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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Permanent registration centers to protect refugees

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, March 22 — To further ensure that refugees are protected from extradition and granted their basic human rights, a new permanent registration center has opened at the Immigration and Passport Authority headquarters in Sana'a.

Zakaria Muhyadeen, 21, along with his mother and his three brothers left their house early last Thursday morning to patiently wait outside the authority's building with other Somali refugees for the much awaited registration process.

They submitted their old ID cards, filled out the forms, had their photographs taken and their finger prints scanned into a computer. Within 20 minutes, they had received their initial registration documents for the next six months.

During the new registration process - organized by the Yemen government and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and funded by the European Union, refugees are provided with an attestation as to their legal status in the country valid for six months, until their permanent documents are ready.

"At the present, the majority of

Somalis don't have proper or accurate official documentations," said Claire Bourgeois, UNHCR representative in Sana'a. "This means they have been deprived of some basic rights including, amongst others, freedom of movement, access to healthcare and access to education."

"The registration center aims to provide official documentation to refugees, which is an important step towards enhanced protection and recognition of their rights," she said.

The registration process in Sana'a is a pilot project, and should be followed by the opening of a new registration centre in Aden in two weeks time, according to UNHCR. After that, mobile registration teams will be sent on missions around the country to ensure the registration of all of Yemen's remaining Somali refugees.

The estimated number of refugees in Yemen is 150,000 refugees according to the UNHCR, while the Yemeni government says that there are about 700,000 refugees, but the new registration should be able to put an end to this contradiction.

YT Photo by Khaled Al-Hilaly



An immigrant officer takes a Somali refugee's photo to complete his registration.

"I hope this registration will make it easy for us to receive healthcare services," said Muhyadeen, who studies English language at Sana'a University, after his registration on Thursday.

"The registration aims to protect Somali refugees from extradition and to enable the Yemeni government to compile an accurate database of refugees," said the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the National Committee on Refugee Affairs, Ali Muthana. "This will help the government to make plans and provide international organizations with information they need to assist refugees."

"Registration conducted by the government will further help UNHCR to carry out a wider range of activities to improve an environment of protection for refugees and, hopefully at later stage, asylum seekers," said Bourgeois.

Muthana urged the international community to support the Somali government, and to help people live in stable regions of Somalia like Somaliland and Puntland, by providing solutions and opportunities to keep stability in their areas.

"Stability in Somalia is the beginning of the solution to immigration and piracy," he said.

Muthana also stressed the necessity of international support the Yemeni government whose economic difficulties are compounded by the additional burden of incoming refugees.

Mary Horvers, charge de mission European Union in Sana'a, said that the EU has provided EURO 7million [USD 9.5 million] to help refugees and humanitarian operations in Yemen.

"The most important function of this [registration] document is that it protects refugees from extradition," said Bourgeois. "It also serves to foster freedom of movement and minimizes dependency, helping to identify groups and individuals"

"Furthermore, it enables the UNHCR to help the Yemen government to find durable solutions for refugees including resettlement," she added. "The registration centers could also be involved, when time comes, in keeping track of refugees during the process of repatriation, the most preferred of durable solutions available to refugees."

"It will also produce a clearer picture of the number of people in the country and the patterns of the migration in the reign," she concluded.

Many refugees choose not to pass through reception centers upon arriving in Yemen, and previous mobile registration initiatives could not be thorough, with many refugees escaping them. The new permanent registration offices hope to ensure a more comprehensive census of Yemen's refugee population. Only Somali refugees are currently being registered, although it has been agreed that, after the first year, the registration centers will start receiving applications from other nationalities, according to UNHCR.

During the last registrations in 2003

and 2005, government and UNHCR teams traveled around the country to register Somali refugees and issue them with ID cards valid for two years.

In 1987, Yemen became the first and only country on the Arabian Peninsula to sign the 1951 Refugee Convention. The country has traditionally adopted an open door policy towards Somalis, granting them prima facie refugee status, while the refugee status of other has to be determined by the UNHCR.

In 2008, more than 50,000 new arrivals -two thirds of them Somalis- landed on the shores of Yemen, a 70 percent increase on the previous year.

So far this year, about 13,000 refugees have crossed the Gulf of Aden to Yemen.

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## School-age consumers choose crisps and cigarettes

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, March 22 — Watching his favorite cartoon on a Friday morning, Ahmed is drawn to a colorful commercial advertising a chocolate egg with a plastic toy inside it. The toy is neither educational nor creative and the egg has very little nutritional value, but he wants it.

Children's uninformed food choices are largely influenced by the advertisements that bombard them daily, not the healthy habits they learn from their primary caregivers.

Ahmed whines and begs until his mother finally gives in and lets him have what he wants. At the store, he throws a tantrum demanding a bag of crisps, and to avoid a scene his mother buys it.

"We, the children do not know the benefits of eating healthy foods nor are we aware of the effects of eating unhealthy ones," said the Children's Parliament's members in a statement released on World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) on March 15. "We depend on Consumers Protection Association, Quality and Control and our parents to guide our choices."

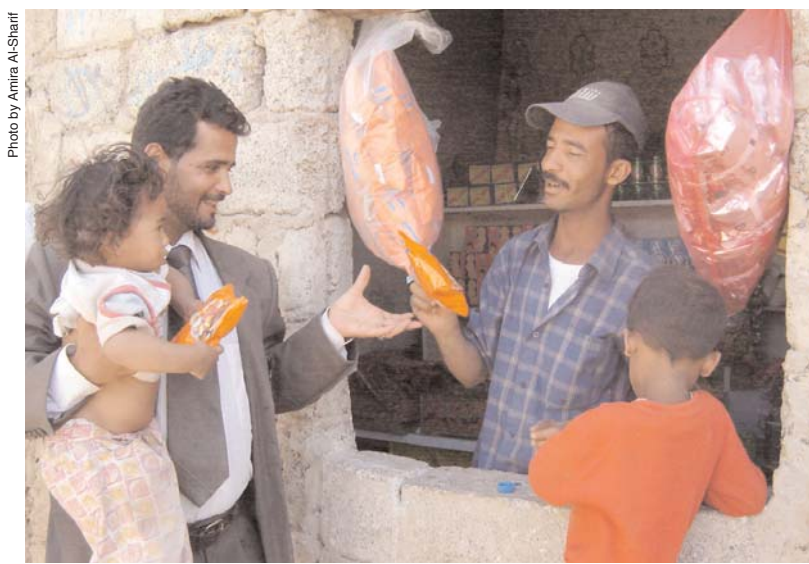
"After school, primary school children buy either a bag of crisps for YR 10 or try to buy a cigarette for the same price," said Mohammad, a store owner in Hadda, Sana'a. "The older students buy cigarettes and coke."

As he spoke, an 11 year-old boy in school uniform walked into the shop and casually asked for a cigarette in a grown-up manner. "Get out of here!" the shop owner shouted at him. The boy smiled sheepishly before scurrying off.

Up to 22.4 percent of boys and 17.7 percent of girls aged between 13 and 15 use tobacco, found the 2002 Yemen Global Youth Tobacco Survey by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

If adolescents choosing to consume tobacco are gambling with their health, so are their classmates who prefer to spend their pocket money on junk food.

Up to 2.3 billion people will be



Children don't have the knowledge to make informed choices with regard to what they choose to consume

overweight by 2013, predicts the World Health Organization (WHO). Currently, 117 million children are threatened by obesity-related diseases worldwide, with at least 22 million children under five years old already overweight or obese.

But in Yemen, where 46 percent Yemeni children suffer from malnutrition, obesity stands at a mere 3.3 percent for children 13-15 years in comparison with the United States, where almost 14 percent of children aged 2 to 5 are already overweight, according to the Global School-based Health Survey.

International consumer rights organizations this year are focusing on children to ensure they are not sold commodities that will affect their health. "WCRD, this year, takes place at a critical time in the international debate, as WHO is working on its recommendations on the marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children," says Consumers International, an organization for the promotion of consumer rights across the globe, on its official website.

Fatima, a seven year-old schoolgirl walked into Mohammad's store with her mother to buy strawberry and apricot flavored sweets, and a lollipop.

"My father doesn't buy me fruit," said Fatima, when her mother explained that her teeth were full of cavities.

The responsibility of cultivating healthy eating habits is the primary responsibility of mothers and caretakers. Schools can help by banning the selling of snacks which contain artificial flavors and high content of sugar, salt and fats.

Developing good eating habits as a child can reduce incidences of obesity, while also laying the groundwork for healthy nutritional patterns as an adult. Parents have a large degree of control over their children's diets, beginning right from birth.

Consumer protection is a form of government regulation which protects the interests of consumers. To do so, governments may require businesses to disclose detailed information about their products, particularly in areas where safety or public health is an issue, such as food.

Consumer protection is linked to the idea of consumer rights, and to the formation of consumer organizations, such as the Yemen Association for Consumer Protection, which help consumers make better, more informed choices in the marketplace.

## Families of detainees continue sit-in in front of Cabinet

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 22 — Families of those killed and secretly detained and imprisoned in Public Security and Intelligence prisons during the Sa'ada war continue peaceful demonstrations in front of the Cabinet every Tuesday, the time the Cabinet holds its weekly meeting.

Civil society organizations, including among others the Yemeni Organizations for Defending Rights and Freedoms or HOOD, the Sisters Forum for Human Rights, the Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, the Political Development Forum, and Yemeni Journalists Without Chains, are expected to join the families to continue to demand Sa'ada detainees be released next Tuesday at Al-Tahrir Square in front of the Cabinet.

Last Tuesday, HOOD held a sit-in in front of the Cabinet, demanding President Ali Abdullah Saleh's directives to free all Sa'ada war detainees be implemented. During the activity, protesters raised pictures of detainees and placards demanding their immediate release.

Mohammed Naji Allaw, coordinator of HOOD, demanded that security bodies release detainees who were detained without any charges.

For his part, Member of Parliament (MP) Fuad Dahaba stressed the importance of releasing detainees imprisoned in Political Security and National Security prisons.

