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Masha's family and friends say their final goodbye

By: Amira Al-Sharif
 For the Yemen Times

AMRAN, Dec. 24 — Masha Nahari, 30, was buried on Wednesday at the Jewish community cemetery "Al-Sawda" [the black land] in the presence of his family, and both Jewish and Muslim friends. The funeral was attended by a number of Jews who came from abroad, as well as many figures of the tribe of the Amran governorate.

His relatives could not help but weep over their loss, and some of the

females in the family fainted as they saw Masha's body on its way to the cemetery.

The local Sheikh of Kanit and Khareef, Motaheer Qoba assured Nahari's father that if the government does not bring them justice, the tribe will.

Before heaving sand on the body, the relatives placed some of Nahari's possessions on him, such as his mobile phone, his personal documents and some of the money that was with him when he was shot.

Meanwhile, the murderer, Abdul Aziz Yahya al-Abdi remains in custody. In the last court session on Monday he claimed to be proud of his deed, and threatened that, if released, he would kill all the Jews remaining in Raidah, Amran.

The trial which started on Saturday was not attended by Nahari's family because of the Sabbath. Even on Monday they were prevented from attending by over 150 members of the murderer's tribe, until security personnel

intervened and provided the Jewish family with safe passage into and out of the courtroom. According to the local community, the murderer has five lawyers working in his defense, while Masha's family is without a single one.

"I lost my son, and I'm not ready to lose my home as well. Where will we go from here?" asked Tarangah Eshaq Yahya, Nahari's mother, while commenting on the President's suggestion that the Jewish community be relocated to Sana'a.

The Jewish school remains closed, while Omran, the substitute teacher for Nahari, is attempting to teach the younger Jews at the home of their leader, Saeed Israil Yaqub, Deputy of Al-Shabazi School, which hosts 8 teachers and 40 students.

Masha Nahari was killed on Thursday 11th December, representing the first real threat the Jewish community in Raidah has faced in more than 40 years. Raidah is home to 50 Jewish families and 250 individuals, with 100 houses, 2 markets, and 2 schools.



Nahari's children gather around a family photo which includes their deceased father one day before the funeral.



Masha lowered into his grave by both Jews and Muslims who attended the burial to bid him their last farewell.



Motaheer Qoba Sheikh of Kanit and Khareef (left) promises Nahari's grieving father (right) that if the government does not bring justice, they will.

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Rampant Myiasis outbreak in Mahwit expected to spread

By Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Dec 23 — As the spread of myiasis, a condition where animal or human tissue is infested with fly larvae or maggots, in the Mahwit governorate rapidly accelerates, field teams from the General Department for Animal Resources (GDAR) have ceased working towards combating this potentially fatal disease.

The teams stopped work three weeks ago because, according to Ahmed Al-Hasibi, director of the Animal Wealth Administration in Mahwit governorate, "the vector is out of control, it is a fly in the air."

However, two teams in Bani Sa'ad, one in Al-Khabt and another in Milhan are still working towards eradicating the disease.

"At the moment, GDAR field teams have stopped fighting the epidemic. Because they have not received their salaries from the Ministry of Agriculture since the 3rd December, they have decided to quit," Al-Hasibi

said.

The team members took leave for the Eid vacation, but due to the lack of pay they are yet to return to work, according to Mohammed Al-Sormi, director of the agriculture and irrigation office in Mahwit.

Al-Hasibi also revealed that the epidemic has caused the death of 1465 camels, cows, and sheep in the Mahwit governorate, and that those numbers are increasing.

Mohammed Yahya Abdo, Secretary General of the local council in Milhan said, "Last week 22 sheep and 2 cows died in the area of Badh."

The infected animals in Mahwit treated by the field teams include 180 cows, 351 camels, 848 sheep, 998 goats and 295 donkeys and dogs. The animals that were saved from the epidemic include 9407 cows, 93489 sheep, 133080 goats, 1502 camels and 5086 donkeys and dogs. Also, 8445 barns were dealt with by the teams, according to Al-Hasibi.

He added that two human cases in

Mahwit were reported.

Al-Hasibi calls on the Ministry of Agriculture and the other bodies concerned to quickly take action against the spread of the disease. He maintained that multiple areas should be treated at once, in a bid to effectively manage the vector transmission.

Al-Sormi noted that the disease is widespread in four districts in the Mahwit governorate; in Al-Khabt, Milhan, Bani Sa'ad, and Hofash. Climatic factors are to blame, such as the frequent wet weather found in the many valleys of the region.

In addition, he explained that the spread of infection is out of control in Mahwit, since the teams lack sufficient manpower to effectively cover all the affected regions. He added that there is no coordination between the institutions involved, such as the Ministry of Agriculture. He explained that those working in environmental protection must find a suitable solution for the stray animals that help to spread the disease. He also noted that the Mahwit

governorate needs 20 teams to cover all the affected areas at once.

Al-Sormi observed that this event has been totally ignored by the mass media, and questioned the role played by television and radio in covering this situation. He demanded that they broadcast suitable content to raise awareness of the issue.

Al-Sormi explained that myiasis is caused by a blue fly that lays her eggs in the soft tissue of the host. These then hatch, resulting in a parasitic infestation that lives within the host body, gradually moving to vital sections of the animal, such as the liver and blood vessels.

He recommended the following tips: first, clean and disinfect any apparent wounds. Second, if you ever see any worms, they are to be removed and burned. Third, keep your everyday environment clean, and use bug-spray on the fly that spreads this disease.

Al-Sormi explained that the animal most often afflicted is the goat, but that there are also many cases in sheep and

cows. He stressed that the field teams should go to the affected areas as soon as possible, suggesting that their on-site campaigns should include the distribution of awareness brochures and leaflets that instruct people in how to deal with this disease.

The Hodeidah governorate, which has a long coastal bar alongside the Mahwit borders from the west, will be adversely affected by the outbreak in Mahwit. "Myiasis in Hodeidah is currently under control and the teams are working well, but if the situation in Mahwit continues to deteriorate then the Tehama will be greatly affected, since a large section of the Tehama borders Mahwit," said Dr. Fadel Al-Amri, director of the Veterinary Office in Hodeidah.

He revealed that by 21st December, in Hodeidah alone there had been cases of myiasis detected among 92 cows, 627 sheep, 94 goats, 14 camels and 110 donkeys and hens.

He added that these cases were distributed among 143 villages, from a

sample of 633 villages.

"Within Hodeidah, Al-Mighlaf, Al-Dehi, Al-Ziadya and parts of Al-Kanawis district have all been infected with myiasis," Al-Amri said.

Myiasis entered Yemen in February this year, and hit three governorates simultaneously; Hodeidah, Hajjah, and Sa'ada, and by November this year the epidemic had appeared in Mahwit on a huge scale.

"Yemen requires YR 22 billion to curb the spread of myiasis," as Dr. Galib Al-Eryani, General Manager of the Agriculture Ministry's Animal Wealth Administration told Yemen Times earlier this year.

In February of this year, 5 human cases were recorded in Hajjah and Hodeidah.

Myiasis is widespread in the tropics and subtropics of Africa and the Americas, but occurs with significantly less frequency in most other areas of the world. The disease is also known as 'fly-strike', 'fly-blown' or 'New World'.

Malaysian businessmen to help Yemen join GCC

By Mahmoud Assamie

SANA'A, Dec 23 — Representatives from over 40 Malaysian companies have arrived in Yemen, aiming to assist in the country's development and gain membership to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"The government of Yemen must improve industry and trade, and focus on youth projects, as young people represent 60 percent of the population," said Aidrous al-Attas, Chairman of the Malay Chamber of Commerce, Malaysia. "Yemen is rich with an economic potential which it has to propagate if it is to expand its economic capabilities on an international level, including with Malaysia. Malaysia has much experience in industry and tourism," said al-Attas, who is also the head of the Malaysian businessmen delegation.

"We hope that the government will help us invest in banking, and realize

our aims to invest in tourism, industry, and halal products," he said, adding, "We will focus during the next five years on three sectors: tourism, vocational training and industrial zones."

"We have come to Yemen to help Yemenis improve their capabilities, and to share with them our experience in industrial development," said Haj Muhammad Mustafa, Secretary General of the Malay Chamber of Commerce, Malaysia.

"We came here to collaborate with Yemenis economically. We are here to help Yemenis attract investors," said Mustafa. "Yemenis do not know how to present the positive aspects of their country to others," he adds.

"If you ask a taxi driver to take you to any common place, he will often claim ignorance, yet in Malaysia every one knows every place in his country. So we are here for this purpose, to show the Yemeni people how to better present their country to others," clarified

Mustafa.

"In the industrial conference due to be held tomorrow, we will share our experience in development. We will work with both the public and private sectors for this purpose. Our common goal is the development of Islamic ummah. We will share our knowledge and our experience to help realize this goal," he added.

"Yemen is a country with opportunities. You have raw materials, the country is rich in tourist sites, you have a large workforce with a very low income. You need a master plan to best capitalize on this potential," said Executive Chairman of Malaysian Yemen Business Venture Fauziah BT Alias.

"Our responsibility is to market both Yemeni and Malaysian products, and to bring our businessmen to the exhibition that would be held on the sidelines of the Industry Conference due to be held in Hadramout tomorrow," she added.

"Our focus in this visit is business. We have a clear primary aim; to investigate the security in the country and to help Yemen join the GCC," said Alias. "During the Hadramout Industry Conference we will investigate how to tighten up security, and how to fight corruption. After this, we will return to start business," he adds.

Launching the Yemeni Malaysian Seminar for Investment, Prime Minister Ali Mujawar says that Yemen has taken important steps for attracting investments. It gives incentives to investors, such as free land for setting up their projects. "The government is taking care of industrial and investment infrastructure, and is working on having investment systems reformed," he said.

Chairman of the General Investment Authority, Salah al-Attar, called on Yemeni and Malaysian businessmen to invest in the infrastructure sector, especially in electricity and roads.

Those at the symposium held two work sessions. The first session dealt with a number of successful international experiences in the field of industrial development, as presented by the Malaysian Siram Company, Al-Arabi Group, and the Salalah Free Zone in Oman.

The second session included methods for enhancing the competitiveness of national industries, and was followed by a number of comments made by the Secretary General of Yemeni Manufacturers, Hodeidah Commercial and Industrial Chamber, and the Technical Organization of the Supreme Council for Developing Industries.

Four treaties and memos of understanding were signed in the sideline of the Industry Conference.

The first treaty, signed between the Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and the local authority in Hadramout, was for the establishment of a complete tourist compound, at an estimated ini-

tial cost of USD \$10 million. The treaty was signed by Governor of Hadramout, Salem al-Khanbashi, and by the Chairman of Malaysian Chamber of Commerce, Aidrous al-Attas.

The Malaysian CM Company and al-Amqi Group for Trade and Investment signed the second treaty, which relates to the establishment of fishery industries in Hadramout, worth USD \$2.5 million. The Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the Malaysian Sirm Company signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in setting up a Yemeni industry development strategy. Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade for Development and Investment, Abdullah Abdul-Wali, and the Vice Chairman of Malaysian Sirm Company, Asmadi Saeed, signed the memo. The Hadramout Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Malaysian Chamber of Commerce signed the second MoU for trade cooperation.

