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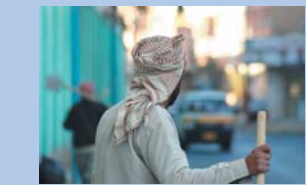
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Yemen stands with Sudan

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, March 8 — Demonstrations took place in Sana'a on Sunday in solidarity with Sudan and in opposition to the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s arrest warrant against President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

The Sudanese president, who is charged with two counts of war crimes and five of crimes against humanity in the Sudanese region of Darfur, has defied the warrant and announced he will attend an Arab League summit in Doha, Qatar, later this month.

"Sudan has been the target of plotting for a long time," said Sudanese Ambassador to Yemen Mohammad Adam Ismail at a rally in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Sana'a. "It is no secret that former [US] Secretary of State Madeline Albright openly donated US 2 million dollars to neighboring countries and rebel groups to overthrow the government."

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh denounced the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s decision to issue an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, describing it as a "dangerous precedent."

"The decision of the court has a very positive impact on the Sudanese political spectrum," continued Mohammad Adam. "It has united all the citizens



Al-Zindani (left) and the Sudanese ambassador address the rally in Sana'a on Sunday



around the president and brought the support of the Africans, the Arab and the Muslim countries."

Sudan is the largest country in Africa and an oil-producing country, with a production of 600,000 barrels of oil a day. Darfur is also reported to have oil reserves that are comparable to Saudi Arabia according to international geological studies.

"As an independent resource-rich nation it [Sudan] acts independently and its natural resources and oil are craved by the United States," said Mohammad Adam at the rally.

"The response will be more development," read slogans upheld by protesters at the demonstration, referring to Sudan's inauguration of the largest hydropower project in Africa last week.

Experts expect the over two-billion-dollar Chinese-engineered dam to eventually double Sudan's power capacity to about 1,250 megawatts and cut utility bills by 25-35 percent. Although the country has been under embargo for decades now, it has taken strides in development. The latest World Bank report ranks Sudan first in development.

Also addressing the rally was Sheikh Abdulmageed Al-Zindani who said, "The reason behind targeting Sudan is the West's greed for Sudan's petrol, as in the oil in the Caspian Sea and the subsequent war in Afghanistan and, of course, the Iraq war."

According to the US Department of State, Sudan has been a state sponsor of "terrorism" since 1993. The US attacked a successful pharmaceutical company in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, in 1998, under the pretext it was developing chemical weapons. Sudan has since invited the US to conduct chemical tests at the site to support its claims. So far, the US has refused the invitation to investigate or to officially apologize.

The US signed but did not ratify the Rome Statute that created the ICC during the Bill Clinton administration. It later withdrew its support after George W. Bush assumed the presidency.

"Western powers are after the heads of state of Islamic countries one by one," said a Yemeni protester.

"The reaction on the Yemeni streets is overwhelming. It's good to see nations come together in times like this," a Sudanese student from Sana'a University said.

The ICC is not recognized by African

Union, the Organization of Islamic Conference, African League and the Group of 77 plus China. Many countries including Yemen have pledged support to Sudan in condemning the ICC's decision.

"The court is based on political rather than legal foundations, and is one of the tools of the new colonialism. It aims at destroying the national sovereignty of an independent state. And it does not do it for peace in Sudan," said Mohammad Adam.

"There is a growing perception in Africa and the Arab world that the ICC is guilty of double standards, pursuing an Afro-Arab leader over misdemeanors, while ignoring the crimes of America and Britain in Iraq and Afghanistan and those of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories," the ambassador concluded.

In response to demands that Tony Blair, Bill Clinton and George Bush be investigated in relation to Iraq and former Yugoslavia, Former British foreign secretary Robin Cook previously commented: "The ICC was not created to bring to book prime ministers of the United Kingdom and presidents of the United States."

Aid agencies in Darfur

As a result of the ICC ruling, the Sudanese government has expelled 13 out of the 85 international aid agencies working in Darfur, accusing them of cooperating with the ICC to issue an arrest warrant against the president.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has called on the Sudanese government to urgently reconsider the decision, and aid workers have said ending these groups' activities in the conflict-ridden region will endanger the lives of up to 2 million people.

Continued on page 2

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Islamic charity organizations: A partner in development

By: Ali Saeed

Ahmed stands in a busy line, almost an hour away from his home, waiting for his daily handout. It's cold and he is tired, but he is patient as he understands the importance of the food ration he is about to receive.

Charity associations have become widespread in Yemen. They have made an outstanding contribution to the country's development, in all of the political, human rights, cultural and social fields. Yemen Times surveyed some of these organizations to highlight their developmental, educational and social activities in Yemeni society.

Over 2,500 charity organizations contribute to Yemeni development, according to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, working to improve the health sector and education, and advocate for democracy as well as woman and child rights for example.

Sana'a
The Nama' Developmental Charitable Foundation, located in Dar Al-Salam, Sana'a, was established by some Muslim volunteers in 2004 to work in the field of construction, education, social services for both women and men.

In the field of education, the foundation has so far built six centers for both men and women to provide educational programs throughout the year, including illiteracy eradication classes for women and teaching the Holy Qur'an.

