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# YEMEN TIMES

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Monday, 16 March, 2009 • Issue No. 1242 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

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## President promises unlimited support for media

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, March 15 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh directed the Ministry of Information and General Corporation of Radio and Television on Saturday to draw up a bill that would authorize individuals and NGOs to establish private satellite channels and radio stations.

During the Fourth General Conference of the Journalists' Syndicate, which is being held from March 14 -16 to the theme of "Defending Journalists' Rights and Press Freedom," the President said, "Freedom of press, political pluralism and freedom of opinion are guaranteed by the Constitution and the law."

He stressed that journalists should be provided with all the necessary means to gain access to information, directing the official bodies to enable journalists to obtain information regarding economic, development or security.

"The Ministry of Information should inform all ministries and institutions that they are to give journalists access to the information that they need," said the President.

He also appointed Hassan Al-Lawzi, Minister of Information, as spokesman of the Cabinet to provide information and give statements to the press following each Tuesday Cabinet meeting, and to inform the press on issues discussed during them. He pointed out that the government should pay attention to journalists from all groups and affiliations.

The President ordered the previous verdict against journalist Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani, who had been sentenced to six years in prison for an alleged con-



Journalists should be provided with unlimited access to information, said the President.

nection to terrorist cells, be dropped.

Chairman for the International Union for Journalists Jim Abu Malhim praised the role of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate in defending freedom of expression. He also requested that the presidential directives regarding Al-Khaiwani be carried out.

The fourth conference of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate began last Saturday in Sana'a. Representatives from approximately two thirds of the Yemeni governorates are participating in the conference, in addition to 1,277 members of the syndicate who will elect a new chairman for the syndicate and 12 members for the syndicate's executive council.

In addition, conference participants

are discussing a number of journalism-related issues, including a state of freedom report, and a journalism code of ethics.

Seven candidates are running for the position of chairman of the syndicate, and over 90 others are running for membership of its executive council.

A report issued by the Yemeni organization Women Journalists without Chains cited 248 infractions of freedom of the press in 2008 alone, compared to 112 in the previous year.

Yemen ranked 155 of 173 countries in the 2008 index of press freedom compiled by Reporters Without Borders, a non-governmental media-freedom organization. According to the report, independent and opposition journalists face major restrictions and even prosecution, with dozens arrested and others physically attacked in the street.

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## Othman's children long for their father

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 15 — Yahia Othman's 10 children are concerned for the well-being of their father and his psychological state, as he has been in custody for almost a month without being formally charged.

With teary eyes and sad expressions, his eight sons and two daughters remember their father whom they describe as caring and loving.

The detainee's youngest daughter, ten year-old Amal who is in the third grade at school, when asked of her father's whereabouts innocently replies "in jail." "My father used to bring me toys and we would play together. I want my father back to help me revise and teach me English like he used to do everyday. I have not revised for the past month," Amal said innocently.

Twelve year old Kamal misses his usual activities with his father. "My father doesn't chew qat. During his spare time we would go boxing, wrestling and playing cards. Please free my father," he says with longing.

Detaining the main breadwinner of this family has interfered with the children's education. Ismail, 16, who was studying in the tenth grade, has dropped out of school to work. His older brother Abdul Rahman, who works in a furniture shop, is unable to assume complete financial responsibility for his family because he is following up the legal proceedings of his father's case.

"We miss our father. We used to have lunch and dinner together after coming home from work, but now a month has passed since we last ate with our father," said Ibrahim Othman.

Ibrahim added that they are unaccustomed to such a lengthy absence. "When our father would travel, he used to call us. Now we haven't heard anything from him and we don't know how he is."

"Now we are worried about him and about our own livelihood because, although the security services have yet to formally charge our father, they continue to detain him," Ibrahim



Othman's ten children have reshuffled their lives to accommodate the absence of their family's main breadwinner.

explained.

"I left my job and made my brother Ismail stop studying to work in my place so that I could follow up my father's case. I went to police stations and courts to ask why my father is being detained, but they are yet to tell me anything, and everybody keeps referring me from one person to another," Abdul Rahman said.

Othman's children called on President Ali Abdullah Saleh to consider their plight and bring their father back home. "We live in an apartment for which we must pay rent that reaches YR 50,000. If our father does not come back to work, we will not be able to pay the rent," said Abdul Rahman.

He added, "I sent letters of complaint to the Minister of Human Rights, the British Embassy, the Yemen observatory for human rights, and the Minister of the Interior, but only the British Embassy have responded positively, saying that they will tackle the issue through a 'humanitarian angle'."

Othman's children also called on the United Kingdom, as represented by the British embassy in Yemen, to take care of their father since he is also a UK citizen.

While on his way to work on February 16 Othman was detained by eight men in a Mercedes car. They were all wearing civil uniform except for one who wore a military uniform.

They pushed him into the car and confiscated his British passport and his personal laptop.

Earlier, Yemen Times went to the Security Operations officer to find out the nature of the charges against the detainee. The security operations officer phoned Harmal Al-Anqat, the Al-Alaya'a police station officer where the detainee is detained, and the latter simply replied, "Check with the Minister of the Interior; it is up to him."

The detainee has now been in custody for a month, and visits are not permitted. According to law, "this detaining is a criminal restriction of personal freedom," said Hashim Al-Dawla, one of Othman's lawyers.

## Women's Shadow Parliament welcomes elections' postponement

By: Almgidat Mojalli

SANA'A, March 14 — The Women's Shadow Parliament's 120 members expressed their relief towards the parliamentary elections' delay as they will now have more time to further qualify their candidates for elections now scheduled for 2011.

Comprised of former female candidates from the 2006 local councils' elections from 13 governorates, the Women's Shadow Parliament was founded by the Democracy School in collaboration with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI).

"We welcome the elections delay because now we will have more time to work as a shadow parliament," said Muna Al-Harthi, the head of the Shadow Parliament's training project.

Al-Harthi noted that members of the Women's Shadow Parliament will act like Members of Parliament (MPs) and will try to exert pressure on MPs to support women issues in Parliament.

The Democracy School started Feb. 21 a one-week training program for 120 Yemeni Women's Shadow Parliament members on lobbying techniques and advocacy.

Jamal Al-Shami, head of the Democracy School, stated that the trainees are from the governorates of Marib, Sa'ada, Hajja, Sana'a, Hodeidah, Abyan, Hadramout, Lahj, Shabwa and Aden. Al-Shami added that this is the third training session for the Shadow Parliament since December 2008.

"We started training last December and there was a second training program in January," said Al-Shami. "This one in Hodeidah is the third and will last one week."

"It's a good decision to postpone the elections because, had they taken place in April, they would not have been successful as there is still so much conflict," she added. "The Shadow Parliament will now work more effectively because it

has more time to meet officials and MPs."

According to Al-Shami, the training aims at preparing and strengthening the chance of women to run in the 2011 parliamentary and local elections.

Shadow MP Sabah Maghan from Lahj Governorate noted that that delay of the elections is in their favor as she and her colleagues will be able to meet more officials and achieve more for Yemeni women, especially with regards to fulfilling the women's quota of 15 percent.

"We will try to meet all Members of Parliament in our governorate and exert pressure on them to support the laws that support women," said Maghan.

Shadow MP Talha Al-Shara'abi from Abyan governorate pointed out that the election postponement will give them more time to participate in more training program to be ready enough to nominate themselves in the upcoming elections.

MP Senan Al-Aji stated that he is ready to receive the shadow MPs and talk to them about women issues and any other issues, as long as it doesn't contradict with either religion or the law.

Regarding women's representation in Parliament, Al-Aji mentioned that it is a social belief that a woman is not as trustworthy as a man.

Even when women see that a candidate is woman, they don't vote for her," he said. "But we accept the quota and, with the passage of time, women will have good representation in the parliament."

Al-Aji pointed out that women have governed Yemen twice and that, after Balqis and Arwa, and it will not be strange for more women to be elected to Parliament and participate in the political life. Although the women's quota in Parliament has been set at 15 percent, only one woman currently sits in the Yemeni Parliament.

Yemen's female Shadow MPs are scheduled to meet in April to elect the head of their parliament.

## Islah party concludes its fourth conference

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 15 — The Islamic Islah Party confirmed its new president Mohammed Abdullah Al-Yadumi as successor to the late Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar during the second part of its fourth conference last Thursday.

The party also agreed to widen circles of the general secretariat of the party, electing its Shoura council, nominating two assistant secretary generals and establishing a new division for women.

The Islah party conference started its second phase of activities last Wednesday in Sana'a, with 4,000 members -both men and women- participating in the event. It was also attended by leaders of the political parties, civil society organizations, ambassadors, members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps and journalists.

In its closing statement, the Islah party called on the government to recognize the issue of the south and tackle the impacts of the Sa'ada war. It said in its statement that "The practices of the government which are based on narrow loyalties and illegal interests constitute the root of the dangerous national crisis that the

country undergoes and its potential disastrous consequences."

"The agreement that the political parties reached to conduct electoral and political reforms during the past period, on the basis of which the fourth parliamentary elections were postponed for two years, is considered the last attempt to limit the scope of the crisis," said that statement, which called all parties "to work on achieving reforms that lead to conducting free and fair elections."

The Islah conference held the government responsible for, in particular, the situation of the national economy, the rise in unemployment, price hikes, the discrepancy in distributing resources and the mismanagement of public revenues.

It also condemned the failure of government and its ruling party to fulfill their promises to eradicate poverty and unemployment. It also condemned the government for not fulfilling promises related to achieving high rates of economic growth and varying sources of income in the official plans and programs.

The fourth general conference reconfirmed its call on the government to renounce its economic policy and to stop both official and secret meddling with prices behind

price hikes, particularly for main commodities from 2006 to 2008. It further stressed the necessity to reduce and maintain prices, particularly given the recent decrease of prices worldwide.

"The issue of the south resulted mainly from the policy of individuality and excluding partners from political life, the absence of equal citizenship as the government lent a deaf ear to the bases of political pluralism and principles of national partnership on which unity was established on May 22, 1990," said the statement.

It also said that the government's insistence on dealing with the challenges of the post-war period with haughtiness is among the reasons of the crisis in the south, and demanded the government deal with the issue seriously by returning ex-civil and military employees to their jobs.

The conference valued the effort and role of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) to stop the war in Sa'ada, calling on the government to manage the impacts of the war, compensate the affected, reconstruct war-torn areas, and take all measures possible to avoid violence or a new war.

The Islah party called on the government to close down illegal

prisons, stop illegal arrests, secret detaining, and the extraction of confessions, and to hold those who punish citizens for their political opinions accountable. It further stressed the necessity to cancel all political trials.

Media source reported that many leaders in the south preferred not to attend the conference, while others decided to participate out of loyalty to the party.

Representatives of the south interrupted sessions at the conference many times through oral and written interventions that demanded the Islah party deal with the southern issue seriously, away from all political intrigues. They also demanded that the Islah party apologize for its role during the 1994 war.

The Islah party's leaders in the north rejected interventions of the party's south leaders. They said that the southern issue should not be included in the closing statement of the conference, but left for the party's leaders to discuss.

Newspapers and websites had circulated news during the last few months about tension between the leaders of the Islah party in the south and north on all levels.

## New archeological sites in Shabwa

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, March 14 — Twenty-nine archeological sites dating back to the Stone Age were discovered in Shabwa by archeologists two weeks ago.

The sites comprise a group of ancient settlements containing graves, water channels, and fragments of flint stone. They are located on either side of a dirt road that links Ataq city with Salmoon region, according to Khairan Al-Zabidi, head of the General Organization for Antiquities and Museum (GOAM) in Shabwa.

"The sites were discovered during the first phase of the survey and exploration by the GOAM mission in the Shabwa, which covered 70 km over a period of seven days," he said.

"The sites are located in the same geographical region as that in which the Austrian oil and gas giant OMV is working," Al-Zabidi said. Last year Al-Zabidi urged all oil companies to consult with GOAM prior to carrying out any seismic surveys, as these can cause damage to archeological sites.

Only three oil companies currently cooperate with GOAM before they carry out seismic surveys to ensure that no

damage is done to archeological sites. They are Yemen LNG, Oil Search and OMV, according to Al-Zabidi.

Used by oil companies primarily for oil and gas exploration, seismic surveys employ dynamite charges, commonly buried between 50 to 100 ft deep, or vehicle-mounted vibrator plates to generate waves, the reflections from which are used to measure the quantities of oil or gas underground. The speed and strength at which the waves are reflected indicate what lies below. Unfortunately, this often damages or even destroys potential archeological finds.

In Shabwa there are two museums, one in Ataq and the other in Baihan, which contain the finds of several archeological excavation missions in Shabwa.

Shabwa has the greatest number of oil and gas companies operating in the area, and the seismic survey is used to explore oil in many parts of the country.

Shabwa region is found in the foothills of the Hadramaut plateau, near the Ramlat Al-Sab'atayn desert. It has many historic tourist cities, as well as sites dating back to the old Yemeni kingdoms such as Qatban, Awsan, and Hadramout.

## Pressure on government to release remaining detainees

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, March 14 — Human rights activists, representatives of Yemeni syndicates, local organizations and families of detainees staged a sit-in yesterday in At-Tahrir or "Freedom Square" calling for the release of the rest of the detainees of the Sa'ada war.

The sit-ins come as part of civil society organizations' efforts in coordination with the detainees' relatives to urge the government to release the captives and bring their suffering to an end.

They were arrested by the Political Security Organization (PSO) from the roads, mosques and universities without any justification and without being charged, and detained for up to four years without charges.

The demonstrators urged the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior to

implement the December 2008 orders of the President of the Republic in which he ordered the release of Sa'ada prisoners.

A number of children of the detained took part in the demonstrations and activities aiming to further urge the government to release the detained. Mock funerals were held for the death of humanity in reference to the ministers' lack of responsibility in addressing humanitarian issues.

Expressing their traumatic ordeals, children also raised slogans with painted pictures of their loved ones and innocent questions as to reasons behind the arrest of their family members and loved ones.

Responding to increasing pressure from Human Rights Watch, local human rights groups, civil society organizations and the media, President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered the release of 69 detainees at the beginning of the year who had

been arbitrarily arrested in a conflict between in Sa'ada.

Lu'ay Al-Muayyad, a human right activist, was one of one of the released detainees last September after having spent 75 days in the prison of the PSO.

