oriented environment
- This position is based in Sana'a but may require periodic visits to the field

Expeditor

Job Number Y050

Essential Job Duties

Individual will be responsible for assuring the timely delivery of materials & equipment purchased by Oxy Yemen both locally & internationally. Expeditor will contact suppliers to confirm receipt of orders, inspections, shipment of goods & other miscellaneous requirements applicable to the PO. Additionally, Expeditor will monitor vendor performance & provide statistical feedback re KPI of both vendor & Purchasing staff. Required to participate in resolution of any vendor invoicing problems or material discrepancy disputes. Input daily material activity in the Oracle system and provide assistance in the Procurement Department as directed. This position reports to the Procurement Supervisor.

- Confirm receipt of newly issued PO's by supplier & conformance with information contained therein.
- Actively monitor vendor deliveries & confirm shipment as promised.
- Generate & issue status reports related to project material requirements.
- Coordinate & monitor all vendor submittals such as drawings, procedures, test reports etc. as required by the PO.

- Keep end users informed on the status of their materials.
- Coordinate incoming & outgoing logistics requirements with Customs & Logistics personnel related to cargo activities
- Ensure best cost transportation methods used to meet business objectives
- Monitor vendor performance & provide input for statistical measurement of vendor performance.
- Participate in the resolution of any material discrepancy disputes or vendor invoicing problems
- Work with local & international Purchasing groups to obtain delivery status.
- Check local purchase material before shipping to ensure that correct material is received thus avoiding material rejects and returns.
- Reviews all invoices for material and personnel transportation, fuel, and other services supplied under contracts and/or Service Orders.
- Other duties as assigned by your supervisor.

Required Qualifications

- Minimum of 2 - 3 yrs experience in Supply Chain activities with particular emphasis on Procurement activities
- Must have working knowledge of interrelationship of Procurement, Logistics & Material Control activities & impacts upon the ultimate job performance.
- College Diploma preferred with major in Business, Logistics or Contracts.
- Microsoft Office PC skills: Excel, Word
- Working knowledge of Oracle required.
- Knowledge of oil field - construction materials & logistics of major benefit.
- Fluent in English: reading & writing.

Additional Desired Qualifications

- Must be willing to work on-site with Facilities - Construction staff under very stressful conditions.
- Knowledge of international logistics.
- Field visits from time to time as required.

YEMEN NATIONALS ONLY. CLOSING DATE FOR ALL POSITIONS IS 20/9/2008.

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Corruption triggers media repression

By: Jane Novak

The level of media repression may be a determining factor in whether Yemen avoids the threat of state failure. The Yemeni government suffers from entrenched corruption in nearly every office, a legacy of traditional patron/client relationships. Demands for transparency threaten the substantial patrimonial networks associated with access to the government budget.

More than 20% of state funds go to the administrative expenses of the Presidency and Parliament. A quarter of the Yemeni budget is allocated to the military as a line item. Another third of the budget is spent on diesel subsidies. Beyond the misappropriation of state funds, members of the administration also spin off criminal enterprises using advantages gained from their official positions.

In Yemen's pervasively corrupt environment, investigative reporting is challenging the conditions that undermine efforts at wider economic and political reform. The Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption credits journalists with uncovering the vast majority of cases in its docket. The NGO, "Journalists Against Corruption", recently documented financial malfeasance in every governmental ministry.

This investigative journalism is an agent of change on a social level as well. Published reporting on corruption has somewhat reduced the culture of fear. Corruption is now a topic more available for public discussion.

International efforts in working with the Yemeni government on the issue from the top down are augmented by the efforts of the journalists working from the bottom up. As the CPJ noted, "During the last three years, opposition newspapers have smashed political taboos by criticizing rampant government corruption..."

However, red lines exist for journalists wherever there is money and crime.

One Yemeni journalist defines the taboo topics as the President, his family and close associates, oil revenues, oil smuggling, military budgets, corporate nepotism, and the naming of corrupt officials or their activities.

Journalists faced hundreds of attacks from 2005-2007. No investigations occurred. Of 301 instances of media repression, 96 were committed by the National Security Organization, including physical assaults, arbitrary imprisonment, property vandalism and theft, kidnapping and death threats. Ninety-five violations were perpetrated by the Ministry of Information including revoking licenses, prohibiting the printing or circulation of newspapers, fines and judicial proceeding. The Interior Ministry committed 54 violations, the PSO 45 and the military 11. Powerful non-state actors brought lawsuits against journalists and sometimes subjected them to assaults. As reports on corruption triggered retaliation, Yemeni journalists turned to technology and international rights groups to amplify their message.

The widespread targeting of journalists is a recent phenomenon. Following 1990's unity, a multiplicity of outspoken private and party newspapers emerged. After the civil war, as power concentrated in the executive, Yemen's media became politically polarized. Generally, the official media endorses the administration, and opposition media criticizes it. Opposition papers confronted the government, but discussion of the president, his family and certain other subjects was off limits. In 2003, there were few cases of government harassment of journalists.

The climate changed in 2004 when Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani, editor of the opposition al-Shoura, wrote an article entitled, "A Country Facing the Power Inheritance." He named the sons of high government and military officials as recipients of governmental contracts and positions. He was threatened but continued to cross the red lines. Other journalists also began to broach taboo

topics. Al-Khaiwani was sentenced to a year in jail for insulting the president. He refused an offer of release in exchange for apology. In a letter from Sana'a jail, al-Khaiwani explained his stand. "I believe in democracy, freedom, equality and rights and am willing to suffer for their sake," he wrote. Yemenis have internalized democratic principles since 1990. By 2004, some journalists, including al-Khaiwani, had a sense of democratic entitlement denied. A nucleus of activist journalists emerged, confident of their ability to improve conditions in Yemen and encouraged by international rights groups' interest in al-Khaiwani's case.

In 2005, journalists increasingly uncovered and reported on corruption. They were seriously targeted by the government 53 times. Jamal Amer, editor of the independent Al-Wasat, was kidnapped and beaten after an article that outlined nepotism in awarding college scholarships. Amer's ordeal gained international attention and galvanized Yemen's non-governmental journalists.

Coverage of domestic unrest also triggered attacks on journalists. Authorities tried to prevent local and satellite journalists from covering the 2005 fuel riots, the Saada war, the later price demonstrations and southern protests. Newspapers that published news often faced retaliation.

Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani was pardoned in March 2005. He then published a report detailing the business holdings of top government and military officials. Weeks later, gunmen stormed Al-Shoura's offices, took control and begin publishing the paper with a pro-regime line. Al-Khaiwani launched an internet version of al-Shoura.

About 50 new opinion and news websites emerged. Internet users, which numbered 100,000 in the year 2000, grew to 160,000 by 2006. The Yemen Times reported the popularity of Al-Shoura web site "skyrocketed due to (Al-Khaiwani's) outspoken opinion articles and investigative reports unveiling

corruption at very high levels in the regime..."

Internet filtering increased prior to the 2006 presidential election. Twenty-two verdicts were issued against the press and dozens more were pending. The court banned Al-Wahadi's editor from journalism after he documented land seizures by members of the Republican Guard. He faced nine other trials. Facing 14 lawsuits, the editor of the YSP's newspaper, Al-Thawry, sought and received political asylum in the UK.

During the presidential campaign, the opposition candidate was given substantial airtime on national broadcast channels, an important concession considering Yemen's high illiteracy rate. Afterward, the ruling party resumed its monopoly of the airwaves.

