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Tens of thousands of Yemenis protest in solidarity with the people of Gaza



By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A Dec. 28 — The wave of anger that continues to sweep across the Arab and Muslim world was evident on the faces of the tens of thousands of Yemeni demonstrators that stood under the blazing sun in protest of the ongoing Israeli massacre of the Palestinians in Gaza which has so far killed almost 300 people and injured over 700.

A number of Arab leaders have denounced and condemned the Israeli attack, which started on Saturday, with President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen among the first. Not only did he condemn the aggression, he also called for an urgent Arab Summit in effort to develop a unified stance against the siege and subsequent attacks.

Saleh discussed the matter with a number of his Arab leaders including the Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, and the President of Syria Bashar Al-Assad, Lebanese President Michel Sleiman, and President Omar Al-Beshir of Sudan.

Israel pounded the Gaza Strip with air raids following the decision by Israel to increase retaliation for cross-border rocket attacks against Israel, and the breakdown of a six-month-old Israel-Hamas truce, brokered in Egypt, earlier this month.

The ceasefire expired on December 19, with Hamas arguing that Israel had violated the truce by preventing vital food and medical supplies into the Strip.

Massacre in Gaza

According to medical resources in Gaza, the continuing Israeli bombardment of the impoverished Gaza Strip, has left no space left in the morgues and bodies were piled up in the emergency rooms and in the corridors, as many of the wounded screamed in pain.

More than 230 targets have been hit with missiles fired from helicopter gunships and fighter jets since Israel launched Operation Cast Lead on Saturday. Israeli Defense Minister, Ehud Barak warned that the air raids could be followed by a major ground incursion into the Gaza Strip.

Reaction in Yemen

The demonstration in Yemen, which is so far the largest in the region and beyond, were backed by the ruling party, opposition groups and other organizations.

In Yemen, banners and slogans that read: "Where is humanity's conscience?" and "We will not forget

Gaza" amid photographs of past and present Palestinian leaders including Ismail Haniyeh, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Ismail Mughniyeh. In addition to photographs of women and children injured in the attacks.

The grief was evident in the eyes of the Palestinian women from Saleh Sakan Foundation, Takaful Foundation, and Palestine Female Youth Association, Al-Quds foundation. As they called for Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas to take revenge and on Palestinian leaders to reply. They chanted, "Hamas is our base and the crowns on our heads"

Dr. Zienab, an Egyptian protester from Sana'a University dismissed the Egyptian stance and questioned the Arab, Islamic and the international communities' stance, "We are an

Islamic nation and the Sharia of Islam should guide us," she said.

Nada, a university student looking dazed asked, "What can we do?"

Yemen has called on the UN Security Council to intervene in order to prevent similar attacks in the future.

Palestinian reaction

In Damascus, top Hamas leader Khaled Meshal called for a new Palestinian uprising, a third intifada, against Israel. He also said he was open to reconciliation with Abbas, but demanded that the Palestinian president cease negotiations with Israel.

"We will not leave our land, we will not raise white flags and we will not kneel except before God," said Ismail Haniyeh.

Continued on page 2



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Tribes attempt to move stagnant water by initiating talks in Sa'ada

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Dec. 27 — Tribal sources in Sa'ada indicate that the situation is worsening between the Houthis and the government forces which have returned to strengthen their positions in several areas. The dominant fear among citizens is that war may resume, particularly as the government has failed to implement the previous agreements between President Ali Abdulla Saleh and Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, the field leader of Houthis.

The agreement stipulated that around 1200 Houthi supporters be released from prison, and that they be given safe passage to their homes and villages. In addition, the agreement included removing plantations from the control of the army and tribes that support the government, and reconstructing the areas where houses have ravaged by war.

The same sources said that Sheikh Fariss Mann'a, whom the president entrusted to mediate with the Houthis, sent messengers last Tuesday to Abdul Malek Al-Houthi calling on him to

resume negotiations with the government. They demanded that the Houthis be flexible, and not insist on remaining in certain mountainous areas, in which they are currently still entrenched. They asked them to raise checkpoints and end armed confrontations, as a condition for lifting the siege which the government imposed on them, and before detainees might be released and reconstruction begun.

The sources made it clear that the mediation committee headed by Mann'a had reported to Saleh that the Houthis had demanded the release of detainees, and that Saleh had confirmed the government's intention to release the detainees if the Houthis end their mountain operations, put an end to armed confrontations, and show good will in maintaining peace and security within the governorate.

President Saleh emphasized that the mediation committee should not talk about any reconstruction in the area before the Houthis offer tangible concessions. In related news, local sources in Sa'ada reported that a number of

Houthi Supporters are, at the time of print, surrounding the government supported Al-Khawala tribe. This has apparently been ongoing for the past 10 days, resulting in a tense situation which may explode at any moment.

Last week, over a period of days, Marran area witnessed armed confrontations between army members deployed in the Almujiim and Alkhuban areas and Houthi supporters who passed near the two sites. This confrontations resulted in three Houthi wounded, along with one government soldier, according to sources which further suggest that the situation at Marran, the main stronghold of the Houthis, has been tense since Saleh announced war on 17th July.

Concerning the humanitarian situation, two people died in Al-Talh refugee camp in Sa'ada due to the cold weather in the area. Residents of the camp maintain that the two people died of exposure and shortage of available health care, stating also that others, including children and the elderly, suffered many ailments resulting from the cold. They complained about what they called

"official retardation" in tackling the situation of the displaced people. Last November, five Houthi loyalists died in the camp from the same problems.

Al-Talh camp houses hundreds of evacuees who were forced to leave their homes due to the fierce fighting between the army and the Houthis.

Human Rights Watch organization has already accused the government of hindering the delivery of food and medical aid to the evacuees.

It demanded that the Yemeni government allow the international human rights organizations to reach the citizens in Sa'ada and deliver necessary aid to those in need.

The organization said in its report of the Sa'ada war that the government imposes tough restrictions on the movement of organizations which assist those affected in Sa'ada. According to the report, the government forbade the organizations from reaching rural areas, and demanded that they seek prior permission before making any trips to Sa'ada to deliver aid.

Yemen Times had already warned that

the humanitarian situation would worsen in the Sa'ada refugee camps with the onset of winter, especially due to shortages of blankets and facilities, as well as the tribal mismanagement of aid offered by some organizations. It further reported that camps lacked toilet facilities and sanitation services, which can be the cause of disease within such environments.

Sheikh Saleh Habra, the spokesman for the Houthis, has already appealed to all humanitarian organizations, asking them to pay attention to the situation in the camps, and pointing out that evacuees are in dire need of blankets and medical supplies to help combat the diseases that have broken out due to lack of proper services by the government and relevant organizations.

Concerning the reconstruction of Sa'ada, media officer of Abdul Malek Al-Houthi denied, through the online web site Al-Member.net that belongs to Houthis, any compensations by the government for the affected people in some districts. "Citizens in Sa'ada no longer believe any such speech circulated by

media," said the media officer.

"What was said about start of giving money in Al-Talh, where Sa'ada governor belongs to, Mahdha and Razeh areas is a strange selection. There are as many affected areas throughout five successive wars. These areas were subjected to destruction every war and they sustained huge damage. Residents of these areas are still outside their homes due to destruction," said the media officer. "In addition, the government commits a big mistake through giving salaries, if any as I rule out that, as it exploits this matter as a propaganda for the upcoming elections. Otherwise, why does the government select some areas which are only slightly damaged and leaves the affected area."

"The government gives us a clear impression, through disregarding the affected areas, that it doesn't want to reconstruct the affected areas," pointed out the media officer. "I rule out that the government will compensate any one currently except those who support it and in accordance with the election propaganda."

Yemen the main source of illegal arms to Somalia: UN

By: Jane Novak
for the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Dec. 27— A UN investigation found Yemen is the primary source of arms and ammunition to Somalia which has been under an arms embargo since 1992. The panel of independent experts monitoring the embargo also reported arms smuggling from Yemen intersects with acts of piracy and human trafficking. The findings were presented in a December 10 report to the UN Security Council.

The report notes commercial weapons imports from Yemen supply Somali retail markets as well as opposition and criminal groups. The Yemeni government's inability to stem the large scale arms trafficking is "a key obstacle

to the restoration of peace and security to Somalia," the panel found. The UN Security Council extended the monitoring group's mandate for another year.

Yemen plans to refute the charges. SABA news agency dubbed the report "misleading" and noted that "smuggling weapons is sometimes associated with the arriving of displaced Somalis." A Foreign Ministry statement said that one million Somali refugees in Yemen create an economic burden that "sometimes leads to social, security and health repercussions." Nearly 50,000 Somali refugees made the maritime crossing to Yemen in 2008, authorities reported.

In prior years, about 30,000 Somalis migrated annually.

The UN report ties together weapons

smuggling, human trafficking and piracy, noting some small boats used in acts of piracy also "move refugees and economic migrants from Somalia to Yemen, bringing arms and ammunition on the return journey." Piracy in the waters between Yemen and Somalia spiked dramatically with over 100 pirate attacks and over 40 vessels captured by pirates this year. The authorities in Puntland and Somaliland told the UN monitoring group that "maritime traffic from Yemen, across the Gulf of Aden, remains their largest single source of arms." Weapons purchased in Yemen are also smuggled to insurgent groups in Ethiopia, the investigation found. One intercepted shipment included 101 anti-tank mines, 100 hand grenades, 170 rocket-propelled

grenade-7 rounds, and 170 boxes of 7.62 mm ammunition.

Increased activity by the Yemeni Coast Guard between Aden and al Mukalla impacted arms shipments from ports in the patrolled areas. However, the monitoring group found that the lack of regular patrols in al Mukalla "means that arms traffic continues unabated." The group recommended capacity building programs for the Coast Guard and direct naval interdiction.

Yemen's coast line extends 1906 km. The Coast Guard, created in 2003, is working towards taking control of Mocha and al Mukalla from the military. The Republican Guard and Central Security forces have authority at ports where the Coast Guard has limited

presence. The Coast Guard has nine operational ships in a fleet of 15, and only two with deep water capacity.

Inadequate funding is an obstacle to increased capacity, Coast Guard Commander Ali Ahmed Ras'ee said in May.

The US provides some operational and training support and in 2004 donated seven patrol boats. With Italian financing, the Italian firm SELEX is implementing a coastal radar system that will eventually cover 450km of coast line including hot spots for piracy and smuggling.

Responding to the UN report, the Foreign Ministry said, "Yemen reiterates its readiness to cooperate with the UN and all regional concerned parties to fight piracy and all forms of weapon

smuggling, the issues resulted due to the situation in Somalia where there is not a central government."

Yemen has the second most heavily armed citizenry per capita after the United States. In August 2007, authorities implemented a ban against carrying weapons in cities and have confiscated over 150,000 weapons since the program began. Over 200 weapons shops were also closed.

Weapons smuggling from Yemen to Saudi Arabia is also a concern. In July, Saudi Arabia announced that in a three month period, border guards confiscated over a ton of explosives and a large number of arms including 13 rocket-propelled grenades, 99 sticks of dynamite, 100 fuses, 12 detonators, more than 100 guns and 15,000 cartridges.

Kidnapped!

By: Ahmed Al-Haj
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A Dec. 28 — Devastation was evident on the faces of Charles, Julia and her mother soon after they moved from the German Embassy to their home.

The sense of security was lost and anxiety hovered over the family. Julia's face was so pale that she looked way beyond her years.

A friend of Julia's family said that she and her parents are in need of psychological treatment to recover from the shock, especially given that the panic situation that befell them didn't allow them to disclose their ordeal in terms of physical and psychological suffering.

It is clear that the impressions of the family towards Yemen have changed after they were subjected to kidnapping, this is even clearer as they cannot disclose the circumstances of their ordeal.

Certain bodies have told them not to reveal about their circumstances. I couldn't have attained this information from them unless I had had a friend who is close to their family.

This is now the situation of the family members after five days of being kidnapped according to their friend who went to visit them at their villa located in Adhban St. in one of the grand neighborhoods in Sana'a last Saturday evening.

All members of the family particularly Charles and Julia are still perplexed about what happened to them after many years of security and stability.

It was a moment of kidnapping but the price was high as the operation rendered the Germans worried a lot as it came in complex security conditions. Information and warnings by Al-Qaeda had said that its upcoming operations would target western interests and subjects. Julia Tillie came to Yemen more than ten years ago. She loved Yemen a lot and encouraged her parents to visit it.

The parents visited Yemen several times and came back to Germany with cheery experience and good impressions.

The German Julia got married into the Spanish Charles who considers himself as "Yemeni" as he usually says. Having spent around two decades in Yemen, Charles worked in the field of tourism and antiquities. He established close relationships with intellectuals, businessmen and workers in the

publishing field and advertising.

Julia narrates to a number of friends of the family the first moment of kidnapping. "In an uncalculated moment, we found ourselves in front of a man pushing us into a black Toyota car while we were in an area located to the south of Sana'a Sunday evening," said Julia.

Julia noticed that the car passed the several checkpoints and security barriers flexibly without being stopped by security men as it is supposed. "At that time, I realized that our kidnapping operation was well-planned and guarded, particularly as the car didn't stop but in Khawlan," she added.

At that moment, some members of the family doubted that an authority equivalent to the government or latent in the heart of it might have been behind the kidnapping. They inferred that based on the splendor of the car and the armed group which was equipped with the most recent weapons as well as the flexibility of the kidnapers and kidnapping operation.

In Khawlan, the kidnapped were first taken to a house belonging to one of the kidnapers.

The second day, Julia asked the kidnapper to allow her to contact her husband and the German embassy. Following the phone call, the kidnapers were careful to move them to a desolate cave in case any peril or deception may occur.

"It was very cold and the dirty blankets didn't suffice. Merely thinking of taking a bath was considered a luxury," said Julia. "Even food wasn't suitable especially as we prefer vegetarian food to fatty meat."

Five difficult and boring days that the German family spent in one of Khawlan caves where they even lacked even the simple constituents of a decent life.

Charles was determined to remain in Yemen permanently before the kidnapping ordeal. Similarly, Julia aimed to settle in Yemen after she worked for ten years.

During this period, she traveled through many Yemeni governorates. She established close relationships and made many friends. The scope of her work encompasses different issues of the Yemeni people's life including water, antiquities and education through her work with the German Organization for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Even her car carries a poster that urges people not to waste water.

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A Dec. 28 — Anonymous tribal groups exploded an oil pipe line connecting oil fields in Mareb governorate, east of Sana'a, with exportation port by the Red Sea.

Local sources said that the pipe line was subject to explosion by elements from an area located between Maswar and Al-Suhman regions in Sana'a governorates Jihana district, located some 40 kilometers south east of Sana'a. The pipe line links the oil production fields in Safer area, east of Marab, around 155 kilometers from the exploitation site, and the Rass Eyssa exportation port in the red sea.