On the way to Parliament

Nine ministers resign, Al-Hajri, the first elected governor, leaves his position

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Dec. 24 — An official source from the Cabinet told the Yemen Times that nine ministers have "definitely" presented their resignation to Ali Mohammed Mujawar, the Prime Minister, "in an arrangement for running for the Parliamentary elections", which are scheduled to occur next April. The source, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that they expect new ministers to succeed those who resigned, also pointing out that this is the fourth change to the government of Mujawar since it was first formed in April 2007.

The most outstanding officials who resigned include Sadeq Amin Abu Rass, Deputy Prime Minister for Internal Affairs, and Rashad Al-Alimi, Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defense Affairs. In addition, Abdul Karim Ras'e, Minister of Health; Mansour Al-Houshabi, Minister of Agriculture; Rashad Al-Rassass, Minister of Lagal Affairs, and Awadh Al-Suqatri, Minister of Electricity, all resigned from their positions for the same reasons.

The GPC-run online web site Al-Motamar.net reported early this week

that Abdul Salam Al-Jawfi, Minister of Education, Hamoud Obad, Minister of Youth and Sport, and Ahmed Al-Kuhlani, States Minister for the Parliament and Shura affairs and member of the GPC, all resigned "so as to arrange for their own nomination in the upcoming elections."

Early this month, the Supreme Committee for Election and Referendum (SCER) called on the officials in the central administrative apparatus of the government, and those leaders of the local authority who intend to nominate themselves for the Parliament membership, "to resign from their jobs before the 27th of this month." The Ministry of Defense's website, 26th September.net, reported that military and security leaders, along with officials in the executive authority such as governors, deputy-governors and heads of government institutions, have "resigned from their positions in order to run for the upcoming Parliamentary elections." The same source said that those officials "handed their resignations to the incumbent bodies with due notice."

Governor of Ibb, Ahmed Al-Hajri, only six months after being elected as governor in the first local elections in Yemen last May, announced his resigna-

tion and intention to run in the next elections.

Secretary General of Sana'a Local Council, Amin Juma'an, resigned for the same reason, only a few days after Ahmed Al-Eshari, Assistant Deputy Minister of Youth Sports, presented his own resignation so as to nominate himself in the 34th constituency in Taiz, which Sadeq Al-Bqa'adani of the Islah Party currently represents in the Parliament.

Observers considered the number of ministers resigning from their jobs to be an attempt from the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) to create some form of political activity in the upcoming elections, particularly after the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) announced a boycott of the elections. The JMP, which holds 58 of the 301 seats in Parliament, demanded that SCER be re-formed and voted on again in the Parliament, as a condition of their participation in the coming elections.

Tareq Al-Shami, head of the GPC's Media, said in a press statement that resignation of some ministers is considered a confirmation that elections will be conducted in due time. He said that every party has the right to select its candidates, "to pursue an active role in the next Parliament as a legislative and



A group of ministers during the inauguration of Al-Saleh Mosque in Sana'a last month. Photo by Mohammed Al-Sayaghi.

monitoring authority."

Al-Shami pointed out that the GPC aims to alter the political map by creat-

ing alternative political powers, through its list of candidates for the 2009 Parliament, and by supporting

candidates of the "National Alliance Parties", the small opposition parties loyal to the ruling party.

Third Tourist Leaderships Meeting: 2009 Year of Tourism

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Dec. 24 — (Al-Syasiah) Participants in the third annual consultative tourism meeting urged the Tourist Promotion Council, tourism agencies and Yemenia Airlines to hold promotional activities in the Gulf Council Countries (GCC) to attract more tourists. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Tourism, under the theme "2009: Dashing to develop tourism performance".

Up to 129 participants stressed the need for the General Authority for Lands, Area and Construction Planning to protect tourist sites that were specified in the plan of tourism development, and called for immediate measures to protect them.

The Tourism Development Plan of 2009 includes 49 projects, 44 service projects, and 5 large-scale projects in addition to many resolutions that aim to establish a modern tourist statistical system and an emergency unit.

They demanded that short-term, mid-term, and long-term programs be initiated to carry out the projects included in the tourism investment plan according to priority. They also demanded that the corporation coordinate with the authorities concerned, as specified in the Cabinet resolution to provide essential services to tourist sites.

That Ministry of Tourism was urged to reduce the financial allocations of the investment program of 2009, to support tourism, and to prepare a plan to revitalize the tourism sector.

Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar said, during the opening of the meeting, that the government does in fact give priority to the tourist sector, and that a mechanism has been approved with regard to collecting taxes and fees from tourist locations. In addition, the mechanism involves the unification of accommodation fees in all hotels, based on the circumstances of the private sector in the field of tourism, and based on recommendations from last years meeting.

Facing the Financial Crisis

Deputy Director of the Tourism Promotion Council, Alwan Al-Shiehani, pointed to the global financial crisis and its associated negative impact on the tourism sector in its different fields, par-

ticularly the sectors of tourist site construction and hotel development. "The global financial crisis has had such a huge impact that our tourist sites are unable to function easily, as hotels depend on a surge of tourists," said Al-Shiehani.

Surveying Local Tourism

Participants stressed the importance of carrying out a survey of local tourism, as an important component of measurement and a necessary requirement to apply the prototype survey of tourism, which enhances the data base of tourism support. They further recommended that a tourist investment map be drawn up, to show those sites marked for tourism development as included in the plan. Offering land at discounted prices

when used for establishing tourist projects was also recommended.

Using Local Sources

Local authorities were encouraged to ask residents to renovate old houses for use as hotels and restaurants, while at the same time preserving the traditional architecture. They stressed the importance of improving the capabilities of workers in the tourism sector, through a combination of internal and external training programs, and by encouraging the establishment of training centers and institutions.

Kidnapping and Terrorism

Hassan Al-Faqih, Minister of Tourism, stressed the importance of discouraging kidnapping by strictly applying the

effective laws. He said that kidnappers should be brought to justice, and that punishment should be imposed according to law and religion. In addition, he called for the continuation of efforts to ban the possession and bearing of arms.

Al-Faqih said that stability and improving the security situation will benefit the tourism sector, pointing out that the procedures which Ministry of Interior is expected to take will have a strong positive effect in securing both tourists and tourism sites.

"Engaging society in tourist activities will help promote the level of education and the importance of tourism," said Al-Faqih. "This, in turn, will generate a feeling of responsibility to deter those who aim to harm the reputation, security and stability of the country."

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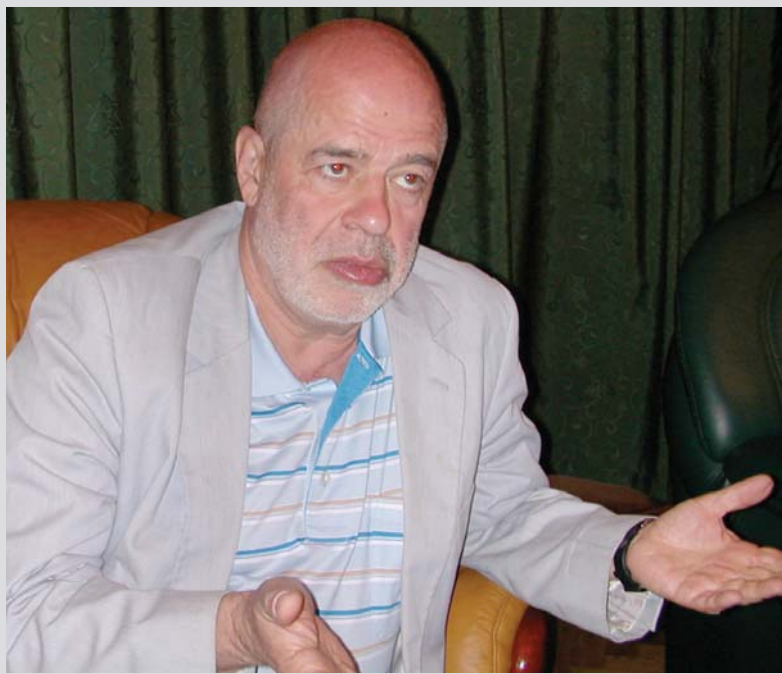
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Russian Archeological and humanitarian expert to Yemen Times: “youth of today should be taught to renounce hatred between nations”

Professor Vitaly Naumkin was born in Russia, trained in Egypt, and completed his Doctoral studies in Arab and Islamic History and Sciences at Moscow State University. Known for his research in areas such as international relations, strategic studies, Islamic studies, conflict management and resolution, and Eurasian studies, he is an internationally renowned scholar throughout the Arab and Muslim world. He has been president of the International Center for Strategic and Political Studies since 1991. In addition, he holds the positions of: Director of the Center for Arab Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences; Editor-in Chief of “Vostok-Oriens”, and Chair of the faculty of World Politics, Moscow State University. Professor Naumkin has written over four hundred books, chapters, and articles in Russian, Arabic, English, French, German, and other languages.



Vitaly Naumkin

The Russian Archeological Mission discovered a large Jewish temple in the region of Bir Ali but the incumbent authority has held back details of the discovery.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of the Yemen Times met with Professor Vitaly Naumkin head of the mission to Yemen. This mission is currently directing the archeological explo-

ration of Socotra and Bir Ali in the Shabwa governorate, assisted by Russian scientists. He interviewed him about the activities of the mission and other political and cultural issues.

Can you brief us on the aim of your current visit to Yemen?

First of all, the main aim of this visit is scientific cooperation between the Russian Academy of Sciences and Yemeni institutions. I always visit Yemen due to my scientific work, and also my interest in Yemeni history and development. The direct aim of this visit is to continue work on the island of Socotra. For a long time, I have been working on the translation of its ancient history, as this is a very important aspect of Yemeni civilization. I will head a Russian archeological mission that will work in the island during December. Above all, the major reason is to further develop the relations and academic cooperation between Russia and Yemen, particularly during this period when relations are improving in other areas. I

hope that this relationship will encompass cooperation in the cultural, scientific, military, economic, commercial, and political fields. Also of importance is cooperation on the issue of the Red Sea, and in combating the piracy which has become so endemic..

Can you give me an idea about the latest book you published and how many books have you published so far. What is your new writing project about?

I have a lot of projects. This year, I didn't complete any of them due to the many tasks I have to fulfill. However, I have published a book about the armed struggle in Southern Yemen, and later updated the volume to include the period of armed struggle against the British colonization. After that, I wrote many

chapters about Yemen for various Russian books, and also published a book about Yemeni history. I have also had a special book about Socotra published in Britain. I am currently working on a new book which, God willing, I will finish very soon.

What about the archeological discoveries made by the Russian mission in the area around Bir Ali? Why haven't they been officially announced, and why is there a media blackout surrounding this? Could it be because the mission discovered a big Jewish temple?

The issue is tactical but has nothing to do with fear. We don't have any concerns over whether this temple belongs to the Christian, Jewish or Buddhist religion. The temple may even date back to

the pre-Islamic period. There is an agreement between the Russians and the Yemeni Archeological Authority, which is responsible for the media coverage. We prefer not to say much about new discoveries, as this is a joint matter between the Yemeni and Russian mission. Nothing is announced without the agreement of the Antiquity Authority. You can call Mr. Ba Wazeer who is in charge of the authority. We usually don't talk about the Russian discoveries or activities, particularly if the mission is jointly conducted.

