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Presidential promise on Yemenis at Guantanamo not yet fulfilled

By: **Kawkab Al-Thaibani**
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, April 25- The deadline for which President Ali Abdullah Saleh promised to repatriate Yemeni detainees from Guantanamo came and went last Friday.

During a security conference held in January this year, President Saleh had promised to bring the Yemeni detainees home within three months.

While the Yemeni President failed to meet his deadline, eight months are now left for American President Barack Obama to fulfill his promise to shut down Guantanamo by January 2010.

The 97 Yemeni detainees make up more than 40 percent of the remaining 241 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

The assurance of a genuine and strong rehabilitation center is the US' main demand to send the Yemenis home. Yet, according to the New York Times, the Obama administration is increasingly skeptical of Yemen's ability to provide adequate rehabilitation

and security to supervise returned prisoners.

In addition, American officials are weary of sending detainees to Yemen because of growing indications of activity by Al-Qaeda in the country.

Their concerns have increased since Said Ali Al-Shihri, a Saudi man released from Guantanamo Bay, became the deputy leader of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, according to US officials.

Yemen Times previously reported that the rehabilitation center in Yemen had vague plans, as Yemeni officials declined to reveal information about this center.

For Yemen, funding the rehabilitation center is the main hurdle.

"A rehabilitation center needs great funds. The issue of rehabilitating the returnees is not a domestic concern, but an international affair," said Mohi Al-Dhabi, Deputy Prime Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

New plans to transfer detainees to a third country, most likely Saudi Arabia, have been discussed by officials.

If Yemenis were transferred to Saudi Arabia or another Arab country, they would be forgotten, said Khaled al-Anesi, the executive Director of HOOD.

"At least we can use the American system to claim our people," he said. "In addition, Saudi Arabia is well-known for its violation of human rights."

Al-Dhabi is against the idea completely: "They are Yemenis. They should come back to their country," he said.

Al-Dhabi said that Yemen cannot go in conflict with the US: "But this is politics and I don't think that a third country would become involved without Yemen's approval," he said.

American organization Human Rights Watch believed that this transfer should be voluntarily: "If some of the detainees who are not charged are sent to Saudi Arabia rather than Yemen," said Letta Tayler, author of the recent Human Rights Watch Report "No Direction Home: Returns from

Guantanamo to Yemen," "they should only be transferred there voluntarily, and US authorities should not make their transfer contingent upon their undergoing indefinite rehabilitation in Saudi Arabia's locked-door religious reeducation program for former Guantanamo detainees."

"If that is the plan, they should be given a fair opportunity to challenge any deprivation of liberty," she said.

"Your government is a beggar"

While the dispute between Yemen and US continues, Guantanamo detainees and their families suffer.

Abdusalam Al-Hila, Guantanamo detainee number 1463 and former Yemeni member of the intelligence, said that the situation in Guantanamo is unbelievable, during a recorded phone call, a copy of which was sent to the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms or HOOD, which works for Guantanamo issue.

Al-Hila said that nothing has changed since Barack Obama took Office.

"It is all talk," he said angrily. "They placed me in the worst place in Guantanamo."

Previously released Yemeni detainees have been detained by Yemeni authorities for a few months without charge.

In the worst case, a Yemeni man was held for two years and said interrogators tried to beat him into confessing he was a spy, according to HRW.

Some Yemeni returnees said they suffer from both psychological and physical problems from their years in US custody, yet despite their unlawful detention, none have received assistance from either the US or Yemen.

Stigmatized as former "terror suspects," many cannot find jobs. The men are under constant surveillance, banned from leaving Yemen, and must report monthly to the authorities.

"The prospects for Yemenis at Guantanamo are bleak," said Tayler. "While the United States and Yemen remain deadlocked over their fate, many of these men are entering their eighth year in US captivity, and most have not

even been charged with a crime. Not only are they being held in abusive conditions, but life is passing them by."

"Unless authorities in the US or another country have a genuine basis for prosecuting these men, they should be provided with counseling, medical care and job training, rather than jailed," she wrote.

Al-Hila said that if the President Saleh can solve the problem of funding easily: "If each Yemeni collects YR 1,000, we won't need Americans."

Al-Hila added that the jail-inspectors, translators and lawyers disrespect Yemeni government and they called it a 'beggar'.

"They said whenever they ask our government to assist our return, our government always replies, 'Give us USD 100 million,'" he said, adding angrily, "They humiliate us and themselves."

Al-Dhabi denied that the government had asked for a specific amount of money.

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Human rights organizations continue to support Sa'ada detainees

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 22 — Further demanding the government release Sa'ada war detainees, families and civil society organizations including the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms otherwise known as HOOD staged their twelfth sit-in last Tuesday at in front of the Cabinet.

Lawyer Mohammed Naji Allaw, director of the human rights organizations HOOD, considered the protest to be a dynamic example in a country that witnesses increase of oppression and violations against rights and freedom.

Allaw criticized the government for not paying attention to human rights, pointing out that the Yemeni constitution stipulates that imprisonment shouldn't exceed seven days unless the judiciary demands it.

He said that the problem is the lack of a just judiciary or a specialized criminal court, which requires cooperation and solidarity between citizens to become free from a policy

of fanaticism and denial of their freedoms.

"Throughout these years, the families of detainees have marched in the streets, and gates of officials in quest for their young and university-aged detainees," said Yahya Abu Osb'a, assistant secretary general of Yemeni Socialist Party (YCP).

He accused the government of prompting citizens to practice uncivilized choices to demand their rights: "These detainees are still behind bars and their families are not allowed to ask about them, although this is allowed by the law, the constitution and agreements of human rights organizations. We are accustomed to see the government to be the first to violate the constitution and the law."

"Detainees of the Sa'ada war live under a government that no longer produces anything except lies," he continued. "It says that it has achieved accomplishments in health, education and power although we all know that power cuts are increasing every day."

"With regard to health, millions of

people are suffering from with different diseases," he said. "Education is deteriorating. The government produces corruption through seizing public finances on the one hand and wars, violence, tribal conflicts and revenge."

He further said that detainees are citizens from Sana'a who never carried weapons against the government. "Why are these detainees not transferred to justice?" asked Abu Osb'a. "Is it because they are royalists [supported the Imamate] or Hashemite?"

For his part, MP Fuad Dahaba greeted the mothers of detainees, their wives who live alone while their husbands are in detention, their children who are deprived of talking with their fathers and their families who live in a difficult situation due to rash practices of this oppressive government.

Dahaba said that demands should be expanded to demand the government release all detainees nationwide, investigate whoever violated the law or constitution and compensate

detainees for the physical and mental damage they have endured.

In the same context, Ali Al-Dailami, executive director of the Yemeni Organization to Defend Democratic Rights and Freedoms, demanded the government provide a just and transparent judiciary and respect rights, freedoms, constitution and law. "Did you undertake your role to investigate torture that some detainees complain from, arbitrary and secret detention, or the violations against detainees?" Al-Dailami asked members of the Cabinet during the sit-in. "Or is your role to carry out only what political and national security have authorized?"

Al-Dailami appealed to the President not to listen to those who aim to increase oppression through their practices without regard to laws, freedoms or the constitution.

He demanded that the President direct officials to execute his past directives to release all detainees. He further appealed to the President not to believe those that pretend to be protecting the country and order while

at the same time do the opposite.

In a related event, President Ali Abdulla Saleh received the Lebanese ex-prisoner Samir Al-Qintar who delivered a verbal message from Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hezbollah.

Al-Qintar confirmed that Hezbollah supports Yemeni unity and cares about security and safety of the Yemeni people. He considered that the Yemeni unity is considered an important pillar for the Arab resistance in Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.

He talked in a press conference held in Sana'a last Tuesday about what he called "his company with Yemeni prisoners inside Israeli prisons who were released in a prisoner exchange in 1985."

In a related topic, Abdul Rahman Al-Obali, 27, and one of Sa'ada detainees, died after a long with disease inside Al-Nusaireya Prison in Hajja and then Hodeida Central Prison.

He had been imprisoned for four years during which time he suffered from psychological problems and

heart disease. Houthis claim that torture inside the prison was the reason of his death.

The government had released Al-Obali, who comes from Al-Awali area in Hajja, after his health situation deteriorated. The mediation committee between the government and the Houthis transferred him to Al-Salam Hospital in Sa'ada. He was then transferred to the Military Hospital in Hodeida before his family took him to the Saudi Hospital in Hajja where he remained until his death.

"This is a big oppression and the whole society with all its affiliations should reject such barbaric practices and demand the government release detainees particularly given that among detainees are elderly and sick people who need health care," said a statement by Abdul Malek Al-Houthi's media office.

Calling on all human rights organizations and citizens to move to release detainees' especially the sick, the children and the elderly, Al-Houthi said, "This is the responsibility of all people."

Al-Saeed Foundation honors Dutch couple

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, April 25 — The Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture held a celebration honoring Jan Hoogendoorn and Heleen Janszen who were kidnapped and held for two weeks in Mareb governorate. The celebration was in recognition for their work to support development in Taiz, especially in the water and sanitation sector where Jan used to work.

Heleen delivered a speech during the ceremony saying that she worked as a volunteer at the local water corporation and that her work period has finished.

She said that she will never forget Yemen and she will come back by the end of the summer along with her husband. For his part, Abdul Jabbar Hayel Saeed An'am, a member of Al-Saeed Foundation's board of directors, said that this honoring ceremony is in appreciation of the role the Dutch couple played during their three-year stay in Taiz.

He said that awarding them the Foundation's Shield of Honor is the least they could do to show the appreciation of the Yemeni people in spite of what they must have gone through while they were held hostage in a remote tribal area.

An'am stated that Yemenis reject and condemn such bad behavior that affects foreigners including Dutch



Heleen Janszen receiving the award

tourists who are part of the system of Yemeni-Dutch relations which have been in place for more than 30 years.

Faisal Saeed Far'e, General Director of Al-Saeed Foundation, said that Heleen was an active member in the foundation since she first delivered a lecture on maritime economy in 2006 at one of the foundation's meetings.

He added that she spared no efforts to help the Al-Saeed Foundation and offered visions that contributed to the different activities of the foundation, augmenting it with experience.

Jan Hoogendoorn and Heleen Janszen said that the kidnapping didn't change their positive attitude toward

Yemen and Yemenis. Rather, it made them consider the feelings of Yemenis from all sects and orientations, including tribal people.

Heleen said that she appreciates the bad conditions under which her kidnappers live and understands that they aimed to deliver a message to the government about their sufferings and their poor living standards.

She said that she and her husband established many friendships with Yemenis, particularly in Taiz during the years they spent in Yemen, pointing out that during this period they experienced love and warm feelings of Yemenis toward her and her husband.

African refugees drown as boat capsizes

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

ADEN, April 26 — Thirty-five African refugees drowned when their boat capsized off the coast of Ahwar in Abyan governorate on Wednesday.

The boat that capsized was one of two that left Bossaso in Somalia on Monday carrying 117 Somalis and Ethiopians refugees. The other boat, which was carrying 105 refugees, safely made it to the shores of Yemen.

The passengers heard gunshots coming from the Yemeni coastline, so they rushed to one side of the boat following which it capsized under their weight, according to Jabril Michael, 23-year-old Ethiopian and one of the survivors.

Michael paid about USD 100 for this journey. He succeeded to swim to the shore after the boat capsized.

The 35 bodies were recovered on Thursday by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees' (UNHCR)

partner agency, the Society for Human Solidarity (SHS). The remaining passengers are believed to have swam made it to shore.

Among the survivors was an 8-year-old Somali boy whose mother drowned in the incident.

They were transferred to UNHCR's Ahwar Reception Centre to be registered and provided with water and food.

Last month, seven refugees drowned and five went missing as a boat carrying 104 Somalis and Ethiopians capsized. In another incident, smugglers forced passengers into the water resulting in the drowning of nine people. Eighty-three survivors were transported to Ahwar.

So far this year, some 387 boats carrying 19,622 people have arrived in Yemen after making the death-defying voyage across the Gulf of Aden from the Horn of Africa. A total of 131 people have died and at least

66 others are presumed missing, according to the UNHCR.

Migrants making the dangerous crossing are fleeing civil war, political instability, poverty and famine in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

Earlier this week, the Yemeni Ministry of Interior expressed concern towards the continuous flow of Ethiopian refugees to the country which adds to the burden of the Somalia refugees.

The ministry said that instructions have been given to security in the coastal governorates to take all necessary means to stop Ethiopians from landing on Yemeni beaches because they are an extra burden the country cannot cope with.

Only Somali refugees are granted prima facie refugee status upon their arrival to the shores of Yemen. Yemen is the first and only country on the Arabian Peninsula to be signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Parliament demands resignation of Hodeida University rector

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 25 — A report by the Parliamentarian committee made a number of recommendations to the Cabinet concerning last month's incident where eight students drowned and 13 were injured in the Red Sea during swimming lessons.

The parliament endorsed the report which calls for the resignation of Dr. Qasim Boray, rector of the university, Dr. Abu Ali Ghalib, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education, and Dr. Hussein Arsan, the swimming trainer. The report also refers them to the General Prosecution.

During the session, the parliament recommended the quick implementation of the committee's report as well as providing medical care to the injured.

The parliamentarian recommendations also directed Hodeida University to coordinate with the Yemeni Coast Guard when they have swimming lessons in the sea.

It also suggested that the local councils in Hodeida cooperate to build a maritime edge in the Red Sea next to the city to be a safe place for students to swim.

According to the minister, what happened was a result of negligence by the faculty's administration.

Despite the fact that the Faculty of Physical Education at Hodedah University is the only faculty that teaches sports in any of Yemen's eight public universities, it is not properly equipped to teach its undergraduates how to swim.

The March 29 drowning incident happened not only because of the

absence of assistant trainers and lifesaving equipment on the day of the training, but also because the university does not have its own swimming pool.

"Only ten to 15 students are supposed to participate in swimming training at a time, and they should have life savers and life jackets with them," said the minister.

"They should also be accompanied by qualified assistant trainers, but what happened was the opposite," said Ba Surrah, Minister of Higher Education.

