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After electing a new leadership JMP vows to continue boycotting upcoming elections

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Oct. 12 - In a statement released last Wednesday, Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) vowed not to deal with the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER), which is currently preparing for the upcoming parliamentary elections due to take place in April 2009.

Leaders of the opposition coalition described the commission as "lacking legitimacy and being coercively imposed on political life in Yemen".

The statement reads, "Since an early time, JMP has been working for the sake of carrying out a comprehensive political reform and this includes reforming the current election system in the country," adding, "JMP has been exerting hard efforts to suggest work-

able solutions through discussions and dialogue with the authority and the ruling party with the aim of conducting free and fair elections in Yemen."

The statement expressed regret that, "The authority and its ruling party, however, decided to run in the election alone, and therefore preferred to violate previous agreements they reached with other political parties." Both the authority and the ruling party in this regard in "a comic play" at Parliament.

The statement also accused the government and the ruling party of violating the Parliament's bylaw and other legal procedures taken in the electoral regard, adding that SCER exploits all the election-related laws and regula-

tions in a way contravening democratic principles.

"As part of its national and moral responsibility and strong commitment to the ongoing struggle with people for the purpose of applying its project of comprehensive political reform, JMP found itself obliged to take a firm position not to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections if the government insists in continuing its current behavior, which will only lead to sedition," the statement went on to say.

JMP tells supporters not to participate in voter registration committees

In its statement, the JMP leadership called on its branches in the various governorates, as well as grassroots and supporters in all the electoral constituencies and centers, to stick to the

JMP's position and not to deal with SCER. It instructed them not to participate in any of the voter registration committees, due to be formed by SCER, or play a role in increasing people's electoral awareness.

The opposition coalition's leadership briefed its grassroots and supporters that participating in such "an uncovered comic play" will mean rigging their wills, assisting corruption, insulting their human dignity, threatening the future of their children and exploiting national resources in favor of a particular group of influential individuals (implying senior government officials who are loyal with the ruling party).

It adds that this "play" will enable the ruling party to stay in power and behave in a way that creates more crisis and catastrophes nationwide.

From his side, head of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) Parliamentary Bloc Sheikh Sultan Al-Barakani told media outlets that "the JMP requested postponing the upcoming parliamentary election more than thirty times", adding that his party rejected this request.

During the Parliament's first meeting of its second session this year, which was held on Saturday, Al-Barakani confirmed that JMP reacted to GPC's rejection of its request to postpone the upcoming election with repeated attempts to hinder the electoral process.

The GPC official expressed concern that his party remained negotiating with JMP on political party candidates for SCER membership for three months, and after this time period, the JMP came to say that its staff hadn't met to

determine their candidates. He advised the opposition parties to resolve their own problems and not to hold the ruling party or Parliament responsible for their crisis.

New JMP Chairman

JMP Higher Council appointed Mr. Sultan Al-Atwani, Secretary-General of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Union, one of JMP member parties, as Chairman of the opposition coalition, succeeding the Ishaq Party Secretary General Abdulwahab Al-Anisi. Mohammed Al-Mansour, Head of the Political Sector at the Haq Party, another JMP member party, was appointed as JMP Spokesman, succeeding Dr. Mohammed Saleh Al-Qubati, Head of Yemeni Socialist Party's Political Sector.

Yemeni farmers threaten to swap grapes for qat

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Oct 11 - Yemeni raisin producers have threatened to replace grapes with qat in their plantations after the loss they sustained this year as a result of not being able to sell all their produce.

Nasser Al-Khawlani, owner of a vineyard, said that the reason behind the low demand for local raisins this year was the presence of other cheap and attractive raisins in the markets, smuggled into Yemen from China.

He further said that, if the government didn't take steps to prevent the smuggling of Chinese raisins into the country, farmers would replace grapes with qat in their lands.

Khalid Al-Dhabiani, grape producer, said: "From our vineyards in Khawlan, every year, we produce between eight and ten tons of grapes, for which the revenues amount to around YR 30 million. This year, we sold only three tons."

Al-Dhabiani estimated his loss at around YR 15 million. "Our loss this year was great, especially as there is only one season in which to grow grapes, unlike qat which is grown throughout the year," he explained.

"The government is responsible for



Because of their cheap price, the demand for Chinese raisins is three times higher than that of local produce.

this loss since it took no procedures to prevent the smuggling of Chinese raisins into the country. Unless the government encourages local production of grapes and find solutions to the smuggling of Chinese raisins, we will start growing qat instead," he concluded.

Three times higher demand

The newly imported Chinese raisins are much cheaper than the local ones which makes them more attractive for Yemenis, especially poor people. Since raisins are used in social events and during Eid celebrations, the demand for Chinese raisins grew three times higher than that for the Yemeni products according to Mohammed a spices and nuts shop owner at Al-Zubairi Street.

"Next year I will import more

Chinese raisons because this is what people want," he explained.

Yemeni raisins are considered of high quality worldwide and all Yemenis, including the poor, buy raisins during Eid as they are considered to be part of Eid celebrations, but this year there was a large presence of Chinese raisins on the market.

According to Yemeni citizen Nabil A'atif, people choose Chinese raisins

because of their aspect, not their quality, as Chinese raisins look bigger than the Yemeni ones. He maintained that Yemeni raisins tasted better than the Chinese despite their difference in shape, but explained that Chinese raisins were sold more cheaply, as one kilo of Chinese raisins is sold for YR 1,000 compared to one kilo of Yemeni raisins which can cost up to YR 2,500.

The Center of Studies and Economic Media revealed that the total loss of Yemeni grape farmers amounted to 60 to 70 percent of previous years' revenues during Eid this year. In a letter to the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, it demanded that the government contain this crisis and find solutions to it.

From its field visits to vineyards and markets, the center confirmed the presence of cheap Chinese raisins on the market, and highlighted the resulting loss in business for Yemeni grape farmers and traders. It warned that unless something was done, the latter would soon turn to qat cultivation instead.

Efforts to support local produce

In a press release, the center stressed the importance of maintaining Yemeni raisin production and exportation, and

demanding strict government monitoring of smuggling as well as the punishment of those involved. It further suggested the formation of official bodies such as "raisin customs" in the old city of Sana'a to ensure that only Yemeni raisins can enter this market.

The studies center called for the government to find strategies to encourage farmers to continue producing grapes, and to develop modern raisin producing mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of their product.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation confirmed that Chinese raisins in local markets had been smuggled into the country, as they could not be brought there legally.

"The ministry bans the entry of Iranian and Chinese raisins into Yemen

in order to protect local products," declared Mohammed Al-Ghashm, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Al-Ghashm stated that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation had contacted its various offices in points of entry to the country who had confirmed that they had allowed no forbidden products into Yemen. He added that the ministry had not given any trader a license to import raisins into Yemen, pointing out that two tons of Chinese raisins had rotted in the port of Aden because of this.

He further demanded the cooperation of all Yemeni monitoring bodies to prevent the entry of banned products, including cotton, into the country to protect Yemeni farmers' livelihoods.

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Ministry of Information encourages media campaign against non certified consumer products

After the worldwide media alerts on Chinese milk powder, the Yemeni Ministry of Information has instructed national media outlets to launch a campaign in Yemen to warn citizens against consuming non certified products.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Oct. 12 — International reports on the death of at least four infants and the sickness of thousands more from contaminated milk powder in China caused the Yemeni Ministry of Trade to recall the same product from Yemeni markets last month.

The Minister of Information instructed the media to campaign against the consumption of this product and others that had not been certified by the Standardization Measurements and Quality Control Organization (SMQCO). The campaign was triggered by the Seyaj Organization for Childhood Protection which will be organizing a press conference on such products soon.

"We have a list of suspicious food products and toys which we will ask the SMQCO to inspect and declare the results in a press conference. We will

then lobby the media to spread awareness and protect Yemeni children from consuming the harmful ones," said Ahmed Al-Qurashi, director of the organization.

In the People's Republic of China, the government launched a nationwide probe on the quality of milk powder produced by Chinese companies. It found that, out of 491 kinds of products from 109 dairy producers checked, 69 kinds of milk products had been found to be contaminated with the chemical melamine. Some of the infant formula milk powder produced by Guangdong Yashili Group Co. Ltd included melamine.

A statement of the economic and commercial counselor's office of the Chinese embassy in Yemen explained that relative inspection and investigation results found that 6,912 kg of infant milk powder produced by

the Guangdong Yashili Group Co. Ltd was exported to Yemen in February 2008. However, the General Department of the Environment Reform at the Ministry of General Works responsible for monitoring food products in Yemen reported that they had not found any of the mentioned infant formulas in the Yemeni market.

The Yemeni Ministry of Trade and Industry confirmed that the quantity of milk that had been imported into the country was limited and stated that there are no more than two thousand cartons of imported milk in on the Yemeni market, based on the report provided to them by the Yemeni agent responsible for the imports.

The agent, Abdul Hafeed Thabet Saif Co., could not be found to comment. "We undertake daily inspections of food products around the country. We are provided with a list of the non certified products from the SMQCO and, when we find any of the products on the list, we confiscate them immediately and arrest the merchant," said Dr. Mohammed Al-Asbahi deputy director of the Environmental Reform Department at the Ministry of General

Works.

The department has the authority to take businessmen who do not oblige to court.

Al-Asbahi explained that there are hundreds of other harmful products from various origins that are present on the Yemeni market. Some have been spoiled because of bad transportation or storage techniques.

However, the SMQCO does not have enough representatives to monitor products entering the country. The organization only has representatives in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Hadramout and Haradh. Products can enter the country legally through other entry points without being approved by the organization.

"There is also the problem of smugglers who have the means and contacts to escape our scrutiny and introduce non certified goods into the markets," said Abu Al-Hassan Mohammed Al-Nahari, director of the Quality Assurance Department at the SMQCO.

He confirmed that the organization had not allowed any of the mentioned Chinese milk powder into the country,



In China at least four infants have died and more than 6,200 were sickened after drinking Chinese-produced baby formula made from milk contaminated with melamine.

and explained that, if it was present in the market, the SMQCO was not responsible.

The certifying procedure obliges the importing agent to provide the SMQCO with a sample of the product to be exported in order to prove it is fit for human consumption.

The organization has high-level technical laboratories where it checks the general and specific qualities of each product prior to issuing a quality assurance report for it.

"If the product is found harmful, we flag it and inform our representatives at the ports, the Port Authorities and the Ministry of General Works, so that they watch out for the product in case the merchant goes ahead and imports it anyway," explained Al-Nahari.

The organization also checks products made locally by Yemeni manufacturers. "Although it hadn't become a visible reality yet, a campaign for making the public aware of harmful products is a good idea", agreed both Al-Nahari and Al-Asbahi.

"However a lot needs to be done and businessmen who do not obey these laws need to be held responsible as well."

Empire of Piracy in the Gulf of Aden

While the international community begins asking questions about the high level of piracy in the waters off Somalia, close-by Yemen on the other side of the Gulf of Aden is taking the lead in tackling the scourge of the seas.

By: Mohammed Al-Asaadi
The Media Line

SANA'A, Oct. 10 — Vessels passing through the Gulf of Aden remain vulnerable to interception by pirates, which poses a serious threat to international maritime security.

In the first three weeks of September at least eight incidents of piracy took place in the Gulf of Aden and dozens of crewmen were taken hostage.

On September 21 four pirates in three speedboats boarded a bulk carrier, hijacking the ship and taking hostage 19 crewmembers. Owners are unable to contact the ship, according to the daily updates from the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB).

The IMB reported that about 66 crewmen of different nationalities have been taken hostage and their vessels hijacked by Somali pirates in three weeks. In addition, four piracy attempts were averted as a result of immediate action by crewmembers and/or escorting coalition warships.

Officials in Somalia have confirmed that 10 ships are still being held by

Somali pirates, who attack vessels on the northern Somali coast of the Gulf of Aden and in the Arabian Sea.

Pirates use speedboats and fire automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) in their attempts to board and hijack vessels, according to the IMB piracy report. Once the attack is successful and the vessel hijacked, the pirates sail towards the Somali coast and thereafter demand ransom for the release of the vessel and crew.

The prevalence of Somali piracy in the Gulf of Aden directly affects Yemen from the security and economic perspectives. Yemeni authorities have reacted to the phenomenon, though the interim federal government in Somalia does not have the capacity to do anything.

The Yemen government in early September decided to deploy 1,000 soldiers along with 16 military boats in the Gulf of Aden and its territorial waters. It is also conducting discussions with International Coalition Forces in the Horn of Africa to coordinate efforts and provide security for the maritime route.



Yemeni Marine force

In addition, Yemen has announced it is establishing three regional centers to counter piracy in Aden, in Mukalla on the Gulf of Aden and in Hodeidah on the Red Sea. The centers are expected to provide technical and security assistance to the ships passing through.

The head of the Coastguard Authority in Yemen, Ali Rasa'e, told The Media Line (TML) that these measures by the government were just

proposals.

"Nothing has been put into action so far," Rasa'e said. "The scarcity of financial and technical resources forms a great impediment to the combating of piracy."

The interim federal government of Somalia and the government of the autonomous northern region of Puntland have been trying to get security support from the international

community to battle piracy.

The minister of International Cooperation in the government of Puntland, Abdoh Ali Awali, told TML in a phone interview that an official delegation had conducted meetings with several Western and Arab embassies in Nairobi.

