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Hakeema Al-Rakhami to YT:
"Women have become more visible and their participation is not just valued but needed."

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Yemen's economic life after oil?
Go fishing

Colombian hostages released

By: Salma Ismail & Alice Hackman

SANA'A, Sept. 23 — After three days of captivity at the hands of armed tribesmen of the powerful Ba Kazem tribe, Colombian engineers Hector Marin and Rafael Ayala have been released in good health.

The two Colombians, their Yemeni driver Basheer al-Selwi and escort Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani were abducted at gunpoint as they drove to work for the Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas Company (YLNGC) near the Arabian Sea port of Balhaf in the Shabwa governorate on Friday.

The Foreign Ministry of Colombia has confirmed that "the Colombians, identified as Hector Marin and Rafael Ayala, are in good health," noting that a favorable outcome was achieved through "the good efforts of Spain, a

nation that has a permanent diplomatic mission in Yemen." Colombia does not have diplomatic representation in the country.

The Colombians' release and good health was also confirmed by Yaslam Abu-Sitt, mayor of the Ahwar district in the southern province of Abyan.

Abu-Sitt said the kidnappers handed the two hostages over to Abyan Governor Ahmed al-Maisary after tribal dignitaries mediated a solution to the crisis. The tribal mediators included Oqail Bin Lathaf Al Kazem, according to the Colombian media.

Local sources said that the kidnappers had demanded the release of their relative Ahmed Saeed Awar, detained by police two years ago on charges related to the high jacking of a YLNGC company car. The kidnappers reportedly also demanded the release of a tribe

member arrested five months ago in a clash with security forces.

Although, in a statement to the Yemen Times, Ali Al-Ahmadi, governor of Shabwa said that the release of the hostages was carried out without any of the kidnappers being met, Abu-Sitt said the kidnappers received guarantees from government officials that their demands would be met according to Colombian and Spanish media.

Hector Marin, one of the Colombian hostages, called his family in Colombia upon his release. He said that they were kidnapped by six men in a van and taken to the mountains. "We traveled for 5 hours and a half at 120 kilometers per hour not knowing where we were being taken", Marin said they were taken to a poverty-stricken area, with no water, no electricity and not much food. He reportedly told his wife that he had not

been mistreated, but that he had been hungry, not because his captors did not want to give him food, but because there was nothing to eat.

Despite a critical day on Sunday, when negotiations appeared to have reached an impasse and the situation turned violent as the kidnappers threatened to retreat from the negotiation table, he said he was glad to be released.

Rafael Ayala, the second Colombian hostage, confirmed that they were treated well. He also said that the Yemeni government had released several members of the kidnappers' tribe in exchange for their freedom.

Ayala's son, Luis Ayala, said "My father is well; he is shaken, as it was a tough experience, but he is in good health and coming back to Colombia soon".

Continued on page 2

Islamic Jihad-affiliated media cell arrested

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
 For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Sept 24 — The Yemeni Ministry of Interior has announced the arrest of a media cell affiliated with the Islamic Jihad in Yemen, the organization which claimed responsibility for the suicide attack on the American embassy in Sana'a last week.

The attack, carried out by two vehicles including a car bomb, resulted in the death of seven Yemeni security guards, five citizens -including a

Yemeni girl holding American citizenship- and five of the attackers, according to the latest official statistics.

An official source in the Ministry of Interior said in a press release that six persons were arrested last Sunday charged with "issuing releases on behalf of the Islamic Jihad organization". The releases contained threats targeting a number of personalities, embassies and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in Yemen and vowed to carry out terrorist operations against them.

The source pointed out that among the detainees was Abu Al-Ghaith Al-Yamani, whose signature was shown on the press release that claimed

responsibility for the last attack against the American embassy.

The source said that the detainees formed a cell in charge of issuing press releases via online websites in the name of Islamic Jihad or the "virtue authority".

Abdul Elah Haidar, a writer who specializes in the study of terrorism, in a statement to the Yemen Times, ruled out the possibility, circulated by the Yemeni media, of Abu Al-Ghaith Al-Yamani being the leader of the Islamic Jihad organization. He maintained that the Interior Ministry's statement on the arrest had been made in the context of the media war between the government and Islamic Jihad.

"I don't believe that those who planned the attack against the embassy and succeeded to reach its main gate despite extensive security barriers will fall easily into the hands of security," said Haidar.

In relation to the attacks, the Yemeni cabinet last Thursday held a meeting with mosque preachers, the media and various social personalities to clarify the "human and economic effects" of the suicide attack that took place last week in the embassy. He considered that such efforts would "enhance public opinion that rejects such acts that contradict the principles of our Islamic belief."

Continued on page 2

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Blaming the government for only being interested in upcoming election

Houthis claim YR 300 billion in compensation for war-related damage

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Sept. 24 — Sheikh Saleh Habra, on behalf of Houthis' field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, claimed from the government YR 300 billion in compensations for Houthi supporters whose property was damaged or robbed during the four-year fighting between Yemeni army and Houthi gunmen.

He said that the YR 10 billion the government allocated for reconstructing Sa'ada, according to official media reports, was spent mostly on repairing electricity and telephone networks in the provincial capital where governmental buildings and military camps are located.

An early electoral campaign

Habra told the Yemen Times by phone that governmental committees, which are currently visiting Sa'ada governorate, are not serious in their assessment of the damage incurred by the war. He said that, by sending these committees, the government was embarking on an early electoral campaign in favor of its party, while war-brokers (hinting to some military officials) are preparing to wage a sixth war

against Sa'ada.

He added that war brokers are not concerned about stability, security and development in Yemen, and that this is how they have been behaving since the September 26 Revolution of 1962.

"Many Cabinet ministers on Tuesday attended a dinner party, organized by the governorate officials and attended by nearly 600 tribal leaders, most of which called for enhancing peace and security in the governorate and confronting war brokers, who work according to a foreign agenda," Habra noted. "We hope that leaders of this nation listen to tribal leaders' calls."

With regard to official media reports that up to 60 detainees were released, Habra said, "The government only released three detainees, while Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs Rashad Al-Alimi couldn't obtain a presidential pardon to free those detained over alleged connections with Sa'ada fighting according to the Doha-brokered peace deal, reached by both sides last February.

Al-Alimi went on to say that Houthis must implement the ten terms of the ceasefire agreement before the government releases detainees. These terms came as follows: Houthis should help

the government strengthen law and order throughout Sa'ada districts, return any weapons belonging to the army to the government, lay down their medium-size arms, return government vehicles and equipment, and allow security checkpoints in their districts to do their job.

63 detained Houthi loyalists freed

Official media outlets reported last week that security authorities freed nearly 63 detained Houthi loyalists according to presidential directions, which Al-Alimi confirmed to detainees' relatives, who have been protesting in front of the Cabinet's building for the sixth day in a row. These protestors insist that the government should free all those detained over alleged connections with Sa'ada events.

Al-Alimi promised protesters to send a memorandum to the minister of interior, the chairman of the Political Security Organization and chairman of the National Security Organization to release all the detainees in conformity with President Saleh's directions. The memorandum was about to be delivered to the three officials on Wednesday 24 September.

This protest was part of a series of sit-ins held by detainees' relatives in cooperation with many human rights groups. The protesters claim that the government should execute President Saleh's directions and take necessary steps to release all those detained over alleged connections with Sa'ada fighting or alleged loyalty to Abdulmalik Al-Houthi.

Two weeks ago, detainees' relatives met Deputy Prime Minister for Local Authority Affairs Sadiq Amin Abu Ra'as, who in turn received their letter, accompanied by a copy of President Saleh's directions to the government to release detainees.

Abu Ra'as confirmed to the protesters that the presidential directions were very clear and promised to follow the matter. He assigned an appointment to meet them and inform them about further developments last Saturday, but according to detainees' relatives, there is nothing new in the matter.

On a side note, the Yemen Human Rights Observatory (YHRO) staff met on Saturday Justice Minister Ghazi Al-Aghbari and Attorney-General Abdullah Al-Ulify to discuss the issue of detained citizens in various security jails over alleged connections with

Sa'ada fighting and government 's efforts to release them.

YHRO released a statement declaring its appreciation of the cooperation between officials and its staff and praised the former's efforts to free the detainees. The observatory hoped that all the responsible authorities in the government would speed up the procedures of the detainees' release, most notably journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, who was excluded from the various decrees taken to discuss the issue of all those detained. The journalist was jailed for his writings that allegedly contained criticism of the government.

Humanitarian situation

Regarding the humanitarian situation in the war-ravaged governorate, government officials and human rights activists said the situation is still difficult, adding that most of displaced families still are unable to return home despite a peace deal reached between the government and the Houthis, because their homes, farmlands and other property were badly damaged during the confrontations.

"Even worse, tents that shelter displaced families lack the necessary

equipment, and nobody provides foods, medicine or blankets to refugees," a tribal source disclosed, claiming that the government's help to refugees is done through the official channels without any real efforts on the ground.

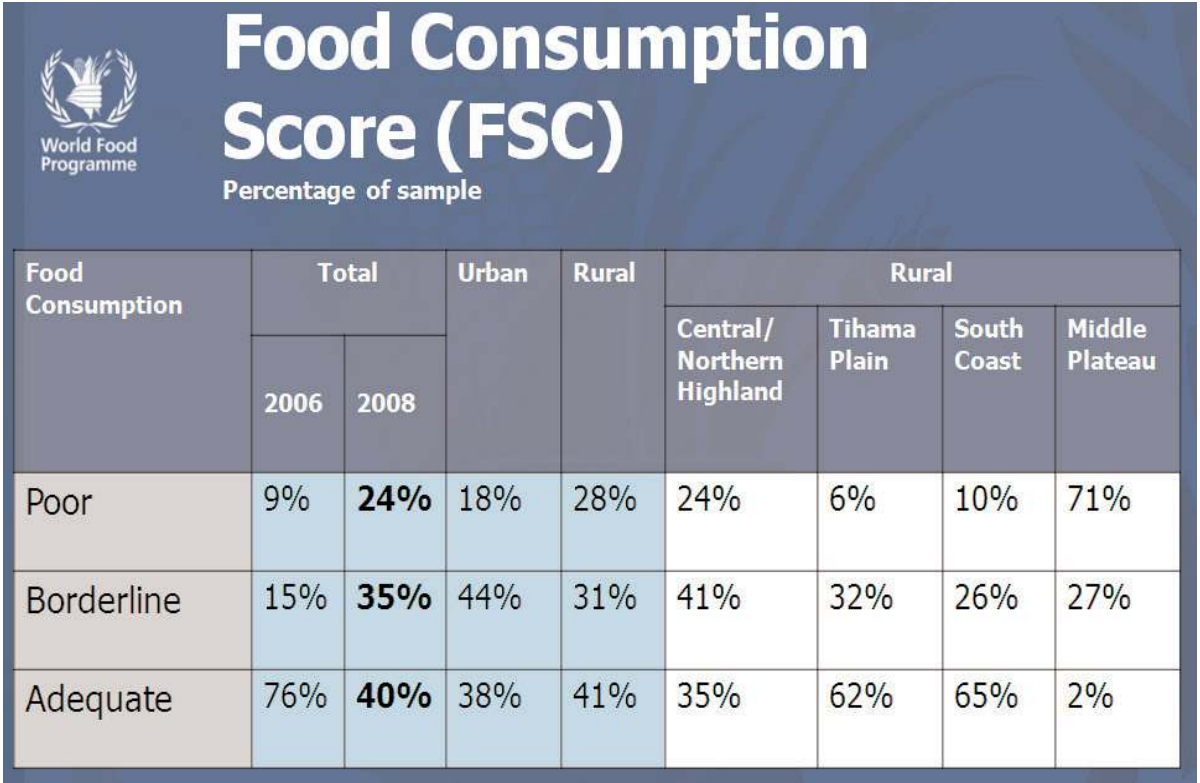
The source continued to say that the government doesn't have humanitarian operations on the ground. "Likewise, the various local relief agencies practice activities through the official channels without any effective efforts on the ground," he commented.

Security situation

According to local sources from Yaghmur district in Sa'ada, one person was killed and another two were injured in clashes between pro-government citizens and Houthi loyalists early this week.

The sources told the media that clashes broke out after some Houthi loyalists, who had just returned from the district of Mirran, refused to remove a checkpoint they had recently set up on the road leading to the area of Tashdan. The sources accused Houthi loyalists of robbing by-passers' arms, which is the main reason they entered in direct clashes with other citizens.

WFP to launch major response to assist Yemenis affected by high food prices



Unless otherwise indicated, data from 2008 Rapid assessment survey.

SANA'A, Sept 23- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is launching an emergency response operation to provide food to poor Yemeni households struggling to survive the global food crisis. The decision follows a recent WFP food security assessment which warned of a sharp decline in food security among Yemenis due to high food prices

Yemen is one of the countries most hard hit by high food prices. In one year, the price of wheat, the main staple of the Yemeni diet, jumped from US\$350 to US\$650 per 1,000 kg. The costs of other basic commodities have also increased, though less drastically. In recent months, prices have decreased slightly, though they are still out of reach for many.

