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Security guard shoots student, sparking mass demonstrations

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 21 — Following the murder of a student by a security guard's gunshot wound to his back, demonstrations flared as thousands of students took to the gates of Parliament demanding that armed security be replaced with unarmed security at their university.

Saleh Hatim Ali Al-Hooty, 20, in first year in the faculty of commerce was going to attend lectures as usual on Tuesday morning. When he reached the western gate of the university in his car at around 8:15, the security guard told him he couldn't enter with the vehicle because he didn't have a permission letter from the university.

A source from Sana'a University explained that students can only enter university with their cars if they have a permission letter, which any student can obtain from the university.

The student tried to explain to the guard that he was a student at the university and was therefore allowed to drive in with his car.

"He showed the guard his identity card to convince him, but to no avail," said Haitham Al-Dobiabi, social officer at the Union of Yemeni Students at Sana'a University. "Then they argued."

He added that, according to eyewitnesses, the student entered with his car ignoring security and the guard fired a bullet through the rear windscreen of the car, which hit Saleh in the back.

Saleh's brother, who was in the car with him, tried by all means to save his life as he started bleeding heavily. He drove directly to the University of Science and Technology hospital, but before reaching the hospital, Saleh passed away.

Hearing what had happened, students in different classes and faculties started rioting. They went to the car of the university rector.

"I saw many students throwing their shoes at the rector's car, saying, 'No Tomaim [name of the rector] after today,'" said Abdulaziz Al-Shihari, first year student at the faculty of commerce.

Armed tribesmen from Dhala' Hamdan in Sana'a arrived at the university in cars and encircled all the university gates to prevent anyone from either entering or leaving the premises, demanding they hand over the murderer, whose name is Shukri Al-Sabri, according to Nabil Mohammad Qaid, the victim's neighbor.

For two hours the tribesmen patrolled the gates until the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Saleh Ba Surrah met with the inhabitants of the Dhala' Hamdan headed by secretary general of the local council and relatives of the victim to assure them that the murderer has been delivered to the prosecution.

Angry students joined a protest and marched from the university to the Parliament. Protesters were both male and female students in addition to normal people joined the demonstration.

"The university's armed security is brutal and like the occupation soldiers in Baghdad," said Abdualjaleel Khaled, student at the faculty of Sharia and Law and participant while he was participating in the protest. "They practice all kinds of violence against students and treat them like animals."

Female student protesters held up placards saying, "Free people, free people; revolution, revolution against evil soldiers."

Protestors also repeated the slogan "No Tomaim [rector of Sana'a University] after today, No Mutahar Rashad Al-Musri [Minister of the Interior] after today, no Yahya Ra'ee [Speaker of Parliament] after today."

On Wednesday, members of the administration of Sana'a University were absent and classes did not resume.



Saleh Hatim Ali Al-Hooty

Tuesday's protesters were joined by other students and numbers of demonstrators swelled to several thousands in front of the Cabinet, as students demanded the murderer be executed in public at Sana'a University where he committed the crime.

They also demanded the current armed security at the governmental universities be replaced with non-armed security.

As a result of the protest, students and the Secretary General of the Cabinet have agreed to form a committee from the Students' Union at Sana'a University to investigate the incident.

For its part, the General Union of Yemeni Students for the universities of Sana'a and Amran issued a statement demanding "a unified and serious stand" to replace armed security staff at public universities with staff without firearms, as decided at the consultative meeting of the leadership of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research with the rectors of Yemeni universities in June 2008.

The statement called on the university administration to hold members of security staff responsible for violent acts against student accountable and to fire them.

Students at Sana'a University have complained of similar violent incidents



Student protestors have demanded armed security be replaced by guards without weapons at public universities.

on the part of armed security and similar incidents happened in the past, although these were not fatal such as this time.

The protestors' spokesperson Ridhwan Musawd, head of the Yemeni Students' Union at Sana'a University, said the Parliament had promised them to bring the Minister of the Interior, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the rector of Sana'a University to Parliament on Wednesday, but that none of the latter actually showed up.

During the Wednesday session, Parliament discussed the issue of the murdered student and condemned the absence of the Minister of Interior.

The Parliament also formed a committee to investigate the issue, which will be headed by Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Mohammed Al-Shadadi with Parliament's Higher Education Committee.

Yemen Times tried to contact the Administration of Sana'a University to comment on the incident, but was told

none of the staff was present.

However, Sana'a University's administration sent Yemen Times a statement saying that the university is sorry about the painful incident that happened to student Saleh Hatim Al-Hooty during the clash that took place between him and one of the security guards.

The university statement confirmed that the university had handed over the murderer to the general prosecution and that the university would follow up the issue seriously.

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South Koreans barely escape second suicide attack

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, March 18 — Yemen's South Korean community is in shock after a suicide bomber narrowly missed a Korean convoy on its way to Sana'a International airport on Wednesday morning, in the second violent attack against South Koreans in the country in three days.

Nobody was harmed in this attack, which comes just two days after an explosion that killed four South Korean tourists and one Yemeni guide, and injured four others in Shibam, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the

government of Hadramout, last Sunday evening.

"It was obviously a shock to the Korean community. The families of the victims were carrying the dead bodies back home," said John Park, head of the South Korean community in Yemen. "Korean emotions are very, very bad because they were targeting exactly Koreans."

"Today was very different: Some guys were actually waiting to rush into the car," he said, explaining that the South Korean foreign ministry is seriously thinking of advising all South Koreans to leave Yemen.

The South Korean delegation was targeted on Wednesday morning by a suicide bomber on a motorbike — not walking as has been reported by other media, a security official told the Yemen Times. Nobody was injured, and only car windows were shattered in the explosion.

The perpetrator of the latest attack has been identified as 19 year-old Saleh Ali Al-Ashwali, said the security source.

A Korean foreign ministry official in Seoul said the vehicles were carrying government officials and the bereaved families of the victims of Sunday's attack in Hadramout.

The victims of Sunday's attack were

Park Bong-gan, 70, male; Kim In-hye, 64, female; and a couple, Joo Young-chul, 59, male, and Shin Hye-woon, 55, female, reported South Korean newspaper Joong Ang Daily. It is believed their bodies were being transported home on Wednesday morning when the second attack occurred.

An explosion went off as they and another six tourists took pictures of the sunset in a mountainous area in Shibam. Other members of their group, who had already visited the site during the day, had chosen to stay in the hotel.

The 18 year-old behind the attack on Sunday had received training in

Somalia, a security source has told the press. The Ministry of Interior, which reportedly arrested 12 people in relation to the attack on Monday, has also announced finding documents planning Sunday's attack.

Ma Gyeong-chan, a survivor of the incident and organizer of the tour, told Korean news agency Yonhap that the explosion occurred among belongings that a teenager and a man in his forties - who said he was his father- left at the site after approaching them to talk to them. He said he wasn't sure if the attack was a terrorist one.

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State newspaper deputy beats female professor to head Journalists' Syndicate

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, March 18 — The new head of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) has been elected amid much commotion, strong competition and questionable electoral practice during the three day conference which ended Saturday.

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the state-run Al-Thawrah newspaper, Yassin Al-Masaudi, won the election for the post with 483 votes compared with his strong rival Sana'a University Professor Dr. Raufa Hassan who secured 392. Noaman Qaeda Saif came in third with a mere 85 votes. A total of 1,013 people participated in the elections.

Among those present were the president of the International Federation of Journalists Jim Boumelha, Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Federation of Journalists Hatim Zakaria, and over 1,000 journalists.

The board of the Syndicate comprises the head and twelve board members, among them a Deputy and two Secretary Generals. The total number of the Syndicate members is 1,278.

12 of the 95 candidates have been appointed as members of the Syndicate's executive council. Marwan Dammage came first by winning 541 votes, followed by Fatima Mutahar with 398 votes, Saeed Thabit with 388, Hamdi al-Bukari with 343, Mohammad Salem with 319, Abdullah Al-Safani with 315, Ahmad Al-Jabar with 299, Fekri Qasem with 288, Abbas Ghaleb with 278, Nabil Al-Ussaidi with 277, Mohammad Shubaita with 266, and finally Jamal Al-Na'am with 259 votes.

Three others have been appointed as reserve members of the Syndicate Council, specifically Mustapha Nasr who received 251 votes, Abdul-Aziz Al-Hayajem who received 233 votes, and Ubaid Al-Haj who received 226 votes.

The environment of the elections

In the election hall, and amid much upheaval, there was energetic activity from Dr. Raufa Hassan, and silent work for Yasin. On the day of voting, Hassan exerted great efforts lecturing the voters while Al-Masaudi was absent. But some believe there was hidden work for him. Raufa, who is involved in various projects with foreign organizations had promised to seek support for journalists. She also said that she would have worked towards increasing their salaries.

During voting, at approximately 7:30 am, the electricity was suddenly disconnected and the hall filled with voices calling for the protection of the ballot boxes. "The boxes, the boxes, take care of the boxes," yelled participants.

Hasan hurriedly folded herself around the boxes and was trying to keep people away from them. Although the electricity was disconnected for nearly ten minutes, most of the voters and observers on



New head of the YJS, Yassin Al-Masaudi poses with runner-up Dr. Raufa Hassan, center, and former head of the syndicate Nasr Taha Mustafa, right.

the voting could confirm having witnessed no electoral malpractice, such as exchanging the boxes.

Journalists received money before elections

On Friday, a day before the activities of the fourth conference of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate, journalists who are members of the General Peoples' Congress (GPC), the ruling party, held a qat chew at Al-Mithaq Institute Hall at which each one was given YR 7,000.

"Journalists who are affiliated with GPC were invited to the Friday session on Thursday. All of the journalists gathered in the al-Mithaq Hall after Friday prayers and held a qat chew which lasted until the evening, and then every one was given YR 7,000," said one of the journalists who attended the session.

Not one of the members denies receiving this sum. "I got YR 7,000 for attending the session, but I used the sum to buy a pair of shoes because mine were stolen while I was at the session," affirmed another journalist who is a GPC member.

State journalists influence result

Some journalists expected that Hassan would win but said that the journalists who are affiliated with the government media have affected the results.

"The consensus was that Dr. Raufa Hassan would win, but there was interference by leading government journalists, which ensured Yassin Al-Masaudi's win," said Mohammad Naser, a journalist who works for non-governmental media.

"The leaders of governmental media institutions held private meetings with employees and directed them to elect Al-Masaudi," he added.

Some others think that journalists in the two leading state run newspapers, Al-Thawrah and 26th September, were behind Al-Masaudi winning.

"These two newspapers have great

numbers of journalists who are also Syndicate members, who have already been directed to vote for Al-Masaudi," said a journalist who preferred not to have his name disclosed.

"Because Al-Masaudi is the Deputy Chief-Editor of Al-Thawrah newspaper, surely all his employees have directions to vote for him," he added.

However, the Chief Editor of the Yemen News Agency, Nasr Taha Mustafa, denied that there were instructions for state media journalists to vote in favor of any particular candidate.

"There were no private meetings with our journalists, but I was expressing my opinion to those who wanted to know it," said Mustafa.

New YJS chairman weak

A number of journalists believe that the YJS will remain weak, and become weaker in the future for having a new weak candidate.

"The new candidate is weak; we did not even see him speak to journalists," said Redwan Amer, YJS member.

"Our future demands and rights will not be fulfilled because we have a weak chairman," said Sami al-Ashwal, a journalist working at the Yemen News Agency.

Before the election results candidate Raufa Hassan told the Yemen Times that the main reason for nominating herself for elections was "the weak candidate for the chairmanship of the syndicate".

"In the past elections, I refused to enter into competition with Nasr Mustafa because I know he is good person and can do something for the syndicate," she said.

He refused to make a statement or any form of comment to the Yemen Times.

Al-Masaudi is Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the state-run Al-Thawra Newspaper. He was born in 1955, and earned his Bachelor of Journalism.

He is affiliated with the General Peoples' Congress, the ruling party.

Political parties renounce responsibility for elections postponement

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 18 — Mohammed Al-Dhaheeri, Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University, stressed the need for sound political values and not political stunts concerning the postponement of parliamentary elections that was agreed upon between the General Peoples' Congress (GPC) and the six Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

This came during a symposium organized by the Political Development Center in cooperation with the German organization Friedrich Albert on Tuesday. Al-Dhaheeri criticized political parties for using the elections as a means to achieve and ends.

"We are in need of political development, not political gimmicks," said Al-Dhaheeri. "Elections are a mechanism of democracy, but in Yemen they have turned out to be a problem in and of themselves. I wish that the postponement [of elections] could have come from an institutional meeting of the GPC. The Yemeni political system is characterized by the personalizing of the government, with the country defaulting to the single ruler. The problem of postponement is that there is a culture behind this decision that is loath to confess mistakes, and that turns instead to justifications. Unfortunately, the elections turned out to be a problem, and the postponement of local council elections and the extension of the Parliamentary term serves as evidence of the alienation and deprivation others. It's in the nation's interest to find a constitutional solution, not resort to political gimmicks which go against the constitution."

Al-Dhaheeri pointed out the lack of real values behind the postponement of elections. "The Yemeni political mind still resents failure and hates institutionalism in the political system, as the ruling party insists on depriving the minority of positions of power."

In his speech about the implications of postponement, Al-Dhaheeri indicated that, "the ruling party is reluctant to admit that there is crisis."