The objective, according to Awali, was to generate international support to fight piracy.

Awali said that Puntland — a region in northeastern Somalia that was declared an autonomous state in 1998 — had no capacity to counter the escalating "international disaster."

"However, we are ready to put an end to this phenomenon if given international support," Awali said. "The pirates have sophisticated speedboats and weapons while we don't. They have made lots of money as a result of masters paying ransom money."

"We appeal to all masters not to pay any ransom to the pirates," Awali added. The IMB welcomed U.N. Security Council resolution 1816 that allows states cooperating with the Somali government to use "all necessary means" to repress acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea, in a manner consistent with relevant provisions of international law.

However, the resolution does not appear to have been applied so far.

Yemeni strategic analyst, Jalal Al-Sharabi described what was going in the Gulf of Aden as a "strategic game." Al-Sharabi told TML that the United States was not taking serious action against piracy, though it could.

"The U.S. wants to control the Gulf of Aden from its military base in Djibouti and prevent any Iranian attempt to establish a coalition with any western African country. I believe this is an introduction to possibly tougher tension between the U.S. and Iran," he said.

Reporter on Somali affairs, Nabil Al-Osaidi, told TML that during the rule of the Supreme Council of Islamic Courts in Somalia, piracy was at its lowest.

"War lords in Somalia encourage piracy and hijacking as a form of creating wealth. Chaos and disorder in Somalia represent a threat to the entire Gulf region, starting with Yemen," Al-Osaidi said.

Security reporter Abdul-Hakim Hilal expressed concern that Al-Qa'ida might be behind the problems on the seas.

"A few weeks ago, Al-Qa'ida made a statement in Yemen threatening to shift its battlefield to the sea, and this might be it," Hilal told TML.

Since last January 34 tanker ships and yachts have been hijacked in the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Aden; last year there were 25 hijackings.

Yemen JAC report discloses corruption practices in 2007

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Oct. 8 — The Prime Ministry, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Public Health and Population and the Republic Presidency ranked high in terms of corruption in 2007, according to a recent report prepared by the Yemen Journalists Against Corruption alliance, known as Yemen JAC.

The report revealed that the total violations committed in the Ministry of Defense amounted to YR 202 billion.

This amount of money was registered in the discussed public budget and the final accounting settlement. However, this money was spent against principles of transparency requested by Parliament.

The report revealed that the Prime Ministry is ranked second, after the Ministry of Defense, in terms of financial violations which amounted to YR 4.052 billion. Most of these finances are aids and loans which the Prime Ministry failed to utilize appropriately due to mismanagement. Instead, the government utilized this money in a way that contradicts the principle of transparency.

Ranking third in terms of corruption was the Republic Presidency as the amount of violations committed by its office reached over YR 3.750 billion, according to the report. Some of these finances were spent without the required documentation and accounting procedures.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population was ranked fourth in the list of governmental institutions involved in corruption during 2007. The ministry's financial violations amounted to YR 9.404 billion. The report disclosed that part of this money was spent on making contracts breaching the tender law, while the other part was spent on projects which stalled either due to lack of monitoring and misuse.

The draft of the report pointed out that the financial violations committed in the Ministry of Public Works amounted to YR 7.133 billion, while the violations of Ministry of Agriculture reached YR 10.606 billion.

The report further showed that financial violations in the Ministry of Civil Service amounted to YR 21.500 billion, noting that violations of the Ministry of Awqaf (Endowments) had reached YR 107.27 billion, as sums of money collected by the ministry were

spent illegally.

An amount of YR 2.960 billion was registered in financial violations by the Ministry of Social Affairs and over YR 297 million was attributed to violations committed by the Ministry of Transportation.

The Ministry of Trade and Youth committed financial violations amounting to YR 7 billion and YR 5 billion respectively, said the report, maintaining that this amount of money was spent illegally due to lack of supervision and monitoring as well as poor the execution of projects.

The Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) was registered as committing financial violations estimated at YR 377 million. This money was spent in the form of loans which were not settled.

The report further confirmed that violations in the Ministry of Legal Affairs amounted to YR 155 million, and violations of the Shura Council reached over YR 10 million, in addition to YR 138.300 billion.

According to the report, financial violations committed by the Ministry of Fish Wealth reached YR 4.900 billion, while those committed by the Ministry of Oil and Minerals amount-

ed to YR 62.961 billion.

Financial violations in the University of Sana'a amounted to YR 2.741 billion whereas violations of both the Ibb and Dhamar universities reached YR 600 million, according to the report.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' financial violations reached YR 2 million.

Additionally, the report said that the Ministry of Expatriates, CAC bank, Public Aviation Authority and Customs Authority had committed violations amounting to YR 16 million, YR 42.759 billion, YR 3.081 billion, and YR 53.812 billion respectively.

The report also disclosed that financial violations committed by the Local Authority amounted to YR 4.339 billion.

The Yemen alliance of Journalists Against Corruption (Yemen JAC) is an association which consists of journalists, writers and intellectuals who work voluntarily to fight corruption and reinforce rational governance in Yemen. The key objective of the association is to expose corruption and investigate cases of corruption. The report is the first of its kind produced by the alliance.

Vertebral column carries 350 percent of body weight in sitting position

By: Almgidat Mojalli

SANA'A, Oct. 12 — Neurosurgeons stated that the backbone of someone sitting at a work desk carried the equivalent of 350 percent of that person's body weight, and explained that this was a common cause of back pain, during the Sixth Arab Spine Conference held from 11 to 13 October in Sana'a.

"The backbone carries 350 percent of our body weight when we sit at our desks at work, 70 percent when we stand or walk and 10 percent when we sleep," stated Dr. Ismail Al-Kebisi, the general secretary of the Yemeni Association of Yemeni Neurosurgeons.

Al-Kebisi added that sitting positions during qat sessions also play a big role in causing back pains.

The three-day Arab Vertebral Column Conference is the sixth of its kind, and this year aims to discuss 120 research papers dealing with the latest scientific developments in the field of brain, nerve and backbone surgery as well as advancements linked to natural medicine and x-ray sensitivity among other issues.

"During the conference we will focus on the infections and deformities that affect the brain, nerves and backbone among children, and discuss the most recent advancements in the mentioned fields," said Dr. Ameen Al-Kamali, head of the Yemeni Neurosurgeons Association.

Al-Kamali pointed out that the conference aimed to exchange information and reach protocols of integrated treatment strategy for the sake of finding the best solutions to restrict disabilities.

Dr. Kasem Al-Asbahi, deputy of the Yemeni Neurosurgeons Association, stated that most common diseases of the backbone in Yemen included deformity, fractures, back pain, cancerous tumor, cute and chronic osteitis in the spinal cord and backbone.

The conference brings together over 120 participants from Arab countries including Egypt and Jordan as well as over 201 participants from Yemen. Together, neuroscientists will try to draw up a national strategy to decrease the number of people affected by nerve, brain and spine problems.

In brief

SANAA

20,000 Yemenis go blind each year, minister says

Minister of Public Health and Population Abdul Karim Rasi has said that Yemen suffers from eye diseases, afflicting 20,000 Yemenis go blind a year.

Rasi said that blindness is one of epidemics in the country at 1% among population and that the Trachoma disease is still spread.

The announcements came at the opening session of the WHO 55th meeting being held in Cairo and which Yemen was selected to chair.

In the meeting dedicated to discussing issues in relation to improving health in the region, Rasi delivered Yemen's statement on the annual report of the WHO regional manager on the organization activities in the middle east for 2007 and attached reports.

Yemen has been granted \$ 27 million to fight the diseases of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria provided by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The four-day WHO 55th meeting was launched on Saturday in Cairo and will wrap up next Tuesday.

Indefinite adjournment of sentence of Elbaneh gang case

The Appeals Penal Court, specialized in terror cases, has adjourned the hearing in which it will deliver its ruling on the case of 36 al-Qaeda suspects including Jaber A. Elbaneh, one of the

most wanted criminals by the US.

The newswomen.net reported that the adjournment of sentence is indefinite and came because the court head is traveling abroad.

The suspects are charged with forming an armed gang to carry out criminal acts including the attacks on oil facilities in Marib and Hadramout provinces in September, 2006.

Jaber A. Elbaneh, 39, a US citizen of Yemeni origin is deemed by the FBI the main supporter of the Lackawanna Cell and one of six dangerous members who received training at al-Qaeda camps in Afghanistan.

And for this Washington has announced a \$ 5 million reward for information leading to Elbaneh's arrest.

On November 7, 2007, the Initial Court sentenced the group members to prison terms ranging from 2 to 15 years after they were convicted of planning for suicide attacks on oil facilities in Marib and Hadramout provinces.

ADEN

German Company finalizes to establish Iron Factory in AFZ

A German Company has finalized studies concerning the establishment of an Iron Factory in Sector /L/ in the industrial zone at Aden Free Zone (AFZ).

The AFZ's head Abdul Jalil al-Shu'aibi told Saba that this company is the first from Germany invests in the AFZ and would contribute to attracting German capitals to invest here and to

avail from the merits the Yemeni Investment Law offered to Arab and foreign investors.

He said that the project - costs \$ 60 million on 70,000 M - would assist in providing many job opportunities and encourage Arab and foreign capitals to invest in the industrial zone.

The AFZ has witnessed last two years great development in field of offering facilities for investors in the various fields, al-Shu'aibi said, expecting more progress in Aden in the coming two years.

American company to invest \$ 100mln in AFZ

The Aden Free Zeon (AFZ) signed a memorandum of understanding on Saturday with American Vicinage company to fuel ships.

Under the memo, the American company would carry out investment project for fueling ships at a total cost of \$ 100 million.

The memo was signed by chairman of the zone Abdul-Jaleel al-Showaibi and board chairman of the American company.

Al-Showaibi said that the project would create around 300 jobs, adding that the project would help in attracting further American investments to Yemen.

For his part, the board chairman of the American company highlighted strategic location of Aden for navigation regionally and internationally.

He praised facilities offered by the

administration of the zone for investors within Yemeni law of investment.

French warship arrives Aden seaport

A French warship "Pierrot" arrived in Aden seaport on Saturday in a friendly few-day visit.

Worth mentioning, the visit of the warship, one of the French marine fleet based in international waters, comes to boost Yemeni-French military cooperation as well as to reinforce the two countries' efforts to reduce piracy acts in the African Horn.

First phase of Ataa Dubai educational project lanced in Aden

Dubai Ataa Corporation and Education Ministry launched here on Saturday the first phase of Dubai Ataa Project for Supporting Education in Yemen with cost of \$ 4 million from the corporation.

The projects, being carried out in 35 schools in Aden, Abyan and Lahj governorates by the ministry with funding from the corporation and last for four years, includes increasing work opportunities in basic education to the two genders, improving education quality and preparing a study on reasons behind school infiltration.

In launching ceremony, assistant deputy governor of Aden Ahmad al-Dhulai indicated importance of the project that aims at improving education and realizing the project's aims.

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- Specific age appropriate experiences for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Attractive premises near the French Embassy including a garden and play area
- Certified experienced British teacher assisted by paraprofessionals
- School hours are from 7:55 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Saturday through Wednesday)
- Arabic program from 12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Box 2002, Sanaa, Yemen Phone: 370 191-2 Fax: 370 193 Email: gordonblackie@qsi.org Web site: http://yem.qsi.org

SIS Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) Member of Quality Schools International

Their News

Signage, Imaging and Media 2008 (SIM)

SIM - Signage, Imaging & Media - the region's most comprehensive trade show for the MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS industry will take place at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, 25-27 November 2008. The show will be a combination of three vertical events under one roof and will provide access to important decision-makers from across the Middle East.

As well as providing a larger platform for relevant companies to showcase their products and solutions, the event will also exploit the synergistic components of the Signage, Imaging and Media industry sectors, providing visitors with a wide array of potential suppliers to meet and do business with, thus guaranteeing a strong attendance regionally.

This event will include both an exhibition and a conference, which will be held in the capital of the UAE, Abu Dhabi, at the recently built Abu .

2nd International Conference on Religion and Media

The Second International Conference on Religion and Media will be held in Tehran and Qom, Iran, from November 9th to 12th, 2008. We cordially invite all media researchers and scholars, representatives from diverse religious traditions, professionals and students involved with the subjects of the conference to attend and submit a paper.

Further information could be found at conference website: <http://www.religion-media.ir/>

A few scholarships are available to partially subsidize the costs of participants with selected papers.

WOOD, PAPER, CHECKMARK design an awareness campaign for sustainable forestry

A critical tool in the race to save the world's forests is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Founded in 1993, FSC is an international NGO certification and labeling system that promotes the responsible management of the world's working forests. It is supported by social-welfare and workers' rights groups, timber industry representatives, and the environmental and conservation community. Conservationists promote FSC certification as a means of safeguarding working forests - those that are managed to supply wood - which often surround and buffer national parks and other protected areas.

This is a call-to-action campaign that asks targeted consumers to purchase FSC products as a means of protecting forests around the world

The entry must include a compelling, persuasive message/approach that creates awareness, and a campaign design that includes a number of mandatory elements specified in the competition website:

<http://www.design21sdn.com/sign-in>
Entries are limited to text, images

and video/audio files only. Any proposed interactive elements must be represented using only these tools. Entries that direct users away from the DESIGN 21 website will be disqualified. See the Entry Provisions below as well as the competition Rules section for full details on file type, size and number constraints.