He said that they were taken from mosques, streets, schools and universities, and demanded that the families of detainees be compensated for the damage caused by their illegal detention, and that those who detained them illegally be brought to justice.

The activity coincided with a teacher strike and a demonstration in memory of the late Dr. Derhim Al-Qadasi. All protesters announced their solidarity with families of the detainees.

In the same context, MP Yahya Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi sent a message from his residence in Germany to a number of electronic websites criticizing the

government for what he called the "confiscation of rights, property looting, marginalization and discrimination in rights and freedoms that the government commits against its citizens."

"You heard about the continuous acts against your brothers in Sa'ada, Al-Jawf, Amran and other areas," said Al-Houthi. "Your brothers either suffered from the oppression of the regime or partisan leaders, like the recent assassination of leading Yemeni Socialist Party (YCP) figure Qasem Waqaz, and, before that, Jaralla Omar, in addition to many other members of the opposition."

He said that the government practices all forms of violence, detention, torture, looting and repression in all parts of the country.

"These practices are forms of oppression against the entire people," said Al-Houthi. "Every Muslim should reject this situation and work to end this abuse."

For his part, Saleh Habra, political spokesman for the Houthis, warned late last week in a statement to media against a potential sixth war in Sa'ada, stressing the importance of avoiding it for the sake of peace.

"After an almost seven-month truce, the government might decide to launch a sixth war on citizens of Sa'ada and the honest people from the other governorates who support them," said Habra. "That decision wouldn't surprise us as the government has led us to be accustomed to war, even with the advent of the harvest season to hit the economy of the governorate."

He added that "the government's decisions are improvised based on foreign factors and affects."

"Where are the promises of the president that war will never come back and that dialogue will replace the language of guns?" asked Habra. "Who gave the government the legitimacy to violate all legislations and law [...]?"

"Isn't the Doha agreement one of the principles that should be upheld as it was signed by the two sides under international supervision?" he contin-

ued. "Why does the government circumvent it to please A'al Saud politicians and to prevent Qatar from solving the problem for aggressive and political considerations?"

Habra said that Yemeni society, with all its institutions, should call on the government and the Houthis to come back to abide by Doha agreement. He said that this is the least that Yemeni people can do to prevent shedding blood of Yemeni citizens.

"If the government fights us just because we hate the Americans and Israelis, on behalf of whom is this bloodshed in which our brothers are sent to fight us?" he asked. "I advise the government to work toward peace, not only through speech, as war does not serve anyone."

Concerning the security situation, Saleh Habra said in a phone call to the Yemen Times that government forces had blocked two main roads in the district of Al-Malahidh: "Bad security and military leaders did it to aggravate the situation and harm citizens so that others react," he explained.

He added that government authorities in the governorate direct humanitarian organizations to offer food aid in areas not affected by the war and leave the most affected areas without aid.

"Last week, around seven trucks attempted to bring food and relief items to the government-friendly area of Al-Khawaled, despite it never having been affected by any conflicts in the past or present," said Habra. "As they passed dozens of hungry families in Saqain without offering them any aid, citizens to seize the trucks' contents to provide women and children with necessary food."

He said that the government considered this incident to be an aggression, according to state-run media, but pointed out that it was the result of the government ignoring these Yemenis' suffering since the beginning Sa'ada wars in June 2004.

"The government should provided have provided humanitarian assistance to its citizens without any discrimination," concluded Habra.

## University demonstrations continue

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 22 — Thousands of student continue to demonstrate at Sana'a University demanding the replacement of armed guards with unarmed security staff in public universities, after the death of 20 year-old student at the university last week.

Commerce and Economics student Saleh Al-Hooty was shot in the back by security guard Shukri Al-Sabri last Tuesday for being unable to show an appropriate permission the drive his car into university grounds, sparking mass demonstrations to remove armed security from the university and bring the perpetrator to justice.

Protesters gathered on Sunday at the faculty where the murdered student was studying in his first year, then marched around the university's other faculties.

Students held up placards that read, "No solution, no solution except make the soldiers leave." As they marched past other students in class, the latter ran out to join the demonstration. "Not rational, not rational to study while our classmate has been murdered," they chanted.

The demonstration passed the Faculty of Agriculture where some foreign and Arabs ambassadors were attending an unrelated meeting.

"Our demands are to replace the current armed security with non armed security," said Ridhwan Musawd, director of the Students Union at Sana'a University.

He added that the union also demands that guards guilty of similar violations to last Tuesday's be held accountable, saying "We have prepared a list of documented violations that we will show to Parliament for investigation."

University Professors said that students are practicing their right in protesting and expressing their opinion.

"They have the right to protest, but not at the expense of others [students at lecturers]," said Dr. Ahmed Hasan, professor at the Faculty of Education.

The professor added that the university would gradually respond to the students' demands, but that its capabilities are limited compared to the students' ambitious demands.

A committee formed by Parliament last week to investigate the student's murder, led by the deputy speaker of Parliament Mohammed Al-Shadadi, met on Saturday with Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Saleh Ba Surrah and the rector of Sana'a University.

Following lengthy discussions, those who attended the meeting, including the Syndicate of Professors, the Parliament's High Committee for Higher Education and the Students' Union, drew up a number of recommendations.

The Minister of the Interior and political security officer at Sana'a University should be brought to Parliament, they said.

Responsibility should be assumed towards ensuring the safety of all inside the university and the Students' Union should bring compiled evidence of previous violations to the parliamentary committee to be investigated.

The Students' Union, the Professors' Syndicate and the university's administration should introduce a bylaw to replace current guards with security staff without guns..

Doctor Abdurrahman Ghanim, director of the Yemeni Professor's Syndicate presented examples of violations repeatedly committed against students at the public universities and demanded their investigation.

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research stressed that instructions to guide the behavior of security guards should come from the university's administration, not the



Despite ongoing protests the demand to replace armed security guards has yet to be met.

Ministry of Interior or political security. He called for a workable solution to protect all students, professors and security guard at the university. He recommended that university guards be selected and trained carefully so as the best deal with university students and professors. "Security force should not be allowed to enter the university unless necessary and by hand written permission from the rector", he said.

Doctor Khaled Al-Tomaim, rector of the university said that armed security guards still exist in Sana'a for security reasons, giving the example of an incident in which a student in the Faculty of Agriculture attempted tribal revenge against a student inside the university.

Furthermore, guards once inspected the purses of the female students and found a pistol in one of their purses, he said, adding that the university and Students' Union must cooperate to surmount the current issue without it

being overly politicized.

Sadeq Al-Badani, member of Parliament's Higher Education Committee, said that arms should be banned inside public universities.

"We would not allow the university in to politicized," said Al-Kader Al-Azani, head of the Higher Education Committee.

Saleh Al-Sanabani, also a member of the committee and the Professors Syndicate highlighted the June 2008 decision to replace armed security staff at public universities with staff without firearms, and stressed it was time t=he decision be implemented

Sana'a University students have said that protests will continue until their demands are met. These include death sentence to the perpetrator of Tuesday's crime, investigation into previous violations by security staff and removing armed security from the university.

## Ministers of information honored on first Media Day

By: Ismael Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, March 22 — Over 300 pioneers in media, including previous ministers of information, were honored during a ceremony held on Yemen's first ever Media Day.

Official media institutions, including the radio, television and printed press, celebrated the event last Thursday.

During the occasion, Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar inaugurated the headquarters of the Ministry of Information in Sawad Hanash, northwest of Sana'a, the construction of which reportedly cost about YR 2 billion.

A fair to retrace the development of the press in Yemen since the beginning of the last century through 400 official and private newspapers and magazines was also launched.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh honored a number of former media personalities, praising their role in the development of press in Yemen.

"Some people say that you are the government's media people," he said. "Tell them that you are proud of that as every country has a government and media."

During the occasion, Saleh gave directives to establish "new television channels to contribute to install affection among citizens and work according to regulations."

He further suggested that a supreme information council be established "to make a national strategy for the media". He pointed out that this "project can be crystallized through electing a media council by the Shoura Council."

"Honoring media is a good thing, but I wasn't among those who were honored," said Sultan Far'e, a retired television presenter. "Those who

worked hard in the field of media should be honored."

"Honoring media is a positive thing but, unfortunately, it was not fair," said Taha Saeed Duba'ee, former general manager of a news department. "All of us worked hard during our lives to serve the country and we are proud of that."

"This occasion is important as it honors press pioneers in Yemen," said Zaid Mohamed Al-Ghabiri, vice-editor-in-chief of Al-Jumhuriya newspaper. "Those people dedicated their life to serve the country."

Mohammed Al-Maqri, a retired presenter, said that some people who exerted a lot of efforts to serve media were not honored.

"There should have been a neutral committee to honor those who spent their lives in the media, particularly given that their job during the last century in Yemen was quite impossible," he said.

For his part, Abdullah Al-Zalab, general director of the Yemeni Radio and Television Corporation, told the Yemen Times that this occasion is of vital importance in the history Yemeni media.

"It honors the efforts exerted by the pioneers of Yemeni media who dedicated their life to the field," he said. "Those who were not honored during this occasion will be honored next year according to criteria set out by the selected committees."

To stress the importance of electronic media, the independent Yemen Association of New Media was launched to enhance the level of knowledge, professional performance and quality in Yemeni news websites through training.

It will also evaluate Yemen's electronic media and aims to ensure unhindered access to information websites.



## Yemen Portal marks one million items, moves to a bigger server



Yemeni search engine *YemenPortal.net* has recently passed the one-million mark in the number of items indexed in its database, including news articles, opinion pieces, video clips, forum thread entries, user comments and pictures. Simultaneously, the website has just been upgraded to become faster and more powerful, to continue growing and serve thousands more visitors every day.

Yet, despite these positive developments, the website remains blocked by the Yemen Net and can therefore only be viewed in Yemen through alternative links, such as the SSL URL <https://yemenportal.net>, or by using a special Firefox extension called 'Access Yemen Portal,' specifically built to circumvent the ban of over one year.

