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Monday, 24 November 2008 • Issue No. 1210 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Al-Sooofi to the Yemen Times:
"I still believe that the GPC will
rule for the next 50 years."



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Yemen's water crisis

JMP confirms objection to elections unless demands are met

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Nov. 23 – The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) held a consultative meeting on Friday during which the opposition coalition's leaders confirmed their objection to the upcoming parliamentary elections unless their demands are fulfilled. The meeting was attended by tens of senior opposition activists, who presented their views on the most important national issues they consider need consultative meetings and dialogues between the various political parties and prominent personalities.

Participants concluded that Yemen is experiencing some of the worst crises on all of the political, economic and social levels. They hold the view that the country is rapidly moving toward a real catastrophe as a result of political congestions that have proved to be one of the prominent causes of the current national crisis.

The JMP's meeting released a statement claiming that the current institutional system in Yemen gives top priority

to personal interests of a certain group at the expense of national partnership.

According to the opposition coalition, the government is unable to suggest serious or workable solutions to the current turmoil in the nation, which it said to be the result of poor policies pursued by the government.

During the meeting, opposition leaders raised five negative aspects practiced by the government. First, they accused the government of planning to abort democracy in its stage of infancy since it only cares about the same political party staying in power for as long as possible under inauthentic democracy. They added that the government exploits the state's resources and public funds to ensure the long life of the totalitarian regime, and commented that the authority views democracy as anti-change concept, and therefore cannot replace influential individuals.

Second, the government lacks a national vision to address the dire situation in the south of Yemen and never

admits that the issue of military retirees in the southern governorates may affect all Yemenis. The participants noted that ruling party leaders holding key posts in the government prefer personal interest to the national unity.

According to the JMP's statement, the authority tightens the noose around peaceful protests and use power and violence to disperse protesters, as well as crack down on political activists or lock them away in jails, which is why the situation has continued to worsen and problems have become more complicated.

Opposition leaders blamed the government for dragging the nation into further conflicts and civil wars and producing a state of lawlessness and political instability countrywide. They hold the government accountable for this negative phenomenon since it deliberately ignores pressing national issues and restricts freedom of expression through legal means.

Third, the repeated wars waged by the government in the governorate of

Sa'ada function as an initial dangerous step toward unprecedented fragmentation in Yemen's political history.

Fourth, the government is not concerned about the current economic crisis, price hikes and citizens' poor living standards amid the spread of corruption in the various government offices. Due to the government's poor policies, unemployment and poverty are on the increase while millions of Yemenis living below the poverty line are threatened by starvation.

Fifth, the state's constitutional institutions are unable to create a good mechanism that can help put an end to notable paralysis hindering the government's performance and effectiveness in addressing pressing issues in the nation.

As part of his interaction with JMP consultations, the Yemeni opposition leader Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakimi, currently residing in Cairo, urged JMP member parties and leaders to do their best to rescue Yemen from potential collapse.

Continued on page 2

The roots of protest: Prior elections impact future polls

By: Jane Novak
For the Yemen Times

LAHJ, Nov. 22 — Voter registration committees triggered protests on Thursday that drew crowds estimated at hundreds of thousands. The registration process was launched November 11 in preparation for April's Parliamentary election.

A teen was killed at a registration center in Radfan, Lahj on November 15 when police opened fire on protesters, an opposition MP said. Registration committees were forcibly ejected by residents in other southern towns. Radfan was the scene of four fatalities in September 2007 when security forces clashed with protesters. The year-long protest movement in the southern governorates culminated in the election of the Southern Liberation Council (SLC) on November 14, 2008. The SLC, purporting to represent hundreds of thousands of southern Yemenis, will boycott the election.

Yemen's opposition party alliance, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), is boycotting the registration process. The JMP claims the registration committees were illegally formed and favor the ruling General People's Congress Party (GPC). Security officials said on Thursday that hampering the committees' activities is a crime. Dozens of JMP activists were arrested during otherwise peaceful protests.

Authorities report several hundred thousand new voters or domicile changes have been recorded since the registration process began. The GPC said the election will be held as scheduled and alleges the JMP is instigating the protests out of weakness.

After Yemen's 2006 presidential and local elections, European Union (EU) election observers recommended measures to build public confidence in the electoral process, but steps were never taken. Current unrest stems largely from diminished public faith in the impartiality

and integrity of the electoral process. Protests are also a backlash to the heightened expectations generated by the 2006 campaigns.

Yemen's 2006 elections were vibrant and a substantial improvement over prior elections. The JMP's presidential candidate, Faisal bin Shamlan, campaigned freely throughout Yemen and was granted equal time by the state owned broadcast media. Bin Shamlan garnered 23 per cent of the vote. The JMP alleged systematic fraud, but accepted the outcome in the interest of stability and with the hope of codifying electoral reform.

European Union (EU) observers commended "significant and positive developments" but also found serious prob-

lems. "The fairness of the campaign was undermined by the systematic and exclusive use of State resources to favor the incumbent. State agencies, especially the police and military, showed overwhelming support for President Saleh and the ruling party," their final report states.

President Saleh mobilized his party promising "A New Yemen." Many trusted in Saleh to maintain stability and create economic growth more than the untested challenger. After the election, voters saw the price of wheat double, 40 per cent unemployment and 27 per cent inflation. Reforms, development and anti-corruption measures touted in the campaign have been slow to materialize.

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Employees learn about their rights

By: Almigdad Mojalli

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — The General Administration of Working Women in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Developing Working Woman directorate trained 100 employees on their rights and duties last week in the Saba Farma factory in Sana'a.

The five-day training included information about labor and personal status law, leave of absence and responsibility.

"The training included the duties of employees, the labor law for the private sector, the law of civil services for public sector employees, and the personal status law for elderly employees and those with limited incomes," said Hussain Aushaish, the manager of the awareness training program.

A part of the training was dedicated to maternity leave and leave of absence to mourn a death. "During pregnancy, a woman's working hours decrease from eight to five hours a day from the sixth month of her pregnancy," Aushaish added, "After delivery, the woman has a 70-day maternal leave."

Aref Mahdi Awad, the manager of Saba Farma factory, stated that it was in need of training because many of its employees were unaware of their rights although most of them are educated. "We have been arranging for the training since 2006, our employees have received much training on profes-



Nursery teacher at a kindergarten in Sana'a. According to the Women Status Report 2006 of the Women National Committee, the unemployment rate for women in 2004 has increased by five folds since 1999.

sional safety and security, as well as ISO skills," said Awad.

The employees expressed their appreciation of the training and said that they had learned a lot about their duties and rights. Mohammed Al-Ryashi mentioned that he learned more about job contracts and their legal contents, as well as insurance and holidays.

Ayam Al-Qubati, a trainee, said, "We received training in women in development, the labor law, the personal status law and insurance. I have received previous training but this time

I feel I have acquired a lot of knowledge."

The training is part of the Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) in the Republic of Yemen launched in August 2008 by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

The Decent Work Country Program is a vehicle to ensure opportunities for men and women to obtain work in an environment of freedom, equality, security and human dignity while contributing to poverty alleviation and the overall development of the country.

National media to support Yemeni industry

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Nov. 23 — A conference on the future of industry future in Yemen was held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade last Wednesday to discuss national industry and the role of mass media in supporting it. Organized by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Hadramout Chamber of Commerce, the Yemeni Businessmen's Club and the Yemeni Industrialists' Society, it was attended by the Minister of Industry and Trade, the Minister of Information and journalists.

Dr. Yahya Al-Motwakel, Minister of Industry and Trade, said that Yemen is preparing a program for industry development with the Arabian Industry Organization.

Stressing the role of the mass media in supporting the national industry, economic reporter Ibrahim Al-Ashmawi explained the current role of Yemeni media in supporting national industry. He highlighted its negative attitude towards national products and called for a media campaign to support and encourage the Yemeni industry.

He pointed out that there are around 115 Yemeni newspapers and magazines, 10 radio stations, two cable TVs, six satellite channels and 1,000 websites in Yemen. Explaining the Yemeni media's treatment of economic issues and development, he mentioned that the percentage of economic programs in Yemeni channels is about 2.6 % of the total programs.

Al-Ashmawi said that the media's negative attitude towards national product was due to many reasons including poor quality and low standards, limited advertisements, the competition of imported brands and a local mindset that thinks that foreign brands are better than local ones. He called for building consumer confidence, fighting smuggling and putting an end to consumer deception, explaining that building a stronger national industry would in turn create more work opportunities for Yemenis.

The economic reporter suggested that the media promote high quality national brands and build Yemenis' confidence in them. He suggested establishing an administration of economic and industrial media, training economic journalists, developing eco-



Yasin Al-Asbahi, Yemen Times printing production manager checking the quality of printing. Although printing is a budding industry in Yemen it is growing very quickly because of the high demand and less competition.

nomie sections in newspapers to highlight research findings in industry and technology to raise awareness of what is "made in Yemen".

Citing the obstacles to industry development in Yemen, Abdulwasa'a Hayel Saeed, Yemeni businessman and investor said, "The biggest challenge that we face is poor infrastructure". He said that although he owns a number of factories overseas, the ones he owns in Yemen are the most financially challenging.

Al-Motwakel added that challenges to industry development in Yemen include out-dated industry laws from the 1970s, a lack of technical workforce, and the high cost of production as well as absence of information about the investment sector, in addition to both local and global competition. According to the minister, the Authority of Quality and Standards signed an agreement on its behalf with two international companies to manage the supervision of imports to ensure only high-quality products enter the country. The companies will also conduct a two-year training period for Yemeni personnel from the Authority of Standards and Quality.

Journalists who participated in the conference criticized the private sector

for not spending enough in advertising. Hussein Basleem, head of Yemen TV, said that the role of Yemeni businessmen in the promotion of national industry is "very low and sometimes zero".

Made in Yemen

According to Omar Bajarash, head of the Hadramout Chamber of Commerce, on Dec. 22 and 23 an international conference will be held in Al-Mukalla under the title "Made in Yemen". Former prime minister of Malaysia Mahathir Mohammed will share the Malaysian experience. The conference will discuss national strategy for industry development and businessmen from the Gulf will attend. Yemen will especially benefit from the Malaysian experiment due to the similarity between the two countries in culture and religion, according to Bajarash.

Al-Motwakel said that no laws exist in Yemen to commit employers to employ Yemeni workers and that foreign nationals are welcome to partake in the Yemeni industrial sector.

National manufacturing in Yemen contributes to about 10 percent of the GDP and around 4.5 percent of total workforce employment.

Empowering women in political participation

By: Shuaib Al-Mosawa
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — One hundred and sixty six female political activists from around the republic have been chosen for empowerment training for women in the political domain. The training was launched last week in a public event organized by the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) and funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the European Commission. The training is a component of a wider program to last until 2010 to support women's political participation with a special focus on the electoral process, especially the upcoming parliamentary elections in April 2009.

The International Federation for Electoral Systems (IFES) is also a key player in this program which is considered to be the first of its kind because it directs women's participation as candidates in the parliamentary elections with full support of the official organizations such as the elections' commission and the GPC ruling party. In fact, the GPC had already spread banners across the main cities advocating for women's empowerment and their political rights.

Khaled Abdulwahab Al-Sharif, Chairman of the SCER, said that political illiteracy, the influence of social and cultural practices, and the novelty of the democratic experience are the main obstacles preventing women from obtaining their political rights. Al-Sharif pointed out that, despite the increased number of registered women in the voters records in 2006 compared to 1993, the individual achievements of women are declining and in need of more popular campaigning programs, such as a media strategy for the political empowerment of women.

The campaign will be formulated in a way that the media's message reaches the public directly and is accepted by them. There will be strong emphasis on religion to support women's rights and to correct some of the traditional concepts that hinder women's political participation. The campaign plans to include a number of television, radio and print media interviews with respectable religious scholars in Yemen and in the Arab world who will vouch for women's political participation and clarify the position of Islam in this regard.