"Up to 59 students went swimming that day, and among them were students never attended the theoretical lectures on swimming," he added. "Moreover, the trainer who went with them, Dr. Hussein Arsan, is not specialized in swimming, but in handball. He was supposed to start training them in a pool suitable for their level."

"Why didn't Hodeida University pay the weekly swimming pool fees which aren't more than YR 30,000?" asked Surrah. "Why didn't the administration coordinate with the coast guard when they have training in the sea?"

"The coast guard and the local councils in Hodeida are both responsible for advising people on where it is safe to swim," said Major Shujaa' Ali Mahdi, General Director of coast guard operations in Yemen. "There are signs showing where it is safe to swim along the Red Sea coast, but people don't pay attention."

"The place where the students drowned wasn't a safe place to swim, and there are signs there warning people not to swim," he added. "It is

the students' and their supervisors' mistake."

However, university rector Boray earlier stated to the Yemen Times that this painful incident is considered the first of its kind since the establishment of the university 12 years ago.

"The incident is gloomy and sudden, and a sea phenomenon according to sea experts," said Boray.

"The incident place was not the first time the students used to train there. Students have been learning how to swim there for more than 12 years," said Boray in response to Major Ali Mahdi's statement that the place where they were swimming was unsafe.

"The university did not neglect to provide the faculty of physical education with safety equipment, but students this time did not take this equipment with them," explained Boray. "There is no pool in the faculty to learn swimming and the university budget is not able to fund external pool fees. In addition to that, Hodeida only has one pool which is in Al-Sha'b garden," Boray pointed out.

"The Minister of Higher Education instructed Dr. Mahyoub Abdurrahman, vice-rector of Hodeida University, to be in charge of university administration till a decree designates a new rector for the university," stated Anas Sinan, press officer at the ministry's office. Sinan added that the minister also sent an official memo to all the public establishments, including the Central Bank of Yemen, stating that the stamp of Qasim Boray as Rector of Hodeida University is no longer considered official.

Twelve foiled terrorist plots in March

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 25 — Twenty two members of Al-Qaeda were arrested through security raids throughout March, 2009. The raids prevented the terrorists from executing 12 criminal plans, including attacks on "oil, tourism, governmental and foreign institutions in Yemen" according to Saleh Al-Zawari, Deputy Minister of Interior.

"Many of those arrested are young misguided men who have been brain-washed by Al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen. These young men were willing to sacrifice themselves in suicide attacks against their own country," he said.

Ten of the youth were arrested in Shabwa, a remote underdeveloped governorate in eastern Yemen, while others were arrested in Abyan governorate

towards the southeast of the country. Abyan is one of the most politically troubled areas in Yemen as it currently plays host to a number of secessionist movements and frequent demonstrations against the central regime and its corruption.

60 wanted rebels were arrested during the raids in Abyan Governorate; 17 were released this month. The arrests came as a reaction to the demonstrations and threats in the governorate against governmental bodies.

In the meantime, negotiations led by the president between the GPC ruling party and the JMP opposition coalition are progressing smoothly, especially after the two sides agreed to postpone the parliamentarian elections for two years. In a meeting with consultants and advisors last Saturday, President Saleh

discussed the security situation of troubled governorates including Sa'ada, Abyan and Shabwa.

"We are facing terrorism, which puts restrictions on tourism, development and oil explorations," president Saleh said. "We have to go ahead with building human resources while combating terror."

The agreement between opposition parties and the government has not helped ease tensions in the southern governorates, as the protestors do not acknowledge the opposition parties as true representatives of the southern people's demands. At the same time, the JMP, which includes the Yemeni Socialist Party which was in power in South Yemen prior to unification in 1990, has prioritized repairing damages caused by the 1994 civil war.

Continued from page 1

Presidential promise on Yemenis at Guantanamo not yet fulfilled

Sons' last call to their father

While the debate over the fate of the detainees continues, detainees remain far removed from their families, unable to comfort them in times of grief.

The latest tragedy is the death of Al-Hila's sons.

Two days earlier in the rare two-hour phone call, Al-Hila talked to his sons: Omar, 12, and Yousef, 11.

"What grade are you in now," he asked his son Yousef. When his son replied class six, he was surprised.

Little did Al-Hila know that it would be the last time he heard his sons' voices. Two days later, the little boys were rummaging through their father's closet when they found a grenade, according to the detainee's brother Nabil Al-Hila.

The grenade killed them instantly. Their sister Malak escaped the accident as she was on the first floor rehearsing for a school play.

Nabil al-Hila said that the neighbors rushed to the house to prevent the mother from seeing the bodies. It is unclear why the grenade was in the house.

Before this accident, Abdusalam has lost his beloved younger brother. He was notified of his death during his last phone call.

His family told him that his youngest brother, 21, just died two weeks ago, when he actually died two years ago. "Ali was like my son," he sadly replied.

Al-Hila was disillusioned by both the American and Yemeni governments. "It is all talk," he said. "I wouldn't cheer up if President Saleh and Obama called me now."

Al-Hila has yet to find out about the death of his sons and that of his mother who died two months ago.

In Brief

SANAA
Government, IMF discuss means to face international financial crisis
 Deputy of Civil Service and Insurances Minister Nabil Shamsan reviewed on Saturday with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s mission the administrative procedures the Yemeni government seeks to reduce expenses to face the international financial crisis.

Shamsan talked over the outcomes of the project of civil service, briefing the mission on the achievement level of the fingerprint and photo project in the country authorities.

He also highlighted the restructuring project in the ministry, affirming that the ministry has completed building the central database for the retired staff of the government.

For his part, head of IMF's mission hailed the successes achieved by the ministry in reforming the administrative body of the country, confirming the fund's support for Yemeni efforts to develop the country administrative body

Higher education ministry launches training program on organizations management

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research launched on Saturday the fifth phase of the training program on organizations management for 28 ministry cadres.

For five days, the program, funded by the Dutch government, aim to build the capacities of higher education staff in the field management, supervising, planning and development.

At the opening of course, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Mohammed Mutaheer affirmed the importance of such courses to raise the staff performance in the ministry in a code with the latest scientific development and benefiting from others' experiences.

For his part, director of the ministry's Promotion Project Fuaad al-Hada said the course comes within the training program which is implemented by the project in collaboration with Delft University of Netherlands in the framework of restructuring higher education, praising the Dutch government for providing two international experts for this course.

DHALE
Child dies as dogs attack people in Dhale

A child died of hydrophobia in a

hospital after a rabies-infected dog bit his legs and other parts of his body on Thursday, local sources in Dhale province said.

Other 9 people including an aged man and two children were taken to the hospital in Damt district as another dog attacked them. Some of them were in serious condition.

The dog was killed later by terrified people who said it attacked all it saw at streets.

Stray dogs are seen in Yemen's cities with the people urging a real solution for their hanging at streets.

In unrelated news, a young boy died Friday while he was swimming in a hotel pool in Sana'a, sources at the hotel told some media outlets.

Mohammed al-Ahdal, 18, died at the Taj Sheba Hotel at al-Tahrir Square area because he was not a proficient swimmer, the sources said

ADEN
Chinese military ship arrives

A Chinese warship arrived in Aden port on Saturday for few-day visit.

The visit of ship, which is one of the Chinese pieces allocated in the international waters in Arab Sea, comes in the framework of enhancing relations of mutual cooperation between Yemen and China in security areas, topped by combating piracy and to insure safety in the maritime international navigation routes.

Nearly 477 tons of national goods exported to Arab, foreign states

Nearly 477 tons of national products including fish, liquid milk, perfumes, biscuits and sweets were exported via Aden seaport to a number of Arab and foreign countries, an official source said on Saturday.

A 450-ton shipment of fish was exported to France, Italy, China, Malaysia, Tunisia, Hong Kong and Thailand. The source added seven tons of liquid milk as well as 20 tons of biscuits and perfumes were exported to the United Arab Emirates.

About 934 containers carrying various goods from different nationalities were unloaded in Aden seaport.

ABYAN
More than 30 Somalis drowned in Ahwar coast

Around 35 Somali refugees, including

one Ethiopian women, have drowned nearby Ahwar coast here due to boat capsized.

"At 8:00 PM on Wednesday, two boats arrived at Hesn Baled and al-Rada'a areas; the first was carrying 162 Somali and African refugees who survived. The second boat was carrying 35 others who drowned at the sea because of strong sea waves," said Secretary General of the Abyan Local Council Ahmad Mohammad told Saba.

He made it clear that a team from Humanitarian Attackamul Charity of the United Nation High Commission for Refugees in Ahwar picked up the remains of the drowned refugees and buried them in Ahwar city upon orders from the prosecution

HODEIDAH
Course on social specialists' missions in schools begins

A training course on missions of the social specialists inside and outside the school began on Saturday in Hodeidah.

The course, organized by the Project of Trainomg and Support for Basic Education (Better Yemen) which is granted by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), includes 28 teachers from 26 schools in Hodeidah. The 12-day course aims at providing teachers with skills over the social specialists missions inside and outside the school and means to form parents councils.

At the opening of the course, a number of speeches were delivered on the importance of the social specialists role as a communication link between the school and parents councils.

The speeches also dealt with missions and the activities of the Basic Education Development Project, mentioning the necessity of achieving the goals of National Strategy of Basic Education Development.

Yemeni doctors remove 1.5 kilo of hair from women's stomach

Doctors have removed a kilo and a half of hair from the stomach of a patient who has been suffering from vomit and stomach pains for twenty years.

Director general of the al-Amal Hospital in Hudaida province Abdul Majeed al-Yusfi said the patient, a 27-year-old woman, has been eating hair since she was seven.

The hair quantity was discovered after she visited a ray medical doctor who diagnosed her illness.

She then underwent a surgery for the

illness which al-Yusfi said was the first of its kind they have ever treated.

A medical team could take out hair of the women's stomach, he said, adding she has been released and is now in a good shape.

HAJJA
6 arrested as they try to smuggle 3 beggar children into kingdom

The security forces in the border district of Haradh have seized six people, three of whom women, as they tried to infiltrate into Saudi territories along with three children aged 6-12.

"The six had planned to use the children as beggars in Saudi Arabia," the police director in the district said, adding the plans have been confirmed by their statements.

The arrestees came from a Hajjah district while the children with them came from a different area, the police director said.

The arrested have been turned over to the relevant authorities to investigate them while the children were sent to a child protection center in Hajjah.

On the other hand, the Yemeni authorities were handed over 3 children aged 15 each who Saudis said had illegally entered Saudi lands.

In unrelated news, Yemeni families in Hajjah have appealed the government to intervene and free their relatives from Saudi political prisons who have been detained without confirmed accusations.

They complained that Saudi Arabia has been holding their relatives in connection with anti-terror measures.

In a letter to the National Organization for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms HOOD, the families said their relatives were detained just because some of their relatives are wanted by Saudis on terrorist charges.

The letter said the Saudi authorities seized in February a family, parents along with two children, and a newly-married couple close to the family.

MAHRAH
Polio epidemiological surveillance course started in Mahrah

A training course on Polio epidemiological surveillance was launched here on Saturday.

The two-day course aims to provide 17 cadres from the epidemiological surveillance officers with the necessary skills and information on the

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea is looking for a Secretary to the Ambassador.

Interested applicants with the below qualifications are requested to send their curriculum vitae no later than **April 30, 2009** by e-mail to: challeni@hanmail.net

- Over two years of secretarial work
- Fluency in english and Arabic
- University Degree
- Gender: female

epidemiological surveillance, its importance and its activities and indicators in the governorate, as well as ways of reporting such cases.

At the opening the course, assistant-undersecretary of the governorate Hussein al-Masadi affirmed the significance of the course for the participants, urging them to avail from the course and apply what they received during the course in the practical ground. The training course was organized by the Public Health and Population office in the governorate in collaboration with the National Center for Epidemiological Surveillance and World Health Organization (WHO).

It is worth to mention that Yemen was officially declared to be free of polio virus for the past three years .

Their News

3rd edition of the Directory of Organizations in Yemen

A specialist team at Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) is working to update the data of non-governmental organizations in Yemen to be published in a third revised edition of the Directory of non-governmental organizations, which was previously developed by HRITC in 2003 where the first edition was published in both Arabic and English in July . In October 2004 a second revised edition was issued in 269 pages in Arabic and English.

The Directory contains a comprehensive database of non-governmental human rights organizations, the organizations that work in the field of women, childhood and health, the cultural and development organizations, as well as agricultural, environmental organizations and unions. The directory also includes an overview of the political parties in Yemen, the foreign non-governmental organizations working in Yemen and intergovernmental organizations.

It is worth mentioning that this project which was carried out by HRITC in 2003 included field research in 21 provinces in addition to the use of records and documents of various government agencies.

It is expected that the third edition will be issued in both Arabic and English.

Yemeni parliament starts investigation the crime of children's kidneys trade.

The Yemeni parliament today, 25 April 2009 has transmitted the letter that Seyaj has sent concerning the crime of trading kidneys of ten Yemeni children in Egypt to committee of defending & security , health and public freedoms in the parliament.

some Parliamentary sources said that the chairman of the parliament, (Sheikh Yahya Ali ALraie) forwarded the letter that Seyaj has sent to the committees mentioned above to investigate the matter and calls on those in government to question them about the circumstances

surrounding the crime , how it occurred and where the victims are now.

Also, Seyaj sent a letter today to the President and members of the parliament, Attorney General as well as the Foreign and Interior affairs Ministers in Yemen. Seyaj demands them to open an investigation on this particular dreadful crime.

In addition, Seyaj demands them to reveal the way in which the victims were taken from Yemen, and how they entered Egypt, as well as detecting any similar incidents , whether it is limited only in Egypt as this crime or there is another countries where Yemeni children illegally traffic to for organs trade.

The Egyptian security has arrested an international gang that transferred the Yemeni children to Egypt where they had made the surgical operations.

Endeavour Awards

The Endeavour Awards is an internationally competitive, merit-based program providing opportunities for citizens of the Asia-Pacific region to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia.