Founder and manager of the portal, Walid Al-Saqaf, expressed his hopes that President Saleh's recent pledge at the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate congress to allow more freedom of expression would help end the information blockade on the portal and other Yemeni websites including the prominent online discussion forum Al-Yemen.org.

"The growth of the portal is a sign that Yemeni websites are flourishing and creating public opinion, despite imposed restrictions and a weak internet infrastructure compared to other Arab countries," he said.

Instructions and software to circumvent the ban of YemenPortal.net can be sent directly through an auto-responder if you email [accessyp@yemenportal.net](mailto:accessyp@yemenportal.net).

## In Brief

### SANAA Workshop on maternal, newborn, productive health launched

A workshop on the maternal, newborn, productive health started here Tuesday aiming at introducing 50 participants from medical colleges, hospitals, and civil society and international organizations to prospective knowledge on the maternal and newborn medical care.

The two-day workshop, organized by Ministry of Public Health and Population in collaboration with Maternal and Newborn Health Program and World Health Organization (WHO), will focus on the complications of pregnancy and childbirth and give the participants advices in the productive health field.

"There should be specialized medical cadres in medical facilities in all districts and governorates of the country for reducing the maternal and neonatal mortality", Undersecretary of the Ministry Jamilah al-Raebi said.

The Yemeni official confirmed his Ministry's keenness to hold such workshop for strengthening the care of the productive health.

In the workshop, two speeches were delivered by General Director of Productive Health Dr. Nabihah al-Abhar and General Director of Motherhood Administration in the Ministry Dr. Kriman Rajeh where they confirmed the maternal and neonatal mortality in Yemen is one of the highest rates over the world because of the poor health services presented to this field.

### DHAMAR Archaeologists find statue of ancient Yemeni queen

A Yemeni archaeologist team has discovered a mosaic statue of a women sitting on a throne with here chest engraved with Musnad letters.

The archaeologists also found other relics including a stone board with faith signs engraved on it.

Two pulls separated by a tree were carved on the stone board, a symbol that was know as "Life's Tree" in ancient Yemeni civilization, director of the authority Ali al-Sanabani said.

Other symbols like crescent were imprinted on found relics.

The discoveries were revealed during excavations at a site in Dhamar province where the team found buildings that were used to give sacrifices.

Al-Sanabani expected the site is a trace of the Yatrib city of the Sheba civilization.

### ADEN Local council's revenues reach YR 2 billion

The revenues of Aden province's local council in 2008 reached more than YR 2 billion.

The general director of financial sources department in Aden Adel Noaman said to Saba that the total joint resources in the same year reached YR 924 million.

He added the total local resources during the period of January and February 2009 reached YR 464 million.

### Training course on micro-enterprise projects launched in Aden

Social Fund for Development launched Wednesday a training course on micro-enterprise projects and credit for 48 women representative of Women NGOs.

During the training, the participants will be introduced over four days on the methods used to establish small income-generating projects.

### HODEIDAH Workshop on women's role in public life in Hodeidah

The participants in the Role of Women in Public Life workshop called for the

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## Car Insurance founder from risks of natural disasters New offers from the Aman Insurance Company

Pioneer insurance company in Yemen Aman Insurance Company continues to offer the most up-to-date and best kinds of services to suit those seeking insurance in Yemen.

The company recently launched its new program entitled "car insurance from risks of natural disasters," with new additional coverage for a simple extra premium, USD 50. The beneficiary will benefit from risks associated to cold, snow, earthquake, storms, floods, stream

currents, hurricanes, riots and disorders.

In addition, the company provides the beneficiary with an alternative car after the accident as a temporary measure, if his insurance includes gold and silver document coverage.

Mr. Mohammed Mustafa Ibrahim, general manager of the company said, "This program will be the first in a series of programs that the company issues to cope with the market and to confirm its worthiness of customers' trust through

offering them the best options and quotations."

Mr. Adel Al-Selwi, Marketing Manager at the company, confirmed that the Yemeni insurance market should witness great development and that the company would introduce new insurances cope with economic and industrial development in the country.

As Aman Insurance Company is one of the pioneer companies in the market, it should be the first in this field.

## JOB VACANCIES ISLAMIC RELIEF YEMEN

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



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

#### Responsibilities:

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

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

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

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

#### Requirements:

##### Education:

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

##### Experience

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

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

#### Responsibilities:

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

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

#### Requirements:

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

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

#### Responsibilities:

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

#### Requirements:

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

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

Admin Department — Ref: NSACSO/IPD/150309

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

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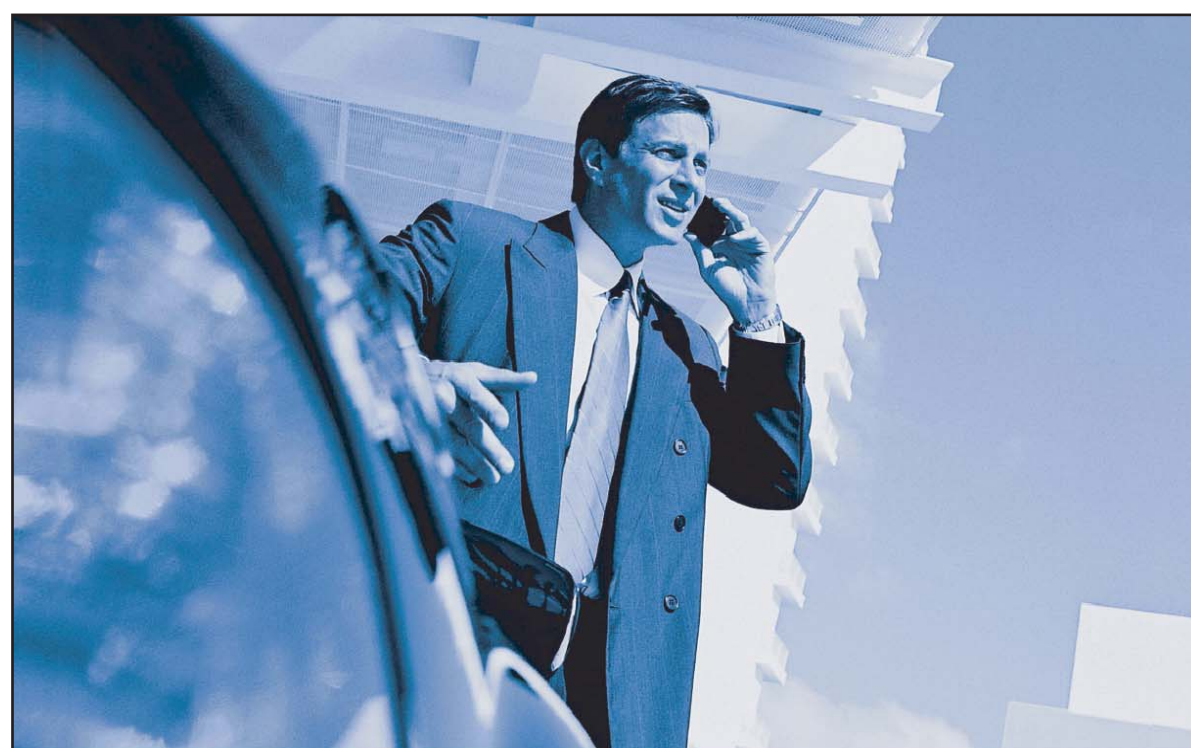
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# Yemen hosts African refugees despite economic woes, social problems

By: Magda Abu-Fadil

**Y**emen hosts thousands of African refugees fleeing unrest and poverty in their countries every year - with Somalis topping the list - despite its own economic woes and assorted problems.

"Somalis are recognized as refugees, others are not," said Claire Bourgois, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Yemen. "They can go to refugee camps and primary schools but if they go to urban areas, they have to pay their own way, their own rent."

Although the UNHCR (<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>) helps out with micro financing, technical training, and health care, the refugees are literally between a rock and a hard place.

Yemen is one of the Arab world's poorest countries with a high illiteracy rate and countless social problems, not least of which is the prevalence of "qat" chewing that virtually brings all work to a standstill after lunch every



Young Somali refugee in Yemen (Rice)

day.

Qat is considered a drug by many international organizations but its use is legal in Yemen. ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/magda-abufadil/qat-increasingly-turns-on\\_b\\_164905.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/magda-abufadil/qat-increasingly-turns-on_b_164905.html))

Most Somali refugees are illiterate young men who pay boat smugglers

for transport across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, but women and children are also making the perilous voyage, risking being dumped overboard if Yemeni naval patrols threaten the vessels.

They spend four to seven days on rickety boats without food and water and are often beaten and abused.

"In 2008, there were 19,423 Somalis, of whom 8,093 were women," Bourgois told me in her Sana'a office, adding that it was a big jump from 2006. "Women usually come alone and 50% of them don't know anyone in Yemen."

In 2006, 10,716 Somali men and 2,756 women arrived in Yemen, the UNHCR reported. The figure jumped to 11,480 men and 1,902 women in 2007.

Like the men, the 18-24-year-old women usually want to go to Saudi Arabia, Yemen's larger and richer northern neighbor, for work opportunities, or to other countries in the Arabian Gulf region.

They all view Yemen as a transit point, although untold registered and undocumented refugees have spent up to 20 years in Yemen.

Bourgois said many of the women end up as prostitutes in a desperate attempt to make a living. The International Labor Organization ([www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)) works with Yemen's Labor Ministry to cut exploitation and abuse of women.

Friends and groups come to Yemen together, childless for the most part, but some families arrive with two or three children, and children ages 14-17 also flee their countries unaccompanied seeking a better life.

UNHCR numbers differ from those of the Yemeni government, with the Yemenis downplaying the extent of the problem.

The government says 70,000 refugees entered Yemen last year but the UNHCR registered 138,000 at reception areas. Yemeni officials' estimates are based on boats coming in but the figures are misleading since refugees also sneak in and don't register with authorities or the UNHCR.

Registration only began in 2000

although the first refugees are thought to have started trickling in as early as 1992 without being registered, Bourgois said.