The assessment revealed that as a result of the crisis, poor Yemeni families are forced to spend over 65 percent of their household budget on meeting daily food needs, usually at the expense of education and health expenditures. They are also eating less and lower quality food.

The Italian government has contributed Euro 5 million to launch the operation – money that will be used to help feed over one million hungry individuals in the country.

"The Italian donation is very timely and much-needed. It will allow us to continue feeding thousands of vulnerable families – including refugees, displaced persons, school girls and pregnant and lactating women – additionally it will extend support to those segments of the population who have been most

affected by the skyrocketing food prices," said Mohamed El-Kouhene, WFP Representative in Yemen.

A large proportion of the Italian contribution – Euro 2 million – will go towards the new emergency operation to feed these individuals most affected by high prices. The remaining funds will be channelled to support WFP's regular development activities (promoting nutrition and girls' access to education in Yemen) as well as the agency's relief programmes feeding vulnerable Somali refugees and those families affected by the war in Sa'ada.

The Ambassador of Italy to Yemen, H.E. Mr. Mario Boffo, added "the Italian government is very pleased to make this donation to Yemen and to support WFP in its swift response to the high food prices in the country.

Continued from page 1

Colombian hostages released
Despite this incident, Marin's wife expressed her gratitude to the YLNGC for employing her husband. "Because there is a lot of unemployment in Colombia, the benefits [of working in Yemen] outweigh the risks. We are very grateful to the company", she said.

Shabwa has been the scene of several kidnappings of foreigners in recent years.

Armed tribesmen from impoverished areas often take hostages to use as bargaining chips to press the

government for aid, jobs or the release of detained fellow clansmen.

More than 200 foreigners have been kidnapped in Yemen since 1991. Almost all were released unharmed after mediation involving tribal leaders.

Islamic Jihad-affiliated media cell arrested

The cabinet maintained that the attack against the embassy aimed to "damage the national economy and defame Yemen's image and reputa-

tion on the international level", adding that "it further aimed to negatively affect citizen's security, living and stability." It called on all citizens to be alert and cooperate with security apparatuses to "repel terrorists".

Since the terrorist attack against the American embassy, the government has intensified security protection for all diplomatic missions in Sana'a. In addition, the security forces have launched a campaign to inspect people's vehicles on the main streets.

The contribution is yet another illustration of the excellent level of cooperation with WFP."

The Italian donation is the second largest direct contribution to WFP's new operation to help overcome the high food price crisis in Yemen. H.E. Minister Al-Arhabi of Yemen expressed his "appreciation for this donation and other contributions made to WFP, as well as to the agency for mobilizing additional resources and for joining the government in its efforts to combat food insecurity in Yemen."

In addition to the Italian donation, last month the government of Germany provided Euro 10 million to WFP to address food security and nutrition in Yemen through the emergency operation.

"This new operation, along with ongoing development and humanitarian relief activities in the country, will raise WFP's portfolio to above US\$ 120 million, providing food assistance to over 1.5 million people – an unprecedented level of support to vulnerable families in Yemen," said El-Kouhene.

WFP Yemen is implementing a US\$76.2 million five-year country programme to assist approximately 1 million Yemenis.

The programme aims to increase girls' access to education and improve the health of malnourished children under five, pregnant and lactating women and tuberculosis and leprosy patients. The agency also provides humanitarian assistance to 77,000 persons affected by the war in Sa'ada governorate as well as food to 43,500 vulnerable Somali refugees fleeing conflict in their country.



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Their News

ADEN

Aden port authorities ban Panama ship unloading firetoys

Aden Port Authorities banned Panama ship unloading shipment of firetoys imported by Yemeni merchant, said the port's coast guards.

The ship, called "Ever Given", left the port with the shipment aboard heading to Jeddah Port in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Worth to mention concerned authorities had already banned importing all kinds of firetoys and banned also marketing them for keeping people calm.

HODEIDAH

Five carriers, ships arrive in Hodeidah's Port

Five ships and carriers carrying 28,594 tons of oil products and 748 cars in addition to a number of containers and packages arrived in the Port of Hudeidah on Monday.

A report issued by Yemeni Red Sea Ports Authority showed that the two oil containers (Yemeni oil 19) and (Al-Masila) carrying 23,494 tons of oil and (Yemeni oil 6) carrying 5100 tons of fuel oil.

A statement sent to Saba said that the ship Castle carried 748 cars whereas the ship Lama Mi carried 13 packages and the three different containers contain various goods, pointing out that the two ships still waiting to enter the port carrying 236 containers.

HAJJAH

Child trafficker captured in Yemeni-Saudi borders

The Security Authorities have managed to arrest a child trafficker (45) in the border district Haradh of Hajjah Governorate along with two children, aged of 9 – 11 years, in their way to Saudi Arabia.

The security authorities sent the two children to the Childhood Protection Center and called for their parents to questioning them on the incident, while the trafficker has been sent to the competent authority to take the proper action, the Newsyemen website has reported.

The security men in the district have thwarted a few days ago an attempt to smuggle children to the neighboring

country, Saudi Arabia, according to the source.

SANA'A

Yemen, UNICEF discuss reinforcing educational programs

Yemen and UNICEF discussed Monday aspects of support offered by the organization to carry out educational programs in the country.

Minister of Education Abdul Salam al-Jawfi and the UNICEF representative in Yemen Aboudou Adjibade held talks here on the educational programs being carried out by the organization in Saada governorate in fields of childhood and teachers' capacity building.

The two officials dealt with arrangements for holding the workshop in the mid of October on the importance of the friendly schools. The workshop will be taken part by educational leaderships and the concerned donor countries.

Al-Jawfi affirmed his ministry's keenness on accelerating the UNICEF activities that will increase the children enrolment to schools and upgrade the basic education quality.

Call for setting up free medical treatment camps

Minister of Public Health and Population Abdul Karim Rasi affirmed the importance of setting up whole-integrated medical treatment camps to treat limited income and remote areas patients.

The statement was made on a visit by the minister to the sixth 22nd May camp which started yesterday and being organized by the Medical Insurance Unit at the Republican Guards.

The camp will last six days at the school of the martyr al-Hindwanah at the Hezyaz Sawad area. Rasi praised the camp equipped with all treatment needs and drugs being allocated for free treatment.

He familiarized himself with its sections which received about 2754 different cases during the past two days. The camp includes 40 specialist doctors in various specializations and 105 medical cadres who treat different illnesses.

Rasi expressed the ministry readiness to support the camp, urging the ministry concerned bodies to create common camps. He also ordered a fund of YR 5

million to buy drugs and other requirements at the camp.

During the past two years, the Republican Guards established five medical camps with which about 86 thousand people took advantage and about 400 surgeries were performed. In the wake of the Eid ul-Fitr (lesser Bairam) similar camps would held in the provinces of Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Dhale and Lahj.

SCER approves getting help of educational sector to reviewing voters' registration

Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum SCER approved on its meeting on Saturday getting help of educational sector to carry out phase of reviewing voters' registration.

The committee authorized technical and planning department and legal affairs department in the commission to coordinate with the ministry of education to put conditions required for persons who would work in process of revision.

The decision of the commission was taken after listening to a report presented by the head of the parties and organizations in the commission which revealed rejection of the Joint Meeting Parties JMP to submit names of their representatives in the committees of reviewing the registration.

The committee also discussed a training plan for the workers in the process.

It called on poetical parties civil society organizations and international organization to observe all processes of holding 2009 parliamentary elections.

Yemen participates in Travel Show

Yemen has participated in activities of International Travel Show being organized by Japanese Association of Travel Agents in cooperation with the government and international travel agencies.

Yemen's ambassador to Japan Marwan No'man attended the opening ceremony of the show and toured Yemen's suite that received great numbers of Japanese audience.

Worth mentioning the show is one of the greatest international tourist shows participated by travel agencies from across the world.

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- Prepare and file back-material for estimating detail.
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Job Requirements (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities required):

- Requires a 2-year degree (or higher) in a related field.
- Proficiency in computer skills including MS Office Suite; specifically Word and Excel.
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- Participate and coordinating training onsite safety talks.
- General profile requirement and medical fitness for Griffin Energy personnel on site

Interested candidates with the above requirement and qualification should send their full detailed CV along with all supporting documents to the following email address: jquimson@griffin-ltd.com or fax no. (01) 445-963 Sana'a. Please mention the post you are applying for



Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, **regardless of race, religion and political believe**. In 1999 MSF was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in recognition of its work. Currently MSF works in more than 70 countries, including the Palestinian Territories and Somalia. For more information, visit our Arabic website, www.msfuae.ae

JOB VACCANCY: Deputy Head of Mission

MSF-Spain is looking for a Yemeni national to support the Head of Mission and help the organisation expand its medical activities in Yemen. We are looking for someone dynamic, with experience in research and an interest in and knowledge of humanitarian issues and Yemeni society. This position is suitable for someone who wants to begin or continue a career in international humanitarian action. MSF-Spain currently has projects supporting the medical, psychosocial and humanitarian needs of Somali and Ethiopian refugees in the governorate of Abyan and Shabwa, and has started to expand its medical activities to assist Yemeni populations in Abyan.

Location: Sanaa with regular travel to field

Date of Entry on Duty: October 2008

Duration: 1-year contract (renewable) following a 1 month test-period.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge:

- University Degree in Social Sciences (Political Sciences, International Public Law, Anthropology, Economics, etc.).
- Advance University studies would be an asset (Master, Ph.D. in related areas).
- Knowledge of and interest in humanitarian issues.
- Knowledge of the country and the region (Arabic peninsula, Middle East, Horn of Africa)

Experience:

- 5 years of related job duties & responsibilities experience
- Experience in research, data collection, reporting and analysis.
- Working experience at different levels (Government, University, International NGOs, Local NGOs, media, etc.) would be an asset.

Language:

- Arabic as mother tongue
- High-level command in English (both oral & written)

Skills:

- Capacity to analyse data and translate it into practical outputs
- Excellent computer skills, particularly Word, Excel and use of Data Base
- Strong organisational and communication skills.
- Flexibility to travel to the field (up to 30% of the time)
- Diplomacy and commitment with MSF humanitarian values

JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITES

- Supports the Head of Mission through delegated tasks and responsibilities.
- Monitors, documents and analyses on contextual developments.
- Translates, drafts, edits and/or consolidates written materials.
- Together with the Head of Mission, represents MSF-Spain in Sanaa, including communication with authorities, UN agencies, NGO's, media, etc.
- Assists in monitoring of, and advocacy for, humanitarian issues.
- Media liaison: assist with contacts with the press as delegated by Head of Mission.

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter **before October 2nd** to:

Medicins Sans Frontieres – Spain
P.O. Box 16308 Haddah post office
Sanaa – Yemen
E-mail: saleem.haddad@london.msf.org

Request for Applications:

Technical Assistance for the Design of a Project Management Information System

The Project Administration Unit (PAU) for the Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MoE) seeks applications for a seven month full time consultancy position to assist in the design of a Project Management Information System (PMIS).

The PAU, which consists of four units, and has over 25 staff, has begun the design of its PMIS. The over-all aim of the assignment is to further develop the PAU PMIS to achieve its data management objectives through completing the remaining technical design, integration of systems, staff training and support tasks.

Assignment

Two full time consultants will be hired for this assignment. The consultants will work out of the PAU premises, and carry out the following tasks:

1. Analyze the different components of the current PMIS,
2. Complete the design of the current system according to the administrative needs of each of the different units that comprise the PAU,
3. Unify the current databases so as to include all data pertaining to projects on a common client-server architecture,
4. Integrate all the current project sub-systems into one system and one main interface for all users, and eliminate redundancies,
5. Design a users classification, and an authorization system, and create a dedicated window for each user and for each unit,
6. Create standard report formats for each unit according to its needs, and build into the system the capability of generating customized and ‘smart’ reports,
7. Redress all weaknesses of the current design (e.g. user friendliness issues, redundancies, incomplete data base etc.),
8. Design a system to allow the MIS team to track sensitive data operations made by users, in order to ensure the integrity of the data,
9. Design and test a detailed and user-friendly user's manual for the PMIS, and train all users of the system,
10. Provide hands on follow up training and support for three months to all users of the system. Identify remaining system issues, training needs, etc. and correct all identified problems,
11. Implement monitoring and follow up procedures to track improvements in system use, accuracy and completeness of data produced, time saved, and user satisfaction.

Qualifications

The successful candidates must have a Bachelor or higher degree in IT systems, a minimum of 3 years experience in system programming and languages, documents confirming that the consultant has programmed similar systems, have developed systems using an SQL server and used application program languages VB6 or VB.net. The candidates must have the ability to work with teams in a collaborative manner, and be fluent in Arabic. Experience in working with projects is desirable, as is competency in English.

