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## Yemen comes last in Global Gender Gap report for the third year in a row

By: Ebrahim Al-Wadee and Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Dec. 6 — For the third consecutive year, Yemen ranks last in the Global Gender Gap Report 2008 published by the World Economic Forum with a slight improvement in its score compared to last year.

The Global Gender Gap Index scores can be interpreted as the percentage of the gap between women and men that has been closed. This year Yemen scored 0.466 compared to 0.45 in 2007. Each country is judged based on four categories: Economic participation and opportunity — outcomes on salaries, participation levels and access to high-skilled employment; Educational attainment — outcomes on access to basic and higher-level education; Political empowerment — outcomes on representation in decision-making

structures; and Health and survival — outcomes on life expectancy and sex ratio.

Yemen having a score less than 0.5 means that in these four categories together Yemeni women nearly have half the rights Yemeni men do.

However, the individual scores of each of the four categories vary. According to the report when it comes to health and survival, Yemeni women are almost as equal to men with a score of 0.98 while educational attainment comes second at 0.62, then comes economic participation at 0.25 and finally political empowerment which is 0.016.

Despite the slight progress from last year which was mainly in the health and survival category and education, the economic and political empowerment have dragged Yemen again to the bottom of the list of 130 countries world wide. The calculations include factors such as literacy rate, employment, healthy life expectancy, number of women in leading decision making positions.

### Yemeni government's report

The Yemeni government had preceded the WEF's report by a local report which allegedly said that women participation has improved in the political, economic and social fields during the last few years.

Released by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the third local report, which included statistics of the year 2008, said that women achieved progress in terms of decision making inside four political parties, General people's Congress, Islah, Socialist and Nasserite parties. It indicated that women assumed leading positions in these parties.

"Around 70 Yemeni women were able during 2006 to hold leading diplomatic positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," said the government's report, adding, "The number of women who held leading positions in the unions of different professions mounted to 371 and those who are members of these unions committees are 2,453.

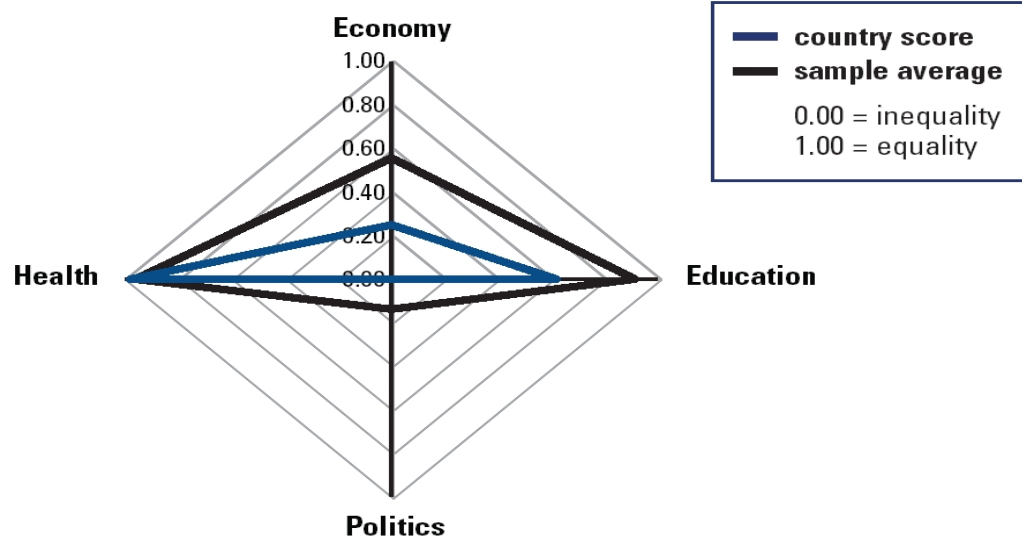
Women who held the judge degree mounted to 67 including three women holding management positions in the Ministry of Justice and another five were nominated in the High Judiciary Institute. The rest 59 women were appointed as judges in the public courts and prosecutions.

However, the local report maintained that women participation in decision making is still low as only 13 women work in the leading positions in the Republic Presidency representing only 14 percent compared with 191 men in the same institution. Women participation in the Cabinet represents only 7 percent as only 18 women work there, whereas the number of men mounted to 131, according to the government's report.

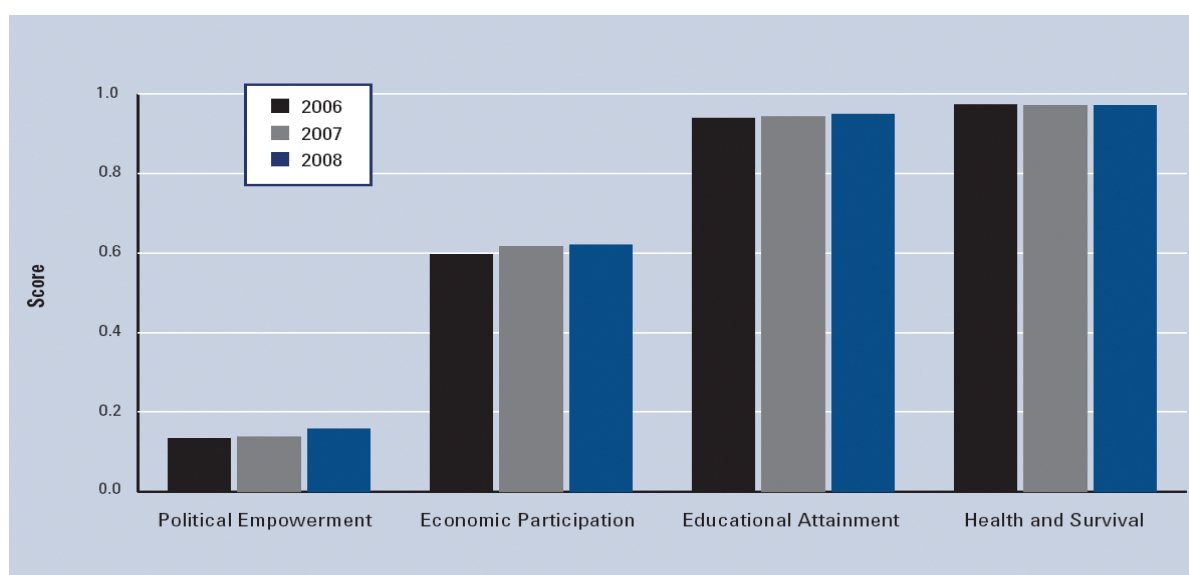
Yet as co-author of the WEF report Ricardo Hausmann, Director of the Centre for International Development at Harvard University in USA explains that the index assesses countries on how well they are dividing their resources and opportunities among their male and female populations, regardless of the overall levels of these resources and opportunities. Thus, the Index does not penalize those countries that have low levels of education overall, for example, but rather those where the distribution of education is uneven between women and men.

### A third report

A shadow report on women's empowerment in light of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of



The Global Gender Gap Index scores can be interpreted as the percentage of the gap between women and men that has been closed in health, economy, education and politics



Global Gender Gap Index by subindex, 2006–08. scores are weighted by population.

Discrimination against Women prepared by civil society organizations in Yemen contradicts the government's report, confirming that women participation is still low in the leading positions of the political parties.

Presented to the 41th session of CEDAW's Committee last May, the report said that there are no signs that indicate the Yemeni government works toward enhancing women participation

through adopting the quota system in elections and the system of closed constituencies.

It pointed out that women's partici-

pation is only 0.33 percent in the parliament and 0.08 percent in the local councils.

Continued on page 1

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# Yemen comes last in Global Gender Gap report ... Continued

While the report said that, in the field of health care, maternal mortality rate during delivery has decreased during 2008, it confirmed that the gap between men and women is still big in the different levels of education. It pointed out that curriculum, despite the recent change on it, still highlights the stereotyped roles of women.

Nabila Al-Mufti , a lawyer and women rights activist, maintains that improving women situation in Yemen is correlated with a solution to the problem of codification of laws and lack of awareness of women issues among members of the parliament in a fair way. She said that the situation is also related with the society adoption of such issues, noting that the society is still far from women issues.

Asked whether Islam is a barrier in front of women participation, Al-Mufti said that Islam doesn't hinder women progress as it contains all principles of justice, pointing out that the problem consists in lack of awareness of the Islamic teachings.

Although recent political debates especially regarding the probable boycott of the opposition parties of the coming parliamentary elections in April 2009, the ruling party is strongly hinting at promoting women in the political sphere and recognizing a quota of at least ten percent of the party's nominees in the parliament.

"The boycott of the opposition would be an excellent opportunity to for women's political movement as they can transform the competition from political between different parties, to social by integrating minorities such as women in the political competition," said Dr. Ahmed Al-Sofi Director of the Yemeni Institute for Developing Democracy and a prominent figure at the ruling party.

And although the Women's National Committee which is the government machinery for empowering women praised the President's pledge to allo-

cate 15 percent of the parliamentary seats for women, Hooria Mashhour, deputy director of the committee admitted that the way is still too long in front of Yemeni women to reach their targets. She said that three issues imposed themselves on Yemeni women during 2008 on the national level. The first one was the amendment of laws related to women in the Yemeni legislation. She said that out of 20 articles that represent discrimination against women, only five were amended, the second issue is women political participation, and the third being safe motherhood.

