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## Two die in a partial Old City market wall collapse

By: Ola Al-Shami

SANA'A, Feb. 15 — Two construction workers died as a result of a collapsed wall in the Old City of Sana'a on Thursday night at eleven PM. The wall was part of a market that was being restored by merchant Hussein Al-Rajwai who owns a number of shops in Souq Al-Milh [Salt Market] in the Old City. There were no residential buildings in the work site.

The wall fell down on two of the workers, killing one immediately. The second died because of drinking water shortly before the incident, which flooded his innards after he sustained an abdominal injury. Another two were slightly injured and have been released from the hospital after being treated.

Locals managed to pull the dead and injured from underneath the rubble immediately after the collapse, even before the Civil Defense or security arrived for search and rescue operations.

After closing down the work site for a week, the date for recommencing construction is not yet determined.

Ali Al-Attab, an eye witness to the



Part of the site where the wall fell down last Thursday, killing two. The old city of Sana'a's infrastructure is vulnerable because of humidity and weak foundations.

accident, explained that such incidences happen because of weak foundations and humidity caused by leakage from the water and sanitation network.

"We were planning to enlarge our market; however the collapse was not

expected," said Sultan Nasser Al-Rajawi, the owner's agent.

The contractor responsible for the construction work, Abdullah Sanhoub, explained the reason behind the collapse was humidity and a weak foundation

upon which the new walls were to be constructed.

After being held for investigation, Sanhoub was released after three days of being in custody on bail until the final details of the incident are clarified.

Soon after the collapse, according to Sanhoub, security enclosed the accident site in order to prevent curious passers-bys from crowding or taking advantage of open markets whose owners rushed to facilitate the rescue operation.

The old city was divided traditionally into avenues made up of residential houses centered by a garden which was used as a place for recreation as well as vegetation. Some of the buildings in the old city are over 500 years old, while some of the more recent buildings' foundations are said by the locals to be around 1000 years old as traditionally new homes were resurrected on the foundations of the

old one. Mohammed Thabit Al-Harbi, one of the two injured workers, said that he went home that same night and will be ready to work again soon.

The other injured worker, Ali Al-Ansi,

reported that he is doing well.

"The two dead persons are from my village. Their relatives forgave Al-Rajawi because it was an accident," Al-Ansi said.

Since 1986, UNESCO has listed Old Sana'a among the international heritage cities on its World Heritage List. With a total funding of more than one and half

million US dollars, UNESCO restored the old city during 2004 and 2005 with the help of Italian experts.

Because of this preservation, restoring buildings or expansion must be done according to specific construction techniques that are consistent with the original make of the Old City.

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## Dust waves blanket Yemen skies

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Feb. 15 — Thick dust waves which have been brewing over the skies of Yemen over the past few days, impairing visibility, causing health complications and hindering planes from taking off and landing at Sana'a International Airport, are expected to continue until Tuesday with slight improvement in visibility.

The dust storm, which started on Thursday morning, reportedly came from the north and north-east of the Arabian Peninsula. The dust waves first spread in the eastern governorates of Al-Mahra, Al-Jawaf, Hadhramout and Shabwa which lie alongside one of the largest sand deserts in the world, the Arabian Peninsula's Empty Quarter.

Dust waves spread to the mountainous governorates of Sa'ada, Amran, Sana'a and Dhamar and the western coastal governorates including Hodeidah, according to Rasheed Al-Ariqi, Head of the Weather Forecast at the General Authority for Civil Aviation and Meteorology.

On Friday, dust waves covered coastal areas and all the governorates. The Metrology Center and the General Administration of Traffic issued more than one warning bulletin to citizens and drivers to exercise caution and drive slowly during the wave.

Coastal parts of Shabwa improved on Saturday and remained the same on Sunday.

Sana'a International Airport announced on Thursday that the incoming flights had been transferred to Aden Airport due to low visibility of no more than 150 meters. Current wind direction had kept the Gulf of Aden

and the Red Sea free of sand for the time being.

On Saturday, The Metrology Center renewed the warning bulletin and announced that the dust wave is covering Aden, Socotra Island and the Arab Sea.

Flights at Sana'a International Airport have resumed, according to Hani Al-Kufaili, information officer at Sana'a International Airport.

"On Saturday, the visibility level improved to around 1,500 meters, but this level of visibility is still hindering air transport," Al-Ariqi said.

The visibility level in Sana'a improved from 1,500 meters on Saturday to 2,000 meters on Sunday, but this level is not good enough for flying since required visibility for flying is 10,000 meters. When the visibility level drops below 5,000 meters, flights are at risk, Al-Ariqi explained.

Continued on page 2

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## Citizens concerned over increasing meat prices

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Feb. 15 — Meat prices are slowly but surely increasing in local markets, pushing the commodity further out of reach for many consumers and forcing them to eliminate this source of protein from their diets.

With a kilogram of beef and mutton having increased to YR 1,800 in comparison to YR 1,400 last year, many families now opt to consume fish and chicken instead.

"Nowadays I can only afford to buy meat once a month," said Mohammad Al-Akhfash, a school teacher. He said he turned to fresh poultry. "Despite there not being strict health measures to rear chicken in Yemen, I prefer fresh chicken to frozen."

"Local chicken is not safe because of low health standards, so I prefer to buy imported poultry," he explained. Imported chicken is about YR 50 cheaper than local chicken.

Others prefer meat to chicken or fish despite the increase in its price: "I used to eat meat every day when the price was YR 1,500 per kilo late last year. But now, even after price of meat I buy has increased, I still prefer meat to chicken," said Fahmi Al-Rashidi, a sales agent.

"I used to buy a calf for YR 90,000 but now it costs over YR 100,000," says Hamoud Ali, 60, a butcher who used to have lines of people waiting to



Increase of meat prices push many Yemenis who prefer red meat to buying chicken and fish instead.

buy local meat outside his butcher's shop.

Butchers say the price of meat has been raised by farmers themselves because they found increased profit in selling their animals to other countries.

"The main reason behind the increase in the price of meat is the export of our animals to kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he said.

"We import live calves from Ethiopia to cover the feed mostly the military forces. We are not the only importers

and there are many importers of livestock," said Deputy General Manager of Yemeni Economic Corporation for Trade Affairs Abdullah al-Kuhali. The Yemeni Economic Corporation alone imports 1,000 calves every month.

Despite the corporation selling one kilo of imported meat for YR 850 which is nearly half of the price of the local meat, only the very poor buy it.

Retailers of local and imported meat say meat sales have deteriorated

because of the increase in the cost of living and the increase in meat prices.

"I used to sell 300 kilos of meat each day but nowadays, I only sell 50 kilos," said Ahmad Al-Muraisi, director of City Mart. "The main cause of this is the increase of the cost of living and the increase in the price of meat."

Twenty percent of our customers have started buying frozen chicken," he said, adding that others continued to buy local chicken.

"I used to sell 600 kilos of imported meat every month, but now I only sell half that quantity," said al-Muraisi. "Although this kind of meat is cheaper at only YR 600 a kilo, the Yemeni consumer continues to prefer local meat."

### Price of chicken on the rise

With many people choosing to poultry as an alternative to meat, the prices of poultry are also increasing due to demand increase.

"Not only have the prices of meat been increased but also the prices of chicken," said Saeed Saleh, an employee. He said he used to see people buying only half a chicken and some others even buy a quarter to feed a whole family.

Abdullah Al-Sarari, owner of a shop for selling live poultry in Al-Hasabah, Sana'a, says he sells a 1.5 kilo chicken for YR 1,300, which is the highest price recorded in the history of selling poultry in Yemen.

"I sell chicken for YR 600 to YR 1,200, and I only get YR 50 profit and wages for slaughtering and cutting each chicken," complained Ali al-Harazi, who sells chicken in Al-Sunainah, Sana'a.

### Price of fish relatively stable

Great numbers of people have started buying fish instead of meat or chicken both because it is cheaper and healthier.

Faisal Al-Magbhash, owner of a busy fishmonger's, says that customers crowd outside his shop to buy fish, both because of the variety of the fish he offers and because meat is so expensive.

"I sell one kilo of the best kind of fish for YR 1,200, while the prices of the other kinds range from YR 500 to YR 900," said Magbhash, who also sells the fish freshly cooked.

"I come here three times a week to buy fresh fish, get it cooked and eat it with my family," said Saeed Abdullah, who says he prefers fish to meat.

"I came every day to this place for eating fish," said Saleh Al-Shamiri. "There are also people who have fish for their meal everyday."

### Reasons behind the price hikes

Head of the Epidemiology Unit in the General Directorate of Animal Health and Quarantine Abdullah Al-Maqtari said there are several reasons behind increasing the prices of animals and then meat.

Draught, slaughtering young animals for meat consumption, the decline in the old habit of cattle rearing and epidemics are the main reasons behind increase of meat prices, explained Al-Maqtari.

The vibrant and noisy livestock market of Souq Nokom in the center of Sana'a is a great place to do business and buy meat. Here, most traders and consumers prefer local meat.

"Although there are great numbers of animals imported from Ethiopia and Somalia, people tend to buy local meat, especially from Tihama famous for its delicious meat," said Abdullah Fadhil, director of Souq Nokom.

Livestock dealers have increased the price of livestock. The price of the single ox has reached YR 180,000.

Annual individual consumption of chicken is 7 kilos and 5.5 kilos of red meat, which according to Al-Maqtari is very small.

General Director of Animal Health and Quarantine Mansour Al-Qadasi says Yemen's animal wealth is estimated at 18 million. Eight million are goats, 7 million are sheep and 1.4 million are cattle and 350,000 are camels.

There are no exact figures for chickens, but Al-Maqtari estimates that there are over twenty millions.

Last Eid Al-Adha Eid witnessed an unprecedented hike in the price of cattle because of the great demand for animals to be slaughtered for Islamic rituals.

## Conflict in Al-Jawf aggravated

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 15 — Houthi leader Abdul Malek Al-Houthi has recently threatened to avenge the death of field leader Ahmed Abdulla Abdan Al-Ezzi, whom he accused government-supported militias of killing last week. Al-Houthi's media office accused local authorities in Al-Jawf of setting up an armed ambush that targeted citizens on the public road of Zahir district, killing five citizens.

"Militias from the government in Al-Jawf headed by Khaled Al-Sharif, head of the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER), carried out this operation," said their press release.

The release said that they considered this a criminal and dangerous act. "We shouldn't be silent toward this crime as it comes within a current government plan carried out by militias to target prominent social figures and medical staff," said the release. It added that the government murdered Dr. Mohammed Abdulla Al-Hamass and two of his assistants, and also targeted social figures who never participated in any conflict.

For his part, Al-Sharif denied all accusations attributed to him by the Houthis, maintaining in a statement to aleshteraki.net that murdering Al-Hamass and other incidents comes within the framework of tribal revenge.

"Issuing such false notifications comes within aggravations and partisan intrigues," said Al-Sharif.

The head of the SCER didn't notice what he called "false notifications" with regard to murdering the five social figures in Al-Jawf, stating that the killings were not directed by the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) but by Al-Houthi. However, according to Aleshteraki.net, he warned leaders and media of the JMP against accusing him of any relation to the incident.

In the same context, Sheik Yahya Bin Abdulla Al-Dughsi, head of Al-Matamma district of Al-Jawf, warned against the dangerous sequences of the current tribal conflict. He maintained that these same tribes have split between pro-Houthi and pro-government tribes. He called on Al-Jawf tribes to stand firm in front of any threats against social peace in the governorate.

Al-Dughsi said that the consequences

will be disastrous if the current situation continues.

"We tribes of Al-Jawf are ready to solve our problems. We announce our solidarity with our political leadership," said Al-Dughsi in a statement to Marebpress.net. He demanded Houthis who are not from Al-Jawf to leave the governorate, pointing out that tribes of Al-Jawf can solve their own problems.

In addition, he said that those "who intervened in the governorate and those who don't have the right to intervene, especially Houthis of Sa'ada, are responsible for what is going on." He added that elements of Al-Houthi's leadership are behind what is going on in Al-Jawf.

The crisis in Al-Jawf began before the end of the fifth war in Sa'ada between Houthis and the government army. This fifth war increased supporters of Houthis in several areas of Yemen, particularly in Al-Jawf where a number of citizens have been affiliated with Shiite groups for decades. Houthi supporters in Al-Jawf have already carried out many operations that targeted security centers and checkpoints and killed a number of soldiers.

with dust, germs and factory waste materials detrimental to the health," Dr. Ahmed Al-Garati, head of the Internal and Cardiology Department at the Al-Jamhori Teaching Hospital Sana'a said.

The dust waves carry cold air and bad substances that affect the human body that lead to many diseases such as skin rashes, ophthalmia, sinusitis, laryngitis and pneumonitis.

"They can trigger serious asthma in patients whose asthma is inactive through irritation of their bronchial tubes," Al-Garati said, explaining that Al-Jamhori Hospital in Sana'a has witnessed a remarkable increase in emergency cases.

Al-Garati recommended people suffering from allergies or those who have asthma not to expose themselves to the dusty air in the coming days, to stay home, shut the windows and take previously prescribed medicines or to wear a mask.

Dust waves are common in arid and semi-arid countries, especially around the Arabian Peninsula and the neighboring countries. It comes from the climate changes such as drought and global warming.

"Last year, Yemen witnessed similar dust waves, but not at severe like this time," Al-Ariqi said

He added that Yemen is expected to face other severe dust storms in the coming years with economic and health consequences.

## Over 80% of first wheat batch distributed

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Feb. 15 — Almost 80 percent of the first batch of wheat donated by the United Arab Emirates has been distributed to those in need, according to Deputy General Manager of the Yemeni Economic Corporation for Trade Affairs Abdullah Al-Kuhali.

Over 80 percent of the 75,000 tons of wheat were distributed to 1,037,000 people registered with the Social Insurance Fund across the country. The distribution process is being carried out by the Yemeni Economic Corporation (YEC).

"This quantity is the first batch of the total donation of 500,000 tons of wheat, which was given to Yemen as gift from the President of the United Arab Emirates Khalifa Bin Zayed," al-Kuhali said.

The second batch of wheat totals 75,000 tons, which is currently on its way to Yemen. This wheat will be distributed to people in the eastern parts of the country in Hadramout and Mahra governorates which were affected by floods that devastated the region last October.

Al-Kuhali further stated that there is an agreement with the Supreme Council for Distributing Aid specifically for flood-affected people in order to give these people the same 50 kilogram size of sacks of rice instead of sacks of wheat.

He added that the Emirates did not name the beneficiaries of the wheat and that the other quantities of wheat would arrive in Yemen according to measures and mechanisms agreed upon between

the Ministry of the Industry of Trade and the United Arab Emirates.

Many problems were encountered by the YEC during distribution according to Assistant General Manager of the YEC Mohammad Al-Mualimi.

"The problems were from the difficulties in reaching mountainous areas in the governorates of Abyan and Addhale because of the lack of roads. Outlaws tried to block roads and attempted to loot the wheat," he said. "We have overcome the problems," he added.

Al-Mualimi explained that some people have cards from the Social Insurance Fund but because they do not have families they opt to sell their wheat portions.

With regard to the quality of wheat and its country of origin, Al-Kuhali says this kind of wheat is of the best kind coming to Yemen. "We have never imported this type before," he said. "This type of wheat is more nutritious and better than the white wheat. It is imported by the Emirates from Germany," he added.

The wheat arrived at Yemeni ports in the form of big shipments of loose grains and was then packed up in the country in sacks on which the Yemeni and UAE flags have been printed on in Yemen. On every sack of wheat it says President of the United Arab Emirates Khalifa bin Zayed.