The PAU invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in this assignment by October 11, 2008. The assignment is expected to begin in mid-October. Please submit your CV, contact information, and other relevant documentation to:

Basic Education Development Project
60 m Southern Rd-Bait Meyad

TEL: 00967-01-619160, FAX:00967-01-619219 or to

Email: PAU Director: a.al-arashi@y.net.ye

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Hakeema Al-Rakhami, first woman as head of the Medical and Health Occupations Union in the region to YT:

“Women have become more visible and their participation is not just valued but needed.”

An extraordinary woman, with a strong conviction that she can do it, Hakeema Al-Rakhami is a woman not every Yemeni but every Arab should be proud of. As head of the Union of Medical and Health Occupations, she leads towards change and the betterment of society. Her enthusiasm is contagious and she is not just the first woman in Yemen to hold this position, but the first to do so in the entire Arab world. Salma Ismail of Yemen Times carried out an interview with her. Excerpts:

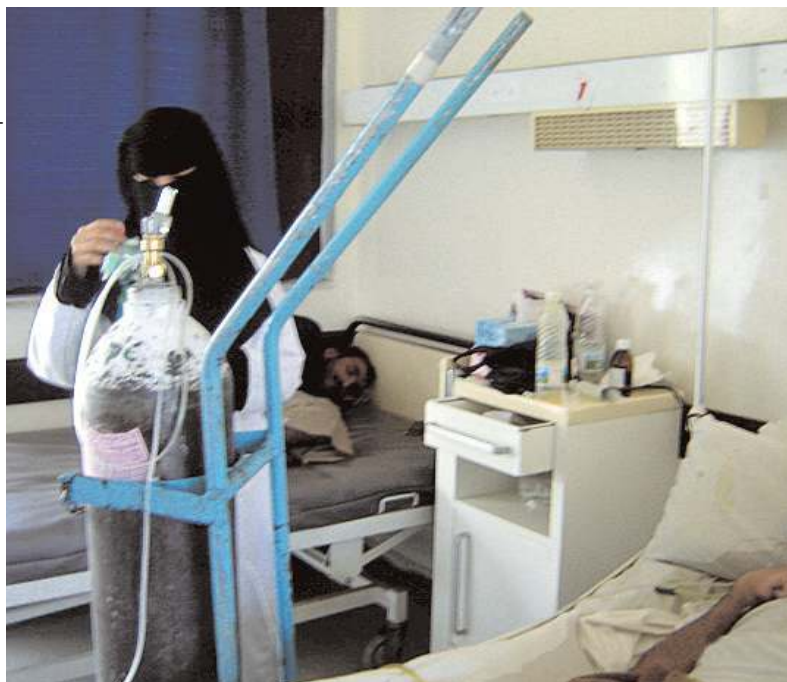
What made you want to get involved in the medical field?

Medicine is a sacred and humanitarian profession. It's always been my dream to be involved in helping others. I've been in this field for 12 years, nine of them I've been with the Union. Through the Union, I can further achieve my dreams for Yemeni society.

Tell me a little bit about your job. What do you do from day-to-day?

My job on a day to day basis involves the planning and implementation of programs in several governorates and solving issues with the relevant ministries. In the past couple of years, we have held 30 workshops all with the aim to develop and raise awareness on a variety of issues for both women and children. We have programs to further develop women's capabilities and to fight child labor. At the Union, we also have a monthly newspaper called "Voice of Unions".

How many other women are there in the Union and what is the ratio of women to men?



Yemeni society is slowly accepting women working in the public domains although traditionally the health sector is one of few fields where women's work is not frowned upon in Yemen.

There is a large percentage of women in the Union -almost 50 percent, and they are in many governorates. Women have become more visible in this field and their participation is not just valued but needed.

What challenges have you faced in the medical field as a woman?

As a woman, I have faced many challenges, especially in the beginning. During elections, I found much opposition. Many men were asking "How can a woman lead men?" This disappointed me gravely. Even after I won, I had to cope with pressure-from men- to step down. But I did not let it hold me back or their negativity affect me. You have to have a strong personality to wither their criticism. On the other hand, I did have a lot of

encouragement from male colleagues and of course my family.

What, if anything, do you feel you have sacrificed to be where you are now?

I have made big sacrifices. The biggest would have to be the financial sacrifices. Even during the three-month period in which I was campaigning, I had no financial support, I was on my own. Nonetheless, I took this as a challenge and was determined to win.

And what, if any changes, have you seen in the medical field with regard to women?

I have witnessed big changes for women in the medical field. In 1992 there weren't even five percent of

women in this field. Today, women have accomplished and more. To the extent that today, there aren't even enough jobs available for all the available women medical practitioners.

Do you think Yemeni society is changing as far as it's acceptance of women in visible positions?

There is change but unfortunately, it is slow. Changing people's mindsets isn't easy. Although there is more participation from women and they now hold several high-ranking positions, certain societies cannot accept this. I personally have no objection to working 24 hours a day as I love my job. Unfortunately, working late or traveling alone is often frowned upon in some of the governorates that I travel to and this restricts me. Some governorates don't even allow a girl to learn, they say its 'haram'. Imagine what they think when they see me.

Do you think it's the government or society that resists change with regard to women?

The government has paved the way by putting the laws in place. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has made it easy for women to achieve by putting the 15 percent Women's Quota in place. Most governments don't even have that.

What is the most important factor that helped you get where you are today?

I come from a very encouraging home. My father is my number one supporter. I also give credit to my brothers. Without them, this wouldn't have been possible; they have always supported and cheered me on. Also, I was able to prove myself to the Union. I've represented Yemen on a number of assignments in Yemen,



While both local and foreign nurses' duties are the same, foreign nurses receive higher salary even if they have less knowledge and experiences.

Jordan and Syria and I've made the Union proud. This has boosted their confidence in me.

What, in your opinion, is your most extraordinary accomplishment?

My most proud accomplishment is the heading of this Union. All though there's the daily pressure of trying to solve problems, traveling and the responsibilities I shoulder. I feel proud and I wake up each morning eager for work as I love my job.

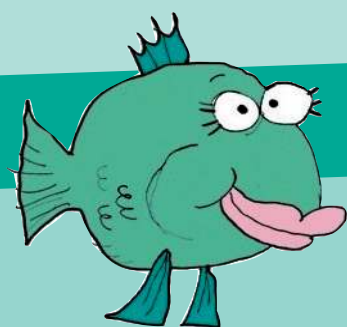
Would you ever consider running for government positions, for example parliament?

In the past, I have. I was greatly discouraged. I took my hopes and dreams to the 'muHafiz' [governor] and he told me it wasn't a good idea.

At that time I was a hundred percent sure that I would win. For the upcoming elections, women must be united otherwise there isn't a need for women candidates.

Do you have any motivating words to say to young women who aspire to be like you, to achieve like you?

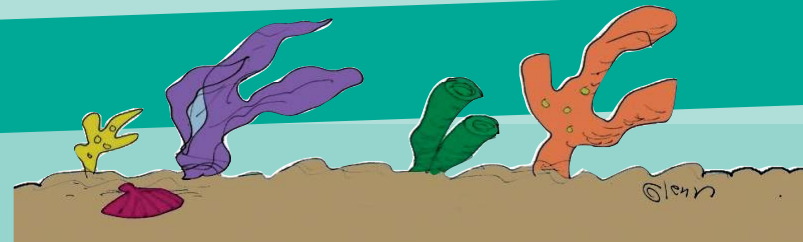
Perseverance is the key to success. I encourage women to set themselves long-term goals. Map out your plan then work your plan. Unfortunately, in our society you need to have some kind of male support, be it brother, father, friend or partner. Take things one step at a time. I see a lot of girls who get discouraged and fall into depression at the first sign of failure. Know that failure is part of success, and have hope.



FRANNIE LEARNS A LESSON

Last Chapter: Frannie becomes friends with Bonnie. Across the lunchroom, Frannie sees a lonely jellyfish.

Chapter Six: “Jordan the Jellyfish”



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 next issue!!

"Hey guys," Frannie said, looking across the lunchroom. "Do you see that jellyfish sitting alone over there?"

"Yeah," Suzy said. "What about him?"

"Well, I think we should go ask him to sit with us," Frannie suggested.

"What for?" asked Tommy.

"I just don't think he should have to sit all alone," Frannie told her friends.

"I agree," added Bonnie. "Maybe he just needs some friends."

"But he's a jellyfish!" said Carter. "They're mean. They sting fish when they get mad, and they look funny. Look at him. Don't you think he looks funny?"

"No. He doesn't look funny," Frannie said. "You shouldn't say that. He's just like us. He may look a little different, but I'm sure he's nice. Let's just go say hello. If he isn't nice, then at least we tried."

"Yeah, okay," Carter finally agreed.

The group swam over to the jellyfish's table. He peered up at them with a look of surprise on his face.

"Hi," Frannie smiled when she spoke.

"Um, hello" said the jellyfish.

"I'm Frannie," Frannie continued. "This is Suzy, Tommy, Carter and Bonnie."

"Nice to meet you all. I'm Jordan."

"Jordan, would you like to sit with us?" Frannie pointed at their table.

"Really? You guys aren't scared of me?" Jordan asked.

"Nope. We would really like you to sit with us," Frannie smiled again.

"Yeah, that would be really nice," said Suzy.

"Yeah," agreed Tommy.

The group went back to their table with their new friend, Jordan.

"So Jordan, what do you like to do?" asked Carter.

"I love to play finball."

That was all it took to convince Carter that Jordan was okay. Carter loved finball as well. He and Jordan became fast friends. As they chatted, the group learned that Jordan was in third grade, like Bonnie. They also learned that jellyfish are actually very gentle creatures, they just get a little defensive when they are threatened. They talked about school and finball and how much they liked them both. They also asked Jordan questions about what it's like to be a jellyfish.

"Thank you for letting me sit with you," Jordan said. "Most fish think I'm different and don't like me because of it. It's really nice to meet fish like you guys that try to learn more about me, instead of just being scared of me. Do you want to eat together tomorrow too?"

"Of course!" the group all answered.

Suzy, Carter, Tommy and Frannie swam back to class together. As they swam, they talked about their new friends. They got to their seats and waited for the lesson to begin.

To do and think about...

- As a class, make a list of ways people can be different. Remember that people can be different in many ways, not just physical. For example: their culture, their language, their friendliness, etc.
- Make a graph separating students into categories (boys, girls, black hair, etc). Based on this graph, what is the "most common" student. For example, a boy with brown hair, brown eyes and no glasses. Discuss how being different does not make you better or worse.
- Based on the story so far, write a few paragraphs predicting how the story will end.

REAL LIFE & VALUES: Respect for others

Imagine you were Jordan. How would you have felt sitting in the lunchroom alone? Give reasons.

This whole week in class they'd been talking about Land. The teacher told them about different land creatures like mammals, the weather changes on land, and the differences between sea and land creatures. Mrs. S swam into the room and started her lecture about humans, and their characteristics.

"Can anyone tell me one trait of a human?" she asked.

"They like to throw sharp shiny metal into the ocean and kill fish with it?" asked a fish across the room.

"That's true, some humans do that, but most of them don't" said the teacher. "Does anyone else know a characteristic?"

"Humans are tall, and they don't have fins, they have arms and legs," said Suzy.

"Very good, Suzy," said Mrs. S.

The lesson went on this way for a long time. Mrs. S would ask questions and the students would answer back. Finally, just before the bell rang, Mrs. S had an announcement to make. "Since you've all done so well answering my questions today, we will be having our first test on Friday over the land things we've talked about." she said. "Any questions?"

Using the newspaper

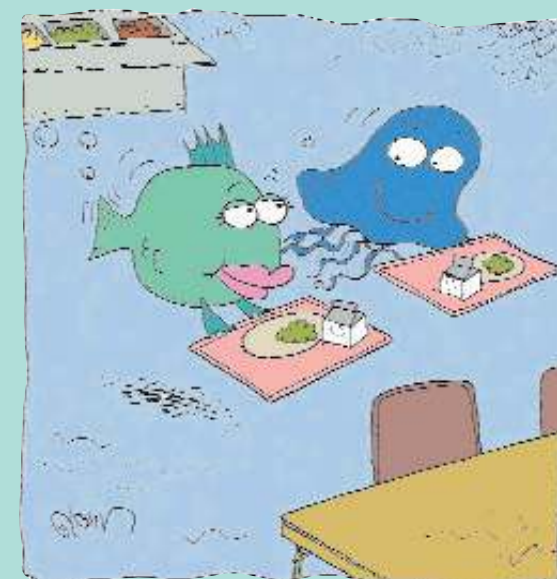
- Search the newspaper for a photo of someone different from you. Make a list of the differences, and also make a list of how you are alike. Try to find at least six items for each list.
- Look for examples of people working together for a common goal. Write a paragraph explaining how each of the different people are able to contribute to the task.

What will happen next?

How do you think Frannie will study for her test?

More activities...

www.wan-press.org/Frannie



No one raised a fin. The class just looked up at the teacher with no expression on their faces. Frannie assumed they were all just nervous. The class gathered their books and headed out to the buses.

"My first test is happening in two days!? What am I supposed to do?" she thought to herself as she swam to the bus. She figured she could talk to her friends about it on the bus ride home.

