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## Devastating agricultural damage in Hadramout and Maharah

By: Aqeel al-Halali and Yemen Times staff

SANA'A, Nov.16 — Following the heavy rains and floods that devastated Hadramout and Maharah last month, the government has assessed agricultural damage in Hadramout at YR 67 billion, amid warnings of a possible poliomyelitis outbreak.

Director of Ministry of Public Health and Population's office in Hadramout Coast Al-Abd Ba-Mousa told the Yemen Times that there are fears of the poliomyelitis virus, more commonly known as infantile paralysis or polio, spreading because of the extent of stagnant water and destroyed infrastructure in most districts of the governorate.

He confirmed that international teams of specialists in disaster management and disease control continue to support Yemeni medical efforts in the governorate.

Ba-Mousa urged parents to vaccinate their children against the virus, and a

national campaign is being carried out by the Ministry of Health this Monday to raise awareness and curb the spread of the disease.

"This virus is spread by flies, dirty waters and stagnant water pools, all of these factors lead to deteriorating health situation and fertile environment for spreading polio," he said.

Polio is a highly-contagious viral infectious disease that can affect the central nervous system and cause paralysis. In 2005 there was a polio break-out where over 400 cases were reported in Yemen, but since the beginning of 2006, there has only been one reported incident of polio, according to the World Health Organization.

The Ministry of Health is targeting 4.1 million children under five in its current polio-immunization campaign and aims to announce Yemen free of the disease by 2009.

The director of the Hadramout health office said that previous health fears over possible catastrophe because of

dead animals due to floods "have vanished after the government has succeeded in securing the health and environmental situation in Hadramout." He affirmed that all dead animals threatening the population with the spreading of diseases had been removed. The Yemeni Vets' Association has estimated the number of animals that have due to the floods have exceeded 16,000.

**Damage to the agricultural sector**

According to the findings of governmental damage-assessment committees, agricultural losses in Hadramout have reached around YR 67 billion. Floods have swept up to 6,955 acres of agricultural land, killed livestock, destroyed beehives and damaged agricultural equipment. The price of honey is expected to double and grain production in both governorates is expected to be low this year. The government plans to boost grain and wheat cultivation in other governorates to make up for the loss.



Swamps in Al-Qatun area resulting from the flood

Continued on page 2

## Minister of Local Administration resigns

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Nov. 16 — Minister of Local Administration Abdul Qader Hilal,

who was also in charge of the reconciliation and reconstruction process in Sa'ada, resigned from all his duties two days ago.

He explained that he resigned after being subjected to denunciation, slanders and suspicion of his loyalty to his country by some bodies which he described as "corrupt and hypocrite and who aim to destabilize the president's trust".

"As the matter has become unbearable, I find myself obliged to resign from my post as Minister of Local Administration and I will continue to

be a faithful citizen forever," said Hilal in his letter he sent to the President. The president accepted his resignation and appointed Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Masri to temporarily fill in the position at the Ministry of Local Administration.

Hilal visited the Ministry on Sunday in his personal car and bid farewell to his colleagues and friends, who described the scene as upsetting and that, by his resignation, the Yemeni government has lost one of its most decent and faithful heroes.

President Saleh had last week ordered the intelligence services to investigate Hilal for charges of links with Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, head of the Houthi movement in Sa'ada and with the opposition. Hilal, who was in charge of the committee for reconciliation with the Houthis, was seen as successful and was duly respected by both sides. Hilal had already been subjected to past charges by some bodies in the

government which accused him of contacts with the opposition. Mass media supported by the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) had previously launched a campaign of criticism and scolds against Hilal, similar to the latest accusations that prompted him to resign.

He succeeded in stabilizing the crisis in Sa'ada for the last four years — something no one else was able to do — due to his good relations with both the Houthis and opposition. His success gave rise to envy, especially among those "war merchants" whose projects he put an end to, according to locals in Sa'ada.

Political analysts commented that charges against Hilal about his relations with Houthis and Islah Party, which is part of Muslims Brotherhood Movement, contradict each other as the two parties have contradictory ideologies and opposing political stands.



Abdul Qader Hilal

Continued on page 2

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## National program raises awareness of HIV testing and counseling

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Nov 15 — The National AIDS Control Program held an information symposium on HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT), at the training center of the Ministry of Health that was attended by a number of journalists and health workers.

Yemen's National AIDS Control Program estimates the current number of HIV positive patients in Yemen at 23,000. However, as of July 2008, only 2,431 cases of Yemenis being HIV positive have been reported.

In several counties, voluntary counseling and testing programs (VCT) have proven to be a positive method in preventing the spread of infection. "We promote VCT centers to help people learn their HIV status, increase the provision of HIV and provide those who are HIV positive with free medicine and counseling," said Ahmad Al-Dhubaibi, VCT officer at the National AIDS Control Program.

There are fourteen VCT centers in seven governorates, Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Dhamar and Mukalla.

The first HIV case in Yemen was discovered in 1987. There are only two HIV treatment centers in the country: Al-Jamhori Hospital in Sana'a and Al-Wahdah Hospital in Aden. Three other treating centers will be opened in Hodeidah, Taiz and Mukalla.

Dr. Abdulhameed Al-Suhaibi, man-



ager of the National AIDS Control Program, said: "In comparison with many other countries, the Yemeni government is more committed to supporting efforts to reduce the occurrence of AIDS."

Al-Suhaibi talked about the major role religious leaders and journalists can play in spreading AIDS awareness in society. "We still have a problem of stigma and discrimination against the HIV/AIDS patients in our society," he added. For people receiving information at VCT centers, HIV testing is optional and counseling is provided to help make the decision on whether or not to get tested. People are given comprehensive information about

HIV/AIDS, including transmission methods and the consequences of HIV infection as an individual and a member of society.

The counseling is on a one-to-one basis and is private and confidential. "We don't take clients' names, addresses or any personal details that may refer to his/her personality. We only use a code number for clients at VCT centers," says Al-Dhubaibi.

There are six VCT centers in Sana'a, Aden and Lahj which provide methods to prevent HIV mother-to-child transmission and reduce infection in the next generation. The success of preventing infection is 98 percent. The centers also provide treatment and care for women living with HIV.

Counseling, both prior and after taking the test, helps patients that are tested HIV-positive cope with the disease and live a normal life. For those who test negative, the counseling is aimed at further prevention measures. The VCT also has a hot line (175) dedicated for counseling, information and advice regarding HIV/AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases. VCT services also raise awareness among the most vulnerable people, like youth and sex workers, on how to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS.

"The more people that go to VCT centers, the less stigma and discrimination against people living with AIDS," Al-Dhubaibi concluded.

## Open day on training opportunities in India

By: Khalil Al-Khawbari  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Nov. 16 — Up to 550 Yemenis have benefited from the training opportunities provided by the government of India through the Indian Technical and Economical Cooperation Program popularly known as "ITEC".

An open day for the program was organized by the Indian embassy in Sana'a at the embassy's premises last Wednesday. Yemeni students and government employees given a scholarship or a training course in the field of their work in India were invited to the event to share their experiences.

India spends RS 500 million annually on the ITEC activities. Since 1964, it has provided over USD 2 million worth of technical assistance to developing countries. The government of India has been offering mid-career training courses to officials of the various ministries of the government of Yemen, academies and other organizations in a wide variety of subjects under the (ITEC) Program.

"ITEC is about cooperation and partnership for mutual benefits. It is response-oriented and it addresses the needs of developing countries," said

Indian ambassador R.M. Aggarwal.

"India is not a rich country and cannot offer grants-in-aid to match those of the developed countries. It does, however, possess skills of manpower and technology more appropriate to the geographical and ecological conditions and the stage of technological development of several developing countries," he added.

At present, 50 trainee boys and girls from the Republic of Yemen are sent to India every year, under the sponsorship of the government of India, to participate in one of the over 200 training programs offered by about 40 ITEC training institutions, in various parts of India, as part of the Indo-Yemen bilateral cooperation. According to the embassy, courses in big demand for Yemenis are Spoken English, IT, Journalism, Networking Design, Web Design, Oil and Gas Flow Measurement, Management of Bio-Medical Equipment and Food Processing.

Before 2005 Yemen received only 50 training grants every year through the ITEC program, the number has risen to 50 because of the increasing demand for such training.

Yet, the number of slots was described as "unconvincing" compared

to the capability of India by Hesham Sharaf, Yemeni deputy minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

"We look at the Indian government as a trade and investment partner and a partner in qualifying our staff as well," he said. There is an obvious demand to increase the number of grants for Yemen, and the popularity of the training courses is reflected in the feedback of Yemenis who have had the opportunity to take part in them.

"I have attended courses in Poland and Sweden, but the course of India was distinguished," said Fuad Al-Sabri, who was sent to India by the public telecommunication corporation to attend a training course in Financial Telecom.

He commented that Indians used more sophisticated technology and trainees get close exposure to all that is new in the field of telecommunication. "It is unfair that India is considered to be one of the developing countries," said Fuad. Nabil Al-Musawa, a trainee, said that the three-month course he took in India changed his life in general and improved his career.

"I came back a new person. Beside the professional skills, I learnt how to be practical and active, and all have enhanced my job performance," he said.

place for specialists to look at.

Al-Muflahi has also called on international organizations to help protect, restore and re-build the buildings of the historical town of Shibam in Hadramout. Some of the town's mud-brick buildings were destroyed during the floods, while others sustained permanent damage. Built in the 16th century, Shibam has been a UNESCO world heritage site since 2007.

### Minister of Local Administration resigns

However, the accusation of siding with the opposition, especially in the south, could be related to a report he had presented to the president jointly with Saleh Basurrah, Minister of Higher Education, regarding the illegal appropriation of lands in Aden. In what came to be known as the Hilal-Basurrah Report, they mentioned a number of influential personalities who had illegally appropriated public lands in Aden, which aroused the anger of the latter against them. President Saleh had already ordered to dismiss Hilal from his tasks in Sa'ada as head of the reconstruction committee two months ago, but retracted his order later because of wide public and official condemnation against such a decision, as Hilal is respected by the people inside and outside the government.

## Over 90 percent Yemenis favor anti-terrorism law, says survey

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Nov. 12 — The Yemeni Polling Center's opinion poll over terrorism conducted last October shows that 94 percent of Yemenis favor an anti-terrorism law.

The poll, conducted on a sample of 400 persons, male and female, from seven governorates- Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout, Mareb, Sa'ada, Dhalea- aims at determining attitudes towards enacting a law for fighting terror, highway attack crimes and kidnapping.

It also aims to examine to what extent Yemenis know what terrorism is and their opinion over penalties and measures against terrorists.

Although most people included in the survey were educated and some of them have higher degrees, only 42 percent of them know about terrorism. This percentage defines terrorism as killing, sabotaging, targeting the innocent, bombings, assassinations and violence.

When asked about the most important problem in Yemen, interviewees mentioned four pressing problems before terrorism, which came fifth in the survey. The high cost of living was the first concern for 23 percent, while poverty was most important for 20 percent of those interviewed. Up to 13 percent of those surveyed pointed to the economy as the main obstacle facing Yemen's development, 10 percent chose unemployment, but only 7.5 percent cited security and terrorism.

Head of the Yemeni Polling Center Hafez al-Bukari told the Yemen Times that the results were produced by interviewing Yemenis and asking them what they thought the first problem facing Yemen was. They were given no options to choose from and their

answers reflected their own experiences.

Corruption, which is one of the greatest problems in Yemen, ranked sixth with only 6.25 percent of respondents considering it a problem. These results, said al-Bukari, reflect people's unawareness of corruption.

In Sa'ada, the war torn governorate that is suffering the consequences of consecutive wars between Houthi rebels and the army, 30 percent out of 39 participants in the survey cited security and terrorism as Yemen's first problem. The widespread presence of arms was pointed to by 28 percent, while the country's image was designated by 12.8 percent.

Al-Bukari attributed this great difference to the unique situation of Sa'ada where most people think only about peace. Their ideas reflect the situation they live in, he said.

Seventy-five percent of those interviewed in the seven governorates affirmed their fear of terrorism in Yemen, while only 6.25 percent did not consider it to be an important problem.

However, the ratio decreases to 70 percent for those who are ready to cooperate with the government to fight terrorism. Of those interviewed, 21.5 percent said they were not ready to cooperate.

Unlike in governorates like Sana'a where terrorist acts have been more common, in the more stable governorates of Taiz, Aden and Hadramout, the ratio of interviewed people who were ready to stand with the government for fighting terror decreased. Eighty six percent of those surveyed in Sana'a said they were ready to cooperate with the government, while only 36.4 percent said so in Aden.

Although most of the population sampled did not know exactly what international treaties against terrorism signed by Yemen entailed, 70 percent of them supported the latter and considered them to be dealing with terrorism and fighting it.

Al-Bukari explained that the survey aimed to evaluate Yemenis' knowledge of such treaties and their support for them. According to him, the results reflected the extent to which they understand the law.

With regards to measures to be taken against Yemeni terrorists, the survey focused on penalties against those who lead gangs for kidnapping, blocking roads or vandalism. Sixty seven percent of those interviewed supported execution, while 14 percent supported life imprisonment.

As for penalties to be taken against foreign terrorists, 49 percent of the sample supported prosecuting foreign terrorists in Yemen as terrorists of Yemeni origin, while 14 percent support handing him over to authorities in his country.

When interviewed about suitable methods for dealing with kidnappers, 47 percent supported negotiation with kidnappers before military action against them, while 24 percent supported direct military force, and only 3 percent preferred tribal customs as a solution for settling matters with them.

According to Al-Bukari, this survey, conducted after an increase in terrorist acts in Yemen, aimed to know to what extent Yemenis need a law to protect them against terror.

He said that a demographically representative sample was selected in order to achieve clearer results and better analyze the data.

## Alleged USS Cole bombing mastermind pleads innocent

By: Kawkab Al-Thaibani  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Nov. 12 — The American lawyers of Abdul-Rahim Al-Nashiri, alleged mastermind of the October 2000 USS Cole bombing, stressed his innocence during a press conference held last Wednesday by HOOD, the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms.

Despite the order from the District of Columbia Court of Appeals to the U.S. government to disclose all evidence against the detainees, the U.S. has not complied with this order and has not revealed any evidence against Al-Nashiri, said Gerald Bierbaum, a volunteering American lawyer.

"In the USA, lawyers are trained to give people the benefit of presumption of innocence [being innocent until proven guilty]," said Richard Kammen, 62, a counselor at law, who has won 40 death penalty cases in the U.S. "If the U.S. has strong evidence, why do they have to hide it for four years? Why the fight [for them] to disclose it?" ask Kammen and Bierbaum. "I have been in cases when the prosecutor cannot wait to bring the evidence," Kammen added, "If there is overwhelming proof, why hide it?"

In November 2002, Al-Nashiri, who was allegedly the highest-ranking lieutenant of Bin Laden, was captured in the United Arab Emirates. He is currently in American military custody in the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, having previously been held at another secret location. On Sept. 29, 2004, he was sentenced to death in absentia in a Yemeni court for his role in the USS Cole bombing. His former lawyers from the Allawo law firm quit the trial because they said it was unfair.