The governmental media and high administration officials defamed journalists, calling them traitors, separatists and foreign agents. Three papers were suspended for publishing the Danish Mohammed cartoons, and their editors labeled apostates. However, Yemeni journalists gained a higher international profile when Jamal Amer won the CPJ's Press Freedom Award and Nadia Al-Saqqaf, editor of the independent Yemen Times won the Gebran Tuani award from the World Association of Newspaper Editors.

By 2007, activist journalists became bolder and more numerous, seemingly willing to endure anything but self-censorship. Violations totaled 113 and included more physical assaults and fewer lawsuits. Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani was arrested on terrorism charges. Released on bail, he wrote about prison conditions. He was then kidnapped and beaten.

Despite the harsh media environment, official and independent media outlets have grown. In 2007, four new state-owned TV channels were launched as were several independent English language news websites.

Few newspaper licenses were granted until 2007 when Woman Journalists

Without Chains (WJWC) lead 16 weeks of protests. Of 102 pending newspaper or magazine applications, 75 were submitted by independents. The Ministry of Information eventually granted 34 licenses, bringing the national total to about 200. The ministry rejected 68 applications including that of WJWC. Text message news alerts, previously banned by the Ministry, were licensed to a few news outlets.

Internet video sharing gained popularity among civil rights activists, southern protesters, northern rebels and everyday citizens. Authorities blocked some YouTube videos of southern demonstrations and about forty news and opinion websites. Thousands more websites are blocked automatically by Websense.

Most advocacy for freedom of expression comes from NGO's. Several vibrant NGO's are lead by journalists or have journalists as members. The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS), which represents Yemen's 1363 registered journalists, is less assertive. The syndicate is funded by the government and headed by the editor of SABA, the state news agency. In 2008, hundreds of journalists protested, demanding admission to the YJS, which they charge was denied on political grounds.

In 2008, retaliatory targeting of journalists continues unabated. Topics that triggered recent attacks include the sexual exploitation of Yemeni children smuggled to Saudi Arabia, court corruption, and corruption in secondary school exams.

The regime increasingly tries to disguise its attacks on the media by using oblique methods of intimidation. Nonetheless, journalists are still regularly snatched from the street or beaten where they stand. In June, security forces seized 27 year old Loui Al-Maoyyad, editor of Yemen Hurr news website. His whereabouts are unknown. Colleagues created a website dedicated to his release.

The internet is one of the few independent national information systems.

Authorities recently limited the business hours of Yemen's nearly 900 internet cafes and began requiring patrons to show ID. Yemen Portal website, a news aggregator, publishes the full content of the other blocked news websites. The Portal developed a Firefox extension that circumvents the internet block on the site. The Portal's page views rose from 2,300 on April 4, to 20,400 on April 9, after the plug-in was announced. Page views of Yemen Portal average about 25,000 a day. Hits in May totaled 1.7 million and page views 818,000.

Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani was sentenced to six years in jail. Twenty-seven international rights groups issued a joint appeal for his release. Al-Wasat's license was suspended, but it was later re-instated after domestic and international protests.

In conclusion, reform in Yemen is an urgent national concern. The denial of newspaper licenses, internet access and privately owned broadcast media inhibits the formation of a national consensus, undermines progressives and short circuits accountability.

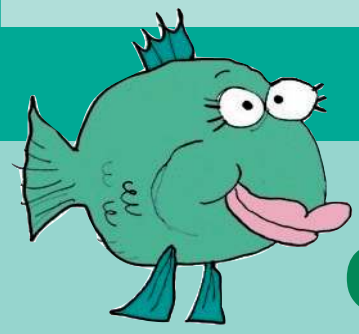
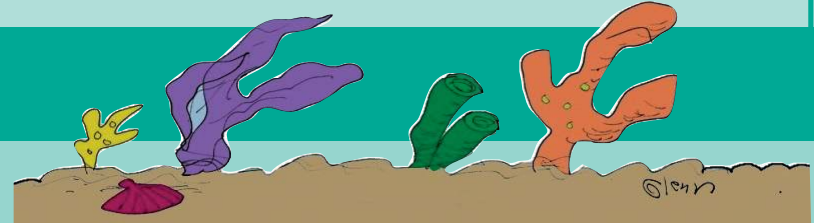
Yemen's retaliatory targeting of journalists is brutal and systematic. Journalists understand that they can bring domestic and international pressure on the regime, but it requires that they endure the government's attacks. The growth of media repression demonstrates that some officials are determined to retain the cash flows derived from corrupt practices and criminal enterprises. As these forces push back against demands for reform and transparency, it is a pragmatic imperative to lift the ceiling of journalistic freedom in Yemen.

This paper was presented in a conference on "Political Developments in Yemen" held in Washington D.C.. Jane Novak is a researcher and analyst who specializes in Yemeni internal affairs. She maintains a website devoted to Yemen and can be reached at jane.novak@gmail.com

FRANNIE LEARNS A LESSON

Last Chapter: Frannie and her friends start the 2nd grade, but hear a rumor that their new teacher is a sea-monster.

Chapter 2: "My Teacher is a Sea-Monster!"

In celebration of this year's World Literacy Day, the Yemen Times will be publishing, in collaboration with the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), an eight-part story entitled 'Frannie Learns a Lesson' in the next issues. The story is a short adventure for parents and children to read together, or individuals to read on their own, as a gesture of continued appreciation for the value of the written word in our world today. We hope you enjoy it, and don't forget to look out for the next chapter on Monday!!

"There's the bell," Tommy announced. Frannie, Suzy, and Tommy all looked at each other, because any fish that knows anything, knows what a bell means. The three friends floated down the hall towards class.

"Wow, look at the walls!" Suzy was pointing at a very large mural that went down both sides of the hall. The words LAND LIFE were in giant letters across the top of each side of the hall.

"That's so cool, but are there really that many different kinds of land creatures?" Frannie wondered. Some had feathers, some just had skin, but the weirdest looking ones had lots of really thin tentacles on their heads. They were labeled: HUMAN.

The three friends giggled at the funny looking humans.

"Look at that!" Suzy laughed. "They don't even have gills! How do they breathe? And without water, how do they swim?"


"I think the plants are pretty," Frannie was pointing at the colorful display of flowers and trees on a different wall. "Some of these look kind of like sea plants." They all agreed that they reminded them of the plants around their neighborhood.

"Well, we'd better get to class before the second bell, we don't want to upset the sea-monster on the first day," Tommy said, leading the pack towards their classroom.

Within moments their other friend, Carter Crab, came swimming towards them with a loud "WHOOSH!" This was typical of Carter, always moving a little too fast and always excited about something. Frannie had to keep telling herself, "No matter what he has to say, remember he exaggerates most of the time."

Carter's claws were flapping extremely fast and he could barely contain his excitement. "Hey, did you guys hear about our teacher? You are not going to believe this, not in a million-gazillion years! Are you ready for this?"

"She's a sea-monster?" Suzy interrupted.



"Worse! Last year, Mrs. Seaslug was in a horrifying maximum security prison for doing something really awful at her last school. She'd still be there, except two weeks ago she escaped so she could come here and teach us - and the police are still looking for her!"

"What?!" asked Frannie just as the friends were entering their classroom.

"Boys and girls, welcome to second grade!" said their new teacher, greeting them at the door.

"My name is Mrs. Seaslug."