The sources pointed out that a strong

Oil pipe line subject to explosion

fire followed the explosion which resulted in leaking of huge quantities of oil to the agricultural farms where the pipe line passes through. Eye witnesses said that they could see columns of smoke rising while they were about 20 kilometers far from the explosion site.

The incident that took place around 5:00 in the morning resulted from an explosive, according to the online3 web site Marebnews.net.

The sources say that the fire continued until Yesterday afternoon and that fire fighting vehicles couldn't reach the location to quench the fire due to the bumpy road.

Eye witnesses reported "this explosion is the second in the area after a

similar event took place in the same pipeline late this past September", maintaining that the current explosion is stronger than the first one.

They said that tons of oil started flowing on the farms in the area across one of the valleys, leaving behind a huge damage in agriculture. They further added that military vehicles belonging the Al-Arquib Camp, which is in charge of safeguarding the pipeline, surrounded the explosion site.

The Yemeni Oil Company had announced the provision of unleaded oil with high octane (from 90 to 92) in all the governorates of Yemen beginning from last Saturday for YR 80 per liter, which was only YR 60.

A source from Ministry of Oil

revealed to media outlets that "the ministry ordered all the gas stations located on the main roads to purchase high octane oil" whose price will be YR 400 higher than the other kind per 20 liters of oil.

The same source added that these directives will force many people to buy unleaded oil. He further added the price of the other kind of oil will, not increase and that its price will remain and that its price will remain YR 60 per a liter.

Yemen is considered the only country worldwide which increased prices of oil derivatives. In the contrary, Jordan announced two weeks ago to decrease oil and diesel prices 15 percent.

Improved conditions for women prisoners

By: Ola Al-Shami

SANA'A, Dec. 26 — Cooperative efforts to improve the conditions for women prisoners in a number of governorates have resulted in the development of hundreds of vocational training programs, yet much remains to be done to improve the plight of women prisoners and their children.

Yemeni prisons often have very limited facilities, which contravene the most basic principles of human rights. Detained women continue to suffer from social isolation, insufficient health care and depression. According to official statistics from the Interior Ministry, around 255 female prisoners, including 23 foreigners, are now in the 195 jails across the country.

Training programs aimed to equip

women with skills to better integrate them into society, conducted since 2001 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Union of Women, the YRCS, and other official bodies, have allowed over two hundred detained women to learn computer skills, more than a hundred to learn needlework, and thirteen to study the Holy Quran.

During a recently held exhibition, representatives from the Sana'a, Hajjah, and Taiz prisons showed the needlework and handicraft of female prisoners.

"We try to maintain a dialogue with the official bodies in order to improve the conditions of these women, and we aim to provide them with vocational training programs," said Nicolas Marti, ICRC Head of Delegation.

About 30 female prisoners received

training in computer skills in Sana'a Central Prison, all of whom are literate, and 20 learnt dress making. "Last year there were only 5 literate women, but this year all of the prisoners are literate," said Etedal Abdo Nasser, General Assistant Secretary in the YRCS.

"Our job is to rehabilitate these women, so we give them the basic tools with which to fend for themselves, and the vocational training programs to help them achieve this goal," said Dina Daoud, Protection Delegate in the ICRC.

Children who are born in prisons are a further major problem which these institutes face. "We have kindergartens in the prisons, but they may only stay for two years according to law," said Ali Nasser Lakhsa'a, Brigadier General. He demands that research be conducted

into potential solutions for these children. "We need research in psychology and sociology," he added.

The ICRC vocational training program on behalf of women detained in Yemen, as implemented by the YRCS, started in 2001 in the Mahweet Central Prison (CP) as a pilot project, and was later expanded to the Hodeidah and Dhamar CPs in 2002. It was further expanded in 2004, to include the Amran and Aden CPs. Programs were introduced at the Ibb and Hajjah CPs in 2006, and in Sana'a and Taiz in 2007. In 2008, the Sa'ada CP was added to the program.

Certain other challenges must be addressed, such as providing the prisoners with identity cards, and rehabilitating young offenders so as to secure their future.

Continued from page 1

Tens of thousands of Yemenis protest in solidarity with the people of Gaza

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president and leader of the rival Fatah group, blamed the democratically-elected Hamas for the violence and traveled to Egypt to discuss the situation with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak.

Hospitals, already suffering from shortages due to an 18-month blockade on the Gaza Strip, said they were struggling to cope with the number of injured, which included women and children. Director-general of ambulance and emergency service in Gaza Moaweya Hasanain said that hospitals of the Strip are suffering from a severe lack of medicines due to the Israeli siege on Gaza as they try to cope with this new catastrophe.

Reaction elsewhere
The presidents of Qatar, Yemen, Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Iran condemned the attacks.

The Arab League will not meet to discuss a common response to the Israeli massacre until

a summit in Doha, Qatar scheduled to take place on January 2.

Foreign Ministers of Arab countries were also due to hold an emergency meeting on Sunday but the meeting was postponed until Wednesday.

Arab League secretary-general, Amr Moussa said the delay was because many ministers were busy in separate meetings of their Arab regional groups - the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the Maghreb Union.

A non-binding statement on behalf of the 15-member United Nations Security Council called for an "immediate halt to all violence" and on the parties involved in the conflict "to stop immediately all military activities". The statement also called for a re-opening of border crossings to allow humanitarian supplies to reach Palestinian in Gaza.

The head of the GCC, which groups Washington's regional allies, on Saturday, described the Israeli attacks as "barbaric" and "ugly", and Saudi Arabia urged the United States to intervene to end the strikes.

In Amman, 30 Jordanian lawmakers demanded the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador. In London, protesters attacked the Israeli embassy.

Demonstrations also took place across Iraq and Egypt. In Egypt, protesters blamed their president, Hosni Mubarak, for not preventing the aggression. The Hezbollah movement, which fought a 33-day war with Israel in 2006, has condemned the attacks as a "war crime and a genocide that requires immediate action from the international community and its institutions".

European Union foreign policy Chief Javier Solana condemned Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel but also said that the Israeli airstrikes "are inflicting an unacceptable toll on Palestinian civilians." Leader of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, called the Israeli offensive a "war crime."

A history of violations
Israel responded to Hamas' win in the elections

with sanctions, and almost completely blockaded the impoverished coastal strip after Hamas seized power in 2007, although a 'lighter' siege had already existed before.

Human rights groups, both international and Israeli, slammed Israel's siege of Gaza, branding it "collective punishment."

A group of international lawyers and human rights activists had also accused Israel of committing "genocide" through its crippling blockade of the Strip.

Gaza remains under Israeli occupation as Israel controls air, sea and land access to the Strip.

The Rafah crossing with Egypt, Gaza's sole border crossing that bypasses Israel, rarely opens as Egypt is under immense US and Israeli pressure to keep the crossing shut. Fatah has little administrative say in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and has no power in Arab east Jerusalem, both of which were illegally occupied by Israel in 1967. Israel also currently occupies the Lebanese Shebaa Farms and the Syrian Golan Heights.

Their News

DNO provides relief assistances to the catastrophic flood-damaged people



From the very first moments of the floods and rains disaster occurrence, in Hadramout and Al-Mahara governorates, the Norwegian DNO company, which is engaged in the field of petroleum exploration and production took the initiative of extending help and providing food assistance for the relief of the affected people of the governorates afflicted with the rains disasters.

The company, since the disaster occurrence, utilized its abilities for the success of the humanitarian relief efforts in the afflicted areas and mobilized two helicopter aircrafts for the rescue of women and children in the areas besieged by floods and led to the collapse of the houses in general.

The company provided, coinciding with its rescue efforts, quantities of food items to the citizens of a number of damaged areas where it supplied them with quantities of dates, mineral waters, blankets, milk, biscuits, flour, sugar and other materials necessary for the humanitarian relief operations.

DNO is considered the first company who initiated provision of relief assistances and undertaking immediate rescue efforts for the women and children besieged by heavy floods which contin-

ued throughout the first week of the disaster occurrence.

It is worth mentioning that DNO of Norway is carrying out oil exploration and production operations in eight oil blocks, out of which two productive blocks (No. 32 & 43), in addition to its sharing with DOVE company in the productive Block 53 in Khorair area and blocks (52, 72, 84, 47, 44) which are exploration blocks and all are in Massila petroleum area in Hadramout governorate.

An official source in the company clarified that the assistances operations fall within the company's policy in the concern about development of the local communities and the feeling of the ethical responsibility toward the citizens who sustained damages as a result of the



floods catastrophe in the difference affected governorates.

He (the company's official) confirmed that this stance made by the company in mobilizing its different equipments starting by the to helicopter aircrafts and the road opening machinery after the rescue and relief operations came in response to the instructions by the President of they Republic who instructed for contributing to the rescue and relieve operation.

Qatar Airways had their Annual Agents Award night at the Movenpick Hotel Sana'a on 27 December, 2008 with the attendance of the Qatari Embassy, Travel / Cargo agents & Media.

The Top 10 Travel agents & Top 4 Cargo agents were awarded with Crystal trophies and appreciation certificates.

The party program included a Yemeni traditional Art Band and a draw over 3 air tickets to Doha, Muscat, Bahrain.

Qatar Airways is one of only six airlines in the world with a Five Star ranking for service and excellence awarded by Skytrax, the independent aviation industry monitoring agency.



Skytrax also named Qatar Airways' cabin crew as Best in the Middle East for the sixth year running in 2008 and the airline was voted Best in the Middle East for the third year in a row following a survey of more than 15 million passengers worldwide.

Doha-based Qatar Airways will operate a fleet of 110 aircraft by 2013 - almost double the existing size. Qatar Airways has ordered 80 Airbus A350s, 60 Boeing 787s and 32 Boeing

777s, with deliveries of the latter having started in November 2007.

The airline is one of the customers of the twin-deck Airbus A380 'super jumbos' with five on order and scheduled for delivery from 2012. At the Farnborough Air Show in July, the airline also ordered six Airbus A321s. Qatar Airways is due to move to the New Doha International Airport in 2011 when the first phase of the new facility is scheduled to open.

Second plane of al-Saeedah Company arrives



Al-Saeedah Domestic Airline Company announced the arrival of the second airplane of the company (CRJ700)- made in Canada- on Sunday from Montreal airport -Canada.

In press statement, the executive director of the company Abdullah al-Arashah said that the technical team of the airplane would be operated by first day of the new coming year

By joining the plane, the flights of the company from Sana'a airport to other airports of the country will be increased, he added.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its Community Based Health Development Programme (CBHD).

Post title: Programme coordinator for Bait Alfakeeh sub-branch of the YRCS

General responsibilities

The programme coordinator will be responsible for the development, management and implementation of a plan of action for one-priority area programme in line with the YRCS strategy in Bait Alfakeeh sub-branch. The PC is responsible for the day to day management of the programme. S/he provides support and supervision to volunteers working in the programme.

Specific responsibilities

- ¥ Responsible for the management of the development and implementation of a volunteer-based programme in Bait Alfakeeh sub-branch.
- ¥ Responsible for developing a functioning team of volunteers/ members with a good team spirit to develop and implement a plan of action for the sub-branch volunteers' activities under one priority area in line with the YRCS strategy.
- ¥ Ensure accountability of human, material and financial resources related to the programme at the sub-branch level.
- ¥ Responsible for initiating and supporting the preparation and implementation of a plan of action in project area
- ¥ Ensure that programme implementation is in accordance with the YRCS, and GoY policies and guidelines.
- ¥ Develop a database for the volunteers which should include among other information the volunteer performance appraisal and level of participation.
- ¥ Undertake regular and frequent support and monitoring visits to the programme activities and participate in periodic reviews and evaluations.

Technical qualifications

- ¥ Health background, preferably a master degree.
- ¥ A minimum of 3 years working experience with community based development.
- ¥ Proven experience of programme development and implementation through needs assessment, community involvement and volunteers' participation.
- ¥ Proven experience in financial and narrative reporting.
- ¥ Fluent in Arabic and English.
- ¥ Excellent computer skills (excel, word, access, power point).

Post title: Field supervisors (FS) / three in number(two female and one male)

Responsibilities:

The Field supervisor (FS) will be responsible for the daily supervision and implementation of the CBHD programme in Hodeidah. This includes:

- ¥ In collaboration with the Project Officer the FS will ensure that project activities are identified, implemented, and monitored in a participatory and inclusive manner and up to the expected standards.
- ¥ Facilitate identification/selection of volunteers and train volunteers.
- ¥ Provide technical and managerial support to volunteers and villages committees and any implementer of the project activities, i.e. teachers, community leaders, etc.
- ¥ Ensure that project implementation is efficient, effective and done according to prescribed approaches, and provide the Project O and the PO with suggestions about implementation fine tuning within the selected communities.
- ¥ Ensure accountability at all levels, human, material and financial.
- ¥ Ensure that the volunteers are properly deployed, are motivated and they interact positively with the local leaders and target community.
- ¥ Participate in the professional development including training of volunteers, and target communities, training needs assessment and developing of a training curricula and plans.

Qualifications:

- The ideal candidate should have the following qualifications:
- ¥ Health / social science or relevant educational background, preferably a master degree.
 - ¥ A minimum of 1 year working experience with community based development.
 - ¥ Excellent in reporting and using of software applications especially Excel
 - ¥ Fluent in Arabic and English (spoken and written).
 - ¥ Excellent interpersonal, communication and facilitation skills.
 - ¥ Good organizational and leadership skills.

Duty Station: Bait Alfakeeh District with very frequent travel and overnight stay in selected communities.

If you meet the above requirements please send your motivated application including your CV to:

**IFRC Yemen Office,
Sana'a, P.O. Box: 5456**

You can also submit your application by fax: 01-293228 or by mail:

**mahbshii@yahoo.com,
shafik.al.mahbashi@ifrc.org or waleedattuhami@yahoo.com**

**The deadline for receiving applications is 5 January 2009
Only short listed candidates will be contacted.**

The Red Cross/Red Crescent is a humanitarian organization. The Red Cross/Red Crescent expects its employees to show an attitude in line with the principles of the Organization and to have appropriate behaviour at all times and in all places. The Red Cross/Red Crescent principles are: neutrality, universality, independence, impartiality, humanity, unity and volunteerism.

WB finances program on agricultural water in Yemen

Dhamar province is currently carrying out the 2nd phase of the program of conserving the groundwater and soil.

The program financed by the World Bank will last seven years. Speaking to Saba, director-general of Dhamar Bureau of Agriculture and Irrigation Ali Mohammed al-Hamdi said that the project aims to improve the competence of water systems and conserve the groundwater in addition to using rainwater for recharging the groundwater.