When Kammen was asked about Al-Nashiri's health, he said that they are not allowed to reveal any details as one of the conditions of being the detainees' lawyers and being able to visit them at Guantanamo.

But Kammen said those attending the conference could probably imagine his condition after having been kept in jail for many years, and exposed to severe torture such as waterboarding. "You can imagine how it feels," he said.

The lawyers believe that Al-Nashiri's case is part of the bigger picture of the other prisoners in Guantanamo. Yemeni Guantanamo detainees are the most in number, amounting to 104, and only four of them have been brought before mili-

tary tribunals. Kammen said that the detainees had been kept in jail for many years, and it was time for them to return home to their families.

They also called for open and fair trials for the accused detainee in front of civilian court or criminal courts which abide to U.S. laws. Kammen said that he was not sure if Al-Nashiri could be acquitted in a civilian or criminal court, but thought that, if this court were open to the public and fair, his chances of release would be increased.

Kammen said that he cannot speak about the Yemeni government, but he believes that it wants its innocent citizens released.

Mohamed Naji Allawo, chairman of HOOD, questioned the reason behind Guantanamo Bay detainees of the other nationalities being allowed to return home, whereas Yemenis still have not. He believed that Yemen is looked upon as an inferior country due to the Yemeni government's lenient position.

Kammen added that the U.S. had asked the Yemeni government for guarantees -including a rehabilitation center for future Yemeni Guantanamo returnees- in part to reassure American citizens that the latter would not pose any future threat to local or international society. He explained that the U.S. was eager to keep up the image of dangerous Guantanamo detainees in order to cover up its mistake of detaining so many innocent people in the

military prison.

Both Kammen and Bierbaum believe the evidence to be brought by the U.S. government against Al-Nashiri to be "exaggerated," if not "made up" or "false". Like Salim Hamdan, who was believed to be the driver of Osama Bin Laden, Al-Nashiri is perceived by the U.S. as a very high-valued detainee, but there were no serious or concrete charges against him.

The lawyers are quite optimistic because, according to the U.S. press, newly-elected U.S. president Barack Obama has promised to shut down Guantanamo. "I think the next battle is where and how the trial will be held," said Kammen.

Bierbaum and Kammen worked for the case for two reasons: because they are against death penalty, and to expose the lies of the Bush administration.

"The bigger part is that what the Bush administration doing is one lie after another, if lawyers in the U.S. do not expose these lies, there will be serious power," said Richard Kammen.

The two lawyers came to Yemen when they gave up hope of seeing any evidence brought by the U.S. against Al-Nashiri. They announced during the conference that they are waiting for any information or evidence that will help. They will post their emails on the HOOD website to obtain any information that could help the case.

### Continued from page 1

#### Devastating agricultural damage in Hadramout and Maharah

In Maharah, not only have farms been washed away, but fishermen have also lost their livelihoods with almost 95 fishing boats and fishing equipment belonging to over 450 people lost in the floods, according to a report by the European Commission's Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The government has estimated losses in all sectors in Maharah have been estimated to reach YR 13.7 billion.

The Relief and Assistance Committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Interior Affairs, is due to present its final damage report to the government on Tuesday.

Earlier this month government statistic showed that the floods have killed 81 persons in the two governorates. This contradicts reports announced by the United Nations Supreme Commission for Refugees which put the figure of the killed people at 180 and the displaced at over 10,000.

The World Bank and United Nations reports last week estimated damage in the governorates to have reached nearly USD 1 billion.

#### International relief

International relief assistance to the inhabitants of both governorates has continued steadily this week with

donations in money and kind from international organizations and foreign governments.

So far over USD 120 million have been donated for relief efforts by various countries, organizations and individuals, in addition to millions worth of supplies.

#### Education impeded

About 180 schools were damaged by the floods, grounding education to a halt and leaving thousands of students idle, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Yemen. The problem is compounded by the fact that hundreds of families have taken refuge in 45 schools.

The head of Mukalla Education Office said it had been decided to close schools until a team assessed the damage. Seventy percent of the 42 schools in Mukalla, Hadramout's biggest district in which about 50,000 students are enrolled, were damaged, he said. There were 20,000 to 25,000 displaced people in Hadramout, half of whom were women and children.

#### Archeological discovery

Uncovered by last month's torrential downpour, a new archeological site has been discovered in the district of Nour in Seyoun, Hadramout. Minister of Culture Mohammed Abu Baker Al-Muflahi called on security forces to protect the site and urged civilians to leave any archeological findings in

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## In Brief

### French navy ship "Var" arrives Aden's seaport

ADEN, Nov. 15 (Saba) - The French Navy Ship "Var" arrived in the Aden seaport on Saturday.

The French warship's visit comes to reinforce the military cooperation between Yemen and France, particularly in areas of combating terrorism and piracy acts.

"Var" is one of the French military fleet located in the international waters of Arab sea.

The vessel, which is 158 meters in length, 22 meters in width, and 18,500 tons, has 167 crew and 25 officers.

### Yemeni oil revenues increased up to \$ 3.8 bln

SANA'A, Nov. 14 (Saba)- Yemeni revenues of oil increased up to \$ 3.8 billion during the third quarter of the current year compared \$ 2 billion in same period of last year , a report of central bank of Yemen said.

According to the report, reason of such increase was increase of production during this period to 35 million barrels as well as raise in price of oil.

The report said that the foreign assets of the Yemeni banking body raised up to YR 1.9 trillion until last September against YR 1.7 trillion for same period of 2007.

During third quarter of this year, the budget of the commercial and Islamic banks increased to YR 1.4 trillion compared YR 1.2 trillion last year.

### Parliament approves \$ 10.6 mln loan agreement

SANA'A, Nov. 15 (Saba)-The Parliament approved on Saturday the loan agreement which has been signed between the Yemeni government and International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD at sum of \$ 10.6 million .

The loan would be used for funding project of the rainfall agriculture and livestock wealth in the country.

The Parliament asked the government to present periodical reports on the work process in the project, and comply with recommendations of the parliament over this agreement.

### Panel court sentences Iranian drug smuggler to death

SANA'A, Nov. 15 (Saba)- The penal court sentenced on Saturday an Iranian to death and other 11 Iranians and a Pakistani 25 years in jail in charge of drugs smuggling and entering Yemeni waters illegally.

Headed by Judge Muhsan Alwan, the court found the first convict, Iyob Mohamed Hawt guilty sentencing him to death.

The court also issued jail sentences of 25 years each against 13 other Iranians and the Pakistani. The prosecution said it would appeal the sentences. The court asked to confiscate the boat which was carried drugs .

Last March, the Yemeni coastguards in cooperation with the international forces seized the boat that carried three tons of drugs.

### New version of reforms agenda to be discussed on Sunday

SANA'A, Nov. 15 (Saba)-An extended meeting would be held on Sunday chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation over new version of reforms agenda that will be carried out by the government in two coming years.

Saba learned that the several ministers will participate in the meeting that will discuss new version before sending it to the cabinet.

The new version contains five main tends; developing judiciary, modernizing civil service, economic reforms, combating corruption, and political participation and democratic development.

### Yemeni-Chinese agreement to grant parliament US\$ 300,000

SANA'A, Nov. 15 (SABA) - Yemen and China will sign an agreement, under which China grants USD 300,000 for supporting the Yemeni Parliament.

Director of Relations and Ceremonies at the Parliament Mohammed al-Matery told the ruling party-run al-motamar.net that the Chinese National People's Congress delegation includes 25 persons (Congress Members and others) will hold talk session with Yemeni Parliament's leadership to discuss the joint cooperation ties between the two legislative bodies.

On the sideline of the talks, the Chinese delegation will meet with several parliament's members.

### SEMC organizes seminar on risks of money laundering

SANA'A, Nov. 14 (Saba)- The Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) is organizing a seminar in Sana'a on "risks of money laundering on national economy" next Tuesday in cooperation

with cooperative and agricultural credit Bank (CAC Bank).

In a statement to Saba, head of the center Mustafa Nasr said that the seminar would focus on efforts exerted to combat money laundering inside and outside of the country.

Participants from the Central Bank of Yemen and National Committee of Combating Money Laundering, Banking Studies Institute and Sana'a University and CAC

Bank would present a clear view over efforts of Yemen in this regard.

Nasr expected that the seminar would come out with key recommendation to enhance awareness about risks of such act.

### Anti- polio national campaign to be launched next Monday

SANA'A, Nov. 14 (Saba)-Ministry of Public Health and Population is to launch a anti- polio national campaign next Monday. Minister of public health said.

Abdul-Kareem Rasa told Saba that the campaign targets 4.1 million children across the country, saying that the campaign comes within efforts of the government to make Yemen free from this various.

Some 40,000 health workers and volunteers will take part in the campaign, he said.

The minister added that the UNICEF will offer required vaccination for the campaign, calling on

preachers in Sana'a capital and other governorates, parents and local councils to cooperate with the teams to bring the campaign into success.

### Yemen coastguards seize 7 tons of drugs

SANA'A, Nov. 14 (Saba) - Yemen coastguards in coordination with the Forces of the International Alliance seized seven tons of drugs on a boat in the Yemeni regional waters near from Socatra Island, according to the media center of interior ministry.

On the other hand, the penal court is to sentence in the case of 13 Iranian sailors in charge of bring 3 tons of drugs to Yemen and interning Yemeni waters illegally. Last October, the court started trial of the 13 Iranians.

### 83 Somali refugees transported to Kharaz refugees camp

SANA'A, Nov. 14 (Saba)-Yemeni authorities have transported 83 Somali refugees to Kharaz refugees camp in Lahj governorate, the media center of

interior ministry said on Thursday .

Last week, the police in Taiz governorate transported 19 Somali refugees including seven women who were in Dhabab district of Taiz governorate to the camp in cooperation with the Red Crescent.

Other 64 have been transport recently from Bir Ali region in Shabwa governorate to the camp.

### Fund for Small Industries financed 1094 projects

SANA'A, Nov. 13 (Saba)-The Fund for Small Industries FSI offered loans for 1,094 projects during the period from January to September, 2008 at sum of around YR 939 million.

According to a report of the fund, Taiz governorate has first at 322 loans at amount of YR 302 million and then Sana'a governorate at 228 loans.

Since its establishment in 1991, the fund offered loans for 7,793 projects at sum of YR 5.2 billion.

### Security source declares campaign to prevent arms bearing continues

SANA'A, Nov.13 (Saba) – A security source declared on Thursday that the interior campaign will continue to prevent arms bearing in a code with the law.

The source pointed out what has been achieved in the prevention of arms bearing to reduces crimes and problems resulting from carrying weapons.

### Children Parliament discusses children kidnapping issue

SANA'A, Nov. 13 (Saba) - Children parliament is to hold its first session next Monday for discussing children kidnapping issues, the weekly 26 September reported on Thursday.

Head of the Democracy School Gamal al-Shami told the weekly that the session will address the issue of children kidnapping and its economic and social impacts, noting that the session will be attended by officials from the education ministry, Social Fund for Development and Hajjah governor.

Al-Shami said that the parliament members will discuss the children kidnapping phenomena and its reasons, indicating that they will come out with a comprehensive report assists the government in tackling the problem.

### Ibb launches workshop on family planning statistics

IBB, Nov. 12 (Saba)- In collaboration

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with UNFPA, Office of Public Health and Population launched on Wednesday a session on statistics and information on family planning and reproductive health for 25 medical cadres in each of the Capital Secretariat and the provinces of Saada, Hajjah, Jawf, Sana'a, Raymah, Hadramout and Hodeidah .

During the workshop, which will last for the three days, the participants will be acquainted with an overview on the importance of information system and health indicators, how to prepare and report on family planning, indicators of mother and child services and improvement of the health services in the medical services.

### Yemen, France to set up workshop on fine arts in Aden

ADEN, Nov.12 (Saba)- Cultural attaché at the French embassy to Sana'a agreed on Wednesday with officials of the Fine Arts Institute in Aden province to hold a workshop on fine arts and theater.

They discussed visit of the world French painter in December to submit

technical paintings of the Yemeni and French historical civilization.

The French cultural attaché listened to detailed explanations of artistic activity, music and theater in institute.

He expressed his satisfaction with the latest artistic development at the Fine Arts Institute.

### Chinese, Enma'a companies to build Housing Complex in AFZ

ADEN, Nov. 13 (Saba) - The Aden Free Zone (AFZ) chairman Abdul Jalil al-Shuaibi discussed with the two delegations a Chinese company and Enma'a Company for Real Estate Development the possibility of establishing a complex of Housing towers and commercial mall in the (J) sector at AFZ.

Al-Shuaibi has confirmed the importance of implementing the project rapidly, voicing AFZ's readiness to provide all facilities to support its accomplishment. The project will be implemented within 2009 by a Chinese company in cooperation with Enma'a Company.

## Their News

### UNESCO prize accepting nominations

Journalism organizations worldwide have until January 15 to nominate candidates for the 2009 UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize.

The prize will honor a person, organization or institution that has made a notable contribution to the defense and/or promotion of press freedom in the world, especially if risk is involved.

The winner will receive US\$25,000 during the World Press Freedom Day conference on May 3, 2009 in Qatar.

The nomination form must be completed in English or French and sent to UNESCO, Division for Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris, cedex 15, France.

For more information, contact s.coudray@unesco.org or visit <http://tinyurl.com/68bw55>.

### Arab journalists can submit articles on Arab women for award competition

Journalists across the Arab world are invited to take part in the 7th Competition for Best Press Articles on Arab Women and local governance. Deadline is December 31.

Organized by The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), the competition is in conjunction with the activities of the media campaign to promote the participation of Arab women in local governance.

The three best articles published on the subject of Arab women and local governance in 2007 and 2008 will be

selected. Winners will receive US\$1,500, US\$1,000, and US\$500 respectively.

The project is funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative. Awards will be given to the winners on March 8, 2009.

For more information, contact Ms. Salwa Ghazwani at: [adoonline@cawtar.org](mailto:adoonline@cawtar.org) or visit <http://www.cawtar.org/index/Lang/en-en/Topic/Competitions>.

### Foreign journalists can be nominated for the British Press Awards

An international award that will be presented as part of the British Press Awards in March, 2009, will honor a courageous foreign journalist who has battled oppression. Nomination deadline: January 23.

The winner of the International Journalist of the Year award will be chosen by the British Press Awards Academy of about 100 senior journalists.

Nominations must be sent by the Foreign Press Association and the World Association of Newspapers.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/563fh5>.

### Journalists can vote for best 'Every Human Has Rights' Award winner

The international media development organization Internews has announced the 30 winners of the Every Human Has Rights Media Awards, and is asking the public to vote on the most-eye opening report.

The awards were organized this year to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Among the 30 winners, a special award of US\$1,560 will be given to the top report.