Arresting Al-Muayyad has desensitized him against prison and being kept in custody. It has also given him a negative impression about Yemeni security authorities.

"The random way of arresting people and the treatment they receive inside the prison provokes the prisoner and leads him to extremism," said Al-Muayyad.

In the prison, detainees from Al-Qaeda, Houthis and Baha'i followers are detained together which often leads to scuffles. At other times, the shared feeling of injustice may unite them, according to freed detainees.

Al-Muayyad has lost some of his

friends who think he is a criminal, but also won the love and support of new ones in the face of adversity.

"There are so many oppressed people, especially the internally displaced persons, who haven't been to home since the beginning of the war [in 2004]. I hope the war will not return again," he adds.

At the beginning of 2009, the Houthis released 30 prisoners from the military and security forces in a step towards peace and to prove their good intentions.

"The solidarity with detainees will continue and the next phase of efforts will be intensive," said Ali Al-Dailami, executive director of Yemen Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms otherwise known as HOOD. "All the efforts will be peaceful and to seek justice and equal citizenship"

Fatima Al-Faqih, the wife of detainee Azezi Rajeh, described the suffering of a

detainee's family as "psychological torture." She stressed the tough life of many detainees' families whose bread-winners are in prison.

"Children have left their schools to go to the street to look for work" Al-Faqih said, adding that many family members are harassed in the street or at school only because they are Hashemite or are affiliated to the Zaidi religious sect.

Nasser Jubran was arrested while he was chatting on the internet. Security personnel stormed the internet café and arrested him believing that he was a Houthi follower. He was released with other 17 detainees in January 2009.

"I was surprised when I saw all the online conversations in print," said Jubran. "The person I was chatting with was a Hashemite and our conversations were sympathized with the victims of war in Sa'ada."

U.S. citizen Khalid Al-Sharif was also released in January 2009 after being detained for up to six months without charges. According to the Yemeni constitution, the basic elements of criminal procedure specify that public prosecutors must charge anyone arrested with a crime within 24 hours, or he should be released.

Only the judge has the authority to extend the period a detainee is held in custody for further investigation for up to seven days.

Yemen's Penal Code stipulates a prison sentence of up to five years for officials who wrongfully deprive persons of their liberty.

"People were detained without any charges" said Sadiq Al-Sharafi of Hemaya Organization for Rights and Freedoms. "The detention is illegal by all means."



In Brief

**HADRAMOUT**  
**Hadramout customs revenues reached YR2.6 bln in 2008**  
 Hadramout Customs Office made revenues at YR2.6 billion in 2008 with an increase of YR1.7 million compared with 2007 during which revenues reached YR1.9 billion.

Director of Hadramout Customs Office Abdullah al-Hamid has told Saba that the opening of al-Wadia outlet contributed in increasing revenues via increasing movement of export and import.

**SHABWAH**  
**104 Somali emigrants arrived in Yemen**

104 Somali emigrants, among of them 17 women and 16 children, arrived on Thursday to Radhum coastline in Shabwah province within the wave of displacement of migrants from the African Horn to Yemen coastlines, Interior Ministry website has reported. Security bodies in Radhum directorate indicated that it grouped them to the main camp at Karaz in Taiz province. In related context, security bodies said that 43 Somalis refugees, among them 26 women, arrived to Dhubab coastline and grouped them to the main camp in Karaz.

In Hadramout province, security bodies said that 40 Somali refugees arrived to Buroom coastline and handed them to the UNHCR representative in Maifah in Shabwah province.

**ADEN**  
**AFZ customs reached YR 133 mln last February**

Revenues of Aden Free Zone's (AFZ) customs increased during February 2009 amounting to YR133, 364,000 at an increase of YR58,816,000 comparing with the same period of the year 2008.

The General Director of Free Zone's Customs Abdul-Malik Ghushaim told Saba that the value of Yemeni exports through Containers Port during last February amounted YR602, 167,000.

The total number of containers marketed locally as various imported goods amounted 4,628 containers at an increase of 648 containers from the

same period of last year, Ghushaim added.

He attributed the increase in revenues to the maritime growing activity which the port witnesses represented in the movement of container ships arrived in the port coming from different international and neighboring ports.

**German language in 5 schools in Aden soon**

5 secondary schools in Aden are to start teaching German during the school year 2009-2010 within a program including 25 schools in different governorates carried out by the German House in collaboration with Goethe Institute.

The initiative of schools (future partners) aims to attract the attention of youth and introduces them to modern Germany and its society, The Germany expert Catherine Fitz told Saba.

She also noted that Goethe Institute will work on training teachers regularly and supplying the education means of German language as well as equipping schools with technical equipments and designing an online website under supervision of Goethe institute to improve the students' skills in using the modern technology and link the students in the world through chatting.

It is worth to mention that the Goethe Institute of the partner schools will present cultural projects like films, plays, parties, educational exhibitions and competitions.

**AIDS awareness course concludes in Aden**

Al-Fardous Foundation for Women Development, in collaboration with UNICEF organization, concluded on Thursday an awareness course on HIV (AIDS).

During the course, which targeted 25 participants from the coastal areas, the participants were introduced to the scientific guidance on AIDS and its ways of transmission and prevention to spread awareness on the AIDS risks among the society and the family.

**Training course on marketing, promoting methods to be held**

Training and Development Information Center in Aden city will organize a training course in the field of marketing and promoting methods.

The course, will be attended by 11 employees from the Aden Free Zone, aims at getting acquaintance with newest concepts in marketing and promoting fields as well as improving skills in the field of sale.

The director of the center Kafa al-Ariqi said that the trainees would be acquired with promoting strategy and how to collect information and deal with customers, in addition to the concept of marketing communications.

**GIA licenses three investment projects in Aden**

The office of the General Investment Authority (GIA) in Aden has granted during January/February 2009 licenses for three investment projects at a cost of YR 220 million.

A report issued by the office showed that the two of projects are tourist and the third one is an industrial project. According to the report, the three projects will provide 41 jobs opportunities.

**2nd int'l conference on blood diseases, tumors started in Aden**

The second international conference on Blood Diseases and Tumors in the diagnosis fields started on Tuesday in Aden under the title "Modern Technology of Diagnostic Treatment".

About 120 doctors and academicians from Yemen, Arab and foreign countries are participating in the conference which is organized by Aden University and the National Foundation for Combating Cancer in Aden for last two days.

45 researches and scientific papers will also discuss blood diseases and tumors in Yemen, and modern technology in diagnosis and treatment.

It is worth to mention that Aden governorate held the 1st conference for combating cancer disease which concentrated on the cause outbreak and ways of treatment of this disease.

**SANA A**  
**Honoring information pioneers, opening new projects**

Ministry of Information will organize on Thursday an honoring ceremony on the occasion of Yemen Media Day 19 March.

Minister of Information Ali al-Lawzi stated on Friday to 26 September paper that "there are preparations to celebrate the Yemen Media Day in a way to achieve the objectives of this distinguished day."

He noted that during the celebration, a number of Yemeni pioneering media men will be honored by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in addition to opening the new headquarters of Information Ministry and a number of important media projects.

**Yemen, Korea discuss signing loan's agreement worth USD15 million**

Deputy Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Alawi ba-Faqih and the delegation of the Korean Development Fund dis-

cussed Wednesday final procedures for signing the Korean USD15 million loan to Yemen.

The two parts discussed possibility of assigning part of the support, presented as prolong loan in the framework of Korean pledge in London Donor Meeting, for equipping Assaleh technical institutes topped by the poly-technic institute in Sana'a.

The two parts agreed on making use of the Korean consultant in defining aims and components of the loan as well as defining needs of the projects, analyzing offers presented by the ministry regarding equipping the institute and necessary preparations and developments for keeping pace with developments.

**Yemen Congregation for Reform kicks off forth conference**

Yemeni Congregation for Reform (YCR) began its forth conference with participation of more than 4000 members.

The conference, entitled "Peaceful Struggle is our Way for Comprehensive Reform" discusses in two days the general report presented by the party's Head of the Supreme Authority.

The report includes many issues; regulative, political, rights and freedoms for the period between the two rounds of conference.

The conference also discusses issues and developments on national, regional and international level.

In the conference, the head of the YCR's authority Abdullah al-Yadomi delivered a speech in which he affirmed that holding this conference and others on scheduled time represent practical embodiment to Shoura practices and level of its deepness in the party's interior affairs.

"The agreement, the political parities reached, for expanding the parliament period and delaying the forth parliamentary elections for two years puts us before great challenge and responsibilities," he said.

Then Assistant Secretary General of People General Congress, Head of Joint Meeting Parties and representative of woman delivered speeches on relations between the YGR and GPC, the national interest of delaying the elections and woman issues.

**Trial of 16 men accused of carrying out terrorist acts in Yemen**

A Primary Penal Court launched on Wednesday the trial of 16 suspected al-Qaeda militants, including 11 Yemenis, four Syrians and a Saudi, accused of forming an armed gang and carrying out several terrorist acts during December 2007- August 2008.

The terrorist acts included bomb attacks on oil institutions, military camps and police checkpoints as well as assaulting foreigners in embassies, companies and their residences in Sana'a, Hadramout and Aden governorates.

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Muhsen Alwan, the prosecution recited a list of charges and evidences against the defendants.

The prosecution demonstrated that the defendants had formed an armed gang for carrying out a number of crime and terrorist acts during the period from December 2007 through August 2008.

The prosecution said that the suspected militants had prepared all needful means of explosives, weapons, transport, forging car plate numbers, bomb-cars and motorcycles, renting houses and shops, telecommunication sets, false identities and military uniforms and women clothes for disguising. The accusations' list revealed that the suspects attacked in January 2008 a European tourist group and Yemeni workers at al-Hajarein area of Hadramout governorate, killing two Belgian tourists and their Yemeni driver and injuring others.

In March 2008, using mortars, they attacked a school nearby the US embassy in the capital Sana'a, injuring a number of the embassy's guards and the school's female students as well as damages in public and private properties.

In the same month, they made explosions in the main pipeline of TOTAL company, which led to damages in the pipeline and leaking big quantities of oil, a Chinese company and a residential complex of Canadian Nexen company in Sana'a.

In addition, the gang has carried out a number of explosions in police patrols

in several areas of Hadramout, injuring a number of soldiers.

The prosecution also recited the evidences list which included the confessions of the defendants during the prosecution's investigations, reports, documents and a list of seized evidences, demanding the court to apply the maximum lawful penalty against them.

For their part, the suspects denied the accusations. The court asked the prosecution to present its evidences in the coming hearing and adjourned the case until 17 March.

**Awareness program for rural women on utilization of plant, animal residues**  
 The Agricultural Cooperative Union is preparing a training and awareness project for Yemeni rural women to train them in the ways of utilizing animal and plant residues and introduce them to the risks of using chemical pesticides.

About 1600 Yemeni rural women would be targeted in the provinces of Sana'a, Hudaida, Lahj and Abyan, head of the Cooperative Women Division at the union Majeda Ba Kaheel said.

She noted the project comes under an agreement the union earlier signed with the Social Development Fund and will concentrate on raising awareness among rural women leaders about the effects associated with using chemical pesticides in an effort to reduce environment pollution in addition to how they can benefit from plant and animal wastes as fertilizer for soil.

Their News

**Cairo Conference 2009: Perspectives on Impact Evaluations**

Six hundred policy makers, development practitioners and researchers will be gathering in Cairo on March 29-April 2 to share experiences and lessons learned on what works and what does not work in terms of development assistance and how can evaluation contribute to development in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world?

Co-hosted by the African Evaluation Association (AfREA), the Networks of Networks on Impact Evaluation (NONIE) and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), the Conference will be preceded by a series of hands on workshop and 'evaluations clinics' led by leading experts in the field of evaluation and development from March 29 to March 31.

To find out more and register please go to: <http://www.impactevaluation2009.org/>

**International Women's Media Foundation Invites Neuffer Fellowship Applications**

The International Women's Media Foundation (<http://www.iwmf.org/>) is accepting applications for the 2009-10 Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship, which is awarded to women journalists who focus on human rights and social justice.

Full-time, part-time, or freelance journalists working on human rights or social justices issues are eligible to apply. Recipients spend nine months (September 2009 to May 2010) in a specialized academic research program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (<http://www.mit.edu/>). During that time, Neuffer fellows may also work with the Boston Globe or New York Times.

The fellowship includes housing with a local family, a stipend to cover meals, ground transportation, health insurance, and other living expenses. It does not provide a salary or honoraria.

The goal of the Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship is to provide a woman journalist with a transformative experience that will impact her career by offering her the opportunity to conduct research

at leading academic institutions and build journalistic skills.

The Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship and the related Elizabeth Neuffer Forum on Human Rights and Journalism seek to impact public awareness of human rights journalism by encouraging dialogue and discussion about critical human rights issues.

Who is eligible to apply for the fellowship?

The Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship is open to women journalists around the world whose work focuses on human rights and social justice. Journalists working in the print, broadcast and Internet media, including freelancers, are eligible to apply.

Applicants must have a minimum of three years of experience in journalism. Non-native English speakers must also have excellent written and verbal English skills in order to fully participate in and benefit from the program.

(For information on other journalism fellowships, see the International Center for Journalists' listing of fellowships: <http://www.icfj.org/fellship.html>.)

**Where will the fellowship take place?**

Each fellowship will be tailored specifically to the recipient. Working with the IWMF, the fellow will design a program that will enable her to pursue academic research while improving her ability to cover human rights and social justice by increasing her journalistic skill.

The fellow will be based at the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts as a research associate during the research component of the fellowship. During the journalism portion of the fellowship, she may spend time at The Boston Globe or The New York Times, either in their home offices or in bureaus in Washington, D.C., or the United Nations.

**What is the deadline?**

Completed applications must be received by the IWMF on or before April 15, 2009. Incomplete applications or applications received after the due date will not be considered.

DIA is a French international development NGO working in Yemen, Morocco, Cape Verde and Comoros. Its main objectives are the promotion of social justice and the improvement of living conditions for the most marginalized people. DIA has been active in Yemen since 1999 mainly in Taiz Governorate in two geographical areas (rural areas along the Red Sea coast by implementing Watsan projects and Taiz city for the social integration of the marginalized people). This new social integration project is currently funded by European Commission and the French Embassy in Yemen.

DIA is looking for: **HEALTH TECHNICAL ASSISTANT**

Intervention area: Taiz and surroundings

The Health technical assistant will be under the responsibility of the Project Manager. He / her will be in charge of Health activities within the project for a first period of 9 months (until the end of the current year), which could be renewed.