YEC officials admitted that the UAE government, through its embassy in Yemen, did not approve of the fact that some of the donated wheat is being sold since it was meant as a donation for poor people in Yemen.

The donation was prompted by UAE President Khalifah Bin Zaid Al-Nahyan

in May of 2008 when Yemen was affected by the global food crisis that hit earlier last year. Al-Nahyan committed to giving 500,000 tons of wheat to Yemen as a gift from his people to the Yemeni people.

The UAE has also started to donate one million tons of wheat to Egypt and 500,000 tons of wheat to Syria.

According to a recent assessment by the World Food Program, families in remote villages in Yemen are regularly skipping meals and spending over two-thirds of their income on food due to high international prices, forcing some families to pull children out of school because they cannot afford to keep them there.

In 2006, the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization reported that 37 percent of Yemen's population was undernourished, receiving less than 2,200 calories a day.

The price of a 50-kilo sack of wheat skyrocketed from YR 1,500 in 2007 to YR 7,000 over the summer of 2008. Despite settling to YR 4,500 this November, it has risen back up to over YR 5,600 in the 2009. Yemeni markets are currently witnessing a slight drop in wheat prices after an unjustified increase in early January.

Four decades ago Yemen could feed itself via millennia-old terraced farms irrigated by wells and rainwater, often channeled through canals. Since then, however, the population has increased more than fivefold, and population growth remains at an extremely high three percent per year.

Yemen now imports 90 percent of its wheat and all of its rice.

### Continued from front page

#### Two die in a partial Old City market wall collapse

For example, cement, aluminum, or modern building materials are not allowed; instead, construction must be done using mud bricks and wood for the rooftops.

Minister of Culture AbuBakr Al-Muflehi visited the site on Saturday morning to check the damages. He urged concerned authorities to renovate the water and sanitation networks of the Old City in order to prevent further accidents.

"The water and sewage network in the city has become a threat to the historical buildings and streets," he said.

Sana'a has been continuously inhabited for over 2,500 years. Its religious and cultural heritage is reflected in its 106 mosques, 12 hammams (bath houses), and 6,500 houses built before the 11th century.

The city's architecture has been damaged, demolished, and rebuilt through flooding, wars and prosperity. Yet it wasn't until the modernization in the 1970s that the city's architectural fabric was truly in danger of disappearing. The city was given the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 1995.

#### Winds of change

In May 2002, nine homes in the Grand Mosque Avenue crumbled down because of water leakage from the sani-

tation network. The restoration was completed in 2007.

In Dec. 2003, 180 unauthentic wall or room additions to the old city's buildings were taken down to preserve the city's original structure.

In Jan. 2004, the restoration of 210 tourist sites in the old city of Sana'a was included in the Ministry of Tourism renovation plans.

In Mar. 2005, seventeen of the old city's gardens were restored, and many of the old buildings were repainted from the outside.

In Apr. 2005, eight oil grinders and shops were restored.

In Sept. 2005, three children, aged 4, 6 and 10, died after their house fell on them at Al-Basha Avenue in the old city of Sana'a. The collapse was caused after a part of the old city's wall fell on the house.

In Apr. 2007, the restoration of another five houses took place after they were about to collapse because of leakage into the walls from the water and sanitation pipes.

Floods from rainfall in July 2007 caused the collapse of five houses on the Great Mosque Avenue but no loss of life in the Old City of Sana'a.

#### Dust waves blanket Yemen skies

"Dust waves have a negative impact on health, especially on that of children, the elderly and those with chest diseases. The oxygen that we breathe is polluted

## New mummy found in Sana'a

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Feb. 7 — A man stumbled upon a mummy while he was digging a sewage hole in the Shoub district of Sana'a over a week ago.

"Efforts are underway to study the recent discovery of the mummy in Shoub which is now in the National Museum in Sana'a," said Muhannad Al-Sayani, director of Sana'a office of the General Organization for Antiquities and Museums (GOAM).

"A number of years ago we found 13 mummies in the same area," he added. "Only one was in good condition, while the others were damaged."

A team of French experts from the University of Poitiers and Museum of Anthropology in France met with the Yemeni antiquity organization to discuss the recent discovery and to sign an agreement to work jointly towards preserving the mummy.

A French mummy expert will arrive

in Yemen on February 20 to study the latest find and to examine the mummies in Sana'a University and The National Museum.

"The GOAM is working towards converting the Al-Tawelah Museum in Al-Mahwit into a National Center for Mummies," said Chairman of GOAM Abdullah Ba Wazir.

The Yemeni-French agreement will include sending GOAM staff to France to receive training in mummy conservation, according to Ba Wazir.

A number of mummies have been discovered over the past years in a number of locations including Al-Mahwit, Tamar, Marib and Shabwah.

"The museum needs some special equipment to correctly preserve and display the mummies. We plan to send samples of mummies, which are often found in stone graves, to France to be examined to find out the materials and exact methods the ancient Yemenis used in mummification, including

embalming," Ba Wazir added.

The minister of culture has ordered a team of archaeologists to go to the site and start excavations from the beginning of next week. The mummy will be registered, lifted and transported to a safe place, according to Al-Sayani.

An American expedition was the first to find samples of mummies in Marib in 1951-1952 in the graveyard of the Awam Temple. In 1983, a Yemeni archeology expedition found 26 mummies in Shibam Al-Gharas, but only one of them has survived. Other mummies were discovered in the mountain of Al-Noman in Al-Mahwit in 1991 and in Bani Matar in 1994. In Dhamar, archeologists found an ancient child mummy.

Most of the mummies discovered in Yemen have yet to be studied. Many of them have been waiting in museums storehouses for years for the opening of the mummy's center at Al-Tawelah Museum in Al-Mahweet.

# In Brief

## SHABWA Expectations of spreading locusts in desert regions

A number of field teams of the National Center of Combating Locusts in Yemen are launching an extensive survey for locust in the Yemeni coastlines after appearance of locusts in these regions.

Director of the center Abduh Fara confirmed existence of locusts in Shabwa governorate at area of 50 hectare .

He reported that teams would start the survey from Midi region in Hajjah governorate to Maharah governorate, expecting arrival of waves of locusts to the desert regions in coming days, especially to Hadramout, Marib, al-Jawf governorates.

## SANA A Intestine and liver conference due next Wednesday

The Third Conference on Intestine and Liver diseases and Endoscope will start its activities here next Wednesday. 220 specialists and 12 consultants in intestine and liver diseases from Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Syria, Belgium and Yemen will participate in the conference.

Secretary General of the Yemeni Medical Association Yahya Ghanem, the head of the preparatory committee for the conference told Saba that the

two-day conference aims at defining latest developments over liver and intestine diseases and the latest technology diagnosing these diseases. He indicated that the conference will discuss 20 work papers, among of them 15 Yemeni work papers besides preparations for holding this conference in Yemen in 2010.

## HCT approves tenders of eight development projects

Higher Committee for Tenders (HCT) approved in its meeting on Wednesday eight tenders of services and development projects at a total cost of YR 11.7 billion.

The committee approved a tender of building 860 housing units within housing projects of President al-Saleh for limited incomes people in Taiz governorate at sum of YR 4.5 billion funded by the government.

The committee also agreed on a tender of road project in Amran governorate at length of 111 km and cost of around \$ 31 million. The project would link between eight districts in the governorate.

It also approved a tender of road project in Dhamar governorate at length of 18 km and amount of YR 810 million funded by Oman under supervision of Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The government will fund 20 percent of the cost.

The committee also referred other tenders for further studies and legal revision.

## Finance minister warns of increasing deficit up to 11%

Minister of Finance Noman al-Sohibi warned on Wednesday of increasing a deficit of the 2009 state budget up to 11 percent due to ineffective implementation for decision of decreasing expenditure.

In the opening session of the annual meeting for the directors of the ministry, al-Sohibi affirmed importance of clarifying for employees that decision was taken to reduce unimportant expenditures, not to target their rights.

He called on representatives of the ministry in different government bodies to help directors of these bodies to reorganize their budget correctly.

The implementation of the decision during the previous period was unfair and ineffective as employees receive 500 rails as overtime and subjected for deduction of 50 percent in time there are employees who receive 700,000 rails as extra wages and no deduction, the minister said.

He also pointed out to the reality of the national economy - within negative impacts of the financial crisis- reflected negativity on the budget of the state, saying that requires from officials of the ministry to collect revenues and follow

up shares of the government in any corporation.

The two-day meeting would discuss several papers over the economic developments in the world due to the financial crisis and its impacts on implementation of the country's budget as well as strategy of reforming financial administration.

## HUDEIDAH Hudeidah coast guards rescue two fishermen

Hudeidah Coast Guards Forces (HCGF) rescued yesterday evening two fishermen after missing during fishing trip. Search process is still going for finding the third fisher. HCGF's authorized source made it clear to Saba that three boats of the forces had conducted search operation for the fishermen after they have been notified on missing one of the fishing boats in the sea. The boat was carrying three brothers were in fishing trip.

The search process led to finding the boat on a distance of eight miles of al-Kuthaib Coast and two brothers on board. The third was missed after the boat turned over because of the strong wind took the boat towards the coast. He indicated that the search still underway for the third brother. A group of fishing boats is participating in searching for the third brother.

## TAIZ Malaysia grants \$267,700 for Taiz sewerage project

An agreement was signed here on Thursday of an executive study for the northern-western area sewerage project at a cost of \$267,700 presented as a grant by Malaysian government.

The agreement was signed by General Manager of the Local Corporations for Water Supply and Sanitation (LCWSS) Abdul-Latif al-Monifi and Chairman of Board Directors of the Malaysian company Ahmed Zaidi with presence of Taiz Governor Hamood al-Sofi.

The agreement includes an executive study for the sewerage with length of 107km in areas of Habel Salman, Wadi al-Dahi, Almaror and al-Boraihi area

## ADEN Exports reach Y.R.517 mln via Aden Seaport last January

The total of Yemeni exports passing through Aden Seaport during last January had reached about Y.R.517, 414,000 including fish, cotton, coffee, honey, and other various national products.

The General Director of Free Zone Customs in Aden Abdul-Malik Ghoshim told Saba that the Free Zone Customs has achieved a qualitative leap

in the incomes, fees and other various returns which amounted Y.R.1,307,529,000 at increase of Y.R.246,581,000 from the same period in last year 2008.

The number of local consumption goods' containers locally marketed during the same amounted is 4,626 containers at an increase of 854 containers from the same period of the last year, Ghoshim said.

Ghoshim explained that these increases in the cost volume of exports and returns come as a result of the maritime growing activity which the port witnesses currently representing in the increase of cargo ships movement at the port .

## About 416 tons of Yemeni goods export to Arab, foreign countries

About 416 tons of fish, perfume, cooking oil and biscuits were exported to a number of foreign and Arab countries on Wednesday.

A report from al-Moalla seaport showed that the fish Shipment of 300 tons was exported to China, France, Malaysia, Bangkok and Hong Kong, while 100 tons of biscuits and cooking oil were exported to Ethiopia and 16 tons of perfume to Qatar.

According to the report, roughly 227 containers of various goods were unloaded at Aden harbor for local consuming.

# Their News

## Child Trafficking in Yemen

BBC Arabic will broadcast a session on child trafficking in Yemen on its channel on Tuesday Feb. 17 at 19:00 GMT (Ten pm Yemen timing). The program will be rebroadcasted the following day at 13:00 GMT (four PM Yemen timing).

## Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program

The government of Japan and the World Bank invite applications from mid-career professionals in developing countries for The Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP). The application deadline for the program is March 31st, 2009.

The Program supports studies at the master's degree level in fields related to development at universities in World Bank member countries.

In 2009, the Program collaborates with 41 higher education institutions worldwide and candidates are encouraged to apply to one of these institutions. Applications to other higher education institutions will also be considered.

The Program covers full tuition, the cost of basic medical and accident insurance, a monthly subsistence allowance and economy air travel.

Application forms, information about eligibility and the application procedure are available on the World Bank Scholarships Program Web site at [www.worldbank.org/scholarships](http://www.worldbank.org/scholarships). Completed application packages must be received by March 31st, 2009. The awards will be announced in June 2009.

Correspondence and information requests may be sent to: email: [jjwbgsp@worldbank.org](mailto:jjwbgsp@worldbank.org)

## Robert S. McNamara Fellowships Program

The Robert S. McNamara Fellowships Program provides support to young researchers working in academic and research institutions from developing countries, and preparing a doctoral thesis in a subject related to development. Research grants cover residence costs in a university or research center in a member country of the World Bank other than the home country or country of residence of the candidate. Fellowships are awarded for a period of five to ten months and must be completed between July 2009 and June 2010. The maximum amount of the grant is US\$25,000.

Application forms and Information about the application procedure are available on the World Bank Scholarships Program website: ([www.worldbank.org/scholarships](http://www.worldbank.org/scholarships)). Completed application packages must be received in Washington, D.C., by February 28th, 2009. The awards will be announced in May 2009.

Correspondences and information requests may be sent to: email: [rsm\\_fellowships@worldbank.org](mailto:rsm_fellowships@worldbank.org)

## Who's Who in the Arab Press

On the APN website, you find one of the

most exhaustive lists of Arab newspapers on the web, with an introduction to the media landscape of each Arab country, a list of the most prominent newspapers in each country and a detailed description of those. The purpose of the list is to give an introduction to the many facets of the Arab press, and not the least, to its very rich history. You find the list in the upper right-hand corner of the APN homepage.

Arab newspapers, which are on this list, bear a testimony to one of the most diverse press cultures in the world. Arab newspapers are not diverse only because they encompass 22 countries on two continents, stretching from the Gulf of Oman at the tip of the Arab Peninsula, through the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean, to Lebanon on the Mediterranean Sea to Mauritania on the Atlantic Ocean.

The diversity of the Arab press is not limited to its wide geographic expanse and the varied cultures and linguistic spheres it covers, but to the various strategies it adopts to meet the cultural, social and most importantly political conditions it works under.

No other regional press is exposed to so much control - both by state and political money - as the Arab one, yet few newspapers are able to bear so much effect on society as their independent Arab counterparts. Maybe what defines and gives a sense of commonness to the more than 150 newspapers in four languages listed, is that they all had to make a hard choice: either to become a government or party tracts, or to strive to keep their independence even if it means harassment, imprisonment and even being closed down.

Needless to say, that the lack of individual freedoms, especially freedom of expression, in most Arab societies and the faltering democracies on the better end of these societies make truly independent newspapers far and few in between. Paradoxically, this is what gives the few courageous Arab press enterprises their killing edge and makes authoritarian governments fearful of them, in spite of their limited circulation and resources. While the written press in many other regions may face questions about its relevance in a world of mass media and internet, the Arab press proves its relevance daily when facing censorship on one side and the thirst of readers to get access to free news, independent analysis and editorials on the other side.

On the list figures the An-Nahar newspaper in Lebanon, whose editor-in-chief Gebran Tueni was assassinated in December 2005, yet went on keeping its courageous editorial line; as well as the Gulf News daily based in the United Arab Emirates, which won an award for best design in 2006; as well as the Egyptian Al-Dustour, whose editor-in-chief Ibrahim Issa together with his journalists face serial prosecutions by the authorities; as well as The Yemen Times in Sana'a, a bi-weekly striving to guard its independent editorial line and developing a qualified staff in a society struggling

with increasing political oppression and deepening educational deficit, as well as the satirical weekly Nichane in Morocco, which survived suspension for publishing jokes poking fun at the royal family and some Islamic dogmas.

