

# YEMEN TIMES TIMES



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Hope lies in changing the insurance

# Scientific research suggests Yemen origin of mankind

By: Roa'a Al-Mansoob For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, MARCH 4 — Contrary to the common belief that the origin of man is Africa, new scientific research suggests that Yemen could be the original homeland of all mankind.

In an attempt to prove this theory, Yemeni scientists from the University of Sana'a collaborated with scientists from the University of Florida to collect blood and saliva samples from populations throughout Yemen for seven years, starting in the spring of 2000. These blood and saliva samples were used to retrace the footsteps of modern humans out of Africa.

The study in Yemen is part of a comprehensive research project that is being carried out throughout the world. The aim of the research is to answer the very old question: Where did humans come from?

Until recently, scientists thought that the original homeland of mankind was in the northeast of Africa. But general scientific opinion changed after the discovery of the genetic map of the human being in 2001. Many applications came out of that discovery, and mapping the history of DNA to track the transmission of human genetic properties is one of them

The two most prominent scientists who worked on this project were Dr. Connie Mulligan, an anthropologist at the University of Florida, and Dr. Ali Al-Meeri, vice dean of student affairs

and a professor of Biochemistry at the University of Sana'a.

Dr. Al-Meeri hosted the American team led by Dr. Mulligan. Both conducted field work in several Yemeni cities. Dr. Al-Meeri stated in an interview that the American team was impressed by Yemen's hospitality. Yemen opened its doors for them to do their experiments when other Arabian countries refused to give them access.

"We want to reconstruct the first migration of human beings out of Africa," explained Dr. Al-Meeri. "The general idea was that humans might have migrated from the southern tip of the Red Sea or toward the northern tip of the Red Sea. However, lately this theory has lost credibility and has been replaced by a new theory that suggests that humans migrated to several places in the world through Bab Al-Mandab." Bab Al-Mandab is a strait located across the Red Sea in-between Djibouti and Yemen.

Yemeni scientists are currently working with those from the University of Florida and the University of Cambridge in continuing the research. The data collected in Yemen was analyzed and compared to similar data obtained from throughout the world.

As a result of this research, Dr. Al-Meeri believes that the first modern human may have existed in Yemen. He came to this conclusion by comparing the genes in samples collected from Africans with genes from the rest of the world. The results showed little similar-



Dr. Al-Meeri

ity, especially between the African and Arabian genes. There is no evidence of gradual changes or evolution in the gene structure. Similarities between African and Arabian genes are only between 10 to 30 percent. This was determined upon the completion of several experiments which had been done on 550 genetic samples collected throughout Yemen

"This is the main finding of ongoing research," Dr. Al-Meeri declared. "If these findings are proven though larger experiments in the future, they will have a great impact on our tourism. People from all around the world will be inter-



Recent scientific research, based on mapping the history of DNA, points to Yemen being the possible origin of mankind.

ested in visiting their original home-

The findings have already started to generate interest from abroad. The National Science Foundation provided a fully equipped lab to Yemen for genetic experiments and research. This lab is led by Dr. Al-Meeri who assigned Masters degree students to work with him. Previously, the research was con-

ducted by Dr. Al-Meeri personally along with foreign scientists. Dr. Al-Meeri decided to call concerned authorities to help with several projects regarding the genetic research in order to continue the procedures of the search inside Yemen.

Dr. Al-Meeri would like to see the university supplied with a fullyequipped lab because to enable the important research that this project necessitates. He would also like to be provided with a site in order to conduct experimental genetic work. Last but not least, Dr. Meeri would like to see qualified individuals hired to teach and conduct research in the scientific field of genetic engineering. Most of Dr.Meeri's colleagues share his desire to see the Yemeni government fulfill these requests.

# Jewish community rejects blood money, demands death penalty

By: Kawkab al-Thaibani For the Yemen Times

AMRAN, MARCH 4 — The Jewish community in Amran issued a statement rejecting the blood money of YR 5.5 million as compensation for the death of Masha Al-Nahari, a Yemeni Jew, demanding the death penalty instead. The amount of compensation money came as a ruling issued by Judge Abdul Bari Aqaba at the last session of the murder trial.

The Judge at the Amran Criminal Court ruled that the accused, Abdul-Aziz Al-Abdi, a former Air Force Pilot, must be admitted to a mental institution until healed.

Khaled Al-Anesi and Ammar Al-Shami, the lawyers of the Yemeni Jews, appealed the sentence. "That's what we were afraid of if the court session was

not transferred to Sana'a. Here, people don't believe that a Muslim can be executed for murdering a Jew. The judge is afraid of threats," said Al-Anesi.

Judge Oqba said that he neglected to mention that Al-Abdi's family will be the ones to pay the blood money, as Al-Abdi himself is mentally unstable. This explanation was meant to answer the arguments of the lawyers of Masha Al-Nahari's family who wondered that blood money should be paid as compensation for a deliberate murder, particularly if the murderer himself is mentally unstable.

The family of the accused issued numerous threats during previous sessions of the trial, stating that they will kill the Jews and their families if their relative is sentenced to death. Some Jews hid their plaits out of fear of being recognized.

Jews called in their letter for all Muslim religious scholars to support them at the murder trial since this is not the first instance of the murder of a Jew. It was reported to Yemen times that three Jews, Yahia Yahotha Al-Halla, Ibrahim Al-Nahari, and Yahia Al-Bawni, have been killed during the past few decades. Jews said this is due to some fanatics

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whereas some Amran residents said that some people killed them because they practiced magic.

The Jews demand in their letter that the president, parliament, and various NGOs support them in their case and request help in annulling the unjust verdict.

Last December, Al-Abdi shot and

Last December, Al-Abdi shot and killed Masha al-Nahari after he sent a threatening letter to the whole Jewish community stating that they have two options: either convert to Islam or leave the country, otherwise, he will kill them.

Al-Abdi said during the last court session that he killed Masha because he should be a Muslim. He also demanded an American lawyer for the trial because "they are honest."

During the court sessions, Al-Abdi repeatedly objected that he is insane and he said that he preferred death rather being placed in a mental institution. "I am not crazy, and I want to be executed according to Allah's Sharia law," said Al-Abdi.

At the last court session, Khaled Al-Anesi, the lawyer for the Jewish family, requested the death penalty according to the demands of the family. They added that the definition of craziness, according to Yemeni law, is a person who cannot distinguish between day and night. Al-Anesi said that Al-Abdi previously killed his wife, which means that he is danger-

The defense lawyers provided the forensic report to prove the innocence of Al-Abdi. The report says that Al-Abdi suffers from paranoia with hallucinations, and the report warns the accused is dangerous and may commit another crime. Therefore, the report recommends that he should be kept locked up in a mental institution.

Jews felt discontented by the verdict, fearing that it will create more deaths among them. Yahia Ya'ish, the rabbi of Kharif, refused to comment because he thinks that there is no benefit.

The Yemen Observatory for Human Rights considered the verdict to abolish the equality between Yemenis and to increase the hate against them. Al-Anesi thought the verdict will cause more Jewish blood to be shed.

From the other side, the lawyers of the killer, relatives, and some citizens said that Al-Abdi suffers from psychological issues. "I don't know Al-Abdi but I know his tribe, and I heard that he is suffering from psychological issues," said a resi-

dent from Amran. Al-Abdi's brother, who declined to reveal his name, believed that his brother is crazy.

The lawyers of the accused believed that this verdict is fair. "I think it is fair because the accused suffers from psychological illnesses," said Mohammed al-Ashawal, one of the defense lawyers who took the case for legal aid purposes.

Ya'ish, the father of Masha, refused the condolences of the parliamentarian Ahmed al-Aqari who tried to convince him to accept the verdict. He pointedly refused that his son's murder was committed by someone who is insane because the murderer specifically chose to target his son.

Al-Anesi said that the demand to seek the death penalty is within the legal rights of Masha's family. Ya'ish said that he will go to the president and he will slaughter himself if he does not receive justice." I will not accept any money, even if they gave me enough money to fill the entirety of Sana'a," said the father, crying.

This verdict is believed by Masha's family lawyers to push the few remnants of the Jews to leave Yemen to Israel, such as what happened last month when about a family consisting of nine people

fled to Israel. The left because they felt that their lives were not secure, noting that the government failed to keep its promises to provide them with houses in Sana'a.

The court was noted to have heavy security provided by numerous soldiers who at the beginning of the trial prevented the media outlets from entering the court room. At the same time, there were a lot of tribal people related to Al-Abdi present in the court. When the lawyers of the Jewish family entered the court, some people screamed, "Here are the lawyers of the Jews, they are Jews too."

Al-Abdi created a commotion in the court with his comments. He laughed at Ya'ish when he said that he demanded the Sharia of Muhammad bin Abdelaah, the prophet of Islam, which means he demands death penalty in accordance to Islamic Sharia law. When Ya'ish mentioned the Prophet Mohammed, Al-Abdi laughed and said, "Shave your plaits, and say 'There is no God but Allah." As he said this, some of his cell-mates laughed.

In their letter, Yemeni Jews called all Yemenis to stand by them because they are Yemenis after all and they have the same rights. "We are Yemenis who love our country of Yemen," they said.













# **Qatar Charity to support UNHCR refugee programs**

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, MARCH 4 — An agreement worth US 250,000 dollars to support Somali refugees with non-food items between March and November 2009 is expected to fulfill human dignity and social justice for new refugees.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Qatar Charity (QC) signed the agreement earlier this week to support Somali refugees in Yemen.

The support focuses on the supply of items such as mattresses, blankets, footwear, clothing and cleaning supplies. Abdul Wahab Al-Musleh, member of Qatar Charity's board, expressed his appreciation to both the Yemeni government and people for hosting Somali refugees.

"We have been on a field visit to the Somali refugee camps in the south of Yemen and we have seen the difficult conditions they face there," he said. "It's the first time the QC supports refugees in Yemen and we hope this support will be broadened in the future."