**Main tasks**

- To contribute to the implementation and the implementation of an Health Local Action Plan (Collaborative work process)
- To involve all stakeholders
- To do some technical health studies if necessary
- To plan and lead some workshops
- To propose for adapted methods
- To prepare the activities schedule and budget
- To supervise the activities
- To evaluate their impact

**Profile**

Professional experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be a doctor in Health (notably link to mother and child health), with a minimum of 3 years working in public or private Health sector in relevant facilities</li> <li>Experience in collaborative work process (with local authorities and CSO)</li> <li>Experience in managing a project with team building</li> </ul>
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent ability to write and speak English and Arabic.</li> <li>Computer literacy (Excel and in Word Software)</li> <li>Reporting skills</li> <li>To be able to create and propose tools linked to activities</li> <li>Ability to communicate easily with people</li> <li>Must be autonomous, dynamic, motivated, flexible</li> </ul>

**Deadline to apply: MARCH 21, 2009.** (CV + application letter in English) have to be delivered at the address below: DIA office - Kalaba / next to Al Saffa' Mosque - Taez or send by fax(04 274926 or 270559 ),Phone number 04 27 49 27

## Vacancy

AI-Amal Microfinance Bank  
 announces the following vacancy:

**Business Development Manager**

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Master / Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing, Economic Development or a related field.
- Good command in English Language.

**Function:**

The job holder will serve as the primary support to Executive Director in the implementation of the strategies and business development programs.

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- Oversee business development seminars and workshops
- Establish working relationships with public and private sector leaders and business peers
- Track data and accomplishments and report accordingly
- Assist in lead generation for marketing efforts.

**Having the right qualification and experience you are requested to download the job application from our website [www.alamalbank.com](http://www.alamalbank.com) ,**

**and submit it along with your CV to the email: [FaIghazali@alamalbank.com](mailto:FaIghazali@alamalbank.com) Or by mail to:**

**AI-Amal Microfinance Bank**  
**Bagdad Street, Close to the American Language Institute YALI - Sana'a-**  
**PO Box : 15114 - Tel: 01 449731.**

**Note: Only short-listed will be contacted for the interview.**  
**Job applications will not be accepted after: 25th March, 2009.**





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# A day with Fatima Al-Zuhairi: Behind every distinguished school an extraordinary principal

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

**F**atima Al-Zuhairi, principal at the Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya all girls public school, makes it a point to always be present at morning assembly at the start of every school day. She parks her car in the school's parking lot and, carrying her leather briefcase, heads directly to inspect lines of students in the morning assembly.

In her flowing black sharshaf [Yemeni traditional cover for women] with visible cuffs of a colorful shirt underneath, Al-Zuhairi scans students with her affectionate eyes and listens to them displaying their presentation skills in the students' morning reading from the Quran and welcome speech.

By the conclusion of the national anthem, she has posted herself at the second floor balcony to observe students head to their classrooms, as the sun gradually casts its light across the yard towards the classrooms.

Al-Zuhairi's office is bright and airy. Light streams through its windows, and plants adorn its walls, creating a welcoming environment for her visitors.

Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya school students carry Al-Zuhairi's impression wherever they go, by their distinguished uniforms, discipline and feel for beauty.

For some 16 years, Al-Zuhairi, has built a reputation of excellence for herself as a principal and for the Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya as a school. Unlike many other Yemeni school principals she always, puts the best interests of the students first.

Teachers are enthusiastic and happy to be members of her staff since she always

aims to raise students' creativity and educational excellence. She provides teachers with all they need to do that.

Attending one of her teacher's classes, Al-Zuhairi sits attentively like a hard working student, listening to the teacher explaining about physics and observing the teacher's interaction with students. She checks the notebooks of students around her. As a habit, teachers visit her office after she attends their class for feedback and comments. The physics teacher was thanked for her efforts and advised to use education aid tools.

Al-Zuhairi thinks of all her students and teachers as her children. She addresses them as 'ya binti' [my daughter] or 'ya ibni' [my son]. She always starts her conversation with teachers, students and employees with a question about their health and family.

"Ooh, you break my heart; I wish I didn't ask," she said, after listening to one of the teacher's explaining her husband's sickness.

Students do not hesitate before approaching their beloved principal. Especially bright students know that her office doors are always open. When a distinguished secondary level student enters her office, she stands up and rushes to embrace her, congratulating her for her excellent results.

She recalls when the school was still being built after her father donated the land on which it stands to the Ministry of Education.

"I was pointing at where I would create the theater, playground and library and everyone around me thought I was dreaming," she said, "Because of my



Al-Zuhairi has led Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya to the forefront of girl's secondary education.

strong will and God's help, I achieved lot of what I had in mind."

Al-Zuhairi's father Mohammed Ali was a philanthropist and built the neighboring Al-Rahman Mosque. Marked by a little girl who died in a car accident on her way to a distant school, he decided to secure a school for girls in the neighborhood so that they didn't have to travel far away for education.

The school was named Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya after a legendary Muslim female scholar, and Fatima Al-Zuhairi was appointed as its principal. It has been 16 years, which has been enough for Al-Zuhairi to realize her dream of leading this school to be one of the best public schools in the country.

Since 1994 and Al-Zuhairi assuming duties as the school's principal, she has defined a number of goals for herself. They are all about turning the school into the best in the country, and a model for all to follow. On both educational and moral

standards, she has brought her school to the top. The school is an all girls' school, except for the first two primary years.

Library, theater hall, computer lab, science labs, art studio, playground, handicrafts center, kindergarten and backyard garden: Each was a story of determination and of how dreams can come true.

But the vision does not end there. When Al-Zuhairi reaches one goal, she moves on to another. She never asks for direct financial support and would much rather ask donors to build a certain facility than donate money.

She believes that community change for the better always starts in school. She tries to plant good values like hygiene and water preservation in her students because she believes that "everything starts at school, and that today's girls are tomorrow's mothers and need to be prepared to create better generations."

"You can identify a nation by looking at its schools," Al-Zuhairi says.

A few years ago, the adjacent mosque's imam criticized her way of modernizing the school and holding annual bazaars, as extra curricular activities along with art performances and awareness raising activities. He claimed that the events were a cause for girls to stray, as the events include music and allows for indecent mixing between men and women. Al-Zuhairi decided to ignore such comments and not to argue with the imam. Instead the whole neighborhood, who knows her well, took up the responsibility of defending her and the school's activities.

She has always interacted with parents and extended a kind hand to them, even if they are being difficult. She always advises teachers to respect and cooperate with the parents.

"However rude a parent is, by listening and explaining the situation to him or her quietly, we make him or her apologize," said Al-Zuhairi.

She does not differentiate in her respect and attention between adults and young children. When a second grader's father was called to her office because of his first grade son vandalizing a part of a pavement, she insisted on talking to the child at first alone, before any punishment was set. She wanted to know the reason behind his violent act.

After a long conversation with him, she concluded that he believes his father loves his younger sister more than him. In the end, he promised to behave properly and to be her scout in the yard to report any mischief there. Once the issue was cleared, she received the father alone and described the situation, and the father promised to pay more attention to his boy.

"Your child tries to attract attention by violence, your responsibility as parents is to show love and care," Al-Zuhairi told the parent. "Please love all your children equally: Even when you hug, hug them all."

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT** **Oxfam**

**Campaign & Policy Officer**  
(Based in Sana'a - Yemen)

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces a vacancy for the post of Campaign and Policy Officer. This post is for 12 months covering maternity leave.

**The role**

- ¥ Facilitate and support the development of the campaign strategy, its objectives, monitoring indicators for measuring impact
- ¥ Support the partners to build campaign alliances
- ¥ Support the development of messages, media and communication strategy responsive and appropriate to the local and cultural context
- ¥ Assist in knowledge management and provide regular summary information and updates, overviews, newsletter, reports and communication material for learning within and outside of Oxfam
- ¥ Assist in budget tracking and its monitoring and prepare monthly and quarterly financial and progress reports
- ¥ Assist in the development of the proposal and funding plan for the campaign and provide donor reporting

**What we're looking for**

- ¥ Education in social sciences, economics or related fields or related discipline
- ¥ Good knowledge in project management preferably in policy and advocacy capacity
- ¥ Experience of program development work and a mature understanding of poverty and development issues
- ¥ Relevant knowledge, experience and good understanding of development, information, advocacy and campaigning work
- ¥ Experience of academic/action research
- ¥ Strong analytical and thinking and ability to present complex information to a wide range of people
- ¥ Excellent written and verbal communication (in English and preferably in Arabic) including representation skills, report writing skills and negotiation and influencing skills
- ¥ Ability to work within a team and at an individual level
- ¥ Commitment to all aspects of equal opportunity and diversity including promoting gender equality and strong commitment to the aims of Oxfam's work
- ¥ Able to travel within Yemen and if necessary outside of Yemen
- ¥ Good organizational skills and an ability to work under pressure and to deadlines

**To apply**

Please send a copy of your CV with covering letter clearly outlining how you meet the requirements of the job to:

**The Human Resources Department, Oxfam GB Yemen**  
P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen,  
Fax no: 01 445 650 OR Email: [yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk)

**Closing date: 31st March 2009**

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REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION  
YEMEN-HEALTH POPULATION PROJECT (Y-HPP)

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Republic of Yemen has received a grant from Japan (PHRD No. TF-93103) to cover the preparation for the Yemen-Health Population Project financed from International Development Association (IDA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments to cover the cost of the contract for recruitment of

### Technical Coordinator

The Ministry of Public Health and Population and PHRD Grant management Unit (GMU) now invites Yemeni qualified applicants for the position according to the job description and qualification below:

#### SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Technical Coordinator will work under the supervision of the Grant Management Manager. The Technical Coordinator will be responsible for the following:

1. Ensure that timely and accurate collection of the descriptions & evaluations of relevant projects. Such projects include Project (HSS), the Maternal and Neonatal Health Project (MNH), population and related activities of the UNFPA, and any UNICEF.
2. Ensure that proper mapping of donor support to the MOPHP for H&P programs and health systems strengthening is done, and donor programs/projects, monitoring and evaluation methods and findings/lessons learned to date).
3. Ensure that all existing systems-level instruments/tools to support various integration initiatives are identified, collected and catalogued.
4. Prepare detailed description of the governorates selected to be financed under the HPP, based on indicators/descriptors selected collaboratively by the MOPHP and the World Bank project team.
5. Prepare the TORs for additional consultants who will carry out other project preparation studies and other related activities as agreed upon with the Project Preparation Team and ensure their related work inputs are available at the initiation of these activities. He/she will also monitor and ensure the quality of the consultants' deliverables.
6. Monitor the progress of implementation of the project preparation plan and collaborate with the M&E Consultant and the Grant Manager.
7. Take the lead in the preparation and the finalization of the project implementation plan (including the project action plan, the project procurement plan, and the project disbursement plan), the project operations manual, and the project key performance indicators.
8. Work with MOPHP representatives of the four sectors to ensure that activities proposed in the project are consistent with the overall project preparation plan, with MDG 4 and MDG 5.
9. Coordinate with other donors with respect to plans and activities related to the preparation of the HPP.

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Advanced degree in discipline related to Health Planning and Health System Development.
- A minimum of 10 years of professional experience in related field.
- Proven experience in planning/implementing/integrating/supervising health and population services in Yemen
- Proved record of capability in carrying out similar tasks
- Fluency in written English Language
- Proficiency with all office software
- Experience with systems and services level policy instruments and processes (e.g., logistics management, HMIS, quality improvement)

Interested applicants, who strictly meet above requirement, may submit their applications with their CVs and supporting documents to address below during office hours at or before 13:00 hrs on 13th Apr 2009.

Selection will be processed in accordance with IDA (World Bank) guidelines for selection and employments of consultants.

Ministry of Public Health and Population  
Grant Management Unit (GMU)  
4th Floor — Al-Hassaba, Sana'a  
Tel: +967-1-252224  
Fax: +967-1-251622  
Email: mohamedf@mophp-hrsp.org

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION  
YEMEN-HEALTH POPULATION PROJECT (Y-HPP)

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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### Financial Manager

The Ministry of Public Health and population and PHRD Grant Management Unit (GMU) now invites Yemeni qualified applicants for the position according to the job description and qualification below:

#### Specific duties and responsibilities

The Financial Manager will work under the supervision of the Grant Manger. The Financial Manager will be responsible for the following:

- Manage and supervise all daily financial activities of the project
- Ensure that there is a functional financial management system
- Contribute to the development of the project's Operational manual
- Establish proper accounting procedures and internal controls to ensure that the assets of the project are properly safeguarded.
- Solve any technical problems that may arise with the financial management of the project.
- Supervise subordinate accounting staff, as may be required, to assist with the operation of the Project's financial management.
- Supervise the Project's Special Account
- Ensure that required financial management reports for the project are produced on a timely basis.
- Prepare the annual and quarterly budgets for the Project operations and financial planning
- Input data entry in accounting systems as necessary and review data entered by the accountant.
- Assist in contracting of the external auditor on an annual basis and follow up on any auditor findings and recommendations,
- Follow up with the implementation of the agreements and contracts signed by the project's personnel.

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. University degree in accounting or finance.
2. A minimum of five years of professional experience in a financial management and accounting position.
3. Familiarity with the government's and IDA's financial management requirement.
4. Experience in the use of accounting programs and software.
5. Experience with computers and accounting software and programs.
6. Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

Interested applicants, who strictly meet above requirement, may submit their applications with their CVs and supporting documents to address below during office hours at or before 13:00 hrs on 13th Apr 2009.

Selection will be processed in accordance with IDA (World Bank) guidelines for selection and employments of consultants.

Ministry of Public Health and Population  
Grant Management Unit (GMU)  
4th Floor — Al-Hassaba, Sana'a  
Tel: +967-1-252224  
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### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS

### FOR RESTRUCTURING AND PERFORMANCE

### IMPROVEMENT OF THE CIVIL AVIATION AND METEOROLOGY

### AUTHORITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The Government of Yemen (GoY) has negotiated a loan agreement from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). Part of the (AFESD) financing will be used towards modernizing and restructuring the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA) of the Republic of Yemen which is an autonomous body entrusted with the control and responsibility of Yemen Civil Aviation and Meteorology.

The objectives of the consultancy services are to assist the government in formulating and implementing the appropriate development strategies to improve the performance of the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority in the Republic of Yemen.