Besides the illiteracy eradication classes, the foundation also offers women from poor families courses in tailoring, first aid, midwifery. Up to now the foundation has also distributed 36 sewing machines to the less fortunate of these. So far, the foundation has trained 310 women in sewing, 180 in first aid, 30 in midwifery and 980 in reading and writing.

"As for men, the foundation offers free courses in neuro-language programming, preaching and computer skills," said Mohammed Al-Amiri, manager of the foundation.

Up to now, the foundation has sponsored 300 orphans, girls and boys, to whom it offers them courses in welding, carpentry and computer skills. It also provides school uniforms and clothes for poor families during Eid. So far the foundation

distributed 8,000 school bags across the country.

The foundation distributes food baskets once a month to the poor families. There are around 600 poor families that benefit from this project. The average of the family members of those families is seven members. The food basket contains rice, wheat, sugar, lentils and beans. Each basket is usually worth between YR 10,000 and YR 16,000. Up until now, the foundation has also supported the poor by handing out up to 6,000 blankets to families in Sana'a during the winter.

In Sana'a, Taiz, Hadramout, and Al-Baidha, the Sana'a-based foundation provides cars to collect decent leftovers from hotels, banquets and restaurants, and up to 1,800 families benefit from the project daily.

Along with the meals and fresh bread cooked in the project's kitchen, the collected packages are distributed to poor families nominated by the neighborhoods' imams.

The foundation also constructs water wells and mosques around the country. Since the establishment of the foundation, it constructed 60 water wells and 200 mosques.

Another sample of these charities is Al-Sadeeq Charitable Foundation. Established in 2001, it works in the field of social services, education services and construction services, according to Nabeel Sa'ad Al-Maswari, manager of the foundation.

Besides the 380 orphans and 8 poor families that it sponsors on a daily basis, the foundation also has two shelters in Sana'a and Hodeidah to provide 50 and 30 orphans respectively with food, a home and an education.

Over the last seven years, Al-Sadeeq has constructed 50 water wells, 30 water tanks, and 177 mosques, and has distributed 28 water coolers to mosques and schools.

In the women sector, Al-Sadeeq has 14 women centers provide education to 2,043 girl students. Up to now, up to 49 girls at the center have memorized the Holy Quran completely. Every year, the foundation offers 50 Islamic teachings courses across the country.

Hodeidah

Another sample of these organizations is the Al-Forqan Charitable Foundation in

Bajil, Hodeidah.
"It was established in 2003 to enhance Islamic culture among Yemenis, maintain the identity of the Muslim woman, as well as to help the needy and contribute in relief campaigns," said Ali Yafooz, public relations manager of the foundation.

The foundation provides free accommodation for university students, has given financial assistance to 220 young men who wish to marry and has distributed up to 18 water coolers to mosques and schools. It has also constructed mosques, wells and public libraries.

"There are now 400 university students in both our hostels in Hodeidah," said Yafooz. "We have constructed 21 libraries that about 220,000 people benefit from, and 10 water wells that around 24,500 people are benefiting from."

In the distributing 10 sheep project," said Yafooz, started with the foundation handing out 10 sheep to a poor family to take care of them. Their lambs are shared between the family and the foundation. Up to now, Al-Forqan has distributed 10 sheep each to 45 different families to benefit from the project.

Over the years for Eid, Al-Forqan has distributed 7,229 sheep to 361,450 people in Hodeidah, according to Yafooz.

The second sample in Hodeidah governorate is the Abumosa Al-Asha'ary Charity Association.

"Founded in April 1999, it works in the health, education and technology sector and supports women and children," said Abdo Ali Mansoob, executive manager of the association.

The association carries out awareness campaigns about AIDS in schools, hairdressers and public places. Beside that, the association every year carries out medical camps for eye, nose, ear and throat treatment to benefit around 500 people.

The association offers shelter and food to 220 university students studying in Hodeidah University, and sponsors around 2,250 orphans -boys and girls- whom it provides with clothes and IT courses. It further offers illiteracy eradication and vocational training courses to women, who can learn computer skills, tailoring and even the art of make-up in one of its centers. Up to now, the association has taught 104 women to read and write, trained 41 in tailoring and 78 in making up techniques.

Also from Hodeidah is Al-Zahra Charitable Foundation, which was established in 2004 by a group of charitable men to participate in social development and relief campaigns.



Al-Ehsan Association provides free eye surgeries for the poor through its annual eye medical camp in cooperation with Al-Basar International Foundation.



Sewing machines that Nama'a Foundation distributes to women in poor families.

Charitable Foundation, which was established in 2004 by a group of charitable men to participate in social development and relief campaigns.

"Al-Zahra has its own unique projects besides similar ones to other organizations," said Mohammed Bin Sa'ad Al-Hatami, director of the foundation.

Al-Zahra has a blood bank that connects blood donors to those in need, benefiting up to 3,194 patients up to now. It also runs a program called "human dignity" to take care of the unknown deceased by bathing them and wrapping them in a shroud before giving them a proper Islamic burial.

Al-Hatami said that this project needs an ambulance car to carry the deceased and refrigerators to keep the corpses. They hope to spread the project to other governorates.

But if the foundation is involved with death, it also celebrates life, notably through a giant group wedding ceremony in which 1,250 bridegrooms and brides married in 2008.