The aims of the Endeavour Awards are to:

- Deepen Australia's global engagement in education and research;
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- Enhance language skills and cultural understanding of Australia; and
- Provide opportunities for Australian professionals to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Endeavour Awards for international applicants

Through the Endeavour Awards, the Australian Government provides opportunities for high achieving international students, researchers and professionals to undertake short or long term study, research and professional development in Australia in a broad range of disciplines.

Research

Endeavour Research Fellowships provide financial support for postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows from participating countries to undertake short-term research (4-6 months), in any field of study, in Australia. Aimed at building international linkages and networks, these Awards provide opportunities for award holders to further develop their knowledge and skills

Postgraduate study or research Endeavour Postgraduate Awards provide full financial support for international students for up to 3 years to undertake a postgraduate qualification at a Masters or PhD level either by coursework or research in any field of study in Australia.

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Professional Development Provide professional development opportunities for high achievers in business, industry, education or government from participating countries.

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Student Exchanges The Australian Government recognises the many enduring benefits of international exchanges undertaken during the years of undergraduate education. To encourage greater student mobility, the Australian Government funds Australian higher education providers to subsidise the costs to students participating in student exchanges which include tuition fee waiver and credit transfer.

Scholarship of US\$ 40,000 for women

If you are a woman. This scholarship may be for you. If not, somebody you know may meet the qualifications to win this scholarship.

The international Fellowships are awarded to promising young women scientists, at the doctoral or postdoctoral level, to undertake a research project in the life sciences which has been accepted by a reputable institution outside their home country. 15 international Fellowships are awarded each year. Each Fellowship is worth a maximum of US\$40,000 to cover a research period of up to 24 months.

Application for the 2010 cycle of the UNESCO-L'ORÉAL For Women in Science International Fellowships is now open.

What are the UNESCO-L'ORÉAL For Women in Science International Fellowships? The Fellowships are jointly offered by UNESCO and L'ORÉAL, as part of the For Women In Science Programme, to support and promote women in scientific research all over the world.

The international Fellowships are awarded to promising young women scientists, at the doctoral or postdoctoral level, to undertake a research project in the life sciences which has been accepted by a reputable institution outside their home country. 15 international Fellowships are awarded each year. Each Fellowship is worth a maximum of US\$40,000 to cover a research period of up to 24 months.

The Fellowship beneficiaries are geographically spread, three Fellows being selected from each of the following regions: Africa; Arab States; Asia & the Pacific; Europe & North America; and Latin America & the Caribbean.

ELIGIBILITY
 Candidates must be female and no more than 35 years old (born after 1 January 1975). Preference will be given to candidates already possessing a PhD degree

(or equivalent) in the field of life sciences at the time of application. However, applications from doctoral students will be considered.

Candidates must already be engaged in and undertake research in one or allied fields of life sciences, including biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, agriculture, medicine, pharmacy and physiology. Projects involving animal models (i.e. experimentation using vertebrate laboratory animals) will not be accepted; and

preference is given to non cosmetic researches.

DEADLINE
 The deadline for submission to UNESCO headquarters is 30th June 2009. Applications from UK citizens must be submitted through the UK National Commission for UNESCO and received by 1st June 2009.

FURTHER INFORMATION
<http://www.unesco.org.uk/>

Philanthropy culture and help to the needy



The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) has celebrated last Thursday April 23, the launch of its annual report for year 2008. The celebration also highlighted the charity's availing the international ISO 9001 certificate for quality in 2008. This certificate proves the charity's continuous work to improvement and performance development and evidence on the methodology the organization adopts in its programs and projects.

It is also a proof of the charity's role in empowering women in humanitarian and volunteering work and employees development.

Attending the celebration was a number of civil society organization's local governmental and non governmental organizations. Also a number of speeches and presentations were given during the celebrations by the charity's management and well wishers who wished more progress and success to the Islah Charity.





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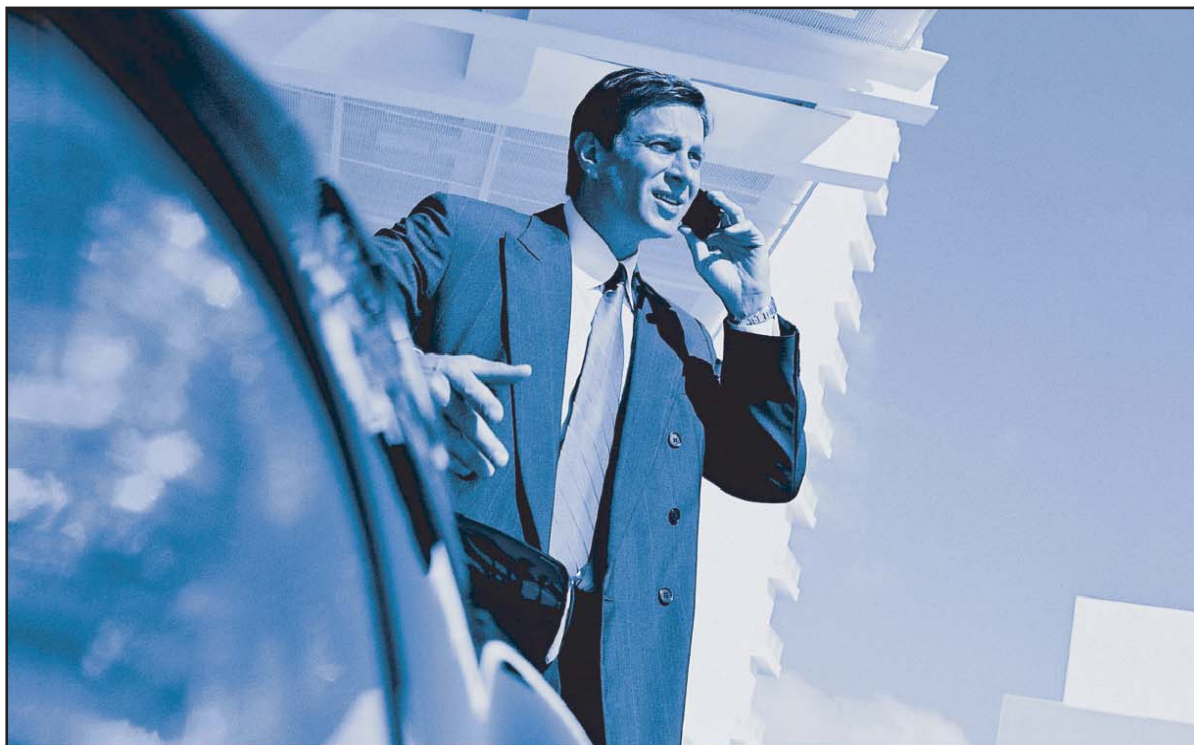
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Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Ministries ignore plight of emigrating Jews

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

A workshop entitled "Jews of Yemen" that was held last Saturday in Sana'a condemned the intimidation and discrimination that Jews face in Yemen. The workshop was organized by the Women's Forum for Studies and Training and by the online news website Al-Tagheer.

Attended by a number of human rights activists, the workshop called for a review of Yemeni constitution and laws that discriminate against Yemeni Jews. It demanded that the rights of the Jewish minority in Yemen are guaranteed as they are guaranteed to all Yemenis and to end all practices that violate these rights.

The workshop also called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriates to deal humanely with Yemeni Jews who emigrate in the same way that they deal with all other emigrating Yemenis, and to give Jews all their rights as citizens. It also demanded that the two ministries follow up issues and concerns of Yemeni Jewish expatriates abroad and give them the opportunity to participate in all activities.

Participants further demanded that the Ministry of Endowments should direct Imams and other lecturers to urge people to renounce hatred and discrimination and to call for tolerance, stressing the important role that mosques have in spreading such important lessons.

Participants also called on civil society organizations to pay attention to the issue of Yemeni Jews, to stand up for their legal and constitutional rights, and to condemn any intimidation against them. They additionally called for school curriculums to be reviewed in order to eliminate the spread of hatred and discrimination against followers of other religions.

They recommended that Yemeni Jews be involved in more public activities and called on parties to involve more Jews and to cancel any regulations that violate this right. They demanded that parties work on disseminating the culture of tolerance and renouncing violence through non-governmental organizations and media. Enhancing the role of media and high-



For decades Yemeni Jews have lived in their hometown of Raida, Amran. Up to 32,000 Yemeni Jews have left the country over the past two decades so far, including some from Raida.



lighting principles of democracy for all people of the country, regardless of their religion, were also recommended.

Participants further recommended the government demand Yemeni Jews living abroad to return to Yemen and to facilitate their return. They said that the government should work on highlighting the right to a decent life for all Yemeni Jews and should guarantee their involvement in political and administrative work. They called on the Ministry of Expatriates not to ignore Yemeni Jews abroad who hold the Yemeni citizenship.

Around 32,000 Yemeni Jews left the country during the two past decades due to difficult conditions thrust upon them in Yemen. Approximately 17,000 of them settled in the US, 7,000 thousand in Britain, and around 8,000 in Canada and other European countries. All of these Jews hold Yemeni passports and IDs but were forced to accept other citizenships due to the lack of humanitarian treatment received from Yemeni embassies abroad. Their "invalid" Yemeni passports are not renewed and judicial and social issues in the countries they immigrated to are ignored by Yemeni embassies abroad, according to many Yemeni Jews.

The "Jews of Yemen" workshop

aimed to shed light on the Jewish minority in Yemen and their rights they should enjoy as Yemeni citizens. It also aimed to discuss the issue of Yemeni Jews from a humanitarian perspective as members of Jewish community in Yemen are subjected to human rights violations.

Participants in the workshop included seven members of the Jewish community in Raida and Kharef districts of Amran in addition to Jews from the Al-Salem area in Sa'ada who have been living in Sana'a. Jews from Sa'ada were transferred just over two years ago due to the war in the area. "We demand that the government provides us with protection as our lives are in danger," said Rabbi Hayeem Ya'eesh, demanding that directives from the president of Yemen be carried out concerning the protection of Yemeni Jews.

For his part, Rabbi Yayha Yusuf of Sa'ada commended the efforts and directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh with regard to tackling problems that Jews recently encountered, even though they haven't been carried out yet. "We will never renounce our homeland despite tempting offers to emigrate. Our homeland is precious, no matter what the conditions," said Yusuf.

Sheikh Jabri Ibrahim, manager of

The Guidance Circle in Sana'a, said that members of the Jewish community in Yemen are a part of Yemeni culture and history. "We will never renounce our home," he said, explaining principles of tolerance that Islam, the holy Quran, and the sayings of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) include.

Secretary General of Al-Haq Party Hassan Zaid expressed his sorrow for "what befell brother Jews in Sa'ada who were obliged to leave their homes although they were among the first to live in this country.

"Jews in Yemen were the first community to live in Yemen before Islam," Zaid continued. "They lived in Yemen and their conditions changed according to the areas where they were living. There were some cases of discrimination against them but they lived securely.

"I don't condemn one side and clear another," he added. "Jews are victims of a conflict. Hussein Al-Houthi [Abdul Maled Al-Houthi's father] was accused of Jews fighting with him in the beginning of 2004. After that, the lives and security of Jews were threatened," said Zaid. He further held all sides of the conflict in Sa'ada responsible for what is going on against the Jewish population.

Mohammed Al-Mawri, Vice-Director of Public Relations in the Ministry of Interior, confirmed that protecting members of the Jewish community in Yemen is part of protecting the country as a whole and that the issue shouldn't be looked at solely from a humanitarian perspective. He said that the Ministry of Interior is in contact with members of the Jewish community and others who are concerned with Jewish issues. He pointed out that the ministry doesn't intervene in the verdicts and decisions of the judiciary authority which does not discriminate in judicial cases.

Abdul Baqi Shamsan, Professor of Sociology at Sana'a University, said that "discussing the issue of Jewish immigration and intimidation against them shouldn't be dealt with solely as a Jewish issue. Rather, it should be handled within the context of the concept of citizenship and the modern state that should renounce violence."

Shamsan criticized traditions that deal with issues in a way that makes people equal to a group of oxen or animals, according to him. He further stressed the importance of the government properly protecting its citizens, pointing out that the government is responsible for providing Jews with

protection.

Adel Al-Sharjabi, another Professor of Sociology at Sana'a University, said that Jewish issues in Yemen shouldn't be used as bargaining chips for political and social biddings. "We should relinquish the Jizyah [the Islamic tax or tribute imposed on non-Muslims living under an Islamic state] as it should be imposed only when there is no state, such as when defense is the duty of the group and not the state," said Al-Sharjabi. "Remaning under terms of the Jizyah in contemporary political terms is shameful."

The workshop reviewed a main paper presented by Mahmoud Taha, a journalist specializing in the affairs of the Jewish community in Yemen. Entitled "Jews of Yemen... Holding on the home and motivations of immigration and transfer," the paper included a historical introduction about the history of Jews in Yemen and their origins and genealogy. It also reviewed the historical reasons for Jews' emigration from Yemen as well as the aggressions that they were recently subjected to.

The workshop is considered the first of its kind in Yemen to discuss the issue of a religious minority. It witnessed extensive media coverage and participation.

Turkey welcomes Arabs with open arms

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

Turkish hospitality and the breathtaking city of Antalya were admired by the almost 700 participants from 26 countries last week, including 15 people from the media and tourism sector in Yemen.

They attended a week-long tourism workshop, which ended last Saturday, organized by the Karnak Tourism Company and Turkish Airways, and supported by the Turkish government.

Praising Turkey's emerging role in the Arab and Islamic Middle East to establish a new cultural, tourist and commercial partnership, Serdar Ali 'Aabid Al-Mashhadani, owner of the Karnak Tourism Company said he expected the number of Arab tourists to

double in his company this year, following a 50 percent increase last year in which the total number of Arab tourists reached 25,000.

"I expect that tourists from the Arab world will increase by 100 percent following Davos", said Al-Mashhadani, referring to Turkish Prime Minister Rajab Tayyeb Erdogan's exit from the Davos conference attended by Israeli President after he said "Israel knows well how to kill," and wasn't further allowed to speak.

Al-Mashhadani further commended the role of Turkey in the region as a peace arbitrator in the Middle East under the leadership of Erdogan who took advantage of his good relations with Israel, Arab countries and the U.S.