The anticipated duration of the services is 12 months from the date of contract signature with the awarded consultant.

The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA), now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Yemeni High Tender Board's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 09:00 to 11:00 (local time) Saturday to Wednesday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 20th May 2009.

Mr. Hamed Ahmed Farag  
Chairman, Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, (CAMA)  
Building No. 28, Zubairi Street,  
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#### Required documentation includes:

1. Two recent color passport photographs
2. Copy of ID or passport
3. Copy of supporting documents for educational and experience background
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*Dr. Abdullah Ali Al-Zalab, Director General of the Yemeni Radio and Television Corporation, to the Yemen Times:*

## “We are progressing but we need money”

Information partnership between the Yemeni Radio and Television Corporation and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Radio and Television Institution to produce joint broadcasts is well underway. Last month Yemen officially joined the GCC Radio and Television Institution. Ismail Al-Ghabri spoke to Dr. Abdullah Ali Al-Zalab, director general of the Yemeni Radio and Television Corporation about the development of media in Yemen.



### Are there any plans to update the old archives of radio stations?

It is very important to save and properly store audio-visual archives. It is a big and costly project that requires a lot of effort. The audio-visual archives in Yemen will be stored digitally and the ruined parts of them, particularly the historical and very important documents, will be restored. Another project is the establishment of a news center that will be a center for a news channel in the future. This center's tender was announced and procedures will be completed soon.

### Television and radio stations are still running programs that were designed some decades ago. Are there any plans to develop these programs to cope with changes in radio and television?

We provide training to build the capacities of people in media as a top priority. These programs can be further developed. We also have plans for structural changes to assist decentralization and other complicated aspects.

Unfortunately, some people still believe that it is possible to run the media with the mentality of the sixties or seventies. Reforms are continuous and we will no doubt stay up-to-date with global changes and development. We face a great challenge ahead.

An initiative to reform the audio-

visual sector will begin with adopting a new law for television and radio broadcasting. In addition, other private channels and radio stations will be established to meet the growing needs of the Yemeni audience, achieve development goals and cope with change.

A number of new channels have recently been launched, but unfortunately, due to a lack of promotion, they are not very popular and their viewers are limited. Are there future plans to address this? Are there any plans for other specialized channels, whether in foreign languages or in any field of culture?

It is currently difficult to promote some channels because of financial reasons. However, there is scope to widen the audience, according to the needs and goals of the state.

Media requires a long-term commitment and much financing. With the money allocated to establish two channels, we are now financing three channels. We also have ten radio stations running with the same capacities of the two radio stations in the past.

There is no increase in the financial allocations of the corporation. On the contrary, there is a huge shortage in

funds, whether for investment projects or the operational budgets of programs. We also suffer from the weakness of the advertising market in Yemen.

Businessmen and companies hesitate to spend on advertising. There is no strong private sector in Yemen to be our partner in supporting programs. Had we had sufficient support, we would have developed many new programs, particularly youth programs both on radio and television.

We suffer both from a shortage in allocations from the government and a shortage in revenues from advertising. We are currently studying plans to increase revenues and this can be a new step.

### What about programs in foreign languages? Are there any channels that can reflect the reality of development in Yemen?

We really need new programs in the framework of the current channels. For example, Saba Channel may broadcast some hours in foreign languages particularly English. In public programs, coverage in English is extended, given attention to and developed in terms of quantity and quality.

Our staff needs capacity building. Media in foreign languages is strongly required as we are living a stage in which there are regional and international blocs and huge changes.

Consequently, we should be ready because no one will hear us unless we attract their attention. We should rise up to the level of the challenge. Yemen is facing many political, economic and security challenges, and we need a strong media to target foreign countries in their own language and to hold a dialogue with others.

### Do your plans include training programs that aim to qualify personnel in the media institutions to meet the required level of expertise?

Yes, of course. Since I took on the responsibility of the corporation and before that, training was a strategic target. It represents a cornerstone for any development in any field of innovative work. It is human rather than technological work. It focuses on humans and building their capacities.

We have ambitious training programs, notably in cooperation with specialized institutes, television and radio in Asia and Europe. The future in this field is promising. We cooperate with Denmark, Germany, Malaysia, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, France and the Arab Radio Federation.

The projects and cooperation need to be large as the number of employees in the corporation is very big. The corporation alone constitutes half the workers in the field of media. Media Corporation has one thousand employees and radio and TV Corporation has over 3,900 employees.

### How have you built capacities during the last two years?

We are progressing but we need funds. This is the major obstacle. We receive assistance from the Ministry of Higher Education and donors to raise the capacities of personnel and to train them. But, if there is no annual budget on education, training and qualifying, there will be no new media.

### How do you assess performance?

There is an annual evaluation for the corporations and those who run them. Some bodies in the government assess our performance. We need neutral corporations and specialized research centers to evaluate us. This currently does not exist.

We are preparing to contract with research centers to evaluate our television and radio programs. Through this evaluation, we can evaluate ourselves by measuring how many people listen to and watch our programs. This is very important.

## Children of Sa'ada detainees protest through drawing

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori  
For the Yemen Times

The children of Sa'ada war detainees are drawing to express their parents' ordeal as well as their own, and to demand the government release their parents.

They have held many sits-in in front of both the Cabinet and Parliament. During these, they protested peacefully in many ways. Their last activity was a symbolic funeral procession for "humanity" from the Cabinet to the Parliament.

Detainees' children held up the slogan "the death of humanity," referring to the lack of humanity of those who still haven't carried out the president's Ramadan directives to release all detainees of the Sa'ada war.

As the children found their sits-in in front of the government to be fruitless, they turned to art to express their suffering to the incumbent bodies in the government. Their drawings were exhibited in Sana'a last Monday.

Zaid drew a dove with an olive branch in its beak to represent peace. He said he hopes for his whole family to live together after his father's release.

Amani drew a picture of a man without a face. She said that she no longer remembers the face of her father

because he has been detained for so many years.

Aisha drew a picture of a girl gazing out the window at her friends on their way to school knowing she cannot join them. The picture, she says, expresses her regret at not being able to continue to go to school after her father was detained, because the fees are too expensive.

Civil society organizations participated in the event, demanding the release of Sa'ada detainees. Ali Al-Dailami, director of the Yemeni Organization for Freedoms and Rights or HOOD, said that through the exhibition children of detainees aimed to send a message to incumbent bodies to contribute to the release of the detainees.

Al-Dailami said that there are currently 80 detainees still in prison, whose periods of imprisonment vary from several months to over a year. He pointed out that, following the president's directives to release detainees, only a number of them were released while the others remain in detained without having been proven guilty.

On the occasion of the exhibition, children of detainees and representatives of human rights organizations held a press conference during which they renewed their demands to the government to carry out the directives to release Sa'ada detainees.



## JOB VACANCIES ISLAMIC RELIEF YEMEN



Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY – A British INGO) is announcing the following vacancies for National Professional Personnel based in Sana'a Governorate (with travel to other governorates) for Strengthening the Capacity of Yemeni Civil Society Organizations (NSACSO):

### 1. Position: Project Training Advisor Duration: 24 months

#### Responsibilities:

The Project Training Advisor reports to the Project Manager and expected to:

- ¥ Plan, coordinate, manage, supervise project training activities
- ¥ Responsible for the planning and implementation a comprehensive annual high quality training plan for HFY and CSOs.
- ¥ Provide technical support and experience in the area of CSO capacity building.
- ¥ Take lead in the design and development of the training manual and materials.
- ¥ Report to the Project Manager and will be responsible for monitoring the progress of the workshops, and conducting follow-up activities.
- ¥ Ensure that all project training materials are periodically reviewed and updated in the context of new information or demands by partners.
- ¥ Ensure that all training materials maintain the highest standard of technical information as well as the lay out.
- ¥ Prepare a more detailed implementation schedule and in harmony with the other project components and staff for the project (work plans/action plan etc.)
- ¥ In conjunction with project staff ensure that project finances are in order and properly managed
- ¥ Maintain good working relations with government officials, at national and governorate levels. Maintain and extend good working relations with Humanitarian forum and other CSOs.
- ¥ Maintain and develop relations with other organizations, including donors and INGOs involved in the strengthening of CSOs.
- ¥ Promote team building, experience sharing and learning among CSO and HFY and local staff
- ¥ Prepare project promotional material in hard and electronic forms and organize relevant events and functions.
- ¥ Make sure that there is a systematic documentation of the

process, outcomes and lessons learnt for future initiatives and for sharing within IRY and with the stakeholders.

- ¥ Assist in identifying possible support actors (trainers, translators, facilitators etc).

#### Requirements:

**Education:**  
¥ A minimum of a degree in development studies, NGO management, international relation or other relevant field study. A post-graduate degree would be an advantage.

#### Experience

- ¥ Seven to nine years of directly relevant experience in the area of Civil Society Organization (CSO) development, civil education, NGO management and networking is desirable
- ¥ Additional training in relevant subject areas such as civil education, participatory techniques
- ¥ Fluent in written and spoken Arabic and English
- ¥ Excellent communication skills, capacity to both lead and work as part of a team and good interpersonal qualities is required.
- ¥ Work experience in and knowledge of Yemeni context and demonstrate a capacity to innovate and be flexible will be particularly advantage
- ¥ Excellent knowledge of utilizing technologies such as computers and other office equipment.

### 2. Position: Admin and Accounts Assistant Duration: 24 Months

#### Responsibilities:

- ¥ Accounting of all incoming and outgoing financial transactions
- ¥ Oversee purchasing inventory, transport, and procurement of project materials
- ¥ Recording transactions according to project guidelines
- ¥ Ensuring financial reports are transparent, accurate and representative

- ¥ Producing monthly reports, and assuring adequate cash on hand.
- ¥ Meeting arrangements and minute taking
- ¥ Maintaining the filing system
- ¥ Maintain smooth office operations including provision and operation of equipment.
- ¥ Perform other duties as deemed necessary

#### Requirements:

- ¥ University degree in accounts/finance
- ¥ Minimum of three years experience in finance and accounting field: proficiency in computerized accounting systems
- ¥ Good knowledge of internal accounting procedures and reporting systems
- ¥ Computer skills in both Arabic and English languages

### 3. Position: Driver Duration: 24 Months

#### Responsibilities:

- ¥ Drive a motor vehicle as requested, with due regard to time schedules, apply knowledge of driving regulation, safety requirements, traffic and conditions; take suitable precautions for the security of the vehicle and its contents when left unattended
- ¥ Ability to deal with various government authorities to process paperwork
- ¥ Make minor purchases and collect required goods from local supplier on demand
- ¥ Maintain legal status of vehicle, cleanliness and appearance
- ¥ Carry out clerical duties upon request including photocopying and logistical support

#### Requirements:

- ¥ Minimum of Primary education
- ¥ Drivers license, knowledge of driving rules and regulations and possess skills in minor vehicle repair
- ¥ Five years work experience as a driver with safe driving record
- ¥ Minimum knowledge of English is a plus

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 30th March 2009.

Admin Department — Ref: NSACSO/IPD/150309

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

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief

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## Words of Wisdom



Malnutrition among children is a dangerous problem. Its future costs are enormous. It leads to stunted growth and more vulnerability. Therefore, it deserves our immediate attention. Offering food supplements in schools in poor neighborhoods should be considered. Charity organizations and NGOs, in direct or indirect partnership with the state could handle this responsibility. Malnutrition is an issue we must address.

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

OUR  
OPINIONPublic money,  
our right

An illiterate woman from Bangalore, India, was in her house minding her own business, when one day a politician running in the parliamentary elections knocked on her door. He persuaded her that, if she voted for him, he would build a desperately-needed health unit for the local community.

She votes for him, he is elected, he builds the health unit and our friend goes to see. She is disappointed and angry to find out that the health unit is merely a badly-constructed single brick room. She meets with a journalist who finds out for her how big the allocated budget for the unit was. She works out that the budget was much more than the money invested into the health unit, and launches a rally.

Our hero gathers three hundred women from the local community, calls the press and heads off to Parliament. Denied access, she begins to move the crowds and, in front of three independent TV channels gathered by her journalist friend, she starts demanding to be let in. Embarrassed by the media attention and curious crowd, the speaker of Parliament orders to let her in.

She takes the stand and starts talking: "My son usually does the grocery shopping for us. I send him to the market with money and a list of goods to buy. When he comes back, he tells me the prices of goods and I add them up, and I know how much money he should give me back. I am not an educated woman, but I can figure out the costs of things and I know that the health unit built in my neighborhood does not cost the amount dedicated to it. And like I demand my son to return the remaining money, I am here with three hundred women to ask you what you did with our money that we trusted you with."

This lady from Bangalore did not go to school abroad. She was not trained by any organization on transparency, community mobilization or any of the like. She was a woman who knew that the public money allocated to the health unit was by right her community's. She had the courage and the integrity to demand her right, to hold the man she entrusted to act in the community's best interest accountable.

We in Yemen feel that when a politician builds a school, or inaugurates a project that he is doing us a favor. But, in reality, he is taking money from our pockets to channel it into the project, and extracting a huge percentage for his and his friends' pockets in the process. We don't realize that when a project is not completed -when we lose money because of inefficiency or corruption- that that money is taken from us.

This money could have been invested in our future and our children's future. Instead of feeling indebted to politicians and clapping for them every time a new project is created, we should hold our leaders accountable. We should ask them what they did with our money and whether it was used to serve our best interests or not.

Our hero from India ended up created a civil society organization to monitor public spending. She has become a community leader and put things right just because she realized what her rights are. We don't need to be highly educated or have a large organization behind us to stand up and demand what is rightly ours. It is time to hold those who control our money accountable, for our sake and the sake of generations to come.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Permanent coup d'état against the Constitution

By: Mohamed Al-Saqqaf

I am using this phrase from the title of a book written by the former French president Francois Mitterrand in 1964 as an opponent to the regime of General De Gaulle in France. But there is absolutely no room for comparison between the democracy of De Gaulle, who did not continue in power for more than ten years after the failure of the April 1969 referendum, and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh who has been in power for more than 30 consecutive years.

The decision taken by Parliament on the Feb. 26, 2009 following the agreement of the ruling party the General Peoples' Congress (GPC) and the opposition's coalition the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) to postpone the date of the parliamentary elections due in April 2009 for two years came as no surprise. I had already expected the outcome in an article on Dec. 16, 2008 published in the Al-Ayyam newspaper for the two following reasons.