Frannie swam faster to catch up with her friends, but as she approached them, she overheard them talking about how they all thought the test would be easy, but how they were still planning to study for it. Frannie was getting a little scared.

"How does everyone else know so much, and I have no idea? How am I supposed to study for this test?" Frannie wondered.

Next Chapter: "Frannie's First Test"

World Association of Newspapers

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26 SEPTEMBER

Republic of Yemen
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Interested consultants may obtain further information from the address below from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by 10:00 AM on 29th October 2008.

The Chairman
Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA)
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and to all Yemeni people
on the 46th anniversary of the 26th of September Revolution

الإدارة وموظفي

شركة شاهر للتجارة المحدودة

يتقدمون بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات

لفخامة الأخ الرئيس /

علي عبد الله صالح

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة الذكرى الـ ٤٦ لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة

وعيد الفطر المبارك

متمنين لليمن السير قدما في طريق التقدم والنجاح

والازدهار.

وكل عام وأنتم بخير

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congratulate H. E President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the Occasion of the 46th Anniversary Of 26th September
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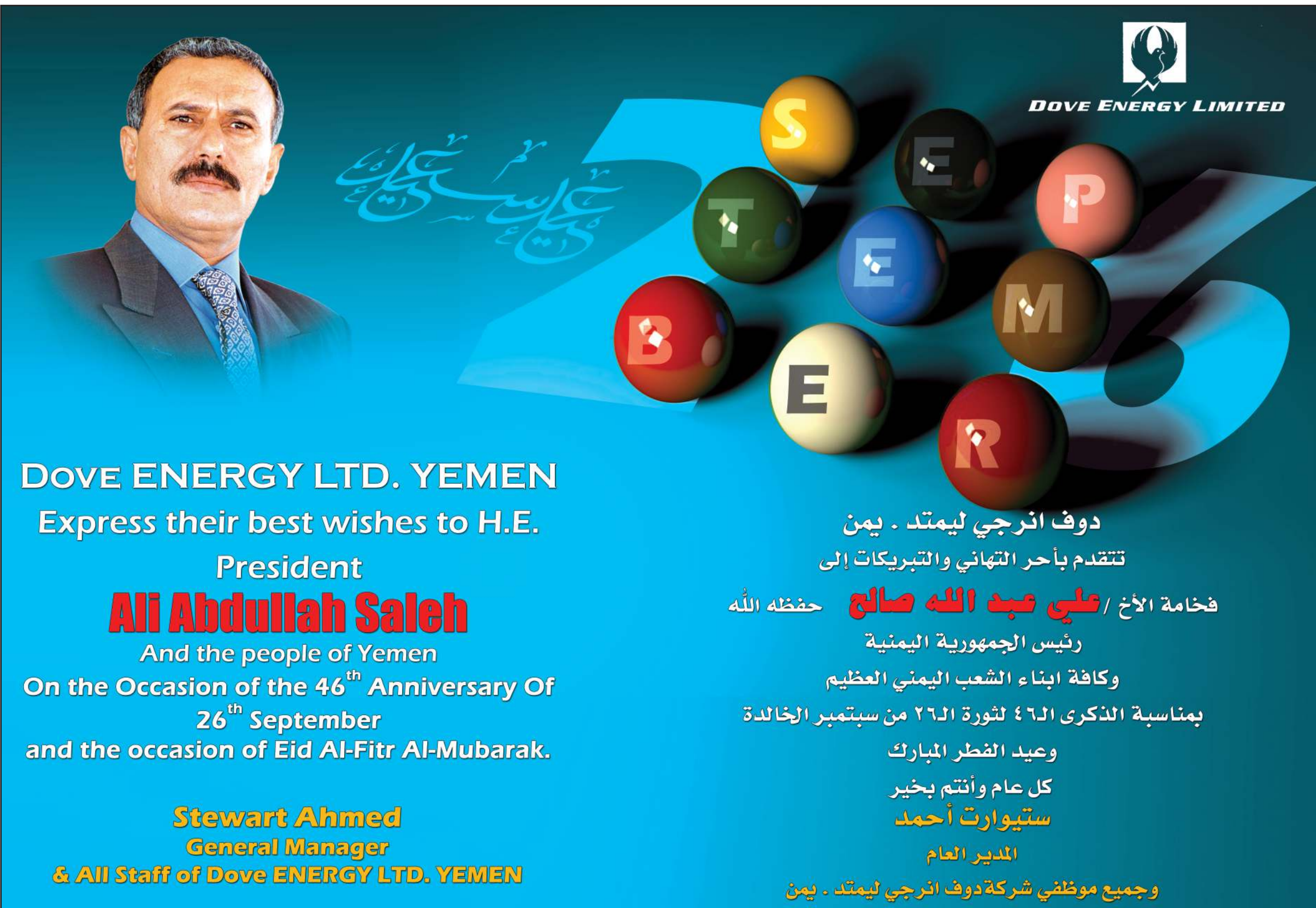
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General Manager
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رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية
وكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني العظيم
بمناسبة الذكرى الـ ٤٦ لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة
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والتبريكات القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /
علي عبدالله صالح
رئيس الجمهورية
بمناسبة الذكرى الـ ٤٦
لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة
وحلول عيد الفطر المبارك
وكل عام وأنتم بخير

OMV

Ruling party's moral bankruptcy and JMP's noisiness

By: Mohammed Al-Shami

Although it is often said that Yemenis are classified among the most highly educated Arab and Islamic people, and that Yemen is among the few states to have adopted the democratic Shoura system as a system of governance during the Pre-Islamic reign of Queen Balqis, what we experience these days is totally different from what we often hear of Yemen and its past history.

I have read what most local newspapers have published and, in of them on the front pages, it said that Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) Chairman Abdulwahab Al-Anisi sympathized with ruling party spokesman Tariq Al-Shami.

I also read an article reporting that one of the JMP leaders said that the behavior of the ruling party spokesman in going to Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) premises confirmed that the authority is morally bankrupt.

A person sitting beside me was care-

fully reading the newspaper, without any attention to either the ruling party or opposition's failure or the latter's thirst for power. The man in question was reading a news story confirming Ramadan bonuses, which was then officially denied by the Ministry of Finance in the same newspaper.

President Saleh's most recent decision to approve Ramadan bonuses worth YR 25,000 for all government employees is a generous step during the holy month of Ramadan which deserves commendation and gratitude for being aimed at achieving social justice and equality for all without exception.

I won't talk about comments made on the Ramadan bonus before or after its approval by the government. Having seen an image published in 26september.net, a Yemeni army-affiliated website, I have understood that it is a shame on those who deny people's sufferings and hardships.

JMP dialogues with itself

After my extensive reading of the vari-

ous comments and criticism published in JMP-affiliated newspapers about what is called the "National Coalition", established by the ruling party, although I agree with most of what was published, I concluded that today and yesterday are alike.

The JMP is currently holding a national dialogue with itself, and the word "national" is a slogan which both sides agree on, despite that fact that it doesn't actually mean the nation and its people. In fact, each side is only concerned with its own interests under the slogan "the means justify the end".

The person who said, "Shame on he who criticizes that which he does himself," is right. All the declarations, media statements, noisiness and great campaigns launched by both sides against each other were not intended to discuss the tragic conditions which citizens -particularly those living below the poverty line- suffer, nor were they intended to address the daily consequences of price hikes among vulnerable Yemenis.

Neither did these campaigns intend

to discuss the phenomenon of kidnapping that has recently become so widespread. It all only serves to confirm that the governing bodies don't play an effective role in many parts of the nation, most notably in its remote areas.

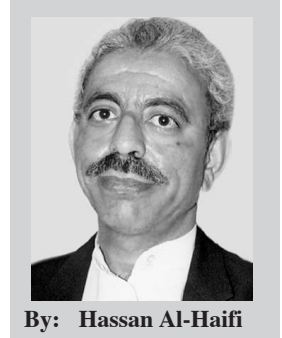
The remarkable disturbance caused by repeated differences between both political sides has nothing to do with the delay of Ramadan bonuses which government civil and military servants have been waiting for with great patience and tolerance.

Fabricating unnecessary noisiness over what the ruling party spokesman Tariq Al-Shami did during a news conference at YSP as a reaction to JMP statements will never be considered a democratic or civil practice. The JMP should have dealt with it as a trivial matter that didn't deserve all those reactions. The parties should have realized that their focus on such an unimportant matter only served to reflect the governing bodies' moral bankruptcy.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com

COMMON SENSE

To the Contractors of Death: It is Allah Who Giveth and Allah Who Taketh



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The current increase in the death contracts being awarded to elements of an ugly subculture, which has been embedded throughout the various countries of the world, especially where there is already a predominant Moslem population or where a significant Moslem minority exists, inescapably points to a suspicious trend. Suspicious, indeed it is, but nevertheless not defiant of any explanation. Surely, these moronic gangs have gone to great lengths and sacrifices to render their notion of the faith they presumably advocate incomprehensible even to those who are devout Moslems, who still have an inkling of the true attachment that Islam must harbor for life and the well being of not just Moslems, but human beings of every faith, creed, color and ethnic affiliation. Why? Why? Why all this gory addiction to death? It is inconceivable that even the masterminds of these heinous displays of flagrant sadism spiced by a distorted kamikaze conviction surely know that what they are doing is a far cry from the Islam of the Holy Qur'an and the doings and sayings of the Prophet Mohammed (PABUH). That in itself is enough of a rationale to strongly suggest and advocate with some degree of certainty that these nincompoops are certainly working for interests that are nowhere near the interests of Moslems or the propagation of Islam. On top of that, their insistence on the sanctity of shedding the blood of innocent and mostly unarmed Moslems is an un-Godly intuition for which they will burn in hell before any judgment is passed on any heathen on the Day of Judgment. Make no mistake about it, the world is under the threat of an evil monstrosity that has found its riches and self satisfaction in the gruesome scenes they create as their evil intellect devises one form of infliction of mass death after another. These shadowy geniuses of sadistic mayhem are far from conveying the true "orthodox" Islam they profess to submit to. On the contrary, they are advocates of a tyranny and repression that rests on the aura of death and indiscriminate cruelty that no sane believer in God would even think of, let alone advocate. For sure, these morons have nothing to do with any religious conviction, but rather are serving the interests of a mega heinous culture that endeavors to instill fear and hopelessness among mostly the already discontent and downtrodden of the Earth from whom they were originally recruited. These people are without feeling, without emotions, without any humanity in them. They sell themselves so cheaply for a few meager dollars or empty promises of paradise and vestal virgins, while they undertake the most horrific of deeds admonished throughout the Quran and the traditions of the Prophet Mohammed (PABUH).

The world should not be fooled by such displays of dastardly behavior. If fugitives like Ayman Al-Dhawahirri can appear on video with a fancy bookcase full of gold lettered hardbound books, and sitting on a comfortable chair with bright lighting, when one would expect him to be hiding deep in a dreary cave in the remote terrains of Afghanistan or Pakistan, is it not hard to decipher that the scenario is now complete for the biggest hoax that humanity has ever witnessed.

The world is witnessing a phenomenon that only evil and conniving men (and women) can sponsor and nurture.

The sad and almost unbelievable situation is that such brutal scenes and actions tend to increase markedly to underscore a platform by some of the "officially recognized evil forces" that have found their niche in the institutions of power and hegemony that have prevailed in this world. Yes the "conspiracy theory" is real and vibrant. Otherwise, what explanation can be made that these ugly scenes can be common viewing, yet occurring in such desperate locations? From the US Embassy to the Marriot Hotel of Pakistan, the war machine is being unleashed against the peaceful well being of especially the people of the region. Surely, it is obvious that Islam has nothing to do with this and surely the forces behind such un-Godly bloodthirsty contractors of death know that blood is thicker than water. The impact of all this bloodletting is meant to have a greater impact on the American electorate than all the water that Gustav and Ike unleashed on the Gulf Coast states a couple of weeks ago. Another important cover-up that seems to be clouded by all the scenes of misery and pain coming from Islamabad, Kirkuk and Sana'a is the failing economic performance that these same forces have brought to their constituencies and the obvious rip-off that the mega giants of Wall Street are now exacting on the American taxpayer.

Let us turn to Mecca and then remember that the contractors of death are emanating from the most notorious corrupters of the faith the Nation of Islam has known, whose creed of death has always been unleashed for the convenience of the very forces they profess to be challenging for two hundred years, as only British intelligence could very well explain.

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

Source: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Daily

Serious dialogues needed to resolve Yemen's national crisis

By: Fahmi Haweidi

When one of Yemen's tribal leaders visited me and told me that he had decided to reside in Cairo after realizing that his life in Sana'a was threatened, I thought that he was exaggerating. Having asked him whether he had connections with the Houthis, currently involved in bloody confrontations with government troops in the northern Yemeni province of Sa'ada, the tribal leader replied, "I was a member of a mediation team, mandated to conciliate between the authority and Houthi supporters."

According to the tribal leader, he has no connections with the Houthis, but opposes the government's policy toward them, particularly as it insistently uses various kinds of heavy weapons to repress and crack down on Houthi loyalists.