"The latest tension between Turkey and Israel has had a negative impact on

the number of Israelis traveling to Turkey," he added. "Around 850,000 tourists from Israel used to come every year to Turkey, but this number decreased to a big extent following the Davos conference."

Israeli tourism to Turkey will be affected on the short run but it can be supposed that the situation may resume as it was in the past, according to Israeli officials: "If calm resumes, Israeli tourists will return to Turkey, which is attractive to them," they said.

A source from the Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministry said that it is currently difficult to predict what will happen with regard to tourism. "We are now in a low season and we don't know what will happen until the summer."

Israeli trade with Turkey amounted to USD 3.4 billion in 2008, with an increase of 23 percent compared with previous years when it amounted to USD 2.8 billion. Israeli exports to Turkey amounted to USD 1.6 billion last year and Turkish imports in Israel were worth USD 1.8 billion. Chemicals are the main Israeli export to Turkey after minerals and electronic devices.

Turkish media continues critical reports about the situation in Gaza and speeches of Erdogan criticizing Israel. Since the beginning of the Israeli war on Gaza, Turkish prime minister has been at the forefront of defending Gaza.

Israelis are afraid that tension between the two countries may affect exports to Turkey. A source from the security industry told media that it is difficult to talk nowadays with Turkish companies to continue with previous agreements.

Turkish attention to the Middle East comes first as a response to its geopolitical position which requires that Turkey pay attention to regional issues as they



could be a threat to its national security, to establish economic relations to benefit the country and exert regional and international influence.

Turkey deals with Islamic and Arab countries without affecting its relations with Western countries in order to protect Turkish national interests and contribute to peace in the region and the world on basis of the substantial principles which Mustafa Kamal Attaturk established, according to Turgut O'zal, former Turkish President.

Turkey is considered in the Middle East a regional force that can participate in different fields actively. Not partici-

pating in the war on Iraq has earned it the appreciation of the Arab street.

Turkish decision-makers realize that the country's successful alliance with both the West and the Middle East only through striking a balance in political and economic relations with both parties.

Similarly, Arabs realize that the role Turkey aims to play in the region will affect Arab choices and priorities, particularly given the Turkish inclination towards the Western world is not a matter of choice but, rather, a necessity for it to play a new regional role that preserves its position in Western strategy within

the region.

Political and intellectual changes in the Arab world can facilitate Turkish participation and interaction in the region. In addition, new informative voices in the region urge a fresh assessment of past relations with the Ottoman Empire away from the prevailing perception that it was a colonization power.

In fact, although Turkey is enthusiastic to play a new role in the region to regain its past influence, enhance its regional role and enable it to boost investment, tourism and trade, it has no independent vision about the nature or size of its future role in the region.



Left to right: Mohammed Bin Sallam, Fakhri Al-Arashi, Mahmoud Al-Shaibani and Basil Zawghari were among the participants.



Vacancies Announcement

AMI is a humanitarian, apolitical and non-profit French non-governmental organization. Now present in 9 countries, for over 25 years AMI has brought medical care to those most vulnerable populations excluded from all health care systems.

AMI has been working in Yemen since the beginning of 2007 supporting Primary Health Care in Hodeidah governorate. Activities are implemented in closed collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population. They consist in increasing the technical, material and organisational capacities of public facilities of both Al Marawa and Al Hali districts in order to enable them to provide quality, appropriate and affordable care services to the population. The country representative office based in Hodeidah is currently seeking for:

- 1 doctor general practitioner

Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- ¥ Graduate from official diploma and or successful experience in the related sectors
- ¥ Command of both Arabic and English (written and spoken). Computer operating skills would be an advantage
- ¥ Available for full-time job in Hodeidah

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- ¥ One year contract with possibility of extension. Salary according to AMI salary scale

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- yemen@amifrance.org

Deadline for application: **May 31st 2009 at 04.30 pm**

Only short listed candidates will be contacted and invited for interview.

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Tender Advertisement no. (12) 2009 for 2nd Time
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The Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (12) for supplying One No. New survey Boat for Port of Aden which will be financed from Government sources.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to Tender committee Secretary to receive Bidding Documents for an amount 150USD non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at

Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden- Tawahi
Tel : 00 967 02 20200168
Fax: 00 967 02 201541
YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on **26 MAY 2009**

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

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (**60,000 USD for one survey boat**) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
 - 2- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
 - 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
 - 4- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)
- A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.
 - The Deadline for submission and bids opening will be **Sunday at 11:00 Am on 09 MAY 2009**. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.
 - Bid Opening will take place at the **Office Chairman Executive — Headquarters** and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
 - Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period **27 days** starting from advertisement.

Yemen Times

presents its heartfelt condolences to

Mr. Saeed Tawfeek Khoury

Director of the international

Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)

and Mr. Hani Shehadeh Regional

Regional Director of CCC,

on the death of

Dr. Elyas Tawfeek Khoury

May his soul rest in peace.

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وكافة موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز

Yemenia launches its direct flights between Mukalla and Kuwait



Yemenia the national carrier of the Republic of Yemen- cares to offer best air travel and transportation services to its passengers in general and Yemeni expatriates abroad in particular. It connects them with their homeland through facilitating their movement to the homeland and to their workplaces abroad.

In accord with role of Yemenia in enhancing bridges of communication and intimacy between Yemen and its brotherly countries of Gulf Cooperation Council, deepening bonds of brotherly relations with brotherly countries in general, serving Gulf businessmen and investors, and facilitating procedures of their direct travel and movement, Yemenia launched on Monday April 1st, 2009 its first direct flights from Mukalla International Airport to Kuwait International Airport. It also launched the direct return flight from Kuwait airport to Mukalla airport every Friday. On this occasion, a ceremony organized by Mukalla Administration for launching the first flight from Mukalla International Airport was held.

The ceremony was attended by Governor of Hadramout Salem Ahmed Al-Khanbashi, assistant deputy governor Ali Omar Ba Haisami, a number of the governorate's officials, Head of the Yemenia Sales Department Mohammed Ali Al-Arashi, manager of Gulf and Southeast of Asia Region Ibrahim Al-Ghaffari, manager of Public Relations Saddam Amer Ali Al-Jaifi, head of the region and Yemenia crew in Mukalla Faisal Ali Obaid and Yemenia agent in Hadramout Ali Ba Matraf.

Amid a number of activities and performances of Yemeni Hadrami Folklore, tart of the launch was cut to announce the beginning of the new Yemeni flight that all people expressed their gladness about the event.

In a statement o media outlets and local press, Governor of Hadramout expressed the deep gladness of people of Hadramout about launching this flight which he said will no doubt contribute to investment, and economic and commercial activity in the governorate. In addition, it will offer services and facilitations for people of the governorate who are expatriates in Kuwait. He pointed to the deep historic and brotherly relations between our country and Kuwait. The governor commended highly this step of Yemenia and considered it a good omen.

For His part, Mohammed Ali Al-Arashi, head of the sales department in Yemenia and representative of the company's leadership in this launch said in a statement to different media outlets: "It is a great occasion today to



launch the direct "Yemenia" flight from Al-Rayan International Airport in Mukalla to Kuwait and vice versa." He pointed out that this comes in accordance with care of H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, president of the Republic, who pays special attention to this governorate. He said that this comes as a practical translation of efforts of Captain Abdulkhaliq Saleh Al-Qadi, Head of the Administration Board, in this field.

Head of the sales confirmed that this direct flight will serve in connecting the Yemeni community in Kuwait with their homeland under availability of a non-stop flight that spares them transit time and ordeal. Therefore, this flight spares the both efforts and cost of travel for passengers from Hadramout to Kuwait and vice-versa. On the other hand, these direct flights serve businessmen and investors and help them reach directly to their workplace without crossing in several stopping points.

Mr. Al-Arashi added in his statement that this accomplishment will be added to the accomplishments of Hadramout governorate under care and auspices of

the governor "whose participation we value in this accomplishment and this ceremony."

Airport, carrying only around seventy passengers in the first flight from Hadramout.



Captain Abdulkhaliq Al-Qadi



Mr. Othman Al-Qubati



Mr. Mohammed Al-Arashi

He concluded his statement by congratulating all people of Hadramout on this occasion, welcoming businessmen, investors and expatriates in flights of the national carrier of Yemen "Yemenia Airways". He also extended thanks to all attendees in the ceremony.

After a memorial photograph with the plane was taken, the first flight started directly to Kuwait International

At Kuwait international Airport, the airplane was received with great welcome. Administration of Kuwait region represented by Mr. Khaled Atteyah , manager of the region, prepared a big reception in one of the airport's halls. Among those who received the airplane were Mr. Khaled Rajeh Sheikh, ambassador of Yemen to Kuwait, the embassy consul, deputy of

Yemenia in Kuwait (representatives of Danata Company), a number of representatives of Kuwait mass media including Al-Dar and Al-R'uah newspapers, manger of the region Khaled Atteyah and a number of workers in the Kuwait region.

During the reception, Yemen's ambassador to Kuwait Khaled Rajeh Sheikh expressed in a statement to journalists and for the "Musafer Newsletter" his gladness about this step and great initiative carried out by Yemenia which accustomed us to accomplishments and achieving a lot of ambitions and aspirations. He pointed to the importance of these direct flights and their role in communication between the Yemeni community in Kuwait particularly people of Hadramout with their homeland.

The Ambassador added that these direct flights encourage investors and businessmen to benefit from these facilitations. Moreover, these flights will support the excellent relations between Yemen and Kuwait.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Arashi, manager of Yemenia sales who accompanied the

launched flights, stated in response to journalists' questions that focused on launching these direct flights by Yemenia and the benefits of passengers and agents of Yemenia. He explained the company's plans and initiatives in this framework, extended thanks to all those who contributed to this accomplishment and welcomed all people to Yemenia that spare no efforts to offer al facilitations to passengers.

On board of the first direct flight from Mukalla International Airport to Kuwait International Airport and vice-versa were:

Mohammed Ali Al-Arashi Manager of Sales Department in the company,

Ibrahim Al-Ghaffari Manager of Gulf and Southeast Asian region,

Saddam Al-Jaifi Manager of Public Relations,

Faisal Ali Obaid Manager of Mukalla Region,

Ali Ba Matraf Deputy of Yemenia in Hadramout

During presence of the Yemenia Commercial Affairs delegation headed by manager of Sales Department, the delegation met with agent of Yemenia in Kuwait (Danata Travel and Tourism Company). Mr. Khaled Atteyah, manager of the region attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed aspects of work and relations between the two sides vis-à-vis assessing the activity that the agent carries out and the new flights that were launched to and from Kuwait.

It is worth mentioning that in the context of the Yemenia's plan toward Gulf countries, as Yemenia plans to operate a new direct flight between Aden International Airport and Doha International Airport every Friday.

Photos by Faisal Al-Qerbi



Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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

OUR
OPINIONWANA Forum -
Building trust together

Under the leadership of HRH prince Hassan bin Talal, sixty individuals from across the West Asia and North Africa region came together to establish WANA Forum. The forum's mission is to facilitate dialogue amongst people of the region from all sections of society, in order to develop practical solutions to address the most pressing social, economic and environmental needs of West Asia- North Africa as a whole.

The group behind this form presented a number of proposals which will be formed and advocated for among decision makers as a campaign for policy changes.

This initiative will help strengthen regional multilateral dialogue centered on shared human concerns by providing a non-threatening forum for decision makers, civil society and the people of the region. We will work together to ensure the continuous exchange of ideas and initiatives, yielding concrete policy proposals for regional cooperation. And advocate creative and effective policies to be adopted by decision makers at local, national and regional levels.

The WANA Forum is based on seven principles:

- Mutual respect: committing to working together and searching for common ground.
- Cultural diversity: facilitating unprejudiced dialogue and appreciating a wide spectrum of views on regional development from various countries in WANA.
- Inclusiveness: ensuring adequate opportunities for participation, paying special attention to those often marginalized from political process in the region especially civil society.
- Empowerment: prioritizing policy issues which empower all stakeholders, choosing working methods that facilitate empowerment in the future, long after the conclusion of the WANA process.
- Practicality: aiming to move from ideas to action.
- Openness and transparency: ensuring adequate availability of information about the process.
- Balance: aiming for representation of individuals and stakeholder groups from different backgrounds and ideologies within the WANA Forum.

This new process will help integrate works of responsible individuals within WANA who want to make a difference but need to work within a structural framework. Yemen Times editors are WANA members and you could be too. All you need to have is a will to change and a clear vision of how and what you can do. To get involved, visit www.wanaforum.org, you can send questions and feedback to info@wanaforum.org

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Wars in Yemen: contractions inside
the country for supporters abroad

By: Adel Ameen

You may still remember how the fifth war in Sa'ada was suddenly over, and how a phone call by H.E. was able to put an end to the bloodshed of a fierce war which all internal and external mediations had failed to stop until then.

At the time, the government's decision to stop the war was hailed as exemplary, whereas opposition calls for the two conflicting sides to sit down at the dialogue table were considered to be high treason from the government's point of view.

When war really stopped, ruling party media alleged that the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) resented that it wasn't continuing and that tools to war and destruction had been curtailed, as if the JMP was responsible for announcing war in the first place.

The government itself continued launching one war after another with little regard to either the opposition or public opinion.

The government has still not stopped talking of the supreme interests of the country as a pretext against whoever disagrees with it.

When the government starts a war, the supreme interests of the country lead it to the battlefields. Similarly, when it decides to stop war, the same supreme interests force it to accept humiliating conditions and succumb to demands that oppress the home, and all this is in favor of the country!

Let us here ask those who are always trumpeting in support of the government and those who are always justifying its stands under the slogan of the country's supreme interests: Who is beating the drums of the sixth war? Who is promoting it in the media and asking for all people to bless

these steps? Who wants us to congratulate the war project, as if they aimed for a surprising historical accomplishment such as Iran's nuclear program?

War will burst out - this is expected under internal and external preparations - and Yemeni citizens, whose memory is unfortunately weak, will be told that it is the opposition that set out to settle its political machinations with the government or another party, as if the government were forced into war!