The media campaign will also target men and women in younger age groups, such as high school and university students, because youth are the potential change makers and future participants in the electoral process.

Moreover, according to the strate-



Women register in preparation to vote in the April parliamentary elections. Despite an increase in the number of registered female voters in 2006 compared to 1993, women's individual political achievements are in decline.

gy's concept paper, there will be educational sessions on the laws and regulations that promote women's participation in the elections, as an example of the political participation of women in general.

Director of the SCER general department for women affairs Dr. Elham Abdulwahab explained that, in addition to the official and non-official media, there will be large mobile screens in the main streets presenting short documentaries and drama sketches to promote women's political participation.

Al-Sharif hoped that government institutions, political parties, and civil society organizations would have a responsibility to enhance women's political participation in order for them to reach a reasonable percentage in both the parliament and local councils.

Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator, said, "It is indeed very commendable that SCER in Yemen has a separate department focusing on women's participation, something that many countries don't have".

Mehta regretted that over the past three elections, there had been a decline in the number of successful women contesting in the elections, but stressed the importance of creating programs such as the ones organized by the commission's women's department to build the capacity of women to contest and participate in the next elections.

Michael Dorsaw, Charge d'Affaires of the European Union, said, "Actually, if gender were not such a big problem in Yemen, we would not be here today. Facts talk by themselves. Yemen has the worst gender indicators in the world. This must change; we must give a voice to 50 percent of the popula-

tion."

He added that the EU had observed the local councils elections in 2006 and produced recommendations to enhance women's participation in the election process. He described the fact of having only one elected women in Parliament as shocking, adding "this should change not for [women], but for Yemen."

He also said that they should kick off the process in the next days and weeks, and further stressed the importance of education, calling on political parties and civil society organizations to enhance the current situation of women.

IFES manager Peter Williams commented on the issue: "The parties have dialogued over the women's quota but no action is being made to make it happen". He pointed out that the international community is supporting Yemeni women because Yemeni men who are in position to do something about women's rights have do not do anything.

He added, "The parties like to talk about women's rights because they think their words will look good, [but] words without actions are empty". He concluded his speech by exhorting those who have the power to take action: "Stop talking and do something constructive to make all your fine words a reality for Yemeni women."

Mehta recommended married women seek family support to actively participate in the electoral process, and stated that financial support could be a major obstacle to women's running in the election. Mr. Williams, agreed with Mehta on the funding issue, commenting, "The political parties are given campaign funding but those who control the money are men; women do not receive any support like this."

Continued from page 1

JMP confirms objection to elections unless demands are met

According to Al-Hakimi, opposition leaders need to form a "national rescue front" from patriotic figures, which may function as a national reference to resolve pressing issues and put a stop to political conflicts.

In his letter distributed to the local media outlets, Al-Hakimi said, "This proposed front should be based on a national rescue program and function as a common denominator that can bring various visions and viewpoints of political parties together in the form of collective agreements on certain issues."

Advisor to President Mohammed Salim Ba Sundwa, who attended the meeting, regretted the dire situations in Yemen and said that patriotism is no longer enough to protect any citizen in this nation.

Ba Sundwa, whose presence surprised the opposition coalition, said, "I am very sad at the state of my homeland, which is progressing backward. We live in a homeland where patriotism cannot protect any of us, while tribal and ethnic affiliation may do."

"We hope that the upcoming parliamentary elections provide a chance for Yemen to move toward the best," Ba Sundwa declared, ruling out the possibility of the upcoming elections being held on their determined date. "Conducting the upcoming elections next April as scheduled is a dangerous adventure that may lead the nation into a gloomy tunnel," he concluded, recommending that the government be prudent in dealing with the issue.

The roots of protest: Prior elections impact future polls

Opposition voters were also disappointed. Many believe voter fraud was more severe than reported by the EU. The

GPC, working through the state apparatuses, meted out significant retribution to opposition activists after the election including political manipulation of civil service employment. For example, some teachers believe they were transferred to distant locations as a punitive measure for their political activities.

EU recommendations include transparent vote counting, enforcement of election law, media fairness, and improving the voter register, electoral laws and systems. These recommendations formed the basis for a JMP-GPC dialog. Specific reforms include prohibiting voters from registering an employment address as a domicile of record, an important limitation considering the size of Yemen's military. Other JMP concerns include the neutrality of state owned media and the public budget during elections. In 2006, the voter registry contained hundreds of thousands of underage and duplicate registrations. The JMP insists on access to a soft copy of the registry.

The JMP strongly advocates adopting the proportional or list method. The "first past the post" method in place gives advantage to the ruling party. In 2003's parliamentary election, the GPC received 58 per cent of the vote and 238 seats. Candidates of JMP member party, Islah, won 22 per cent of the vote but only 46 seats. The GPC's parliamentary seats increased from 123 in 1993, to 187 in 1997 and 238 in 2003. The participation of independent candidates and women candidates sharply dropped in each election.

At an impasse, the JMP boycotted Parliament during July 2008. The GPC dominated parliament passed legislation without implementing any electoral reforms, blaming the JMP for the failure of consensus. On August 26, President Saleh selected the members of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendums (SCER). In

turn, the JMP called for a boycott of the registration.

In the southern governorates, JMP candidate bin Shamlan enjoyed significant support in 2006. However, faith in competitive politics as a mechanism of redress dimmed after the election, and southerners turned to protests then self-organized outside the party system.

Over twenty protesters were killed since September 2007 in southern Yemen, hundreds injured and over a thousand arrested in confrontations with police. As monthly demonstrations swelled, authorities responded by outlawing unauthorized gatherings, arresting civil leaders, journalists and protesters while providing few practical remedies to longstanding grievances.

Southern demands initially centered on land theft and other alleged systemic governmental discrimination including exclusion from employment. Popular sentiment hardened in response to the state's use of force. Many now dispute the legitimacy of the central government, contending unity was illegally imposed by force after Yemen's 1994 civil war.

The Southern Liberation Council's leadership was elected in Yafe by 350 delegates from 50 districts across south Yemen during a November 2008 conference. Hassan Ba'oum who heads the SLC, was arrested for treason in April 2008 after demanding an end to "northern occupation" at a rally. Ba'oum's detention prompted new demonstrations. Along with 863 other southern activists, Ba'oum was released in September. Hundreds of men armed with RPG's guarded the Yafe conference. Other no-go areas for government forces in southern Yemen include parts of al-Dhalie and Abyan. Residents expelled government officials from Toor Albaha in Lahj in April 2008, and 40 soldiers captured there were released in August.

In Brief

SANA'A

Al-Saleh Mosque officially inaugurated

President Ali Abdullah Saleh inaugurated on Friday Al-Saleh Mosque officially in the capital Sana'a with the attendance of high-profile Islamic scholars and intellectuals from Arab and Islamic countries.

The mosque represents an architectural master-work and an intellectual and religious pulpit at the level of Yemen and the Arab region which is expected to perform a great role in the mediation of Islam through outcomes of its scientific colleges and departments.

The total establishment cost estimated at \$60 million and it is based on 224 thousand m² with 24 m in height and a capacity for 40 thousand worshippers.

Islamic Press Federation 3rd meeting wraps up

Participants in the 3rd meeting of the Islamic Press Association, wrapped up on Saturday in Sana'a, affirmed the importance of activating the role of media means in spotting lights on the nation's issues and confronting any attempts against its unity and sacred properties.

In the meeting's final statement, they called for the importance of supporting the protection of the nation's identity and contributing to future with more values and morals.

The statement indicated the foreseen role of the Arab and Islamic media in revealing plots targeting Iraq and showing the oppression suffered by the surrounded Palestinians.

Netherlands grants Yemen's basic education \$ 15 million

Social Development Fund and Dutch government signed on Saturday funding treaty worth \$ 15 million for supporting Yemen's education center.

Upon the treaty, which was signed by the fund's Executive Director Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi and vice Dutch ambassador in Yemen, the government of Netherlands grants Yemen funding grant worth \$ 15 million for improving and expanding basic and secondary education on the basis of the fund's middle-ranked viewpoints extends to late of 2010.

Al-Arhabi highlighted keenness of Dutch government in supporting and enforcing Yemeni government's efforts aiming at improving development's capabilities, especially those fields related to education.

For her part, the Dutch official considered the grant as part of donors' support to contributions of the fund in all development's sectors.

Educational project worth \$1, 4 million launched

Minister of Education Abdussalam al-Jawfi inaugurated on Saturday here "Intitlaq" educational project for science and mathematics subjects to the ninth class via the Spider Network with the cost of \$ 1, 4 million.

Funded by donors and private sector from next February and last for a complete year, the project aims at giving access to students in 20 schools in the Capital Sana'a and governorates of Aden, Taiz and Hadramout to gain skills on using information technology and communication in these subjects.

Minister al-Jawfi made it clear that inaugurating the project via the Spider Network, in addition to launching the project of improving secondary education due next week is a new breakthrough in the ministry tendencies not only in updating and improving education but also in mechanisms of multi-funding programs.

"Participation of the private sector in this project, as complete work affiliated with the ministry, is the first of its kind in realizing quality despite the income amounting to YR 55 billion the sector gets from its work in private school," Al-Jawfi, who highlighted support of donors to this project, said.

For his part, US ambassador to Yemen Stephen Seche described partnership between the private and public sectors as "unique of its kind" for enabling Yemeni children get access to good education to be able to participate in the development and democratic process.

Draft laws of linking 2009 state budget approved

The Parliament approved on Saturday draft laws of linking 2009 state budget.

Headed by the speaker of the parliament

Yahya al-Rai'a, the parliament asked the government to adopt several measures related to implementing those laws.

After discussion for the studied prepared by a special committee in the parliament, the government confirmed its commitment with the recommendations of the committee over the budget.

The 2009 state budget was estimated at YR 1.9 trillion and deficit at around YR 426 billion.

HADRAMOUT

YR72 bln losses in agricultural sector in Hadramout due to floods

Floods which hit Hadramout governorate caused losses at around YR 72 billion in agricultural sector, an official report said on Saturday.

According to the report of the sub-relief committee in the governorate, large spaces of agricultural lands, irrigation channels and dams damaged as well as livestock died because the floods.

The report was discussed in a meeting headed by the deputy governor of Hadramout head of the relief committee Ahmed al-Janid. The report also pointed out to the efforts of the main relief committee headed by deputy prime minister for internal affairs Sadaq Amin Abu Ras to rehabilitate basic services in the governorate.

Radars on Yemeni coasts to safeguard territorial waters from piracy

Yemen has installed long-range radars to monitor pirate boats in the event of approached the Yemeni territorial waters.

Sources from Ministries of Interior and Defense as saying that extra hundreds of soldiers have been deployed on several gunboats outfitted with the modern fighting equipment to repress piracy acts. A source in the Defense Ministry revealed that the ministry is to establish two marine military bases in governorates of Hadramout and Hodeidah to reinforce the protection of the Yemeni territorial waters.

These security procedures aim to combat terrorist and trafficking acts as well as to guard against any acts may be launched by Somali pirates against ships off the Yemeni coast, the source made clear.

SHABWA

USAID sponsors educational workshops in Shabwah, Marib

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched on Saturday for six days a workshop for school maintenance committees from forty-six schools in Marib province.

In a press release, the USAID said that the workshop was a part of the U.S. government's commitment to help improve the conditions of schools in Yemen.

The USAID has also sponsored on 1-6 November a School Buildings Repair and Maintenance Concepts Workshop for School Maintenance Committees from 18 schools in Shabwah province.

"116 school headmasters, teachers, heads of fathers and mothers councils, social workers, engineers, representatives from the District Offices of Education, the Governorate Office of Education, and the Director Generals of Education from the governorates and the district levels were in attendance", pointed out the USAID.

For the Marib workshop, participants will discuss the importance of continuous maintenance at the educational facilities under their care and develop greater knowledge and skills in the area of basic repair and maintenance.