For his part, Sultan Al-Barakani, Assistant Secretary General of the GPC, said that the GPC and JMP resorted to postponing the elections out of their concern for the supreme national interests. He stressed the need to tackle the various national issues as a complete entity and not separately. He cited developing the constitution and electoral system as key issues.

Al-Barakani pointed out that, "the two years of postponement will be for nothing if we keep on discussing the justifications for postponement rather than focusing on the main issues." He said that the parties' parliamentary blocs demanded amending article 65, which was the basis of the postponement of elections.

However, he said that, "the conditions that article 65 indicated didn't exist. At least, it is in the national interest that we find a constitutional way out, either through gimmick or through consent." He noted that the Secretary Generals of the parties, as well as the heads and members of parliamentary blocs, signed on to give parties and civil society organizations an opportunity to participate in reforming the political and electoral system. He demanded that, "issues of the homeland should be the focus of our attention." "We should deal with development and capitalize on the expertise of others." He further stressed the importance of focusing on "targets, overcoming problems, and working in a framework of complete partnership."

Continued from page 1

South Koreans barely escape second suicide attack

The general reaction to Sunday's attacks is that someone was targeting tourists, but now says Park, head of the community in Yemen, it feels like South Korea is being targeted specifically.

"It's difficult to find a reason," he said. "In Shibam, it felt like they were not targeted because they were Korean, but today they were a target."

"We are seriously thinking all Koreans leave the country," he said. "Last year, many oil companies moved to make investment here, but maybe now they want to slide back."

"So far I will stay in Yemen," said Li Sang-eun, operation manager at the Korea National Oil Corporation Yemen LT who has been in Yemen for two months. "The operation is very important for our company, although both the Korean government and our head office

He denied the idea that, "the agreement to postpone elections came from closed rooms."

Chairman of the JMP's Supreme Council, Sultan Al-Atwani, said that the agreement between the GPC and the JMP to postpone elections came after a long struggle. He pointed out that the JMP had a range of demands regarding the reform of the electoral administration offered in 2005 that were subsequently followed by the principle agreement, and then by the recommendations of the European Union. He went on to note that the JMP opened a dialog with the GPC in 2007, but that this dialog failed. "At that time, we agreed in front of the President, but disagreed in the discussions themselves."

Al-Atwani confirmed that the JMP was careful to conduct elections in due time. He said that it opened the door for dialog and offered its initiative to the President. On the basis of those meetings, the two sides agreed to a draft amendment of a new law for elections based on recommendations from the European Union. He pointed out that this project failed, as the majority of those in parliament disapproved of it, instead maintaining a belief in the efficacy of the current law.

"At that time the political crisis began, and brothers in the GPC started preparing for the elections alone," said Al-Atwani. "We tried to bring them back to the right path, but they were steadfast in their defense of what took place on August 18."

He confirmed that, at that time, the

Peter Williams, director of the Ives Organization in Yemen presented a paper on "moving forward to conduct electoral reforms". The paper included suggestions for things to be carried out during the two years of postponement. He suggested that Yemen recall the reasons that led it to disagreements about elections and postponement in the first place.

Williams took political consensus which ignore the rule of the law, as well as non-democratic practices, into consideration. He questioned the way in which Yemen can improve its situation and ease the current apprehension felt by both Yemeni society and the wider international community concerning the disintegration of democracy.

He further questioned the readiness of Yemen to conduct elections within two years. He said that Yemen's readiness, "depends on accepting participation in elections, and setting a specific timetable for dialog and its subsequent results."

He said that Yemen should learn from the past in order to be ready for elections. "If Yemen ignores the lessons of the past, it will not be ready to conduct elections within two years. If Yemen is not ready to conduct elections within two years, democracy will be consigned to Yemeni history," he warned.

He said that the main decisions should be taken early to guarantee the sound planning and execution of the elections. He confirmed that Yemen does not have enough time take from now until October 2010 or even



Panelists and participants discuss the justifications and objectives behind postponing elections.

JMP hadn't announced a boycott of elections, or of participation in them, as the decision depended on the provision of a suitable climate in which to conduct free and fair elections. Following this, "the President last February confirmed the importance of conducting elections in participation with all parties."

He denied that the JMP demanded to postpone elections, pointing out that the President had confirmed that, "postponing elections has become a necessity." He said that the President called on parties to prepare justifications for the postponement, pointing out that postponement will be discussed in parliament next April 26, to be followed by the implementation of the agreement.

Abdul Rahman Al-Jafri, Head of the Yemen Sons' League party, said that there are no official postponing so far.

He said that the problem exists in the political systems of both the ruling and opposition parties, stressing the need for reforming the current defects in these parties.

He demanded that comprehensive and far reaching political reforms be conducted based on partnership. "We know that other political parties should participate in reforms," stressing that all issues should be discussed completely.

February 2011 to prepare for election, pointing out that determining electoral constituencies requires 9-12 months, in addition to another 6 months to prepare voter registration, let alone changing the electoral system. He announced the readiness of his organization to assist in making the decisions that need to be taken, and in determining the timetable that will help Yemen become ready to conduct elections in April in 2011.

Ahmed Al-Soufi, Director of the National Institute for Democratic Development, said that postponing elections has destroyed the will of the citizens. He said that the agreement between the GPC and the JMP was vague, and that the biggest loser from that agreement is democracy.

"It can be said that the JMP was able to overcome the will of the GPC, but this is not a victory for democracy," said Al-Soufi. "Civil Society Organizations should adopt a vision about the postponement of elections, the dialogs of the two sides, and about those who are motivated by a desire for power."

The symposium was attended by political and partisan leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, intellectuals, journalists, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Family of hostage demands the Ministry of the Interior be held responsible

By: Almgad Mojalli

SANA'A, March 18 — The brother of the hostage Ali Al-Shami demanded on Wednesday that the Minister of the Interior bear responsibility towards the people and oblige the kidnappers to release his brother.

Abdul Monaem Al-Shami, the hostage's brother, stated that Nasser Al-Aqra'a and a group of armed people kidnapped his brother, who is recovering from injuries following an unrelated car accident, at the end of December 2008. He was kidnapped in the Jihana district, 30 kilometers east of Sana'a, while on his way to work. This fact is confirmed by the Ministry of the Interior.

While on their way to the kidnappers' village in Marib, they came across a car from the Central Security Forces. Upon seeing the security personnel, the victim frantically gestured for help.

"When the soldiers stopped to ask what was wrong, some of the kidnappers quickly got down from their car and surrounded the soldiers at gunpoint. They then drove away in the security car," said Al-Shami.

"The kidnappers are asking for a ransom amounting to YR 5 million (USD 25,000)," noted Al-Shami.

"The Minister of the Interior has to bear responsibility instead of staying in his office to distribute cars and allowances to certain people of particular districts," said Al-Shami, the elder brother of the hostage Ali Al-Shami.

On the second day Al-Shami's family received a call from the Central Security

Operation informing them that, following a successful security campaign, the kidnappers were going to release the car and the kidnapped man. Later, the family was surprised to learn that this campaign only secured the release of the Central Security car, and didn't even inquire as to the possibility of releasing the hostage.

"When we called the police asking them about where we could meet them to reclaim my brother, they told us that they could only release the car, and would contact the tribal leaders and talk about my brother's issue," Al-Shami lamented.

According to Al-Shami, the story started with a dispute over a piece of land in the Hadda district to the south of Sana'a city. Two years ago, Mohammed Al-Shami, the older brother of hostage, had a piece of land but couldn't make use of it because the military police forbid him to build on it.

Following this, Mohammed Al-Shami agreed with the Sheikh Saleh Al-Shandaqi, the sheikh of the kidnappers' district, to allow him to build a wall and a room on the land.

After the land was built upon, Al-Shandaqi and his companions fought with the military police and killed a soldier, and one of the Al-Shandaqi's companions was injured.

Mohammed Al-Shami agreed to leave the land for the Minister of the Interior and the more influential Sheikh Abdullah Hantash, a sheikh in Bani Jabr district in Khawlan, in return for resolving the issue.

The hostage's family had never before heard of Al-Aqra'a nor do they know

anything relating to the issue of the land dispute. "We have never met this person and don't know anything about him. We went to his district and asked them to inform us of his demands, the leaders there said that they couldn't reach a solution with him."

Al-Shami complained that the government has done nothing at all regarding the issue of his kidnapped brother since he was taken since last year, as if they weren't even human beings, wishing instead that they were Americans or Germans so that he could oblige the government to release his son. "Our complaints ran for about twenty days between the offices of the public prosecutor and the Minister of the Interior, and ultimately they have done nothing at all," he said, expressing his astonishment at the behavior of the security services in Yemen.

"The duty of any government is to safeguard its people, but here the interest and security of people is the least of concerns for the government," he added.

When the family of the hostage despaired before the government, they enlisted the sheikhs of their own tribe, Khawlan, who directly supported them. "We started cutting the roads leading to the district of the kidnappers and kidnapped ten of their cars, but when we found that this only exacerbated the problem, we released them and turned to NGOs and the press to help us," Al-Shami mentioned.

Yemen Times tried to contact the security service and the Governor of Marib, but neither responded to calls.

education sectors, but if the community leaves, these will all be put on hold.

"All Koreans now think that Yemen is the most dangerous country in the world," said Park, however adding, "We don't think Yemen is so dangerous, but it has problems."

Two Belgian tourists and a Yemeni driver were killed when gunmen opened fire on a tourist convoy in Hadramout in January 2008. Al-Qaeda in Yemen claimed responsibility for the attack, as it did for the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a in September 2008.

A suicide bomber plowed his car into a convoy of Spanish tourists in July 2007, killing eight Spanish tourists and two Yemeni guides.

In 1998, three South Koreans -including the then ambassador's wife- were kidnapped by tribesmen to extract demands from the Yemeni government, but were all released unharmed.

In Brief

SANA A UNICEF report: Children in Yemen suffering

About 107 per thousand Yemeni children, babies and children under five, die a day in Yemen's rural areas, a recent Unicef report has said.

46 percent Yemeni children suffer from malnutrition, the report said.

"Half of children in Yemen don't attend primary school and their issues go unreported either by local or international media," the report said.

On child full rights, the report said Yemeni children don't receive simple rights, adding 27 percent of them have to work where they are usually abused physically and mentally.

Yemen arrests Saudi al-Qaeda militant

One of the most wanted al-Qaeda militants of Saudi Arabia was arrested by Yemeni forces in Taiz province, Interior Ministry said Sunday.

"Yemen's security services have captured Saudi man on a list of 85 wanted militants of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Abdul-Rahman Mohammed al-Harbi who is wanted by Yemen as well over terrorist acts", said the Ministry.

"Al-Harbi is one of the most wanted militants in Yemen's newly issued list of 116 wanted militants".

Security sources pointed out that al-Harbi are being investigated by Yemeni security bodies.

The sources revealed also that a number of suspected al-Qaeda militants, including a leading Yemeni member of al-

Qaeda al-Khadhir al-Gadib, had surrendered to Yemeni authorities in Abyan province.

Interior ministry: dangerous al-Qaeda element arrested

Ministry of Interior announced on Sunday arrest of a wanted element of al-Qiada in Taiz governorate.

A source at the ministry told Saba that the security authority arrested Abdullah al-Harbi- a Saudi citizen- who is wanted by the Yemeni and Saudi authorities and he is in the list of wanted persons published by the ministry.

The source praised success of the security bodies in the governorate to arrest the element, saying that the bodies are investigating with him.

The source described al-Harbi as dangerous al-Qiada element.

On the other hand, the source said that al-Khadar al-Jodib and other al-Qiada elements in Abyan governorate handed themselves over to the security bodies in the governorate.

DHAMAR

First Aid training course in Dhamar concluded

A training course of first Aid and health status management has been concluded in Dhamar governorate with participation of 40 students.

The four-day training course organized by Health School Department in the governorate in collaboration with the office of Public Health and Population Ministry.

Director of Health School Department Mohammed al-Badawi said that the participants have acquired knowledge of first aid methods, how to deal with wounds and fractures and ways of health status management in schools.

The Department also distributed last week about 50 first aid boxes for 50 schools in the governorate in cooperation with office of Public Health and Population Ministry, al-Badawi said.

SAADA

2nd phase of rebuilding affected regions in Sa'ada launched

The Fund of Rebuilding Saada lunched on Sunday the second phase of the reconstructing private institutions in several regions in the governorate.

During the ceremony of launching the phase, governor of Saada Hassan Manna praised efforts of the state represented by the fund to rebuild damaged public and private institutions due to strife in the governorate.

The governor called on all to unify efforts to settle peace in the governorate and bring the process of rebuilding into success as well as pushing development process in the governorate forward.

He said that the preparations for starting the third phase are under way which targets Hidan, Majaz, Bani Moudh regions in addition to make a survey for houses of displaced peoples in their regions.

The director of the fund Mohammed Thabat said that the process of the

rebuilding comes within implementation for the directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to reconstruct affected regions in several districts of the governorate.

He made it clear that the first phase targeted 960 houses in Mahdah, Talah, Razah and Qatabar regions at sum of YR 1.2 billion.

It is worth mentioning that the second phase targets 391 houses in Al Homidan, Al-Hamati, Al Saifi, and other regions.