More than 10,000 refugees have so far made the journey across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen since the beginning of 2009. At least 45 African refugees drowned last week when a refugee smuggling boat capsized 60 nautical miles off the coast of Mukalla, Hadramout Governorate, according the Ministry of Interior.

In 2008, more than 50,000 people made the risky voyage in smugglers'



The UNHCR and Qatar Charity will support refugees with mattresses, blankets, footwear, clothing and cleaning supplies.

boats across the sea from the Horn of Africa, and at least 590 drowned and another 359 were reported missing. Most of the deaths were due to drowning after passengers were forced overboard in treacherous waters far off the Yemen coast by smugglers in a bid to avoid detection by Yemen authorities, according to the UNHCR.

The Yemeni government and the UNHCR are about to begin an operation to register thousands of refugees in Yemen. This operation aims to reduce the gap between refugee statistics by the Yemeni government and the UNHCR.

"The registration will begin next week," said Claire Bourgeois, UNHCR representative in Yemen. "The registration centers we agreed on with the government will be permanent, so that refugees can go and register themselves anytime."

"During registration, the UNHCR will issue identification cards to refugees," she added.

Qatar Charity (QC) is a nongovernment Qatari organization established in 1992 to support Qatari society and other needy communities abroad. It is one of the largest charities in the Gulf, its activities in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Its mission is to support the neediest in cooperation with local

# Government and UNDP help Hodeidah yield a better catch

By: Hussein Tanam For The Yemen Times

HODEIDAH, MARCH 2 — To promote and encourage the fisheries sector, the Fish Quality Control for Exports (FQCEP) is equipping fishermen with modern fishing methods and knowledge to multiply their catch along Yemen's Red Sea coastline.

With USD 350,000 in aid offered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and another YR 40 million in aid from the Fishing Ministry, the FQCEP acquired equipment to operate a fishing laboratory and to open a new building.

The UNDP program started training laboratory technicians last year.

In Hodeidah, staff at the Ministry of Fisheries Wealth and individuals from the private sector have also begun training to increase food safety regulations. Consultants from the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system as well as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) are further trained on the accreditation of lab-quality fish.

There is also a plan in the works to improve the performance of fishermen by training them on how to yield a better catch as well as to spread awareness on the effects of parasites on the quality and preservation of fish. The aim is to maintain international standards of production, packing, storage, distribution, and marketing that is intended at placing Yemen among the best in the fisheries sector.



Although the fish has to come from coast, it is generally fresh, non-frozen and relatively inexpensive. The best time to buy fish is in the morning when the fishmongers are open.

Last year, 6219 tons of fish were exported from Hodeidah. They include shrimp, grooved tiger prawn, crab, and pen fish which ranked first in quantity and of which 2957 tons were exported.

Engineer Khaled Hizam said that practical training is ongoing in Hodeidah fishing market and Al-Salif Port as part of the FQCEP supported fishing practice.

The office of The Ministry of Fisheries Wealth in Hodeidah finished distributing 183 boats to the fishermen in the last year in tandem with the president's program to encourage the fishing industry. "This operation is 50 percent supported by the government," said Abdullah Borgi, the manager of the fishery sector in the Hodeidah office.

There are ongoing development projects conducted by the ministry to develop the fishing ports of Hodeidah at a cost of USD 6 million, the Kawbah fishing port at a cost of USD 3 million, and other serviceable projects in Al-Hodeidah, Al-Salif Al-Kawkah, and Al-Qatabah districts, according to Borgi.

"The fish products coming from the Hodeidah office yields 25,000 tons of fish which is equal to USD 12 million. This represents an increase of 4.5% from last year and is a direct result of the hard work of fishermen and other workers in the fishing sector" Borgi stressed.

The training courses will further raise the standard of the fishing sector in Yemen and enable Yemeni fish exports to compete with the global market.

# Dust storms expected again in coming weeks

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, MARCH 4 — The dust storm that swept the country three days ago finally started clearing up yesterday. The visibility will remain poor for a few weeks throughout Yemen according to the General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority.

Similar storms are expected over the coming weeks during the seasonal transitional period until approximately mid-March. Dry winds coming from the Arabian Peninsula carry dust particles that they pick up as they speed across desert areas.

The most recent storm covered the governorates of Al-Mahra, Hadramout, Shabwa, Mareb, Al-Jawf, Sa'ada, Amran, and Sana'a before extending into the coastal areas of the Arabian Sea. "The lowest aviation visibility level was a mere 500 meters in Al-Ghaida in Al-Mahra governorate, while in Sana'a the visibility went as low as 2,000 meters," said Rasheed Al-Ariqi, director of the Weather Forecast department at the

General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority.

The authority warns long distance drivers of low visibility and advises people with respiratory diseases or allergies and children living in the mentioned areas to avoid being outdoors until the air is cleared.

"The oxygen that we breathe is polluted with dust, germs, and factory waste materials that are detrimental to our health," said Dr. Ahmed Al-Garati of the Al-Jamhori Teaching Hospital in Sana'a.

Dust storms carry cold air and bad substances that lead to many diseases such as skin rashes, ophthalmia, sinusitis, laryngitis, and pneumonia.

"Dust storms 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 respiratory emergency cases.

said Rasheed Al-Ariqi, director of the Weather Forecast department at the a problem is to plant desert areas with



Sana'a witnessed low horizontal visibility resulting from dust wave recently covering Yemen

trees that can stand as fences against the blowing dust.

#### Global warming hits home

The General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority reported that during 2007 alone 108 dust storms hit Yemen.

The occurrence and severity of dust storms in Yemen and in the Arabian Peninsula in general has increased in recent years due to global warming, according to authorities.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that global surface temperature increased 0.74  $\pm$  0.18 °C (1.33  $\pm$  0.32 °F) during the past 100 years that ended in 2005.

One of the reasons behind dust storms is winds with high velocity passing over air depressions, which are areas with low barometric pressure, causing the winds to sink and pick up sand and dust on the ground in large quantities. Recent high temperatures caused by global warming have added to the list of causes behind dust and sand storms.

Desertification has also contributed greatly to the increase of dust storms in the region according to Al-Ariqi.

Dust storms hit countries in the region such as UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia before passing through to Yemen. Reports from the region explain that such weather is unprecedented. The storms originate from mid-latitude tropical regions covering Iraq, Syria, and the Gulf States, and can reach as far as the Horn of Africa.

Dust storms that reach costal areas have an impact on the sea life as dust particles dissolve into the sea water, blanketing coral reefs and preventing fish from feeding on them.

The livelihood of fishermen in the ports of Mukalla and Al-Mahara has also been affected by the sandstorms as the turbulent weather prevents them from sailing into the deep sea.

According to the traffic department's website, more accidents were reported during the storm's peak on highways and in the cities because of the low visibility.

# Signs of a new war in Sa'ada begin

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, MARCH 4 — Families of detainees and secret detainees from the Sa'ada war continue sit-ins in front of the Cabinet, Attorney General, and Parliament premises every Tuesday. Protestors carried posters of secret detainees in front of the Cabinet and chanted against acts that the government practices against Houthi supporters or those who object the war in Sa'ada.

In a letter sent to Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawwar signed by a number of civil society organizations that participated in the sit-in, protestors expressed their sorrow that the Minister of the Interior didn't carry out the president's directives to release all detainees from the Sa'ada war.

The letter indicated that the government should carry out part of the president's directives through releasing groups of detainees over several intervals.

In a related context, Sheikh Saleh Habra, the political spokesman for the Houthis, expressed his concerns in a statement made to Al-Wasat weekly that a new war in Sa'ada may break out, particularly after President Saleh "sent an oral message through some

mediators threatening to eradicate the Houthis following his return from Russia in which he signed a weapons deal." He added that the "president also sent severe insults," according to the newspaper.

"So far there are no signs of war, but what is going on is agitation of internal wars and provoking revenge and splits between tribes in Al-Jawf and Al-Khawalef," said Habra. "This is what we talked about after the fifth war. Now these groups are starting to move and are instigating fighting."

Al-Wasat warned that what is going on is considered to be the first signs of a new war in Sa'ada. This is evident through skirmishes that are starting to take place between Houthis and other tribes in districts of Sa'ada, Amran, and Al-Jawf governorates.

For his part, Khaled Abdul Wahab Al-Sheref, director of the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER), denied a statement issued by 25 sheikhs in Al-Jawf accusing him of being behind the fighting between people in the governorate.

"Names of the individuals mentioned in the news that was published represent only themselves," said Al-Sheref, indicating that the statement published represented their

opinions alone. "All of them are loyalists to Houthis.

"They and some partisan leaders and social figures that support and prompt them to publish such tendentious rumors are attempting to hinder the efforts of the mediation committee headed by Sheikh Naji Abdul Aziz Al-Shayef," Al-Sheref continued, adding that "the director of the SCER is one of the mediation committee members," indicating himself.

Al-Sharef denied his relationship with the conflicts and tribal revenge in Al-Jawf. He held the "rebellious elements and those who support them" responsible for the conflicts in the governorates and demanded that the government catch the rebels and offer them up to justice.

Up to 25 tribal sheikhs in Al-Jawf condemned "the criminal acts, murder, and wars that Khaled Abdul Wahab Al-Sharef, director of the SCER, is committing, and hold him responsible for what is going on as he stands behind all these acts since the beginning," according to their statement.

The sheikhs described agitating internal fighting in Al-Jawf as "criminal acts that contradict Islamic teachings and human principles."

# Doctors suspend strike despite feeling unsafe

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, MARCH 4 — The Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate have suspended its Tuesday strike of over one month in protest against state leniency towards killers of Dr. Derhim Al-Qadasi.

The suspension comes after one of the killers, Tawfiq Al-Maflahi, was arrested last week although his brother, Yusif Al-Maflahi, the main culprit is still at large.

One of the main reasons why the doctors suspended their strike is that two of Sana'a's main hospitals, Al-Thawra and Al-Jumhouri public hospitals, penalized protesting doctors by cutting five days from their salaries.