## The Global picture

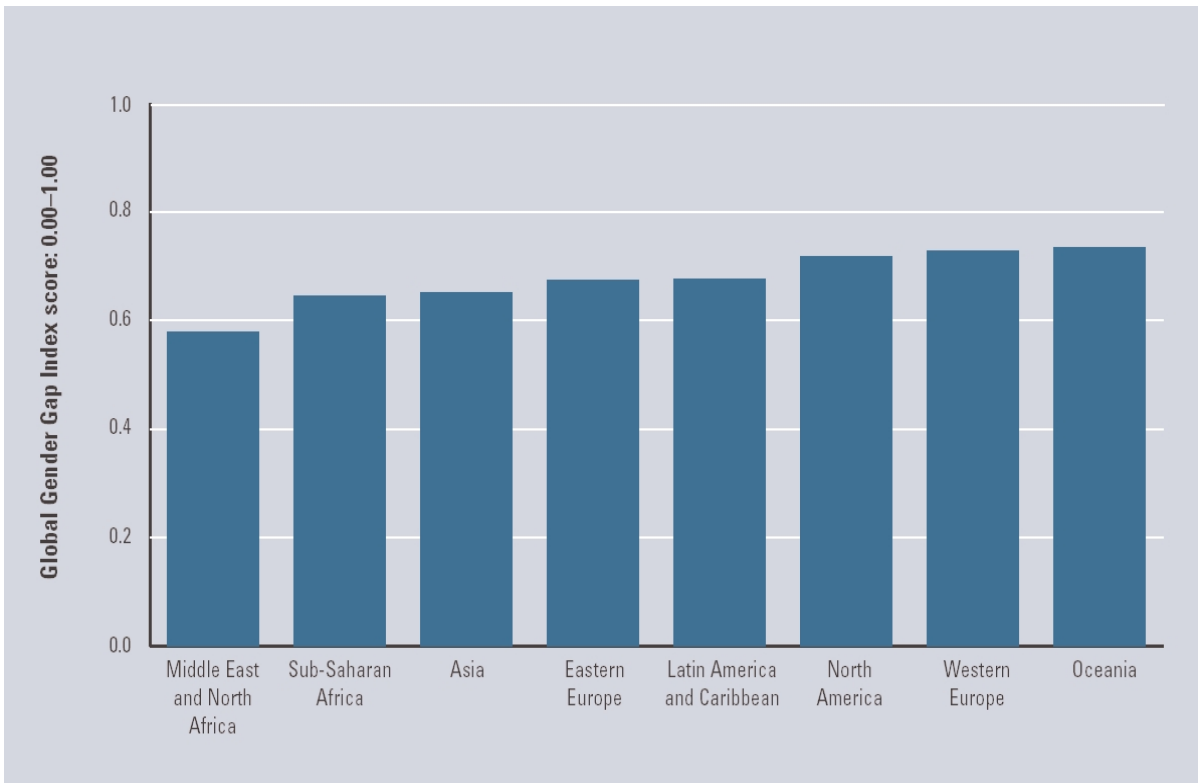
Norway leads the world in closing the gender gap between men and women, according to the overall ranking in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2008. Three other Nordic countries – Finland (2), Sweden (3) and Iceland (4) – also top the Report's Gender Gap Index. Previously higher ranking countries such as Germany (11), United Kingdom (13) and Spain (17) slipped down the Index but stayed in the top 20, while Netherlands (9), Latvia (10), Sri Lanka (12) and France (15) made significant gains.

The United States (27) made progress this year and closed gender gaps in estimated earned income and perceived income gaps for similar work. The United States also made strides in political empowerment, driven by increased participation of women in political decision-making positions. Switzerland's (14) advancement up the rankings was based on large increases in the percentage of women in parliament and those in ministerial-level positions. France (15) improved significantly for the third consecutive year, thanks to gains in both economic participation and political empowerment. China (57) gains 17 places relative to last year driven by narrowing gender gaps in educational attainment, economic participation and political participation.

Brazil (73) improves on education and economic participation but falls to 110th place in political empowerment. In the bottom half of the rankings, countries such as Tunisia (103), Jordan (104) and United Arab Emirates (105) made overall gains, driven by narrower gaps in literacy, and in the case of Jordan and the UAE, in the percentage of women in political decision-making positions. Syria (107), Ethiopia (122) and Saudi Arabia (128) not only fell farther in the relative ranking, but also showed a drop in scores relative to their own performance last year.

According to the report, the three highest ranking countries have closed a little over 80% of their gender gaps, while the lowest ranking country has closed only a little over 45% of its gender gap. Out of the 128 countries covered in both 2007 and 2008, more than two-thirds have posted gains in overall index scores, indicating that the world in general has made progress towards equality between men and women. Additionally, taking averages across the subindexes for these 128 countries reveals that, globally, progress has been made on narrowing the gaps in educational attainment, political empowerment and economic participation, while the gap in health has widened.

"Greater representation of women in senior leadership positions within governments and financial institutions is vital not only to find solutions to the current economic turmoil, but to stave off such crises in future. At the World Economic Forum, we put strong emphasis on addressing this challenge with a multi-stakeholder approach through our global and regional Gender Parity Groups," said Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. These communities of highly influential leaders from business, politics, academia, media and civil society – 50% women and 50% men – seek to share best practices and identify the most effective strategies to optimize



Regional performance on the Global Gender Gap Index 2008

the use of talent.

The Global Gender Gap Report 2008 is based on the innovative new methodology introduced in 2006 and includes detailed profiles that provide insight into the economic, legal and social aspects of the gender gap in each country. The Report measures the size of the gender gap in four critical areas of inequality between men and women:

The Report also provides some evidence on the link between the gender gap and the economic performance of countries. "Our work shows a strong correlation between competitiveness and the gender gap scores. While this does not imply causality, the possible theoretical underpinnings of this link are clear: countries that do not fully capitalize effectively on one-half of their human resources run the risk of undermining their competitive potential. We hope to highlight the econom-

ic incentive behind empowering women, in addition to promoting equality as a basic human right," said Laura Tyson, co-author of the report and Professor of Business Administration and Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, USA.

"The Report reveals that progress is not only possible, but possible in a relatively short space of time: calculating the Index as far back as data would allow, we found that countries such as Chile, Spain, Turkey and Finland have closed between 5 and 10 percentage points of their respective gender gaps over just the past eight years. When we interpret these percentage changes at the societal level, we see that hundreds of thousands of lives are impacted, and at the economic level, we see enormous potential competitiveness gains," said Saadia Zahidi, Head of Constituents at the World Economic

Forum and co-author of the WEF Global Gender Gap report.

The World Economic Forum continues to expand geographic coverage in the Report. Featuring a total of 130 countries, this year's Report provides an insight into the gaps between women and men in over 92% of the world's population. Coverage has been expanded this year to include Barbados and Brunei Daressalam. The Report covers all current and candidate European Union countries, 23 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 23 from sub-Saharan Africa, over 20 from Asia and 15 from the Middle East and North Africa. Thirteen out of the 14 variables used to create the Index are from publicly available "hard data" indicators from international organizations, such as the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Development Program and the World Health Organization.

## Yemen and the modern sea thieves

By: Khaled Fattah  
Doctoral Candidate  
University of St Andrews-UK

Public knowledge about pirates and piracy has been shaped by motion picture industry, novels and the writings of romantic maritime historians. In addition to wooden legs, hooks, black eye patches, flags featuring a skull and crossed cutlasses, and a parrot on the shoulder of the Capitan, the collective mental image about pirates include a romanticized perception of their mystical, egalitarian and heroic social world. The recently released photos of Somali pirates on their speedboats, however, have shat-

tered this stereotype image. In these photos, Somali sea bandits are wearing training suits, military uniforms, T-shirts, trousers and waterproof sweaters, and they are armed with heavy machine guns, RPG-7 and rocket launchers. Unlike the 18th Century pirates who mirrored the conflicts over controlling the international trade and colonization among the rival European maritime powers, Somali pirates are local militia who turned to piracy to fund their economic survival and political projects. These modern sea thieves who prey on any vessel, from luxury liners to container ships, including UN food aid ships in their way to hunger-stricken communities, made eyes across the world staring at the Gulf of Aden, and thus dragged Yemen into,

yet, another major international trouble with a massive scale.

Two main questions impose themselves here. First, despite the deployment of modern warships by powerful members of the international community, how can a small group of pirates from a failed state menace one of the most important international shipping lane? Second, how can the weak state of Yemen, which is unable to police a big part of its own land territory, is expected to police the deep water in the Gulf of Aden? Clearly, at the heart of these questions and their answers lie the concepts of weak and failed states. The hijacking operations of pirates in the Gulf of Aden cannot be stopped by simply establishing highly sophisticated centers for combating piracy, or by

the presence of a multi-national or a regional naval fleet in the horn of Africa. Piracy in the Gulf of Aden is a direct result of the post-Cold War international neglect of the fatal consequences of the dangerous phenomenon of state weakness and state failure in the developing world. Thus, the main point of departure in the discussions regarding the combating of piracy in the region should be the identification of the mechanisms for dealing with state failure in Somalia, and state weakness in Yemen. In other words, without effective government institutions, political stability and a productive economy in both countries, security-focused measures of anti-piracy will remain limited in their impact and duration.

A glance at the efforts being made in the process of strengthening the Yemeni state reveals that since the atrocities of September 11 there is a wide gap between the resources allocated to the security dimension of governance and those allocated to political and socio-economic dimensions. The sharp rise in hijacking operations in the Gulf of Aden demonstrates that despite this security-focused international assistance, Yemen's security and military apparatuses remain too weak to prevent the harassing of ships even in its territorial water, or even to respond to distress calls from ships attacked by pirates.