It is the dire conditions that independent Arab journalists struggle to carve a space for freedom, which also re-estates the absolute relevance of their newspapers and remind us of what they always have been: the pre-requirement for any free and democratic society.

## International Youth Seminar

Voice of Youth Public Union is committed to supporting the work of the Council of Europe, European Youth Foundation. VYPU will be organizing a seminar, in Baku during 25th of March - 1st of April, 2009 which will bring together 24 youth leaders and workers active at community and local level to share best practices and to work on joint projects on prevention of Racism and Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

## Profile of Participants:

- Youth leaders, Youth workers, Youth Trainers, Project managers from youth NGOs, Youth Group, Youth Networks, Youth Organizations
- Youth NGOs, Youth Group, Youth Networks, Youth Organizations that wants to be a partner in this project.
- Active members of organizations and youth groups, local youth councils willing to develop further activities and act as multipliers within their organizations
- Be motivated to develop their knowledge and competence the specific field and to share their experiences with other participants
- Have some experience in developing youth activities in local/national level and be well informed about the activities they were involved and be prepared to present and explain their function to other participants
- Commit themselves to their function for future activities in the field of youth policy and be prepared to pass on the others the knowledge and skills gained during this activity.

All those interested in attending must return the application form to the team by e-mail latest by 20th February, 2009.

The preparatory team will select 24 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above and ensuring a balanced group (gender, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations).

Please send this application form by e-mail before Thursday 20th February 2009 to: [vypu\\_az@yahoo.com](mailto:vypu_az@yahoo.com)  
Voice of Youth Public Union  
Baku, Azerbaijan  
Project Coordinator:  
Aydin Mammadov

## Asia-Europe Training for Youth Leaders

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe (DYS) are organising the Training for Youth Leaders "The Role of Human Rights Education in Intercultural Dialogue - an Asia-Europe perspective", to be held from the 17th to the 24th May 2008 in Budapest, Hungary.

The training course aims to develop the competences of youth trainers, leaders and workers nationals of Council of Europe member states and ASEM partner countries in developing Asia-Europe youth projects with a Human Rights

Education component.

The course is designed for the motivated youth trainers, youth leaders and youth workers active in the area of youth, training, intercultural learning and non-formal education (aged 18 - 30), nationals of Council of Europe member states and from the ASEM partner countries.

The application form for applying for the training course should be filled in on-line in English, available at <http://coe.opencontent.it>. To access the online application form click on "ASIA-EUROPE TRAINING FOR YOUTH

LEADERS". In case you do not have a username and password, to be able to get them you should Fill out the "New Account" form with your details. Your username and password will be sent to your e-mail address. After receiving these, you can proceed with filling in the application. Further instructions are provided on the website.

The application form should be submitted in English latest by 2 March 2009.

E-mail: [viktoria.karpatska@coe.int](mailto:viktoria.karpatska@coe.int) for more information go to [www.eycb.coe.int](http://www.eycb.coe.int)



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Exceed Language Center has positions open for **Teachers of English as a Second or Foreign Language**. Exceed is an independent institute with a mission to provide professional educational services and to contribute to the advancement of society. Since it was founded in 2007, it has become one of the largest English-language institutes in the country and expects continued growth. The institute operates on a large campus with various facilities, including a fully-equipped multimedia lab, a TOEFL-iBT lab, and an academic resource center, all conducive to an exciting learning atmosphere. Exceed is seeking qualified candidates interested in joining a team-oriented organization with a strong curriculum and which supports instructor creativity and professional development.

### Qualifications

- **Education:** Bachelor's degree is desirable, preferably in English as a Second Language (ESL) or Linguistics.
- **Experience:** A minimum of two years' experience in teaching ESL is preferred.
- **Ability:** Demonstrated ability to teach in a student-centered manner using the Communicative Approach and to establish a positive classroom learning environment.
- **English Proficiency:** A high level of English proficiency in all language skills is required.
- **Knowledge:** Strong knowledge of English language teaching methodologies and techniques.

### Job Duties and Responsibilities

- Teach English as a Second Language using communicative teaching methods.
- Provide language reinforcement activities creatively and productively and establish high-level student rapport and motivation.
- Prepare lessons, assign and correct homework, and administer and grade quizzes and exams.
- Select and develop supplementary activities to enhance the quality of learning.
- Evaluate student progress in all language skills and work individually with students as needed, providing counseling and advice in support of the program goals.
- Actively participate in workshops and staff meetings.

Eligible candidates are asked to submit a cover letter and CV to Exceed, off Algiers Street near Sixty-Meter Road, or by e-mail to [contact@exceededucation.org](mailto:contact@exceededucation.org). For further information and background, please consult the Exceed website: [www.exceededucation.org/careers](http://www.exceededucation.org/careers).



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# Powers of democratic change in youth development

By: Yemen Observatory for Human Rights

**Y**outh are of a special importance to society due to their role in the process of change and modernization.

Therefore, preventing or hindering youth development leads to the sustainability of human poverty instead of the sustainability of human development.

Since the government didn't manage policies to modernize social construction in rural areas or work to undermine the dominance of the traditional elite in the government in general, decentralization increased the power of the traditional group instead of empowering the people. Most members of local councils are from the traditional group, generally composed of tribal sheiks, and the new traditional group, or sons of tribal sheiks who received modern education.

Moreover, the government didn't take any actual procedures to save the country's system of law. A number of cases that were determined by local authorities were unlawfully breached. Some cases' outcomes were subjected to pressure by some traditional elites. Consequently, local councils provided an additional mechanism to enhance the control wielded by these traditional elites. This accelerated their benefits received from development projects. It also increased the potential of future development projects on their behalf and perpetrated forms of inequality and social discrimination.

On the grounds of such conditions, youth in general and those who hail from poor groups in particular cannot participate in decision-making. On the contrary, existing conditions marginalized and exiled them. This is why managers of rural development projects in the fields of education, health, electricity, and roads are close to the traditional groups.

## Political upbringing to develop responsible citizenship among youth

The ability of youth to play a role in democratic change depends on the process of social and political upbringing that they are exposed to. It also depends on the quality of the cast culture and its ability to direct youth towards participating in efforts of reform and democratic change. Cultural frameworks that target youth in Yemen are often steeped in tradition. They foster values of negativity and submission. Traditional social organizations are the most effective in terms of shaping initiatives of society and Yemeni youth. They highlight traditional identities and encourage discrimination and inequality, particularly since the sons of tribal sheiks and government officials receive material and educational privileges provided by the current political system.

Government apparatuses lack a proper institutional framework as government administrations depend on individual judgment and personal loyalties instead of depending on laws. Educational institutions, which are considered to be the source of the development of youth and culture, are based on non-institutional criteria regarding their management and leadership. The curricula offered in public schools are traditional and are offered in traditional ways. That is, they don't aim to develop the capacities, skills, or intellect of youth that would contribute to developing a spirit of change and initiative. In addition, they don't give youth the opportunity to carry out student activities, research, or anything innovative.

Consequently, values of responsible citizenship are almost non-existent among youth. Instead, via the current system, the values of withdrawing from the political field and non-participation in democratic reform are fostered in youth today. Interviews carried out by the team who created a report on youth development revealed that the concept of democracy among youth is vague and confused. This is attributed to the dominance of the traditional political culture in university education and a lack of civil and intellectual activities which raise awareness among youth. The most effective cultural source available in forming youth cultural initiatives and political upbringing is found in movements and religious parties.

These groups offer them Islamic culture in accordance with traditional concepts which then contributes to developing close-mindedness, fanaticism, and violent culture. It also contributes to the repulsion of modernization out of the perspective that this concept came from the western culture.

As a result of these findings, it is clear that there is a shortage in the performance of modern institutions towards the political upbringing of youth. There is also a shortage in enhancing the youth's values of responsible citizenship. These institutions don't play their proper role in developing youth awareness and enhancing their role in democracy both in content and in form. Media concerning these issues are controlled by a traditional political group. Its programs are still poor.

Concerning civil society organizations, they are still restricted to elites from among the activists and the educated. Political parties suffer from dominance by the old elites of leaders. These elites highlight the role of youth only in their political speeches – not in their plans and political programs. With regard to foreign and international media, satellite channels don't offer any kind of education and democratic culture to youth who even use the internet only for entertainment programs or to enjoy other interests.

## Political participation of youth

Yemen declared itself to be a democratic multi-party system in 1990. However, no parties – including leftist, traditional, and religious parties – witnessed any democratic change except in political speech. The political systems are still non-institutional and are unable to get rid of the effects of the past; effects we are still experiencing through the dominance of traditional leadership on political parties.

In addition, participation in decision-making within the internal framework of parties is still limited. Not only does this undermine youth participation but it also undermines the participation of women as well. Therefore, these parties – with all their trends and nature – didn't properly play their illuminated roles in society. Shortfalls appear in the way parties deal with democratic change and the limitations of practicing democracy in the internal affairs of parties.

Practically speaking, programs related to political parties are limited. This is regardless of the fact that such programs are included in parties' political speeches, plans, and political programs. Youth programs orchestrated by political parties are conducted under the auspices of the party itself, and not through independent programs concerned with youth. Several parties have divisions concerned with youth, but they cannot make any final decisions without the consent of the parties' leaders. Even when plans are approved by such leaders, the youth don't participate in these programs. This means that parties' management of youth issues is conducted in accordance with the parties' own needs. This is from a partisan perspective based on the party's needs from youth, not through programs that are constructed according to a democratic system.

Civil society represents a medium in which people can both learn and teach



School girls coming out of a secondary public school in Sana'a. Girls Education is a priority for Yemen especially that the illiteracy rate for women is 50 percent and women empowerment is an integral part of the country's development process.

democratic practices as well as the culture of human rights. Since civil society is like a mediator that fosters both the role of the society and state institutions, it plays a pioneering role in raising the awareness of political and civil rights and practices and also encourages reforms in different fields. Furthermore, it organizes the relationship between the state and the society and promotes democratic change.

Civil society in Yemen is considered to be one of the manifestations of democracy and modernization in the country. When today's Yemeni government was first formed in 1990, it started with 289 organizations and associations. In 2006, the number mounted to 5335 associations and foundations. This reflects the will of individuals and societies to organize their issues regarding public affairs through private civil society.

There are no specific statistics about the number of youth organizations in Yemen. However, it is clear that they are only a few, and that the few that do exist are ineffective in the youth and democratic field.

When asked questions about the role that civil society organizations play with regard to youth issues and whether these organizations encourage them to participate, youth said that organizations exert efforts and endeavors as parts of their activities concerning youth. However, these activities are confined to raising awareness and education and never tackle any youth problems or issues. The youth themselves said that organizations are based in the main cities, far from rural areas. Although civil society organizations have a number of youth who work for them, they don't give them a chance to

actively participate. They also don't allow the youth to join them in decision-making, similar to parties and governments, which is a sign of weak institutional management.

Regarding the youth's general knowledge about the existence of activities, organizations, or youth initiatives and their participation, the report revealed that youth know about the Yemen Youth Union but they don't know what it does, nor do they participate in its activities. This is because its aims to serve the ruling party, which indicates that there is a lack of confidence between the government and the Yemen Youth Union, leading them to be pessimistic towards achieving any goal.

The majority of youth said that they also know about the program of youth leadership concerned with human rights and democracy in the Center of Youth Economic Development; some of the youth interviewed were involved in the program. With regard to youth evaluation of the experience of organizations and partisan initiatives toward youth, they mentioned only the Center of Youth Leadership Development, which undertakes educational training in the fields of economy and basic human rights. It also teaches concepts of democracy.

Connecting the previous point about the role of civil society organizations concerned with youth, we find that there is a weakness in the role of the civil society that targets youth. There is also a shortage in the role of youth initiatives that are offered by political parties and a scarcity of activities in general that are meant to spread knowledge to encourage youth.

Although mass media should play a major role in the issues related to youth

and their activities, there is a current lack of effort to target this group through the media. And even though the press plays an illuminating role in democratic change, a large number of youth in media institutions practice only their professions and do their jobs without trying to institute any changes.

To summarize, what we know about youth and youth initiatives is that there are organizations concerned with youth but they are very few and scattered in different governorates. Among these organizations is the Yemen Youth Union, which is the most outstanding youth institution as it receives support from the government and media. Concerning non-governmental organizations concerned with youth, there are only 20 organizations according to sources from activist youth in these organizations. They have very little effect due to their small number and weak capabilities.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, there are 300 youth clubs in Yemen. The ministry allocated YR 10 million in 2007 to purchase cultural and scientific books so that these books can be distributed among libraries of these youth clubs.

Although the Ministry is mainly concerned with supporting and encouraging youth, its work was restricted to clubs and sports activities.

There has been an initiative by President Ali Abdullah Saleh since 1999 to provide annual awards for innovative youth in the fields of art, drawing, and cultural innovation.

International organizations and regional programs concerned with youth exert good efforts to support youth civil activities. They also support youth political and social participation and the development of a spirit of volunteer work among youth. Among these programs are the "Naseej Program" which began in mid 2006, and the role of the German Organization Fredrich Ebert which works in the field of democracy and human rights. There is also the Democratic School, a local organization concerned with supervising the Children's Parliament and the Youth Shura Council whose members come from different parts of Yemen. This council aims to give youth experience in the fields of official institutions, human rights, and democracy.

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### Ref. # 232

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Yemen LNG Company



### Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

**All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals**

**Job Title:** Technical Assistant – Electrical – Re. 230  
**Department:** Operations - Maintenance  
**Work Location:** Balhaf

#### Duties & Responsibilities:

- Organises, reviews and properly files technical and administrative documentation received from various entities. This includes technical duties such as review, input, analysis, retrieval, manipulation and presentation of technical data with the necessary associated operation of PC equipment and specific software.
- Provides full technical support in the use of PC based programs software packages, and standard packages such as word processor (Microsoft Word), spreadsheets (Excel), database (Access), drafting (Freelance, PowerPoint and AutoCAD) and other technical application software.
- Builds/writes computer programs (using various software) to prepare presentations, registers, planning.
- Carries out digitizing information, reprinting films, producing presentation materials and transparencies, drafting charts and drawings as required to produce departmental studies and reports.
- Carries out review of technical data received from the discipline teams, preparation of maintenance data/reports for input into preventive maintenance programs using SAP/UNISUP. This activity includes plotted reporting of monthly, quarterly and overall yearly statistics and performance.
- Carries out regular verification of services, orders, and spare parts processing status using CMMS tool. Provides support to discipline staff for CMMS use.

#### Qualifications Required:

- HND Higher National Diploma Certificate in electrical discipline plus 2 years office or secretarial training.
- 3 years' specific in maintenance office administration experience in a major oil/gas processing plant, including training and experience in computerized maintenance management system and information systems + 2 years maintenance technical background.
- Computer literacy including use of management system software and other spreadsheet and data base systems.
- Good command of written and spoken English.

**Job Title:** Production Control Assistant - 231  
**Department:** Operations  
**Work Location:** Sana'a/Balhaf

#### Duties & Responsibilities:

- Compiles records on safekeeping the daily feedgas supply to the LNG plant and LNG production for performance calculation (heat and material balances) and database for future reference in production planning and the Company business target /program.
- Reviews and updates as necessary upstream gas specifications (quantity and quality) to meet the planned mid and long term production programs.
- Records the Upstream plant performance and availability for optimization and planning of plant operation and production.
- Liaises with Sana'a upstream coordinator and the upstream operator, pipeline operation and record any process related problems.
- Updates record of LNG plant performance, thermal efficiency, etc to be used as reference for plant optimization and production planning.
- Transfers the production data and generates LNG plant production reports as required.
- Provides relevant data and assistance for the plant shutdown /start-up planning.
- Provides related data and assistance to the Plant Production division in the development of studies or simulation programs.
- Holds the Original copies of the main production documents (exp.: LNG loading, Production Record, gas metering data, ...etc), and ensures their periodic reviews and update as required.