The initial use of the winning entry will be to promote FSC among a key subset of the "conservation-engaged": the members and online audiences of the Conservancy, WWF-US, NWF and Rainforest Alliance - more than five million people in all. In a recent TNC survey, over two-thirds of self-identified "committed and involved" members said they had never heard of FSC certification, although 99 percent said they would be willing to purchase certified legal and sustainable forest products. Awareness of FSC among this key conservation-engaged audience must be strengthened, and we need to ask them to buy FSC products as a means of conserving forests and protecting the environment.

Total prize money of \$10,000 will be allocated as follows: \$5,000 to the Overall Winner chosen by The Nature Conservancy and FSC-US;

\$5,000 divided between multiple prizes: DESIGN 21 Judge's Picks and Most Popular

Deadline for submission is Tuesday January 13, 2009. Judging Criteria

In addition to D21's general judging criteria stated in the Rules, specific criteria for this competition includes:

- How well does the entry achieve its goal?
- How well does the entry communicate the message(s)?
- Is the message positive, rather than negative?
- How strong is the entry aesthetical-ly?
- How strong is the entry technical-ly?
- Is the FSC logo used correctly and featured prominently?
- How innovative are the design

solutions? Do they clearly communicate the message and resonate with the audience?

- Entries that cast a negative light on an organization, corporation, government, country, community or person will be disqualified.

YouTube Campaign Highlights Women's Rights

A new campaign on YouTube calls attention to gender issues in Jordan and seeks to address the matter in a creative and informative way. The public service announcements, produced by one of Freedom House's Jordanian partners,

The Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Institute for Development, aim to raise awareness on women and children's rights within Jordanian society and throughout the Middle East. The videos are part of Freedom House's New Media Initiative. They cover themes such as arbitrary divorce, polygamy, and child visitation rights, issues that often fall into a grey area between the purview of Islamic law, the government's official policies and accepted international standards. Jordan, one of the freest nations of the Middle East, recently enacted legislation that guarantees legal equity between the genders.

FedEx Flag on Top of the World Everest De cargo supports all women Mt. Everest Expedition of Nepal from Ashta Prajapati

May 22, 2008 will be now remembered as a significant day in the history of FedEx Express. On this day, a FedEx flag and FedEx small box was hosted to the top of Mt. Everest, the world's tallest mountain with the height of 8848 meters (29002 ft.). The first Inclusive Women Sagarmatha Expedition (FIWSE), an all women Everest expedition from Nepal executed the task for FedEx. The FIWSE team was comprised of ten women, from 17-31 years old, representing a range of the ethnicities from the various regions of Nepal. The expedition was led by Mountaineering Instructor Mr. Da Gombu Sherpa and world record holder Mr. Pemba Dorjee Sherpa.

For most of the members, it was a first endeavor to a mountain expedition. The entire team went through several months of physical and advance mountaineering training prior to the expedition. The team left for Lukla (2840 meters), the gateway to Mt. Everest on April 17, for a month long acclimatization and expedition leading towards the Everest Summit. The team was divided into two groups for the final ascent. On May 22 at 08:30 a.m. local Nepal time, the first five members of the team (Sushmita Maskey, Pujan Acharya, Pema Diki Sherpa, Maya Gurung and Nawang Phuti Sherpa) summited Mt. Everest and successfully hosted the FedEx flag at the summit making this a historic moment at FedEx. Following, the other four members



(Sailee Basnet, Nimdoma Sherpa, Asha Kumari Singh and Usha Bist) reached the summit on May 24. Similarly, Chunu Shrestha scaled the summit on May 25.

This historic success of the Mt. Everest summit is an outstanding achievement in the field of mountaineering and a milestone for women empowerment in Nepal. 'Project Everest' as it was named was initiated by Everest De Cargo Pvt. Ltd. GSP, Licensee of FedEx. It was almost a year ago when the idea to sponsor an Everest expedition and send the FedEx flag to the top of world was initiated.

The concept started to materialize with a quest for an appropriate expedition team. After numerous meetings and coordination, FIWSE was approved to send the FedEx flag atop Mt. Everest.

Prior to the expedition, a press conference was organized to inform the media about the collaboration. Also, a farewell

event was organized, in which Mr. R. M. Singh, Managing Director, Everest De Cargo Pvt. Ltd. handed over the FedEx Flag and box to the expedition coordinator and wished all the best on behalf FedEx Express.

The expedition has generated wide media coverage from the start of the project. FIWSE is an initiative to encourage more women to participate in mountaineering and provide additional opportunities for women throughout Nepal promoting women's empowerment. EDC and FedEx supports this noble project and has received commendable appreciation in Nepal. Reaching the summit of the 'roof of the world' is viewed as a most prestigious geographic feat. With the success of sending the FedEx flag and box a top Mt. Everest, FedEx has shown it's a leader as the world's largest express transportation company.



JOB OPENINGS

SAFER EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION OPERATIONS COMPANY ("SEPOC")

SEPOC is the Republic of Yemen's leading national Oil and Gas Company. It is the upstream Operator of Yemen's premier Marib Block (18) and largest and second largest producer of gas and oil in the country respectively.

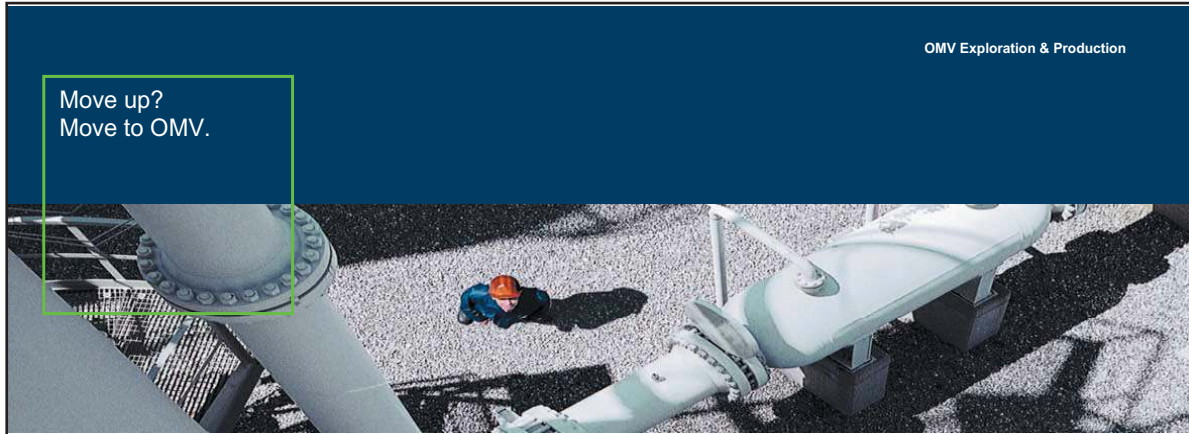
SEPOC is currently seeking to recruit for the following vacancies talented, qualified and dedicated professionals who desire a fulfilling and rewarding career with a growing and outstanding organization:

- Job Title: Fire Fighter - Safety Technician
- Job Title: Marine Loading Master
- Job Title: Marine Operating Engineer
- Job Title: Marine Cargo Custody Transfer Coordinator (CCTC)
- Job Title: Contracts Engineer
- Job Title: Machinist
- Job Title: Quality Assurance Specialist/Engineer

Job Details of the above and other positions are posted on 'Careers' at SAFER'S Website: www.sepocye.com. To apply and process your application and CVs for the above positions, please visit SAFER'S Website.

Applications must be submitted online no later than October 17th, 2008. Faxed, mailed, or handed applications will not be considered.

ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



OMV Exploration & Production

Move up?
Move to OMV.

OMV Exploration & Production GmbH is the independent operating division of OMV AG, the leading oil and natural gas group in Central and Eastern Europe. We operate over 450 oil and gas fields worldwide both onshore and offshore. Our ambition is to become a significant international upstream player by seeking new business opportunities and targeting production growth like our oil field operations in Shabwah governorate, Republic of Yemen. With two existing blocks and new successes during the last license rounds we expand our activities to achieve our ambitious growth plans.

HSEQ Field Engineer:

Your responsibilities:

- ▶ To Provide expert level of advice pertaining to Health Safety, Environment and CSR to line functions in all activities from planning to execution and from policy to decision making to ensure over all operations alignment with corporate and regulatory requirements, thereby contributing to eliminate / reduce the risk and loss exposure through promoting HSEQ awareness among personnel working at Field.
- ▶ Assist Field manager in preparing, implementing, monitoring and review of annual HSEQ Objectives, Plans and BSC.
- ▶ Plan, lead and conduct HSEQ audits/reviews including HSEQ Management System audit, Environmental Management System audit, Planned audits etc and follow up for the implementation of recommendations.
- ▶ Monitor and advise in the implementation of Environmental management system with key objectives of pollution control, resource conservation and waste management in compliance with ISO - 14001 requirements.
- ▶ Participate in the investigations of incidents and accidents, advice and assist line management in writing reports, analysis of root cause and follow up for the implementation of recommendations.
- ▶ Arrange, lead and participate in HSEQ meetings and other forums to influence change for continual improvement in HSEQ performance.
- ▶ Lead and participate in specialist work groups e.g. Hazard studies, Hazids, PSRs, JSA, including in the development and implementation of procedures, recommendations, documented work practices and HSE/Safety Case development in order to monitor and maintain risk levels to ALARP.
- ▶ Monitor collection, record keeping, updating and circulation of HSEQ related data from/to different departments within the company for trend analysis and strategy development related to HSEQ issues.
- ▶ Assist Field Manager in preparing emergency response plans based on the risk that potentially impact the business and providing periodic scenario exercises to verify the effectiveness of such plans.
- ▶ Ensure that an effective permit to work system and all other HSEQ procedural requirements are implemented which control/minimize the potential hazards of all activities at processing facility and well sites.
- ▶ Develop Plan for enhancement of HSEQ awareness of long and short term contractor to bring them at par with Company's standard for securing Assets and reputation.
- ▶ To monitor adherence of HSEQ standards and system in projects execution.
- ▶ Arrange special trainings / Consultancy services for Field personnel awareness.
- ▶ Ensure the activities of other field operations i.e., drilling & Seismic activity are coordinated in a proper manner.

Your profile:

- ▶ Bachelor degree in engineering
- ▶ 5-8 years working experience with at least 4 years experience of health, safety & environmental Management in process industry, Oil & Gas industry.
- ▶ Oil and Gas Processing
- ▶ Industrial Environmental Pollution and National Environmental Laws
- ▶ International safety codes and standards
- ▶ ISO-14000 and OHSAS-18000
- ▶ HAZOP, HAZID, Risk Assessment and Job Safety Analysis
- ▶ Incident / accident investigation and root cause analysis

We offer you for the position:

- ▶ OMV Yemen Field based rotational position with good career perspectives
- ▶ Working side by side with the HSEQ Field Advisor and then taking on the job independently
- ▶ Challenging environment with professional colleagues

Are you interested in joining our team? Please send your application along with a cover letter mentioning the position you are applying for to the following email address: info.recruitment.ye@omv.com or to the fax no: 00967-1-421984.

Notice to display until **October 29, 2008**

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Eid in Aden



For children, eid is a special occasion to wear new dresses, buy toys and play joyfully.

By: Yemen Times Taiz bureau

During Eid Al-Fitr, the port city of Aden offers a festive atmosphere as millions of tourists flock to the area from all over Yemen and other Arab countries to enjoy its nice weather, the spectacular landscapes of its long beaches and the friendly hospitality of its locals.

The number of tourists to Aden during Eid Al-Fitr notably increases every year and, despite complaints of increased prices in accommodation and food during the Eid period, the occasion is marked by a special atmosphere for both visitors and residents of the city.

"The occasion of Eid is a source of happiness for me as I get together with all my relatives and friends to exchange good wishes," said Mohammed Ali, a local in Aden. "What makes me happier during Eid is that the city swarms with tourists who come to spend their vacation."

Gharib Mohammed Bassioni, an Egyptian working in Yemen, confirms that he enjoys Eid in Aden although he is alone since his family is in Egypt. "Eid in Aden has a special taste. Although I live far from my family, I feel glad to spend the occasion here in front of the sea, in the city's amazing resorts and public parks, despite the price hike of accommodation and food."

Bassioni pointed out that, although he and his Egyptian friends in Aden spend one day together during Eid, they are also invited by local families to share in their feasts. He declared he was impressed by Yemeni hospitality.

Some families in Aden have their own special customs for Eid Al-Fitr. "During the days of Eid, we invite all our relatives to our house and enjoy the city's nightlife," said Um Fadi. "We also decorate the house every year to prepare it to welcome our guests," she added.

Less fortunate families do their best to maintain Eid traditions in the face of soaring prices.

Nadia Habub said that her husband wasn't able to provide all the require-

ments for Eid this year as he is poor, and that this has deprived her family of the celebrations they are used to.

"For Eid, I usually make a lot of cakes and sweets for the family and visiting relatives. This year, despite our difficult financial situation, I managed to make some cakes for my children so that they could enjoy the occasion. I could not have my children spend Eid without anything to create happiness for them," she said.

Over 120 hotels in Aden provide accommodation for visitors, but people complain that the hotel owners raise the price of rooms during the Eid period.

"Eid is very nice in Aden, but hotel owners raise the price of rooms from YR 6,000 to YR 8,000," said Um Ali, a Syrian tourist who spends the Eid vacation in Aden every year.