I then narrated the story to one of Yemen's educated dignitaries whom I recently met in Dubai. "This is an exceptional case but more likely to

happen since the atmosphere in Sana'a is full of such threats and concerns because the security authorities don't observe relevant effective laws during their intervention in community issues," the man reacted.

He went on to say that Yemen's security authorities don't hesitate to practice all forms of violence, torture and liquidation against citizens, the very things that the police is supposed to protect them from. Security agents in Yemen violate press freedom, fabricate charges against journalists and force them to pay illegal fines.

The Yemeni national further told me that Yemen is suffering from the mother of all crises in Arab countries, with power exclusively controlled by certain parties that work on edging out the role of other social constituents. This is why the human situation in Yemen continues to worsen.

Due to its strategic location, Yemen is distinguished from other Arab states by being easy for its rulers to practice a blackout of information about what happens in the ground. And, as the information blackout has continued for

up to 30 years, the accumulated outcome has become troublesome, warning of unknown bad developments and calamities.

I witnessed a festival organized in the Yemeni capital city of Sana'a on the so-called 'Democracy Day' that coincides with April 27 every year, and learned that the event was held as a reaction to growing pressure recently practiced by the Yemeni opposition in the form of demonstrations and sit-ins. Under no circumstance were the events of Democracy Day cheerful.

In addition to heightened security in the capital city, the northern province of Sa'ada witnessed a new round of bloody clashes between Houthi followers and government troops while public rage and congestions escalated in South Yemen. Having observed the location of tensions on the nation's map, I discovered that the consequences of the tension had swept the country from north to south and east to west.

Having advanced in my research, I learned that Yemen, which we read and hear about in various printed, auditory

and visible media outlets, displays a very different image on the internet websites. I expect that other stories and facts controlled by blackout many times hold more than what we see or hear.

Critics shouldn't face trials

On one of Yemen's websites I usually visit, I found a story never before seen in the Arab press. The story unveiled the trial of Fahd Al-Qarni, a popular artist, who was abducted in Taiz city and subsequently accused of fueling sectarian and regional violence, as well as social fragmentation.

Although I had not heard of Fahd Al-Qarni, I found that trying a well-known artist in any community for words that had irritated the government to be clear evidence that the authority had lost its nerve. I also learned that Yemen's security authorities have entered the phase of cracking down on critics and opponents, thereby staining the image of the government and harming its record.

I am shocked at the amount of news, information and criticism highlighting the dire situation of South Yemen, which merged with the north in 1990. Undoubtedly, North Yemen's problems also have their place in the Arab media, particularly since the fighting between the army and Houthis first broke out in June 2004.

There are two factors for the fighting between the army and Houthis not having its place in the Arab media, the first of which is being the armed clashes that left large numbers of citizens and soldiers killed or injured. In the fighting, the government used its fighter jets and rockets, leaving hundreds of homes in Sa'ada destroyed. The second factor is that the clashes went beyond the Yemeni border, thus becoming a regional issue following the mediation efforts expended by the Qatari government to conciliate between both conflicting sides.

The issue of South Yemen, on the other hand, is still being treated at the local level. The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) attempt to contain the problem via continuous pressure on the authority to suggest workable solutions to the problem. Seemingly, the JMP's efforts have not reached practical results to put an end to rage in South Yemen. Such an issue may have a place in the Arab media only if it goes beyond the Yemeni border.

Source: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Daily

SKETCHED OPINION



By: Samer

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Israelis and Palestinians journalists unite for more press freedom

Israeli press syndicate leaders will set up a regional forum to push joint Israeli-Palestinian action for more press freedom for all journalists. The move came as a result of an initiative by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). But skepticism is rife on both sides.

By Fadi Abu Saada
MENASSAT

On September 12, members of the Israeli Jerusalem Association of Journalists (IAJ) and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) met separately in Jerusalem with a delegation from the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) to discuss Israeli policies towards journalists working in Israel and Palestinian Territories.

At the end of the meeting, leaders of the Jerusalem Association of Journalists proposed setting up a regional forum to encourage joint action by Palestinian and Israeli journalists on issues such as safety and freedom of movement. They also suggest setting up a hotline to help journalists in trouble.

"This would be a major step forward for journalists," said IFJ General Secretary Aidan White. "Joint action by Israeli and Palestinian journalists to tackle problems both groups face –

such as restrictions on freedom of movement – will strengthen efforts to remove obstacles to the exercise of journalism."

Solidarity

Palestinian journalists say that Israeli restrictions on movement between Gaza and the West Bank are proving an obstacle to organizing a conference of their syndicate.

Significantly, a top representative of the IAJ, Haim Shibi, spoke out publicly for the first time about Israeli journalists' concerns for the conditions under which Palestinian journalists in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have to work.

"We recognize the problems. It is clearly unacceptable that Palestinian journalists are unable to meet to organize themselves. Israel should allow journalists to move freely and all journalists, both Palestinian and Israeli, should be able to carry out their professional duties in safety and without fear or intimidation," Shibi said.

The head of the Palestinian



Israeli restrictions on freedom of movement are such that the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate is unable to gather its members for a conference. R.R.

Journalists Syndicate (PSJ) Naeem Tobasy has argued the point for years.

He told MENASSAT, "Now there are serious attempts under way by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and the IFJ to pressure Israel into implementing a new policy to deal with Palestinian journalists and their issues."

It is routine for Palestinian reporters to be denied access to areas that are easily accessible to their Israeli colleagues. Examples include not being allowed into Jerusalem without a special permit – "something the Israeli

government is notorious for not extending," Tobasy said.

Tobasy himself has been unable to reach his office, which is in Jerusalem.

"I applied a few days ago for a permit to enter Jerusalem through the Palestinian General Authority of Civil Affairs and it was denied. I reported the incident to the IFJ," he said.

Skepticism

Tobasy noted that, in the past, neither Israeli journalists nor their representative unions have made any statements protesting Israeli measures against

Palestinian journalists.

The PSJ cited instances where Palestinian journalists were killed in action, as was the case when an Israeli tank shell killed a Reuters cameraman in Gaza, Fadel Shana'a, last April. The Israeli soldiers were cleared of any wrongdoing after a military inquiry.

Under the circumstances, it is understandable that many Palestinian journalists are skeptical about the IAJ's statement, dismissing it as "ere press talk that will never be implemented on the ground."

"Nothing will change," Tobasy said, adding that a Palestinian paper will be presented for discussion at the next meeting of the executive committee of IFJ, to be held in Paris next month.

Still, it is something of an accomplishment that the IFJ's Jerusalem initiative managed to accomplish anything at all.

In 2006, the IAJ temporarily suspended its membership of the IFJ after IFJ president Aidan White had condemned the Israeli bombing of Al-Manar, the Hezbollah TV station, during the 2006 war between Israel and the Lebanese militia.

It is still a soar point, as evidenced by IAJ leader Haim Shibi's refusal to speak to MENASSAT's correspondent.

"It [MENASSAT] might belong to

Hezbollah or [Hezbollah leader] Hassan Nasrallah," Shibi said.

(It does not.)

Encouraging at least is that individual Israeli journalists showed solidarity with their Palestinian colleagues.

"Freedom of movement is vital for a journalist to perform his duties," said Yoav Stern, a reporter with the Israeli newspaper Haaretz.

Stern said the issue has been brought up numerous times in meetings with Daniel Seaman, director of the Israeli government's Media Office.

"Seaman shouldn't interfere in favor of one journalist or another – whether the reporter is British or Palestinian. For Palestinians, this decision is purely political."

Stern noted that, as an Israeli reporter, he has been allowed total freedom of movement in the Palestinian Territories.

"I think it should be the other way around as well. It should be possible for Palestinian journalists to enter Israel and report its positive and negative news with total freedom of movement," he said.

But even Stern had to admit that there are no indications that Israel will amend its restrictive policies towards Palestinian journalists working in the Palestinian Territories anytime soon.

Egyptian Media Coverage of Fatal Power Cut

A fatal power cut in an Egyptian hospital in May shows the increasing impact that new forms of transmitting news have on reporting in the country.

By: Sarah Carr
Arab Press Network

A significant power cut in Cairo on 22 May left the El-Matareyya Teaching Hospital without electricity for two hours as the hospital's own generators failed. A doctor, who calls himself Akroot, used his mobile phone to film extremely distressing videos showing the hospital staff desperately trying to save the lives of babies in incubators in the intensive care unit – using the light from their mobile phones to guide them – while the babies cried in distress and the machines emitted crisis signals.

Shortly after the incident, Akroot uploaded videos of the moments in the intensive care unit on the Internet. The horrible scenes quickly spread over Egypt and led to important coverage by the press. Akroot claimed that four babies died as a direct result of the two-

hour power cut. The hospital denied there was any kind of link between the power cut and the deaths of the babies. Furthermore, Akroot claimed the hospital's administration already knew that the control panel governing electricity supply in the hospital was faulty: a 5-minute power cut had occurred in the hospital three weeks earlier.

Tabloid Rose El Youssef seized on the contradictions between the doctors' account of the event and that of hospital officials. Columnist Mohamed Hamdy reported that the electricity company responsible for supplying the hospital did not register any faults in the area on the night of the 22nd – further evidence, he suggests that the power cut was the result of a technical fault within the hospital which its administration negligently ignored.

"An illogical series of accusations exchanged between the parties concerned, each side trying to pin the crime on the others...But in the end four new-

born babies who were meant to receive intensive care...died due to negligence and were denied their right to the health care guaranteed by the Constitution to all citizens – even if being treated in a government hospital."

Daily independent Al Masry al Youm evocatively describes the scene its reporters found inside the hospital.

"The hospital hits you from the start: a dirty entrance, suspicious security guards who launch into arguments at the slightest opportunity...There is an entrance for serious cases. We found out afterwards that it collects payments for analyses and X-rays – despite the fact this is a teaching hospital, and services are offered for free. Newly graduated doctors examine patients belonging to society's poorest classes, as is obvious from the marks on their tattered clothes."

According to Al Masry Al Youm, El-Matareyya's doctors secretly refer to it as the "Matareyya Investment Hospital" – a reference to what they regard as the hospital's profits before patients policy. In an interview hospital manager Osama Gamil denied that the electricity cut had killed the babies and told El-Youm that he would "imprison" the

journalist who published this claim.

On 6 June newspapers reported that the public prosecution office was launching an investigation into the deaths. State-controlled daily Al Ahram announced that the government was "in mourning" for the four children "who died as a result of the power cut." The article quotes cabinet minister Mofeed Shehab, who explained that the minister of health's [Hatem El-Gabaly] decision to transfer the case to the public prosecution office was not an evasion of responsibility: the minister of health has taken "immediate measures to investigate conditions in the hospital." Al Ahram columnist Samir El-Shahaat ponders if – "regardless of whether the death of the four children in El-Matareyya was caused by negligence or a mere accident" – "our children are under threat" when they enter Egyptian public hospitals.

Tabloid El Osbooa carried a long piece featuring interviews with a El-Matareyya hospital technician responsible for medical equipment, and Mortaga Negm, secretary general of the General Body for Teaching Hospitals and Academies. The technician tells El Osbooa that she took time off in

October 2007 because of her fear that she would be held responsible for deaths caused in the event of a prolonged power cut.

Negm meanwhile maintained that two of the deaths were entirely unrelated to the power cut: both deaths, he told El Osbooa, occurred before the power cut. Their bodies were in the intensive care unit because of a Ministry of Health law which forbids the bodies of the deceased to be moved for two hours after their death. Negm claims that no deaths were caused by the power cut: "doctors carried on exerting their utmost efforts until the electricity supply returned. Despite this, the Ministry of Health presented a complaint to the public prosecution office because the Minister is merciless in the face of any transgression or negligence."

Independent daily Al Dustour sees things differently, in an article headlined, "MPs accuse ministry of health and hospital manager of being responsible for death of four children!" A Muslim Brotherhood MP tells a parliamentary session convened to discuss the incident that he had warned both the hospital's administration and the ministry of health several times about the

"serious negligence" in the Matareyya Hospital.

Al Masry Al Youm produced documents in which the El-Matareyya hospital's administration acknowledge that electricity supply to the hospital was "unsafe." The article describes an exchange of letters between the hospital and the Arab Contractors company, responsible for overseeing the hospital's electricity station.

In the correspondence the hospital demands that the Arab Contractors undertake the basic maintenance necessary to prevent any uncontrollable faults occurring, while Arab Contractors reply by telling the hospital that they are not contractually obliged to do this.

Rose El Youssef meanwhile reported at the start of July that health minister El-Gabaly has promised four new generators El-Matareyya and that the "the crisis will be resolved within two weeks." While the buck was busy being passed by those involved in the incident, opposition daily El Wafd revealed that relatives of the dead children had had no idea how their children died: they had only found out through media reports.

Imagine if the kids took over

The future would look very different if we put the peace process in the hands of Palestinian and Israeli children.

By: Khaled Diab

A couple of months ago, as Israelis celebrated 60 years of statehood and Palestinians marked six decades of dispossession, I wondered whether there would ever be peace between the two peoples.