Directors of the public hospitals were instructed by the Ministry of Health to do so as the ministry did not approve of the strike.

However, the issue of private hospitals' security remains unresolved, leading doctors to fear for their safety, especially in view of the states inefficiency in capturing the murderers and making an example of them.

"Since the murder, three patients and their relatives have threatened me personally," said Dr. Yahya Al-Thawr, director of the Yemen German Hospital. "They say 'it looks like you want the same fate as Dr. Al-Qadasi' and, for the simplest of arguments, patients and their relatives become disrespectful."

He narrated a case when a group of armed drunken youth brought an injured man into the hospital for stitches. They refused to pay and, when the hospital's guard tried to stop them by force, they shot at random. When the police arrived, they arrested everyone to eventually release the gang because they were some influential sheikh's relatives.

Despite persisting threats, the arrest of Tawfiq Al-Maflahi was somewhat of a consolation to protesting doctors, leading them to temporarily suspend the strike.

Tawfiq Al-Maflahi pinned down Dr. Al-Qadasi while his brother Yusif stabbed the latter in the back on Dec. 28, 2008, causing him fatal injuries that lead to his death three weeks later.

The Al-Maflahi family holds American passports, but rumors of the main killer escaping to the U.S. were denied by Al-Qadasi's family lawyer Raidhwan Al-Rashidi.

According to the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, Tawfiq Al-Maflahi was arrested on Feb. 19 and visited by a consular representative in prison on Feb. 25 who presented him with a list of attorneys in

Yemen.

For any American citizen who is arrested outside the U.S., an American consular officer has the responsibility to visit the arrested individual in prison, to verify that his or her rights are being respected under local law, and to provide them with information about the available legal representation in the country.

Tribal mediation is also ongoing between the Al-Maflahi and Al-Qadasi families in order to convince the latter to accept blood money instead of the death penalty.

"They are trying to negotiate with us to solve the problem but we are insisting on bringing the killer to justice," said Al-Rashidi.

Doctors who participated in the strikes insist that they do so for doctors' safety and dignity. They say that, if the killers are arrested, others will not dare to attack or threaten medical

Doctors demanded better security for private hospitals and health institutions in order to protect their staff.

When Al-Qadasi was attacked last December, the Science and Technology University Hospital was unable to deter the attackers because the Ministry of the Interior had previously disarmed the hospital's security personnel.



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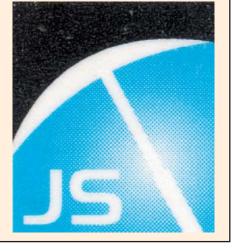
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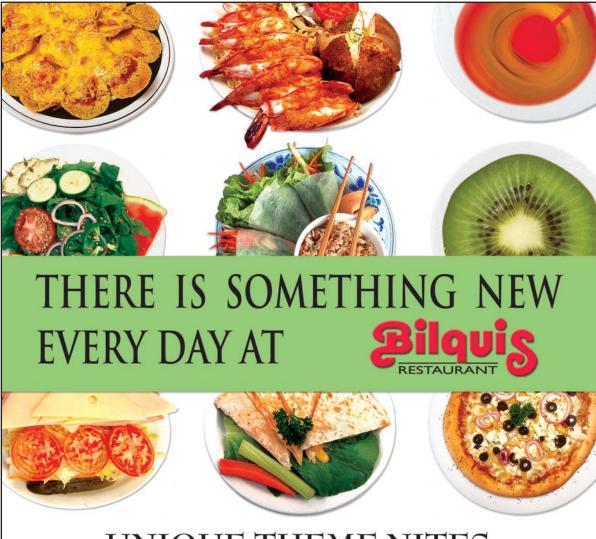
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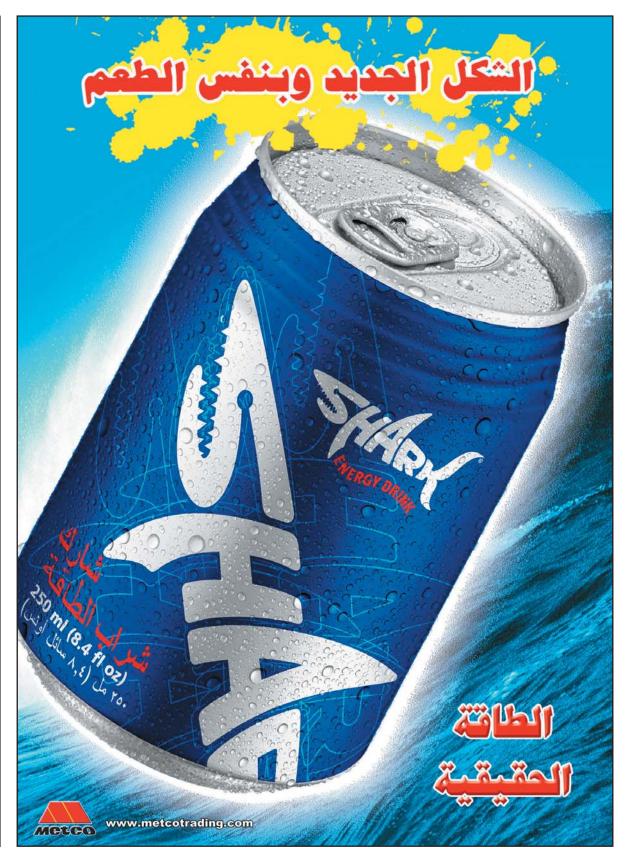
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Interested Companies shall provide evidence of their qualifications to carry out the whole of the above services especially:

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Short listed Companies will be invited to submit their proposals. A successful company will be selected using Quality and Cost based selection (QCBS) method, which is explained in the Bidding Documents.

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# Yemen's Special Olympics team make golden history

By: Enas Al-Awami and Yemen **Times Staff** 

lympic-sized smiles lit up the faces of Yemen's Special Olympics floor hockey team as they won gold, defeating the Swedish team with five goals, at the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Idaho, United States.

Fired with energy, the 16 member team was determined to take gold at the tenth Floor Hockey Championships in Idaho in the second week of last February.

Their first international tournament took place in 1999 in the Unites States. Since then the team has also traveled to



Team members cheer their friends on during a match at the 2009 Special Olympics Winter Games.

Lebanon, Morocco, Ireland, Tunis, Japan, Dubai, China and Abu Dhabi, Armed with their modest homemade hockey equipment, the team which includes those with special needs including autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy, left for Boise, Idaho on February 3. The 45-member delegation spent time getting to know their competitors at the Special Olympics town where athletes, coaches and other delegation members during food, fun and entertainment before the onset of the

Each night at the Special Olympics Town there is a different activity for participants. Whether it is a concert, a dance or a movie, it was packed with

This year, eighty-five countries sent a total of 54 floor hockey teams to the World Winter Games - teams that represent about 40 percent of the nearly 2,000 athletes competing in seven sports. They include alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and speed skating and of course floor hockey.

Yemen played against the host country United States and won, and then played against Peru, Venezuela, Germany, India and Sweden in order to obtain the gold

medal.

"The team was so excited about the game," said Hayat Mohammad Farei, the fitness coach for team.

Although we don't have special premises to practice and train, we overcame the odds. The team wanted to achieve something and prove to the whole world that they are able and deserving.

Following their victory and their spectacular welcome home on Feb. 18, President Abdullah Saleh gave orders to the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to offer support to the team by allocating land for building a sports hall for the team and providing transportation for its athletes.

"The president has also been generous as he has rewarded the delegation with USD 45,000," said Special Olympics national director Abdulsatar

Ali Al-Hamdani, adding that they have already received the 24 passenger bus, and that preparations are underway to secure a piece of land to build a sports

"We have excellent relationships with international experts, volunteers and the government which has boosted our abilities," he added. "We have a few foreign volunteers and up to 200 Yemeni ones, and our trainers and physiotherapists are extremely quali-

"The future looks very bright from Yemen's Special Olympics team and the future is indeed very bright!" he

The team played with energy and determination this February to return with the gold medal, especially since they had already won the silver medal in the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games hockey championships in Japan.

"I always believed that the physically and mentally challenged have a special gift," said Eman Hashim Enqad, manager of Al-Eman Center for special needs. "They need different care and treatment, to prove themselves."

"I still remember the first time in 1998 when our expectations were low, but now I know that they can give more," he added. "I'm so grateful to the Yemen Times; I still remember that they were the first newspaper in Yemen to write about the center. After their article, donations and assistance poured in enabling us to improve the building among other things.

Team coach Fathiya Al-Garamani is ecstatic that her team won and proved its ability to excel, and says that they benefit from having a woman with

Ahlam is the only girl on the team but she loves hockey. A determined girl, she lifts weights and is strong as any man enough to play with the team and be a very active and important member.

"Watch Ahlam, she plays as well as



Yemen's winning hockey team was given a hero's welcome home by the president and a number of officials including the minister of labor and social affairs and the minister of sports and youth.

seven of them," a man told the coach.

"I believe that we won because we played as a team," said Muneer, a member of the "Besides, we love each other so much,"

Floor hockey is the only team sport in Special Olympics winter sports and was first introduced as a Special Olympics sport at the 1970 Special Olympics World Winter Games. It is adapted from the games of ice hockey and played in a rink surfaced with wood or concrete, instead of ice. The teams are composed of six players, including a goalie.

Before the competition began, California Governor Schwarzenegger and Special Olympics CEO Tim Shriver addressed the ath-

"They're racing with all the energy God gave them. They're unafraid. They're brave. Don't just admire them. Don't just be nice to them. Don't you dare pity them! Instead, why not follow them?" he said, praising the qualifiers and challenging the spectators.

Alaska Governor Sarah Palin also delivered a speech during which she praised the hope Special Olympics provides for her son, who has Down syn-

The Special Olympics is an international organization founded in 1968. Through year-long sport training and athletic competition, Special Olympics promote understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities. The organization helps people with disabilities realize their potential in areas of physical fitness while demonstrating courage and experiencing the special joys of friendship.