#### Qualifications:

- Bachelor Degree in Chemical Engineering or equivalent.
- Sound technical knowledge of oil and gas industry or LNG production activities.
- Use of spreadsheet.
- Working knowledge of computer applications and methods.
- Good written and spoken English with good general communication skills

### APPLICATION PROCESS

- ☐ Visit Yemen LNG's website at ([WWW.YEMENLNG.COM](http://WWW.YEMENLNG.COM)).
- ☐ Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- ☐ Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply.
- ☐ Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- ☐ Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- ☐ Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

**Closing Date: 24 February 2009**

[WWW.YEMENLNG.COM](http://WWW.YEMENLNG.COM)

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال  
Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates must be Yemeni nationals

**Job Title:** Scaffolding & Insulation Supervisor - Ref. 226  
**Reports to:** Maintenance Services Superintendent.  
**Work Location:** Balhaf

**Duties & Responsibilities:**

He is directly involved in the daily supervision and management of the contracted Insulators & scaffolder. He ensures the quality of their work by regularly organising planning and reviewing work to be done.

He should work on:

- Defining the types of New or Repairs of the Insulation to be carried out (cold and hot insulation);
- Defining the type and/or method of scaffolding to be fitted on site;
- Establishing all the necessary working procedures to be applied;
- Managing and participating in all technical and HSE meetings;
- Checking and/or filling the Daily Time sheets and the Daily activity report.
- Ensuring proper planning, scheduling, and execution of tasks - Controlling and justification of the physical work progress based on the objectives of the COMPANY;
- Proposing and justifying technical recommendations – Including Works Method;
- Controlling and/or assisting and/or approving all required tests and/or Scaffold installation
- Writing the punch list concerning repairing operations, and making sure of the repairing of all pending points;
- Organising site works demobilization and making sure of the cleanliness of the site;
- Compiling all documents and/or information for the "End of Business" ("As Built") file/report;
- Compiling all documents and/or information for the "Scaffold Register" file/report;
- Ensuring the availability of the required manpower. Also, he ensures the availability of the related working tools and equipments by ensuring the tools and equipment regular and proper maintenance;
- Making sure that operations are carried out in strict compliance with COMPANY's current safety rules and operational procedures and in accordance with standard industry practice;
- Analysing the work performance from both the technical and the economic viewpoint and taking the necessary actions to reach his set objectives regarding availability and costs.

**Qualifications Required:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering.
- Minimum of 10 years experience in Operations in Oil & Gas industry with at least (minimum) 5 years in supervisory role or duty for the dedicated provision of services.
- Equivalent to ACQPA/FROSIO or NACE training – For Insulation works
- MILLS and/or CONFORM and/or CITB-Construction Skills and/or other Recognized courses for scaffolding works.
- Good English communication skill
- Good Computer skills
- Interpersonal and leadership skill

**Job Title:** Mechanical Workshop PVV Senior Technician – Ref. 227  
**Reports to:** Mechanical Workshop Supervisor  
**Work Location:** Balhaf

**Duties & Responsibilities:**

- Carries out corrective maintenance, repairs and overhauls on a wide variety of static equipment (all kind of valves, PSV's, filters, heat exchanger components, vessel components, furnaces, etc...) at mechanical workshop;
- Performs disassembly, parts replacement, executes repairs, assembly and testing on all static equipment at the mechanical workshop;
- Receives incoming work requests from the mechanical workshop supervisor, discusses work required and estimates time, material, and spare parts required to complete work;
- Provides work direction and guidance to junior technicians and ensures the work is executed in accordance with Company safety rules and procedures;
- Maintains good housekeeping at workshop site and ensures tools and equipment are kept in good, safe operating condition. Replaces and stores tools in orderly and tidy manner;
- Participates with the 'contractors and vendors' for the provision of specialist services on the static equipment;
- Uses CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management System) as a tool to plan and execute work, and provide technical information for analysis and continuous improvement;
- Provides information for preparing monthly reports (work completed, backlog, spare parts shortage etc ...) for the section to be further submitted to hierarchy;
- Generates reports of findings, repairs, and corrective actions performed on the plant equipment carried under his supervision to the Mechanical Supervisor.

**Qualifications Required:**

- Higher Diploma, or equivalent, in a relevant technical discipline with professional experience in the Oil & Gas Industry plus formal training in rotating machinery equipment.
- 10 to 8 years' specific Maintenance experience in the oil refining, gas or petrochemical industry.
- High level of knowledge, proven mastery and specialized on repairs, assembly and testing of rotating machinery equipment (all kind of pumps, compressors, gas turbines, blowers, fin fan coolers, etc).
- Experience in LNG would be preferable but not must.
- Good command of written and spoken English.

**Job Title:** Instrument Workshop Senior Technician – Ref. 228  
**Department:** Operations - Maintenance  
**Work Location:** Balhaf

**Duties & Responsibilities:**

- Carries out maintenance, disassembly, cleaning, calibration, troubleshooting and repair work on different types of instrumentation equipment in the Instrument Workshop and LNG Plant by using a variety of tools and test equipments. Reports back on condition as found, time spent, work carried out, as left, material used, and any further action required for each job undertaken. Equipment includes among others Transmitters, Control valves, RTD's, thermocouples, pressure gauges, pressure regulators, and any other kind of instrument devices;
- Carries out pneumatic/electronic equipment tests and calibration and ensures correct operation of the equipment or components;
- Coordinates and leads team of technicians in the instrument workshop for testing of LNG Plant instrumentation and ensures correct operation of the equipment or components;
- Ensures up date of technical documents (P&IDs, cause and effect diagram, circuit drawings, etc);
- Receives assignments from the Instrument Workshop Supervisor. Maintains good house keeping at his work place and ensures tools and equipment are kept in good, safe operating condition. Replaces and stores tools in orderly and tidy manner;
- Uses SAP as a tool to plan and execute work, and provide technical information for analysis and continuous improvement;
- Provides information for preparing monthly reports (work completed, backlog, spare parts shortage, etc ...) for the section to be further submitted to hierarchy.

**Qualifications Required:**

- Relevant technical or Higher Diploma in a relevant technical discipline with professional experience in the Oil & Gas Industry.
- 8-10 years of Maintenance experience in the Oil & Gas or Petrochemical industry in instrument discipline.
- Solid understanding of Instrument maintenance practices and testing. Hands-on experience.
- Good understanding of Oil & Gas Safety.
- Good knowledge of English written and spoken.

**Job Title:** Instrument Senior Technician - Ref. 229  
**Department:** Operations - Maintenance  
**Work Location:** Balhaf

**Duties & Responsibilities:**

- Carries out maintenance, disassembly, cleaning, calibration, troubleshooting and repair work on different types of instrumentation equipment by using a variety of tools and test equipments. Reports back on condition as found, time spent, work carried out, as left, material used, and any further action required for each job undertaken. Equipment includes among others Transmitters, Control valves, RTD's, thermocouples, pressure gauges, pressure regulators, and any other kind of instrument devices;
- Carries out pneumatic/electronic equipment tests and calibration and ensures correct operation of the equipment or components;
- Ensures update of technical documents (P&IDs, cause and effect diagram, circuit drawings, etc);
- Receives assignments from the Instrument Supervisor. Maintains good housekeeping at his work place and ensures tools and equipment are kept in good, safe operating condition. Replaces and stores tools in orderly and tidy manner;
- Uses SAP as a tool to plan and execute work, and provide technical information for analysis and continuous improvement;
- Provides information for preparing monthly reports (work completed, backlog, spare parts shortage, etc ...) for the section to be further submitted to hierarchy;
- Coordinates and leads team of technicians for maintaining instrumentation of the LNG Plant.

**Qualifications Required:**

- Relevant technical or Higher Diploma in a relevant technical discipline with professional experience in the Oil & Gas Industry.
- 8-10 years of Maintenance experience in the Oil & Gas or Petrochemical industry in instrument discipline.
- Solid understanding of Instrument maintenance practices and testing. Hands-on experience.
- Good understanding of Oil & Gas Safety.
- Good knowledge of English written and spoken.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

## Words of Wisdom



In the Third World today, the rulers have no fixed budgets or allocations, even when these exist on paper. The rulers simply spend as they please. Actually, the only limiting element is the lack of funds or the general poverty of the country. Here in Yemen, this problem exists in a shameless way. Just a couple of weeks ago, a number of government palaces built by foreign aid were simply given away to the top president's men.  
**Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,**  
(1951 - 1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR  
OPINIONReal achievements  
come in real life

The parliament has just endorsed a number of amendments for two important laws: the personal status law and the civil law. The amendments, approved first by the Jurisprudence Committee and then voted on by the whole Parliament, were mainly focused on women and children rights, with particular focus on deciding their future, spending their money, and being compensated for a marriage when a marriage is terminated.

One of the amendments defines the minimum age of marriage for boys and girls. The proposal was originally for 15 years at least, because those advocating for a minimum age for marriage realized that they needed to eat the elephant bit by bit. The talk was, "let us ensure no girls or boys get married before 15, and in the next course of action we will demand raising the age."

But the parliament surprised us with a gift of two extra years, and the minimum age for marriage was defined by law at 17 for boys and girls. And this is simply splendid news. It shows that the members of parliament (MPs) are trustworthy men who, when reasoned with, can approve a law in the best interest of the people.

MPs said that the media campaign and the women's movement, especially led by the Women National Committee, left their mark on their way of thinking. The cases of Nojood, Arwa and Reem, highlighted in the national and international press, were of huge impact.

One of the members of the Jurisprudence Committee, previously in favor of stalling such amendments but behind today's achievement, said he never realized that people would take advantage of the absence of a minimum age for marriage to marry off a girl as young as ten. He said this when he met Nojood on a BBC program on early marriage in Yemen.

This is also what we did at the Yemen Times when we celebrated the three girls' courage in demanding their right to a normal childhood and allowed press, decision makers, businessmen, NGOs and parliamentarians to meet with the girls and talk to them.

Putting a face to a number is the most effective way to make people realize how real the problem is. After meeting the girls, many were shocked into awakening. "She could have been my daughter or my sister," they kept saying.

Now what we need to do is put these good laws into practice. We have many great laws in Yemen but they are continuously broken because there are no real implementation or follow-up policies at grassroots level.

As the parliamentarians have given us the green light, it is now the role of media, civil society and development organizations to follow this lead and ensure it is applied in real life. Because real achievements come in real life and not on paper.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Hunger tunnels and oil corporations

By: Mohammed Shams Al-Din

While the world is predicting an unprecedented economic recession and a worldwide drop in oil prices, which in Yemen is expected to be depleted by 2017, the government allocated in its investment program this year YR 851 million to construct new five premises for corporations and institutions belonging to the Ministry of Oil and Minerals. In addition, the government aims to build an institute for oil training. Since the investment program doesn't specify the total cost of the projects, the costs remain unknown. That is, the original figure of YR 851 million is doubled two, three, and four times the cost until these premises are ready to operate, in addition to cost of furnishing expenses.

Reviewing the investment program and the amount of allocations to build and furnish the premises makes one feel that those who manage the national economy live somewhere else or they don't know the meaning of development. In addition, they don't know the millennium goals. This is because none of the projects that the program approved achieve sustainable development, nor do they create permanent job opportunities. Furthermore, they don't meet important and necessary social and humanitarian services.

Reflections of the global crisis on most economies of the world, slow economic activity, and the drop in oil prices and the subsequent drop in oil production are supposed to have forced the government to direct economic resources, loans, and grants toward projects that create new resources or meet necessary services. However, the seemingly random and improvised selection of projects has become clear. That is why the government is preoccupied with constructing new premises for oil corporations and institutions that cost billions of riyals, with little regard to the fact that Sana'a is threatened with the total depletion of water in the

next few years.

What is more important is the draining of rain water in the city which impedes traffic during normal rain seasons. In addition, heavy rains – the like of which happened in Hadramout – may in the future disable traffic in most parts of Sana'a and hinder any relief efforts. This is what the government must seriously pay attention to. Furthermore, hundreds of millions of dollars are spent by patients to receive treatment abroad due to a lack of health services in Yemen. Another issue is crowded school classrooms, where hundreds of students are congested in one class. These things should be given priority before all other issues.

The disaster is that some officials in our country don't differentiate between development with its comprehensive sense and cement constructions on the one hand and the concept of utilizing the size of development resources on the other. They believe that spending money on cement buildings is considered an accomplishment. What should be given priority in our current situation: improving the health situation and building new hospitals and developing the vocational and public education sector, or the new buildings?

Yemen ranks first in the Middle East in terms of child mortality during birth and maternal mortality during and after delivery. In addition, around 20 thousand new cases of cancer in Yemen are registered every year. It is not acceptable that patients go to hospitals and be shocked to hear that there is no vacant bed, which is currently occurring. People will not tolerate this deteriorated health situation for long. This is what the government must pay attention to.

A lack of planning and the exclusion of wise men from government positions made many officials deal with a public position as personal property which they can run as they like. That is why six premises for oil corporations of the oil ministry are approved and the cost is allocated. It is supposed that the government builds only one or two buildings in one location, to

include all the ministry's corporations, instead of wasting public money on purchasing lands for these independent premises with each corporation having a separate premises. Constructing a complex for every corporation will result in more expenses, both during construction and during maintenance in the future, although the current buildings are enough for all these corporations if officials only pay attention to their responsibilities.

Rulers aim to seize all institutions and distribute supreme positions of the government among relatives. This rendered the speech about integrating some of these corporations to face the financial crisis useless. The number of deputy-governors of Ibb governorate currently amounts to eleven deputies. The number of corporations that belong to Ministry of Oil mounted to seven, apart from the public council of the ministry. Every corporation has its own independent budget.

The global financial crisis and its impacts on developing countries, poverty, and a high unemployment rate all show that the government should reconsider spending on building and furnishing premises, rents, and raising expenses on the external shape of government institutions which prevailed during the last few years. This is the least the government can do.

In addition, a strange anarchism is found within the Ministry of Agriculture. The ministry extends its premises every year and decorates its gates, while agricultural products – including pepper, garlic, and raisins – are imported from China. Furthermore, the same ministry, which is concerned with paying attention to gardens, changed some gardens into offices for itself. This is the case concerning B'ir Al-Shayef tree shop. At the same time that the Ministry of Agriculture's irrigation extends in seizing the rest of the gardens instead of vertical construction, the project of extending Al-Kuwait Hospital in Sana'a has been stalled for many years.

Source: Newsyemen.net

Rule of law must be reinforced to  
prevent irresponsible actions

By: Abdulaziz Al-Hayajem

A few days ago, a foreign expert was abducted by Yemeni tribesmen before he was released in exchange for the relevant authorities' response to demands of the abductors. These demands are said to have been related to the release of a jailed man belonging to the tribe that kidnapped the foreigner. The abductors also demanded that the government provide a fair trial for the inmate and for those with whom he quarreled.

It is not possible for anyone to imagine what kind of tribal, religious, or humanitarian values are being practiced by tribesmen who abduct a foreign expert and then coerce him to engage in local problems, disputes, and revenge killings

that never originally concerned him.

The most important questions that are raised here are the following: Does responding to abductors' demands truly tackle the problem? Or does it promote kidnapping incidents that are no less risky than terrorist acts, which harms the country's reputation and leaves negative impacts on the national economy?