Rather than dwell on the depressing present or venture into the minefield of the past, I decided to look forward in time, to a fictional future where peace prevailed.

Commenting on my article, Hitham Kayali of OneVoice, a grassroots movement which has gained the written support of 600,000 Palestinians and Israelis for a two-state solution said: "Only [by using their imagination] will people understand why compromises should be made."

I was pleased to learn from Kayali that Israeli and Palestinian schoolchildren have been involved in a similar experiment: using their imagination in

an essay contest to dream of what life could be like, 10 years from now, in a peaceful 2018.

I was intrigued to get some insight into the thinking of the coming generation, whose voices we rarely get to hear, despite the fact that they stand to lose the most from this ongoing conflict.

Besides, I have this (perhaps misguided?) sense that children are often more sensible than us adults. At least, they don't seem to bear a grudge for long—and that is a precious asset in the Promised Land, where grudges take on a life of their own and can last for generations.

"These children have never experienced peace. They don't have the chance to travel to other countries to see how it is. This is all from their imagination," Kayali points out.

One Israeli kid from Sderot, which borders Gaza and is on the receiving end of Qassam rocket attacks, imagined that he single-handedly laid the ground for peace! "It all started by

accident," he wrote.

He loaded the radio-controlled plane he got for his birthday with sweets. His inexperienced hand soon lost control of the aircraft and it dawned on him that it was on course to become another casualty of war. In a panic, he pressed the wrong button and inadvertently bombed – or, more accurately, bon-bonned – Gaza with his payload of sweets.

"The Israeli army couldn't figure out what had happened ... everybody was hugging them and they dropped their weapons at once. I almost started to cry. All I wanted was to get my model plane back ... but then I realized that I'd actually brought peace to Israel."

Gaza also features in the vision of a Palestinian boy, who studies at a school for the visually impaired in Ramallah. He starts his essay by describing his reaction to the constant barrage of bad news coming out of the Strip: "My little heart was tormented with pain, for those [images] could cause rocks to cry."

Drained, he snoozes in front of the TV and is awakened in a peaceable country by the sounds of "chirping

birds" instead of "bullets and cannons". In his dream, the simple joy of mobility features strongly. He describes getting to school on time because there are no more military checkpoints, passing his uncle who is "happily plowing his field". He is accompanied by his father because "there isn't a prison that can deprive me of him, because prisons have been demolished and converted into parks for children."

The boy's dream may strike an outsider as being quite humble and unremarkable. But for most of his short life, Palestinians have been living the reality of Israeli closures, where going even to a neighboring village is often impossible. A Palestinian girl from Tulkarem also dreams of the freedom to roam. In her essay, she flits freely between Jerusalem, Amman, Ramallah, Jericho and the ultimate symbol of mobility, an international airport in Qalandia. Back in 2008, this same West Bank village, which hosted a six-decade-old refugee camp, was "filled with havoc, weeds, and piles of rubble, barbed wire and soldiers with helmets."

In her dream-scape, the newly independent Palestine is a dynamic, multi-

cultural, multi-ethnic land, popular with tourists. The cities have impressive skylines. She describes forests on the slopes of mountains and how "Palestinian villages fall asleep in the dreamy, green embrace of nature," where there are "no military jeeps on the road and no settlements" on the hilltops.

So, what is to happen to the Israeli army?

This is the subject of another essay by an Israeli boy. Dean, a young Israeli soldier, has been called up for some mysterious mission. His unit informs him that the elusive Hassan el-Hamid has been located.

You get the feeling that something is amiss when they pick up a UN representative and that el-Hamid is perhaps not a fugitive. It turns out that he is actually their commander and he's leading them on a peacekeeping mission to Iraq. El-Hamid explains that the Israeli army has been renamed the Israeli peace defense force and that "many countries need our assistance in resolving conflicts and deep-rooted disputes and restoring peace."

This is not only a commendable dream but reflects a powerful desire among many Israelis to be fully accepted as valuable members of the Middle Eastern and international community.

"The essays which the Palestinian and Israeli children have written are in fact one of the best indicators or opinion polls of what the situation really is like," Kayali says.

I would go even further and publicly urge the adults to let the children take over the peace process and bring to it the sensibility and competence of childhood.

(Egyptian by birth, Khaled Diab has spent half his life in the Middle East and the other half in Europe. He is a Brussels-based journalist and writer, who writes about a wide range of subjects, including the EU, the Middle East, Islam and secularism, multiculturalism, human rights, and more.)

This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org. (Source: Guardian, 31 July 2008, www.guardian.co.uk.)



عِيدُكُمْ مُبَارَكٌ

بمناسبة حلول عيد الفطر المبارك
وأعياد الثورة اليمنية 26 سبتمبر و 14 أكتوبر وعيد الجلاء 30 نوفمبر
يتقدم
السيد / مارتن ديفوتتين
مدير عام شركة توتال للاستكشاف والإنتاج في اليمن وجميع موظفي الشركة
وشركاء الشركة : كوفبيك وأوكسيدنتال وكوميكو
بأسمى آيات التهاني وأطيب التبريكات
إلى فخامة الرئيس / علي عبدالله صالح
والى الحكومة اليمنية والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني؛ متمنين لليمن وشعبه
المزيد من الخير والتطور والرخاء

كل عام وأنتم بخير




DNO

تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى
فخامة الأخ /
علي عبدالله صالح
رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية
بمناسبة الذكرى الـ ٤٦
لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة
وعيد الفطر المبارك
كل عام وأنتم بخير

DNO

Express their best wishes to H.E. President
Ali Abdullah Saleh
And the people of Yemen
On the Occasion of the 46th Anniversary
Of 26th September
and the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak.
We wish Yemen the best of success
and progress towards building a strong country

26 SEPTEMBER



يتقدم كل من

السيد / جريجور ماويني

الرئيس والمدير العام

و

الأستاذ / علي محمد السحيقي

المدير التنفيذي

شركة كنيدان تكسن بتروليم يمن - قطاع المسيلة " ١٤ "

وشركة كنيدان تكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر المحدودة - قطاع " ٥١ "

والإدارة العليا وجميع موظفي القطاعين

بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى

فخامة الأخ / **علي عبد الله صالح** حفظه الله

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

بمناسبة حلول عيد الفطر المبارك أعادة الله علينا وعلى الأمة العربية والإسلامية

بالخير والبركة

وكذا الذكرى الـ ٤٦ لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر المجيدة

من العترة

سبتمبر
September

Mr. Gregor S. Mawhinney,
President & General Manager

&

Mr. Ali Mohammed Sohaiki,
Executive Director

Of Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen-Masila Block (14)

&

Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr Ltd. - Block (51)

As well as the Management Team & All staff of both
blocks, present their warmest Congratulations to

H. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

On the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak

&

The 46th Anniversary of 26 September Revolution Day

Canadian Nexen Petroleum
Yemen and its Masila Block
(14) partners

كنيدان تكسن بتروليم يمن وشركاؤها في

قطاع المسيلة (١٤)

CANADIAN
nexen

Canadian Nexen Petroleum
East Al Hajr Ltd. - Block (51)

كنيدان تكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر المحدودة

قطاع شرق الحجر (٥١)

Yemen's economic life after oil? Go fishing

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

Many local and international reports indicate that fisheries are one of Yemen's potential sources of wealth after its oil supplies are depleted. The World Bank (WB) said that fisheries could substantially increase export growth. According to WB reports, Yemen's most valuable fish marine commodities like rock lobster, cuttlefish, shrimp and other bottom-dwelling species, can potentially yield close to US \$100 million worth of fish annually, of which nearly 50 percent could be exported.

Small and medium-sized fisheries would directly benefit from increasing fish exports, and this would in turn help increase employment and reduce poverty in coastal communities where many of the poorest Yemenis reside.

The fish sector could provide food security to citizens through expanding the scope of internal marketing, and draw up local consumption of fresh and canned fish to about 70 percent of the total volume of fish caught annually in the country, such as in 2004, when fish consumption per capita rose to 9 kg per year.

Fish farms could also increase protein consumption for Yemenis, notably among the poorer segments of the population that are seriously malnourished, according to the WB.

Yemen is endowed with an excellent geographical location which has made it a connecting point between the east and west throughout history. It is also a key entrance to the African continent via the Bab Al-Mandab Strait, considered to be one of the main maritime passages in the region, a 2,500 kilometer-long stretch of coastline along the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

There are over 160 Yemeni islands featuring environmental diversity on the Yemeni coastline along the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, and these have typically been abundant in fish resources throughout the year.

According to a report issued by the Ministry of Fishery Wealth in 2007, Yemen's large fish resources enable fishermen to catch around 400,000 tons of seafood per year. This quantity includes nearly 400 kinds of fish and other marine life, 150 of which are known as "economic fish" or fish that are in high demand on the international market. Yemen's large stock of marine life dwarves other seafood-producing countries, most of which usually only have 60 types of consumable fish products.

Yemen has over 90 fishing-based vil-



According to the Yemeni Ministry of Fishery Wealth the fish sector contributed in providing more than 315,000 jobs in Yemen in 2004, of which nearly 250,000 jobs in associated trading and marketing activities.

lages, 40 of which are located on the Red Sea and 50 in the Gulf of Aden and on the Arabian Sea. There are currently approximately 65,000 Yemeni fishermen providing for their families, which number over 455,000. These fishermen work with more than 17,000 fishing boats of different shapes and sizes.

According to the Yemeni Ministry of Fishery Wealth the fish sector contributed in providing more than 315,000 jobs in Yemen in 2004, of which nearly 250,000 jobs in associated trading and marketing activities. People working in the fishing sector represent 3.5 percent of Yemen's economically active population and support around 1.7 million people- 8.6 percent of the total population residing in Yemen.

Investing in the fisheries' futures

This information has inevitably attracted the attention of many Yemeni and foreign investors. The WB reports reveal that since 1994, the Yemeni government has allowed large foreign industrial fleets to return to its waters under country-to-country agreements and individual licensing schemes. About 113 licensed foreign vessels – not to mention the unknown number of unlicensed vessels – currently operate in Yemeni waters. "This fleet expansion is jeopardizing the sustainable exploitation of key fish stock, substantially increasing the risks of the collapse of entire stock and limiting the further growth of small-scale fisheries," warned the report.

In 2007, the Yemeni Ministry of Fisheries announced that the proceeds of the country's fish and marine life in

2007 decreased by 13.8 percent to reach a value of US \$ 197 million, compared with US \$ 259 million in 2006. The ministry attributed the decrease in Yemeni profits from this wealth to the drop in exports to 81,000 tons from 89,000 tons in the previous year. It also attributed the decline in revenue to the imposition of an embargo on the export of fresh fish required to meet local market needs.

The data indicates that one of the reasons the ministry took the decision to prevent the export of some fish and marine organisms, including rare squid and sea cucumber, is to allow for the reproduction of these species and to strengthen their reserves, after their over-exploitation in the past years.

Still, investment opportunities abound in Yemen's fishing industry. The main areas for investment include:

Farming fish and other seafood-

- Manufacturing fishing tools and equipment
- Manufacturing tools and equipment to prepare and export seafood
- Preparing, processing and canning fish
- Manufacturing, renovating and maintaining fishing boats
- Seafood refrigeration equipment
- Opening seafood, boat and fishing equipment shops -

Difficulties and obstacles

Though these are the WB's hopes for investment opportunities, a report issued by the agency in 1998 stressed the lack of critical infrastructure to help the public and private investments that are essential for future growth, pointing to

the need to both build new constructions and rehabilitate existing ones, including small-scale fisheries.

The report said that better marketing programs and more effective quality control of the seafood are desperately needed to successfully expand fishing exports from small-scale fisheries. This would require structural changes in fishery export policy, fish marketing practices and small-scale fishery technology.

Efforts

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar confirmed, in the second conference held this past July by the Fishing Cooperation Union (FCU), that the rehabilitation of the fishing sector in Yemen must be undertaken in order to expand investment potential. Saleh Shamlan, the minister of Fishery Wealth, said in July that his ministry was seeking an effective quality control system, alongside updated information on marine investment and better marketing plans. Shamlan added that it was necessary to further develop already-successful fishing associations, and to apply and regulate existing laws to best exploit this source of income.

"We have allocated around YR 3 billion to support fishing projects in the coastal governorates through committees composed of governors and district administrators, to whom the projects will be delegated for their set up," Shamlan said in July at the meeting.

Ali Bin Shaba, the Chairman of the FCU said that the union's investment program, which is in the third year of its five-year plan, included the implementation of 19 investment projects at a cost of YR 354 million.

In Brief

Five carriers, ships arrive in Hodeidah's Port

Five ships and carriers carrying 28,594 tons of oil products and 748 cars in addition to a number of containers and packages arrived in the Port of Hudeidah on Monday.

A report issued by Yemeni Red Sea Ports Authority showed that the two oil containers (Yemeni oil 19) and (Al-Masila) carrying 23,494 tons of oil and

(Yemeni oil 6) carrying 5100 tons of fuel oil.