As a veteran of many past conferences concerning the dialog of civilizations, what is the difference between the dialog of civilizations suggested by Iranians, and the initiative of civilization alliance that Spain recently proposed?

The difference is simple, as the idea is more developed. That is, it is not just a dialog between countries but, rather, between civilizations. It is a question of fate and civilization and the idea that Spain and Turkey suggested is an idea of alliance. We meet and discuss issues of the international community and many other issues to contribute to peace and stability between religions, majorities and minorities, and between countries as well as between the different generations. Therefore, the idea was translated into four main texts. For example, we demanded in our report to amend the education curriculum. This is an important step so that there will be no initiatives that may propagate hostility among peoples and nations, as well as between religions. Education is important, as new generations can be educated in a way that is free from bias and prejudice.

The youth of today should be taught to renounce hatred between nations. It is at this point that the media plays a role. We know how mass media can be used for vicious purposes, against humans in general, or against the interests of a given nation.

What did you achieve with at the Spanish conference concerning the dialog of civilizations?

The conference was held last January. We proposed various projects, and the representative of the UN Secretary General, who is also the ex-president of Portugal, is in charge of implementing these. There are also clear missions in the field of education, youth, and cooperation between international mass media. Other governments, including that of Qatar, are funding some projects on the international level. This is just a start, as no one project can fix everything, but in the end these dialogs serve the interests of the people of the world.

Concerning this dialog of civilizations, is it conducted between religions to solve the disagreements that result from differing ideologies? Do interests deepen the gap between religions?

In my opinion, the main source of disagreement is politics. For example, the situation in Iraq, Afghanistan or Palestine is clearly a result of political interests. However, there is a dire need for dialog between religious groups. For example, Russia proposed the establishment of a consultative council for international religions, under the umbrella of the UN, to help maintain the dialog between different religious groups. The council can be in Russia or in any other country.

What is Russia's role in this?

Russia plays an active role in the UN, the Security Council, international organizations, the Organization of Security and European Cooperation, and in many other organizations including the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), as there are more than 20 million Muslims in the country. In addition, the alliance of civilizations is one of the international projects that will work to benefit all humanity.

What about the problem of piracy off the Yemeni and Somali coasts? Do you think that the introduction of international maritime forces will solve the problem, or can a solution be found through the existence of a strong and stable Somali state?

I wish that we would help Somalia to

reach stability. But how can this happen amid the myriad internal crises? You cannot impose your own opinion on other people. Why doesn't Saudi Arabia, which is the second largest country after Russia in oil exportation, contribute in establishing an ally country in Somalia? Why don't the other Arab countries play this role? Why doesn't the African Union play an active role toward creating a strong and stable Somali state?

First and foremost, Yemen sovereignty should be respected and all countries that exist near the Yemeni coast should recognize this. Yemen cannot accept any of the demands of the great countries which dominate the Red Sea. I believe that there should be dialog before accepting any resolution from the UN or more powerful countries.

The Russia Today satellite channel broadcasts in the Arabic language, often with you as a guest; what is the main aim of this channel?

The aim of the channel is to create rapprochement between the Russian and Arab cultures. The aim is also to make Arabs acquainted with what is going on in Russia in a transparent way.

The channel recently broadcast a film about Yemen. It was out-dated. Aren't there other films?

I had an idea to form a team of three photographers and a producer to make a film about Socotra, and about the work of the Russian mission there, but the mission arrived late due to technical reasons. We will carry out this project next year.

How do you evaluate the economic and commercial cooperation between Yemen and Russia?

Economic cooperation is weak and I think that the two governments should improve this cooperation in the interests of both nations. There has been some consultation between experts from the two countries with regard to the possibility of cooperation in the field of energy, electricity, oil, gas, aviation, and agriculture, as well as other projects that would benefit Yemen.

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Leftism and the need for cognitive innovation

By: Hamid Jabu

The current discussions held by leftists frequently tell us that we no longer understand what happens in our communities and that our previous expectations were not achieved. According to the discussions, leftism has missed the compass. Some of us damn the Moroccan government's participation in this judgment while others curse the leftists. In addition, the third group of people accuses the state of conspiring against its people while others put the blame on the educated elite for their being seemingly uncommitted.

Such a conflict of thoughts and estimates began very evident when we raised the question, "What does leftism mean today?" during a leftist dialogue in the Moroccan city of Dar Beida. We received various and discrepant answers from various participants in the event to the question. If there was a

semi-consensus on the confession to our being unable to understand the current stage of time, we will not find any two of us agreeing on the same medical prescription to treat this inability or difficulty.

As leftists, we estimated that our problem lies within glasses over our eyes. And what we mean by eyeglasses is the theoretical tools via which we read what takes place on the ground, and in light of which, we identify our methodology of understanding real facts on the ground and means of engaging in them.

In this context, the Moroccan leftists adopted two main concepts.

The first of which is that of the national movement heritage and the images it carries about the homeland, the state or other principles that are supposed to be part of our identity, as well as all those related with the political conflict, upon which the leftists built their identity.

The second concept relates with the

socialist and Marxist movement heritage and its methodology to liken society to a group of social layers. Both types of concepts or theoretical tools are primarily responsible for framing our look at the community.

Our problem lies within both concepts, which means that we no longer understand what takes place on the ground. We turned to see our imagination as a real fact, however, it is nothing more than an echo produced by distortion of our eyeglasses.

In the past, I discussed the primary approach to rehabilitate leftism cognitively, however, we need to take into consideration that such a cognitive rehabilitation (innovation) must not be understood as confining ourselves in our offices and cars to set up theoretical plans, which we label as the magic solution to our problem.

In fact, we need to get rid of our gloomy conditions and then try new thoughts and mechanisms for our engagement in doing things. We need

not stick to old and outdated concepts of leftism labeling individuals disagreeing with them as disbelievers.

Certainly, through this trial, we will be face to face with the risk of falling into blind pragmatism. Therefore, nothing more than being loyal with the real leftist spirit may help us avoid such potential fall. This also means that we should always side with the people and affected social groups in our nation in order for this to be our single criterion to assess authenticity of our speculations.

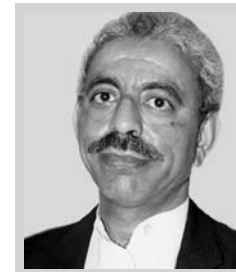
Anyway, we are required to utilize all the old and modern experiences, and look at the glorious achievements reached by others around us, plus any innovations in the areas of intellectualism and theories. In the meantime, we must not approve anything in this regard as if it is a revealed Holy Book that doesn't accept modification or negotiation.

Source: Al-Taqdeer.com

COMMON SENSE

A family breakfast

"It is for sure now that we really do not know where we are heading!" said Farida as she struggled to get her books together for school, while her mother set out the



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

breakfast plates.

"Farida! What does it matter to you where the world is heading? Once you get married, all your troubles are over. It will be your husband who may need a compass and an astrolabe to see where he might go and a calculator to see how he can make a decent living to support you and his other family members." Ali, her brother, put his leg over the chair to try to look tough as he sat for breakfast.

"Oh Ali, you always degrade woman and their role in society" said his father, as he picked up his ready cup of Yemeni coffee and sat in the sofa of the western style living room, trying to leaf through some of the papers he had worked on last night at home.

"Come on Father! You always told us how women have it easy in life. They do not have to worry about making sure to have enough to feed the children and their mothers as well. Even if they have all the money in the world, they are not obligated to spend a penny on us from that money as long as you are around." Ali was reminding his father of some of the lessons he picked up from his father.

"Now, wait a minute son!" said his father continuing: "Don't start some of your evil incitement of trouble between you and your Mom here! It is simply too early for that."

Ali was about to giggle mischievously, when his mother felt that this is her cue for blurting out her mind: "Look! What your father has been teaching you in this respect is simply unacceptable! He has forgotten that without my support, his income would not be enough to feed our two little cats, let alone fill our mouths. I detest such baseless masculine chauvinism."

Farida felt that it was time to give some feminist support to her mother: "Same goes for Ali here, who has forgotten that without my help, he would not be able to get half his homework done!"

"See what you started" said the Father to Ali, while trying to bring some truce into the debate: "Women are the cushion of society, without which the mess that men make in society would be a nightmare! Of course their role in family life is unquestionably invaluable. Don't misunderstand me Fatima and Farida, I fully appreciate your importance in this household and I am sure that Ali will agree with me that you are the fuel for his intellectual development."

Farida felt somewhat elated by what her father had just said and added: "Even his ability to swim needed my backing. Remember how he almost drowned in our little pool out in the garden. I jumped in with all my clothes on to pull him out when he lost hold of the rubber wheel around his skinny body."

Now Ali felt really embarrassed as his little sister got the upper hand in this exchange between the family members as both his father and mother roared in laughter at what Farida remarked. He started to pick up his books, embarrassingly saying: "Hey Mom! Did you tell Dad about the money I need to join the Physical Education Club? I have to hand it in today or I will lose my membership? It is only YR 5,000 and it is inclusive for all the physical education one needs to develop this skinny physique and it is renewable every year automatically upon payment of YR 3,000, after the first initial membership."

"Well, Son" she said jokingly: "Your father said that you do not need to join any health club at all with Farida around. Your sister is ready, willing and able to give you all the physical education you need!"

Again, Farida cut in: "... and for half the price. You can start to report in from today, an hour and a half after the lunch meal, and I will wait for you at the pool."

They all laughed again.

His father then pulled out the YR 5,000 from his side table drawer near the sofa where he was sitting. After that he said: "Most of the things that the club is supposed to give should be part of the curriculum in your school. I wonder what the Ministry of Education does with all the allocations for physical education out of the budget."

Here, Ali had the sad answer everyone almost expected because it is the underlying truth of all the misappropriated funds in the Government Budget: "To put it simply, the officials in the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports just gobble it up, so that their children can enjoy their physical education in the health clubs of Paris and London hotels, while the more junior officials buy apartments in Cairo and Kuala Lumpur. What do you expect when Government officials are immune from accountability by fiat?"

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

Military presence in the Gulf of Aden is not a solution

By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Dali

We don't know what the objective of the presence of internal marine forces in the Gulf of Aden is. We don't know whether the troops came to fight the phenomenon of sea piracy in the gulf or have other purposes.

If the purpose of the presence of international marine forces is to fight piracy in the sea, which already starts from the Somali territory, such a purpose may not be achieved, provided that the relation between this military presence and the negative phenomenon (piracy) resembles that of an elephant chasing a rat.

In addition, any painkillers provided for symptoms of the disease are impossible to treat the real causes of the disease. In other words, if such an excessive presence of international marine troops has other invisible motives, be they regional or international, these

motives will be uncovered by the days to come while the problem will remain unsolved.

Remarkably, the rapid growth of piracy acts and development of its tactics, which pirates first employed to take control of tourist yachts until they hijacked giant oil tankers, was not expected to look like this.