The winners, whose stories explicitly refer to the human rights enshrined in the declaration, will be attending the campaign celebration in Paris on December 6, where they will receive a prize for their contribution. They will also get to meet human rights leaders, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chair of The Elders, a group of world leaders that tackles some of the world's biggest problems and is an avid supporter of the Every Human Has Rights campaign.

Deadline: 30/11/2008

Read the winning stories and cast votes at <http://media-awards.everyhumanhasrights.org/en>.

### Young journalists sought to contribute to One Young World blog

A new organization is seeking young journalists age 23-28 from around the world who are interested in national and international issues including current affairs, media and environment.

Chosen journalists will write a weekly blog for the organization's Web site, which is committed to finding leaders of the future. English preferred but all languages welcome. Chosen bloggers will have the opportunity to attend the inaugural summit of the organization - One Young World - in London, from July 6 to 9, 2009.

The One Young World summit will

be live-streamed to the Internet, and will consist of potential young leaders from every country in the world, and from all sectors, considering resolutions on the role of global business, of politicians, the influence of the media, the environment and co-operation among world religions. The Opening Ceremony will be led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

For more information, contact [natalie.trangmar@yougovstone.com](mailto:natalie.trangmar@yougovstone.com) with a brief bio and a writing sample.

### Prizes for journalists to honor truth-telling, social activism

The Fertel Foundation and The Nation Institute are now accepting applications for two Ridenhour Prizes, which recognize individuals whose acts have protected the public interest, promoted social justice or illuminated a more just vision of society. Nomination deadline is December 1. Two awards will be presented in memory of Ron Ridenhour - a journalist, whistleblower, truth-teller and social activist who died in 1998.

The Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling will be awarded to a whistleblower, an investigative journalist or an organization that has recently brought an important issue to light, and the Ridenhour Book Prize will be given to an author who in the view of the judges best reflects the legacy of Ridenhour.

For more information, visit [www.ridenhour.org](http://www.ridenhour.org), or contact Jayati Vora at [jayati@nationinstitute.org](mailto:jayati@nationinstitute.org). To apply, go to <http://www.ridenhour.org/forms.shtml>.

### "Industry, the Future of Yemen" Conference



Hadramout Chamber of Commerce will be organizing a conference titled "Industry, the Future of Yemen's Future" in Hadramout on 22 -23 of December in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Industrialists Association and Yemeni Businessmen Club.

As a result of the Chamber of Hadamout's Commerce delegation that had visited Malaysia previously, Malaysia will participate in kind in this conference.

The delegation was lead by Ahmed Abdullah Ba Taweel deputy chairperson of the chamber for industrial affairs and included Badr Mohammed Ba Salamh general manager of the chamber and conferences supervisor.

The Malaysian participation will include samples from the Center for quality and innovation to develop exports as well as depiction of the var-

ious industrial development phases and what Malaysian experts can provide for Yemeni industrial development.

The conference will also include presentation of five investment projects between the Hadramout chamber and the Malaysian center. A team of Malaysian experts will be arriving soon to help with the development of the general framework of the industrial development strategy of Yemen based on a request from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

During their visit to Malaysia, the chamber's delegation met Mahathir Mohammed former Malaysian prime minister and discussed with him the conference and inviting him to participate personally to which he responded positively, adding that he hoped this would lead to even further cooperation between the two countries especially in the field of industrial development.





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# Parliamentarian System is the solution to rid of the individual rule

**H**assan Zaid, secretary general of Al-Haq Party (Islamic), is a political radical activist. His party is affiliated with the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP). It is said that he holds the middle of the stick as he is neither a stubborn rival against the government neither an obedient to it. His party has faced a lot of obstacles as the government attempted many times to break it up for its stands toward Sa'ada war, its objection against spread of Wahabi belief under the name of "Salafia Institutes in Yemen" and for claiming reforms in the different fields of life in Yemen. He totally agrees with the other members of the JMP on the issues of the country whether in terms of the electoral system, combating corruption or changing the system of the current regime. He has independent visions toward many other issues. Yemen Times interviewed him about several serious issues that the country suffers from and his viewpoints toward them as well as the solutions to the crisis that Yemen leads.

**YT: There is a strong argument between the JMP and the ruling party regarding the electoral system. The JMP demands accreditation of the proportional list or the European Union recommendations whereas the ruling wants to impose the current system. How do you see the procedures of the government nowadays and what is your stand?**

SG: Our stand was made clear through the JMP Supreme Council in several statements. We reject all these procedures that the government has taken as they aim to impose the reality and reproduce the authority to the hands of the General People's Congress(GPC).

GPC is accustomed to imposing wrong things in every election and demands that its partners in the political life take them for granted through the stick policy, or rather carrot and intimidation policy. This policy aims to attract leaders of some effective parties or threaten them of creating and fabricating problems against them.

The JMP , in these elections, cannot respond to the GPC's dictations and I hope it will continue as it is. Therefore, either to conduct free and fair elections and guarantees be provided in this regard or the JMP will be forced to boycott.

Regarding the proportional list, we have a consent in Al-Haq party that constitution doesn't need any amendment in this regard. That is, we can accredit the proportional list without any amendment.

**YT: What about the European recommendations?**

SG: The GPC didn't uphold all the agreements that it was committed to. It only imposes itself on the other parties as a de facto regime.

**YT: But the European Union can exert pressure on the government to carry out the recommendations. It can stop support, for example.**

SG: In fact others including EU deal with the regime as a de facto and support it since it responds to their priorities and fairness of elections may rank only the bottom among these priorities.

**YT: what about the disagreements among the JMP members? Can you brief us on the nature of these disagreements and will they lead to disintegration if they aggravate?**

SG: Disagreements inside every party are more than disagreements among the JMP members. I don't think that these disagreements will lead to disintegration.

Disagreements between the JMP members, either on the supreme council level or among the field leaders are settled through quite and dialog. The contentious work and long meetings among the JMP members created a kind of confidence and joint viewpoints.

Sometimes, there are different interests or rather some stands impose

some considerations on a party without the others. For example, the Yemeni Socialist Party ,as a main partner in the establishment of the unification of the country and for its historical relations with the southern governorates as well as for its strong grassroots in the south, has to consider this reality and respond to it.

A specific situation was imposed on the Islah Party ,which has a big weight in the political arena, due to absence of sheikh Abdulla bin Hussien Al-Ahmar as a source of protection and communication channel with the president of the country. This situation made the party more sensitive to responding to reality than any other party.

**YT: Violence and activities that are going on in the south may lead to a political and humanitarian disaster. In your point of view, are they demands or political activities? And what are the suitable options to solve this crisis?**

Amid the government's dominance on all the production means and supply resources, these activities become political demands. Most citizens of the south governorates who would work with the socialist regime before unification were not allowed at that time to have their own capitals. Therefore, they depended mainly on the government to get their living. But after the unification and mainly after the civil war in 1994, they were exiled from both the government and public jobs due to the excessive centralization. The main income of the government became restricted to Sana'a and a little amount of it is distributed in the south and east governorates. Those who are in Sana'a are happy and those who are close to the regime are either on top of a revenues authority, military unit, security institution or a trader working for the capitalists of the authority, and these are the happy people.

Unfortunately, citizens of the south governorates are still isolated from employment authority and , consequently, they are deprived from their rights in the social security.

Furthermore, those people didn't have houses or real estates in the security register as lands and real estate were the property of the socialist regime in the past. Soon after the civil war, this property was distributed among the influential and this aroused sensitivity . There is no doubt that they have the right to feel all this oppression and dominance because they handed over a state and got nothing except security tracing and deprivation from any revenues.

**YT: We realize that unification must remain but if the government persist on neglecting these rights and ignores touching facts, what is the solution to such a crisis?**

SG: Not only is the unification threatened but also Yemen as a country and people including us. Feeling citizenship within the Yemeni

or Arab citizens generally is not so high that we can say they will keep the unification of the land or country. If the situation continues as its now, the country may turn to be similar to Somalia.

Now Somalia passed the period of acute tribal conflict but some powers which can at least maintain the existence of the country appeared to the surface. But here in Yemen, we cannot guarantee the existence of even ten villages or Yemeni tribes and, therefore, if the government doesn't undertake its responsibility in maintaining the stability of the country through serious and honest treatment, it will ,unfortunately, lead Yemen to a situation similar to Somalia or more.

**YT: What about Sa'ada crisis? Five wars has taken place since June 2004, and president Saleh declared end of the war. Do you think that the government aims to stabilize the situation until the upcoming elections are over and then return to war again, or do you think there are other visions that we don't understand?**

SG: I wish that the situation will continue as it is at least until elections are over. The government is unable to tackle the effects of the war- the economic and developmental effects. Even if money is provided, the mechanisms of the government disables it to deliver the compensations to the eligible people due to multi-powers that affect the decision-making in Sa'ada. Hence, feeling injustice and oppression inflames the negative feelings toward the government.

The main problem is that a decision to stop war was taken but no decision was taken to end the problem as the detainees remain imprisoned. It seems that it is merely a truce and that the war may resume and take other forms. It may end to military confrontations as usual for it starts with a spark and then escalates until all of us feel horror. Unfortunately, it seems that the government is not consent to close the Sa'ada file.

**YT: It is said that Yemeni centers of powers affiliated with foreign bodies play role in this issue to destabilize the security in Sa'ada and other governorate including the south. What do you think?**

Dominance of Salafi and Jihadi powers will represent a danger if Saudi Arabia fails to control it. I don't think that Saudi Arabia is responsible for what is going on but those who create problems in Yemen aim to attribute them to Saudi Arabia and arouse its concerns.

In my viewpoint, Saudi Arabia doesn't want war in Sa'ada particularly given that decision of war and peace is definitely made by Yemen. Our problem is that we still attribute our problems to others as if we were mercenaries who run wars for the others. We accused Iran and Libya although they are too far from what is going on in Sa'ada.

**YT: Last issue, we published an interview with Saleh Habra about the aids and support for Sa'ada. He said that there was ten billion Yemeni Riyals for Sa'ada and that five billion of this amount was provided for electricity corporation and three billions for repairing the roads. The rest(two billion riyals) was allocated to amend schools . All these reforms will take place in areas in Sa'ada where war didn't take place. More than 50 thousand food units including rice, oil and flour were seized by some influentials from the leadership of the ruling party. How do you see the current humanitarian situation there?**

SG: The government deals with Yemen and Yemeni people to beg through them and get rid of those who

rebel. The authorities used excessive force –according to the international expression- to hit residential areas such as Harf Sufian and Dhahian cities. So, how can they allow the humanitarian aid or Medicines Sans Frontiers to reach the areas?

**YT: It is sure that the Yemeni crisis results from lack of political will to reform due to procrastination that the government or the ruling party follows. How do see the situation of Yemen and what are the solutions to this crisis that the country leads on both the economic and political levels?**

SG: We live in a nightmare and we wish that the government would wake up amid absence of security and corruption in the judiciary system. What is worse is that we face the problems that we encounter by aggravating them through creating conditions that complicate them such as supporting the Jihadists sect.

**YT: Let's now move to the issues of terrorism. In a past interview with a former ,minister of Interior, he had told me that 34 thousands of Arab Afghan and Yemenis came to Yemen before the 1994 war based on a recommendation from Turki Al-Faisal, in charge of Saudi Intelligence at that time, ad participated in the war under leadership of leaders close to the government. After the war was over, they turned to form Aden Abyan Islamic Army and other organizations. In your opinion, who is responsible for this big number of terrorists in Yemen?**

SG: The government created cels of terrorism in Yemen. I hope that terrorism in Yemen is restricted to the groups that can be controlled. Now, terrorism tends locally and Salafi Jihadists are enabled by decisions from the Ministry of Awqaf and security protection to build mosques and schools in the populated areas where people may turn to be terrorists in a short time .

Unfortunately, some officials in the government think that they are more intelligent than the world through creating a problem called "terrorism" so that the world keeps satisfied with them as long as they are able to overcome it.

**YT: In your opinion, who is behind them and who supports them?**

SG: They are supported by foreign and local capitals. For example, the Salafia movement in the Gulf region and the Arab Peninsula as well as capitalists in Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries stood against secularism and polytheism. Some other institutions supported the Jihadi movement, perhaps through a US agreement. America produces terrorism as it produces biological and chemical missiles. May be, it will re-use them in China and India as they are contesting countries in the future. You can notice that terrorist attacks are increasing in India and nearly in China.

**YT: I met the Indian Minister of Foreign Affairs in New Delhi. He said that the entrance of Wahabi movement to India created a real crisis as it destroyed religious harmony and tolerance and created an unprecedented atmosphere. He said that the biggest crisis in India is the Wahabis. What do you think?**

SG: That is true because they [wahabis] prompt people to fear Islam although Islam would spread before September 11 attacks. We are afraid from Jihadists more than the East. Once, I listened to an interview with a Yemeni man who was arrested in Iraq while he was heading toward a primary school in Baghdad to carry out a suicide bombing. You can imagine how this man thinks in his jihad.



Hassan Zaid

**YT: Regarding corruption in Yemen. We all know that corruption has extorted in all units and centers of the government including education and health sectors. How do you think corruption can be combated ? Or rather what are the reasons that created or deepened corruption in Yemen?**

SG: There is no model in Yemen that is not corrupt. I think that Yemenis have to realize that the money that they get by exploiting their jobs is illegal and , therefore, corrupt people should be dealt with on this basis.


**YT: You in the JMP demanded that the parliamentarian system replace the presidential system. Do you still demand that?**

SG: The main guarantee for wider participation of Yemeni powers is the parliamentarian system as the framework of government as a whole

shouldn't allow any individual rule. We also demand the proportional list and , consequently, we can avoid individual rule. With the parliamentarian system, there is no place for the individual rule and the government cannot be overwhelmingly in the hand of an individual or a party . On the contrary, I think that a party or group cannot form the government alone because the government will be as a coalition, the same as the parliamentarian systems in Britain.

**YT: Do have a final word to say?**

SG: Yes. I call on all the reasonable people inside and outside Yemen to bailout the country as Yemen may turn to be worse than Afghanistan. The situation that we are living will produce only clashing tribes. Unfortunately, rulers, in spite of the interests they gained, haven't realized yet that a state of law and system should be maintained.

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## Travelport GDS announces new distributor relationship in Yemen

Travelport GDS, one of the world's leading global distribution system (GDS) providers operating both the Galileo and Worldspan brands, announced today that it has signed an agreement with Universal Travel, to distribute the Galileo GDS in Yemen from 1 January, 2009. The partnership follows Travelport's recent announcement of a multi-million dollar (US) investment in the Middle East, to set up a new, highly efficient direct support network for travel agents in the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and redefine distributor relationship in selected countries, including Yemen.

Galileo has established itself as the leading GDS provider in Yemen over the past 17 years, with a market share of 54 per cent (MIDT data, July, 2008). The partnership with Universal Travel, part of the Universal Group, will begin when Galileo's contract with Yemen Airways, its current distributor in the country, expires at the end of 2008.