TAIZ

Blaze ravages Taiz housing complex

The zone which was home to the marginalized people in the province of Taiz was completely destroyed as a huge fire broke out ravaging all fifty homes that were made of aluminum and straw, the newsyemen.net has reported.

The fire started when one of the people at the complex prepared tea with wood and paraffin but was fanned by winds which caused flames to move to a nearby home where plastic materials along with other combustible substances were found, police said.

The blaze caused other material losses which authorities estimated at YR 5 million.

However, there have been no reported casualties as the people who lived at the complex were outside when the fire started.

The complex was totally devastated because authorities were not informed of the fire when it started, police said.

People at the complex tried to control the fire by themselves and when they realized it was too difficult to deal with the blaze they then called firefighters, police made clear.

Firefighters fought for hours until the blaze came under control.

HOIDEIDAH

Seven ships unloaded over 38,000 tons of oil, other goods

Seven ships and oil tankers carrying 38,849 tons of oil, iron, sugar in addition to a number of containers have arrived to Hodeidah seaport.

According to a report issued by the Yemeni Red Sea Ports Corporation, that about 23,291 tons of oil, 5,500 tons of sugar, 10,000 tons of iron and 547 containers of several kinds of goods have been all unloaded in the Seaport.

While Mocha seaport has also received four ships carrying 20,548 head of goats, 2,917 head of cattle and 15 head of camels.

Meanwhile, Al-Salif seaport has received two ships carrying 66,000 tons of wheat and 25,311 tons of corn and soy.

Workshop on reducing women's illiteracy concluded in Hodeidah

A training workshop of volunteer female teachers for reducing women's illiteracy in Hodeidah province has concluded.

The workshop organized by Feminine Nisf al-Mujtama'a Development Organization aims to train about 12 female teachers on means of teaching

methods and how to deal with adults as well as evaluation and forming goals.

It is worth to mention that the organization had carried out, as the new school year began, a campaign on reducing women illiteracy and adults teaching in the governorate.

HADRAMOUT

Four S. Korean tourists and Yemeni killed in Hadramout

Four South Korean tourists, two men and two women, and their Yemeni guide were killed Sunday in an explosion at a mountainous area in the Yemeni province of Hadramout, Interior Ministry said Monday.

"The explosion occurred about 2:45 GMT (6:45 P.M. in Sana'a) while a number of South Korean tourists were paying a visit to a mountainous area in the historical city of Shibam, Hadramout", a press release of the Ministry reported.

"Five other South Koreans, two men and three women, suffer light injuries due to the incident".

Security sources said that another Yemeni was also injured in the explosion.

The sources added that the security services are investigating the incident to unearth more details and identify those behind it.

The ancient city of Shibam is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Its towering 16th century mud brick buildings have given the city the nickname of "The Manhattan of the desert".

Their News

Training workshop on leadership, creative thinking, and community participation skills

With in Door-to-Door project for rural youth, the Women Forum for Research and Training in cooperation with Yemen Lung is organizing a training workshop on leadership and creative thinking and community participation skills for four days, during March 22-26,2009 at the center of (WFRT)

The workshop will be attended by 27 young female and male from five villages in Al Nashama district, and Mareb Province. Mr. Amen Abdulkarim, the well known trainer expert lead the workshop aiming to develop the skills on the participants on leadership, communication, and creative thinking.

Agreement for community nutrition and health project for mother and child

Japan International Cooperation Agency JICA and Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) are to launch the Technical Cooperation Project "Community Nutrition and Health for Mother and Child" starting from June 2009, for a duration of four years.

On 15th of March, JICA and MoPHP had made signing the Agreement of the project at MoPHP. The signing was executed between Dr. Abdulkarim Yehia

Rasae, Minister of Public Health and Population and Mr. Kenichi Sasaki, Resident Representative of JICA Yemen Office. In this ceremony, Mr. Masakazu Toshikage, Ambassador of Japan and Mr. Hisham Sharaf Abdullah, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Deputy Minister for International Cooperation Sector and other related officials attended.

This JICA/MoPHP project aims to improve the nutrition status of children and mothers, especially in remote areas in Sana'a Governorate, Ibb Governorate and Hadramout Governorate. The project is going to establish and strengthen the Community Health Volunteer (CHV) system and provide training to candidates of the CHVs. CHVs are expected to provide the service of growth monitoring, nutrition and health education, vitamin A supplementation, dose of anti-worm medicine, distribution of oral rehydration salt for diarrhea cases, and distribution of iron/folic acid tablet for pregnant mothers.

The nutritional status of Yemen is one of the worst countries in the world. Especially, malnutrition rate among less than 5 year-old is very high. For example, the prevalence of stunting, underweight and wasting are 53.1%, 45.6% and 12.5%, respectively (YFHS, 2005). Micronutrient deficiency, such as iron-deficiency anemia, vitamin A deficiency and iodine deficiency also have very

high incidence in Yemen, and these deficiencies cause enormous negative impact to the children and women of reproductive age. The recent problem of food price crisis aggravates the nutrition status of Yemeni people even more severely. Therefore, the project is expected to contribute to reducing the current nutrition and health problems in remote areas.

MoPHP is going to expand the CHV system to other remote areas in Yemen after establishing the model of the system in the project and, at the same time, to apply the same system into other health services to improve accessibility of health service.

Fifth World Water Forum: War victims need better access to water and sanitation

Istanbul/Geneva (ICRC) - The international community must do more to ensure that the victims of armed conflict have access to safe water and sanitation, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The ICRC is calling on governments taking part in the Fifth World Water Forum in Turkey this week to make a serious commitment to protect water and sanitation systems in times of war and to maintain services in conflict-prone areas to prevent them from collapsing.

"Water, sewage and electrical power systems, along with medical facilities,

are usually the first things to be disrupted when a war breaks out," said Robert Mardini, who heads the ICRC's water and habitat unit. "They can be damaged or shut down completely by shelling and explosions, or overwhelmed by influxes of displaced people. Such incidents are often followed by massive shortages and by rapidly spreading disease that can result in loss of life." Mr Mardini cited Iraq, Gaza, Sri Lanka and Somalia as examples of places where the delivery of water supplies and sanitation services has been severely hampered by recent armed conflicts.

Roughly a quarter of the estimated 1.2 billion people unable to obtain clean drinking water, and 15 per cent of the 2.6 billion without access to proper sanitation, are in war-torn countries. "Access to safe water and adequate sanitation are fundamental for conflict-affected people," said Mr Mardini. "The ICRC aims to use the World Water Forum to put this issue higher up the international agenda and to remind governments of their responsibilities in this respect."

Mr Mardini drew attention to the double adversity faced by war victims struggling to survive a natural disaster. "When a natural disaster, such as a prolonged drought, exacerbates the devastation wrought by conflict, as in Somalia, people become far more vulnerable to poverty and disease."

The ICRC's efforts to improve water

and sanitation involve working with communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent partners to provide emergency assistance where needed and to develop sustainable practices. The organization's neutral and impartial role enables it to talk to all sides in a conflict, and thereby to help restore access to water even as fighting rages on.

Germany signs two Memoranda of Understanding on food security and good governance

On 15 March 2009, two Memoranda of Understandings between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Yemen were signed at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The first Memorandum lays the groundwork for the beginning of the Sustainable Food Security Programme between the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The second Memorandum concerns the collaboration between the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation regarding Capacity Building for the Implementation of Reforms in the Field of Good Governance in Yemen.

On the occasion of the signing ceremony, the German Ambassador Michael

Klor-Berchold declared: "Today we are witnessing another proof of Germany's continuous support to Yemen. One of the two Memoranda that we have signed today will contribute to ensure food security in Yemen and thus help to shoulder the challenges following the dramatic increase of global food prices."

The other Memorandum that is being signed today will help to strengthen Yemen's capacity in Good Governance. With this project Germany provides concrete and rapid assistance to the implementation of the Yemeni National Reform Agenda. The project focuses to improve Governance in areas as Transparency and Accountability to enhance the significance of combating corruption efforts and to maintain the ground of a credible Financial Management System. Further, it will focus on Gender and Human rights issues.

I particularly want to express the German Government's and my personal appreciation for the leadership of H. E. Deputy Prime Minister Al-Arhabi and the efforts of the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation. Without your leadership, Excellency, we would not have reached this result today. I also wanted to encourage all other levels of the Yemeni Government and the Line Ministries to share this responsibility and to follow the exemplary leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister to this aspect."



Medecins du Monde — Yemen

Vacancy Office Secretary


Responsibilities:

1. Translation/interpretation: oral and written translation form Arabic to English and from English to Arabic
2. Secretarial Tasks in English and Arabic
3. Follow up of national procedures and travel arrangements
4. Responsible of Petty cash management

Qualifications:

1. Arabic, fluent in English, French is an asset
2. Ability to write reports in English and in Arabic
3. Excellent command in computers
4. Good knowledge of the INGO legal environment in Yemen is essential
5. Previous working experience in an NGO is an asset
6. Diplomatic, able to communicate with a variety of people
7. Flexible attitude, to adjust to a different culture, medical context, political context
8. Good sense of organization is essential

Applications (CV & letter of interest) should be sent by e-mail at: recruitment_mdm_yemen@yahoo.fr before 1st of April 2009.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified candidates for the following position:

Title: Receptionist
Type of Contract: Special Service Agreement (SSA for 9 months)
Section / Division: Operations
Duty Station: Sana'a

Under the supervision and guidance of Chief of Operations of UNICEF Sana'a Office, the Receptionist shall be mainly responsible for:

1. Ensure that visitors are screened, check who they have come to visit
2. Facilitate visit by contacting staff being visited
3. Ensure that telephone calls are immediately answered and directed to the staff being called
4. Take and deliver messages if the staff concerned or secretary is not available
5. Register all incoming pouches
6. Perform any other duties as required (e.g. typing letters, scanning etc.)


Qualifications and Skills Required:

- ¥ Completion of secondary education
- ¥ Experience in the area of receptionist/operator related to the work of the organization
- ¥ Fluency in English and Arabic

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to e-mail address: yemenhr@unicef.org

Applications received after 18th of March 2009 will not be considered.

☐UNICEF is non-smoking environment☐



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Post Title: Community Services Assistant
Location: Sana'a

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

- ¥ Assesses the general social conditions of refugees and their needs for social service, such as medical assistance, financial assistance,
- ¥ Conduct counselling and in particular assistance to vulnerable cases; provides individual counselling to refugees needing such assistance,
- ¥ Ensure coordination and communication between all relevant partners on all individual cases including close monitoring of the follow up by implementing partners and other relevant agencies
- ¥ Assists the refugee community to identify its own needs, to establish priorities and to meet these needs through developing self-help groups,
- ¥ Closely monitor activities of implementing partners and provide capacity building training as needed, particularly in regards to social counselling assistance to individual refugees
- ¥ Conducts home visits and report to Community Services Officer,
- ¥ Oversee effective delivery of assistance, including financial, social, medical and legal, to the individual cases with the implementing partners and other relevant partners,
- ¥ Monitor the activities of implementing partners and drafts quarterly evaluation reports in collaboration with Community Service Officer and the Programme unit,
- ¥ Increase refugee skills by vocational, skills development training and functional literacy programs

Qualifications:

- ¥ University degree in Social work or related field of study (Sociology or psychology)
- ¥ Ability to work in an international work place, using English as work language;
- ¥ Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is essential
- ¥ English is the working language and knowledge of Arabic is essential.
- ¥ At least 2 years (working in the humanitarian field, particularly with migrant and refugee populations in essential).

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to unv.yemen.info@undp.org Subject: Community Services Assistant — Sana'a

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.
Deadline for receiving applications is 27 March 2009



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Invitation for Proposal for Civilian Security Guards services
(Date: 15th/03/2009)

Our reference code: YEMSA/ADM/09/058

Proposals are invited from security companies for the provision of services of civilian security guards at UNHCR offices/premises with the number of guards per shift for each location as mentioned below:

Location	Shift 1	Shift 2	Shift 3	Total
Sana'a Office	8	2	2	12
Sana'a Warehouse	1	1	1	3
Aden Sub- Office (including 2 female)	11	7	7	25
Ahwar Office	3	3	3	9
Mayfaa	3	3	3	9
Kharaz	3	3	3	9
Total	29	19	19	67

Your proposal could form the basis for a contract between your firm/company and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Branch Office Sana'a in Yemen.

Terms of Reference

1. Monitor and control of admission of authorized personnel and movements of United Nations property into and out of the premises;
2. Patrol and maintain security of the office premises and grounds, and report any irregularities;
3. Respond to emergencies affecting the safety of the premises and notify UNHCR officials and his/her supervisor; &
4. Where necessary ensure that the compound security lights are turned on or off as may be necessary.

Guidelines and Considerations

- (a) Based on the outcome of the competitive bidding process, UNHCR will enter into a security agreement with the selected company for a minimum period of ten (9) months;
- (b) UNHCR may, if it finds necessary, split the services to be provided between two bidding companies;
- (c) The security guards to be deployed need to have at least average English communication skills as this will facilitate the performance of their work;
- (d) The security company will be responsible for the management / supervision of the guards and payment of their salaries;
- (e) The security company will be responsible for Social security and insurance of the security guards, and payment of all statutory deductions (including income tax) related to the employment of the guards;
- (f) UNHCR undertakes no liability for taxes, duty or other contributions payable by the security company;
- (g) The security company shall be fully responsible and liable for, and UNHCR shall not be liable for (i) any action, omission, negligence or misconduct of the security company or its Personnel, (ii) any insurance coverage which may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of this Contract, or (iii) any costs, expenses, or claims associated with any illness, injury, disability or death of the security company's personnel, including any sub-contracted personnel; &
- (h) UNHCR shall effect payments for services rendered within seven days after the end of every month and receipt of a detailed invoice for the services rendered.

