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## Minimum age for marriage set at 17

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Feb. 11 — Nojood, 10, Arwa, 9, and Reem, 13, are three girls who went through traumatizing ordeals after being forced into marriage by their families. The three girls' stories have been an issue of debate in social sessions, conferences and the media. But most importantly the matter was discussed in Parliament, where members have finally approved setting the minimum age for marriage for both boys and girls at 17 years old.

The new law stipulates: "No child under seventeen years of age is to be married, unless the marriage is seen in the best interest of the child by the judge. The girl's guardian who violates this law will be penalized. The judge conducting the marriage has to present the marriage document within one month of the marriage at most to the concerned body and the marriage contract must include related documents such as birth certificate, dowry and identity cards. The guardian of either the wife or husband will be financially penalized if they do not register the marriage certificate within the mentioned period. No marriage is to be carried out at any age without the consent of the woman."

"It is a grand achievement for both women and men in Yemen," said Hooria Mashour, deputy chairperson of the Women National Committee.

She excitedly agreed that such legislation will help promote better education and health of the citizen and will contribute to the development of the country as a whole.

"I am grateful to all the courageous people who fight for women's rights, and I am especially thankful to the men in the parliament that helped pass this law," she added.

Shaqi Al-Qadhi, Member of Parliament (MP) and strong advocate for women's rights said that the law amendments is only the beginning.

"Now we need civil society organizations, lawyer syndicates and anyone interested in women's development to propose procedural steps and a detailed system for implementing this law," he said.

MP Dr. Abdulbari Al-Doghaish said that there has been a change in the mentality of many MPs and people in general towards the issues of women.

Al-Qadhi agrees with this notion, "I believe that now we can say that Yemeni society understands that women's rights are a case of humanity and not an imported concept from the West."

This law comes a few weeks before the fourth annual women's conference which is organized by the Women National Committee.

"This is the best gift Parliament can give to women on their national day," says Mashour.

**More reasons to celebrate**

The law to define the minimum age for marriage is not the only reason for Yemeni women to celebrate.

The parliament passed this amendment among a set of legislations concerning women and children in two laws, civil status law number 14 for the year 2002 and civil status law number 20 for the year 1992.

The amendments include facilitations of pre-marital medical checks regarding genetic faults, dangerous diseases or health risks.

Amendments also conditioned polygamy to the practical ability of a husband being fair and able to support both families. Fairness is included in all aspects, such as time spent with each wife, housing and logistics. The first wife also has to be legally notified of his intention of marrying another to allow them to make future decisions.

Amendments included technicalities in the marriage procedure and contracts which clarify the issue of consent among other issues.

Divorced women also benefit from the new amendments as the law today clearly stipulates women's right to alimony for her children even if the divorce is permanent.

Custody of children is exclusively granted to the mother for the first twelve years of the children's life whether boys or girls, unless the judge sees that the best interest of the child



Young girls who broke free from early marriages celebrated by Yemen Times in an awareness session last year. With the new amendments, such marriages are against the law and people responsible will be punished.

lies elsewhere.

A divorced mother with children has the right to a suitable residence to be provided for by the father of the child.

The new amendments also recognizes the mother as the sole guardian of orphaned children if it is seen fit to shoulder this responsibility by a judge.

Once orphaned children reach puberty, a judge can test their maturity and entrust their inheritance to them if he considers them responsible enough.

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## Yemeni media in a general state of protest

By: Ola Al-Shami

SANA'A, Feb. 11 — As the end of the month approaches, Mohammed, an average Yemeni journalist with an average salary, is already hiding from creditors. He avoids the landlord, silences his children's demands, and spends most of his time complaining about making ends meet.

Mohammed is an example of many Yemeni journalists working in the public sector who live on very small salaries. However, Mohammed and over ninety percent of the journalists working in official media have decided to put an end to their misery by demanding better income.

Journalists working in Yemeni official media, such as Al-Thawra Newspaper, 14 October, Al-Gomhoria, SABA news agency, and the TV and Radio Corporation, have started wearing red badges since yesterday protesting their low wages. After one week of wearing the red badges, the protest will take the form of a gradual strike until either their demands are met or they stop working entirely.

This protest comes just a few weeks before the third phase of the salary and wages strategy is to be endorsed by the



Yemeni journalists in SABA News Agency (left) and in Al-Thawra Newspaper (center and right) wear red badges in protest against low wages.

Ministry of Finance in coordination with the Ministry of Civil Services. These ministries are the two bodies responsible for defining and allocating the salaries of official media employees.

"For years journalists have complained about their poor income, but only last year did we, as the syndicate, provide the government with a proposal for the classification of journalists based on administrative levels," said Saeed Thabet, General Secretary of the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate. "However, after

agreeing with the government, the people responsible for implementing this proposal are stalling, so we decided to encourage journalists to protest."

Through this new system of classification, media personnel will be given administrative degrees based on years of working, qualifications, and their position in an organization. This system will determine their new appropriate salaries and benefits.

Abdulbary Tahir, former chair of the syndicate, commented that the govern-

ment is not serious about improving the financial conditions of journalists working in official newspapers, as nothing as such was included in the national budget for 2009.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate has traditionally played the role of a mediator between the journalists and their institutions, whether private media or the government.

This protest was prepared in coordination with the syndicate, as the committees in the various official media groups

met at syndicate headquarters, which poses as an umbrella for such activities.

Ebrahim Al-Wade'e, a journalist in Al-Thawra newspaper, stated that the protest is jointly done by all official media journalists and is not triggered by a particular leader or leadership. By protesting, he added, the journalists will impose pressure on the government through their institutions just like they did a couple of years ago to improve their wages.

Continued on page 2

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## Opposition parties threaten to escalate protests

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — The Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawwar confirmed that parliamentary elections will be held at its constitutional time next April. He pointed out that the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) will not offer any more concessions to the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

The Al-Bayan Emirate newspapers reported that Mujawwar said, "We warn against touching national principles or any acts that harm security and stability." For their part, the JMP warned against the insistence of the government and its ruling party to continue preparing for elections scheduled next Apr. 27, stating that this will lead the country to more crises.

The JMP criticized the way the government and its ruling party runs the country, confirming in a statement that the exclusive initiative that the

government prefers by excluding partners in the country's political life doubles the current crisis.

The opposition warnings come at a time when the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) — formed by the ruling party amid disagreements with the opposition — continues its preparations of forming electoral field committees concerned with registering voters and reviewing the electoral records.

"The ruling party can organize parliamentary elections but it cannot gain recognition concerning the legitimacy of the elections," said Sultan Al-Atwani in a statement to the Yemen Times.

Al-Atwani said that the SCER is illegitimate as it was formed only by one side, which is against the Yemeni constitution and its laws. Consequently, the opposition looks at the committee and preparations for elections as null and illegitimate. He pointed out that

"the JMP will use all necessary resources, including appeals submitted to the parliament, about the illegitimacy of the formation of SCER and the cancellation of agreed-upon constitutional amendments."

Al-Atwani further stated that the JMP will urge the European Commission to exert pressure on the ruling party to carry out agreements with the opposition under the support of the commission.

"The continuation of preparing for elections by the ruling party alone will create a big problem in the county," said Al-Atwani. "This will be negatively reflected on the political stability of Yemen, and consequently the legitimacy of the current regime will fall. In addition, consequences that may be out of anyone's control can happen."

Al-Atwani said that if the ruling party insists on holding elections alone, the JMP will use their constitutional rights and peaceful acts to protest the

elections. Concerning rumors that President Ali Abdulla Saleh submitted an order to Yassin Saeed N'uman, head of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), stipulating that the YSP can receive its properties that the ruling party nationalized following the 1994 war, Al-Atwani pointed out that "what was rumored is incorrect. The government didn't give back any properties of the YSP. President Saleh had given orders in this regards throughout the past years, but nothing has happened. Therefore, I don't think that the ruling party will fulfill any orders concerning this issue this time around."

The Yemeni political field witnessed unprecedented protests carried out by the opposition parties during the past few months against the procedures of the GPC concerning election preparations. In addition, the JMP protested the government procedures of amending the law to expand the period of local council positions from three to

seven years.

The escalation of protests resulted in violence and arrests in the southern governorates during the past months. The public opinion in the south considers that participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections is a referendum on Yemeni unity.

Although the government tried to reduce the importance of these protests, official statements revealed how serious they consider the situation to be. Some officials described activities in the south as "terrorist acts" and threatened to use force to subvert the "armed secessionist movements."

Parties concerned with the Yemeni political process have different opinions regarding the protesting of the elections. The opposition parties view that what is going on is only peaceful protests against the dominance of the ruling party over the electoral process. However, the government looks at these activities as attempts to create crises

and hinder conducting elections on schedule. It also accuses the opposition of adopting external plans that aim to undermine security through instigating violence.

While the ruling party is the only current player on the ground of the upcoming elections, the opposition turned to escalating protests. Last month it launched the project of 'National Dialog' which they said aims to face the ruling party through preparing for a national dialog in which all active powers in the society can participate.

"The national dialog project indicates that there is a current social, economic, and political crisis which brings bad news about a potential disaster due to current political congestion," stated the opposition. "Political congestion has become one of the most outstanding signs of a national crisis that cannot be solved without the participation of all involved powers."

## Draft law to criminalize normalizing with Israel

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — Around 71 Yemeni members of Parliament (MPs) on Sunday signed a draft law criminalizing relations with Israel as a small gesture of solidarity to the Palestinians.

The draft was signed by 105 out of the 301 MPs, said MP Mohammed Al-Hazmi. The MPs who signed were from different political currents.

"The draft law includes 10 articles that criminalize and prohibit any connection with the Zionist entity. The MPs voted to remit the law to the constitutional committee," Al-Hazmi added.

The draft law coincides with the con-

tinuous Israeli aggression on the Gaza strip and other parts of the Palestinian territory.

"We found that countries that don't object to the Israeli offensive have normalized relations with Israel," explained Al-Hazmi. "So, we do not want our country to have a hand in any collusion with Israel against the Palestinians."

According to the rules of the Yemeni Parliament, any member can introduce a draft law that is later reviewed by the constitutional committee and then passed on to a voting session before it becomes a law.

"This law will ensure that the Yemeni

political leadership never normalizes relations with Israel nor forget the Palestinians' rights," Al-Hazmi commented.

"A copy of the draft law will be sent to the Arab and Islamic Parliaments Union to follow the Yemeni step in issuing and legitimizing such laws that prohibit any connection with the Zionist entity," Al-Hazmi said.

Sinan Al-Aji, in charge of the law and constitutional committee at the Yemeni parliament, said that it is the least that Arabs and Muslims can do for the Palestinian issue. He expects that most Yemeni parliamentarians will vote for the law.

"A month ago the Yemeni Parliament had urged other Arab and Islamic parliaments to issue a similar law and take measures against Israeli actions in Palestinian lands," Al-Hazmi said. He called on all the free bodies around the world not to be complacent and neglect the Palestinian issue in normalizing relations.

In 2005, the Arab Summit in Algeria called on Israel to withdraw from the lands it occupied in 1967 in order for the Arab states to normalize relation with it. At the summit, the Arabs introduced a plan of land-for-peace. Yemen currently has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

## Maritime piracy an international concern

By: Aqeel Al-Halali  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — Delegates, diplomats and commanders of navy forces from the Gulf of Aden and European Union countries called for stepping up efforts and vigilance in combating the growing threat of piracy in one of the world's most important sea paths.

At the Regional Maritime Security Conference which ended yesterday in Sana'a, Yemen demanded that the international community strictly tackle piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Arab Sea, confirming that the phenomenon has recently increased in an unacceptable way.

"Maritime piracy acts will increase world financial problems due to the high cost of maritime transportation and ship insurance fees," said Minister of Interior Mutahar Rashad Al-Masri.

He pointed out that the region of the Gulf of Aden is of vital importance in world navigation due to its strategic location between Asia, Africa and Europe.

Yemen established in 2002 a Coast Patrol Authority to restrict organized crime and terrorism in the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea, Al-Masri said.

He pointed out that Yemeni government is currently discussing implementing the second phase of the coast monitoring system with Italy in the region of the Arab Sea.

The Yemeni minister said that establishing infrastructure for a coastline which is over 2,200 kilometers long is a complicated process that "needs a huge budget and long period."

Participants in the conference said

that security will not be achieved in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden without stability in Somalia and helping it to combat piracy off its shores.

Commander of the French Joint Forces in the Indian Ocean Vice-Admiral Gerard Valin said that security and stability in Somalia is "a long-term target." He also said the international community needs to help the region improve its capability to combat piracy.

The British Ambassador to Sana'a Tim Torlot, in his word that he delivered on behalf of donor countries of Horn of Africa countries, stressed the importance of regional and international cooperation to combat piracy and find solutions to the problem.

The ambassador denied in a statement to the Al-Jazeera news channel accusations that great countries that have military presence in the region aim to dominate the Gulf of Aden.

"We want to control piracy through our presence in international waters only. We will not enter regional waters of countries in the region," he said.

Officials and diplomats from Yemen, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Italy, France, Germany, Britain and the United States attended the two-day gathering that concluded on Wednesday.

Somali pirates carried out 42 maritime piracy operations and attempted a further 69 last year in the international waters of the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. These acts resulted in 815 passengers and crew members being taken as hostages, 592 of whom were released. There are still 11 ships held by pirates, according to official sources.

## Yemen and Kuwait sign agreements

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — The first session of the Kuwaiti-Yemeni Ministerial Joint Committee recently concluded in Aden, the economic and commercial capital of Yemen. The session witnessed the ratifying of eleven agreements and protocols of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The agreements were in the fields of economics, security, culture, justice, and tourism, as well as a cooperation agreement concerning technical training and vocational education.

Co-chaired by Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi and Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem, the meeting saw the two governments assert their keenness to increase bilateral cooperation, particularly in the trade and investment sectors.

In addition, agreements were signed pertaining to documentation and archiving schemes, the exchange of press and publications, and commercial data. The

two sides also signed Memorandums of Understandings for cooperation in Islamic and Endowment affairs as well as an agreement concerning joint work between the Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait and the Union of Commercial and Industrial Chambers in Yemen.

According to official statistics, Kuwait imported between 4.7 % and 7.9 % of its goods from Yemen from 2000 and 2007 and was ranked 15th in the list of 20 countries that mostly import from Yemen in 2001. The rank rose to the ninth position in 2005.

The two sides signed an agreement to allocate US \$50 million for the Social Fund Project. As per confirmation from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the allocation of US \$30 million was agreed upon in order to finance power lines for the supply of electrical energy from the power station in Marib at a capacity of 700 megawatts. US \$40 million was also allocated to help finance the construction of a port in the island of Socotra, in addition to an agreement concerning the allocation of \$30 million

dollars to contribute to the financing of a project called Yemeni Port Cities Development Program. A further US \$50 million was allocated to help finance the program of rural roads.

On Monday, Al-Qirbi and Sheikh Al-Sabah placed the cornerstone of the Socotra Community College, the cost of which is US \$10 million and is funded by Kuwait. Sheikh Al-Sabah stated that his visit to Socotra Archipelago is a follow-up to the implementation of the Socotra Port and Community College projects.

The two countries additionally signed agreements to prevent double taxation and to promote the secured mutual investment between them.

Earlier in February 2001, the two sides signed the minutes of a meeting between the Yemeni Ministry of Finance and the Kuwaiti Fund for Development to address the debt owed by Yemen in the amount of 44 million Kuwaiti dinars, the equivalent of US \$150 million.

In 2003, both sides signed a loan agreement from the Kuwaiti Fund for

an amount of 30 million Kuwaiti dinars to contribute to the financing of a project of setting up power lines and the development of the electricity network, in addition to the financing of a development project with US \$9.7 million.

Yemen-Kuwait cooperation in oil goes back to the early eighties. The volume of investments by the Kuwait Petroleum company since the beginning of oil exploration activities in Yemen in 1984 reached a sum of US \$170 million.

Last year, the Kuwaiti EYWAA Real Estate company signed an initial agreement with the General Investment Authority in Yemen with an amount exceeding US \$4 billion dollars for the establishment of real estate and tourist projects in a number of Yemeni cities.

At the banking level, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait has invested US \$30 million in the Yemeni banking sector and bought 70 % of the capital of Yemen and Gulf Banks in Sana'a.

The next meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee will be held next year in Kuwait.