To play its national, regional and international role, as a sovereign member of the United Nations, the Yemeni

state requires much more than training courses and new naval and military equipments. It requires, above all, a fundamental re-structuring of its relations with the Yemeni society. The Yemeni state is also badly in need to a clearly defined political and economic reform agenda. The high level threat environment created by these modern sea thieves, including maritime terrorism, in the Gulf of Aden makes it necessary not only for the NATO to help deter and protect the shipping lane through naval operations, but also for international development agencies operating in Yemen to expand and speed up the implementation of their activities in the fields of democratization, good governance and human rights.

## Arab media debates status of Saudi women

For more than three years now, female Saudi authors such as Raja Abdallah Alsanae and Zaynab Hifni who have taken on sexual taboos in their society, have found themselves at the center of intense debates in the Arab media, debates that extend to the larger issue of Saudi women's rights in general.

By Pierre Coopman

In his 27 July 2008 article "The Girls of Riyadh: from local storm to international praise," in the London-based Saudi daily Asharq Al-Awsat, the renowned editorial writer Mohamed Sadeq Diab expresses his enthusiasm over the remarkable success of Raja Abdallah Alsanae, the young Saudi dentist who wrote the 2005 novel Banât al-Riyâdh (The Girls of Riyadh). The book, which details the daily lives of four Saudi women through a succession of e-mail exchanges, has been called "immoral" by many Arabs and Muslims. Comments posted on the paper's Arabic-language site in

response to Diab's article testify to the ire of some readers: "Any two-bit writer who criticizes Muslim religion or Arab customs is going to draw lavish praise and money from all over the place, regardless of his merit," opines one with indignation, while another asks "Do all novels that deal with sex and sacrilege deserve this kind of praise?". (1)

Published in Lebanon, Banât al-Riyâdh was initially banned in the Saudi kingdom, but thanks to its success internationally, it was eventually approved for release and became the talk of the 2006 Riyadh Book Fair. Before the event was over, however, Asharq Al-Awsat reported that rumours that someone had bought up all the

copies of the book so that it would "disappear" from the shelves were confirmed to be true. (2)

## A fundamental debate about the condition of Saudi women

Some of the comments about Alsanae's novel are simply amusing, as when the website altmuslim.com compares it to the US TV series Sex and the City. (3) But the reality is that the phenomenon of Saudi women authors has spurred a fundamental debate in the Arab media about the role of women in Saudi society.

In a 1 September 2008 article in Asharq Al-Awsat, for example, editorialist Diab expresses concern over the fact that women are forbidden from playing sports in Saudi society because of certain customs. He cites a nutritional study conducted by King Abdulaziz University which reported that 39% of Saudis were obese, though the director for the Centre for Diabetes at King Saud University's Faculty of Medicine puts that number at closer to 70%.

Saudi women, says Diab, are at risk: "It is time that women be allowed to play sports in schools and universities, as well as in private sports clubs. This is a critical issue and one that must be looked at from an objective standpoint." (4)

Other examples: in February 2007 the equally London-based Arabic-language daily Al-Hayat published a piece by Princess Fahda bint Saud bin Abdulaziz intitled, "Saudi women's concerns." The princess expresses her delight at the fact that debate over the rights of women in Saudi society has been "pivotal to the nation's renaissance." (5) In March of the same year, Jihad al-Khazen, who edits Al-Hayat's Ayyoon wa Azan (Ears and Eyes) column, gave a glowing review to the book Saudi women speak, which is written (in English) by Mona Almunajed, niece of Al-Hayat founder Kamel Mroueh. (6) The book, which is composed of a series of interviews with female members of the Saudi elite from the arts, education, health and

social work sectors, looks at the pioneering role played by Saudi women in the evolution of their society, arguing for more opportunities for women.

These are but a tiny sampling of the numerous articles and interviews published or broadcast in the Arab media on the issue of women's role and status in Saudi society. Entire pages could be devoted to the book reviews of Leila al-Johany's Jâhiliyya (Ignorance) alone. Jâhiliyya explores the question of racism through the love story between Leen, a woman from an old stock Saudi family and Malik, a black Saudi, a descendent of pilgrims from West Africa who remained in the country after their pilgrimage to Mecca. And among the many Saudi women in the news, we should not fail to mention Zaynab Hifni.

## Zaynab Hifni's moving interview on Al-Arabiya TV

Zaynab Hifni is a Saudi author who has become impossible to ignore. In much of her work, Hifni explores the issue of

male-female relationships and sexuality. Nor does she shy away from using very frank language in her sexual depictions. But her boldness has gotten her into some real trouble: Hifni's passport was confiscated for two years in the wake of the scandal unleashed by the publication of her first collection of short stories, Nisâ 'ind khatt al-istiwâ (Women at the Equator).

In a 19 May 2006 interview on Al-Arabiya TV, widely visited on YouTube (7), Hifni does not come across as one who talks about sex purely as a means of provocation, but rather, to break down hypocritical taboos within Arab society in general, and Saudi society in particular. At one moving point during the interview, Hifni, who now lives in exile in London, says she is not ready to return to Saudi Arabia to live. "I was under enormous pressure, it really marked me. I won't lie to you: even today, when I arrive at King Abdulaziz airport I can feel my chest tighten. I hope that with time, I will get over that feeling..."



Safia Al-Saidi to the Yemen Times:

## “The number of girls working on the streets increases every day”

By: Ola Al-Shami

**T**he work environment in streets, markets, and other places is not safe for children. However, the possibility and need to make some money lures a large number of children, many of them girls, to the streets to work under dangerous circumstances. Many children flock from their villages to the cities to work and there are no clear statistics as to their numbers.

Research findings according to the Working Children Rehabilitation Centre (WCRC) indicate that the more girls working in the street are treated violently, the more hatred and isolation they feel. Safia Al-Saidi, the director for the centre, was interviewed by the Yemen Times to shed light on solving female child labor problems.

**What has the center recently provided for working children in general and for female children specifically?**  
During the period between February 2007 and March 2008, we registered 1,469 children with an orphanage, a government social services center and we sent some children back to their villages. We supported 46 sick children to seek treatment at hospitals, and in Eid we provided 152 children with new clothes. About 20 poor families also benefited from food aid during Ramadan, and 173 children were provided with books and school supplies.

**What are the statistics for female child laborers in Yemen?**

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor don't have precise or updated statistics on child labor generally and on girl labor specifically. However, we can say that there are from 400,000 to 800,000 working children in Sana'a. The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood had conducted a study last year in eight governorates which estimate that there



Safia Al-Saidi

are at least 30,000 spend most of their time in the streets, 60 percent of which work and sleep in the streets. I think that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor intend to conduct a survey in 2009. One thing is for sure, and that is that the number of these girls increases every day.

**How can the center follow these girls and help them solve their problems?**  
This center was established in 2003. Since then, we have been able to bring in 1,500 working children. Girls make up about twenty percent.

Female child laborers work at roundabouts, in markets, or near restaurants. These are the girls we are trying to follow and encourage to join school. Our focus is on education, but we also try to teach them other vocational skills such as first aid and dress making.

**Is there friction between the centre and these girls' parents?**  
Our main policy is to build and encourage good relation with families. Parents

must confirm their agreement for their daughters' participation in the different activities we hold in the centre.

**How do you deal with female child laborers in prisons?**

We try to help them, especially if they are still young. The biggest problem is that most of these girls have no birth certificate, so when police arrest them they imprison them without any consideration to their age or circumstances. This is a hindrance if we are to help these girls.

**How does the government cooperate with you?**

The Sana'a city's authority supported the center only partly in the beginning, but now provide us with full support.

**What are the major difficulties the center encounters?**

The center faces many main problems. The first problem is when we want to involve girls in our activities most parents are opposed because of their igno-

rance. The other problem is our restricted budget. It seems that the necessity of cooperation between the center and the NGOs is of utmost importance.

**What are your future plans to reduce female child labor specifically and child labor in general?**

The number of girls working on the streets increases every day and poverty motivates parents to agree to them doing so. We need to provide special extensive courses to educate girls and teach them technical skills. We aim to empower both girls and boys through teaching them income generating skills.

**Anything you want to add?**

My final word would be of two parts. First, I would like to urge parents, even if they are in need and sending their

# 4U

**What is child labor?**  
Some types of work make useful, positive contributions to a child's development. Work can help children learn about responsibility and develop particular skills that will benefit them and the rest of society. Often, work is a vital source of income that helps to sustain children and their families.  
However, across the world, millions of children do extremely hazardous work in harmful conditions, putting their health, education, personal and social development, and even their lives at risk. These are some of the circumstances they face:

- ✖ Full-time work at a very early age
- ✖ Dangerous workplaces
- ✖ Excessive working hours
- ✖ Subjection to psychological, verbal, physical and sexual abuse
- ✖ Obligated to work by circumstances or individuals
- ✖ Limited or no pay
- ✖ Work and life on the streets in bad conditions
- ✖ Inability to escape from the poverty cycle -- no access to education

**How big is the problem?**

- ✖ The International Labor Organization estimates there are 218 million working children aged between five and 17 (2006)
- ✖ 126 million are estimated to work in the worst forms of child labor -- one in every 12 of the world's five to 17 years olds (2006)
- ✖ 74 million children under 15 are in hazardous work and should be "immediately withdrawn from this work" (2006)
- ✖ 8.4 million children are in slavery, trafficking, debt bondage and other forms of forced labor, forced recruitment for armed conflict, prostitution, pornography and other illicit activities (2002)
- ✖ Girls are particularly in demand for domestic work
- ✖ Around 70 per cent of child workers carry out unpaid work for their families

daughter to work in the street seems to be the only solution, to pay more attention to her education so that she can work and be educated. Second, I urge

the government to provide and support programs to eradicate poverty focusing especially on the disadvantaged, namely the poor and disabled.