The transit centers apprise the refugees of their rights and duties. The refugees and asylum seekers have to register to get any help.

Some 95% of the non-Somalis are Ethiopians. About 15,000 of them registered in 2008.

Among the Ethiopians, most come for economic reasons, while others ask for refugee status.

Another 5% of the non-Somalis are Eritreans and Sudanese. The latter group usually represents those escaping the strife in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region.

In 2008, 1% of the estimated 50,000 refugees heading for Yemen never made it, the UNHCR said. Some died en route, and some were killed and then tossed overboard by the smugglers.

"Problems begin as we approach the Yemeni coast," said a mother of four in



Ethiopian maids transit legally to Arab countries through Sana'a airport

Sana'a, who with her husband paid \$100 dollars for the journey. She recounted how the smugglers killed her spouse and threw him in the sea to avoid returning him to Somalia when the shore patrol shot at their boat, but spared her and the children.

In December 2008, Yemeni coastal patrols increased and controls were tightened, leading smugglers to kill 600 asylum seekers, according to UNHCR figures.

The lucky refugees jump overboard and swim ashore to escape the smugglers and Yemeni patrols.

"I want to live in peace," said Mohammad, a Somali refugee who swam from a boat targeted by Yemeni patrols. Before registering with the UNHCR, he slept on the streets and begged until assistance was provided.

According to India's Frontline magazine, civil unrest and developments in Somalia "can be seen as a defeat for the U.S., but the latter will continue to dabble in the African nation because of its strategic location on the Bab al-Mandeb, a key oil transit waterway between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean."

Sheikh Sharif Sheikh, the leader of a coalition of Islamists and nationalists, was recently elected president of Somalia.

"The UNHCR will set up a permanent register center," Bourgois said of her agency's attempts to help the refugees. "When the refugees arrive, the UNHCR prefers the (Yemeni) government issue them ID cards through the Interior and Foreign Ministries, to be renewed every two years."

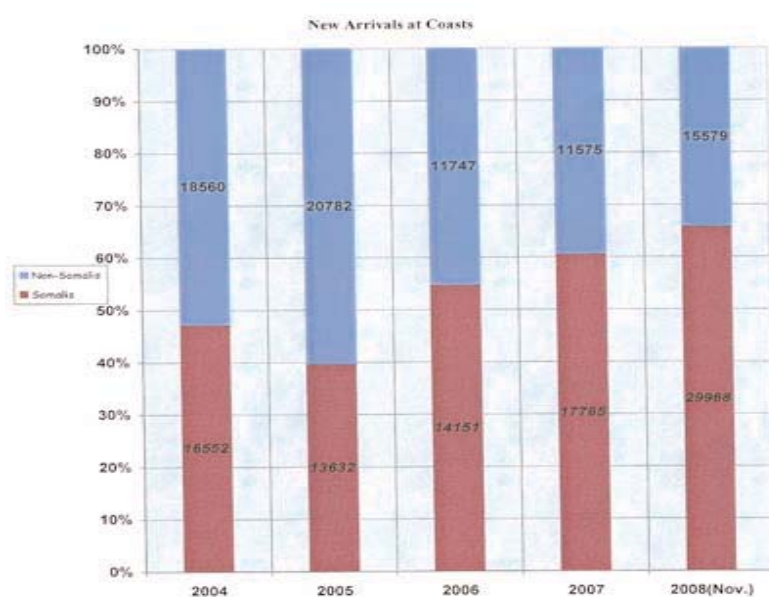
The UNHCR tries to discourage the Africans from leaving these centers to avoid deportation from other Arab/Gulf countries where they're not recognized as refugees.

The flow slows down in May, June, and July when the sea is rough and tides prevent smugglers from sailing across the Gulf of Aden.

Some refugees prefer going to Saudi Arabia where they have relatives and contacts. Some are afraid of waiting and being deported or put in detention centers. Some leave without documents to their next destinations.

"The Yemeni government has the right to arrest illegals," notably Ethiopians, Bourgois explained, adding that Yemen is still very open to refugees despite internal problems and economic hardships.

Magda Abu-Fadil is Director of the Journalism Training Program at the American University of Beirut. Copyright: [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)



Figures of refugees in Yemen (UNHCR)

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### FOR RESTRUCTURING AND PERFORMANCE

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

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

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




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

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


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

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

Mr. Hamed Ahmed Farag  
Chairman, Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, (CAMA)  
Building No. 28, Zubairi Street,  
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## Words of Wisdom



One of the key differences between a dictatorship and a democratic system is the role of the media in general, and that of the official media, in particular. If those individuals in charge of the media feel they are more responsible towards the public than towards the politicians, and perform their job on that basis, then that is a sign of a democratic structure.

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

OUR  
OPINION

## Water in Yemen

Seventy percent of tribal conflict in Yemen is over water. Dozens are killed every year, daily life is disturbed, and development projects are put on hold because of fights over water wells and resources.

Each day, at least one in every ten Yemeni women has to walk one to five hours in order to bring back 20 liters of water to her home. The distance she walks is ever-increasing as, one after the other, wells dry up.

And the fight over water intensifies as resources become scarcer.

Yet a voluntarily blindfold covers the eyes of decision-makers when it comes to water and sanitation in Yemen, and this despite their international pledges to provide a better life for every man, woman and child in the country.

In particular, the UN's seventh MDG, which our country ratified in 2000, states that half the 49 percent of Yemenis with no access to clean water are to be connected to a water and sanitation system by 2015. But, even in the most developed city in Yemen, the capital Sana'a, a city of only 2.2 million with an annual growth rate of seven percent, this goal is impossible.

Statistics from Yemen's water authorities, such as the Ministries of Water, Agriculture, the Rural Water Organization and the Water and Sanitation Authority, say that even a service coverage increase of one percent is ambitious.

If the future consequences of water scarcity have not yet hit home, other issues also deserved to be considered.

Up to 35 percent of under-five child mortality -73 per every 1,000 live births- could be reduced by hand washing. You might wonder why such a simple procedure is not encouraged to save lives, but consider that the average water consumption of a Yemeni person ranges from 120 to 130 cubic meters per year.

This means that a Yemeni consumes less than one third of a cubic meter a day, compared to the world average of 12 cubic meters daily. Can you imagine?

And there is more. Seventeen percent of these children's deaths are caused by diarrhea, which is the number one killer of children in Yemen with 100,000 deaths annually. It could all be avoided with proper toilet hygiene. Yet only 43 percent of all Yemenis and 28 percent of those living in rural areas have access to adequate sanitation facilities.

Although homes are connected up to a water network in the cities, weak water pressure promotes corrosion and the development of bacteria inside water pipes. By the time water has made its way into our taps, it is already contaminated.

Finally, let me leave you with one thought. Most of the 22 million-strong Yemeni population lives in the highlands. I don't know why, but still today Yemenis choose to live in the central mountain areas, leaving more than 2,000 kilometers of coastline -the longest in the Arab world with both the Red and Arabian Seas- virtually empty.

For one in every ten women, this means scrambling up a mountain with 20 liters on her head to provide water for her children every day, knowing that out of her ten children, one is likely to die before reaching the age of five.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

By: Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari

It is known worldwide that only people who are able to pay enter private schools. In return, they seek excellent education services. The more higher the tuition fees, the higher quality of education they expect in return.

I was surprised by what I observed and heard from the students of most private schools and their families, whose suffering and problems are seemingly endless. Students, their families, and teachers in such schools all complain - both boys and girls.

Students in such schools still experience real classroom overcrowding, something which they thought they had escaped by leaving the public schools. Male and female teachers in private schools are not good educators, or rather, have no true relationship with education. They typically didn't study educational psychology or child psychology, and they assign students a lot of homework.

For example, some female teachers hold a bachelors degree but they teach science subjects and computer science. "If I make a mistake, I will be punished by the manager. When I tell them that I am not a specialist in

those subjects, she tells me I have to accept the situation and, consequently, I am obliged to teach them," commented one of the female teachers on this problem.

Female teachers in private schools also suffer from the tyranny of school administration, as some of these schools allow the guardians of students to insult female teachers, undermining their authority as teachers. School timetables are not stable, lesson periods are short, as are the breaks which do not exceed 20 minutes.

In addition, the content of the lessons are often beyond the abilities of the teachers, which leads to poor lesson planning and ineffective delivery. Moreover, teaching aids are largely absent in private schools, and no training courses are held to equip staff with the necessary skill sets. Sometimes teachers are fired without sufficient justification; they are not given their material rights, and consequently there is little security or honesty in most private schools.

Corruption in education is therefore rife, even with respect to the student - teacher relationship. Some male and female teachers take gifts and bribes from students, which results in discrimination between one student

and another.

The dynamic between student, teacher, and school is punctuated with problems, as many teachers don't take into consideration the problems of students. The reason is attributed to the low salaries of teachers in private schools, which range between YR 12,000 and YR 16,000 per month.

However, tuition fees in private schools are very high when viewed in light of the poor services they offer, which often don't differ from those of public schools with the exception that the latter are more crowded. Some students are obliged to escape the crowding in public schools and head to private schools, where they find tragedy.

School transportation services are typically unavailable, although when a private school principal hears of a coming inspection from the Education [Office] he hires a bus temporarily. Furthermore, some schools that do provide a transportation service impose a fee of over YR 30,000 per year to provide as few as four children transport for a short distance, such as from the end of Al-Raqqass to Hayel St.

Some female teachers complain about the low salaries that they receive from private

schools, which often don't exceed YR 8,000 per month. One of the female teachers pays YR 5,000 of this salary to the school as tuition fees for her daughter who is studying at the same school, which leaves only YR 3,000.

Some female teachers suggest that private school teaching contracts should be made by the Education Office after their competence is tested through school inspectors.

Consequently, it is clear to us that most private schools are chaotic. They are not privy to good educational standards, nor monitoring of the incumbent bodies. The material and psychological situations of both male and female teachers are poor, something which is reflected in the deterioration of the educational and cultural standards of students.