Al-Zahra's looks has sponsored 16,030 poor families up until now.

Hadramout

Established in 1992 and based in Hadramout, the Al-Ehsan Charitable Association has branches in all governorates. The association was started by religious scholars to participate in human relief, and enhance Islamic principles according to the Sunni convention.

"Their main achievement is the Al-Rahma orphan shelter in Taiz, which shelters and educates 200 orphans," said Mohsen Al-Dabi, public relations manager

at the association.
Al-Ehsan also runs a relief campaign to distribute wheat, sugar, rice, spaghetti, oil and milk to 5,000 Somali refugee families in Yemen. Al-Ehsan also in this campaign handed out blankets, pillows and mattresses.

Al-Ehsan is heavily involved in aid and has carried out three relief campaigns targeting internally displaced persons from Sa'ada governorate during the war. Around 1,715 families were benefited from these campaigns.

Al-Ehsan also carried out a relief project to benefit around 3,700 families who lost everything in the floods in Hadramout last autumn. The association handed out mattresses, blankets and pillows to the families, as well as wheat, oil, rice and spaghetti.

The association holds an annual medical camp for eye treatment. So far, it has organized up to 39 camps across all the governorates. In these camps, glasses are distributed to those who need them and people can sign up for cataract extraction and lens implantation operations performed by volunteer doctors.

Obstacles

Although these organizations are making progress, there are obstacles. Foremost is the "lack of the infrastructure," according to Mansoob. He said this deprives people who live in rural areas from having access to the foundations' projects.

Second is political affiliation: "The partisanship either official or non-official is threatening charity work," said Al-Amiri, explaining that businessmen who donate

usually ask to who the foundation belongs before supporting to its activities.

"If that foundation is affiliated or agrees with his or her political party then he or she will immediately donate, but if the foundation is different with his party, he will not," wrote Mohammed Naji Atya, professor at Al-Andalus University in his research. "Some of the foundations also are careful not to make the projects accessible to people from different parties."

However, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is strict in not licensing any foundation or organization that encourages sectarianism.

"We recommend all the personalities and the charitable organizations to avoid such acts in their charitable works," said Ali Saleh Abdullah, deputy minister for social development, adding that the ministry is careful about social peace and applying the law.

Third, the weakness of administrative personnel and lack of qualifications are an obstacle to the good functioning of some associations, as most members of the foundation work of a volunteering basis, said Al-Amiri.

Fourth is the dwindling of donations, especially after the events of Sept. 11. The deputy minister said that the events affected the work of these organizations. He explained that this is clear in the shrinking amount of money that these foundations receive.

"The events made donors reluctant to donate to these foundations," he explained, nevertheless adding that in the last three years the situation has improved and continues to do so.

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Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Top Stories

- Politicians: Yemen needs foods and medicines, not weapons

Yemeni politicians have undervalued the importance of a Russian-Yemeni weapon deal recently signed between the two states, pointing out that the purpose of the deal is to confront political opposition in the country and repress peaceful protests with more sophisticated weapons weaponry. They continued that the deal would only promote corruption, the website reported.

Dr. Aidros Al-Naqib, senior leader of the Yemeni Social Party (YSP), said that Yemen needs foods and medicines, not further Russian weapons.

"I do not think Yemen face threats for the time being, its only enemy is the Zionist entity which has no borders with Yemen" added he.

Al-Naqib further affirmed that the reasons behind purchasing such weapons are countering peaceful protests and political opposition, deep-rooting corruption and creating further opportunities for corrupt officials, who irresponsibly benefit much

from such deals.

According to Yemeni official media reports, Yemen has signed a USD 1 billion arms deal with Russia that includes fighter jets, helicopters and tanks.

Private prisons equal number of literacy centers in Hodeida

Private prisons in Hodeida governorate are as many as literacy centers, according to Al-Sahwa Newspaper correspondent Abdul-Hafeedh Al-Hattami, who visited a number of these private prisons.

Al-Hattami said in a comprehensive report that powerful sheikhs (chiefs of tribes), sons of lawmakers and local councilors jail and torture people in Hodeida, the poorest governorate in Yemen and levy unfair taxes on them.

"Five years ago, Badr Zohar from Al-Zohra district of Hodeida, was imprisoned in a jail, called Al-Mitiana where he remained overnight before being handed over to his father as corpse," said Al-Hattami indicating that powerful sheikhs and influential individuals exploit ineffective roles of security and judicial authorities in these remote areas.

Tribal chiefs, who are mostly Parliament members from the ruling party or local councilors, practice repressions, tortures and all forms of vandalism against simple citizens in their areas, and plunder their lands and other property, according to the report.



Almotamar.net, affiliated with General People's Congress (ruling party)
Thursday, March 5, 2009

Top Stories

- Yemen's \$1 billion-worth arm deal is due to enhance government's defense capacity in the fight against terrorists and pirates, say official sources

The \$1 billion-worth arm deal, under which the Yemeni government purchases weapons from Russia, was signed with the purpose of enhancing Yemen's defense capacity in the fight against terrorism and piracy, both negative phenomena that emerged recently in the country, the website quoted senior government officials as saying.