Content and Evaluation of Proposal

Your proposal must be in line with the requirements mentioned in the Terms of Reference (TOR), and with regard to the guidelines and considerations stipulated above. Please provide your company profile and a list of your current clientele with contact phone numbers. Please provide supporting documents regarding your company registration and relevant authorisation to provide security services. The General Conditions for Provision of Services for UNHCR may be obtained, on request, from our offices in Sana'a or Aden.

The award of the contract by UNHCR will be based on the following pre-determined criteria:

Company Profile	15%;
Past performance	25%; &
Financial Component	60%

Please note that UNHCR is not bound to select any of the firms submitting proposals and does not bind itself in any way to select the firm offering the lowest price. Furthermore, the contract will be awarded to the proposal considered most responsive to the requirements, as well as conforming to UNHCR's general principles, including economy and efficiency.

Submission of Proposals:

Complete proposals should be sent to:
The Administration Officer
UNHCR Branch Office
P.O. Box 12093
Sana'a, Yemen

Fax No. +967-1-469770, or preferably, by e-mail: yemsa@unhcr.org.
Closing date for receipt of applications: **29 March 2009**



Invitation for Proposal for Cleaning services
(Date: 11th/03/2009)

Our reference code: YEMSA/HCR/ADM/09/054

Proposals are invited from cleaning companies for the provision of services of cleaners at UNHCR offices/premises with the number of cleaners for each location as mentioned below:

Location	Total
Sana'a Office	4
Saada Office	1
Total	5

Your proposal could form the basis for a contract between your firm/company and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Branch Office Sana'a in Yemen.

Terms of Reference

1. To perform cleaning functions of washing, sweeping, dusting, vacuum-cleaning and polishing (these duties include cleaning surfaces, furniture, walls, doors, windows, carpets, etc. and emptying waste paper baskets);
2. To keep office rooms, kitchens and toilets clean and hygienic;
3. To maintain and clean all cleaning equipment utilized; &
4. To maintain the garden/compound clean and tidy.

Guidelines and Considerations

- (a) Based on the outcome of the competitive bidding process, UNHCR will enter into a cleaning agreement with the selected company for a minimum period of nine (9) months, starting April 2009;
- (b) If the cleaners to be deployed have some English communication skills (if any), this would facilitate the performance of their work;
- (c) The cleaning company will be responsible for the management / supervision of the cleaners and payment of their salaries;
- (d) The cleaning company will be responsible for Social security and insurance of the cleaners, and payment of all statutory deductions (including income tax) related to the employment of the cleaners;
- (e) UNHCR undertakes no liability for taxes, duty or other contributions payable by the cleaning company;
- (f) The cleaning company shall be fully responsible and liable for, and UNHCR shall not be liable for (i) any action, omission, negligence or misconduct of the cleaning company or its Personnel, (ii) any insurance coverage which may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of this Contract, or (iii) any costs, expenses, or claims associated with any illness, injury, disability or death of the cleaning company's personnel, including any sub-contracted personnel; &
- (g) UNHCR shall effect payments for services rendered within seven days after the end of every month and receipt of a detailed invoice for the services rendered.

Content and Evaluation of Proposal

Your proposal must be in line with the requirements mentioned in the Terms of Reference (TOR), and with regard to the guidelines and considerations stipulated above.

The award of the contract by UNHCR will be based on the following pre-determined criteria:

Company Profile	15%;
Past performance	25%; &
Financial Component	60%

Submission of Proposals:

Complete proposals should be sent to:
The Administration Officer
UNHCR Branch Office
P.O. Box 12093
Sana'a, Yemen

Fax No. +967-1-469770, or preferably, by e-mail: yemsa@unhcr.org.

Closing date for receipt of applications: **25 March 2009**

Yemenis fight taboos, corruption with investigative journalism

By: Magda Abu-Fadil

Yemen is on an anti-corruption kick with journalists acquiring investigative skills and women slated to become the next Woodwards and Bernsteins, given their spunk and enthusiasm for such work, albeit within their own modest context.

Sensitive subjects in a conservative patriarchal society and lurking dangers seemed no deterrent to a group of women journalists in a workshop meant to steel them for the rigors ahead.

"I'll tackle the rape of women by relatives, and its social implications," said Kafa Al Hashli of her proposed investigation aimed at "outing" the subject and exposing its detrimental long-term effects on the country.

Al Hashli, an editor at Al Ayam newspaper, was to cover five of the country's provinces to familiarize Yemeni women with their legal and social rights, and to win acceptance of them and their children through civil society organizations.



Some Yemeni women face family rapists



Yemeni children could face smugglers

Although she planned to approach social workers, lawyers, police investigators and doctors who perform abortions or operations to restore unmarried women's virginity, hers is no easy task.

Yemeni journalists face constraints; not least of which are their news organizations' meager resources, low salaries and the possibility superiors may not approve investigative projects.

Yemen's illiteracy rate hovers around 60-70 percent, depending on whose statistics one believes, the country at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula is considered one of the poorest in the Arab world, and journalists, much less the female variety, are not always accorded the greatest respect.

Additionally, freedom of information is not a given, despite a guarantee of such liberty in Yemen's press and publications law of 1990, so access to data can be difficult.

Yemeni journalists point to harassment for publishing controversial issues given laws that can trip the most able-bodied investigator.

But it's also a matter of poor qualifications, explained Sami Ghaleb, editor of the independent, but financially strapped, weekly newspaper Al Nidaa'. "There is a problem with investiga-

tive reports in Yemen and journalists operate unprofessionally," he said from his spartan office, pointing to a shortage of resources and below-par university curricula based mostly on theoretical journalism courses.

Political, professional and financial limitations notwithstanding, Yemeni journalists are proceeding with hot potato investigations such as the smuggling of children.

"We aim to familiarize listeners with the danger of this social phenomenon, the reasons behind it, and appropriate solutions to deal with it," wrote Yehia El Hazzar and Fahd Al Mahyoub in a proposal on tackling child nabbing in Yemen.

The staffers at Radio Hejja, in the northwest, were two of 30 reporters and editors from print and broadcast media participating in the investigative journalism workshop in the capital Sana'a, conducted by the Journalism Training Program (JTP) that provided hands-on learning in a milieu unaccustomed to critical thinking.

Other workshop participants took on the prevalence of arms - increasingly among minors - as well as financial corruption within government ranks, the proliferation of illegal medical centers, negligence in hospitals, the sale of



Yemenis learning to become investigative journalists

expired medication, torture in Yemeni prisons, and questionable construction standards, to name a few issues.

The journalists who hailed from all over were selected on the basis of balanced regional representation from Yemen's various governorates (provinces) and in keeping with political sensitivities.

There was a disparity in their professional experience. Some journalists were more attuned to multimedia and receptive to new ways of gathering information, or the notion of investigative journalism.

Others were more accustomed to being spoon-fed information by officials of various stripes and not amenable to enterprise reporting, notably since they worked for government-run media or were outright state apparatchiks.

But a colleague and I on assignment for the American University of Beirut's JTP made them watch the 1970s classic "All the President's Men" with Arabic subtitles, which really impressed the journalists, before asking them to come up with story lines and areas to probe for their respective assignments.

The positive vibes from the training is music to the ears of Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC), a

Yemeni NGO seeped in transparency and advocacy work. The organization has a track record of fighting corruption and has published a book on the subject that can be found at www.womenpress.org.



WJWC President Tawakkol Abdel Salam Karman

According to WJWC President Tawakkol Abdel Salam Karman, "We offer what others don't: holding senior government officials and judges

accountable." The government revoked WJWC's license at one point, withdrew its text messaging service, cloned the organization and barred it from publishing a newspaper, she said.

It seems cloning organizations is a regular occurrence in Yemen whereby fake websites, publications and other products are used for disinformation.

On the flip side, an Information Ministry official told me the government was determined to support the media in combating corruption, adding that journalists had contributed to the resignation of a cabinet member after compiling adequate evidence about his misdeeds.

Asked if journalists faced restrictions, a deputy minister replied: "There are no red lines. Journalists have the right to resort to the courts to obtain information." The only bans are on economic and military secrets.

After joining the international anti-corruption regime, the Yemeni government set up the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, which officials insist is an independent body.

"The best thing about the training was the brainstorming, and the trainers' practical experience, in addition to the Q&A based on real examples and realistic exercises," said a workshop participant, adding that showing the film was original.

Emphasizing the need for media ethics was another area the journalists appreciated, along with working in a systematic fashion and learning skills that would help them handle investigative topics to combat corruption in Yemen.

Raddad Mohamed Al-Salami, editor at Al Taghyir.net website, said: "In five days I learned more than my four years at Yemen University's School of Communication, where the minds of most faculty members stopped with journalism practices of the 1980s and 1970s."

Magda Abu Fadil is Director of the Journalism Training Program at the American University of Beirut. Copyright Huffington Post www.huffingtonpost.com

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Feasibility of Yemen's WTO entry

By: Sami Mohsen Al-Serri
Sami4441@gmail.com

Numerous questions have been raised concerning the feasibility of Yemen's prospective admission into the World Trade Organization (WTO). The negatives and positives due to emerge in this respect and their impacts on the national economy are of top concern.

At the very beginning, I would like to clarify that WTO, which was established in 1995, is an organization concerned with international agreements and laws related to trade among states. Its main task is to ensure freedom of trade without any obstacles. In order for any state to be a WTO member, the state must cut custom tariffs and amend its local legislations to comply with WTO-endorsed agreements.

Yemen has made several concessions so far before being admitted into the WTO, the most important of which are the economic reforms imposed by the World Bank and the accompanying cuts in customs tax, a greater freedom of trade,

and submission to the general 'market policy.' This means that many negatives feared by states following their WTO entry have already been actualized here in Yemen even before becoming WTO members. Nothing remains there for Yemen to be concerned about.

On the contrary, there are the benefits from the positives associated with WTO admission, such as opening up new markets to our country and helping Yemen receive equal treatment with other member states. Yemen then receives all the benefits gained by other state members. Such positives, however, may not be achieved or enjoyed by Yemen unless it is fully admitted into the WTO. In other words, the majority of admission-related negatives are possible whether we are members in the organization or not. However, positives are impossible to be obtained unless we are admitted to the organization.

It is very important for us to understand that the WTO is a managerial organization. With regard to decisions and obligations, they are agreed upon among member states directly based on bilateral or collective negotiations. The amount of

positives and achievements that Yemen may earn from entry into the WTO relies on the Yemeni government's understanding of WTO agreements and its capability to negotiate with state members to offer the least amount of concessions and to reach maximum benefits. This also depends on Yemen's good exploitation of technical assistance offered to less-developed states.

Yemen's Economy still faces hazards

In case there is no interest or seriousness in WTO negotiations, and if the government doesn't deal well with technical assistance and transitional periods in a practical and fruitful manner, the economic situation of Yemen will continue to worsen. It will not change following entry into the WTO and may go from bad to worse. The national economy is still expected to face numerous risks following Yemen's entry into the organization.

Yemen WTO admission may lead to opening local markets to all the various commodities and goods without any obstacles, which are bound to leave negative impacts on the national production. This is particularly the case if this action

is accompanied by harmful practices on the part of other member states such as flooding markets with cheap commodities and goods or providing large subsidies for its products, thus making Yemen's national economy unable to survive before such unfair competition.

The decision to have Yemen admitted into the WTO was taken by the political leadership and followed by numerous practical steps in this respect. As there was no chance for competition, is it appropriate for Yemen to join the WTO or not? The government needs to care about how to deal with the situation in order to reach maximum achievements and avoid any negative side effects.

In fact, Yemen's entry into the WTO with maximum positives and minimum negatives necessitates hard work by qualified and competent staff which is capable of negotiating with others. Before thinking about WTO admission, the government needs to prepare the national economy in order to be better able to compete as well as appropriately utilize transitional periods and technical assistance.

Source: Marebpress.net

Integration of roles

Our country has seen many political, economic, social, scientific, and cultural activities take place at both the official and popular levels. All these activities aim to search for the best methods and remedies to eliminate obstacles and difficulties, and to ensure flexible and active movement that contributes to widening construction and development, and enhances the Yemeni capacity to achieve quantitative and qualitative breakthroughs in different aspects of development.

However, it is necessary to say that the success of such activities is not gauged by their number and quality. Rather, it is measured through the dynamic results represented by steps of practical execution in the field. Here comes the importance of the integration of roles between public institutions and the other civil sectors including organizations and political parties. This initiative has received much attention from the political leadership represented by H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh,

President of the Republic, who always stresses that major change is brought about through the cooperation of all the people of the country and that organized work and a unified intent are what is required to achieve great things.