As a result of the workshop, maintenance officials will be able to extend the service life of their school buildings and in turn reduce construction and renovation costs. This workshop represents just one component of USAID's education program in Yemen. All education activities reflect the commitment of the government of the United States to help Yemen promote the prosperity and well-being of all Yemenis through education.

ADEN

Documentary on emigrant birds on German Culture House soon

German Culture House is to exhibit in Aden next Monday the international documentary on the emigrant birds.

The director of Wetland Protection Project in Aden Jamal Ba-Wazir told Saba that the purpose of presenting this documentary is to introduce to which extent the emigrant birds are significant to the environment and its biodiversity.

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In addition, the documentary aims also to show the problems that may hinder the wetland protection and the adopted means to protect them.

Ba-Wazir added this event comes within the awareness programs carried out by the project to raise the awareness of environment's significance and wetland preservation.

Aden seaport receives 42 metric tons of diesel

A Liberian oil tanker unloaded on Saturday about 42 metric tons of diesel in the Aden refinery seaport.

A source in Aden seaport said that the shipment will be distributed to all gas stations as well as Yemeni ports.

He added that another oil tanker carrying about 52 metric tons of diesel is awaiting to unload in the seaport.

Al-Mo'ala Seaport also received about 27,000 tons of woods and iron coming from Turkey.

Regional workshop on vessels ballast water management to be held in Aden

Egyptian, Jordanian and Sudanese delegations arrived on Saturday in Aden governorate to participate in a regional workshop on ballast water management in vessels. The workshop, that will be held during 23 - 26 November, is organized by the General Authority for Marine Affairs in cooperation with International Marine Organization (IMO).

Their News

Workshop to focus on media advocacy for development work

New Delhi-based research, training and consultancy organization Sambodhi will conduct a workshop from December 3 to 5 focusing on the strategic use of media for advancing social policy.

Practitioners engaged in development communication, knowledge dissemination and advocacy should attend the training, titled "Media Advocacy for Developmental Initiatives."

It will aim to help participants: highlight 'media advocacy' as one of the main strategies of their work; appreciate the role and use of media for coverage of developmental issues; identify appropriate media strategies in the field; and describe and apply various message framing techniques.

The fee for the program is INR 4,000 (US\$80).

For more information, visit <http://www.sambodhi.co.in/ne-ev-details.php?id=58> or click here for a PDF flyer.

Arab Investigative Journalists to Meet in Amman

Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ), will hold its first regional conference in Amman from 28 to 30 November. The meeting will offer a rare opportunity for a new generation of Arab investigative reporters to share their experience with top international journalists and leading media professionals and academics.

The conference will look into principles of investigative reporting, access to public information, reporter safety and the future of investigative journalism in the Arab World. In addition, the three winners of the first ARIJ Prize for best investigative reporter of the year 2008 in print media category will be announced at a gala dinner.

This year's "cornerstone conference" will allow Arab reporters and editors to get inspiration from successful international and Arab investigative journalists like Professor Sheila Coronel, recipient of the coveted 2003 Ramon Magsaysay Award for journalism, and now head of the Investigative Journalism center at Columbia University. Other award-winning journalists include INSEAD professor Dr. Mark Hunter (USA), Tim Sebastian (UK), host of the prestigious

"Doha Debates" a monthly talk show aired on BBC, and former foreign correspondent at the BBC for over 20 years, and presenter of "Hard Talk" Show, David Leigh, (UK) Investigations Editor at The Guardian newspaper and top TV investigative journalists Tom Heinemann (Denmark) and Fredrik Laurin (Sweden).

Al-Jazeera's top investigative journalist and University professor Youssi Foudeh, presenter and producer of the famous TV programme "Top Secret", Hazem al-Ameen, Features editor at the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper, and Hani Shukrallaah, (Egypt) Executive Director, the Heikal Foundation, will also take part. ARIJ fellows Fatima Rida (Lebanon), Lina Al-Joudi (Syria), who won first and third prize under Britain's Inquirer Award 2007, will share their experiences and working methods, along with a dozen ARIJ fellows from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The conference is an ARIJ initiative to improve both the standards of investigative reporting in the region, and to foster cross-border networking. It is modeled along the lines of the Global Investigative Journalism Conference (GIJC), which concluded its fifth conference in Norway, between Sept. 11 and 14, 2008, and other annual meetings of regional networks across the Globe.

Many of the over 40 journalists from Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, who have completed investigations with support from ARIJ, will present their reports, share publication experiences and working methods at various panels. The meeting will also offer training sessions on basic Computer-Assisted Reporting (CAR), how to protect your sources, and how to find information beyond Google.

There is no participation fee for ARIJ fellows in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, who have completed and published investigations with support from ARIJ. Other participants, however, will have to cover their travel, meal and accommodation expenses. ARIJ has secured rooms at the Holiday Inn Hotel, venue of the conference, for a special rate of \$170 dollars per person a night in a double room, and \$195 in a single room on a full board basis, inclusive of all taxes.

The conference languages are English and Arabic, with simultaneous interpre-

tation.

For further information and organizational matters please contact Rosette Faraj (Rosette@arij.net)

Freelance opportunity offered for video journalists

Video journalists interested in freelance opportunities with an online international news network are being invited to send their resumes and work samples to the Video Journalism Movement.

Journalists will be expected to complete local news stories in a 1 to 2 week period. Stories should have an international angle and be for a worldwide audience. VJ Movement will pay journalists a flat fee for every story submitted.

There is no deadline for application, as VJ Movement is constantly looking for freelancers.

For more information contact Emily Kopp at ekopp@vjmovement.com.

Website blocked, blogger harassed

The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information has strongly condemned the harassment and threats against engineer Nashwan Abdu Ali Ghanim, whose blog on Katib website <http://helal08.katib.org> is now blocked in Yemen by the state security. The threats and harassment are based on his articles about the consequences of a terrorist operation targeting the U.S. embassy in Yemen, in which he accused certain political and military leaders of being involved in the attacks.

ANHRI denounces the harassment, which violates international laws and conventions, as well as Yemen's own constitution. ANHRI considers this action a breach of democratic principles, which the regime in Yemen claims to protect, and calls on Yemeni authorities to end the threats against Ghanim and guarantee his safety. The group also demands the immediate withdrawal of troops surrounding Ghanim's house, the investigation of his case and the immediate unblocking of his blog.

ANHRI reminds the Yemeni authorities of their obligations towards international conventions following their participation in a 2006 donor conference for states adopting democracy. In particular, ANHRI reminds the authorities to respect Article 19 of the Universal

Declaration for Human Rights and of the International Convention for Civil and Political Rights, which deals with freedom of expression.

In the same context, ANHRI calls on human rights organizations at the local, regional and international level, as well as donor institutions, to support Ghanim and pressure the Yemeni authorities to guarantee his physical integrity and end persecutions against expression and opinion activists.

Arab League agrees to investigate Syrian TV footage

The Arab League has agreed to review the circumstances surrounding a series of purported confessions to terrorist attacks that were aired by Syrian state television last week, the Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA) reported.

DPA on Thursday reported that the request came from Future Movement leader MP Saad Hariri, after ten alleged Fatah al-Islam militants and a woman who identified herself as Wafaa al-Absi, the daughter of the group's leader Shaker al-Absi, claimed they were receiving funding from the Hariri's movement.

Hariri called Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa and asked his to form a "fact-finding Arab committee to investigate the testimonies," a statement from his office said.

"We are expecting the delegation to come in the coming two weeks," a source close to Hariri's parliamentary bloc told DPA.

The source also told DPA that the international commission probing the 2005 assassination of ex-Premier Rafik Hariri, Saad's father, would be asked to look into the Syrian broadcast.

The Arab League commission, however, would help "block attempts by the Syrian regime to blame Lebanon for spreading terror, which is a game that only the Syrian regime excels in," said the statement.

The statement accused Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime of "trying desperately to stretch its hands to control Lebanon's national sovereignty. We are confident that it would fail."

Catholics and Muslims to fight terror and defend faith

Catholic and Muslim leaders at unprecedented Vatican meetings vowed

on Thursday to jointly combat violence committed in God's name, to defend religious freedom and to foster equal rights for minority faith groups.

After three days of meetings, the 58 scholars and leaders -- 29 from each faith -- issued a joint declaration that also appealed for respect for religious figures and symbols.

The meetings came two years after the pope gave a speech hinting Islam was violent and irrational, sparking angry protests in the Middle East. The Muslim participants formed a group to challenge that and seek better mutual understanding.

The joint manifesto, A Common Word, called for dialogue based on shared principles of love of God and neighbour.

"We profess that Catholics and Muslims are called to be instruments of love and harmony among believers, and for humanity as a whole, renouncing any oppression, aggressive violence and terrorism, especially that committed in the name of religion, and upholding the principle of justice for all," said the statement describing the talks as "warm and convivial."

Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority, CAMA Transmission Line 15MVA Power Supply System for the New Sana'a International Airport (S.N.I.A)

Specific Procurement Notice Invitation for prequalification No. (1/2008)

ICB No. (23/2008)

The Civil Aviation Meteorology Authority would like to announce that the closing date for the submission of the Prequalification Documents for The Supply and Transmission line 15MVA Power Supply System for the New Sana'a International Airport is **Wednesday, 3/12/2008** instead of Friday, 5/12/2008 as mentioned in the previous announcement.

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Al-Soofi to the Yemen Times: “I still believe that the GPC will rule for the next 50 years.”

Ahmed Abdullah Al-Soofi, Secretary General of the Democracy Development Institute, is an active leader in the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and is authorized to speak on its behalf.

People claim that Al-Soofi was supporting Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), but he proved to be the first founder of a civil society organization through lavish support from the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, founder of Yemen Times, in 1994. He contributed to establishing the Legal Assistance Center in 1997 and generalizing oversight in the Arab region in 1995.

At the time of political congestion over unity, he established the Popular Movement to Defend National Unity and Fight Corruption. He is currently working on establishing the National Democratic Alliance.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times met with Al-Soofi and conducted the following interview, in which Al-Soofi sheds light on the GPC's stand towards controversial affairs such as elections, corruption, terrorism and the crisis in the southern and eastern governorates of the country.

YT: How do you perceive the government's preparations for the upcoming parliamentary elections, and how do you evaluate current relations between the government and the opposition?

SG: Disagreements between the GPC and the opposition concerning elections are based on selfish considerations which are absolutely unrelated to democracy and the supreme interest of the country. The latter have risen to a dangerous level and I expect that no one can stop them.

The way I see it, the opposition participates in the electoral process and the GPC holds 60 percent of the parliament seats, while the opposition and independent candidates will be given the rest. This will create an active parliament, better opposition and, more importantly, lead the GPC to rid itself of complacency.

Preparations toward the elections are one of the political activities and central duties that the government is working on. It has to fulfill all its commitments. Towards these preparations, many prolonged dialogues have been conducted with political powers. The Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) was dissolved three times and then re-formed. However, dialogue with political powers has yet to reach any agreement.

Yet the government has been working according to the law on which the parliamentary elections were based in 2003. This law has been amended many times and much legislation derives from it. As is one of the fruits of dialogue between the government and the opposition, I wonder why the opposition refuses to participate in these preparations.

YT: The opposition [the JMP] demands the proportional list as a condition to participate in the elections. What is the stand of the ruling party on this?

SG: The JMP doubt democracy as the GPC is the one that rules but, if they were the majority, they would sing its praises. They have run in many elections including two or three parliamentary elections. They also participated in local and presidential elections, but have always remained a minority. Will the proportional list create a magic wand for them and enable them to attain the majority?

YT: But they accuse the government of monopolizing all the country's capacities to serve the official media, army and security apparatuses.

SG: The problem in Yemen is not a question of capacities but, rather, a question of democracy. The opposition doesn't want to bear responsibility in its duties toward promoting democracy. We may have some discrepancies in democracy here and there, but, if so, we all should sit at the table of dialogue to improve the electoral process. I want to maintain that the upcoming elections of 2009 will be better than those of 2003 in all respects, for the simple reason that the opposition will be the observer.