Al-Hamdi indicated that the project includes the implementation of a program of water agricultural guidance, supporting the management of water and irrigation facilities.

"The project will include courses of training and qualification of cadres working in the Bureau and agricultural cooperative societies and farmers", added al-Hamdi.

He noted that four facilities to recharge groundwater would be set up within the WB project at the cost of \$ 400000, the establishment of 113 water reservoirs to harvest rainwater at the cost of \$ 200000 and eight sites to protect the agricultural lands in valleys at the cost of \$ 150000.

Al-Hamdi affirmed that the program also would include a lot of water projects to be carried out over the next seven years.

Internet for journalists course

Radio Netherlands Training Center (RNTC) is offering a course for journalists to improve their use of the Internet for research, publication and distribution. The six-week course will be held in Hilversum, the Netherlands, from May 11 to June 19 2009.

The intensive course will focus on content more than on technical skills, with special attention being paid to the two central tenets of the Internet: information and communication. The course will further explore the potential of the Internet and its use as an important source of information; discover how the Internet can best be used as a communication tool; and examine participant-specific uses of the Internet for publication and distribution.

Applicants from eligible countries (including Egypt, Jordan, Yemen and the Palestinian Territories) may apply for fellowships from the Dutch government to pay for travel expenses, accommodation and the course fee. For a list of eligible countries for the fellowship see the RNTC country list and for more information on the fellowship and how to apply see the RNTC fellowship page.

Applicants must have a secondary education, professional education or training in media, a minimum of three to four years experience, as well as computer skills and a good command of English.

The deadline for course applications is 1 October and the deadline for fellowship applications is 1 December. For more information please see the Internet for Journalists page on the RNTC website: <http://www.rnw.nl/mtc/courses/Ifj2009.php>

United Nations Democracy Fund invites civil society organizations to apply for funding

The United Nations Democracy Fund hereby invites civil society organizations to apply for funding for projects to promote democracy. Project proposals may be submitted on-line between 10 November 2007 and 31 December 2008 at www.un.org/democracyfund.

This is the third round of funding to be launched by UNDEF, which was established by the UN Secretary-General in 2005 as a United Nations General Trust Fund. UNDEF funds projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Some 35 UN Member States, spanning all continents, have so far made voluntary contributions to UNDEF.

As with previous UNDEF rounds, the thematic categories for applications are:

- democratic dialogue and support for constitutional processes;
- civil society empowerment, including the empowerment of women;
- civic education and voter registration;
- citizen's access to information;
- participation rights and the rule of law in support of civil society;
- transparency and integrity.

Priority will be given to projects that enhance inclusiveness and gender equality.

Only on-line applications in either English or French will be accepted. The application procedure is described in the Project Proposal Guidelines available at www.un.org/democracyfund/XProjectPrposalGuidelines.htm.

Amateur photographers invited to submit works of the rainforest

Budding amateur environmental photographers have until February 28 to submit their work of the rainforest to The Prince's Rainforests Project (PRP) Award.

The award, a new initiative for the 2009 Sony World Photography Awards, joins together the need to better understand the importance of the rainforests to the global climate and to increase awareness of The Prince's Rainforests Project, a project that partners organizations and institutions with the Prince of Wales to improve the rainforest.

Photographers should send images which capture the essence of what the rainforest means to them.

A selection of the best images by amateur photographers will be displayed in Cannes during the Sony World Photography Awards in April 2009, and these images will be used by The Prince's Rainforests Project and Sony on various initiatives throughout the year to help communicate important messages.

For more information, go to <http://prp.worldphotographyawards.org/home.asp>.

In recognition of the crucial role that Science and Technology (S&T) plays in socio-economic development, the IDB has, over the years, diversified and increased its assistance to member countries in this area.

The mechanisms and initiatives that

the IDB undertook in providing this assistance to relevant organizations and institutions in member countries included the following:

- Concluding cooperation agreements and MOUs with S&T partners, including the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COM-STECH); the Islamic-World Academy of Sciences (IAS); the Islamic University of Technology (IUT); the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); and an increasing number of UN, regional and national institutions and non-governmental organizations;
- Increasing financial assistance to member countries for S&T projects and programs, including institutional capacity-building, procurement of advanced equipment for use in laboratories, hospitals and universities; establishment of S&T education and applied research institutions;
- Enhancing cooperation between member countries in S&T through the recruitment of experts, on the job training, scientific seminars and conferences under IDB Science and Technology Office Programs;
- Offering science education support under two of the IDB scholarship programs;
- the Merit Scholarship program for Ph.D and post-doctorate;
- the Master of Sciences/Scholarship program for graduates from the Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs)

IDB launches Prizes for Science & Technology

While the IDB continued to direct its efforts and financing to capacity-building, procurement of equipment and establishment of infrastructure in S&T applications, it has realized the necessity to develop a leading scientific elite among S&T institutions in member countries through the pursuit of excellence. Such a leadership is required to sustain a growing momentum of scientific achievements by S&T centres of excellence in IDB member countries.

The IDB Prizes for Science & Technology are expected to encourage merit institutions and to promote competition among S&T institutions; the prizes would further herald the commitment of the IDB to implement forward-looking policies and integrate advanced S&T applications in the overall development agenda of its member countries. The objectives of the IDB Prizes for Science and Technology are as follows:

- To promote sound and fruitful competition among the S&T education and research institutions in member countries for achieving excellence;
- To encourage and support the successful institutions in this competition;
- To raise awareness among decision-makers and intellectuals about the present and potential contribution of S&T to sustainable development; and
- To highlight S&T related policies and contribution of the IDB.

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Refugees in Yemen Seek Jobs and Training

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

With the number of refugees arriving in Yemen increasing daily, demand for jobs is also rising.

"I have a bachelor's degree in education from Somalia but jobs are hard to find," said Saeed Mohammed, 41-year-old refugee who has spent more than eleven years in Yemen. Saeed has six children, none of whom attend school. "I teach my children at home because my financial situation won't allow me to send them to school. Sometimes I resort to locking them up with a chain when I leave home to find a job and come back with food. Their mother ran away from us years ago and I have nobody to take care of them while I'm gone."

Saeed fills out applications for people who want to apply for documents at embassies or washes cars to earn a living. In the past he used to receive financial help from his brother in Norway, but he has since passed away.

There are almost 134,000 refugees in Yemen, the majority of which are Somali. They are distributed among three locations: Basateen neighborhood in Aden, Kharaz camp in Lahj, and the urban areas of Sana'a. There are currently around 24,000 refugees based in Sana'a, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Yemen is a party to the Geneva Convention of 1951, and its 1967 Protocol, which grants refugees automatic asylum in Yemen. They are allowed to work, attend public schools and receive healthcare and social services.

There were around 188,000 new graduates looking for jobs, yet the government could only employ 16,000 individuals, according to a 2006 report by the Ministry of Public Works.

Yemen is the poorest country in the region, with an estimated unemploy-

ment rate of 20 to 35 percent, according to the World Bank.

Refugees are mostly engaged in work for humanitarian agencies, trading, door to door selling, service work, macro businesses and some production work like handicrafts and goats rearing. In Basateen neighborhood in Aden refugees rely on some trading and service activities as sources of livelihood. For example, they work in mobile shops, small restaurants, hairdressing, carpentry, money exchange, electronic repair, groceries and transport services. Refugee workers have no contracts, rights or protection. They receive very low wages when compared with local Yemeni staff, according to a new report by the UNHCR and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

"In Kharaz, 87 percent of the population of working age is unemployed. In Aden the unemployment rate among refugees reached 66 percent," said Claire Bourgeois, UNHCR's Representative in Yemen, during a workshop about livelihood assessment in the Kharaz camp and Basateen neighborhood. "Of the employed persons, 81 percent in Basateen and 63 percent in Kharaz are classified as daily wage workers in temporary jobs, such as car cleaning and domestic work," she added.

Ali Mahmoud, 23, a Somali refugee who arrived in Yemen in 1992, has studied computer science on a scholarship from the "Deutsche Akademische Flüchtling Initiative" or Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI). He works as a registration assistant at the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Ahwar, Abyan governorate. Mahmoud was

lucky enough to receive a scholarship, but he feels sorry for those refugees who completed high school and can't go to government universities, such as his brother. "My brother has completed high school, but now that he wants to study accounting in Aden University, he can't afford the USD \$1200 fees," he lamented.

Mahmoud advised refugees to first improve their qualifications, and not give up in their quest for work. "Refugees should apply to a number of NGOs and companies, and if lucky they might find a job."

Although refugee families have free access to primary and secondary public education, some cannot afford to send their children to school. Some students leave school in order to work and find a source of income for their families. However, university fees for refugees are set 50 percent lower than those for international students.

Only 16 percent of the total refugees at Basateen have more than a primary level education, and in Kharaz that number is little better, at roughly 25 percent. Illiteracy figures amongst women are alarming, with 65 percent in Basateen and 62 percent in Kharaz camp unable to read or write.

In addition to language and computer courses and literacy classes, the UNHCR Implementing Partners in Yemen have offered refugees vocational training in sewing, weaving and carpentry among other things. They aim to equip refugees with expertise that will help improve the likelihood of their finding work.

In Sana'a, the UNHCR has three main partners, the Interaction Development Foundation (IDF), the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), and Al-Takamul Association for Development.

"Through these local NGOs we provide refugees with training programs in areas as diverse as household electricity, cosmetics, incense production, and information technology. We try to avoid duplication in the training programs; each NGO specializes in their own fields of training," said Marius Buga, programme officer at the UNHCR.

Naima Hassan, 22, a married Somali refugee, works as a housekeeper for a Yemeni family in the morning, and takes sewing and English language classes in the afternoon. Five years ago



The opportunity to train in computer applications, take language courses, and attend literacy classes.

she came to Yemen, but couldn't find work because at that time she could speak neither Arabic nor English. "After I became tired of leaving my son home alone while I worked, I sent him to my mother in Somalia." Hassan earns about YR 20,000 (\$100), and from this she sends money back to her son and family in Somalia.

Hinda Hashi, 20, another Somali refugee spent only one year in Sana'a where she studied English with IDF. Back home in Somalia, Hashi was only able to complete primary school. "I really want to work but the only jobs available here in Yemen are as housemaids and I don't really like this sort of work," she complained.

Job opportunities for refugees are limited, and a national legislation provision concerning access to employment is not in place. Refugees have to be issued work permits, are compelled to work in specific occupations where

no Yemeni workers are available, and must have a Yemeni partner for business registration. The Yemen Labor Law restricts the employment of non-Yemenis to 10 ten percent of the total staff for every firm. In addition, those who work with humanitarian organizations receive relatively low wages.

Because refugees have limited employment opportunities, they risk getting involved in less desirable coping strategies, such as begging or garbage collection. Women rely primarily on domestic work for their livelihood, where they are often subject to various forms of exploitation and abuse. Some women even turn to prostitution to earn their living, the report commented.

Ekram Al-Qadasi, a human resources secretary in Sana'a said that huge numbers of Yemenis graduate every year, but most of them don't find jobs. "Priority should be given to Yemenis in

the job market, like in any other country," she said. Al-Qadasi agreed that refugees should receive training to help them find work in Yemen, and also when they return to their own countries.

Alawi Bafaqih, the Vice Minister for Technical Education and Vocational Training strongly supports the idea of training and recruiting refugees. He does not believe that refugees symbolize competition for Yemeni jobs. "We are not talking about importing laborers to the country, refugees already exist. So why not benefit from their stay in Yemen and let them contribute towards development."

It's better to give them the chance to work and support themselves rather than depending on aid from international organizations."

Bafaqih believes that unemployed refugees represent a danger to the country, stating that "jobless refugees are a time bomb in this country."



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60 years of human rights failure - Governments must apologize and act now

Amnesty International challenged world leaders to apologize for six decades of human rights failure and recommit themselves to deliver concrete improvements. "The human rights flashpoints in Darfur, Zimbabwe, Gaza, Iraq and Myanmar demand immediate action," said Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, launching AI Report 2008: State of the World's Human Rights.

"Injustice, inequality and impunity are the hallmarks of our world today. Governments must act now to close the yawning gap between promise and performance."

Amnesty International's Report 2008, shows that sixty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations, people are still tortured or ill-treated in at least 81 countries, face unfair trials in at least 54 countries and are not allowed to speak freely in at least 77 countries.

"2007 was characterised by the impotence of Western governments and the ambivalence or reluctance of emerging powers to tackle some of the world's worst human rights crises, ranging from entrenched conflicts to growing inequalities which are leaving millions of people behind," said Ms Khan.

Amnesty International cautioned that the biggest threat to the future of human rights is the absence of a shared vision and collective leadership.

"2008 presents an unprecedented opportunity for new leaders coming to power and countries emerging on the world stage to set a new direction and reject the myopic policies and practices that in recent years have made the world a more dangerous and divided place," said Ms Khan.

Amnesty International challenged governments to set a new paradigm for collective leadership based on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"The most powerful must lead by example," said Ms Khan.

China must live up to the human rights promises it made around the Olympic Games and allow free speech and freedom of the press and end "re-education through labour".

The USA must close Guantánamo detention camp and secret detention centres, prosecute the detainees under fair trial standards or release them, and unequivocally reject the use of torture and ill-treatment.

Russia must show greater tolerance for political dissent, and none for impunity on human rights abuses in Chechnya.

The EU must investigate the complicity of its member states in "renditions" of terrorist suspects and set the



same bar on human rights for its own members as it does for other countries.

Ms Khan warned: "World leaders are in a state of denial but their failure to act has a high cost. As Iraq and Afghanistan show, human rights problems are not isolated tragedies, but are like viruses that can infect and spread rapidly, endangering all of us."

"Governments today must show the same degree of vision, courage and commitment that led the United Nations to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sixty years ago."

"There is a growing demand from people for justice, freedom and equality."

Some of the most striking images of 2007 were of monks in Myanmar, lawyers in Pakistan, and women activists in Iran.

"Restless and angry, people will not be silenced, and leaders ignore them at their own peril," said Ms Khan.

BROKEN PROMISES

The foreword to Report 08 was written in solidarity with human rights defenders around the world in the 60th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

World leaders owe an apology for failing to deliver on the promise of justice and equality in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted 60 years ago. In the past six decades, many governments have shown more interest in the abuse of power or in the pursuit of political self-interest, than in respecting the rights of those they lead.

This is not to deny the progress that has been made in developing human rights standards, systems and institutions internationally, regionally and nationally. Much has improved in many parts of the world based on these standards and principles. More countries today provide constitutional and legal protection for human rights than ever before. Only a handful of states would openly deny the right of the international community to scrutinize their human rights records. 2007 saw the first full year of operation of the UN Human Rights Council, through which all UN member states have agreed to a public debate on their human rights performance.