I hope that the Ministry of Education extends its strict monitoring of private schools before approving the foundation of such schools which then turn out to be little more than shops offering goods of poor quality. What I have mentioned here is but a little.

Source: Al-Thawra

## Up next... a more dangerous test for the JMP

By: Rashad Al-Shar'abi

I am concerned about the length of the period agreed upon between the government and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) with regards to the postponement of elections, and also the partnership which bears the moral responsibility for this postponement, which is itself an act of oppression against the JMP. However, in taking a firm standpoint the JMP has demonstrated a multi-faceted expression of solidarity with its parties (at both the leadership and grassroots levels) as well as good management of the crisis since the 2006 elections.

The views of Yemeni people on the street were heard in the capital in a brief survey of public opinion. We find that these opinions vary, with some people worried that the ruling party may not fulfill its agreement, as has happened in the past. Some of those asked were not concerned about the elections at all, whereas others believe that the national budget will benefit from saving what is usually spent on each election. Yet others consider it to be an opportunity for avoiding the damaged relationships that sometimes accompany elections, not just at the family level but also within the wider neighborhood and village context.

This justification and others were put forth by those who received the agreement with support and ease of mind. This is because the government removed democracy, with the election being one of its tools, from its real context and meaning. In addition, it led people to concede that it [democracy] is futile and merely a facade to deceive the country and the international community. People, including the illiterate, realize that democracy is of no importance unless it provides the citizens of the country with different interests in terms of social justice, equal citizenship, and the realization of development targets. It is also useless unless it facilitates the peaceful transfer of power, protects public funds against wasteful spending and corruption, safeguards human rights and liberties, and enables all people to live under the protection of constitution and law.

It is true that, in jointly accepting responsibility for the postponement, the JMP has conceded to the government. The government insisted on waiting until the last minute to return to the right path, not out of repentance and concern for the country and its unity, or care for democracy and its proper implementation, but due to internal and external pressures. It is also true that postponing elections for two years is too long in my opinion, and in the opinions of many

others. The JMP didn't like postponement in this way, and didn't agree that it was the best choice. However, the JMP sent many message through this agreement that are worthy of the attention of its leaders, media persons, members and advocates. The majority of people should understand these messages.

Until the eve of announcing the agreement, officials at many different levels of the government had been considering conducting elections without the involvement of the JMP, considering them as merely envious partisan groups that don't represent the people nor have any real presence. Therefore, the agreement came as a concession that the actions the ruling party have taken since August were illegitimate, such as voting on an effective law, rejecting the formation of an election committee in which some members were not nominated by their parties, conducting voter registration and reviewing registration, etc.

Messages that the JMP directed both nationally and internationally affirm its complete care for the nation and people's interests, and its understanding of the importance of popular will and national consensus in legitimizing the Yemeni political system. In addition, it confirmed its

belief in democracy as the sole means to achieve the aspirations of the people. It confirmed its commitment to dialog and rejection of violence, extremism, terrorism, discrimination and animosity towards small projects regardless of the terms by which they are named. i.e. regionalism, sectarianism, racialism, tribalism.

However, all this means that the JMP shouldn't be given undue praise in the future, but should first reveal what is going on to the public when the opposition attempts to sidestep what was agreed upon, avoid implementing it, or shirk its responsibilities. It is important therefore, for the sake of the JMP, the people, and the country, that the leaders of the JMP operate with absolute transparency regarding matters of agreement or disagreement with the opposition or even amongst themselves. The opposition worked on many fronts to break the solidarity of the JMP and destabilize it through contacts and media leaking. It tried to widen the gap between the leadership and grassroots level, damage its image in the eyes of both local people and the international community, and use all means possible to achieve its aims including holding elections that represent a bare minimum of people's opinions. If the JMP had been transparent, and if it hadn't

been reserved about giving information to the media and informing people as to what was going on between the JMP and the ruling party, the latter wouldn't have been able to affect it so negatively, postpone elections for two years, or involve it in a partnership of mutual responsibility. The JMP leaders wouldn't have granted the ruling party the opportunity to play its usual role by way of telling lies and negatively affecting not only journalism, but the JMP leaders and grassroots level.

Transparency is something that the JMP leaders should be committed to in the future. They should also work to achieve transparency on a national level through a law that enables citizens to have access to the relevant information, circulate, and publish it. The ruling party currently insists on repressing and restricting liberties, and infringing on rights through laws, legislation and executive bylaws, the last of which were the information law, and the law that followed with regard to telecommunications. This particular law aims to restrict freedom of expression, journalism, and the right to attain information. God only knows what other ramifications it may have.

Source: Alnass



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# Yemen Press Review



**Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with the General People's Congress (Ruling Party)**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2009**

## **Vice President: Return to fragmentation era is impossible**

Vice-President Abid Rabu Mansour Hadi, who is also First Deputy Chairman and Secretary General of the General People's Congress GPC expressed on Saturday his regret about the so-called issue of the South Yemen or Saada war or even the allegation that those assuming post in the authority from southern governorates as not representing the southern governorates, the website reported.

The Vice-President stressed that return to the era of fragmentation and division, which Yemen experienced prior to the Reunification in 1990 is one the impossibilities.

The ruling party's website quoted Hadi as saying that some opposition members allege that representation of those governorates cannot be accomplished but

by those elements who fuelled the civil war and claimed secessionism in the summer of 1994.

In statements to 14 October newspaper the Vice President wondered how those understand what they call the South Yemen's issue, does it mean recognition of those activities' being hostile to the homeland and its unity.

He added that those individuals behave in a way contravening of the Constitution and effective laws, and therefore want to drive the homeland back to before May 22, 1990? Unfortunately those elements are still thinking in the same mentality with which they had caused that edition for which they received its price at the expense of the martyrs and the wounded.

He questioned whether they want fragmentation once again and said it is impossible. He added the unity is the destiny of the Yemeni people and the fruit of their struggle and an embodiment of the goals of their two revolutions of 26 September and 14 October.

The Vice-President added that as for what is said about Saada is something exciting. All know that the sedition, which happened in some areas of Saada, was ignited by imamate elements whose minds are saturated with deformed culture alien to the Yemeni society and its

traditions. They attempted to take the country back to the era that preceded the 26 September Revolution of 1962.

On a side note, the website reported that the Comorian Vice President for Transportation, Post and Telecommunications, Communication and Tourism Idi Nadhoim extended in Sana'a on Sunday an invitation to the Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansur Hadi to visit Comoros.

During a meeting between both senior officials in Sana'a, Hadi accepted the invitation, whose date will be set later on.

Hadi reviewed with Nadhoim several issues related to strengthening the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields, especially in higher education, as well as receiving Comorian students in the Yemeni universities and institutes to create a specialized cadre satisfying all the development requirements.

He also affirmed the political leadership's keenness on providing all the possible assistance to the Comorian people in training and rehabilitating aspects as well as providing higher studies' scholarships to the Comorian students.

For his part, Comorian Vice President expressed his appreciation to President

Saleh for his efforts to enhance the relations of the two countries



**Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party**  
**Wednesday, March 18, 2009**

## **Islah Party urges authorities to recognize South Yemen's issue**

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform, known as the Islah party, has affirmed that narrow loyalties and illegitimate interests constitute the core of current national crisis which bodes ill for Yemen, the website reported.

During its fourth conference concluded last week, the Islah Party said that the agreement recently signed between the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) to postpone the parliamentary elections and undertake political reforms is the latest attempt to drag the country to a safe direction.

The Islah further held the Yemeni authorities responsible for the vulnerable state of the economy and bad indicators of

development as well as wasting of public resources, calling on the ruling party to quit pursuing wrong economic policies

It also underlined that the South Yemen's issue is a result of authoritarian policies practiced by the regime, excluding political partners and the absence of equal citizenship, requiring the authorities, in the meantime, to recognize such a vital issue, halt repressing activists and the militarization of civilian life, and investigate those involved in violations and killings.

The major opposition party highly appreciated roles JMP exerted in stopping Saada war, urging the government to immediately treat its impacts and reconstruct the destroyed houses.

The conference's final statement called for closing down private prisons, tortures and arrests, and stopping kidnappings and politically-motivated trials.

Politicians applaud the conference

Yemeni politicians have applauded the Islah's party's Conference launched on Wednesday, March 11, hoping it to come up with decisions to enhance Yemen's democracy.

Mohammad Al-Sabri, top leader of the Nasserite Unionist People's Organization, said that holding the conference on time would help facilitate difficulties and lead

to considerable decisions, pointing out that Yemen will face critical challenges in the political life and that they should be dealt with seriously by the Islah Party.

Vice President of the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate Sayeed Thabit said that the Islah's fourth conference confirmed the solidity and cohesion of the party, and superb performance, which signifies that Islah is the future party in Yemen.

Dr. Abdullah Dahan, member of the Nasserite Unionist People's Organization, called on all other parties to follow the example of the Islah, which firmly practices democratic values inside its structures and holds its conferences on time.

The Yemeni Socialist Party's representative at the conference Slam al-Shaibani affirmed that the Islah's conference is an important event in Yemen's political life, urging the Islah's members to precisely identify Yemen's troubles and suggest workable solutions to end them.

Mohammad Al-Mutawkil, political science professor at Sana'a University praised the address delivered by Acting Head of Islah party Mohammad Al-Yadomi during the event, indicating that it contained a thorough description of the existing crises in the country.

## Confronting the global water crisis

By: Peter Rogers

Around the world, demand for fresh water doubles every 20 years, owing to increasing population and affluence. Yet pollution, climate change, and seawater intrusion are diminishing supplies of fresh water at similar rates. So, is a global fresh water crisis looming?

Fortunately, the situation appears to be less alarming. This is not to deny that the supply of fresh water is getting tight. Left unattended, major disruptions for human society could occur.

Many argue that water is different from resources such as oil, because there are often no substitutes for water in most uses (particularly growing food). Moreover, water is an essentially fixed resource, albeit one that renews itself every year.