A statement sent to Saba said that the ship Castle carried 748 cars whereas the ship Lama Mi carried 13 packages and the three different containers contain various goods, pointing out that the two ships still waiting to enter the port carrying 236 containers.

Yemen, GTZ conclude carpentry session in Aden

Center of Training and Rehabilitation for Carpentry in Aden concluded on Monday a training course on carpentry for 47 carpenters in collaboration with the GTZ in each of Aden, Lahj and Abyan

During the session, which lasted for the two weeks, carpenters were introduced to the art of wood works, sculpture, design, beds, offices, chairs and libraries.

Yemen, IFC to cooperate to facilitate taxes procedures

Chairman of Taxes Authority Ahmed Ghaleb has revealed the start of implementation of the project of facilitating the technical taxes procedures in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

In a statement to 26sep.net, Ghaleb said that the project aims at easing procedures with the assigned person and to gain their trust in addition to removing any complexities or delay in the procedures.

He affirmed that the authority aims, through the project, at rearranging for the tax procedures by advanced mechanisms meant to correct shortages aspects which harm the assigner due to the misunderstanding of tax provisions and texts.

HCT approves projects for over YR2 bln

The Higher Committee for Tenders (HCT) approved on Sunday in its meeting, chaired by the committee chairman Mohammed al-Junaid, 8 service and development projects estimated at a cost of YR2.8 billion.

The committee delayed tenders of the forth ring road, first and second phases, as well as establishment of the second phase of the third ring road and asphalted roads of Al-Noor City Ba-Zara'ah in Taiz for more study and revision.

Yemen, British Burn Energy sign oil production-sharing agreement

Oil and Minerals Ministry, Yemeni General Corporation for Oil and Gas and the British "Burn Energy Ltd" Company signed here on Sunday an oil production-sharing agreement in 19,000km² in the area of Aden, Abyan and Lahj.

The agreement stipulated that the British company carries out petroleum works in the first and second exploratory stages, 36 months for each stage.

During the first stage, the company will spend \$8.8 million for conducting seismic surveys in a line of 1,200 km in length in addition to drilling two experimental exploratory wells.

The second stage of \$ 6 million includes conducting seismic surveys in a line of 500 km and drilling an experimental exploratory well.

Noteworthy is that the area of Aden, Abyan and Lahj is still a new area for petroleum operations.

VP launches development projects in Raymah at sum of YR4 mln

Vice president Abu Rabu Mansour Hadi paid a visit on Wednesday to Raymah governorate to open projects and lay down foundation stones for several development projects at a total cost of YR 4 billion.

Hadi listened to the needs of citizens, saying that the governorate would witness huge development in coming period at deferent levels.

Then, the vice president opened building of the social care fund at YR 82 million and launched works in 68 educational projects at sum of YR 1.3 billion.

He also opened building of the general corporation of water and sanitation at amount of YR 500 million.

He highlighted tourist sites in the governorate, asking concerned bodies to pay attention for that.

Tender of doing study of Al-Saleh University project to be announced soon

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdul-Kareem al-Arhabi said on Tuesday that international tender of doing study of setting up Al-Saleh University will be announced soon.

The selected company would carry out the design and study of the project within determined date from November 2008 to May 2009, al-Arhabi said.

He considered that this project would be key facility of higher education in the country, wishing such project would contribute to level of the higher and technical education.

Yemen, European Union review financial, economic reforms

Ministers of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr al-Qirbi and of Finance Noaman Assuhaibi discussed on Wednesday with ambassadors of the European Union the Program of Financial and Economic Reforms and the fiscal policy.

In the meeting, al-Qirbi informed the ambassadors on effects of the sorrowful terrorist attack targeted the US embassy in Yemen today and foiling the attack outside the embassy's building by security men.

He thanked the ambassadors for attending this meeting, which is considered clear support to government's efforts in fighting terrorism and continuity of partnership between Yemen and EU countries.

For his part, Assuhaibi presented detailed explanation of economic situation in Yemen and the fiscal policies the government has adopted, shedding lights on difficulties and problems facing Yemen's economy.

Assuhaibi who highlighted EU's efforts in supporting Yemen's development talked about policies and strategies the government has for facing these challenges topped by developing alternative resources of the country budget.

Arab tends to invest \$ 4 bln in Aden, says SC chairman

Chairman of Shoura Council Abdul-Aziz Abdul-Ghani said on Tuesday that Arab tents to invest \$ 4 billion in Aden governorate in coming period.

In his speech in Ramadan evening session held in Aden, Abdul-Ghani said that the third five-year plan 2006-2010 allocated around YR 31 billion for the governorate to improve infrastructure and services in the governorate.

The plan includes setting up more than 5,000 housing units within program of al-Saleh program, he said.

Abdul-Ghani highlighted step of granting Dubai Port Company, saying it is turning point in role of Aden Free Zone.

He said that the state represented by president Ali Abdullah Saleh knows well importance of the governorate, adding that the state is working to tackle issues of the civil and military retirees.

Self-Financing Development

By: Stephany Griffith-Jones, Jose Antonio Ocampo and Pietro Calice

A remarkable feature of the international financial system in the last decade has been the rapid and vast accumulation of foreign-exchange reserves by developing countries. World foreign reserves tripled from \$2.1 trillion in December 2001 to an unprecedented \$6.5 trillion in early 2008, according to IMF data.

Developing countries as a whole accounted for more than 80% of global reserve accumulation during this period, and their current level of reserves approaches \$5 trillion. Half of this volume is concentrated in developing Asia, but Latin America and Africa have also been amassing international assets at a remarkable pace. This pool of reserves surpasses developing countries' immediate liquidity needs, leading to their increased creation and expansion of sovereign wealth funds, which have an additional level of assets of more than \$3 trillion.

The unprecedented increase in developing countries' foreign exchange reserves is due both to their current-account surpluses and large net capital inflows. Practically all developing countries' reserves are invested in developed countries' assets, leading to an increasing net transfer of resources from the developing to the developed world, which, according to UNDESA estimates, reached \$720 billion in 2007

alone.

Although economic growth and poverty reduction in many developing countries has been impressive in recent years, a significant increase in investment in areas such as infrastructure is required to sustain such growth in the future. We propose that a very small portion of developing countries' total foreign-exchange reserves – say, 1% – be channeled to the expansion of existing regional development banks or the creation of new ones that would invest in infrastructure and other crucial sectors.

Indeed, infrastructure investment is recognized as a key ingredient in sustaining and accelerating growth. However, there is a large financing gap. According to the World Bank, developing countries spend an average of 3-4 % of GDP on infrastructure every year, compared to an estimated 7% of GDP required to meet existing infrastructure needs for maintaining rapid growth. This translates into an annual gap of at least \$300 billion at current prices.

High expectations for private-sector financing of infrastructure have gone largely unmet. Private investment remains limited and concentrated by both country and sector. National governments still account for the large majority of financing. Official development assistance and multilateral bank lending, though valuable, remain insufficient. In particular, there are large gaps in the provision of crucial regional and cross-border investments,

for example in energy and roads.

Multilateral financial institutions must maintain their central function in the international development architecture, and in particular in financing infrastructure investment. But regional and sub-regional financial institutions owned by developing countries can and should play an important and valuable complementary role. These institutions give a greater voice and sense of ownership to developing countries, are more likely to rely on moral suasion rather than conditionality, and tend to benefit from smaller information asymmetries.

Moreover, regional and sub-regional development banks are particularly suited to provide regional public goods. The growing importance of trade integration and regional trade flows makes the provision of regional infrastructure urgent. The European experience offers valuable lessons in this regard. Trade integration was initially supported by massive investments in regional infrastructure, financed to an important extent by a large, specifically created institution, the European Investment Bank.

If developing countries allocate only 1% of their foreign exchange reserves to the paid-in capital of regional and sub-regional institutions, this would amount to \$50 billion at current levels of reserves. Assuming a ratio of loans-to-capital of 2.4 times – an estimate based on the ratio of the successful and financially sound Andean Development Corporation – the

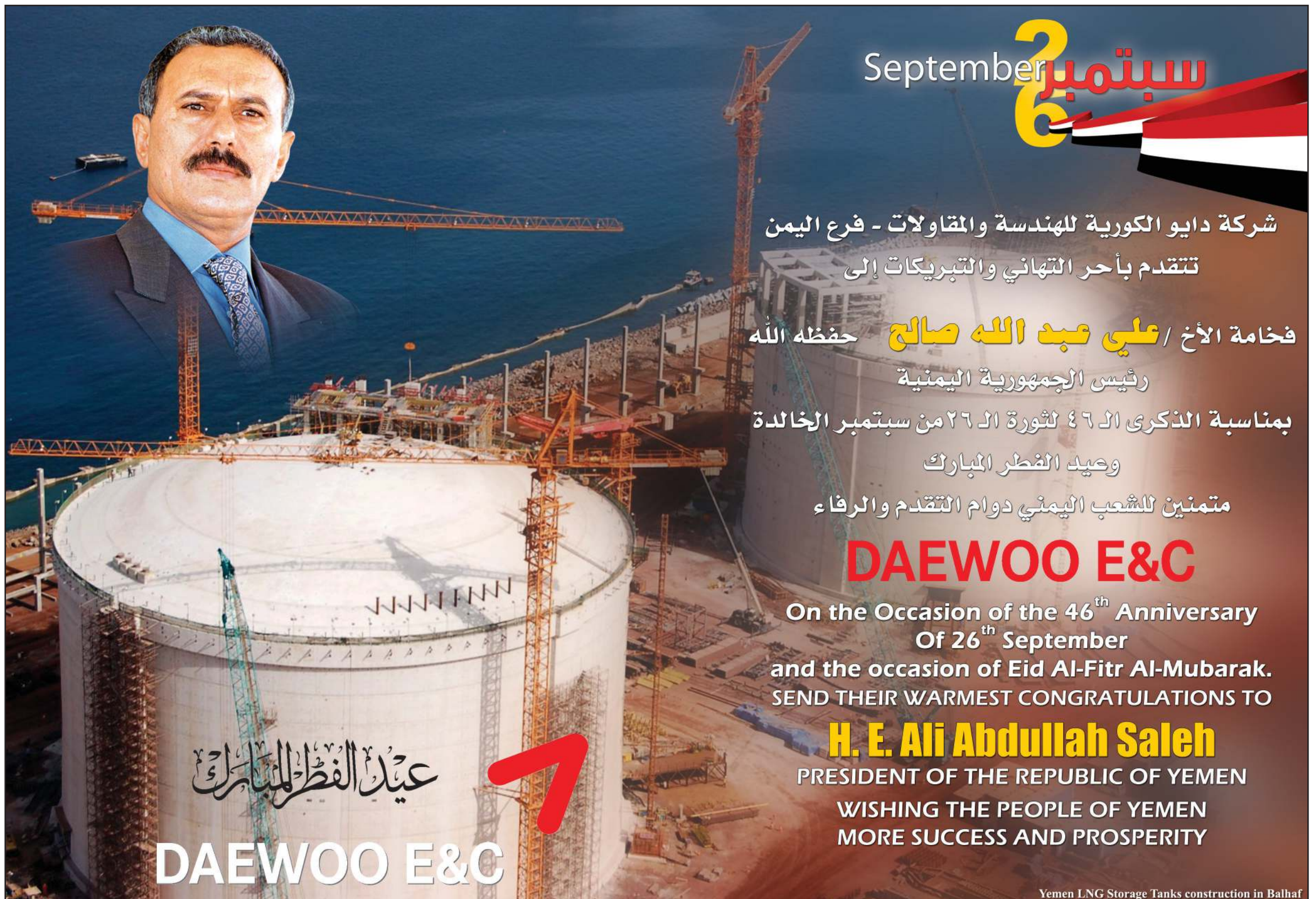
expanded regional and sub-regional development banks or new ones could generate additional lending of approximately \$120 billion.

With time, they could leverage retained earnings, increasing their lending potential without additional paid-in capital. This would imply the ability to finance an important proportion of unmet needs for infrastructure financing.

Based on these initial calculations, the additional lending capacity generated would be significantly larger than total disbursements currently made by existing multilateral development banks. Obviously, more detailed calculations and analyses are required, along with discussions with governments, existing institutions, rating agencies, and other stakeholders.

By expanding or creating new regional and sub-regional financial institutions, developing countries could lay the basis for their own current and future lending capacity, which would eventually help them meet their development goals. Given their large foreign-exchange reserves, we believe the time to begin such an initiative is now.