Mohammed Al-Selwi, a Yemeni tourist, mentioned that some people refrain from visiting Aden since hotels are very expensive during the Eid period, further noting that some grocery stores in Aden exploit the occasion to raise food prices.

Ali Naji Yahya, head of the Tourism Office in Aden, said that they issued a notice to all hotel owners before the holiday period to inform them not to raise accommodation rates during Eid.

"We tell hotel owners not to increase their prices. However, we don't have complete authority to control them," said Yahya, noting that 40 percent of hotels take advantage of the Eid holiday to cover the cost of other months in the year when business is slow.

The Eid period in Aden has witnessed a notable increase in the number of tourists from Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, in the last few years. In the past, tourism in Yemen depended mainly on tourists from western countries, but this has started to change since the beginning of the decade.

Despite many other tourist destina-

tions in Yemen including the Ibb, Mahwit, and Taiz governorates, these Gulf visitors choose Aden to spend the Eid holiday.

Hotel owners in Aden said that many visitors, including tourists from other Arab countries, had made reservations a few days before the first day of Eid.

"Almost 80 percent of the hotel's capacity was taken up by bookings in

advance," said Mohamed Ali, a hotel manager in Aden.

Abdullah Saleh Al-Husni, from the traffic administration, said that the number of cars in the city of Aden almost doubles during Eid.

"On the first day of Eid, over 30,000 cars entered the city and this number increased over the following days," said Al-Husni.

Are you interested in learning English? Are you an English teacher?
Business person? Are you aged 10 to 15? Are you a parent? Do you have kids?

Answer these 3 simple questions from our website and you can win valuable prizes

Have a look at our website and see how it can help you improve your language skills

www.go4english.com

Week 6
questions

- 1- In Lesson Plans: What can we download from the topic "Playground Rhymes"?
- 2- In Test Your Level: On what skills can you test your English?
- 3- In More Games - 5-Star Hotels: Fill in the blank: is there a bus between the Meridian and the airport?

Send your answers by email to:
huda.saleem@ye.britishcouncil.org (or) fax: 01448360
To the British Council by (25.10.2008)

And the first 3 correct answers drawn from a hat on that date will win.

BRITISH COUNCIL go4english.com

The Questions Will be Changed
Weekly For Six Weeks
Final Week Deadline
is 25-10-2008



14 OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

Aden Refinery Company

Along with its workers, employees and affiliates
Presents its congratulations to

H. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen
and to all the Yemeni people
on the 45th anniversary of

14 October Revolution

Many Happy Return

شركة مصافي عدن

ممثلة بعمالها وموظفيها ومنتسبيها
تتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات إلى

فخامة الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

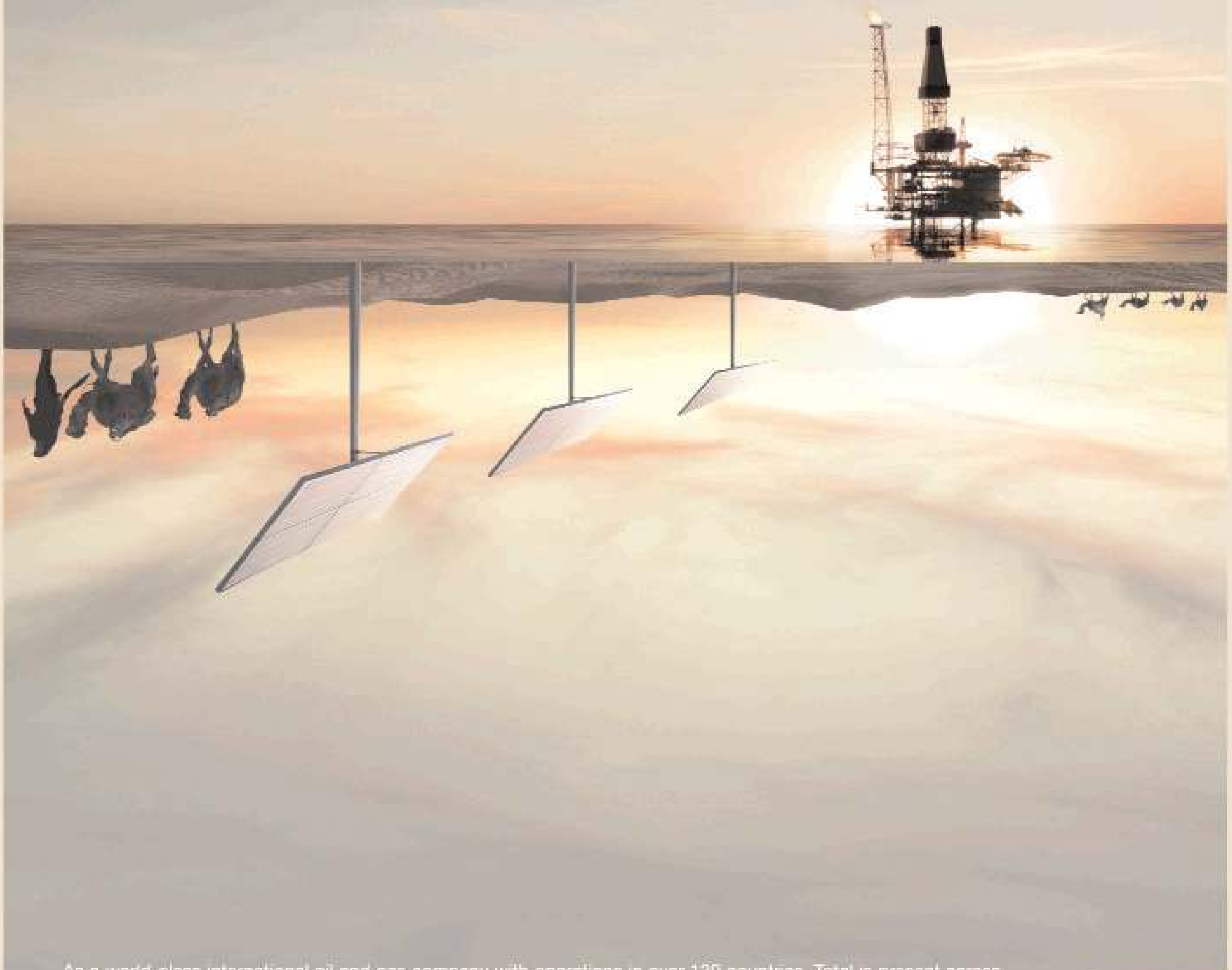
رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية
وإلى الشعب اليمني
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PHOTO: A. WOLF



TOTAL

من أجلكم، فإن طاقتنا لا تنضب



AMIDEAST
الميدست

YES! I Want to Be a Cultural Ambassador for Yemen to the USA!

The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a and AMIDEAST are pleased to announce a one-year scholarship for secondary school students in Yemen – the prestigious Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program.

As part of the YES program, you will get the chance to:

- Live with an American family
- Study at a U.S. high school
- Experience U.S. culture and society first-hand
- Improve your English
- Participate in youth leadership activities
- Make new friends
- Help Americans learn more about Yemen and Yemeni culture!

Scholarships cover all major expenses including airfare, health insurance, spending money and educational supplies. American host families provide room and meals at no cost to the student.

To be eligible, you must:

- Have a very good or excellent academic record and at least a "good" in core subjects for the past three years and in the year preceding travel
- Demonstrate flexibility and a commitment to cross-cultural understanding
- Be at least 15 years old by August 1, 2009 and no older than 18 by August 1, 2009
- Be entering grades 9, 10 or 11
- Be able to achieve a score of 50 on the Secondary Level English Proficiency (SLEP) test
- Be committed to pre-departure activities, including EL study, community service activities, and skills training, starting in November 2008 and continuing until July 2009.
- Not be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident.

Scholarship applicants are evaluated on the basis of language skills, applications and supporting documents, an interview, and diversity.

Over 1,000 students have taken part in the YES Program from many countries including Algeria, Gaza/West Bank, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Syria, and Tunisia. To become a cultural ambassador of Yemen to the USA, contact AMIDEAST offices for more information on the scholarship, the application process and application deadlines:

<p>AMIDEAST Sana'a: Off Algiers (by Tunisian Embassy), Sana'a. Telefax: (01) 400-279/80/81. E-mail: yemen@amideast.org Contact: Ms. A. Alshafey.</p>	<p>AMIDEAST Aden: 162 Miswat Street, Khormaksar, Aden AMIDEAST Mukalla: c/o Hadhramaut University, FuaH Campus, Mukalla. Telefax: (02) 235-069/70/71. E-mail: gadam@amideast.org Contact: Ms. G. Adam.</p>
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The YES program is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered in the Middle East and North Africa region by a consortium of organizations that includes AYUSA International and AMIDEAST.



The British Chevening Scholarships Scheme

The British Council invites applications for **Chevening Scholarship Scheme** funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. This highly-competitive scheme offers full-time postgraduate scholarships for study in the UK to Yemeni women and men who will play a key role in promoting Yemen's political, economic & social development.

Applicants, who must be Yemenis not over 35 years old, should have a university degree and very good written and spoken English. Candidates will be selected on the basis of their potential and motivation to rise to positions of authority.

The deadline for applications is **15 November 2008**.

Applicants must fill in the online application form available via the following link:

https://www.chevening.fco.gov.uk/Cheveningapplications/ca_start.aspx.

To complete the e-Chevening application form you will require details of your qualifications and past experience as well as the contact details of two referees. You will also be required to complete a personal statement describing why you wish to study in the UK and how you expect to benefit from your proposed qualification. Please note that should you be called to an interview, you will be required to bring original reference letters from your designated referees, together with your original certificates for the qualifications you record.

For further information on the scholarship visit www.britishcouncil.org/me-learning-funding-your-studies-chevening.htm, and for any enquiries contact us on Tel: 01 448356 or email edrees.qadasi@ye.britishcouncil.org.

**Ministry of Education (MoE)
Project Administration Unit (PAU)**

Basic Education Development Project (BEDP)

Credit No. 3988-Yemen & Grant No. TF-053721 & KF (2004 66 268)

Request for Expressions of Interest

Technical Assistance (TA) for Data Quality Diagnostic Study

The Ministry of Education is interested in improving the quality of education data collected by various agencies under:

- a) Ministry of Education (MoE)
- b) Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE)
- c) Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training (MoTEVT)

The objective of this consultancy is (i) to assess the quality and accuracy of the education data at all education sub-sectors (administered by Ministries of Education (MoE), Higher Education (MoHE) and Technical Education and Vocational Training (MoTEVT); (ii) to make recommendations for improving the data quality and accuracy through improvement of data collection, and (iii) provide capacity-building training for improving data quality and accuracy.

The (MOE) is interested in conducting a comprehensive diagnosis of data accuracy and reliability. This study covers the stages of data collection, production and verification while the EMIS focuses on management and use of the data. The study also includes capacity building and training of selected staff from MoE, MoHE and MoTEVT.

This Request of Expressions of Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the Development Business and Dg Market dated of Feb 2, 2005. The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen, has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above-consulting service.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the service for conducting Technical Assistance (TA) for Data Quality Diagnostic Study. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service profiles, description of similar assignments, experience in similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc. and experience in Yemen and other countries in the region.

The selection of the consulting firm will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004." Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat. – Wed. from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by October 30, 2008.

Basic Education Development Project
60 m Southern Rd – Bait Meyad
Tel: 00967-01-619160, Fax: 00967-01-619219 or to
Email: The Project Director: a.al-arashi@y.net.ye

International human rights organisation is seeking a Country Manager in Yemen

The purpose of this position is to supervise the country programme implementation in human rights carried out in partnerships with state institutions and civil society in Yemen. The Country Manager will supervise and engage in the following tasks:

- i. Donor cooperation
- ii. Programme coordination and management, including
 - internal flow of information and communication
 - overall planning and implementation
 - fundraising
 - monitoring of partner accounting and external annual audits
 - reporting and drafting of programme documents
 - participate in decision making
 - supervise local staff

Professional and personal skills required:

- BA or MA Degree in the field of political sciences or business and holding expertise in management, organisational development and project tools
- Knowledge and expertise in human rights
- Written and oral Arabic and English must be fluent
- Computer literacy: Word, excel, internet etc.
- At least 5 years professional experience in management, organisational development and project work
- Able to work under pressure and prepared to work long hours during e.g. times of missions and deadlines
- Sociable, cheerful and a good team player

The duty station is Sanaa and office facilities will be provided.

Further information about the position kindly e-mail us. Written applications with attached copies of relevant documentation such as cover letter including salary history, your resume/CV and 3 professional references (name, title, organization, relationship, phone number, email) should be addressed *Staff Department* and sent to this e-mail address hrYemen08@yahoo.com

Deadline for submitting applications is Thursday 30 October 2008
Only pre-selected candidates will be consulted

Our organisation is an equal opportunities organisation, and encourages all qualified candidates irrespective of age, gender, nationality, religion, ethnic origin etc to apply

Yemen Press Review



Al-Eshteraki.net, affiliated with Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)
Thursday, Oct. 8, 2008

Top stories

- Salafi extremists open fire at Parliament member Abdullah Al-Haj, from Islah Party
- Security authorities: the Islamic Jihad Organization in Yemen has links with Israeli intelligence
- Juvenile waiting for a death sentence in a case he denies connection with it

The juvenile Tawfiq Abdullah Al-Maswari, 18, is waiting for execution since the Specialized Penal Court issued a verdict against him in January 2008 in a lawsuit, which his lawyer and father say the victim has no connection with, basing their judgment on the conflicting proofs and reality of the crime the victim is accused of committing, the website reported.