According to the website, well-informed Yemeni official sources said last week that the outcomes of the most recent visit made by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Russian capital Moscow were significant and would enhance bilateral relations and the areas of cooperation between Yemen and Russia, especially at the economic, trade and investment levels as well as the military level.

"The most important result of

President Saleh's successful visit to Moscow is the signing of a Russian-made arms and military equipment deal, including land, sea and air military ordinance in order to enhance the defense capability of Yemen in the fight against terrorism and piracy", the sources reiterated.

Pointing out that the cost of the contract amounted to \$1 billion, the sources said that the deal included a number of MiG-29 fighter jets and offensive and military transport helicopters, in addition to modern (T-80) and (T-72) tanks, (BT R 80) armored vehicles, cutters, modern telecommunications and other military equipment and supplies needed by Yemen's army and security forces to carry out their tasks and duties in the field of defense and security, as well as combating terrorism and piracy.

With regard to economy and investment, the talks held by President Saleh with Russian officials included the possibility of generating 3000 MW of electrical power of BOT power and exploration of oil, gas and metals by Russian companies.

"A number of Russian companies stated willingness to invest in Yemen in these areas and the implementation of a number of projects in the fields of dam construction, irrigation, gas pipelines, railways, fishing and cement industry", added the sources.

The February 24-26 visit, the first to Moscow by President Saleh since

2004, is the second leg of Saleh's international tour, which was started with a trip to Syria. He also visited Tajikistan and Indonesia.

Assistant Secretary-General: GPC made concessions for the sake of homeland

Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs at the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) Sultan Al-Barakani affirmed last Monday that the national interest was the major and first factor of the political accord that resulted from the dialogue between leaderships of the GPC and the Joint Meeting Parties JMP, pursuant to directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

When the GPC makes concessions it prefers the homeland interest to its own interest as a party. The national interest is given precedence over those of leaderships and individuals, Al-Barakani went on to say.

During an interview with Al-Mithaq weekly, mouthpiece of the ruling party, published Monday Al-Barakani explained that the dialogue is for the interest of the homeland without considering any individual political party or organization.

To ensure success of the dialogue, Al-Barakani presented the condition of commitment to transparency and publicity during all next dialogues. He said, "We don't want to hold dialogues behind closed doors so that each party will come to hold the other responsible for any discrepan-

cies or inconvenience.

Al-Barakani denied allegations of secret agreements or reciprocal deals between the GPC and JMP, stressing that political reforms are not something new. They have been submitted within the initiative of the President of the Republic in Ramadan of 2007 and were included in his election platform and programs of the GPC since the 2003 parliamentary elections.

While confirming that the reforms will not be a ready-made prescription presented by the political parties represented in Parliament, Al-Barakani laid more emphasis on the engagement of all political parties and groups, as well as the civil society organizations in political reform dialogues.

"Our current task is to overstep the past and sit at the dialogue table to discuss the kind of political and electoral reforms required," considering the 2-year extension in the tenure of the current Parliament formation as an opportunity and a test for all the parties to demonstrate their credibility and seriousness in moving together for carrying out mutually agreed-upon terms and achieving those determined political and electoral reforms.

Al-Barakani also expressed his optimism concerning the success of the agreement and truthfulness of the intentions to execute what has been agreed-upon through the next two years.



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The deadline for receiving the proposals is at 11:00 am on Saturday 4/4/2009 at the corporation's main premises.

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Deadline for receipt of the applications is Sunday, March 15, 2009 and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Assistant Professor Aziz Al-Zindani, Head of Cardiac Center in Al-Thawrah General Teaching Hospital

“Our policy is that patients come first”

Aziz Saleh Al-Zindani, born in 1966, is the Head of the Cardiac Center at Al-Thawrah General Teaching Hospital. He received his Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery degree from Sana'a University in 1992. He followed up with higher education and received his master's degree in cardiology from Ain Shams University in Egypt in 2000. He became a board certified doctor and received his MD in Syria in 2007. He took part in a number of specialized courses in catheterization in several countries including India, Germany, and Egypt. He is a consultant and an Assistant Professor at Sana'a University. He has accumulated years of experience since he has been working at the hospital since his graduation from Sana'a University in 1992. Al-Thawrah Teaching Hospital serves 22 million people. Aziz Al-Zindani, the Head of the Cardiac Center, speaks to Mahmoud Assamiee of the Yemen Times about the challenges.



Aziz Al-Zindani

When was the Cardiac Center established in the hospital?

The center first was established as a unit in the general ward like most new units that were established in the early 90s. In 1995, we started pace maker implementation and in 1998 we began cardiac catheterization. We have highly qualified medical teams to carry out such operations. In tandem with the celebrations in 2000 of the 26th September Revolution, President Ali Abdullah Saleh officially opened the center.

Is the center capable of providing complete service to the patient to save him from traveling abroad for better treatment?

Currently we are working on planting arteries, expanding and transplanting valves, and other major cardiac surgeries. In the case of complicated congenital heart deformations, we are assisted by visiting medical teams. However, we have a lack of cardiac physiologists and cardiac electrical cordial catheterization which require patients to travel abroad.

Are cardiac surgeries performed free of charge to the citizens, given that the center is a public hospital?