Today, Special Olympics offers more than 200 programs in more than 180 countries to serve more than 2.5 million people with disabilities.

The members of the team now aspire to join other world competitions. Their success has further inspired them to train harder and aim higher, and who knows what medals they will be bring

# 25 state schools to teach German by 2010

By: Alice Hackman

16, studies German three hours a week at the Sham Bin Nooh Secondary School for girls in Noqum, Sana'a. She chose the language both because she likes the sound of it, and because one day would like to travel to Germany to visit her aunt who lives there. She hopes to study Accountancy at university, perhaps in Germany, if her parents agree.

Naseem's school is one of six governmental secondary schools in Yemen already teaching German, but soon there will be 25. In a bid to diversify talents in Yemeni youth, the Ministry of Education and the German Goethe Institute will introduce the language into the curriculum of 19 new to schools in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout and Ibb this year.

"Learning a language is great to become aware of living in a globalized world; it broadens the mind," said Kathrin Fietz, German Language teaching expert at the Goethe Institute. currently working with the Ministry of Education on the initiative.

Introducing German as a third language after English into governmental schools will not only encourage an increasingly multilingual Yemen, but also importantly provide jobs and training opportunities for unemployed German Language graduates from the Faculty of Languages at the University of Sana'a.

Language graduate German Mohammad Hussein, 30, was recruited

German teachers in governmental secondary schools in Yemen. Although he is now a teacher at both Naseem's school and the Bilal Bin Rabah Secondary School for boys next door, it took him several years to find a job to suit his degree.

"It was difficult to find a job at first," he said. "Employers nowadays are looking for English and computer skills, not German.'

To become a teacher, Hussein followed a seven month teacher training course at the German House in Sana'a and a two-month language course in Güttengen, Germany. But his training does not stop there. He will attend a further teacher training course at the Goethe Institute in Alexandria, Egypt, in April, and has been invited to attend a conference in Germany on teaching German in developing countries in Germany later this year.

After a placement test, the 25 new teachers will follow in Hussein's footsteps with additional German language training at the German House in Sana'a prior to teacher training in Germany, all funded by the German government.

"There are only eight German language teachers in Yemeni governmental secondary schools for the moment," said Hussein, explaining that at least 25 students graduate from the German department at the University of Sana'a each vear.

"This year 29 male and female students graduated from our department," confirmed Dr. Eimad Al-Din Moosa Abdulaziz, head of the German

in 2005 to become one of the first Language department at the University of Sana'a. "Last year, there were 25 students.'

> Since March 3, the University of Aden has become the second university in Yemen to open a German language department. In four years time, graduates from its new department will join the ranks of German speaking jobseekers in Yemen too.

#### Why study German?

"We hope to attract more people to study in Germany or in the German universities in Jordan and Egypt," said Fietz, who is helping the ministry select the new teachers.

"I hope to study engineering in Germany; Germany is a country of knowledge," said Raji Al-Harazi, 16, who is studying German for the second year at the Bilal Bin Rabah boy's school adjacent to Naseem's school.

"I would like to study architecture in Germany," agreed Ismail Al-Hadiri, 15, who started studying the language this year at the same school. "German is easy because we have already started studying English and the alphabet is

About 80 Yemeni graduates are currently enrolled in Masters or PhD courses in Germany as a result of the scholarships offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), according to Maxi Siegmund, German language lecturer at Sana'a University and coordinator for DAAD in Yemen.

The Ministry of Education offers more scholarships to Yemeni students to go and study in Germany, sometimes sponsoring them from undergraduate level to PhD. Most courses offered as part of the

exchange program are taught in English so a command of the German language is not a condition to be accepted to study in Germany, according to Siegmund. In some universities, 25 percent of lectures are taught in German to encourage foreign students to practice their host country's language, but German is mostly confined to day-to-day use.

However being able to speak German before traveling to Germany would definitely be an advantage to a Yemeni student, she added, effectively saving a student like Raji or even Naseem the first year of getting to grips with the language.

"If our students go and study in Germany, they won't be scared," said Mulatif Ajlan, principal of the Bilal Bin Rabah School. "They will be able to speak in the street and with other

"Teaching German is an investment in the future," added Khalid Al-Salat, vice-principal at the school.

#### Germany supports partner schools

The Bilal Bin Rabah School is a partner in the German Foreign Ministry's 2007 "Schools: Partners for the Future" initiative to build up a network of at least 1,000 schools worldwide to promote interest in the German language and culture. There are so far two partner schools in Yemen, the second of which is the Al-Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya Secondary School for girls in Sana'a.

"An agreement was signed in May 2008 to set up a partner school in



Germany provides state-of-the-art classrooms to its partner schools in Yemen.

Aden, but for the moment we have no teachers," said Fietz, however adding that with the University of Aden's new German department now open, the ministry will be able to recruit teachers directly from there.

As part of the program, the Bilal Al-Rabah School has received new blackboards for all classrooms as well as brand new chairs, books, CDs, DVDs, televisions, CD players and computers to support its German curriculum from the German government. Three teachers teach a group of 25 selected students each three times a week in stateof-the-art classrooms.

But next door at the Sam Bin Nooh

School where Naseem studies, classes can be as large as 65 to 70 pupils, says Hussein, one of the teachers at the school. To study German, students only have books, because Sam Bin Nooh Secondary School for girls is not a partner school.

Najiba Al-Maqarra, principal at the Sam Bin Nooh School, is very grateful for Germany's work in the health, agricultural and educational fields in Yemen and calls the country "a real friend of Yemen.'

But she hopes that Naseem and her classmates will soon be provided with audiovisual materials to support their education too.

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# The traditional tribe versus civil society organizations

By: Najeeb Al-Ghurbani

he traditional tribe is one of the main political problems which is seen to have been hindering efforts to build state unity and a modern central authority. With the growing dreams of power of some tribal leaders, these leaders seem to be unsatisfied with sensitive positions in the government and a high social status generated by notable respect and supervision over their tribes' security and safety.

These tribal leaders also play greater political roles that exceed the reasonable limits, even at the expense of the rule of law and official legislations. The tribal leaders have turned to have a combination of political positions, military ranks, economic resources, and tribal affiliation.

When it comes to the talk about civil society organizations and the traditional tribe, it is impossible to view the latter as playing the same role in the political arena since there is a clear distinction between authoritarian

of playing this role.

Considering tribes as part of the civil society may apply to particular tribes while for other tribes it does not. An authoritarian tribe is an integral part of the regime in Yemen. It constitutes a great part of the political authority in Yemen and plays a prominent role in Yemen's internal and external policies. As a result, this tribe may not be considered part of the civil society since it seems to be the other face of the authority and is often involved in the decision making

#### **Decision-making reflects tribal will**

According to Jalal Faquera, a Parliament member interested in tribal affairs, giving sensitive positions in the government to some tribes granted them a special privilege, thereby helping them penetrate the structure of Yemen's political regime. In some cases, the process of decision making reflects the tribal will.

The non-authoritarian tribe, on the other hand, has often integrated into the modern civil society. This tribe

and non-authoritarian tribes in terms may help enhance the democratic behavior within the society, most notably within the frame of the tribal institution despite the difficult coexistence between party platforms, and tribal traditions and customs.

> Tribes in the southern part of Yemen that once belonged to the regime in this part could coexist with the civil society while the British colonization succeeded to disarm those tribes, particularly in the Al-Awaleq area. Even after the independence of South Yemen in 1967, the then ruling national fronts and their political organizations and subsequent governments confronted and limited commonplace tribal traditions. This was symptomatic of the state's strong ability to exterminate any negative phenomena in the society. Tribesmen then stopped bearing arms in both cities and rural areas as they feared tough penalties for this habit.

#### Tribal traditions restored after being abandoned

The tribe became blended with the ideology of the once ruling party in South Yemen; however, it quickly restored its social customs, most notably after the Reunification of Yemen in 1990 due to a lack of unified legislation in this regard. This implies that modern organizations in the civil society (such as political parties, syndicates, associations, unions and the like) failed to minimize the role of the traditional tribal institutions or replace them since the tribe demonstrated an effective role in society. The tribal bodies did not get integrated into civil society organizations.

Nobody expected what would happen as the tribal structures expanded further until they demonstrated strong influence on civil society organizations because parties were composed on the basis of personal allegiances and not on real politics. Therefore, the tribal lifestyle and way of thinking still are pervasive in Yemeni society while the weakness of political parties reflects social backwardness, mainly as these parties have no influence on the process of decision-making.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com

# The EU must talk with Hamas

By: Dr. Terry Lacey

leaders have just met in Sharm El-Sheik to discuss reconstruction of Gaza. Neither Israel nor the Hamas were there. What makes the West think it can do anything without both of

Commissioner Javier Solana recently struggled through the ruins of the Gaza Strip, and of the failed EU foreign policy on the Middle East, and now has to help reconstruct both, but reportedly did not talk to Hamas.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere was also in Gaza and also was reported as not talking with Hamas. His spokesman Haakon Svane confirmed "We have not had any meeting with Hamas at the political level since June 2007".

One of the benefits of Norway not

**Elections** 

Delayed

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joining the EU should be that Norway draw on wider support and form is not obliged to do stupid things when the EU does

Norway with its strong humanitarian NGOs, is used to being constructive in international conflicts and has enough experience, from Africa and Central America, to pursue the political dialogue track whilst tackling political violence and terrorism.

Without this there is no way to promote separation of political Islam from fundamentalism or terrorism, and moderation as part of Muslim modernization.

If the British had handled the IRA without political dialogue with Sinn Fein, and without talks with the IRA, the Northern Ireland war would have lasted longer.

The role of Islamic parties in power in Turkey and Indonesia or as part of a broad opposition in Malaysia shows they can work with modern democracy. Islamic parties can and do

alliances with secular parties.

Hamas would be no different from other Islamic political parties in Asian and Arab parliaments if it were allowed to win elections and take the responsibilities of government, with international recognition.