Frannie looked at her new teacher as she was finding her seat. She didn't look like a sea-monster. In fact, she was pretty. She had the most beautiful purple and pink fins that Frannie thought she'd ever seen. Mrs. Seaslug continued. "As you all probably know, I'm new to this school. I spent the last five years teaching school in a gulf far away. You all may call me Mrs. S."

The friends stared at Carter. Tommy whispered to him, "a horrifying prison, huh?"

Carter's shell turned even more red. He whispered back, "I was just telling you what someone told me."

"I only have one rule in my class," Mrs. S began, "you must

always treat others with respect. What I mean is, think about how the things you do might affect someone else." She continued to talk about how each fish could show respect for each other, and how listening to her when she is speaking is a good way to show respect for her. The class gave Mrs. S their full attention while she was talking. "So, let's all treat each other with respect, and we'll have a great school year!"

"Now this morning we'll spend some time getting to know each other, and then after recess we'll start in on some math lessons. Any questions?" She asked the class.

"So, we do get to have recess this year?" Frannie asked.

"Of course you do, why do you ask?" Mrs. S wondered.

"Oh, I just heard from someone that we might not, that's all, ma'am," Frannie said to Mrs. S, while staring at her friends.

At the end of the first day, all four friends were swimming out of school. "She is soooo nice!" Frannie said. "I really like her."

"Yeah, me too," said Tommy and Suzy.

"I think that some fish just don't like to admit it when they're wrong," teased Suzy.

"Oh, there's my ride," Frannie said, waving to her dad. "I'll see you guys tomorrow."

"How was your first day, Frannie?" her dad asked.

"It was great Dad. It was good to see everyone again, and I really like my teacher."

"Frannie, your mom and I have been talking." Frannie was scared when her father said this, because it usually meant that she was in trouble. "We've decided that starting tomorrow, you can ride the bus to school."

Frannie smiled a fake smile at her father. "The bus?" she thought. "But, I've never gone to school alone nor ridden the schoolbus before." Frannie was quiet for the rest of the trip. She was very scared of tomorrow's bus ride.

Next Chapter: "What's so Scary About a Bus Ride?"

Using the newspaper

1. Define exaggeration. Are there any news stories or ads in the newspaper that you think might include an exaggeration?
2. Play the Telephone Game to illustrate how things change when told from person to person. Use a newspaper headline and have it whispered from student to student, to see how it changes by the time the last student says it out loud

REAL LIFE & VALUES: Respect for others

Why do you think rules are necessary? As a class, discuss and prepare a list of rules you think are important to your class.

To do and think about...

1. Create a "Land Life" and a "Sea Life" mural for your class.
2. Pretend you are a travel agent trying to encourage other fish to travel to Coralville. Create your choice

of a travel brochure/booklet/flyer/poster. You might include drawings of the town, "Things to do in Coralville" lists, maps, etc.

3. Note in the chart below how you feel about the behavior of the characters:

Who	I think...	... because ...

What will happen next?

Can you think of anything that might scare Frannie on her bus ride?

More activities...

www.wan-press.org/Frannie

World Association of Newspapers

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Upcoming elections: between integrity claims and vote rigging wills

By: Mohammed Saleh Al-Qubati

Yemen is approaching a dangerous turning point in the course of politics, under which the coming phase of Yemeni people's living will be disclosed positively or negatively. Aspects and details of the upcoming parliamentary elections are being crystallized in the current political scene amid the worsening national turmoil, along with its negative aspects on the ground.

In this allergic and complicated context, the outcome of political conflict between the two extremes of the political equation has been going sharper since the most recent presidential and local council elections in September 2006.

Both sides are notably wrangling over the proposed election law reforms, as per the various bilateral agreements reached between both sides such as the Agreement of Principles, signed in June, 2006 and the other agreement concerned with recommen-

dations of the European Election Observation Mission, which was signed in December 2006.

Both sides also signed other subsequent agreements as part of their bilateral dialogue that lacked the minimum level of seriousness and credibility over the past two years. Being conducted randomly, the dialogue reached no tangible results, and therefore it was officially halted in September 2007. It uncovered the potential contradictions between both extremes of the political equation as an extensive expression about a conflict between two contradictory wills and positions about the upcoming parliamentary election as follows:

Contradicting wills of authority and opposition:

One: Will of the authority and its party. This will intends to reproduce the same authority, as well as renew its outdated political legitimacy via decorative parliamentary election and exploitation of public money and facilities.

Yemeni authority is known to be skilled in exploiting public funds and property and rigging voters' wills, plus

cloning previous electoral experiences in a way enabling it rearrange components of the subsequent political scene within decorative legitimacy and democracy. The authority's decorative democracy and legitimacy help provide the minimum level of international indicators for assessing status of Yemen's democracy, compared to democratic and political experiences of neighboring states.

Therefore, the authority showed strong objection to the proposed election law amendments and refused to abide by contents of bilateral agreements it reached with the opposition. The authority is evasive and practices various political pressures on the opposition and at the same time exploit its majority in Parliament, with the intention of extorting the opposition parties and make them stop criticizing rampant corruption in the various government offices.

Behaving this way, the authority empties content of electoral reforms out, particularly as its previous plans are meant to establish decorative participation by opposition parties in the election management body since it

realized that this is necessary to add political legitimacy to the upcoming parliamentary election.

The authority made constitutional amendments within the context of a guaranteed electoral process under its own conditions and requirements that help it control results of the vote in advance in order to ensure longer stay of the same ruler in power, as well as bequeath power to the sons. Taking such an unwise procedure, the authority adjourns the worsening national turmoil amid partial settlements for many years to come.

Two: The oppositions' will. It intends to transform the upcoming parliamentary election into a gate for political change, thereby putting an end to the traditional decorative style of electoral practices experienced over the past years. Via this strategy, the opposition is planning to create political balance so that the opposition parties can play an effective role in politics, engage in decision making and carry out comprehensive national and political reforms.

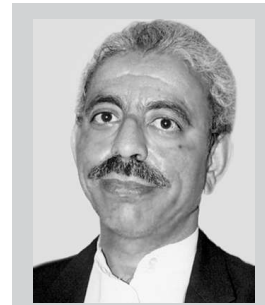
Source: Newsyemen.net

COMMON SENSE

Halting the senseless madness in Sa'ada

The sensible and right thing to do

For close to two months now, since President Ali Abdullah pulled one of the most surprising moves in his tenure as President, there has been much analytical and contemplative effort to try to figure out what it was that made the President hurriedly order an end to the fighting in Sa'ada. Yet, amidst all this analytical flare, observers seemed to have forgotten to point out that, for all the ramifications and suggested scenarios that could have been the driving circumstances that may have been behind the turnaround in the civil conflict that has been ensuing now for four years, thanks to God it really seems like this time it is going to endure. This optimism is underscored by the realities on the ground this time and in the other relevant areas that are part and parcel to the conflict (including the release of many prisoners, suspected rightly or wrongly of being Houthis or Houthi sympathizers. Moreover few analysts had the sense to realize that ordering the end of hostilities was indeed the only right thing to do, which is indeed what this and many prominent journalists, dignitaries and political leaders from within and from outside the People's General Congress, the ruling party of the President, have often pointed out. Again, notwithstanding the political considerations that may have been the energizer of this desire to bring a long standing conflict that had no rational beginning to start with and certainly was not in service to the national interests of Yemen to an end, one is bound to regard the decision as one of the most stupendous political decisions that President Saleh made, which certainly must have thrown a lot of people off balance, inside and outside of Yemen. For sure the inside elements of the latter had wished the war drums to continue beating away as they sought to continue instill their place along the with the narrow minded interests that always see in war a profitable enterprise or the regional players that have their own motives for encouraging the wanton killing of Yemenis by Yemenis.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