One of those who disguise themselves as political analysts will account for events by haughtily announcing that the JMP is the political wing of the Houthis!

They will say so with all impudence, in moral and professional deviation from values, in lack of professionalism and respect of others. They will justify this allegation by saying that the JMP refused to follow the desires of the government in declaring a new war to complete the series of its national project which serves the supreme interests of the country, known only to the government!

When players finally decide to end the war at a suitable time and place according to their agenda, the same political analyst and the rest of their company of drummers of war will feign a spirit of loyalty to this country.

They will talk about the supreme interests of the country which they slaughter every day in sacrifice to the government. They will say again: "Look! The JMP refuses to stop the bloodshed of Yemenis and put an end to national injury. The JMP will instigate the continuation battles until the last Houthi supporter and Yemeni soldier perish!"

This is not imagination as it has really happened in all five of the previous wars. You may also still remember the last message that the President sent to the JMP

accusing them frankly of standing with the rebels and the Southern Movement. He held them responsible for effects on the supreme interests of the country!

We wish that they would explain to us what these interests that justified the outbreak of five wars, affected the country, and caused people's death exactly are, especially since the government is still preparing for more.

Whatever the matter is, no one wishes the war to continue in the country. Why and for how long? The situation is horrible, as if there were contractors of wars behind all this to depend on people's blood and the country's interests being at stake to earn their living.

They no longer care about anything, as long as there is someone who funds, supports, and mobilizes warriors from here and there to send them to a holocaust!

During the fifth war, as you remember, hasty steps were taken to form a popular army of a reported 28,000 to put an end to the battle with the Houthis. At the last moment, this idea was put aside and within a few days the government announced it had stopped its military operations, heard the voice of reason and resorted to dialogue and understanding to solve the crisis.

But has this very voice of reason vanished again this time as the two sides are beat the drums of war? What happened exactly and why did stances change?

Perhaps some people have attempted to contract the sixth war at their own expense, away from rest of their partners. In addition, it is likely that these partners found that the others had attempted to monopolize the deal for themselves, seize it and reap its profits for themselves only, depending on the reshuffling of papers and a difference in interests.

I say that they might have realized that the situation would get out of hand and

would fail to be able to control it.

Thus, they will lose the opportunity in the future to guarantee their exclusive right to contract out war in the way they read it, based on system of overlapping internal and external interests. The situation was contained quickly in the way that we all knew.

It is likely that developments appeared on the local and regional levels, and tempted the two parties of the crisis to resume fighting as both have become exclusive agents for supporters outside the country who have shown absolute readiness to cover the costs of the conflict and more.

We don't know whether it has become illicit for Yemeni citizens to enjoy calm and comfort for only two years, the remaining period to reach the parliamentary elections in 2011.

Isn't it better to consider the ordeals of people and solve their living problems, dedicate efforts to combat corruption, achieve a matrix of economic, political and electoral reforms in the country, and reconcile adversaries, instead of indulging in a new crisis that would add to the current one?

Even if the Houthis provoke the government and attempt to lead it in a new war for one reason or another, does that mean that the government should fall into their trap?

Is it really wise to try out use the new weapon that Yemen bought from Russia in Yemen's own Sa'ada mountains, while risks surround the country from all directions?

We could hardly find an honest Arab mediator who would accept to bear the burden of reconstructing Sa'ada and reforming Yemen from inside. Will we be always as lucky, and find another mediator with the same characteristics as the first?

Source: alsahwa.net

Terrorism and the appearance of teenagers

By: Dr. Suad Salem Al-Sab'a

Everybody has now begun feeling that terrorism is odd behavior committed by jaundiced people or the deluded young who. Families have also begun to realize that these deluded are mostly teenagers, particularly after the notable media activity aiming to disclose stories of young terrorists.

People's attention nowadays therefore is drawn to teenagers who neglect their personal cleanness including clothes, show extremism through isolation or absentmindedness while among people, or go to unsuitable places at unsuitable times.

Sometimes, the appearance of a teenager is suspicious if his behavior is not in harmony with his appearance. Although it doesn't always prove to be substantiated - and security men should pay attention to this, most people judge on outward appearances.

A teenager was about to be killed after security men suspected him on the grounds of his appearance and presence in an unsuitable place at an unsuitable time. He is still young, but God bestowed him early maturity which made his body look many years older than his real age. What complicated the situation was that his body was covered with hair, which suggests to all who see him that he is one of the terrorist leaders.

The teenager was arrested at night in a dark lane outside his house. Absent minded gazing at the ground, he didn't even notice the soldiers who approached him. When he saw them, he was scared and attempted to escape but they caught him.

This child had already escaped a quarrel that broke out between his parents at home. The quarrel couldn't be resolved until his

mother left the house. Since the child was unable to settle the dispute between his father and mother, he left the house after midnight to wander aimlessly about.

He didn't know what waiting for him late that night. The boy hasn't yet reached the legal age of adulthood and, consequently, didn't have the identity papers that soldiers demanded when they arrested him. He told them that he didn't have an ID card, which raised their anger due to his appearance, huge body, thick hair on his face and deep voice which told them that he was at least 25 years old.

His attempted escape only made them think that he was lying to them. When they took him away, he was surprised and silent. When one of the soldiers tried to provoke him, he replied to them by crying like a child. Soldiers then discovered that they were talking to a child in the body of an adult.

Asked why he was crying, his answer was more innocent than his childhood. "I saved some money to get an ID card, but my father refused to go with me to police station because he doesn't think I'm a man," said the child. "He quarreled with my mother, and after that didn't help me to get the ID card."

The child's answers raised laughter among the soldiers who accompanied him home. The situation solved the disagreement between his parents.

This is one story of teenagers and terrorism. Along with the issue of children who run away from home, this story warns parents against parading their conjugal wars in front of their children as they destroy their personality. They cause them to have psychological problems or even prompt them to run away from home and, consequently, fall

in the trap of moral deviators or terrorists. I don't think that parents would like life if they felt that they were the reason behind their children being led astray.

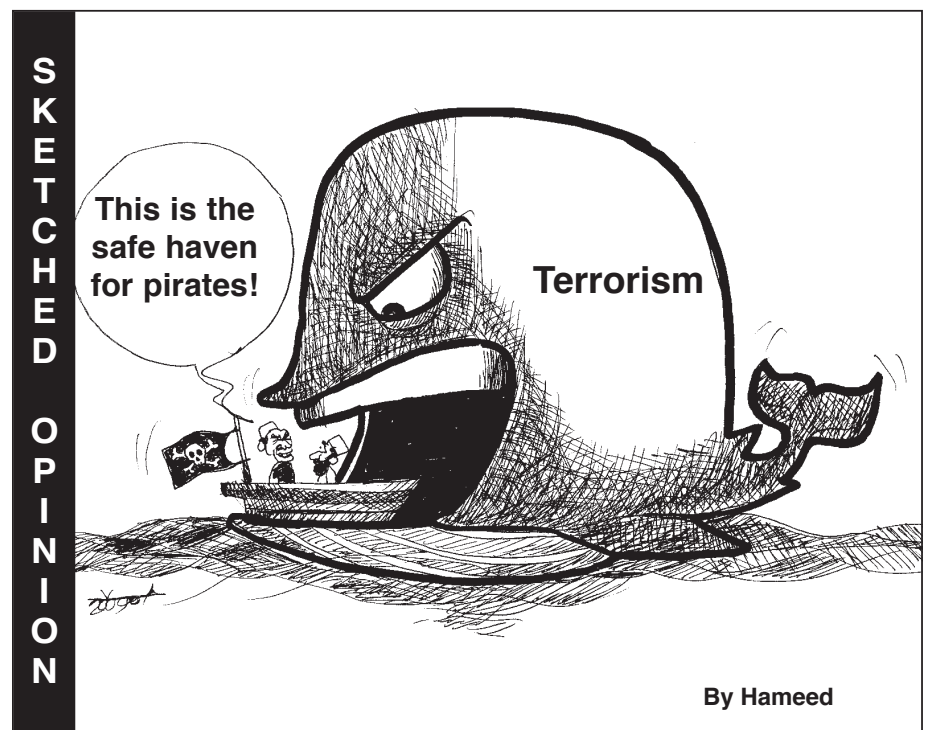
This story calls on all fathers and mothers to consider the behavior of their children during adolescence. They should consider their clothing, the places they go, and level of their integration in the family and society, because in the shock of adolescence they can lose balance if they are not completely cared for.

In addition, this story prompts me to call on security men - as a mother fearing for the children of this country as I fear for my children - to try to widen their investigation

to encompass teenagers hanging around schools during study time to know their behavior. They will also find out why they leave before study time has ended.

I know that such methods of investigation may not suit the democracy and freedom of movement that we call for and stand firm with. However, I hope that this investigation, if applied, will be make children return to schools and warn negligent school administrations that they will be held accountable for any act that harms public security. Thus, the job of both security and education will achieve complementation.

Source: almotamar.net



By Hameed

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Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the
Ishlah Party
Thursday, April 23, 2009

Top Story

- Lack of justice responsible for spread of abduction incidents

Abduction acts have recently spread in Yemen where powerful tribes seize not only foreigners but also Yemeni nationals to press government to meet their own requirements, provide better services and improve living conditions, the website reported.

In early April, two Dutch tourists were abducted by armed militants on the southern outskirts of Sana'a, capital of Yemen. Dozens of tourists have been abducted in the past dozen years and all of them were freed unharmed, save for three Britons and an Australian seized by Islamist militants in December 1998 who were killed when security forces stormed the kidnappers' hideout as well as a Norwegian national who was hit in 2000 by a stray bullet in crossfire.

Undoubtedly, kidnappings vehemently damaged Yemen's fledgling tourism sector and add security concerns to foreign firms operating in Yemen, which is also plagued by string of very complicated problems ranging from hard poverty, high rates of unemployment, illiteracy and high popula-

tion growth.

What adds fuel to the fire is that Yemen has recently witnessed a revival of terror attacks which could sharply affect its feeble economy largely dependent on diminishing oil revenue.

Yemeni politicians referred the spike of this phenomenon to lack of justice, citizenship equality and unresponsiveness in dealing with crime perpetrators.

Mohammad Al-Dhahri, political science professor at Sana'a university, said that the absence of justice, unfair judiciary and unseriousness in dealing with these cases resulted in such phenomenon.

He cited that the failure of authorities in resolving conflicts via courts spur tribesmen to resort to kidnapping as a swift and effective way to take their rights, affirming that this dreadful trend dramatically extended, indicating that tribesmen were abducting foreigners so as to pressure the government, but they now kidnap Yemenis and foreigners alike.

Al-Dhahri underscored that attempts to sideline civil society, respond to those who commit violence acts and ignore those who resort to the government institutions are reasons behind spreading this act in several Yemeni provinces.

"If the authorities wanted to bring this phenomenon to standstill, they should create real justice, activate the state-constitution and law of order, swiftly resolve the citizens issues and create public institutions in all tribal areas.

Adel Al-Sharjabi, the professor of sociology at Sana'a University, considered the main reason behind these social ills are tribal affiliations which still affect behavior of tribal people as they prefer to take their rights through illegitimate means.

Exacerbation of this phenomenon is a result of lack to law enforcement in all Yemeni rural areas and non-extension of the state control over all remote areas" Al-Sharjabi went on to say. He affirmed that failure to punish crime perpetrators in accordance with the law is one of the main incentives behind kidnappings.



Newsyemen.net, an independent
news website
Wednesday, April 22

Top Story

- Politicians: Mixed electoral system is the most applicable for Yemen

The two-year period, agreed upon by both GPC and JMP for postponement of the upcoming parliamentary elections, which were once scheduled to take place on April 27, 2009, is not enough for both sides to discuss and reach a compromise on the proportional list representation as an applicable election system in Yemen, the website reported. The proposed electoral sys-

tem may not be applicable amid the current economic, cultural, social and political environment.

In addition, numerous political elites from various parties don't have adequate knowledge of those electoral forms labeled under the proportional list representation, which is the primary demand of JMP member parties. Political analysts expect sterile controversy to last for a long time, exceeding the two-year period of election postponement and that democracy in Yemen will not resume its dynamic action as long as it remains a hostage at the hand of JMP members.

All this is nothing more than a prediction by Director of Democracy Development Institute Ahmad Al-Sofi, who criticized absence of JMP and other opposition parties, except for Yemen Sons League. During a special symposium entitled "Proportional List Representation: Challenges and Opportunities", organized by Saba Center for Strategic Studies, Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Political Advisor to President of the Republic demonstrated a clear stance that all political parties should compromise on a mixed system.

"All parties must reach a compromise on a mixed system to allow application of proportional list representation and at the same time maintain the first past-the-post system in some constituencies due to the tribal, historical and social conditions of Yemen," Al-Eryani suggested.

The senior politician confirmed that

political parties are unable to change the entire nation into the proportional list representation, stressing the necessity of considering the social, geographical and historical factors of the country. "Yemen has a 4000-year long history and such a long history is impossible to be immediately replaced by any of the electoral systems, we are going to decide on," he went on to say.

According to the political advisor, the proportional list representation has several disadvantages such as the lack of interaction (competition) among candidates and voters since voters will vote for a list without learning about the candidate. He pointed out that such an issue must be dealt with seriously because development in Yemen is closely related with those objectives sought by an individual candidate as he/she will be interested in developing his own district following his win.

Another disadvantage of the proposed system is that candidates will not be interested to serve their own districts since he/she will not represent a specific constituency. Al-Eryani clarified that parties will discuss the election system following April 26, 2009 after Parliament vote on the agreement reached by those parties represented in Parliament. "If the required majority of votes, which is two-thirds of MPs, support the agreement, then those involved parties should discuss what type of proportional list representation form is the most applicable for Yemen.

Al-Eryani continued that the proportional list representation is not a matter

of acceptance or rejection. It is rather a matter of social reality that only allows a mixed electoral system, adding that it is impossible for the proportional list representation to be applied in the whole nation.

He stressed the necessity of people dealing with the real situation on the ground seriously and negotiating on this basis, as well as within the possible frame. He pointed that GPC's agreement on the proportional list representation came in principle with the purpose of reforming the electoral system while the proportional list will be become part of the system. According to Al-Eryani, the General Elections & Referendum Law is one of the most complicated legislations in Yemen.