Stephany Griffith-Jones is Executive Director, Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), Columbia University; José Antonio Ocampo, former Under-Secretary General of the UN, is Co-President of the IPD; Pietro Calice is Senior Policy Advisor, Christian Aid. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008. www.project-syndicate.org



September **سبتمبر**

شركة دايو الكورية للهندسة والمقاولات - فرع اليمن
تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى

فخامة الأخ / **علي عبد الله صالح** حفظه الله
رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

بمناسبة الذكرى الـ ٤٦ لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة
وعيد الفطر المبارك

متمنين للشعب اليمني دوام التقدم والرفاء

DAEWOO E&C

On the Occasion of the 46th Anniversary
Of 26th September
and the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak.
SEND THEIR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO

H. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
WISHING THE PEOPLE OF YEMEN
MORE SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY

عيد الفطر المبارك

DAEWOO E&C

Yemen LNG Storage Tanks construction in Balhaf



On the sacred occasion of the advent
of the 46th Anniversary of
September Revolution
and Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak
Jannah Hunt Oil Company
Presents its heartiest congratulations
to H. E. President

Ali Abdullah Saleh
and to the Yemeni people
Wishing Yemen great leaps towards
achieving its goals

تقدم شركة هنت جنة للنفط
بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الأخ /
علي عبد الله صالح
رئيس الجمهورية
والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني
بمناسبة الذكرى الـ ٤٦ لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر
وعيد الفطر المبارك
وكل عام والجميع بألف خير

September **سبتمبر**

Jannah Hunt OIL COMPANY
شركة هنت-جنة للنفط

نتقدم بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات
القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبد الله صالح
رئيس الجمهورية

بمناسبة حلول الذكرى الـ ٤٦
لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة
وعيد الفطر المبارك
وكل عام وأنتم بخير



Congratulatsins His Excellency President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the Occasion of the 46th Anniversary
Of 26th September
and the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak.
Many Happy Returns



شركة اتحاد المقاولين العالمية (C.C.C.)

CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - SAL



كل عام وانتم بخير

ON THE OCCASION OF EID AL-FITR AND
THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF
26 SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION DAY
THE EMPLOYEES OF YEMEN LNG COMPANY SEND
THEIR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO
H.E. ALI ABDULLAH SALEH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
WISHING THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF YEMEN
MORE SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY



WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

Yemen LNG Company

Moral pollution (Part 1)

By: Adnan Hassan Al-Halmi
adnanalhalmi@yahoo.com

Environmental pollution is a change in the environment from its natural state to the worst due to certain factors. Similarly, moral pollution involves an individual's morals and values changing from positive to passive.

Politicians, scientists and economists recently have discussed the problem of environmental pollution and its effects on humankind, attempting to determine appropriate solutions to avoid such hazards. The media also has exposed the impacts of various types of environmental pollution that directly threaten human life.

Worldwide, every nation is doing its best to head off or at least limit the spread of this disaster, which will create numerous problems and diseases for humans.

However, while the world has been engaged in tackling this problem, another type of pollution no less dangerous than environmental pollution has appeared on the horizon. While the world is involved in coming up with suitable solutions to be rid of this ordeal, it forgot and ignored, as it were, something much more hazardous called "moral pollution," which changes an individual's personality.

Moral pollution is certainly the most hazardous and threatening type of pollution because morals are the

distinguishing values and virtues upon which every society stands and by which it is characterized. This is why the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) said, "I was born to complete the best morals." Morals are the instrument arranging every aspect of life for every individual.

If one loses his morals, he'll project a bad impression of his nationality, country, origin and the environment in which he lives. For this reason, a clean and healthy environment requires an individual of morals and values so that he is able to keep his environment healthy and clean.

I regret to point out that if you look at the reality of any individual in any society – irrespective of his nationality, country or religion – you'll see that this moral pollution gap is expanding.

To the contrary, previous societies were distinguished by good morals, virtues and values. The world has witnessed significant development in fields of technology, electronics and industry, thereby creating many new facilities for humankind. However, nothing has been advanced in the area of morals – the cornerstone and the salt of life – except destroying what little remains.

Environmental pollution is part and parcel of moral pollution; thus, in order to get rid of moral pollution, we must get rid of environmental pollution. We urgently need a moral campaign to educate and enlighten people because if one is educated and enlightened, he won't throw spoiled things into the street

and he'll lead a healthy environmental life.

Today's world is becoming more and more sensitive to environmental pollution, as cleansing the atmosphere and human surroundings of those things that are detrimental to any form of life has assumed unprecedented importance. Of course, this is a healthy development, but we hope it also works to purify humankind of moral pollution.

If environmental pollution is detrimental to one's physical being, then moral pollution is detrimental to his spiritual being; therefore, a body that is morally polluted is perhaps dirtier than an environmentally polluted locale.

Considering our present reality, you'll find that this type of pollution is widespread in our society. For example, credibility, simplicity, honesty and truth have been replaced by lies, treason, false testimony, theft, sexual immorality, murder and bad language.

People have become materialist, cruel, nervous, uptight and hostile to one another, even disputing within families and between husbands and wives.

For instance, if you unintentionally push someone in a crowded market, he'll fight with you, even if you've apologized to him. The same is true on the streets and on buses, so you begin to wonder at the reason for this lack of respect, patience and morals. Are we being guided well or are we being affected by something else? Are we on the right path? Having to ask these questions is absurd.

and respectful to their husbands, such as the companions of the Prophet PBUH, particularly the mothers of the believers.

I believe that a man should marry a religious, morally upright and beautiful woman because our Prophet said, "A woman is married for four things: her wealth, her family status, her beauty and her religion. So you should marry the religious woman (otherwise) you will be a loser." Volume 7, Book 62, Number 27: Narrated Abu Huraira

It is worth taking into consideration that, due to our deeply-seated traditions and customs, a woman should also be of the same social status as her husband.

2008). However I disagree with him on this subject. I can't assume that an educated woman is better than an uneducated one with regards to her morality, personality, cultural upbringing and practice of religion. It is possible to come across a highly educated woman who owns certificates in all fields of knowledge, but who is described as arrogant and shows little respect to her husband. A prime example of this kind of woman is the well-educated Western woman.

On the other hand, it happens to meet uneducated women who haven't been to school or university, but who are talented in managing their home duties

To choose or not to choose an educated woman

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I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the Yemen Times staff for their constant efforts in dedicating a large space in the paper to reflect readers' thoughts, opinions and emotions in response to stimulating topics.

I was pleased to read Al-Adlany's article entitled "Educated woman: between misunderstanding and misbehavior" (YT Issue 1183, 21 Aug.



Invitation for General Bid No. (20) for the year 2008

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (20) for the year 2008 for:

Renting a Lunar Satellite Channel to broadcast Yemen's Satellite Channel in addition to the general Radio-one and Radio-two programs to the following cotenants: Asia, North America, Europe.

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Tel: (01/ 230752)**

For buying the bid documents costing (\$300) non refundable.
The deadline of selling the documents is: 19/10/2008.

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

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount (\$36000) valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening the files or by a payable check.
- 2- Submitting a copy of the taxing card valid 2008, (all the foreign bidders, who don't work, submit a copy of the register documents for extra cost taxation from their countries.
- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year.
- 4- A copy of the alms card valid for 2008.
- 5- A copy of a valid commercial registration certificate for 2008.
- 6- A copy from a valid operating license certificate for 2008.
- 7- A copy of the registration certificate for general sales tax valid for 2008.

The deadline for receiving the documents and opening the files at 11:00 am on Saturday 25/10/2008 at the main branch of the corporation.

Through The Mind's Eye



By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com

Goodbye Ramadan

Ramadan's days and nights are coming to an end. Though some people were dreading its coming, most of them now wish Ramadan lasted for the whole year. Unfortunately, it is now time to bid the holy month farewell.

The holy month of Ramadan is a month of mercy, worship and forgiveness. Its holy atmosphere awakens religious duties in people, so that they pay more attention to prayers at mosque, read the holy Quran, pay the Zakat and do many other good deeds. They also pay less attention to the temporal matters of pleasure, and even forget to think about committing deeds against Allah and the Prophet Mohammed's instructions.

It is noticeable that Ramadan is marked with a sense of mercifulness among people. Those who are hard-hearted all year round become kind and merciful in this holy month. They help and forgive each other, and rarely say no when asked for help by poor people. For this, all of us should cry together: "we will miss you Ramadan."

In Ramadan, the greedy are satisfied easily. Those who run after wealth and power for eleven months of the year forget their lust for worldly materials in Ramadan, remembering that death may suddenly come.

Some people feel sad at the end of Ramadan, as if it signified the end to mercy, worship and forgiveness. Here, let me remind myself and all of you that the God of Ramadan is the God of all months. All months should be months for worship and mercifulness, not just this one.

Now we are in the last part of Ramadan. Sooner or later, we will have to say goodbye. Nobody knows who will be alive and who will have departed this temporal world next year. Death may suddenly come before, during or after Ramadan. Why doesn't everyone do his/her best to make all the days like Ramadan, so that nobody fears death's coming?

Yes, Ramadan is the month of worship, but that does not mean that worship does not take place in the other months of the year. Why not worship Allah in the other months as we do in Ramadan? This way, there will be no spiritual gap between us

and our God.

As Ramadan is a month of mercifulness, the whole year can also be. God is one and His instructions are not only for Ramadan. He asks us to be helpful, merciful with each other all the time. Why not be as He orders us?

Those who try to be satisfied in Ramadan can also be satisfied in the other months. Why be greedy and run after ephemeral matters, forgetting that death may come at any time? There is no need to gallop after wealth and power because we may all lose everything in an instant.

These are only some features of Ramadan, but there are many more practices that Allah and our prophet Mohammed ask us to follow the whole year round. We should follow such orders during all twelve months of our calendar because the God of Ramadan is the same as the God of the whole year.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinions writer form Taiz. He holds a Masters Degree from the English department at Taiz University and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

Educated or uneducated women: it depends!

By: Lamis Abdulkarim Shuga'a
lamis_shuga@yahoo.com

Above all, I would like to express my admiration of the last three articles by Maged Al-Kholidy, who as usual surprised us with interesting ideas in the issues 1171, 1173 and 1177 of this newspaper with his series "To marry educated or uneducated women".

The importance of this topic lies in its effects on marital life and, in turn, on society as a whole. Choosing half of society, namely wives, is a significant and very serious step. It should not be taken lightly since marital life after that will depend on it.

An important point, which should be taken into account, is that marital problems are inevitable issues, regardless of the education of both women and men.

It would be better if men focused on different aspects of the issue, rather than solely considering a woman's education. In other words, marital problems will not be reduced because a woman is educated or uneducated. Instead, they will depend firstly on the nature of the wife, and secondly on the acceptance and satisfaction within that marriage and the intention of building it step by step, which, simply, come with love.

Indeed, marriage life will become hell if a woman, in nature, is rude and a troublemaker, regardless of whether she is educated or not. Many mothers and grandmothers, for example, are illiterate but, at the same time, wise and kind. Others make a hobby of creating problems, sometimes even beyond death! Some educated women are kind, yet others are careless at home and outside despite their education. Therefore, a marriage's success is not a matter of education. Rather, it is partly the nature, personality, morality and religious education of the wife which contribute to a successful marriage.

But a good marriage cannot depend entirely on a woman's good character. If a woman is forced to marry someone who treats her like a piece of furniture, do you think, dear reader, that their life will be calm? However, if a husband gently asks his wife not to go somewhere, justifying himself with acceptable reasons instead of ordering her about, do you think she will disobey

him? This is what I mean by acceptance of each other. Thus love is the light which guides the way of husbands and wives, and keep obstacles to happiness far away.

In Al-Kholidy's last article, he wrote that: "Uneducated women never believe that there are normal relations between men and women." I disagree with this idea, first of all since it is difficult to generalize such a fact, and secondly, because there are also many educated wives who are jealous and don't believe in these "normal relations between men and women", particularly in Yemen. This is because, although the way it is expressed varies, jealousy is a natural and normal feeling, quite separate from someone's education. Hence, again, it is the wife's nature, not her education, which to an extent determines the relationship with her husband.

In response to Mofeed Al-Jaad who commented on Al-Kholidy's article, I would like to ask him this question: If you see that a "majority of educated young men prefer to marry uneducated women", as you mentioned in your article, why do you think there are so many husbands who ask their wives to complete their studies, whether in high school or at university?

And if "we see that a large number

of unmarried women are educated", I think the reason behind that, Mr. Al-Jaad, is that those educated women won't accept any husband as uneducated women might, but rather are aware of the importance of their choice and prefer to stay single if they don't find anyone suitable.

Finally, I would like to conclude with a question to you, dear reader: Which is better: to marry educated or uneducated men?

I think it is our right now to address men. If there is a question that first enters a father's mind when his daughter is proposed to, it probably concerns his level of education. There are some families who will first enquire about a suitor's financial situation, but most of those families are themselves uneducated.

It is somewhat rare that an educated girl accepts an uneducated man, whether he is rich or poor. Thus, education is also considered to be an essential criterion when choosing the other half.

I do not wish to take sides or make generalizations on this issue, but I do believe that everybody should choose that which suits him or her best.

I hope we can continue to exchange our ideas and experiences on this page with open hearts.

To whom it may concern,



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As a sole agent of **FMC Technologies SMITH METERS**
we are glad to announce the opening!!!

FOR 2" to 6" FLOW METERS

OUR ACCURACY IS YOUR PROFIT

AGENT FOR:

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