But for all the good, the fact remains that injustice, inequality and impunity are still the hallmarks of our world today.

In 1948, in an act of extraordinary leadership, world leaders came together

to adopt the UDHR. Member states of the fledgling UN showed great foresight and courage by putting their faith in global values. They were acutely aware of the horrors of World War II, and conscious of the grim realities of an emerging Cold War. Their vision was not circumscribed by what was happening only in Europe. 1948 was also the year in which Burma gained independence, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, and apartheid laws were first introduced in South Africa. Large parts of the world were still under the yoke of colonization.

The drafters of the UDHR acted out of the conviction that only a multilateral system of global values, based on equality, justice and the rule of law, could stand up to the challenges ahead. In a genuine exercise of leadership, they resisted the pressure from competing political camps. They rejected any hierarchy between the right to free speech and the right to education, the right to be free from torture and the right to social security. They recognized that the universality of human rights - every person is born free and equal - and their indivisibility - all rights, whether economic, social, civil,

political or cultural, must be fulfilled with equal commitment - is the basis for our collective security as well as our common humanity.

JOB VACANCY

SOUL for Development is looking for a teacher who will be required to take on management responsibilities for our school. Must have good English, a pleasant and open manner to deal with a variety of stakeholders and previous work experience in education in a similar role. Female candidate preferred.

A Curriculum Vitae and Letter of Application must be received by Sunday January 11, 2009 and should be sent in care of Ilham by:

- * Email to: soul-yemen@y.net.ye
- * Fax to: (01)22 79 18
- * Mail to: P.O. Box 18383, Sana'a, Yemen

For questions please contact Ilham at: (01) 22 39 99 / (01) 25 55 68.



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam GB in Yemen intends to award a supply contract for one 4WD vehicle - 6 seats for its office in Sana'a. Please submit your proposals to the Oxfam GB Sana'a office (Diplomatic area- just off Djibouti street-
Phone: 01 444 568/9
Fax: 01 445 650).

The deadline for submission of tenders is 10th January 2009.

إعلان مناقصة

تعلن منظمة أوكسفام بريطانيا برنامج اليمن عن رغبتها في شراء سيارة دفع رباعي، فعلى الراغبين تقديم عطايتهم إلى مكتب أوكسفام بصنعاء (الحي السياسي، متفرع من شارع جيبوتي).

تلفون: ٠١-٤٤٤٥٦٨
فاكس: ٠١-٤٤٥٦٥٠

الموعد النهائي لتقديم العروض: ١٠/يناير/٢٠٠٩

world.

As we entered the 21st century, the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 transformed the human rights debate yet again into a divisive and destructive one between "western" and "non-western", restricting liberties, fuelling suspicion, fear, discrimination and prejudice among governments and peoples alike.

The forces of economic globalization brought new promises, but also challenges. Though world leaders claimed to commit themselves to eradicating poverty, for the most part they ignored the human rights abuses that drive and deepen poverty. The UDHR remained a paper promise.

Looking back today, what seems most surprising is the unity of purpose shown by the UN member states at the time in adopting the UDHR without a dissenting vote. Now, in the face of numerous, pressing human rights crises, there is no shared vision among world leaders to address contemporary challenges of human rights in a world that is increasingly endangered, unsafe and unequal.

The political landscape today is very different from that of 60 years ago.

There are many more states today than in 1948. Some former colonies are now emerging as global players alongside their former colonial masters. Can we expect the old and new powers to come together, as their predecessors did in 1948, and recommit themselves to human rights? The record for 2007 was not encouraging.

Will new leadership and pressure from civil society make a difference in this anniversary year?

Can we expect the old and new powers to come together, as their predecessors did in 1948, and recommit themselves to human rights?

In a striking example of old leadership, 143 of the UN General Assembly's member states voted to adopt the Declaration of Indigenous Peoples, in September 2007.

Restless, angry and disillusioned, people will not remain silent if the gap continues to widen between their demand for equality and their governments' denial.

Governments in the Middle East region continue to focus on 'state security' and 'public safety', to the detriment of human rights and the lives of their citizens.



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

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE Re-advertising

Title of Post: **Telecom. Operator Kharaz**
Position Number: **10012470**
Category & Level: **GL 4**
Location: **Kharaz Camp**

Date of Entry on: **January 2009**
Duration: **31 Dec. 2009**
Closing Date: **05 Jan. 2009**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the direct supervision of the Head of Field Office in Kharaz, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

1. Manning Radio Room in the Kharaz camp, ensuring proper link of communication with other stations, receiving and sharing written and verbal messages as well as other communication in accordance with established instructions;
2. Tracking movement of UNHCR vehicles and personnel, maintaining log with updated records, liaising with Security staff in all cases of non-standard situation and emergency;
3. Ensuring that all communications are authorized and timely transmitted;
4. Selecting the most efficient and economic means for the transmission of messages, taking into consideration the nature and priority of communications to be transmitted;
5. Maintaining a station log where all occurrences related to the operation of the telecommunication equipment are entered;
6. Ensuring that no unauthorised communications are exchanged on the network;
7. Ensuring that all the equipment placed under his/her responsibility is maintained in good working condition;
8. Assisting new staff members in the proper operation of telecommunication equipment;
9. May perform secretarial functions, such as handling paper work on routine matters, making photocopies, arranging appointment/meetings both internally and externally, screening telephone calls, typing a wide variety of materials. May assist in making Travel arrangements.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Education: Should have completed Secondary School education; training in radiotelecommunications is desirable; **Experience:** Two years of progressively responsible field based work, of which at least one year was closely to Telecom activities. **Languages:** Knowledge of English language is essential for the work of the post. Knowledge of another UN Language and a local language is an asset.

FOR INTERNAL CANDIDATES:

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

GENDER BALANCE POLICY:

Applications from equally qualified female candidates will be given priority consideration.

If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please submit your application and UN P11 form or a well elaborated C.V.

IMPORTANT:

NO COMMITMENT BY UNHCR TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION IN KHARAZ CAMP.

- APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE TO:
- ✘ Kharaz Camp Manager
 - ✘ Ms. Diana A. Sallam, HR UNHCR Sub. Office Aden
 - ✘ UNHCR Sub-Office Aden P.O. Box 6090 or Fax # 02-234406



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

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

Title of Post: **Field Clerk**
Position Number: **10014043**
Category & Level: **GL 4**
Location: **Ahwar**

Date of Entry on Duty: **January 2009**
Duration: **31/12/2009**
Closing Date: **05/01/2009**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the direct supervision of the Field Officer, in the Ahwar Reception Centre, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

1. Travels on missions as needed to assist Officers in the accomplishment of their responsibilities.
2. Acts as interpreter in the exchange of routine information, contributes to related liaison activities and responds directly to routine queries.
3. Records data and assists supervisor in the provision of evaluations and information on various developments in the ARC, drafts reports and compiles statistical data;
4. Translates documents and correspondence as and when necessary.
5. Provides support and assistance to convoys, as needed, and maintains contact with relevant organizations/NGOs
6. Assists implementing partners in matters pertaining to the well-being of refugees.
7. Performs other duties as required.

Qualification Requirements

Knowledge and Skills: Completion of secondary education, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in the field related to the work of the organization. Excellent computer skills (in MS office, including Excel, Word and PowerPoint).

Experience: Two years of progressive field based work, of which at least one year to be closely connected with the Protection/Field activities.

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

FOR INTERNAL CANDIDATES:

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

FOR EXTERNAL CANDIDATES

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

GENDER BALANCE POLICY:

Applications from equally qualified female candidates will be given priority consideration. If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please submit your application and UN P11 form or a well elaborated C.V.

IMPORTANT:

THE LOCATION OF THE POST IS AHWAR, HOWEVER, PRESENTLY, AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THE INCUMBENT WILL WORK FROM ADEN WITH REGULAR MISSIONS TO THE FIELD. THERE IS NO COMMITMENT BY UNHCR TO PROVIDE THE ACCOMMODATION.

- APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE TO:
- ✘ Ms. Diana A. Sallam, HR UNHCR Sub. Office Aden
 - ✘ UNHCR Sub-Office Aden P.O. Box 6090 or Fax # 02-234406



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

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

Title of Post: **Snr. Community Services Clerk**
Position Number: **10014041**
Category & Level: **GL 5**
Location: **Kharaz**

Date of Entry on Duty: **January 2009**
Duration: **31 Dec. 2009**
Closing Date: **10 Jan. 2009**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- ✘ Assists the HFO/Community Services staff and provides counselling, referral and protection services to refugees, particularly those who have suffered trauma or had social problems.
- ✘ Liaises with the staff of Operational Partners to ensure that the necessary services are reaching refugees.
- ✘ Assists in coordination of medical services, referral cases and counselling so that refugees receive appropriate medical and other care. Immediately notifies the supervisor if/when a case of infectious disease is reported.
- ✘ Collects relevant data pertaining to the ICs and maintains up-to-date computerised and comprehensive records on the referral and counselling services provided.
- ✘ Accompanies and interprets for the HFO/Community Services Officer and other visitors to the region/camp as well as assists in the accomplishment of their responsibilities.
- ✘ Drafts and types routine correspondence, documents and reports using word processing equipment and maintains up-to-date filing system.
- ✘ Performs other duties as required.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Skills: Secondary Education, excellent communications skills, computer literacy **Experience:** Three years of previous job experience preferably with International Organization in the similar field **Languages:** Very good knowledge of the local language and working language of the Organization (particularly writing skills).

FOR INTERNAL CANDIDATES:

Priority consideration will be given to staff members whose grades are equal or below that of the post advertised but who have acquired the minimum seniority-in-grade requirement. Only candidates who have served one year in their present position will be eligible to apply for the post. Candidates who do not meet the criteria as internal candidates can be considered as external candidates.

FOR EXTERNAL CANDIDATES

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

GENDER BALANCE POLICY:

Applications from equally qualified female candidates will be given priority consideration. If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please submit your application and UN P11 form or a well elaborated C.V.

IMPORTANT:

- NO COMMITMENT BY UNHCR TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION IN KHARAZ CAMP.
- APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE TO:
- ✘ Kharaz Camp Manager
 - ✘ Ms. Diana A. Sallam, HR UNHCR Sub. Office Aden
 - ✘ UNHCR Sub-Office Aden P.O. Box 6090 or Fax # 02-234406



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

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

Title of Post: **Snr. Field Clerk**
Position Number: **10012961**
Category & Level: **GL 5**
Location: **Kharaz**

Date of Entry on Duty: **January 2009**
Duration: **31 Dec. 2009**
Closing Date: **05 Jan. 2009**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- ✘ Meet authorized personnel at designated field locations, travels with them and serves as a guide;
- ✘ Act as interpreter in the exchange of routine information, contributes to related liaison activities and responds directly to routine queries;
- ✘ Collects data and other information on development and/or subject-matter activities of the country or area;
- ✘ Follow up, on a regular basis, the overall situation in refugee settlements and other areas where refugees have been accommodated;
- ✘ In co-ordination with the local authorities, monitor the implementation of UNHCR assistance in refugee settlements and assist local implementing partners in matters pertaining to the well-being of refugees;
- ✘ Assist supervisor in planning, formulating, and evaluating projects;
- ✘ Perform other duties as required.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Skills: Completion of secondary education, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in a field related to the work of the organization. Excellent computer skills (in MS office, including Excel, Word and PowerPoint).

Experience: Four years of progressively responsible field based work, of which at least one year was closely to protection/Field activities.

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

FOR INTERNAL CANDIDATES:

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

FOR EXTERNAL CANDIDATES

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

GENDER BALANCE POLICY:

Applications from equally qualified female candidates will be given priority consideration. If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please submit your application and UN P11 form or a well elaborated C.V.

IMPORTANT:

- NO COMMITMENT BY UNHCR TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION IN KHARAZ CAMP.
- APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE TO:
- ✘ Kharaz Camp Manager
 - ✘ Ms. Diana A. Sallam, HR UNHCR Sub. Office Aden
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Words of Wisdom



At this juncture of human history, the lies of politicians have hit record levels. It may be that the lies of politicians have been at about the same level throughout history, but that now we are more aware of them given the extent of information flow. Even if that were the case, I contend that Yemeni politicians are working hard to hit the Guinness Book of Records in this aspect.

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



OUR OPINION

Pounding at the iron wall

There was a fear that the gathered Palestinian security forces would try to stop us. However, the demonstration proceeded. When we reached the wall with its permanently closed metal gate, people paused. Then a few activists started pounding at the huge metal gate with rocks. The sound was deafening. Other youths started throwing stones at the huge 30 foot concrete tower."

This was a paragraph from the International Middle East Media Center covering the Saturday demonstrations in Bethlehem against the Israeli attack. Needless to say that the demonstrators mentioned above were showered with stun grenades and tear gas in less than three minutes causing injuries among the protestors.

Here in Yemen, thousands took to the streets yesterday and chanted against the Israeli aggression and even against the futile Arab governments. There was so much anger among citizens and so much sadness. A feeling of helplessness overcomes the Muslim world that has been manifested in the form of demonstrations, although it should have been transformed into something else much more effective.

Yet just like the protestors in Bethlehem who landed up pounding against a wall most of the Arab protestors land up facing dead ends or the indifferent attitudes of their leaders.

Arab leaders called for an urgent summit and the U.N. called for a halt to Israeli military operations in Gaza (which killed hundreds) and as well as to rocket attacks upon Israel (which killed one person). Yet alongside these demands Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak promised that the attacks will continue "as long as necessary." While exiled Hamas leader Khaled Meshal called in Damascus for a new Palestinian intifada, or uprising, against Israel. Announcing that they "will not stand down and we will not cave in even if (the Israelis) should eradicate the Gaza Strip or kill thousands of us."

The bottom line is that the leaders will continue staging wars that take the lives of thousands of innocent people. And protestors will continue to face dead ends or an iron wall, until they realize that pounding against iron walls only brings more stun grenades. And that the world leaders are good at creating wars but not at stopping them or creating peace.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The army as a reference to appoint presidents and ministers

By: Hussein Al-Leswas

Seemingly, the project of power bequeathal to the sons has undergone numerous amendments and reviews after the ruler faced a strong popular objection to execution of this project, which is viewed by many people as an assassination of September 26 Revolution and a slap in the heart of the republican system.

The power bequeathal project still is standing. This is a real fact and observers of the local affairs agree with my opinion regarding reality of this fact. This project is no longer considered conventional like it was after being uncovered before the public opinion. The one, who closely observes the changes taking place within the government, will

surely understand that the ruler is convinced that it is impossible for him to execute the power bequeathal project without forcing the next ruler to overcome certain obstacles.

These obstacles may entail salience of the apparition of military coups and popular revolutions, provided that the entire project contradicts principles of the Revolution for the establishment of which the Homeland sacrificed many of its patriotic sons.