From his side, Al-Sofi stated that Yemen's democracy is undergoing a real dilemma, adding that practice of democracy is suspended for undetermined date. "It is impossible for democracy to resume its dynamic action unless the ruling and opposition parties reach a compromise," he went on to say.

According to Al-Sofi, JMP member parties request the international expertise to seek a system that guarantees them victory for one final time, however, in fact there is no system in the world that provides this guarantee for JMP.

Country Director of IFES Mr. Peter Williams and Representative Director of Fredrick Eiber Mr. Flex supported the mixed system as the most applicable for Yemen.

Reconciling Hamas and Fatah

By: Michael Bröning

As representatives of Hamas and Fatah meet for the fourth round of national unity talks in Cairo, not only Palestinians but also Americans and Europeans will be watching closely. The top-level talks, hosted by Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, will be crucial to ending nearly two years of bloody confrontation between Hamas-ruled Gaza and the Fatah-ruled West Bank, governed by Western-backed Mahmoud Abbas. Given previous failures, this round of talks might prove to be the final chance to re-establish Palestinian unity.

The continuing internal schism between the more moderate and secular Fatah and the Islamist Hamas has not only left the Palestinian leadership in disarray, but has also

made meaningful peace negotiations with Israel next to impossible. Moreover, continued internal disunity continues to thwart reconstruction efforts in Gaza, which are urgently needed in the aftermath of Israel's military offensive earlier this year. Thus, the outcome of the negotiations in Cairo will have repercussions for Palestinians and Israelis – and, indeed, for anyone with a stake in the Middle East peace process.

In previous rounds, the different factions agreed in principle on forming a united government for the West Bank and Gaza, and on holding legislative and presidential elections in the Palestinian Territories by January 2010. But Fatah and Hamas still differ fundamentally on how to form a government tasked to prepare elections.

Discussions also center on the control of the security services – a field in which neither Fatah nor Hamas has much room to maneuver.

Moreover, disagreement prevails on the type of electoral system to be used.

Whereas Fatah favors a clear majority voting system, Hamas calls for a more personalized approach. Furthermore, the question of including Hamas in the Palestine Liberation Organization is crucial. Contrary to common perception, the PLO has always been the only official negotiating partner with Israel and does not include Hamas. In a rather obscure linguistic debate, Hamas has in previous negotiation rounds refused to "commit" itself to past PLO agreements with Israel, but has instead offered to "respect" them. Negotiators in Cairo will thus have to discuss if such an indirect recognition of Israel's right to exist will be acceptable.

Underneath this clear-cut quid pro quo of political bargaining, the representatives from Fatah and Hamas are charged with finding the means to reconcile Hamas's tremendously popular political ideology with Fatah's

traditional secular aspirations. This is not merely an internal Palestinian affair, for it reflects a conflict raging across the entire Middle East.

Until now, no Arab society has managed to harmonize these opposing trends. Instead, most governments have opted for a more or less confrontational approach of suppression and exclusion, banning Islamists from participating in elections or bullying them into semi-legality. The case of the Palestinian Territories, however, is different.

In the absence of a strong central authority, the predominant divide between secular nationalism and politicized religion has led to the actual geographic disintegration of the Palestinian Territories into two distinct parts. Given the difficulties that even major players in the region face when dealing with the challenge of political Islam, it becomes clear that for the Abbas-led Palestinian Authority, only compromise and dialogue is a feasible

way to heal the rift.

Unsurprisingly, the fate of the Cairo talks is anything but certain. Failure to come up with a unified Palestinian position would undoubtedly play into the hands of the newly elected Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu. After all, the Israeli Prime Minister has made it clear that he favors continued conflict management in terms of "economic peace" over far-reaching political processes based on mutual respect and cooperation.

Faced with continued internal division, pressing for a meaningful peace process is very difficult for the Palestinians. As a consequence, Israel's willy-nilly expansion of West Bank settlements might finally bury comprehensive peace efforts for good.

But success in Cairo might prove even more challenging. If the negotiations lead to the establishment of a

Palestinian government supported by both Fatah and Hamas, there will be

a tough choice to make – not primarily for Palestinians, but first and foremost for Western decision makers. Will the West continue its policy of boycotting Hamas politically and financially, or will it adopt an alternative approach?

Given Hamas's belligerent ideology, any change in the West's approach towards Hamas in the aftermath of successful Palestinian dialogue in Cairo would be difficult. But a modified and more pragmatic stance that focuses on Hamas's behavior on the ground, rather than on abstract conditions, would not only be demanding for Western decision makers; it would pose a major political challenge for Hamas as well.

Michael Bröning is director of the East Jerusalem office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a political foundation affiliated with Germany's Social Democratic Party.

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Global disaster recovery

By: Michael Boskin

With the global economy mired in recession and financial crisis, policymakers everywhere have launched a series of monetary, financial, and fiscal responses. Nevertheless, economies continue to contract, unemployment to rise, and wealth to decline.

Countries' policy responses have ranged from modest to immense. China has undertaken a 6%-of-GDP stimulus package aimed (mostly) at infrastructure; the United States has enacted a two-year \$800 billion spending and tax rebate package. The Federal Reserve and the Bank of England lowered short-term interest-rate targets to near zero and are adopting "quantitative easing" – i.e., continuous infusions of money.

Despite all this, massive excess bank reserves remain unspent. During Japan's "lost decade," the Bank of Japan mostly bought Japanese government bonds, whereas the Fed is trying to reopen secondary markets for securitized

private lending (which in the US is as important as bank lending), buying mortgage-backed securities and consumer and business loans, as well as U.S. Treasury bonds. The Bank of England is buying UK government bonds ("gilts"). The European Central Bank, reflecting a strong inflation concern, has responded more slowly.

The US government is now insuring, lending or spending over \$10 trillion from guaranteeing money market funds to the AIG bailout to the Fed's swap lines supporting foreign central banks. Analogous guarantees and bank bailouts have occurred in the other major economies (the ECB does not play this role for Europe; national governments do).

The fiscal response – tax cuts and spending increases – has varied considerably, being somewhat more tepid in debt-averse Europe than in the US and China. The US is hectoring Europe for more fiscal stimulus, while the Europeans pressure the US for greater and more globally coordinated financial regulation.

Will near-zero interest rates, financial-sector bailouts, and fiscal

stimulus work? What else could be done?

As for fiscal measures, the empirical evidence suggests that three-quarters of consumption is based on longer-term economic prospects, not short-run disposable income. Thus, temporary tax rebates are mostly saved, not spent. Targeting liquidity-constrained people, especially the unemployed, is a bit more effective, as well as humane.

Some claim that infrastructure spending creates a big Keynesian "multiplier," a bigger increase in incomes than the initial spending (estimates range up to about 1.5 times the initial increase in spending). But infrastructure spending is usually slow – and almost always driven heavily by parochial political considerations. Japan's annual 15-20 trillion yen infrastructure-intensive stimulus didn't prevent its lost decade. Nor did American government spending end the Great Depression (unemployment was still over 15% in 1939, a decade after the depression's onset).

A more effective stimulus would speed up spending that needs to be done anyway. Or cut taxes to change the

marginal calculus of firms on layoffs and consumers on spending – for example, by suspending the payroll tax on firms and workers for a year or suspending part or all of the sales tax or national value-added tax. Better yet would be permanent rate reductions and controls on future spending.

But governments should be wary of expensive fiscal stimulus. It is likely to yield little cushion for employment and income per dollar spent, while servicing the large debt accumulation will impede long-run growth, either by forcing substantial future tax increases or spending cuts, or by forcing central banks to inflate. Indeed, China frets over the safety of the US Treasury bonds that it holds.

In theory, enough quantitative easing implies future inflation, motivating people to buy big-ticket items, like cars and appliances, now to avoid the run-up in prices later. (In practice, it is an experiment.) High and rising inflation creates great costs and is difficult to reverse. After mitigating the downturn, central bankers must withdraw the immense infusion of liquidity before inflation takes off, a tricky maneuver.

The bottom line, though, is that better policies can at best mitigate the economic consequences of this horrible recession. We will not get out of this mess completely any time soon. Sometimes, strong recoveries follow recessions, but recovery following financial crises is always immensely painful, time-consuming, and traumatic.

The economists Ken Rogoff and Carmen Reinhart have argued that the major financial crises of the last century typically lasted a half-decade or longer. In many of the previous banking crises, it was a country or a region that was hit hard (Argentina, Japan, etc.). This time, virtually every economy is suffering substantially and the banking crisis is global. Policymakers will continue to throw whatever ammunition they can find at the problem, but it will take time for the deleveraging from the boom to run its course.

At times of serious economic distress, policymakers thrash about seeking solutions, and some people lose confidence in the economic system itself. Indeed, in the Great Depression of the 1930's, it was common for

Western intellectuals to turn to communism and central planning as a hoped-for panacea. Some never returned from that intellectual journey, despite the collapse of communism.

There is, of course, no case for going back to socialism and central planning. Once off government lifelines, we will need a better-regulated financial system. Any financial institution that is too big or too interconnected to fail, or could quickly become so, must be closely regulated and monitored for risk and capital adequacy in real time, or be broken up into smaller firms.

In the meantime, let's hope that Messrs. Bernanke, King, Trichet, and the world's other central bank governors get monetary policy roughly right, and that our politicians don't waste vast sums on ineffective fiscal stimulus.

Michael J. Boskin, a former chairman of the US President's Council of Economic Advisers, is Professor of Economics at Stanford University and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2009. www.project-syndicate.org

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Al-Dabbas introduces Rosenbauer's Firefighting products



Last Saturday April 25, Al-Dabbass Company for Commercial Agencies, the agent in Yemen for Rosenbauer Company held a workshop to present and explain the new technology of Rosenbauer products in the field of fire fighting and rescue vehicles and equipment.

During the workshop that was attended by 85 personalities and concerned bodies, Mr. Herbert, representative of Rosenbauer delivered a word welcoming the attendees. He expressed his gladness for being in Yemen, wishing that Rosenbauer in Yemen through its agent Al-Dabbass Trade Company would present everything new in the field of vehicles and equipment of firefighting and rescue.

After that, a documentary was showed depicting phases of development of Rosenbauer Company since it was first established in 1866. The special factories of the company that spread in a number of European countries, America and Asia were mentioned in the documentary.

A Rosenbauer Company Representative said that the global financial crisis didn't affect the company capital and that the company will employ 1800 new workers to keep pace with work in its factories.

After that, attendees asked a number of questions related to technical facts of the equipment. Following the discussion, all attendees headed to lunch hall.

The workshop continued until Sunday April 26, and discussed the rest of technical aspects of vehicles and equipment of firefighting and rescue.



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Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Water and Environment
Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation Local Corporation

Request for Expressions of Interest Consulting Services for preparation of Detailed Design and tender document, and Construction Supervision

1. The Republic of Yemen, has received a Credit from Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) toward the cost of Sana'a Wastewater network project/ Sana'a Wastewater Treatment Plant, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Credit to payments under the contract for consulting services for **Sana'a New Wastewater Treatment Plant and Effluent Reuse Project**. As the following:
Phase I: Preparation of Detailed Design and tender document, and
Phase II: Construction Supervision
2. Through Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation Local Corporation, the Ministry of Water and Environment now invites the interested Arab consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide information that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc.) **Joint Venture or association with foreign and local consulting firms is encouraged.**
3. A consultant (or a joint venture/association) will be selected in accordance with and procedures set out in the Arab fund and Government of Yemen Guidelines.
4. Interested consultants may obtain further information between 09:00 hrs and 14:30 hrs at the address shown below.
5. Two copies of the EOI must be delivered to the address below not later than 12:00 hours (Yemen Standard Time) on Wed June 10, 2009.

Office of the Project Director
Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation Local Corporation
Al-Hasaba Street. Al-Idha'a Road B.O. Box 2659
Beside the Ministry of Public Health & Population
Al-Hasaba.
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Phone +967 1230656
Fax: +967 1230656

6. The minimum requirement for short listing any consulting firm (joint venture or association) is:
 - Submission of the latest company's prospectus (with attachments if necessary);
 - Successful experience as a consulting firm for at least ten (10) years. Additionally, a specific requirement is to have successful experience as a consulting firm over the last five (5) years in the Design and Supervision of at least two (2) projects each of a similar nature and size, preferably in Yemen or the region; and
 - References from previous or ongoing clients.

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الأستاذ / إبراهيم عبدالحبيب

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وجميع موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز

Healing by hijama

By: Ali Saeed

Saeed Ahmed Naji, 52, from Sana'a constantly had backaches and felt lethargic, and his wife suffered from frequent asthma attacks. They went to every doctor and took many types of medication in search of a cure, until eventually the lack of results of modern medicines led them to experiment with alternative therapy.

Being devout Muslims, they also turned to therapies recommended by the Prophet, notably according to a hadith narrated by Al-Bukhari that says, "Al-hijama [cupping] is the most beneficial therapy for people."

They headed to a hijama clinic where they found their cure.

Ancient alternative therapy

The ancient therapy of cupping, known as hijama in Arabic, is a practice where-

by a cup is applied to the skin and the pressure in the cup is reduced, usually by using a change in heat or by suctioning out air, so that the skin and surface muscle layer is drawn into and held in the cup.

When the skin is sucked into the cup it creates negative pressure, which is used to drain excess fluids and toxins, loosen adhesions and lift connective tissue. Bring blood flow to stagnant skin and muscles and stimulate the peripheral nervous system.

Several thousands of years of clinical experience and therapeutic applications of cupping have been documented mainly from Egyptian and Chinese methods.

Naji swears by the benefits of Hijama: "My wife and I have attended a cupping session four times during the past year," said Naji. "I was feeling lethargic and had constant backache, but now I feel active and my backache is gone," he adds "My wife is not suffering from

asthma anymore."

Generally, the cup is left in place for about 10 minutes. The skin becomes reddened due to the congestion of blood flow. The cup is removed by pressing the skin along side it to allow some outside air to leak into it, thus equalizing the pressure and releasing it. Some bruising along the site of the rim of the cup is expected.