History has always shown that when Yemen's leadership looks more inward, it is bound to find quick and decisive solutions to any of the problems faced in the country that have gone out of control, especially when foreign elements seem to enjoy fomenting conflict among Yemenis to foster their own interest, or to keep Yemen in check, lest it becomes able to get its house in order and turn into what these regional elements perceive as a potential threat to their artificial prosperity. On a more social context, the Yemeni civil conflict in Sa'ada could not be ignored in terms of the religious ideological context. With the Saudis continuously portraying themselves as the "guardians of puritan 'orthodox' Islam", any other organized religious thinking was viewed with great hostility by the Wahhabi Establishment and their sovereign partners, represented by the Saudi Royal family. It should not surprise anyone that the Saudis would work diligently to ensure that the Houthis never have a chance to wield any religious influence in Yemen, or anywhere else in the Peninsula for that matter. Al-Diyar Newspaper in the 2nd of September issue gives a historical link to the Saudi factor in the Sa'ada war and suggests that the Houthi Movement, long before the guns started to hammer away in the Governorate of Sa'ada, was viewed with great alarm by the Saudi regime. On the other hand, the Saudis could not help but feel somewhat fragile as the open anti-Wahhabi stance of the Houthis was able to gain listening ears in the very territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and thus question the temporal authority, which the Wahhabi religious establishment has come to embody, without regards to the true teachings of Islam on matters of statecraft, propagation of the faith and the unusual amity with bloodshed and violence that the Wahhabi Movement almost exclusively relied on to spread its heretical doctrine. For the Saudis such open and unabashed contest to Wahhabi spiritual prevalence in the Arabian Peninsula was simply unacceptable. With many of its friends inside and outside of Government prepared and energized in due time, the Yemeni Government was railroaded into regarding the Houthis as a threat to the Yemeni Government and the stability and prosperity of the country. The Yemeni Government under such goading became the stick that the Saudis wanted to whack these loud critics of the Saudi rendition of Islam and the illustrators of the danger that Wahhabism posed on all Moslems of the world.

With the war situation looking unpalatable to the international community and the obvious objection to the war by most sensible voices in Yemen, among the public and by many political and social leaders, there were some indications that the President was opting for a way out of the conflict by any means, with greater emphasis on a peaceful settlement. However, the Saudis through their media began to express their intentions vis a vis the Houthis openly and sought to project the Houthis as the worst thing that could happen to the world. Thus, Saleh realized that both the Northern neighbors and their "friends" in Yemen, were seeking to go full throttle and unleash every possible force to eliminate the Houthis, which indeed would have been a very costly and almost unattainable undertaking to say the least. They went so far as to demand for nothing less than a "decisive victory"; even after the President has announced that he was pursuing a peaceful end to the insurrection. Moreover, Saudi officials continued coming and going to and from Sana'a and extravagantly huge banquets were hosted by the Saudi Embassy for these officials, inviting all of the old and new friends of the Saudis, without the slightest regard for the relevant diplomatic protocols involved in such socializing. There were enough signs in all these activities that perhaps inescapably reflected that the sovereignty of the Republic of Yemen and the authority of the President was being tested beyond acceptable norms.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

Quota: a key step to enhance women's political participation

By: Fatma Uqba

Since National Democratic Institute (NDI) began its operations in Yemen in 1993 as an international observer of that year's election and opened its office in Sana'a in 1997, the institute devoted the most important of its programs (Political Parties and Women Participation Program) to supporting Yemen's political parties.

It has been providing political and technical consultation and support for Yemeni parties with aim of achieving an effective and industrious participation for women in the women sectors of the major parties in Yemen that had notable representation at Parliament. These parties are: General People's Congress, Islah Party and Yemeni Socialist Party.

In 2004, heads (females) of women sectors at political parties involved in NDI's program signed "a Memorandum of Understanding" to establish the Women Network.

Receiving lavish support from the parties involved, the network had branches in Aden, Taiz, Ibb, Hadramout, Hodeida, Lahj and Abyan.

This network was established with the specific aim of supporting women in political parties and providing NDI's support to them. NDI's support include training for women in the three mentioned parties, plus the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (an opposition party), which joined the Women Network in early 2005.

Regretfully, ahead of the local council elections in 2006, the Women Network faced numerous challenges, most important of which are the political parties being unserious about women's participation in politics and refraining from nominating women in 2006 local elections. This negatively impacted operations of the network in all the governorates.

The challenges that faced the network included women's nomination and how to nominate them and some

parties' refusal to nominate women as they feared potential loss in constituencies where women represent them as candidates. Amid these challenges, many women activists in the network claimed approving a quota for Yemeni women like what is being applied in other Arab countries. The Quota claims faced great objections by political parties under the pretext there was no enough time while promises were made to apply women's quota in the parliamentary elections of 2009.

At this point, it has been made clear that Yemeni women wouldn't succeed in their political participation as candidates unless there is a constitution or law ensuring their suffrage to stand in the elections as candidates, like the way they were ensured the right to vote.

We would like to highlight that female voters accounted for more than 48 percent of the total number of voters in the most recent elections in September 2006. Their votes had been often exploited in favor of male candi-

dates in rural and urban areas. Therefore, women turned to represent a bank of votes for men.

As long as approving a certain share (Quota) for Yemeni women in the elected bodies is not a new concept for Yemen, this concept is still ambiguous and unclear in the eye of many veteran politicians. There is a pressing need to clarify the meaning of "Quota" and its types, particularly following President Saleh's initiative in September 2007 in which he declared that 15 percent of Parliament seats will be designated for women.

Therefore, Political Parties and Women Participation Program at NDI conducted a study on Quota, its types and the possibility to apply it under the current election system in Yemen.

Women have less political rights than men

Based on Yemen's experience, plus international studies and declarations in this regard, Women are less able than men to obtain their rights, be it in businesses, decision making, or possession of resources. In addition, the political and electoral game is still male-dominated in its traditions, legislations, resources and mechanisms. This limits women's capacity to join this game under certain rules that ensure nepotism for influential forces.

As indicated above, women's capacity to hold political alliances within a man-dominated political game, which is often characterized by dishonesty, violence, night meetings, qat sessions and exploitation of private and public money, face challenges. Consequently, this reduces women's capability of nomination and competition with men.

To create multiple opportunities for women, the various international and Arab democratic communities used the system of "Affirmative Action. This means the design of programs and training activities to build capacities and skills. These communities also applied the Quota or women's shares in politics by giving them a certain share in the political bodies according to laws and institutions of states adopting this system.



By: Samer

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Veiled sexuality

By: Naomi Wolf

A woman swathed in black to her ankles, wearing a headscarf or a full *chador*, walks down a European or North American street, surrounded by other women in halter tops, miniskirts and short shorts. She passes under immense billboards on which other women swoon in sexual ecstasy, cavort in lingerie or simply stretch out languorously, almost fully naked. Could this image be any more iconic of the discomfort the West has with the social mores of Islam, and vice versa?

Ideological battles are often waged with women's bodies as their emblems, and Western Islamophobia is no exception. When France banned headscarves in schools, it used the *hijab* as a proxy for Western values in general, including the appropriate status of women. When Americans were being prepared for the invasion of Afghanistan, the Taliban were demonized for denying cosmetics and hair color to women; when the

Taliban were overthrown, Western writers often noted that women had taken off their scarves.