Therefore, the ruler seeks to build an institution to rotate the responsibility of appointing President of the state, prime minister and senior civil officials in the government, but this is planned to be done in a modern democratic manner (via ballot boxes). This institution will be in charge of providing the neces-

sary support for those due to be appointed to fill sensitive posts in the government, as well as offer any factors necessary for doing their jobs successfully.

In fact, any officials due to be appointed via this institution will be nothing more than an ornamental decoration in their posts while the country's affairs will be controlled by the real ruler, who will also chair this institution (the army).

In Turkey, Ataturk wanted the army to be the reference for the ruling civil regime in the nation and this reference (the army) should have broad powers while its commanders are entitled to interfere in administering state's affairs in event the Secular Principles were violated or exposed to threats.

Who will be Yemen's next presi-

dent?

Those, who observe the current situation in Yemen, understand that the standing regime is on the way to adopting such a Turkish system as an alternative to the power bequeathal project. The regime is working harder to make "Son of President Saleh, Ahmad" the higher reference for the Yemeni armed forces while president of the state will be another person (a civil personality), most likely Abdulqader Ali Hilal, who is currently serving as Minister of Local Administration.

Why we expect that Hilal is the most likely to be the next President of Yemen. It is because the man enjoys strong relationship with senior tribal leaders in the Sanhan Tribe while the be-all and end-all decision will be controlled by

Higher Commander of Armed Forces, who is the son of Mr. President.

Of the most prominent indicators that confirm authenticity of the above-mentioned conclusions is the pivotal change experienced by the son of Mr. President. At the very beginning, the plan entailed that he should be grown up as a civil figure and a politician after he was elected a Parliament member and to be then engaged in the partisan action like the case of Jamal Mubarak, son of the current Egyptian President, who has become a political leader, plus a reference for the ruling national party in Egypt. But within a short time period, the man joined the army and is currently occupying a sensitive position in this institution.

Source: Al-Masdar.net

Food prices: Between falling and rising

By: Dr. Safa Khalil Al-Nuaimi

The meeting, which the Balagh weekly held with some economic experts in Yemen on the falling food prices at the international level while prices in Yemeni markets remain unaffected by the fall, encouraged me to write about the phenomenon of falling food prices worldwide, most notably in the neighboring states of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Jordan. I don't know whether food prices will continue to decrease and until when.

There is an optimistic vision about falling prices at the international level, which is what is currently happening, plus a pessimistic vision that the global economy will be affected by recession, thereby leaving negative impacts on production. As a result, the agricultural and food production will decline,

and be accompanied by rising demand for products, which will cause prices to increase.

Despite the fact that the global financial crisis made the world suffer heavy loss and dragged it into a horrible tunnel, such a crisis also left positive effects that helped the poor somewhat improve their vulnerable conditions. The financial crisis forced prices of basic foodstuffs and other necessary commodities to fall after they hit to an unprecedented record high.

One of the crisis's consequences is that prices fell down while importers and workers in the import and distribution of foodstuffs in many neighboring states made a consensus that the prices fell in all states of the region following decreased costs in countries of origin as a result of the global financial crisis last September.

Prices of some commodities decreased by 20 - 30 percent and

others more than this rate, however, the current problem is related with large quantities of stored commodities purchased for high prices. We are expected to see prices to continue falling down as soon as such stored commodities run out. When will those stored commodities run out? There are growing fears among traders that prices may decrease even more while exporters and producers try to avoid falling prices in order not to fail in increasing prices in the future.

In UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, prices of foodstuffs and other basic necessities fell down in unexpected manner, particularly amid efforts practiced by cooperative associations that notify consumers of any price decrease as soon as it occurs.

Rami Khraisat, an economic analyst residing in UAE held the view that the poor population and states depending on imported commodi-

ties benefit the most from the global financial crisis. He pointed out that the poor have nothing to lose due to the crisis, but they rather profited from decreasing prices of foodstuffs and oil.

Providing Jordan as one of the states that benefited from the crisis, Khraisat said the Arab state witnessed unexpected fall in the prices of oil products following decrease of oil prices at the international level. In addition, prices of other foodstuffs were also cut. He added that the rising exchange rate of dollar to other currencies helped the dollar-connected currencies such as the Jordanian Dinar and those of Gulf States recover, labeling such as a notable factor behind falling prices of commodities imported from Europe, Australia and other parts of the world.

In light of falling prices of products these days as a result of numerous factors including the

global economic recession, farmlands may decrease, thus leading to a fall of products in main agricultural exporters. And due to declining quantities of stored grains, the scenario may be responsible for a new wave of price hikes by the advent of 2009, which will mean a catastrophe for millions of people with low purchasing powers.

According to a recent international report, risks of the global financial crisis, loss of food security and absence of power security constitute the key challenges to global economy this year. Released by the World Economic Forum, the report said that possibilities of economic recession in the U.S. stressed the necessity of changing ways of thinking to respond to notable changes taking place in stock markets over the past two decades.

Source: al-balagh.net

Shoes of mass destruction

By: Zakariya Al-Kamali

American Intelligence information has been recently proved inauthentic while the outgoing U.S. President

George W. Bush said that this information is the primary reason why his administration decided to invade Iraq and topple Saddam Hussein's regime. Since the war on Iraq began, the former Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Al-Sahhaf has been know as star of the war until this year.

According to statements by the U.S. President-elect Barak Obama, the New American leader will be star of the next year, as he accused Bush of waging an unjustified war against Iraq, thus killing thousands of innocent people.

Over the past few days, the Iraqi journalist Muntazar Al-Zaidi proved to be the current world star, as millions of people around the world uttered his name in various languages, and the man was viewed as an exceptional hero.

The entire world wanted to see the unique shoe that was about to hit the outgoing U.S. President in his face because he gave orders to a stupid army to invade Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is the shoe that made out of the head of leader of the strongest state in the world a mark for shooting.

The journalist did what the Arab League, UN Security Council, superpowers, and pirates couldn't. Al-Zaidi satisfied millions of people worldwide by his bravery to hit Bush with his shoes. This is how the image began, thus encouraging Arab satellite channels to celebrate that day.

Mustafa Bakri, a reputed Egyptian editor, demanded the National Assembly of his state to praise the Iraqi journalist, whose pen that has been uselessly writing for a long time in papers to liberate his nation was replaced by an effective shoe that made the arrogant president bend his head down and behave like an ostrich hiding his head in the laps of Iraqi Prime Minister Nori Al-Maliki.

The Bush Iraq shoe hurling incident is bound to change the world's vision toward journalists in a terrible manner.

Potential consequences of the shoe hurling

Al-Zaidi may be responsible for the consequent fact that from now onward, no journalist will be allowed to enter a conference hall

with his shoes and hand watch, most notably if a press conference will be attended by an insulted official.

The incident may force the U.S. Congress unanimously vote for an urgent decision to bomb all the factories producing shoes, as well as invade third world states in search for "Shoes of Mass Destruction" as a preemptive step to prevent potential shoe attacks on the next U.S. President, who is said to be of an Islamic origin.

From now on, leaders of the superpowers will think more than one thousand times about their lives and the risk of being exposed to malicious shoes before visiting Arab states.

The Americans may attempt to invent anti-shoe vehicles, clothes and systems to protect their president.

In Yemen, head of our president may not escape a successful shoe shot, provided that the currently hard conditions experienced by our journalists may force them to stick to their shoes like they do for their wives.

Bush as a good athlete

Al-Zaidi's shoe will not make the world live calmly and raise slogans for dialogues between civilizations and religions as King Abdullah and the Pope want. Undoubtedly, the shoe may force leaders of Arab states to begin exercising and invite skilled coaches to train them how to avoid direct shoe attacks. The Arab leaders may be trained to behave like Bush, who surprised the world with his amazing fitness and flexibility to avoid the shoe assault directed at his face. This made a French journalist comment by saying, "Bush is a good athlete."

Al-Zaidi may be responsible for a new world war against shoeless people, most notably in the poor African states, where people are accustomed to walk with bare feet.

Those shoeless people may face charges of storing their shoes in special depots and plotting to launch terrorist operations with those shoes. No doubt that Bush Iraq shoe hurling incident may be utilized in Yemen.

Source: Marebpress.net

SKETCHED OPINION



By: Samer

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Yemen Press Review



26September.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Army
Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008

Top Stories

- Industry Conference recommends setting up development strategy to improve national industry
- Defense Minister: The military institution is the strongest tool to defend Yemen's sovereignty, security and stability
- International organizations praise efforts expended by SCER ahead of upcoming parliamentary elections

Country Director of International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) in Sana'a Peter Williams praised efforts expended by the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum as part of its preparations for the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 27, 2009, the website reported. It added that the IFES Director stressed the necessity of political parties and organizations supporting the SCER to correct voter registers and delete any discrepancies.

In a statement to the 26September.net, Williams said that current preparations and arrangements made by the SCER makes one happy, most notably as the commission cares about clearing the voter registers of

repeated names, underage voters and the dead, as well as report such cases to the concerned authorities.

The international official also emphasized the necessity of questioning staff that registered underage voters, investigate them and take the necessary procedures against them according to the law, adding that similar procedures must be taken against those voters, who registered their names in more than an electoral domicile.

Williams added, "It is very important for Yemeni people to have trust in the current voter register while political parties and all those concerned with the electoral process should encourage the SCER to correct any discrepancies contained in the register in order to ensure that the voter register includes no violations."

Regarding charges directed to the SCER that it manipulates the voter register, the IFES Director said, "We often hear such charges that remain merely words without evidence. If the parties filing such charges against the SCER have adequate evidence to charge the SCER with manipulating the voter registers, they must show their evidence on the table, as well as present it to the responsible authorities to question the SCER."

With regard to the call to postpone the elections, Williams said such an option may hurt Yemen's democracy and contradict the most important democratic principles, as elections should be conducted regularly according to a

specific timeframe.

"If the elections are postponed for one time, there will be no guarantees to ensure that the elections will not be postponed for another time," Williams went on to say.

Williams indicated the presence of another two scenarios, one of which is represented by Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) declaration to boycott the elections in public, but participate in them in an informal way. He added that such an option may hurt the democratic voters by depriving them of selecting their representatives to Parliament, adding that political parties may get weaker due to potential lack of representation in Parliament, and consequently these parties will be deprived of government funding, according to the law.

The other scenario, according to Williams, is represented by parties' agreement to carry out political reforms and conduct competitive elections to involve all the parties concerned.

According to Williams, political parties calling for amending the election system must take into account that any proposed amendments to the system are impossible to undertaken for the time being, particularly as those related with replacing the First Past-the-Post system to the proportional list.

He concluded that all the international laws don't allow any electoral amendments to be conducted six months ahead of the elections, pointing out that compromise is the best option for Yemen's parties to solve the elec-

toral issue.



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008

Top Stories

- Aden hotels closed in protest against government's decision to increase electricity costs
- JMP Chairman: President Saleh has the key solutions to Yemen's current crisis
- International organizations concerned about Yemen's political crisis, JMP hails their positions

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) Higher Council held on Tuesday and Saturday a meeting during which it discussed political issues and developments in the nation, as well as the stances of international organizations concerned with such issues, most notably what was released by the U.S. State Department and EU Ministerial Council with regard to the political crisis and the dialogue between the JMP and ruling party that reached an impasse, the website reported in its lead story.

The JMP Higher Council praised the U.S. State Department and EU's stances toward the political crises in Yemen, considering these stances as evidence

of their concern about Yemen's democracy and political life. In a press release, the opposition coalition stressed that these visions (of EU and U.S. State Department) are in line with its own views regarding the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Stances of both international organizations confirmed authenticity of JMP's position about the crisis and its declaration that the upcoming parliamentary elections must help Yemen move forward toward authentic democracy. According to JMP, the elections must be an appropriate approach to political reforms and helping the nation get rid of a comprehensive crisis, which is the result of wrong and poor policies pursued by the ruling party.

The JMP further called the ruling party to stick to the Agreement of Principles and EU mission's recommendations in 2006, plus any relevant agreements. The opposition alliance expressed concern over the current approach pursued by the authority in adopting sterile and outdated means that reproduce conflicts and crises in more than a Yemeni area, particularly in the southern governorates where the government create unnecessary conflicts and crises.

The JMP also regretted repression and the approach of rule and divide practiced by the authorities, the website quoted JMP Higher Council as saying in its statement.

According to the website, the European Union had expressed concern

about the recent developments, including the postponement of local elections for four years, pointing out that such step could be interpreted as signs of deterioration in the political dialogue between the various stakeholders.

It calls on all parties involved to seek a consensus on the basis of the agreements reached by them, along with the recommendations put forward by the 2006 electoral observation mission, sent by EU.

The website went on to say that the U.S. State Department has expressed concern over the lack of consensus and cooperation between the principal political parties in Yemen calling on , in the meantime, all political parties in Yemen to return immediately to dialogue to reach a consensus on the procedures for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

It further urged Yemen's political parties to use measures that are consistent with recommendations made by international election observers in 2006.

On a side note, the website reported that the Yemeni Centre for Civil Rights held Wednesday in collaboration with the National Fund for Democracy a symposium on democracy future and elections in Yemen.

Several Yemeni politicians and activists participated in the symposium, according to Noor Al-Din Ezzi, chairman of the centre. "The symposium aims to transfer awareness about the current political crises between the ruling and opposition parties into all the concerned organizations," added Ezzi.

Canada: No caring for those who give care

By: V. Radhika
Women's Feature Service

Juana Rodriguez, 40, is a picture of composure as she narrates the ordeal of changing beds, walking the dogs and performing every job other than what she had been hired for: a nanny to two kids. But her voice falters and tears well up in her eyes as she recounts the epitaph hurled at her by her employer's eight-year-old son.

"He called me 'Stupid' and his mother did not say a word. I could not take this insult. Back home, I was very popular with kids and they all adored me," says this former teacher from the Philippines, one among thousands of Filipinas who arrive in Canada to work as nannies.

What Rodriguez experienced is not unique. Lured by the promise of probable citizenship under Canada's Live-in Caregiver program, many Filipinas leave behind their families to work as caregivers (including as nannies and care-providers to the elderly) sending remittances back home that not only support their own families but boost the country's economy. Under the caregiver program, after working as live-in caregivers for two years, workers may apply for landed immigration status. It is estimated that overseas Filipinos,

particularly women working as domestic workers, send over \$8 billion as annual remittances.

A large number of these workers are in Canada. More than 7,000 Filipinas arrive in this country each year under the federal government's live-in caregiver programme. It is a dream many are willing to risk everything for.