Even worse, the piracy operations spread over large distances in the Indian Ocean, thus targeting super tankers, which have been impossible for one to identify except through the satellite technology.

The fact raises a critical question about who provides pirates with such accurate information.

Nevertheless, the international community in general and the regional community in particular are primarily accountable for the dire situations in Somalia and its negative consequences such as the poor living standards of Somali citizens, killings, civil wars, mass exodus of Somalis to neighboring states, and death of hundreds of men, women and children in the Gulf of

Aden before reaching the Yemeni shores. The tragic situations of Somalis continue to worsen before eyes of the international community that doesn't react to what happens.

As a result of indifference on the part of international community toward what happens to the Somali people, the phenomenon of piracy in the Somali coast emerged.

With my appreciation to all efforts expended with the intention of addressing tragic conditions of Somali people in and outside their country, those efforts did nothing for the war-ravaged nation.

Piracy fighting efforts resemble painkillers

Several battleships entrenched in front of Somali shores, as well as in international navigation routes in the Gulf of Aden in order to fight piracy, however, they eventually appeared to be like painkillers, not a real medicine for the source of the problem (the Somali crisis).

The real effort to solve other prob-

lems following from the main problem must shift to tackling the Somali turmoil. The international community is responsible for this in order to help Somali people reach an agreement on forming a national unity government following a constructive dialogue to involve all the Somali factions without any exception.

Before such a comprehensive dialogue begins, those involved must stop the civil fighting and pull foreign troops out of the Somali land.

The international community is also required to take a true decision and show a serious will to solve the Somali turmoil, which began to diverge into various directions, thereby leaving negative impacts on the regional situations and international navigation in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea.

Otherwise, the currently provided painkillers will only help the Somali turmoil continue worsening and the surrounding region lose its security and stability.

Source: Al-Thawri Weekly

Motives of presidential instigation against Al-Ayyam Daily

By: Faisal Al-Safwani

Seemingly, the job of both senior editors of Al-Ayyam Daily Hisham and Tamam Basharahil did not apply the currently used means to praise continuing success of their career through the daily paper. As Yemenis both in the north and the south used to see it, the Al-Ayyam Daily proved itself as a leading paper publishing correct and authentic stories without any manipulation of reports passed to it for publishing.

What I would like to say here is that insistence by the daily's staff to stick to the profession of journalism, abide by rules of the journalistic career and demonstrate their loyal with people through following their issues and concerns, as well as publishing our their sufferings one by one, made the newspaper and its staff targeted by the official hatred. The paper eventually found itself face to face with the presidential attack.

Some people wanted the daily to be partisan, and therefore join the papers of political exaggerations and partisan propaganda. However, its staff insisted that their paper must remain neutral and

independent, thereby embodying all the indicators of real journalistic career, and caring about accuracy and objectivity while publishing people's stories and concerns at the level of governorates and districts.

This is the most salient quality of the daily, thus setting it apart from other local newspapers. The daily doesn't even hesitate to cover any functions and achievements made by the local authority in the various governorates and districts countrywide although it seems to give a top priority to events taking place in the southern governorates.

All these facts are counted in favor of the daily not against it, most notably as the absolute majority of local newspapers appear to concentrate on events and functions taking place in the capital city of Sana'a. There is no an independent newspaper in the south part of Yemen with the exception of Al-Ayyam daily.

Therefore, it is natural for the daily to pay more attention to what takes place in the southern governorates. Even if rulers of this nation are actually unionists and concerned about what happens in the south and the north as well, they are also supposed to recognize the Al-Ayyam daily and reward its staff, as

well as provide all the means of support and backing for them and value their noble job in the journalistic career.

The daily compensates for official papers' deficit

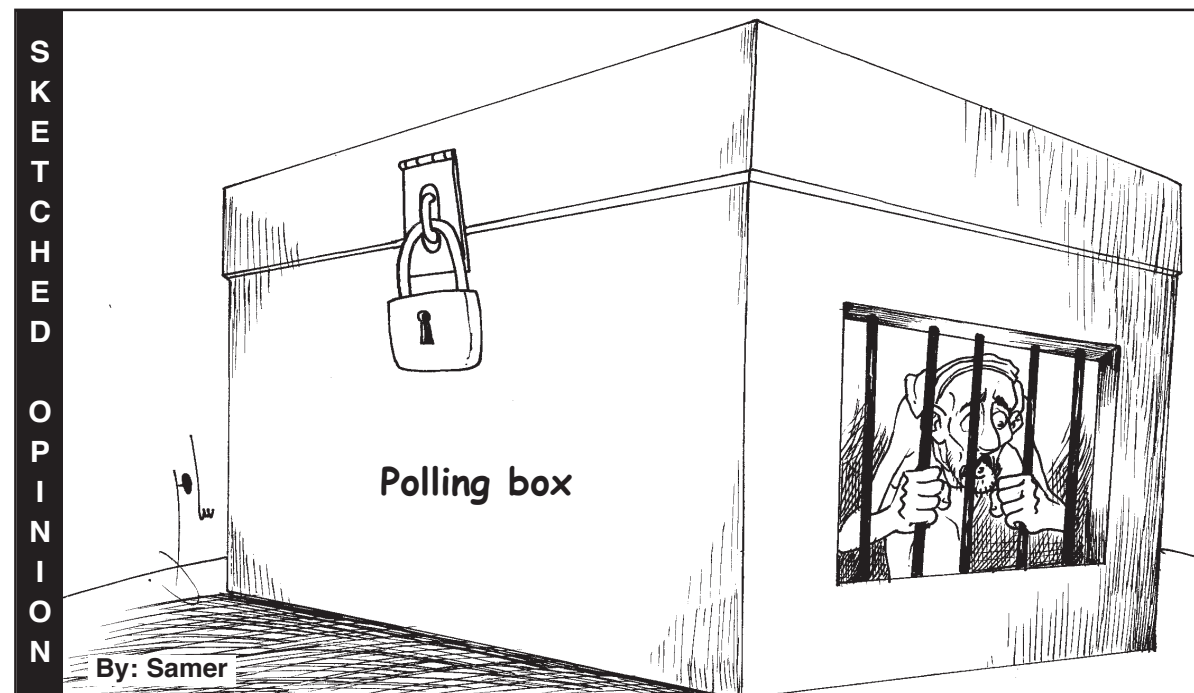
We should take into consideration that Al-Ayyam daily, through its good coverage, compensates for the deficit of official newspapers that are extremely engaged in Sana'a-based events, and therefore became unable to report events in southern and eastern governorates.

Instead of rewarding the daily and its staff for their great job, we were surprised to see President Saleh saying during his speech, aired by the Yemen Satellite Channel a few days ago, that "Al-Ayyam Daily is a mouthpiece of secessionists." Whether the secession demands were legal or not, under no circumstance may a presidential speech contain clear and outright instigation against the daily.

From a legal viewpoint, the clear, direct and frank instigation against the Al-Ayyam daily might have also contained indirect instigation against its editing staff. We were of the hope that such instigation is articulated by a governor or a minister. We regretted to see

such instigation made by President of the Republic, whom we expect to treat all Yemenis, be they from the north or the south, equally and fairly.

Source: attagamua.net



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This is Thailand, silly!

By: Elayne Clift
Women's Feature Service

With our Thai friends Lena and Dui we drive from Chiang Mai to Bangkok, a nine-hour journey. Early next morning, we head for the beach resort of Pattaya. No sooner have I navigated onto an eight-lane highway, our rental car belches grinding noises and slows to a near-halt. A burning odour is ominous. I inch left (Thais drive on the left side), cross eight lanes, and coast to a stop on the narrow shoulder.

Lena, epitomising the Thai concept of 'jai yen' - cool heart - pulls out her cell phone. She calls the Tourist Police and the Police Department's Road Services Division. Both promise to send help. Then she calls Avis Rental Car at Don Muang Airport, a few kilometres behind us. The agent offers a promotion. I get on the line to book it.

"What is your fax, please?" the agent asks.

"I'm in the middle of an eight-lane highway in a broken down car!"

"Oh, sorry. You have email address?"

By now my 'jai' is not so yen. I hand the phone back to Lena. "I call you later," she says.

My husband, meanwhile, is on his cell to Khun Tan from whom we have rented the car. He explains the situation, then says, "I'm in the middle of



Picture of Buddha Temple, Thailand Photo thanks to Neo.

Bangkok's busiest highway. I can't check the transmission fluid!"

An hour later we are still awaiting help. Lena suggests she and I grab a taxi and head for the airport to rent a car. Effortlessly, she flags a cab and we're off to Don Muang, leaving husbands to mind the Rent-a-Wreck. Hertz says they have a special "but only good for shift." I say I can drive manual. "Sorry," he says. "Mai mee" (don't have).

My cell rings. It's my husband. "I need a 'hong nam' (toilet). Can you

hurry?" Dui, meanwhile, has spotted a Mitsubishi dealer across the road from where they are stranded. He calls on his cell and tells the repair shop he has a dead car on the highway and a 'farang' with a full bladder.

"Is it Mitsubishi?" the repairman asks.

Dui confirms so the guy says my husband can use the restroom. The Tourist Policeman arrives, stops eight lanes of traffic in the opposite direction, and leads my husband to the Mitsubishi 'hong nam'.

Simultaneously, Lena and I arrive at the dealership in our new rental car. We head for the beach, only five hours behind schedule.

It's 9:00 p.m. when our landlords knock on the door. We have recently informed them we would leave Chiang Mai sooner than expected because my work is finished. They demand the rent. We explain that since they are holding two months security, we have already paid for our last month. Mrs Landlord, an atypically aggressive Thai woman, says we must forfeit our security deposit and pay another month's rent or she will change the locks. We invite her to return with a copy of the contract the next night.

At 5:00 p.m. everyone assembles, including a lawyer we have engaged and Lena, who is our real estate agent. We serve soft drinks and go through the expected amenities. Then the fireworks begin. We point to Clause Nine of the contract, which states that we are entitled to a full refund of our deposit because we have given 30 days notice. Mrs Landlord threatens to call the police. I say that's a good idea. Mr Landlord impugns Lena's integrity. I threaten to evict him. Then I offer to take them to court to settle the matter. The lawyer waits for the shouting match to end before quietly informing Mr and Mrs Landlord that it's against Thai law to forcefully evict tenants. He suggests they accept our deposit as payment in full. Mr Landlord weak-

ens. Mrs Landlord continues to rant. In the end, we agree to this solution and Mr and Mrs Landlord depart, all smiles and 'Kapunkas' (Thank you). I usher them out, 'wai-ing' (bowing) only to the lawyer.

Our friends arrive from the States. After several days touring Chiang Mai, we head for the Golden Triangle. Our first stop is Mae Salong where, our travel book advises, we must not miss the Mae Salong Resort. As evening approaches, we snake our way up a mountain in foggy rain, anticipating "the best views of terraced hills" and outstanding Yunnanese food. (This village was founded by Chinese escaping Mao's Cultural Revolution.)