YT: How can the opposition observe if it does not participate?

SG: As long as it will not participate, it is up to it to discover where the fault is. Let it be free for once to discover the shortcomings of the democratic process and we will prove that we are

committed precisely and fairly to the law.

YT: Do you think that the GPC will repeat its control over the elections this time?

SG: Why would the GPC repeat its control? We have offered initiatives and important concessions, including the amendment of the election law, to satisfy of the opposition. It seems that there JMP internal problems have caused its members to fail to reach a united stand. They couldn't even present a list of their candidates for SCER membership on time.

With regard to the proportional list, it will serve the Socialist and Nasserite parties as they are scattered but it will not serve the Islah Party. Consequently, I don't think that the JMP speak with one voice and think with one mind. The JMP have strategic considerations as they either run for elections to achieve a strong victory or to limit the results of the electoral process.

YT: Do you really think that there are serious disagreements among JMP members? Do you think that there are splits among them or that they will run for the elections with one list?

SG: First, we should understand that it is in Yemen's interest to have a strong opposition. We wish for a homogeneous opposition with democratic culture and aims.

All the members of the opposition originated from the ranks of government. Antagonism against the government unified them, not a common strategy to develop democracy or a harmonious political program. Even their program for "national rescue" was a matter of tactics which imply that one side in the JMP will sacrifice its alliance and run for elections alone.

All the members of the opposition emerged from the government and only antagonism against the government unified them. They were not unified based on a strategy to develop democracy or harmonious political program. Even their program for "national rescue", was a matter of tactics which imply that one side in the JMP will sacrifice its alliance and run for elections alone.

YT: Do you mean the Islah Party?

SG: I don't know, but I sense the Islah Party has a different agenda nowadays. The Islah Party is a political party of a high caliber but is impeded by a small undercurrent that calls for exerting pressure on the government and the GPC. The weight and size of this current has now weakened. It seems that reasonable people inside the Islah party will impose themselves and their historic descent that refuses adventure and run for elections even if the other JMP members refuse.



Ahmed Abdullah Al-Soofi, Secretary General of the Democracy Development Institute and active GPC leader.

YT: Is there still an alliance between the GPC and Islah Party as in the past?

SG: I don't think that the experience of 1997 will be repeated but the bonds - whether ideological or political- as well as the historic experience between the GPC and Islah are so deep that they represent strategic potential. I am certain that many of Islah party members

We laid many hopes on the Yemeni unification to overcome obstacles with little regard that the unification between the south and north is also an obstacle. Development suffered from different obstacles including population density.

will not let go of this depth in relations and neither will the GPC.

We joined forces with the Socialist Party to achieve one of the most important accomplishments in Yemen: unification and democracy. If the Socialist party has a plan to invest this accomplishment for its future, the GPC will keep its doors open for dialogue as well as with the Islah party, either together or separately.

YT: Let us move to what is happening in the southern and eastern governorates of Yemen. The opposition says it is a result of violence and may end in a real humanitarian and political disaster. In your opinion, are these activities political or they are merely demands? What are the options through which the ruling party can tackle the crisis?

SG: What is going on in the southern governorates is a political movement as it is headed by part of the Socialist Party as one of the party's currents has moved away from the will of the party toward partial independence. However, it is part of the Yemeni Socialist Party and also part of the political personality of its activities in those governorates.

YT: What are the reasons behind the current deterioration in these governorates?

SG: There are five factors the GPC considers the main reasons of what is happening. The first is that the Yemeni unification raised expectations, revenue expectations. Many hopes were staked on the Yemeni unification, with little regard for the obstacle of unification between the south and north. Development has suffered from different obstacles including population density.

The second factor is that, in the past, the political and economic experience in the southern governorates depended

on the mode of the social production that enabled its government to determine even basic needs such as food, clothing, education and health. This system drained society's energy and rendered it inoperative in terms of contribution to development. The government took such complete care of the people that it stole their right to independent development.

The third factor is that the government's overall dominance has dissuaded society from contributing of the society in different sectors including health, education and development.

The fourth factor that created this situation in the south is the intensive transfer of capital from the northern governorates to the south. This coincided with a process of illegal appropriation of lands by [individuals in power] to invest in them. The greed for investment inside the southern governorates has created a feeling within citizens that they are not part of this economic development.

The fifth factor is that the government has become weak in these governorates in front of these centers of power that have started to impose themselves and their arrogance and marginalized the people.

In addition, political difficulties led to doubts about some people's patriotism for which they were accused of being secessionists.

These governorates are angry at the weakness of the government and the arrogance of power centers that plunder their resources. Some people extort the government with threats of creating a disaster, and the government gives them money and cars to win them over, but in such a way that the problem cannot come to an end.

YT: But there is appropriation of public lands and properties based on high directives.

SG: Every citizen in the southern areas should possess land. We also have to plan for governorates such as Aden, Lahj and Mukalla to establish strategic economic projects as a symbol of the Yemeni unification.

With regard to the political movement in the south, there are the demands of [official and civilian] retirees and employees [in government jobs]. It is time to close the file of war with all its details as its continuation represents a danger for Yemen. There is no danger against the unification as is installed in everybody's heart, but bad government and opposition practices create problems. The strength of the Yemeni unification consists in its ability to bear all arising contradictions.

YT: It is certain that the Yemeni crisis, whether in the south or in the north, resulted from lack of political will to reform or from the ruling party's procrastination. How do you view this matter?

SG: The idea is that there is a crisis in Yemen only. The whole Arab regime

and the Islamic civilization are under crisis. There are many crises and we are not an exception. However, we are one of the better examples of democracy in the region.

YT: You and other members of the GPC say that there is no corruption. Do you think this is right?

SG: Corruption has existed for 4,000 years and the world doesn't feel in crisis.

YT: But in Yemen, corruption is very high.

SG: How do you measure it? Are you better than the Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA)?

YT: Do you consider being a businessman and an official in the government at the same time, for example, to be corruption?

SG: I can say that there is corruption in Yemen, but not because there are many corrupt individuals but due to a shortage of honest men inside the country.

YT: Why not because the government doesn't tackle or combat corruption?

SG: If you cannot offer a single shred of evidence to support these allegations in your newspaper or in opposition newspapers, then how can they be considered to be true? There is no corruption.

We have dozens of inactive authorities that combat corruption, but they are not systematic and cannot do anything. We have the COCA, but is doesn't belong to any authority. We have the General Authority for Integrity, but we don't know anything about it.

The nature of these different authorities indicates that we don't know how to deal with the situation and don't have a culture to combat corruption. Newspapers talk about corruption but they don't have evidence. This leads us to deny that there is corruption.

YT: We have the COCA in Yemen, but does it have the authority to publish the violations and corruption that it registers?

SG: The political leadership wishes that you and all Yemenis would provide real proof and information. In such a case, you will be partners in the political management of combating corruption. Yemen is in need of a clear program, clear leadership, clear will supported by the public. But talking in the air will not lead us to solutions to all issues. In brief we need to start a revolution against ourselves before we revolt against corruption.

The way I see it is that the opposition participate in the electoral process and that the GPC holds 60 percent of the parliament seats while the opposition and independent candidates be given the rest.

YT: Corruption has appeared during the last two decades and it wasn't there during the Al-Hamdi rule, for example.

SG: Corruption becomes clear in coincidence with a development process. Upon construction, many defects appear. As long as you spend on development defects will be clear, and a system of regulations and monitoring is important to get rid of corruption. A national integrity system should be set up to get rid of it, and the best system is media that follows the morals of profession and performance.

YT: Let us move to the security situation and terrorism. Who do you think is behind terrorism? Who funds it?

SG: I believe that terrorism in general follows areas of influence and areas of movement. When the U.S. declared that it had established the Middle

African Leadership Center, Al-Qaeda explosives began. When the U.S. talks about Afghanistan and wants to return to the country after having destroyed the Taliban, the role of Al-Qaeda becomes stronger. When the U.S. pays attention to the issue of a Pakistani nuclear weapon, Al-Qaeda and Taliban Pakistan rear their ugly heads. When the U.S. talks about certain demands in the Red Sea- particularly from Yemen- the hands of Al-Qaeda extend to reach Yemen.

This means that Al-Qaeda and the terrorist activity are part of the war-on-terror policy. The policy of war on terrorism is made up of two words, "politics" and "terrorism". Therefore, the U.S. policy generates terrorism in the whole world and you cannot talk about funding by simple organizations which would be able to penetrate the U.S. system.

At the same time, The U.S. cannot offer any evidence that Al-Qaeda destroyed the World Trade Center in 2001, although they have pictures of Bin Laden and names of the attackers. So, terrorism is one of the CIA tools.

Whenever there are demands, interests or even conflicts between the US and other countries, Al-Qaeda becomes a third side, always. Does this coincidence attract your attention? This answers the question of who funds terrorism. You can realize that whenever there is disagreement between Bush administration -not the U.S. - and other countries, Al-Qaeda becomes more active.

What is going on in Yemen is part of this complicated process which is called "war on terror" under the leadership of George W. Bush and his neo-conservatives who use all of the conservatives, extremists and fundamentalists, as well as all beliefs and religions [to their advantage].

We may have some defects in some parts of democracy here and there. But, in such a case, we have all to sit at the dialogue table to improve the electoral process.

YT: What about the war in Sa'ada? President Saleh declared the war over, but Houthis say they have witnessed military mobilizations and preparations for a potential war after the elections. What is your point of view on this issue? Are they serious in ending the war?

SG: Sa'ada is the stage of a backward historical project and a field of conflict between the republic and monarchy rules. Some people practice un-republican behavior there, but the culture of citizenship and development was able to solve this problem. The president's decision to end the war was correct. In the end, we don't like centers of powers to create crisis on their own behalf. We should behave with responsibility and this last war was ended 85 percent. Sa'ada needs to build its confidence, its culture. We don't want it to be a field of conflicts.

YT: Opposition parties, particularly the JMP, demand a parliamentary not a presidential system. What is your opinion?

SG: We want to be close to the opposition parties. Therefore, we avoid including the standards of a presidential system. We have put together our demands as well as theirs to create a system that has features of both systems.

We are in need of an opposition that exceeds the GPC and makes us believe in a future without the supervision of the GPC or President Ali Abdullah Saleh. We need a Yemeni people who can continue its experience without needing individuals or parties, but through the acts of the opposition. However, I still believe that the GPC will rule for another 50 years.

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- Must complete proper paperwork as assigned
- Performs other related duties as assigned

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education

- A university degree in Mechanic or a related curriculum ,Specialized training in Mechanic discipline.

Experience

- A minimum of 4-5 years of experience in related Fileds.

Language Requirements

- Good knowledge of Arabic and English Languages (writing & Spoken)

Others :

- Good personality and representation skills & capabilities.
- Willing to work in harsh environments and for extended period of time.
- Computer skills
- Driving License
- Yemeni nationality

POST TITLE: Cementing Service Supervisor

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

- An Engineering university degree in Petroleum Engineering or a related curriculum ,Specialized training in Engineering discipline.

Language Requirements

- Good knowledge of Arabic and English Languages (writing & Spoken)

Others

- Good personality and representation skills & capabilities.
- Willing to work in harsh environments and for extended period of time.
- Computer skills
- Yemeni nationality
- Driving License

POST TITLE: Cementing Engineer

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

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recruitmentteamsanaa@hotmail.co.uk

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Call for Applications

Nexen Inc.'s Yemen Scholarship Program Sponsoring Yemeni Scholars to Study in Canada

As a reflection of friendship and commitment to assist in Yemen's human resource development, Nexen Inc. is pleased to announce a further 10 scholarships for post-secondary studies at the University of Calgary and SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary, Canada. Nexen's Yemen Scholarship Program was originally initiated to celebrate the company's 10th anniversary in Yemen. A total of 100 scholarships have been awarded to deserving Yemeni secondary school graduates to date. This highly successful initiative was extended in October 2008 to include an additional ten scholarships to be awarded by Nexen Inc. and the Scholarship Steering Committee to qualified secondary school students to study in Canada.