But are we in the West radically misinterpreting Muslim sexual mores, particularly the meaning to many Muslim women of being veiled or wearing the *chador*? And are we blind to our own markers of the oppression and control of women?

The West interprets veiling as repression of women and suppression of their sexuality. But when I traveled in Muslim countries and was invited to join a discussion in women-only settings within Muslim homes, I learned that Muslim attitudes toward women's appearance and sexuality are not rooted in repression, but in a strong sense of public versus private, of what is due to God and what is due to one's husband. It is not that Islam suppresses sexuality, but that it embodies a strongly developed sense of its appropriate channeling — toward marriage, the bonds that sustain family life, and the attachment that secures a home.

Outside the walls of the typical

Muslim households that I visited in Morocco, Jordan, and Egypt, all was demureness and propriety. But inside, women were as interested in allure, seduction, and pleasure as women anywhere in the world.

At home, in the context of marital intimacy, Victoria's Secret, elegant fashion, and skin care lotions abounded. The bridal videos that I was shown, with the sensual dancing that the bride learns as part of what makes her a wonderful wife, and which she proudly displays for her bridegroom, suggested that sensuality was not alien to Muslim women. Rather, pleasure and sexuality, both male and female, should not be displayed promiscuously — and possibly destructively — for all to see.

Indeed, many Muslim women I spoke with did not feel at all subjugated by the *chador* or the headscarf. On the contrary, they felt liberated from what they experienced as the intrusive, commodifying, basely sexualizing Western gaze. Many women said something like this: "When I wear Western clothes, men stare at me, objectify me, or I am

always measuring myself against the standards of models in magazines, which are hard to live up to — and even harder as you get older, not to mention how tiring it can be to be on display all the time. When I wear my headscarf or *chador*, people relate to me as an individual, not an object; I feel respected." This may not be expressed in a traditional Western feminist set of images, but it is a recognizably Western feminist set of feelings.

I experienced it myself. I put on a *shalwar kameez* and a headscarf in Morocco for a trip to the bazaar. Yes, some of the warmth I encountered was probably from the novelty of seeing a Westerner so clothed; but, as I moved about the market — the curve of my breasts covered, the shape of my legs obscured, my long hair not flying about me — I felt a novel sense of calm and serenity. I felt, yes, in certain ways, free.

Nor are Muslim women alone. The Western Christian tradition portrays all sexuality, even married sexuality, as sinful. Islam and Judaism never had that same kind of mind-body split. So, in

both cultures, sexuality channeled into marriage and family life is seen as a source of great blessing, sanctioned by God.

This may explain why both Muslim and orthodox Jewish women not only describe a sense of being liberated by their modest clothing and covered hair, but also express much higher levels of sensual joy in their married lives than is common in the West. When sexuality is kept private and directed in ways seen as sacred — and when one's husband isn't seeing his wife (or other women) half-naked all day long — one can feel great power and intensity when the headscarf or the *chador* comes off in the sanctity of the home.

Among healthy young men in the West, who grow up on pornography and sexual imagery on every street corner, reduced libido is a growing epidemic, so it is easy to imagine the power that sexuality can still carry in a more modest culture. And it is worth understanding the positive experiences that women — and men — can have in cultures where sexuality is more conservatively direct-

ed.

I do not mean to dismiss the many women leaders in the Muslim world who regard veiling as a means of controlling women. Choice is everything. But Westerners should recognize that when a woman in France or Britain chooses a veil, it is not necessarily a sign of her repression. And, more importantly, when you choose your own miniskirt and halter top — in a Western culture in which women are not so free to age, to be respected as mothers, workers or spiritual beings, and to disregard Madison Avenue — it's worth thinking in a more nuanced way about what female freedom really means.

Naomi Wolf, the author, most recently, of The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot and the forthcoming Give me Liberty: How to Become an American Revolutionary, is co-founder of the American Freedom Campaign, a US democracy movement. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008. www.project-syndicate.org

The guns and gold of August

By: Joseph S. Nye

China and Russia have just provided the world with sharp contrasts in the use of power. As the French analyst Dominique Moisi recently put it, "whereas China intends to seduce and impress the world by the number of its Olympic medals, Russia wants to impress the world by demonstrating its military superiority — China's soft power versus Russia's hard power." Some American analysts, such as Edward Luttwak, have concluded that Russia's invasion of Georgia proves the "irrelevance" of soft power, and the dominance of hard military power. In reality, the story will turn out to be more complicated for both countries.

Soft power is the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payment. It is not the solution to all problems. North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il's fondness for Hollywood movies is unlikely to affect

his nuclear weapons program. And soft power got nowhere in dissuading Afghanistan's Taliban government from supporting Al Qaeda in the 1990's.

But other goals, such as the promotion of democracy and human rights, are better achieved by soft power, which can also create an enabling or disabling environment, as the United States discovered in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq.

Skeptics who belittle soft power because it does not solve all problems are like a boxer who fights without using his left hand because his right hand is stronger. Soft power is rarely sufficient, but it is often crucial to combine soft and hard power to have an effective "smart power" strategy. As the American Defense Secretary Robert Gates said last year, "I am here to make the case for strengthening our capacity to use soft power and for better integrating it with hard power."

Military force is obviously a source of hard power, but the same resource

can sometimes contribute to soft power behavior. The impressive job by the American military in providing humanitarian relief after the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 and the South Asian earthquake in 2005 helped restore America's attractiveness.

On the other hand, misuse of military resources can undercut soft power. The Soviet Union had a great deal of soft power in the years after World War II, but destroyed it by the way the Kremlin used its hard power against Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Russia is now going through a period of nationalistic reaction to what it regards as the humiliation it suffered after the Soviet empire collapsed. With the rise in energy prices boosting its economy, Russia has seen an opportunity to reassert its power over its neighbors. In addition, it felt aggrieved by plans for further expansion of NATO, a proposed ballistic missile defense system in Eastern Europe, and Western recognition of Kosovo's secession from Russia's ally, Serbia.

Russia has sought to weaken Georgia's government for some time. In early August, Russia set a trap in South Ossetia, and Georgia foolishly walked into it.

If the Russians had used their "peacekeeping" force solely to protect South Ossetians' "self-determination" (citing the precedent of Western actions in Kosovo), they would have done little damage to their soft power, and the benefits could have exceeded the costs. By bombing, blockading, and occupying many parts of Georgia, delaying its withdrawal, parading blindfolded Georgian soldiers, and failing to protect Georgian citizens, Russia lost its claims to legitimacy and sowed fear and mistrust in much of the world.

Neighbors such as Ukraine have become more wary. An immediate cost was Poland's reversal of its resistance to an American anti-ballistic missile system. When Russia appealed for support of its Georgia policy to its fellow members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, China and others

refused. Longer-term costs may include the failure of Russia's proposal for a new European security system, a revived European interest in the Nabucco and White Stream gas pipelines that skirt Russia, and a decline in foreign investment.

In contrast, China ended August with its soft power enhanced by its successful Olympic Games. In October 2007, President Hu Jintao declared China's intent to increase its soft power, and the Olympics were an important part of that strategy. With its establishment of Confucius Institutes to promote Chinese culture, increased international broadcasting, attraction of foreign students to its universities, and softer diplomacy toward its neighbors in Southeast Asia, China has made major investments in soft power. Opinion polls show an improvement in its international reputation.

But China's government did not achieve all its Olympic objectives. By not keeping its promises to allow peaceful demonstrations and free

Internet access, China undercut its soft-power gains.