The term "resort" is used loosely in Thailand, but what a misnomer for the hotel we find ourselves in! Without checking the rooms we plunk down 420 baht (US\$1=THB34.4) per couple - a supposed 40 per cent discount on the usual rate, but after seeing the accommodation we upgrade to "VIP rooms". These are large, dirty digs adjacent to staff quarters. Our view is drying laundry, wood piles and motorbikes. The rooms are dank and dirty. Water runs brown from the taps; the waste baskets are fuzzy; the sheets and towels appear used, the odour is Eau de Mould.

We passed a luxurious place a mile back but would they have room and would driving in wet darkness be sen-

sible? We accept our fate for the night - a Buddhist, but ultimately bad decision.

We visit the restaurant for the promised Chinese fare but find a motley crew of servers, stained tablecloths and a limited menu. We order several dishes. One plate of chicken appears with boiled rice and two plates of what look like weeds cooked in mud.

"Chinese eggplant! Very good - you try!" the waitress says.

We return hungry to our cobwebbed VIP lounge to drown our sorrows, agreeing to abscond in the morning without paying the difference owed on our rooms. None of us is able to sleep in the damp beds; no one dreams of showering. Our friends find a huge cockroach in their bed.

In the morning we head downhill to the beautifully gardened luxury hotel for breakfast and discover we could have stayed for 650 baht. Later, the "resort" calls to ask for their 1,500 baht. We say we are calling the Ministries of Health and Tourism. (Most accommodations and restaurants in Thailand are good to splendid but it's best to look before you book.)

Thailand is a wonderful country full of smiling people, colourful sights, delicious food, and glorious crafts. I'd live there again in a heartbeat. But having done so, I'd know that life can be frustrating, and very funny. Sometimes you just have to shrug and say, "This is Thailand, Silly!"

Seame Street in Palestine

In November, a joint U.S.-funded, Palestinian-produced version of Sesame Street (Shara'a Simsim in Arabic) launched in Ramallah. With months of outreach planned to introduce Kareem and Haneen, the two main Muppet characters, to Palestinian children, producers and educators are hoping the show will help educate children in the midst of a degrading political and economic situation in the Palestinian Territories.

As conditions continue to deteriorate for Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a joint US-funded, Palestinian-produced version of Sesame Street, or Shara'a Simsim in Arabic, is poised to hit the market in early 2009.

Daoud Kuttab, Director of Pen Media, a Palestinian educational media organization, and the local Executive Producer for the series, said Sesame Street in Palestine is about giving back pride to the Palestinian youth.

"Whether it's the television program, special appearances, or outreach initiatives, Shara'a Simsim goals are to serve as a catalyst for positive change by promoting Palestinian children's sense of their own identity."

But this is not an easy task.

Launching at a tough time

Abdel-Hakim Abu-Jamous, Director of Media for the Palestinian Ministry of Education told MENASSAT that the trouble is dealing with the trauma and fear that has made living in the Palestinian Territories a nightmare for Palestinian children.

"We have to provide a sense of calm to show (Palestinian) children that there is hope," Abu-Jamous said.

Numerous clinical studies have shown the abundance of Post Traumatic

Stress Disorder (PTSD) experienced by Palestinian children in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Last November, Palestinian children joined government officials, educators, and TV broadcasters in launching this new Palestinian-produced Sesame Street. It restarts as "Shara'a Simsim" after a joint Israeli-Palestinian version of the show was discontinued in 2002, in large part because: "The utterance of every Muppet was potentially inflammatory." (New York Times)

Kareem and Haneen

Production has been completed with the main Muppet characters, Kareem and Haneen, anchoring some 20 public service announcements that will debut on Palestinian TV in February 2009.

According to Abu-Jamous, "The PSAs will help children deal with fears, emphasize the importance of friendship, encourage bike safety, among a host of other topics."

The two Muppets will begin making appearances in schools and community centers in the coming months to promote the show - which producers say will officially debut with 52 episodes in April 2010. In-house production is due to begin in September 2009.

Cairo Arafat, the content advisor for the show, told MENASSAT, "The new season will focus on three dimensions and will be the culmination of decisions



Palestinian Muppet Kareem at a Sesame Street launch in November with Palestinian Education minister Lamis Al-Alamis and USAID head in Palestinian Territories Howard Sumka.

made in three workshops held back in November by the program producers, the ministry of education, UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), private NGOs, educators and members of the private sector."

During those workshops the participants looked at the old and new curriculums of the Palestinian educational system, comparing the curriculum used by UNRWA as well.

According to Arafat, the basis for the up-coming shows will be to prepare Palestinian children for basic education

and help them feel proud about their national identity and culture.

"The search for proper curriculum was deeply focused on what the messages were to be for the children especially for children ages 3 to 8."

A similar workshop was also held in November at Al-Quds University's Institute of Modern Media in Jerusalem to discuss possible content for a series of outreach materials. The materials, including thousands of storybooks, teacher guides, posters and DVDs, will be delivered to schools and nurseries

throughout the region.

A project with a past

The project is funded by the U.S. State Department's US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Dutch ministry of foreign affairs, and local Palestinian NGOs.

But the program's history in Palestine goes back to 1997 when the children's TV show began broadcasting an Israeli-Palestinian co-production that completed some 70 half-hour shows in both Hebrew and Arabic.

Under a different co-production agreement, the name "Sesame Street" was changed to "Sesame Stories" in 2002 because "the concept of a place where people and puppets from those (Palestinian and Israelis) groups can mingle freely had become untenable."

"We've realized that a goal of friendship was beyond realism, given where things are now," Charlotte Cole, vice president of international research for the (International Projects of) Sesame Workshops (formerly the Children's Television Workshop) in New York told the New York Times in 2002.

But things have only gotten worse in the Palestinian Territories since 2002. The western powers - particularly the European Union and United States - have imposed an economic and trade embargo on Palestinian Territories after the Islamist movement Hamas won legitimate Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006. And the situation in Gaza has worsened since Hamas violently overthrew rival Fatah factions in the Strip in the summer of 2007.

Still, Robert Knezevic, current Assistant Vice President of Sesame Workshop said that his group was committed to working with its partners to "provide relevant and innovative content to prepare Palestinian children the skills to deal with the world they're inheriting."

The ministry's Abu Jamous says that with the lack of options on the Palestinian TV, young Palestinians are thirsting for knowledge.

"The most important investment is investing in our children. No investment has a better return."

Source: menassat.com

Blaming the victim: Egypt's yellow press

By: Olfat Tantawi

In Egypt, some claim, there is no such thing as tabloid media. They argue that all of our newspapers, with all of their differences, often take honorable stands, with their free writers, intellectuals and minds. But we also have some newspapers that will hold others accountable but never take a hard look at themselves. They fight with their pens against injustice, while they themselves act in an unjust manner.

We will assume that whoever wrote about the murders of Nadine Khaled and Heba El-Akkad didn't mean to cause harm, but was only trying to establish the facts. And it is a given that each

journalist has his or her sources of information that could be true or false. It is also clear that each writer was trying to get the scoop, and that publishing such a story is a must for today's media in order to feed the reader's voracious appetite for news.

Here, we must ask about the journalists' code of honor and the role it should play in managing this journalistic enthusiasm to get the scoop. We must also question the role of the editorial management - not only that of the journalist - in reviewing the sources and verifying them.

In this case, the ethics of journalism have been pushed aside, allowing for defamation of these two women to

surpass the credibility of journalism. How can a person believe a media outlet that doesn't respect the human being and its virtues?

To be fair, a part of the responsibility falls on the absence of transparency and freedom of information, which is clearly lacking in the Arab world. How can a journalist present the truth and play his enlightening role in the middle of the darkness?

But if the media have the right to get information and give their opinion, to hold others accountable and criticize them, it should also hold itself accountable and be able to self-criticize. The media should not consider its employees and institutions above

criticism. In fact, media institutions should admit their mistakes and apologize for them. They should hold their employees accountable and review their journalistic work, and impose specific regulations and limitations to increase their credibility, or to better fortify their positions and influences. In the end, they have to rely on facts and evidence, not on assumptions and rumors.

It is important that the media play this role while fighting censorship, since codes of conduct can sometimes be used to limit freedom of expression. One of the ways of upholding this is to create an academic research department similar to the project for journalistic excellence in

the USA, or to produce an annual report on newspapers' credibility, which is issued in most European countries and in the EU as a whole.

The role of this department would be to provide an academic analysis of journalistic performance, including analyzing the content and measuring opinions, to eventually produce an annual report about journalism in the Arab World. This department should be independent, funded by newspapers aiming to improve their performance, in collaboration with independent research centers and universities.

What is most important is the will of the newspapers to review the journalistic code of honor and

implement it in order to improve the content. They should re-organize the framework to have access to the source and check that the information is correct. The aim should be unique: to provide the information, protect people's rights and enlighten readers. This should be done amid fair competition; respecting the different points of view and implementing justice, freedom and rights, in order to ultimately create a less biased media, and move away from what is often referred to as tabloid journalism.

Olfat Tantawi is a Cairo-based journalist and an academic researcher in media.

World Bank regional development expert:

"Qat use in Yemen is a national emergency"

"A national habit, and increasing by 10 percent per year, Qat production is threatening development and requires urgent, high level intervention," explained Julie G. Vitoria-Williams, Sustainable Development expert from the World Bank's Middle East & North Africa Region office in an interview with Yemen Times.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Julie G. Vitoria-Williams has over 25 years of experience with the World Bank in sustainable people-based development. She held positions in Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Eastern and Central Asian countries before becoming the Middle East and North Africa regional expert in September last year. She is the team leader in the Qat dialogue task in Yemen, which represents the World Bank's assistance to Yemen in dealing with this issue. Her job involves research into the issues and development needs of countries within the MENA region, and identification of potential threats, especially on the issues that affect the livelihood of citizens.

"Because of the urgency of the Qat problem in Yemen, it has become the World Bank's fourth pillar in the bank's new country assistance strategy along with growth, governance and the Millennium Development Goals," she said. Based on the December country assistance strategy consultation, the World Bank's assistance to Yemen will take the form of grants, rather than loans, to be provided over the next three years.

During her recent visit to Yemen, Vitoria-Williams met with the various stakeholders and discussed with them the issue of Qat. She also attended some focus groups, during which she

realized just how deep the problem is.

"In many families children as young as seven start chewing because of parental influence, especially because mothers, who are usually uneducated, think of Qat as means to bind their children to the family," she said.

As a part of its campaign against Qat, the WB will be producing a documentary on Qat in Yemen, in both Arabic and English, she anticipates that it will be broadcast on Yemeni TV among other media channels in a bid to spread awareness.

Size of the problem

According to a detailed survey carried out by the World Bank in mid 2006, 72 percent of men and 33 percent of women chew Qat for an average of 6 hours per day. Qat absorbs 10 percent of the average household income and over 28 percent for low income groups. Qat production, trade and consumption accounts for 10 percent of GDP, and is the cause of many health problems. The study sampled more than four thousand Yemenis from around the Republic.

"High blood pressure, tooth decay, constipation, hemorrhoids, hernias, paranoia and depression are among the direct health hazards posed by regular Qat chewing," said Vitoria-Williams. Other health issues come as indirect effects, such as malnutrition and food insecurity, when low income families prioritize the purchase of Qat over that of food. Cancer and liver cirrhosis are also common, due to consumption of



Julie G. Vitoria-Williams

Qat exposed to pesticide residues and toxic chemicals.