It is the West which denied to this to Hamas after it won the Palestinian general elections in January 2006.

Labelling political movements as terrorist and shutting off political dialogue with them is counter productive and promotes terrorism.

The recent bombs in Cairo and Mumbai, the army mutiny in Bangladesh and the crisis in Afghanistan and Pakistan underline the urgency for dialogue whenever possible, in Palestine and the Muslim

The way in which the Peace Quartet, the US and EU ganged up on Hamas and the Gazans after January 2006,

throwing aside electoral legitimacy, to try to bring an elected Hamas government down by boycott and blockade helped create the pressures that led to Palestinian civil war and the Israel-Gaza war.

There was an increasingly desperate attempt by mutually supportive elites in Israel, and the Bush-led Peace Quartet to force peace talks, and previous agreements, upon unwilling Palestinians. The main dispute with Hamas was about politics not rockets. The only solution to the rockets is also political.

Now Israeli voters have taken similar positions. Benjamin Netanyahu will not abide by previous agreements and does not agree to rapid progress on

The self-evident need to reach a political accommodation with Hamas as a political force, by building bridges to moderate and modernizing trends within political Islam, is not only essential in Palestine, but of paramount importance throughout the Muslim world. The longer this is delayed the more complicated it gets.

Not to do this means risks the military defeat of the West in Afghanistan as well as a prolonged political and security crisis in Pakistan. Political solutions are needed.

If the West can start to talk with Iraqi militias that fought in the resistance, and with the tribal militias of the Taliban, then why not with Hamas?

If Hamas and Fatah can produce a unity government then this opens the way to electoral political legitimacy for a Hamas coalition, which the West must recognize.

If the Palestinian reconciliation talks fail then the West must work with the elected Hamas government on the Gaza reconstruction program and help end the blockade, promote a long term truce, and encourage dialogue and moderation.

Either way it is time for the EU to talk to Hamas.

Terry Lacey is a development economist who writes from Jakarta on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic banking.

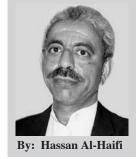
## COMMON SENSE

An unheard of two year moratorium on voting

# A gloomy picture in the years ahead

he future of the country has never been as bleak as it is now. In fact it is so bleak that the Government has opted to postpone the elections for another two years.

Not that this is perhaps the longest postponement of a citizen's absolute democratic right, but more than that this underscores the underlying inescapable conclusion that indeed democracy is a farce



in this most tested of nations and that in the final analysis, the rights of citizens in the democratic society we purport to be are no more than games politicians play, whether in the ruling regime or the fledgling opposition that is now even out of tune with what the general population expects of an opposition in a democratic society.

The observer has often stated that once the fighting of the Civil War of 1994 came to its quick and predetermined end and the Yemeni Socialist Party lost all the tools of statecraft, for all intents and purposes, one can easily surmise that we have returned to full autocratic authority, and the manifestation of deep slumber in economic, social and administrative development.

One can now safely state that the slumber has turned into shifting of gears into reverse gear in this context and without any ray of hope to look forward to any positive change in Government policy that will indeed catapult the suffering people of Yemen towards a bright and prospering future. Indeed the picture is actually bleaker as one senses from the people in the grassroots of society that the latter are full of anxiety, mistrust and general lack of approval of just about anything the Government does or says.

The recent effort to undermine the most sacred of civil liberties by the postponement of the Elections clearly shows that all the political maneuvering that goes on in our not so democratic regime is still subject to the whims of those already holding the reins of power and authority and possessing all the resources of the state and now even the opposition has found its own existence undermined by merely getting various promises of some unforeseeable gains to be made as the opposition seeks to count on reassuring itself of some say, albeit a weak say, in the state of affairs of Yemen.

One does not expect to see the regime dedicated to ensuring the sanctity of the right to vote, in its real democratic venue. However one is really appalled that the opposition would be gullible enough to expect that the regime will surely live up to any promises made to it, in lieu of agreement of the postponement of voting for our national representatives in the legislative organ of Government. Oh sure, the regime may live up to some minor promises that will neither strengthen or even show evidence of a concrete recognition of the place of the opposition parties in the make-up of the socio-political fabric of society.

The current regime in power continues to buy time. That is how it is seen by many analysts, even within the Government's legislative branch, which is the direct beneficiary of this free half term, albeit without a mandate from the respective constituencies of these members of the House of Representatives. Why this very long delay is sought after is still a mind-boggling dilemma not yet explained in politically understandable terms, but then, since when has Government in Yemen sought to explain itself in terms that politically astute ears can absorb.

We have been told that with Yemen's anti-corruption laws and "mechanisms", Yemen is initiating a brave and courageous stance against the corruption that has brought the affairs of citizens to a standstill almost, because the economic welfare of the nation as a whole has been compromised for the sake of insuring the unlimited economic welfare of the icons of the regime and the weak bureaucrats that keep the corruption humming at an all time high level that is not foreseen to ever see a downward trend.

Many people are asking our Anti Corruption Committee, why do not they show us the Financial declarations of those who certainly only achieved their stated and hidden assets of wealth at the expense of the welfare of the downtrodden that can be seen in every governorate in Yemen? More importantly, why haven't we seen any of the big whigs whose assets continue to balloon unabashedly right before the eyes of the Anti-Corruption mechanism be held publicly accountable for their devious intentions while in government service? Of course, the answer is not a big puzzle to any of the well-informed inside and outside of Government. A small talk with any of the big merchants will continue to reveal that they are still paying or being embezzled for big amounts by some of the highest elements in the ruling hierarchy.

A more elaborate discussion with some of those within the regime will clearly show an indifferent attitude by these elements, because they know full that they are untouchable by any law, mechanism or even will to undermine their perpetual right to bleed the economy of Yemen and to sustain the poverty that is now so widespread in the country. With a two year holiday now in the making, Yemen's future can only at best be described as totally gloomy.

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

# YEMEN TIMES

By: Samer

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#### EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title of Post: National Health Consultant Post Number: N/A

Category / Level: (National Consultant) Location: Sana a

Entry on Duty: 1st April 2009

**Duration:** One Year (may be extended for 2 years)

#### Closing Date: 18th March 2009

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

In line with the UNHCR policy of enhancing operational flexibility by having a workforce that takes full advantage of national capabilities and expertise in refugee hosting countries and countries of origin, a recruitment needs to be made of a National Health Consultant who will work under the direct supervision of the Community Services Officer in the UNHCR Branch Office and World Health Organization (WHO) focal point. The Consultant will work in Sana a, in close collaboration with WHO and the Ministry of Health, but is to make regular monthly travels to Aden to discuss some findings, constraints in Aden and Kharaz Refugee Camp as well as the achievements at Sana a level.

Since the overall objective is to integrate the health care for refugees into the system established for the local population, and to offer similar services for the most vulnerable Yemeni population, the consultant will work closely in relation with WHO and the Ministry of Health. The consultant, who should be a national of Yemen with substantial knowledge of local conditions, will perform in close cooperation with UNHCR Office in Yemen the following tasks while guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

#### Terms of Reference

- 1. To take stock of the recommendations established by the consultant;
- 2. To establish a plan of action with the Ministries and relevant health actors;
- To contact health centres in Sana a in order to provide decentralised health care -including mother and child health care- to refugees in Sana a, to establish SOP for referral system;
- To participate in the coordination mechanism established by the ministries, to ensure that the interest of refugees and most vulnerable people are taking into consideration;
- To establish appropriate ones with the infrastructures dealing with refugees;
- To facilitate the training of staff of Implementing Partners (IPs) working specifically with refugees;
- To monitor the quality of health care provided to refugees;
- To establish and introduce a financial system for refugees to have access to health care, in close collaboration with the Ministry of health, WHO and SO Aden;
- To assess the integration of refugees with chronicle diseases into national health program;
- 10. To analyse data, write analytical report and write recommendations;
- 11. Work in close collaboration with other UN agencies as UNICEF and WHO as per the MOU signed (or to be signed) with these UN agencies:
- 12. To provide guidance to program for the purchase of drugs and medical supplies; &
- 13. To liaise closely with UNHCR health coordinator based in Aden in terms of information sharing, acting on his/her behalf, in meetings and keeping them regularly informed on recommendations.

#### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Skills: Medical doctor with a master in public health

Experience: Minimum of 5years of relevant professional job experience

Others: ¥ Good public relations network with public sector institutions, NGOs and UN agencies;

¥ Good computer skills including excel, word and PowerPoint; &

¥ Should be familiar with survey methodologies and data analysis of soft wares such as EPI and HIS info.

Languages: Fluency in English-Arabic languages, reading and writing

Applications received after the above mentioned closing date will not be considered. All applications should be sent to: The Administration Officer

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# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its United Nation Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS)

Post Title: Three Radio Operators Location: UNDSS- Aden Office Duration: 12 months (renewable)

#### Responsibilities:

- · Maintain a 24-hour radio and telephone communication regime with all UN Call Signs
- Ensure uninterrupted tracking of all UN Road missions in the area of responsibility including all incoming and outgoing missions within the areas of responsibility
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- Receive, process, record and pass all relevant information to the appropriate staff through the normal
- communication channels
- Inform Security Officer immediately of any incident/accident received via the communication network Register and forward all e-mail messages and messages deposited during working and off-duty hours
- Accurately identify exact location/grid references of all incident/accidents and pass information to
- Maintain both electronic and manual register
- Provide relevant assistance to staff members of other organizations requiring assistance through radio or telephone channels
- Brief the incoming duty radio operator on all events, especially pending cases for which action is to
- Perform radio checks, as directed by Security Officer
- Perform any other tasks as assigned by Security Officer

#### Qualification:

- · High school or equivalent grade
- At least 3-5 years of experience in communications/radio operations within the military, national police, fire brigade, or other security organization
- Adequate technical training in operation HF/VHF communication equipment
- Good knowledge in the operation and procedures of radio communication and high standard of computer literacv High degree of responsibility, initiative, alertness, physical fitness, emotional stability
- Ability to maintain good working relationships in a multicultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic is required

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: http://www.undp.org.ye for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: (hr.ye@undp.org) The deadline for receiving applications is Sunday, 15 March 2009 UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



### EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title of Post: National Livelihood Consultant Post Number: N/A

Category / Level: (National Consultant) Location: Sana a

Entry on Duty: 1st April 2009 Duration: One Year (may be extended for 2 years)

Closing Date: 18th March 2009

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

In line with the UNHCR policy of enhancing operational flexibility by having a workforce that takes full advantage of national capabilities and expertise in refugee hosting countries and countries of origin, a recruitment needs to be made of a National Livelihood Consultant who will work under the direct supervision of the Community Services Officer in the UNHCR Branch Office work in Sana a, in close collaboration with the Social Development Fund and the Ministry of Vocational Training and High Education. The work involves regular monthly travel to Aden to discuss some findings, constraints in Aden and Kharaz Refugee Camp as well as the achievements at Sana a

The National Livelihood Consultant has a key role in the implementation and consolidation of Refugee Livelihood Strategy in Sana a. She/He should be proactive, always looking for new opportunities, convincing in donor mobilization and able to take initiatives. She/He will provide much needed local knowledge to develop the local livelihood assets and social infrastructure to develop and sustain Refugee Livelihoods.