In fact, there is no free service in the hospital. We are an independent staff that provides paid, but reduced, unique and specific health services. It is true that up to 95 percent of cardiac patients receive free medical decisions, but this is still paid for by the state. These decisions cover only 20 percent of operations costs; the rest of the costs are paid from the budget of the hospital. For example, the operation for replacing one valve costs USD 6000 dollars and some catheterization operations for making a balloon to expand the arteries and allow for catheterization could cost USD 2500 and the medical report the patient gets only contributes with USD 1000.

How much does a catheterization cost?

The diagnosis of a catheterization costs the patient USD 250, and we demand only USD 1000 for therapeutic catheterization. This sum does not cover the cost of the balloon we plant in the vessel. The cost of the balloon in the hospital is US 200 dollars and we ask the patient to pay a part of this sum. The rest of it is paid by the hospital.

How much does the operation of insertion of a balloon to assist the catheterization cost in private hospitals?

In addition to the cost of the balloon, the cost of the operation alone is no less than US 5000 dollars, equivalent to YR 1,000,000. However, the cost of open cardiac surgeries in some private hospitals exceeds YR 1,600,000.

In your hospital, how much does this kind of operations cost?

The patient who can afford this operation pays anywhere between YR 400,000 to 600,000. But we help the patient by giving him a discount.

Do you ask for other fees from the patient, such as fees for being admitted to the hospital or medication during the operation?

The cost of the operation covers some medication, but the patient has to pay for medication not available in the hospital. Other services are provided by the hospital.

Yes, the hospital provides free medication to the patients. Unlike other public hospitals, we provide free medication even if it is very expensive. Some medications are very expensive and could cost between US 400 to 500 dollars. These medications are given to patients of cardiac stroke without hesitation.

Unlike other public hospitals, does the Al-Thawrah General Teaching Hospital provide free medications to the inpatient?

Yes, the hospital provides free medication to the patients. Unlike other public hospitals, we provide free medication even if it is very expensive. Some medications are very expensive and could cost between US 400 to 500 dollars. These medications are given to patients of cardiac stroke without hesitation.

Being very expensive, is this kind of medication always available in the hospital?

Yes. It is always available and is administered to the patient. We also have medication more expensive than this which is always available as well, such as the medication that is used for dissolving strokes. In addition, we have medications that could cost US 2700 dollars used for curing angina pectoris. This is also given freely to patients who come in under emergency situations.

How is this expensive medication made available?

We have a budget in the hospital that supports these medications. It has an independent budget from the ministry of finance, in addition to income that we receive from patients. However, not all of this income goes to the hospital because we have what is called government revenues. The government demands revenues from the hospital.

What about Yemen's health budget, which we know is only 2.5 percent of the state budget? Does it affect the performance of the center?

As an independent body, financially and administratively with special funds, we try to provide all required medications. And when we can, we offer them free of charge for patients.

What is the number of patients who come to the center every day for cardiac treatment?

No less than 150 patients a day.

Is this number considered to be high?

It is very high.

Is cardiac disease widespread in Yemen, and if yes, why?

Cardiac diseases are spreading in Yemen to a great degree among children and seniors. For children the number is great because of tonsillitis and parents' carelessness in seeking treatment for their children. This causes rheumatic heart disease which is spreading greatly in Yemen, particularly among children and seniors. There are also other cardiac vessel diseases, including rheumatic heart disease, which are widespread among adults because of negative lifestyles and bad habits that include stress and a lack of exercise. We see heart failure of the cardiac muscles because of arteriosclerosis due to smoking and eating unhealthy food as well as being due to high blood pressure. These are the cardiac diseases that are widespread in Yemen.

Can we say that Yemen has more cardiac patients than neighboring countries, such as in Gulf countries for example?

We are preparing studies on the extent of cardiac disease in Yemen because we are preparing to join the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Do you have cooperation with GCC countries in this field?

We have great cooperation and we are conducting ongoing joint research concerning heart disease – great research, in fact.

What about some patients that have to leave the center without medication under the pretext of no more beds available for patients?

As I have already mentioned, we are serving 22 million people. We suffer from an extensive crowd of patients. I will give you an example. Last week I sterilized all the rooms in the cardiac center. I opened them on Saturday. These rooms were expected to be full of patients after three days, but they were full of patients only an hour after I opened them. As soon as the first patient leaves the bed, you find that a second patient follows right after him. I have to maintain all of the machines and the equipments of the center, and this often causes a delay for some operations.

I talked with patients before the meeting. Some of them said that they have been waiting for catheterization for two weeks while paying YR 2000 daily for being inpatients. Is this true?

Those who told you this are telling lies. First of all, the patient who wants to

undergo a catheterization sees a doctor that same day. If catheterization ends up being the actual diagnosis, the patients leave the center after six hours. If it is a therapeutic catheterization, the patient stays with us for a second day without paying anything other than the fees of the catheterization. Secondly, the patient who wants to undergo catheterization is checked before he leaves to make sure it is not an emergency and then stays at his house while he waits for his turn. We take his telephone number and call him to come to the hospital the day assigned for performing the catheterization.

If a poor patient that suffers from cardiac arrest comes to the center and has no money, how do you deal with him?