It will take more than a successful Olympics to overcome these self-imposed limits. For example, a recent Pew poll showed that despite China's efforts to increase its soft power, the US remains dominant in all soft-power categories. So, while China won the most gold medals, the Beijing Olympics did not turn the tables on the US outside the sports arenas. One hopes that China's leaders will learn the importance of free expression for establishing soft power.

Of course, only time will tell the ultimate outcomes of the guns and gold of August for Russia and China. Unlike an Olympic competition, their recent performance will not be given a final score until well after their power games have been played.

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. is a professor at Harvard and author most recently of The Powers to Lead. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.

Georgia splits the Kremlin

By: Andrei Piontkovsky

Dmitry Medvedev inherited the post of President of the Russian Federation from Vladimir Putin, and while Putin moved down the pecking order to become Prime Minister, speculation has abounded from the start of Medvedev's presidency about an eventual split between Russia's two highest leaders. The first days of the conflict in Georgia crushed this hypothesis.

Indeed, Putin and Medvedev have worked in perfect tandem with respect to Georgia, cooperating and skillfully performing their different roles, with Putin cast in the lead role of the menacing god of a Russian reckoning, and Medvedev in the supporting role of a possible humanitarian peacemaker.

But the Georgia crisis revealed a new strategic force in the Kremlin that opposes both Putin and Medvedev. We still cannot name its players, but we are

aware of its interests and impact on events in the same way that astronomers discern a new but invisible planet by recording its impact on known and visible objects in space.

One indication that something new is affecting Russian policy is provided by those loyal Kremlin pundits who are known for their gift of unmistakably guessing their masters' changing moods. One after another, they have appeared on television and radio to denounce "provokers," whom they dare not name, for "planning the incursion of Russian troops all the way to Tbilisi and the establishment there of a pro-Russian government."

Another indirect indication of an ongoing struggle is the uncertain behavior of the Russian military in Georgia, which apparently is the result of contradictory orders from the Kremlin. While the Russian army seems not to have engaged in any active measures since reaching its current positions, it pointedly remains

within a half-hour of Tbilisi.

The line in the sand that President George W. Bush drew on the night of August 11, warning against Russian air strikes on Tbilisi's airport and shortly thereafter sending Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to visit Tbilisi, provoked a split in the Kremlin. The split divides those who are and are not concerned about the fate of Russian elites' vast personal holdings in the West.

I call these camps, respectively, Russia's global and national kleptocrats. Both sides firmly agree that there is nothing that the "weakened and cowardly West" can do to restrain Russia, a nuclear and petroleum superpower, beyond financial retribution against those Russian rulers with vast assets abroad.

But the national kleptocrats seem to believe that they can live without overseas assets, or without educating their children and maintaining residences in the West. Instead, they are content to own properties in elite residential areas

around Moscow and in Russia, such as Rublyovka, Valdai, and Krasnaya Polyana.

Both Putin and Medvedev (and their television propagandists) currently reflect the views and goals of the global kleptocrats. Neither leader wants to capture Tbilisi. Putin, of course, would have been glad to see Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, his sworn enemy, put in a cage. But other, more down-to-earth considerations are more important to him.

That said, Putin is keeping his options open to join the national plutocrats, in case their position dramatically strengthens. If he crosses over to their side, he could even become their leader and triumphantly return to the throne that he formally abandoned only recently.

While no one yet knows the national plutocrats' names, I believe that they are new, influential players in or associated with the Kremlin, and that they have now become bold enough to chal-

lenge both Putin and Medvedev. Russia's military chiefs, for whom it is psychologically difficult to be ordered by politicians to abruptly end a large-scale and successful military operation, are their natural allies.

I cannot predict who will win this growing confrontation. But even if the global kleptocrats sustain their more "moderate" position on Georgia, theirs could be a Pyrrhic victory. Every day and every hour, by means of their own propaganda, these globally minded kleptocrats, are setting the path to power for the nationalists.

In order to justify their authoritarian rule and camouflage from the Russian public their massive theft of the country's resources, the global kleptocrats have already convinced ordinary Russians that they are surrounded by ruthless enemies who are trying to dismember and destroy Russia. Now it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to explain why their wives and children are buying palaces in the cap-

itals of countries that are supposedly Russia's sworn enemies.

By contrast, the national kleptocrats' position is more consistent. They are not constrained by huge assets in the hated West. It would not be difficult for them to convince ordinary Russians, who have already been primed by today's xenophobic propaganda, that Tbilisi, Sevastopol, Astana, and Tallinn belong to Russia and should be taken by force.

Putin once said that "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the twentieth century was the fall of the Soviet Union." The national kleptocrats may soon start calling for its reversal, and they are in an increasingly strong position to do so.

Andrei Piontkovsky is an independent political expert and a researcher at Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

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True Islam

By: Tariq Alhomayed

It was assumed that with the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime that Iraq would become a center of modern enlightenment, from which other Arab states would learn the democratic process from based on the consideration that Iraq will influence and be influenced.

It was also believed that Iraq would be transformed into a scientific center and an educational hub for both European and American scholars, where we would see Iraqis there as students and researchers, rather than political asylum seekers fleeing from post-Saddam

Hussein suppression. But what has happened instead? Today, we see the doors of scholarship widely open for Iran, where convoys of new students have formed! The most prominent example here is Mr. Muqtada al Sadr, who wants to be awarded the title of 'authority' overnight, without even completing the basics required in obtaining such a degree.

Qualifying Mr. Muqtada al Sadr (which according to some Iraqi sources is with the goal of making him the 'Hassan Nasrallah' of Iraq), will likely be done through the Iranian Minister of Interior, who recently claimed to have an honorary doctorate from Oxford, something

the university flatly denied. And that's not all, instead of Washington setting up educational activities that justify their military presence in Iraq; we find ourselves in front American centers that aim to teach 'true Islam' in Baghdad, similar to what is happening inside the Boca detention camp in Iraq, where a 'repentant' extremist arrested twice on charges of terrorism teaches the Sunnis and Shias 'true Islam'.

Dear God! This simply means that our turbulent region is in for many long nights. The Muslim Brotherhood (MB) have their own vision of true Islam, the Iranians have another vision, the results of which can be seen in Lebanon, Iraq

and many regions in our Arab world, which has resulted in black turbans (Shia Authorities Headdress) and subversion.

We have our own vision of what true Islam is and our extremists have another, the results of which are seen in Afghanistan and in Pakistan. It has culminated into terrorism that is almost ravaging our Arab countries without exception. The question is; when will this end?

The fierce power struggle between Fatah and Hamas has also reached the Educational system and naturally the victims here are an entire generation of the Palestinians, whose minds will be

contaminated by education instead of weapons this time around. While in Yemen, President Ali Abdullah Saleh addressed the imams of the mosques and the members in charge of the propagation of virtue and prevention of vice, specifying what is permissible and impermissible for them.

This is all done in the name of democracy, and each party's perception of the righteousness they claim to have. The truth is that all of us are victims of the politicization of religion and the absence of political awareness. A few days ago, Dr. Jaber Habib Jaber wrote an informative article called 'The Political Amoebae', explaining the real-

ity of the situation in both Iraq and Lebanon in terms of the absence of awareness of political and partisan action; an important and useful article.