Undoubtedly, abductors are not like terrorists. When abductors think about kidnapping a foreigner, they consider this action as a solution to their problem, and therefore they treat the hostage kindly with respect and hospitality. They offer the hostage what he/she wants and assure him/her that his/her life is not at risk.

Abductors usually tell their hostage that they kidnapped him/her as a means to pressure the government to meet specific demands listed by them, provide services and development projects to their areas, or to release their jailed relatives.

None of the above mentioned data justify the practice of kidnapping acts that seem to be similar to acts of piracy on the open seas, such as the piracy that has emerged recently in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Somali pirates in the region hold any bypassing ships captive and then ask for ransom in exchange for the release of the ships they are holding.

It is true that when the government responds to abductors' demands it is dissatisfied with this action, but it does so out of its care to ensure that kidnapped foreigners, be they experts, diplomats, or tourists, remain unhurt. This is part of the government's legal and ethical commitment. However, the government should be aware that such cures are not limited to a single incident and the procedures currently followed by the government to secure the release of abducted foreigners actually encourage the phenomenon of kidnapping to become more rampant.

This is most apparent as tribesmen resort to kidnapping foreigners in order to pressure the government to meet their own demands.

Many options required to solve the  
problem

The most recent kidnapping incident is certainly not the first of its kind. There have been many incidents of this kind, most notably the numerous kidnapping incidents the nation witnessed between 1995 and 2000. As a result of such experience, the government should have a list of alternative options to solve the problem. The phenomenon of kidnapping was repeatedly practiced by tribesmen to pressure the government to respond to their demands in an unprecedented manner. This makes it evident that such incidents cannot take place without the help of invisible elements plotting to shake security and stability in the nation, hurting its economy.

Consequently, the government needs to enact firm legislation and tough security and legal procedures to put a stop to the growing phenomenon of the kidnapping of foreigners. It shouldn't stop at any temporary solutions, nor should it respond to kidnappers' demands. This harms the status and reputation of the state and makes people lose trust in their government's capacity to protect foreigners.

Having considered that responding to kidnappers' demands is a victory in favor of power and control, we realize that the matter actually risks citizens and foreigners' lives as well. Such irresponsible actions may not be stopped unless the government resorts to reinforcing the "rule of law," as nobody should be held above the law – especially not kidnapers.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

## SILVER LINING

Government issues  
a repressive  
information law draft  
for consideration

The Yemeni parliament is expected to start debating a draft law over the next few days concerning access to governmental information. The draft was approved by the government last December.

The draft law forwarded by the government has come to block another draft information law proposed by some reformers, composed of members of parliament, both ruling and opposition parties, civil society organizations, and journalists. Discussed last November, this draft stipulates that any Yemeni citizen has the right to ask for any public information and should receive the answer within 15 days. If denied the information, the information seeker should be able to appeal to a commission.

It also states that no official employee should be punished for disclosing governmental information to a citizen who requested it, but that officials refusing to deliver requested information should be sentenced to three months in jail or fined by about \$750.

However, the government's draft is shockingly different. This legislation is supposed to respond to democracy activists' call for more transparency and ease in accessing information so as to boost freedom of expression in Yemen and gear up the country for further steps towards democratization. Instead, the government intends in its draft to initiate further restrictions and taboos on information flow to the public.

Some government affiliated media said the draft had been written in line with President Saleh's election platform aiming "to promote transparency in governmental dealings and procedures, and will facilitate the citizens' ease of access to information."

None of this is reflected in the draft, which stipulates that the release of information should not damage national security, social peace, national unity, Yemen's interests and its foreign relations, the national economy, public and private economic interests, or trade and financial interests. Any person seeking or publishing information prohibited by this draft shall be sentenced to six years in jail according to article 71. Such open-ended and loose terms make it difficult to decide what is prohibited and what is allowed, for anything at any time can be simply decided as being against the national interest of the country. Again, the time limit for accessing requested information has been put at ten days, but the draft stipulates that the limit can be extended to 60 days. That is a lot of time.

Some years ago, a group of journalists, including myself, reported on a gunfire incident on a military helicopter in al-Jawf. We were summoned by the information ministry and threatened that our press cards accrediting us as reporters for foreign media would be taken. This time, according to this draft, we would go directly to jail.

I do not think public access to information will damage national security or unity, as the draft states. It is bad and authoritarian governance as well as the absence of law and order that puts the country on the edge of a precipice. Having an informed public is one of the basic elements of good governance and one of the main objectives of development in general. I understand democracy activists will break all hell loose in order to reject this repressive draft law.

## Folklore House Plea

The House of Folklore, a local NGO concerned with preserving the verbal and non-verbal heritage of Yemen, has been able to collect precious and valuable objects about Yemen folklore including songs, dress, and other such cultural items. The director of the House, Arwa Othman, an outspoken feminist and shrewd folklore researcher, built the House from scratch based on her quest for documenting folklore. She has been able to organize several activities, mainly a documentary about Mashaqir (flowers women used to put on their heads) as a symbol of feminine freedom. However, the house contents are on the wane as they are kept in an old building where humidity and insects are challenging efforts to keep such precious materials collected over the last twenty years in decent condition. Mrs. Othman appealed last week to the government, the private sector, and other international agencies concerned with the preservation of heritage to help the House to find another building in order to salvage Yemen folklore. I hope this plea finds an open ear, particularly from UNESCO.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.



By: Samer

## YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

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- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.  
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# Yemen Press Review



Al-Wahdawi.net, affiliated with the Nasserite Unionist People Organization  
Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009

## Top Stories

- JMP: Ruling party's preparations for the elections is a setback to democracy
- JMP Chairman urges authority to abide by Constitution, confirms JMP's seriousness to create independent election commission

Chairman of the Joint Meeting Parties' (JMP) Higher Council Sultan Al-Atwani reaffirmed the necessity of establishing a neutral and independent election commission, the website reported in one of its main stories.

According to the website, Al-Atwani confirmed that absolute dominance by the ruling party over the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) affects independence and neutrality of the electoral body.

During a symposium devoted to discussing aspects of the current electoral scene in Yemen, the opposition leader pointed out that JMP member parties are working hard to bring about the kind of legislation that will ensure SCER independence and neutrality.

"Political parties are entitled to advocate imbalance for the sake of leveling the electoral field as long as an independent judiciary system doesn't exist in Yemen," the JMP Chairman stated, demanding that the government respect the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen like the opposition does. He held the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) accountable for the dire situations in Yemen since it is in charge of governing the entire nation.

He accused the ruling party of wasting time and failing democracy, hinting to the Parliament meeting of August 18 last year when GPC MPs backed out on a compromise to vote on proposed election law amendments, pointing out that 2009 elections will be held by the ruling party alone. "This party is responsible for creating all the forms and types of political and economic crises," he added.

At the symposium, which was organized by the Manarat Center, Al-Atwani said that JMP member parties have a good project for comprehensive national and political reform, regretting the way the ruling party misunderstood the project.

The website quoted former Minister of Expatriate Affairs Saleh Samea as saying that democracy came as peaceful solution to the government's problem, however, the ruling party doesn't deal with conflict wisely and in a peaceful manner. "Like other Arab states, Yemen couldn't have resolved the government's problem because

presidents or kings of those states are the only powerful officials to run affairs of their nations. As a result, it is impossible for Yemen, as well as other Arab states, to achieve peaceful transfer of power," Samea illustrated.

According to Samea, approving the majority vote in Yemen is illogical as such a way of voting helps reinforce totalitarianism, and what is happening in Yemen currently are merely deceptive practices that justify totalitarianism and oppression.

The former minister indicated that the judiciary in Yemen is unable to act independently since approving the majority vote in the country is an end that justifies the means, a fact that hinders establishment of the state of law and order.

"Appointments in the government's various ministries are made based on the political affiliation of those appointed. A university rector, for example, is the head of the political organization in his university, and his stay in the post relies on the popularity he acquired for his political party in the university unions and syndicates," Samea disclosed.

Samea warned against potential deterioration of constitutional institutions because the way those officials are appointed threatens future of the country, advising the government to create workable solutions to pressing problems in the nation through a compromise of all the parliamentary blocs.



Almotamar.net, affiliated with General People's Congress (ruling party)  
Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009

## Top Stories

- SCER holds JMP member parties accountable for targeting its chairman
- SCER approves draft budget for upcoming electoral stages

The Supreme Commission for Elections & Referendum (SCER) approved earlier this week the draft budget of the stages of candidature, polling and vote counting of the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 27, 2009, the ruling party-affiliated website reported.

The website went on to say that during its meeting this week the SCER endorsed the adoption of 45 electoral symbols for independent candidates due to run for parliament seats in the upcoming elections.

The meeting also entrusted Head of Parties and Civil Organizations Sector at the SCER to brief the political parties and organizations on quickly submitting to the Commission names of their representatives for the election management committees due to be composed in light of those proportions approved in the presidential and local

elections in 2006.

The SCER meeting, chaired by Chairman of the Commission Khalid Abdulwahab Al-Sharif, reviewed plans of the Commission's sectors for the stages of candidacy, polling and vote counting, and proposed putting together all those plans in one general plan before being referred to the Commission for discussion and approval.

The meeting also listened to the daily report made by the Communication and Follow-up Centre on progress of the supervising and main committees for the stage of voter register review and update and referred it to the concerned sectors.

On a side note, the website reported that Prime Minister Ali Mujawar attended Saturday the opening session of a conference on contemporary media between freedom of expression and offense against religions in Sana'a.

At the opening session of the conference, Mujawar said that holding the conference in Sana'a reflects the scientific position of Yemen and its support for the message of Islam as well as protection of the Islamic heritage.

Some 200 scholars, intellectuals, and representatives of Islamic and Arab media outlets took part in the conference.

Mujawar said that Islam is based on justice and equality between all peoples, adding that Muslims should inform all about Islam and defend it. The message of Islam is international

and has no specific borders, he said.

The official called on all to face all campaigns instigating insult against Islam and Muslims as well as principles of Islam, justice and peace.

The prime minister said that Yemen, led by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, looks at dialogue and mediation as key elements not only for clarifying the real image of Islam for other world peoples and religions, but also its message of tolerance. He highlighted contributions of the Islamic World League to Islam and Muslims.

He illustrated ideas of some western extremists who tried to damage the image of Islam and its noble principles. "Some of them started to insult prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and they raised slogan "conflict of civilizations" instead of dialogue of civilizations," he maintained.

The prime minister affirmed role of the media in reporting the real picture of Islam with clear evidence. He also highlighted the negative impacts of terror acts committed by some groups of the nation that affect Islam, urging scholars and media corporations to clarify the difference between Islam and terrorism as the latter has no ties with specific religion or culture.

The conference was organized by Ministry of Endowment and Guidance in cooperation with the Islamic World League from 7th to 9th February. The aim of the conference is to clarify media concepts and its goals, tasks and support values of justice and peace.

## Israelis, in Crisis, Vote for a Government of War

By: Nicola Nasser

Just of Tuesday's voting battle settled down and the battle of forming the next Israeli government has just begun. With Benjamin Netanyahu poised for premiership and Avigdor Lieberman, leader of a "racist and fascist" party (as condemned by Talia Sasson of the Merez party) very well positioned to be the king or queen maker of the next ruling coalition, the Palestinian people and the whole region will have to brace as from next March for an Israeli government of war.

First on the agenda of the new government will be the approval of 2.4 billion shekels ordered on Monday by the outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to re-equip the army after the war on Gaza as well as an extra military funding of one billion shekels.

Ironically the Israelis went to early elections as a way out of a government crisis, but the narrowly-won victory of Kadima and the inconclusive results of Tuesday's elections have put Israel in disarray and plunged it into a political limbo, with both Tzipi Livni of Kadima and Netanyahu of Likud claiming victory while a kingmaker role is awarded to Avigdor Lieberman and his anti-Arab platform. The tie set the stage for weeks of agonizing coalition negotiations. But what is more important, in view of historic experience, is that whenever Israel was in an internal crisis it used to resort to war as a way to unify its ranks, at least for a while. The present crisis is no exception and it doesn't bode well for the Palestinians and the region.

By the Israeli basic law, the president must consult with all the parties as to who they prefer as prime minister, and whoever is recommended by more Knesset members is given the nod. The law however doesn't oblige the president to nominate Kadima only because it was the winner in the polls. It's now up to President Shimon Peres to decide whether Livni or Netanyahu should have the first shot at forming a government.

The number of Knesset seats needed for majority is 61. With ninety-nine percent of the votes counted early Wednesday the Likud - led right-wing and religious parties have more than 63 seats. Kadima - led center and leftist parties together with the Arab parties got less than 58 seats, which makes Kadima's victory more a failure than a success.

Haaretz on February 8 published a "coalition calculator" predicting three coalition scenarios based on "a weighted average of six polls released at the end of the week": First a

"Netanyahu - led Right - Center Coalition" including Likud, Yesrael Betteinu, Labor and National Union + Jewish Home with a total of 66 Knesset seats, or 76 seats if Shas is added. Second a "Netanyahu - led Lieberman - Free Coalition" including Likud, Kadima, Labor with a total of 65 seats, or 75 seats with Shas. The third, described by Haaretz as the "Dark Horse" was a "Livni - led Coalition" [if Kadima edges Likud, which did happen] including Kadima, Yesrael Betteinu, Labor and Shas with a total of 69 seats. However the third possibility was almost ruled out on Tuesday.

Livni said she would not join any government led by Netanyahu. Lieberman was on record Tuesday night that he will recommend Netanyahu to Peres to lead a "right - wing government." Shas, which came fifth on Tuesday, was the party that brought the Kadima - led government down over its objection to "negotiating" the future of Jerusalem, which in turn led to Tuesday's early elections and accordingly will not join Kadima in a new coalition. Moreover Mohammad Barakeh of Hadash and Ahmad Tibi of the United Arab List-Ta'al both confirmed that they will not recommend Livni to Peres for premiership, neither they will support any ruling coalition that includes Lieberman and his party, and "we will sit in the opposition," according to Tibi. Similarly Ehud Barak of Labor is not taken - for - granted partner to Kadima in view of his statements that his party will not join a new ruling coalition if it did not get twenty seats in the Knesset and it got only thirteen. However Barak's chances seem better with Likud whose leader Netanyahu publicly denied Lieberman the post of defense minister and praised Barak for his military performance in Operation Cast Lead against Gaza, hinting he could award Barak the post.

**War Planned on Two - state Solution** Right and left -wing Israeli rhetoric however could not smokescreen the fact that Israel's latest elections, from Palestinian and Arab perspectives, were competed among the right, the center right and the far right, or between the extremists and the ultra-extremists. Kadima was a breakaway from Likud in the first place. Yesrael Betteinu was an offshoot of Likud. Palestinian blood is on the hands of Netanyahu as much as it is on the hands of Livni and Barak. Does it really matter then if they differ on launching an all out war or limited wars on the Palestinian people, or on which is better to finish them once and for all in a military blitz or to exhaust them to elimination by prolonged gradual small wars!

While all the major winners in the

Israeli February 10 election are in consensus on the imminent resumption of war on the Palestinian Gaza Strip, Netanyahu's political platform promises an immediate political and colonial settlement war in the West Bank as well as for a planned attack on Iran that could embroil the whole region in a very much wider conflict, unless the new U.S. administration of Barack Obama decides to avert such a far - reaching threat by making good on its campaign promises for a dialogue with Tehran and exploits what the Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani described, during the opening session of the Munich Conference on Security Policy on February 6, as "the golden opportunity" for the normalization of U.S. - Iran relations.