"The partnership forged today marks an important milestone for



Travelport as we set up our new operations in the region," Rabih Saab, Travelport GDS' Vice President of the Middle East and Africa. "With a 25 year track record and unrivalled knowledge of the Yemeni travel market, Universal Travel is uniquely qualified to help us to serve our customers in this market more efficiently."

"Galileo is the leading GDS system in the market, and we are very much looking forward to partnering with Travelport to serve travel agents and suppliers who rely on the efficiency of Galileo," stated Omar Mohammed,

Vice Chairman and Group Managing Director for Universal Travel. "We look forward to a long and successful partnership and to rolling out new and innovative products in the region."

Over the past year, Travelport GDS has increased its presence in the Middle East with the acquisition of Worldspan, which has a well-established and successful business in several key markets and a wholly-owned operation in Egypt. Travelport GDS has also opened a new, state-of-the-art office in Dubai and has made several key management appointments across the region.

"The Middle East is a dynamic region for travel and one which will continue to grow considerably over the coming years. We firmly believe that by enhancing our relationships with effective distributors in select markets such as Yemen coupled with building more substantial, wholly-owned operations across the region, we will be well positioned to augment our business in this important region," continued Saab.

### About Travelport GDS

Travelport GDS is one of the world's largest global distribution system (GDS) providers operating both the Galileo and the Worldspan brands, providing real-time travel information and booking capabilities to online and offline travel agencies in over 145 countries. It also operates Business Intelligence which provides marketing and other critical data to the industry, and includes its Shepherd Systems subsidiary; and IT Services & Software, which offers mission critical reservations, related software and services management to the world's leading airlines. Travelport GDS is a convergence of traditional and online travel distribution services that empower airlines, travel suppliers, travel agencies, Web sites and corporations to provide informed choice to travelers on a global platform. Travelport GDS is a division of Travelport, one of the world's largest service providers to the travel industry. More information is available at [travelportgds.com](http://travelportgds.com)

### About Universal Travel

Universal Group was established in 1983, and today it has 9 fully owned companies, three joint ventures, four franchise operations, 8 airline representations, the ownership and management of 6 hotels, and 40 offices in 8 cities throughout the country. Easily the largest travel group in Yemen. Universal Travel is the pioneer in offering corporate travel and the nation's leader in corporate account management. It is also the largest inbound tour operator in Yemen. It represents a wide range of premium travel industry brands, such as Hertz, DHL, Gullivers Travel Associates Carlson Wagonlit Travel etc. More information is available at <http://www.universalyemen.com>

## Suzuki announces launch of new compact car Splash in Japan

Suzuki Motor Corporation has announced the Japanese launch of the Splash, a user-friendly new compact car that combines brisk performance with outstanding roominess and comfort. The Splash, which is Suzuki's fourth world strategic model, was unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September 2007 and has earned high praise since going on sale in Europe this spring. The Splash is built in Hungary by Suzuki production subsidiary Magyar Suzuki and is the first Suzuki-branded model to be imported into Japan.

Suzuki created the Splash using a platform based on that of the Swift, which is renowned for its high level of driving performance. It newly developed the engine, body, chassis, and seats and tuned them through extensive road tests in pursuit of world-class performance, handling, and ride comfort.

The Splash has a youthful exterior design that's also the result of extensive research. A tall body enables the Splash to be compact on the outside but roomy on the inside, allows people to step in and out with ease, and realizes great passenger- and luggage-carrying convenience.



SABEHA TRADING COMPANY

شركة سابعه للتجارة



## CCC donates 200 thousand dollars for flood disaster relief

Consolidated Contractors Company donated 200 thousand dollars - around 40 million Yemeni Riyals- to contribute to the relief efforts in Hadramout and Al-Mahar governorates post the flooding last month.

Hani Shihada regional director of the company in Yemen said that this donation has been transferred to the Flood Relief account at the Central Bank in an attempt to help the victims of the flood and as an expression of compassion and support to them during such hard times.

He added that CCC has a long history with Yemen as a country and leader and will not hesitate in contributing to the welfare and development of the country and its people. CCC has contributed over decades of development and economic projects to foster the Yemeni economy.

The company's leadership and its staff would like to extend their heart felt condolences to all Yemeni people and its wise leadership praying that Yemen is always a safe country living in stability and prosperity.

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهدبها للشباب الخلاق /  
**مازن عبد الغني السقاف**  
 بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف  
 قائل ألف مبروك  
 المعنونه :  
 كافة موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز وجميع الاهل والاصدقاء

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهدبها محملاً بالقل والرياحيه للأخ /  
**إبراهيم صالح القشيط**  
 بمناسبة دخولة القفص الذهبي  
 . قائل ألف مبروك  
 المعنونه :  
 أ / المقداد مجلي - فايف التام - سليم العايبي - كمال عامر - محمد عامر - عبد الله مجلي - عبد الله جفمان - إبراهيم جفمان - كافة الاهل والاصدقاء

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهدبها محملاً بالقل والرياحيه للأخ /  
**نزيره محمد عقان**  
 بمناسبة الخطوبة  
 . قائل ألف مبروك  
 المعنونه :  
 مصطفى الحيدري - كافة موظفي بنك التضامن الاسلامي فرع حوض الاشرف - كافة الاهل والاصدقاء

بيت القعود يستقبل الحارث  
 أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهدبها للمقاوم /  
**أبو الحارث يحيى القعود**  
 بمناسبة ارتقاء المولود الجديد الذي اسماه  
**الحارث**  
 قائل ألف مبروك  
 المعنونه :  
 والدك الحاج / أحمد القعود - إخوانك / م / مطهر ود / فاضل و / الشيخ / حفيظ و / م / زيار و / فهد و / مختار و / أبو الزبير محمد القعود وهي معطرة بالقل والياسمين من أ / رشيد السقاف

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهدبها محملاً بالقل والرياحيه للأخ /  
**فهد عبده عثمان الزبيري**  
 بمناسبة الخطوبة قائل ألف مبروك  
 المعنونه :  
 الكابتين طيار / عبده حفيظ الزبيري - الشيخ / محمد أحمد العبدوروي - الشيخ / اسحاق العبدوروي - اسحاق العبدوروي - وسام أحمد السقاف مدير وموظفي الشركة العالمية للتجارة والاستثمار المحدودة



# Jordan ambassador to Yemen Times: “It is our aim to help Yemen become a more prosperous country”

Ambassador Ahmed A. Jaradat was appointed as Jordanian ambassador to Yemen in 2005. Since then, he has made tremendous efforts to improve the relationship between the two countries not only politically and economically, but also through educational exchange and cooperation in the medical and tourism sectors.

Prior to his voluntary posting to Yemen, he was working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jordan. Nadia Al-Sakkaf met H.E. for the following interview.

**Between 2005 and today there has been a quantum leap in the size of trade exchange between Yemen and Jordan. How did this happen?**

In 2007, we started importing crude oil from Yemen and this is why the size of imports from Yemen has increased from JD 2.78 million in 2005 to JD 38.04 million in 2007. Beside oil we also import fish and agricultural products. We have also increased the size of exports to Yemen from JD 23.72 million in 2005 to JD 32.28 million in 2007. Most of our exports are medicines and plastics. During the last three years, the embassy has worked hard on elevating the demand for Jordanian medicines in the Yemeni market from the 14<sup>th</sup> position to number five of the most popular and reliable medicines. This has meant an increase of over JD 10 million in the last three years.

During the latest meeting of the Yemeni-Jordanian Joint Higher Committee, its 13<sup>th</sup> session organized in August in Amman, Yemen and Jordan signed 17 cooperation agreements in the form of executive programs, protocols and memoranda of understanding in a number of joint cooperation fields. It is our aim to help Yemen become a more prosperous country.

**Despite this drastic increase, there has been criticism from Jordanian officials at the committees' sessions that the trade exchange could be improved?**

This is true. We tried to negotiate with the Yemeni government for a bilateral Free Trade agreement that would dra-

matically facilitate the size of trade exchange. However, the Yemeni government has explained that they cannot yet go ahead with such agreement until accession to the World Trade Organization has taken place or at least a similar regional agreement is in force. The reason behind this is that a good percentage of the Yemeni revenues come from taxation and if they cannot sign such agreements without adequate improvements in the national economy or generation alternative income, the delay which is comprehensible.

**Is Jordan doing anything to help Yemen on the economical front strategy wise?**

We have been working closely with the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Investment Authority. We invited a number of officials to visit Jordan and learn from our experience especially with regards to the one-stop-shop investment system. Through this system investors would not have to go through a lot of paper work and their business licensing in the country would be greatly simplified. We did not hold back any information and in fact we have sent our own experts to help create a similar system in Yemen.

We also worked with the other ministries to improve the Yemeni human capacities and hence enhance the national production. For example, every year we host 100 midcareer doctors to have internships in top quality Jordanian hospitals all around the kingdom. We also provide many education-

al scholarships and facilitate the education of self-sponsored Yemenis in Jordan. Today we have over 3,000 Yemeni students in various Jordanian universities compared to 1,500 Jordanians studying in Yemen. We have also started recently providing higher education grants, and so far every year we sponsor the Masters and PhD of two students.

Moreover, we provide many scholarships and training for technical and vocational education. We have seen that there are many opportunities in Yemen and what lacks is developing human capacity. This is why you will find that many of our educational cooperation programs with Yemen are related to training and not construction as per say.

**What about the Jordanian-Yemeni University to be established in Aden?**

This is yet another example of our strong cooperation with Yemen. The university has already been established and we hope that education will start from the coming academic year 2009/2010. The university's capital of USD 10 million is equally funded by the Jordanian and Yemeni governments and is supervised by the Yemeni-Jordanian Educational Company. Syllabus, books and all academic staff will be provided according to Jordanian university standards and we hope that through this university we can contribute to the educational system in Yemen and provide the country with qualified graduates.

We are even considering the creation of a high school of a similar nature so that the products of this school will automatically find place at the university. We have already signed a memorandum of understanding with the Minister of Education regarding this school.

**Just recently and according to Yemen's Ministry of Health, many Yemenis' first choice for medication has changed from Egypt to Jordan although the latter is known to be a**

**more expensive. How did this happen?**

Tourism in general is divided into three parts: recreational, religious and medical. I wanted to help Yemenis identify what is best for them with regards to long-term prosperity. I am proud to say that Jordan has very advanced medical care and is comparable to many highly developed western countries in this regard. Therefore, our medical system is more qualified to provide accurate and helpful medical service in a shorter time. Instead of spending weeks and having to come back again after a few months for review, our hospitals help patients within a few days and in a very efficient way. I have heard of many Yemenis expressing their gratitude with the health care we provide. Sometimes, if the patient is too ill to be helped, the doctors are honest and tell the patient's family to take their relative home instead of spending money on a hopeless case. This does not happen in many other countries and the family often loses a lot of money and time without much use.

Since 2004, we have increased the medical service from Jordan to Yemen, including exporting Jordanian-made medicines to Yemen, by at least 60 percent. We also provide grants for medical treatment mostly in cases of heart diseases and cancer. We have increased the number of slots given to the Ministry of Health to 65 in addition to five medical treatment grants to the Ministry of Interior.

**You have also initiated a new agreement with the Ministry of Endowment. Could you tell us about this?**

I have tried to improve relations and cooperation between Yemen and Jordan on so many levels, and it would not be surprising to include religious agreements in the process. In a few days, our Minister of Endowment will be visiting Yemen to participate in the inauguration



H.E. Jordan Ambassador to Yemen Ahmed Jaradat

of the Saleh Mosque. We also have bilateral agreements on training and exchange of expertise with the ministry and we hope to be of help in the establishing of the Sharia College affiliated with the Saleh Mosque.

More so, Jordan has provided Yemen with a state-of-the-art mobile laboratory to help restore the ancient Yemeni manuscripts. This lab is run by Jordanian experts and moves around the country providing support in maintaining Yemeni history and its rich scripture legacy. The laboratory has been so successful that restored documents are in amazing shape, which hopefully will allow them to be studied and seen by many more generations to come.

We have also arranged for high-level Jordanian delegations in media, construction and other sectors to visit the country soon, and hopefully more cooperation would result from these visits.

**What about military relations, especially since the two countries have had a long history of political and military cooperation?**

We have had several military delegations exchange visits. Just last year, chief of Jordan's special operations command, Brigadier General Jamal Al-Shawabkeh visited Yemen. And the Yemeni General Brigades Authority for training and academic establishments'

director Ali Saeed Obaid travelled to Amman last August this year.

Our experts visited the machinery grave yard in Nuqum last year and resurrected dead machinery to make them operational. It was a display of what we can do for both military and civilian projects in Yemen.

Jordan has one of the most developed military systems in the region in terms of high quality equipments and training. The King Abdullah II Design and Development (KADDB) Bureau provides both military and civilian facilities and services and covers the Jordan market as well and assists other countries such as Yemen in military and civilian quests.

Representing the defense 'think tank' for Jordan and the technology partner of choice for the Middle East and North Africa, the bureau's experts have visited Yemen on several occasions and demonstrated how they can help Yemen's military and civilian projects.

KADDB showcased its latest products of military and civilian machinery in the Special Forces Operations Defense Exhibition SOFEX 2008, between March and April this year. SOFEX 2008 is said to have been the largest Special Operations and Homeland Security Exhibition and Conference to date in the Middle East and North Africa Region.

## Nexen Inc. announces extension of post-secondary scholarships program for Yemeni students

Nexen Inc. is pleased to announce that it will extend its scholarship program to offer ten additional scholarships to Yemeni students to undertake post-secondary studies in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This will be the 11th year that Nexen will offer these scholarships to Yemeni students to complete a four-year degree at either the University of Calgary or SAIT Polytechnic.

In 1997, Nexen celebrated ten years of operations in Yemen by developing a scholarship program directed in disciplines critical to the country's economic growth and development. Each scholarship includes the provision of tuition, books, accommodation, meals, health care insurance, monthly living allowance and annual travel to Yemen. The first ten scholarships were awarded in 1998 and a total of 100 Yemeni students have been awarded scholarships to date. A total of 44 students have so far graduated from the program from disciplines including engineering, business, economics, and medicine.

"We're proud to continue this successful initiative," said Charlie Fischer, Nexen's President and CEO. "The students in the program are outstanding not only in what they achieve academically but also in the way they act as ambassadors for their country in Canada."

Nexen's Yemen Scholarship Program is a merit-based, equal opportunity initiative. The qualifying criteria and academic screening process ensure that only the most qualified students receive awards. "Transparency in our selection process is the key to our program's success and longevity," said Gregor Mawhinney, Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen's (CNPY) President and General Manager. "It ensures that only the most qualified candidates receive awards."

It is also significant that the scholarship program enhances opportunities for women. Today, approximately 30 per cent of the scholarship recipients are female in contrast to 10 per cent in the early days of the program. In addition, students from rural areas are encouraged to apply. "We have awarded numerous scholarships to high-achieving students from different areas of the Republic of Yemen, including the Hadhramout Governorate where our Company's production facilities are located," said Ali Sohaiki, Executive Director of CNPY.