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## Is possible for us to make change?

By: Mohammed Naji Ahmad

Countries of the Arabian Peninsula surrounding us are experiencing great changes in the various areas of education, culture, science and economy, while we have been seeing the vulnerable conditions unchanged since Yemen was born at the very beginning of the 20th Century. Political instability in Yemen has not provided a good chance for making radical changes and transformations.

And, due to tribal pressures in the north and escalating outrage in the south, Yemen has entered a phase of political unrest, thereby complicating the task of its patriotic natives to make changes. The one, who observes how things goes on in the neighboring Gulf states, will surely understand the political will of each of these states to overcome the social, cul-

tural, traditional and economic redlines for the sake of making useful and positive changes.

Frankly speaking, the political wills adopted by the Gulf States make us understand that their enlightening changes are progressing at a slow rhythm but these countries develop and prosper. In Yemen, we realize that there is neither notable progress nor enlightening achievements. One can only see that things progress backward until they reach the 'zero point', or as the famous writer Mohamoud Yasin described as "a return to the first alphabetical letter".

I think that forces and individuals, having no desire to make enlightening changes, but create obstacles to development, are not necessarily official, as they exist within the political extremist current that finds its identity only when returning to the 'zero point'. Changes will appear with a new identity and be liberated from

the arbitrary domination practiced by influential persons.

From the viewpoint of these influential persons, enlightening is considered as a contrivance opposing their interests and investments that began from the zero point.

As society got rid of the traditional schools or the so-called Mealamas that spread nationwide under the rule of Imamate, this would rather mean that the history of old traditions ended while the history of new public interest began.

The Yemeni authority needs to change its current moves that worse on worsening the notable economic recession, mainly as the nation and people are in an urgent need of stability.

This authority is also required to enhance affection and stability among opposition leaders and allocate a considerable portion of the public spending for the enlightening projects. Then, coalitions

will go changed on a cognitive ground. A politician will not be a tyrant since he/she is expected to be more concerned about making new identities and assessing new needs.

Such new identities and needs may collide with what is old, but they will eventually produce a modern Yemen, based on public freedoms and comprehensive development in the various areas. As far as I am concerned, living a constant state of conflict between tribalism and regionalism over narrow interests may take the country to an unprecedented catastrophe. Then, the superficial historical selectivity that makes a distinction between the northern and southern identities will be futile and useless.

This selectivity may work in France, Italy or Britain, but not in an underdeveloped country like Yemen.

Source: Al-Nedaa Weekly

## COMMON SENSE

### How much worse can Yemen get? II



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

If one tries to get a full picture of where Yemen stands on so many fronts, one would find a mindboggling array of situations that are bewildering to the astute and prudent observer, who does not harbor any political ambitions or aspirations. Even our seas are not free from the flagrant violations of maritime navigational rights by a bunch of marine hoodlums, who have lost all sense of human sanity as they look with contempt at the outrage shown by the international community, which appears to be as powerless against them as they are against the ugly hoodlums of terror disguised as "Mujahideen". That Yemen or its seas should be the theater for the likes of these hoodlums (both the maritime and the misnamed defacers of Islam) speaks very little to give weight to the regime's claim of fighting terrorism and pursuing a solution to the piracy openly practiced in its waters. Not that the credibility of the regime in this context, or any other context for that matter, has shown any significant improvement over the last two years, except that the Yemeni citizens are at a loss to find justifiable reasons to respond positively to the Presidential call for national elections this coming April 2009.

The recent resignation of His Excellency Abdul-Qadir Hilal (former Minister of Local Administration) certainly raised many speculations as to the sincerity of the regime in the application of sound principles of governance, let alone of seeking an honest brokerage of the calamity that the disturbances of Sa'ada and other areas has become to the regime's claims of being able to impose its will at will anywhere in the country. Not that one believes in the regime's claim that the hospitality of the former astute "intermediary" between the Houthis and the Government was cause for his run-on with the elements of the regime that thrive on conflict and that always seek to undermine the stability of the country in order to advance their never ending craving to suck the life out of the helpless citizenry of Yemen.

Mr. Hilal's resignation needs very careful scrutiny, because Mr. Hilal indeed is viewed as a sincere and honest broker for peace, and his loyalty to Yemen is not mired by any selfish motivations as those who were appalled by the frankness of his "fact finding" mission (along with Mr. Saleh Basurrah) of the reasons for the "disturbances" of the southern part of the homeland. For one thing, it is really about time that those in Government come out and speak their minds about the series of wrongdoings of the regime and its mostly selfish icons of military brass, sheiks and administrators, whose hands have turned to shovels of fortune, as they scrape off whatever is left of the resources of the land for the fulfillment of their own selfish interests, which never seem to be fulfilled, even if they dry the blood out of the common citizens' veins. Mr. Hilal had the audacity to point out that the problems in the South are, for the most part, caused by the pilferage that the south (in addition to the pilferage of the north) that many of the icons of the regime (including elements of the ruling family and the proponents of the War in Sa'ada) has been subjected to since unification and especially since the tragic Summer war of 1994.

The problem of many of the icons of the regime is that they do not recognize such ideas as accountability and the equal application of law on all the citizens, even if demanded by the investigations of highly credible officials known for their honesty and integrity (traits which are as foreign to these bloodsuckers of the land as their secret bank accounts and money laundering operations are to the majority of the people of the land). The resignation of Mr. Hilal is a profound statement of disgust at the regime's insistence to see its own misdeeds as permissible ordained by Divine ordinance (God forbid) as the horrendous violence displayed by the Jihadi elements that have distorted the faith of Islam beyond incomprehensible bounds. Such statements should be applauded as a courageous stance of a troubled official, who has found insurmountable difficulties while seeking to carry out his public duties, perhaps as a serious effort to give the regime some weight in the adherence to the most sound principles of governance. Mr. Hilal's resignation is a clear indication that Yemen is in a mood for concrete changes in the way that its affairs are managed and moreover by whom they are managed. There simply seems to be no other way of looking at our never ending tragic predicaments, which are, frankly speaking, mostly the product of the regime's incompetence at pursuing the mandate that the regime willful and persistently bestowed upon itself, without recourse whatsoever to the will of the people of the Republic of Yemen – north and south.

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

## Mobile phone thieves

By: Abdulhalim Saif

Like you the readers, as well as anyone else, I know that stealing of mobile phones arises fears among their holders due to the lack of sophisticated means to protect such small devices from professional thieves.

Mobile phone stealing is not a new phenomenon, but rather it dates back to appearance of cell phones in our country and that was eight years ago. At that time, the immoral phenomenon was limited, but it grew and spread over time. It can also be seen as a commonplace phenomenon practiced by thieves in most of Yemen's main cities.

The phenomenon also moved from qat and vegetable markets to public gardens, public transportation means, crowded venues, wedding parties, bus stations, and even worse to funeral services. One may rarely spend an entire day without hearing the phenomenon of mobile phone stealing from a friend or a relative.

Having told your friend or relative that your cell phone was stolen, they will sorrowfully laugh at what happened to you. Whoever heard the story of your cell phone theft would surely turn to his pockets to search for his mobile. But,

how it would look like when your friend discovers that his cell phone was stolen too. Though careful you seem to be in order to protect your mobile from professional stealers, you will be once an easy target for these irresponsible thieves who are more than cunning to take away your mobile phone. Citizens seem to understand that stealing of mobile phones is not practiced individually. But, the lack of protective means constituted an easily exploitable factor for thieves to comprise active gangs that continue moving from street to street and from lane to lane. Members of these gangs distribute tasks among them throughout the different phases of stealing a mobile phone.

First of all, they start with identifying who is an easy target. They then select the most applicable method for stealing away his/her mobile phone, be it in his/her pocket, bag, car or house. They don't hesitate to break window glasses of cars or houses. After the operation is implemented successfully, the gang members finally select the most secure places for them to sell what they have stolen. It is so difficult for you to identify the thief who you may find dressed up and with tidy appearance. To you, he appears as a respected and well-bred guy, thereby making you rule out that the guy

you are looking at may steal your cell phone. This is what happened to me.

### Below is my story:

One day, I was on my way home from work at Al-Thawra Daily Establishment at 10:00 p.m. in the company of my colleague Mohammed Al-Ariqi whom I left at Al-Misbani Intersection in Hadda area with my mobile phone in my pocket. Waiting for a taxi at that point to drive me home in Hadda Village, I suddenly heard a guy on a minibus's back seat calling me, "Come with us to Hadda Village."

That guy was handsome with red cheeks and perfume smelling out from his clothes. He moved a little bit for me to sit beside him, and on the opposite seat were three passengers roughly aged between 18 and 22 years. The three passengers were staring at my hand bag, which was filled with newspapers and other personal documents of mine. I never expected what would happen. The bus moved at high speed made detours in gloomy lanes claiming to avoid traffic lights at the intersections of the main road. No one of us the four passengers said a word.

