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**8**  **25 Percent of Yemeni recycling plants are insolvent**

## Yemeni detainee found dead in Guantanamo

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, June 3 — The death of a Yemeni detainee in the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba last Monday further stresses the urgency to shut down the controversial center and return its illegally-held detainees to their countries.

Muhammad Ahmad Abdullah Salih, 31, also known as Al-Hanashi or Prisoner Number 78, had been held in Guantanamo since February 2002. The cause of death is yet to be confirmed.

Although he was accused by the Pentagon of training in Afghanistan for a 'holy war against the US,' he was never even granted a trial to find out if he was innocent or guilty. Instead, he was detained until his death without charges.

Despite media reports pointing to Salih having committed suicide, Guantanamo medical records indicate he had wasted away as a result of repeatedly going on hunger strike.

According to these documents, Salih arrived in Guantanamo as a 5 foot 7 man weighing in 124 pounds in February 2002, shortly after his 24th birthday. His Guantanamo weight chart shows that in late 2005 he had wasted away to just 86

pounds. David H. Remes, a lawyer who represents 16 other Yemeni prisoners at Guantanamo, said that Al-Hanashi had been one of seven prisoners kept in a psychiatric ward at the prison and that he had been force-fed in a restraint chair. Remes said all the detainees in the psychiatric ward were kept under sedation.

About 100 of the 240 detainees held in the Gitmo detention center, which US President Barack Obama has promised to close next January, are from Yemen.

Despite intensive diplomatic discussions in recent months, and the Yemeni government's promise to put released prisoners through a rehabilitation program, the US administration remains unconvinced the nation is capable of absorbing a group of men that officials believe includes "hardened extremists."

The Yemeni government rejects US criticism of its record in combating terrorism and insists that it can successfully handle its detainees, who now make up the largest national contingent at Guantanamo. It has however asked the US to fund a Yemen-based rehabilitation program.

Lawyers for the detainees, who note that only four of the 101 Yemenis at



Yemenis across the country repeatedly stage protests demanding the country's 101 Gitmo detainees be returned home and the illegal prison be shut down

Guantanamo have been charged with any crime, said the US should either prosecute or release the others. Much of the information about the detainees remains classified.

Although it is yet not clear whether or not Al-Hanashi committed suicide, human rights activists and defense lawyers have said that many detainees are

depressed and suicidal because they are placed under strict isolation.

An autopsy of Salih is still pending, and a "cultural advisor" is overseeing the remains, which will be repatriated to Yemen after the postmortem.

An embassy representative left for Guantanamo on Tuesday will work "closely with the US government" to

quickly repatriate the body, according to a press release issued by the Yemeni embassy in Washington D.C.

The Yemeni Embassy representative will oversee that the remains of the deceased detainee are being treated in accordance to Islamic customs.

"We will work closely with the US government to repatriate the remains of the deceased as soon as possible," said the Yemeni Embassy in Washington in its press release. "We extend our deepest condolences to the family of the deceased."

"In addition, this incident demonstrates the urgency of closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay," it stressed.

Obama, who is visiting the region, will also likely be looking for help from Saudi Arabia on the dilemma of what to do with some 100 Yemeni detainees locked up in Guantanamo Bay prison.

Discussions over where to send the Yemeni detainees have delayed plans to close the prison. The US has been hesitant to send them home because of Yemen's history of either releasing extremists or allowing them to escape from prison.

Instead, the Obama administration has been negotiating with Saudi Arabia and Yemen for months to send them to Saudi terrorist rehabilitation centers. Saudi Arabia has one of the most successful jihadist rehabilitation programs in the world.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) called on President Obama Tuesday to launch an investigation into the circumstances of Salih's death.

"Tragic deaths like this one have become all too common in a system that locks up detainees indefinitely without charge or trial," ACLU attorney Ben Wizner said in a statement. Four detainees who killed themselves in 2006 and 2007 were found hanging, three of whom were Saudis and one a Yemeni.

Yemen "is looking forward to cooperate closely with the US administration to expedite President Obama's decision to close Guantanamo," the embassy statement said.

The Pentagon's status report on Salih reported: "When the detainee gets released, he hopes to go back to Yemen and get married. Once married, the detainee intends to go to school and become a history or geography teacher."