The consultant, who should be a national of Yemen with substantial knowledge of local conditions, will perform in close cooperation with UNHCR Office in Yemen the following tasks while guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

#### Terms of Reference

- Shall coordinate the implementation of programmes components/activities with national, international NGOs operating in the field of similar livelihood programmes in Yemen:
- Shall establish and maintain linkages with national Government as main partner to ensure coordination and joint planning and information sharing for livelihood strategy;
- Shall guide and monitor on going livelihood activities/programmes for refugees-in line of UNHCR policies, mainstreaming gender, age and diversity- in order to ensure their timely, and effective implementation;
- Shall develop cooperation ties with selected services providers operating i.e. business training teams and bodies, business development services, and micro-finance institutions;
- Should develop in conjunction with the Ministry and other actors expansion of vocational training opportunities for Yemeni and refugees in areas where the concentration of refugees is high;
- Should develop with the social development funds and make proposal for integration of the various activities developed in favour of the refugees in the overall planning of the Social Development funds; &
- Should monitor the vocational training activities in Sana a and work closely with UNHCR livelihood officer in Aden

#### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Skills: At least a university degree in economics, socio-economic development, development planning, financial management or other related fields.

#### Desirable Qualifications & Competencies (optional):

- Good knowledge of the Social development Funds;
- Good knowledge of the Ministry of Vocational Training and High Education strategy; &
- Knowledge and exposure to the social and cultural values of the region concerned

Experience: A minimum of 10 years of relevant professional job experience with proven experience record in conducting impact assessment, focus groups discussions, and needs assessment sessions

Others: Good public relations network with private and public sector institutions; and good computer skills including excel, word and power point.

Languages: Fluency in English-Arabic languages, reading and writing

Applications received after the above mentioned closing date will not be considered. All applications should be sent to: The Administration Officer,

**UNHCR BO Sanaa** P.O. Box 12093 Sanaa.

+967-1-469771/2 Tel. Contact: +967-1-469 770

# JOB VACANCY

Republic of Yemen (Ministry of Public Health and Population) has received a grant from the Global fund to fight AIDS. Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), The Ministry announces a job vacancy for (Procurement Officer) of the PMU at the National Malaria Control Program.

The procurement officer will be responsible for coordination of all grant 7 procurement, include the following:

- Oversee the development and implementation of procurement plans.
- Supervise transparent procurement processes complying with NAMDP, WHO and GFATM guidelines.
- Review all contracts of NMCP procurements and ensure that are align with the GF regulation and didn t contradict with the national regulation of Yemen.
- Manage timely and efficient delivery of goods to be procured and of service. 4.
- Ensure efficient customs clearance, storage and transport arrangements.
- Establish control mechanisms and internal audit systems of the inventories. 6. Ensure the execution of the procurement according to Global Fund
- requirements. Report to GFATM on procurement activities. Facilitate the implementation and supervise the NMCP distribution plan of
- the ACTs, RDTs, and other Vector Control materials to all health facilities and malaria branches in targeted areas. Supervise the transparency of the procurement processes. Oversee filing
- of relevant procurement documentation 10. Coach, supervise and give guidance to the team under his supervision.

### Qualifications

- A university degree in pharmaceutical sciences or related field.
- Work experience is preferably in a related field (Five years).
- Fluent in oral and written English and Arabic
- Computer literate
- Yemeni Nationality

Applicants are required to submit their CVs during one week from the date of this announcement, to the following address:

National Malaria Control Program, AL-Jarda a Area, nearby TB program.

Fax No: +9671-626107

E-mail: nmcp-pmu@yemen.net.ye

## After millions of YR deficit in Yemeni insurance sector

# Hope lies in changing the insurance law

By: Muaaz Al-Maqtari For the Yemen Times

he Yemeni Parliament is expected to approve an alternative draft law to the current Social Insurance Law No. 26 sometime within 2009. The current law has been in effect since 1991 without being amended in a way to cope with the insurance industry in Yemen.

By the advent of February, the cabinet discussed the draft law it received January last year from the General Institution for Social Insurance (GISI), with particular emphasis on the compulsory insurance system in Yemen. The cabinet, however, delayed the approval of the draft law for technical reasons, according to a decree issued by the government to change the committee in charge of reviewing the draft

Parties concerned with insurance, among them the Union of Commercial Chambers, the Trade Unions Confederation, and the government, represented by the GISI board of directors, unanimously agreed last July that the current insurance law is responsible for the notable failure in the insurance market over the past time period. They also blamed the law for hindering the development of insurance market.

GISÎ Chairperson Ahmad Saleh Saif said the current insurance law imposes restrictions on the insurance system over the past eighteen years.

"No explanatory bylaw of the effective law has been issued since it was enacted and passed in 1991," Saif said, showing concern that GISI may be compelled to reform the insurance sys-



Aswan Shaher Sa'ad GISI public relations and media general

the addition of two insurance sections: temporary disability as a result of illness and maternity insurance. Article Three amended the retirement age, making it compulsory when an insured male or female worker attains 60 years of age, but optional when an insured female worker is 55 years old.

Article Nine confirmed that insurance at GISI is compulsory for employers and employees while Article Six excused expatriate workers, free workers with no regular salaries, staff of trade unions, and fishermen from compulsory insurance. It stated that insurance is optional for these

Composed of 130 articles, the draft



General Institution for Social

get back any dues or debts owed to it.

Insurance education

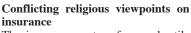
The insurance grid in Yemen agrees that a lack of awareness about insurance among those targeted groups is the most persistent problem faced by the relevant agencies, while the draft law doesn't promote the establishment of specialized media centers to increase insurance awareness among targeted groups.

"I don't know what insurance is. In fact, we have no social insurance in our work," said Ahmad Dabwan, who works for a Sana'a-based restaurant. Last year, GISI approved a national strategy for insurance education which was about to be put into effect as of early 2009, but regretfully nothing was applied on the ground.

Aswan Shaher, Information and Public Relations Officer at GISI, said the strategy was submitted to the Civil Service Ministry, which GISI is affiliated with, but the ministry did not approve the budget for implementing the strategy.

While the strategy proposed a total budget of YR 80 million to carry out an insurance education campaign, Shaher noted that the Civil Service Ministry and the cabinet reduced the proposed budget to only YR 15 million.

During a meeting last May, confederations of commercial chambers and trade unions and GISI, known as parties of the insurance system, recommended that a national insurance conference be held to promote insurance education, but this conference didn't happen for unknown reasons.



The insurance system faces a hostile media campaign staged by Salafi religious members in the nation and businessmen who are also either intelligence officials or senior leaders in the Yemeni army.

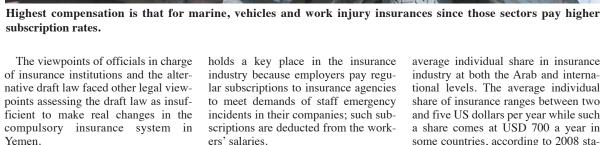
In 2006, Salafi clerics from Ibb governorate issued a religious fatwa prohibiting insurance according to Islamic Sharia law. The fatwa labeled insurance as a type of usury. Other religious sheikhs of Hadramout affiliated with the Sufi sect disagreed with the fatwa given by Ibb clerics, saying it intends to destroy the system of social and economic solidarity in Islam.

"Due to high illiteracy rates and social and economic backwardness in Yemen, the insurance culture is limited, and therefore requires a media cam-

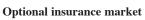
lished in Yemen by a package of legislations, the most important of which is the Social Insurance Law issued in 1991 under a decree by President Ali Abdullah Saleh without being referred to Parliament for approval.

ditions led to enacting the law following the declaration of Yemeni Reunification and the merging of insurance institutions in an urgent manner that did not even consider social and economic needs. In addition, the way the law was enacted didn't consider notable developments in the insurance market, such as the emergence of big trade businesses and the need to expand the scope of insurance

laws worldwide undergo continued development and updates, "a fact we don't see in Yemen," he said.



Head of Yemeni Insurance Union (YIU) Ali Mohammed Hashim holds the view that the problem has nothing to do with the absence of laws. "The problem rather relates to the need for a compulsory reference to be in charge of reinforcing laws and exercising powers of intervention, suspension, and control," he illustrated.



Yemen.

As GISI represents the compulsory insurance system in Yemen, there is optional insurance in the market offered by private insurance companies. As many as 31 different stock, governmental, and mixed insurance companies exist in Yemen. Some of them suffer from a shortage of financial resources, thus negatively impacting the quality of services they offer.

Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Sayani, a Yemeni economic expert, stresses the necessity of merging insurance companies in order to expand the scope of their services, diversify their products, and update their insurance legislations, pointing out the vulnerable insurance market in Yemen reflects limited services that don't meet consumers' needs.