If the elections had been held on time, Parliament would have been elected for six years as stipulated by the 2001 Constitution amendment, which added two years to the term of Parliament and extended the presidential term from five to seven years.

In his 2006 platform, the President promised that he would reduce the Parliament's term to four years and the President's term to five as it used to be. But the issue here is not that an electoral promise should be fulfilled, rather that the regime wants to change the current political system from a semi-parliamentary and semi-presidential one into a presidential system of government, as the Yemeni Constitution is based on a difference between the term of Parliament and President in favor of the President.

The objective of the amendment proposed by the President on Sept. 24, 2007 is to "zero the mileage". As his current and last term will expire in 2013, there is a need to

change the current system into a presidential one to start two new terms of 5 years each. This change requires a constitutional amendment needing the approval of three quarters of the members of Parliament and of the public in a general referendum.

From here, the importance of passing these constitutional amendments is evident to guarantee the continuation of the President for further terms, and this could be achieved under a parliament in which the GPC enjoys the required majority. GPC has 229 seats in the current Parliament, which equals to 76 percent of 301 seats, while the JMP's share does not exceed 58 seats or 19.3 percent. If elections had been held on time, the GPC might have lost seats to the opposition, which is why it elected to postpone the elections by extending the term of Parliament for two additional years.

A contribution to this extension is the decision of Parliament on Nov. 23, 2008 to amend the local authority law by extending the term of local councils, due to expire in August 2009, by four more years without any elections. After the amendment, the law provided that local council elections should be held simultaneously with parliamentary and presidential elections, and already indicated that the parliamentary elections due in April 2009 would not be held on time.

The question raised here is whether postponing parliamentary elections for two years without elections is to pass the constitutional amendments as an extraordinary case, or whether it is yet another blow in the series of the permanent coup against the Constitution. What are the political dimensions of this recent postponement decision?

**Amendments a tool to maintain power**

Since the establishment of the Republic of Yemen through unification of the southern and northern parts of the country on May 22, 1990, the country has witnessed two constitutional amendments in 1994

and 2001. There were also several extensions for the terms of all constitutional establishments: presidency, Parliament and local councils.

To realize the objective of maintaining power, both legal and completely illegal tricks were used.

The Constitution of the Unification after the May 1991 referendum May 1991 has been amended more than once. To be more accurate, 76 percent of it was replaced without a referendum in September 1994 to determine the President's term for five years for two terms and Parliament's term for four years. The February 2001 amendment further extended the President's term from five to seven years and the Parliament from four to six.

The term of the president was fixed by two terms each of 5 years. These two terms were due to expire in September 2004 but were extended until September 2006. Instead of ten years, it is now 19 years - a whole nine years difference!

The reason for this divergence is that the term 1994-1999 after the first presidential elections was not considered as a first term, although article 158 of the 1994 constitution was clear. The elections of 1999 were considered to be the first term of presidency for 5 years expiring in 2004. In 2001, a constitutional amendment adding two years to this term was illegally and retroactively applied to extend this term to the year 2006. The second term then started in 2006 to end in 2013.

Parliament has so far witnessed three electoral cycles. Its first term from 1993 to 1997 was for four years. Its second was extended from 1997 to 2003 to six years and, after the recent decision, Parliament's latest term which started in 2003 has now been prolonged to eight years.

The two additional years in the second term were adopted after a constitutional amendment in February 2001, two months before the end of the term in April 2001. The same practice was repeated by a recent decision from the parlia-

ment on Feb. 26, 2009 by adding two more years before the elections due on April 27, 2009.

With regards to the local councils, their first term was extended from two to five years by a law amendment to end in September 2006. As for the three year second term to start in 2006, it was extended a law amendment until September 2013 so that the council elections can coincide with the presidential elections.

**The importance of controlling Parliament**

From 41 percent of seats in Parliament in 1993, the GPC has slowly gained ground obtaining 62 percent of the seats in 1997 and 76 percent in the 2003 elections.

Through its parliamentary majority, the GPC has established a bicameral system by creating the Shura Council in 2001, composed of 111 members fully appointed by President Saleh. The council has some joint competencies with the elected parliament, and enjoys an indefinite term.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar chaired Parliament from 1993 to his death at the end of 2007. His deputy has chaired Parliament from 2008 until now.

All three members of the Shura Council are from the GPC. The Chairman, Abdulaziz Abdulghani is in post since 2001. The interesting thing is that the head of the constitutional committee in Parliament, Abu Halaikah, has been in post since 1993. A similar committee in the Shura Council is chaired by Ismail Al-Wazir, former minister of justice and an expert in constitutional amendments.

By this, President Saleh can pass the constitutional amendments he wishes to make and disables any possibility for the opposition to make any amendments without the approval of his party.

Thus, through Parliament, he controls the nomination process of presidential candidates and guarantees his own nomination.

Through Parliament, he controls

the approval or rejection of international agreements, such as the renewal agreement for the Hunt oil company. Likewise is the case of the International Criminal Court. The parliament approved its convention on March 24, 2007 but then nullified this in another session on April 7, 2007.

The ruling party can also pass laws related to press, parties, elections and the judiciary that cannot be passed without parliamentary majority.

**Political dimensions**

The decision taken on Feb. 26, 2009 to extend Parliament's term by two years is interesting. If the purpose is to enable the GPC and JMP to reach an agreement on constitutional amendments and to change the electoral system, from past experience this does not need more than six months.

Furthermore, the Socialist and Nasserite parties, who are members of the JMP, objected in 2001 to the extension of the presidential and parliamentary terms without elections on the basis that such a move would be illegal. Why now then do they accept it now?

Is the agreement, as some maintain, related to concerns that southern protest movements might result in the dissolution of the Yemeni state and the independence of the south? Is it also to address the crisis of Sa'ada and the dominant fears of the ignition of a sixth war against the Houthis?

Regardless of the true reasons behind this decision, the opposition voting in favor of the decision shows that the ruling elite in the GPC and the JMP cannot be envisaged to build the state of law.

However, there is a possibility that the parties might change their mind during the next two months, before April 25, by refusing to ratify the constitutional amendment. But will they do it? I hope so, but without too much optimism.

Mohamed Al-Saqqaf is a PhD graduate from Sorbonne University

## Qat and water: which ends which?

By: Omar Al-Hayati

Wasting underground water for qat agriculture constitutes a danger that has affected the quantity of water stocks in the basins and valleys of Yemen, particularly in those areas that are suitable for qat cultivation.

The qat tree is considered to be the highest water-consuming plant in Yemen. It consumes around 80 percent of underground water, particularly given that qat farmers use the inundation method of irrigation. This method is traditional and wastes water resources in a very rapid way. The problem with qat agriculture consists in the fact that we don't have a clear and transparent vision on how to deal with this tree.

There should be either a target to prevent growing and marketing qat based on a national strategy to combat and eradicate it, or another kind of vision that establishes research centers to work on creating seedlings and shoots that are more resistant to drought, more productive, and more resistant to insects and diseases that infect this tree. In addition, farmers should be guided and supported in the usage of modern ways of irrigation in qat cultivation, either through spray or drip irrigation methods.

There can also be a more economic vision through importing qat from Ethiopia in order to ensure the cur-

rent water resources in Yemen are kept from being wasted. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia set an example in this field as it reduced its production of crops in order to maintain its stock water after specialists noticed that water basins were approaching depletion. Therefore, Saudi Arabia turned to import wheat from abroad whereas previously it had been self-sufficient in this field.

A recent three year study of qat was conducted by the Agricultural Research Corporation, and the findings were presented by Dr. Ahmed Al-Hadrani in his book "Qat Scientific Encyclopedia." According to the findings of this research, qat consumes 11 percent of the total water used for agriculture in Yemen. Water consumption of qat is estimated at 6279 cubic meters per acre. This means that qat consumption exceeds wheat in its consumption of water, which consumes about 4252 cubic meters per acre. Qat in Sana'a alone consumes around 60 million cubic meters of water per year, which is double the consumption of the inhabitants themselves. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in its 1995 report said that qat consumption in Yemen is estimated at 800 million cubic meters per year. The production of this quantity of water is 25 thousand tons of qat. Every ton of qat consumes 32 thousand cubic meters of water. That is, a bunch of qat consumes 16 cubic meters of water and this quantity constitutes 8 percent of the water

that a person in Yemen consumes per year.

It is clear through findings of researches and studies that water is being wasted in qat cultivation and through a lack of applying modern scientific methods. Therefore, a danger of water depletion approaches; indications of this have already begun in Sana'a, Taiz, and Ibb governorates.

Qat is the most water-consuming plant in Yemen. It is the number one cause of the depletion of water basins in Yemen. Water is the issue that should be highlighted during the upcoming years to face the dangers

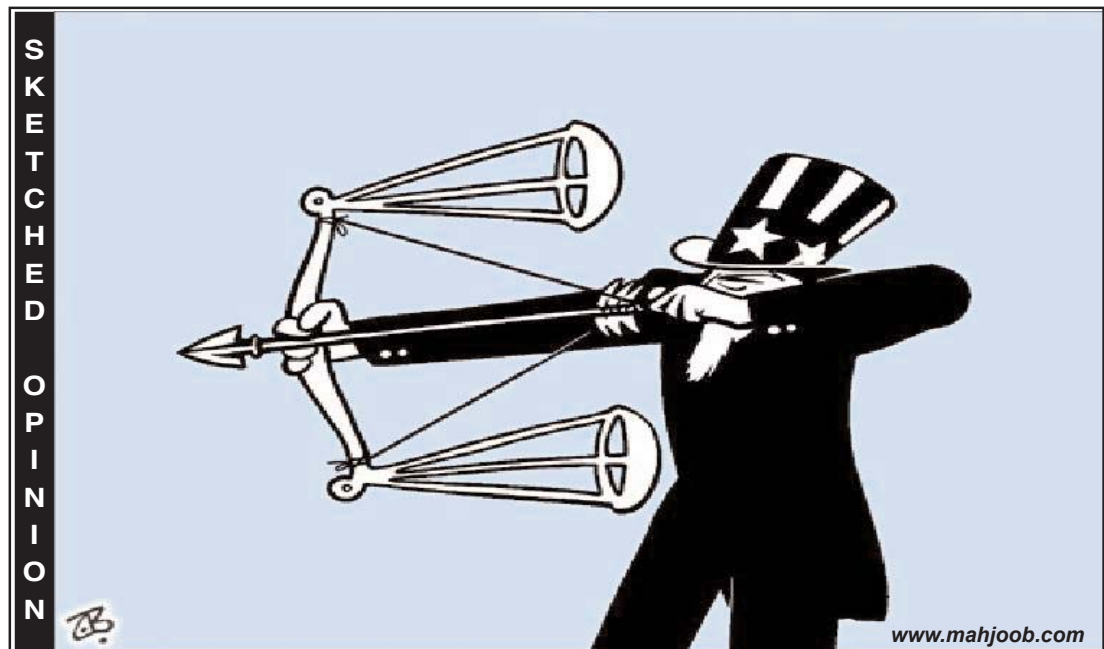
that surround us due to drought and water depletion. Environmental experts warn against climate change that may hit the whole region with droughts and high temperatures.

The expansion of qat cultivation in recent years resulted from the lucrative profits that farmers of this tree harvest as well as the increasing demand for it. The total area used for qat farming is estimated at 136 thousand acres. In the end, this is a humanitarian, economic, and health disaster that affects people of this country. A lack of national strategies that work to face the dangers of qat or to build capacities of qat farming

using modern economic methods indicates a lack of vision toward this issue or the possible outright ignoring of these dangers. It certainly indicates a lack of commitment to responsibility and a lack of a vision for the future.

Waiting until a huge potential disaster takes place means that the incumbent bodies are avoiding the burden of their national, moral, and religious responsibilities. Preserving water drops from waste and over-consumption is a joint responsibility of both the society and the government.

Source: newsyemen.net



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YEMEN TIMES

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First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000  
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# Yemen Press Review



**Al-Eshteraki.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Socialist Party**  
Wednesday, March 11, 2009

**Top Stories**

- JMP Youth Sector denounces government wrong practices

During its extraordinary meeting on March 7, Youth Sector of Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) discussed the government's wrong practices that waste public funds to serve narrow partisan purposes by organizing carnivals and functions with ghost objectives. Via such practices, the government intends to trade on youths' rights and abuse funds to make personal interests and illegal wealth, the website reported.

The last one of a series of scandals practiced by the government is the so-called "Fourth Youth Cultural Festival, which was organized by the so-called Yemeni Youth Union. Millions of Riyals from various government agencies were spent in an illegal manner, thereby signifying that the authority and its influential officials deal with the youth without the minimum sense of responsibility. Youth, however, constitute the backbone of any community. They represent a renewable energy for development, building and

prosperity of societies. Youth are the source of change, will, determination and civilization for any nation.

The JMP Youth Sector strongly denounces the irresponsible behavior of influential officials, affiliated with the ruling party, and confirms that such behavior is enough for subsequent congestion and turmoil among Yemeni youths, who turned to be extremely busy searching for livelihood. And the way the youth are marginalized helps exacerbate the national crisis and threaten social peace while the ruling party and its leaders continue their ironical addresses and talk about patriotism merely in lip service.

The ruling party and its leaders manifest their false patriotism only to rob the country's wealth and waste its resources. They are only interested in making personal interests.

The JMP Youth Sector won't remain silent toward repeated speeches of influential leaders, affiliated with the ruling party, about allegedly protecting national unity, however in fact; they edge out the role of youth in several parts of the nation.

The sector raised the following demands: one, Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) should form a committee to investigate a bank account under the name of Yemeni Youth Union, via which millions of Riyals are illegally embezzled. The embezzlers must be referred to the relevant courts to be punished for what they do.

The second demand is that the Higher

Education, Youth and Sports Committee in Parliament should form a minor committee to practice oversight over revenues and expenditures of GPC-affiliated Youth Union.

JMP Youth Sector confirms its prompt determination to form a preparatory committee to represent Yemeni youth, and this committee is due to be in charge of questioning those irresponsible individuals, who nominated themselves as youth guardians.

JMP Youth Sector affirms to influential persons, affiliated with the ruling party, that holding ghost functions and carnivals and entertainment journeys in the south part of Yemen is impossible to consolidate the national unity. In addition, the organized corruption, practiced by the so-called Yemeni Youth Union, will be uncovered by the various media outlets. Therefore, we urge the various media outlets to interact with this issue in way serving the national interest.