It went on to say that Public Prosecution accused Tawfiq Al-Maswari of killing a taxi driver under the name of Shaker Saeed Al-Hakimi in May 2007, near Wadi Dhahr and stealing away his car after beating him with an iron on his head.

The defendant told the court that the confessions attributed to him in the investigation minutes were the direct result of using force against him, exposing him to physical torture, taking off his clothes and leaving him naked.

Appealing against the parliamentary verdict, the defendant's defense-advocate clarified that the taxi driver was exposed to terrible physical torture and his corpse was disfigured, which contradicted the evidence filed against the suspect Tawfiq Al-Maswari.

The Taxi is said to have been under oversight by a group of individuals working for a factory belonging to a Yemeni businessmen and the oversight was practiced against him during the final days preceding his death.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party)
Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008

Top stories

- French Ambassador praises Yemen's effort in fighting terrorism
- President Saleh reveals a terrorist cell having connections with Israel
- GPC source slams JMP for decision to boycott upcoming electoral process

An official source at the General People's Congress (GPC) Taiz branch said the door is still open for the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) to participate in the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER), the website reported.

It added that the source advised leaderships of the opposition coalition to send names of their candidates for

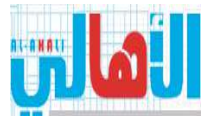
SCER membership in order to contribute to work of the Commission and follow up all the arrangements and preparations for the upcoming parliamentary election.

The website quoted the source as saying that all the political parties have to interact and devote their efforts to ensure success of the upcoming electoral process instead of repeating the same talk on the SCER via information wrangles.

He wished that leaderships of the JMP would objectively and sincerely reconsider their stances and comprehend the facts of the reality rather than follow what their imaginations portray for them. He said the doors of the judiciary are open and those opposition parties can communicate with the judiciary having seen that certain procedures are violating the Constitution and General Election Law.

The GPC source from Taiz affirmed to almotamar.net that the actual field for the honest and real democratic contest is the ballot box and winning confidence of the voters through platforms that benefit them and win their acceptance rather than repeating false accusations again and again.

The source considered hesitation of the JMP to participate in the election and its members' refusal to participate in the SCER as a preliminary attempt to justify a defeat beforehand and an inevitable failure in the upcoming parliamentary elections due to sterility of their political platforms, as well as their being unable to offer anything good in favor of the homeland.



Al-Ahale.net, an independent news website
Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008

Top Stories

- International report places Yemen among most affected states by price hikes
- Prime Minister complains from difficulties dealing with donors
- JMP boycotts registration committees, GPC decides to form them from educators

Education workers, who are loyal with the ruling General People Congress (GPC) and in charge of proposing names of voter registration committees under formation, received directions from high ranking officials to classify educators according to their political affiliation and then present names of those affiliated with GPC to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) in order to approve them as members of voter registration committees, the website reported.

It went on to say that by taking such a step, the GPC wants to avoid a mistake it made during the voter registration period that preceded the most recent presidential and local elections in Yemen, which took place in September 2006. At that time, voter registration committees were formed from applicants for jobs at the Civil Service Ministry in a random manner.

Joint Meeting Parties decided to boycott the process of forming voter

registration committees, and therefore did not present names of their candidates for these committees. This decision comes as part of unanimous agreement reached by senior JMP leaders not to acknowledge legitimacy of the new SCER and any procedures it takes in this regard.

The JMP members, who were previously appointed by a republican decree to occupy certain posts in the SCER refused to be sworn in before President of the Republic after both ruling the opposition parties failed to reach an agreement on proposed amendments to the General Election Law. This was followed by exchange of accusations between both sides.

The JMP still is expending hard efforts through national consultations at the governorate level in preparation for the upcoming period of broader national dialogue to address any pressing problems nationwide during the early days of next January.



NewsYemen.net, an independent news website
Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008

Top Stories

- Rising prices of agricultural products have greater impact on developing countries
- Culture Ministry organizes First Script Exhibition
- Yemeni organizations ask international community to help detainees over Sa'ada fighting

Some Yemeni human rights organizations have urged the international community to intervene to get all detainees in Sana'a, Hajja, Hodeidah, Sa'ada, Karesh, Aden and other areas freed, the website reported in one of its main stories.

In a meeting held Sunday in solidarity with people detained over war in Sa'ada between the government forces and rebels, the human rights organizations including the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, called Hood; the Forum of Hivwar (Dialogue); the Arab Sisters Forum for Human Rights; the Political Development Forum; the Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights; the Yemeni Women Journalists Without Chains; the Change Organization; the Social Democratic Forum; and the Committee for Fighting Torture and Illegal Detention have condemned arbitrary detentions and disappearance in the aftermath of conflict took place in Sa'ada for first six months of this year.

Detainees over war in Sa'ada have not been involved in criminal acts or violence, but they have been detained for their religious faiths, said organizations in a joint statement. "This means the authority is thinking to resume war in Sa'ada", the statement said.

The government released some detainees during the holy month of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr along with efforts to reconstruct war-torn Sa'ada, but many detainees are still in prison. Families of detainees rallied last Tuesday outside the Al-Saleh Mosque in al-Sabeen Square, where President Saleh was performing Eid al-Fitr prayer, to demand the release of their relatives.

US-Muslim relations at stake in US election?

By: Ghassan Michel Rubeiz

East Meredith, New York - Following a week of devastating economic news, the latest presidential and vice-presidential televised debates have put concerns of foreign affairs back on the campaign agenda - particularly issues of importance to Muslim-US relations. Coupled with earlier campaign spin about Barack Obama's alleged Muslim roots, Sarah Palin's reference to "God's work" in Iraq, John McCain's repetitive reference to "radical Islam" and other examples of media mania about Islam, one may have the impression that the future of American relations with the Muslim world depends on the outcome of the 2008 elections.

This is not the case.

America will be tied to the Muslim world for centuries to come. There are six million Muslims in America, and

many Americans work and live in the 56 Muslim-majority countries. Tens of thousands of Muslim students study in America, and American universities in Muslim societies will continue to play a positive intercultural role.

The connections between the two worlds go beyond the diaspora, expatriate work opportunities and tourism. Washington is an ally of Pakistan in the fight against terrorism; it is allied with Turkey through NATO; it is a major player in the Arab-Israeli conflict; it is active in diplomacy with the people of Cyprus, the Balkans, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Although many of America's policies with Muslim-majority countries take the form of aid and cooperation, America is also engaged in two active wars in Muslim-majority countries and is confronting Iran aggressively on nuclear defence issues and its relations with Hizbullah and Hamas.

These many links - whether over common interest, immigration or

competition - will play a long-term role in Muslim-US relations well beyond the November election.

Of the many leading issues in this presidential race, the three matters that most directly impact America's relationship with Muslims - both domestically and abroad - are the future of Iraq, independence from Middle East oil and resolution of the Israel-Palestine question.

Neither candidate has outlined a comprehensive plan to end the war in Iraq. Both disagree on what constitutes success. Obama focuses on the pace of troop withdrawal (16 months after he's elected), and McCain stresses military "victory", with troop withdrawal playing a secondary factor. In fact, the Bush administration has already accepted a major troop withdrawal within the next two years, because the Iraqi government now feels more secure and is demanding US forces leave sooner rather than later.

What will really impact American

relations with the Muslim world is not the timing of withdrawal as much as the stabilisation of Iraq and its unity. Neither party in this election has a clear plan yet on how to secure Iraq for the long run, how to preserve its unity and how to fit this restructured state into the region. This is where the opportunities lie for enhancing US-Muslims relations.

As to the second issue of special relevance to US-Muslim relations, both candidates are vocal on the need to be independent from Middle East oil. Spontaneous oil autonomy is not realistic. Meanwhile, Arabs are not rushing for disengagement from America and remain a welcome presence in the US market.

A gradual reduction of oil importing from the Middle East, accompanied by and integrated with US support of Arab industrialisation, will not only bring about autonomy for Americans but also stimulate an economic industrial revival in oil-rich countries, providing jobs to millions of young people. Many oil

countries operate vulnerable "rent economies". Oil economies also need independence from oil through diversification.

Palestine and the perceived bias of the United States toward Israel is the third issue that will impact Washington's relations with Muslims. Unlike McCain, Obama seems to have a strong impulse to support the Middle East peace process. However, with Palestinians divided politically and Hamas in leadership, a US-led breakthrough between Palestinians and Israelis is unlikely in the near future.

But there are still opportunities for US involvement in the Middle East. The United States could work harder on the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process and start a new chapter of rapprochement with Iran. If there is progress in US-Syrian-Iranian diplomacy, the Arab-Israeli peace process will be automatically accelerated.

The coming elections may affect the

future dynamics of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, the profile of energy saving and the pace of the Arab-Israeli peace process. But regardless of which party is in the White House in January 2009, the United States will need to continue to work with many Muslim majority countries on a host of broad issues, and to consider Muslim Americans important within the mosaic of political constituencies and vital to the American social mix.

Dr. Ghassan Michel Rubeiz is an Arab American commentator and former Secretary of the Middle East for the Geneva-based World Council of Churches. This article first appeared in Washington Post/Newsweek's Post Global and was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews). Source: Common Ground News Service (CGNews), 7 October 2008, www.commongroundnews.org. Copyright permission is granted for publication.

A new Taliban?

The emergence of a Saudi-style 'morality police' is ringing alarm bells in Yemen

By: Ian Black
Middle East editor
The Guardian

The Egyptian crooner Ehab Tawfiq has bedroom eyes, smouldering good looks and a voice that enchants Arab audiences. Sadly he won't be performing any time soon in Yemen, where he has been blocked by a controversial new Saudi-style "religious police" charged with enforcing austere standards of public morality.

Tawfiq sings catchily about love and relationships. But a concert he was due to give in Sana'a was postponed and then cancelled last month after a campaign by the country's newly-formed "virtue committee", which distributed posters and leaflets - and, say some, encouraged death threats and intimidation - condemning the handsome Egyptian for promoting "sedition, immorality and nudity".

For many Yemenis, and for women in particular, this was another alarming sign of the growth of Salafi extremism -

an unwelcome import from neighbouring Saudi Arabia where the "mutaween" religious police are part of the scenery.

"These people scare the hell out of me," complained Nadia al-Sakkaf, the editor of the Yemen Times. "Yemeni youth are frustrated and depressed.

There's nothing for them to do. And since when did we need to act against pop singers?"

The first signs appeared a few months ago in the Red Sea port of Hodeida, where young men and women began to be accosted by bearded vigilantes demanding proof that couples were related. A hotel disco and bar were closed down and several Arab women dancers deported. Daoud al-Jeni, a self-styled "virtue activist", described his mission as being to curb "obscenity and prostitution". Anti-vice teams, some armed with sticks, have also been operating in Aden, the former British colony in the south.

In mid-July the Authority for Promoting Virtue and Combating Vice - exactly the same name as used in Saudi Arabia for 80 years - was launched in Sana'a and quickly moved to pressure

the authorities to raid and close down two Chinese restaurants that were allegedly being used for "immoral" purposes, including selling alcohol.

"This is a step backward for human rights in Yemen," warned Hurriya Mashour, the deputy head of the state-backed Womens National Committee.

Behind the "virtue committee", which supported by 2,000 clerics and tribal leaders, is Sheikh Abdel-Majid al-Zindani, a powerful Salafi figure who once taught Osama bin Laden and is accused by the US and UN of financing terrorism. Zindani is a charismatic preacher who claims to have found a cure for Aids and specialises in Quranic explanations for modern scientific discoveries. His Al-Iman university in Sana'a is seen as a hotbed of religious extremism.

Zindani and like-minded ulema, or scholars, have long demanded government action against "moral corruption", which in their book includes mixed dancing, alcohol, racy TV soap operas, fashion shows and even mannequins in shop windows. They have also opposed

calls for a legally enforceable minimum age for marriage in a country where girls as young as 12, especially in villages, are frequently married off to older men.

The same group also condemned a proposal by President Ali Abdullah Salih for a 15% quota for women in parliament.

The government insists that it opposes the virtue committee. "The role of these people is only to guide, not to implement," Judge Hamoud al-Hittar, the minister for religious affairs, told the Guardian. "They won't close down any place or arrest or fine anyone. Their role is only to communicate to the competent authorities."

Still, there are strong suspicions, typical of the labyrinthine world of Yemeni politics, that Salih himself is quietly encouraging the idea - a devious way of appeasing Islamist opinion and splitting the opposition Islah party in the run-up to next year's parliamentary elections.

"The deal is that Zindani gets to push on with this for a while so Salih can look as if he's being sympathetic to his Islamist base," said a western diplomat.

"Eventually, the government will have to move to reassert its role, but by then the committee will already have been set up and have carved out at least an unofficial role in policing so-called moral crimes."

Aid organisations working in the poorest country in the Arab world are also worried by the virtue committee, and especially about the setback it represents to the cause of empowering women, who are already battling 70% illiteracy and one of the biggest gender gaps on earth. "This is a country with so many serious problems and it has a terrible image," said one foreign development expert. "They are going to shoot themselves in the foot on this."

This is not entirely different from how the Taliban started out and it would be a huge tragedy for the women of Yemen if they get caught in the political crossfire."