The Insurance Director of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ibrahim Al-Sayani, attributes the vulnerability of insurance markets in Yemen to very low insurance awareness, insurance companies being owned by certain groups, and their activities being limited to specific economic sectors.

According to stats released by YIU, the insurance industry made nearly YR 45 billion between 2002 and 2007, and such a production rate was expected to exceed YR 14 billion in 2008 alone. The stats revealed that the total production of insurance companies grew from YR five million and 790 thousand in 2003 to YR 360 million in 2007 while insurance companies paid nearly YR 30 billion in compensation over the past five years.

According to a scientific study prepared by Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Sayani who is a Sana'a University Professor, the growth rate of funds paid by insurance companies as compensations, which is estimated at 23 percent, exceeds the rate of funds these companies received in installments (YR 6.5 billion) in 2006.

The study disclosed that the highest compensation rates were those scored by marine, car, and work injury insurances since those sectors pay higher subscription rates. According to YIU, car insurance produces the highest revenues due to an increase of road accidents while insurance on shipments and their safe delivery to determined destinations occupy good statuses on the insurance list as their owners are easily able to pay the installments.

In addition, collective life insurance

#### Insurance leakage

Yemeni insurance companies complain of the lack of reinforced laws to regulate insurance in the oil sector and other giant projects that often subscribe to insurance companies outside of Yemen. Tareq Abdulwasea, Manager of United Insurance, claimed that the government should stop the leakage of oil insurance to other countries, adding that the government must intervene to oblige foreign oil companies to pay insurance subscriptions in Yemen to local companies. He pointed out that this system is applied in several countries worldwide.

Dr. Shihab Al-Miqdad, an international law expert, is of the opinion that giant projects and petroleum insurances still take place outside Yemen, thus making the state lose hundreds of millions of dollars due to this policy.

Al-Miqdad said that many government institutions don't care about assuring their staff, as they are unconvinced about the significance of insurance to staff lives, highlighting that Yemen scored the lowest rate in the

average individual share in insurance industry at both the Arab and international levels. The average individual share of insurance ranges between two and five US dollars per year while such a share comes at USD 700 a year in some countries, according to 2008 sta-

According to recent stats released by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the capital of some insurance companies is very low hardly exceeds YR 100 million, although the ministry made a decision demanding insurance companies to raise their capital to YR 400 million at least.

Dr. Ibtisam Howaidi, Professor of Economics and Statistics at Sana'a University, holds the view that insurance in Yemen still is limited since its components are possessed by commercial institutions having less experience in insurance.

Howaidi's viewpoint was supported by the Minister of Industry and Trade Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakil, who sees that insurance companies are not capable enough to expand their activities and insurance coverage. "Also, these companies are not able to compete in the insurance market," Al-Mutawkil said. "We suggest that oversight agencies evaluate the performance of insurance companies and therefore suggest workable solutions to promote competition in the insurance market."



Retirement for men and women is compulsory at 60 although women have the option for an early retirement at 55 years old.

tem without a legislation thereon. He pointed out that the current insurance law may, for the long term, expose the insurance system to financial, administrative and technical problems since it contains numerous contradictions.

Saif clarified that the law doesn't fit the necessities of insurance protection, the sustainability of insurance resources, or the need to expand insurance coverage by targeting hundreds of new insurance seekers.

According to Saif, there is no exchange of reserves between the GISI and General Insurance Authority (GIA) systems, and therefore the current subscriptions cannot help insurance agencies fulfill their obligations.

From his side, Ali Hizam Al-Razihi, Legal Affairs Manager at GISI, noted that the draft law is due to address insurance-related problems by raising subscription rates, determining minimum and maximum wage rates, and expanding insurance coverage. He stated that the draft law will address those problems related with transfers and reserve exchanges among the GISI, the GIA, and other relevant funds.

Al-Razihi maintained that the draft law covers basic provisions on the form and content of insurance system in Yemen, adding that the draft amended 85 articles contained in the current insurance law. This is why it would be better termed as an alternative draft law rather than an amended law, he

#### **Basic provisions amended**

Article Two of the draft law stipulates

law devoted its sixth part to Yemeni workers abroad. However, the third paragraph of Article 90 stipulates insurance for the Yemeni expatriate workforce in those states where no insurance law is put into practice to specify severance pay or compensation packages for senility, disability, or

The GISI chairperson noted that those terms of insurance on expatriates under the current insurance law were placed into effect just over the past two years, indicating that insurance on expatriates should have been one of the state's key insurance resources.

#### **Insurance evasion**

The draft law stressed that firm repercussions must be levied on insurance evasion. Article 122 stated that insurance inspectors, who are delegated judicial powers, may access employers' institutions, view staff records and payrolls, and ask for all necessary data.

Insurance evasion is one of the key issues faced by the insurance system in Yemen while those lawsuits filed by GISI to Public Prosecution and commercial courts exceeded 20 over the past two years.

Al-Razihi, who is also a GISI lawyer, revealed that the relevant courts issued rulings on many of these lawsuits while others still are undergoing court procedures. He reiterated that his institution pursues modern means in dealing with its stakeholders who fund the insurance system; however, it sometimes finds itself compelled to sue those stakeholders as a final option to

paign to increase insurance awareness among targeted groups," Shaher said. The insurance system was estab-

According to Al-Razihi, many conto cover new sectors.

Al-Razihi highlighted that insurance

## **Invitation for Bids**

Tender Advertisement no. (5) 2009 - for 1st Time (One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (5) for supplying [One No. New Work Boat for Port of Aden 1 which will be financed from Government sources.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to Tender committee Secretary to receive Bidding Documents for an amount 150 USD

non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden- Tawahi Tel: 00 967 02 20200168

Fax: 00 967 02 201541 YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 30 MARCH 2009

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman of the Board Executive Chairman. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (60.000 USD for one Work boat) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars ) Bank quarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a pavable cheque.
- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his
- 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement or contract effectiveness.)

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from

its country of registration as appropriate. The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be (Saterday) at 11:00 Am on 04

APRIL 2009. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened. Bid Opening will take place at the Office Chairman Executive — Headquarters and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period 27 days starting from advertisement.





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# VACANCY

## TWO FINANCIAL OFFICERS

An international human rights organization is seeking two financial officers in Yemen to be responsible for the financial matter of our programme activities and capacity building of the Yemeni partners.

#### Professional and personal skills required for both positions:

- Degree in accounting and business administration or similar degree
- At least 5 years professional experience in accounting and financial management
- Written and spoken Arabic and English must be fluent
- Be a good facilitator, team player and teacher
- Hold computer skills in the office software package

#### Position # 1, Civil society

The position will among other things include the following tasks:

Capacity building of the Yemeni civil society network partner in financial matters. Facilitate the Yemeni partners in preparing their own budgets, accounts, setting up financial systems, procedures etc.

Concerning the overall Yemen programme accounts responsible for:

Payment authority, preparing requests for withdrawals and payments, develop and update the accounting system and procedures, preparing monthly, bi-annual and annual cost accounting statements, preparing budgets, reconcile the bank accounts and petty cash accounts, prepare bi-annual financial reporting to the donor, prepare accounts for regular control visits and audits

#### Position # 2. State institution

The position will among other things include the following tasks:

Capacity building of the Yemeni state institution partner in financial matters. Facilitate the Yemeni partners in preparing their own budgets, accounts, setting up financial systems, procedures etc.

#### Deadline for submitting applications is 8 March 2009

The basic salary for each of the financial officer will approximately be 1.300 USD/month.

Written applications should include attached CV and 3 professional references. Applications should be sent to this e-mail address: <a href="https://hryemen08@yahoo.com">hryemen08@yahoo.com</a>

# **Invitation for prequalification Hassan Dam Project**

The Republic of Yemen represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has received a loan from the Abu Dhabi Fund towards the cost of the Hassan Dam Project and it intends to apply this loan to payment under the contract for Package 1: Hassan Dam and Appurtenant Works (AC-01) and Package 2: Works in Wadi Hassan (AC-02). The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation intends to prequalify contractors for Construction of Hassan Dam & Appurtenant Works, and Works in Wadi Hassan.

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures specified and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Eligible Contractors of first class grade according to top classification in their countries may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, (address below). A complete set of the prequalification document in English may be purchased by interested applicants on the submission of a written official application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 50 US\$ during twenty five days (25) from date of this announcement. The method of payment will be cash.

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by hand. And be clearly marked Application to Pregualify for the two components

Hassan Dam and Appurtenant Works (AC-01) Works in Wadi Hassan (AC-02)

The deadline for receiving the documents will be 30th of March 2009.

**Project Manager Hassan Dam Project Irrigation & Lands Reclamation Sector** Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation (MAI) **Al-Meethaq Street** Sana a — Republic of Yemen

Tel/Fax: +967-1-226462 Mobile: +967-734116908 +967-777419864

e-mail: HassanDam@yemen.net.ye

# JOB VACANCY

Republic of Yemen (Ministry of Public Health and Population) has received a grant from the Global fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). The Ministry announces a job vacancy for (M&E Focal Point) of the PMU at the National Malaria Control Program.

#### Responsibilities:

- 1. Participate in development of standard M&E tools for use by the levels of project implementation: from community level intervention sites, to governorate Focal Points and Technical Committees, national Sub Recipient institution offices, and ultimately to the Principal Recipients.
- 2. Work closely with staff of the surveillance department of the NMCP, to enhance the exploitation of the existing malaria case reporting system in the transmission of monthly progress reports of the interventions from the governorates.
- 3. Compile monthly intervention progress reports into single update reports for presentation to the CCM, feedback to the counterpart PR (NMCP), sub recipients as well as stakeholders.
- Provide training to sub recipient and intervention site Focal Points in the performance of monitoring and evaluation tasks and activities related to the implementation of The Global Fund NMCP grant, including the documentation and reporting of indicator
- Conduct supervision and technical support visits to the implementation sites of NMCP supported activities, both through governorate Focal Points as well as through sub recipient institutions.
- Be available to facilitate the work of consultants to perform independent evaluation functions, disseminating theirs and other reports related to monitoring and evaluation
- 7. Attend and facilitate the work of the National M&E team, which will be the forum for inking The Global Fund NMCP M&E activities to the eventual development of a common M&E framework.
- 8. Perform other duties as assigned by project leadership.