**26september.net, affiliated with Yemeni Army**  
Thursday, March 12, 2009

**Top Stories**

- Cabinet discusses implementation of President's platform

The government discussed in its cabinet's an extraordinary meeting held on Monday reports of several ministers on implementing the electoral program of president of the republic and recent directives thereon, the army-affiliated website reported.

Among these directions are developing government performance, stimulating economic growth, developing educational process and creating instant solutions for improving power generating output. This output should be no lesser than 1000 mega watt for filling the gap between supply and demand and needs of strategic projects.

Upon discussing halted electric projects, the cabinet stressed that the electricity ministry must finish Mareb Electric Gas Station project and complete measures of tenders regarding the second phase for improving the output of the station to 400 mega watt according to fixed timetable program. Tenders regarding constructing Mareb-Ma'abar gas pipeline and Ma'abar Electric Gas station with the capacity of 400 mega watt were also included in the discussion.

The cabinet then directed constructing independent unit for managing electric projects and approving the announcement for choosing an executive director to the unit under the direct supervision of electricity ministry.

The cabinet discussed a report submitted by the ministry of planning and inter-

national cooperation on the achievements of the ministry for 2007-2008, most notably what regards improving relations with donors and carrying out projects and facilitating relevant procedures.



**Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party**  
Thursday, March 12, 2009

**Top Stories**

- Politicians: Islah Party is backbone of Yemeni opposition

Professor of Political Sciences at Sana'a University Dr. Mohammed Al-Dhahri confirmed that the Islah Party is pondered upon as the backbone of Yemeni opposition, the website reported.

During a symposium entitled "Yemeni Islah Party: Political Presence and Sought-after Role", which was organized by Al-Sahwa Weekly, introduced methodological comments on what he called "Duality of Party and Movement and name of the Islah Party (Yemeni Reform Congregation), saying the party is characterized by reality and Yemeni privacy with the purpose of gradually progressing toward development and changing the political and social situations.

According to Al-Dhahri, the party's

strengths are those of its aware dealing with the social environment and employing Yemen's social diversity in its favor. "Islah Party was the closest to the ruling party before Reunification. Therefore its used this closeness to begin forming a big popular base. Unlike other Islamic movements in other Arab states, the Islah Party didn't engage in confrontations with the ruling party," the politician went on to say.

Among other strengths enjoyed by the party, according to Al-Dhahri, are the positive employment of platforms it possesses, its serious and brave leaders and the organizational commitment of its leaders and grassroots.

Al-Dhahri highlighted weaknesses of the party saying it lacks a clear concept for self-criticism, rotation of party leadership is very slow, many of its members quit Islah and affiliated with the ruling party and its ambiguous position about women candidates.

The political professor urged the Islah Party to utilize experiences of those Islamic Movements in Jordan and Egypt to approve women as candidates and voters in order not to let this gap be exploited against the major opposition party.

He questioned why the party doesn't have a satellite channel, warning that the party should not tolerate any malicious attempts meant to associate terrorism with the party, believed to have an Islamic orientation, in order to avoid being an easy target.

## Which Egyptian bombing did you hear about?

**A bomb exploded February 22 in the Khan El-Khalili bazaar in Cairo, a popular tourist area, killing four people and injuring 17, but details surrounding the bombing have been slow to emerge because of the heavy-handed tactics of the Egyptian government. As a result, the Egyptian independent media has been locked in a fierce battle with pro-regime media outlets that are giving wildly different accounts of the bombing and its aftermath.**

By: Ahmad Ragab Menassat

In the moments immediately following the February 22 bombing that killed four and injured 17 in the Khan El-Khalili bazaar in Cairo, the Egyptian security forces put a clamp down on the scene.

Most media was barred from entering the bomb site which is near the sacred Al-Hussein mosque - pro-regime news outlets were some of the few allowed in to report.

In the days since, local media reporting of the bombings aftermath has been confusing at best.

**The controversy**

On buses throughout Cairo, daily newspapers give wildly different accounts.

One February 23 headline in the daily Al-Gomhouriya (The Republic) read: "PM Nadhif follows the repercussions of Al-Hussein mosque bombing minute by minute and says, 'The security measures are enough.'"

Compare this to the headline in Egyptian independent daily Al-Doustour (The Constitution): "The cameras planted by the Interior Ministry in the Al-Hussein

area failed to uncover the perpetrators of Sunday's terrorist attack."

The headlines, printed on the same day, illustrate a huge divergence in the focus of coverage for pro-regime and independent press, a fact Maguy Al-Halwani, former dean at the Egyptian University's Faculty of Communication says is indicative of the new media reality in Egypt.

"In front of the different newspaper stands, spread on the sidewalks throughout Cairo, you read all kinds of red and black headlines. And it's normal that they would be different in terms of content, but not contradictory - as they appear today. Coverage changes with the attitude of the regime," Al-Halwani told MENASSAT.

**The official record**

As for coverage in pro-regime dailies, the three main players Al-Gomhouriya (The Republic), Al-Akhar (The news) and Al-Ahram (The Pyramids), each defended state security measures before and after the event.

They all reported the incident was not part of a larger trend of bombing that followed the 2005 and 2006 Al Qaeda-linked bombings in Sharm El-Sheikh that killed more than 100 people.

All three papers instead made sure to note that the bombing had no effect on Cairo's tourism and assured the general public - particularly foreign tourists, that the area near the El-Hussein mosque and the touristy Khan El-Khalili bazaar was safe to visit.

On the day following the bombing, Al-Gomhouriya opened its front page with the headline, "Blood on the steps of Al-Hussein Mosque in Cairo." The sub-headlines read, "The General Prosecutor visiting (the bomb site)" and "PM Nadhif follows the repercussions of al-Hussein mosque bombing minute by minute and says 'the security measures are enough.'"

The fact that the bombing happened near Al-Hussein mosque was played up for the religious readers as well with the headlines, "Sheikh al-Azhar: the incident is a crime and a treason to the religion and the nation", while another said "Dar al-Fatwa: corruption behind the incident."

Pro-business Al-Masri Al-Youm (the Egyptian today) didn't launch an attack on the Egyptian government, but stressed in its headlines during the three days that followed the bombing that the tourism rates dropped sharply under the main title "Al-Hussein a martyr" with a picture of a tourist holding his bags while preparing to leave Egypt.

The rest of Al-Masri Al-Youm's coverage focused on the bombing itself. The headlines on the first day read, "A tourist attack in the 'heart' of Cairo: death of a French tourist and injuries of 18 different nationalities in al-Hussein bombing."

The next day, the daily wrote,



Egyptian security services near the February 22 bombsite in Cairo.

"Dropouts in the touristic numbers in the region" which was contrasted by the pro-regime paper Al-Akhar that reported, "Tourism not affected in Al-Hussein."

**The opposition**

On the other end of the press landscape was Al-Doustour (constitution) and Al-Badil (alternative) - both opposition papers.

Left-leaning Al-Badil blamed the government and Egyptian security services for the bombing, with headlines on February 23 that read, "Police bans the people's deputies from getting to Al-Hussein," and "MP: Pharmacists, Lawyers and Transportation Drivers' Strikes behind the explosion".

In another sub-story entitled "Security Forces Surround Al-Hussein Hospital banning journalists, attacking photographers and confiscating the camera of a French TV cameraman," Al-Badil criticized the security measures which prevented Egyptian media outlets from

"practicing their jobs."

Al-Badil also published a story that warned of a greater tightening of civil liberties "under the guise" of security measures with its headline: "Politicians: the regime will use the incident to stretch the emergency law or pass the counter-terrorism law."

Al-Doustour, one of the biggest opposition newspapers whose editor-in-chief Ibrahim Issa won the International Press Association award for 2008, mirrored Al-Badil's criticism of the Egyptian government, using even more caustic headlines.

The main headline after the February 22 bombing read, "The cameras planted by the Interior Ministry in Al-Hussein area failed to uncover the perpetrators of Sunday's terrorist attack."

It criticized the ministry's failure to protect the tourist sites, wasting huge amounts of money on muzzling the opposition while leaving the touristic areas without the proper security measures.

Al-Doustour continued its attacks on

the interior ministry with a headline stressing it was incapable of dealing with terrorism in Egypt. It read, "Security officials: this issue is still in the beginning and we didn't reach anything. It's useful to say anything."

Another headline in Al-Doustour read, "the Interior Minister fails to uncover the perpetrators."

**Healthy media environment**

Meanwhile, Akram Al-Qassas, head of the media page at the independent Al-Qahira (Cairo) newspaper, sees nothing to worry about with the Egyptian coverage of the February 22 bombing. "It's a sign of political diversity in the (Egyptian) press."

Al-Qassas says the divergent coverage is typical of the two directions the media in Egypt is taking. "One falling in the lap of the regime with the nationalist newspapers which have opted to defend the state and its officials even before clarifying the facts surrounding the bombing. The other (independent press) blames the government by indicting the security services and accusing them of negligence."

But, he says, strong newspaper editorial lines indicate a thriving media market where political factions are funding their own newspapers to express their ideas and opinions.

"Some newspapers tried to remain in a middle ground - covering the bombing events with professionalism and impartiality," he said without specifying which ones.

## Israeli 'South-Park' style cartoon mocks Arabs

**The new Israeli cartoon on YouTube "Ahmed and Salim" - a South Park-style series that launched on the web a few weeks ago - is causing quite a stir on the Internet. Animators Tom Trager and Or Paz claim the cartoon is intended to mock terrorists, but is that all it does?**

By: Tania Tabar Menassat

The new Israeli cartoon on YouTube, "Ahmed and Salim" launched in late February is intended to mock terrorists. That's what animators Tom Trager and Or Paz claim.

But throughout the four-part series during each 3-4 minute episode (the first one viewed 400,000 times in one week), Ahmed and Salim's father tries to coerce them to kill Jews.

Although the Israel-based animators Trager and Paz state that they "do not think bad of Arabs," and "simply dislike people in general," it would be hard not to call the cartoon racist.

**World-wide appeal**

In an interview with MENASSAT, the creators said the show is not an attack on Arabs. "Ahmed and Salim are not about Arabs at all. It's mostly a metaphor for how idiotic religion is."

soulless Jew at your home?" the father asks.

"We'll shoot him in the genitals and laugh!" they answer back.

When asked if Yasser the father reflected the way they viewed Arabs in Israel, Trager and Paz said, "Not at all, we have nothing against Arabs or Muslims and we certainly did not grow up being taught they were some kind of evil or anything like that."

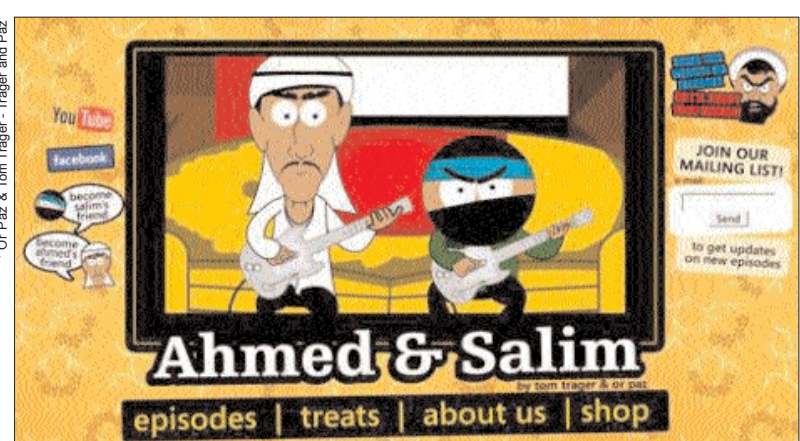
But, Habeeb told French TV, with Ahmed and Salim the historical context is lost. "I know enough about real life in Palestine to understand what is true and what isn't, but most viewers won't have that kind of background. And because the cartoons are subtitled (in English and Hebrew) they can be viewed by audiences worldwide."

Indeed, the characters speak gibberish, not Arabic, and the only discernible words actually spoken are English curses.

Meanwhile, the teens Ahmed and Salim are made more benign because they entertain the trappings of the West - watching Western TV, playing video games, and spending huge chunks of their time on Facebook.

**Normalizing stereotypes**

Whether or not Trager and Paz are aware that they are contributing to hateful



Ahmed and Salim screenshot.

stereotypes misses the point.

By all indications they don't think they are, but it would be hard to imagine that the two Israelis are unaware that Ahmed and Salim builds on a rich history of "Arab" vilification in the media.

In Hollywood and in most western media "the Arab" has for the better part of a century been portrayed both as a villain and as one-dimensional - part of some pan-Arab homogenous mass.

In his book, Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People, media critic Jack Shaheen looked at more than 1,000

Hollywood films from 1896 to the present in an effort to analyze Arab stereotyping.

"Once upon a time I thought the stereotyping of Arabs was because of ignorance," he said in an interview with Democracy Now. "No more. I know it is more straight-out purposeful now. Films, for example, vilify Arabs for different reasons, not all political."

Perhaps Israeli creators, Trager and Paz, did not intend to perpetuate myths of Arabs and Muslims in Israeli society and in the West, but Ahmed and Salim does

just that.

Still, the cartoon's creators told MENASSAT, "Through Ahmed & Salim we learned to tolerate groups even more, and so do many other people who send us fan mail about being more open-minded since this show! What do you know? These two nerds may even bring peace to this world." What if another group of people were portrayed in this manner? Would it be accepted?

Slick South Park-style graphics draws on a pop-culture reference and helps make the behavior of Ahmed and Salim more believable - cementing the perverse media view of Arabs (the show uses references to a number of Arab countries, not just Palestinians) as the people who blow up Americans and Jews, rape children, abuse women, and worship Osama bin Laden.

And what are the longterm consequences of this misrepresentation?

As Shaheen states, "If we feel nothing, if we feel that Arabs are not like us or not like anyone else, then let's kill them all. Then they deserve to die, right?"

"What I've tried to do is to make visible what too many of us seem not to see: a dangerously consistent pattern of hateful Arab stereotypes, stereotypes that rob an entire people of their humanity," he said.





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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

An International Development Agency is looking for a **media coordinator** to work in its Sana'a office.

The media coordinator will work for the agency's media projects in Yemen. These projects include media legislation, access to information, freedom of expression, strengthening the trade union sector of media, education and training of journalists and local radio. Projects are usually long term but also short term involvement is possible.