The consumption pattern is increasing by 10 percent every year and this means the numbers revealed by the study in 2006 are very likely to have increased by 20 percent. Despite this, over 50 percent of the men and 60 percent of the women interviewed admitted that Qat represents and problematic habit, and that the government should limit it.

In addition to the health problems, Qat production consumes inordinate amount of water and heavy use of pesticides. This water and land use reduces that available for production of food and export crops.

Lessons from other countries

The World Bank has done some research into the Somali experience of the production and consumption of Qat, although the phenomenon there is not as wide spread as it is in Yemen. Vitoria-Williams has argued that the Qat industry must be very organized and sophisticated in order to thrive as well as it does.

"The Qat value-chain in Somalia is very strong and there are many stakeholders involved in the process, whether as suppliers or consumers. One possible method worth trying would be for the government to compensate the Qat farmers and dealers. In Yemen there are many families dependant on the Qat industry, and if the government wants to limit Qat, it should give them alternatives," she said.

Another mechanism for limiting Qat in Yemen could be through increasing

taxation and imposing strict regulations on its plantation and marketing. Such changes on the national policy level may help, but there must also be a shift in mindset on the local level, achieved through awareness campaigns and by providing alternative community work, leisure activities and entertainment, especially for youths.

Although importing Qat is not strictly forbidden, it is not typically carried out. The price of Qat in Yemen is almost five times higher than that in Ethiopia, the major world producer and exporter of Qat, and according to the Ministry of Agriculture, if Yemen decides to import 156,290 tons of Qat annually, it can save as much as 837 million cubic meters of water at a cost of USD 1.8 per cubic meter of water. However, while this policy could improve the availability of water and land, it may stimulate the consumption of Qat.

Why tackling the Qat issue is an urgent matter

According to Vitoria-Williams the increasing production and consumption of Qat will lead to an environmental and economic disaster.

"If nothing is done, and Yemenis keep on chewing and planting Qat, they will exhaust the water supply at a time when every man, woman and child is addicted, and then the whole society will collapse," she said.

Vitoria-Williams was not exaggerating. She had seen similar conditions when the society gets addicted to a non sustainable item. Because of the paucity of resources in Yemen, especially water, there will eventually be a major

problem directly affecting the Qat industry. It will simply mean higher prices, greedy producers and frantic consumers in five years or so. The health and productivity of the people would disappear and their social structure would be disturbed.

There will be food insecurity, increasing malnutrition, diseases and even an increase in crime rate, especially among the younger generation.

"I visited some of the inmates in the Juvenile prison. Around 95 percent of the reason behind their dangerous way of life is Qat. They needed to buy Qat and could not afford it so they turned to crime. Moreover, 60 to 75 percent of cases are caused by neglect and abuse in the family, because the parents or guardians are themselves addicted to Qat.

What needs to be done, according to the expert, is mitigate the impact of Qat immediately, and limit its spread.

"Provide alternatives," she said, as she illustrated a parallel with avian flu, where governments could not control the spread of the flu because they did not provide compensation or alternatives for the farmers who were supposed to kill their live stock.

Start with the basic pillars of devel-

opment, such as education, health care and youth development. On a national level there has to be a master plan in which various stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Labor, Youth and Sports, Education, Health, Trade, etc., come together and contribute their share to the remedies.

The reason why previous efforts to eliminate the Qat problem have failed is because the public sector and civil society were not organized and the effort did not include all stakeholders. It is critical that civil society steps in and takes the lead in social changes.

"We need a group of community leaders and activists who will be the champions of an attitude change in Yemeni society," said Vitoria-Williams.

She explained that this is a good time for Yemen because the effort can be aided the decentralization strategy and the growing strength of the local councils.

She predicted that the local communities could come together and work out a program to help young people find productive alternatives to Qat chewing, and discover how to empower the whole society to eliminate this habit.

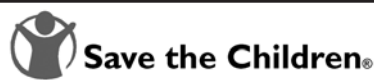
Facts about Qat:

- Qat is by far the most important crop in Yemen, accounting for about 35 percent of the total agricultural production
- The high demand coupled with low labor intensity makes it one of the most lucrative crops grown in the agricultural sector, providing farmers with needed cash
- Qat is chewed by the majority of the Yemeni population, and has become part of the Yemeni way of life
- It is a drought resistant and flexible crop that can be harvested almost all year round
- The areas producing Qat have expanded 13 fold in the last 3 decades, displacing exportable coffee, fruit, vegetables, sorghum and other foodstuffs
- The total area given over to Qat production in 2007 totaled 141,163 hectares, accounting for 10 percent of all irrigated land
- Qat consumes 23 percent of Yemen's total water supply, and 25 percent of that used for agriculture
- Qat alone draws water at least 5 times faster than the rate of natural replenishment in the Sana'a Basin
- Use of pesticides and fungicides in Qat is widespread but highly dangerous since it is used in doses four times higher than that allowed by law
- This lack of compliance with pesticide laws causes serious health problems in chewers, including cancer, fetus deformation, cardiac and digestive disorders
- A unit for research on Qat was established by Ministerial decree no. 78 in 1995
- Since 1999 the government has adopted a number of specific policies aimed at controlling, regulating and taxing Qat
- Seven Cabinet decrees passed in May 2002 aimed at spreading awareness, promoting alternative means of leisure, and regulating Qat consumption and the use of chemicals in Qat production
- The March 2008 cabinet decree no. 35 called for the establishment of a task force under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture



Every year there is a ten percent increase among Qat chewers, and it is mainly among the youth.



Save the Children in Yemen is looking for eligible candidates for the position of:

Assistant Administration

for its youth programs in Yemen. The successful candidates for the position of Assistant Administration will be responsible for supporting the Youth Program staff in administration and logistics needed for the implementation of programs for and by youth that empower young people to take an active role in the development of their communities in Abyan, Ibb and Sanaa'. It will include supporting the organization of trainings and other events, supporting purchasing of services and goods needed for program implementation and facilitating the flow of information between the program impact areas.

Requirements:

At least 12th grade education, experience in administration and knowledge of youth work an asset

We are looking for both men and women with enthusiasm and commitment to improve the situation for vulnerable youth in Yemen.

Applications and requests for a detailed Job Description need to be addressed to:

Administrator,
Save the Children Sweden Office,
Hadda, next to the Iranian Embassy.
Halhakimi@scsmena.org
Fax: 417636

The dead line for the submission of applications is the 2 January 2009.



Vacancy Announcement

SIPC is a subsidiary of SINOPEC. SINOPEC is rated as the 19th largest Company in the world. SIPC has 3 exploring blocks as an operator & 1 development block as a partner in Yemen. SIPC invites you to apply for the position of

Planning & Budgeting Manager

Responsibilities are but not limited to:

- Compiling the annual Planning & Budget according to the Exploration Deployment.
- Accomplishing monthly statistical reports.
- Preparing and making presentations for Planning & Budgeting reports for PEPA, MOM, and partners.
- Organizing and preparing all budgeting documents for TCM/OCM/EAC meetings when required.
- Analyzing the performance of planning and budgeting.
- Communication with local government.
- Other duties related to planning & budgeting.

Qualifications:

- 5 years experience in a related role in Petroleum Company.
- 5 years experience in planning and budgeting field.
- Familiar with PSA (Production Sharing Agreement) and its obligations.
- Demonstrated proficiency in planning management including Yemeni work law, regulation, geology and procedures of oil production.
- Good communication skills.
- Self starter with a high energy level, and the ability to deliver results.
- Analytical and critical thinking skills, with high attention to detail.
- Good English language & Good knowledge of computer skills.

Interested, please send your C.Vs and covering letter to:
The following e-mail: Recruitment@sipcyemen.com.ye
Note (only Short listed will be contacted for the interview)
Deadline for applying is 30 / 12 / 2008



Vacancy Announcement

SIPC is a subsidiary of SINOPEC. SINOPEC is rated as the 19th largest Company in the world. SIPC has 3 exploring blocks as an operator & 1 development block as a partner in Yemen. SIPC invites you to apply for the position of

Material Supervisor

Responsibilities are but not limited to:

- Carrying out material exemption, clearance, transportation, registration and usage record.
- Checking the goods arrived in the seaport or airport if necessary.
- Make inventory count both at warehouse and well site periodically.
- Monitor the materials transferring among the wells, yard, office, temporary stock place and other places.
- Other works as instructed.

Qualifications and professional requirements:

- University/institution education with relevant professional drilling experience.
- Strong knowledge of material organization and coordination.
- Partial experience of oil materials.
- Good skill of computer, especially know MS Office application and Outlook very well.
- Good English language skill.

Interested, please send your C.Vs and covering letter to:
The following e-mail: Recruitment@sipcyemen.com.ye
Note (only Short listed will be contacted for the interview)
Deadline for applying is 30 / 12 / 2008



In Light of the government's objective to provide premium high octane unleaded gasoline in line with the advancing automotive requirements and the preservation of the environment:

Yemen Petroleum Company is proud to announce that as of Saturday December 27, 2008, **Premium Unleaded Fuel 90 Octane** will be available in following YPC stations:

Sana'a Capital: **60 Meter Rd. (Near YPC HQ
Faj Attan Station**

Sana'a Governorate: **Qa Al-Qaithi (Sana'a – Taiz Highway)**

Thamar: **YPC Station (On main highway near YPC branch)**

Ibb : **Al-School Station (On main highway)**

Al-Makha: **Al-Makha Station (Makha – Aden X-Road)**

Aden : **26 September Station (Near Aden Hotel)
Al- Fayha Station (Al-Mansoorah)**

Shabwah: **Habban Station**

Hadramout: **30 November Station
Seyoun Airport Station**

Al-Maharah: **al-Maharah Station**

Prices will be available at the stations and subject and subject to international market fluctuations.

Teachers in the private school (part 3)

By: Mofeed Aljaad
mofeed336@yahoo.com

After discussing the difficult obstacles and financial problems facing private school teachers, I shall explore the reasons behind these problems. Through this final article I would like to inform the reader of my primary aim in writing this series on such an important topic.

My purpose is to clarify to Yemeni people the significant status of teachers within society, exposing the problems faced by private school teachers so as to help those concerned find an appropriate solution to such problems.

However, ambiguity remains surrounding who is responsible for the miserable conditions facing private school teachers; is it the government, or the private school itself? In fact, the government holds responsibility for assigning teachers their status, and is also responsible

for the private education system, as it is the institution to which it is concerned.

Before the beginning of this academic year we heard that the government intends to fix a suitable salary for teachers in the private sector; a decision which was met with a sense of relief and happiness among those affected.

However, by the start of the academic year it became apparent that this was simply government rumor, leading these teachers to believe that the government is unconcerned by their predicament. In many respects, the government can be seen as the entity responsible for the state of the education system, and even teacher status in the private schools.

Firstly, the government has failed to solve the huge unemployment crises currently facing Yemen. As a result, unemployed university graduates are exploited by the private schools, who offer them pitiful salaries in an effort to maximize

profits. With few other options, these graduates are forced to accept such poorly paid work. Moreover, the schools under the auspices of the government lack much that is essential to the successful running of a school, such as qualified teachers, text books, and even suitable classrooms. The extreme class sizes within the public sector further hinder the education process. As a result, parents are wont to register their sons and daughters in the private school system, in an effort to provide them with a better education.