Ironically, the virtue committee idea appears to be taking off in Yemen just as the Saudis, angered by some high-profile excesses, try to loosen the stranglehold of their own mutaween, who police the ban on women drivers, on women travelling without a chaperone and whose

latest activity is to enforce a prohibition on selling dogs and cats for domestic pets.

Yemen is a highly traditional Muslim country where most men wear tribal robes and carry curved jambiya daggers in their belts. But it has never been comfortable with the brand of dour Salafi/Wahabi fundamentalism promoted by the Saudi religious establishment. "If these vigilantes start approaching couples and asking them for their marriage certificates in Sana'a you will soon see jambiyas flying," warned a middle-class resident of the capital.

Arwa Othman, an author and folklorist who is defiantly bareheaded in a land where most women wear the hijab, is horrified by the virtue campaign and the zealots behind it. "This idea will kill this country," she says. "They've been talking about it for a long time in schools and mosques and in the army. Now they're in alliance with the government. These people appear when there is poverty and hunger and dictatorship. These are the right circumstances for extremists."

U.S. Embassy Bombing in Yemen: Counterterrorism Challenges in Weak States

By: Michael Knights

Last month, al-Qaeda affiliates attempted to storm the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, leaving seventeen dead, including one American woman. The attack highlights the ongoing problem of terrorism in Yemen, where the United States has struggled to achieve an adequate level of counterterrorism cooperation. The challenge for U.S. policymakers is to achieve greater leverage over the Yemeni government, strengthen that government's capacity to counter terrorism, and simultaneously support much-needed political and economic reforms in the country.

Al-Qaeda in Yemen

The September 17 attack saw two suicide car bombs fail to breach the wall before a four-man team unsuccessfully rushed the embassy on foot, disguised as local security forces and wearing suicide bomb vests. This is the second attack on the U.S. embassy in Sanaa this year; the previous one was a rocket attack on March 18 that killed two Yemenis. These actions and nearly a dozen other terrorist attacks since 2006 were undertaken by cells that brand themselves as "al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Jund al-Yemen Brigades." Since their activation in 2006, these groups have been led by terrorists who escaped from a Yemeni prison that same year. The groups also have offshoots in neighboring states such as Saudi Arabia, where government officials raised the country's alert level in August in reaction to evidence of Yemeni-based fighters seeking to carry out attacks in the kingdom.

The government of Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Salih has moved energetically to wipe out the current crop of active al-Qaeda affiliates in his country. Of the twenty-three terrorists who escaped in 2006, only two are on the loose — Qassim al-Raymi and Nasir al-Wahayshi. Militant commu-

niques demand the release of prisoners, the cessation of government harassment of fighters traveling to Iraq, and the distancing of Yemen from the United States.

Shortfalls in Cooperation

Although the government is willing to hunt down committed anti-Salih militants, other elements of the militant Islamist community continue to receive a free pass from the government. The Yemeni government actively recruited for the anti-Soviet jihad in Afghanistan in the 1980s and for subsequent jihadist campaigns in the 1990s. These "Arab-Afghan" fighters were also used by the government to fight the socialists from the south of the country. By 1998, a tit-for-tat war broke out between the Yemeni government and the militants, and many Arab-Afghans remained embedded in the government security apparatus and political structure. Yemen's unwillingness to support the U.S. investigation of the October 2000 USS *Cole* bombing in Aden marked the low point in U.S. confidence in Yemen as a counterterrorist partner.

Salih moved quickly after the September 11 attacks to visit the White House and offer his assistance in the global war on terror. In return, the Yemeni government expected economic assistance, military aid, and political support. Increased U.S. training and operational support to the Yemeni military gave the Salih government greater capacity to crack down on terrorist groups. Terrorist plots against the U.S. and other Western embassies in Sanaa were foiled in 2001 and 2002. A number of plotters from the suicide boat attacks against the USS *Cole* and the oil tanker *Limburg* were arrested or killed in 2002, notably Sinan al-Harithi, the head of al-Qaeda in Yemen.

Reduced U.S. Leverage

Following these apparently decisive blows to al-Qaeda in Yemen, the

United States turned its attention away from Yemen's counterterrorism efforts and refocused on the regime's political and economic shortfalls. Yemen was rejected from the threshold phase of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) in November 2005 for failing in all eight qualifying categories, ranging from governance reform and political and press freedoms to health, education, and human rights. U.S. nonmilitary assistance to Yemen dropped as low as \$7.9 million in 2005, compared to \$40.6 million by the United Kingdom in the same year. Even today, with Yemen admitted to the MCA, the U.S. government is offering only \$20.6 million — a sum linked to the extradition of wanted terrorists, including several of the USS *Cole* attackers.

The problem is that the amount of U.S. aid is very small in comparison to that of other Western governments (the United Kingdom plans to raise Yemen aid to \$100 million by 2011) and tiny compared to multibillion-dollar, no-questions-asked aid pledged by the Chinese and Gulf Arab governments. U.S. leverage has never been properly developed, so it is no surprise that the Salih government will not make painful compromises to secure fairly minor U.S. rewards.

State Failure, Regional Security, and Counterterrorism

Yemen's terrorism challenge is complicated by the strong possibility that Yemen will gradually succumb to state failure. Yemen's economy is steadily collapsing, and during the 2012-2018 timeframe, fuel and power shortages will further reduce the living standard of the fast-growing population (set to double by 2020).

From the perspective of broader regional security, it is critical to prevent Yemen from becoming a failed state. Yemen faces a very active terrorist threat from al-Qaeda affiliates, an intermittent tribal insurgency in the north, and growing tension across the country related to economic and politi-

cal grievances. A collapsed Yemen would function as an arms market, terrorist haven, and economic migrant route that could complicate security in the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa.

U.S.-Yemen counterterrorism cooperation is also threatened by a weakened Yemeni state. As Salih's rule becomes weaker, his government is reaching out to radical Islamist allies to prop it up. Since 2004, the government has made use of former jihadists to fight the Houthi clan rebels in northern Yemen, with such fighters receiving releases from house arrest, payment, and even control of Houthi land and mosques. Sheikh Abd al-Majid al-Zindani, named as a specially designated global terrorist by the U.S. Treasury Department in February 2004, plays a senior role in the Islah political party, which Salih's junta of generals are likely to turn to as a political partner when his third and (by law) final term comes to a close in 2013.

Rebuilding U.S. Leverage

When Yemen's current crop of experienced militant leaders is ground down — a moment that is approaching — it may appear that the "job is done" once again, and U.S. policy is likely to focus on Yemen's shortcomings: its unwillingness to convict Yemeni returnees who served in Iraq; its tendency to loosen arrest conditions and overturn terrorist charges as soon as international attention has turned elsewhere; and its failure to hand over terrorists wanted by the United States or to guarantee that the 108 Yemenis being released from Guantanamo Bay will be kept from reoffending. All these complaints are valid, but reiterating them is less valuable than finding practical ways of restoring U.S. leverage and influence over the Yemeni government.

It may be that U.S., British, and Saudi aid can be linked to greater oversight of Yemeni terrorist prisoners, but this is essentially a tactical detail. An increasingly weak Yemeni government

is unlikely to make painful compromises as long as U.S. nonmilitary aid is far lower than that of countries that provide much more and impose no conditionality. Aside from ensuring counterterrorism cooperation, there is a strong strategic rationale for the United States to ramp up its nonmilitary aid to help prevent state failure. Historically, the chances of receiving counterterrorism

cooperation from a collapsed Yemen are zero, and the cost of rebuilding a failed state far outweighs the costs of preventing such a collapse.

Michael Knights is a Lafer international fellow of The Washington Institute, specializing in the military and security affairs of Iraq, Iran, and the Persian Gulf states.



Danish Refugee Council

VACANCIES: PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS (PROTECTION)

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a private, independent, non-government organisation working with refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants. DRC Yemen operates within a broader regional context including the Horn of Africa.

Duty Stations: **Ahwar, Kharaz, Mayfa'a, Mohka.**

Responsibilities:

1. Assist the Protection Officer in protection monitoring in accordance with international human rights law, refugee law and international and national statutory and customary law;
2. Provide support to the Protection Officer by responding appropriately to protection issues that affect groups of people or appropriately referring individual cases;
3. Ensure proper documentation and filing of programme documents and files;
4. Provide assistance as required to the programme unit;

Qualifications:

- Completed university education, a law degree is desirable;
- Proficiency in both written, read and spoken Arabic and English;
- Good communication and interpersonal skills;
- Past experience in the humanitarian sector is desirable;
- Good computer skills;
- An understanding of the international human rights conventions and laws pertaining to refugees and human rights protection is highly desirable;
- An understanding of Yemeni law and the judicial system is highly desirable;
- An understanding of Yemeni human rights and migrant related statutory and customary law is highly desirable;
- A proven interest in the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants.

Please forward your cover letter and CV via e-mail to pa1.drcyemen@drc.dk or via fax: (02) 349 320.

Deadline for submissions: 19th October, 2008.

Republic of Yemen – Ministry of Water and Environment Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP)

Vacancy Announcement

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the costs of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of recruiting a National IT Specialist. Now the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) invites qualified and experienced local candidates to apply for the post.

Job Description

Under the supervision and guidance of the Project Director, the IT Specialist will be responsible for:

1. Professional Networking and very familiar in using Windows Server 2003 and 2007.
2. Complete background in computer programming such as C++, Visual Basic and others;
3. Good dealing with Data Base by using high modern systems such as Access and Oracle;
4. Good knowledge in using Internet and as well as Websites Design;
5. Capable in maintaining Hardware and Software;
6. Provides technical support and assistance to Procurement Department in itemizing and listing all required and related goods;
7. Initiative in bringing new effectiveness ideas for the project's progress;
8. Insuring that all Computers and Printers are running properly without any problems such as viruses;
9. Contributes to arrangement for proper assistance to the project's components in accordance with the targeted dates in the implementation schedule.

Qualification Required

1. Preferable University Degree in the field of Computer Engineer, Science and Programming or any related fields.
2. Excellent Computer skills.
3. Minimum of (3) years work experience in related fields.
4. Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

- All applicants will be through a short-list and those candidates who are short listed will be invited for an individual interview.
- The selection will be done under the procedures in accordance with policies of the (IDA).
- Deadline for receiving application will be on Saturday 25th October, 2008
- Applications should be submitted to "Sana'a Basin Water Management Project"

Address:

Sana'a West 60m Rd.
Telephone: 01-469156/7/9
Fax: 01-469158
Email: saldubby@yemen.net.ye & CC: aboanf.afnan@hotmail.com



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

INTERNAL / EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title of Post: Assistant Protection Officer

Post Number: New – SB

Category / Level: NOA

Location: Sana'a

Entry on Duty: 1st January 2009

Duration: One Year

Closing Date: 25th October 2008

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

In line with the UNHCR policy of enhancing operational flexibility by having a workforce that takes full advantage of national capabilities and expertise in refugee hosting countries and countries of origin, a recruitment needs to be made of a National Professional Officer at the grade of NOA who will work under the direct supervision of the Protection Officer in the Branch Office Sana'a. The incumbent who should be a national of Yemen with substantial knowledge of local conditions, is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

Terms of Reference

1. Assist in dealing with individual cases or groups of refugees through interviews, correspondences, etc. and handle cases by taking the necessary steps with the local authorities;
2. Assist in assessing determination of refugees status, granting of asylum, prevention of refoulement or expulsion, issuance of identity cards and travel documentation;
3. Assess internal social and economic rights of refugees;
4. Maintain close contacts with local authorities and NGOs;
5. Keeps abreast of developments in the field of jurisprudence, legislation and regulations; &
6. Undertake other duties as required.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Skills: University Degree in Law, International Law, Political Science or related field
Experience: At least two years of previous job experience relevant to the function in an International capacity.
Others: Ability to use computer applications such as MS Word Excel.
Languages: Very good knowledge of English and Arabic.

For internal UNHCR candidates:

Staff may apply to vacant posts at their own level at any time. Staff with the required seniority may apply to posts that are one level above their grade. If no internal candidate with the required minimum seniority has applied, the post will be re-advertised internally with a reduced seniority requirement. Only qualified candidates who have completed at least half of the required seniority in grade may be considered. Candidates who do not meet the criteria as internal candidates can be considered as external candidates.

For external candidates:

While priority will be given to Internal Candidates as per UNHCR guidelines, suitable External Candidates will be considered.

IMPORTANT:

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

The Administration Officer,
UNHCR BO Sanaa
P.O. Box 12093
Sanaa.
Tel. Contact: +967-1-469771/2
Fax: +967-1-469 770



**Safer Exploration and Production
Operations Company (SEPOC)**

Extend their best wishes to

H.E. President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

And the government
and people of Yemen

On the Occasion of the 45th Anniversary

Of 14th October

Many Happy Returns

Executive Manager, Deputy Executive Manager and all staff of
Safer Exploration & Production Operations Company

شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج

تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى

فخامة الأخ /

علي عبد الله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية

وكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة الذكرى الـ ٤٥

لثورة الـ ١٤ من أكتوبر المجيدة

وكل عام والجميع بخير

المدير التنفيذي ونائبه وكافة منتسبي

شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج

SAFER

شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج
Safer Exploration and Production
Operations Company (SEPOC)

14
OCTOBER

Healthy environment means healthy generations

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amellariqi@yahoo.com

More than 33 percent of diseases in children under age 5 are caused by environmental exposure, the World Health Organization reported last year, estimating that more than three million children under age 5 die each year due to environment-related causes and conditions. This makes the environment one of the most critical contributors in the annual global death toll of more than 10 million children – as well as an extremely important factor in the health and well-being of their mothers.