We have the policy that patients come first. If he is poor, we refer him to the supreme medical committee for making an exceptional decision pardon the patient from paying. First we provide the service, and then we look to the financial aspect.

Do you have enough qualified professionals?

Yes, we have highly specialized staff. All of them are Yemenis. We have only one foreigner who has worked in the hospital for 20 years. He is now a consultant and we treat him as a Yemeni.

We heard of buying cardiac valves from companies are not internationally recognized because they sell valves of weak quality with lower prices. Is this true?

This issue was discussed by the Parliament three years ago. Such claims were refuted at that time. You know every company states it is better than the other. We work with valves that are approved internationally. We buy the best quality from internationally recognized companies.

Is it true that some patients seeking treatment are turned away?

Some patients come when we do not have enough beds. In this case, we treat the patient in the emergency room until he is stable, at which point we let him go. If it is an urgent situation, we transfer him with special care from the hospital to another public hospital such Al-Jumhory Teaching Hospital or Al-Kuwait Teaching Hospital.

Are patients that happen to be government employees treated free of charge?

They are treated as ordinary people. However, we have contracts with some government entities that pay for their employees patients.

Ending the interview, what challenges do you face in the center?

My problem is the problem that faces Yemen as a whole. We suffer from overcrowding and the increasing number of patients. The great numbers of patients are overwhelming our capacities and resources.

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WORK PROCUREMENT

Title of the Contract: Implementation of Water Supply System
Publication Reference: Y21-RZ-M-T-Water Project

DIA (French Non Governmental Organisation) intends to awards a works contract for IMPLEMENTATION OF A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM in Mokha District, Taz Governorate, with financial assistance from the European Commission - EuropAid. Main tasks required for the implementation of this water supply system consist in:

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DIA – Social Justice in Development
244, Near Al Safa Mosque, Kalabah, Taz, Yemen
Phone: 04-274927

Completed applications must be hand delivery to the same address.