- The ten (10) scholarship recipients will commence their respective study programs in September 2009 or September 2010.

- Post-secondary study programs currently available for the Nexen Scholarship competition:

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- Minimum of 85% overall average on secondary school certificate
- Commitment to return to Yemen after completion of his/ her studies in Canada

- Submission of all the required documents that are requested in this announcement

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For more details on the selection process, a detailed guide can be downloaded from the websites of Nexen and AMIDEAST (see section 4 of this announcement for more information).

Required Documentation:

- An application form completed in English
- Copy of secondary school grades or transcript
- Copy of personal ID card or passport

- The Nexen Scholarship application forms can be obtained in person from the following application distribution/collection centers:

AMIDEAST, Inc.
Off Algiers St.,
Sana'a
Tel: 01-400279/80/81
Contact Person:
Ms. Asmaa Al-Shafey

AMIDEAST, Inc.
162 Miswat Street, Khormaksar
Aden
Tel: 02-235069/70/71
Contact Person:
Mr. Shakeeb AbdulHamid

Mohamed Ali Othman School
Near Road Constr. Authority
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Tel: 04-223671/2
Contact Person:
Ms. Samar Ahmed Moh

AMIDEAST/Hadramout University
University Campus, Al-Fowah Area
Mukalla
Tel: 05-371560
Contact Person:
Mr. Omar Al-Tamimi

Hodeidah University
Hodeidah
Tel: 03-250600
Contact Person: Mr. AbdulKarim Al-Ward

Applications may also be downloaded from the following websites:

http://www.nexeninc.com/Sustainability/Community/Yemen_Scholarships.asp

or

http://www.amideast.org/whats_new/announcements/nexen.htm

- Completed application forms and requested documentation must be returned in a sealed envelope to any of the above noted application distribution/collection centers. Failure to comply with any of the information requirements will result in disqualification.

- The closing date for accepting applications is **Saturday, December 27, 2008**. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after this date.

- Nexen Inc. and the Scholarship Steering Committee are committed to giving all Yemeni scholarship applicants equal, fair and competitive opportunities.

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Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge.

This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

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

OUR
OPINIONMedia during
times of conflict

Journalism is a profession with many scopes and responsibilities. We affect politics yet we are not politicians, we work with the communities yet we are not a civil society organization, we make money yet we are more than just a business, and so on. Perhaps this is why it is very important that a country's media is active and responsible, because it has a say in the shaping the future of the nation.

During times of conflict, the role of media is even more important because it is a main source of information that can push decision makers to be inclined one way rather than the other. And this is precisely why media is equally important during disasters, such as the one that recently occurred in three of our governorates on the east coast of Yemen.

To record events as they happen, to document relief and humanitarian aid, to represent minorities or neglected communities and push their integration into development plans and, most importantly, to hold both the authority and civil society accountable, especially when there is money in the picture.

During times of conflict, we have to help the various sides do their job better and give them community support through forming public opinion. Because the media is very powerful, whom we acknowledge and how we highlight their efforts and achievements in our reporting is extremely important. Even in the most independent of media, there is no absolute objectivity. Simply by choosing to cover this event or to interview that person, we make a decision based on personal or organizational inclination. Therefore it is crucial that the media conduct adequate research before contributing to the situation, and not feel reluctant to rectify a mistake if it happens to clarify the facts for readers. This is also why, in countries with professional media, its coverage can be used in law suits or detective work.

We, Yemeni journalists, know our value and understand the consequences of our reporting. We take pride in our work and hope that we too can serve our country in the way it needs to be served.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

By: Dr. Suad Al-Sabaa

Schools were established to educate consecutive generations and eradicate illiteracy in society. What the consequence would look like if we named one of our schools as "Primary Illiteracy Promotion School" instead of "Primary Education School". This terminology came to my mind when I met a mother complaining of the failure of her child while attending a primary school.

The mother appeared to be ready to sell all her jewelries and buy marks for her child to pass certain subjects, in which he failed to score even a pass mark after having their exams in order for neighbors' children not to scorn or mock him. Her child still is in the third grade of primary school.

The woman insists to make her child illiterate with her money. And, I suspect that the project of "Making Children Illiterate with Money" has begun to receive support from some parents, who are

unaware about their behavior's effects on the future of their children throughout the various grades of schooling.

Such a destructive project gets promoted among ill-conscience people, who practice trade at the expense of our children's future, either by giving them a chance to cheat inside the exam halls or by accepting bribes and helping failed students to pass to higher grades at primary schools.

We turned to have a new paradigm under the name of "Private and Public Illiteracy Promotion Schools", which are highly blessed and praised by some parents. In addition, guilty-conscience educators, who possess nothing from the meaning of education except for their jobs, grants false legitimacy to plans and policies followed by these schools.

I don't suspect that we will be wrong if we give such a terminology to some schools where officials intentionally and unintentionally follow the kind of practices that destroys a student's personality and skills instead of building them. Had we all searched for such schools, we would have

been obliged to remove many banners hung on their gates, particularly if we heard tales from our children that actually reflect what takes place at these schools.

How do teachers behave inside classrooms?

I found a schoolgirl crying because she understands nothing of the chemistry lessons at her school. Having asked her about what her teacher is doing inside the classroom, the girl replied, "She only comes and reads the lesson from her notebook, and at the same time reprimands one girl and slams another. She always gets upset with the schoolgirls and tells them about her personal problems until the school bell rings for her to go out.

Having asked the schoolgirl whether inspectors visit her school, she responded, "We get prepared for any questions to be raised by the inspector by giving the chance to girls with good access to remedial lessons to convince the visiting inspectors as we fear negative reactions on the part of the teacher.

When I asked her whether officials visit her school, she answered, "Even during visits by senior officials, the school administration deliberates to organize the school from various aspects to receive them because the administration usually knows in advance about the appointments of such visits. The teachers dictate to us what we should say or write to these officials during their visit in order for the school and staff to look good, however in fact, it is faked appearance with no relation with what takes place on the ground. Does not the above-cited terminology apply to this school?

If I am authorized to do anything in this regard, I will have two types of banners for schools, the first is: "Primary and Secondary Education Schools" while the second is "Primary and Secondary Illiteracy Promotion Schools". Having realized that a particular school is doing the job well, I will raise the first banner, but the second banner when I see otherwise.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com

The road to upcoming elections

By: Ahmad Al-Hubeishi

In a previous article, we discussed the necessity of determining a clear position about fighting terrorism, particularly as the Joint Meeting Parties' stances seemed to be unclear and ambiguous. The fact that the opposition parties demonstrate unclear positions posed a great risk to the past electoral processes. We need to take into consideration the failed dialogue the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) had with opposition parties late in 2002 in light of a kind initiative made by President Saleh.

At that time, President Saleh called on all political parties and organizations to pass the law against those who commit terrorist crimes in order to embody collective responsibility toward homeland and the higher interests of the society, which requires joint work by a unified team to help the country avoid potential terror risks.

Obviously, the JMP member parties has been releasing ambiguous and unclear statements condemning terrorism and at the

same time lamenting sovereignty and independence of the nation by accusing the government and the ruling party of being lenient with the killing of citizens, constitutional violations and human right abuses.

We still remember an absurd statement issued by JMP ahead of the past parliamentary elections that took place in 2003. In the statement, the opposition alliance demanded that GPC provide detailed reports and information about plans of security authorities and their activities in the areas of fighting terrorist groups. Their request also included thorough and comprehensive details, characterized by transparency and publicity, on security and intelligence cooperation between Yemen and other Arab and foreign states in the area of fighting terrorism.

The riskiest thing in that statement as published by pro-JMP newspapers is that all the JMP member parties stressed the necessity of reviewing the government policy in this regard. These parties didn't

demand that homeland be protected, nor did they seek effective engagement in combating terrorism and preventing terrorists from having safe havens in our society and homeland. Instead, they clamored for what they called 'defending the Constitution, law, human rights, public freedoms and homeland sovereignty.

It is a misleading speech via which the opposition parties intend to conceal its unclear positions about terrorism. They appear to exploit terrorism as a pretext to escape condemning the terrorist groups and determining a clear stance toward those groups.

"So-called terrorism"

The JMP's speech doesn't only escape condemning terrorism and terrorist operatives, as it also insists on using the term terrorism associated with what the so-called before it, thus producing the term "the so-called terrorism", which implies that what terrorists commit against homeland and citizens is pondered upon as a heroic act, alleging that this act should not

be insulted by the official and pro-government media outlets.

It is impossible for a judicious man to trust what JMP members say about the Constitution, law, public freedoms, democratic practice and human rights as long as these parties and their newspapers escape condemning the terrorist groups that are attempting to destroy the Constitution and law, confiscate freedoms and human rights and oppress women.

In this context, one may criticize the seemingly negative position shown by JMP about terrorism-relate risks via highlighting this risk to democracy, civil freedoms and multi-party system, which our political system is based on. The situation necessitates analyzing the ideological principles of Taliban Movement and Al-Qaeda Organization, which opposition newspapers prefer to conduct interviews with their leaders in Yemen and publish statements about their plots and threats to the nation.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com

Do Yemeni people deserve this leadership?

By: Sami Al-Ghabri

Although we selected a seemingly shocking title for this article, which may convince the readership to bear in mind that we will conclude with an absolute judgment of

whether Yemeni people deserve this political leadership or not, we don't intend to review what we believe is necessary to appeal to the minds of people.

Any qualities and characteristics we may attribute to Yemeni society will, under no circumstance, reflect a justification in defense of the authority and the country's current political leadership. This is an opinion piece, which we want to communicate to our readership with a high level of care and responsibility because we strongly believe that solutions are impossible to get workable unless we quite know what the problem we are trying to solve is.

Instead of adopting means that are characterized by impatience and hurry in suggesting solutions to particular problems and having them announced, we will work together through a deep vision to first identify the problem and then provide the most workable solutions to it. Our pressing problems nationwide require long-term solutions, patience and sincere efforts.

Under no circumstance may we believe that the nation and its economy are suffering an unprecedented tragic crisis. And, it is strange for Yemeni people to receive numerous promises from its leadership with regard to implementing several development projects, fighting unemployment and poverty or improving

citizens' living standards.

We have to stop thinking that Yemen is easy to become a developed state overnight as soon as its current leadership is replaced. This is a real ignorance and foolishness. Even if replacing the current leadership will be good for Yemen was declared by senior politicians and accepted by ordinary citizens as being the only option to help resolve Yemen's pressing political and economic problems, this suggestions merely reflects a declaration, viewpoint or a political trick by a group of politicians (opposition leaders) who are opposing the current government.

Those opposition leaders are only interested in reaching power as soon as possible in order to exploit any available natural resources in the nation. Therefore, they depicted that the commonplace problem in the nation is caused by many individuals in the government, who are accused of robbing the national resources and embezzling public funds.

Undoubtedly, corruption has become rampant in the various state's institutions and this phenomenon reached its climatic point when the opposition began to promote it amid absence of oversight and monitoring. Despite the fact that Yemeni is suffering as a result of rampant corruption, this phenomenon doesn't look like it was depicted by the opposition leaders, mainly

those who are behind spread of such an irresponsible phenomenon in the various parts of the nation.

Corruption culture is commonplace

The corruption culture has become commonplace until the extent that a government official ignores any corruption charges directed to him since he admits before his appointment that he will be corrupt or accused of practicing corruption.

The ordinary citizens and senior politicians were recommended to have more patience in presenting the problem, which state's agencies experience. They should not hurry in judging that all government officials are corrupt without any assessment before directing any corruption charges to them.

In general, people are the source of any pressing problems in the nation and the most pressing of these problems is represented by the high illiteracy rates among Yemen's male and female population with regard to how they understand any negative social concepts and principles that make out of lies and fabrications a real fact. And, as people don't care about investigating and examining facts as they take place on the ground, this makes responsibility a trivial matter.