"I know many nannies that paid over \$5,000 to employment agencies to help them find a job in Canada," says Rodriguez. She, however, counts herself lucky as her Canada-based cousin found her employment. And that is how last summer she left her husband and three children behind to work in Canada. As the aircraft hovered over Toronto's Pearson airport, Rodriguez recalls the palpable excitement. "I thought I was so lucky to be here. Lots of people apply and pay money, but here I was with a job in hand and a cousin to navigate me. I wanted to come here because it is a good country and there are lots of opportunities, not only for you but your whole family," she says.

However, within a week, new realities surfaced. Though hired as a nanny, the slightly-built former-teacher was mopping floors, walking three dogs ("they were so much bigger than me!" she exclaims), gardening and so on. Added to this, every meal she ate was

subject to scrutiny. A veil of sorrow clouds Rodriguez's face as she recalls the employer complaining that she ate big meals. "And all I had was an egg sandwich," she smiles ruefully.

After a few months, Rodriguez mustered enough courage to speak to her cousin and quit her job. She subsequently found employment with a South Asian couple and is very happy with her current job. "They take good care of me. I was lucky I had someone to go to. But I know there are many who continue to work in difficult situations because they do not want to jeopardise their future," she says.

Agatha Mason agrees. The Executive Director of Intercede, an organisation that works for the rights of domestic workers, caregivers and newcomers, reels off instances where workers such as Rodriguez are subjected to cheating, abuse and insecurity. Mason has received several complaints from nannies, who are told on their arrival in Canada that sometimes left high and dry, after being told that someone else has been hired in their place. In the absence of any regulations governing the recruiting agencies, observes Mason, the nannies are left to fend for themselves.

In fact, many women often borrow or mortgage their property to raise the agency's fee, which runs into a couple

of thousands of dollars. "With so much at stake, should it come as a surprise that they put up with abuse and insecurity to hold on to their jobs?" remarks Rodriguez.

Celina Bautista is a testimony to this. She came to Canada in 1997 to work for an affluent family in Ontario. Paid a wage of \$5 per hour, she was responsible for looking after three children, cooking meals for the entire family, and doing all the housekeeping. "Often," she says, "I would be with the children until midnight while the parents worked late or were out with friends." And, she was not paid for overtime.

Bautista, later, learned from a friend that she was being grossly underpaid. Nothing changed after she talked to her employers. Months away from completing the LCP (Live-In Caregiver Programme), she did not want to jeopardise her relationship with her employers. "I couldn't do anything because I needed my landed [immigration] status so I had to stay there," she says.

As recently as six months ago, Toronto newspapers flashed the story of Catherine Manuel, who came to Canada as a live-in nanny to care for eight-year-old Brent of Toronto. Manuel was promised about \$420 a week to care for young Brent, with weekends and holidays off. Instead, she was underpaid and worked "morning,

noon and night" as a cleaner, servant and handy-woman. Young Brent and his mother never surfaced - perhaps they existed only on paper. The agency that brought her over to Canada said they worked on the basis of papers provided to them, but could not help Manuel. Moved her by her story, many Canadians came forward with job offers.

But not everyone is lucky or has the courage to quit. Geraldine Pratt, a Geography professor at the University of British Columbia, has researched the situation of Filipino domestic workers in Vancouver, in collaboration with the Vancouver-based Filipino Workers Centre. According to Pratt, the dissolution of boundaries between home and workplace created by the live-in requirement can lead to added stress for domestic workers. "Because the nanny lives inside the house, she can't quite escape from the demands of the family," Pratt said in an interview. Mason attests to this and says this situation makes it easy for employers to stretch the workday or increase the workload. In more severe cases, she says, the live-in situation has created conditions for physical, sexual, and verbal abuse to occur.

Pratt's research has also focused on how Filipino nannies are perceived in comparison to nannies from Europe or

Australia. She noted a difference in wages and in what is asked of the nanny. "They're treated much more like servants than the classic au pair," said Pratt.

Mason says the live-in requirement of the programme makes it difficult for the government to regulate what happens in the home. Rodriguez thanks her stars for landing her current job. It pays for her three children's education at a private school and the hiring of a nanny back home to take care of them.

All this comes at a price though. "I miss my children, my home," she says. It is especially hard during special occasions, such as their birthdays or Christmas. "Last year (on Christmas), my friend and I went to a shopping mall, and after coming out we cried our hearts out," she smiles sadly. Her plans to travel home this year for Christmas came to a naught as her work permit extension did not come in time.

But she looks forward to the day when she will sponsor her family to come over to Canada and start a new life there. She also plans to upgrade her skills so that she can eventually step out of a nanny's shoes. Says she, "This is a land of opportunity and I hope to make the best use of it."

(Names of all the nannies have been changed on request.)

India: Dance like a woman

By Kalindi Sheth
Women's Feature Service

"You have to feel sexy," says Lavina Khanna, as she instructs a bunch of women ranging from college students to the middle-aged. Khanna is taking a session in lap dancing, as part of her fitness class at Pulse studio in Mumbai. While some of her students giggle, others attempt a slinky catwalk around a chair. "Now that exercises your thighs and as you sway your hips, imagine a man sitting on that chair... and tone your gluteus," she encourages, as the women simulate a scenario they've seen only in the movies.

Sensual dances have come of age in urban India. They are no longer considered the preserve of bar girls, or those in 'cheap' professions. Lap dancing, belly dancing, pole dancing... are popu-

lar offerings at institutes across the metros. Some do it for fitness, while others have just been waiting for the opportunity to explore their sensuality.

Shilpa Rane, 35, who holds the distinction of having started the first pole dancing class, under the name 'Dare and Bare' at Gold's Gym in Mumbai, says that her aim is to make women feel good about their bodies while also helping them achieve their fitness goals. "In a one-hour class, they go through basic butt moves, hip rolls, catwalk and squats. It is an intensive workout for the thigh and leg muscles. But I also want them to feel sexy, because sensuality is in the mind rather than the body," explains the instructor.

Rane's classes are frequented by women of all age groups and professions - from graduates and stay-at-home mums to busy professionals and the happily-retired. "I don't take girls under the age of 18 because as a country, we still need to work on removing

the mental block against these dance forms. The moment you say pole dancing, [one feels] it is not something wives and daughters hailing from good families do. That is why several women lie at home and say they're just going for a fitness class," she reveals.

But that isn't the case with Simone Narsi, 36, who supported her 68-year-old mother, Ruby, when she signed up for a belly dancing class at the Arts and Motion Dance Studio, in Mumbai. "It had been my mother's long-pending dream to learn belly dancing and it wasn't available when she was young. So, why stop her from fulfilling a wish? She even showed me a few steps and I can say that she had a lot of fun."

Manisha Shetty, 34, a manager with an airline had also been nurturing a childhood dream - ever since she saw an Iranian friend's mother take to belly dancing. When a class opened up near her residence, the classical dancer took to it without apprehension. "I'm not

doing it for fitness; for me, it is a stress-buster, a time to pay complete attention to my body. It is all about isolation - when you move your belly, you keep your chest and hips stiff. At some level, it is like meditation and only if you get past the taboo linked with it do you really enjoy it," says Shetty.

Aanchal Gupta, 30, who started the Arts and Motion Studio, feels a sense of gratification when women such as Shetty join her class. She herself faced challenges when she set up the academy in 2005. "I come from a conservative, business background. My own family had issues with it.

They thought such dance forms aren't for respectable people. But over time, with more people willing to experiment and explore, these dances have become more exotic and erotic. In fact, we have an annual show, titled 'Dance With Joy', dedicated to a cause such as breast cancer and street children. And many of our students per-

form enthusiastically."

Today, Gupta's first batch of belly dancers has reached Level 8, and many more are signing up. Along the way, several have gone from being coy Indian wives to sensual, confident belles. "The first day, when you have to roll up your T-shirts, you can hear giggles and feel the reluctance. It is because Indian women aren't always comfortable with their bodies. But by the end of it, you see instances of tattoos and naval piercing. The transformation is amazing," says Gupta, grinning. She doesn't allow men into her belly dancing classes but does plan to introduce the Bachata, a slow and sensual couple dance that originated in rural Dominican Republic, in which men and women are required to be in a partner-hold while dancing.

As the popularity of these dance and fitness forms soars, many dance studios and institutes are quickly dropping inhibitions and following suit.

Abhilasha Ganeriwala, 40, Director, Pulse Dance Studio, believes that these dances will soon be commonly patronised and enter the mainstream. "If you attend a class or two, you see that it is completely harmless and a lot of fun. What you do within the four walls of a classroom, even if it is erotic, cannot be labelled 'cheap'. Besides, the regular aerobic and weight-training workouts have become so boring that people are lapping up the change," she says.

And with change, come seamless benefits.

As Ruchi Shah, 26, a Bollywood aspirant, who has taken to pole dancing, says, "I started attending the class when I was 18 and haven't stopped since. I have lost a tremendous amount of weight and also become comfortable with my body, which was important since I was never skinny. I've even picked up a few dancing skills, which are important if you want to act in films."

Job Opportunity



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Location @ the CPF & BAKPF

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- c) Actively participates in tank and vessel internal inspections.
- d) Monitors production chemical performance including biocides, demulsifiers, water clarifiers, corrosion and scale inhibitor application.
- e) Performs corrosion related laboratory tests inclusive but not limited to produced water physical properties, scale/corrosion inhibitor residuals and corrosion coupon analysis. Understands operation of basic lab instruments.
- f) Aware of compliance of corrosion procedures to the Responsible Care code of practice.
- g) The Corrosion Technician shares responsibility with the other Corrosion staff to ensure that Process Safety Management (PSM) initiatives are implemented and supported with the Corrosion group. This is accomplished by being aware of the concept of PSM, and how it is unique from our other safety initiatives.
- h) Know and understand CNPY " Safe Driving Practice" and report any unsafe acts and conditions (vehicle driving or workplace)
- i) Carries out other duties as requested.

Minimum Requirements:

- a) University degree in Chemical or Mechanical Engineering or 2 years experience as a Corrosion Technician in an Oil Field Corrosion department.
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OPENING DATE: Dec 24, 2008
Location: Sana'a

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Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Operates passenger motor vehicles in accordance with supervisor's instructions.
- Performs duties such as doing errands for oil level and checking radiator functioning.
- Maintains vehicles in clean and serviceable condition and performs minor preventive maintenance.
- Completes trip tickets and gasoline log and within the driver's job responsibilities performs duties assigned by the Dispatcher.

Qualifications:

Education: Completion of elementary school is required.

Prior Work Experience: Must have good driving experience in and outside of Sanaa.

Language Proficiency: Level II English ability (limited) and fluent Arabic is required.

Knowledge: Must be familiar with local traffic laws and areas traffic patterns.

Abilities: Must have a valid Yemeni private license.

Duration: Length of contract is approximately one year in length.

Security Guard (Two)

OPENING DATE : Dec 24, 2008
Location: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Serves as security Guard/Receptionist at the entrance to the Chancery and is responsible for the control of persons and materials entering and leaving the CHF building during normal office hours.
- Controls entry of employees, requesting identification from those not known or recognized.
- Enters visitors control names in register book and informs by telephone the office or person to be seen.
- Escorts visitors or in some cases, instructed how to reach the appropriate office.

Qualifications:

Education: Completion of Elementary school is required.

Prior Work Experience: One to two years of professional experience preferably in security related matters

Language Proficiency : Level II English ability (limited) and fluent Arabic is required.

Job Knowledge: Knowledge of security procedures and protection measures

Skills and Abilities: Must have the ability to follow instructions, and be reliable in attendance and performance.

Duration: Length of contract is approximately one year in length.

Submission Guidelines:

Applications should be submitted to info@chfyemen.org or to P.O. Box #18407 Hadda Al Mujama. Applications submitted after January 10th, 2009 will not be considered. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

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

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Works Supervisor	10	Appropriate degree or diploma and professional body qualification and extensive practical construction or site supervision experience in highways and bridges projects in mountainous areas
Quantity Surveyor	12	BSc minimum with appropriate quantity surveying professional body qualification and costing experience in highways and bridges projects
Laboratory Technician	10	Appropriate degree or diploma holder and professional body qualification in materials technology and testing and practical construction supervision experience in materials testing in major highway and bridges projects
Material Engineer	15	BSc Eng minimum with appropriate professional body qualification in materials technology and testing and practical construction supervision experience in materials testing in major highway and bridges projects
Documents Control Clerk	8	Graduate or diploma holder with appropriate professional qualification and extensive knowledge of office administration, documentation control, processing skills and experience
Auto CAD Technician	8	Graduate or diploma holder with appropriate professional qualification in AutoCAD and extensive knowledge of computerized design and draughting, preparation of drawing layouts, layering, standardization and printing
Site Secretary	10	Graduate or diploma holder with appropriate professional qualification, good typing skills, knowledge of computers and office equipment and office administration, documentation processing skills and experience

Submit your CV ASAP before 10th of January 2009 To
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Grapes, grape seeds, grape oil...health benefits



Photo by Vlado Maminovic phan.com

Several studies have also identified grapes as an excellent candidate for use as a cancer-preventive agent in prostate, lung, liver and breast cancer

By: Salma Ismail

Grapes have a long and abundant history. While they've grown wild since prehistoric times, evidence suggests they were cultivated in Asia as early as 5000 BC. The grape also played a role in numerous religious stories, being referred to as the "fruit of the vine." Grapes were also pictured in hieroglyphics in ancient Egyptian burial tombs.

The fruit grows in clusters of 6 to 300, and can be of a wide range of colors including black, dark blue, yellow, green, crimson, and pink. The grape skin contains many of the fruit's vital nutrients.

Grapes can be eaten raw or used for making jam, juice, jelly, vinegar, wine, grape seed extracts and grape seed oil.

Health benefits

A one cup serving of grapes yields 57 calories, 6 grams of protein, 16 grams of carbohydrates, 2 mg of sodium, 1 gram of dietary fiber and vitamins A and C. Grape seeds, grape skin, and grape juice contain several types of polyphenols, including resveratrol, phenolic acids, anthocyanins, and flavonoids. Flavonoids, an amazing array of over 6,000 different substances found in virtually all plants, are responsible for many of the plant color, the stronger the color, the higher the concentration of flavonoids.

Protecting against heart disease

Grapes and products made from grapes, such as wine and grape juice, may protect from their high-fat diets. Diets high in saturated fats like butter and lard, and lifestyle habits like smoking are risk factors for heart disease. Yet, the French that have these habits have a lower risk of heart attack than Americans do. One clue that may help explain this "French paradox" is their frequent consumption of grapes and in various forms.

Two flavonoid *quercetin*, and *resveratrol* appear to decrease the risk of heart disease by, Reducing platelet clumping and harmful blood clots and Protecting LDL cholesterol from the free radical damage that initiates LDL's artery-damaging actions.