This ominous outcome of Tuesday's Israeli general elections does not mean of course that the former cabinet of Ehud Olmert was a government of peace, as it was proved otherwise by the two wars it launched in less than 30 months on Lebanon in 2006 and the recent 22-day war on Gaza, let alone carrying on with the war Olmert's predecessor Ariel Sharon launched on the autonomous Palestinian Authority in the West Bank in 2002.

However while the outcome makes it very clear that resuming the war on Gaza is top on the agenda of the next government, spotlights are focusing away from Netanyahu's plans for the West Bank, which is tantamount to an all out war on the so - called two - state solution and the so - called "peace process" to make it happen. He rejects the "Annapolis approach" and advocates instead a protracted "economic peace" approach as a necessary stage for creating conditions for political peace. He rules out negotiations on the final status issues of the refugees, Jerusalem and colonial Jewish settlements as "non - negotiable." Netanyahu remains opposed to the land-for-peace concept at the heart of the Palestinian - Israeli signed accords within the framework of the Oslo process. During his campaign he warned against giving up any occupied territory to the Palestinians, claiming it would be "grabbed by extremists," and said he will not be bound by Olmert's commitments: "I will not keep Olmert's commitments to withdraw and I won't evacuate settlements. Those understandings are invalid and unimportant." In January Netanyahu said there were other "models" for the Palestinians short of complete sovereignty. He will complete the reconstruction of the "separation wall" and maintain Israeli control over most of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the main settlement blocs, the Jordan Valley - relegating Palestinians to a series of disconnected

Bantustans.

## A War Referendum

The drift to what Israelis themselves describe as "right - wing" policies as the crystal clear outcome of the general election on February 10 is indication enough that Israel is in a crisis that has been brewing since its unilateral and unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, followed by its inconclusive war on that country in 2006 and exacerbated by its unilateral and unconditional withdrawal from the Palestinian Gaza Strip in another inconclusive war this year, all which prove that the erosion of the military "deterrence," which the Israeli occupying power used to boast of since its creation in 1948 and which started with the Arab - Israeli war in 1973, is an irreversible historical trend that dictates a change of strategic course from seeking peace based on force and the exploits of force to a quest for peace based on justice and international law.

The erosion of the Israeli "deterrence" and the inconclusiveness of its military performance since 1973 created the ongoing crisis that brought in the Likud to power for the first time in 1977 to end Labor and "left's" historical monopoly of government and usher in an era where none of the major parties could anymore wield enough popular support to score a "conclusive" electoral victory ever since, and the latest elections proved that this trend is there to stay for a long time to come.

However instead of drifting towards peace based on discarding their strategy of military force, which led to the occupation of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories, the Israeli decision makers are still yearning to pursue the same strategy by restoring their lost military deterrence. Towards this end, they have made war itself and warmongering legitimate tools of electoral campaigning as illustrated by "Operation Cast Lead" against the Palestinian people in Gaza, which dominated the campaign for February 10 elections.

Those elections were "Israel's War Referendum," according to the editorial of The Washington Times on February 9; they were "A Promise of War," Jackson Diehl wrote in The Washington Post on the same day. "The past four Israeli elections have been won by a candidate who promised to end Israel's conflict with the Palestinians. Tomorrow, for the first time in decades, Israelis may choose a prime minister who is promising to wage war," Diehl said. This development in the Israeli political system and the ominous outcome of Tuesday's election do not bode well for the Palestinian people or for the regional stability and peace.

Judging by the statements on record of the four major contenders for premiership (Netanyahu, Livni, Barak and Lieberman) and the political platforms of the five main parties (Likud, Kadima, Labor, Yesrael Betteinu and Shas) of the thirty-three party lists who competed for some of the 120 seats of the Knesset among an estimated five million voters on February 10, "security and defense," Hamas, the Palestinian resistance in the Gaza strip and Iran were the key issues in the election campaign. The so-called "peace process" was written off or at least sidelined to the back burner.

## An Existential Conflict

While all the winners on Tuesday were in consensus on how to deal with Iran "by all means," according to Netanyahu, their consensus is not as much clear on how to deal with Hamas "by all means" as well. Livni's stated lone subscription to the "Annapolis Process" may blur the fact that she was a member of the tripartite leadership with Barak and Olmert who were responsible for the bloody onslaught by the region's self - proclaimed "invincible" military force on the civilian infrastructure and the civilian population of one and a half million Palestinians, more than seventy percent of whom are displaced refugees from the Israeli 1948 onslaught on their civilian existence in their original homeland that had become Israel ever since.

In a key speech last Monday Livni promised more attacks and ruled out any chance of a negotiated settlement with Hamas. "If by ending the operation we have yet to achieve deterrence, we will continue until they get the message," she said, insisting on ignoring both the message of recent history since 1973 that "that" deterrence has irreversibly eroded by Arab state regular armies, but more by Palestinian and Lebanese popular resistance to military occupation, and the message that the "inconclusiveness" of Israeli wars against this resistance promises more erosion of the deterrence she and her rivals aspire for, especially in the Palestinian case because if the Lebanese civilians, for example, can flee north and east Palestinian refugees in Gaza as well as in the West Bank have no escape, but to join the resistance, and have no Syrian "strategic depth" like their Pan - Arab compatriots in Lebanon and their only strategic outlet is ironically Israel proper itself.

Abraham Diskin, a political scientist at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was right when he was quoted by The Guardian on February 4 as saying that the "conflict is an existential problem both on a personal and a national basis," but he was partially right when he stated

that only "Kadima failed" to address it as such. While Netanyahu admitted that Operation Cast Lead was not a success because it was an unfinished mission, Barak's public admission on February 8 that he was running for defense minister, not prime minister, was also an admission that his campaigning militarily in Gaza was a failure that failed to improve his electoral chances. "It was a miscalculation: Brutal discourse and brutal policies always strengthen the far right - Netanyahu and Avigdor Lieberman," co-founder and former director of the Alternative Information Center in Jerusalem, Michael Warschawski, said on Tuesday.

Neither Netanyahu nor Lieberman or Barak seem receptive of those messages of recent history, which have deterred the Israeli strategy of military deterrence twice since 2006, to address the conflict as one of "existence" for both sides as they continue to unilaterally deal with it as only an Israeli headache and not as a bilateral problem of existence for the Palestinian people too who have been resisting the Israeli genocide against their very existence for more than sixty years.

Netanyahu was on record: "We must smash the Hamas power in Gaza." "There will be no escape from toppling the Hamas regime." "I'm sorry to say we haven't gotten the job done; the next government will have no choice but to finish the job and uproot ... the Iranian terror base." Lieberman -- who was on record that if it ever came to war, Israel had only to bomb the Aswan Dam to flood the Nile Valley and devastate Egypt -- was more horrifying in hinting to "atomic" genocide. He denounced the Israeli unilateral ceasefire in Gaza as a sell-out of the military; his preferred strategy is total war against the Gaza Strip: "We must continue to fight Hamas just like the United States did with the Japanese in World War II." In an opinion column titled, "Kahane Won," Gideon Levy reminded Haaretz readers two days ahead of the election that Lieberman was a member of Kahane's Kach party in his youth and wrote: "Rabbi Meir Kahane can rest in peace: His doctrine has won. Twenty years after his Knesset list was disqualified and 18 years after he was murdered, Kahanism has become legitimate in public discourse ... If Kahane were alive and running for the 18th Knesset, not only would his list not be banned, it would win many votes, as Yisrael Beiteinu is expected to do."

The writer is a veteran Arab journalist based in Bir Zeit on the West Bank of the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories. This article was first published by IslamOnline.net on Thursday February 12, 2009.

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# Potters in the shadow of India Gate

By: Shubha Menon  
Women's Feature Service

A short six kilometres from the swish new Metro rail line at Delhi's Uttam Nagar East and a 25 kilometre drive from India Gate, lies Asia's biggest potter's colony.

It is located on the fringes of Sainik Enclave and the approach to the village is like entering any lower middle class residential area in this city. Anil, the driver, has often regaled me with stories about the progress that has visited his colony recently: How land prices have shot up with the arrival of the Metro, how halogen lamps have transformed night into day in even the innermost lanes of the 'mohallas' (local area) and how an upcoming flyover is going to ease traffic congestion. As he speaks I imagine that Delhi is fast becoming a more attractive place for all.

Such a pre-conception is hastily discarded as I finally reach the potter's colony. The approach road is a stinking six kilometres of potholes. But once I reach, I am entranced: here is a place that is a reservoir of art, where potters practise the skills handed down from one generation to the next. I am fascinated by the numerous neat rows of 'gamlas' (flower-pots) stacked up on every roof. The entire

colony is tinted in hues of earthy brown. Everywhere, pots are in different stages of completion. I see women of all ages engrossed in work, some putting pots to bake inside kilns, some stacking the baked pots, others colouring them burnt orange. In fact, women participate in every stage of pottery making. Starting with beating and threshing the mud, they mix it with water and knead the dough into a malleable consistency. The pots are then shaped and placed in a secure place to dry. Finally, the women stoke the fires in the kilns and bake the products. They do this amidst their daily chores of cooking, cleaning and looking after the children.

I spot a strong, buxom woman in a courtyard. She is mixing water with mud, manipulating the dough that will be shaped into pots. I go up and ask her where she is from and if she is content with life. Her story is one that is echoed by woman after woman in the village.

Santara, 35, came to this village twenty years ago when opportunities for work dried up in her village in Rajasthan's Alwar district. The family bought land, built kilns, set up living quarters and were ready for business. Santara pauses in her work and wipes her brow with a deep sigh. In one pithy sentence, she sums up the situation, "Paani ka ghana rona hai." ("Water is a huge cause of distress here.")

It is ironical indeed that while the potter's mud soaks up every drop of water it comes in contact with, there is no proper supply of drinking water here. At the same time, sewage water stagnates in the drains. For Santara and the other women, this is a situation without a solution.

Election posters and announcements are loud and insistent in making their presence felt, but civic amenities are conspicuous by their absence. In this village of more than 3,000 families, there is no water or tap and no provision for drainage. The New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) does not acknowledge the existence of this village, while politicians come only when they need votes.

So what is really happening in this village that the authorities cannot see or refuse to do so? To begin with, cholera, typhoid, dengue and the flu.

The villagers have constructed toilets in every home. But the refuse from the toilets flows into drains where it either overflows or stagnates to become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Since there is no sewage system in place, the water simply stays there. When the drains start spilling over, residents scoop up the filth in buckets and fling it on the road. The lack of hygiene is apparent everywhere. Plastic bags float in murky pools by the roadside. Household waste rots in piles, around homes and in empty plots. Slush pools are everywhere, dark with algae, humming with breeding colonies of insects.

I enter one of the homes. In the verandah, Sapna, 13, is scouring dirty dishes. The rancid water flows into a narrow drain a metre away, right next to the hand pump that draws up ground water. I ask Sapna where she goes for a bath. She points inside. I see a single room, a pile of mud, half-finished pots, a cooking area, all in the same space. Sapna tells me that when she wants to bathe, she simply shuts herself into the house and uses her home as a bathroom.

In school too, the young girls face the problem of lack of privacy and the paucity of water. "Sakool mein toh hum kabhi toilet nahin jaatey. Paani nahin hai na, bahut gandagi rehti hai, badboo aati hai (In school I never go to the toilet. There is no water so it is very dirty and smelly)," explains Sapna.

A group of women gather and giggle as I click pictures of toilets and open drains. I ask them what problems they face given these unhygienic conditions and why none of them protested against the situation. They tell me that the lack of a sewage system and the non-availability of drinking water are making their existence unbearable. The ground water is unfit for drinking, as it is untreated, hard water. The municipal water supply does not extend to the colony. Tankers arrive once in 10 days, leading to a mad scramble to fill vessels. Squabbles are common.

When the tanker water runs out, women and children have to walk up to five kilometres to the nearest municipal tap. But only a few families make the

effort to procure clean drinking water. The majority subsists on ground water. The hand pumps and wells have been dug in the midst of sewage waste, which freely seeps into the ground water. Consequently the water the pumps yield is often muddy and smelly and in the rainy season, there are insects in it. As a result, children fall sick regularly. Eye infections are rampant. Every year, dengue fever and chikangunia snatch several lives.

So why don't they take action, I ask the women around me? Why don't they get

together and clean up? Manju, 23, the most outspoken of them all, pipes up indignantly, "If the municipality does not provide us with drinking water, what can we do? As for cleaning up, we scoop up the water from the drains when they overflow and throw it on the road. There is no arrangement to take away garbage, so we let it collect. As for the politicians, they are interested only in our votes, not in our woes."

Full of questions, I turn to Rahul Sengupta of South Asia Foundation (SAF), an NGO that is engaged in pre-

serving the artisan's way of life. According to Rahul, the potters are trapped in a never ending cycle of debt, borrowing money to buy raw material, paying off the loan with earnings and then borrowing again.

As I trudge back to my car at the end of the visit, I notice my feet. They are covered with brown mud. Is it the dust from the potter's wheel or is it the toxic mud from some gutter, I wonder. Well, it is probably a mix of both. I can drive away from this squalor but for the women I leave behind, there is no escape.



Meena washes dishes at the hand pump; the dirty water flows into the little dug-out pit in her verandah, where it stagnates.



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**DOVE ENERGY LIMITED**  
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Sharyoof Oil Field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr.

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals only* to apply for the position of **Assistant Construction Coordinator**. The Site Assistant Construction Coordinator reports to the Site Construction Supervisor and is responsible for the day-to-day construction activities associated with the development of the Block 53 Sharyoof construction activities. This includes liaising with Sana'a office Sr Mechanical Engineer, Construction Civil Engineer and contracting construction crew. These responsibilities will be carried out in accordance with Dove Energy Ltd. Yemen's

<b>Position Title</b>	: Assistant Construction Coordinator
<b>Location</b>	: Sharyoof (Field) – Block 53
<b>Deadline Date</b>	: 26th February 2009

**Responsibilities:**

- Perform tasks and duties as directed by the Construction Supervisor.
- Be the link for Construction activities at the CPF for the Construction Supervisor, Senior Mechanical Engineer, Construction Civil Engineer, Cad Draftsman, & Document controller and the construction contractors.
- Ready to accept training from Construction Supervisor, training courses in country & abroad.
- Ensure all projects are planned and executed in a safe, cost effective and in a timely manner.
- Ensure all quality documents, marks up drawings are submitted by the Contractor before acceptance of the construction tasks / projects.
- Ensure that the minimum stocks levels for future Well tie-in are maintained.
- Operate in Bayoot / Sharyoof facilities in a safe and prudent manner so as to minimize the risk to personnel, company property and the environment.
- Ensure all construction projects are built to the design basis and the correct COP is followed.
- Prepare Construction, safety and environmental reports as required.

**Qualifications and Experience Preferred**

- Should be Yemeni Nationality
- Bachelor degree in the oil field industry, as mentioned in the responsibilities.
- 5+ years work experience.
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages
- Multi-disciplinary team work
- Excellent communication skills
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications

*Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: [hr@doveyemen.com](mailto:hr@doveyemen.com). (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V*



**DOVE ENERGY LIMITED**  
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Bayoot new oil field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals only* to apply for the position of **Plant Operator**. The role offers you many challenges in a highly active, multi-disciplinary team. This position is responsible for the day-to-day operating duties associated with the Sharyoof wells and facilities.