## Last session before Jewish murder verdict

By: Kawkab al-Thaibani  
For the Yemen Times

AMRAN, Feb. 11 — The verdict of Masha Al-Nahari's murder trial will be announced next Monday by Amran Penalty Court. The last session was conducted in relative peace last Monday, although relatives of the deceased were verbally attacked and insulted by the defendant's tribe.

Being a Jewish minority in Yemen, Nahari's relatives protested against the discrimination they face by some of the Yemeni extremists and even by the judicial system. Masha Al-Nahari, 30, was killed on Dec. 11 by Abdul-Aziz al-Abdi, a former Air Force pilot, who is said to be mentally disturbed.

Amran court adjourned after the session on Monday to allow the prosecution to review the forensic report on the murderer's mental capacity before coming out with a verdict.

The forensic report issued by the prosecution said that Al-Abdi suffers from paranoia with hallucinations.

"It is a vague report to and is not signed," said Mohammed Naji Allawo, director of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, also known as HOOD. The organization is representing Al-Nahari in court pro bono, especially since complaints of an unjust trial have been conveyed by the Jewish community in Amran.

"Al-Abadi deliberately planned the



Masha AL-Nahari's children, wife and father at the press conference organized by HOOD talking about their ordeal.

murder while suffering from delusional motives," states the report.

The forensic report warns the accused is dangerous and may commit another crime. Therefore, he should be kept locked up in a mental sanitarium, the report recommends. Today, Al-Abdi remains in Amran under custody.

In a press conference organized by HOOD, the Jewish community, led by relatives of Al-Nahari, expressed their ordeal and how unsafe they felt after

extremists have been sending them hate letters and threats by phone.

The community, which is no more than 400 people living in Raidah village in Amran, are the only ethnic minority in Yemen. Over time the community has shrunk as many immigrated to Israel or western countries, mainly to the USA and Europe.

The murder of Masha Al-Nahari was the first incident of its sort in at least fifteen years.

## Continued from page 1

Yemeni media in a general state of protest

According to Al-Wade'e, Al-Thawra Newspaper staff had gone on a two day strike two years ago after they were insulted by the editor in chief. The solidarity of employees forced the management to provide a written apology to the staff. He believes that a similar strike may help journalists achieve their goals with the government.

Many in the media sector feel that with each new leadership every four years, promises of improving Yemeni journalists' working conditions and standards have been renewed without much improvement.

"We have been trying for the past 10 years to push for the implementation of professional standards in Yemeni media and get the syndicate to endorse those standards in order to give our profession more credibility," stated Hamoud Munassar desperately, a member of the syndicate.

Although Munassar does not work in official media, being the correspondent of Al-Arabia Channel in Yemen, he shares the feeling of unrest with many other Yemeni journalists, if not because of pay, then because of practice and working conditions.

Yemeni journalists have been targeted by security institutions as well as influential individuals. Human Rights Watch, World Report 2009: Yemen reported that the media scene in 2008 saw a great deal of oppression against journalists and a

lack of freedom of information. Examples were given of how journalists trying to cover conflict zones, such as in Sa'ada or in demonstrations in the south, were either beaten or got their cameras and cell phones confiscated by security.

Some working in the media were physically attacked, such as Sabri Bin Makhashin, editor of Al-Moharer newspaper based in Hadhramout. Makhashin was beaten up and imprisoned by local security forces in Mukalla.

Some journalists accuse the syndicate of not being able to protect them from the government or from other influential bodies such as businessmen or tribal sheikhs.

"Journalistic freedom is controlled by official bodies in some cases. However, there is no law to protect journalists from being attacked or sent to jail as a result of what they write," said journalist Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani.

Al-Khaiwani was imprisoned on more than one occasion due to his writings against the government. He pointed out that the freedom of press will remain under attack as long as the syndicate is not strong enough to stand against the government.

"How do you expect us, as the syndicate, to confront the government when our budget comes from the state itself? At the same time, why do journalists want us to do everything for them while they refuse to pay 100 YR membership fees?" said Thabet.

"We are not a political party, nor are

we a charity," he emphasized.

However, Jamal Amer, chief editor of the independent Al-Wassat newspaper, argued that the syndicate stands by the journalists so long as the syndicate does not directly confront authority. He also pointed out that the syndicate supports journalists when in trouble by issuing national and international press releases, hiring lawyers to defend them in trials, and by carrying out demonstrations and protests.

With the advent of the elections and the fourth general conference, the current officials at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate struggle to prepare for the elections conference and to convince doubtful journalists to participate. The date for elections was previously set for Dec. 20, 2008 and was delayed until Mar. 14 this year. Reasons for the delay have to do mostly with finances according to the syndicate officials, although non-member journalists doubt the sincerity of this line of reasoning.

The current syndicate council, which was elected in 2004, has managed to ensure the syndicate's own premises, to create an institutional structure, to create independent branches in various governorates, and to create a code of conduct for Yemeni journalists. Moreover, within the next few days a new proposal for a modern press code that allows more freedom and access to information for journalists will be launched by the syndicate. The proposal will be brought to the government.

In Brief

**SANA'A**

**Workshop on Atlas concepts program launched**

A workshop for school curriculum authors on Atlas concepts program was launched here on Monday and organized by the Ministry of Education and Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

The three-day workshop aims to give the 42 curriculum authors and researchers in the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD) the information of how to prepare curricula include the scientific concepts for each subject.

The Atlas concepts program contains terms and concepts of various subjects to simplify the students' curriculum to acquire many attitudes, values and skills as well as achieve their objects.

At the opening of the workshop, Deputy of Ministry of Education Mohammed Zabara affirmed the importance of streamlining the subjects by using a simple concepts and terms, pointing to the significant of the Atlas concepts to explain the terminology used in school curriculum.

Zabara also called on the participants to make use of the experience of the Egyptian workshop trainers.

The general director of the curricula in Ministry of Education Khaled Jobbary reviewed the significance of such program to overcome all the difficulties encountered the students and teachers at the school.

The Egyptian expert Mohammad Saad al-Arabi pointed to the importance of the program in taking the advantage of the experts experience.

**21 scientific researches presented in 2nd day of IUL conference**

The 8th conference of the Islamic Universities League (IUL), currently held in Sana'a, presented 21 scientific researches in its 2nd day.

The researches dealt with renewal hubs in the Islamic religion and the issues of extracting Islamic principles.

The participants discussed in the 1st session of the conference seven researches in the thesis of renewal in the Islamic thinking, renewal in Islam, principles of renewal in the Islamic thinking, principles of renewing Islamic jurisprudence in the contemporary time and renewal as an indication and issue.

The 2nd session reviewed seven researches in the fields of renewal in the thinking and its principles while the 3rd session reviewed researches in the fields of renewal in the areas of faith, belief and scientific miracles.

**Workshop on employment skills concluded**

A workshop on employment skills program in the Middle East concluded on Tuesday.

35 trainers from Yemen, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and the United Kingdom participated in the workshop.

The two-day workshop, which was organized by British Council here in cooperation with Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, aimed at educating participants on education systems and vocational training in Britain, besides expertise of countries in this field.

The workshop also aimed at enhancing exchange of experiences concerning improving skills and creating telecommunication network to technical education and vocational training in the area.

Deputy Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training for Regulations and Quality Sector Ebtihaj al-Kamal highlighted efforts of the British Council in making this workshop success for promoting participants skills and contributing on improving cooperation relations between Yemen and the council.

Director of the British Council in Sana'a and the Regional Director of the British Council in the Middle East reviewed aims and programs of employment skills in building participation and confidence for exchanging knowledge and ideas between people across the world.

They asserted importance of partnership with private sector for employing youth technical and vocational skills for keeping pace with developments and needs of labor markets.

Then, the participating delegation visited a number of Yemeni technical and vocational institutes here for knowing experiences of them.

They visited Vet and Agricultural Institute and acquainted themselves its different sections and educational experience.

**Democracy School to launch parliamentary observatory soon**

Democracy School is to launch soon the parliamentary observatory project that will represent a connection ring between voters and parliament members. The goal of the observatory is to introduce voters to the parliament members' responsibilities, Head of Democracy School Jamal al-Shami.

The observatory will contribute enhance the transparency and accountability between the voter and parliament member and spread awareness of constitution and internal system of parliament and membership's provisions among voters, al-Shami demonstrated.

He affirmed that the project is a part of the Civil Society Organizations contributions to spread information and awareness as well as observation on different institutions so as to enhance the principles of transparency and accountability, noting that the project synchronizes with the underway arrangements for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The parliamentary observatory project includes a number of activities starting with training youth observers to attend the sessions, setting up an electronic website including information on parliament members, their activities and biographies and issuing a periodical bulletin on parliament's activities in addition to forming a counsel board for the observatory from the heads of the parliament's committees and other democracy-concerned people in Yemen, al-Shami said.

**DHAMAR  
Dhamar University member of Int'l universities union**

Dhamar University has been approved member of the International Universities Union as the first Yemeni university to get this membership of the union, which is headquartered in Paris. Rector of the University Dr. Ahmed al-Hadhvani said that he has received a letter from the union confirming the university's gained membership of the union.

Al-Hadhvani pointed out that this union is linked to the program of United Nations Education, Science, and Culture Organization (UNESCO) and has international academic and moral work charter, making clear that top world research and scientific uni-

versities have membership of the union.

**ABYAN  
Zunjar stadium's first phase costs YR 5.6 billion**

Ministry of Public Works and Roads (MPWR) signed here on Tuesday four contracts at a total cost of YR 5.6 billion for carrying out the football stadium first phase in Zunjar town in Abyan province.

The stadium's capacity will reach 20,000 watchers and will be implemented by a government financing. It is one of the projects of 20th Gulf Cup hosted by Yemen in 2010.

The contracts were signed in MPWR by Minister of Public Works and Roads Omar al-Kurshomi and the executing companies at the presence of the Head of Supreme Supervising Committee for the 20th Gulf preparations Minister of Information Hasan al-Lawzi.

Signing the contracts comes within the practical steps taken for completing the sports infrastructure to host the important sport event in Yemen by the end of 2010, al-Kurshomi and al-Lawzi made clear.

Furthermore, the two ministers added that there are other contracts related to the electro mechanic, the general site and the other necessary equipments will be signed during the coming period according to a limited schedule.

They assured that the preparations for this championship are steadily going on and calling on the executing contractors for speeding up the accomplishment of all their works timely and in accordance with the agreed specifications.

**SA'ADA  
Smuggling 13 Yemeni children into Saudi Arabia foiled**

Security Authorities have thwarted two attempts of smuggling 13 children into Saudi Arabia territories few days ago, according to information center of the Interior Ministry.

Security sources said that the security men have managed in the border-district of Haradh adjacent to Sa'ada governorate to arrest four persons aged between 24 - 44 involved in trafficking children to Saudi Arabia.

The traffickers have been sent the concerned authorities for investigation,

while the children (7 to 15 years old) have been sent to a care center in Haradh area, according to the sources.

A day earlier, security authorities at Haradh area have foiled a similar attempt to smuggle nine children aged between 13-15 to Saudi Arabia, according to the information center.

**MUKALLA  
YR17 bln to implement 423 projects in Hadhramout coast**

About 423 service and developmental projects will be implemented within the local and central investment program for 2009 of Hadhramout coast to worth YR17.48 billion.

The projects divided to 205 central projects with YR15.791 billion, and the local projects worth YR218.316 million.

Hadhramout governorate Local Council Secretary General Saed Ba-Yameen acquainted on Monday officials of administrative units and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Office in the governorate with implementation process of investment program for 2009, as well as procedures of the planning office in the governorate and concerned sides in supervising and follow-up and the projects which were implemented in the governorate within investment program plan for 2008.

**ADEN  
Aden University ready to accept refugee students**

ector of Aden University Abdul Aziz bin Hebtour said Monday that the University is ready to accept refugee students.

During his meeting with the Higher Education Officer in the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Andrea Kolbyl and the International Children Care Organization's Officer Jihan Ba-Wazir, bin Hebtour affirmed that the University would offer all possible facilities according to the cooperation agreement with UNHCR.

The meeting reviewed academic achievement assessments for refugee students study in the university under the DAFI scholarship.

Worth mentioning, about 50 refugee students are studying currently in Yemeni universities, 17 of them are in Aden University.

**TAIZ  
ACCESS- Plus programs to combat child labor in Taiz discussed**

Secretary-General of Local Council of Taiz governorate Mohammad al-Haj discussed on Monday with director of Combat Child Labor Program (ACCESS- Plus) Konera Moore the activity of the program in the governorate.

During the meeting, al-Haj praised the Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education and Sustainable Services Program funded by (ACCESS-Plus) in cooperation with the al-Islah Social Humanitarian Society. He highlighted the desired goals of the program to study the child labor problem and means of tackling it, emphasizing that the local authority in Taiz would be an affective partner to realize the program's goals. The meeting discussed the program's social and economic activities aiming to develop education services for child laborers as well as restoration works in some old school buildings.

The two sides dealt with the program's plan that aims to return about 2000 children from labor to education in addition to overcoming their problems that hinder continuing learning.

The Combat Child Labor Program (ACCESS- Plus) was launched by the beginning of 2009 and will last for three years.

**HODEIDAH  
Human right training course to be launched**

National Forum for Human Rights in collaboration with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) is to launch on Tuesday a training course on human rights and freedoms.

About 20 persons representing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) will take part in the training course for 10 days. In a statement to Saba, Chairman of National Forum for Human Rights Khaled Aiash said the training course aims to raise awareness among youth on human rights, legal protection mechanisms and means of communication in addition to improving skills of public relations. He pointed out that the course also aims to build capacity of youth civil society organization and provides them with the required skills and knowledge in the field of human rights issues.

Their News

**Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELF) program**

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce the opening of the competition for the Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELF), an exchange program starting in the United States

in August 2009. CELF is a 5-month fellowship opportunity for university teachers and scholars from the MENA region. The objectives of the program are to:

- 1) Promote democracy and international standards in social science education in MENA countries striving to develop their civil society capacity on the university policy level;
- 2) Enhance the quality of education through improved curricula development and delivery, increased institutional capacity, and expanded student and faculty engagement; and
- 3) Fully develop the critical thinking and analytic capabilities of educators to enhance their ability to disseminate critical civic education material to their students.

The ideal candidate for the CELF program:

- has at least five years of experience working in social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications;
- has a minimum of three years, but preferably not more than twelve years, experience working in an accredited institution of higher education;
- has completed or is working through a Ph.D. While this is preferred, the minimum requirement for the candidates is a completed Masters degree in one of these fields: social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications;
- has demonstrated a commitment and desire to remain working in this field for the foreseeable future, and an equal commitment to improving the quality and capacity of educational institutions in their field of study.

- has exhibited long-time leadership skills and the capacity to apply opportunities presented in this program in a way that would benefit education institutions, organizations, sectors, and/or communities.
- has a level of English language fluency to function successfully in a high-level academic and professional environment; successful applicants will be requested to submit TOEFL scores at a later date;
- o has not already completed a similar academic degree or residency in the United States, and is not subject to J-visa restrictions.
- o has letters of support from the institution that will allow the applicant to study in the United States.

**How to Apply:**  
Interested applicants need only to submit an updated resume and two essays of no more than 500 words each, written in English, which answers the following questions:

Essay 1: What has influenced your thinking about civic engagement? What are the prospects for greater civic engagement in solving social problems and fostering participatory democracy in your country and how do you see the connection between your field of study and improving the prospects for civic engagement in your country?

Essay 2: What hopes and plans do you have about improving the quality and capacity of your educational institution in your field of study. How do you see yourself leading this change?

Deadline for Applying is February 19, 2008.  
Apply to MEPI Regional Office Abu Dhabi at: [AbuDhabiMEPI@state.gov](mailto:AbuDhabiMEPI@state.gov)

**Photo contest**  
The Conflict, Crime and Violence team (CCV) in the Social Development Department (SDV) is proud to announce the Photo Contest Imagining Peace: The World Bank Contribution to Peace-Building and Prevention of Violence. The contest is organized to raise awareness of the contribution of World Bank operations to peace-building and violence prevention.

The photo contest seeks to feature photographs taken by World Bank staff and consultants working on projects and activities that contribute to sustainable peace and that decrease or prevent violence.