May help battle obesity

According to a new study, resveratrol reduces the number of fat cells and may one day be used to treat or prevent obesity. It is consistent with the theory that the resveratrol in red wine explains the French paradox, the observation that French people eat a relatively high-fat diet but have a low death rate from heart disease.

Protecting against cancer

Recently, several studies have also identified resveratrol as an excellent candidate for use as a cancer-preventive agent in prostate, lung, liver and breast cancer. Resveratrol has demonstrated striking inhibitory effects on the cellular events involved

in cancer initiation, promotion, and progression, and its safety in animal studies of cancer development resulting from exposure to chemical toxins is excellent.

Minimize brain damage in stroke victims

A stroke can happen in a matter of seconds, but can incapacitate people for the rest of their lives. Strokes are sudden, quick and, in many cases, permanent.

When a stroke happens due to a blockage of blood flow to the brain, no oxygen or nutrients can enter the affected region of the brain. Soon after, neurons in the affected area of the brain begin to release excitatory amino acid neurotransmitters that encourage calcium to move into the neurons. This calcium influx generates "reactive oxygen species," or "free radicals," that can be very damaging. Studies with animal models indicate that the influx of calcium and generation of free radicals can result in delayed cell death, a process that occurs over the next few days. Resveratrol can absorb the free radicals and stop them from doing any further damage to the brain or individual cells.

Grape seed extract is a naturally occurring plant substance that contains a concentrated source of antioxidant nutrients known as oligomeric proanthocyanidins more commonly known as OPCs. These antioxidants can help protect against the effects of internal and external stresses.



YT Photo by Amira Al-Sharif

Among Yemen's top two most valued food assets, alongside with coffee, the production of grapes is under threat from climate change and urbanization.

Scientists have demonstrated that OPCs, are more powerful antioxidants than vitamins C, E and beta-carotene.

More than 90 research presentations, publications and abstracts have been reported the health benefits regarding grape seed extract focusing on areas related to antioxidant activity, cardiovascular health, gastric health and anti-inflammatory properties.

You would reportedly have to eat large amounts of grape seeds to get the same benefit of manufactured grape seed extract

Grape seed extracts could be tainted with chemicals that result from the antioxidant extraction technique. Some brands use chemical solvents for extraction, which can alter the integrity of proanthocyanidins or leave residues.

Grape seed oil

As early as in the Middle Ages, it was known that high-value edible oil can be obtained from grape seeds by cold-pressing. This oil, which is a by-product of wine, was further employed as an effective agent in cosmetics and as a remedy for treating small wounds, such as burns and skin lesions, and for the treatment of chapped skin. The traditional method of grape seed cold-pressing has completely fallen into oblivion and was replaced by modern extraction methods.

Extracting grape seed oil is more difficult than other oils because the grape itself is small, has a hard shell, and contains only a small amount of oil, only 16-21 percent of the grape

seed is oil. This actually contributes to the nutritional value of the oil since the seeds are well protected against, agricultural sprays such as pesticides.

Grape seed oil has a high concentration of the anti-oxidant Vitamin E. It is also a highly concentrated source of linoleic acid, an essential fatty acid also known as omega-6 acid. This fatty acid is important for normal cell metabolism and maintenance. Furthermore, the oil is naturally cholesterol free and among cooking oils, it contains one of the lowest levels of saturated fat, only five percent.

In all products grape seed oil is a preferred cosmetic ingredient for damaged tissues because it possesses regenerative and restructuring qualities which allow a better control of skin moisturization.

Threatened future of grapes in Yemen

Forty years ago, Yemen was rich in natural resources. The country was practically self-sufficient in cereal and other crop supplies. Today that is not the case.

Among Yemen's top two most valued food assets, alongside with coffee, the production of grapes is under threat from climate change and urbanization.

Discouraged by a looming poverty, Yemeni farmers have progressively traded their vulnerable food crops for qat, considered a much more profitable commodity.

Rawdha, just 7 km north of Sana'a, being so close to Sana'a, is suffering the results of rapid urbanization, in terms of the survival of its famed grapes. Large government infrastructure projects, military and civilian, are consuming large tracts of rich agriculture land, where there are existing farms, that provide the livelihood for hundreds of families, and where these grapes are grown.

Tips for consumption

If you are not going to consume the whole bunch at one time, use scissors to separate small clusters of grapes from the stem instead of removing individual grapes.

This will help keep the remaining grapes fresher by preventing the stem from drying out.

If you are drinking grape juice for health benefits, avoid products labeled as grape "drinks." This is often an imitation high-sugar product with little real grape juice.

Research conducted at the in Austria suggests that as fruits fully ripen, almost to the point of spoilage, their antioxidant levels actually increase hence their health value.

Since grapes tend to spoil and ferment at room temperature, they should always be stored in the refrigerator.

Loosely wrap unwashed grapes in a paper towel and place them in a plastic bag.

This way, they'll keep fresh in the refrigerator for several days.

The Kaur of the matter: Hygiene

By: Manipadma Jena
Women's Feature Service

When Jasbir Kaur, 62, of Khanpur Koliya village in Thanesar block, Kurukshetra district, Haryana, was elected the Mahila Mandal Pradhan (leader of the community-based women's organisation) in 2006, her son Balbir was happy for her but not surprised. His father had been 'sarpanch' (village council head) for 10 years and his mother had become a matriarchal figure for the villagers.

Balbir presumed that as the elected leader of the Mahila Mandal his mother would, at the most, be engaged with the village women in discussions revolving around small schemes to generate income laced with local gossip. But he was in for a surprise. One night, on his way into the village from work, Balbir was horrified to see his mother and four other village women - armed with whistles and

torches - in hot pursuit of a hapless male running with a large plastic bottle of water in hand.

Confronting her, Balbir learnt that the Mahila Mandal had taken up the challenge of making their Gram Panchayat (GP, a democratically elected village level local government) open-defecation free (ODF). To reach their goal, along with various other initiatives, Jasbir Kaur and her group have formed 'Nigrani Samitis'. The 'samitis', or watch groups of 35 women, fanned out to keep a look out on roadsides and open fields every day from 4 to 7 am and again from 7 to 11 pm - the hours of darkness and, thereby, privacy when people go for defecation in the open.

Not to be left behind, around 200 children also formed the 'Swasth Sainik' (Health Soldiers) groups, earlier this year. Every Sunday these children create community awareness about the importance of sanitation and hygiene habits. They march along the village roads with caps and banners, raising slogans in favour of household

toilets. The exercise is also geared towards creating future leaders who will sustain the rural community-driven Total Sanitation Programme, a demand-led sanitation campaign, where safe sanitation is converted into a felt need by creating awareness.

As a result of the efforts of the Mahila Mandal, Khanpur Koliya was awarded the Nirmal Gram Puraskar (or Clean Village Prize) in October 2008. The Nirmal Gram Puraskar is a Government of India incentive that confers both prestige and monetary recognition - ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 10,00,000 (US\$1=Rs 49.25) based on the population of a GP. The prize was instituted in 2004 for GPs, blocks and districts to achieve fully sanitised and open-defecation free status. It has succeeded in triggering a healthy competition in the rural areas of most states. Out of a total of 364 panchayats, 108 in Kurukshetra district have already received this prize.

As part of their strategy to create community demand for safe sanitation and bring about behavioural change,

the women of Khanpur Koliya decided to arouse a sense of shame among open defecators.

The women would direct a torch light on those caught in the act in the open, pulling them up - something that Balbir had seen his mother doing. Furthermore, if the culprits persisted with their customary habits, the women gave them the customary bottle of water to wash after defecation and urge them in motherly tones to go ahead and cover the fresh excreta with soil. They would also spread 'dupattas' (long stoles) and beseech violators to defecate on the fabric rather than dirty their village roadsides, which they themselves swept every morning. The women implemented such a strategy until every household got the message of the importance of keeping clean.

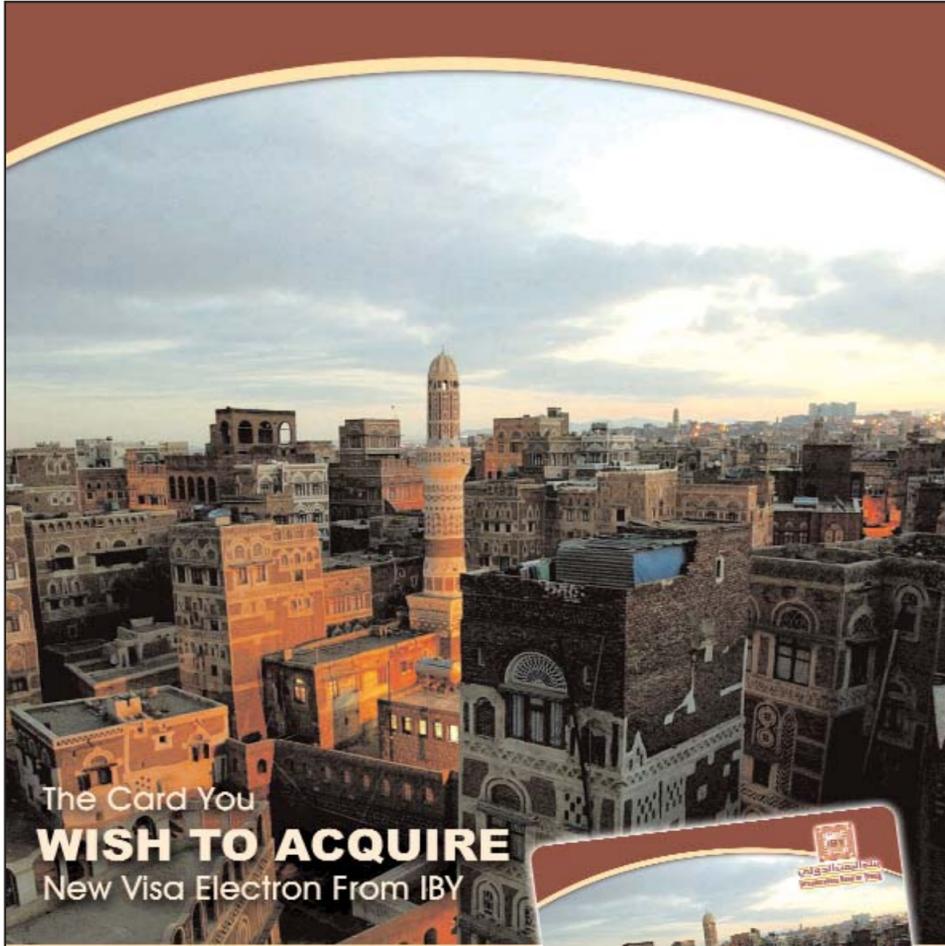
When it came to women defaulters, the Mandal raised other issues: "You painfully hold your urge to relieve yourselves until evening, suffer cramps and unspeakable misery. Surely you know a toilet in the house would put an end to all this?" they said.

Santosh Rani, 40, an 'anganwadi' worker (village level child health worker), who has played a leading role in this behavioural change strategy, explained to the women how water and vector borne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, worm infestation and polio, malaria, hepatitis are the fallout of open defecation. She informed the local women that these diseases are especially very dangerous for their toddlers and that installing toilets would save on the money and energy spent on treating diseases.

The community soon realised that open defecation was indeed a health hazard, but the issue of funding to build toilets persisted with some families. Of the total 480 households, 255 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in Khanpur Koliya had to contribute Rs 300 each, even after getting government subsidy. For the reluctant ones, Jasbir Kaur personally paid Rs 15,000 up front. "Let their toilets be build, they will repay me later," she said. Each toilet costs Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200.

Additional District Collector (ADC) of Kurukshetra, Sumedha Kataria, led the campaign and talked to schoolchildren, teachers and women's groups in the initial stages of motivation building. Says Kataria, "Religious sentiment was used as a motivation-trigger technique too - Kurukshetra being the holy land of the Mahabharat (a religious epic) - we began questioning their practice of defecating on a hallowed land." Therein was coined line 'Jai Swachhata' (Hail Cleanliness) with which the people here began greeting each other.

Over time, toilets came up in each house, some with tin doors, some with an old blanket strung across the entrance. Families that were really hard up got community toilets in blocks of four from panchayat funds. Together, the women - the ADC, the Mahila Mandal along with anganwadi workers, teachers the children with the men following - ensured that not even one child would have an excuse to soil their village streets and fields.



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Amran students leave schools due to absence of teachers

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

People in some districts of Amran governorate complain that the absence of teachers hinders the education process in schools, particularly in the rural areas where teachers are especially at a premium.

Nasser Al Ahmed, Aqel (a zone or village leader) of one of the villages in the Amran governorate, said that whenever he goes to the local school he finds students playing in the school yard instead of studying in the classrooms. "We have a primary school in the village and plenty of students, but teachers are usually absent and the government takes no action against them according to law," said Ahmed. "We have complained about them to the education office last year and demanded that current teacher be changed. However, we were surprised to see the same teachers this year and the same bad situation, as teachers are still absent most of the days of the week."

Citizen Hamid Ali a villager said that the reason for this problem is that teachers are often from the same village that they teach in, and they neglect teaching and pay attention to their family and farming. "I have four children studying in the school," said Ali. "Last year, they would come back from school early in the morning two or three days each week because teachers were absent. We went to schools to discuss the problem with the school administration, but teachers didn't even deal with us properly. They told us

to search for other schools if we were not satisfied with the situation. I am really worried about the future of my children."

Student Yusuf Al-Naqeeb, a sixth level student said that teachers stop teaching early as they are very often busy with their farms. "When we go to school and find no teachers, we go back home," said Al-Naqeeb. "In my previous school, we had a teacher who owned a qat farm. We would see him while on our way to school early in the morning holding an axe and heading for his farm."

Khaled Abdu said that some teachers lack conscience as they don't pay attention to their job as teachers and prefer to do their own work in the farm. "The situation of education is shameful as teachers are very often absent. Even the quality of teaching is very poor," said Khaled. "In some schools, all students pass the exams even though they cannot read their names. The reason is absence of monitoring by the incumbent bodies in the government."

Some students maintained that the absence of teachers and negligence towards their education prompted them to leave school early. "I left the school when I was in the ninth grade along with forty of my classmates. The reason is that the manager of our school was a farmer who wasn't educated himself," said Al-Naqeeb. "Therefore, it was easy for us to pass. But because the exams for passing the ninth grade came from the Ministry of Education and not from the school, we failed."

For his part, Amin Al-Qudaifi, head of Amran Education Office, said that there



Students in an elementary school in Hajja. Schools in rural areas tend to be crowded and lack adequate teachers.

are many difficulties that the office faces upon monitoring schools. "We inspected schools early this year but we couldn't cover all the schools. We couldn't reach 1294 schools due to the large area of the governorate," said Al-Qudaifi. "In addition, we don't have enough money in our budget to enhance monitoring in schools. We receive only one hundred thousand YR per year. Therefore, we were obliged to involve the local authority in monitoring through reporting about violations and education problems."