### Responsibilities:

The coordinator will be especially responsible of the following:

- Donor and Agency coordination in the media sector
- Liaison with local and international partners
- Following up media sector development in the country and report on it
- Manage project cycle and day-to-day affairs connected to projects
- Organizing meetings, trainings and workshops
- Draft new project proposals in the media sector

### Qualifications:

- Higher university degree in related area
- Oral and written fluency in English and Arabic
- Work experience with media (public, private, commercial) and international organizations
- Experience in project cycle management including monitoring and writing, reviewing and editing reports and project documents
- Good knowledge of Yemeni media and society
- Ability to travel both in Yemen and abroad

Candidates are required to submit an application with a one page cover letter explaining the applicant's interest and suitability for the position, indicating starting date if selected, updated CV and three professional references including their phone numbers. The application addressed to the Head of Office, TAO, should be sent by mail to Post Box 18159, Hadda area, Sana'a, Yemen or delivered to the reception of the German Embassy, Hadda, Sana'a latest by 28th of March 2009 by noon. The envelope must be marked "Media Coordinator". No personal inquiries can be made. Only successful applicants will be contacted for interview.



## JOB OPENINGS

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Applications must be submitted online no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Faxed, mailed, or handed applications will not be considered.

ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



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# Medical negligence in Yemeni hospitals

By: Ola Al-Shami

Zahra Al-Mikhlaifi, a woman on her thirties, went to Al-Thawra hospital simply to give birth to one of her seven children. Within hours she not only lost a child, but she is now partially handicapped for life, or as the doctor put it, she has hemiplegia because of an anesthetic overdose.

Sa'ad Al-Daifi, Zahra's husband sells calculators on the streets. He does not understand the complications of his wife's delivery and why the mother of his children has ended up in a wheel chair for life.

"I have proof," he said, frantically waving medical records describing the incident. "I don't know much, but I know this, they need to fix this problem."

After two years of running back and forth between the hospital and the Ministry of Health, the hospital finally gave him a two-way ticket for his wife to travel to Egypt to receive treatment.

But the problem, explains Al-Daifi, is that there is no one to bring the medical practitioner responsible to justice. In this situation, there is no clear place to issue a complaint.

In 2000, the parliament ratified a law to establish a Supreme Medical Council that would define the penalties and punishments for medical malpractice cases, but so far no such council exists. This council's main job would have been to ensure the quality of medical service in Yemen, in both the public and private sectors.

This council will be a formal place for any one who suspects medical negligence or medical malpractice.

"People are confused when they have a medical problem. They have the option to go to the general medical issues unit in the Ministry of Health, the parliament, or the Council of Public Health and Population," said Dr. Abdulbari Al-Doghaish,

member of Parliament and the Public Health and Population Committee.

"From there, recommendations might be issued and the complainant has to wait for consequences," he said.

Complainants often cannot do anything but wait and hope for their medical issues to be addressed: "I felt that I had no choice but to accept what they offer or wait for nothing," said Al-Daifi.

He did not complain to the court because the hospital did offer him one ticket for his wife to travel to Egypt for medical treatment. However, he was not given a ticket to accompany her and, when he asked for another because he couldn't afford it himself, he was referred to the Ministry of Health to request a ticket there.

Quality assurance includes procedures to avoid mistakes and consequences for when they occur. But to date, the law to establish a Supreme Medical Council remains ink on paper.

"In practice, there are no laws or regulations that protect patients from malpractice or negligence," said Baghash Al-Mikhlaifi, technical director at the Ministry of Legal Affairs. "It is up to the medical institutions how to deal with these issues, if they choose to."

He added that, if patients' relatives are aware of a mishap and chose to sue, since there are no exact regulations regarding medical mistakes, the court decides on the penalty based on similar problems in existing laws.

"Ambiguity emerges from this issue causing a number of different authorities to interfere," said Dr. Abdullah Al-Asbahi, Orthopedic Surgeon at Al-Thawra Hospital.

## Medical malpractice

There is a difference between medical malpractice and negligence. The first is when fraud occurs during the provision of a medical service. An exam-

ple of medical malpractice would be when a person with no actual qualifications poses as a doctor and operates or provides medical advice, or when medicine is used illegally.

Dr. Essam Al-Qaifi, a doctor at Al-Saba'een Hospital for Maternity and Childhood, explains that although malpractice exists in Yemen, it is mostly a legal issue and is governed by the security and judiciary systems more than it is governed by the medical industry, which should, he believes, be in control of the quality of medical service and prevent medical negligence.

Medical negligence is the result of mistakes during the provision of the medical service due to carelessness, or lack of experience and supervision.

"Practically, medical negligence can be identified easily by checking the medical report or record which almost every patient has," said Dr. Abdulbari Al-Doghaish. "However, many doctors agree that it is not easy to admit a medical mistake or malpractice because of peer pressure that makes it more difficult for a doctor to admit an error."

"Doctors have records for every case which easily identifies if the doctor committed a mistake or not," agreed Dr. Mohammad Al-Mahyubi, doctor at the Al-Thawra Hospital and member of the Yemeni Doctors' and Pharmacists' Syndicate.

When a patient is admitted to any medical institution, his or her data is registered in a patient's file for archiving. However, doctors admit that most of the mistakes happen during surgeries, which are not recorded.

"Any patient comes first to the outdoor clinic in the hospital and then, when it is necessary, the patient goes to see the specialized doctor," said Dr. Al-Qaifi. "The patient goes through a check-up and tests, and treatment is decided accordingly, for which each step is discussed and approved by more than one doctor."

If a medical mistake is discovered,



Al-Qaifi explained that the administration takes suitable action: "Nobody has been fired but there are certain procedures which hospitals take if there is a case of medical negligence. A warning or an ultimatum is one of them, and there is also temporary suspension from work."

Generally, incidents of negligence are not discovered unless relatives of the patients suspect mistakes through the follow-up of the patients' health progress. And then these could be investigated by following the medical procedures chart of the patients, said Al-Mikhlaifi.

Doctors in Yemen don't feel safe, and are constantly at risk from the reprisal of patients' relatives while

performing their duty: "We feel insecure when we operate because many people mistrust doctors, and think that we are not doing the best we can for their relatives' wellbeing," said Dr. Al-Qaifi.

Many doctors said that this feeling of insecurity stemmed from the tribal nature of Yemeni society. Yemenis are sometimes misinformed and confused between what constitutes medical malpractice and what is fate, and often blame medical practitioners for the death of a loved one.

An example would be the pending case of Dr. Dirham Al-Qadasi, which was murdered by the relatives of his 85 year-old patient, after he informed the family of his decease. After they

had committed the crime, the gang members, who belong to the Al-Maflahi tribe in Raidah, fled the scene and sought the protection of their tribe's sheikhs in their homeland. So far, the Ministry of Interior has been incapable to arrest the key perpetrator.

Doctors stressed the need to use forensic science to resolve malpractice claims as well as to resolve murders. Even in the latest cases, many Yemenis refuse to approve the autopsy of their deceased relative because of cultural values.

"Until now, there is no law concerning this issue," said Dr. Ahmed Noman, a doctor and director at the Manar Scientific Foundation.

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In his word delivered in the occasion, Mr. Abdul Fattah Al-Aswadi, Deputy General Manager of Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce (YCIC), said, "Today, we feel very glad and honored not only as we are the company that produces (Abu Walad Biscuit), the sponsor of the award, but because we aimed to a great extent to direct our capabilities on the right way to serve interest of the local society and to incarnate the mission of the company that points to that."

For his part, Mr. Shawqi Al-Qadhi confirmed that YCIC and NODS had the honor to initiate and hold purposive institutional activities on the level of entire Yemen. Al-Qadhi called the government, Ministry of Education and Private Sector to adopt projects similar to excellence and superiority award project.

For his part, Mr. Ahmed Al-Dhulabee, Deputy governor of Aden, expressed his vast gladness that superiors in the trade and economic capital attained the biggest portion of scholastic excellence and superiority awards supported and sponsored by (Abu Walad Biscuit). He called the other companies to follow Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies.

Following that, Mr. Abdul Fattah Al-Aswadi, Deputy General Manager of YCIC, Shawqi Al-Qadhi, Head of NODS and a number of administrative leaderships in Aden governorate honored the winners and submitted them their financial awards which they attained out of their merit after they scored high from first primary until the third secondary grade on the level of the Republic.

At the end of the carnival, the door of candidature for 2009 award was announced opened. It is worth mentioning that announcing candidature for the award took place on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at Mercury Hotel in Sana'a during a press conference attended by Minister of Local Administration and Minister of Education.



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# Yemenis don't like going to the cinema

Despite the popularity of cinema halls in the late eighties, today Yemeni culture does not encourage movie theaters because of the social stigma associated with movie halls and the increase in religious conservative thinking. To catch up with the latest in the cinema industry, Yemenis instead resort to satellite television channels and DVDs.

By: Almigdad Mojalli

Ten years ago, Abdulkarim Al-Gasham, 29, used to go to Balqis cinema in Sana'a every weekend with his friends to watch movies. But now he has stopped, after his father told him off eight years ago for going to the cinema during the peak of the religious party's influence in Yemen.

Um Abdullah, 45, remembers when she used to come up to town from her village one hour north of Sana'a with her sister and family to watch films. Today, going to the movie hall for women is simply a disgrace.

Despite cinema blooming around the world, in Yemen the industry is dying. Just ten years ago, in Sana'a there were four theaters, but today there is only one. In Aden there were eight, but today there are four. And although in Taiz there are still six theaters, the number of people visiting them is quickly declining.

Many point to the rise of the Islah party as a main factor behind the gradual disappearance of cinema halls in Yemen. At the time of Yemen's 1994 civil war between the Republic of Yemen and secessionist groups from the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), the conservative Islah party and the General People's Congress (GPC) successfully lobbied against the YSP, giving the Islah party a lot of power. The Islah party then effectively used its influence to change Yemeni culture, particularly with regards to public entertainment.

The Islah party used religious sermons in mosques to condemn entertainment, including movies. They issued fatwas against those who go there and those behind it. People believed in the religious message and stopped going to movie theaters, which resulted in financial loss for the business. Those who still wanted to watch movies, bought or borrowed DVDs, VCDs and signed up for satellite television channels.

In Sana'a city, since the end of the 1970s until the end of the 1990s there were four cinema halls in Sana'a city, Balqis in Al-Tahrir Square, Khalida and Hadda in Hadda, and Al-Ahliya in the old city of Sana'a, which is the only hall still open.

In Taiz, there were six cinema halls: Al-Ghannami on 26<sup>th</sup> September Street, Al-Jahmaliya hall in Al-Jahmaliya, Balqis hall in Jamal St., 23<sup>rd</sup> July Hall located in Bab Musa, Saba hall located in Al-Tahrir St. and Al-Muntazah hall in Al-Muntazah.

"The spread of the satellite channels and spread of DVDs, and VCDs made many people prefer to watch at home



An increasingly infamous reputation and the competition of cheap VCDs has led Yemeni cinemas into financial trouble, causing some to close down.

rather than go to the cinema halls, consequently many cinema halls closed," said Basheer Kabe'e, Al-Ahliya cinema owner's son.

In Aden, there were cinemas as early as 1953. Until 1994 when the coalition of the GPC and the Islah party won the civil war and obliged four halls to close, there were eight cinema halls in Aden in Crater, Khourmakser, Al-Tawahi, Al-Mansourah, Sheikh Othman and Al-Mua'ala.

Salem Ahmed, tickets salesman at the Hurricane cinema hall, stated that after 1994 the Islamic Islah party issued a religious fatwa banning cinema and urging people not to go to these halls. Many businesses suffered great financial losses and closed as a result.

"The Islah party is viewed as one of the many factors behind the increase in satellite channel subscriptions and VCD sales," Salem said.

## Quieter, cheaper alternatives

According to Kabe'e, people nowadays prefer television channels and DVDs because they can see the movies in their own time and with the people they choose. A widescreen and stereo surround system don't make a difference for them. Watching a film at home or with friends affords them more privacy and ensures they are not disturbed.

Most Yemenis prefer watching movies at home to in the cinema because the cinema experience in Yemen can be very different from abroad. Members of the audience comment loudly on the film they are watching and both the other people in the hall. To this DVDs, VCDs and satellite

channels have become a better and quieter alternative.

Many others add that their jobs and domestic affairs keep them too busy to go to the cinema: "We work along the week and during the weekend we need to visit friends, relatives and chew qat, and sometimes taking family for a picnic in the park, in Wadi Dhahr or Al-Ahjer," said Jameel Sayad.

Jameel Al-Duba'e, 38, a clothes salesman, said that he used to go to the cinema when he was in his twenties but now he doesn't go anymore because his job takes most of his time: "I used to go to the cinema once a week at least, but about twelve years ago I stopped going because I work two shifts and during the weekend we need to visit friends, relatives and sometimes taking the family out for a picnic."

He narrated that he used to go Balqis and Hadda cinema halls with his friends and watch Arabic, Western, Chinese and Indian movies. Fifteen years ago, the tickets cost YR 60 or USD 0.30.

The cost difference between the cinema tickets and the VCDs is another reason that encourages people to buy them stop going to these halls. Nowadays the ticket costs YR 300 or USD 1.5 in addition to the transportations, while a VCD costs YR 150, which is less than USD 1 dollar.

Today, Al-Ahliya shows two different movies every day, except for Tuesdays when it shows only one Indian film, but the income and number of the visitors to the cinema has decreased by up to 90 to 95 percent along the past ten years.

"Ten years ago, we used to receive about 1,400 people daily but now we

only receive between 50 and 150 people a day, which has caused a lot of losses for us," explained Kabe'e.

Al-Ahliya shows two movies a day twice at 15:00 and at 21:00, whereas the halls in Aden show two movies in the evening only because it is too hot to screen them during the daytime.

Al-Ahliya's hall consists of four halls. All of them are for men and show the same movies. Each hall is 80 meters long and 28 wide and contains 1,400 seats. As each of the cinema goers have their tickets checked before entering the hall, a guard frisks them to make sure that they are not bringing any jambiyas or guns inside.

## Foreign films and censorship

The hall shows Indian, Western, Chinese and Arabic movies. Usually, Yemenis prefer the Indian movies, so the cinema's administration buys modern movies from film production companies, although it cannot afford the latest which are very expensive.