The contest is part of a two-day event being organized by the CCV team in the Social Development Department (SDV) on "Violence Prevention: A Critical Dimension of Development" at the World Bank on April 6 and 7, 2009. The objectives of the event are to familiarize World Bank staff with this topic and its relevance for development, while advocating for increased attention to violence prevention in Bank operations.

The Conflict, Crime and Violence team in SDV focuses on strengthening the resilience of societies to violence. This agenda is closely linked to other agendas of the World Bank and the issue of violence prevention crosscuts important dimensions of development. The World Bank work in fragile and conflict affected countries contribute in many ways and through many different sectors to reducing violence, mitigating conflict and ultimately doing development.

**Apollo launches 2009 plan**

Omar Al-Nehmi, marketing director of Apollo for International Exhibitions, revealed the company's readiness this year to host and organize a number of exhibitions and economic, trade, professional, IT and cultural events at the company's grand exhibitions hall in Sana'a. Al-Nehmi stated that Apollo aims through its activities in the past years through the concept of active economic partnership between Yemen and countries of the world. This was through holding mutual economic and trade exhibitions and the associate symposiums, workshops and economic conferences which gathered Yemeni businessmen and their peers of the participant countries. Al-Nehmi added that the exhibitions sector in Yemen will witness a breakthrough this year due to increase of

The Photo Contest Imagining Peace: The World Bank Contribution to Peace-Building and Prevention of Violence seeks to illustrate how development programs may directly or indirectly address violence prevention and peace-building through images that show the relationship between development and the reduction of violence and conflicts. Evaluation Criteria To be considered photographs have to address the theme of violence prevention and peace-building by showing the positive impact of development interventions. Pictures of peace-building activities and violence prevention programs will be considered as well as other development efforts that contribute to peace and reduction of violence.

**Eligibility**  
The Photo Contest Imagining Peace: The World Bank Contribution to Peace-Building and Prevention of Violence is open to all World Bank Group staff members, their immediate families (children, siblings, and spouses), and consultants. Each individual may submit up to a maximum of three (3) photos. Social

Development Department (SDV) staff and consultants are ineligible.

- How to submit a photo
- Submission is online; we will not accept hard copies as submissions.
  - Individuals should send an email to [socialdevelopment@worldbank.org](mailto:socialdevelopment@worldbank.org) containing the following attachments:
    1. Submission Form. To be considered, individuals need to submit one form for each submitted photograph, up to a maximum of three (3) photos.
    2. Copy of the photo(s). Images must be digitized in JPEG format at the highest

resolution available to you. Each photo has to be in a separate JPEG file (e.g. if you submit two pictures, you need two JPEG file). Five (5) megabytes is the limit for emails coming from staff members in country offices. The limit for HQ staff members is twelve (12) megabytes. Photos should be named as follows: `sur-name_picturetitle_country.jpeg`

3. Grant of Permission to Use Photographic Images  
Deadline for Submission  
All entries must be received by 5pm Monday, March 9th, 2009, Washington, DC time.

**INDIAN EMBASSY SCHOOL  
CELEBRATED ITS ANNUAL DAY**



Indian Embassy School, Sana'a celebrated its Annual Day on 29th January, 2009 in the School Auditorium with great pomp and splendor. This was an unforgettable event for the students, parents, teachers and the public which lasted for about 4 hours.

The inaugural function began at 4 in the evening with the Welcome Speech from Mr. Pratap Rana, the Staff Secretary of the School. The School Report was presented by Mr. Amar Kant Jha, the Acting Principal. The function was presided over by Mr. S. Suresh Kumar, the PTA President. Inaugural Speech was delivered by the Chief Guest Dr. Damodar Thakur Head of the Department of English in which he explained the importance of time. The felicitation speeches were given by Dr. Jayaraman, Sana'a University, Mr.

Thomas Mathew, the PTA Secretary and Master Manu Antony, the School Leader. Certificates, along with trophies, were awarded to the meritorious students who had shown their academic excellence in the Academic Year 2007 - 2008. The Inaugural Function came to a close with Vote of Thanks from Mr. Sunny Mani. The Inaugural Function was followed by different cultural events through which the students showed their skill and efficiency by some breathtaking and stupendous performances. The events included Action Song, Solo Songs, Group Songs, Instrumental Music, Indian, Ethiopian, Philippine and Western dances, Ballet, Mime and Drama which sent forth the message that 'every child is an artist'. The Annual Day programs came to an end with the National Anthem.



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الرعاية الإعلامييون

الواسطة الوسيط مال أعمال الاستثمار السياسية YEMEN TIMES

British Member of Parliament Michael Foster:

“I’ve had a great time in Yemen, and I’m looking forward to your future visit.”

**M**ichael Foster is the Minister of International Development at the Department for International Development in the UK. He has responsibility for all country programs except those in America and has been the Minister of International Development since October 2008. This is his first visit to Yemen.

Foster has been in government since 1997 and held a number of government posts. Prior to joining government he worked in the British car industry and as an economics lecturer. He was elected as Worcester’s first ever Labour MP on May 1, 1997. Since then, Foster has been an active parliamentarian. He was Secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Group of Further Education and a member of the Education Select Committee until June 2001. In July 2002, he was appointed Chair of the newly formed All Party Parliamentary Group on Flood Prevention. In 2005, he became Joint Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Lifelong Learning.

Since May 2006, Foster has been undertaking his first ministerial appointment in the Government Whips Office where he had responsibilities for Northern Ireland and for Constitutional Affairs. Prior to that, he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Peter Hain in his role as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Before that, he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Lifelong Learning and Higher Education Minister at the Department of Education and Skills.

He lives in Manchester with his wife and three children.



From the years 2008-2009, a UK bilateral agreement to Yemen will be conducted to the tune of twenty million pounds. By the year 2010-2011, it will more than double to 50 million pounds a year, so as you can see there are increases on all levels of support to Yemen. I hope that this is further evidence of our long-term commitment to

the people of Yemen because we just know what an important country this is and what great challenges that it faces.

**What kind of assistance to Yemen will Britain provide? Can you give us details?**

Well, we’re looking in detail at the next 3 years and how we can shape all support to help fit with the priorities the government has identified. We need to review the reform programs that are already in place and make sure that they are working effectively. We also need to address the challenges that the world knows Yemen is presently facing. Some of the work over the coming weeks and months will concern how best to tailor the increased money that’s been spent by the United Kingdom in Yemen in order to best help the Yemeni people. Recently we signed an agreement with Yemen and committed the United Kingdom to spend 8.9 million pounds developing private sector growth opportunities here in Yemen. And on that basis we reckon an extra 15,000 jobs will be created for people in Yemen. We’re looking for opportunities to really expand the private sector because our experience from across

the world suggests the way in which you decrease poverty and low income status is to have a vibrant private sector – huge economic growth rates. This is how all people can benefit from foreign aid; by giving people opportunity to benefit from newly created jobs, we provide opportunities for people to earn income and earn money for themselves and their families. This in turn brings benefits to the government as a whole because the government can also tap into that extra wealth has been created.

The global crisis is a challenge to all countries, but in different ways. What we have said with regards to development aid spending is part of the estimated commitment in New York last September; we expect the UK will continue with the progress that it has been making in extra spending. We’re not going to change our spending plans or reduce them at all, and we’ll be increasing our spending so that we hit the United Nations international target of 0.7% of our national wealth for development aid by 2013. That is two years ahead of the international benchmark.

**How do you evaluate democracy in Yemen?**

One of the issues that we’ve been discussing with the president and prime minister and their colleagues is about the effectiveness of our government’s programs in Yemen. We must make sure that programs are delivered and that they will ease the challenges the country faces. Having had those discussions, I’m convinced that genuine serious intent does exist in the government to see that the people of Yemen are on a path upward to greater prosperity. The government of the United Kingdom will do what we can to help facilitate that path.

**You know our government will continue with the upcoming elections and that there are some differences between the opposition and the ruling party, the GPC. What is the British attitude towards this election?**

Well, Britain obviously wants to see free and fair elections conducted all across the world, not just here in Yemen. That is why we always identify the carrying out of free and fair elections as something in the best interests of the people of any country.

Interviewed by Ismail Al-Ghabiri

**How do you assess Yemeni-British bilateral relations?**

I think we have a good relationship with Yemen and the Yemeni people. One of the purposes of my visit is to reinforce the very close relationship that we have and give the government

of Yemen the reassurance that the United Kingdom wants to be a very strong supporter of Yemen’s development.

I’ve had a great time so far in Yemen. I intend to spend more time here as well, and I’m looking forward to your [author Ismail Al-Ghabiri’s] future visit.

UNICEF to allocate over USD 2 million for humanitarian aid in Yemen

By: Salma Ismail

**Y**emen will receive 2,050,000 of the over a billion dollars that has been requested from the international community by The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to provide women and children in 36 countries with lifesaving assistance – an increase of some 17 per cent compared to last year’s appeal.

This year’s Humanitarian Action Report (HAR), was launched last week in Geneva by UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman, where she said, “In these times, it is the most vulnerable who often suffer the most.”

Among the many different crises that were witnessed in the Middle East and North Africa region during 2008, the most critical were the instability in Yemen and Lebanon, the terrorist threats, the impact of high food prices in the region and the vulnerability to natural disasters, according to the report. In addition to the above, the report noted the continuous gravity of the humanitarian situation in Iraq and in neighboring countries, the continued suffering of the Palestinian people and the deterioration of the security situation in Darfur, Sudan. All of these trends will require close monitoring in 2009.

Yemen specifically experienced emergencies in 2008 on three fronts, says the report. These are the conflict in the northern governorate of Sa’ada,

the severe tropical storm in the southeast of the country, particularly in the governorates of Hadramout and al-Mahara, and the impact of current high food prices on the national economy.

With Yemen’s already poor social indicators in infant, child and maternal mortality, these emergencies are having a strong impact on vulnerable women and children. In Yemen eight women die a day due to pregnancy or childbearing complications, and the mortality rate for children under five years-old is 73 per 1,000. Furthermore the country’s neonatal mortality rate stood at 41 per 1,000, according to latest figures.

UNICEF’s plans in Sa’ada includes to providing 14,000 persons/returnees with safe water and sanitation facilities by providing water filters at household level to ensure access to clean water. In Hadramout, UNICEF plans to construct or reconstruct gender-responsive sanitary facilities in 30 schools, especially girls’ schools in Hadramout. The organization further aims to promote hygiene education and awareness in 30 schools and for approximately 10,000 people in host communities.

In terms of education in Sa’ada, it plans to respond to the needs of 50,000 internally displaced and returnee children, as well as 500 teachers, providing kits and school supplies for 25,000 children and training teachers with particular attention to psycho-educational support, HIV/AIDS

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*	
Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	950,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	220,000
Education	780,000
Child Protection	100,000
<b>Total**</b>	<b>2,050,000**</b>

prevention and peace education. It also hopes to build the capacity of local education authorities to conduct need assessments, supply distribution and monitoring, and distribute self-learning materials for 3,000 internally displaced persons.

To address the soaring food prices, UNICEF will conduct an assessment and raise awareness through advocacy activities about the negative impact of high food prices on school enrolment in Yemen through 500 school councils involving parents and staff in 10 governorates.

UNICEF will target approximately 5,000 children in Sa’ada and Hadramout through the following activities: building the capacity of at least 90 professional in using play therapy, establishing a network of professionals involved in psychosocial interventions, and supporting general recreational and psychosocial activities in Hadramout and Sa’ada.

It also aims to support the

registration of at least 20,000 children, help in the identification, registration and family tracing of unaccompanied minors in Sa’ada and advocate for the implementation of the rights of children involved in armed conflict. It will also undertake a rapid assessment on child trafficking in Sa’ada and monitor the impact of high food prices on vulnerable children in Yemen.

Among the UNICEF’s health-related programs are the distribution of essential emergency medicine and equipment to 200,000 internally displaced persons and returnees. The UNICEF will also establish 11 new therapeutic feeding centers and 338 outpatient therapeutic programs nationwide.

To help address nutritional problems, it will train 5,000 health staff in treating severe malnutrition and 6,000 volunteers in screening 120,000 severely acutely malnourished children as well as undertake social mobilization campaigns to promote

appropriate infant and young child feeding behavior. The UNICEF plans to support the implementation of two nutrition surveys – one in February and one in August 2009 – in five areas of Yemen determined by socio-economic and topographic criteria.

In recent decades, the number and severity of natural disasters worldwide has increased significantly. In 2008 alone, there was a devastating hurricane season affecting the Caribbean, catastrophic earthquakes in China and Pakistan, a worst-ever cyclone disaster in Myanmar’s history, floods and landslides in South Asia, and drought and floods in the Horn of Africa.

Humanitarian situations have also deteriorated in several ongoing and protracted emergencies, including renewed fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and worsening food insecurity in Zimbabwe.

Increasingly complex humanitarian crisis situations require emergency preparedness, rapid response, capacity-building of all actors involved and sound partnerships with governments, UN agencies, NGOs and communities.

Compared to 2008, the Eastern and Southern Africa region has almost doubled its financial needs for protracted emergencies. Ethiopia, Somalia and Zimbabwe were most decisive in this development, with Zimbabwe requiring nearly five times more funding. Over half of the funds

raised will ensure the continuation of UNICEF’s support to the five largest humanitarian operations worldwide: in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

In 2007, an estimated 850 million people suffered from under-nutrition. That number has now risen to nearly 950 million. Between May 2007 and May 2008, the food price index rose by 50 per cent, making it impossible for many families to afford basic foods for their children.

The immediate impact of higher food prices is obvious, rendering children vulnerable to starvation and disease. However, its influence does not stop there. Higher food prices also increase the vulnerability of children in conflicts and to HIV/AIDS.

When families can’t afford basic food for their children they are often forced to resort to child labor and early marriage with greater frequency. At the same time, school attendance is most likely to fall. In Yemen, school feeding programs have often raised a child’s attendance to school by up to 50 per cent.

The Humanitarian Action Report (HAR) is UNICEF’s annual humanitarian funding appeal for children and women affected by protracted emergencies. The HAR 2009 includes 39 countries, compared to 36 countries in 2008, with the addition of Myanmar, Tajikistan and Yemen.

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**UN Volunteers**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteer position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Post Title: Asset Management Specialist**  
**Location: Sana’a**

**Responsibilities:**

**Under the supervision of Protection Officer the UNV volunteer will be required to perform the following duties:**

- Maintaining asset inventories in PeopleSoft (MSRP) for the Branch Office and Sub-Office;
- Ensuring that new assets have been receipted and registered in the asset management software;
- Ensuring that the issue / return of assets is well documented and records maintained;
- Providing quarterly asset reports on assets with Implementing Partners or staff members to UNHCR HQ and to the Representative, Programme and Administration for review, indicating their age and condition, and providing proposals for follow-up action recommending disposal, redeployment, write-off, etc; &
- Conducting asset verification at least every six months and following-up with custodians / Implementing Partners on required action, and submitting a report at end of each exercise.

**Qualifications:**

- University degree, preferably in Business Administration, Economics or related fields.
- Ability to work in an international work place, using English as work language;
- Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is essential
- Fluency in English (oral/written)

**Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to [unv.yemen.info@undp.org](mailto:unv.yemen.info@undp.org) Subject: Asset Management Specialist — Sana’a**

**UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.**

**Deadline for receiving applications is 20 February 2009**

**UN Volunteers**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteer position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Post Title: Database / Filing Clerk**  
**Location: Sana’a**

**Responsibilities:**

**Under the supervision of Protection Officer the UNV volunteer will be required to perform the following duties:**

- Entering data mainly related to asylum seekers, refugees and persons of concern to UNHCR into the computer database;
- Providing support in the preparation of statistics, drafting and compiling on regular basis and when requested, statistical reports on refugees, Asylum Seekers and UNHCR persons of concern;
- Assisting the Registration Clerk to keep track of all ICs status records by regularly updating the database;
- Keeping the individual files in proper order;
- Carrying out tasks for production and distribution of reports, photocopying etc.;
- Providing information in respect of individual files as required by the concerned Units;
- Providing support in the management of file and file movements;
- Assisting in the development of forms for data collection and analysis, if requested; &
- Performing any other duties, as requested.

**Qualifications:**

- Completion of Secondary Education with at least five years of previous job experience relevant to the function
- Ability to work in an international work place, using English as work language;
- Possession of good computer and communication skills is essential
- Very good knowledge of English and Arabic (oral and written).