The danger of what is taking place in our region, is that our politics is shrouded in a religious cloak by all involved including fundamentalists, revolutionaries, secularists and even the Americans. In addition to striving too much for simple solutions where no one wants to say stop this tampering, starting with the exploiting of religion

Tariq Alhomayed is the Editor-in-Chief of Asharq Al-Awsat Source: Asharq Al-Awsat



RAMADAN 2008



By: Harun Yahya
www.harunyahya.com

Gender equality in Qur'an

By: Harun Yahya

Every society knows all of the traditional arguments about women's ideal role and place. Their social status and importance in the family, whether or not they should work, and other social issues have been discussed seemingly forever. For Muslims, these issues were settled by the Qur'an: Men and women are equal. The facts that men and women have different physical builds and that women are generally weaker than men are irrelevant and cannot be used to reduce women's value.

What truly matters in Islamic morality is not whether someone is male or female, but whether or not he or she is a believer who fears and respects Allah. Each believer is expected to strive to live by the Qur'an's morality, for the results of this struggle are what Allah values and will measure in the Hereafter. Allah reveals the qualities that all Muslims, male or female, should have:

The men and women of the believers are friends of one another. They command what is right and forbid what is wrong, keep up prayer and give the alms [zakat], and obey Allah and His Messenger. They are the people on whom Allah will have mercy. Allah is Almighty, All-Wise. (Surat at-Tawba: 71)

As Allah reveals, all Muslims, regardless of their gender, have the same responsibilities: to worship Allah, live according to the Qur'an's morality, command good and prevent evil, and abide by the Qur'an's rules. Allah promises everyone who fears and respects the lim-

its that He has established for humanity that He will give them the ability to distinguish right from wrong:

O you who believe! If you have fear of [and respect] Allah, He will give you discrimination, erase your bad actions, and forgive you. Allah's favor is indeed immense. (Surat al-Anfal: 29)

Any man or woman who acts on the impulses of the intellect derived from belief can achieve success in many areas. This depends on their will, motivation, and persistence. Believers never rest on their laurels, for it is part of Islamic morality to always strive to be more intelligent, talented, responsible, and virtuous, as well as to seek to always improve upon their character. Allah reveals that believers pray to Him for a character that will make them role models for those around them:

Those who say: "Our Lord, give us joy in our wives and children, and make us a good example for those who guard against evil." (Surat al-Furqan: 74)

Islam states that men and women are totally equal. For both of them, it all depends on their ability to exceed what is expected of them by realizing the full potential of their character and personality, and by fulfilling their responsibilities. For this reason, believing women do not struggle for equality with men, but exert themselves in the race to do good, defined in the Qur'an as the effort to win Allah's good pleasure. For this end, they race to become the person most loved by Allah so that they may win His good pleasure and be the nearest to Him. Allah reveals that these efforts determine the Muslim's superiority over others in this



life as well as in the Hereafter:

Such people are truly racing toward good things, and they are the first to reach them. (Surat al-Mu'minun: 61)

Then We made Our chosen servants inherit the Book. But some of them wronged themselves, some are ambivalent, and some outdo each other in good by Allah's permission. That is the great favor. (Surat Fatir: 32)

The equality between men and women is also seen in the fact that Allah gives them equal rights in this world:

We made everything on Earth adornment for it so that We could test them to see whose actions are the best. (Surat al-Kahf: 7)

Every soul will taste death. We test you with both good and evil as a trial. And you will be returned to Us. (Surat al-

Anbiya': 35)

In the above verses, Allah reveals that He tests men and women so that they can show who is better. In another verse, He says that He will test men and women with various trials until the day they die, and that those who show patience will be rewarded with His mercy:

We will test you with a certain amount of fear and hunger, as well as loss of wealth, life, and fruits. But give good news to the steadfast. (Surat al-Baqara: 155)

Allah gave each man and woman a fixed number of years, holds them both responsible for their choices, gave them a sense of right and wrong, and made their base instincts and Satan their enemies. And whoever shows strength of character and works for good in the face of these

realities here on Earth will receive the best rewards from Allah in both worlds:

I will not let the deeds of any doer among you go to waste, male or female—you are both the same in that respect. Those who have left their homes and were driven from their homes, and [who] suffered harm in My Way and fought and were killed, I will erase their bad actions and admit them into Gardens with rivers flowing under them, as a reward from Allah. The best of all rewards is with Allah. (Surah Al-Imran: 195)

He also reminds men and women that no one will be treated unjustly as regards the rewards they are to receive on Earth as well as in the Hereafter: "Anyone who acts rightly, male or female, being a believer, We will give them a good life and will recompense them according to the best of what they did" (Surat an-Nahl: 97).

Looking at the Qur'an in general, we see that men and women are addressed in the same manner. This is yet another indication that Allah is concerned only with a person's true and heart-felt belief and not his or her age or gender. In this respect, the Qur'an addresses men and women together and reminds them that they have the same responsibilities. There are many such verses, among them: "Anyone, male or female, who does right actions and believes, will enter the Garden. They will not be wronged by so much as the tiniest speck" (Surat an-Nisa: 124).

When revealing things about unbelievers, Allah also addresses them in the same manner. He reveals that unbelievers

and hypocrites of both genders will be treated alike. For example:

The men and women of the hypocrites are as bad as one another. They command what is wrong and forbid what is right, and they keep their fists tightly closed. They have forgotten Allah, so He has forgotten them. The hypocrites are deviators. (Surat at-Tawba: 67)

Allah has promised the men and women of the hypocrites and unbelievers the Fire of Hell, remaining in it timelessly, forever. It will suffice them. Allah has cursed them. They will have an everlasting punishment. (Surat at-Tawba: 68)

This was so that Allah might punish hypocritical men and women as well as the associating men and women—those who think bad thoughts about Allah, and turn toward the men and women of the believers. Allah is Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Surat al-Ahzab: 73)

And so that He might punish hypocritical men and women as well as associating men and women—those who think bad thoughts about Allah. They will suffer an evil turn of fate. Allah is angry with them, has cursed them, and prepared Hell for them. What an evil destination! (Surat al-Fath: 6)

As these verses make clear, men and women are equal in their trial on Earth as well as in the reward they receive in the Hereafter.

Harun Yahya, whose real name is Adnan Oktar is a prominent Turkish intellectual who specializes in religious philosophy. More on the author at www.harun-yahya.com



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sanaa@amideast.org
Contact: Ms. A. Alshafey.

AMIDEAST Aden: 162
Miswat Street, Khormaksar,
Aden. Telefax: (02) 235-
069/70/71. E-mail:
gadam@amideast.org
Contact: Ms. G. Adam.

AMIDEAST Mukalla: c/o
Hadhramaut University, Fuah
Campus, Mukalla. Telefax:
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The YES program is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered in the Middle East and North Africa region by a consortium of organizations that includes AYUSA International and AMIDEAST.

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KNOC Yemen Ltd.

Recruitment Announcement

KNOC Yemen Ltd. has been working actively for exploration of petroleum in Yemen, and now expands organization to develop the gas field in Yemen. KNOC Yemen Ltd. is now seeking to hire highly qualified candidates for the following vacant posts.

1. Secretary for Administration Department

Responsibility

- Provides support and assistance on the matters relating to general administrative procedures.
- Receives, sends all the office mails (Including E-mails) for GM and maintains records for those mails.
- Responsible for affixing company seal to all the written office documents and copying those affixed documents and enlist them into record file.
- Keeps secret all the sensitive documents including mails(E-mails).
- Translates written documents accurately from English to Arabic and Vice Versa.
- Maintains mailings distribution task to the departments.
- Provides information & arrangement on matters relating to meetings with private and government personnel for GM and on charged people in the office.
- Follows-up to nature letters and memoranda and reports and disclosures with respect to each company.
- Maintains the conservation of documents and files of the company according to sound scientific indexing.
- Implementation of directives issued to him(or her).