## Protests, trials continue

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, June 3 — A protest in the Lahj governorate deemed, "A Huge Protest of Rage" is expected today with the intention of pressuring the government to free people detained for their participation in demonstrations since May 21.

"We call on all our noble citizens, the sons of Hawta, Tuban and other nearby districts in Radfan, Yafea, Mesaimer and Tawr Al-Baha, to take part in the 'Huge Protest of Rage,' scheduled to take place in the Hawta area on Thursday. The protest is intended to press the government to release all the detainees and fulfill our demands," said a statement by the so-called "Components of Peaceful Struggle" in the Hawta and Tuban districts.

At least four Yemenis, including a policeman, were killed in two days of clashes between police and protesters last weekend. Another 13 people were wounded in exchanges of fire on Saturday and Sunday, which followed demonstrations in the southern province of Lahj. Witnesses said police exchanged fire with demonstrators carrying banners with anti-government slogans, and posters of Ali Nasser Mohammed, the former president of South Yemen.

From his side, Hassan Zaid, chairman of the Higher Council of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), and also the Secretary-General of the Haq Party, urged authorities to stop cracking down on peaceful political activists. He said

massive crackdowns left citizens homeless.

Last week, the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) accused JMP of standing behind political protests in the southern and eastern governorates.

Amid the protests and violence, former Yemeni Ambassador to Mauritania, Qasim Askar Jubran, 58, appeared before a Sana'a-based court specializing in security and terrorism on Tuesday. He is suspected of fuelling sedition and instigating separatists in South Yemen.

During the hearing, the Attorney-General accused Jubran of committing criminal acts with the intention of hurting unity, sparking sedition, and risking social security and peace.

He is also charged with constitutional violations and instigating armed disobedience against authorities in 2007 and again in April, 2009. Jubran refused to respond to the indictment, saying "The court is unconstitutional and has no legal authorization."

Evidence filed by prosecution against the defendant included speeches, documents, a handout titled "Project on the Vision of Peaceful Struggle Movement for the Southern Issue & Future of South Yemen's People," and a form of affiliation with the Supreme National Council for Liberating and Restoring State of South Yemen. The First Instance Tribunal scheduled the trial of Jubran for June 9.

In a letter read before the judge, Jubran said, "I was arrested in Aden while taking part in a peaceful struggle for sons of the South. My issue is political and I was referred to the First Instance Court, which contravenes international conventions and agreements and human rights covenants."

"Therefore, I refuse to respond to any questions or charges you direct to me. Understand that use of force to bring me to Sana'a will never compel me to change my mind about the fair issue of my people."

The trail of Jubran came just one day after 13 other people were tried for charges of hurting security in the southern governorate of Abyan, and involvement in an armed band to carry out criminal acts against army personnel at checkpoints and government facilities.

Jubran's defense advocate, Jamal Al-Jaabi, withdrew from the case, calling the court unconstitutional. Al-Jaabi also said that Jubran refused to give any information since the charges attributed to his client are political, and his case is politicized.

Security authorities transferred Jubran to Sana'a after they arrested him in Aden last May. The southern governorates have witnessed demonstrations almost every day since March 2006, demanding that the government reinstate nearly 70 thousand military and civil servants who lost their jobs in the 1994 Civil War. Their demands include a call to separate South Yemen from the north.

## Water sale to cause drought in Hajja

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

HAJJA, June 3 — Water resources in Hajja have drained sharply after some locals have started selling water illegally to qat farmers.

Khiran and Aslam are the main two districts where over one million citizens are facing water crises because surface water from the Al-Safy Valley has dried up, and the wide-spread digging of illegal wells.

"The situation is incredible here," said Sraj Aldeen Al-Maqri, a Hajja resident.

"Lands owners start to dig wells to get water and sell it to neighboring regions where they plant qat after the valley dries."

The digging of unauthorized wells started two years ago, when some locals in the districts began selling water to qat farmers instead of using it to water their crops.

"It's very painful," Al-Maqri added. "The two regions were famous for planting mango and aromatic herbs, and exporting their agricultural products to neighboring countries. Now, due to the illegal sale of water, as well as the random digging of wells, water is consumed rapidly. There are signs of agricultural activities leveling off and depleting."