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# Why don't we build the country

By: Dr. A'adel Al-Shuj'a

Building one's country is a task all peoples of the world who love their countries realize is a major issue – all people except Yemenis. No one in the whole world destroys his country as we do. We destroyed tourism due to personal demands or disputes. We hindered political work and democratic change due to partisan demands. Intellectuals and educated people didn't aim to use their capabilities for the good of the country. All of us forgot the objectives of the Yemeni revolution and the payment of dues to the republic. We neglected to make personal and partisan concessions that unity requires in order to protect the country from disintegration from fanaticism and extremism that started infecting Yemen. This country has grown exhausted as a result of our disagreements which destroyed its immune system.

I don't exaggerate when I say that political parties excluded the country from their calculations and their issues. Their main concern turned into the victory of the party over the country itself.

I would like to say clearly that the main issue facing the political elites in our country has become more about the division of power amongst themselves and less about leading a state. The state's own intellectual and fanatic powers were split due to wars that disabled development. These wars came based on wrong decisions and various powers which stood in front of the revolution and the republic.

I don't know how long we will keep

on this path while corruption harms the body of the country without showing its people any mercy or kindness. Corrupt people in countries all over the world have limits, after which they stop: all except those corrupt people of our country, that is. They are similar to bilharzias, parasites which move from the intestines to the liver in order to destroy it. There is no ceiling for the corrupt people here who talk about modern education while they spend more money on private education for their children than all of the money spent to improve public education. They talk about health while their country suffers from diseases which the world no longer hears about. They talk about culture while they are advocates of ignorance which they cultivate every day.

It is certain that a monopoly of positions isn't found anywhere in the world such as what we have here in Yemen. Here, you can find a simple employee antagonizing his colleague and allocating all his time to harm him. This is sadly a common phenomenon which impedes the modern management as well as work and innovation. We talk about the development of the country and at the same time fight new elements and prevent them from approaching. I don't know how we can demand the establishment of justice and freedom from such people while they destroy the structure of the state.

Our major problem in this country doesn't exist in the government, as some people assume. Rather, it exists in sectarianism and extremism which are like diseases spreading throughout the body of Yemen. The way we see it is that the state still means the interest

of the people. This was put on a stake in Sa'ada. Houthis didn't hesitate to threaten the entire state as it contradicts their interests.

In addition, the so-called "south activity" sometimes turns to violence, whereas opposition parties never do anything to help what people of that activity pose. These parties may not hesitate to destroy the whole country if such an act will help them assume power. Unfortunately, we find that their idea of assuming power contradicts the political values as well as the state itself. The concept of state or democracy no longer represents the supreme value that all should maintain and through which people can talk about freedom, justice, and equality.

Our political parties talk about citizenship and law while destroying the structure of the modern state. They blend sectarianism with politics and work according to their individual ideologies. They said that tribal politics disabled development, yet they formed what they called the 'National Council,' which is led by tribes. What is important is for them is that their interests are preserved; thus they assume power by any means necessary.

The power in the eyes of these parties is the collection of elements that split and don't unite, scatter and don't organize, disintegrate and not integrate. They think that power in the end is a reflection of ideology and fanaticism, and doesn't reside in the modern state that carries the spirit of the age for all citizens.

Moreover, we aim to destroy the modern state and at the same time assume that there is a conspiracy against us. We don't confess that we all bear responsibility for our

irresponsible practices and for our political, social, and economic culture that is totally outdated. We are all responsible for the disabling of development here in Yemen. Had we all dealt with the economic changes from socialist to free market responsibly, this congestion would have never happened. We don't have means of modern thinking to deal with changes.

We need to address ourselves and the country. Our partisan newspapers talk always about 'the people' while at the same time you don't find a single word about rights and duties. Citizens look at political parties as a group of angry people who are ready to hold the whole world responsible for their tragic situation without taking responsibility even once. The question that poses itself here is: What is the solution?

To answer this question, we can say that when political parties are ready to bear their responsibilities, then they will have pointed their feet in the right direction. Parties should abandon the culture of fear. They should start towards a culture of construction. At such a time, the strongholds of corruption will collapse and elements that impede modernization will vanish. What is surprising is that the culture of fear is not restricted to parties but it also extends to individuals, groups, and tribes. This culture doesn't only hinder development but it also affects our interpersonal relations.

Isn't it time to talk about the country and the modern state? Isn't it time to work to achieve a modern state through enlightened thought that unifies more than divides and constructs more than destructs?

## COMMON SENSE

### Al-Shark Al-Awsat: No, not Yemen or Iran Where is terrorism emanating from?

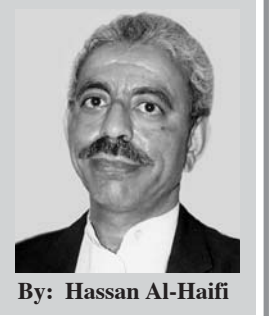
Saudi Arabia is really worried, if not scared! Notwithstanding the horrendous record that everyone knows Saudi Arabia has in human rights and other civil misgivings in governance and tolerance, the most unusual trait that the Saudis have persistently continued to espouse is the mindboggling twisting of the truth, the regime and its well paid pens ride on to cover up the Saudi establishment's association with terror. This unusual persistence has been shown in previous CS articles (<http://www.yementimes.com/article.shtml?i=1172&p=opinion&a=1>) and now needs to be displayed again, because Yemen and many other regional neighbors of the wealthy Saudi medieval monarchy has become the receiving end of all the terror that the Saudi religious establishment has nurtured for the past thirty years. Again, Al-Shark Al-Awsat (English) continues its plastic surgery of the facts (<http://aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=2&id=15649>) written by Tariq Alhomayed and goes on to try to transfer attention from the horrendous love affair between the Wahhabi Establishment and international terror to, of all places, Yemen and Iran. There is no reason to believe that there is any political partnership between Iran and Yemen (in fact that could be said more of Saudi Arabia and Yemen!). Surely the facts speak otherwise when it comes to a partnership of both countries to terror and international mayhem, as has been produced by the nurturing establishment of international terror in Riyadh (or Mecca, where the headquarters of the Muslim World League and other Wahhabi missionary institutions are located). Like the earlier article in AS, The last article in Al-Shark Al-Awsat uses the same technique of turning the truth into fairy tales, which only cheap hired pens can create. Not only does that article seek to show a lack of association between the Saudi religious establishment and the current spate of increasing deployment of terrorist elements in various countries in the region and elsewhere, but actually wishes to direct full blame on other countries, such as Yemen and Iran for the ugly terrorism that most of the last decade of the Twentieth Century and the early years of this Millennium have been characterized by. It is no exaggeration to point out that all this mayhem in the world can easily be traced to Saudi Arabia, in terms of the ideological and personnel origin (see this link <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/02/07/news/ML-Saudi-Most-Wanted.php>), not to mention the hundreds of billions of US Dollars of financing that was expended over the last thirty years to spread the Wahhabi sect throughout the world.

Of course, the last AS article sought to show that the Saudis know that it would be illogical to associate the sectarian inclinations of the Wahhabi terrorists with the Shaf'ei or Shi'ite inclinations of Yemen and Iran respectively, and thus seeks to impress the reader by blaring out percentage figures, the origin of which defy understanding: "Approximately 41 percent of those included on the list and who were recently under surveillance were either on Iranian soil or located in the Iranian-Afghan-Pakistani triangle". Just like that; 41% of 85 or whatever of exported terrorists from Saudi Arabia (that would be 34.85 individuals)! Really now, can Mr. Alhomayed tell us where he gets these magnificently impressive figures. We know of no smoke pipe in either Yemen or Iran that can produce such precise statistics as these. If they were under surveillance, how did they get away so easily then? One would almost be ready to contend that these same rationalities are similar to those used to cover up Zionist terror over the years, with impressive statistics or bought pens that shroud the International Zionist Establishment with civil statistics and other decorations that seek to impress only the most gullible of readers of the genuineness of the figures and the insinuations that give the IZE the rationale for the cause d'être of the State of Israel.

Yet, the third link reveals with amazing accuracy that almost all the personnel listed in the Saudi "most wanted" list are Saudi citizens. How then, for God's sake could all these "dangerous" terrorists find their way out of Saudi Arabia at almost the same instance? This really does not bother Alhomayed at all, because hired pens are not seekers or propagators of the truth. On the contrary, the bigger the cash reward for their lies, the more profound is their literature!

I leave it to the three links cited here to picture the real story. However, one cannot help but sense an aura of fear that the Saudi regime and its Wahhabi Establishment is beset with. Fear of what? There are three developments worthy of noting: 1) President Barack Obama's insistence to follow terrorism to its root origin; 2) the recent launching of a domestically made space satellite by Iran; and 3) the upcoming national elections in both Yemen and Saudi Arabia. All three are as distant to Saudi Arabia as paradise is to the Saudi Wahhabi Establishment!

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

# The Return of the Turkish Crescent to the Arabian Sky

Khaled Fattah

On Friday the 16th of January, the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Recep Erdogan, said that Israel should be barred from the United Nations. In a live broadcasted speech to his party, the AKP, Mr. Erdogan said: "I want to ask the United Nations -- how can a country, which continuously ignores resolutions of the U.N. Security Council be allowed to enter through the gates of the United Nations headquarters? On Thursday the 29th of January, on the second day of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Mr. Erdogan clashed with the Israeli

President, Shimon Peres, and stormed out of the televised heated debate about the crisis in Gaza. Many people had died in Gaza and it is sad that the audience applaud Mr. Peres for defending Israel's actions, Mr. Erdogan said. Before storming out, Mr. Erdogan accused the Israeli President of speaking in a strong and loud voice in order to conceal his guilt.

The scale of Ankara's criticism of Tel Aviv since the beginning of the three-week Israeli offensive in Gaza reflects not only the growing tension in the Turkish-Israeli relations but also the radical shift in Turkey's posture regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In retrospect, Turkey's foreign policy towards the Middle East was

based on a commitment to maintain diplomatic, economic and military cooperation with Israel while offering political support to the Arab cause. These seemingly contradictory political orientations are a part of Turkey's multidimensional and cautious foreign policy, which is driven by Turkey's historical inheritance and geographical distnity.

Located at a strategic crossroad where civilizations and cultures meet, and serving as a landbridge between the East and West, Turkey has acquired a set of different contrasting identities that include European, Balkan, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Caucasian, Asian, and Islamic identities. This multiplicity of

contrasting identities and orientations provide Turkey with opportunities as well as handicaps and challenges.

The latter are best reflected in Turkey's membership in the NATO and the ongoing process of Turkey's accession to the EU, on the one hand, and its membership in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, on the other hand.

The post Gaza attacks' deviation of Turkish foreign policy towards the Middle East led some observers of the region to argue that Turkey under the leadership of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) is seeking to rediscover its Islamic Imperial legacy, and to install what Omar Taspinar calls 'neo-Ottoman tendencies'.

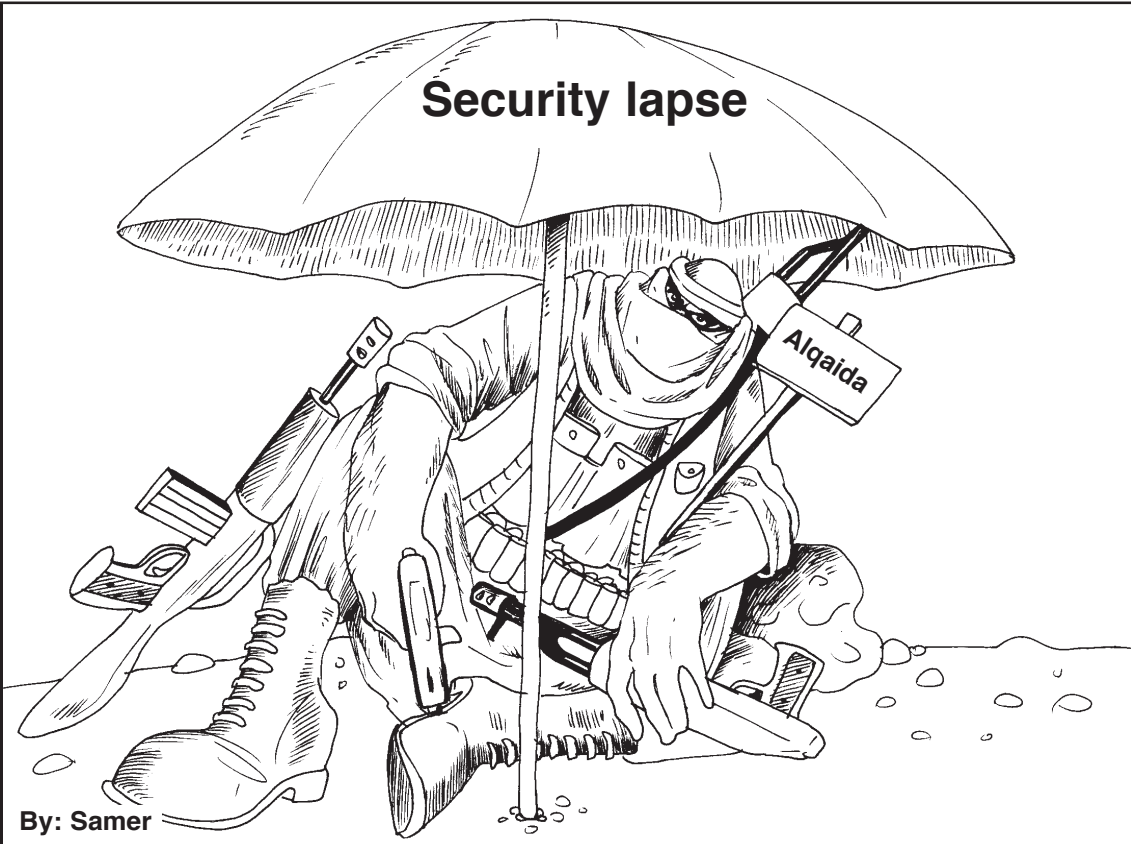
Other observers argue that Turkey's new position regarding the Arab Israeli conflict is a part of the AKP efforts to counterbalance the consequences of the US invasion of Iraq by constructing a new strategic web with the Islamic world, particularly with Iran and Syria.

Hard-liners in the influential Kemalist camp inside the Turkish military and state bureaucracy, on the other hand, consider these 'neo-Ottoman tendencies' as religiously motivated, anti-republican and damaging to Turkey's national interests.

In my view, however, the current deviation of Turkey's foreign policy from past practices should be seen as a pragmatic move aimed to re-collect some of Turkey's bargaining cards which she lost in the Post Cold War world, not those that she lost as a result of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

Whatever the motives behind the changes in Turkey's position, it is very clear that Turkey is back to the center of Middle East politics.

The waving of Turkish flags in Gaza demonstrations that were held in the boiling streets of many cities across the Arab world illustrates the welcoming



SKETCHED OPINION

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of the return of the Turkish crescent to the Arabian sky.

This return was made possible because of the prevailing inner-Arab leaderships division and the failure of Arab regimes to stop the Israeli attacks. From a rational perspective, Turkey's new leadership role in the region is useful for both Europe and the Arab world.

The former needs to reach out governments and people in the region by projecting its image as an entity that is keen to maintain peace and stability

in the Middle East through the use of an approach that differs from the confrontational US approach.

The Arab world, on the other hand, needs Europe to play a more influential role on the world's political stage in order to counterbalance the biased United States' domineering stance on issues such as the Arab Israeli conflict and the occupation of Iraq.

Turkey is indeed the ideal candidate for facilitating communication and cooperation between the East and West.

# Putting the dangers of Frankenstein foods on the table

**P**rof. Jeffrey M. Smith of the Institute for Responsible Technology, USA, has authored the internationally renowned book, 'Genetic Roulette - The Documented Health Risks Of Genetically Engineered Foods', which illustrates how the world's most powerful biotech companies mislead critics and put the health of societies at risk. In an interview, Prof. Smith, who has spearheaded a revolutionary industry and consumer movement to remove GMOs from the US food supply, talks about the dangers that Indian farmers and consumers face from genetically engineered crops and genetically modified foods.