More information on the scholarship program, including qualifying criteria, can be viewed on Nexen's website ([www.nexenincc.com](http://www.nexenincc.com)). Recruitment will begin in mid-November with a call for applications being published in major newspapers throughout Yemen. Applications can be obtained in person at AMIDEAST offices in Sana'a, Aden, and Mukalla or downloaded from Nexen's and AMIDEAST's websites ([www.amideast.org](http://www.amideast.org)). The final scholarship recipients will be announced in January 2009.

## إعلان نكسن انك عن تمديد برنامج المنح الدراسية الجامعية للطلاب اليمنيين

يسر شركة نكسن انك أن تعلن عن تمديد برنامج المنح الدراسية لتقديم عشر منح دراسية إضافية للطلاب اليمنيين للدراسة الجامعية في جامعة كالجري - البرتا- كندا. وهذا يعد العام الحادي عشر الذي ستقدم فيه الشركة منح دراسية للطلاب اليمنيين لاستكمال الدراسة للحصول على درجة جامعية إما في جامعة كالجري أو معهد جنوب البرتا متعدد التقنيات.

في عام ١٩٩٧م احتفلت نكسن انك بمناسبة مرور عشر سنوات على عملياتها في اليمن من خلال تطوير برنامج منح دراسية موجه من حيث التخصصات الدراسية وهام بالنسبة للنمو الاقتصادي في اليمن. وتشمل كل منحة دراسية رسوم الدراسة والكتب والسكن والوجبات والتأمين للرعاية الصحية وبدل معيشة شهري والسفر إلى اليمن سنوياً. تم تقديم العشر المنح الدراسية الأولى في عام ١٩٩٨م وبلغ إجمالي عدد الطلاب الذين درسوا ضمن هذه المنح الدراسية حتى الآن ١٠٠ طالباً وطالبة. وقد تخرج إلى الآن عدد ٤٤ طالباً وطالبة ضمن هذا البرنامج في تخصصات دراسية شملت الهندسة وإدارة الأعمال والاقتصاد والطب.

قال السيد/ تشارلي فيشر الرئيس والمدير التنفيذي الأول لشركة نكسن انك: "إننا فخورون باستمرار هذه المبادرة الناجحة" وقال أيضاً: "إن الطلاب في برنامج المنح الدراسية يتميزون ليس فقط فيما يحرزونه في المجال الأكاديمي فحسب بل فيما يقومون به من دور كسفراء بلدهم في كندا".

يعتمد برنامج المنح الدراسية المقدم من شركة نكسن على الاستحقاق وهو مبادرة لتكافؤ الفرص، بحيث تضمن معايير التاهيل وعملية المفاضلة الأكاديمية أنه يتلقى الطلاب الأكثر تاهيلاً فقط لتلك المنح، إذ يقول السيد/ جريجور ماويني الرئيس والمدير العام لشركة كنديان نكسن بتروليم يمن: "إن الشفافية في عملية الاختيار لدينا هي المحك الرئيسي لنجاح وديمومة برنامجنا"، وقال أيضاً: "إن برنامج المنح الدراسية يحرص على اختيار المرشحين الأكثر تاهيلاً".

إنه من الأهمية بمكان أن نذكر هنا أن برنامج المنح الدراسية يعزز الفرص لدى الإناث، اليوم تبلغ نسبة الإناث اللاتي حصلن على المنح الدراسية ٣٠٪ مقارنة بنسبة ١٠٪ في الأيام الأولى من البرنامج، إضافة إلى حث الطلاب من المناطق الريفية على التقدم للمنح الدراسية. يقول الأستاذ علي السحبيقي المدير التنفيذي لشركة كنديان نكسن بتروليم يمن: "لقد قمنا بتقديم العديد من المنح الدراسية للطلاب ذوي المستوى العالي من مختلف مناطق الجمهورية اليمنية، بما في ذلك محافظة حضرموت التي تقع فيها منشآت الشركة الإنتاجية".

يمكن الاطلاع على المزيد من المعلومات حول برنامج المنح الدراسية بما في ذلك معايير التاهيل للمنح على الموقع في شبكة الإنترنت الخاص بشركة نكسن وهو: ([www.nexenincc.com](http://www.nexenincc.com)) حيث سيبدأ تلقي الطلبات في منتصف شهر نوفمبر ٢٠٠٨م من خلال نشر الإعلان لتقديم الطلبات في معظم صحف الجمهورية اليمنية. يمكن الحصول على طلبات التقديم شخصياً من مكاتب إيميدست في كل من صنعاء وعدن والمكلا أو الحصول عليها من موقع شركة نكسن وموقع معهد إيميدست ([www.amideast.org](http://www.amideast.org)). وسيتم الإعلان عن الفائزين بالمنح الدراسية في شهر يناير ٢٠٠٩م.





## Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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

OUR  
OPINIONThe importance  
of a national  
local governance  
strategy

Yemen is one of the first countries in the Arabian Peninsula to have moved towards a decentralized system, both administratively and financially. Yet, although the local administration law was issued in 2001, many bureaucratic and cultural handicaps in government and its various agencies have not allowed it to be implemented.

Ali Abdullah Saleh's presidential campaign stressed the importance of giving more authority to local administrations. Slowly, this concept has been pushing its way forward, especially through efforts of the Ministry of Local Administration and members of the cabinet.

The problem facing transition is twofold. First is the lack of classification or exact job descriptions to define the capacities and limits of different authorities on the central and local levels. The line between the roles and authorities of the central governance system and local government organizations in practice is very blurred, and explains the mixing of roles as well as the many arguments resulting from it.

The second issue is the nature of both the governing system and civil society. People in authority are having trouble yielding power and allowing others to be real partners in decision making and implementation. At the same time, civil society is reluctant to embrace its new role as partner and to hold the system accountable to them as representatives of the community.

The journey of civil society organizations in Yemen has gone through three phases since the early seventies when they were just considered as charities giving direct aid to the poor. Civil society made the transition from mere aid providers to development organizations that helped local communities generate income by learning skills and improving their capacities.

Today, civil society is venturing into its third phase. Civil society organizations nowadays not only provide aid and build capacity, but are also tools for social change and empowerment. They are considered to be a partner in governance and hence are the voices of the communities in their demand for a better environment or in reflecting what they believe the priorities of national policies should be.

It is quite essential to support the Local Administration Ministry today in its endeavor towards an effective decentralized system. Government agencies, civil society and donors should focus their attention on this strategy and assist the transition process because this is the way forward for Yemen's development and stability on all fronts.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Economic, social and political effects of corruption

By: Zeyad Arabiya

Corruption has changed from a phenomenon into a system and a lifestyle in many developing states. And, it was normal for spread of such irresponsible phenomenon to have negative impacts on all the economic, social, political and cultural situations in developing countries.

Determining how corruption negatively affects economies of developing states may help increase awareness among people of these states, as well as encourage the various political parties and organizations and syndicates in the society to curb this phenomenon and punish corrupt individuals.

There are various scores on the heavy costs of corruption and its

negative impacts on development. The World Bank and United Nations estimated illegal earnings from corruption, crimes and tax evasion at \$ 1.6 trillion, which constitutes 3 – 5% of the global economy. From its side, Transparency International, concerned with monitoring corruption practices and efforts to combat the phenomenon, highlighted in its 2005 Report on Global Corruption that methodological corruption in general and purchase departments increases government's costs by 20 – 25% and reduces quality of goods and public services.

In its report for 2002, the African Union estimated losses of the African economy at over \$ 149 billion a year, which is equivalent to 25 percent of gross domestic product for all African states. When it comes to the Arab world, a World

Bank's development report, issued in 2005, indicated that nearly \$ 300 million are subjected to looting and embezzlement in the Arab region, thereby leaving negative impacts as follows:

## Types of corruption in Yemen

The most common types of corruption in the country are bribery, money laundering, extortion, questionable spending of public funds, and abuse of power. With regard to businesses, the most common types of bribes are facilitation and greasing cost bribes. Facilitation costs are paid to lower or middle-class management officials within government in order to speed up processes such as the renewal of a license. Greasing costs are paid to guarantee a transaction or preferential treatment such as having health code violations overlooked by

government inspectors. Government officials also have been known to promise contracts to businesses in return for a specific share of profits.

## Steps to fight corruption

While Yemen has taken several steps toward combating corruption such as ratifying the UN Convention against Corruption in 2005, little improvement has been made.

Due to rampant corruption in businesses and government offices in Yemen, the risks of entering the market are often a deterrent to foreign companies and investors. Most investors realize that corruption poses the most immense threat to their projects, most notably as the government seems to be indifferent toward reinforcing anti-corruption legislations. Most foreign firms view the corruption as

an additional form of taxation they will incur while doing business.

However, bribery and illegitimate business arrangements can be used to receive substantial profits with little or no true competition, thereby giving the firm a virtual monopoly. These practices continue to halt economic growth in the various sectors, encourage spread of poor quality products in the market, and generally cause the citizens to distrust government and even worse their anti-corruption laws. More foreign investment projects in Yemen will only be possible if anti-corruption laws and legislations are reinforced and oversight over performance in the public sector is enhanced.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com

## Our global dream is already achieved

By: Dr. Raoofa Hassan

As soon as he scored unprecedented presidential victory, the U.S. President-elect Barack Obama said that "Our stories may be individual or personal but we have the same history", which means that we as individuals from different areas worldwide have a common thing, which is the human history irrespective of our differing stories. His speech was addressed to all the American people, as well as to all those who followed the story of his great dream worldwide.

The media outlets that observed Obama's campaign step by step have been most of the time partial to him and sympathized with him. Had the vote been made from around the

world, all the voters would have cast their ballots in favor of Obama. The current global financial crisis is not the only concern, other problems related with the U.S. wars on other countries have nothing to do with the story and the pressing national issues in the U.S. has no relation with what happened during the U.S. elections.

In short, the story is that of a human race having his color blended with blood, slavery, abuse and discrimination. The entire world closely observed the story of a nice dreamer with a dark face and a civilized tongue, thereby leaving no space for white opponents to object to the story of his nomination and win.

When Obama's presidential victory was declared, T.V. screen viewers worldwide, who have been

following the unique electoral drama felt as if they won. The whole world felt comfortable with the victory that put an end to marginalization and discrimination over race and color, which Obama himself described as a moment of common history.

All the residents of a Japanese village named Obama danced on the occasion of Barack Obama's presidential victory. They enjoyed the chance of seeing their home village and the U.S. President-elect share the same name. In addition, citizens throughout Kenya stayed up overnight marking Obama's victory, however, the African state, where Obama's father was born and raised, upset father of the U.S. President-elect, Hussein Obama until he migrated to the U.S. in search of work, and his journey in

the U.S. didn't last any longer following his marriage to an Indonesian woman and birth of his firstborn child Barack Obama.

All the above highlighted facts helped Obama to keep on reminding himself that he is from Kenya, a homeland he must not forget forever. Some parts of Indonesia also marked the event as Barack Obama spent much of his childhood life in this Asian country where he was raised in the company of his Indonesian mother.

It is the first time to see the U.S. having a new face and new blood that doesn't originate from the Anglo-Saxon origin, which has been dominating the U.S. since it knew the elections and declared democracy that was usually led by white faces.

The new blood extends from Asia

to Africa and then to Europe after the mother that went there. It is really a glory for freedom and democracy as they must look. We were only surprised by those who voted for the republican presidential candidate John McCain, as they seem to have not realized the available historical opportunity before them to make change and produce a totally differing history, as well as help the U.S. get rid of racial discrimination and fanaticism.

We wonder how blind obedience and allegiance with one's own party made them do so at a time during which globalization impose change on them, as well as advise them to change the repeated formula of their dream.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

## Knowledge is not a closed and fixed Salafi circle (2)

By: Ahmad Al-Hubeishi

Continuing our article on how the Islamist Salafi groups view knowledge, it is time to clarify how the radical Salafi speech prefers to quote in its intellectual debates the Japanese and Chinese experiences, which could developed only after Japan was defeated in the World War II and the Chinese Revolution, led by Moutsi Tung scored victory.

Seemingly, these groups ignored the fact that Japan and China are more able to respond to civilization-related challenges. The Arab Salafi speech entered a phase of historical illusion when it failed to discriminate between the modern western colonization, backed by the new capitalist civilization and the Crusade campaigns and its inheritance from medieval ages.

These groups don't know that Japan and China concentrated on the capitalist mood of contemporary civilization, and then understood its modern values and got blended with them in a common civilized context, aside from any religious or cultural classification. In total contrast, the Salafi speech in the Arab world insists on classifying modern civilization culturally or religiously.

In his famous book "Educated Arabs and the West", Dr. Hisham Shirabi states that Salafism succeeded in resisting the Crusade

campaigns and didn't view them as a religious war. It rather named them as "French Wars". The result was that the Salafism lost in the wars after it failed to contribute to a civilized battle, and apparently it hasn't understood the overall dimensions of its historical crisis after it was defeated.

## Civilizational backwardness

Frankly speaking, there is an urgent need to bridge the gap of civilizational backwardness experienced by the Arab and Islamic nations. It is impossible for us to overcome this gap unless Islam is explored within the great civilization that gave man great achievements and developed his lifestyle, particularly as humanity mostly relies on its scientific achievements, viewed as legal ambitions, to overcome problems related with poverty, backwardness and poor healthcare.

Undoubtedly, adherence to the Salafi ideologies will separate us from the real world. Consequently, the civilizational gap will get deeper. At this point, it is essential to promote the sort of ideas that are backed by enlightenment leaders, and then develop them after rereading them in light of the huge changes that occurred in the structure of contemporary civilization over the past two centuries.

No wonder that the Salafi culture, which ignored the essence of Islam,

is not qualified enough to explore Islam within the contemporary civilization. In addition, the trend of this culture had a great role in creating the civilizational gap.