Source: Marebpress.net

SKETCHED OPINION



By: Samer

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Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008

Top Stories

- JMP warns authority against practicing policy of crackdown and escalating tension
- Taiz-based JMP Branch: The government endorses voter register with blood, crackdown and terrorism
- Thousands of Yemeni citizens boycott voter registration process

A Huge rally was held on Tuesday in Hamadan district of Sana'a province calling for holding free and fair elections which could serve well the nation, underlining that reforming the election system is key to carrying out comprehensive political reforms, the website reported in its lead story. The protestors further called all citizens to stand by the opposition and boycott the registration process through which the authorities are seeking to rig the upcoming elections.

According to the website, government security forces have staged several arrest campaigns against opposition activists over boycotting the voter registration procedures, which Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), also known as the main opposition coalition in the country, labels as illegitimate.

The website went on to say that

security forces arrested on Tuesday dozens of demonstrators using live bullets to disperse them and setting up new checkpoints to prevent protests.

The opposition coalition denounced those acts describing them as arbitrary and in the meantime calling on its supporters to go on their peaceful struggle.

JMP Branch of Sharab district in Taiz governorate held a massive march which roamed the constituency's election centers, expressing strong rejection of manipulating electoral lists by the authorities.



26September.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Army
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008

Top Stories

- Scandalous leaks by the opposition will not harm patriotic figures in the nation, senior ruling party leader says
- Government uncovers 11 suspicious money laundering cases, refers two to relevant courts
- Over 400,000 new voters have their names registered in voter lists over the past week

The number of new voters, who registered their names in the voter registers over the past week exceeded 400,000, the Yemen Army-affiliated news website quoted a member of the Supreme Commission for Elections

and Referendum (SCER) as saying on Monday.

Head of Media and Voter Education Sector at SCER Mr. Abdu Al-Janadi said that the voter registration review and correction process started last Tuesday in all governorates of the country.

The SCER official affirmed that the process goes on incessantly as part of preparatory steps for the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled to take place in April 2009.

According to the website, Dr. Mohammed Al-Sayani, another SCER member, said the number of observation committees is extremely identical with what the SCER expected. The number of the voters who requested their electoral domiciles to be changed reached 16418 males and 5020 females.



Almotamar.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party)
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008

Top Stories

- Islah Party instigates violence against voter registration staff in Dhalea governorate
- Sana'a to host first scientific conference for dentists
- Opposition parties advised to respect previous agreements, prepare for upcoming elections

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) called on political parties in Yemen to respect previous agreements and stop "entrenching in partisan positions" and caring about narrow interests that may destroy principles of the democratic and electoral processes, the website reported.

The international organization added that both ruling and opposition parties should reach a mutual agreement to overcome current obstacles and improve Yemen's democracy.

The website reported that JMP member parties breached the Agreement of Principles they signed with GPC on June 2006, under which the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum shall be formed from judges.

The ruling party also accused the JMP of foiling a two-year dialogue between both sides, rejecting all the initiatives and concessions made by the ruling party, and ignoring the presidential initiative to form the SCER evenly from GPC and JMP and select an independent chairman for the commission.

In a statement received by Almotamar.net, Regional Director of NDI for MENA Affairs Less Campell called on all political parties to jointly work on overcoming all the various obstacles and problems related with the election law.

According to the international expert, Yemen's upcoming parliamentary elections need to be run in a better way to help enhance the positive steps made during the most recent presidential and local council

elections. "All the political parties in Yemen should work together and reach a joint agreement to be reflected on its democratic development," Campell said.

He added, "Yemen has been expending hard efforts for two years to overcome any challenges facing its democratic development, adding that it took Yemen much time to organize and apply its electoral regulations. The upcoming parliamentary elections may reflect a positive step to be added to Yemen's democratic record."



Al-Sharea.net, an independent news website
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008

Top Stories

- Opposition leader: Participating in the election is our main option, GPC only wastes effort and time
- YSP leader: GPC leadership famous for political assassinations and bloodshed since Unity was established
- NDI proposes postponing the upcoming elections

The National Democratic Institute said that a political setback with unknown consequences may happen if the disagreement between Yemen's ruling and opposition parties over electoral procedures and regulations remain unsolved, the website reported. In a press release last week, NDI

quoted its Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa as saying he is concerned about the current political congestions in Yemen, which led to political parties' disagreement over pressing electoral issues."

"The ruling and opposition parties need to reach a consensus on the electoral matter," Campell said. "The upcoming parliamentary elections should be administered in a way enhancing the positive steps made during the most recent presidential and local council elections in September 2006."

According to Campell, Yemen may need to postpone the upcoming parliamentary elections in conformity with the Constitution and laws put into effect if its political parties don't reach a consensus to overcome current problems related with proposed amendments to the General Election Law.

The international political expert invited all the political parties in Yemen to work together on overcoming any pressing issues related with the elections and electoral reforms in order to ensure that Yemeni people practice a democratic experience under an organized election management, adding that the upcoming elections should reflect a positive multiparty system in the country.

The Institute warned that the current political congestions and challenges, faced by the voter registration process, may halt Yemen's democratic progress, insisting that political parties should prepare well for the elections.

The road to nuclear disarmament

By: Ban Ki-moon

Weapons of mass destruction and disarmament form one of the gravest challenges facing the world. One of my priorities as United Nations Secretary-General is to promote global public goods and remedies to challenges that do not respect borders. A world free of nuclear weapons is a global public good of the highest order.

My interest in this subject stems partly from personal experience. My homeland, South Korea, has suffered the ravages of conventional war and faced threats from nuclear weapons and other WMD. But, of course, such threats are not unique to Asia.

Despite a longstanding taboo against using nuclear weapons, disarmament remains only an aspiration. So, is a taboo merely on the use of such weapons sufficient?

States make the key decisions where nuclear weapons are concerned. But the UN has important roles to play. We provide a central forum in which states can agree on norms to serve their common interests. We analyze, educate,

and advocate in the pursuit of agreed goals.

Most states have chosen to forgo nuclear weapons, and have complied with their commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Yet some states view such weapons as a status symbol, and some view them as offering the ultimate deterrent against nuclear attack, which largely accounts for the estimated 26,000 that still exist.

Unfortunately, the doctrine of nuclear deterrence is contagious, making non-proliferation more difficult and raising new risks that nuclear weapons will be used.

The world remains concerned about nuclear activities in North Korea and Iran, and there is widespread support for efforts to address these concerns by peaceful means.

There are also concerns that a "nuclear renaissance" is looming, with nuclear energy seen as a clean energy alternative at a time of intensifying efforts to combat climate change. The main worry is that this will lead to the production and use of more nuclear materials that must be protected against proliferation and terrorist threats.

The obstacles to disarmament are

formidable. But the costs and risks of its alternatives never get the attention they deserve. Consider the enormous opportunity cost of huge military budgets. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, global military expenditures last year exceeded \$1.3 trillion. Ten years ago, the Brookings Institution published a study that estimated the total costs of nuclear weapons in the United States alone to be over \$5.8 trillion, including future cleanup costs. By any definition, this is a huge investment that could have had many other productive uses.

Concerns over nuclear weapons' costs and inherent dangers have led to a global outpouring of ideas to breathe new life into nuclear disarmament. We have seen the WMD Commission led by Hans Blix, the New Agenda Coalition, and Norway's Seven Nation Initiative. Australia and Japan have launched the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. Civil society groups and nuclear-weapon states have also made proposals, such as the Hoover Plan, spearheaded by Henry Kissinger.

I would like to offer my own five-point proposal.

First, I urge all NPT parties, in par-

ticular the nuclear-weapon states, to fulfill their obligation under the treaty to undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament. They could agree on a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments. Or they could consider negotiating a nuclear-weapons convention, backed by a strong verification system, as has long been proposed at the UN. I have circulated to all UN members a draft of such a convention, which offers a good point of departure.

The nuclear powers should actively engage with other states on this issue at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. The world would also welcome a resumption of bilateral negotiations between the US and Russia aimed at deep and verifiable reductions of their arsenals.

Governments should also invest more in verification research and development. The United Kingdom's proposal to host a conference of nuclear-weapon states on verification is a concrete step in the right direction.

Second, the Security Council's permanent members should begin discussions on security issues in the nuclear disarmament process. They could

unambiguously assure non-nuclear-weapon states that they will not be subject to the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Council could also convene a summit on nuclear disarmament. Non-NPT states should freeze their own nuclear-weapon capabilities and make their own disarmament commitments.

Third, unilateral moratoria on nuclear tests and the production of fissile materials can go only so far. We need new efforts to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty into force, and for the Conference on Disarmament to begin negotiations on a fissile material treaty immediately, without preconditions.

I support the creation of the Central Asian and African nuclear-weapon-free zones, and strongly support efforts to establish such a zone in the Middle East. And I urge all NPT parties to conclude their safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and voluntarily to adopt the strengthened safeguards under the Additional Protocol.

Fourth, the nuclear-weapon states often circulate descriptions of what they are doing to pursue these goals. But these accounts seldom reach the

public. I invite the nuclear-weapon states to send such material to the UN Secretariat, and to encourage its wider dissemination. The lack of an authoritative estimate of the total number of nuclear weapons attests to the need for greater transparency.

Finally, a number of complementary measures are needed. These include eliminating other types of WMD; new efforts against WMD terrorism; limits on the production and trade in conventional arms; and new weapons bans, including of missiles and space weapons.

If there is real, verified progress on disarmament, the ability to eliminate the nuclear threat will grow exponentially. As we progressively eliminate the world's deadliest weapons and their components, we will make it harder to execute WMD terrorist attacks.

These proposals offer a fresh start not only on disarmament, but also on strengthening our system of international peace and security.

*Ban Ki-moon is Secretary-General of the United Nations.
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www.project-syndicate.org*

How the new US president can win a lasting Middle East peace

By: Akram Baker

In looking at how the ascension of Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States could affect the Middle East, I am firmly of the belief that to find the answer one need look no further than the way he ran his stunningly successful campaign. By far, it was the most professional, strategically-mapped and brutally well-managed two years that any politician could design, with a potent mix of inspiration and perspiration tapping into the Zeitgeist. While running a campaign is clearly not the same as governing, many valuable indicators can be gleaned to show how the man from Illinois will tackle the Herculean challenges awaiting him and his administration.

Despite conventional wisdom, the core of many of the Middle East's

problems, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is not an intractable morass that lacks solutions. In truth, the desired outcomes, and the path thereto, are relatively clear: a safe, secure and democratic Israel living in peace, prosperity and mutual recognition with its neighbours; a free, independent and democratic Palestine within the pre-June 1967 borders and the creation of a united Jerusalem as the capital of the two countries. There are reams of documents and studies that lay out these plans in minute detail and are readily available to any and all. All that is needed is US leadership that is willing to implement these plans.

The entire facade of peace negotiations during the past eight years has been proven to be not only a canard, but completely ineffectual to boot. The incoming president can change all of that if he applies the same laser-sharp focus he employed during

his amazing run for office. As a public service, I would humbly like to make a few, unsolicited suggestions as to how the president-elect can translate his hard won political capital into lasting peace in the Middle East:

- Announce the formation of a team to exhume the most relevant and agreed upon plans already in existence. This should be easy seeing that a lot of the work done was completed during the Clinton administration.
- Appoint a high-level presidential emissary (Colin Powell?) and empower him/her to hammer out the deal with the parties. This person, who would report directly to the president (with a dotted line to the secretary of state), would immediately bring on board America's allies and partners in the European Union, Russia, China and the United Nations. Only then would they approach the Israelis and the

Palestinians. This group needs real power, not like the horribly ineffectual Quartet of yesterday. Barack Obama will be inaugurated on 20 January 2009, with unprecedented amounts of goodwill around the world, especially among America's allies. He needs to harness that potential as soon as possible.