By: Nitin Jugran Bahuguna  
Women's Feature Service

**Q: Do tell us about your campaign against genetically modified organisms (GMOs).**

A: The campaign for Healthier Eating in America, coordinated by the Institute for Responsible Technology (IRT), is one of the only viable strategies to remove GMOs from the food supply. There are several serious, even catastrophic, dangers of GMOs. Genetically modified crops concentrate on the corporate control of food and increased herbicide use without increasing average yields. They endanger food security, are detrimental to sustainable and organic farming, and trap farmers in a cycle of debt and dependence. But the single greatest motivator for action is the health risk to consumers. Our campaign targets four demographic groups that are receptive to dietary changes - health-conscious consumers, parents and schools, faith-based groups, and healthcare professionals and their patients. Within each group, the women, who generally do the shopping for the family, are clearly the most receptive and responsive gender. Thus, the tipping point is largely in their hands.

**Q: Given the fact that awareness levels in the developed countries are higher, how effective has public opinion in the West been in trying to contain the export of genetically modified (GM) foods by multinational companies (MNCs)?**

A: The most effective containment of exports has come from consumers in Europe and Japan, whose knowledge of the dangers of GMOs has translated into avoidance of GM products. The subsequent rejection of GM ingredients by food companies there has limited US exports of GM crops and derivatives. This has been facilitated by mandatory labeling of GMOs, particularly in the European Union, which would alert consumers to GM content, and, therefore, keep companies on track with their non-GMO commitments.

**Q: What are the health risks posed by genetically engineered (GE) foods?**

A: GMOs are linked to toxic and allergic reactions in people, the deaths of thousands of sick, sterile livestock, and damage to virtually every organ studied in lab animals. Soy allergies skyrocketed by 50 per cent in the UK soon after GM soy was introduced. A human subject showed a skin prick allergic-



**Prof. Jeffrey M. Smith of the Institute for Responsible Technology, USA, has authored the internationally renowned book, 'Genetic Roulette - The Documented Health Risks Of Genetically Engineered Foods', which illustrates how the world's most powerful biotech companies mislead critics and put the health of societies at risk. (Credit: WFS)**

type reaction to GM soy, but not to natural soy. In the 1980s, a contaminated brand of food supplement called L-tryptophan killed about 100 Americans and caused sickness and disability in another 5,000 to 10,000 people. The source of contaminants was almost certainly the genetic engineering process used in its production. The disease took years to find and was almost overlooked. It was only identified because the symptoms were unique, acute, and fast-acting. If all three characteristics were not in place, the deadly supplement might never have been identified or removed. If GM foods on the market are causing common diseases or if their effects appear only after long-term exposure, we may not be able to identify

the source of the problem for decades, if at all.

**Q: Has there been a perceptible impact of GE crops on India's farming community?**

A: Hundreds or thousands of Indian farm workers who pick Bt cotton by hand are developing allergic-type reactions. The cotton is engineered with a gene from a soil bacterium called Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), which produces a natural insecticide. The reason it is in our crops is that the industry and government say the Bt toxin is completely safe for humans. In its natural state, it's used in organic agriculture and forestry. They, therefore, claim that Bt toxin has a history of safe use, and

doesn't even interact with mammals; that it's destroyed in the digestive tract.

But this assumption ignores the evidence. About 500 people in the US and Canada developed allergic-type reactions when they were sprayed with natural Bt discharged from airplanes. When they fed natural Bt to mice, the mice developed a powerful immune response and damaged intestines. But the Bt engineered into crops is thousands of times more concentrated than the natural form and is designed to be more toxic. When I reviewed the symptoms from the Indian cotton workers, they turned out to be the same symptoms that were described by the 500 people in North America who were sprayed with Bt. The Indian Bt cotton farmers allow sheep to graze on the cotton plants after harvest. According to several shepherds, within five to seven days, one out of every four sheep dies. Thousands of sheep have died in the Andhra Pradesh region, and more will be added to those numbers the next year. There are also widespread reports of disease and death among buffalo, who either grazed on the Bt cotton plants or consumed Bt cottonseed or oil cakes.

When I visited Andhra Pradesh, I spoke to a group of women and asked if any of them experienced any reaction to BT cotton crop. After some hesitation, two women stood up and one of them revealed that she suffered from itching. I was also told that women cotton workers are embarrassed to discuss the details of their symptoms, so they don't come forward.

**Q. A chapter in your book says that the risks posed by GE crops/GM foods are greater for women and children.**

A: Pregnant women should most definitely avoid GMOs. A Russian study

found that more than half of the babies from mother rats fed GM soy died within three weeks, compared to only a 10 per cent death rate for babies whose mothers ate non-GM soy. The offspring from the GM group were also smaller and could not conceive.

**Q. In your opinion, does India really require GM foods?**

A: The US spends three to five billion dollars per year to subsidise the GM crops that no one else wants. They are trying to force other countries to take GMOs to solve their own problems. The US department of Agriculture confirms that GMOs do not increase yields or farmer income, and in many cases reduce both. In developing countries, GM crops are clearly disadvantageous. A study by the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) concluded that GMOs are not appropriate, and that industrial farming practices in general force small farmers and landless peasants off the land.

Analysis of Bt cotton in India consistently reveals that it provides far less income compared to farmers growing organic or NPM (non-pesticidal management) cotton. But these more appropriate and healthy systems don't have corporate champions to promote them.

**Q. What would be the best strategy to regulate the introduction of GM food?**

A: The best regulation would be to demand a ban of current GM crops and all outdoor field trials. Then India can invest in proper independent studies, which I am sure will confirm our conclusions that the current generation of GM crops is unsafe for humans, animals, and the environment.

## Under the Taliban's rule

**The Taliban dominates much of Pakistan's border country on its frontier with Afghanistan. The organization has its own courts, 'police officers' and more. Girls' schools are being shut down or torched and strict Shari'a law is being enforced. This is an exclusive report from The Media Line's correspondent in the once-peaceful Swat Valley.**

By: Shaheen Buner  
The Media Line News Agency

**T**aliban militants have responded to a unanimous resolution passed this month by the Pakistan parliament to fight terror with renewed zeal and to protect women's rights and educational institutions in the violence-hit Swat Valley, by destroying some more schools and summoning 40 politicians to appear before Taliban court or face retribution.

The announcement summoning the politicians made by Maulana Fazlullah, a cleric turned militant commander, live on his illegal FM Radio, sent shockwaves throughout the district. The names he mentioned are senior members of different political parties, mainly the Pashtun Nationalist Awami National Party that currently rules the volatile North West Frontier

Province of Pakistan.

The warning came immediately after Ayub Ashari, a provincial minister from Swat, along with two members of the Provincial Assembly, visited Swat last week to boost the morale of the security forces and the people.

Addressing a press conference, the provincial minister pledged that all steps would be taken to establish government control in the region.

Locals say the visit of the provincial officials was a serious blow to Taliban's reign of terror, as after the visit people in Swat, particularly the youth, gained enough courage to openly criticize Taliban for their actions.

"We feel really encouraged to see some senior officials of the provincial government in Swat after a break of seven months," said Ahmad Ali Khan, a resident of Mingora Swat. "Such moves must continue to bolster people's morale and to put the militants on the defensive."

Taliban militants under the command of Fazlullah dominate 90 per cent of the Swat Valley in northwestern Pakistan, where they publicly administer "Islamic punishments" to government sympathizers, female dancers, school teachers and local influentials.

The approximately 40,000 Pakistan security forces, who have been fighting Fazlullah's militants since October 2007, have been confronted with a renewed and intensified insurgency that is now spreading to the neighboring districts of Buner, Malakand Agency, Dir and Shangla.

The conflict has displaced half million people from the idyllic valley and resulted in the destruction of more than 180 educational institutions.

Analysts believe the Taliban are a major threat to the integrity of Pakistan and it is the responsibility of all the stakeholders to come together and to devise a comprehensive and pragmatic strategy against terror. Neither the military nor the civilian administration can work in isolation, and there must be more coordination and cooperation between the two to eliminate militancy, they say.

Commenting on the current situation, Khadim Hussain Amir, an Islamabad-based political analyst, says that the Taliban want to perpetuate fear by such actions and it is high time for the political and military leadership to break the chain of terror created, encouraged and perpetuated by the Taliban by killing people and issuing warnings to the local social and political leadership.

"I am viewing this issue in its historical perspective. In 2006, Talibanization in Swat was a localized process. Taliban had no networking with other militant groups in Pakistan tribal areas and they did not have a fully trained and equipped militia," Amir said.

"In 2007, they not only established contacts with other groups, but they also brought local criminal gangs under the umbrella of the Taliban movement, set up parallel courts and started targeted killings. This created enormous fear among the people. Now they want to silence all voices against

them by utilizing this fear factor," Amir added.

After targeted killings and suicide attacks on government buildings and public gatherings that have killed hundreds of people over the last two years, the Taliban in Swat have been confronted with the issue of how to consolidate their control of the area.

At the beginning, to win support from the unprivileged and downtrodden classes of the society, they occupied the fertile lands of local landlords and distributed them among the poor.

In their courts they resolve feuds on an equal basis, and a number of court decisions have gone against the local elite. This process strengthens their position and many unemployed and unskilled youth have joined the Taliban fold.

Once they settled into their bases in different parts of the upper Swat Valley, the Taliban embarked on collecting funds and demanding weapons from the locals and punishing people in public at the slightest suspicion of supporting the government or criticizing their actions.

Meanwhile, security forces have pounded villages and civilian populations, which has resulted in the killing of more than 1,200 civilians.

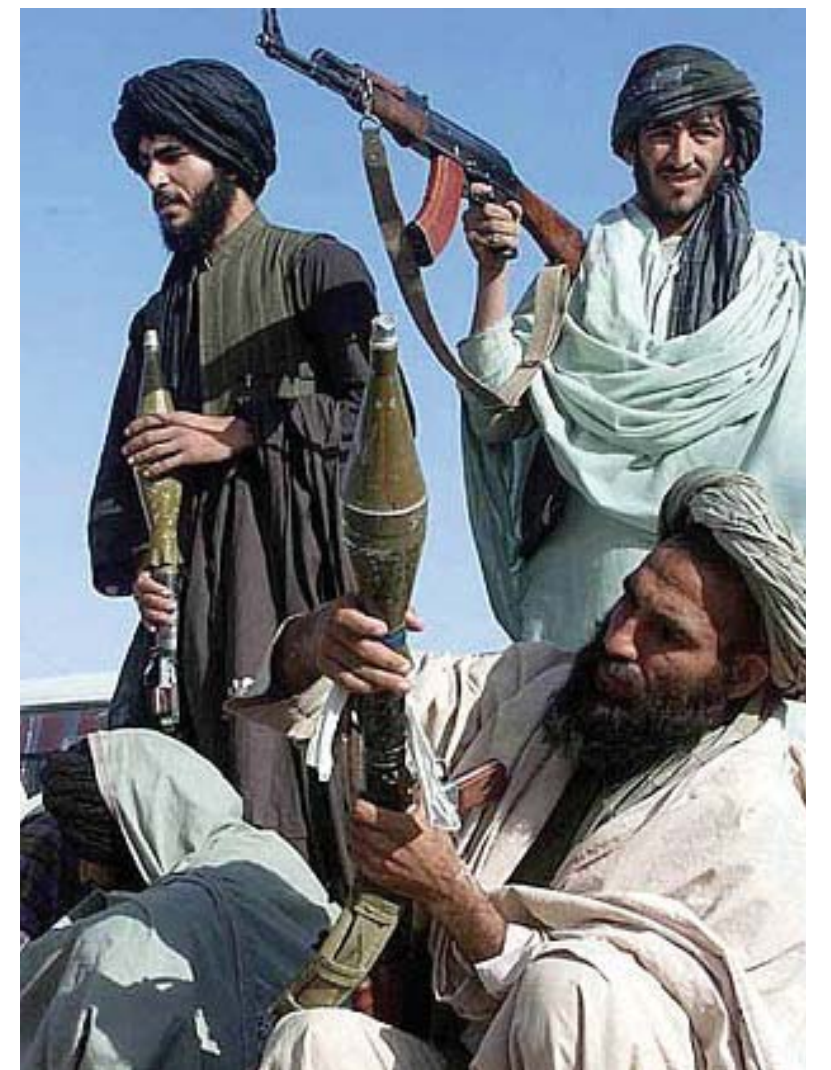
Recently, ministers in the NWFP government blasted the military for inaction and lack of vision in Swat.

NWFP minister for information, Mian Iftikhar Hussain, told the media in Peshawar that the military had been in charge of all the affairs in Swat since the launch of military operations in 2007 and if the military had failed to eradicate militancy, then the people had no option but to pray to God.

The military has its own take on what is happening in Swat. Military officers say it is the responsibility of the government to place efficient civilian administration in the district and provide relief to the people affected by the conflict.

They believe that peace agreements between the provincial government and Fazlullah have only helped the Taliban to regroup and strengthen their position.

When the military operation was



launched, it was claimed by the military commanders that the area would be cleared of all militants within three weeks. The fact is that now the militants are knocking on the doors of Mingora, the administrative capital and main urban center of the Swat district.

Maj.-Gen. Athar Abbas, Pakistan's military spokesman, says that the army was following a new strategy to clear major urban areas and villages of militants.

"The military will not be static, it will not be reactive. It will be reaching out to people to get their support," he told the *Pakistan Daily Dawn*.

However, Taliban spokesman Muslim Khan is standing firm and says

that the military should leave the area immediately and the government should enforce the Islamic legal system in the region to avoid more violence and bloodshed.

"If there is no Shari'a, there will be no peace," he told The Media Line.

Whatever the result of the ongoing conflict in Swat, the reality is that the Swat Valley will never be the same as when thousands of tourists from all over the world would flood the area every summer to enjoy its fascinating natural scenery, snow-capped mountains and centuries-old cultural heritage in the shape of hundreds of Buddhist archeological sites spreading over every part of the valley.



# Shawqi Hayel criticizes the government's improvised decisions that confuse investment and economy

**S**houqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed, vice-director general of industry administration of Hayel Saeed An'am Group and Company, criticized the improvised and random decisions taken by the government. He said that these decisions concern investors and give a bad image to the country. He talked about a number of issues related to the Yemeni economic situation and changes that affect trade and investment activity in addition to other issues related to investment activity of the group.



**Yemen Times Taiz** reviews the major points that he talked about during an open press meeting. This meeting was held during a field visit the group organized for journalists to a number of companies, factories and investment projects that belong to the group in Aden and Lahj governorates. The points that An'am focused on in the meeting are as follows:

## Improvised Decisions Confuse Importers

An'am talked clearly about the irresponsible acts by the government toward many issues that concern the private sector and investment activity in Yemen. He criticized the improvised decisions that the government takes and the way these decisions are occasionally taken. Among

*Our upcoming investments will focus on real estate and health fields and we have residential projects that will be carried out in a number of main cities.*

these acts is the announcement of reducing government spending on service projects by 50 percent. He pointed out that the mistake that the government committed is not only the reduction of the service expenses but announcing this decision as well. He confirmed that the government could have carried out the decision without announcing it in order to maintain the image of the economic situation in Yemen. He said that this

decision affects investment partnership between the country and foreign investors who may incorrectly explain this decision. In this respect, he noted that many countries provided billions of dollars to activate their economies, at the same time appreciating the conditions that forced the government to take the decision. An'am reiterated that the decision could have been passed without announcing about it in public and creating argument.

"There are many improvised decisions that the government took. For example, raising diesel prices. Had this decision been announced before we began carrying out Al-Wataneya Cement Factory that belongs to the group and before we brought other investors into the project, we wouldn't have invested in it," said An'am. He said that the other decision that surprised the private sector in Yemen is the increased price of diesel used to fuel electricity generators of the factories by 100 percent. He pointed out that this decision hinders industry and gives indicators to other investors that the situation is unstable. Further, it indicates that economic policies of the country are changing. "Such random decisions taken from time to time concern investors," said An'am.

## Sales Tax

An'am confirmed that sales tax has been already applied to manufacturers and importers. There are still some points in the decision related to whole sale and part sale, which should be applied in intervals. He said that current disagree-

ment between the government and the private sector with relation to sales tax is restricted to the mechanism of application.

"In the countries that have sales tax, such a tax is paid by customers directly when they make a purchase. It is also collected from wholesale and part sale traders by adding the cost of the tax to the purchase bill," said An'am. "It is difficult to apply this process in our country, since calculations of wholesale and part sale traders are not often organized in account books. How can sales tax be collected under such conditions?"