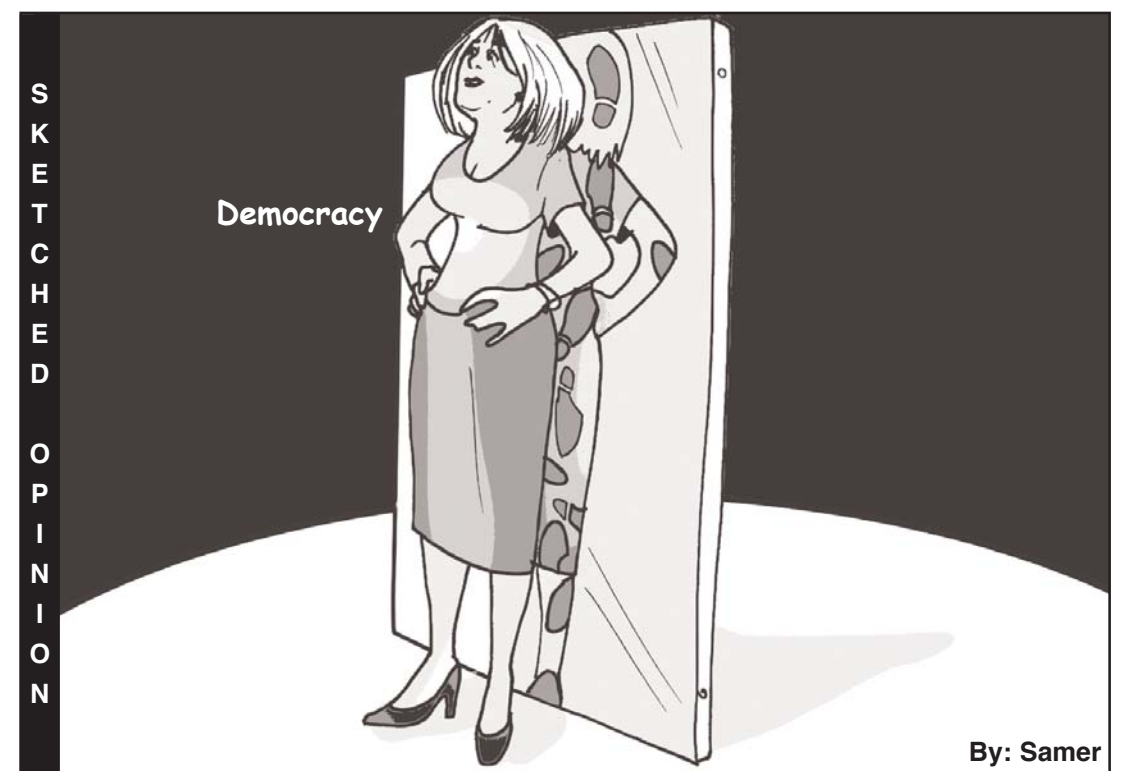
In order not to select the wrong road, we have to admit that we are not the only people concerned about this criticism, as there are numerous oriental and occidental academics, who contribute to criticizing any aspects defaulting the modern civilization. Therefore, the way we

criticize this civilization should arise from a strong faith in the common human values shared by the various cultures, religions and nations.

In conclusion, our success related with exercising positive criticism of the disliked aspects in the pervasive global civilization depends on how successful we are in establishing an open cultural vision toward the other. And, this vision must motivate the human mind, which is seen as a tool of objective thinking and scientific

research. Only this may help us develop our understanding of the world, interact with ongoing changes worldwide and overcome any obstacles produced by fanaticism and introversion. Quitting the introvert culture and adopting the open and common culture is the only approach that can help peoples, nations and cultures get involved in dynamics of the contemporary human civilization.

Source: 14October.com



By: Samer

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# Yemen Press Review



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

**Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008**

## Top Story

- Al-Janadi: Some electoral committees face normal problems

The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) said that more than 96 percent of the electoral main committees and subcommittees have arrived in their worksites at polling stations in all Yemeni governorates to begin the voter registration review and correction process.

SCER member and Head of Media and Voter Education Sector Abdu Al-Janadi confirmed that the main committees and subcommittees moved to their worksites amid calm atmospheres without any security problems or violations.

The army-affiliated 26September.net quoted Al-Janadi as saying “The problems faced by some electoral committees are normal and are less than those problems faced by previous committees during previous electoral processes.”

He added that every great action should face simple problems, pointing out that some media outlets deliberates to magnify problems experienced by electoral committees due to their usual stances toward the elections.

The SCER official indicated that main committees and subcommittees in one of the constituencies in the Mahweet governorate haven’t moved to their worksites due to disputes between tribal leaders in the area over who holds chairmanship and

membership of electoral committees. He continued that the electoral committees in Al-Hada district of Dhamar face similar problems because of a tribal dispute while those committees in Hebail Jabr of Al-Dhalea faced problems relating with assault attempts.

Al-Janadi noted that SCER decided to transfer worksites of main committees from Al-Shuaib to Nisab Area in the same Dhalea governorate’s constituency, according to a suggestion made by the supervisory committee. He went on to say that other problems are represented by the fact that tribal leaders claim blood monies from the government because of revenge killings, an issues that has nothing to do with the electoral process, adding that the third sort of problems relates with delaying the naming of some electoral committee staff and training.

Al-Janadi confirmed that SCER is working harder to overcome obstacles experienced by some electoral committees during the hours to come, clarifying that the commission takes into consideration the nature of Yemen’s tribal society, and therefore attempts to create balance between implementation of the voter registration review and correction process and citizens’ safety. He concluded that SCER cares about conducting all the electoral phases in safe democratic atmospheres.



**Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party**

**Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008**

## Top Story

- Opposition parties urge fans not to involve in current voter registration

process

Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), also known as the major opposition alliance in Yemen, has called again its members and supporters to avoid the voter registration process, considering the procedure as an attempt by the authorities to manipulate the voter registers and rig the upcoming elections, the website reported in its lead story.

It added that Official JMP Spokesman Mohammad Al-Mansour said boycotting the voter registration process is a first step to end the authorities’ control of the entire electoral process, voicing his appreciation to those who have boycotted what the opposition parties described as “an illegal procedure”.

The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) had called on citizens to go to registration centers to enroll their names into voter registers and asked those who wish to transfer to new area of residence to head to the centers.

According to the website, Voter registration committees in 11 voting centers in the Shuaib district of the Dhalea governorate were banished after as many as 130 male and female members out of a total of 210 refused to engage in the voter registration process. Citizens also prevented other staff to enter polling stations to carry out the process. In addition, voter registration staff in other 6 centers of constituency # 296 was expelled too.

In Constituency # 297 in the same governorate, citizens drove voter registration staff off seven voting centers in the areas of Hebail Al-Suq, Lakamat Al-Duki, Al-Mawkula, Al-Damna and Al-Radaou. In Constituency # 300 in Qataba district, citizens held a huge rally, demanding that voter registration staff leave their area. In the Azareq district, the voter

registration staff in four centers was expelled while citizens confiscated all their documents and materials after they refused to evacuate the center.

In Shabwa, citizens forced voter registration staff to leave two voting centers in Al-Sha’aba area, birthplace of Aref Al-Zuka, member of ruling party General Committee. Other staff in Constituency # 135 was not allowed to assume their work in the areas of Hada, Al-Arm, Al-Khabr and Al-Raid. The illegitimate committees were also prevented to perform their duties in the districts of Habban and Al-Saeed in the same constituency.

In the Radhoum area of the same governorate, voter registration staff were not allowed to enter many centers, as citizens protested against previous electoral promises made by the ruling party and haven’t been fulfilled yet.

Additionally, Principal of Jala’a School Mohammed Badas was terminated from his job as he refused to allow voter registration staff has access to his school. The health unit in the area was changed into lodging for the staff. Beir Ali School in the same areas stopped providing classes to students as its teachers turned to work as voter registration staff.

In Markha area, citizens did not allow the electoral staff to begin their work in many voting centers in their constituencies # 136 and 137. Other citizens in the governorates of Beidha, Dhamar, Amran, Al-Jawf, Marib, Ibb and Hajja prevented voter registration staff to do their job.

In Amran, citizens in Bani Suraim district drove security personnel off their area upon their arrival and evicted voter registration staff from schools in the area. Those citizens distributed brochures to villages, declaring their rejection of the upcoming electoral process. They said that the elections did nothing for them with the

exception of rotating posts between corrupt officials.

In Amran’s Jarman district, citizens forced the electoral staff to evacuate centers in their Constituency # 283, thereby bringing the number of evacuated centers to seven. In Khamir district of the same governorate, staff in Constituency # 284 was forced to leave the voting centers by angry citizens as soon as they assumed their job.

Other citizens in Houth district refused to welcome staff in voting centers of Constituency # 283. And in Constituency # 290 in Sour district, Local councilor in the district Badr Hamid Al-Dharhani confirmed that many citizens in the area forced voter registration staff to evacuate two voting centers on Tuesday.

Constituency # 292 witnessed refusal of citizens, backed by ruling party leaders, to give access to electoral staff to enter their area and do the job. Well-informed sources revealed that GPC leaders in the areas demanded that the supervisory committee in Amran governorate grant 5,000 voting cards to the center in order to allow the voter registration staff to work, however, those requested voting cards outnumber residents in the area. Other voting centers in the same constituency witnessed gunfire over disputes between the electoral staff and citizens.

In Constituency # 293 of the Shahar district, the district’s local councilor Mohammed Qayed Mukhabish ascertained that staff in one of the voting centers has undertaken to stop working after angry citizens refused to give them access to their area.

Voter registration staff was also expelled from many centers in Constituency # 115 of Ibb governorate and Constituency # 196 of Dhamar governorate, and the same obstacle was faced by staff in Constituency # 278 of

Marib governorate.

In Dhamar’s Hada district, the electoral staff stopped working after citizens denied them access to voting centers in the area protesting against the government that didn’t fulfill a promise to establish a new electoral division. The residents received Dhamar governor, who visited the area, with a protest, saying that they are boycotting the electoral process.

In Abyan governorate, citizens in Ahwar, Mahfad, Sirar and Rasd districts didn’t allow voter registration staff to approach voting centers in their areas, and the same thing took place in other areas around the governorate.

In Lahj, many districts witnessed various protests against the so-called “illegal voter registration committees” while in Hodieda the comic scene of such a foolish procedure began more drastically.

As many teachers were exempted from work at schools due to their involvement in the voter registration process, other teachers were also exempted under the pretext that they are GPC fans, who motivate citizens to go to polling stations to have voting cards, having seen that citizens are boycotting the comic process.

The government’s comedy in Hodeida did not stop at this limit, as Aqels and Ameens in Hodeida city zones and rural districts were surprised to receive an official letter signed and stamped by North Hodeida Court on Nov. 10. The letter reads, “To all Aqels and Ameens: According to the ministerial circular # 20 of 2008 regarding presence of Aqels and Ameens in voter registration centers, you are required to collect all the particulars of citizens at age 18 and over, who are not enrolled in voter registers. You are required to attend the voter registration committees during the official working hours as of Nov. 11, 2008.”

## Obamamania

**By: Ian Buruma**

Why do Europeans adore America’s president-elect, Barack Obama? Stupid question, you might say. He is young, handsome, smart, inspiring, educated, cosmopolitan, and above all, he promises a radical change from the most unpopular American administration in history. Compare that to his rival John McCain, who talked about change, but to most Europeans represented the opposite.

And yet, there is something odd about the European mania for a black American politician, even as we all know that a black president or prime minister (let alone one whose middle name is Hussein) is still unthinkable in Europe. Or perhaps that is precisely the point.

Europeans have long been hospitable to black American stars. Think of Josephine Baker, who

wowed Parisians and Berliners at a time when blacks could not vote – or even use the same bathrooms as whites – in many parts of the United States. Cities like Paris, Copenhagen, and Amsterdam offered refuge to black American jazz musicians, who needed a break from institutionalized racism. The same was true for other artists. James Baldwin, for example, found a home in France.

Since there were only very few black people in Europe, the adoration of black American stars came easily. It made Europeans feel superior to Americans. They could pat themselves on the back for their lack of racial prejudice. When large numbers of people from non-Western countries started to come to Europe after the 1960’s, this proved to be something of an illusion. Still, the illusion was nice while it lasted, and Obamamania may contain an element of nostalgia, as well as hope.

The other reason for the European love affair with Obama is that he is

seen as something more than an American. Unlike McCain, the all-American war hero, Obama looks like a citizen of the world. With his Kenyan father, he carries the glamour once associated with Third World liberation movements. Nelson Mandela inherited that glamour; indeed, he personified it. Some of that has rubbed off on Obama, too.

This did not help him much at home. Indeed, it could easily have hurt him. Republican populists have long tried to depict their Democratic opponents, often with great success, as “un-American” elitists, intellectuals, and the kind of guys who speak French – in short, “Europeans.”

When Obama made his rousing speech at the Berlin Tiergarten in July, in front of 200,000 cheering Germans, his popularity ratings at home actually fell, especially in the old industrial “rustbelt” of Ohio and Pennsylvania. He came dangerously close to looking too “European.” But the real Europeans loved him for it.

But the main reason for Obamamania may be more complex. It has become popular of late for European pundits and commentators to write the US off as a great power, let alone an inspirational one. In this, they have more or less followed public opinion.

Many liberal-minded people expressed, often sorrowfully, their deep disillusion with America during the dark Bush years. The nation they had grown up looking up to, as a beacon of hope – a place that, while flawed, still inspired dreams of a better future and produced great movies, soaring buildings, rock ‘n’ roll, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King – had been hopelessly tainted by reckless wars, officially sanctioned torture, coarse chauvinism, and extraordinary political arrogance.

Others expressed the same disillusion with a gloating air of schadenfreude. At last, that big, arrogant, fatally seductive nation, which left the Old World in its shade

for so long, had been brought to its knees. Watching the economic rise of China, Russia, and India, and the American debacles in the Middle East, it was tempting to believe that US power really did not count for very much anymore. A multi-polar world, many thought, would be vastly preferable to more Pax Americana.

Yet such projections could never entirely disguise a nagging anxiety. How many Europeans (or Asians, for that matter) would really be happier being subjected to the superior power of China or Russia? Under all the confident-sounding dismissals of US power, there is still some yearning to return to a more reassuring time, when the democratic world could lay its collective head on Uncle Sam’s broad shoulders.

This, too, is probably an illusion. Too much has changed since the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. But I do not believe that the American dream has died in Europe quite yet. Obamamania

seems to have revived it.

Obama’s election has demonstrated that things are still achievable in the US that remain unthinkable elsewhere. As long as this is so, the US, as *primus inter pares*, can still be looked up to as the defender of our freedoms.

Europeans – and others – may regard China’s rise with awe, and hope to find a *modus vivendi* with Russia, but without the hopes inspired by that extraordinary republic, which represents the worst and the best of our battered Western world, we would all be much worse off. In their hearts, most Europeans know this. That is why they are going crazy over Barack Obama’s election.

*Ian Buruma is Professor of human rights at Bard College. His most recent book is Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance.*

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## Obama’s global ethical challenges

**By: Peter Singer**

The astonishing story of Barack Obama’s election as president has already done much to restore America’s global image. In place of a president whose only qualification for the office was his father’s name, we now have one whose intelligence and vision overcame the formidable obstacle of being the exotically named son of an African Muslim. Who would have believed, after the last two elections, that the American public was capable of electing such a candidate?

Obama’s achievement raises the stakes for his first term in office. He campaigned on the theme that he is different from other politicians and will deliver real change. That appeal drew large and enthusiastic crowds, which, together with astute use of the Internet, gained him an unprecedented four mil-

lion donors, and induced a huge number of African-Americans and young people to register to vote.

This is the chance of a lifetime to break through the cynicism that has pervaded American politics for decades. But if Obama fails to make good on his promise of change, it will be decades before the electorate again places its trust in a candidate who claims to be different from the usual run of politicians.

Many Americans will judge the new administration by what it does at home. That includes raising taxes on those earning more than \$250,000 a year, and using the money to extend health insurance to the tens of millions of Americans who – uniquely for an industrialized nation – do not have it. He has also pledged tax cuts for medium and lower-paid workers, and improvements to America’s education system. Keeping those promises despite America’s gloomy economic

prospects will not be easy.