The official language used for this work procurement is:
ENGLISH

The deadline for submission application form is:
18th of March 2009 at 05:00 PM

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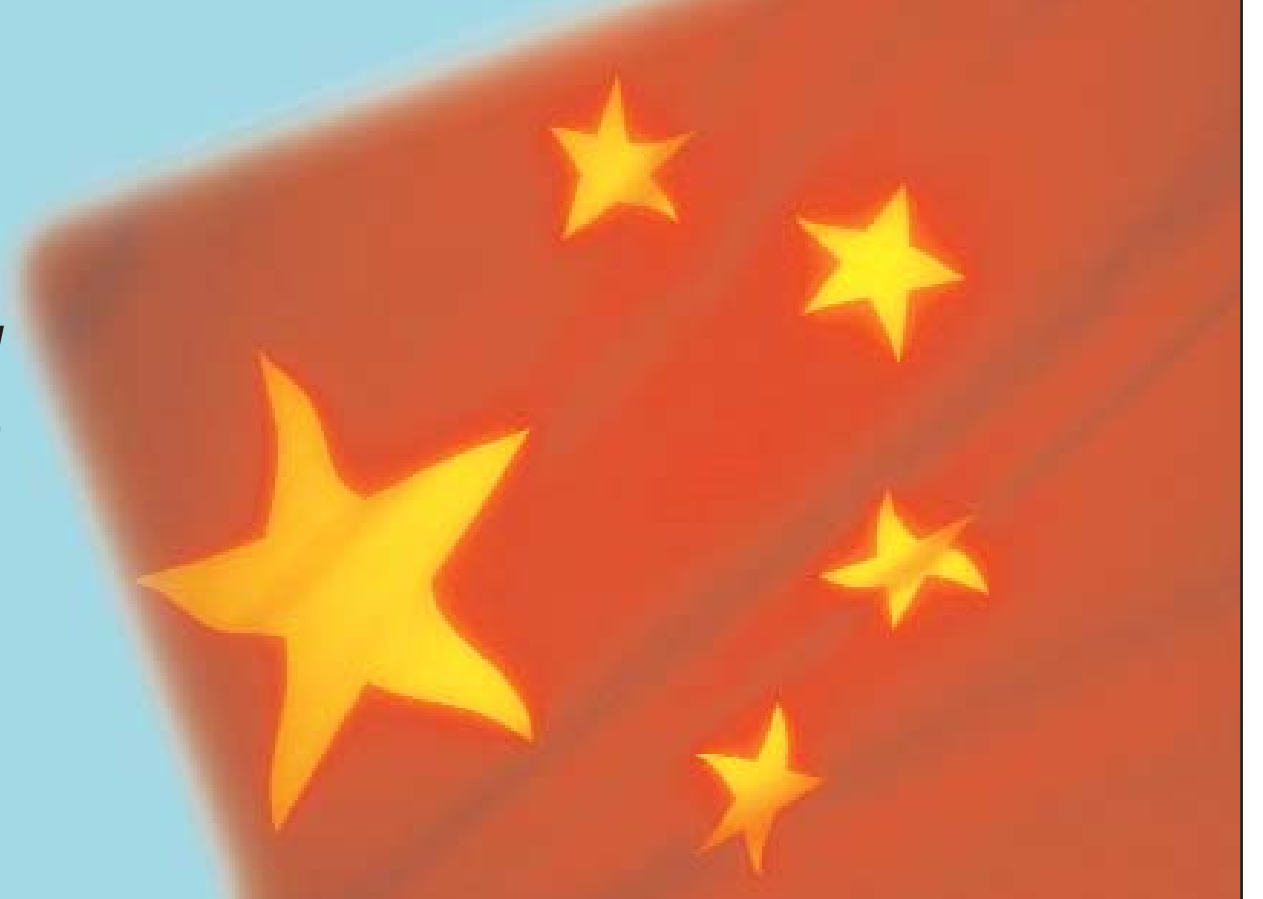
The Major Exhibitions and Fairs Programme
in 2009 Promoted by the Ministry of
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NO	NAME OF FAIRS	PLACE	TIME	INQUIRY
1	China Import & Export Fair	Guangzhou	Apr.15-20, Apr.25-30, 2009	www.cantonfair.org.cn
2	The Thirteenth Investment & Trade Forum For Cooperation Between East & West China	Xi'an	Apr.5-8, 2009	www.onlinew.gov.cn/onlinew/column
3	China (Shouguang) International Vegetable Sci-tech Fair	Shouguang	Apr.20-May 20, 2009	www.intvegetable-fair.com
4	China Chongqing Fair Of Investment And Trade & Global Sourcing	Chongqing	Apr.23-26, 2009	www.ccgfsf.com
5	Expo Central China 2009	Wuhan	Apr.26-28, 2009	http://expocentralchina.mofcom.gov.cn
6	China (Shenzhen) International Culture Industries Fair	Shenzhen	May 15-18, 2009	www.cnCIF.com
7	China Beijing International High-tech Expo	Beijing	May 24-29, 2009	www.chitec.cn
8	China Import & Export Fair, Kunming	Kunming Yunnan Province	June 6-10,2009	www.kmfair.org
9	China International Consumer Goods Fair	Ningbo Zhejiang Province	June 8-12,2009	www.cicgf.com
10	International China Harbin Fair For Trade & Economic Cooperation	Harbin, Heilongjiang Province	June 15-19,2009	www.chtf.com.cn
11	China International Software & Information Service Fair	Dalian, Liaoning Province	June 18-22,2009	www.cisis.com.cn
12	2009 China International Consumer Electronics Show	Qingdao Shandong Province	July 9-12, 2009	www.sinoces.com
13	China (Dalian) Internatioanl Garment & Textile Fair	Dalian, Liaoning Province	Aug. 28-31, 2009	www.cigf.com
14	China Urumqi Foreign Economic And Trade Fair	Urmqi, Xinjiang	Sep. 1-5, 2009	www.urumqifair.com
15	China International Equipment Manufacturing Expo.	Shenyang, Liaoning Province	Sep. 1-5, 2009	www.cieme.org
16	China Jilin-Northeast Asia Investment And Trade Expo.	Changchun, Jilin Province	Sep.2-6,2009	www.neasiaexpo.org
17	China Internatioanl Fair For Investment & Trade(Cifit)	Xiamen, Fujian Province	Sep.8-11,2009	www.chinafair.org.cn
18	China International Small And Medium Enterprises Fair	Yinchuan, Ningxia	Sep.10-13,2009	www.csmef.com.cn
19	China (Taiyuan) Coal & Energy New Industry Expo.	Taiyuan , Shanxi Province	Sep.16-19,2009	www.cicenexpo.com
20	PECC International Trade & Investment And International Eco-City Construction Fair	Tianjin	Sep.16-19,2009	www.pecctj.com
21	China International Small And Medium Enterprises Fair	Guangzhou	Sep.22-25,2009	www.cismef.com.cn
22	International Fruit Vegetable Food Expo.	Yantai, Shandong Province	Sep.23-25,2009	www.fruitveg-expo.cn
23	China International Machinery & Electronic Products Expo.	Wuhan, Hubei Province	Sep.23-26,2009	www.cwme.com.cn
24	International Sourcing Fair(Shanghai China)	Shanghai	Sep. 9, 2009	http://sourcing.org.cn
25	China Hi-Tech Fair	Shenzhen, Guangdong Province	Oct. 12-17, 2009	www.chtf.com
26	Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair	Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province	Oct. 18-22, 2009	www.chinaicf.cn
27	China Yiwu International Commodities Fair	Yiwu, Zhejiang Province	Oct. 21-25, 2009	www.chinafairs.org
28	Electronics Manufacture Expo(Suzhou) China 2009	Suzhou, Jiangsu Province	Oct. 22-25, 2009	www.goemex.com
29	Western China International Economy& Trade Fair	Chengdu Sichuan Province	Oct. 10, 2009	www.westernchinafair.org
30	China-Asean Expo	Nanning, Guangxi Province	Oct. 10, 2009	www.caexpo.org
31	China International Industry Fair	Shanghai	Nov. 4-8, 2009	www.ciif-expo.com
32	China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair	Yangling, Shanxi Province	Nov.5-9, 2009	www.agri-expo.com

**Please accept warm invitation
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*The Economic and
Commercial Counselor's Office
of the Chinese Embassy in Yemen*



Armed with a Nikon, on her path to success

By: Alice Hackman

Focusing her Nikon D80 through the narrow slit of a black niqab, Yemeni female photographer Amira Al-Sherif is proof that social conventions are no obstacle to success. Anything is possible with family support and a good dose of determination.