He pointed out that the door to extortion will be opened and people will close down their stores if a sales tax is immediately applied. He said that in such a case this process will affect will aggravate unemployment and affect the economic situation and trade activity in Yemen. "Owners of stores evade paying cleanliness and other payable fees. How can they be demanded to pay more fees, such as a sales tax?" wondered An'am. He said that the government has the right to improve its financial resources through customs and tax but in ways that don't freeze trade activity. He said that it is necessary to prepare traders first to apply this decision before taking it.

## Real Estate Trends

An'am talked about the activities of Hayel Saeed An'am Group, reviewing the issues related to real estate. He pointed out that there is a new trend by the group to invest in real estate projects, pointing out that two projects of this kind are currently being carried out in Aden. He confirmed that there is a study to establish a residential city in Taiz and other two residential areas in Sana'a and Hodeida.

Concerning the US \$256 million dollar oil refinery project that the group wanted to establish in the R'ass Essa region, An'am made it clear that this project was stopped based on studies that indicated that the quantity of oil in Mareb is decreasing.

He confirmed that the group started working in the field of health investment and the establishment of hospitals. The group recently established Yemen International Hospital in Taiz and aims to continue in this field. An'am said that

health projects employ many people and reduce human suffering through providing proper medication here in Yemen instead of travelling abroad for treatment. He pointed out that the group intends to establish projects that employ more people if the economic situations are stable.

## Employment

Concerning employment, An'am denied that the group laid off any of its employees, confirming that the group cares about its employees and it aims to maintain them, giving them more chances to work in the newly established companies or factories. "There were some surplus employees in some factories and companies, but they were transferred to other areas in our group," said An'am, who expected that the group will not recruit new employees during 2009 and that it will focus on maintaining its current employees.

*We don't expect to recruit new employees this year. Our efforts focus on maintaining the current employees and redistributing surplus employees within the framework of companies in the group.*

## Global Financial Crisis

An'am said that the investments of the group, whether in Yemen or abroad, were not affected by the crisis. He said that the investments of the group in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which are run in partnership with Saudi investors, were not affected since Saudi Arabia was not affected by the crisis. He confirmed that investments in other countries such as Egypt, Britain, and Southeast Asia are still going strong. An'am related that only some companies that deal with products such as wheat, sugar, and cooking oil were slightly affected.

He pointed out that the group wasn't affected by the global financial crisis as it doesn't invest in stock markets and shares, maintaining that the group focuses on productive and operational projects. He said that a cartoon factory in Britain was slightly affected by the crisis as industry in Britain decreased as a result of the crisis.

## Stock Market

Concerning the establishment of a stock market and the possibility of success of such a project as well as the stand of the private sector and the group, An'am said that people should deal with this issue very cautiously as the global financial crisis resulted originally from the manipulation of stock markets. "The idea of establishing a stock market in Yemen has been discussed for many years. Foreign companies were brought into the country to study this issue and discuss it with the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Yemen, and great companies in Yemen, including Hayel Saeed An'am Group and Company. Findings of that study indicated that establishing a stock market in Yemen is possible if it is built on correct rules and sound procedures. An'am pointed out that countries that established stock markets such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia already had giant projects going and began to specialize them in the form of shares. He said that Yemen doesn't have such giant projects and investments that can be introduced into the market in form of shares that can be the very nucleus of a stock market.

He said that a stock market can be a good idea, but that it should be processed gradually in order to take many considerations into account. For example, some people have financial liquidity and want to invest in shares, but only with trusted projects. An'am said that the group had put two its projects – Yemen International Hospital and Al-Wataneya Cement Factory – up for shares. He maintained that these projects witnessed a good turnout as they received many demands and big amounts of money which exceeded the required shares for such a project. He said that there will be an extension in the release of shares of the Al-Wataneya Cement Factory, but within the current sharers. New sharers can be added later, but with higher prices as the factory has started operation.

With regard to increasing the productive capacity of the factory, An'am said that the highest capacity of the factory's distribution will be achieved during mid-February in terms of production and exportation. He said that the factory signed a contract with Ethiopia which will import 150 thousand tons of cement

per month from Al-Wataneya factory. Distribution of cement inside the country will reach new areas, as it is now restricted to certain governorates due to high cost of exportation.

Concerning prices on goods that dropped everywhere in the world except Yemen, An'am said that all coverage and press articles on this issue focus on the price of wheat and flour without paying attention to the changes and dimensions related to this item. Importers don't have any problems selling these items for the same cost of purchase if the margin of profit is added during purchase. This is different from manufacturers who usually have big stockpiles; therefore, prices can only drop gradually as they bought the stockpile for high prices. He pointed out that the last price crisis of wheat and flour occurred because of the government's dealing with the United Arab Emirates' grant. The government didn't notify manufacturers and importers about the time of receiving and distributing the grant so that they can take precautions and stop importation temporarily in order not to accumulate wheat in stores and, consequently, be subjected to expiry.

*We demand correct supply monitoring and expect that prices of wheat, milk and cooking oil will drop.*

He said that the lack of transparency by the government concerning a clear wheat distribution plan and exact times of distributing the grant confused manufacturers and importers who remained hesitant to import during the period of receiving the grant. The situation remained vague, which resulted in a decrease of stockpiles of wheat at a time the grant didn't reach everyone. He confirmed that lack of supply monitoring gave traders a chance to sell wheat for inflated prices. He pointed out that controlling needs strict supply monitoring and awareness of citizens and consumers with this issue. With regards to the prices of other food items, An'am expected that prices of wheat, milk, and food items in general will drop to the level prices were at two years ago.

## 2009 year of engineering insurance

By: Almigdad Mojalli

**W**ith construction on the rise in Yemen, insuring contractors and construction workers is more important today than ever. Private and public insurance companies in Yemen discussed engineering and occupational hazard insurance as priorities to protect both.

A seminar entitled "Towards Safe Projects" concluded on Tuesday with a number of recommendations in order to encourage members of the business sector to insure their projects and provide their workers with insurance.

The year 2009 has been declared as year of engineering insurance in Yemen. Throughout the year, insurance companies will educate the public and businesses about the importance of insurance, particularly engineering insurance.

"Un-adapted laws and lack of awareness make it even harder to promote insurance in the Yemeni business market," said Tareq Abdulwase'e, director of United Insurance Company and organizer of the seminar. "This is why such events are important, and the synergy between various stakeholders is essential."

Engineering insurance aims to protect contractors against damage and loss caused by natural disasters and other accidents during their projects. Currently many construction projects are put on hold nationwide after natural disasters or damage because they are not covered by engineering insurance.

Up to 520 projects worth USD 385 million are currently on hold in Yemen



**Tareq Abdulwase'e, director of United Insurance Company**

because of many problems, including the absence of engineering insurance, according to Ahmed Al-Asbahi, head of the Yemeni Contractors Association.

"We urge the insurance companies to decrease insurance rates to encourage the beneficiaries to insure their projects," said Ahmed Al-Asbahi, the head of the Yemen Contractors Association.

Engineering insurance covers risks for all construction works, including the building of roads, theaters, railways, seaports and airports.

In case of accident or damage, the contractor must notify the insurance company immediately and keep evidence of the incident. If the contractor fails to notify the insurance company within 14 days, he will not be compensated.

Within the terms of the contract, the insurance company will repair or replace damaged machines and pay for the disposal of damaged parts. In particular, the engineering insurance covers installment and maintenance of equipment, including heavy machinery

such as cranes and pumps, broken-down motors and boilers, as well as the misuse, damage or theft of electronic equipment.

The insurance company also compensates contractors for financial loss when machines break down, according to the loss of gross profit.

However, added Abdulwase'e, there is always a compulsory sum that the contractor must bear in case of any damage or loss in order to contractors being careless or cheating.

Many contractors affirmed that engineering insurance is effective in protecting contractors' projects and properties: "The conditions of the engineering insurance are suitable," said Mesar Sallab, a contractor. "It is very important to insure."

"We suffered many losses throughout our work like the destruction of roads and equipments, but the insurance company was always faithful and compensated us completely," he added.

Sallab has insured his company since the beginning of his work in Yemen in 1996 and thinks that insuring his business against equipment damage and laborers' accidents at work.

Fawzi Mujahid, representative of the Supreme Committee for Bids and Auctions, responsible for surveying government-employed contractor, said engineering insurance was at the center of the committee's plan to protect the governmental and contractors' properties.

Abdulhamid Abughanim, consultant for the Central Organization for Auditing and Controlling, have said that engineering insurance will have an important role in promoting transparency and fighting corruption in con-



**Currently many construction projects are put on hold nationwide after natural disasters or damage because they are not covered by engineering insurance.**

tracting companies, as insurers will be reviewing their books on a regular basis.

## Occupational hazard insurance

Seminar participants also encouraged employers to take out occupational hazard insurance to protect their employees, whether in construction or elsewhere. Occupational hazard insurance protects an employee at work, on his way to and from work and on any

work-related assignment outside his normal workplace. It can also be tailored to include individual and collective health insurance, as well as individual and family travel insurance.

In the case of death, the occupational hazard insurance compensates the deceased family with YR 1.6 million according to Yemeni law.

If an accident at work prevents an employee from working or earning a living, the insurance company will

compensate him accordingly. This applies especially in the case of an employee losing his sight, use of arms and legs, or even paralysis. If the injured employee is demoted as a consequence of the accident and his salary is decreased accordingly, the insurance company will pay the difference.

In both cases, the employee's inability to work or perform certain tasks must be confirmed by a medical report before compensation.



# Human Rights Watch World Report 2009

## Yemen - Events of 2008

The human rights situation in Yemen has deteriorated markedly over the past several years. Yemen had previously made advances in the rule of law, setting out rights in the constitution, the penal code, and criminal procedure code. However, these have been eroded by hundreds of arbitrary arrests and several dozen enforced disappearances, mainly in the context of armed clashes in the north, but also relating to the government's domestic counterterrorism efforts and crackdown on social and political unrest in the south of the country.

Yemen is one of only five countries known since January 2005 to have executed persons for crimes committed while under age 18.

## Arbitrary Arrests and Enforced Disappearances

Conflict in Sa'da governorate between government forces, abetted by tribal allies, and a rebel group known as the Huthis, first erupted in 2004. A fifth round of fighting that broke out in May 2008 ended on July 17. In the context of this recurring armed conflict, Yemen's security forces carried out hundreds of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances of civilians. Since 2007, and especially in the first half of 2008, the extent of arbitrary arrests and "disappearances" expand-

ed, with the authorities broadening the targets of such arrests and detentions to include persons reporting on the war's impact on civilians.

On August 17, a month after the fifth round of fighting ended, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced some prisoner releases, but dozens, and possibly hundreds, of persons remain arbitrarily detained, and new arrests have taken place. Estimates of the numbers of persons "disappeared" vary. Yemeni rights organizations have documented dozens of cases of persons who have "disappeared," most of whom eventually reappeared at the facilities of the Political Security Organization, the security and intelligence agency directly linked to the office of

President Saleh. In August 2008 officials stated that there were approximately 1,200 political prisoners still detained, with plans to release 130 of these. The government has taken no steps to investigate or hold accountable those responsible for enforced disappearances.

## Denial of Humanitarian Access to Conflict Areas

Since June 2004 the armed conflict in northern Yemen has displaced up to 130,000 people, a great many of whom remained out of the reach of humanitarian agencies as of November 2008. Particularly since 2007, when international aid agencies sought access to all parts of Sa'da governorate, Yemeni authorities have severely restricted these agencies from reaching tens of thousands of civilians in need. After fighting erupted again in May 2008, the government blocked the movement of commercial goods in Sa'da, including basic foods and fuel, an act that appears to constitute collective punishment.

When President Saleh declared an end to the fighting in July, 60,000 displaced persons had found refuge in Sa'da town, where they received limited assistance. However, tens of thousands of others - possibly as many as 70,000 persons - had been displaced in remote areas or other urban areas, where government restrictions on movement largely prevented aid agencies from providing them with the assistance they needed. Since August the government has told international humanitarian agencies that they have unrestricted access to the whole of Sa'da governorate, but the reality is different. Many agencies are told they must apply for and be granted a separate Interior Ministry permission for each and every trip, an almost impossible operational requirement. At this writing the access of humanitarian agencies was insufficient to reach many of those who have long been without assistance and remain at risk.

## Freedom of Information

Also distinguishing the conflict in 2008 was the extent of government control over information. Officials prevented journalists and humanitarian workers from going to the conflict zone, threatened journalists with reprisal if they reported on the conflict, and prosecuted at least one journalist, opposition website editor Abd al-Karim al-Khaiwani, before a State Security Court. In June 2008 the court sentenced him to a six-year prison term. President Saleh pardoned him on September 25. The authorities also had disconnected all but a select number of mobile telephone numbers in the conflict area.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Terrorism resurged in Yemen in 2008. Al Qaeda in Yemen also launched an online magazine, *Sada al-Malahim*

(Echoes of Battles), urging jihadists to kidnap Western tourists to secure the release of jailed members. In response, the United States has been pressuring the government to enact sweeping counterterrorism measures that local human rights groups fear would repress dissent and increase arbitrary arrests and detentions.

In September 2008 a sophisticated attack involving coordinated car bombs directed at the gates of the US Embassy in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, killed six Yemeni security personnel, four civilians, and the six attackers. In March 2008 unknown perpetrators fired mortars toward the embassy, hitting a nearby school. In January 2008 gunmen killed two Belgian tourists and their two Yemeni drivers. Yemeni officials blamed insurgents linked to al Qaeda for all three attacks.

Yemeni authorities have released some arrested security suspects, including Jamal al-Badawi, a Yemeni convicted of organizing the October 2000 attack on the USS Cole, in return for their pledges to cooperate with security forces.

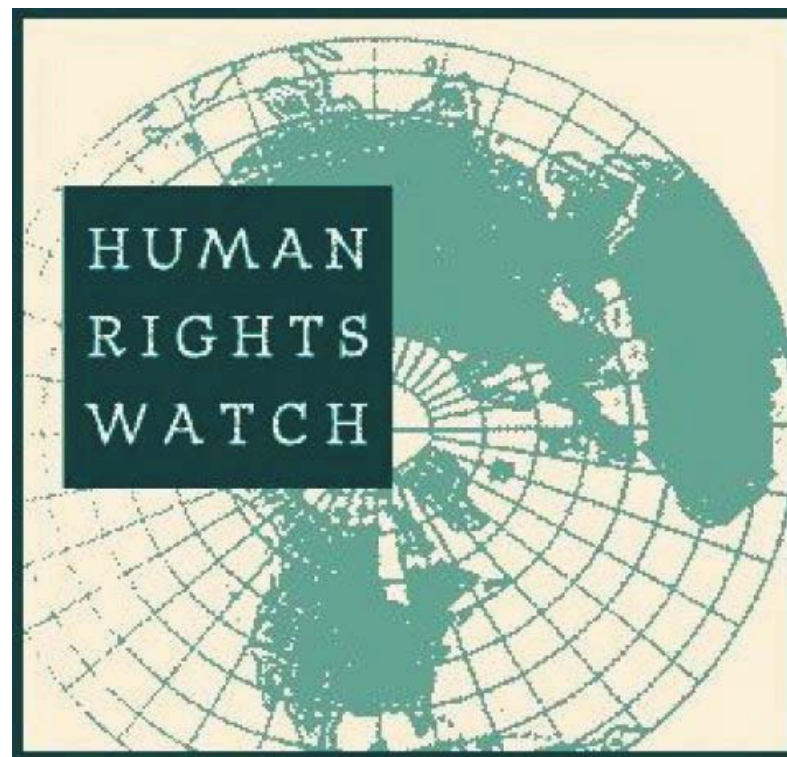
Of approximately 255 prisoners still in US military detention at Guantanamo Bay, more than 100 are Yemenis, the largest group by nationality. Two of the three Guantanamo detainees convicted by controversial US military commissions are Yemenis; both were convicted in 2008.

## Criminal Justice and the Juvenile Death Penalty

Yemen retains the death penalty for a wide variety of offenses, among them murder of a Muslim, arson or explosion, endangering transport and communications, apostasy, robbery, prostitution, adultery, and homosexuality.