This concept has become one of the features of the methodological policy that H.E. the President follows in administering the government based on his presidential position. He confirms this concept in all his meetings with the different governmental bodies, the last of which being the meeting of the Cabinet which he chaired on Thursday March 5, 2009. During this meeting, he urged the government to join in a spirit of teamwork to achieve the tasks it faces. This is because the relationship between the different ministries should be based on a partnership predicated on the integration of roles to serve the comprehensive needs of construction and development.

The practical reality of the ordinary Yemeni citizen supports this complementary necessity between the different pub-

lic sectors. Moreover, many obstacles and difficulties that official authorities and institutions talk about point to the absence of such coordination and integration.

The President of the Republic is focusing on improving governmental administration, and raising its general level of competence in order to remove obsolete routines and break down other barriers that hinder the streamlining and integration of roles that should exist in the government and integrate with the other roles of the society. All these roles aim to achieve joint targets with a view to improving the general welfare of citizens.

The vital importance of the integration of roles is increasing at this time, as the world is facing a difficult financial crisis with truly global economic ramifications.

Recession and unemployment is something which haunts most countries. This has led all countries and international corporations to search for possible ways to mitigate the current crisis which they fear may aggravate these problems in the

future.

Yemen is not removed from these issues and they represent a significant challenge to our country, just as they do to other countries worldwide. It must therefore face this challenge with a group-will and prioritized efforts that strike a balance between our hopes and capabilities. This can be achieved in a framework of comprehensive national vision fostered by constitutional and popular institutions, as well as the ambitions of people who desire better execution of policy, and a deeper and more comprehensive monitoring of this. If we do this, we will find that the general situation becomes ready for all political powers to feel the whole weight of their roles to achieve comprehensive awakening, particularly having been understood by the political leadership. This leadership hopes to widen the base of partnership, and utilize the capabilities of both the people and the land to ensure a glittering future for Yemen.

Source: Al-Thawra editorial

"International" justice ... four courts ... will the rest come?

By: Ali Al-Raimi

On the first day of this March, it was officially announced that the "International Court", tasked with trying those involved in planning and executing the murder of the late Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Al-Hariri, has commenced. On February 14, 2005, Al-Hariri and 22 of his escorts were killed. The court will then deal with the other crimes that Lebanon has witnessed after dealing with this particular crime.

On the fourth day of this March, the Attorney General of the "International Criminal Court" (ICC), Luis Moreno

Ocampo, announced that judges of the court agreed unanimously to issue a warrant for the arrest of the Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir. He also announced that the Sudanese President, who is still in his position as President of a sovereign country, will be subject to arrest as soon as he boards the first Sudanese or non-Sudanese airplane to any destination outside of Sudan!

In addition, Al-Bashir will be arrested as soon as he takes off and flies over another country. His plane will be tracked, which means that this man can be arrested in mid-air!

Between the first and fourth of March news came from The Hague, or

"Residence of the Two Courts", that stated that the International War Crimes Court focusing on Bosnia-Herzegovina issued a decree clearing the ex-President of Serbia, Radovan Karadzic of all charges of responsibility for war crimes and genocide committed against the residents of many cities in Bosnia, most of whom were Muslim, during the ethnic war that took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia in the mid-nineties!

A further item of news that came before all three of the aforementioned announcements was that the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Mon stated early in 2009 that the UN will form an international investigation committee to identify the murderers

of the late Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, which means that the international organization will form a "new" international court to identify and try the criminals who assassinated Bhutto!

The last lines

Thus, and without prior warning, international justice has suddenly raised its head to announce its existence! Four international "criminal" courts tackling four separate issues at the same time is unprecedented, something which is made all the more unusual as two of these courts are dealing with the president and ex-president of two countries. The two courts were entrusted with carrying out the investigation and trial of anonymous "criminals" charged with murdering the Prime Ministers of two countries. Each of these four courts which bear the "International" title will produce result with far reaching consequences, the magnitude of which God only knows!

What attracts attention in the issue of these modernized courts is that all of them are based in just one location in the Netherlands: The Hague, that city of super "international" justice!

Therefore, the world will be waiting for many years to hear the findings of the "quadruple" international justice with the hope that other "international" courts will appear to investigate and try other "criminals" whose hands were stained with the blood of innocents worldwide. However, when will those innocents receive the justice which has recently promised itself to them, especially when the nature of the crimes and identities of the criminals are clear.

Source: Al-Thawra Daily



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Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com

Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Managing Editor
Amel Al-Ariqi

Copy Editor Editor

Alice Hackman Salma Ismail

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Ali Saeed Almidgad Mojalli
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Khaled Al-Hilaly
Mahmoud Assamiee
Mariem Al-Yameni
Ola Al-Shami

Offices

Aden Bureau:

Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

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Film tests cultural mores in Lebanon – banned by censors

On February 16 Lebanese director Marc Abi Rached's film "Help" was banned by Lebanon's censors after they had previously granted the film permission to screen. The film's producers described the film as trying to put a human face to taboo issues such as prostitution, homelessness, and drugs. MENASSAT sat down with the director for a chat to discuss the latest developments.

By: MENASSAT STAFF

At the beginning of February, large blue posters with "Help, Help, Help" written over them in bold white letters started to appear on walls all over Beirut. With no other information provided than "Help," the mysterious street posters definitely created a buzz about town.

The posters were the advertising or "teasing campaign" for Lebanese director Marc Abi Rached's film "Help," which was banned from movie theaters on February 16 after Lebanon's General Security had previously granted the film's producers permission to screen.

"I wanted people to stop and react. That was the goal. We were supposed to replace those 'teaser posters' with the real movie poster when the film opened. But that didn't happen, obviously," Abi Rached told MENASSAT.

Banned with no explanation

Help, produced on a \$200,000 budget in Beirut, is Abi Rached's first feature film and offers a glimpse into underground life in Beirut through a number of colorful troubled characters.

When asked about the title for the film, Abi Rached said he chose "Help" because all the personalities in the film are in need of help in one way or another.

And so is the film, apparently.

The director maintains he received no explanation for the pulling of his film from the censorship authorities.

"We haven't received a statement from the authorities. Nothing," said Abi Rached.

To be sure the film is testing the cultural mores of Lebanese life.

There is 14-year old Ali whose life is in complete chaos. Ali's life changes when he meets Souraya, a prostitute who is living under threats from a mobster named Jacques. Thrown into the mix are the taxi driver Maroun and a gay character.

Abi Rached emphasizes that he previ-

ously received permission both for the film script and the production part from General Security's censorship department. Then around the time of the preview screening of Help, Abi Rached says the permission was suddenly revoked on Feb 16.

"I've never heard of such a thing in the history of film. That they give you permission at first and then take it away from you," he said.

What does Abi Rached then think the reasons behind the censorship might be?

Shaking his head, the director takes a sip of his coffee and says, "I'm not sure", adding, he suspects it "involves a personal decision from above."

Does he think some of the controversial scenes in the film, such as the sexual encounter between a prostitute and two gay men, perhaps had an influence on the censorship?

"The scene was done all under the covers. You couldn't see anything," he responds.

"Here (in Lebanon), there is a limit for the number of seconds you are allowed to show nude scenes. We were far below that limit. In total, there is only around six seconds of nudity in the film."

Alternative theories and the role of the media. Meanwhile, other theories over the banning of Help have surfaced.

The organization Skeyes, the Center for Defending Media and Cultural Freedoms founded in memory of murdered Lebanese journalist Samir Kassir, claimed a Catholic organization had a role



A shot of the poster from Marc Abi Rached's film "Help." Abi Rached is looking for markets outside of Lebanon since the film was banned on February 16.

in the decision to ban Abi Rached's film.

Another report suggested that the film was banned because the officer in charge of censorship was replaced.

Whatever the reason, Abi Rached told MENASSAT that General Security's decision to stop the film's screening after previously granted permission leaves his production team with an option to take

legal action.

For now, Abi Rached says he is using the media to get his message out to the authorities.

"Everyday we do interviews about what happened to us."

The director says he is also looking for alternative markets outside Lebanon for his film.

Real threats

Apart from being tangled up with the censorship authorities, Abi Rached claims he has been subject to threats from what he calls "extremists" for his film.

He says he found the threats real enough to leave his house for a few days.

"I expected some harassment but I didn't think it would be this much," said Abi Rached. "I wanted to show (issues like) prostitution and homelessness in a non-cliché way. I wanted to show these people as persons, as human beings," he added.

Abi Rached recalls two messages in particular. One read: "May the lord put fire in your soul." Another warned: "If the movie comes out, you (Abi Rached) won't be able to see it in the theatres."

One person angered by Abi Rached's movie project even referred to the director as another Salman Rushdie, a reference to the British Indian novelist and essayist who was given a fatwa by the late Supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for his fourth novel, *The Satanic Versus* (1988).

Despite threats and government censorship, Abi Rached remains defiant, saying he refuses to cut out any time from his film and give into the censors. What he would agree on instead, says the director, is a rating for the film that meant it could only be seen by screened for audiences over 21 years of age.

A group set up for Help on Facebook provides up-to-date information on the film.

Organizing themselves: Female migrants in Lebanon take action

By: SIMBA RUSSEAU
MENASSAT

After a two-year combined effort by human rights groups and migrant workers, the Lebanese Ministries of Labor and Social Justice promised to enact a unified contact for migrant domestic workers - a community that numbers more than 200,000 in Lebanon, and are still legally considered servants, rather than employees.

The new demands, agreed upon by a steering committee, will be included in a new contract, that, if enacted, will be a step forward for migrant rights in Lebanon.

Currently there are various two-year contracts between placement agencies and the workers, but with the unified contract a work term would extend to three years.

The contract also states that women should only work 10 hours per day and are entitled to 8 hours of continuous rest.

It would also include one day (24 hours) of rest per week, but does not state that workers are allowed to leave the home of their employers during their rest period - an issue still being negotiated.

The contract, which was presented to the ministries by migrant workers who have taken a lead role in their communities along with groups such as Human Rights Watch (HRW), would also tackle the problem of salary disparities.

HRW has reported that it is not uncommon for salaries to be withheld from domestic workers, and therefore the committee decided the unified contract state that the salary must be paid each month along with proof by both parties of the transaction.

It also marks the first time that the employee and employer would read the same contract in their own language.

The employer, however, will still have the right to break the contract for whatever reason, which means the worker is then responsible for paying her ticket or repaying any debts owed.

Far from being a solution

Although this is a step closer to achieving basic rights for domestic workers in Lebanon, the women still feel there is a major issue that needs to be addressed in the contract - that they should not have their passports taken by their employers, but should be able to provide them with a photocopy.

Also, no one can force the agencies, the police or the employer to adhere to the conditions stated in any contract.

"This is an important step as the contract contains a number of provisions that provide the migrant workers with some rights. However, the contract is not the solution to all problems. First, it is as good as the people enforcing it. And in Lebanon, contract enforcement is always weak. So we need to keep pushing to make sure that the terms of the new contract are respected," senior researcher at HRW, Nadim Houry post-

ed on the facebook group "Support Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon."

"Secondly, experiences in other countries that already have a unified employment contract for domestic workers (such as Jordan) show that the contract is not sufficient in itself and that a law protecting these workers is needed," he said.

Workers are therefore still demanding a new decree that will increase the regulation of placement agencies, which at the moment, are not accountable to anyone.

They also want the ministry to amend the labor law to include migrant domestic workers under Article 6 to be considered employees, rather than servants, which is their current status - one that does not grant them any rights or protection whatsoever.

A rights and obligation booklet for migrant workers has been created but needs to be translated into all the languages of the workers.

Community spaces

The lack of protection for migrant workers - by their governments and host countries alike - has prompted domestic workers in Lebanon to create a number of informal networks and makeshift community spaces for women who are seeking refuge after fleeing their employer's home.

"Recruitment agencies from our home countries are tricking new domestic employees by telling them that they will have a great job, with a high paying salary and the ability to save money and provide for their families," said Aimee, a domestic worker from Madagascar.

"But then they arrive to a big surprise and realize that it was all a lie." Originally from Madagascar, Aimee has been a domestic worker in Lebanon for eleven years.

Like all other migrant women, Aimee came to Lebanon and worked under a three-year contract; she said she was lucky to become a freelance domestic worker after her contract ended.

At that time, she had the choice of signing another contract through an agency but decided to find a Lebanese person that would agree to sponsor her work papers, allowing her to work as a freelancer.

However, she explains, when you do this it means dealing with Lebanese who may try and get a lot of money out of you - because you are not actually working for them just using their name for sponsorship.

Aimee was involved in social work in Madagascar so it was not unusual for her to respond when women from Madagascar, Africa, the Philippines and Sri Lanka started seeking her assistance.

"Sometimes I wonder how I managed to put myself in the position of the social worker but I was also very active in my country. I see my people in such distress and the consulate is not working on the behalf of the women," stressed Aimee.

"I am a stranger in this country but I am not alone. I am not afraid of

Lebanese people, only of God. So this is how I get the strength to stand up for these women. Also, I have the needed experience to act as an intermediary between the Lebanese employers and the women."

Workers dying by the week

The nature of domestic work is looked down upon in Lebanese society. Many migrant workers are not aware of their rights and obligations before arriving to Lebanon.

The differences in culture and customs creates a lack of communication between the employer and the women. The language barrier between the two can lead to a conflict situation, where in most cases, the employer resorts to violence.