One of the passengers moved to sit beside me and started collecting the fares from others, giving them to me in order

for me to give the money to the driver as I was the last one to get out of the minibus.

Suddenly, one of those passengers said he wants to take the minibus to Beit Baws saying one of his family members is sick at home. The driver made another detour near the Al-Fakhir Restaurant while one of the passengers showed no objection. The other two demanded their money back and get out of the bus alleging the driver took a direction other than theirs. Like them, I got out of the bus.

Having made the first step in the street, I saw both passengers, who got out, getting in the bus again for a third guy to accompany them. It seemed to me that he is the one who did not object to the detour made by the driver.

The minibus then moved at breakneck speed toward gloomy lanes, and at that time I discovered that my mobile phone was stolen from my pocket. It took a taxi and have it running after them in order to get my phone back but of no avail. The main reason why I narrated my story is to advise you to remain vigilant, avoid being easy targets for these professional thieves and not to be deceived by appearances.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

## The relation between the ruler and the ruled has become tense

By: Jamal Anam

Opposing the authority is not an action. Instead it is a position, as well as a free option that is taken individually or collectively. Opposing the authority doesn't condition that the opposition entity should be from outside the government's structure or its official business.

To oppose the authority doesn't mean to be an idle, nor does it mean to be a surplus workforce. It also doesn't mean that the opponent must be free of any life-related obligations in order to be able to avenge against an unjust authority. The right to work is given precedence over the other basic rights, among them the right to object to an oppressive authority. The right to work must be granted to everyone without an exception or discrimination, and it means that all the most important requirements of freedom have to be satisfied. No liberty without work and no democracy without free economy and an open market that provides equal opportunity and multiple options to all competitors, and brings man the main components of good living. We lack much of the democratic foundations, the most important of which is democracy of work. In Yemen, the authority remains the only employer and the only master that controls funds and spends them as it likes. It is the only possessor of the state and controller of governance and ruled citizens. It is a tyrannous regime that only works on strengthening the master-servant relation. Despite all this, this authority seems to be unable to fulfill its obligations to such an

unjust relation. The ruler dominated everything including the government job, which he considers as the most important means to control its citizens, particularly under the kind of democracy imposed on him from outside forces.

The ruler gives jobs to applicants on the basis of their political affiliation, favoritism or nepotism at the expense of eligibility verification. In other words, the tyrannous ruler has become a victim of its oppression as it failed to perform his slavery role as a master. It also failed as an emerging and small democrat.

The ruler has transformed the government into a private project, on the structure of which more private, racial and tribal projects grew while the beneficiaries of these projects, who are counted by fingers, make tax-free profits at the expense of the majority party and its government that waste public funds and property for the sake of maintaining opportunists' allegiance.

The ruler continues to destroy its structure by enhancing centralization of power and distributing resources to corrupt and influential persons to maintain their allegiance with its system of government. As a result, his behavior enraged the vulnerable groups in the different parts of the country that vented their anger at the rampant corruption, which the regime continues to feed until such an immoral and irresponsible phenomenon turned to threaten his stay in power.

Now, the regime found that it is so difficult for it to fight or even put a stop to growing corruption in the various government offices, mainly amid its poor policies, which judicious people hold

accountable for destroying the main components of the real democratic experience. It is now when this authority learned that it lost the last deliverance opportunity.

Pluralism has changed into a moral authorization for the ruler to practice on his citizens while general elections have become a redundant process repeating the same image and reproducing the same bad and used version. It re-cooks the same ingredient that is notorious for its disgusting taste and smelling.

### Continuing shrinkage of the state

The state continues to shrink, thus becoming smaller and smaller over time while democracy has began as a big fool in a plighted and vulnerable country, governed by looters and opportunists who are less than eligible to be described as dictators or tyrants because they even failed to play their tyrannous and oppressive role.

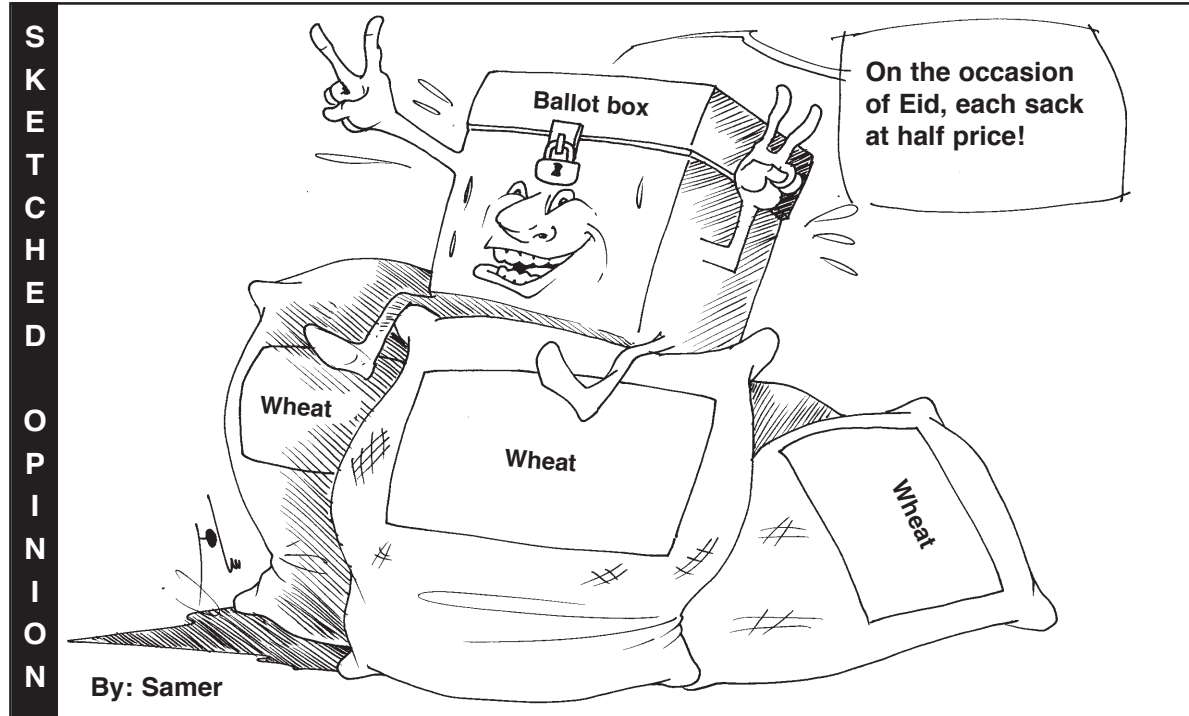
In South Yemen, military retirees demand that the government should reinstate them. The foolish government doesn't concentrate on such a demand while searching for the real motives behind escalating protests in the southern governorates.

Yemen's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi announced earlier that Yemen needs to create at least 180 thousand job opportunities per year in order to meet the growing number of applicants. And, studies conducted by his ministry in 2006 confirmed that up to 34 percent of the country's young population is unemployed while, according to official reports, the government only provides 16

thousand job opportunities per year.

We demand that the government should fulfill its obligations to us for being good citizens who are more able to serve the society and perform the duty of government employees although such an ambition is not in line with our democratic expectations that object to giving jobs to applicants on the basis of nepotism and political affiliation. All such facts are the main reason why the ruler hates the ruled.

Source: Al-Sahwa Weekly



By: Samer

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# 'The Arab world is more generous and inspired than yours'

**Yasmina Khadra is the pseudonym of Mohammed Moulessehoul, a former major in the Algerian Army, now full-time novelist. In this interview with Richard Marcus, the exiled writer of such modern classics as *The Swallows of Kabul*, *The Attack* and *In The Name of God*, talks about his writing and the differences between Western and Arab culture. By: Richard Marcus of Qantara.de**

**Tell us a little about yourself, where you were born and other biographical details.**

Yasmina Khadra: I was born, 52 years ago, in the Algerian Sahara. My tribe has occupied Kenadsa, the village where I was born, for eight centuries. She is known for her poetry and her wisdom. She has always welcomed, without regard to race or religion, all the travellers who knocked on her door: the writer and explorer Isabelle Eberhardt, the Minister Charles de Foucauld, as well as the missionaries who crossed the desert in the direction of Tombouctou and Africa. I was born in a tribe of poets and warriors. This is why I never felt out of place in the army as a novelist. It is my tribe which taught me how to me to share myself between the two.

**Your father was a soldier, and you became a soldier. Where did the desire to write come from?**

Khadra: My father had originally been a male nurse. Then, there was the war for the Independence of Algeria, and my father joined the National Liberation Army. After six years of war, he came home as an officer and chose

to embrace a military career in the young Algerian army. In 1964, when I was nine years old, my father placed me in Cadets School, the military institution concerned with officer training. I thus spent eleven years at this military boarding school before moving on to the Academy to begin my career as an officer that lasted 25 years.

But I was always writing. From the time I was eleven years old, I tired my hand at fables tales. My first published work, *Houria*, I wrote when I was seventeen years old. When I became an officer, I continued to write. I published six novels under my real name, Mohammed Moulessehoul before seeing any reaction from the hierarchy in 1988.

Seeing that I had begun being recognized in the media in Algeria the High command imposed a committee of censorship to supervise me. I refused to subject myself to them. This is how my first pseudonym came about, from that decision in 1989. It was Police Chief Llob's name that appeared on two small novels *The Nutcase With The Lancet* (1990) and *The Fair* (1993) In 1997, my Parisian editor wanted a name which sounded less like a profession for the



Mohammed Moulessehoul aka Yasmina Khadra. R.R.

publication of Morituri, so I chose my wife's first two names, Yasmina Khadra. Since then I have kept this pen name, which has now had work translated in twenty-seven countries.