In 1994 Yemen amended its Penal Code to require reduced sentences for crimes committed by persons under 18, including a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment for those who commit capital offenses. However, implementation of this provision and a similar provision in the Juvenile Act has been hampered by Yemen's very low birth registration rate and weak juvenile justice system, which make it difficult for many juvenile offenders to prove their age at the time of the offense. While Yemeni law provides for age determinations conducted by an "expert," it does not clarify how the determinations should be conducted, nor require that defendants receive the benefit of the doubt if the expert finds that the defendant could have been younger than 18. According to NGOs working on juvenile justice in Yemen, the country lacks adequate forensic facilities with staff trained in conducting age determinations, and judges do not routinely question young defendants about their age at the time of the alleged offense to help ensure that juvenile offenders are not mistakenly tried as adults.

In February 2007 Yemen executed



Adil Muhammad Saif al-Ma'amari for a crime allegedly committed when he was 16. According to Penal Reform International, at least 18 other juvenile offenders are believed to be on death row.

## Early and Forced Marriage

Yemen's Personal Status Law sets no minimum age for marriage of girls, stating instead that a girl "is not to be wed until she is ready for sex, even if she exceeds 15 years." In addition, the Penal Code does not criminalize marital rape and girls and women in forced marriages have little recourse against abuse. Early marriage is widespread in Yemen and linked to elevated rates of maternal mortality, domestic violence, and school dropout. A 2005 survey in al-Hodeidah and Hadramaut governorates by Sana'a University's Gender Development Research and Studies Center found 52 percent of girls were married by age 18, with some girls marrying as young as eight. In April 2008 parliamentary committees rejected provisions in a proposed Safe Motherhood Law, introduced in 2005, that would have raised the minimum age of marriage to 18 and banned female genital mutilation. The governmental Women's National Committee had called for the amendments following public outcry over the case of a nine-year-old girl who sought divorce after her forced marriage to a much older man who raped her. The Ministry of Health said it planned to reintroduce the draft law with a provision setting the minimum marriage age at 15.

## Key International Actors

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and other Persian Gulf states provide substantial amounts of assistance to Yemen, but for the most part do not make figures

public. Many Yemenis believe that this, along with substantial amounts of aid to private actors, including tribal leaders and religious institutions, make Saudi Arabia Yemen's largest donor.

Nine European Union states also provide aid to Yemen. The United Kingdom is the largest Western donor; the UK Department for International Development states that it will have provided £117 million (US\$189 million) between 2007 and 2011.

Because of the presence of many Yemeni and other Arab veterans of wars in Afghanistan, counterterrorism has been the key issue in Yemen's relations with the United States. For the fiscal year 2008 the Bush administration estimates it spent US\$17.5 million in military and other assistance to Yemen, including US\$2 million specifically for counterterrorism measures. However, the US suspended a planned additional grant of US\$20.6 million to the Yemeni government to protest the release of Jamal al-Badawi.

All donor states were reluctant in 2008 to press the government on its conduct in the Sa'da conflict, apparently out of concern about the government's political stability.

Numerous United Nations agencies have a presence in Yemen, including the World Food Program, UN Children's Fund, the UN Development Programme, and UN High Commissioner for Refugees, although the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has no staff there. Security concerns have placed all UN staff in the country on heightened alert and agencies have operated in only two towns in Sa'da governorate.

Yemen is due to be reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council in May 2009.

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

### EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

Title of Post: **Snr. Protection Clerk**  
Position Number: **10014042** Date of Entry on Duty: **Immediate**  
Category & Level: **GL 5** Duration: **31 Dec. 2009**  
Location: **Ahwar** Closing Date: **18 Feb. 2009**

**Duties AND Responsibilities**  
Under the direct supervision of the Associate 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:

- Conducts basic interviews with asylum-seekers prior to determination interviews;
- Provides basic interview notes to supervisor on asylum claims;
- Prepares all documentation with regard to decisions on asylum claims; (he will not do any decision but supervise registration activities for Somali and non-Somali new arrivals)
- Attends to all asylum-seekers and refugees queries and takes further action where necessary;
- Maintains all protected-related statistical records and files;
- Responsible for Protection Coordination and Monitoring of protection related activities such as registration and new arrivals reception at coast and at ARC.
- Conducts field visits to coastal areas to monitor protection of new arrivals.
- Conducts, assists and monitors awareness raising activities to new arrivals, villagers and checkpoints.
- Performs other duties as required.

**Qualification Requirements**  
**Knowledge and Skills:** Political and organization awareness. Secondary education  
**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:**  
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF UNHCR.  
APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE TO:  
Mr. Abdul Nabi Qaderi, Associated Field Officer Ahwar Reception Center.  
Ms. Diana A. Salim, HR UNHCR Sub-Office Aden  
UNHCR Sub-Office Aden P.O. Box 6090 or Fax # 02-234406

**JOB VACANCY**  
**ISLAMIC RELIEF YEMEN**

Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) is seeking qualified candidate to fill the following vacancy:

**Position:** Orphan and Child Welfare Programme Field Officer (Sana'a Based): (Females Only)  
**Reference:** OCWPFO/IPD/090209

**Responsibilities:**

- To participate in all orphan and child welfare programme activities
- To be responsible for implementing activities of orphan and child welfare programme as per policy and procedure on the field level
- To be responsible for continuous registration and monitoring of sponsored orphans for their welfare and development of livelihood status
- To liaise with families, schools and other relevant authorities
- To be an effective assistant to orphans programme team to improve and implement the project and to gather and analyse all related data
- To implement all work related to programme objectives
- To prepare timely reports
- To organise various events for children
- To be able to intensively travel to all areas of Sana'a Governorate
- To carry out other duties assigned by the line manager

**Requirements:**

- University degree in social science or equivalent
- At least 3 years experience in development
- Fluency in English and Arabic (written and spoken) are essential
- To have a good understanding of child rights and protection issues
- Good computer skills in (Word processing, Excel, PowerPoint & usage of internet)

**Please send a copy of your CV latest by 23rd February 2009.**

HR/Admin Department  
Islamic Relief Yemen,  
P O Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Fax No: 01-415998 Or Email: info@iryemen.org

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Islamic Relief is an international relief and development charity with its headquarters in the UK that aims to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people

**المحاور الرئيسية للملتقى**

**المحاور الرئيسية لأوراق عمل الملتقى (صباحاً):**

- الدور الاستراتيجي لإدارة الموارد البشرية في ظل التغيرات والأزمات العالمية المعاصرة
- عرض تجربة محاكم دبي في الحصول على جائزة أفضل أداء وتطوير للموارد البشرية لعام 2008 من برنامج دبي للاداء الحكومي المتميز
- تقييم الأداء بين التلموح والروتين: نظرة حديثة في فلسفة تقييم الأداء.
- الانجازات الحديثة في التخطيط الاستراتيجي لإدارة الموارد البشرية وعلاقته باستراتيجية المنظمة
- استراتيجية دبي لتنمية الموارد البشرية (معهد دبي لتنمية الموارد البشرية نموذجاً)
- الجودة في نظام الموارد البشرية لتطبيق الجودة الشاملة (Quality in Human Resources)
- استراتيجيات وسياسات الموارد البشرية في ظل المنافسة
- الطرق الإبداعية لتتجهيرطاقات الموارد البشرية (كيف تحصل على أفضل مائة موظف)

**المحاور الرئيسية لورش الملتقى (مساءً)**

- كيفية تفسير الطاقات واستغلال مواهب ومهارات الموارد البشرية في المنظمات المعاصرة
- رؤية ومنظور حديث لكيفية تخطيط المسار الوظيفي
- كيفية اعداد وتنفيذ برامج التهيئة للموظفين الجدد (New Employees Induction Programs)
- الإدارة الحديثة للموارد البشرية ودورها في التخلص من القيود الروتينية والعوائق الإدارية (تيسير الإجراءات الإدارية للمنظمات الحديثة)
- الأساليب الحديثة لقياس العائد من التدريب
- كيفية وضع الاستراتيجيات المناسبة للمنظمة في ظروف المنافسة

**الملتقى الثاني للموارد البشرية**  
**HUMAN RESOURCES SECOND FORUM**

الدور الاستراتيجي للموارد البشرية في ظل المتغيرات العالمية المعاصرة  
1 - 2 مارس 2009م

بالتعاون مع:

- Qurtoba (تدريب، استشارات، تطوير، استشارات)
- مجموعة الرويشان (AllRawaishan Group)
- Smart Brain
- Smart Solutions
- Qurtoba Training & Consulting
- مجموعات الراعي الرئيسي:
- نادي شباب الشرطة
- بلادي
- مكتبات
- مركز الدراسات والبحوث
- الإدارة العامة
- مركز الدراسات والبحوث
- MAHANNI
- المرأة المشاركة
- المرأة الإعلامية
- للحجز والتسجيل

E-mail: info@qurtoba-ye.com www.qurtoba-ye.com Mobile: 711800236 777797070 01 202 202

## APOLOGY

We would like to apologize to Lamia Al-Eryany about what has been published in Yemen Times interview with her last issue (1232) under the title 'Lamia Al-Eryany, a poetess expressing life'. In the interview the reporter mistakenly mentioned that she had received some letters in the context of how some readers misunderstand female poets.

We would like to clarify to the readers that she has not said this or mentioned getting letters or emails of the sort. And we apologize for any inconvenience caused.



## A governmental hide and seek

By: Salwa Yehia Aleryani  
Zolaykha2003@yahoo.com

Sometimes we all feel bored, fed up, or both. Even children do. Children often feel bored, although they do have a lot of fun in their lives. They are not responsible for any serious duties. They do not carry on their backs heavy loads or piles of concerns. They play to get rid of the boredom and dullness that arrests them and throws them in cells of depression. So what about us adults? We have sad concerns, serious responsibilities, many challenges, desires and needs in which we strive to fulfill. Sometimes we succeed after making an amazing effort, but nearly always we can't. This makes us depressed.

A Yemeni citizen was one of the people from the second group who just couldn't go on fighting for everything. He is one of the people who failed to continue doing his duties and feel relaxed at work. He just felt that doing his duties drowned him in deep levels of stress and patience. He gave up. He felt that he lost all hope in living his life the way he planned to. He was still young, but his feelings were much older.

He decided to go to the mosque to pray to Allah to solve this complicated problem. We humans are too tiny to make such a huge situation move even an inch. This situation is a huge as a mountain. Can an ant move a mountain? Only Allah can change this very bad standard of living in which nearly all Yemenis are living. Those who aren't in this bad situation are either not Yemeni or they are not living, but rather spreading this problem like a cancer, and increasing like it too.

Yemeni Citizen (or YC) went out of the mosque feeling very relaxed and comfortable. He has given up, and giving up is a relaxing action. He felt that now that he has made a prayer to Allah then maybe there's a pinch of hope that if Allah wills to change this situation, then Allah will. While YC was walking, a devilish idea jumped into his head. The idea was crazy but it kept shooting through him like flames of fire. This idea was going to the government and make an agreement with it. Or in other words, a "deal." YC thought that if the government agreed to make this deal then maybe he can reach his goals and make his dreams come true. He believed that "the deal" was the only solution. So, he walked to the government's house to talk to it about the deal.

At the door of the house he was searched very strictly. He was asked many questions. Then he was given a sip of water to wet his dry throat. At last they allowed him to enter. He saw the government lying around on a deck chair in front of a beautiful swimming pool. There was a glass of juice on the table with a very colorful decorated straw inside it. An umbrella was shading everything surrounding the government. Behind it, on the left side, there was smoke coming up from a wonderful barbeque. There were sausages, chicken, and meat being grilled. YC approached, expressing clear amazement. Wow, life is luxurious in here – how come it isn't out there? When YC came closer, he was able to smell the smoke of the barbeque and it made him swallow. For years now he has not eaten, but he has definitely smelt and swallowed. In fact, YC realized that has never done all three: 1) smelt 2) chewed 3) swallowed. One shouldn't be too greedy, you know. Some people don't even smell, poor them!

The government stretched its big stick out in front of YC and said, "Don't come any closer." So YC stopped under the sun. The government said, "I listen to my people's demands." YC smiled and said, "Yea, we smelt and swallow but never eat and you listen and see but never do anything. We are equally negative." The government stood up. It said, "Now what is it that you want? I don't want you to think that I am too

friendly. My people abuse and take advantage of others when they are too friendly." YC looked at the turquoise colored water shining under the sun. He answered, "Why don't you and I make a deal? I challenge you with all your employees and army and forces: everything you have. We will play hide and seek. I will hide and you and all your employees will look for me. I will give you 3 tries to find me, although I am sure you won't find me even if I gave you 100 tries. If you don't find me, then you give me the right to come with my family to live in this house. What do you think? If a miracle happens and you do find me, then you can't do anything worse to me than what I am already tolerating. What do you think? Agree?"

The government was listening with a grin. It was nice for a change instead of all that artificial drama about searching for criminals and corrupters to search for a Yemeni citizen. The government agreed. YC nodded. The deal was settled.

YC said, "Now count from one to three. I will hide. You can look for me three times." The government was still smiling. The government covered its eyes and said loudly: One, Two, Three. It opened its eyes and YC was not there anymore. The government rubbed its palms together, feeling excited to enter such a contest! The government called its employees and told them the whole story of YC's visit and all the details of the deal. Then all of a sudden it said, "Come on, get going! You guys have 3 tries only. Start searching." The government then turned around and with a high jump it dove into the pool like an athlete.

The employees discussed. The first one to volunteer to go and search was the Doctor.

He said to the rest of the employees, "Let me start. I bet I'll find him quickly. YC, I assume, is in a hospital. He is probably there weeping after he lost one of his children. He lost his child either after a surgery in which the doctors forgot the bed sheet inside the stomach of the child, or too much anesthesia was injected into the poor patient and his child never woke up again. Oh, or maybe the doctor failed and gave the wrong diagnosis and as a result the child took the wrong medicine, making him worse. His child is definitely in the intensive care now. So, he is definitely in a hospital! I will go and get him now. Don't you worry, my dears! Wait and I will be back in a sec."

The rest of the employees sat in a circle on the floor. The doctor went with all of his bodyguards, cars, and some soldiers, but he didn't find YC. He came back to the employees very disappointed. He told them, "Very strange, but I didn't find him. I saw many disasters in the hospitals. I saw many victims. I saw criminals sneaking here and there, neither being observed nor leaving a trail of evidence. But I didn't find him!! This YC! Really strange!

A teacher stood up. He yelled, "Come On! I will find him. You guys didn't get the complications of YC's psychology. Yemeni people adore their children. They feel they live for their sake, so if you want to destroy Yemenis, simply pollute their kids with the wrong environment and education. I will find him in his children's school. He is yelling and complaining until his voice is hoarse, I assume, due to the shameful standard of education and embarrassing qualifications of the staff in the majority of private and public schools. People are opening schools for profit and making money. Therefore they believe in the culture of hiring the poorest teachers who would be satisfied with the least salary. People who are qualified and have good certificates and excellent experience will ask for more salary, and the profit will be reduced. So the school owners don't hire them. What do you expect the result to be? The students are the victims. I saw a teacher one time when I visited a school spelling a word

wrong on the board, and the poor students were copying and learning the wrong word from her. That was an Arabic teacher. Arabic language, even though it is the language of the Qur'an, is very much condemned. Teachers who teach the Qur'an make children feel that the teacher is an explosive creature, not existing for any reason except to forbid them from asking any questions for which they don't have the answers. So, I guess I will find him in his children's school. I will go and get him right away."

The teacher went while the rest of the employees sat back, starting to feel a little worried. He went with the same soldiers and forces to search for YC. He saw many tragic situations, far too many to list or tell. But he didn't find YC. He went back to the government's house. He mumbled, "I couldn't find that devil!"

A man jumped up, pushing aside the men sitting on the left and right. "What on earth are you talking about? You couldn't find that insect?! You guys are weak! Sorry for saying that. I will go and get him now!"

This man was the one responsible for prices in the country. He continued saying, "I'll grasp that YC from his collar and break both of his legs. How dare he be so clever, making us all look for him and not find him. Who on earth does he think he is? Are you going to wait until that devilish rat comes and lives in the government's house? I know where he is, that... he is feeling shaky and lost. He fears tomorrow. His daily needs are impossible to satisfy and days are becoming a nightmare. Dear people like sons and daughters are becoming enemies because he can neither provide them with their urgent needs nor can he ignore them any longer. Needs are bugging him. He doesn't feel safe or secure. He can't guarantee anything because everything is changing for the worse. He is suffering from insomnia. He is observing thieves being rewarded and hard workers being struck to death. He is feeling the body of forbidden prosper. He is searching for justice and mercy, but he won't find anything. So, he is either at the mosque's door, begging, or lying on the pavement and begging for dinner. Just give me a second. I will be back with him. You will see – I'll find him this time."