- Make a major speech on how the new administration sees the Middle East, what it wants to achieve and how it is going to go about it. As the most powerful person on this planet, Obama's bully pulpit is worth its weight in gold. And while much of the world will be very happy to have America lead again, it would be prudent and correct to give a substantial portion of the stage over to America's friends and partners. This would clearly send a message that the United States is no longer going it alone and make its position

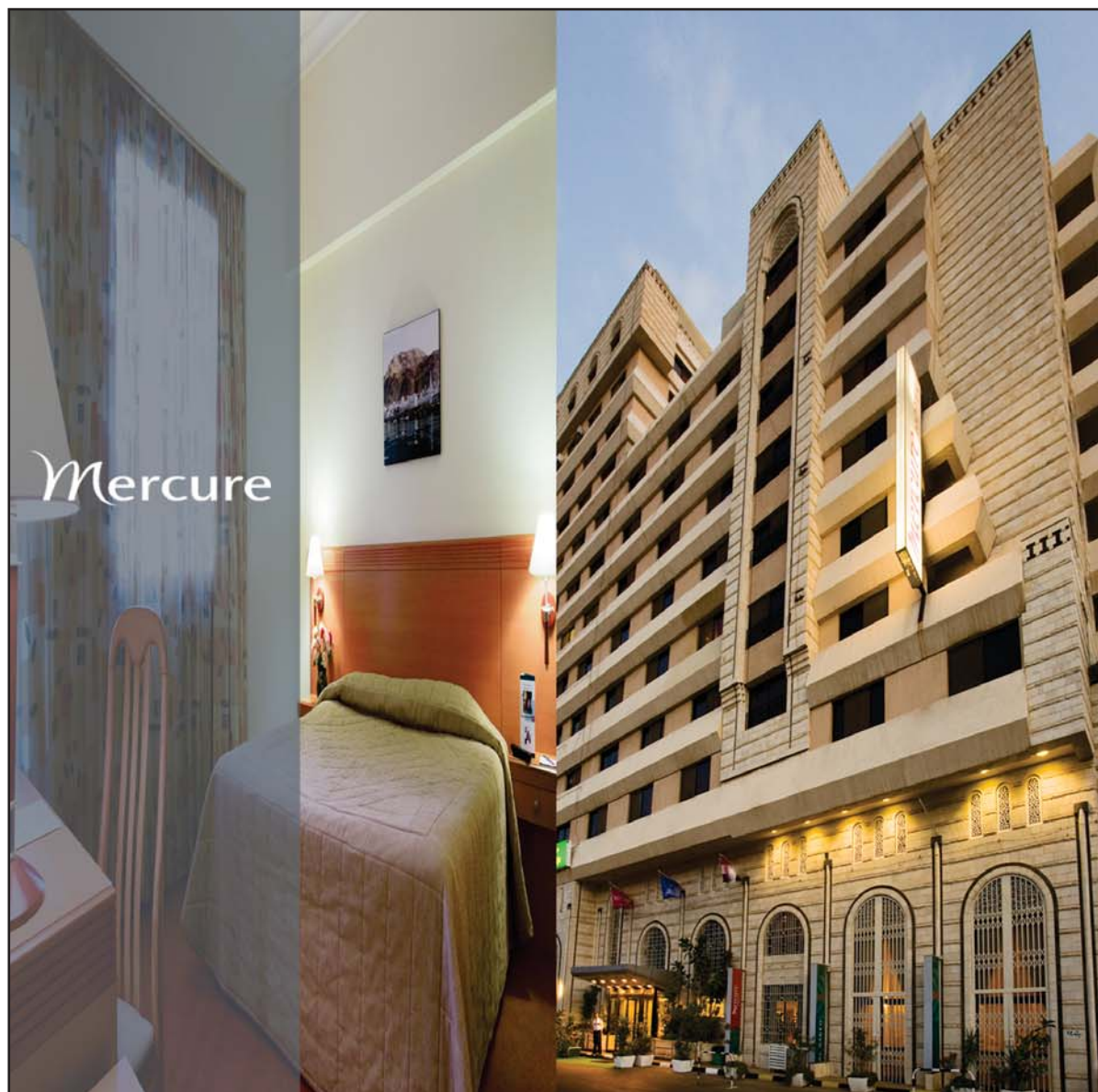
infinitely stronger.

Coupled with the gradual withdrawal of US troops in Iraq and the opening of serious negotiations with Iran, President Obama will be able to gain the confidence of a vast majority of the world's peoples. He can also tap into a wealth of talented individuals just raring to tackle this problem, people willing to dedicate their lives in the pursuit of real peace. There is probably no more opportune time in history for a comprehensive solution to be found, if only he can find the inner strength of character that I am more than confident he possesses.

In his campaign, Barack Obama never strayed from his core message, never gave in to scoring cheap political points, no matter how hard he was pressed to do so. With his team's nearly flawless performance, he has shown the world what can be accomplished when Jew, Muslim, Christian, Hindu

and atheist join forces, bringing a message of hope over fear forged with professional competence. There is no better testimony to this (and to the enduring power of a real democracy like the United States) than the election to the presidency of a skinny black man born in Hawaii with a funny name.

*Akram Baker is an independent Palestinian political advisor and co-president of the Arab Western Summit of Skills. This abridged article originally appeared in Bitterlemons-International and is distributed with permission by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews). The full text can be found at www.bitterlemons-international.org.
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- Minimum of 1 year's post-qualification legal experience, gained either abroad or in Yemen in a well established quality practice.
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الرويشان للسيارات والمحركات

Yemen’s water crisis

By: Samah Shaker
and Yemen Times Staff

Traditional springs and wells used by Yemenis in rural areas have been gradually drying out because of the rapid depletion of groundwater. Rural communities have put their efforts together to dig deeper through the use of modern techniques, but this has led to the further exhaustion of groundwater resources to the extent that many Yemeni governorates are today at risk of drought.

Rainwater accumulated in the Sana'a basin over a whole year represents only half the amount of water consumed annually by the Sana'a governorate, mostly in irrigation.

The problem is the same all around the country because the rate of groundwater accumulation is always slower than the rate at which it is extracted for consumption, especially with the use of modern techniques.

There are areas in which the decline of the groundwater level is more than six meters a year. Even in coastal cities, the threat of water depletion has loomed. In Aden, some officials said that there has been a sudden drop in the levels of water reserves in the Gash field, the water basin that feeds the city. Whereas a well in this field used to produce 20 liters per second 18 years ago, it now only produces four liters per second, a 75 percent decrease from previous years.

Many main cities currently are experiencing unprecedented water shortage, particularly as Water Authorities are unable to keep pace with new housing and industrial developments. Such cities' water supply in basins is reducing dramatically.

For example, some families in Taiz city are allowed a water share only once every 10 days' however, this period has been extended to a month in order for water to reach houses. Therefore, city authorities negotiated 10 years with the nearby rural area of Habir before reaching an agreement in 2002. Taiz is allowed to extract water from a previously untapped deep aquifer in exchange for investments in the village's water supply, schools and women's centers, as well as joint monitoring of water extraction to



Complete exhaustion of the natural water resources of the capital and its surrounding rural areas is threatened within 20 years if current patterns of consumption continue unchecked.

ensure a sustainable flow.

Such struggle or competition is not strange in Yemen, wherein total annual renewable water resources are estimated at 2.4 billion cubic meters. Thus, with a population of around 21 million, this amounts to little more than 125 cubic meters per person annually, compared with the Middle East and North Africa average of 1.250 cubic meters per person.

According to World Bank reports, Yemen's problem is more critical given that water resources are distributed unevenly and that 90 percent of the population has less than 90 cubic meters of water annually for domestic use, which is 10 percent below the worldwide norm. Reports estimate that only 44 percent of the population has access to main water supplies and only 12 percent to safe sanitation.

In general, all surface water resources – 60 percent of Yemen's renewable resources – already are being exploited beyond the level of renewal. This very rapid development has brought with it major problems. Groundwater is being mined at such a rate that parts of the rural economy could dry up. Areas under greatest pressure are the central highlands, the western escarpment and coastal plains.

Although Yemen has many authorities specialized in dealing with water issues, such as the

Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the National Water Resource Authority (NWRA), these authorities face many difficulties in activating rules and policies. Such authorities have lacked the technical means, legal instruments and political will to regulate sinking of wells and groundwater extraction.

Yemen is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world with, according to government figures, water consumption per capita standing at 125 cubic meters per year, well below the global average of 1,500 cubic meters per year.

The water crisis has led to competition for limited water resources, an increase in the value of water and a decline in personal hygiene and ensuing diseases in some rural areas. The scarcity of water for irrigation in agriculture has led to internal displacement and disputes over water resources account for over 70 percent of tribal conflicts.

"The total amount of water consumed annually in Yemen is 3.5 billion cubic meters, of which 93 percent is used in agriculture, 6 percent in households and 1 percent in industry," said Khalil Al-Maqtari, an official at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and a topography expert. "Renewable

fresh water resources amount to 2.5 billion cubic meters per year, and the gap between the quantity of

consumed water and renewable fresh water is 1 billion cubic meters a year."

Al-Maqtari explained that, by 2025 when the population is expected to have doubled, 4.6 billion cubic meters of water would be required and annual water consumption per head would probably decline from 125 to 62.5 cubic meters.

Rainfall

Average annual precipitation of rainwater has been estimated at 67.93 billion cubic meters, but trends are indicating that this average is decreasing mainly because of climate change, especially global warming which leads to a higher rate of the evaporation of rainwater from the earth's surface and vegetation.

In addition to natural factors, topographic factors in some regions make the water situation worse, especially in mountainous areas that do not naturally retain rainwater.

All these factors have led to the drought of many springs and wells and will expand the scope of desertification and the scarcity of water in a country where about 92 percent of the land is arid, semi-arid or desert, according to Al-Maqtari.

Weak water management

The depletion of groundwater has largely been attributed to its large consumption in the agricultural sector to achieve material profits under the fragility of inadequate institutional and legislative oversight. The proliferation of wells and water pumps for agricultural use has exacerbated the water problem. On a domestic level, water consumption also needs better management and old pipes contribute to more water being wasted than necessary.

Neglect of recent technical developments

Several studies have suggested that large quantities of water are wasted in traditional irrigation in areas already suffering from water shortages, such as for the orange trees in Sa'ada. Qat growers in areas where water is scarce, such as in the governorate of Sana'a, do not use modern irrigation methods, which increases the depletion of underground water resources for other crops and the poor who need it.

Population growth

With a high population growth of 3.02 percent, Yemen's water

consumption is increasing annually. The following table shows water consumption and deficit according to population from 1990 to 2005.

Water budget (in million cubic meters)				
Year	1990	1995	2000	2005
Population	11,916,000	16,100,000	18,350,000	21,851,000
Quantity of renewable water	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Consumption	2,900	3,200	3,400	3,780
Deficit	-400	-700	-900	-1280

Qat

Qat is the main reason for water depletion in agriculture. Surface area dedicated to qat cultivation has increased in the last years and so has the amount of water needed for its irrigation.

Studies indicated that, in 2000, about 102,934 hectares in Yemen were dedicated to qat cultivation, needing about 830 million cubic meters of water for their irrigation

Lack of legislation

To curtail the crisis, the government has focused on methods of rain water collection, notably by building and restoring dams, and has set up organizations specially to address the water problem, including the Team of Water Resources, the Social Fund for Development and the Sana'a Basin Project.

Government laws and regulations



An old farmer checking the level of underground water in the farm's well. There are areas in which the decline of the groundwater level is more than six meters a year.

annually.

Qat cultivation consumes over 30 percent of the amount of water consumed by the whole Yemeni agricultural sector. High profits have encouraged qat farmers to dig numerous deep wells or to purchase water pumps, at the detriment of all other water consumers.