Winner of the Ministry of Tourism's 2008 photography award, the 26 year-old English Literature graduate recently concluded her first exhibition to the theme of human rights at the French Cultural Center in Sana'a, and is happy with the results.

"It was the first time I felt a great amount of freedom to say something through my work," says an

enthusiastic Al-Sherif, whose photographs were chosen on the 60th anniversary of the UN's Human Rights Charter to illustrate essential human rights.

"Photos are more efficient than words," she explains. "They are simple language for all people, educated or not, [and] much simpler than writing rules."

Al-Sherif first started taking pictures at the young age of eight, when her father, an Islamic studies teacher, was building her family a house in Saudi Arabia. With her father's Polaroid camera, she appointed herself to be the family's official photographer.

"I was the photographer, so I don't have many pictures of my childhood," she laughs.

Seeing her eagerness, her father promised her a camera of her own if she was first in her class that year at school. Determined as never before, she excelled in all subjects, and was awarded her first Kodak film camera. She saved up part of her lunch money to buy the YR 450 rolls of film for it.

With the support of her family and help of her teacher, professional photographer Marcos Abbs, Al-Sherif has since grown as a photographer.

"She learns fast, but she also has the capacity to have her own style," said Abbs, who selected some of her work to feature in Faces of Yemen, a photography book sponsored by the Netherlands Embassy and published last October.

"It's unusual to have a female photographer in Yemen who goes out

to shoot like her," he adds. "She is very unique. She is very ambitious and motivated: She really wants to do something with photography, which is very important."

Al-Sherif's favorite photograph from her recent exhibition portrays the plight of Sana'a's daily laborers and the human right to work. Taken shortly after sunrise in Al-Qa' Street, the shot is of a man waiting with a shovel for someone to give him a job for the day.

"They lead such a difficult life," she says. "Imagine sometimes they have to return home without money. But they are strong believers that God will send them their work, their income."

Of the human rights her photographs have captured, she was most struck by "the human's freedom to choose without being forced by any other party."

"Often in Yemen, a girl's destiny is selected by her family: her brother or her husband," she explains. "A lot of the time, she doesn't have the right to select her education, husband or future."

But she is quick to point out that, in her case, her gender has not deterred her from photography in Yemen's conservative society. To the contrary, she finds that being a woman has afforded her more support and even protection than most of Yemen's male photographers might ever be used to.

She recalls an incident in the old city of Sana'a in which a man, who said he was a policeman, tried to grab her camera away from her. Bystanders were quick to jump in to her defense: "If she were a tourist, you would welcome her," they said. "Leave her alone."

On another occasion, a 16 year-old ambulant salesman abandoned his job to be her bodyguard for the day on an assignment in Taiz, because he spotted a man following her.

Sheikhs and policemen have appointed themselves as her fixers

and protectors, and, at the recent funeral of Masha Al-Nahari, up to six volunteers formed a safety cordon to protect her while she was shooting the proceedings.

"It is part of Yemeni tribal culture not to insult women and to help them," she says.

Obstacles exist to the work of a photojournalist in Yemen, she explains, but they are the same for men and women.

"Anybody can stop you in the street

and take your camera," she says. "Sometimes we are told that it is ok to shoot during the day, but not at night."

And so she veers from human rights to photographers' rights. Al-Sherif dreams to see a photographers' syndicate in Yemen. Until then, she has motivated her friends to found Eyes of Yemen, the country's first photography association.

"Before, there was never anyone to take the lead," said Abbs of the association.

Photo by Amira Al-Sherif



Al-Sherif's favorite picture portrays the plight of Sana'a's daily laborers.



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Civil society advocates for women's development on women's day

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Handicrafts, art work, stuffed toys, incense were on display by proud representatives of more than twenty three civil society organization on the festivity at the Sana' trade Center on Sunday.

The festivity was to celebrate the International Women's Day and promote civil society's engagement in development and enhancing public awareness about women.

Attracting the attention of casual visitors to the center or attendees of festivity, the charities, human rights or development organizations talked about their various programs and how important it is for the public to be engaged in such events.

"Today is an occasion to celebrate women's day with the rest of the world, and to evaluate Yemeni women's situation in the society," said Deputy Minister of Technical Education Ebtihaj Al-Kamal "We have to think of what women have achieved and what they are looking forward to achieving in the future."



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"Islam honored women over than 1,400 years ago," said Najah Al-Mujahid head of SOUL community learning and development center. "In addition to bringing up generations, now, you can find Yemeni woman a minister and an ambassador."

She urged women to pay more efforts to strengthen their role in the social and political life.

The organizations participated by exhibiting their programs aim to develop women abilities, create training opportunities, support society development and help needy families and orphans. They also displayed some samples of handicrafts products made by some charity and development organizations participants.

Most of the participants from these organizations were women and the occasion was a chance for them to meet and exchange experiences.

Focusing on vocational training for women, creating new opportunities for acquiring professional skills civil organizations has succeeded in increasing the participation of women in economic, social and political activities. They also participate in spreading awareness of risks of early marriage, child labor, the girls' education and family planning.

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