He went and made a tour around the city. He saw young men begging with their youth and health very noticeable. He saw young female teens begging with foundation and mascara and very drawn eyes. He saw people become pale after coming out of a supermarket with a small plastic bag and only 3 products inside it after having spent about 5000YR. He saw people starving. He saw starving people. He saw oppression. He saw many things, but he didn't find YC. It was quite upsetting for him, but he had to go back to the government's house. What will he tell them? The government will be angry and it will curse him.

He went back and they were all at the entrance, including the government itself. As soon as they saw him alone, they shouted. He pleaded, "What can I do? I didn't find him!" Suddenly a child of about 10 years jumped and told them, "Yemeni Citizen said Game Over. Come. I will show you where he is." They all rushed after him. The child took them to the street. It was extremely crowded. The government worried, is it a demonstration? The government said to the boy strictly, "How are we supposed to find him in this entire crowd?" The boy looked sad. He said, "Push your way to the front of the crowd. In the front, you will find my father." They started to push and kick until they reached the very front. The men were carrying a bed with a dead person on it. The dead person was covered with a bed sheet with a phrase written on it.

"Why didn't you expect that I would die?"

## Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy  
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### Satellite channels of songs, where to?

Among the overall satellite television channels, the channels for music videos and songs are more in number than all others. This is the case for almost all satellite companies. Most people take the matter normally and may raise no objection against the low quality of their products. They do not take into consideration the pros and cons of spending a lot of time watching such channels, even with mute sound. Some people, however, seriously approach the current situation of the Arabs in relation with the aims and objectives of these channels.

As an opinion of some, it is claimed that there is no danger of such channels, as they are just a reflection of the real situation of people. They do no harm to the society since the real situation is similar, or may be worse than what these music videos show. At the same time, the quality of songs – i.e. words, melodies, and singers' voices – are no longer taken into account. It seems it is the age of singers' and dancers' quality.

The other opinion is completely against such low channels due to the social, religious, and moral danger they may bring about. The society, starting from children to grown up persons, may get influenced by the attractions and temptations of the ladies' semi-naked bodies, with all their shaking parts, leading people, especially youth, to think of nothing more than sexual desires.

Songs, in case they are really so, are the main content, or "business," of

such channels. Other items, like competitions and ads, are just for financing these channels. Around the clock, songs are repeatedly shown, somehow by all the same singers, with all the required tempting dance teams. They are no longer evaluated for their words or their musical melody. The size of the protruding parts and the dancing skills of women – white meat! – are the standards of evaluation.

Competitions, with really trivial questions, are held on these channels, not for widening the cultural horizons of the audience but for making money. People, especially the youth, spend too much time watching such songs instead of paying attention to the words or the music. It is really amazing when we see a deaf person fight to watch such channels in search of interest.

I do not know whether we should call it "art" or "music" or even "dance." No; I think dancing is a craft and a skill, while the dancing shown on these channels shows only corporeal qualifications. Whatever we call it, it makes no difference. Its present situation is no more than a mirror of the low-quality of man's life. Such channels are made and affected by man, and subsequently, they are affected by him. They show nothing more than the physical and psychological state of people (especially Arabs) who are just shaking bodies in front of the western world, which only makes fun of them, before satisfying their morals and principles.

The case is different in the opinion of others who claim that such channels

are the reason behind the backwardness in the people's life. They have a direct impact into the mentality and lifestyles of most of the audience.

The songs with all the required "spices" do attract a lot of people, especially youth, and they attract men and women both. They show them what they could not see even in their bedrooms at their homes. These things do excite them, leading them to think of nothing else.

In addition to the time spent watching these music videos, they sometimes spend money through participating in the worthless competitions. Companies pay high amounts of money to promote products on these channels. Actually, they have the right because they well know that the audience is more interested in these channels than other pedagogic channels or news channels. In fact, we do not have the right to stand against these channels, for they are doing a kind of business.

The blame, or let it be advice, should be directed to those who pay all attention and interests to such channels, burning time in vain. It is not a crime to watch them, but they must do that with a complete consideration of the harm they cause to the whole society. No need to say more, I maybe wrong. A better solution is to let people treat the matter themselves. But it must be through the mind's eye.

Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an ex-editor of English Journal of the University.

## Sad facts of a beautiful culture

By: Jamal Nassar  
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I don't know when exactly it started, but as long as I can remember, elders in the family – relatives close and far, neighbours, and others I didn't even know – taught their children some principles that were all about the Yemeni culture, the social manual of "How-To" if you will.

The lack of education among most of the elders made them cling to a few unhealthy principles that were mixed with social myths which did not necessarily reflect true social value.

Younger people can't question the teachings of the elders, and it would be disrespectful to do so. The idea is that it is better to carry on with the old principles and concepts of social and cultural life rather than to question or redefine them. Such actions would be rebellious.

I am not saying all the things our parents and the previous generation taught us are wrong! No, we are who we are today because of them. However, some of these social principles and values are actually not taught to us directly. Rather, they are demonstrated in our daily communication and social interactions.

What is deemed forbidden in one society might be a blessing for another. What makes Yemeni society unique and different is patently obvious, and we have many beautiful social and cultural habits that attract tourists from all over the globe.

But we must pause to ask ourselves: What is right? And what is wrong? Are values relative from one person to another, or from one culture to another? What must we keep and cherish, and what must we re-evaluate?

We 'the young Yemenis' are a new generation that is stuck with bunch ofoodoo that does not represent our religion or our ancestors' values. So where does it all come from? This question I am not able to answer yet. We need to go back in time and study history to identify the troubled times and their effects on our culture.

I offer a sample of these socio-cultural values if you are not from Yemen, or if you are unsure where I am coming from. Some of these values are:

1. The comparison game that is dangerously played among siblings, relatives, friends, and all sorts of social circles. This creates unhealthy competition among youngsters. In the process, they use unhealthy methods to compete, and worse, the competition turns into a fight to prove oneself and hate one's counterparts.

2. It is disrespectful to question an older person, even if they are wrong. Older social figures preach about values they themselves don't practice. This creates double standards and promotes hypocrisy.

3. People promote their own tribes, villages, and cities over all others. It must almost always be us against them, again in a comparison war.

4. The identity of a person comes from where he or she belongs, not for who he or she is. This decreases the passion and desire to excel as a person, and therefore diminishes the return to the group, the tribe, or even the city or country.

5. Emotions are sick expressions, especially for men. We were explicitly socially taught that men and sometimes women should always keep their feelings hidden inside where no other man or woman can see, feel, or hear.

By emotions, most of us would think crying, laughing, loving, caring, and showing deep sincerity for family, friends, and even strangers.

Yes, that is right – these are exactly the emotions we are taught to withhold.

6. Hard work is not good for you, and it is not a sign of intelligence. I have noticed this under various circumstances, in different parts of Yemen. This is another social myth that is not healthy to promote at all. That's why most of us get the feeling that if we are working very hard, that means we desperately need the money, and if that is the case, then we are sending a message of rescue to all the people we know.

As a result, young people today are afraid to apply this concept and be punished socially for working too hard. Punishment could be anything from social solitude to upsetting your close ones.

7. Before you pursue a personal venture, you must consult your entire social circle. This is taken a bit too far.

To consult is to excel – that is a fact, because you are bound to get the best advice if you consult more than one person worth consulting.

Today, life is different from what it used to be 30 or 40 years ago. For example, business today is totally different; we must be fast and we must move and make a strike when we think we can.

A few large families today run the most powerful companies in Yemen, and from I what I understand, the young managers and leaders sometimes miss important business deals because of these social habits and because of the rigidity of the social system.

8. It is very common in Yemen that friends, relatives, and even business associates offer their help every time they depart or separate, even for a day or two. Said in Arabic as "Ay khadamat," loosely translated as "How can I be of service to you," this phrase has become extremely commonplace. However, everyone knows that this is almost a meaningless phrase and it is said as a complement to the conversation or to the person. This phrase and similar habits and practices actually promote hypocrisy.

If you would like to find out for yourself, every time someone tells you "Ay khadamat" just ask for something. You will be amazed at how many people will stop saying that.

We must start distinguishing between what is polite is not.

I am not saying we should not use this phrase "Ay khadamat" anymore. That would be another unhealthy social habit.

Just say it when you mean it.

9. Story telling is a beautiful social habit that is used to pass wisdom to generations and generations. However, we have become a social nation that relies on transforming itself to the following generations through storytelling. This has almost killed reading among the younger people.

At our social gatherings, we often hear "I heard in the news" or "I heard on the bus" or "I heard from someone who heard from someone"...

Where did the phrase "I read" go? Our magnificent culture and rich history is being deformed because of our unhealthy social habits.

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سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٢٩

اللغة الإنجليزية - يبحث عن عمل في مجال تخصصه.

للتواصل: ٧٧٠٥٤٤٦٧٤ - ٧٧٠٨٨٧٢٥

• حامد عبد الكريم - دبلوم هندسة معمارية - حاصل على أربع دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر - يجيد العمل على برنامج اتوكاد (AutoCAD) - خبرة في الإشراف وإعداد الرسومات

للتواصل: ٧٧٦٨٨١٢٢

• بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم سكرتارية آلية - يبحث عن وظيفة في شركة أو كمدرس خصوصي في الفترة المسائية

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٥٤٢٦٨٨

• بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب - خبرة في صيانة الحاسوب - خبرة في الشبكات - خبرة في تقنية المعلومات لاكثر من ثلاث سنوات

للتواصل: ٧٧١٨٨٤٢٠ - ٧٧٧٢٤١١٥

• أسامة الطيب - محاسب - خبرة ٢٣ سنة في هذا المجال داخل وخارج الجمهورية اليمنية - يجيد التعامل مع برامج محاسبية هي المحاسب المثالي - TALLY - يمن سوفت - THREE SOFT

• يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية للتواصل: ٧٧١٦٢٧٤٨

• مهندس الكترونيات - تقني بتقدير عام جيداً - يجيد التعامل مع الأجهزة الإلكترونية وأجهزة القياس - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يجيد استخدام الحاسوب والبرامج التطبيقية - خبرة عالية في صيانة الأجهزة الإلكترونية للتواصل: ٧٣٣٠٧٩١٩٠

• مراد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - كلية التربية - جامعة زمار - يبحث عن وظيفة في أي شركة مستعد للاختبار وممارسة العمل في أي وقت

للتواصل: ٧١١٤٦٦٣٢

• نصر علي - دبلوم عالي مختبرات طبية - خبرة جامعة زمار - يبحث عن عمل كفني مختبرات براتب مناسب في أي مستشفى أو مستوصف أو عيادة أو مختبر - مستعد للعمل فترتين

للتواصل: ٧١١٤٢٢١٩٣ - ٧٣٣٨٩٩١٠٦

• ليسانس في الأدب الإنجليزي من جامعة تعز - دبلوم سكرتارية - دورة فوتوشوب + تنمية بشرية

**باحثون عن وظيفة**

• سنة رابعة كلية التجارة قسم المحاسبة ، حاصل على دبلوم سكرتارية إجابة برامج الكمبيوتر، مستوى جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً ، رخصة قيادة السيارة خبرة في مجال المخازن لمدة تسع سنوات (أمين مخازن) مراقب مخزون، متابع المشتريات، سنة واحدة في مجال الإدارة، أرغب في العمل في مجال مناسب.

للتواصل: شوقي أمين أحمد يوسف ٧١٢٣٦٠٦١٠

• متخصص في العلاقات الإنسانية والتنمية الذاتية ، فلسطيني الجنسية أبحث عن العمل للتواصل ٧٣٣٨٠٣١٩٤

• بكالوريوس نظم معلومات إدارية - إجابة استخدام الكمبيوتر - خبرة في الدعاية والإعلام والتسويق لمدة عامين - إتقان اللغة الإنجليزية نطقاً وكتابة - إجابة أعمال السكرتارية

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٨١٨٢٨

• بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة صنعا - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - النظام المحاسبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت) - خبرة في الحسابات والمراجعة والإدارة

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٠٧٩٨٨٢

• ليسانس في الأدب الإنجليزي - جامعة تعز - تقدير جيد جداً - دبلوم محاسبة - المعهد الوطني بتعز - رخصة قيادة الكمبيوتر ICDDL - يرغب في العمل داخل اليمن أو خارجه

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٧٧٦٦٨٤

• كمال عبدالله - بكالوريوس جيولوجيا - كلية العلوم - يجيد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - جيد في

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• للبيع : فيلا مساحتها ٩ لبن ، دور واحد مكون من أربع غرف مع مجلس وصالتين وحمامين ومطبخ ولها حوش دائري وتقع في مدينة الأصبحي.

للتواصل ٧٧٧٤٠٨٧١١

• للإيجار: مكتب مكون غرفتين مفروشتين مع ملحقاتها مزودة بخطين هاتف وإنترنت ADSL فقط ب ٢٥٠ دولار. للتواصل ٧٧٧٢٨٣٧٢٨

• للبيع أو الإيجار: عمارة مكونة من خمس طوابق - في كل دور ثلاث شقق وشقتين في الدور الأرضي - مشطبة دي لوكس مع مصعد. الموقع: شارع ٢٢ مايو أمام صالة الخيول

للتواصل: ٧١٢٠٤٠٦٦٦ - ٧٠٠٢٩٧٠٠٢

وسكرتارية عدد ثلاث. كما هو مطلوب موظفين في العلاقات العامة والتسويق كادبر نسائي ورجالي، ومطلوب أيضا لشغالة للعمل في يوم واحد.

للتواصل ٧٣٣٥٥٢٩٨ صنعا ٥١٣٩٥٠

• مطلوب للعمل في السعودية - أخصائي جلدية - أخصائي جراحة عامة - أخصائي أطفال - أخصائي باطنية (حاصل على شهادة الماجستير وخبرة لا تقل عن سنتين)

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للتواصل: ٧٣٤٤٤٣٠ - ٧١٣١١٣٣١٧

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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Yemeni handicraftsmen neglected

By: Almigdad Mojalli

Despite the huge number of intricate crafts and products Yemeni handicraftsmen produce, they complain of complete negligence of the government towards them, especially the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture.

Basheer Al-Yaremi, a handicraftsman, complains alongside many of his colleagues that the government never offers anything to encourage them or to promote their products locally or overseas. According to Basheer, neither the Ministry of Tourism nor the Ministry of Culture made any exhibition or promotion activities for the Yemeni-made masterpieces, neither in Yemen nor abroad.

"None of the ministries of culture or tourism has ever made any exhibition for our products. Even when we wanted to teach the handicrafts to the others, the concerned authorities refused to provide us with anything, not even the markers and white boards," he complained.

Basheer made a lantern that he claims to be the biggest lantern in Yemen, but he couldn't sell it to anyone because of the absence of promotion and the scarcity of exhibitions.

Basheer makes many different

shapes and sizes of lanterns. While the Al-Saleh mosque was being built, Basheer heard that everything in the mosque would be locally made and decided to make the biggest lantern in Yemen for the mosque. But unfortunately Basheer couldn't reach anybody in the administration to offer his lantern to him.

"When I knew that the Al-Saleh mosque would be inaugurated and everything in it is Yemeni, I thought of making this lantern to sell to Al-Saleh mosque, but unfortunately I couldn't reach the president anyone in charge to offer it to him," said Basheer.

Basheer spent five months making the lantern. The lantern consists of copper, raw metal, agate, corals, some, silver, and white cloth which is used as for covering. It cost him about US \$1000 to make.

Inside the lantern there are seven divisions; one in the mid-



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The program also aims to give advice to the producers how to improve their businesses, e.g. in the fields of production methods, quality control, marketing and product design to make Yemeni products more attractive to export markets. So far a number of product groups have been classified for promotion: baskets & natural fiber items, textiles & dresses, silver jewelry & metal work, pottery, gifts & decorative items, window decorations, incense & myrrh, recycled crafts, furniture & interiors, natural cosmetics & medicine and Mocha coffee.

For more information visit:  
[www.yemen-handicraft.com](http://www.yemen-handicraft.com)



Seventeen distinct pieces from around the country were on display in the exhibition and 22 contracts with interested retailers from around the world for bulk quantities were availed.

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