**Were there any writers who inspired you when you first started to write? Your Superintendent Llob books reminded me of books by George Simenon and Nicolas Freeling...**

Khadra: I did not read Simenon, at the time. Our bookshops were disaster victims and our old books managed to do little more than make us dream. We lived in a country with a horror for writers and artists. However, I really liked the Black American literature: Chester Himes, Richard Wright, and James Baldwin.

By creating the Superintendent Llob character, I wanted to have a typically Algerian character. Moreover, in my noir novels, Algiers herself is also a central character. I did not seek to imitate my preferred authors. I wrote in French, but with my Bedouin sensitivity, my Algerian glance, my anger and my Algerian hopes.

Anyway, we also have our own artists, as beautiful and rich as Western literature. I far prefer Taha Hussein from Egypt, Francois Mauriac, Abou El Kassar Ech-Chabbi from Tunisia, or, Naguib Mahfouz, Malek Haddad from Algeria, etc, to European flashes in the pan.

It's a pity that you do not have access to our culture.

The Arab world is not just a postcard with dunes and caravans, nor is it only terrorist attacks. The Arab world is more generous and more inspired than yours. Do you know that El Moutannabi is Humanity's greatest poet since the dawn of time? It's a pity that you do not know anything of it. I was initially inspired by mine. But I have had the chance to get maximum benefit from a double culture, Western and Eastern, without ever losing sight of where I come from.

**What made you decide to write about Superintendent Llob, a police officer?**

Khadra: I created Superintendent Llob as a diversion for the Algerian reader. I have already told you, in Algeria, we did not have a large selection in our bookshops there, and the publications revolved around the political demagoguery, nationalist chauvinism and the romantic mediocrity praising the Algerian Revolution in Stalinist speeches. I dreamed of writing station books, books funny and without claim that you could read while waiting for the train or the bus, or while gilding yourself with the sun at the seaside. I dreamed to reconcile the Algerian reader with his literature. I had never thought that Superintendent Llob was going to exceed the borders of the country and appeal to readers in Europe, and America.

**Do you have an intention in mind when you write? What do you want readers to take away with them when they finish one of your books?**

Khadra: Each novelist, each artist, each inventor is motivated by something. Without some idea at the back of the mind, no one could advance. When I write, I have two motivations: firstly, to display to the reader a great moment in literature, secondly, to permit him to discover the universe. In my novels, one dreams and one instructs. I write to humanize a word which never ceases to be less poetical, more scared, and to question its future. I try to remind people of the necessity of being useful, intelligent and of living their lives fully while respecting the lives of others.

**Where do you find inspiration for your books, and what inspires you to write?**

Khadra: In a look, a sign, in all things which question me. I'm like a seismograph in search of sensitivity, of a state of soul, of a deeply human concern. I don't know how to look at objects without seeing them. Everything fascinates

me, overwhelms me, astonishes me, interrogates me.

I think "In the Name of God" and "Wolf Dreams" are two of your most powerful books. Where did you find the inspiration for those two stories?

Khadra: In the mental misery that threatens to impoverish minds and dreams. In human stupidity and the ignorance of people.

**Why do you write about terrorism?**

Khadra: For two reasons. Initially because it is a planetary danger, that I know of from the inside and that I can describe with clearness and intelligence. Also, because Westerners understand nothing, and never say anything important on the subject. My books consist of explanations to clarify the consciences and alleviate the spirits traumatized by the political handling of media misinformation.

That being said, I make a point of recalling that my novels are not testimony. They concern fiction and assert their literary values. I am sorry to see people throw themselves on the topic and to neglect the manner of treating this topic. I basically make literary work. I have a language, a style.

**In your books it seems like your characters feel they have no choices. Do you believe that people have had that ability to choose taken away from them, and is that one of the reasons they turn to violence as an answer?**

Khadra: Certainly the characters must be believable, and capable of convincing the reader as well as inspiring them with passion. I don't know how to create stories otherwise. I am demanding of myself in my work, and also require that my reader contributes watchfulness and diligence. One cannot read my works superficially without missing essentials.

Critics who approach me superficially may think they have grasped my message, style, language or the uniqueness of my work. However they are reacting to stereotypes and often interpret my work clumsily. It's exactly the same treatment the media gives violence: erroneous, speculative, unbelievably naive or malicious.

In my novels, I deal with subjects I know very well, that I understand. I attempt to show violence as not inherent to any particular nation, not as something genetic, but as the result of an untenable human condition. Any person, be they American, Japanese, Malaysian, Indian or Buddhist, could, given the required psychological and mental conditions, yield to the appeal of wrath and transform themselves into a ball of rage and death.

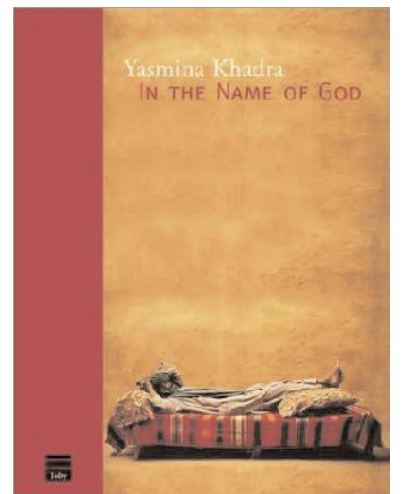
**What has been the reaction to your books in Algeria and other Muslim countries?**

Khadra: The Algerian reader likes me a lot. They read me in French because I am not translated into Arabic. I am

translated into Indonesian, Japanese, Malaysian, in the majority of the languages, except in Arabic. But that has nothing to do with the Arab peoples. It is the leaders who seek, as always, to dissociate the people from the elite so they can continue to reign and cultivate clanism and mediocrity.

**Many of your books are now being studied by American University students. What do you hope they learn by reading your books?**

Khadra: That they would approach my books like they would another people; that they would discover other cultures, other ways of thinking, and that they serve them like gateways. Americans are trapped in their country's continent and are convinced they know every-



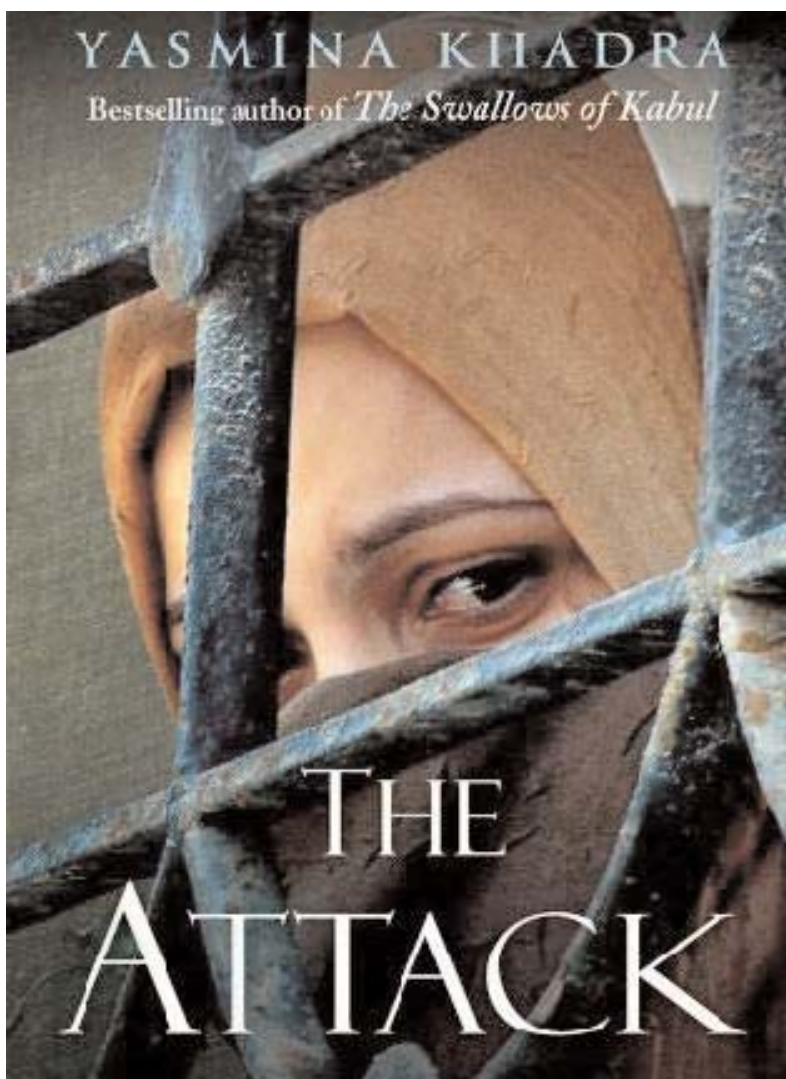
thing, that the world stops at their borders. That's false. The world begins at their borders.

**I've noticed that recently more books from Muslim countries have been translated into English. I wonder if you have seen a difference in Western people's attitudes, or noticed any kind of improvement.**

Khadra: That depends on the books one chooses to read. Sudden interest in Eastern culture permits opportunities for charlatans and falsifiers. Westerners prefer to read stupid stories regarding the stereotypical relationships of Arabs and Muslims with their spouses. Thus they end up reading isolated and far-fetched fables and all of a sudden think they understand a people and its culture. However, to gain access to a universe, one has to get rid of moral and intellectual baggage, if not have a minimum of discernment. I don't see this happening. You have no idea of the great Arabic writers. What sells are books written by illiterates and shameless opportunists, books full of hate, denial, misinformation and coarseness. Perhaps one day a real maturity will cause people to make a real effort to understand, instead of judging and condemning.