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science preferred
- Minimum 2 years of related job experience
- Verbal and written English fluency is required.
- Good computer skill

Work Place: KNOC Yemen Ltd. Sana'a Office

2. Secretary for Operation Department

Responsibility

- Provides information on the matters relating to Operational Works in the office and the fields for Operation Manager.
- Monitors and maintains and record of every written documents of Operation Department.
- Provides support to Operation manager on the matters relating to meeting schedule for official dignitaries.
- Translates written documents accurately from English to Arabic and Vice Versa.
- Does other miscellaneous works related to Operation Department.

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Commerce (or Business)
- Minimum 3 years of related job experience
- Verbal and written English fluency is required.
- Good computer skill

Work Place: KNOC Yemen Ltd. Sana'a Office

3. Terminal Welder

Responsibility

- Conducts the welding operation in Terminal with secure and safe manner.
- Welds components in flat, vertical, or overhead positions.
- Availability to install or repair equipment, such as lead pipes, valves, floors, and tank linings.
- Observes tests on welded surfaces, such as hydrostatic, x-ray, and dimension tolerance to evaluate weld quality and conformance to specifications.
- Inspects grooves, angles, or gap allowances, using micrometer, caliper, and precision measuring instruments.
- Analyzes engineering drawings and specifications to plan layout, assembly, and welding operations.
- Determines required equipment and welding method, applying knowledge of metallurgy, geometry, and welding techniques.

Qualifications

- Minimum 3 years of related working experience.
- Computer skill: Good computer skills (especially, Reporting)
- Communication skill: good communication skills (oral and written English)

Work Place: Terminal(in Muchala) of KNOC Yemen Ltd.

4. Well work operator

Responsibility

- Conducts the basic well works in the field.
- Onshore production data collection and reporting.
- Planning maintenance of offshore supporting activities including supplies and services.
- Management the wellhead equipment and HSE systems.
- Achievement of safety and environmental goals

Qualifications

- Conduct the basic well works in the field.
- Offshore production data collection and reporting.
- Planning maintenance of offshore supporting activities including supplies and services.
- Management the wellhead equipment and HSE systems.
- Achievement of safety and environmental goals

Work Place: CPU (in Shabwa) of KNOC Yemen Ltd.

5. Terminal operators

Responsibility

- Conduct the basic operation in Terminal with secure and safe manner.
- Safely and skillfully maintain and repair the construction equipment in the terminal.
- Liaise closely with production, process and facility engineers.
- Capability for solution of process / production and design issues.
- Capability to collect and report the data of field operation.

Qualifications

- Job Experience: Minimum 3 years of related working experience.
- Computer skill: Good computer skills (especially, Reporting)
- Communication skill: good communication skills (oral and written English)

Work Place: Terminal(in Muchala) of KNOC Yemen Ltd.

6. Senior Facilities Engineer

Responsibility

- Ensures proper production facilities operation.
- Provides facilities maintenance procedure/guidelines.
- Maintains the P&ID and PFD of the CPU & Terminal up dated
- Maintains all the drawing related to facilities
- Receives and checking the daily reports related to facilities from field
- Dealing with facilities issues from CPU & Terminal
- Manages daily facility repairing work schedule in ahead
- Manages the warehouse and keep the proper inventories
- Places an order to keep the inventory to operation Department
- Makes suggestion to modify facilities for better productivity
- Reports facility issue directly to the production manager
- Conducts the facility training to field workers
- Reports any facility incidents to the production manager
- Supervises the field workers to follow and keep HSEQ regulations
- Co-work with HSEQ supervisor to make safe working condition
- Not mentioned task anything related to facilities management

Qualifications

- Overview of supervising skill
- More than 5 years of related work experience
- Bachelor degree
- Good computer skill especially on MS office
- Fluency in English

Work Place: KNOC Yemen Ltd.

7. Security Guard

Responsibility

- Management for security of KNOC Yemen Ltd.'s properties at the Terminal area.
- Stand at entrance gate or walk around premises of business or industrial establishment to prevent theft, violence, or infractions of rules.
- Reports any security incidents of Terminal area.
- Deal with any police or local authority issues and send a report to Sana'a office.

Qualifications

- Job Experience: Minimum 3 years of related working experience.
- Communication skill: Basic communication skills (oral and written English)

Work Place: Terminal(in Muchala) of KNOC Yemen Ltd.



Nationality of applicants for all posts mentioned above shall be Republic of Yemen.

Please submit application letters with **Full Resume with recent passport size Photograph and related certificates.**

Please note to put the reference number of the position you are applying to no later than **September 18, 2008**. Prospective candidates will be called for an interview.

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صعاء - شارع بغداد - خلف عمارة تقنياتي
 بومبايل: ٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٠٠ ب.ص ١٨٤٦٠٠

باحثون عن وظيفة
 • دبلوم برامج تطبيقية وصيانة كمبيوتر - دبلوم كمبيوتر من المعهد الوطني للعلوم الإدارية -

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قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صعاء لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣)

Lady Bint Ahmed Mosque in Jiblah

The city of Jiblah is one of the most beautiful cities that were founded by the Salahites. Situated 2000 meters above sea level, it is characterized by its terraced landscape, mild weather, fertile soil and beautiful buildings. It was known in the past as the city of the two rivers. Poets eulogized the beauty of nature in the city, to quote Abdullah bin Ya'ala:

'No Egypt, no Tabriz, no Tiberias;
Compared to a city flanked by two rivers
It is not compared to the Levant;
O the love of Orient but the love of Yemen'

The Salahites took Jabalah as their capital city in 1066 A.D. The Lady Bint Ahmed mosque is considered a

prime example of the magnificent Salahite architecture of Yemen, much like the religious buildings of the Fatimids are to Egypt.

The mosque was built on the ruins of an old building known as Dar Al Ezz whose remains are still there at the bottom of the present mosque. It is entered through a stone staircase leading to a long vestibule that extends from the south to the north, and overlooks the mosque's façade from the east.

The mosque has an open nave in the middle (20 x 17.8 meters), and is surrounded by porticos from all directions. The porticos overlook the nave with pointed knots of different shapes that rest on cylindrical stone columns with square bases. The prayer place is also rectangular shaped (31.60 x 16.20 meters), and covered with wooden boxes decorated with a group of intricate engravings.

When Lady Bint Ahmed passed away in 1137 A.D, she was buried in

the northwest corner of the prayer place. Her tomb occupied a space of 3.50 x 3.70 meters, and her wooden coffin was enclosed by a fence with various gypsum inscriptions that reflect the techniques of this Islamic art of Yemen under the Salahites. In the middle of the kiblah wall, there is a hollow mihrab, decorated and inscribed with Koranic verses written in the Kufi font. To the right of the mihrab, there is a wooden pulpit with an Arabic arabesque of plant elements. The preacher's chair in the prayer place dates back to 1800 A.D.

A single visit to this mosque is all that is required to give a visitor an impression of the Islamic art techniques that were prevalent during the Salahite state. These are represented in the architecture, arts,



wall inscriptions, columns, capitals, minarets, domes, wooden boxes and pulpit and mihrab decoration which were all superbly and uniquely executed.

Source: Tourism ministry ,
Endowment ministry



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