There are prodigious quantities of water on the globe, but most of it is salty ocean water and brackish groundwater. There are huge resources of fresh water, but most is in ice sheets and glaciers, with only a small percentage readily available where and when we need it. The supply of water is also highly variable across

regions and within countries, with floods and droughts occurring at irregular times.

One new factor influencing water supplies is rising global temperature. Although we are not certain about the exact effects, many scientists believe that total annual precipitation will increase, but that its seasonality and the frequency of extremes may also increase. This would make it difficult to use the existing supply infrastructure of dams, reservoirs, treatment systems, and pipelines without big modifications.

From the writings of the earliest modern commentators on the drivers of socio-economic growth and decline – Adam Smith, Edward Gibbon, Thomas Malthus, David Ricardo, and Karl Marx – we see that concern about exhausting resources is not new. Malthus and Ricardo were particularly prescient about the roles of population, food, and energy resources.

Malthus postulated a geometric rate of population growth (like compound interest on a bank deposit) and an arithmetic rate of growth (simple interest on a bank account) of food production. These curves always intersect after a couple of decades, and Malthus predicted widespread famine or violent conflicts: food and population

would be aligned with each other by “misery, war, pestilence, and vice.”

Ricardo projected “declining returns” on investments in resources, whereby the best (least-cost) resources are used first, followed by the next best, and so on. Increasing demand for resources leads to price increases that will continue until the resource becomes too expensive to use.

Of course, these constraints were at work over previous centuries, before Malthus and Ricardo articulated them, but *homo sapiens* was able to “cheat” by expanding our resource base (colonialism) to bring in cheaper resources and food; by finding substitutes for scarce resources; and by improving our technology so that the same amounts of land and resources could be used more efficiently.

Because the world is now pretty much filled up, there are few opportunities to expand the physical supply of resources. The real question now facing the planet is whether we can continue improving our technologies or finding cheaper substitutes. Just because something worked over the past 200 years does not mean that it will necessarily continue to work. This is the crux of the problem facing global water resources.

## Barack Obama administration continues US military global dominance

By: Peter Phillips

The Barack Obama administration is continuing the neo-conservative agenda of US military domination of the world—albeit with perhaps a kinder-gentler face. While overt torture is now forbidden for the CIA and Pentagon, and symbolic gestures like the closing of the Guantanamo prison are in evidence, a unilateral military dominance policy, expanding military budget, and wars of occupation and aggression will likely continue unabated.

The military expansionists from within the Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Clinton, G. W. Bush administrations put into place solid support for increased military spending. Clinton's model of supporting the US military industrial complex held steady defense spending and increased foreign weapons sales from 16% of global orders to over 63% by the end of his administration.

The neo-conservatives, who dominated the most recent Bush administration, amplified this trend of increased military spending. The neo-cons laid out their agenda for military global dominance in the 2000 Project for a New American Century (PNAC) report *Rebuilding America's Defenses*. The report called for the protection of the American Homeland, the ability to wage simultaneous theater wars, to perform global constabulary roles, and to control space and cyberspace. The report claimed that in order to maintain a Pax Americana, potential rivals—such as China, Iran, Iraq, and North Korea—needed to be held in check. This military global dominance agenda required forward deployment of US forces worldwide and increasing defense/war spending well into the 21st century. The result was a

doubling of the US military budget to over \$700 billion in the last eight years. The US now spends as much on war/defense as the rest of the world combined, making Americans the highest war-tax payers in the world.

Barack Obama's election brought a moment of hope for many. However, the Obama administration is not calling for decreased military spending, or a reversal of US military global dominance. Instead, Obama retained Robert Gates, thus making Obama the first president from an opposing party, in US history, to keep in place the outgoing administrations' Secretary of Defense/War.

Additionally, Obama is calling for an expanded war in Afghanistan and only minimal long-range reductions in Iraq.

The US military industrial complex is deeply embedded inside the Washington beltway. According to the most recent reports from OpenSecrets.org, 151 members of Congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defense companies.

Major defense contractors were seriously involved in the 2008 elections. Lockheed Martin gave \$2,612,219 in total political campaign donations, with 49% to Democrats (\$1,285,493) and 51% to Republicans (\$1,325,159). Boeing gave \$2,225,947 in 2008 with 58% going to Democrats, and General Dynamics provided \$1,682,595 to both parties. Northrop Grumman spent over \$20 million in 2008, hiring lobbyists to influence Congress, and Raytheon spent \$6 million on lobbyists in the same period. In a revolving door appointment, Obama nominated Raytheon's senior vice president for government operations and strategy, William Lynn, for the number two position in the Pentagon. Lynn was formally the Defense Department's comptroller during the Clinton adminis-

tration.

The International Monetary Fund's prediction for global economic growth in 2009 is 0.5 percent—the worst since World War II. The United Nations' International Labor Organization estimates that some 50 million workers will lose their jobs worldwide this year. There are an estimated 62,000 U.S. companies expected to close in 2009, and while official unemployment is at 7 percent in the US, when you add people no longer looking for jobs and part-time workers, joblessness is closer to 14 percent. The military-industrial-political elite are worried about the potential of increasing global insecurity. The answer inside the Obama Administration is to continue high defense/war spending to insure military control of both domestic and foreign instabilities.

The military, industrial, congressional, and administrative elite profit from defense spending, both financially and ideologically. Insider profit taking from pentagon spending is widespread in Washington. But perhaps more important is the belief that this global military machine is seen as necessary for the protection of US corporate interests and the American upper classes in an increasingly destabilized world. Given that belief, the Obama administration is unlikely to change the defense spending policies of the previous US administrations without significant disruptive pressure from anti-war activists and global empire resisters.

*Peter Phillips is a Professor of Sociology at Sonoma State University and Director of Project Censored a media research organization. His 2006 study on the Global Dominance Group in the US is available on line at: <http://www.project-censored.org/articles/story/the-global-dominance-group/>*



## **JOB OPENINGS**

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

ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



# Protecting water and all that lives in it

By: Alice Hackman

On World Water Day this year, perhaps mankind should turn its gaze not only to water, but also to the precious wealth that teems within it. Like water resources, fisheries are a source of life and livelihood, and demand equally good management in a changing world, said the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2008.

"The substantial increases in energy and food prices, which started in 2007 and have continued into 2008, as well as the threat of climate change, mean that the conditions for capture fisheries and aquaculture are changing," wrote Ichiro Namura, Assistant Director-General of FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in the report.

"That said, the combined effects of rising prices and climate change are complex, and they affect a very large number of fisheries and aquaculture operations in a mosaic of natural, social and economic contexts. Hence, it is too early to have a clear understanding of the cumulative impact worldwide on

fisheries and aquaculture," he added.

Stemming from the depths of the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea, the fishing industry in Yemen supports the livelihood of at least 220,000 fishermen and their families according to the latest statistics collected by FAO, and their catch increasingly contributes to the protein intake of inhabitants around the country.

Yemen's three bordering seas may be dwarfed in comparison with the vast fishery wealth enjoyed by China, the world's top marine life producer and exporter in 2006 according to FAO, but the bounty offered to Yemen by its coastal waters should not be underestimated.

In 2006, Yemen produced 229,000 tons of fish, according to the Ministry of Fish Wealth.

China produced up to 51.5 million tons of fish in the same year, but its coastline is almost nine times longer than that of Yemen and it has developed many inland fisheries, which water-scarce Yemen cannot. And with a population of over 1.3 billion compared to Yemen's 17 million, perhaps it is not surprising that China boasts the highest number of fish farmers and fishermen

worldwide, even in Asia where 86 percent of all them live.

The FAO's latest report stressed that the developing world is emerging as a strong producer and exporter of fish and sea food. Developing countries claimed a whopping 79 percent of fish production in 2006 even without China's contribution, and their exports represented around half of global fish exports in the same year.

Although the U.S. ranked third in the fish production ranking in 2006, developing country Peru claimed second place after China. Peru has 3,080 km of coastline compared to Yemen's 2,350 km, and every year Peru lands tons of anchovies from its territorial waters and fish farms, sometimes using trawlers.

## Piracy and global warming

But, despite its large expanse of territorial waters, production in Yemen over the last few years has almost halved, according to the Ministry of Fish Wealth. Whereas the country produced 229,000 tons of fish in 2006, these figures dropped in 2007 to 177,000 tons and again in 2008 to only 131,000 tons of fish.

"The ministry is devoting itself to finding the causes of this decrease in production, and is taking initiatives to protect and manage fish resources," Abdallah 'Audh Basnil, Deputy Minister for Fish Wealth told the Yemen Times.

Although the study is ongoing, both piracy in the Gulf of Aden and global warming have adversely affected the country's recent production of tuna, he said.

Piracy has posed an increasing threat to Yemeni fishermen's livelihood over the last few years, with many complaining of being used as human shields by the pirates and of having their work disrupted by unruly inspections by international forces patrolling the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea.

As for global warming, it has swept the world's waters, and Yemeni fisheries are no exception, said the FAO office in Yemen. Rising temperatures in the mangroves and coastal waters unsettle the larger cycle of marine life, with consequences for fishes of all sizes.

Worldwide tuna catch levels declined

in 2007 because of the increase in fuel prices which made long trips out to sea uneconomical for the world's fishing fleet, and canned tuna prices soared for the first time in 20 years, said the 2008 FAO report.

But the skipjack tuna, found in Yemen waters, was third most caught species worldwide in 2006, with 2.5 million tons caught. The yellowfin tuna, also caught in Yemen, came tenth in the ranking, with a landing of 1.1 million tons all over the globe.

"The tunas reached a new maximum at more than 6.4 million tons, with skipjack catches higher than ever, whereas yellowfin catches were reported to have decreased by about 20 percent from the peak reached in 2003," said the report.

Up to 80 percent of all global fish stocks for which statistics are available are fully exploited or over-exploited, warns the FAO report, but this does not seem to be a problem for tuna in the Indian Ocean so far.