The biggest impact that Obama can make, however, is beyond America’s borders. Last year, when speaking to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, he called for a president who can speak directly to everyone in the world who longs for dignity and security, and say: “You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now.” Indeed, it is now.

If Obama is to be that president, he should begin by keeping his promises to close the prison camp at Cuba’s Guantánamo Bay and to end the Bush administration’s practice of locking people away without ever telling them why or what they are charged with. He must also begin the process of withdrawing combat troops from Iraq, a task that he said would be completed in 16 months. Keeping these promises will be significant steps towards restoring America’s image around the world.

Playing a constructive role in bring-

ing about reform at the United Nations is also vital. The structure of the Security Council is 60 years old. It still gives the victors of the Second World War permanent membership of the Council, and a veto over its decisions. To change that will inevitably dilute the privileges of those nations, including the United States. But if any US president can overcome that historical shadow hanging over the UN, Obama can.

Given that Obama has a Kenyan father and has spent time in the African villages where his kin still live, it is no surprise that he understands the need for rich nations to assist developing nations. Last year, he pledged to double US foreign aid by 2012, raising it to \$50 billion a year. (That still leaves the US lagging behind many European nations in the percentage of its national income that it gives in aid.)

US aid also must be better targeted toward helping those living in extreme poverty. Regrettably, when then-

Senator, now Vice-President Joe Biden was asked what spending an Obama administration might have to curtail because of the financial crisis, he mentioned the pledge to increase foreign aid. But doubling US foreign aid involves a modest amount of money, compared to what will be saved by pulling out of Iraq.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of turning the US into a good global citizen is cutting back on its grossly excessive greenhouse gas emissions – roughly five times the global per capita average. On this issue, the Bush administration wasted eight precious years during which we have gotten perilously close to the point at which an irreversible chain of events could occur that leads to catastrophe.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni last year accused the industrialized countries of committing aggression against Africa by causing global warming. That may sound like hyperbole,

but raising the temperature and reducing the rainfall of a predominantly agricultural nation can be as devastating to its people as dropping bombs on it.

Obama needs to make the US a leader in reducing emissions. Then, having demonstrated his good faith, he and European leaders should be able to work out a deal that will bring China and India into whatever agreement replaces the Kyoto protocol when it expires in 2012. This may be the greatest ethical challenge of the Obama presidency, but, because so much hangs on it, the way in which he responds to it is likely to play a decisive role in how his presidency will be judged.

*Peter Singer is Professor of bioethics at Princeton University. His next book, The Life You Can Save: Acting Now to End World Poverty, will be published in March.*

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# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

An international company developing an exciting new project in the oil/minerals sector has vacancies for the below positions. These positions will be field based:

## Maintenance Supervisor / Foreman (1)

This person will be reporting to the maintenance superintendent and will be responsible for preventative and breakdown maintenance of light vehicle and mobile earthmoving equipment, prepare mechanical repair material requests, Hydraulic and Pneumatics trouble shooting, maintaining site power stations, H V troubleshooting and breakdown repairs of auto electrical.

### ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Mechanical Trade Qualification certificate.
- 8 years + experience in mechanical maintenance with previous experience on light vehicle and mobile earthmoving equipment.
- Previous experience working on engine, transmission, axle, hydraulic, and pneumatic assemblies.
- Good English skills.

## Auto — High Voltage Electrician (1)

This person will report to the maintenance superintendent and will be responsible for power station maintenance, H V troubleshooting and breakdown repair, preventative and break down electrical maintenance for light vehicles and mobile earthmoving equipment. They will diagnose, repair and maintain electrical/electronic systems and components, and should have exposure to machine wiring and air conditioning. They will prepare electrical repair material requests.

### ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Trade certificate qualification as Auto and H V Electrician., previous experience with HV, LV and heavy earthmoving equipment.
- 5 year + experience as a Auto — High Voltage Electrician.
- Good English skills.

## Heavy Duty Mechanic Artisan (2)

This person will report to the maintenance supervisor/Foreman and will be responsible for preventative and breakdown maintenance of light vehicle and mobile earthmoving equipment, fault diagnosis, repair and maintenance of Caterpillar equipment, such as excavators, loaders, dozers, dump trucks, motor graders, forklifts and blast hole drill rigs. They will prepare mechanical repair material requests, and carry out hydraulic and pneumatic trouble shooting.

### ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Mechanical Trade Qualification certificate.
- 5 years + experience as a mechanical maintenance with previous experience on light vehicle and mobile earthmoving equipment.
- Previous experience on engine, transmission, axle, hydraulic, and pneumatic assemblies, preferably experienced in Caterpillar and Atlas Copco plant.
- Good English skills.

## Assistant — Heavy Duty Mechanic (2)

This person will report to the maintenance supervisor/Foreman and will be responsible for preventative and breakdown maintenance of light vehicle and mobile earthmoving equipment and other related equipment, preparation of mechanical repair material requests, hydraulic and pneumatic trouble shooting.

### ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Mechanical Trade Qualification certificate.
- 2 years + experience in mechanical maintenance, previous experience with light vehicle and mobile earthmoving equipment.
- Previous experience with engine, transmission, axle, hydraulic, and pneumatic assemblies.
- Good English skills.

## Boilermaker/Welder (1)

This person will report to the maintenance supervisor/Foreman and will be responsible for general boiler making duties at site, and workshop mechanical repairs on both mobile earthmoving equipment and fixed equipment, as well as preparing welding repair material requests.

### ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Boilermaker's / welder's trade qualification certificate.
- Familiar with earthmoving machinery.
- Experience in welding applications and techniques, and dedicated to maintaining safe work practices and the environment.
- 3 year + experience as a Boilermaker / Welder.
- Good English skills

## Store Keeper (1)

This person will report to the maintenance superintendent and will be responsible for stock movement entries, general day to day stores operations and upkeep of stores, inventory tracking and inward and outwards processing.

### ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- High school certificate.
- Strong communication and inter-personal skills.
- Demonstrated computer skills including Microsoft Office.
- 5 years + experience in a similar stores related role.
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## Construction Surveyor (1)

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- A degree/diploma in Surveying or related discipline.
- 3 years + experience in a similar position.
- Competent user of Auto-CAD, Civil-CAD or experience with any other engineering software will be an advantage.
- Good communication skills. The ability to communicate in both Arabic and English orally and written will be highly regarded.

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This person will report to the Site Support Officer (SSO) and will be responsible for ensuring that, under the supervision of the SSO, all services that are required at site (accommodation, power, fuel, water supply) are provided. The candidate will work closely with the SSO on a range of site management duties as required, including management of contracts for construction camp accommodation and catering and will play a role in the daily administration and organization of the construction camp and construction camp staff. The position will last for the duration of construction, expected to be complete at the end of 2009.

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# Yemen National Plan to accelerate FGM eradication

By: Salma Ismail

It is perhaps the single most social, brutal procedure surviving the 21st century that can be inflicted on a female. Internationally recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and women, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), or 'khitan' as it is known in Arabic, includes procedures that intentionally alter or damage female genital organs for non-medical reasons. In Yemen, women and children continue to suffer from harmful traditional practices, including FGM.

The procedure, often performed with nothing more technologically advanced than a razor blade, has absolutely no health benefits. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide are currently living with the consequences of FGM.

Ritual cutting and alteration of the genitalia of female infants, some as young as 80 days old, girls, and adolescents has been a tradition since antiquity. It persists today primarily in Africa and among small communities in the Middle East and Asia. The spectrum of these genital procedures has been termed female circumcision, or more frequently, Female Genital Mutilation as a collective name to describe and emphasize the physical disfigurement associated with the practice. In Africa alone, about three million girls are at risk for FGM annually.

## Definition and explanation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. According to the WHO, these are the types:

- Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris (a small, sensitive and erectile part of the female genitalia) and, rarely, the prepuce (the fold of

skin surrounding the clitoris) as well

- Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (the labia are "the lips" that surround the vagina)

- Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner, and sometimes outer, labia, with or without removal of the clitoris.

- Other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterizing the genital area

## Health complications

Prohibition has led to FGM going underground, at times with people who have had no medical training performing the cutting without anesthetic, sterilization, or the use of proper medical instruments. The methods can cause severe bleeding and later problems urinating, childbirth complications and newborn deaths. Also, when performed without any anesthetic, these methods can lead to death through shock from immense pain or excessive bleeding and the failure to use sterile medical instruments may lead to infections. Other serious long term health effects are also common. These include urinary and reproductive tract infections, caused by obstructed flow of urine and menstrual blood, various forms of scarring and infertility. The first time having sexual intercourse will often be extremely painful, and infibulated women will need the labia majora to be opened, to allow their partner access to the vagina. This second cut, sometimes performed by the partner with a knife, can cause other complications to arise.

## FGM in religion

The practice appears to go back thousands of years and pre-dates both Christianity and Islam. In Saudi Arabia, in the area known as the Hijaz, where

Islam originated, FGM was already being practiced during the lifetime of Muhammad. To call a man a "circumciser of women" was an insult among the pagan Arabs at the time.

Female genital cutting is not commanded by the Qur'an and is not practiced by the majority of Muslims. In Egypt, mufti Sheikh Ali Gomaa stated: "The traditional form of excision is a practice totally banned by Islam because of the compelling evidence of the extensive damage it causes to women's bodies and minds."

## FGM in global society

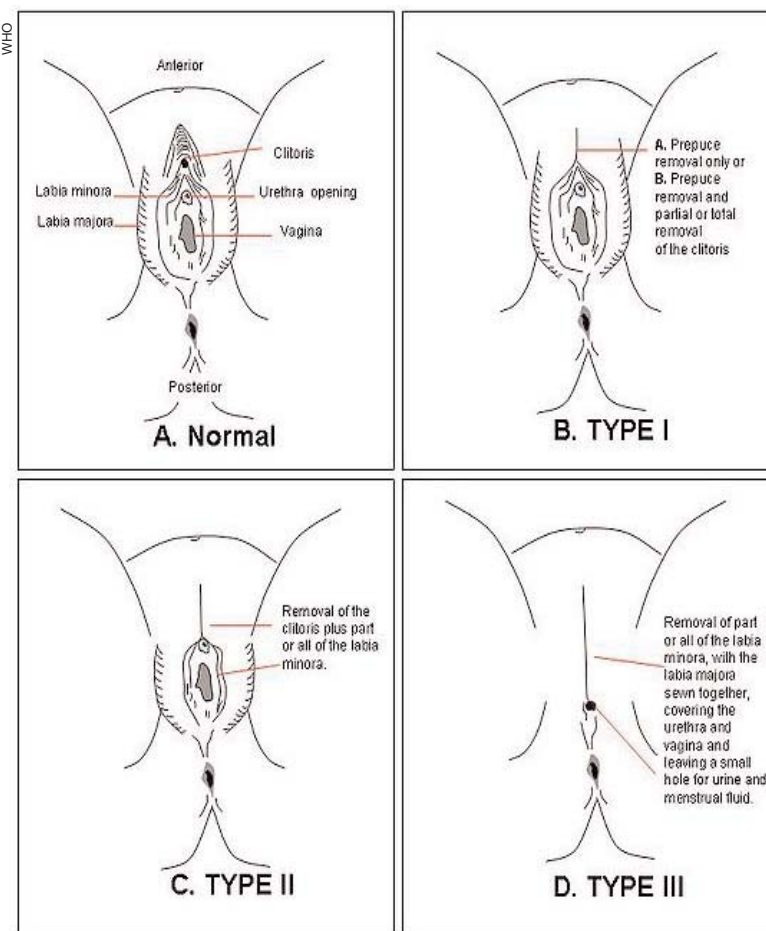
Not only is this practice prevalent in Middle-Eastern and African societies but it can be found in Asia, Europe and even in some Aboriginal communities in Australia.

Eighteen African countries—Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Togo—have enacted laws criminalizing FGM. The penalties range from a minimum of six months to a maximum of life in prison. Several countries also impose monetary fines.

According to a 1977 joint statement by the WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, 500,000 females in the European Union have either been mutilated or are at risk for mutilation. In ancient times FGM was used as a cure for nymphomania, hysteria, insanity, depression and epilepsy. In recent years, it is found to exist in some European countries that have admitted migrants and refugees from countries where the practice still exists.

## FGM in Yemen

A 2001 ministerial decree prohibited FGM in Yemen, but attempts to convince traditional Yemeni society that the practice is medically dangerous have been an uphill battle. There are no sufficient studies on FGM practices in



The different types of FGM and how they differ to the normal female anatomy. Type I, clitoridectomy, Type II, excision, Type III, infibulation.

Yemen and what little studies that do exist have been disputed.

A national plan of action to accelerate the abandonment of FGM was enriched in June 2008 at an advocacy workshop, organized by UNICEF, in Sana'a. The plan came after months of intensive discussions and consultations by UNICEF with concerned bodies in Yemen. Today, this plan is seeing some progress, with Regional Consultant in Reproductive Health and Human Rights in UNICEF Hashem Al-Serag leading a team of experts and consultants to Hodeidah and Aden where workshops and meetings were organized with concerned commu-

nities, Imams of mosques, teachers, and a number of health experts.

## Eradication

Behind circumcision lies the belief that, by removing parts of girls' external genital organs, sexual desire is minimized. However, there is not enough evidence to support that this is true. Moreover, there is research that indicates the contrary, that women that have been subject to this practice have experienced total sexual satisfaction.

Legislation against FGM can be counter-productive in some cases. It might force the practice deeply under-

ground. Women may not seek medical care because their parents might be charged. The importance given to virginity and an intact hymen coupled with the fact that in some countries it is used as a form of resistance against the colonial will is the reason why FGM still remains a very widespread practice despite a growing tendency to do away with it as something outdated and harmful.

Based on the UN, there have been some 'breakthroughs in eliminating' this practice in countries like Burkina Faso, Sudan, Egypt, Djibouti, and Niger.

In spite of the historic 1948 document of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which set the standards for the achievement of human rights and which has had a powerful influence on the development of contemporary international law; in spite of the U.N.'s 1952 Convention on the Political Rights of Women; in spite of the U.N.'s 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child; in spite of the U.N.'s 1962 Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage, and Registration of Marriages; in spite of the U.N.'s 1967 Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, women and girl children are the victims of continuing and flagrant violations of their human rights. The incomprehensible part of all this is that most of the countries that allow FGM have ratified these conventions.

This article is in tandem with Yemen efforts to save children and women from harmful practices, by formulating a National Action Plan. Despite public sensitivity on the issue, campaigns to eliminate FGM are aggressively being carried out across the country with public and private NGOs running public awareness campaigns on radio, television, and in community gatherings. In this conservative Muslim country, merely achieving public discussion of the issue is regarded as progress.



## Job Vacancy

### Program Assistant, CHF International Yemen, EMCAR Program

#### Program Background:

The immediate goal of the EMCAR program is to increase the capacity of Yemeni media and civil society organizations (CSOs) to identify, address, and engage the public around social issues related to the rights of women and children.