#### **Qualifications**

- A university degree in social sciences or public health, or related field.
- Work experience is preferably in a related field
- Fluent in oral and written English and Arabic
- Computer literate
- Yemeni Nationality

Applicants are required to submit their CVs during one week from the date of this announcement, to the following address:

National Malaria Control Program, AL-Jarda a Area, nearby TB program. Fax No: +9671-626107 E-mail: nmcp-pmu@yemen.net.ye

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

M decins Sans Fronti res (MSF), is an International Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, regardless of race, religion and political believes. In 1999 MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of the work Currently MSF was the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its work. Currently MSF works in more than 70 countries, including the Palestinian Territories and Somalia. For more information, visit our Arabic website, <u>www.msfuae.ae</u>

## JOB VACANCY: Assistant Head of Mission

MSF-France is looking for a Yemeni national to support the Head of Mission and help the organisation expand its medical activities in Yemen. We are looking for someone dynamic, with experience in research and an interest in and knowledge of humanitarian issues and Yemeni society. MSF-France currently has projects supporting the medical, and humanitarian needs in the post conflict zone of Saada governorate

> Location: Sana a with regular travel to field Date of Entry on Duty: As soon as possible

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Knowledge:
- University Degree, preference to Social Sciences (Political Sciences, International Public Law, Anthropology, Economics, etc.).
- Advance University studies would be an asset (Master, Postgraduate diploma. in related areas).
- Knowledge of and interest in humanitarian issues.
- Knowledge of the country and the region (Arabic peninsula, Middle East)

## Experience:

be an asset.

- 5 years of related job duties & responsibilities experience Experience in research, data collection, reporting and analysis.
- Working experience at different levels (Government, University, International NGOs, Local NGOs, media, etc.) would

- Language: Arabic as mother tongue
- High-level command in English (both oral & written)

- Capacity to analyse data and translate it into practical outputs
- Excellent computer skills, particularly Word, Excel and use of Data Base
- Strong organisational and communication skills. Flexibility to travel to the field (up to 30% of the time)
- Diplomacy and commitment to MSF humanitarian values (neutrality, impartiality and independence)

#### **JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITES:**

- Supports the Head of Mission through delegated tasks and responsibilities. Monitors, documents and provides analysis on contextual developments.
- Translates, drafts, edits and/or consolidates written materials.
- Assists in monitoring of, and advocacy for, humanitarian issues.
- Supports the Head of Mission in representing issues. Supports the Head of Mission for contacts with the media
- Ensures administrative follow-up of files relating to special authorisations

Applications must be in English language. Candidates should submit a Cover Letter, CV, relevant training and work certificates, copies of diplomas, and any recommendations from previous employers.

Deadline for application: March 12th 2009 to:

M decins sans Fronti res France P.O. Box 12565 Old University Post Office,

E-mail: msff-sanaa@paris.msf.org

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. No face-to-face contact or phone contact will be

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للتواصل: ۷۳۳۸۹۹۱۰۲ – ۷۳۳۸۹۹۱۰۳

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للتواصل: ۷۷۷۲۲٤۱۱ – ۵۷۲۲۲۲۷۷ • أسامه الطيب – محاسب – خبرة ٢٣ سنة في هذا المجال داخل وخارج الجمهورية اليمنية - يجيد التعامل مع برامج محاسبية هى المحاسب المثالي - TALLY - يمن سوفت - THREE SOFT - يجيد اللغة

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للكمبيوتر واللغات، خبرة عمل تسعة أشهر في مصنع الإسفنج والبلاستيك - تعز - الحوبان، خبرة في تشغيل آلة (تتراباك) ثمانية أشهر. عملت في ورشة لحام لمدة خمس سنوات - لدى رخصة قيادة سيارة، مبتداً في اللغة الإنجليزية.

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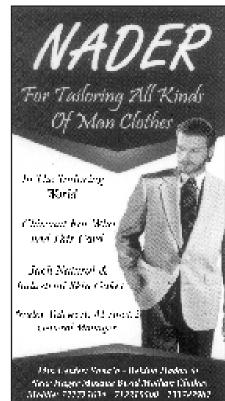
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#### البنوك

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ت: ۲۰۷۰۳۰ -۱۰ . البنك العربي رت: ۲/٥٨٥/٧ -۱٠ بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ٥٦٣٨١٣-٠١ ت: ۲۷٤۳۱۶ -۱۰ البنك المركزي:

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# First Audio Music Library guarantees eternity of San'ani music

By: Ola Al-Shami

ohammed Barakat, a musicology professor at Sana'a University, found it difficult to collect accurate data for his musicological research concerning Sana'ani songs. He was unable to find enough documents to support his research and discovered that many references had been lost. However, this problem would have come to an end as soon as he knew that the Musical Audio Library was launched at the Cultural Center in Sana'a last Monday.

This library will provide researchers and interested people with any information about Sana'ani singers, even those from hundreds of years ago. Moreover, by listening to the existing songs in this library, researchers can come to know that the Sana'ani mode of sung lyrics have been exquisitely rendered by many leading Yemeni and Arab singers such as Mohammed Jum'ah Khan, Ali bin Ali Al-Anisi, Ali Al-Simah, Mohammed Hamoud Al-Harithi,

#### Ya Mokhghel Alshams

You who made the sun and crescent shy

You whose mouth and lips are

You looted my soul but you don t Had you known, you might have

had mercy My soul and fragrance on your breath

I sacrifice my eyes for you. My gloomy and hurt heart has

Without you, my emotions wouldn t have been agitated

Singer: Mohammed Hammoud Al-Harithi Writer: Mohammed Abdullah **Sharaf Aldeen** 





Ayoub Tarish Absi, and many others.

Jean Lambert wrote an ethnography of musical life in Yemen based on his fieldwork done here in Yemen between 1985-1987. Lambert explored historical and contemporary Sana'ani songs, focusing particularly on the contexts of repertoire, audience, and performance.

The documentation of old Sana'ani songs, or "mowashahas" as Sana'anis call them, will preserve for researchers

the rich history of music in Sana'a. Researchers will find that the Yemeni "mowashaha" is almost independent in its lyrical style and composition as compared to other forms of music found on the Arabian Peninsula. This is true even though we find that some words mentioned in the Yemeni mowashaha such as Bali bala, and Ya lail dana, have equivalent terms in the general Arabic mowashaha, such as Ya

laili and Ya Aini. We also see the same equivalence in its originally Arabic themed rhythms. The large "dasa'ah," the small "dasa'ah," and the "sare'a" rhythms common in the Sana'ani song are actually the "sama'aeeat," "darag,' and "york" Arabic rhythms. This leads us to conclude that the Yemeni mowashaha was derived from the Arabic mowashaha since it has the same accent and the same lyrical word-

The Yemeni mowashaha was synchronized early in the third century after the Hijrah with the Arabic mowashahha which flourished in those days in Al-Andalus, or today's Spain. After conquering Spain, the Arab people, including the Yemenis, transferred all their cultural and scientific achievements there. They presented to the Spanish people their poetry and their schools of music. This is mentioned in Saleem Al-Helw's book Creating the Mowashaha.

LINESCO's International Convention on the Preservation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage brought about the launch of this music library in order to preserve oral traditions and expressions. It also seeks to preserve languages as vehicles of cultural heritage as well as the performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and

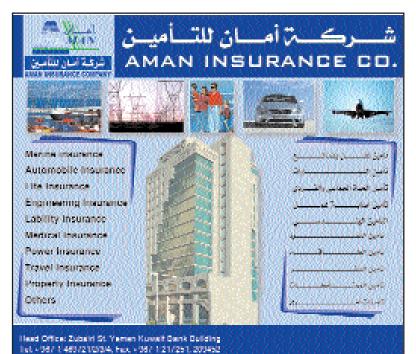
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traditional craftsmanship.

The library is considered to be a source for Sana'ani music that will be preserved for generations for whoever wants to research or learn about Sana'ani songs. Thanks to this new

library, neither Mohammad Barakat nor any other researcher in musicology will find any difficulty in collecting data about old musical instruments and songs necessary for conducting her or



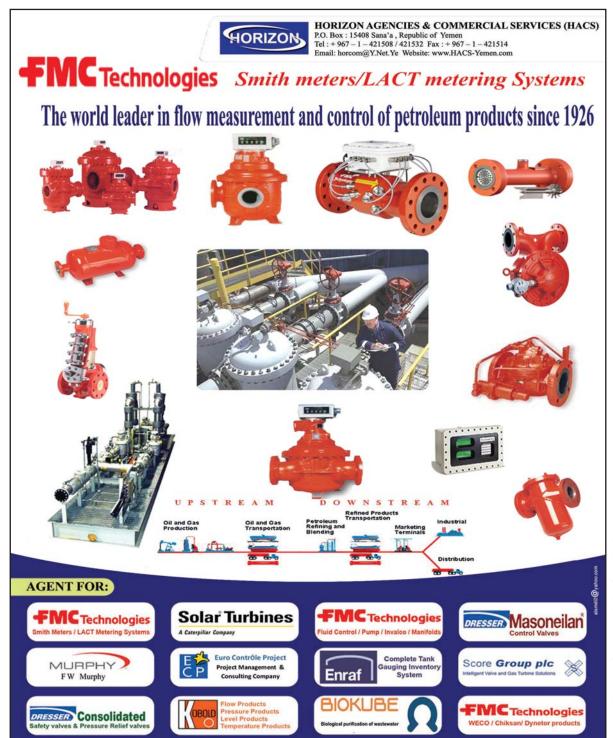
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