In August 2008, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report that compiled alarming statistics. Since January 2007, at least 95 migrant domestic workers have died in Lebanon, HRW stated.

Of these 95 deaths, the embassies of the migrant workers have classified 40 of these cases as suicide, 24 as falling from high buildings while trying to escape their employers. Only 14 domestic workers died as a result of diseases or health issues.

"Domestic workers are dying in Lebanon at a rate of more than one per week," said Nadim Houry, senior researcher at HRW.

"All those involved - from the Lebanese authorities, to the workers' embassies, to the employment agencies, to the employers - need to ask themselves what is driving these women to kill themselves or risk their lives trying to escape from high buildings."

Upon completion of interviews with embassy officials and friends of domestic workers who committed suicide, the report found that forced confinement, excessive work demands, employer abuse, and financial pressures were key factors in pushing these women to kill themselves or risk their lives to escape.

"The employer has all the rights and it causes the women to become distressed, mad and depressed - which leads to suicide," said Aimee.

Isolation and lack of social protection are also obstacles in dealing with the abuse and suicide of workers.

"There are not enough shelters for these women, which is why they often look to members of their community for help," explained Joan Lara, a migrant worker from the Philippines.

"Only the Philippines and Sri Lanka have embassies in Lebanon but they lack resources to deal with the amount of cases. If the women go to the police they will be sent back to their employer and if they seek assistance from the agency they find more abuse."

Most reported cases of abuse in Middle East

The Caritas Migrant Center is one of few organizations in Lebanon that offers a 24-hour counseling hotline and shelter for victims of abuse.

Remittances from domestic workers

in countries like Lebanon play a big role in the workers' national economies. Foreign remittances accounted for about 13 percent of the Philippines' total gross domestic product (GDP) last year, according to the Philippine's Overseas Employment Administration, POEA.

Sri Lanka received \$3.4 billion in remittances in 2007 from migrant workers abroad, while according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), between 2000 and 2005, remittances to sub-Saharan Africa increased by more than 55 percent, to nearly \$7 billion.

But the absence of protection for foreign

nationals has prompted key labor-source countries to restrict travel to Lebanon.

Last year, Ethiopia officially banned its citizens from coming to work in Lebanon, while since November 2007, migrant Filipino workers are only legally permitted to travel to Lebanon if paid a minimum of \$400 per month.

Currently, the set rate is \$200 for Philippines, \$100 for Africans and \$150 per month for Sri Lankan workers.

Sri Lanka is now considering banning women migrant domestic workers from going to many countries in the Middle

East starting in 2009, including Lebanon, according to Human Rights Watch.

Recent statistics by the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) show that 60% of the total overseas Filipino migrants are based in the Middle East. It is also reportedly, where the most reported cases of abuse and inhumane treatment have occurred.

"This is why women like myself, who have good employers, are taking the initiative to speak out and provide support for those women that are not as fortunate," said Lara.



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SHORT TERM CONSULTANT

Purpose:
USAID/Yemen's objective from the Limited Scope Grant Agreement (LSGA) Program is to assist the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the farmers groups and associations by providing support to the extension service in order to improve the agriculture production and improve agriculture marketing practices. The scope of work for the proposed short term consultants shall include but not limited to the following:

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The Candidate will collaborate with the LSGA coordinator to improve livestock and animal health.
- Identify and select farmers; associations and establish good working relations with them.
- Provide and execute training, workshops to the farmers to improve their agriculture and livestock skills and marketing knowledge; manage regular meetings/visits to the targeted farmers.
- Analyze local crops and livestock market system and identify opportunities,
- Prepare reports on each visit, plus weekly and monthly reports,
- Perform any additional duties assigned, and
- Prepare documents for contact and agreements and follow up and approved projects.

Qualifications and skills required:
Applicants should satisfy the following requirements;

A. Education: Graduate level university degree in agriculture science with good knowledge of agriculture extension livestock.

B. Prior Work Experience: Five plus years practical experience in the field of crop and livestock development.

Candidates should have experience in dealing with rural communities. Should be willing to work in the designated governorates for the periods of the contract. Remuneration will be worked out between both parties based on qualifications and experience. Candidates from the targeted area are most preferable.

Deliverables:
The candidate will prepare the following deliverables:

- Consultants must document daily operations and maintain activity files.
- Submit weekly reports on performed activities.
- Submit monthly implementation plan containing pre-planned activities.
- Submit weekly and monthly detailed activities and expenses reports.
- Consultants are responsible for protecting project assets.

Deadline for Applications: **March 28, 2009.**

Please send your application to hrosanaa@state.gov

Bricks.. Yemen's sustainable building material

By: Almigdad Mojalli

Since ancient times, Yemenis have been making bricks to build their homes, mosques and palaces. Many of these buildings continue to bear testament to the brick's durability and the uniqueness of a profession untouched by technology. Bricks are blocks of clay that have been hardened through being fired in an oven or dried in the sun. Over time, kiln-fired bricks have grown more popular than sun-dried bricks although both are still found worldwide. Bricks have been in continual use for around 5,000 years, and brickwork from this time still stands in many countries in the Middle East, most popularly in Yemen, as witness to their resilience. Although the use of bricks has declined in many parts of the world due to the availability of cement and concrete, in Yemen this remains a sustainable industry. Traditional brick burners or ovens are built to ensure that maximum temperature guarantees a strong, solid brick, which is why they have a conical shape.

How to make a brick

Bricks are manufactured in inexpensive steps that involve little technology. The

first involves mixing enough manure, straw and clay to form a mud-like mix. This is left overnight because the longer the components are left to set, the stronger the brick. The second day the mixture is then poured into moulds of a desired shape and size that is then left to dry for six days, following which, the bricks are taken to the oven. The bricks are put in the burner in circles and the fire is started from the bottom. "When anyone thinks of making bricks he has to build the burner where the bricks are burned to be as hard as stone," said Abdulkarim Al-Ansi, a deputy of Al-Kawhaifi bricks burner in Bani Hushaish. "The burner is four to six meters high and the diameter at the bottom is 3.5-5 meters and at the top it is two meters. We make it like this in order to ensure that all the bricks are burned well."

"We use wood just to start the fire and then the bricks burn by themselves because they contain straw which helps to keep the flames burning," Al-Ansi said. "The flame starts from the bottom until it gradually reaches the bricks at the top while the fire at the bottom is slowly extinguished." When the fire is extinguished, the laborers start withdrawing the bricks from the se them out in the yard to display them for sale.



Bricks have been in continual use for around 5,000 years, and brickwork from this time still stands in Yemen.

Brick makers asked to leave Sana'a
There are no brick ovens in Sana'a. According to Al-Ansi, "The former mayor of Sana'a asked us, almost six years ago, to leave the city and rent lands in the suburbs claiming that the burners pollute the environment."

The brick makers now rent land and pay almost USD 200 dollars a year: "In my opinion, the burners never pollute the environment because we neither use gas, diesel or petrol. We use wood," he adds. A number of countries including China have banned the use of clay bricks, which can lead to problems

including soil loss, air pollution and energy waste. China closed 6,000 small bricks ovens aiming to protect limited land resources and the environment.

Meeting market demand

Al-Ansi revealed that one brick burner has the capacity to produce 3,000 bricks a day. Around 1,000 to 10,000 bricks are sold a day. The burners produce bricks of different sizes like 17X17cm, 17X8.5cm, 20X20cm and 10X20cm.

"We can make bricks of bigger sizes but people prefer these sizes and we try to meet the needs of the market," he

said. He added that many of the construction companies sign contracts with them and they sell them big quantities. As for the quality, Al-Ansi affirmed that the more the bricks are exposed to heat, the stronger they become.

"The black bricks are more expensive than the red or white ones because they were fired for longer and therefore, they will be stronger. We sell the red and white bricks at YR 22 but the black ones at YR 40," he added. It costs USD 35 for every 1,000 bricks; these are then sold for USD 110.

The best trait of the clay bricks is that they are never affected by humidity or saltiness. Therefore, it works for thousands of years," the clay bricks are stronger than stone or cement bricks because it is never influenced by humidity or saltiness. There is a 1,400 year-old house in old Sana'a city next to the Grand Mosque which was built with clay bricks," Al-Ansi said. Living conditions are not always easy for brick builders. "Laborers working in the burners never have any kind of insurance and they are paid according to their daily productivity," Al-Ansi said.



Smoke billows from a brick oven where they are slowly fired to ensure a strong, solid brick.

Shrinking fish stock in Hadramout

By Saeed Al-Batati
For the Yemen Times

Yemen has long boasted in front other countries about its wealthy stocks of fish. However, the decline in production during the past four years in the long coastline of Hadramout has sounded the alarm over the future of the backbone of Yemeni fisheries.

For the last four years, the amount of the catch has decreased rapidly from 63,000 tons in 2005 to 47,000 tons in 2006 and all the way down to 37,000 tons in 2007. The rapid decline is expected to continue according to figures from the Fishery Association in Mukalla.

The shrinking of the fish stocks has driven many fish experts and local fishery associations to call the government to act swiftly and find a solution to the problem. The decline is expected, as they say, to have a bad domino effect on the economy and on the lives of fishermen.

Salim Badawood, head of the Mukalla Fishermen Association, is one of those who have apprehensively observed the decline of stock for the last four years. "In 2004, when the incumbent Prime Minister, Dr. Ali Mujawer, was appointed the minister of the Fishery, he issued laws concerning monitoring the fishing of the commercial ships in the specified water area for the local fishermen and implemented them successively. This enforcement of the law reflected positively in the increase of the catch in 2004. However, when he left the ministry, the sea laws were largely neglected and the sea was unfettered by the ministry ever since. The decline of production had started," he said.

Badawood ascribed the decline to fishing practices by the local fishermen. "The main cause of the problem is the destructive fishing practice of the



The sea is being depleted and people think falsely that the sea is inexhaustible, said a fisherman.

local fishermen on the coast of Hadramout. There are approximately 12,000 fishermen who are at liberty to destroy the sea," he remarked.

Destructive practices

According to Badawood, local fishermen are practicing destructive means to catch fish. "One of the damaging ways of fishing is called aihwa (containment) in which fishermen cast their fishing nets to the bottom of the sea, containing an area of 950km," he explained. "The fishermen usually capture approximately 300 tons of fish which are kept in the containment nets

for a long time. In the end, the fisherman takes only 20 tons of fish and leaves the rest of the fish to rot. It is like a broom sweeping through everything."

Because of the mass killing of fish in the sea, Badawood said that thousands of tons of fish have been washed ashore.

The other damaging practice of fishing is called alsakhwa, which comes from the name of a cage-like box with a one-way opening which is placed at the bottom of the sea. Because the cage is dark, female shrimp go into the steel cage to lay their eggs. Fishermen pull

up the cage from the seafloor, which is usually full of eggs, and take the high value shrimp and other species of fish from the cage, spoiling the eggs.

Salim Badawood expressed concern over the increasing use of this type of cage. "The fishermen have started using almost ten cages a piece, reaching thousands of cages total, which are more than enough to make our wealthy stock of fish nothing more than history," he said.

Threatened species

According to Badawood, overfishing has caused the extinction of several species of fish in the region, like areolate grouper, pinkear emperor, king fish, and sardines. "When sardines, which are food for tuna, were available in great quantities in the sea, tuna was available in abundance as well. With the decline of its food source, tuna is now threatened with extinction too," he warned.

Many fishery associations are not happy with the ministry's handling of the problem.

The ministry has the ability to punish fishermen for their behaviors but often chooses not to. The ministry is looking only for the 3 percent tax and pays no attention to the behavior of some fishermen who are free to fish at anytime they like, even during reproduction time. "We, as associations, do not have prison or any other means of punishment for poor fishing practices," Badawood criticized.

Mr. Saleh Basadeq, a veteran fisherman who has spent his life at sea, lauded the fishing practices in the past. "When fishermen wanted to sail, they first came to a person called al-mugadam, or a leader, who checks fishermen's nets to make sure that they aren't illegal big-spaced net," he recalled.

The seasoned fisherman urged fishery companies, fishermen, and citizens to stand firmly against any attempt to



The disturbance of the sea ecosystem is contributing to the shrinking fish stock.

deplete the sea of its fish stocks. "We are all in the same boat. The sea is being depleted and people think falsely that the sea is inexhaustible. If the destructive practices are not stopped, we will have a sea without fish. These people catch a huge number of fish, taking very little of what they catch, and throw the rest back into the ocean either dead or on the verge of death."

To stop their colleagues' fatal misbehaviors, many fishermen said they frequently quarrel with the destructive fishermen and complained to the governor about their practices, but no one listened to their complaints.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Mashjri, dean of the Faculty of Marine life at Hadramout University of Science & Technology, agrees that the once-rich fish stocks of Hadramout are experiencing an unprecedented decline of fish. "The production of fish has declined significantly, which is attributed mainly to excessive fishing in addition to some natural reasons, like the seasonal immigration of tuna," he said.

Dr. Al-Mashjri maintained that his

college examined the direct impact on the fishery production in Hadramout. "We conducted some surveys and we found out that fish-canning factories do not have sufficient supplies of fish, and sometimes they import fish from other countries. If the situation remains unchanged, the factories would feel obliged to import all of their fish from countries like Thailand," he warned.