"We buy Indian, Western, Chinese and Arabic movies but Indian are the favorites for us and the audience because they are cheaper than the other types," said Kabe'e. "For example, we buy an Indian film for at USD 2,000 to 2,500, the Western one for USD 4,000, and the Arabic for 4,000. We usually buy the second grade quality – copied because the original movies are very expensive and can cost up to USD10,000."

Regarding the income he stated that the income of the cinema reached USD 4,000 a day but nowadays the income doesn't exceed USD 200, whereas the

expenses reached USD 75 a day.

"In Aden, the turnout to cinemas decreased after the 1994 civil war and the audiences don't exceed 5 percent of those who used to come before the war," said Salem Al-Baidhani, cinema hall usher, who said the ticket costs YR 50 to 100. "Hall visitors are unemployed who want to waste time, but the other people don't come."

In Taiz the ticket cost YR 5 in 1960 and increased to reach YR 30 in 1970s to reach YR100 in 2000s. The ticket is bought for two films but what's different is that during the brake between the two films, the hall shows porn shots for fifteen minutes.

Before entering the country, the movie is checked by the Ministry of Culture for sexually explicit content and statements against the country's regime. Only after that can the owner pick up the film by stamping the release from the Customs Authority and the port administration.

Tawfiq Al-Khameri, the owner of Hadda and Khalida cinema halls, stated that the halls closed because turnout was too low due to widespread unawareness that cinema as a tool to spread other nations' cultures. The lack of support from the government and the Ministry of Culture for cinema halls is another factor for halls closing down, he added.

On the contrary of the other cinema halls like Hadda, Khalida and Balqis, Al-Ahliya hall directors try to find other sources to support it.

"We try to draw some ministries like the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Tourism, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports to hold their events in our hall instead of renting more expensive halls in hotels, and we will broadcast the World Cup," said Kabe'e, adding that the only thing the Ministry of Culture does to support their business is to scan films before they enter the country and to censor sexually explicit scenes.

Al-Khameri stated that the ministry has done nothing to support or even protect the cinema halls from collapse and bankruptcy.

## Dirty dens of immorality

Though cinema halls in most of the world are considered to be places to learn about other countries' cultures, cinema halls in Yemen are seen as places of immoral acts. These include showing naked women and kissing which are against Islam and Yemeni traditions. Those who go to the cinema are seen as immoral people, low class and jobless.

Mohsen Abu Ali, 45, a sergeant, said that the cinema halls are bad because the show naked or half-naked women, people kissing, and from these movies youth learn behavior that is against Islamic morals and social ethics.

"Due to the absence of knowledge about the other cultures and widespread

ignorance about cinema in other countries, many Yemeni people think that cinemas are venues for bad things, and that only bad and low class people go there," said Kabe'e. "But we never show pornography, and what's broadcast by other television channels is much worse."

In Yemen, men usually don't allow their wives, sisters and daughters to go to the cinema, either with them or on their own, because they think they are unsafe for women and children. And some people complain that the halls and toilets are dirty. However, neither the law nor the cinema directors prevent women and children from coming to the cinema.

It was different in the 1970s women used to go to the cinema halls with children as there were special halls for them, especially in Taiz and Aden.

"Fifteen years ago we had a hall for the women and another one in the morning for children during official celebrations, but since the civil war in 1994 and the rise of the Islah party, women and children can't come anymore," said Kabe'e.

"I remember the end of 1970s when I used to go to the cinema with my mother and enjoy Arabic and Indian movies," remembered Abdul-Salam Al-Mahweti, who narrated that before there were two floors in the cinema hall, one for men and one for women.

"Cinema halls are unsafe because there are no enough security guards," said Esam Al-Zubair, a soldier. "Bad youths may attack women and children, and could rape them."

Ahmed Al-Mahweti, an accountant, said that he never allows his sons to go to the cinema because he believes that, if they do, they will learn bad things from bad people: "I know that not everybody goes to the cinema is bad, but there are many in the hall, so why should I sacrifice my kids while I can bring the same movies home?"

Regarding the security of the hall, Kabe'e stated that in the ten years ago, they used to have soldiers from the Central Security Brigade or the Public Police, but since 1998 when the number of people in the audience decreased, the hall administration started hiring friends and relatives.

"If there are quarrels in the hall, they are just over the seats and never exceed shouting, and our security personnel solve the problem," he said.

As for the cleanliness of the halls, he said that the halls are cleaned everyday but sometimes some audience are bad and don't like cleanliness and that makes a problem for them.

Muneer Al-Sha'abi, 24, stated that he goes to the cinema twice or three times a month and rarely sees quarrels inside the hall, but did say that the hall isn't clean, especially the toilets.

## Sketching the shores of the Red Sea

By: Alice Hackman

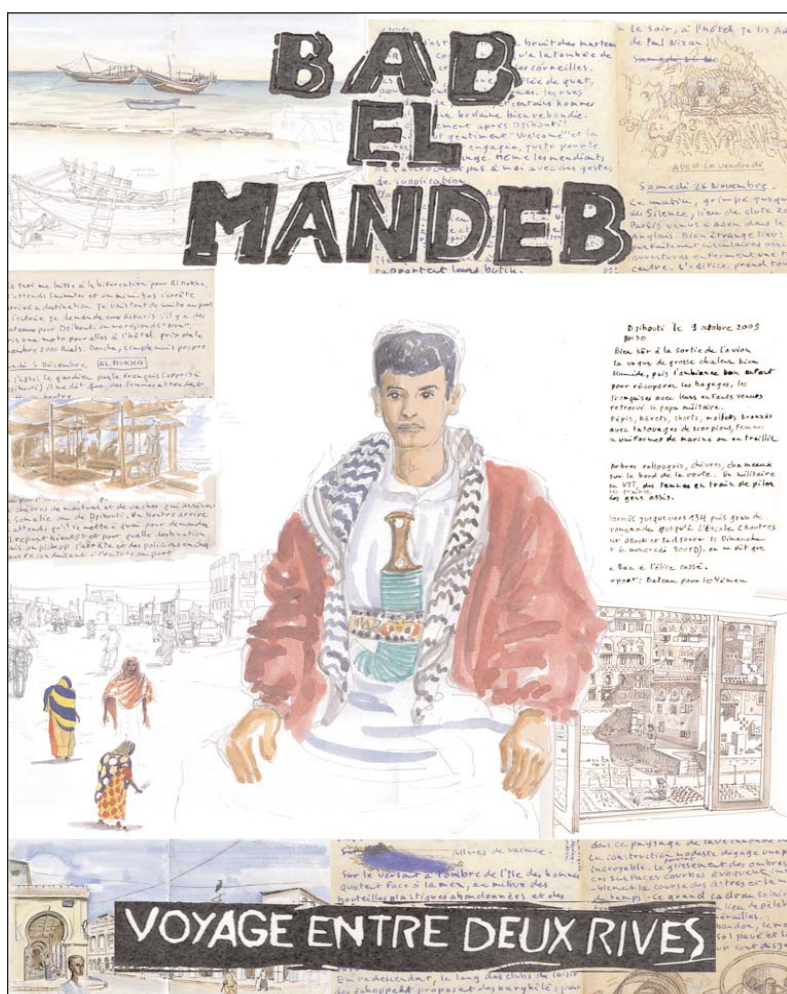
Sitting in the leafy shade outside the French Cultural Center in Sana'a, French artist Philippe Delord explains this is not his first time in Yemen. It has been 12 years since he first came over to Sana'a with a sketch book, but there is always more to see.

"Each visit is different from the first," he says. "Now, I am concentrating on portraits."

Delord is in the country to present some of his recent sketches and watercolors of Yemen and the Horn of Africa at an exhibition entitled "Bab Al-Mandab: from one shore to another," on until the March 25 at the cultural center.

The artist visited Yemen in 1997, and loved it. But the real adventure started three years later, when he stumbled upon an autobiographical novel by French adventurer Henry de Monfreid, while working on a book of travel sketches in Egypt.

Racing through the sailor's novels, he was transported back to the salty shores of Bab Al-Mandab at the beginning of the twentieth century. Henry de Monfreid, he discovered, sailed his traditional dhow up and down the Red Sea for many years between 1911 and 1947,



escaping the colonial authorities and trading in everything from coffee to hashish.

An adventurer at heart, de Monfreid was also a photographer and an artist. In between two illegal deliveries, he captured the shores of Djibouti, Ethiopia and Yemen on film, or brought out his water colors and painted.

"He was quite a character," he explains. "He used to buy hashish in India to sell it in Alexandria in Egypt, and he also smuggled arms."

Inspired by the sailor's portrayal of the Red Sea, Delord set out to retrace his compatriot's travels along the shores of Arabia and the Horn of Africa. The result is a unique book of contemporary sketches and watercolors of the region which he hopes to publish before the end of the year.

"The idea was to return to the countries where de Monfreid had lived," he says. "What I hope to produce is a bit like a documentary, a piece of reporting – not with photographs, but with sketches."

The collection of drawings and watercolors he has accumulated as a result of his journeys on the shores of Bab Al-Mandab will be his third, after two separate publications on Alexandria and Cyprus inspired by eighteenth-century travelling artist Louis-François Cassas.

In de Monfreid's footsteps, Delord has visited Oboc in Djibouti where he lived in between trips at sea with his first wife. He has sketched his way through the buildings of Harare in Ethiopia, and has made several trips to the Yemeni cities along the coast of the Red Sea.

"In Makha, although there are now little motorbikes everywhere, it feels like no time has passed at all between de Monfreid's day and now," he says. "It looks identical to his drawings and photographs."

Delord's sketches hang at the exhibition beside the work of Yemeni engraver and artist Naser Al-Aswadi, and black and white engravings by art students from Djibouti and Yemen. To celebrate the long history of cultural exchange across Bab Al-Mandab, these students were each asked to cut grooves into a tablet to represent the neighboring continent.

"There were, of course, the odd representations of Africans in grass skirts with rings in their noses and of people dying of famine," says Delord of the Yemeni perceptions of Africa. "But we helped the students overcome these clichés and the results were very good."

"Yemenis have a very good sense of graphics," he continues. "One student produced a great portrayal of friendship between Yemeni and African women in a

contrast of black and white."

In pursuit of a more tangible link between the Arabian Peninsula and Africa that de Monfreid portrayed, Delord has already embarked on the 16-hour boat crossing of the Bab Al-Mandab Strait between Djibouti and Yemen three times.

Traditional commerce between the two continents persists to this day. Despite the ever-widening expanse of water between the two sides, day travelers continue to make the journey across the strait for business.

"Many Djiboutian women on the boat cross over to buy milk and cakes from Yemen to sell back in Djibouti," he says. "Sometimes, they even buy goats and sheep to take back with them."

But, if Delord feels that revisiting the backdrops to de Monfreid's novels and crossing Bab Al-Mandab on a dhow brings him closer to understanding the author, he is not nearly as keen to relive all of his adventures. In particular, he draws the line at bartering for guns and drugs.

"Nowadays, we're better-behaved," he smiles.

Delord's sketches and the work of Naser Al-Aswadi will be on display at the French Cultural Center in Sana'a until March 25.



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Fax: 01/406258  
E-mail: info@etehadadver.com  
alethead2008@gmail.com  
www.etehadadver.com

lovely mafraj room, and bathroom.  
Contact: 733863785 - 733891779  
For sale, A very good quality of house furniture in good condition  
Contact: 733 567 220

### Vehicle

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Address. Sana'a, Al-Da'aery New University beginning Al-Horeah St. Near Yemeni Girls Corp.  
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### CAR SHOWROOMS & SPARE PARTS

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NISSAN Hodeidah: 200150/49, Sana'a: 400269  
OPEL / GM 203075  
SUZUKI 02 - 346000  
TOYOTA 445362/3

### COMPUTER EDUCATION AND INSTITUTES

Computer Education Aden: 02-237199  
Infinit Education Tel:444553  
NIT Quality  
Computer Education Tel. 445518/7-442073  
British Institute for languages & Computer Tel: 266222-Fax: 514755

### RESTAURANT

Al-shabani restaurant super deluxe  
Tel: 266375 - 505290 Fax: 267619

### SCHOOLS

Rainbow Pre-School 414-026424-433  
Sana'a International School Tel: 01 370191/2 Fax: 370193  
International Turkish Schools Sana'a 448258/9  
Taiz 205593  
Al-Majd Yemen Super Tel: 206159

### Supermarket

AL-JANDUL Supermarket. Tel: 01-422610

### Translations

Urwa Wautqa Int. Auth. Trans. Arabic-English-French -German-Russian-Italian- Spanish-Polish-Dutch- Iranian-Turkish-Eriterea-Amharic.  
Tel: 01-240515

### COURIERS

FedEx Sana'a: 440170, Aden: 248177  
Hodeidah: 234982, Ibb: 411988  
Mukalla 302641, Seyun: 402469

### FREIGHT FORWARDERS

M&M Logistics & Aviation Services  
Tel: 01 531221/531231  
Al-Nasim Cargo Forwarders 407905  
World Link Tel: 01 444550/441935

### HOSPITALS

Modern German Hospital Tel. 600000/602008  
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com Fax. 601889  
Al-Jumhuri Hospital Tel: 01 274286/87  
Hadda Hospital Tel: 01 412981  
Al-Thawra Hospital Tel: 01 246967/66

### HOTELS

Versailles Hotel Tel: 01 425970/1/2  
Sheraton Hotel Tel: 01 237500  
Movenpick Hotel Tel: 01 546666 Fax: 01 546000  
Sheba Hotel Tel: 01 272372  
Relax-Inn Hotel Tel: 01 449871

### INSURANCE COMPANIES

Al-Watania Insurance (Y.S.C.)  
Sana'a 272713/874 Aden: 243490-242476  
Taiz: 250029 Hodeidah: 219941/46  
Marib Insurance Sana'a: 206129/8/13  
Aden: 255668  
Taiz: 240927/34  
Hodeidah: 219545/8  
Yemen Islamic Insurance Co. Sana'a 284193.

### TRAVEL

Falcon Holidays Tel: 444118  
Al-Nasim Travel Tel: 270750  
Universal Business Travel Center Tel: 441158/9/60

### UNIVERSITIES

American World University, Rep. by IS academy  
Tel. 01 - 535700 - 733061203 Fax: 535702  
University of Applied and Social Science  
Sana'a: 412442 Fax: 412441  
Aden: 234533 / 234960  
Queen Arwa University Tel: 449971/2  
Sana'a University Tel: 250553/4/5  
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