<b>Position Title</b>	: Plant Operator
<b>Location</b>	: Bayoot - Block 53
<b>Deadline Date</b>	: 26th February 2009

**Responsibilities:**

- Operate the Sharyoof facilities in a safe and prudent manner so as to minimize the risk to personnel, company property and the environment.
- Closely monitor all wells and facilities to ensure appropriate production levels are maintained at all times.
- Perform well and equipment checks, and record operational data as often as deemed necessary to ensure continuous running.
- Start-up and shutdown wells and equipment as necessary for servicing and repair.
- Prepare production, safety and environmental reports as required.
- Closely monitor and record all chemical, lubricant and fuel usage to ensure optimum equipment performance.

**Qualifications and Experience Preferred**

- Should be Yemeni Nationality
- Bachelor degree or equivalent diploma degree
- 4+ years work experience.
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages
- Multi-disciplinary team work
- Excellent communication skills
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications

*Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: [hr@doveyemen.com](mailto:hr@doveyemen.com). (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V*



**DOVE ENERGY LIMITED**  
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Bayoot new oil field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals only* to apply for the position of **Junior Operator**. The role offers you many challenges in a highly active, multi-disciplinary team. Operate the process facilities from well site to export pipeline.

<b>Position Title</b>	: Junior Operator
<b>Location</b>	: Bayoot(Field) -Block 53
<b>Deadline Date</b>	: 26th February 2009

**Responsibilities:**

- Carry out the work as instructed and be vigilant at all work sites.
- Undertake operational maintenance and repair of process equipment.
- Member of the operations Team reporting to the Senior Operator in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- Collection of the production and process readings.
- Perform duties safely in accordance with instructions, procedures and training.

**Qualifications and Experience Preferred**

- Should be Yemeni Nationality
- Bachelor degree or equivalent diploma degree
- 2+ yearswork experience.
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages
- Multi-disciplinary team work
- Excellent communication skills
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications

*Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: [hr@doveyemen.com](mailto:hr@doveyemen.com). (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V*

# Dust Storms in the Middle East

Extract from a study by Haim Kutiel Hadar Furman  
Department of Geography,  
University of Haifa

The Middle East Dust storms are among the most severe environmental problems in certain regions of the World. Where they occur most of the dust in the atmosphere is from Aeolian origin. Estimates of the total aeolian dust from deserts in the atmosphere is about  $5 \times 10^8$  tons per year. Several authors have estimated that the Sahara desert alone contributes between 40–66% of the total dust. Dust storms may be traced as far as 4000 km from their origin. Dust storms may cause a variety of problems.

One of the major problems is a considerable reduction of visibility that limits various activities, increases traffic accidents, and may increase the occurrence of vertigo in aircraft pilots. Other environmental impacts, reported in the literature include reduced soil fertility and damage to crops, a reduction of solar

radiation and in consequence the efficiency of solar devices, damage to telecommunications and mechanical systems, dirt, air pollution, increase of respiratory diseases and so on.

Three main categories of reduced visibility are often used to describe the severity of dust storms:

Σ Blowing Dust – the horizontal visibility (due to aeolian dust), is less than 11 km.

Σ Dust Storm – the horizontal visibility is less than 1000 m.

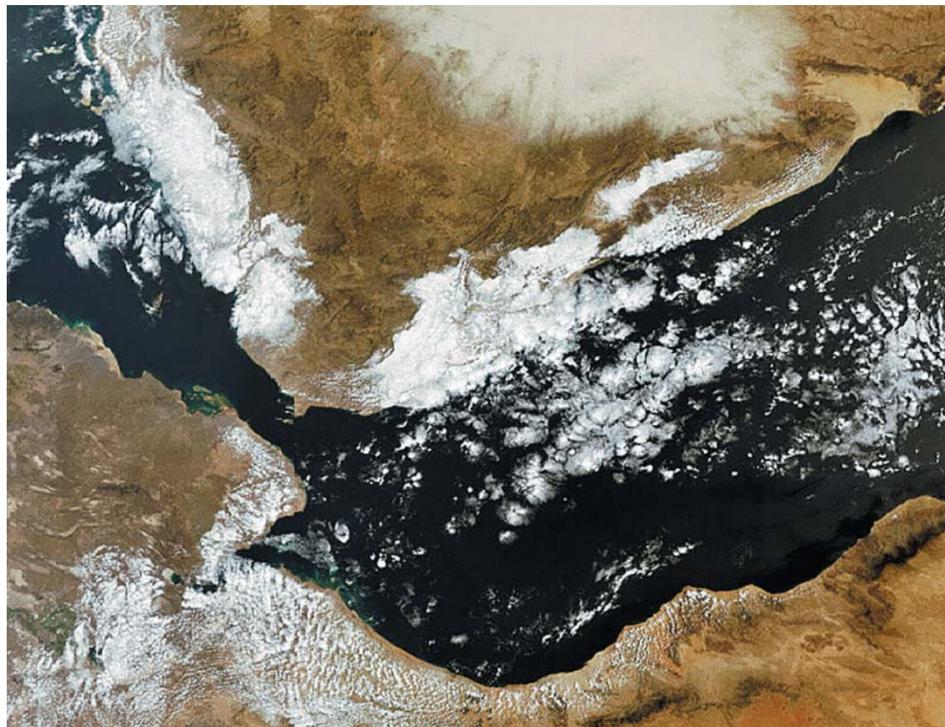
Σ Severe Dust Storm – the horizontal visibility is less than 200 m.

In some seasons in certain regions of the Middle East and North Africa and for about 30% of the time on average, the dust conditions in the lower troposphere fall into one of these three categories. Thus, in these regions, dust storms are a very frequent phenomenon and a better knowledge of their spatial and temporal distribution is of prime importance.

A positive correlation exists between the quantity of dust in the air, and the wind velocity. Whereas, a negative correlation exists between dust amount and

the particles size. Precipitation and/or vegetation coverage may reduce considerably the amount of dust in the air for a given wind velocity and/or particles' size. Thus, a study of the atmospheric circulation and its impact on the precipitation regime in a given region is crucial to understand the dust distribution in that region.

The Middle East is one of the regions most affected by dust, in the world, next to Africa. Dust storms or blowing dust are frequent during most of the year. However, there is a clear temporal trend of the timing of the main dust activity during the year from north-west to south-east. In region the maximum activity is observed during winter and spring. Further south-eastward in region, this happens in spring. Finally, at the extreme southern and eastern region of the study area in region a, the maximum dust activity is observed in summer. Parallel to that delay, a considerable net intensification of dust activity is also observed. Thus outdoor activity of any kind in these regions, must take into consideration the limitations imposed by airborne dust.



A massive dust storm is covering the entire Arabian Peninsula. The storm spread to the Middle East from Africa. Earthsnapshot – Feb. 12, 2009

## What is a dust storm?

A dust storm or sandstorm is a meteorological phenomenon common in arid and semi-arid regions and arises when a gust front passes or when the wind force exceeds the threshold value where loose sand and dust are removed from the dry surface. Particles are transported by saltation and suspension, causing soil erosion from one place and deposition in another. The Sahara and dry lands around the Arabian peninsula are the main source of airborne dust, with some contributions from Iran, Pakistan and India into the Arabian Sea, and China's storms deposit dust in the Pacific. It has been argued that recently, poor management of the Earth's dry lands, such as neglecting the fallow system, are increasing dust storms from desert margins and changing both the local and global cli-

mate, and also impacting local economies.

The term *sandstorm* is used most often in the context of desert sandstorms, especially in the Sahara, when, in addition to fine particles obscuring visibility, a considerable amount of larger sand particles are blown closer to the surface. The term *dust storm* is more likely to be used when finer particles are blown long distances, especially when the dust storm affects urban areas.

## Causes

As the force of wind passing over loosely held particles increases, particles of sand first start to vibrate, then to saltate ("leap"). As they repeatedly strike the ground, they loosen smaller particles of dust which then begin to travel in suspension. At wind speeds above that which causes the smallest

to suspend, there will be a population of dust grains moving by a range of mechanisms: suspension, saltation and creep.

Particles become loosely held mainly due to drought or arid conditions, and wind has varied causes. Gust fronts may be produced by the outflow of rain-cooled air from an intense thunderstorm, or they may represent a dry cold front, that is, a cold front that is moving into a dry air mass and is producing no precipitation. This is the type of dust storm which was common during the Dustbowl years in the U.S. Following the passage of a dry cold front, convective instability resulting from cooler air riding over heated ground can maintain the dust storm initiated at the front. In desert areas, dust and sand storms are most commonly caused by either thunderstorm out-

flows, or by strong pressure gradients which cause an increase in wind velocity over a wide area. The vertical extent of the dust or sand that is raised is largely determined by the stability of the atmosphere above the ground as well as by the weight of the particulates. In some cases, dust and sand may be confined to a relatively shallow layer by a low-lying temperature inversion. In other instances, dust (but not sand) may be lifted as high as 20,000 feet (6,100 m) high.

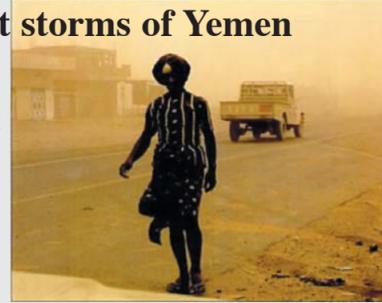
Drought and wind contribute to the emergence of dust storms, as do poor farming and grazing practices by exposing the dust and sand to the wind.

Source: Victor R. Squires, "Physics, Mechanics and Processes of Dust and Sandstorms"

## Shamal: Dust storms of Yemen

The *Shamal* is a great dust storm that blows from the northwest across the Red Sea to the coastal areas of Yemen. It takes extremely high winds to create a dust storm. When the wind passes over areas of sparse vegetation, it picks up loose particles that can be as big as pieces of clay or as tiny as silt and fine sand. The particles are swept to heights of many feet, and the smaller ones can stay in the air for days — some of them have been found floating in the atmosphere above Alaska. Heavier grains of sand bounce along the ground, just a few inches above the surface.

Sandstorms can be a real hazard. The sand particles carried by the wind act like sandpaper: they scrape away rock surfaces and remove paint from



trucks. Dust storms can also erode valuable soil and destroy young crops.

During *Shamal*, the wind can become so full of sand that it blocks out the sun, making visibility impossible. Each year, airports have to close for a few days during the period of July and August because the *shamal* winds clog airplane engines.

Source: *Cultures of the World — Yemen* by Anna Hestler

## Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation Project Management Unit (PMU)

Sana'a Sanitation Networks Project  
Invitation for the Pre-Qualification of Bidders  
For the Construction of Sana'a Sanitation Networks Project  
Phase IV

- ¥ The Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (SWSLC), Project Management Unit (PMU), has received a loan from the Arab Fund to finance the implementation the remaining of Sana'a Sanitation Networks Project. Therefore, SWSLC-PMU invites interested bidders experienced in the construction of sewerage networks, to apply for pre-qualification, which is open to local and international firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures between two firms of more.
- ¥ The project includes supply and construct uPVC and GRP sewerage networks pipes with diameters ranging from 160mm to 1500mm. The total length of the Sanitation networks is expected to be about 800km.
- ¥ Eligible contractors of first class grade according to top classification in their countries with sound experience in sewerage networks construction may obtain the pre-qualification documents from SWSLC-PMU, Republic of Yemen Sana'a, at the address noted below, starting from the date of publishing this notice at newspapers. The documents will be available for non-refundable fees of fifty US Dollars (US\$50).
- ¥ The application must be submitted in sealed envelopes, and clearly stated on the envelop □Application for Pre-Qualification for the Construction of Sana'a Sanitation Networks project-Phase IV□, also the name of company and address including Tel. and Fax No. Should be stated clearly. The application will not be accepted under any circumstances latter than date 30/3/2009 12.00 noon local time

Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation  
Project Management Unit  
Eng. Abdullah Al-Muta'a  
Project Director  
Al-Itha'a Street-near Ministry of Health  
Tel. + 967 1 250162  
Fax. + 967 1 250174

## REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT (CR. 3625-YEM) REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY FIRMS TO CONDUCT IMPACT STUDY FOR HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT

This request for expression of interest follows the general procumbent notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDP) issue No. 607 dated 16 May 2003, Al Thawra Newspaper issue No. 13944 dated 28 May 2003 and Yemen Times issue No. 641 dated 21 June 2003.

The government of Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Consultancy services to Conduct Impact Study for Health Reform Support Project.

The objective of this assignment is to assist both the MOPHP and the World Bank to assess and know the degree to which the HRSP has had an overall impact and the benefits resulted from project interventions; and to provide in depth information on the effectiveness and efficiency of the respective components in producing desired results based on project indicators and revised PDOs.

An impact evaluation has become more imperative in the light of a forthcoming IDA project in the health sector. This study is also meant to provide lessons to the Bank, the MOPHP and other cooperating and collaborating stakeholders.

The ministry of Public Health and Population through the Health Reform Support Project now invites eligible consultants (Firms) to indicate their interest in providing the services.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, descriptions of similar assignments, experience not less than five years in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc).

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004 revised in October 2006.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 9:00 am to 13:00 pm.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 6th April 2009:

Ministry of Public Health and Population  
Health Reform Support Project  
4th Floor — Al-Hassaba — Sana'a  
Tel: +967 1 252 224 Fax: +967 1 251 622  
Email: hrsp@y.net.ye

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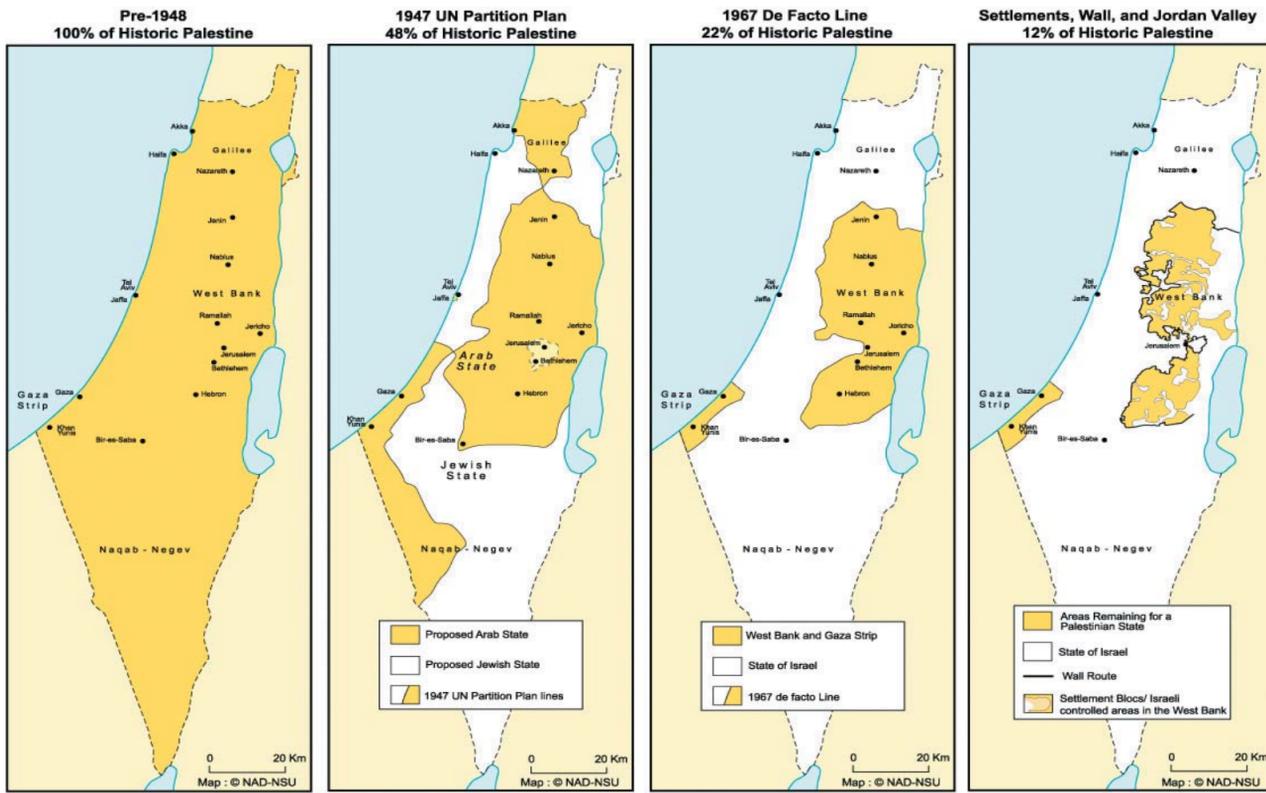
Bank of the Year 2008 Award



# A historical overview of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the rise of Islamic Hamas Movement (Part 1)

The Arab-Israeli conflict has been going on for almost a century. Throughout this period of time, the conflict witnessed a lot of political tensions, military confrontation and open hostilities. This conflicts started with the establishment of the Zionist movement and the sequence of creating Israel in a territory that belongs to Palestinians. The seeds of this conflict were conceptualized earlier in the 19th century when the Zionist Rabbi Yehuda Alcalay published the first book in 1840 in which he revealed the intentions of the Jews to create a cultural and a national home for the Jews in Palestine. Alcalay's views were embraced by Chief political Zionist, Theodor Herzl who re-conceptualized them further in a book *Judenstat*, published in 1896. This Zionist project was followed by the formation of the World Zionist Organization and convening the First Zionist Congress in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland, in which the Zionist project was launched.