"We have moderately good laboratories through which we conducted surveys about the stock, and we cooperated with the fishery associations to carry out a new study about the stock of fish in Hadramout's coastline," Dr. Al-Mashjri continued. "We also launched a campaign that coincided with the study to enlighten the fishermen about the correct ways of fishing."

Dr. Al-Mashjri admits that they are unable to carry a comprehensive study of the fish stock in Hadramout because of funding. "We want the government to provide the fishing office with modern labs and experts. We have faced many problems because of the lack of cash."

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال
Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

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

All candidates must be Yemeni nationals

Job Title: Information Editor - Ref. 239
Reports to: Head of Public Relations
Department: Corporate Affairs Department
Work Location: Sana'a
Duration: Fixed-term – One year

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Produce journalistic articles and stories for company Intranet and website (both English and Arabic), collect and follow up content of the information with other departments
- Assist the Management with editing reports and presentations, preparing draft press releases, statements and speeches on public events, or any other information materials
- Produce the Company newsletter with the help of Webmaster/Graphic Designer
- Conduct live interviews during Company events, generate ideas and produce articles
- Provide assistance and hands-on training to Communications and PR personnel.

Qualifications Required:

- University Degree in Communications, Journalism or other related studies
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in the production of information materials and journalistic writing in English and Arabic
- Excellent spoken and written English and Arabic with strong experience in journalistic writing, particularly related to the development of public information materials and press releases
- Good interpersonal skills with creativity, innovation, and a strong respect for confidentiality
- Good Computer skills – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.

Job Title: Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Officer – Ref. 241
Department: Company Management System and Project Excellence
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Assist in the global information capture and analysis to include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), departmental objectives, Company Management System (CMS) process-related Performance Indicators (PIs) as well as soft issues/process execution plans.
- Analyse and report on the performance information using appropriate techniques to provide management information including trend analysis
- Assists in the development of a master scorecard to measure performance in the different areas being measured, as well as progress in implementing the specific interventions set out to achieve the establishment of corporate culture of the company around its defined values & behaviours—an internal project entitled "Project Excellence—(PE)". He/she manages and updates this master scorecard/dashboard on a regular basis.
- Helps concerned departments develop specific measures/enhance existing measures for ongoing activities and processes
- Provides statistical input to feed the development of information material, presentations, etc. related to the work of CMS or PE and their various interventions.
- Develops regular reports (monthly, quarterly and yearly) to be shared with the management.

Qualifications Required:

- University Degree preferably in Business Administration, Economics or social science. Specialization in statistical or research studies and analysis is an important asset.
- Minimum 5 years of previous experience in the area of monitoring and evaluation or overall project management of complex projects and activities. Previous involvement in performance management initiatives, corporate reporting or the like is a very valuable asset.
- Strong analytical skills, attention to detail and precision are basic requirements.
- Excellent spoken Arabic and English, excellent English reporting skills, and good Arabic writing.
- Excellent communication skills (Arabic and English) and working comfortably with and manipulation of data.
- Proficient with key computer programmes— particularly Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Visio and the like. Proficiency in SPSS or any other similar statistics analytical software application is a valuable asset.
- Strong respect for confidentiality. Flexibility, adaptability as well as mobility between Sana'a and Balhaf as necessary.

Job Title: Internal Communication Coordinator – Ref. 240
Department: Public Relations and Project Excellence
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Helps HR in developing inductions for new comers related to promoting the company's corporate culture represented by the core values and behaviours within the framework of Project Excellence (PE)—an internal project to realise the corporate culture, values & behaviours.
- Handles the implementation of internal communication plan for PE as well as activities in support of the overall internal communication process as defined by Public Relations (PR).
- Handles the development of a carefully defined and measurable reward scheme in collaboration with PR specifically to support PE communication
- Develops ideas and basic communication content with PR for PE web page on the Company's Intranet, and others for the production of information materials for both Sana'a and Balhaf.
- Assists in organising activities and events as set forth in the PE's work plan as necessary.

- Monitors on a regular basis the effectiveness of PE communication.
- Helps in the development, implementation and collection of general staff surveys and/or getting specific feedback from staff on specific issues/topics related to the different PE interventions as necessary

Qualifications Required:

- University Degree preferably in Communications, Business Administration or social science.
- Minimum 3 years of previous experience, preferably in the area of communications.
- Excellent English communication skills
- Excellent computer skills
- Strong organisational skills, the ability to prioritise and deliver as well as a strong sense of creativity, initiative and discipline.

Job Title: Networking Engineer - Ref. 242
Reports to: Head of IST
Department: ST / Finance
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Carry the task of managing and monitoring the daily backup in tapes.
- Management of Network accounts and active directory.
- Distribution of authorized software via GPO's.
- Administration of SQL database servers.
- Creation and maintenance of images of all Network Servers and PC's using the RIS server.
- Administration of DNS, WINS, DHCP and ISA Servers.
- Management and administration of Exchange 2003 server and mail accounts.
- Administration of Web IIS Servers and Administration of Internet Firewall.
- Review, test and distribute all Operating System updates to Network computers using MS WSUS + Anti-virus Software
- Monitor services on a continuous basis using MS Operations Manager (MOM).
- Install, configure and maintain Layer 2 / 3 Cisco switches, routers and firewalls when needed.

Qualifications Required:

- University degree in Engineering or Computer Science
- 3-5 years experience on Windows NT System Administration and MS Exchange is essential and NOD32 Anti virus is desirable.
- MS Windows 2003 Server including Active Directory.
- MS Exchange 2003 Mail Server.
- MS SQL Server 2000, WSUS, MOM, ISA 2004.
- Veritas Backup Exec 10 for Windows servers and Linear Tape Open (LTO) devices.
- Cisco CCNA level of knowledge is essential
- Excellent English communication skills.

Job Title: DBA Web Developer - Ref. 243
Reports to: Head of IST
Department: IST / Finance
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Analysis, systems specifications, development, implementation and continuing maintenance of software solutions.
- Support and development of existing business applications and maintenance of all existing and planned corporate databases and applications software.
- Development and management of internal and external web sites.
- Responsible for ensuring availability/performance and security of YLNG databases as well as Intranet and Website and its security.
- Design/develop/implement disaster recovery processes/database back-ups.
- Install, upgrade, troubleshooting and monitor the database systems to ensure secure services with minimum downtime.
- Solid experience with Replication, DTS, ETL, database mirroring and log-shipping is a plus
- Ensuring the highest security/availability for WEB/site applications.
- Knowledge of AJAX is a plus.

Qualifications Required:

- University degree in Computer Science.
- Oracle (OCI) and Microsoft MS-SQL Certification.
- Extensive proven (5+) DBA experience with Oracle 9i/10g and MS-SQL 2K/2005
- Must have experience in developing using ASP.NET/C# 2005, installing web sites and supporting it
- Excellent English communication skills

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- ☐ Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- ☐ Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.
- ☐ Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- ☐ Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- ☐ Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

Closing Date: Monday, 30 March 2009

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Friendship: A divine gift

By: Lamis Abdulkarim Shuga'a
lamis_shuga@yahoo.com

Communication is basically regarded as an important medium for social interaction among human beings. Its significance is to keep the societies' continuity, cultures, customs, and traditions going. During the process of communication, different relationships rise between people throughout our lives. These relationships differentiate from each other according to the nature of societies, people, places, time, and so forth. Today, I will shed some light on a small word about relationships that contains a lot of wonderful and deep meanings: friendship.

I consider friendship to be the most superior kind of relationship – of course, that is if it is a faithful relationship that is taken seriously. That is because there is no personal stake beyond the friendship itself, on the one hand, and a human being has the

choice either to continue that relationship or to break it off, on the other. In other words, friendships are not obligatory relationships in our life such as the relative-relation or the family-relation. However, some ill people, in the name of friendship, exploit their so-called friends for one reason or another. They really distort the wonderful meaning of friendship!

I have said that friendship is the most superior relationship among people because other relations are somehow obligatory and we have to accept them as they are. Such types are relationships between family members, for example. In other words, whether our parents, brothers, or sisters are close to us or not or whether our relationships with them are good or not, we have to accept our family members as they are. Our familial ties demand that we respect each other. The same thing can also be applied in places of work, college, schools, and hospitals, such as professional relationships with professors at college, with colleagues at

work, with doctors in the hospitals, and so on. Namely, we should respect and accept each other since, firstly, these relations are somewhat formal, and secondly, such relations should continue for the general sake of societal well-being.

Another type of relationship is that between a husband and a wife. Indeed, a husband and wife can break off their relationship if they don't get along with each other. Additionally, they can both be good friends. For me however, this relationship is difficult to be a pure or superior relationship like friendship. This is because there are different purposes behind a marriage beyond the relationship itself, such as having children, seeking safety and stability, the availability of income and services, and so on.

One day, a colleague sent me an SMS including a piece of information about friendship. He said, "Friendship is not about finding similarities, it is about respecting differences!" In fact, I disagreed with that dear colleague,

replying that I prefer the friend who is close to my personality, thoughts, and principles. Additionally, I don't have to accept a friend if we don't understand each other and our nature and ideas are different most of the time. As a matter of fact, we may face difficulties when we have to deal with people who are so different from us!

Friendship, actually, is a divine gift in itself. It is something very rare nowadays, just as a valuable jewel; no one appreciates its value until it is lost. A real friend should be faithful, loyal, keep promises and secrets, and most importantly, stand up and sacrifice for friends when there is need. Good friends are also like stars: we don't see them but we know that they are always there, especially when we need them. As the proverb asserts, "A friend in need is a friend in indeed."

In closing, I would like to mention a sentence that I read one day and really appreciated: It is easy to make 100 friends in one year, but it is really difficult to make one friend for 100 years!

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
majed_thabet@hotmail.com



Yemen's economy and the financial crisis

The world financial crisis has affected almost all countries. In Yemen, however, many people think that Yemen has been affected positively. But, economically speaking, the negative effects of the crisis come to the surface gradually ringing bells of danger, and must be treated seriously.

Such a crisis has not affected Yemen's economy directly as happened in America, European countries and some of the Gulf countries. The first reason of this is that there is no stock market in Yemen. Another reason was the lack of Yemeni investments in the international markets, as either deposits in the banks or shares in international companies. The poor economical status of the country was a blessing at least at the beginning of the crisis, but after that it was something else.

The "blessing" of the financial crisis, as some people called it, was particularly noticed in the decrease of the prices of many products. This was due to less demand for these products in the international market. Even the prices of local products decreased because of the lower prices of imported raw materials. People were happy with this result, thinking it would be the only consequence of the crisis, not realizing the hidden danger behind it.

With a little closer analysis, one may realize the indirect negative effects of this crisis. The first negative affect is noticed when we realize that Yemen is "a rental state." A rental state is an economical term refers to the country which depends on two main sources for its incomes: donations from other countries and organizations, and money transfers from Yemenis abroad. Here one can realize how the crisis will lead Yemen's economy into a worse state.

To illustrate this point, let us look at the matter from a more economical point of view. Many of the donating countries have suffered from the financial crisis, and this has affected and will continue to affect donations made to Yemen. This will, of course, lead to a decline in the number of projects and a cut back in the employment of local staff for them, and provoke a stunt in economic growth.

As for money which is sent back to Yemen from Yemenis working abroad,

it is obvious that companies downsizing all over the world after the crisis will affect at least some of these Yemeni expatriates, who will decrease their support accordingly. Indeed some of them have already stopped sending money and others have already come back home.

In addition, some of such expatriates invested in the stock markets. They made money in the beginning, but then lost it all. Other expatriates, especially those who thought there were clever, deposited their money in American or European banks. But some of these banks went bankrupt, and those who had invested lost their deposits.

Another source of Yemen's economy is oil exported to the other countries. The international decrease of oil prices is one of negative effects of the crisis in Yemen.

This has led to a larger budget deficit in Yemen than in other years, leading the government to limit its expenditures and cut back on its projects. This will cause unemployment for contractors, subcontractors and workers who usually work on them. The budget deficiency, moreover, will negatively affect the incomes of those already employed with the government. This directly and indirectly influences normal Yemenis who can do nothing more than accept the current situation.

Though there might be other reasons, these three reasons, namely the decrease in donations and income sent from abroad as well as the fall of the price of oil, in my opinion, have led to commercial stagnation in the Yemeni markets.

Previous injections into the economy pushed the country towards many commercial activities. A business man, for example, used to import 10 tons of a particular product in a month. But now, as demand has dwindled, his income is affected and hard times may lead him to reduce costs by firing employees.

In short, I want to make it clear for all of us that the global financial crisis is not a blessing for Yemen as people have said, but a hidden curse that moves slowly, threatening what is left of Yemen's economy.

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

How women deal with men

By: Altaf Rageh Al-Hamadani
Faculty of Arts
Taiz University

In response to Maged Al-Kholidy's article entitled "How men deal with women", I have seized the opportunity to write about my opinion of how women deal with men. Women's interaction with men varies according to each woman. But overall women can be classified into five types.

The first type exploit men. Such women try to take advantage of all men. For example, a woman tries to establish a relationship with a man in a

high position in a company or institution so that he can assist her in anything she wants in that company or institution. In this way, some women do not mind foregoing their moral values to achieve professional success.

The second type deal with men morally and never think badly of them, even if such men are bad. They may talk and deal with them as if they were dealing with their brothers, regardless of the men's way of treating them. As an example, a female student at university may deal with all her classmates equally, respecting them all, although some of them have bad intentions.