#### Location:

Sana'a

#### Position Summary:

CHF International seeks a Program Assistant to provide administrative support to the EMCAR program's training activities, in coordination with the Program Officer and the Program Manager.

#### Program Responsibilities:

- ¥ Assist with the organization and implementation of training activities for media and CSOs;
- ¥ Provide support with the development of grants management application, monitoring, & evaluation system for CSO applicants; and
- ¥ Assist with the maintenance of records to feed into performance monitoring and evaluation plan.
- ¥ Creation, updating and maintenance of program related databases and website.
- ¥ Other program related work as deemed necessary.

#### Qualifications:

- ¥ Bachelor's degree with 1-2 years of experience in grants management and organizing or delivering training;
- ¥ Knowledge and experience with NGO development programs, working with international organizations, and grants programs;
- ¥ Knowledge and experience in the set-up, updating and maintenance of Microsoft Office Access databases (or other relevant database software); and
- ¥ English and Arabic fluency required (spoken and written).

#### Duration:

Length of contract is approximately one year in length.

#### Submission Guidelines:

Applications should be submitted to [chfyemen@gmail.com](mailto:chfyemen@gmail.com). Applications submitted after 11/23/08 will not be considered. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Application should consist of a one page cover letter and detailed CV. Cover letter should include the applicant's earliest date of availability to begin work with CHF.



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# A project to develop human development in Socotra

By: Ola Al-Shami

Most of the projects in Socotra Island are directed towards the preservation of its natural wealth especially that it is competing to be voted as one of the

seven natural wonders of the world. However not much attention has been directed to the 70,000 inhabitants living in both its two administrative districts; Hadibo and Qalansiya.

Although administratively the island follow Hadramout governorate the island people have maintained

their very distinctive culture and even language (Socotri), and were not exposed to the modern day civilization except for a small percentage in the main towns.

According to the DBT Socotra Adventure Tour website, Socotra's population is divided between the inhabitants of the mountainous interior and the islands' coastal regions.

The former have traditionally made their living herding goats, sheep and cows and harvesting their date palms, while the latter's livelihood has been based on fishing. Some of the fishermen on the island's northern coast are of African origin, having been brought over at the end of the 19th century to work for the Sultan.

Since 1999, when the island's airstrip was lengthened, enabling flights year-round, including during the four month summer monsoon, development on the island has expanded rapidly. Simultaneously, Yemenis from the mainland have immigrated to Socotra in greater numbers, opening numerous shops in the island's capital, Hadibo.

Socotra heavily depends on outside support, which comes mainly from the Yemeni Government and some development programs of NGO's and International Organizations. An estimated number of 8,000 Socotr is live and work in the Emirates, probably contributing considerably to the income of related families on the island. Due to the insufficient provision of basic human needs, such as access to sustainable livelihoods, safe water, health services, education etc..., a majority of the population of Socotra Archipelago are considered to live below the absolute poverty line.

## A project to help the people

Defending and Protecting Socotra project is funded by the French government and carried out by the Cultural Development Programs Foundation aims at developing the human capacity, especially women's, of some of the remote population aggregations in the island.

"Many people go to Socotra to

enjoy the natural scenes and to see the rare plants; however no one knows how the natives there live" Dr. Raufa Hassan director of the foundation.

Medicines Du Monde also supports the program in terms of technical and medical awareness and medical equipment and first aid kits to be used in the communities for basic health care.

Within the project's framework, three women's associations were established in two in the main towns and one in the less accessible area of in Hom Heel village.

Despite the fact that very capable women run the associations, the challenges are tremendous.

The women living in Hom Heel, which is located on the top of a mountain, are isolated from other cities and so their situation is the most difficult. Trainers from the more developed areas in the Island and from Sana'a often travel to Hom Heel to help raise awareness and build local capacity.

According to the projects baseline survey carried out last year, there is a huge disparity between the awareness levels of those living in the main cities and the rest of the island especially for women. The illiteracy rate is very high exceeding 90 percent among women in the remote areas and there are no health care or medical.

"I saw a child that was burned with a hot rod to cure his diarrhea. That led me to think about the people and improving their lifestyles" said Dr. Hassan.

She added "One of the challenges that face us is that people in general are ignored from the government. It rather pays much attention to the trees, turtles, and stones." Paying more attention to raise awareness among human is the only guarantee to conserve anything else Hassan explained.

Dr. Hassan also requested the Ministry of Tourism to train Socotra tourist guides the fundamentals of the tourism industry and to provide them with the necessary historical and technical information about the places in the island.



## Wirasat (Succession), neglected rights of woman

By: Qazi Dr. Shaikh Abbas Borhany  
For the Yemen Times

Except Islam which attained its perfection divinely, no other religion grants and honours the share of women in Wirasat (inheritance). According to the Qur'an and Ahadith such laws, are considered and judged to be tyrannical and against the law of nature, which totally neglect the rights of women in Wirasat. Today, the so-called 'Liberals', who in general are also called 'Reformists' are in fact a group of that class who are ignorant of the Shariah. They raise the slogan of equality in the shares of men and women in Wirasat, which is totally repugnant to the Shariah. These inimical forces of Islam totally forget that neither Christians nor Jews or Hindus grant the Rights of Women in the Wirasat, as is bestowed by Islam.

Sharia law is no longer a difficult to understand in the study of Islam. Today Sharia, its role in political Islam and its impact on the daily lives of Muslim women and humanity has made headlines everywhere, almost daily. The word "Sharia" literally means "the path on sand created by camels walking to water-spots" but spiritually it means Hidayat-guidance. Islam initially restore women's rights by taking the first steps in that desert society by banning female-infanticide, preventing forcing of women into unwanted marriages, allowing women to retain their fathers' names after marriage,

permitting women to be witnesses (albeit their testimony counted as half of a man's) and establishing Haq ul Wirasat- their ownership rights to property and their income. All of these advances in women's rights occurred in the Middle East when Europe was in the midst of the Dark Ages. The term "Fiqh" emerged, which literally means human understanding. "Where an explicit command of Allah or His Rasul already exists, no Muslim leader or legislature, or any religious scholar can form an independent judgment not even all the Muslims of the world put together, have any right to make least alteration to it". Believing so is regarded as alliance to Islam itself. All books on Sharia law univocally maintain this dictum. The Qur'an and the Ahadith are two of the most important sources of Sharia.

From early days to the present so-called civilized period, women have been a victim of injustice. Fourteen centuries have passed and the benedictions of Islam have covered a large part of the world, and now we are in the 15th century, but women are still deprived of their Right of Wirasat. The major reason for not acting upon the laws of Wirasat, conferred by Shariah, is due to the filthy rich selfish class. This cursed class has set aside the commandments of Shariah so that their property and estate may not get divided, and due to this reason keep their sisters and daughters unmarried. Before the dawn of Islam, daughters, whether, old or young, were not given any share in Wirasat. In the days of Jahiliyah, Arabs did not give their

own daughters any Right of Wirasat but adopted a boy of some one else as their own son (Mutabanna in Arabi) and gave him the status of successor. Islam eliminated this injustice and strongly ordered to distribute the due share of their wealth and property to their women. One of the most important differences between the Qur'an and the Bible is their attitude towards female inheritance of the property of a deceased relative. According to Numbers 27:1-11, widows and sisters don't inherit at all. Daughters can inherit only if their deceased father had no sons. Otherwise the sons receive the entire inheritance. Prior to Islam, inheritance rights were confined exclusively to the male relatives. The Qur'an abolished all these unjust customs and gave all the female relatives their just share (see Qur'an 4:7, 11, 12 and 176). It is a matter of sorrow and regret that the practice prevalent before Islam still exists and women are bereft of their share in Wirasat. To dispel this tyranny Ayat 7 of Surah al Nisa was sent down by Allah. The principle was fixed divinely so that both men and women become rightful share holders in Wirasat. Qur'an says:

"For men, there is a share in what their parents and kindred leave behind, and for women a share in what their parents and kindred leave behind, be it little, or be it much: a decreed share".

The cardinal principal of Wirasat is to distribute the wealth among all the near relatives, and not to let it accumulate in the hands of one person, a wise and effective check on

concentration of wealth in few hands. In Surah al Nisa it has been clarified: "A man would get share equal to two women".

This law of Wirasat contains a clarification of the shares of a man and a woman and is like other laws of Shariat, conferred by the divine institution of Wahi. It is not a law passed by any Council, Senate, Assembly, Committee or Organization, which may be approved today or amended and rejected tomorrow. After the Wahi, the matter does not rest on the opinion of any human bequeathing wealth/property. The distribution of shares and every right of Wirasat has been fixed by the Divine Law of Shariah. It cannot be amended at will by the so-called enlightened or reformist, whenever they wish to do it, and due to the Wahi, their thoughts and Aqaid become null and void in which a woman remains deprived of any share in Wirasat. If we look at the spirit of Shariah, we will find that the responsibilities of men and women are quite distinct and separate. Their duties and rights are separate and different. Men have been made responsible for supporting women; but not vice-versa. The responsibility of man in regard to the sustenance of woman has been fixed by Islam. A woman has been given half the share of man in wealth/property because there are separate laws for her sustenance, military services and punishment. A woman's special right in the Wirasat is due to Mehar, and the right of Nufuqa. If we look at the social order of Islam, we will find that according to the law of Wirasat, a

man gets two thirds while a woman gets one third because men are responsible for the expenses of women. Therefore the wealth/property of a woman remains immune from the use or grip of men, while two third share of man is spent on both man and woman. If we consider this point, we find that a woman gets a substantial share in Wirasat as an additional benefit.

In his famous book "Daem al Islam", Vol. II., Syedna Qazi al Numan has mentioned that Abi Jafar Imam Mohammad al Baqir and Abi Abdullah Imam Jafar Assadiq have jointly declared that women are not entitled for inheritance in movable property, but are only entitled to their proper share of Wirasat according to the Law of Qur'an, the amount being taken for the price of land forming part of the heritable estate. Thus the woman would get her proper share, not in the shape of land, but in other forms of property known at that time. Syedna Qazi al Numan explained further: this is not a general rule, (very unfortunately many Fuqaha (Muslim Jurists) still consider it as general rules and applying the same formula on every case) but restricted (a) to land which had been dedicated as Waqf for the benefit of men, who had undertaken Jihad in defense of the Muslims or

(b) to land dedicated as Waqf for the benefit of one group of persons (namely men) to the exclusion of the other group (women).

According to the pre Islam customary law, females and cognate were excluded from Wirasat. The amendments in the law of Wirasat

conferred by Islam fall generally under two heads:

The husband or wife and females as well as cognates are recognized as competent to inherit.

Parents and ascendants are given a Right to inherit even when there are male Wurus'a who are present.

It is a provision of Qur'an that the daughter is entitled to succeed with the son, as interpreted by the Ahl al Bait as applicable to all female Wurus'a. Fuquh'a takes the provision of the Qur'an as not restricted to individual instances of the daughter or the sister, but as establishing a new principle for the benefit of the women, which is the most important legal reform introduction by Islam when referring to the rights of women.

Summarizing this we can confirm that Islam has totally eliminated all injustices regarding the Wirasat of women, and that the double share of man in Wirasat is due to the fact that the man has to bear other burdens (family) on his budget. Also the aspect of Wirasat of a wife is on the basis of her Mehar and the right of Nufuq'a. If only an economic aspect was under consideration, Islam would not have differentiated in the rights of Wirasat of men and women, like the worshippers of the West.

*The writer is Attorney at Law & Religious Scholar. He has a PhD (USA), NDI, Shahadat al A'alamiyah (Najaf, Iraq), M.A., LLM (Shariah) and is a member, Ulama Council of Pakistan. Email address: qazishkborhany@hotmail.com*



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# Fate of the bee season in Hadramout



Honey is one of the main exports of Yemen. The Hadramout honey business alone is worth YR 2.25 billion riyals (USD11.3 million) and represents 26 percent of total honey production of Yemen.

By: Majed Saleh Ba-Amran  
For the Yemen Times

Scores of medical studies have found that honey boasts regenerative and healing properties, in addition to its cosmetic and aphrodisiac qualities. Yemen, which boasts some of the world's best and priciest honey, is no exception. However, honey production is under threat after floods destroyed thousands of beehives in the southeast regions.

More than 37,000 beehives in the area were destroyed by the floods, according to police reports submitted by Wadi Doan residents. Many beekeepers were killed and others are still missing.

Deadly floods last month that killed dozens and forced thousands to flee hit the honey-producing provinces of Hadramout the hardest and decimated beekeepers as thousands of hives were washed away.

Honey is one of the main exports of Yemen. The Hadramout honey business alone is worth YR 2.25 billion riyals (USD11.3 million) and represents 26 percent of total honey production of Yemen. Prices vary

according to type of honey. Al-Sedr honey, usually produced in November, is the most expensive and is primarily exported. According to statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture, about 17 percent of the honey produced by Yemen's more than one million beehives is exported, generating USD 9 million per year. Honey merchants have said that the floods will double the prices of honey next season.

Bees usually live in swarms in long cylindrical wooden or china houses called beehives that contain many honeycombs dangling from the roof. Honeycomb consists of several six-sided holes made of wax. Bees produce a sweet sticky substance called honey which is very expensive good and it is extracted from nectar.

The first days of bee season, which starts in September, are the best chance for beekeepers because they can sell a single beehive for at least YR 10,000, but at the end of the bee season the beehive is sold for around YR 3,000. The bee season is only forty days long because that is the time when the flowers the Sidre tree blossom. As the reaped honey is from one tree only, it is extremely pure and of the highest quality. It is called

Sidre or Baghyih.

Because bees will return to their owners especially when the distance is very short, when bee tenders intend to buy beehives from beekeepers they opt to fetch them at night to arrive at their destination before the light of the morning.

In the countryside, most people are fond of chatting about the factors of erosion and weather which have fundamental impacts on the honey harvest. Those who have a lot of honey present it as gifts to their relatives and neighbors. During the forty days of the bee season people prepare three tools for reaping the honey: cotton ropes for smoking, long knives for separating the honeycombs from the roof of the beehive and a tub with its lid to hide the honey from the bees.

The reaped honey is prepared in two ways. It is collected in a sieved barrel to be mashed and sifted out of the black wax, or it is put in pairs in suitable cans and this is the white-waxed one.

Honeybees are not only important for making honey, but are also an important factor in the cross pollination of other plants. Grain staples are wind-pollinated, but most

foodstuff that adds vitamins and antioxidants to our diets—apples, pears, cherries, plums, melons, cucumbers, zucchini, almonds, macadamia nuts, and so on—rely on cross pollination. Plants like lettuce, carrots, broccoli, and onions, which don't make edible fruits but need to make seeds for next year's supply, also rely on bees.

The joy of bee season is only partly interrupted by the presence of their hostile enemies the wasps. Although bees defend their hives fiercely sacrificing their lives their lives in the process, beehives owners search for wasps nests in the mountains in order to eliminate them.

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