Today, cupping is mainly recommended for the treatment of pain, gastro-intestinal disorders, lung diseases especially chronic cough and asthma, and paralysis, though it can be used for other disorders as well. The areas of the body that are fleshy are preferred sites for cupping.

Contraindications for cupping include: areas of skin that are inflamed, cases of high fever, convulsions or cramping, or easy bleeding, or the abdominal area or lower back during pregnancy. Movement of the cups is limited to fleshy areas: the movement should not cross bony ridges, such as the spine. Following are some of the recommended treatment sites for various disorders.

Hijama in Islam

"Although, hijama is a traditional therapy, it is also a religious one," said Abdullah Al-Sabri, hijamist at Al-Ehsan hijama center in Shumaila in Sana'a. "Muslims should follow the example of the Prophet and aspire to live like him."

According to the Prophet's hadith, cupping is a cure for every disease. The messenger said, "Indeed in cupping there is a cure."

"The Prophet was healed using this therapeutic method and praised it," said Ayad Al-Sabri, hijama specialist at the Al-Wafa hijama center on May 22 Street. "It is recommended for many diseases although its effects appear later."

The Prophet recommended applying cupping on certain days: "Whoever performs cupping on the 17th, 19th or 21st day [of the Islamic lunar month] then it is a cure for every disease."

Cupping therapists have confirmed that, not unlike acupuncture, there are specific points on the body to which Hijama is applied according to the patient's ailment.

Increasing trend in Yemen

During the three past years, Hijama healing clinics started to spread in Sana'a. Almost "now in Sana'a, in every neighborhood, there are one or two cupping clinics treating people with Hijama," said Abdullah Al-Sabri.

Unfortunately, there are no statistics that indicate how many cupping clinics there are in Sana'a or even across the country, but Al-Sabri estimates that there are 12 to 14 hijama clinics in Sana'a.

In Yemen, hijama is practiced by two

groups. The first group does it with traditional equipments such as horns, and inherited the skill from their fathers or relatives. The second group studied it as profession in institutes or completed training courses to receive their diplomas.

In Sana'a, although hijama does not cost much, clinics offer two prices and two methods. In the first, which costs YR 4,000, new cups are used for each patient, whereas in the second, which costs around YR 2,000, the glass cups are used but disinfected by hot water.

"I started to become interested in alternative medicine accidentally while I was in Syria for a visit," said Ayad, cupping specialist. "I found an alternative medicine institutes that teaches cupping and herbal therapy."

He added that, after coming back from Syria, he saw that many people were interested in alternative medicine and thought about opening a cupping clinic: "I opened my own cupping clinic and now the project is successful," explained Ayad.

"The secret behind cupping therapy is that cupping treats the whole human body as one block whereas the chemistry medicine treated the human body separately," he explained. "Modern medicine uses chemicals to treat a specific area in the body, whereas cupping contributes to overall well-being."

"At my cupping clinic could treat incurable diseases such as leukoderma [dispigmentation of the skin] and sterility," he said, saying that every disease has a special place where the cupping is more effective.

Different countries, different methods

According to Australian Traditional Health institution, various natural implements have been used for cupping throughout the ages according to what was locally available. For example, the natives along the west coast of North America used shells. In Europe, Asia, Africa and North America, hollow animal horns were fashioned to provide an effective cupping device.

In North America, the natives made their cupping instruments by slicing off the point of a buffalo horn. They place the base of the horn on the body and suck the air out through the opening at the tip. When a vacuum was achieved, a wad of dried grass would be pushed into the opening by the nimble workings of the tongue. By this method, the cupping therapists, with their powerful facial muscles and considerable agility had developed their own version of cupping.

Another technique used in cupping was by sucking through a bone tube. During the

Babylon - Assyrian Empire, stretching from Iraq to the Mediterranean, massage was practiced as well as cupping by



Hijama in Yemen is gaining increasing popularity.

sucking, with the mouth or by using a buffalo horn.

In some governorates in Yemen, traditional instruments are still being used whereas in Sana'a cupping clinics use modern glass cups imported from China.

Lack of monitoring the clinics

As number of people who resort to this traditional medicine is increasing, so are Hijama clinics. However, there is no authority from the Ministry of Health to control these establishments, potentially capable of transmitting diseases, if cupping were practiced unprofessionally or in an unhygienic environment.

Opening a hijama clinic in Yemen is easy since there is no department at the Ministry of Health to hand out licenses.

However, Ba Alawi, general director at the health office in Sana'a stated that in May 2009 there will be a seminar about herbal medicine and in this seminar the issue of controlling herbal and hijama clinics will be discussed.

"We are planning to recommend that the government issue a decree to define this medicine and name an authority to be responsible for it," said Ba Alawi, adding that this is an urgent need since it is related to people's lives and there are persons who practice cupping without a license.

"The only official authority which comes to visit us is the municipality," said Al-Sabri who opened his own hijama clinic three years ago.

"The municipality officials go to these establishments just to collect fees," however explained Ba Alawi. "The Ministry of Health is supposed to be in charge of hijama and herbal medicine clinics, but unfortunately there is still no such department in the ministry to do so."

Ba Alawi attributed the reasons behind the absence of hijama and herbal medicine controlling department to the lack of a Yemeni law to specify the requirements of such establishments.



The Ministry of Health has yet to start monitoring hijama clinics in Yemen.

Water and sanitation across the country – Part 2 Managing drought in Mahwit

By: Ali Saeed

A girl from Hufash, Mahwit, was married to a man from Bajil, Hodeida. When she arrived at her husband's house in Bajil, she saw the water pipes and cried out of happiness, because in Mahwit she had to trek hours every day to fetch water from a spring to bring back to her village.

Whereas in her new home water was readily available, governmental water projects in her home governorate cover only reach a limited number of areas and inhabitants.

Only a little over a half of the Mahwit governorate's population of 539,219 people benefited from government water pipe projects up until 2007, according to Mohammed Al-Nozaily, director of rural area water projects in the governorate.

Beneficiaries of sanitation services in the governorate are also still very few. Up to 2007, only 19 percent of the total population had access to proper sanitation, according to the Central statistical organization (CSO).

As reticulated water supply is still nonexistent in almost half of the governorate and its mountains do not naturally retain water, many inhabitants depend on rainwater cisterns for their

daily water supply.

When drought hits, as it has in the last few years, people's lives are severely affected as they have to walk miles to find alternative sources of water.

Old men in the governorate say that drought has become a serious concern for the first time in fifty years. Several times, severe drought has caused the displacement of many families from their villages to main cities to live with relatives, or renting new rooms.

The last drought was over a year ago and continued for over ten months. In May 2008, head of the Hufash district Abdulhamid Al-Ashabi told the press that rain had not fallen on the area for almost a whole year. He explained that as Hufash is a mountainous chain unable to retain any water, inhabitants depended entirely on rainwater.

Governmental water projects for Hufash has been on the plans for 18 years, but suspended because of lack of funds. The local water office has said it is working on it.

The water crisis meant an agricultural crisis as farmers could not water their cereals, qat, mango or banana plantations, greatly affecting the local population's livelihood.

Drought caused pupils to drop out of school make the over ten-kilometer journey to carry water home to their

families on their shoulders. Some stayed up all night waiting for a single 20 liter jerry can to be filled up from a spring whose abundance had been reduced by the drought.

Government and NGO work together

According to Al-Nozaily, the lowest average of beneficiaries from water projects is in the district of Bani Sa'ad where poverty is rampant and the population lives in mud and hay huts, because the area's inhabitants are uncooperative with local water authorities even though they have no wells, according to Al-Nozaily.

The second district with little support from governmental projects is the Melhan district where people count on rainwater cisterns they have rehabilitated themselves.

There are currently 60 governmental water and sanitation projects in rural areas jointly financed by the general authority for rural areas water projects and local councils at a cost of over YR 793 million, said Al-Nozaily, but all areas cannot be targeted because lack of roads and inaccessibility to mountainous areas.

In most districts of Mahwit, women and children usually fetch water from springs and the rainwater cisterns. Unfortunately, there are no statistics on

the number of the rainwater cistern restorations in the governorate but, in some districts like Melhan, people have restored the cisterns themselves.

The only NGO working on rural area water projects is the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which now has two projects in the governorate, according to Hani A-Ma'mari, officer of the rural area projects at the JICA.

Together with local authorities, they rehabilitated an old well in the Al-Taraf Mountain, in Al-Mahwit. JICA provided it with a pump, and the project benefited 3,619 people. A feasibility study is being conducted for a project in the district of Al-Rujum to help a further 20,687 people.

"With the local council's assistance in the governorate, we can move forward in constructing more projects," said Al-Ma'mari.

The mission to provide water in Mahwit is a huge one. Projects need to be implemented to help manage further droughts and ensure its children can attend school for a proper education.

Climate change in the Middle East and North Africa will lead to the region becoming hotter and dryer and lead to the increase in occurrence of drought, said a recent United Nations panel for climate change.



With not enough water provided by pipes, Mahwit residents -often women- spend lots of time painstakingly collecting water from faraway sources.

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In memory of Shareif Salem, the peace messenger who touched the lives of thousands of people...

By: Nadwa Al-Dawsari

On April 20, 2009, Shareif Salem Ben Saood, a prominent tribal leader from Mareb, was shot dead while trying to mediate a violent "tribal" conflict. The 53-year old man had been a full time arbitrator and mediator who devoted his life and eventually lost it to prevent and mitigate conflicts in tribal areas in Yemen, particularly in the Eastern governorates of Mareb, Al-Jawf and Shabwa.

The conflict in which at least 4 people died and another 13 were injured started when a tribesman was fired from an oil company more than a year ago. When his tribesmen thought he was unfairly let go, a series of incidents took place starting from appeal at relevant government authorities to bring him back to his job to seizing oil company's trucks leading to the violent conflict in which Salem was killed.

I knew Shareif Salem back in 2007. As the founder and head of the Future Association for Development and Social Peace in Mareb and a member of a network of local NGOs in Mareb, Al-Jawf and Shabwa, Shareif Salem led an initiative to protect youth and education



Shareif Salem actively engaged religious leaders and students from the governorates in activities to raise awareness about the impact of and protection from conflict.



from conflict. Despite being an "illiterate" man, he believed in the importance of education as a key to development and to put an end to conflict. Salem was a very positive man "If this initiative works, and it will, this will be the beginning of the end of conflict", he often said.

While Conflicts constitute one of the biggest challenges to development and stability, conflict itself is a manifestation of significant development and governance problems. Poverty, high unemployment, misallocation and mismanagement of resources and lack of basic services are all derivers of conflict. Unemployed youth who do not pay much respect to the tribal traditions commit things that escalate existing conflicts or even cause new ones.

I would like to argue that our bias and

stereotyping prevent us from understanding the nature and the root causes of conflict and so we fail to design effective interventions to approach the problem. We often conceive tribesmen to be thugs and criminals who kill for revenge, block roads and kidnap foreigners to extract money and resources.

Conflict and lack of development will continue to reinforce each other as long as there are no serious efforts to break that cycle. Conflict leads to the closure and destruction of schools and health facilities and interruption of development projects. At the same time, planning and implementing development projects and services without understanding the sensitivities and nature of conflict and without involving the locals in the process ignite violent conflicts.

With the weak presence of formal law enforcement institutions, leaders like Shareif Salem represent the traditional system which has so far maintained a reasonable level of stability and security in those areas. Efforts to address conflict in tribal areas need to bring development and services to those underdeveloped areas and need to make the process of development transparent, accountable and sensitive to conflicts.

There needs to be programs which generate education and job opportunities for the youth. Along with that law enforcement institutions should be strengthened and traditional conflict prevention and resolution systems should be respected and integrated into the process.

Effort should engage leaders like Shareif Salem, governorate based NGOs and CBOs as well as youth and women. They are the people with the problem and they should be the owners of the solutions with our help. We should simply put out prejudices and conceptions aside...

Nadwa Al-Dawsari is the director of Partners for Democratic Change – in Yemen. She has worked with the tribal conflict resolution programs of the National Democratic Institute for many years.

Mind your mobile manners!

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Hello! Hello! I can't hear you, I'm at the theatre!" exclaimed a young man in the middle of a play at the Yemeni Cultural Center. His loud inconsideration for others and bad manners prompted angry glares and grumbles from the rest of the audience.

With its annoying ring tones and extremely loud vibrations, the cell phone has become more than just a communication tool: It has become an obsession. The absence of common courtesy has not only allowed for much discomfort, but also openly displayed glimpses of other peoples' private lives for all to share.

Today's cell phone users have the option of choosing their own ring tones, including popular ones that may not be appropriate to be played in public, like the purring of a cat or the cuckooing of a rooster, or even a popular song with obscene lyric.

If you are standing in line at the bank or clinic, people around you may not want to hear inappropriate lyrics or loud music every time your phone rings. They are endlessly ringing at hospitals, in universities, theaters, meetings, and even in mosques where people are supposedly sincerely worshipping God.

With the latest technology, there so many things you can do with a phone: listen to music, send messages, use Bluetooth, email, receive news, take photos or videos of your friends and organize your daily events. Some people even divorce their wife these days with a simple text message.

The highest growth rate in mobile subscription was recorded in Yemen and Sudan, according to Dubai Media

City-based Madar Research 2008 report.

"Mobile subscriber levels in Yemen are growing rapidly," agreed a report by the Ireland based Research and Markets.

There are an estimated 4 million mobile phone subscribers in Yemen. "Some people still ignore the right way to use a mobile phone," said Dr. Afaf Al-Haimi, professor of sociology at Sana'a University, "because of social upbringing, many of us don't know about mobile etiquette".

Zian Ali Husain, 20, student of medicine at the Science and Technology University thinks it bad that some men use mobile phones to send each other of photos and videos of ex-girlfriends on whom they bring shame, but sees no problem with yelling on his mobile in public places.

While there is no policy to ban cell phones in lecture halls and classrooms, there is no doubt that they interrupt the class, annoying both the lecturer and students.