The third type make the distinction

between men of good morals and those of bad morals. They deal with those of good morals and avoid the others. With reference to the example above, that female student first tries to determine who of her male classmates are morally good, and deals with them accordingly.

The fourth type fear men and try to avoid all interaction with them. For such women, men are merely enemies. According to the example above, that female student will try as much as possible to avoid dealing with all her male classmates.

The fifth type deal with men playfully. Such women are divided into two

groups. The first do really mean to establish immoral relationships with them. But the second only like to establish friendships to pass the time as a matter of amusement. In this way, both groups will try to form relationships with immoral male students, either to commit immoral deeds or simply to have fun.

This is what I know about ways in which women deal with men. It is up to each woman to decide what she likes and how she deals with men. Finally, I thank Maged Al-Kholidy for raising such important issues to encourage all readers to write in and share their opinions.

Jihad is a duty, not terrorism

By: Mofeed Al-Gaad
mofeed336@yahoo.com

Massacres are being committed in different parts of Arab world amidst the complete silence and quiet absence of the brotherly soul of the Arab people. In the past, the enemies of Islam realized that their aims could not be fulfilled via military force because the Arab people have a strong faith in their religion that makes them sacrifice themselves for its defense. That is to say, events and life experiences made the enemies of Muslims realize that it is impossible to defeat those Muslims who have strong faith in the idea of the jihad.

Hence, the enemies of Islam sent missionaries to Arab world in order to kill the idea of the jihad inside every Muslim mind. Those missionaries had already tried to use their various weapons to change the beliefs of Muslims and kill the soul of jihad. In the past they failed to affect the conception of jihad among Muslims or force them to forget their duties toward their brothers. These days however, it seems that the enemy achieves whatever he failed to do in the past.

Under the umbrella of terrorism, the enemy succeeded to erase the very word of jihad from the Islamic dictionary, burying its corpse in a deep grave. If any Muslim who possesses the soul of jihad tries to take revenge on those who kill innocent children and elderly people, he will be accused of being a terrorist who disturbs the safety and stability of the world. Consequently, America and Israel are seizing this opportunity to accomplish their colonial aims by destroying the Islamic cities and by killing Muslims in different parts of the Arab world.

To prove this point, let us look at what is happening in Iraq and Palestine. Under the umbrella of emancipating the Iraqi people from Saddam's dictatorial regime, the United States of America destroyed the great country of Iraq, killing its heroes, raping its virgin girls, absorbing its valuable wealth, and slaughtering its faithful leaders in the process. Likewise, Israel accused the poor people of Gaza of being terrorists who disturb the stability of both Israelis and Palestinians, ignoring the fact that it is the Israelis who are the savage criminals who spread corruption in Arabic

Palestine. The Israelis killed innocent children and elderly people, burned the beautiful plants, and destroyed the sacred places in the virgin land of Palestine.

Perhaps most importantly, the Arab leaders who claim that they represent their people accused those mujahedeen fighters who defend their people and their land as aggressive jihadists. Thus they are participating with the enemies of Islam in changing the concept of jihad into another concept called 'terrorism.' This is why the Arab leaders looked silently at the savage massacres committed by Israel against our brothers in the Gaza strip.

Moreover, America and its daughter Israel describe the fighters of the Hamas movement who resist the invaders as being a terrorist group. Here is a question that poses itself to these aggressive countries: is the one who defends his homeland, fights the invaders, and protects his people a terrorist? That most certainly is not true. All the cultures of the world see that defending one's homeland and fiercely fighting invaders is a duty on the shoulders of all people residing in the invaded land.

America and Israel claim that Hamas fighters are the real terrorists who are disturbing the stability of Israel, neglecting the fact that Israelis, represented by their cruel officials, are the real terrorists. They are the ones who killed the innocent children and slaughtered the elderly people, throwing all Security Council and United Nations resolutions to the wind. The real picture of Israel must be shown in an obvious fashion to all people all over the world. Israelis are the real terrorists who assault humanity and violate international laws. The unjust Israeli war against Gaza is a clear example of this cruel and savage country that disturbed the international stability and aroused chaos and horror in the world.

Dear readers, we ought to pay attention to the devilish aims of our enemy who desires to delete the duty of jihad from the Islamic dictionary. In this situation in which the enemy of Islam makes a lot of Muslims unable to distinguish between jihad and terrorism, we should consult our holy book, the Quran. God in the Holy Quran makes jihad a duty on the shoulders of every Muslim who is able to fight. Therefore, we should be rational and support the flag of jihad wherever we find it.

One more step

By: Enas Al-Radami
enasradami@gmail.com

How can we enjoy life while things need to be done? We can't ignore the fact that many times we wish we could fulfill our dreams and expectations, even in the face of the hard work of our daily lives. Such dreams don't necessarily have any specific traits or directions, but they show what lies beneath the surface of each one of us. To know a dream or to understand, it we should view it from all aspects. How to accomplish a dream requires taking a look at the entire dream itself: what a sort of dream it is? How can it be reborn with every new day's sunshine?

We need to know what makes a dream possible or difficult, for our dreams should somehow match our

capacities. Speaking of ability alone, there must be a strong willpower to improve our capacities and skills in order to achieve our dreams. Also, to make a start is clearly essential to expect an end – we can't fulfill our dreams if we never even begin to pursue them! Thereafter, things need to be taken into account for shaping a nice dream that could hopefully be fulfilled, even after years of hard work.

Hope lies at the top of a dream and strong determination is located at the base of it. Being hopeless doesn't allow a dream to live because a dream is like a tree: as a tree needs water to grow and blossom, so a dream needs hope. Also, being pessimistic disables skills and abilities and leads to fears of failure. Therefore, one must be optimistic and hopeful to give his or her dreams signs of life in order to open the right doors for the dreams to continue.

By: Sam Al-Salmi
sameye4@yahoo.com

Part of what it means to be a human being is to live and make mistakes. This gives us experience in order to grow wiser and be more cautious in taking chances. In being human and enjoying our right to what is called liberty all over the world, we face challenges that emphasize our human identity. Sometimes these challenges are horribly misunderstood. What is obvious today clearer than ever before are new conceptions that are corrupting our society, such as the concept of companionship instead of marriage. Companionship means to have a life similar to marriage, but it is not; there is no marriage contract involved and your companion is not the same as your husband or your wife.

Likewise, the issue of homosexuality that is spreading widely and remarkably throughout the world currently threatens to cloud every nation. The universal declaration of human rights means that humans must enjoy their freedom to do whatever they enjoy, as

long as they are not hurting others or annoying them. This side of human rights has been misunderstood and misused by many different societies and peoples who involved themselves in homosexuality under this guise of human rights in order to justify their weird desire, odd purposes, and inexplicable goals.

The global quest needs a logical justification for this behavior and requires a patient and understandable inquiry into these people. The fact is that man has been created for a woman, and the opposite is equally true. Another fact is that these people cannot be satisfied with their mentalities; they must consider themselves abnormal. This is true either concerning the physical structure of their bodies or their emotional quest that can never be fulfilled unless with a partner of the same gender. These are, in fact, mere excuses for their abnormality. It is hard to accept such emotional justification as a normal human being; however, science has proved after concentrated research that these are truly facts. Homosexuals used to be disgusted and betrayed in different societies. In spite of this, they were

welcome in various countries as well. Some of them even belong our Islamic society; we tried to ignore them or avoid them, but it would have been better had we tried to understand their issue in order to solve what seems to be irreparable.

Some of them, brilliantly, can act contrary to their nature and disguise it with false personalities, but once they get together with their companions they will act spontaneously upon what they truly want to be. Schizophrenia or other such psychiatric diseases form as a direct result in order for homosexuals to act like normal human beings and to escape from being isolated. Otherwise, the homosexual will be considered as a strange and isolated person who would be treated in a violent manner and judged harshly. Is that what we are asked to do? Is homosexuality supposed to be a right and an ultimately human behavior? Or, as human beings like them, do we have the right to judge these people?

We need to give every one his or her space since they have the right to breathe and exist in this life. Everyone, without discrimination, has the right to

live as they want, with the exception of those who cause lethal problem to themselves or to others: they should of course be stopped.

As a cynical ostrich that buries its head in the sand, we are not for sure. Therefore, our defaults should be fixed and worked out so that we can enjoy what life is meant to be. Homosexuality is a phenomenon that we feel is embarrassing to discuss, or an issue we misjudge in a rash manner. It goes without saying that it is a remarkable issue we need to face, as the phenomenon is recently increasing. Homosexual societies are worthy of pity for their short future and their inability to enjoy life, tying themselves up in their own chains. We and all our efforts must work with a stubborn, collective resolve to mirror them in all policies, decision making, representation, and, most immediately and practically, in all allocations in a world where violence is a dead thing of the past. Let us highlight this issue and what is going on in order to empower us to build a perfect community. Let us understand this phenomenon so that we can reach world peace.

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Al-Qarah Castle in Yafea

Compiled by: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Al-Qarah castle is located in the district of Rasad, in the governorate of Lahj. This area has been known for its unique potential for tourism, but due to lack of infrastructure, including asphalt roads, the area remains unexploited.

If roads were constructed there, the area would be linked up to the capital city of the governorate, other Yemeni cities and the world at large. Only then will Rasad's secrets be revealed: the beauty of nature, the picturesque landscapes, and the area's rich archaeological history.

The features of Al-Qarah castle reflect its long and intricate history. Its cultural heritage is rooted in the depths of ancient and Islamic history. The castle was first inhabited by the Himyarites and later became the main center for Yafea as a whole. Different rulers, princes and sultans have resided in the castle, making it a symbol of strength and pride.

Al-Gilani mosque, one of the most important archaeological sites linked to Al-Qarah castle, is located in the north of the castle. There is a central pillar in the mosque which was built of stone, from which four arches branch out. There are also four domes adorning the roof of the mosque and from the inside and outside. The inside walls of the mosque are adorned with a number of Qur'anic verses, the calligraphy of which has faded with the years.

The yard of the mosque contains three water cisterns of equal size used to hold the water required by the mosque and the castle. Today they are filled with rainwater. Outside the walls of the mosque to the west, two other cisterns can be seen, the first partially destroyed, while the other is still preserving the water.



Al-Qarah castle boasts a unique cultural heritage rooted in ancient and Islamic history.

Next to the Gilani mosque, from the western direction there is a tomb of one of the sultans of Yafea, with a large dome constructed on the tomb. To the north of the mosque, there are four more shrines each topped with domes, the largest of which is called "Saif Hanifa."

This shrine is different from the remaining three as it has a special gate to its south, which leads to a place used as an archive by the sultanate. There they kept documents and religious books, as well as manuscripts and papers of arbitration between the government and tribes of Yafea and sultanates nearby. The dome was also used to preserve correspondence and property documents for the sultanate's coastal and the mountainous domains.

On one of the other three domes is written, "May Allah forgive Sultan Mohsen Bin Ali," clear evidence that the tomb is that of the Sultan Bin Ali Mohsen. On the second dome, "There is no god but God, and Mohammad is the Messenger of God," but no name is mentioned.

There are no inscriptions on the third tomb.

The minaret of Sheikh Saeed is one of interesting characteristics of the castle's buildings. It is located at the heart of Al-Qarah castle, in its eastern outskirts. The minaret can be reached by seven flights of stairs and its roof is in the shape of a dome supported by four columns of stone.

The most important of the palaces established within this castle complex was known as the Qasr Al-Sa'ada or "palace of happiness," and was the first to be built there during the time of the sultanate. This castle was one of the most beautiful palaces in Yafea and it was claimed that camels and horses could go up to the upper floor of the palace. The palace was destroyed in 1958.

Another important palace is called Dar Al-Sa'ad. The palace name was said to be derived from that of the sultan's grandfather, Afif Al-Deen Al-Sa'ad.

Ghamzan palace is one of the other

palaces housed in the historic castle of Al-Qarah. It is located to the south of the castle which was known to the residents of Al-Qarah as "the upper Qarah."

The palace is a combination of two buildings and was supplied with water from a small rainwater cistern within the palace yard. There is also the sitting room where the palace's owner, the Sultan Ghaleb Abu Baker Al-Afifi, would receive his guests. Outside the walls of the palace to the north is a single room school and hall paved with stones.

The largest of the water cisterns inside the castle is called "Al-Magel the higher," and the second is called "Al-Magel the lower." The latter is now full of gravel and sand. Looking at these huge tanks, one might wonder how Yemeni constructors had the power to dig into the rock to construct these tanks in the absence of modern technology.

Outside the castle there are two other cisterns, one is called "Magel Al-Aqquad," which is one of the biggest in Yafea. The second is called "Magel Al-'Aqaba."

The term Bait Ahl Al-Amr or "House of Governors" refers to two palaces, the first belonging to Sultan Mohammed Aidaroos, and the last sultan of al-Qarah castle. The second is belonged today to

Abdulmageed Al-Afifi and his brothers. These two palaces are encircled by one fence, and have a joint entrance on their northern side. In the yard of the palaces, there is a stable for horses, and a secret room for keeping valuables.

Natural erosion has left one of these palaces in very bad condition for non-maintenance following the effects of an aerial bombardment and natural factors as well. As landmarks of ancient Yemen the castle should be protected.

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