Although children under age 15 comprise 46 percent of Yemen's 21 million population, there's no scientific study linking the environment and the spread of diseases in Yemen, particularly among children. However, many doctors and reports have pointed to the relationship between children and the difficult environmental circumstances in which they live.

Fatal diseases and contaminated water

Contaminated water causes diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, polio, typhoid, hepatitis, cholera and bilharzias, which are very common in Yemeni children living in villages and the countryside where residents are forced to use unsafe surface water for drinking.

A parliamentary report exposed that 55,000 Yemeni children die annually due to water pollution-related diseases. The report, which warned of the spread of contaminated water usage, confirmed that 50 percent of child deaths are due to water pollution, including 20 percent from diarrhea and 30 percent from malaria and typhoid.

An Environmental Protection Authority report confirmed that most of these deaths occur among rural inhabitants, who represent 77 percent of Yemen's population.

Water pollution has many causes; however, the National Water Sector Strategy Investment Program, reporting on 2000 through 2003,

insisted that the main reason for water pollution in Yemen is absence of safe water sanitation services. The report indicated that only 25 percent of the rural population has access to safe water and only 20 percent have access to safe sanitation, as opposed to 47 percent of urban regions able to access safe water sources and 25 percent with adequate sanitation services.

According to the program, many citizens use unsafe methods to get rid of waste, whether human or water waste, which leaks into the ground. This behavior, the report said, damages groundwater – Yemen's main water source – as well as creating a suitable atmosphere for disease vectors.

Farm children exposed to pesticides

An unofficial study estimates that 624,000 children are working in Yemen, 292,000 of whom work in the agricultural sector, among which 97 percent receive no money for their labor because they work for their own families. Only three percent of such children earn "trivial amounts." Fifty-five percent of working Yemeni children work in agriculture and crafts, while the rest work as vendors in public places.

An official field study conducted by a Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor team exposed that children working in Yemen's agricultural sector suffer numerous infections and diseases. Covering Sana'a, Al-Beidha and Dhamar governorates, the study found that 45 percent of such children have dermatitis, 30 percent have ophthalmia, which can develop into blindness, 20 percent have intestinal diseases and 5 percent have epilepsy.

The study attributed the reason for such diseases to misuse of herbicides and insecticides because many children, 56 of whom are between ages 8 and 10, don't use protective measures while spraying plants. They mistakenly confuse such poisons with water without consulting the instructions written on the containers. Most children working in the fields tend to work quickly without paying attention; thus, some parts of their neck and shoulders are exposed to the chemicals and their skin receives chemical burns.

Additionally, direct and constant

exposure to dust also makes children an easy target for respiratory diseases like asthma and allergies. According to the study, 90 percent of children in these regions also chew qat that's been polluted by herbicides.

Street children exposed to airborne germs

There are no specific statistics for street children in Yemen and estimates vary enormously. Although street children run businesses to support their families, they still suffer society's condescending behavior and are treated as beggars or delinquents. The Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood defines them as street children due to the shame involved in admitting this group's existence and absence of specific provisions for "street children" in Yemen's legal framework.

The most recent UNICEF study in 2000 estimated 28,789 such children in Sana'a, most of whom are between ages 12 and 14, with the vast majority, 78 to 96 percent, being boys.

UNICEF confirms that street children are among the most physically visible of all children, living and working on streets and in public squares. Yet, paradoxically, they also are among the most invisible and therefore, the hardest to reach with vital services like education and health care, as well as the most difficult to protect.

Medical experts say children in these circumstances are exposed to infection and disease more than adults. "Children who work in the street mainly are subjected to skin diseases, respiratory diseases and sexually transmitted diseases," pediatrician Dr. Mohammed Kashnoon noted.

Due to the absence of personal cleanliness and prevailing unsanitary conditions, most street children suffer scabies, chicken pox, measles and other infectious illnesses transmitted via direct or indirect contact, according to Kashnoon. "These children also are subjected to respiratory diseases like sore throat, pneumonia, bronchitis and tonsillitis, which may lead to meningitis," he confirmed.

Most of these diseases are transmitted by air; that is, if an infected



13 years old boy works in a farm in Sana'a, 292,000 children work in the agricultural sector.

individual coughs, his bacteria-contaminated breath is transmitted by air to other children who spend most of their time on the streets.

He also referred to injuries caused by widespread traffic accidents, with the main victims being street children.

Environmental hazards affect fetuses

On numerous occasions, Yemeni doctors have warned about the increased impact of air pollution, which is obvious in major cities like Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Hodeidah, due to activities such as burning fossil fuels like gas, coal and oil to power industrial processes and motor vehicles. Among harmful chemicals such burning releases into the atmosphere are carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and tiny solid particles,

including lead from gasoline additives.

Al-Thawra General Hospital Deputy Zaid Ahmed Atif warned of air pollution, emphasizing the lead risk for children.

"The danger of lead is its ability to cross barriers and cause strokes and other neurological diseases, especially in children. Lead also raises the rate of physical and mental underdevelopment and its deposit in the liver leads to various diseases, as well as increases respiratory diseases like asthma, which is the lungs' inability to absorb enough oxygen, thus corrupting the bronchioles," Atif noted.

"A scientific study shows that children's ability to absorb pollutants is higher than the elderly," he noted.

The WHO report pointed out that health-damaging exposure to environmental risks can begin before birth. "Lead in the air, mercury in food

and other chemicals can result in long-term, often irreversible effects, such as infertility, miscarriage and birth defects. Women's exposure to pesticides, solvents and persistent organic pollutants potentially may affect the health of the fetus.

"Additionally, while the overall benefits of breastfeeding are recognized, a newborn's health may be affected by high levels of contaminants in breast milk. Small children whose bodies are developing rapidly are particularly susceptible and in some instances, the health impacts may emerge only later in life.

"Furthermore, children as young as age 5 sometimes work in hazardous settings. Pregnant women living and working in hazardous environments and poor mothers and their children are at a higher risk because they're exposed to the most degraded environments, they're often unaware of the health implications and they lack access to information on potential solutions," the report said.

Yemen's maternal and infant mortality rates are among the world's highest. In the 2003 demographic survey, an estimated 366 women died for every 100,000 babies delivered, while the infant mortality rate is estimated at 157 deaths for every 1,000 male and female births.

WHO stressed that promoting a healthy environment is partly about assessing, correcting, controlling and mitigating environmental factors that can adversely affect the health of present and future generations.

"In order to achieve this goal, it's important for decision-makers at international, regional and national levels, together with non-governmental organizations, communities and families, to join efforts in recognizing and addressing key environmental hazards. This may include policy action, advocacy, prevention and grassroots participation," the WHO report advised.



Due to the absence of personal cleanliness and prevailing unsanitary conditions, most street children suffer scabies, chicken pox, measles and other infectious illnesses transmitted via direct or indirect contact.



Marginalizing Malaria

By: Richard Feachem

Last fall, Bill and Melinda Gates sent shock waves through the global health community when they announced the audacious goal of eradicating human malaria from the face of the planet. Nothing less, they urged, would be enough.

Heated debate immediately erupted, with some experienced practitioners questioning the feasibility of such a goal. These skeptics pointed to the first Global Eradication Program, an ambitious effort in the 1950's to clear malaria from many areas of the world (Africa was excluded). Despite initial progress, eradication programs crumbled as donors, governments, and

populations grew tired and turned their attention elsewhere, allowing malaria to resurge to devastating levels.

No one is suggesting a return to the failed strategies of the first eradication program. The Gates Foundation has sensibly begun to facilitate consultations with leading scientists on accelerating the development of potent new tools, and is already funding the development of a vaccine, as well as new drugs and diagnostics. At the same time, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership has recently launched a long-term Global Action Plan to unify the actions of the malaria community and spur additional investment. All agree that eradication is decades away.

Yet, while total eradication is beyond the horizon, and new tools are

needed to get there, there is much that can be achieved in the near term with our current armory. Recent success in countries such as Ethiopia and Rwanda in expanding access to impregnated bed nets and slashing malaria rates is building confidence that the disease can be dramatically reduced around the world and, in some areas, eliminated entirely.

To realize this opportunity, a sound strategy must rapidly be developed and executed. In a recent article in the British scientific journal *The Lancet*, Oliver Sabot and I proposed such a strategy. The approach is simple: a redoubled effort to reduce infections and deaths rapidly in the malaria "heartland" (i.e., equatorial Africa and a handful of other areas around the world) should be accompanied by a

campaign to roll back the disease from its current margins.

Malaria has natural limits, determined by latitude, altitude and, in some cases, human intervention. The countries at the fringe of this zone typically benefit from a range of factors that make complete elimination of malaria possible, including lower transmission of the disease, stronger health systems, and relative national wealth. Most importantly, these countries are not surrounded by malaria.

As they successfully eliminate malaria, they will provide a new malaria-free anchor that will enable their neighbors, which have been pursuing aggressive control measures in the interim, to embark on their own eradication campaigns. In this way,

malaria will literally be rolled back from its current borders.

This strategy has begun to emerge organically, without prompting from the global community. In the Pacific, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, at the far southeastern margin of the malaria endemic zone, have embarked on an eradication campaign with support from the Australian government.

Across the globe, the Southern Africa Development Community has set a goal of eliminating malaria from its four southernmost members – Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland – by 2015. To do so, they are in active discussions with their northern neighbors, and innovative cross-border collaborations are being developed, building on the model of

the highly successful partnership between Mozambique, South Africa, and Swaziland. Other malaria margins where eradication efforts are underway are China, the Philippines, and Central America.

More than one million people die each year from malaria, most of them are children. Yet malaria is a preventable and treatable disease. The task of eliminating malaria, country by country, and eventually reaching global eradication, is underway. This time, we must not rest until it is completed.

Sir Richard Feachem is Professor of Global Health, University of California, San Francisco. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008. www.project-syndicate.org



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Ismaili Lunar Calendar:

An ideal base to unite the 'Ummah' (Part 3)

The purpose of the following dialogue is to promote tolerance and intellectual understanding among the Muslim community of the global village. The Modern World humiliates the Muslims with the fact that while astronauts have landed the Moon, and other scientists are busy in discoveries of the universe, majority of the Muslims are still following the directions of the clergy, regarding the sighting of the Moon, instead of following the scientific course, upon which religion of Islam is based.

By: Qazi Dr. Shaikh Abbas Borhany

The Qur'an points out towards the Christians, among whom Siy'am, is based not on sighting of Moon but on the basis of calculation. Afterwards, Qur'an has indicated a fixed period. It emphasizes that: "It is the counted days."

(The readers are requested to please study the above Ayat carefully)

Thus the counted days are those which were surely calculated. Thus there is no need to search for the Moon while the days are calculated. If there is the slightest doubt left, that once the month of Ramadan would be of 29 days and once of 30 days, than Qur'an would never have mentioned the specific words: "Calculated Period", with great emphasis. Thus the meaning of the "Counted Period" is the perfect counted time. It means it is an equivalent of the statement of the one who has mentioned that this one is counted, and this one is weighed in gold. Another argument is that if the base of a year is on six complete and six incomplete months, so it is compulsory that the

base of year should be perfect without any lacuna. The first month Muharram should be perfect and Safar should be imperfect, Rabi al Awwal should be perfect while Rabi al Aakhir should be incomplete, Jamadil Awwal should be perfect while Jamadil Aakhir should be imperfect, Rajab and Ramazan should be perfect. Therefore, the famous Hadith:

"Shab'an will never be perfect and Ramazan will never be imperfect".

On the imperfectness of Shab'an "Lailat al Nisf" -15th night is enough evidence, other than Rajab and Ramazan. The Night of 15th Shab'an has a different position, because it has 14 nights in the beginning, and 14 nights after it is counted. This law is not applicable to the month of Ramazan, because if the 15th night of Ramazan is declared as half of the month, then it is not correct, because 16 days remain in the month. If the 16th night of Ramazan is declared half of the month then also it is not correct because 16 is not the half of 30.

Kafarat of the Ramazan is also evi-

dence. The one who does not observe Siy'am, without legal excuse, than he/she must observe Siy'am of 2 months. This is the Kafarat of that sin. It is also the double of the days of Ramazan, which are 60 in numbers.

If one is also not eligible to perform this then he/she must arrange food for 60 poor persons. If there was any slightest doubt in the counting of the days of Ramazan, ie: 29 days, then their must be provision available, that one must arrange food as Kafarat for 60 or 58 poor".

19th Al Dai al Fatemi, Syedna Idris Imaduddin has discussed in "Mudhezat al Buht'aa" as follows:

"It is clear that Ahadith and sayings of the Ahl al Bait are not for 'unbound people', but it was for those who are not aware with the calculations. This was the practice of Imam Jafar Assadiq (S). Qur'an has clarified that "So, Siy'am is Faraz upon you similarly as it was Faraz before you on others".

Years and months can be calculated through the Kabisah calculation chart. According to the teaching of Imam Jafar Assadiq, 'ABJAD' chart is used in Kabisah calculation. Account of "Man La Yahzaruhul Faqih" confirms a

Tradition of Imam Jafar Assadiq explaining Kabisah formation.