## DESTROYING THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION JULY 2005



By: Dr. Murad Alazany  
UPM University, Malaysia

The roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict were formulated in the early decades of the twentieth century. This is when the Jewish immigration to Palestine increased ostensibly in the late twenties and early thirties of the twentieth century. Jews were driven by the persecution practiced against them in Eastern Europe. Large numbers of them began to come from Poland due to the discriminatory laws and harsh economic conditions. The rise of Nazism in Germany accelerated their immigration and added more to its tide. Thus, the Jews started to flood into Palestinian lands as refugees but soon they established their own farm communities there. Soon after they formed their own communities, they took the ambition of transferring Palestine into a Jewish State into a higher level.

The ambition of the Jews was really supported and accelerated by the British whom were convinced by the Zionists that a Jewish homeland in Palestine would serve British interests better than allowing Palestine to be an independent Arab state. Therefore, they responded to the Jewish project first by the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, which stated that the government viewed favorably the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine and second by allowing the foundations of the state to be established during most of the Mandate period. In fact, England availed itself the fall of the Othmani empire and it utilized the fabulous situation of Arabs, their disunity and their conflicts with each other to declare Palestine a national home for the Jews and to allow their immigration.

Arabs responded to the Balfour Declaration, with a kind of awe and fear. They were all aware that creating a Jewish state in the heart of Arabia would endanger their lives and would destabilize the situation in the area. Therefore, they resisted the immigration of the Jews into Palestine. By this time, the British became aware that establishing an independent Palestinian state could not be reconciled with Jewish nationalism. Therefore, they recommended a Partition resolution in which the land

of Palestine was divided into two equal parts between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Arabs challenged that resolution insisting that Britain has no right to promise the Zionist a land or the authority to partition. However, the Zionists headed by Ben-Gurion accepted the resolution as a tactical step toward a gradual establishment of legal foothold in Palestine. Bin-Gurion viewed this step as an important strategic move to expand into all of Palestine and beyond. In any case, the plan of partition was never implemented, especially as war loomed on the horizon.

That was the 1948 military war which began almost as soon as the Zionists declared the establishment of Israel state. The war was between the Arab armies of irregular volunteers and the underground forces of the newly declared Israel ensued. The war ended in a bitter defeat for Arabs and then led to a further expansion of Israel. By the time the war ended, Israel had conquered 78% of Mandatory Palestine, and had expelled or made to flee some 900,000 who had originally resided in that 78%. Some 150,000 managed to stay within what became Israel. The Palestinian refugees ended up primarily in camps in the remainder of Palestine, and in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

One of the main reasons behind that defeat is the fact that the governments of neighboring Arab states were more reluctant than what was generally assumed to enter the war against Israel, despite bellicose declarations. However, fear of popular pressure combined with fear that other Arab states would gain an advantage over them by fighting in Palestine, helped sway Syria, Jordan and Egypt to go to war. Besides, while they were fighting according to one plan, in fact there was little coordination between them. Each of these countries had separate agendas. Abdullah, king of Jordan, had an informal and secret agreement with Israel, negotiated with Golda Meir, to annex the portions of Palestine allocated to the Palestinian state in the West Bank, and prevent formation of a Palestinian state. Syria wanted to annex the northern part of Palestine, including Jewish and Arab areas.

Soon after that defeat, a wave of frustration and fabulosity dominated the whole Arab world. This led to the rise of the Pan-Arabists as they are termed by some analysts or the free

officers as they are termed by others. The Pan-Arabists attributed the defeat of Arabs in 1948 to the weakness of the monarchies and to their alliance with the western colonial powers particularly the British who supported the establishment of Israel state in Palestine. The Pan-Arabists utilized the weakness of these monarchies and their distance from the people to lead a drastic change in the area. They revolted against them as well as against the colonial forces in many Arab counties like Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen. The Pan-Arabists succeeded to overthrow these monarchies and to chase out the colonial forces out of the area. They heralded a new period of advancement, pride and victory. Within this political climate, Pan-Arabism proliferates and won a great following in the Arab World during the 1950s and 1960s. The sole of this ideology was to free Arabs from the colonial forces, reject any alliance to the West, to reunite Arabs and then to go in a war against Israel with a united army.

In fact the Pan-Arabism and the anti-colonial ideology were inspired by Jamal Abdel Nasser who was the second President of Egypt to the extent that it was referred to his thoughts as Nasserism. Nasser was capable of with his confrontational statements and enthusiastic speeches to impose and promote Pan-Arabism and hence to change the trajectory of Arab-Israeli conflict. He actually started to threaten Israel in the 1960s when Israel began to implement its National Water Carrier plan, which pumps water from the Sea of Galilee to irrigate south and central Israel. This ferment is considered the catalyst of the events that brought about the 6-day war. He played a major role in founding the Palestine Liberation Organization, in 1964. On May 23, Nasser closed the straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping and on the 30th he signed a defense pact with Jordan. Nasser drew a plan in which the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are poised on the borders of Israel to face the challenge, while the armies of Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan and the whole Arab nation are put behind as a backup. On May 31, the Iraqi President Rahman Aref identified the war as an opportunity to wipe out the ignominy which had been with Arabs since 1948. He declared the goal of the war to wipe

Israel off the map.

The Israeli and Jewish public, and some in the government, believed that there was a mortal threat to Israel. Ten thousand graves were dug in Tel Aviv public parks in anticipation of the heavy casualties. Israel could not maintain total mobilization indefinitely. When it became apparent that Egypt would not bow out, Israel initiated a preventive war against Egypt, Jordan and Syria on June 5, 1967. In the first hours of the war, Israel destroyed over 400 enemy aircraft to achieve total air superiority. She handily defeated the Arab armies in six days to achieve a great victory. Besides, it acquired extensive territories that were several times larger than the 1948 borders. While Israel had acquired territories and a military victory, she also marked a new day for Palestinian aspirations. The defeat brought about millions of Palestinian Arabs under Israeli rule. After the war, the fate of the Palestinians came to play a large role in the Arab-Israeli struggle.

The 1967 war changed the perceived balance of power in the Middle East and created a new reality. After that defeat the whole Arab world became aware that they are dealing with a ruthless enemy with deterrent army. However, they were at the same time aware that reason behind their defeat was not merely the superiority of Israel army. Rather, they identified the disunity of Arabs and the lack of the strong will to defeat Israel as the main reasons behind their defeat. They actually lost their hope in Pan-Arabism as a potential ideology to reunite Arabs and to achieve a great victory against Israel. Pan-Arabism was totally proved a failure after this war and faded particularly after Nasser's death. By his death, Nasser left a vacuum in the Arab world as he was seen a hero by many of them. It should be remembered however, that Nasser and the Pan-Arabists always viewed themselves as heads of the Islamic world as Arab well as the world. Although his status as "leader of the Arabs and Muslims" was severely tarnished by the Israeli victory over the Arab armies in 1967, many in the general Arab populace still view Nasser as a symbol of Arab dignity and freedom. His legacy is still there in the Arabic memory. Many people still consider him as a hero for all Arabs and a leader who is capable to re-establish Arab pride.

## CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

### Alex Palmer Haley: A leading African American novelist and genealogist

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman  
alsammanworld@yahoo.ca

Alexander Palmer Haley was an African American novelist, short-story writer, biographer, genealogist and scriptwriter. He was born in Ithaca, New York, in 1921. Since his parents' circumstances made it difficult for them to take care of their newborn child, Haley was sent to his maternal relatives in the small town of Henning, Tennessee, six weeks after his birth. At 15, he graduated from high school and attended the Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College in Mississippi, and then transferred to the State Teachers College in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, for two years. In 1939, Haley enlisted in the United States Coast Guard and began a twenty-year career in the service. He was promoted to Officer's Steward Third Class in 1942 while on board. He began writing short adventures stories, along with letters composed for his fellow sailors to send to their wives, to allay the boredom of long voyages. He submitted some of his stories to magazines, collecting countless rejection slips in doing so.



Towards the end of World War II, Haley entered the world of journalism and was assigned to edit the "Outpost," and official Coast Guard periodical. Later Haley became a reporter, then assistant editor, and then editor for the Coast Guard publication "Helmsman." Accordingly, Haley was promoted to Coast Guard chief journalist in 1949. At age 37, he retired from the Coast Guard to become a full-time, free-lance writer by 1959.

Haley began his writing career through assignments from "Reader's Digest" magazine and later was associated with "Playboy" magazine, where he conducted interviews with notable political and social characters such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, George Rockwell, Muhammad Ali Clay and Quincy Jones. His first book, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," was published in 1965 and based on interviews conducted with Malcolm X shortly before his death. The book contains a significant amount of thought regarding the existence of African Americans in the United States. The work was translated into eight languages and sold more than 6 million copies around the world by 1977.

Haley went on to a distinguished career as a prominent writer, achieving international fame with his book "Roots: The Saga of an American Family", first published in 1976. Haley traced his ancestry back to Africa and explored seven generations by following the life of Kunta Kinte, a young man of the Mandinka people, who grew up in Gambia and was raised as a practicing Muslim. He was kidnapped from his village called "Juffure" and after surviving the "Middle Passage," the brutal shipment of Africans to be sold in the Americas, he was made a slave on a plantation in the United States in 1767. The work also emphasized that African Americans have a long history and that not all of that history is lost, as many believed.

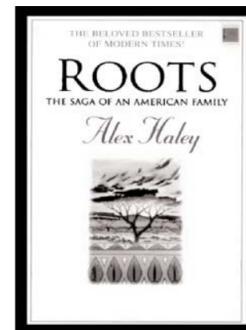
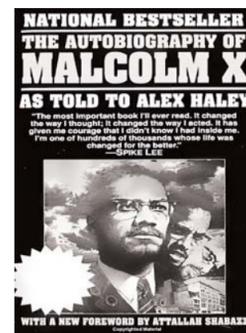
Haley's work on the novel involved ten years of research, intercontinental travel and writing. The book was adapted into a 12-hour television mini-series, also called "Roots", and a 14-hour sequel, "Roots: The Next Generation", in 1979. In 1988, a two-hour made-for-TV movie, "Roots: The Gift", was aired. "Roots" won a Pulitzer Prize special award in 1977 and the television mini-series collected nine Emmy awards. It also won the National Book Award in the same year and was translated into 37 languages. Many critics consider it a classic in African American literature and among the most important books of the 20th century. The novel also sold more than 8.5 million copies and became compulsory reading in more than 450 American colleges and universities.

Haley's another epic book entitled "Alex Haley's Queen," published posthumously in 1993, was a strong historical novel based on another branch of his family, traced through his grandmother Queen, the daughter of a black slave woman and her white master. At his request, the book was finished by David Stevens and was subsequently made into a movie in 1993.

Among Haley's other literary works is a short novella entitled "A Different Kind of Christmas" (1988) in which a slave escapes and the son of Southern slave owners

slowly realizes that the practice of slavery is wrong. The novel entitled "Mama Flora's Family" tackles the story of Flora, a black girl born to a sharecropping family in Mississippi. It was co-authored with David Stevens and published posthumously in 1998. Haley's Playboy interviews with different American characters, written in the years between 1962 and 1992, have been published posthumously in an anthology in 1993. In 1991, Haley donated his notes, manuscripts, videotapes and mementos to the University of Tennessee's Special Collection Library. Some of his awards and decorations from the Coast Guard include the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal. He was also awarded posthumously the Korean War Service Medal from the government of South Korea in 2002.

In 1987, Haley left his home in Beverly Hills, California, and moved back to Tennessee, his family's home state. He died in Seattle, Washington, of a heart attack and was buried beside his childhood home in Henning, Tennessee. Perhaps one of Haley's greatest gifts was being a great speaker and fascinating storyteller. Haley's love of history, curiosity and eloquence led him to become a quintessential African American storyteller. He brought out the best of African American life, achievement and culture, while demonstrating that the roots of the human spirit run deep.



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## All holy books call for peace and tolerance

**E**ighty-five male and female students from more than 30 schools around the Sana'a governorate gave a theatrical performance directed by the Dar Al-Salam organization on peace and its significance in Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

The play was centered on the idea that the three religions denounce terrorism and advocate for tolerance. Children held symbols of the religions

and stood against others holding signs of violent acts such as terrorism, kidnapping, killing innocents and revenge. The theatrical performance ended with the religions coming together and prevailing against evil and violence.

The Dar Al-Salam organization and Al-Amjad Private School jointly organized the event, which was sponsored by the Dutch Embassy in Sana'a and held earlier this week at the school's premises.



The play was complimented by a fine arts' exhibition showing art work by the students. A quiz was organized challenged children's knowledge of the verses of the Quran or the Prophet's teachings on tolerance, peace and respecting other religions as well as incidents from Islamic history depicting the fight of the religion against terror and violence. Winning children received small awards and all the students received participation certificates.

"Our organization bets on the role of theater and art as active instruments to change negative conceptions and confront the culture of extremism," said Abdul Rahman Al-Marwani, director of the Dar Al-Salam organization. "We hope that through our advocacy work we can create an aware and responsible generation."

This event is a part of a five year program funded by the Dutch government through which Dar Al-Salam will launch a number of awareness and training activities targeting Yemeni youth on religious extremism, violence and fire arms.

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Through the sponsorship of this scholarship programme, TOTAL aims to support Yemeni nationals to embrace legal expertise and therefore benefit their country in occupying legal professions.

Mr. Martin Deffontaines, the General Manager of Total E&P Yemen, stated that "TOTAL believes in the partnership developed and built over decades of relations with the Government and people of Yemen. As a result, TOTAL has a commitment to participating in the building of the human resources potential of Yemen. We have uniquely selected this specific scholarship programme in order to assist in developing experts of law in Yemen. This initiative is in harmony with the spirit and principles of our corporate sustainable development programme."

For more information, please visit [www.total-ep-yemen.com](http://www.total-ep-yemen.com).

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