Al-Qudaifi said that the office fired 170 teachers who neglected their teaching jobs and it may fire another 100 teachers if they continue absenting them-

selves from schools. He added that the office now suffers from a shortage of teachers and that it needs at least 170 new teachers to fill the positions of those who were fired.

He pointed out that the education level of teachers is poor as the graduates of universities and institutes are not qualified enough. "We have more than 1000 teachers whose education level is weak. They need more training. Therefore, we have a plan to train 300 new teachers every year," said Al-Qudaifi.

Yemen Times tried to contact some government officials to ask them about their role in this issue but they refused to comment.

The Jordanian singer-songwriter Ruba Saqr

Against self-censorship in arts and music

Ruba Saqr sings her self-composed folk songs as authentically as her vocal improvisations inspired by Islamic mysticism. She is one of Jordan's most promising musical talents. Martina Sabra met her in Amman

Some refer to her as the Jordanian Joan Baez. Others are reminded of the Algerian-French songwriter Suad Massi. Ruba Saqr, born in 1975, has nothing against such comparisons, but she would rather be seen for what she is: "First and foremost I'm Ruba Saqr. I have my own stories to tell with my own music."

One of Ruba Saqr's own stories is, among others, the Sufi tradition of her family, which she recently worked into a musical programme. Since summer 2008, together with her mother, the poet Zulikha Aburisha and the pianist Zeina Azouqa, Saqr has been presenting songs and vocal improvisations inspired by Islamic mysticism under the title "Three Women Only".

Roots of Islamic mysticism

Religious and non-religious audiences have reacted in a similarly enthusiastic way to the texts and the vocal improvisations. "I'm not religious myself but Islamic mysticism is part of my roots," explains Saqr.

"My grandfather was a Sufi sheikh from Syria; my grandmother was one of his students. Because I spent a lot of time with her as a child I sort of grew up



"Let's just produce our songs and see what happens!" Says 33-year-old Ruba Saqr

with this tradition. As a teenager I wasn't that interested in it. But at some point I began to interview my relatives in order to find out more about my family history."

Ruba Saqr's greatest strength is her directness. When she sings about the minor and major emotional catastrophes of every-day life – from love woes to religious doubts to the fear of a bomb attack – there's no emotional distance between her and her audience.

Exaggerated fear of repression?

"I'm a sad lily in your garden/a window open in the wind/a child's toy dipped in a puddle of blood," one of her songs goes. Saqr's texts are based on clear, memorable images. "When I do a song, it's the feeling that comes first," Ruba Saqr says about how she works.

"I usually write a song when something special happens to me. Then I stay home and lock myself up until the song is finished. I never work from my head; my lyrics come from my heart."

The most important thing when writing songs, she says, is not to shackle

oneself to content. "Some socio-critical or politically-oriented texts aren't that bold at all. But the writers are really afraid of being offensive," says Saqr. "I think the apparent threat only exists in their minds. Most of the time, being afraid of being censored is exaggerated."

Ruba Saqr would like to see more courage: "Let's just produce our songs and see what happens!"

Limited possibilities at home

The 33-year-old Ruba Saqr is not new to the music scene in Jordan. As early as the Eighties she gave her first performances of folk, rock and heavy metal in Amman. In 1997 for the first time she performed her own compositions at the prestigious Jordanian Jerash Festival. Later she toured solo and in various formations throughout Jordan, the Arabian world and had individual shows in Europe.

Yet despite her continual work as a musician and the positive feedback she got from many of her colleagues and producers, for a long time Ruba Saqr couldn't make the decision to become a full-time musician: she earned her living as a journalist.

"On the one hand my family didn't agree that I should perform in public as a musician," she says. "On the other, I never had the technical means in Jordan to produce an album of internationally compatible quality. I simply couldn't imagine living from music full time."

Successful musical support

That in the meantime Ruba Saqr has given up her job and is dedicating herself entirely to music mainly has to do with "Music Matbakh" (Music kitchen), an ambitious project of the British Council in Amman. As part of this project Saqr received the first opportunity to work with international Arabian-born musicians in 2006, such as the Moroccan rapper BIGG.

"Although the group was put together externally and we didn't get together on our own initiative it was still a fantastic experience" Saqr says. For the first time I realised what I'm capable of and that I didn't want to do anything else but make music."

One other encouraging factor is that technical resources in Jordan are slowly becoming more accessible. Ruba Saqr now wants to invest all her energy in a project that her fans have been waiting a long time for: her first CD. The album is to be released in spring 2009.

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Translated from the German by M. Hué McGowan

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French Novelist, J.M.G Le Clézio, Wins 2008 Nobel Prize for Literature

By: Eyad N. Al-Samman
For the Yemen Times

On October 9, 2008, the Swedish Academy in Stockholm announced the

French author Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio as the winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize for Literature. A

candidate from among other famous names such as the Mexican writer "Carlos Fuentes", and the Canadian novelist "Margaret Atwood", Le Clézio was hailed by the academy as an "author of new departures, poetic adventure and sensual ecstasy, explorer of a humanity beyond and below the reigning civilization."

Le Clézio mentioned in his interview with the Editor-in-Chief of the Nobel Foundation web

site that he considers his home to be Mauritius, the home of his ancestors. The interviewer also asked if he enjoys putting pen to paper and whether writing comes easily? Le Clézio replied affirmatively, saying: "Literally, writing for me is like traveling. It's getting out of myself and living another life; maybe a better life." In answering another question regarding his writings about the colonial experience, and about whether it is important for modern European culture to examine its past in this way, Le Clézio mentioned that the wealth of Europe comes from the colonies' raw materials, which played a major role in establishing the industrial world. He also explained why he writes, saying: "I feel that the writer is just a kind of a witness of what is happening. A writer is not a prophet, is not a philosopher, he's just someone who is witness to what is around him. And so writing is the best way to testify, to be a witness."

Le Clézio was born in Nice on April 13, 1940, to an English father and a French mother; the family had roots to the Indian Ocean Island State of Mauritius. At age eight, his family moved to Nigeria and in 1950 the family returned to France. After completing his high school, he studied English at Bristol University in 1959, and completed his undergraduate degree in Nice (Institut d'Études Littéraires) in 1963. He earned his Master's degree in 1964, and then earned his Ph.D. in 1983. He has taught at universities in Bangkok, Mexico City, Boston, and Albuquerque.

Le Clézio wrote his first novel entitled "Le Procès-Verbal" (1963; The Interrogation, 1964) when he was only 23. Since then he has published more than 36 books, including short stories, novels,

essays, and children's books. In 1965, Le Clézio published his second literary book; a collection of short stories entitled "La Fièvre" (Fever, 1966) which includes nine stories about insanity. "La Déluge" (1966; The Flood, 1967) is another short story collection in which Le Clézio points out the trouble and fear reigning in the major Western



cities. In the late 1970s, the mood of Le Clézio's novels became less tormented as he approached themes like childhood, adolescence and traveling. His novel entitled "Désert" (1980) contains magnificent images of a lost culture in the North African desert, contrasted with a depiction of Europe seen through the eyes the unwanted immigrant.

In later years the author's attraction to the dream of earthly paradise is apparent in books such as "Ourania" (2005) and "Raga: Approche du Continent Invisible" (2006) which is devoted to documenting a way of life on the Indian Ocean's islands. Le Clézio's exploration of his childhood and his own family history began in his works such as "Onitsha" (1991) and "La Quarantaine" (1995). In addition, his novel entitled "Révolutions" (2003) sums up the most important themes of his work: memory, exile, reorientation of youth, and cultural conflict.

Among the better-known of his fictional works are "La Guerre" (1970, The War), "Le Chercheur d'Or" (1985, The Prospector) and "Etoile Errante" (1992, Wandering Star). Among his children's fiction is "Lullaby" (1970) which recounts the story of the adolescent "Lullaby" and her strolls along the beaches and in the caves of the outskirts of her Mediterranean hometown. Other children's books written by Le Clézio include "Les Géants" (1973), "Voyage au Pays des Arbres" (1978) and "Villa Aurore" (1999). Le Clézio received the Nobel diploma, medal and a check for nearly \$1.42 million at a formal ceremony in Stockholm last December 10th to coincide with the 112th anniversary of the death of the prize's Swedish founder, Alfred B. Nobel, in 1896.



Ruba Saqr in August 2008 at a concert in Amman. The year before she won the UNESCO music prize for "Best Innovative Performance Bridging Traditional and Contemporary Traditions"

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Sesame oil production in Hadramout

In most Arab countries since civilization began, sesame oil has been the preferred cooking oil for its enticing smell and flavor. The use of pure sesame oil in all kinds of food, including salads and beans, dates back to over 4000 years in most Arab countries, according to some resources.

In Yemen, particularly in Hadramout, there are many mills that produce sesame oil or *jiljel*, as it is called in Hadramout. In the past, this oil was extracted in mills powered by animals, notably the camel. Today the tradition only persists in some areas of Wadi Hadramout and in Sana'a's old city.

In traditional animal mills, a *zeer*, a container for the sesame seeds, and a *qutb*, a stick made from the wood of Seder trees were used to produce the sesame oil. The camel walked around the mill to rotate the stick inside the container in order to produce the sesame oil. The slower the movement of the camel, the better the quality of the oil. Today more recent sesame-oil-producing tools strive to imitate this



Old-fashioned sesame oil grinders are still used in more than four places in Sana'a alone.

slow classical technique to guarantee the same result.

Sesame seeds are milled cold after they are refined. Sometimes they are roasted to produce a more flavorful oil. The milling process begins by

pouring a small quantity of sesame seeds into the *zeer*. Other small quantities of sesame seeds are added into the container. After around 15 minutes, the first lot of sesame oil is ready and the miller gradually adds sesame seeds

to the container to continue production. When the container becomes full of crushed sesame seeds, the milling process continues for some time so that a maximum of oil is produced, and then the miller gradually pours out his produce. Remnants of sesame seeds, called in *al-tekh* in Hadramout are used as fodder for camels.

Sesame seeds come in a variety of colors - white, red and black- and the oil they produce changes according to them. In Hadramout, the most prevalent kind of sesame seed is the black sesame seed. It was largely grown in Hadramout in the past, but nowadays it is not a lucrative business - a 45-kilo sack of sesame seeds is only worth YR 10,000- and its cultivation has largely fallen into decline. Today, sesame seeds are mostly imported from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and South Africa.

Sesame oil has a long shelf life and compared to other kinds of oil, and is a good source of vitamins E and B, as well as magnesium, copper, calcium, iron, zinc. In addition to being used in cooking, sesame oil is a popular medi-

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icine for many health problems. It is used equally to massage the body and as a hair tonic. Used in cooking, it reputedly helps to low high blood pres-

sure. Some also claim that sesame oil has anti-oxidant and anti-depressant properties.

Curtis of hadramout.info

Redefining Money – The power to change lives

BY: Jamal Nassar
For the Yemen Times
www.jamalnassar.blogspot.com

It no surprise that most of us have our entire life revolves around financial stability. From the early days of college if not earlier for the less fortunate to retirement we are in distress. We fail to plan and when we plan we fail the plan. It's almost always the case, isn't it?

Here what we were taught about money:

- Money is power
Therefore we are powerless till we have money!

- People who don't have money suffer in life
First, why they didn't have it?
Second which is more important, doesn't people who have a lot of money suffer too? And maybe more!

- It doesn't come easy
What does?

- When you have it, save it for a rainy day, and save it in a very safe place
What is a rainy day? And what is a safe place?

- Spend it wise
Define wise?
What is the point?

From the suffering we see around the world, and stories we hear from parents, friends, and read about the less fortunate people, and about those who don't have it what would they do to have it, we begin developing this fear for not having it.

That triggers the race. The race to get more educated, to accumulate more experience, work more jobs at the same



time, and living less.

This race comes with a price tag. Price tag = Health, family, happiness.

Please correct me if I am wrong, but isn't life is all about health, family and happiness?

So do we sacrifice something we already have, to have later on when we really can't have it?

I don't know why we stop questioning everything we know, read and hear. Especially the basics! They are all based on fear.

Get rid of fear

Imagine with me, what will happen if you started seeing money like a paper, just a piece of paper.

Tell me how would you see a newspaper, a magazine, a trader's brochure?

All that is information, and information is power (especially in the 21st century), and since money is power, and so information is power too, so the information stored in these papers are

virtually money. Unless you can't read.

If you start treating money as paper, and look for where the real value is, you are half way there!

I think.

I am not saying money is worthless, or it is evil, or it has no value, all I am saying is, we get too focused on money and lose the concept of value. We need to adjust our realities with the concepts to be more productive.

Value is not the paycheck you get at the end of the month, not the Benz parked outside your neighbor's house, and neither is the saving account you are worried about consuming.

If you understand the concept of value and relate it to money you are almost there. And you will probably start thinking just like an investor.

Investor? Wow, that's a giant step!

Investors don't accumulate cash they don't see money as others do. They prefer to deal in stocks, bonds, assets, projects...etc and that where they see the value is.

For them hard cash is out of the question. In Economy we study the value of a 1000 Rial if you will, is less than 990 in a years' time, depending on the interest rate. That means money is not in the cash papers we hold. Money is value, and where there is value, there is money!

Recently I sat with myself, decided that I needed to re-define my understanding of money, and since I did that, fear of financial uncertainty stopped. Looking at the price tag of things, products, services didn't matter that much anymore, or to be more accurate it didn't reflect the real value in the item I was looking at.

The way I think have changed some-

how, the future is yet to prove me right.

Allah (SWT) has given us a gift we don't appreciate, "THE BRAIN". With so much fear, we let others run it. Imagine we let ourselves be ran by others! Just for fear of failing or not understanding the value of things. We rely on others in our daily decisions, from purchasing shampoo to making small investments. What did your uncle, or relative do when he/she wanted to invest? They probably opened a small business like your other relative who is making some decent money! If not they probably opened a mini market, a

laundry, or a telecom shop somewhere near your house.

At the end of the day he might not make as much money as the other relative is making, or worse fail altogether.

That happens because we still have that fear, and we are stuck with this old understanding of money, it is the piece of paper that make you or break you?

Are we that weak, and ignorant?

Well, I have been thinking about this for a long time, observing, noticing how people spend, live, and deal with money in general, in the personal and professional context.

It is a liberating experience, sit with yourself, and re-define the concept of money. Not only it will lead you to the real value of trading, power, and information, but it will definitely guide you to doing what you love most, and what you always wanted to do for a living! Or at least bring you one step closer.

One would ask, so how much money, or power do you have now Mr. wise?

I would say, in your standards maybe close to nothing.

But in the world we live in today, I think I am already worth a fortune.

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