This chart was prepared according to the guidance of Qur'an and instructions of Ahl al Bait. Every student of Islam knows this Hadith:

"I am leaving two everlasting precious things among you, one is Qur'an another is the Ahl al Bait"

The learned scholar of Ahl al Bait explains that we can not separate both from each other nor can we follow Qiyas and Rai, which creates clouds of doubts. The discussion is very long but irrefutable. In this book a Hadith is quoted with the reference of one of the wives of Rasulullah(S), who said: "I never saw Rasulullah(S) that he ever observed an in-completed month of Siy'aam of Ramazan and neither found him to observe Siy'aam in any month perfectly".

Method of Kabisah Calculation: The calendar contains 12 months that are based on the Qur'an. Hijrahcalendar is a purely lunar calendar. It depends on the Moon's cycle around the earth. That is how the HijrahCalendars have been calculated and prepared. It has twelve lunar months. The average length of a lunar month is 29.53058 (solar) days. As per certain Hikmat, the Hijrah year will contain 29 or 30 days long months. Muharram starts with 30 days. The next month Safar has 29 days, so on so forth. That means the last month of the year

Zilhajjah will have 29 days in a month. The total length of the Hijrah year is usually 354 days. There is a small fractional difference between the Moon's cycle around the earth in a year and the Hijrahcalendar. To compensate for this difference, there are 11 Kabisah years in a cycle of 30 years. A Kabisah year is a year in which the month of Zilhajjah has 30 days instead of the usual 29 days.

According to the learned writer of "Risalah al Bay'aan", the following Nabavi instruction was issued at the time when Rasulullah (S) was leaving for an expedition:

"Observe Sawm and celebrate Eid by watching him".

It contains a particular meaning (not related towards the sighting of moon) which has a significant importance. The above Nabavi commandment was issued at a particular time, when Rasulullah(S) was leaving the Muslim community. A person who was ignorant with the orders of Ramazan asked Rasulullah (S) that "we observed Siyam with you and celebrated Eid with you. Now that you are leaving so how should we observe Siyam? He answered:

"Observe by watching him and celebrate by watching him".

The persons who asked this question were those who were considered to be simple men with true intentions. So, Rasulullah (S) instructed them emphatically to follow his Ahl al Bait". This matter has been clarified in detail in "Daem al Islam" of Syedna Qazi al Nauman (d.363/974 C.E. Qahera, Egypt). It is only for those, who are able to understand and solve the prob-

lem. Allah has fixed the Siyam of Ramazan obligatory. Qur'an says:

"Ramazan is the month in which Qur'an was descended, with Hidayat for people, and which differentiates and clarifies between truth and obscurity. Whoever achieves this month, it is obligatory upon him to observe Siyam, if he is sick or in travel, so must complete it in other days. Allah likes an ease for you, not hardship".

Concluding Remarks: The period is of 30 days, neither more nor less. The Moon is entirely different in different places and periods. It is difficult to understand for those who have little information in this matter. The reason of difference in periods is early and late, the first period will be different from the second, and second from third, and in this way this matter is continuous till the end of the year. In this manner the differences in the Moon's width and height differ, from cities to cities. This dispute was created due to the distance towards the sky and also when it descends in to the skies. "The 'Uml Al Qura Calendar' used by Saudi Arabia who claim it to be for civil purposes only, yet plays a major role in influencing the determination of the 29th day of the month in which the crescent is normally observed".

Qazi Dr. Shaikh Abbas Borhany has PhD (USA), NDI, Shahadat al A'alamiyyah (Najaf, Iraq), M.A., LLM (Shariah) Member, Ulama Council of Pakistan. He is Attorney at Law & Religious Scholar. He can be reached at qazishkborhany@hotmail.com

Polygamy: The "fruit vendor's" logic and the Islamic view (Part 1)

Reflecting on an incident from her childhood, Hanan Al-Wadee, researcher with an M.A. in Human Rights, confronts polygamy from a religious point of view.

By: Hanan Al-Wadee
For the Yemen Times

In an early stage of my life, I met an old man who ate and married a lot. "Why do you keep marrying and divorcing?" I asked him once. At the time, the idea of being with various different bodies was disgusting to me. And being young, the frankness of my question provoked him. While one of his wives was putting a large bowl of fruit in front of us, he responded haughtily, sure of his influence on the conviction of a young girl, "I will ask you a question; Look at these various fruits in front of you; why would I restrict myself to eating the same kind of fruit every day, when I am capable of eating a banana today, an apple tomorrow, and an orange the day after?" He looked at me, satisfied that his brilliant question had weakened my conviction. As for me, I kept looking at him, shocked by this despicable analogy and even more shocked by the fact that he didn't consider his wife's feelings, who had heard this horrible comment about her.

As a little girl, I didn't possess the words or response that would have been appropriate for such degraded logic. But today, while that man continues to live with his "fruit vendor" logic, I am using my knowledge as a researcher to confront and get to the true view on polygamy in Islam.

The Prophet's marital life

Prophet Muhammad- peace be upon him- gave us two models of marital life. The first is one in which the Prophet lived with one wife for more than 23 years. The second is when he lived a polygamous marital life due to certain reasons and circumstances.

Prophet Muhammad married Khadija when he was 25 years old and she was 40 years old. It was 25 years before he became prophet. It was said that she married twice before him and was a rich lady, who was a trader and had her own servants and retinue; in today's terms, she was a business-

woman. She was known for her sedateness, solemnity and distinguished position. When she heard of a young man who was known for his decency and honesty, she chose him to work for her and run her business. And when she saw in him noble qualities and rare manners, she sent her friend to find out whether he would accept her to be his wife.

They were married and in doing so, immortalized one of the most beautiful stories of love, devotion and sincerity in the history of mankind. A marriage with such differences in the standard of living, income and age would never have happened in these days unless a man wanted to take advantage of the money of a divorced or widowed woman.

Prophet Muhammad remained married to Khadija until she died at the age of sixty-five, when he was around fifty years old. For almost twenty three years, he didn't marry another woman and instead loved her more than any one. He devoted himself to her, his home and his children, and didn't divide his love, care and attention for them with another house, wife and children. Not only had he dedicated all that love and generosity to one wife and one house, but after her death he remained sad for a long time. When the polygamy phase of his life finally started, it wasn't driven or motivated by sex or lusting after women, as is often perceived in the Western world and confirmed by Muslim men through their ugly practice of polygamy.

Exception not norm

God allowed Prophet Mohammed to marry nine women, which is not permitted for other Muslim men. Also, unlike Muslim women, the Prophet's wives were forbidden as stated in the Quran from marrying another man after him.

Prophet Muhammad practiced polygamy in a framework that was completely different from how many Muslim men currently practice polygamy. The exclusiveness of



Controversial TV drama "Al-Haj Mitwali" which depicts the life of an Egyptian businessman who has four wives caused many debates on the issue of polygamy in the Muslim and Arab culture.

Prophet Muhammad's situation in some issues is something we shouldn't ignore while reviewing these issues and building legislations and provisions on them.

Contrary to popular belief, Islam actually laid down the first limitation against polygamy. The prevailing understanding, especially in the West, is that Islam is the founding religion for the practice of polygamy. This is an unfounded perception, because Islam appeared in a society where a man would marry eight women or more, since polygamy was a commonly accepted practice at the time. Due to the injustice and material and psychological harm that women were subject to because of such polygamy, Islam limited polygamy to four women and set restrictions and conditions that must be met before a man was allowed to practice plural marriages. In his book, *Fi Thilal Al-Quran* or *In the Shadows of Quran*, the martyr Sayed Kotob said:

"Islam came when men could marry ten women or more or less without any limits or conditions. Islam came to say to men that there is a limit that a Muslim man can not exceed - four wives- and a condition they must adhere to which is to be just, otherwise: "... marry only one or what your right hand possesses"- The Quran, (4:3).Islam came not to increase the number but to limit it and not to leave

up to men's inclination, but to restrict polygamy to justice, otherwise, this permission is no longer applicable."

Islam revolted against the old customs and dealt with them by reformulating them, by the constant encouragement of leaving such customs, or by forbidding them once and for all. Islam restructured society in accordance with the instinct God created within people. Islam was the first religion or method that condemned slavery and enslaving people, by encouraging society to free slaves in a time when all religions and societies were still practicing slavery and didn't consider it wrong. This condemnation, along with gradually encouraging society to get rid of slavery, came with many reforms which Islam aimed to uplift ignorant society to a human one. Polygamy came within that reforming context as well. Like with slavery, Islam limited the phenomenon of polygamy and restricted it with conditions so that it would disappear gradually from society, and in the meantime, to confine its practice within a very narrow framework.

Hanan Yahya Alwadee has an MA in Human Rights from University of London. She is the winner of Al Sada prize for her novel "Ahzan elktroniah - Electronic Sadness", 2004. She could be reached at: hananalwadee@hotmail.com

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Eid in Yemen



A great custom in Eid is giving sweets to visitors and family members. Just before Eid, sweets, clothes, are sold in huge quantities.

By: Maged Thabet Saleh
For Yemen Times

The occasion of Eid is a chance to highlight the cultural, social and religious significance of the celebration, especially in Yemen. Muslims celebrate two main events each year, namely Eftar and Arafat Eid. They are also called Al-Eid Al-Sagheer (small Eid) and Al-Eid Al-Kabeer (big Eid) respectively. Although each one has its own religious significance, they are celebrated by Yemenis, like all Islamic and Arab nations, with a sense of happiness as they carry out the numerous customs which mark the occasion.

A few days before Eid, families start shopping. During these days, markets are crowded as people scramble to buy items which are needed for the celebrations such as clothes, shoes, special types of sweets, cakes and gifts.

It is a custom for most people to wear new clothes for the occasion. Yemenis start buying new clothes for the family a couple of days before Eid, paying special attention to their children.

Children, in particular, understand nothing of the religious or social significance of Eid, but celebrate it by all means. For them, Eid means new clothes, sweets, gifts, toys and games. Aseel, a seven-year old, said: "When I hear that Eid is coming, the first thing I think about is having new clothes for this occasion." For this child, thus, Eid is nothing more than receiving new clothes of which he feels proud, especially when he meets other children his age.

Fathers usually consider buying new clothes to be a duty not only for their own children, but also for the children of relatives, neighbors, friends and other poor people. It is in Eid that we think about the children of the poor. Yemenis provide unfortunate families with new clothes or money to go shopping for Eid. Adel, a father of eight children, said: "I cannot only buy clothes for my children when I know that some of my relatives, neighbors or friends cannot afford to provide for theirs."

Particularly on Eid day, the multicultural background of Yemenis is apparent through the various types of dress they wear. From *ma'waz*, *fotah*, *qamis* - all with or without *jambia* - to the different models of gulf *thobs*, formal suits or *badlat* and casual clothes, Yemenis' attire on Eid is varied. Unlike other countries such as Saudi Arabia where almost everybody wears the Arab *thob*, Yemenis do not follow a particular tradition in dressing. Sometimes, a Yemeni will wear a range of different outfits. Ali, a young Yemeni, said that "I like to wear *thob* on Eid day, but I also wear casual and, sometimes, formal clothes." Such a variety of clothes reflects the cultural diversity to which Yemenis have been exposed to through interaction with foreigners in Yemen and abroad.

Another great custom in Eid is giving sweets to visitors and family members. Just before Eid, sweets, clothes, are sold in huge quantities. Ahmed Al-Sanani, owner of sweets shop, said: "I sell as many sweets in Eid as I sell in a whole

year". Children traditionally visit relatives, neighbors and friends as part of *Salam Al-Eid*, which means to shake hands and congratulate them on the occasion of the end of Ramadan. Nowadays, they are encouraged to do this for sweets and sometimes gifts or money, which is known as *Asb Al-Eid* in Sana'a and as *Al-Uadah* in cities like Taiz and Ibb.

Kamal, a Yemeni child, regarded the occasion as the best to collect sweets, gifts and money. Shy, he confesses that "Eid is the day on which I feel that people love and deal mercifully with us". Yemenis pay special attention to children in Eid, sometimes giving them money to buy games and toys.

Fahd, father of four children, stated: "I feel all children are my sons and daughters, and, although I am not rich, I try as much as possible to offer children of relatives, neighbors and friends whatever I can to make them happy."

During Eid, cakes and cookies are also baked at home for the family, for visitors or even to swap with friends and neighbors to evaluate each other's skill. Sweets, cakes and cookies are an essential part of Eid in Yemen, bringing families together on the occasion.

Eid is an occasion to visit relatives,

friends, neighbors and acquaintances. These visits form a custom which is religiously and socially encouraged. Children visit the homes of relatives, neighbors and friends either alone or with an elder brother or their father. Women also visit each other to exchange congratulations and discuss personal affairs. For them, Eid is a chance to see friends and relatives who live far away. Men's visits to each other take place either as quick social calls or as the more common qat chewing sessions.

It is distinctive of Yemeni custom that husbands visit their wives' home during Eid. A Yemeni usually takes his wife and children to visit his mother and father-in-law. The family typically brings gifts to the grandparents and spends a day with them. Mohammed Ali, a married Yemeni, explained: "At least one day must be dedicated to visiting my wife's home, otherwise offence will be taken."

Other distinctively Yemeni practices during Eid include traveling around the country and attending weddings, but the most important have been highlighted here. These traditions have been transmitted from one generation to another as part of Yemeni cultural framework.

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