"Some stocks of skipjack tuna are fully exploited while some are still reported as being moderately exploited particularly in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, where they could offer some limited possibilities for further expansion of fisheries production," said the report.

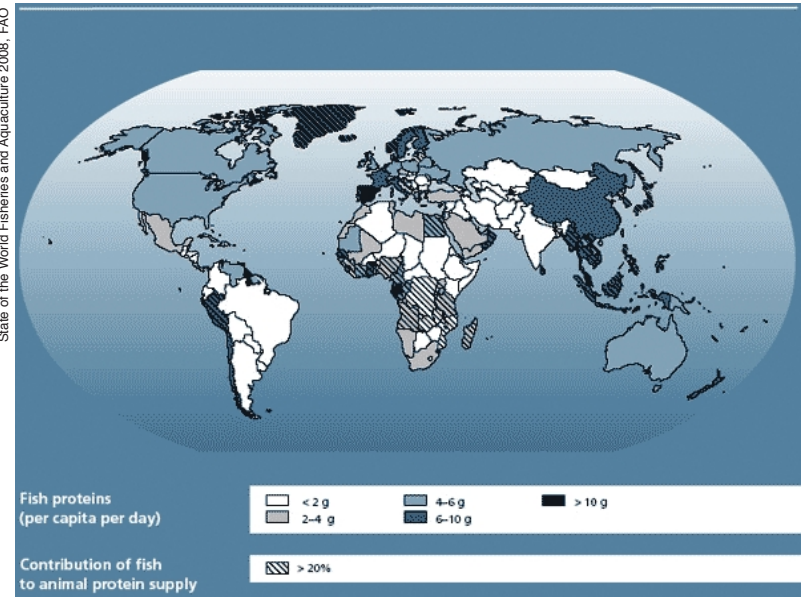
The Ministry of Fisheries last week discussed the possibility of conducting feasibility studies for a tuna aquaculture project in Yemen with the Yemen Fish Company.

"Yemen exports fish to over 60 countries," said Deputy Minister for Fish Wealth Basnil, "We export tuna as well as cuttlefish, squid, and prawns."

Current statistics on Yemen's import and export of fish are not readily available, but the deputy minister denied a FAO report that Yemen's fish imports exceeded its exports in value in 1999, with USD 40 million imported against USD 19.8 million exported.

## A good source of protein

Worldwide, consumption of fish per capita has increased steadily over the last decades, from 9.9 kg in the 1960s to 16.4 kg in 2005. It has risen dramatically in the Near East and North Africa, said



Contribution of fish to animal protein supply (average 2003-2005)

the FAO report.

The average Yemeni now consumes between 5 and 10 kg of fish a year, less than the rest of the Arabian Peninsula with Saudi Arabia, but more than coastal countries in the Horn of Africa such as Ethiopia. Its contribution to global animal protein intake is still low.

In 2000, Yemenis received 4 percent of their total protein intake from fish, reported the World Resources Institute, below the global average of 6 percent, but more than the Middle Eastern and North African average of 3 percent.

Fish is such a good source of protein that several countries are currently developing a high-nutrition food called fish protein concentrate to feed the undernourished worldwide.

Only 12 grams of the new magic formula would be the needed daily intake for a child a day, estimates FAO, but in areas where fish is plentiful, real fish may be a better solution and fish concentrate should be confined to emergency use only.

Almost half of the fish destined for human consumption in 2006 was live and fresh, due to the widespread use of refrigerators and ice-making machines, notably on transportation.

The byproducts of fishing are

increasingly being put to good use too. Among these, is the newly-emerging fish gelatine, to be used as a thickener in food such as jelly, marshmallows and some low fat yoghurt instead of the less-popular porcine and bovine gelatines.

Almost 2,500 tons of fish gelatine was produced in 2006, said the FAO report. Extracted from fish skin, fish gelatine is being explored as an alternative to other forms of mammalian gelatine, the consumption of which is discouraged in Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. Fish collagen also has advantages over bovine collagen in the pharmaceutical industry.

But this is not the only oddity outlined in the report. European and American companies are increasingly outsourcing fish processing to countries with cheap labor.

In particular, fish from Europe and North America is increasingly sent to Asia for filleting and packaging before being re-imported. Similarly, smoked and marinated European fish is increasingly being processed in Poland and the Baltic countries, it reported.

In an increasingly globalized world, these sources of protein will be supporting the livelihoods of people across the continents.



The yellowfin tuna, found in Yemeni waters, was tenth most caught source of fish protein in 2006 worldwide.

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# Books in foreign languages: hard to find, or expensive

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

In most countries, publications in foreign languages contribute to a nation's culture and general knowledge, but in Yemen, it is difficult to find foreign books at all –other than the classics or text books recommended in university or foreign schools' curriculums.

"There is not much interest in books in Arabic covering areas of general knowledge, let alone in foreign languages," said Deputy Minister of Culture Hisham Ali Bin Ali. "The general knowledge book has no readers in Yemen, and those who read foreign languages are so few, that they buy their own books abroad."

"The high rate of illiteracy in Arabic is the main reason for little reading in Yemen," added Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf, head of the General Book Authority.

"It ensues that knowledge of other written languages is also low, and the number of Yemenis who speak foreign languages is limited."

Unlike other Arab countries like Lebanon, Morocco and Egypt where people read foreign books in their original or translated form, in Yemen very few foreign books are imported and even less translated into Arabic, according to Bin Ali.

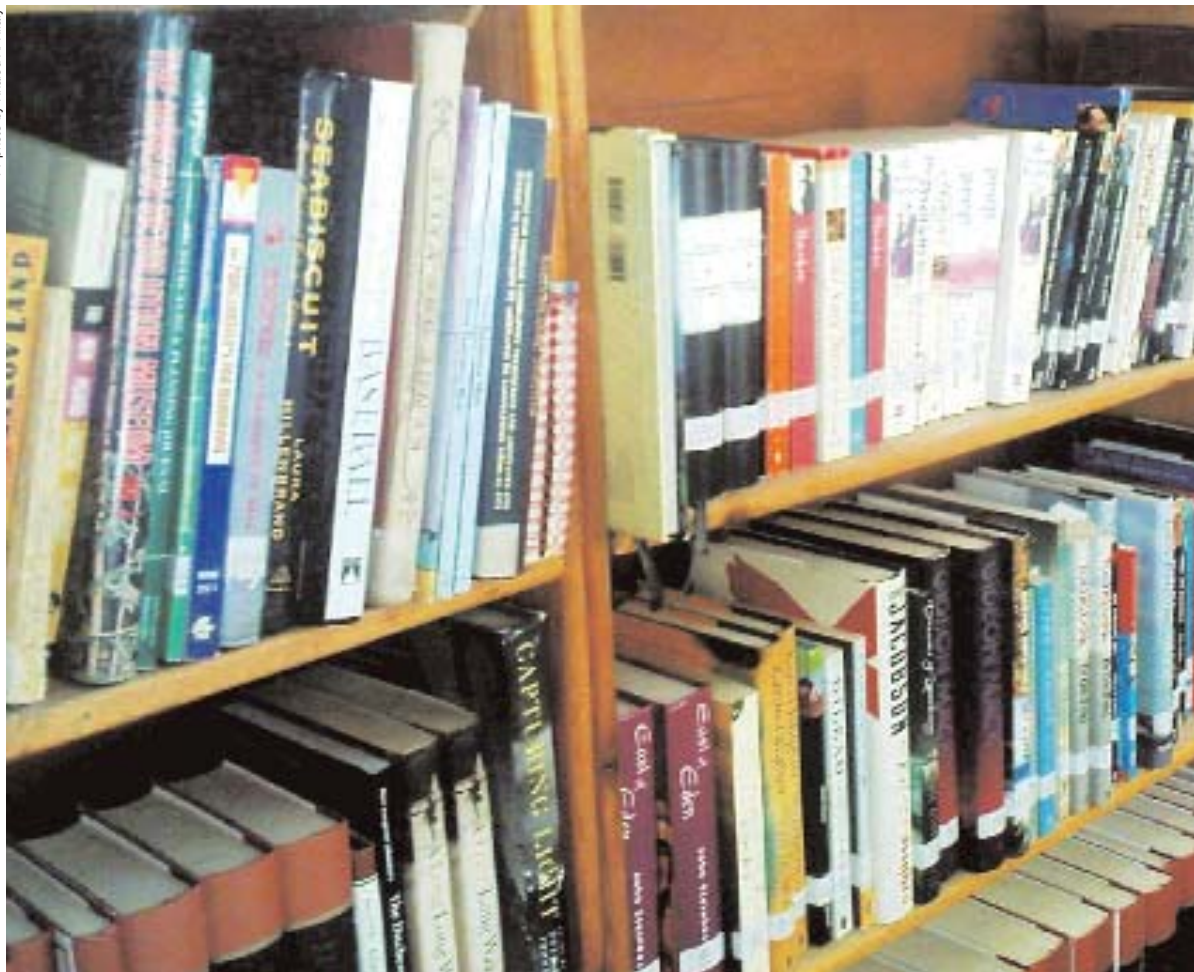
"There would be some demand for these books in foreign languages if they were imported, but the prices must be reasonable" said Bin Ali. "I like to read in English because it saves time instead of waiting for the new book to be translated."

Even at Yemen's annual book fairs, non-academic foreign books are hard to come by. Only a few international publishers sell educational and academic books through their Yemeni distributors.

But academic books for university students – especially those enrolled in medicine, engineering and language degrees – are widely available.

Although mostly published in the seventies, many academic books in foreign languages line the walls of university libraries for students to use.

More up-to-date scientific publications in English are also available in specialized bookshops, and students buy them because they are compulsory reading. "Although medicine and engineering text books are expensive, university students buy them because they are required



A handful of cultural centers and libraries in Sana'a offer foreign books at competitive subscription rates.

textbooks," said Bin Ali.

However not all specialized books are available in shops, and Yemenis sometimes complain that more volumes should be imported.