**What are your plans for the future?**

Khadra: I live from day to day. It is more prudent. I do not make plans; I prefer to take the things as they come.



## Editor of Gulf News: "Blogs offer insight and generate debate"

**"I have no respect for bloggers who just use blogs to promote negativity, insult cultures, people and sensitivities," says Abdul Hamid Ahmad, editor-in-chief of Gulf News, the first independent English daily in the United Arab Emirates. "There is no true purpose served. Such bloggers should never be encouraged." Ahmad shares with APN his thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of blogging in the UAE and how bloggers and newspapers can work together to inform the public.**

By: Catharine Fulton

**A**bdul Hamid Ahmad's general attitude toward the growing blogging community in the UAE is a positive one, as he considers that blogging promotes free speech. He does, however, take issue with the content of some blogs and the lack of insight therein. "Part of the

problem is that there tends to be very polarized views on display and not a great deal of depth displayed in the opinions of bloggers The UAE doesn't seem to attract an enormous amount of diversity when it comes to blogging. While there is a lot of complaining, there is very little constructive blogging."

"Often, bloggers offer views that are catering to one particular audience.

With such a diverse demographic make-up as in the UAE, debates in a blogs 'comments' section can often degenerate into slanging matches," explains Ahmad.

"The 'comments' pages of notorious bloggers, such as Secret Dubai, are rammed full of divisive comments from opposite sides of the fence, which actually obscure and stifle any meaningful discussion. The vitriol has become so fierce on some pages that all comments are moderated, which is a real shame, as it goes against the openness that blogging is supposed to create."

Despite these fallbacks, Ahmad considers blogs to be a good complement to newspapers in the

UAE, saying that the two can work alongside each other and that the tone of one can very nicely accompany the other.

"Blogs in the UAE by and large have a very small readership, and those that are successful rely largely on quoting newspapers and on readers' comments. Gulf News regularly features the views of bloggers on the website."

Gulf News has developed news stories based on blog content, but Ahmad notes that newspapers must be careful not to consider what is published on a blog to be an objective piece of writing. "It has to be remembered that a newspaper has a much higher burden of proof than a

blog.

If Gulf News publishes a story we have to make sure that it is true, find people to corroborate the facts, and get reactions," he explains. "A newspaper has the responsibility to uphold the truth while a blogger can simply publish a rumour or their own opinion without finding all the facts."

He emphasizes the need for more bloggers who are qualified in their subject of coverage, who offer balanced insight and who practice responsible freedom.

"Blogging is an excellent tool but needs to be used in a responsible manner. It is a good thing to engage more people, but blogs should not be used as an avenue for vilifying or

dividing the community."

He adds that with blogs, readers are not just finding out the news, but dipping into the life of the author. "There is a degree of voyeuristic buying with a blogger that you will not get in a newspaper."

The subjective and personal tone of blogs seems to gain the trust of some readers who are weary of the corporate ties that many mainstream newspapers are bound by. Ahmad believes that "there is a general perception among readers that the news media across the world has an agenda to follow. Blogs can be seen as a more individual forum for debate and for expressing points of view; independent of the whims of a 'big bad corporation,' if you like."



Salah Haidar to the Yemen Times:

## “The country needs more Yemeni photographers to show the world the beauty of the country and the kindness of its people.”

Every Friday, Iraqi photographer Salah Haidar leads a group photography tour of Sana'a during which he helps amateur photographers with techniques and provides them with constructive criticism. Haidar has accumulated 39 years of experience in photography, has won several photo exhibitions' prizes, including awards from the Iraq International Photography Exhibition, and has trained several photographers. He is the spokesperson for the Union of Arab Photographers and a member of the International Union for Photographers, and considers Yemen a treasure for photography. Haidar spoke to *Khaled Al-Hilaly* from the Yemen Times about his work and photography in Yemen

**How did you first become interested in photography?**

My interest in photography started when I was 13. A wall calendar had been hanged in my room and it had twelve photos of beautiful Iraqi landscapes. At the beginning of each New Year, a new calendar appeared with new photos. These photos inspired me to become a photographer. At a nearby studio, I had the chance to learn about cameras and developing photographs.

**Tell me about your current project Yemen Photo Encyclopedia?**

I have spent more than four years working on the Yemen Photo Encyclopedia project and have finished 50 percent of the work it involves. This encyclopedia documents an era of history. Each volume is devoted to a Yemeni governorate. I am thinking of publishing the first volume which is for old Sana'a city. Photo captions are in four languages which will make the encyclopedia useful for researchers and tourists. Since the encyclopedia is self-financed, financial considerations control the work progress. Photographing in far places necessitates transport, accommodation and other expenses, but I hope I will be able to complete the project before leaving Yemen.



Iraqi photographer Salah Haidar

**How do you photograph people on the street without them realizing?**

I always respect people's privacy. I use a candid camera technique: I direct the camera to a person I want to photograph and as soon as I see his acceptance I start taking photos spontaneously from different angles.

**How would you evaluate Yemeni photojournalism?**

Photojournalism is still weak because most Yemeni media establishments don't pay enough attention to photo-

journalists and they don't provide them with photography tools or appropriate training.

**Why are photography exhibitions rare in Yemen?**

A photo exhibition is costly: photos need printing, framing as well as galleries and places to exhibit. The photographer's income is low, so he can only afford his family needs. There should be sponsorships and support from ministries, establishments and companies to help holding photo exhibitions, and this way photography will develop.

**There is currently no union or association for Yemeni photographers. Why do you think that is?**

This question is for Yemeni photographers to answer. However we at the Union of Arab Photographers will support any initiative to establish such an association in order to fill the gap between Yemen and other Arab countries in the field of photography.

**Can you give me some names of Yemeni young photographers you expect to have a bright future in photography?**

Anwar Al-Shumi, Mahdi Karamah, Eziah Taher, Nadia Taher and Amira Al-Sharif are promising photographers.

**What is the most important quality a photographer needs to have?**

A photographer should be creative and imaginative.

**What are your future plans?**

I am preparing for a personal photo exhibition titled: Al-Saleh Mosque, Ninety-Nine Visions. This will be my masterpiece. Then I am going to estab-



Haidar promotes Yemen as a safe tourist destination through his art.

lish a photography institute for the entire Arab world or move to the United Arab Emirates to chair a new photography institute there.

**How can photographers help in the development of their country?**

A photographer is an ambassador for his country, so Yemeni photographers should represent Yemen to the world: its heritage, civilization, traditions and the real picture as they see it. A few of my friends outside Yemen ask me is it

safe to come here, and believe that kidnapping and violence are rampant. The country needs more Yemeni photographers to change this negative perception and show the world the beauty of the country and the kindness of its people. This is the photo era, and newspapers still don't have photographers. If they want to develop photojournalism and photography in general, they should hire, train and give photographers the proper standing. Photographers from other countries

come to photograph Yemeni projects, why not have local photographers?

**Do you have any tips for someone who wants to become a photographer?**

I encourage an aspiring photographer to read a lot about photography, explore other professional photographer's experience through the internet or magazines, and join a class or training session to learn the fundamentals of photography.

## إعلان

### تنفيذ قرار المجلس المحلي بمديرية شبام بخصوص الرسوم السياحية لدخول مدينة شبام التاريخية

يعلن المجلس المحلي بمديرية شبام حضرموت عن بدء تنفيذ قراره رقم (1) لعام 2006 والمستند إلى قرار مجلس الوزراء رقم (283) لعام 2001 بخصوص تحصيل رسوم سياحية مبلغ وقدره 500 ريال يمني عن كل سائح أجنبي يدخل مدينة شبام التاريخية و عليه يرجى من كل الجهات العاملة في مجال السياحة أن تضع الرسوم المذكورة أعلاه بعين الاعتبار عند قيامها بتفويج السياح إلى مدينة شبام حضرموت التاريخية علما بأن عقيدات هذه الرسوم ستذهب كاملة لصالح برنامج ترميم وإعادة تأهيل المعالم التاريخية بالمدينة

وسيبدأ تحصيل هذه الرسوم من تاريخ 15 ديسمبر 2008 م

حيث تتوفر تذاكر دخول المدينة في فرع مكتب وزارة السياحة بمديرية شبام على شكل دفاتر سندات يحوي الواحد منها 50 تذكرة و بسعر 25000 ريال (خمسة وعشرين ألف ريال للدفتر الواحد)

و على الوكالات التي ترغب بالحصول على التذاكر الاتصال على فرع مكتب وزارة السياحة بمديرية شبام على هاتف رقم 05420024 او جوال رقم 777420959



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**مستشفيات**

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المستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١٠ ٦٠٠٠٠٠/٦٠٢٠٠٠  
فاكس: ٤١٨١١١  
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

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فندق فراسي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧٠/١/٢  
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فندق موفيك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦  
فندق سيا ت: ٠١-٣٣٧٧٣  
فندق ريلاكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١  
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إيميل: sts.yemen@gmail.com

**معاهد**

معهد يالي ت: ٤٤٥٨٢٠٣٦/٤٤٥٨٢٠٣٦  
معهد اللغة الألمانية ت: ٣٠٠٩٥٥  
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٣٦٢٢٢٢  
فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥  
معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٢٤٣٥/٥  
معهد لينك ت: ٥١٠٦١٢ - ٢٤٠٨٢٢  
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**شركات للتأمين**

الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٢٧٧١٢/٢٧٧٨٧٣  
مأرب للتأمين صنعا ت: ٣٠٦١٩/١٣  
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين  
صنعا ت: ٣٨٤١٩٣  
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تعر ت: ٢٥٨٨١  
شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعا ت: ٢٧٨٨٠/٢٧٧٩٦٣/٤٣  
عدن ت: ٢٤٦١٧  
تعر ت: ٢٥٠٣٤٥

**مدارس**

مدرسة رينيو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٢٦/٤٢٤٠٤٣  
مدارس صنعا الدولية ت: ٣٧٠١٩١/٣  
مدرسة التركيبة الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٥٨/٩  
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٣٠٦١٥٩

**سفرات**

النسيم للسفرات ت: ٣٧٠٧٥٠  
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١٥٨٩/١٠

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للتواصل: ٧٣٢٤١٠٥٦٩

**كمبيوتر، اثاث، أدوات كهربائية، تلفونات، و أشياء أخرى**

• مطلوب شراء ساعة رولكس أو ساعة أوميغا بسعر ٥٠٠ دولار  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٠٨٠٢٢  
• البيع: كمبيوتر لاب توب - المعالج (١.٧Ghz) - الشاشة (١٠.٧mb) - الهارد (٦٠GB) - الشاشة (١٤.٥) - توشيبا ستلايت - وايرلس - DVD - RW  
للتواصل: ٧١١١٦٧٥١٠

جيدة بالكمبيوتر واستخدام البرامج الهندسية.  
للتواصل: ٧٧١٦٤٨٤٧٢

• مختار - بكالوريوس حاسب آلي - خبرة في تقنية المعلومات - حاصل على الشهادة العالمية في مجال الشبكات CCNA - حاصل على الرخصة الدولية لقيادة الحاسب ICDL - حاصل على عدة دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه  
للتواصل: ٧١١٠٠١١٦٨

• مهندس كمبيوتر - خريج جامعة القاهرة - كلية الهندسة - تقدير جيد جداً - يرغب في العمل في الفترة المسائية - خبرة في إدارة المواقع  
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٠٤٣٠٣ - ٧١٢٠١١٤٠١

• فلسطيني الجنسية - بكالوريوس هندسة كمبيوتر - دبلوم برمجة حاسبات - خبرة عشر سنوات في تدريس مواد الكمبيوتر - خبرة في الصيانة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في أي مكان  
للتواصل: ٧٣٢٨٠٣١٩٤

• صادق ناصر - بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة الأحقاف - دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية في معهد YALI - دورات كمبيوتر في البرامج التطبيقية والبرامج المحاسبية ونظام يمن سوفت - خبرة ٧ سنوات في مجال المحاسبة

الواحدة ظهراً وحتى الثالثة عصرًا أو بعد المغرب  
للتواصل: ٧٣٤٨٢٥٦١٢

• بكالوريوس آداب - لغة إنجليزية - شهادة في المراسلات التجارية - معهد NCC - خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية والترجمة - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر  
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٦٩٩٧٧

• مدرسين المواد التالية (كيمياء - فيزياء - رياضيات) يقومون بتدريس هذ المواد باللغة الإنجليزية - يريدون إعطاء دروس خصوصية في هذه المواد ويسعار مناسبة  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٧١٨١٢ - ٧١٣٨١٢٠٦٦

• مترجم من اللغة الروسية إلى العربية ومن اللغة الأورينية إلى العربية - يبحث عن وظيفة  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٩٠٩٧٧

• مظهر أحمد - مهندس ميكانيكي (تحكم ميكانيكي) - خبرة عالية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يجيد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر - يرغب في العمل في إحدى المصانع أو في أي مكان آخر في مجال تخصصه  
للتواصل: ٧٧١٦٠٧١٤٠

• نور - حاصل على رخصة قيادة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر وصيانة الشبكات - يبحث عن عمل في صنعا  
للتواصل: ٧٣٢٩٢٦٣٥٤

• خبرة سبعة عشر سنة في التجارة الدولية - سوداني الجنسية  
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٣٨٤٤٥

• حسام صفوان - دبلوم تصميم إعلاني - خبرة لأكثر من سبع سنوات في مجال التصميم - يجيد استخدام برامج Photoshop - illustrator - In Design

للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٥٠٦٦٦

• فوز - ليسانس لغة فرنسية - جامعة تعز - كلية الآداب - دورات في الكمبيوتر - دبلوم في اللغة الفرنسية - جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٤٤٢٧٠٦

• بليغ علي - بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة عدن - خبرة ٤ سنوات في الحسابات والمراجعة - يجيد العمل على نظام أونكس برو والنظام المتكامل يمن سوفت. يبحث عن عمل في صنعا  
للتواصل: ٧٣٢٥٨٥٥٤٢

• دبلوم محاسبة المعهد الوطني - نظام محاسبي يمن سوفت - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - يرغب في العمل في مجال التخصص أو في أي مجال آخر  
للتواصل: ٧٧٥٧٦٢٣٣

• خبرة واسعة في مجال التصميم الإعلاني والتصوير الرقمي  
للتواصل: ٧٧١٢٥٠٠٦٧

• معطي السقاف - خريج هندسة ميكانيكية - تقدير جيد جداً (جامعة عدن) - يجيد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر - يرغب في العمل مع أي شركة حكومية أو خاصة

للتواصل: ٧٣٤٥٦٤٤٦

• كمال - بكالوريوس هندسة مدنية - تقدير جيد جداً - خبرة سنة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - معرفة

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• بدر الدين حسن - بكالوريوس قانون - جامعة النيلين السودان - دبلوم العلوم الشرطية - كلية الشرطة والمعاهد السودان - دبلوم إدارة - خبرة خمسة عشر سنة في مجال الخدمات الأمنية في السودان وأمريكا - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - شهادة في مجال البيع والمشترقات وخدمات الزبائن في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٤٩٩٩٥٣

• بسام محمد الخضمي - ثانوية عامة - حاصل على برنامج EADA - أساسيات التسويق - علاقات عامة - مراسلات وتقارير - مهارات وظيفية - إعداد مشاريع - أساسيات إنترنت - شهادة مساعد إداري  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٥٦٨٨٠

• ثانوية عامة - حاصلة على برنامج EADA - دبلوم سكرتارية - أساسيات التسويق - علاقات عامة - مراسلات وتقارير - مهارات وظيفية - إعداد مشاريع - أساسيات إنترنت - شهادة مساعد إداري  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٥٦٨٨٠

• داود حيدر الخضمي - بك/تربية /اجتماعيات - حاصل على برنامج EADA - أساسيات التسويق - علاقات عامة - مراسلات وتقارير - مهارات وظيفية - إعداد مشاريع - أساسيات إنترنت - شهادة مساعد إداري  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٥٦٨٨٠

• دبلوم محاسبة - بكالوريوس إنجليزي - دبلوم كمبيوتر - خبرة واسعة في الحسابات التجارية في اليمن  
للتواصل: ٧١٢٥٠٠٥١٢

• منرس لغة إنجليزية يعمل في مدرسة أهلية - يرغب في العمل كمدرس خصوصي من الساعة

**كوبون للاعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)**

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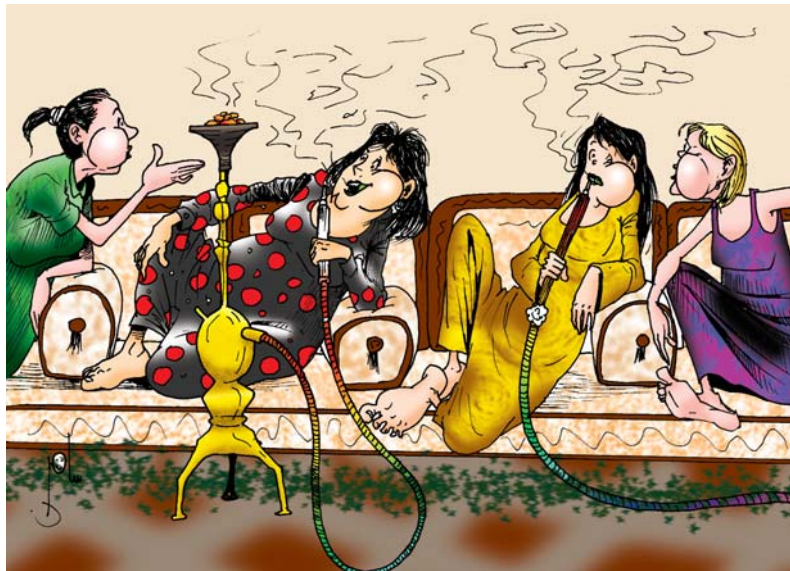
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قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ أو على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعا



**By: Saddam Ashmori**  
**For the Yemen Times**

Najwa says that, after she completed high school, her family didn't allow her to attend university. "I found myself always idle and bored and resorted to chewing qat and smoking



to the subjects and result from each

"The absence of family scrutiny on the behavior of girls during their

For centuries, men in Yemen have gathered around hookahs to puff fruit-scented smoke and chew qat, talk and pass the time. Today, unaware of the devastating -quite possibly even deadly- consequences of the habit, women are increasingly taking it up as a favorite pastime.



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