Secondly, if the government were to provide the public school students with all the facilities and materials that they need, there would be far fewer private schools. That is to say, if education in the public school system was better than that found in private schools, parents would opt not to register their sons and daughters in private schools. When a friend of mine, who completed his preparatory and secondary education in the

U.S.A., told me that there are no private schools in New York City, I was shocked. He then told me that the American government employs all its university graduates and provides public schools with the requisite facilities, at which point I understood why this might be the case.

Thirdly, despite the fact that government has the right to determine teacher salary and education system in the private school, it is yet to take any legal action toward implementing this control. Therefore, blame can be said to fall squarely on the shoulders of a government which continues to neglect the public education system, and so increases the popularity of private schools which are currently picking up the slack.

Ultimately, I have nothing to say but to extend my appeal to the Yemeni authorities to look seriously at the miserable conditions of private school teachers and take legal action to protect teachers' rights, as it is they who are the pillar of education.

My first Thanksgiving dinner

By: Ammar AL-Hawi
ammaralhawi@gmail.com

Fulbright Scholar in the USA.

Most of you know probably something about the American holiday known as Thanksgiving, but for those who are unfamiliar with this, it is one of the most important and celebrated holidays in both the United States and Canada. Celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States, and on the second Monday of October in Canada, this holiday sees American families and close friends gather together to share a big Thanksgiving feast. Originally, Thanksgiving is a time when the American people give thanks for the harvest and express their gratitude for God's blessings.

I had the opportunity to take part in the Thanksgiving celebration this year. Had you been in the United States on such occasion, you would have come to know how generous and hospitable the American people are! You would have been surprised by the number of Thanksgiving invitations offered to you by different American families. I had been invited for dinner by many of my professors and classmates, and wish I could have accepted them all, not for the sake of eating so much food but to satisfy my desire to experience as many people's

Thanksgivings as I could. I gave priority to the first invitation I received, which happened to be that of one of my great professors, Lynn Grantz. She was the first person to invite me to her house for dinner on Thanksgiving. It was my pleasure to accept her invitation, and I looked forward to spending some unforgettable moments with her family at the Thanksgiving dinner table.

Professor Grantz knew that I did not yet have a car, so she arranged with her handsome Georgian husband to come over to my apartment and pick me up at 1:30 in the afternoon on November 28th. I was thrilled to see my professor and her family receiving me with hospitality and reverence at their apartment door. I shook hands with them all, and wished them happy Thanksgiving as I was introduced. I met her elderly mother, her gray-bearded uncle-in-law, and her cousin-in-law and his wife who are both in their thirties. She also introduced me to her beautiful little Georgian-like daughter, Kristine, who I later decided must be addicted to watching cartoons on her laptop! They have a small American-looking son called David who, as they told me, does not often make an appearance when strangers are around. Instead, he prefers to hide in his room playing computer games. He was brought out from hiding by his father so that he

could greet me, but then quickly disappeared back into his room.

The dinner was served on the table by Professor Grantz and her cousin-in-law's wife. The popular food cooked on Thanksgiving is Turkey. This was to be my first experience of Turkey meat, for I had never tried it in my whole life, and as a result I was unprepared for how delicious it can be. Everyone on the table had his/her own plate which was filled with different kinds of food. Having some drinks in front of each one of us, the dishes were now passed round from one to the other. I didn't hesitate to try every dish that I could find space for on my Chinese plate. I liked the food so much that I kept my spoon and fork too busy most of the time. Our mouths were busy with both food and talk. They asked me about my country and I in return asked them about specific traditions and habits in the United States. Our conversation moved from the Russian-Georgian war, through Barack Obama's victory in the recent Presidential Elections, the U.S financial crisis, onto the recent issue of the Somali piracy in the Gulf of Aden, and finally the terrorist attack in Bombay. All those topics only increased our appetite and added more flavor to our gathering. Having finished the meal, dessert was served. Of all the different kinds of cakes and chocolates that were served I preferred to stick to my favorite: the

cheese cake.

I truly felt at home from the very beginning of my encounter with Professor Grantz and her family. Their open talk expressed a warm welcome, and their natural smiles reflected their generous hospitality. I never felt like a stranger in their company. I was happy to listen attentively to their conversations and exchange views on certain contemporary issues with them. No misunderstanding, no miscommunication. The feeling of oneness inspired by Thanksgiving seemed to connect my Yemenism with their Americanism under a roof of understanding and interaction. I could smell the fragrance of my country in the different corners of the house - mainly in the Professor's photographs taken during her two visits to the country in 1987 and 1993, but also in her daughter's blue Yemeni dress, and in the traditional Yemeni Jambia kept in the house. Therefore, there really were good reasons for me to be thankful on Thanksgiving.

I would hereby like to express my thanks to Professor Grantz and her family for having kindly bestowed on me the honor of sharing my first Thanksgiving in the United States with them. I am very thankful to all of them for their hospitality and kindness. Finally, I wish them every happiness and prosperity in their personal and professional lives.

Through The Mind's Eye

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



The best "good-bye" for Bush, isn't it?

While Bush is preparing to say good-bye to his position as the President of the United States of America, he has received a farewell not with roses and flowers, nor with congratulations and best wishes, but with shoes thrown at him during a live press conference. While this recent event is still fresh in memory, it will continue to be remembered in the history of the whole world. While some people, including many Americans, encourage the behavior of the Iraqi Journalist Muntathar Al-Zaidi, who assailed Bush with his shoes, there are those who consider it to be an uncivilized and unacceptable act for a media-person to carry out, especially when meeting a guest to their homeland.

It was during a press conference, at which Bush was congratulating the Iraqis on turning over the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, that the journalist became enraged and wondered why Bush was congratulating the Iraqis when the almost 4 million people had died since the start of the war. Al-Zaidi's anger could not be contained, so he chose to express this by hurling his shoes at Bush. Both attempts to hit the President failed, as his target ducked out of the way, but the shoes did shake the American flag. This event immediately took a prominent position in the world media. From a cultural stance, Arabs and Muslims consider this to be a grave insult against the President of the United States in particular, and against America in general. As Mr. Abdulbari Atawan, the editor of Al-Quds newspaper says: "It is a good farewell for a bad person".

Despite this interruption, the conference continued. Bush smiled and said: "It is democracy". If such an expression of opinion is really encouraged under democracy, then why was the journalist beaten so fiercely as to break his arm and teeth? Why has he been imprisoned until now? Since it is democracy, as Bush himself has said, why not accept the matter quietly? Some people, on the other hand, stand against what happened as a matter of principle.

Those who reject Al-Zaidi's behavior in the press conference claim that Bush was a guest in Iraq, and argue that this is not the way Arabs and Muslims should treat guests. They also disapprove of the journalist's behavior, especially given his presence at an official press confer-

ence which was broadcast live. These people believe that there are other more civilized and official ways to express opinion, and that Al-Zaidi's behavior was un-called for. However, one can counter this position by drawing a comparison to Bush's behavior on the international level.

According to those who support the first opinion, Bush was the instigator of war in Iraq. They argue that he fabricated information regarding many key issues, such as the existence of nuclear weapons, and the dictatorship of Saddam. These were his excuses to invade Iraq, claiming that he would bring democracy, peace, and justice for the Iraqi people. During his invasion he destroyed the infrastructure of Iraq, and shattered the unity of the nation, seizing its wealth. This was brought about by killing almost four million people, through the use of many different and uncivilized military tactics. As a result, the country is upside down; there is no peace, no democracy and no justice at all. So, should such a man be met with flowers and roses, or with shoes and rubbish? Some people no doubt say that Al-Zaidi's behavior would be considered uncivilized if directed at any president not involved in the war against Iraq. It would even be uncivilized if directed at Bush himself, had the peace, democracy and justice that were promised been established in Iraq. However, what has happened says that Bush deserves nothing more than shoes in his face, as some enthusiastically proclaim.

These are the two most prominent viewpoints regarding what happened to Bush in Baghdad. The number of those who condone Al-Zaidi's behavior is such that the shoes have become an historic symbol. Those who reject such behavior, however, strongly condemn what transpired, describing it as an uncivilized act regardless of any possible motivation.

In short, I would like to hear more opinions from you, dear readers, all over the world, so as to enrich the topic with more discussion in the hope that it will enlighten us and have a positive impact on the behaviors of us all.

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

Do disasters vary?

By: Salim Aqeel Al-Kelali
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A few days of rain were enough to change a mere blip in the weather into a full-on disaster. Whenever anyone hears that a disaster has taken place somewhere, he immediately imagines the damage and the victims.

At first it began to rain as usual but suddenly it started to pour, accompanied by storm winds, thunder and lightning - a precursor to the coming disaster. As these events began to unfold, people became frightened in their own homes, which may well have become the only safe places for them. However, they left their houses for fear that they might collapse while they were still inside, for indeed some of these houses were old and weak, instead heading to the schools to take refuge. The situation continued like this until the rain abated, and it was time for the citizens to assess the damage, look for survivors, and recover the corpses of those who died.

It was a disaster such as you cannot comprehend, beyond simply assessing the material impact. Most people believe in, and are satisfied with, their fate as deemed by God, especially when they find what aid they can for overcoming even a little part of this crisis. But unfortunately they were disappointed and shocked to discover the negligence and laziness of those whose primary responsibility was rescuing them and offering assistance. What little support was offered by the

institutions concerned failed to stop the people feeling letdown. Was this not a humanitarian matter?! Isn't this a shame?! Questions must be asked by all who have a good conscience.

You will be amazed to hear that animals have rights that are protected by law, yet in this situation human rights were ignored. Isn't this a second disaster in itself?!

A third disaster, but with a delicious and official flavor, especially for those who are accustomed to tasting meals without knowing who had even cooked them. The majority of people observed a lot of media channels, talking about what had happened and about the amount of various support the people received, and they recognized the statistics presented. But the issue isn't one of how many supplies were received, but rather a matter of how they were distributed, if indeed they were distributed at all. At this time a lot of people were in real need of these supplies, more so than the stores which were filled instead!

The nature of the disaster may be approached from a different angle: Is something like this made worse by people themselves?! Do some people try to profit from other people's crises?! Do we live in the wild, while behaving like this?! Did we forget our humanity?!

No wonder Yemen is at the bottom of the international classification of countries. Perhaps this is because we don't yet do things simply for the sake of God and humanity, or because we haven't yet truly understood the wisdom that states, "a friend in need is a friend indeed..."

The painful love

By: Mofeed Al-Gaad
mofeed336@yahoo.com

Ali and Abeer were two cousins living among humble families in a small Yemeni village. Being neighbors, their homes were located close to each other, and during their childhood they pastured cows together every morning in a valley beside the village. With the passage of time they grew up, and both of them fell into the cruel trap of love. They were meeting each other constantly among the fascinating atmosphere and pure air of the lovely nature, playing and joking as two little birds on the green trees.