Bushra Handal, 19, a student of psychology at Sana'a University, prefers to read about her chosen subject in English rather than Arabic, because she says sometimes concepts are lost in translation. But, although the books she seeks out are available in libraries, she cannot find them in bookshops.

"We need to read in foreign languages to know more about other cultures," said Handal, "But our education system does not encourage a reading culture and doesn't allow us to express ourselves."

Luckily, Handal lives in Sana'a where various foreign cultural centers offer people like her the opportunity to learn about other countries and foreign perceptions of Yemen.

With the biggest collection of foreign books, the French Cultural Center offers its library members around 14,000 titles. It has a children section to encourage reading from an early age, classics for French

language students, new novels and books written in French about Yemen.

Journalist Jamal Jubran usually buys French books to improve his mind when he is overseas, but he also takes novels out from the library of the French Cultural Center.

The knowledge gap between Yemeni and foreign cultures is caused by the absence of foreign books, says Jubran: "The gap is not only in knowledge it encompasses education, cinema, sports and the economy."

Other library members are French-speaking university professors, employees in oil companies and international organizations, French who live or work in Yemen, and French language students, according to Omaimah Al-Thurani, librarian of the French Cultural Center in Sana'a.

For those who prefer reading in English, the British Council's library or "The Free Zone," offers about 11,000 academic publications, classic novels and educational books at the private University of Science and Technology in Sana'a.

And students can also read books in German from the library at the German House.

Although the center only has 2,000 titles for the moment, the collection includes documentary DVDs for German language students to improve their listening and comprehension skills.

To promote reading, the center, which has also donated some books to the German department at Sana'a University, selects one book each week which it recommends to members through discussions or lectures, and by translating German books about Yemen into Arabic.

"Germany will be guest of honor at the next Sana'a Book Fair in 2009," said Guido Zebisch, director of the German House in Sana'a, explaining the center will bring Yemeni and German authors together, promote illustrated children's books and feature publishers from Lebanon and Egypt with Arabic translations of German books.

Other collections of foreign books are individual donations, such as that made by British Alan D'Arcy to the library at the Bait Al-Thaqafa or the Culture House in Sana'a in 2007.

Of the library's 4,000 foreign books, the latter donated about 1,500 precious and rare books about Yemen, mostly in English, with some in French, German and Italian. All are arranged by alphabetical order in the library's Alan D'Arcy corner.

**Foreign books are expensive**  
Paying the British Council YR 5,000

or the French Cultural Center YR 2,500 a year plus deposit is still the cheapest option for Yemenis who wants to read books in English or French.

It is not surprising that, given the option between owning a single book for YR 2,500 or signing up for unlimited access to thousands for a whole year, most readers choose the latter.

In comparison to the living standards of Yemenis, the prices of books are high, especially books in foreign languages, according to Jubran.

"Recently we have started bringing some cultural books like new now novels," said Nashwan Al-Maghafi, owner of the Yemen Bookshop.

"But we try to choose titles carefully so that they do not offend Yemeni society or the Ministry of Culture, but foreign publishers also suggest some titles we may be interested in."

The readers of non-academic English books are foreigners, Yemenis who have lived in foreign countries and Yemeni women who like to read novels, according to Al-Maghafi.

To broaden these books' audience, the Yemen Book shop is planning to hold reading competitions to promote reading in English.

"Importing books is really expensive, because of the high tax rate which increases the cost of the book," said Al-Maghafi. "These tax charges on books are some of the highest in the world."

According to the Ministry of Culture, 15 percent of books imported to the country are in foreign languages, and most of these are educational books.

But they are expensive, and some clever Yemenis have found a way around buying them in Yemen.

To enrich his knowledge in his specialization, Abu Bakr Al-Duba'i, student at the Faculty of Engineering, buy books from India through a relative studying there. He said that the books he buys from India are the same but cheaper than in the local bookshops.

To spread the reading culture and activate the role of books in strengthening intercultural links, attention should be paid to books in foreign languages.

By reducing tax charges on books and decrease the censorship on their content, the government would help open windows onto the world so that Yemeni society may benefit from other cultures' knowledge and experience.

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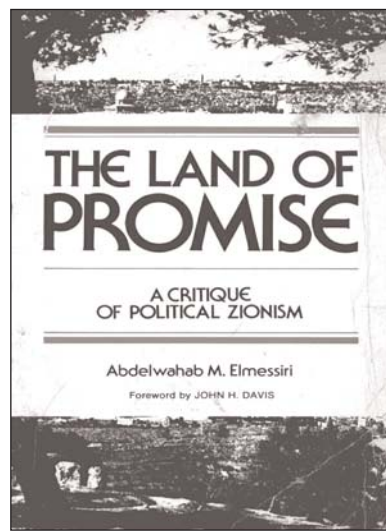
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By: Eyad N. Al-Samman  
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El-Messiri, Abdel-Wahab Muhammad, was an Egyptian author, intellectual and scholar. He was born in October 1938 in Damanhur, capital of Buhayrah Governorate, near Alexandria. El-Messiri received his primary and secondary education in Damanhur before he enrolled at the Alexandria University, Faculty of Arts, English Department in 1955. After his graduation in 1959, he was appointed lecturer in the same university.

In 1963, El-Messiri left Egypt and attended Columbia University, New York, in the United States where he obtained his Master's degree in 1964. Later on, he obtained his Ph.D. from Rutgers University in New Jersey in 1969. Upon coming back to Egypt at the beginning of the seventies, El-Messiri was a member of the Board of Experts in the Al-Ahram Center of Political and Strategic Studies. In 1975, he was appointed cultural consultant for the Arab League's permanent delegation in the United Nations in New York up to 1979. He returned to Egypt to lecture in Ain Shams University until 1983. He also taught English Comparative Literature in other universities including King Saud University, Saudi Arabia (1983–1988) and at Kuwait University, Kuwait (1988–1989). He worked also as a visiting Professor in the Islamic Malaysian University in Kuala Lumpur and in the Nasser Military Academy. Among other positions that he held working as the Academic Chancellor of the Universal Institute for Islamic Intellect in Washington (1992–2008) and a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Islamic and Social Sciences (1993–2008), Virginia, USA. He was also the consultant of editorial board for several periodicals published in Egypt, Malaysia, Iran, United States, England and France. In January 2008, El-Messiri was assigned to work as the General Coordinator of the Egyptian Movement for Change (Kefaya).

El-Messiri managed to write over than 70 books in Arabic and English during 30 years of his intellectual career. He composed in different fields such as Jews, Judaism and Zionism; secularism, postmodernism, Western culture and contemporaneity; literary theory and comparative literature. His first book entitled "End of the History: An Introduction for Studying the Zionist Intellect's Structure" (1972) which shows that Zionists are trying to put and end for the history by stopping its



elements which hinder the organic development of Jews. In 1976, El-Messiri wrote "Israel and South Africa: The progression of a Relationship" in which he compares Zionism with Apartheid. He authored "The Encyclopedia of Zionist Concepts and Terms: A Critical Vision" in 1975 and decided to update this encyclopedia to has a fundamental vision offers a comprehensive cognitive substitute. Consequently and after more than 25 years of research and critical inquiry, El-Messiri published his eight-volume magnum opus entitled "The Encyclopedia of Jews, Judaism and Zionism: A New Explanatory Model" (1999) which is constructive and suggests alternative ways of looking at Jewish, Zionist, and Israel phenomena. It also deals with all

aspects of the history of the ancient Hebrews, and that of the Jewish communities all over the world. El-Messiri was threatened with death for his encyclopedia from religious Jews and was accused of anti-Semitism.

In the field of literature, El-Messiri wrote many books especially about the Palestinian literature such as "A Lover from Palestine and Other Poems" (1972), "Analects of Romantic English Poetry: Some Historical and Critical Studies" (1979), "Three Studies in English Literature" (1979), "The Palestinian Wedding: A Bilingual Anthology of Contemporary Palestinian Resistance Poetry" (1983) and "A Land of Stone and Thyme: Palestinian Short Stories" (1996).

He wrote his autobiography in the book entitled "My Intellectual Journey in Seeds, Roots and Fruits: An Objective Memoir" (2001) which contains details on how his ideas were generated and about the explanatory method he uses. Among his other important books "Who is the Jewish?" (1997), "The Hidden Hand: A Study in the Destructive and Secret Jewish Movements" (1998) and "Partial and Complete Secularism" (2002).

Several works of El-Messiri were translated into foreign languages including English, French, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish and Portuguese. His works written and published in English included: "Israel, Base of Western Imperialism" (1969) and "The Land of Promise: A Critique of Political Zionism" (1977) that contains a prolix text which can be taught as an academic subject tackling the Zionism's history. In the field of children's literature, El-Messiri composed several stories such as "The Princess and the Poet" (1993), "Cinderella and Madame Zainab Khatoun" (1999), "A Very Fictional Story" (2001) and "Songs to the Beautiful Things" (2002).

During his literary career, El-Messiri obtained many certificates of appreciation from the Indonesian Intellectuals' Union (1994), the University of Jerusalem in Palestine (1995), the International Educators' Hall of Fame (1996), the Faculty of Law at the University of Emirates (1999) and the Arab Physicians Syndicate (2003). He was also conceded several awards including the Suzan Mubarak's Award for the Best Writer of Children's Literature (2000 and 2003), the Award of Law at the University of Emirates (1999) and the Arab Physicians Syndicate (2003). He was also conceded several awards including the Suzan Mubarak's Award for the Best Writer of Children's Literature (2000 and 2003), the Award of Sultan Al-Awais regarding his intellectual oeuvre from the United Arab Emirates (2002), the Award of International Board on Books for Young People (2004), the State's Appreciative Award in Literature (2005) and the Award of Al-Quds from the Arab Union for Authors and Writers (2008).

El-Messiri died on July 3, 2008, in Cairo suffering from cancer. Apparently, El-Messiri has devoted a significant part of his intellectual career to the defense of the Palestinian cause. He once said: "The functional nature of the State of Israel based on the fact that colonization has created it to perform a specific function. It is a colonial project which has no relation with Judaism."

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