Water pollution

Sources of surface and groundwater pollution include oil, industrial waste, pesticides or sewage, as in the case of the wells

have contributed to better water management, but no laws exist to limit groundwater well drilling. Educational programs to rationalize water consumption in agriculture, industry, services, mosques and private homes are needed. Laws must also be issued to reduce the spread of qat cultivation and to attempt to replace the business with different agricultural production of economic benefit to strengthen the national economy, instead of other expensive solutions such as water desalination.



Bad management of the water resources expands the scope of desertification and the scarcity of water in a country where about 92 percent of the land is arid, semi-arid or desert.



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Yemeni contemporary artist conveys gender issues through art

By: Izdihar Al-Siraji
For the Yemen Times

Rouyat Al-Dorani is a young Yemeni female contemporary artist who has just launched her first exhibition of a collection of 50 oil paintings, glass paintings and sculptures. A prolific artist, she paints on wood, marble, glass, paper and even styrofoam.

The theme of the exhibition in the Shady Gallery is the link between art and gender. The one year-old Shady project is based on Rouyat Al-Dorani's own personal view of creating expression by using the resources and capacities of art to support gender equality and the MDGs through the Yemeni society.

Al-Dorani explained that, in Yemen, expressing violence against women is an important and sensitive task. Yemeni women are the victims of stereotyping and injustice that are neither reported nor referred to in the social system.

"I want to project my sufferings as a women and that of all those who had been violated and were victims of social injustice," she said about her art work.

The strategic vision for the exhibition is to express the violence against women and to help combat all forms of discrimination against them through art. According to Al-Dorani, her art evokes a frame of absurd forms of color paintings from a central image that expresses the meaning behind the paintings.

She started learning painting at the Nativité convent school in Djibouti



Al-Dorani with Egyptian Ambassador (center), director of the Egyptian Cultural Center (second left) and her family during the inauguration ceremony

where the teachers realized her talent and encouraged her to develop it. She got more exposure when she visited an arts exhibition in Egypt and got some ideas on display and presentation. At first her family stood against her passion and preferred she find a real job but, with Al-Dorani's

persistence and support from a relative, they finally gave in and encouraged her in her pursuit of a career in the arts.

"It was quite difficult at first since my paintings were of a contemporary nature and were influenced by western art schools, especially Van Gogh,

whereby colors are merged and paintings are not easy to decipher," she said.

With encouragement from her relative, Al-Dorani decided to exhibit her work to the public. When she requested the Egyptian Cultural Center to host her work, they welcomed the proposal and arranged for her paintings and art work to be exhibited at the center for free for two whole weeks. Her paintings have been displayed on the French cultural center's website and were written about in the center's Kinanah magazine.

Al-Dorani's first exhibition ever was inaugurated by the Egyptian ambassador and director of the center who both cut the ribbon in order to promote her as a talented artist.

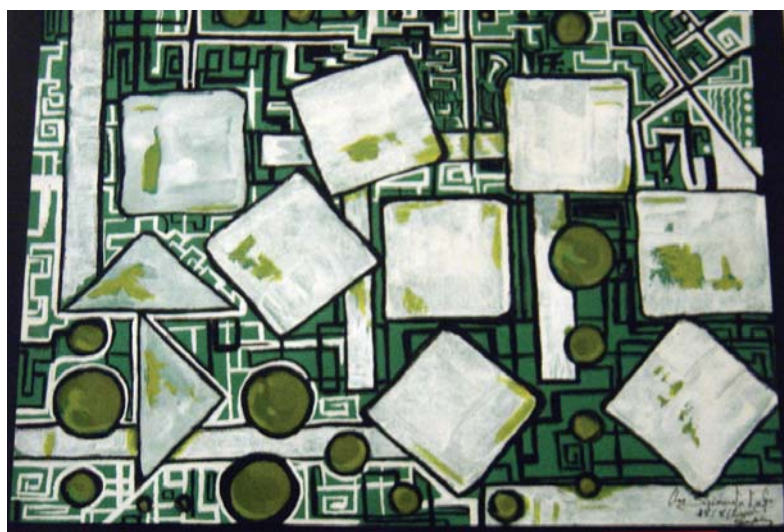
"The exhibition and support I received boasted my faith in myself. I feel regenerated from people appreciating my work," she said.

She aspires to be a well-known contemporary artist the work of whom people can relate to. She hopes to be able to sell her paintings and that they reach many people around the world.

In the exhibition's guest book, many visitors expressed their being able to relate to Al-Dorani's work. They said they liked the artist's work and understood the message which she wanted to convey.



Rouyat Al-Dorani: "The exhibition and support I received boasted my faith in myself. I feel regenerated from people appreciating my work."



Inspired by personal suffering and one of her first creations, Une saison en enfer [a season in hell] is Al-Dorani's favorite work.



The paintings express the sufferings of women in a gender-biased society where women's rights are not acknowledged and there is violence against women.

Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority, CAMA Transmission Line 15MVA Power Supply System for the New Sana'a International Airport (S.N.I.A)

Specific Procurement Notice Invitation for prequalification No. (1/2008)

ICB No. (23/2008)

The Civil Aviation Meteorology Authority would like to announce that the closing date for the submission of the Prequalification Documents for The Supply and Transmission line 15MVA Power Supply System for the New Sana'a International Airport is **Wednesday, 3/12/2008** instead of Friday, 5/12/2008 as mentioned in the previous announcement.

Job Opportunities

ACCESS-Plus Project (Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education & Sustainable Services), which is implemented in partnership between CHF International and the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), is looking for a staff to work with its project in the following fields:

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The candidate should:

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- Have experience in the administrative and developmental fields, preferably who worked with international developmental organizations.
- Be able to establish and maintain good relations with entities and organizations working on childhood issues.
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- Be ready to work full time with the Project.

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The candidate should:

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- Have no less than 5 years experience in driving.
- Have basic understanding in English language.
- Have good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Be ready to work full time with the Project.

Interested applicants should send their C.V. to the following e-mail address:
al_haddi@hotmail.com

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Title of Post: **Programme Assistant**
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Duration: 31/12/2009
Closing Date: 27/11/2008

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer, in the Sub-Office Aden, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

- ✳ Engages in needs assessment, collect / analyze data, monitors project/Sub-Project implementation, and maintains Project/Sub-Project files.
- ✳ Provides guidance / assistance to partners especially Implementing Partners. Particularly assists in programme management, financial monitoring and project control including verification of SPMR (Part I) and Implementing Partners' Reports (IPRs). Keep track of the instalment dates and the implementation rate.
- ✳ Drafts a request for monthly cash replenishment.
- ✳ Participates in training on program management to UNHCR staff and partners especially Implementing Partners.
- ✳ Attends various coordination meetings with partners and writes a brief report emphasizing on actions to be taken.
- ✳ Prepares for various reports and project documents by providing basic data and information focusing especially on AGDM Participatory Assessment and Standards & Indicators.
- ✳ Drafts correspondence to partners.
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Experience: Five years of progressively responsible field based work, of which at least one year was closely to programme activities. Should also have excellent communication skills.

Languages: Fluent in Arabic with very good knowledge of English (particularly writing skills).

FOR INTERNAL CANDIDATES:

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

FOR EXTERNAL CANDIDATES

If no internal candidate is qualified, external candidate will be considered.

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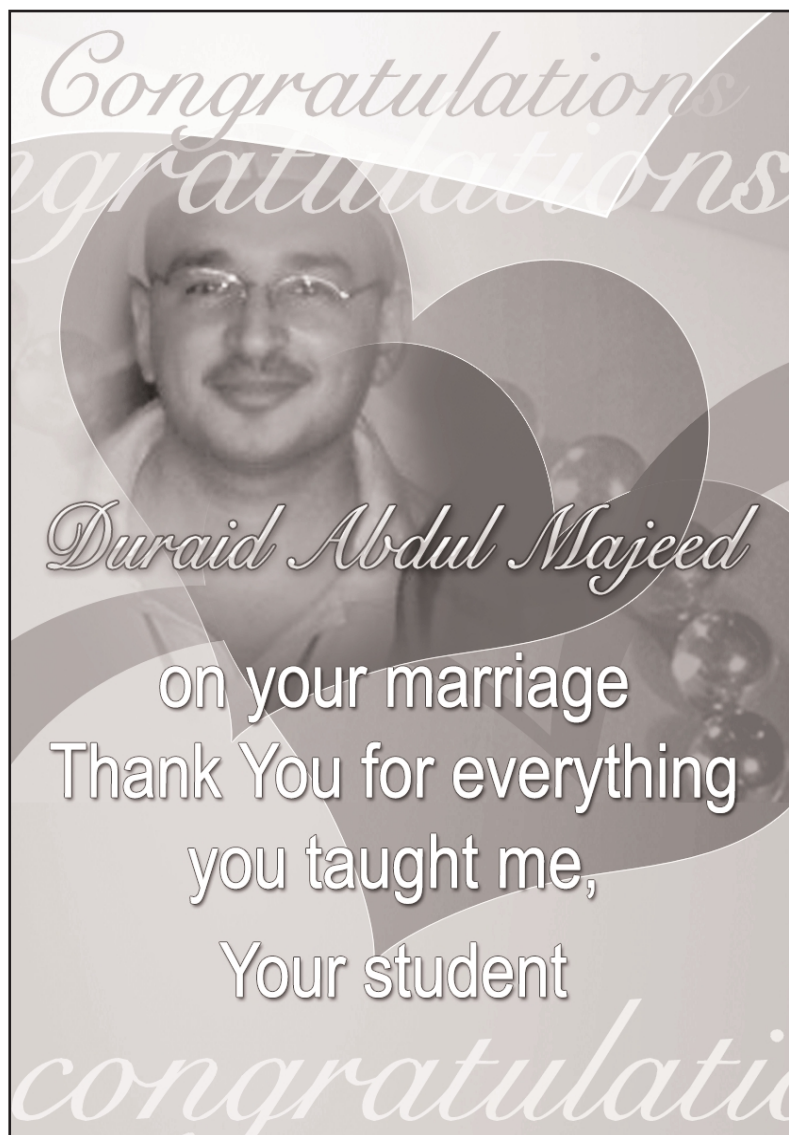
If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please submit your application and UN P11 form or a well elaborated C.V. to the Administration Section, UNHCR, Sub-Office Aden P.O. Box 6090, Aden before the closing date.

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الفروع، القليظة، ٠٥/٦١٠٠٣٩ - الكلا، ٠٥/٣٠٨٠٦٠ - سيون، ٠٥/٤٠٨٣٤٢ - شوبة، (صق) ٠٥/٢٠٠٧٥٧

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experiences computer
maintenance and sales, some
courses in English.
Contact: 777224115
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degree, secretary,
administration, journalism,
accounting and marketing
experiences, Fluency in

English, Computer skills.
Typing on computer
Contact: 711461682
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degree information
technology and advanced
diploma in software
engineer, good in computer
maintenance and network's,
3 years experience.
Contact: 733874314
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computer application
programs, courses in English
language, a course in
business correspondence
Courses in accounting
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year and half experience as
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Contact: 777 458 262 /
733 037 044
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Tel: 264775 264702. Fax: 264703.503350

Yemeni Banks:
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Computer Education Tel. 445518/7-442073
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Mukalla 302641, Seyun: 402469

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World Link Tel: 01 444550/441935

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E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com Fax. 601889
Al-Jumhuri Hospital Tel: 01 274286/87
Hadda Hospital Tel: 01 412981
Al-Thawra Hospital Tel: 01 246967/66

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Hodeidah: 219545/8
Yemen Islamic Insurance Co. Sana'a 284193,

5 lines, Taiz: 258881, Aden: 244280
Yemen Insurance company Sana'a: 272806/
272962/43, Aden: 247617 Taiz: 250345
Mukalla: 304292, Hodeidah: 261839/17

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Translations

Urwa Wautqa Int. Auth. Trans. Arabic-English-
French -German-Russian-Italian- Spanish-Polish-
Dutch- Iranian-Turkish-Eritrean-Amharic.
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