Ali and Abeer felt the true sense of platonic love, loving each other so dearly that they stayed up all night if they didn't see each other during the day. Later on, the pure love story of this poor couple spread among the villagers. As a result, Abeer's brothers imprisoned her at home and threatened to kill her if she met Ali or sent him a letter. The means of communication between Ali and Abeer were completely cut off and they were deprived from their meetings of pure love.

Meanwhile, the financial status of Abeer's family suddenly improved as her brother emigrated to America and earned plenty of dollars. This meant that Ali's childhood sweetheart became a member of a high class family. Abeer's brothers proceeded to build a big house in the city, and Abeer left her village along with the rest of her family in order to reside there. In the meantime, Ali was studying hard with his close friend Zak in order to get high grades in secondary school so that they

could make their dreams come true by enrolling in university. As Ali didn't expect the quick flight of his sweetheart from the village, he had no idea about the departure of Abeer's family. However, Zak had heard the news and wanted to know his friend's reaction toward the news of Abeer's removal from the village. Zak asked his friend, "Ali, if your beloved Abeer left the village permanently, what would you do? Would it affect your educational level?" Ali replied, "As you know Zak, Abeer is everything for me in this life. She is the one who makes my life full of pleasure, happiness, and safety, so if she leaves this village, I will be unhappy, disheartened, dejected, and the most miserable young man in this world." Zak recognized Ali's strong reaction, and knowing it was a tender subject, made Ali realize the reality of the situation gently and gradually. Ali ultimately accepted reality and got used to the idea of drinking the bitter cup of separation for many years.

After that, Ali made up his mind to complete his study at college successfully. And while he was in level two, Abeer informed him by phone that a rich young man came to engage her and take her away from her brothers, but she refused that young man, requesting her lover (the poor Ali) to come and ask for her hand in marriage. Consequently, Ali immediately went with his father and the tribe's sheikh to propose to Abeer and ask for her hand from her family. But unfortunately Abeer's brothers refused, saying to Ali and his father, "As you know, we are cousins belonging to the same tribe, but our financial status differs from yours; we belong to the high class while you to the low class. Moreover, Ali is still a

college student, and when he graduates from university he will never find a job that will cover the basic needs of marital life. That is to say, Ali is unemployed, so it is impossible for Ali and Abeer to be married."

After Ali's father was insulted by the sharp words of Abeer's brothers, he left the home silently. As they were walking back on the road, he told his son Ali, "Your cousins are snobbish and arrogant, looking at themselves as superiors to others. I don't want you to be like them. I want you to be humble, living a happy simple life and to be satisfied with whatever God prescribed for you." Ali's father continued, "I request you kindly dear son to uproot Abeer's love from your heart. My hope and desire in this life is to see you a truly educated and religious man, so please don't disappoint me. If you follow my advice Ali, I will pray to God to bless you everything you gain, asking him to make your life full of happiness and prosperity."

Ali obeyed his father, following the path which was drawn for him. Thus, Ali completed his study at college and graduated with distinction. As a reward for Ali's efforts and time invested at college, he received a good government job which enabled him to provide for his father and to bear the domestic responsibilities of a family. After obtaining this job, Ali got married a polite and beautiful girl from among his female classmates. Abeer from her side tried several times to persuade her family to give her permission to marry her dream knight Ali, but her attempt went in vain. Therefore, Abeer hated her miserable life, committing suicide after she learned that Ali married one of his female classmates.

A missed call

By: Inass Subri
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She went to the kitchen to prepare food for her family, keeping in mind that she would leave them soon. She remembered well how she spent every minute with them, but she had something inside her, like feeling guilty for doing nothing.

She could probably go wherever she wanted and whenever she decided. Still, her interest to travel was stronger than anything that would take her to the past.

To where her mother lived under the circumstances of the family. Nevertheless, she felt that she would be able to achieve her goals by traveling and changing her life.

Nothing could make her change her mind and she believed in herself strongly. She was thinking of the first step to starting her own life. She was counting the days she would spend there. Her heart was beating and beating but she couldn't stop herself from thinking. Suddenly, she hurried to the living room to check the phone and she was shocked to see a missed call from her friend who offered her a scholarship.

She tried to call her back but it was too late because her friend left the country one hour ago!

الشيبياني
Basem M.A. Alshaibani

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• بكالوريوس محاسبة - بكالوريوس إنجليزي - دبلوم كمبيوتر - خبرة واسعة في الحسابات التجارية في اليمن للتواصل: ٧١٢٥٠٠٥٢
• مدرس لغة إنجليزية يعمل في مدرسة أهلية - يرغب في العمل كمدرس خصوصي من الساعة الواحدة ظهراً وحتى الثالثة عصراً أو بعد المغرب للتواصل: ٧٣٤٨٢٥٦٢
• بكالوريوس آداب - لغة إنجليزية - شهادة في المراسلات التجارية - معهد NCC - خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية والترجمة - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٦٩٩٧٧
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• مترجم من اللغة الروسية إلى العربية ومن اللغة الأوربكية إلى العربية - يبحث عن وظيفة للتواصل: ٧١١٢٩٠٩٧٧
• 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: ٧٣٢٩٦٦٣٥٤
• خبرة سبعة عشر سنة في التجارة الولاية - سوداني الجنسية للتواصل: ٧٣٢٦٣٨٤٥

وظائف شاعرة

• مطلوب للعمل لدى شركة خاصة بدوام فترتين: - محاسب مالي - لديه بكالوريوس محاسبة مع خبرة لا تقل عن سنتين - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية واستخدام الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - سكرتيرة - لديها مؤهل جامعي - تجيد اللغة الإنجليزية واستخدام الكمبيوتر والإنترنت يرجى إرسال السيرة الذاتية على hr.yemen@w.cn

باحثون عن وظيفة

• عبدالكريم أحمد - بكالوريوس علوم سياسية واقتصادية (روسيا) - يجيد اللغتين الإنجليزية والروسية للتواصل: ٧٣٤٤٨٧٤٨٠
• محمد صالح - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - خبرة في الترجمة والسكرتارية وتنسيق برامج ومشاريع - حاصل على دورات في الإدارة والتدريب ولغة البرمجة العصبية وإدارة الاجتماعات والإتصال والتواصل والرقابة والمتابعة والتقييم وأنماط الشخصية وكتابة التقارير وغيرها من الدورات للتواصل: ٧٧٧٧٤٧٨٦
• مربية أطفال - أنثوية - تنظيف وتلميح - تحمل رخصة عمل وإقامة رسمية وضمانة إعتبارية. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤١٦٤٠
• 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 والمشترتات وخدمات الزبائن في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية للتواصل: ٧١٣٤٩٩٩٥٣
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مكاتب ترجمة

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معاهد

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معهد اللغة الألمانية : ٢٠٠٩٤٥٥
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر : ٣٦٦٣٣٣ فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥

شركات للتأمين

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مدارس صنعا الدولية : ٣٧٠١٩١/٣ فاكس: ٣٧٠١٩٣
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للتواصل: ٧٧٥٦٦٢٣٣
• خبرة واسعة في مجال التصميم الإعلاني والتصوير الرقمي للتواصل: ٧٧١٢٥٠٠٦٧
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• كمال - بكالوريوس هندسة مدنية - تقدير جيد جداً - خبرة سنة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - معرفة جيدة بالكمبيوتر واستخدام البرامج الهندسية. للتواصل: ٧٧١٦٤٨٤٧٢

عقارات

• للإيجار (للأجانب فقط): فيلا مع البديروم - حسام صفوان - دبلوم تصميم إعلاني - خبرة لأكثر من سبع سنوات في مجال التصميم - استخدام برامج Photoshop - illustrator - In Design للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٥٠٦٧٦
• فواز - 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 أوتكس برو والنظام المتكامل يمن سوفت. يبحث عن عمل في صنعا للتواصل: ٧٣٣٥٨٥٥٤٣
• دبلوم محاسبة المعهد الوطني - نظام محاسبي يمن سوفت - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - يرغب في العمل في مجال التخصص أو في أي مجال آخر

The struggle between youth and Qat - Who will prevail?

By: Ali Saeed

A Yemeni-youth gathering at the Al-Afeef Cultural Foundation provided some interesting insights into young people's perception of this social phenomenon. During this discussion, experiences were shared and awareness raised about the hazardous physical and psychological side-effects of qat.

In a bid to further combat the spread of this habit, the symposium held earlier this month revealed some creative news ways to help Yemeni youths stop consuming their time, money and minds with qat.

Organizers of the symposium, which saw a number of young Yemenis share their experiences, also aimed to assess the extent to which the youth of today are eager to kick the habit.

Aiman Al-Hamadi, a student in the faculty of pharmacology at Sana'a University, is vehemently anti-qat, and during the symposium he talked about his experiences when chewing. He also mentioned the story of how qat first came to Yemen.

According to him, qat came to Yemen

through Ethiopia. Sufi scholars apparently brought the qat tree to Yemen along with their religious customs. These scholars used to chew qat in the mosques, and so it wasn't long before Yemenis followed suit and became hooked.

Al-Hamadi explained the hazardous substances in qat. He said that qat leaves contain the amphetamine-like chemical cathinone, which is why qat chewers are often addicted. Al-Hamadi also claims to no longer chew qat.

Another youth, who occasionally chews qat at the weekends, disagrees with Al-Hamadi saying that Yemenis chew qat not because it is addictive, but because they are forced to chew as a mental escape from economic problems. He also believes that chewing qat is only one of the many problems facing Yemenis today.

Ahmed Al-Nakhotha, leader of the Anti Qat Chewing Journey, disagrees, instead saying that chewing qat is a completely personal habit; no one will force you to chew. He also noted that if someone wants to give up chewing, he must be determined.

Al-Hamadi supported the idea that determination is the only way to give up the habit, and related a story about his



Yemenis chew qat not because it is addictive, but because they are forced to chew as a mental escape from economic problems.

own experience. He said that one day he and his father visited friends in their village and after lunch they were offered qat leaves, but they refused to chew. The host then threatened to shoot them if they would not chew! Because their host would not respect their personal wishes, they left the house never to return again.

Nasser Al-Shama'a, an officer at the Sana'a based NGO Life's Makers Club, said that the United Nations in 1973 classified qat as the 15th type of drug. He added that most qat chewers in Yemen are youths, and that there are statistics suggesting the qat chewing can lead to other drug addictions.

Another youth spoke out about how important this topic is to Yemeni youths, and expressed his interest in giving up qat. He highlighted that Yemeni youths are suffering from a surplus of free time; since there are no cultural activities to engage them, they often turn to qat for entertainment.

Al-Nakhotha commented that justifications for chewing qat are many varied, yet almost universally weak and unjustifiable.

A mother of four children attended the seminar and expressed her opinion, say-

ing, "I have four children, and my dream is for them to grow up never having chewed qat.

Dr. Ali Al-Midwahi, head of the Family Unit in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, attended the symposium and said that while many issues had been discussed, he wondered how relevant or close the reality they are.

He concluded that the issues surrounding the habit of chewing have two dimensions; behavioral, and economic.

He suggested that to help our youth give up chewing, information concerning the hazards of qat should first be made

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Over 70 percent of men and 30 percent of women chew qat on daily basis.

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