Despite asking students to switch off their mobiles at the beginning of each lecture, Al-Haimi often finds students who don't, said Al-Haimi, who never answers the phone or call others after 8:00 pm: "There should be respect for others."

Al-Haimi said that lack of education and low living standards are behind the misuse of mobile phones. She refers to people who harass people late at night or who try to impress other people with their phone's latest technology.

"Mobile phone has an important social function since it makes it easy for people to check up on each other and reduce moments of waiting in worry about a relative or a friend," she concluded.

Inappropriate times for a phone to ring

Adel Al-Faqih, 22, a nurse at Sana'a hospital, doesn't answer his phone if he is busy at work. If the call is important he discreetly slips outside to answer. "When I want to answer my phone, I go to the place where I rest to answer."

During prayers, Al-Faqih switches his phone to silent mode.

Ahmad Al-Mualmi, Imam of a mosque in Sana'a, said mobile phones disturb the peace, especially in mosques, where it is inappropriate to use them. He refers to the importance of choosing discreet tones for mobiles.

"It's permissible to answer the phone in the mosques, but not during prayers," agreed Imam Hussein Al-Zumi. "A doctor on call can put his phone on vibration mode to avoid annoying people coming to pray."

"Mobile phones are annoying for patients," said nurse Al-Faqih. "It is bad manners to use mobiles inside hospital rooms. It is difficult for other patients to sleep when someone's phone is constantly ringing and they are yelling down it."

"Unfortunately, some doctors talk on the mobile with headphone in the operation theaters, especially in minor operations," said Al-Faqih "Surgeries need a lot of concentration so I think it's absolutely wrong!"

But leaving on a mobile phone 24 hours a day can be more problematic than just annoying others. When not turned off, mobile phones interfere with electronic devices, notably in hospitals and in airplanes.

Technology and good manners hand in hand?

There is no law in Yemen that bans using mobile phones to call or text in

any situation, but this is not an excuse to pass up on good manners.

Almost every cell phone comes equipped with the ability to put the phone on vibrating mode. In other words, instead of ringing, the phone will simply vibrate at intervals until it is answered by the user, or take the caller to voicemail.

Mohamed Al-Saqri, 24, student of medicine at Science and Technology University always sets his mobile to silent mode when he studies. Only with private calls does he leave where he is to answer the phone.

"There should be more signs to tell people to switch off their mobiles or set it to 'silent' in mosques, lecture rooms, hospitals and meetings," said Dr. Abdulkarim Sallam, media director of the Sheba Center for Strategic Studies in Sana'a.

"Learning [good telephone] manners starts in the family and at school," Dr. Abdulkarim Sallam, media director of the Sheba Center for Strategic Studies in Sana'a. "Mobile users should consider people around them."

One of the largely ignored aspects of phone etiquette is discretion.

"Yes, Dubai is great, my plane landed an hour ago!" screamed Ahmed to his mother in Sana'a, thinking for some reason like many others, that since the person he is talking to is miles away, he needs to talk louder for them to hear.

The alternative to perfecting one's telephone manners, although a little drastic, is simply to get rid of one's phone altogether.

"I used to have a mobile phone and my boss used to call me after work hours to bring him documents from the office," said Mustafa Mahyoub, 57, "so I decided to sell my mobile. The landline is enough for me now."

CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Hanbala, Idris A.

A poet of prisons with a firm national attitude

By: Eyad N. Al-Samman •
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Hanbala, Idris Ahmed, was a Yemeni poet, educationist and revolutionist. Hanbala was born on December 7, 1922 in the Attawahi quarter in Aden in a middle-class family. Hanbala studied the Holy Qur'an and Arabic language with Aden's scholars, and enrolled in disciplinary education in several local schools. He continued his studies and obtained his baccalaureate in 1941. Hanbala excelled in English language and worked as an English teacher starting from 1948 in Aden's private schools and, from October 1966, in governmental schools. After that he was appointed principal of Al-Nahdha Al-Arabia School and, later on, principal of the Modern National School in Al-Shaikh Othman quarter in Aden. Hanbala helped establish the Youth Cultural Club in 1947 and the Society of Muslim Youths in Aden in 1948, where he held the position of its tentative secretary. In the same year, he partook in founding the Society for Children of the Poor. He also took part in founding the Society of Youth Clubs in 1952 and he also participated in establishing the National United Front in 1955 and worked as the assistant of the charge d'affaires of the general secretary.

In 1957 he was appointed head of the Committee of People's Demands in Al-Shaikh Othman and participated in establishing the syndicate movement in Aden to which he was appointed general secretary assistant. In 1962, he was selected to become general secretary of the Lyricists and Composers Society, was appointed general supervisor of Ahmed Qasim's Musical Renewal Band and in established the Group of Beethoven's Supporters. His last job was working as an English teacher in Abud Exemplary Secondary School in Aden.



In the revolutionary field, Hanbala was subjected to several break-ins, restraints and investigations in the 1950s and 1960s by the British occupying authorities. The longest period that Hanbala had spent behind the bars was two years and a half in Aden Central Prison from the end of 1958 to mid-1961.

Hanbala's first poetic tries were versed in popular poetry in 1935 but his professional poetic talent appeared effectively in 1941. He exploited his revolutionary and enthusiastic poetry to support the Yemeni national movement nationally, politically, socially and culturally against the British colonization. His literary career was confined in expressing his thoughts about two main causes: the Yemeni revolution and the cause of a critical ego which seeks solace in friends or nature, or in contemplating on life and death.

Among his first published diwans, the one entitled "Aghareed wa Ahazeej" (Songs and Paeans, 1967) includes 16 poems versed in the form of zealous and national chants such as "The Revolution's Chant" and "The



Unity's Chant." Hanbala's diwan entitled "Hikayat Al-Sihab" (The Friends' Tales, 1970) was dedicated to friendship and his friends. His diwan entitled "Rihla Ila Al-Shafaq Al-Azraq" (A Journey to the Blue Twilight, 1976) was dedicated to his contemplative and sentimental experiments and for his vision on the concepts of life, death and life beyond death. "From Behind the Bars" (1977) is Hanbala's diwan which some of its poems were versed while he was in the detention camps of the British colonization.

Hanbala tackled, in his diwan entitled "When the Waves Talk" (1977), the problems of factional terrorism and problems of progression, backwardness and internal psychological defeat. The diwan "Ajras Al-Hurryah" (Bells of Freedom, 1984) tackles the Yemeni people's struggle to achieve freedom and independence, and to expel the colonists from South Yemen. Among Hanbala's other poetic works which tackle issues such as sentiment, friendship, friends and occasional poetry, the diwans entitled "The Flaming Horizon" (1977), "From the Reminiscences' Caves" (1988), "Affairs and Anxieties" (1980) and "Munaw'at Idrisiah" (Idrisi Miscellanies) comprised the last poems penned by Hanbala in the 14th of October daily newspaper. Hanbala's diwan entitled "Dumoo'a Mutanathira" (Scattering Tears, 1988) contained more than 30 elegies in which he elegized numerous of his relatives, friends, and acquaintances. His oeuvre was published posthumously in one book entitled "The Complete Works of Idris Hanbala" in 2004. One of his diwans entitled "Al-Baqiyat Al-Salihah" (Good Deeds that Endure) is still handwritten which contained Hanbala's secret political poems that show his opposition to the past totalitarian regime in Aden.

Hanbala also published his poetic pieces in more than 30 different newspapers and magazines including "Fatat Al-Jazeera" (Arabian Peninsula's Girl), "Al-Qalam Al-Adani" (The Adenic Pen), "Al-Asr Al-Jadeed" (The New Age) and "Al-Mustaqbal" (The Future). In the early 1990s, he founded "Center of Adirs Hanbala for Documentation." Hanbala was awarded the Order of Sincerity in 1985 and the Order of Literature and Arts in 1987 by the government of the time. He was posthumously honored in 2007 by the Yemeni Union for Authors and Writers among other Yemeni intellectuals in Aden.

Hanbala died in December 20, 1991 in Aden from a heart attack at the age of 69. It is essential to know that most of Hanbala's poetic works along his long literary career presented an important epoch of the history of the Yemeni cause, in all its dimensions, events and details. Muhammad Jarada, a Yemeni renowned poet, said once: "There are attitudes within the national poetry of Hanbala which certainly will be needed by those who chronicle Yemen's history, especially during colonization. Hanbala resisted this age with his pen, tongue and way of evoking national spirit when he was imprisoned several times for years."

Chuckles for the wicked fox

By: Alice Hackman

Once upon a time there was a qabili [tribesman] who went to market. He bought ten little chicks in a cage and set off back home to rear them. But a fox caught a whiff of them on their way. He licked his chops, and decided to eat the chicks for lunch.

"I will lie dead in the middle of the path," plotted the cunning animal. "The qabili will stop and then..." The fox lay down with his paws up in the air, and waited for the qabili to arrive. But the man took no notice, and continued on home with his chicks.

The fox tried again. "How strange," thought the qabili, walking around



him, "two dead foxes in one day." The hungry fox decided to try one last time, but the qabili merely stepped over him. The fox was desperate. Lunch was

starting to look grim.

But then the qabili stopped in his tracks. "That's three dead foxes today," he said. "Think of all that fur,

and all the gold I could sell it for." He put down the cage with the ten little chicks, and left it by the road to go back and pick up the three foxes.

The fox - still very much alive and grinning - sneaked up, killed the ten little chicks, and had them all for lunch.

Men, women and children in the audience chuckled as the fox had his wicked way last Tuesday at the Yemeni Cultural Center. They reeled with laughter at the story of the thief who tried to resuscitate a chicken by blowing through a straw, and were hushed into suspense by the tale of the prince who fell in love with his poor neighbor's daughter.

Told simultaneously in Arabic and French by budding young actors from the French Cultural Center in Sana'a, these folktales all stem from Yemeni storytelling tradition. Constantly evolving as they are passed down through generations, they have lit up the faces of young children and livened up afternoon qat chews for centuries.

French director Brigitte Carle drove all over Yemen to jot these tales down on paper and prepare for their theatrical debut. An actress with her own troupe in Lyon, France, and a flare for the dramatic, she undertook the project both to record Yemeni tradition and out of fascination for yarns very similar to those she was told in French as a child.

"These stories are usually told in villages during qat chews, but today, with many people moving to the city, and the rise of television and internet, story-telling is falling out of practice," said Carle, who has now visited Yemen seven times to preserve these orally-transmitted folktales in writing.

On stage, Carle, her French-speaking students and Egyptian comedian Mohammed Al-Ghawry recounted Yemen's time-honored anecdotes, swiftly moving from one character to another in a performance riddled with intrigue, twists and laughter.

In a second act, Yemeni comedian Najib Haizan, dressed as a traditional story-teller, brought a nasty wolf and three gazelles to life from a large story-telling book.

"My grandmother used to tell me lots of similar stories," said Emad Al-Waji, one of the actors who co-told a story about a hungry man and a kebab seller during the performance. "But I had never heard these ones until we started rehearsing."

"I loved the gestures they used, the fast pace and the use of colloquial Arabic," said Anais Wasan, 17, a French Yemeni who attended the show.

"Orality is very strong here so people don't feel the need to record these stories," explained Carle. "But because there is no professional story-teller to be their keeper, it's important to collect them and write them down."

Stories in a book should however not be learnt by heart or even merely read out, according to Carle, who believes that, to preserve their ever-changing nature, these written versions should only serve as a basis for a story.

"The story-teller should never be more than a mediator who tells the story in his own words, allowing it naturally to develop each time it is told," she said.

Carle intends to collect all of these tales into a bilingual book in Arabic





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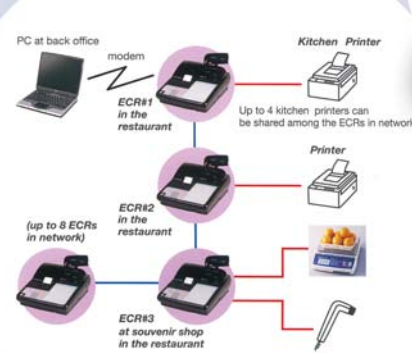




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السريع للخدمات
في خدمتك طوال اليوم



من 8 صباحاً حتى 9 مساءً

السريع للخدمات: خدمة جديدة من AC BANK لتحويل الأموال نقداً وبشكل مباشر وسريع دون الحاجة إلى فتح حساب بنكي من خلال شبكة آية متطورة.

and French to be illustrated by a Yemeni artist. Once compiled, these Yemeni folktales could help Yemenis learn French, and provide yet more material for amateurs of comparative literature seeking the roots of some of Europe's most famous fables.

"The story about the boy who drops the pot of cream is definitely the same as the fable by [famous French fabulist] Jean de la Fontaine," said Carle. "Even the story about the fox and the little chicks is very reminiscent of 'Le Roman de Renard' I was told as a little girl."

Wicked fox travels to France
Despite clear Latin roots in many European fables, academics have also suggested that many figures in French medieval literature, notably in 'Le Roman de Renard' and the fables of La Fontaine, were originally inspired by Eastern literary tradition, notably fifth century Sanskrit fable book 'Panchatantra' or 'Kalila wa Dimna,' and 'A Thousand and One Nights.'

An Arabic version of both of these might have made its way to Al-Andalus and been translated into Latin

for medieval Europe's very small elite to read.

But more plausible perhaps is an oral transmission of these stories, whether in Al-Andalus, Italy, or during the Crusades. Perhaps the Arabs of Al-Andalus taught their neighbors the stories they had learnt from their forefathers, and these were excitedly recounted across the peninsula until they reached the medieval Spanish bards who cemented them into popular European culture.

Yemenis were among the first to cross over from North Africa into Al-Andalus in the eighth century and many settled, according to historians.

In a highly multicultural society in which Christians spoke Arabic and Muslim Spaniards were common, it is not impossible that some tales from the Yemeni mountains found their way to the cities of Spain.

A very long time ago in the gardens of Al-Andalus, perhaps a storyteller of Yemeni descent also told the story of the fox and the ten chicks to an enthralled audience, and perhaps by word of mouth the story made its way up north to France.

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات للشباب الخلاق

سامي عبد الكريم البركاني

بمناسبة دخوله القصر الذهبي

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