According to Al-Maqri, some villagers sell water for fast income. "The owner of a well can gain YR 100,000 (500 US dollars) a day," he said.

However, the temporary profitability of water sales harms ordinary farmers, and threatens the area with "a certain dryness."



Hajja lacks a reticulated water supply for sanitation, so locals obtain water the old-fashioned way- fetching it from rainwater harvesting systems. Hajja is facing sharp water scarcity due to the illegal sale of water to qat farmers.

The districts, located 100 km from Hajja City, lack a reticulated water supply for sanitation, so locals get all of their water the old-fashioned way- fetching it from rainwater harvesting systems, springs and wells.

"We have had less rainfall since last year. So our valley and springs are almost dry," said Mohammed Ibrahim, the father of seven children. "I don't know if we will get water to drink for the coming months," he added.

"When the diggers come to drill and take the water, it is like taking blood from my veins," said Mohammed

Huseen Slama one of the elders in the Khiran district.

He pointed out that the diggers work 24 hours a day, reaching up to 50 meters under the ground. "Some wells have already been exhausted."

Local Council Member Abdul Slam Al-Bakri and Abdul Krim Alaslmi, a member of parliament, criticized the government for not applying the law which prevents selling water to qat farmers or digging random wells. They also called for punishment for law breakers.

The Yemeni government issued a law in 2002, banning the sale of water for planting qat. The law has not yet been activated, according to the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Agriculture accounts for about 90 percent of Yemen's groundwater consumption, and at least 30 percent of it is used just for growing qat.

Agriculture experts say 20 to 30 percent of wasted water can be saved each year by applying modern irrigation techniques such as sprinkler irrigation, drip systems and micro tube-bubbler systems. However, the low cost of pumping water from wells gives farmers little incentive to adopt these techniques.

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## Yemeni laborers to return to gulf markets

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, June 3 — Yemeni qualified and non qualified laborers now have more opportunities to work in neighboring Gulf states, said Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi.

Speaking to state-run Yemen New Agency (Saba), Al-Arhabi highlighted the decision made by the Gulf Consultative Summit, held a few weeks ago in Riyadh, which gives priority to Yemeni laborers above other nationalities when competing for employment opportunities in Gulf states.

Al-Arhabi also indicated that there is a chance for Yemeni nonqualified labor

to be employed in Gulf countries. He explained that the existing 80 percent of unqualified laborers working in Gulf countries are from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and other Asian countries. This policy may potentially expand to include Yemeni unqualified laborers.

Meanwhile, another recent decision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to favor Yemeni laborers sparked hopes for many unemployed Yemeni workers, state-owned media indicated.

"Surely, Yemen will benefit from the Saudi decision of abandoning Bengali laborers of the construction sector in favor of Yemenis is indicative that there is a truthful desire from our brothers in GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries to give Yemeni

laborers priority in their labor markets," said Deputy Minister of Social and Labor Affairs for Labor Force Affairs Sha'ef Sagheer.

He added that Yemen and GCC countries signed a treaty on this issue, giving qualified Yemeni laborers priority.

He also said the government has prepared a strategy in coordination with Saudis to qualify Yemeni laborers and train them to meet conditions required by Gulf labor markets.

The international community in Yemen is also very supportive of government measures to help Yemeni laborers find employment opportunities in neighboring countries. The International Labor Organization

is currently leading efforts to work with the Yemeni government and social partners towards providing decent employment opportunities for the Yemeni workforce in Yemen and beyond.

On a local level, the Yemeni government held a cabinet meeting to review measures to accelerate the integration of Yemeni workers into Gulf labor markets. The meeting approved the next steps that need to be taken by the various government agencies and their partners, including training, advisory services, and technical assistance.

The cabinet also took measures to fulfill the various conditions mandated by Gulf countries to employ Yemenis.

The first of these is for Yemen to establish specialized centers to train and qualify Yemeni laborers in accordance with current and future skill shortages in Gulf countries.

The cabinet delegated these responsibilities to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training. English and computer skills were identified as areas in need of improvement.

"We will work during the next three months on training over 10,000 cadres of local labor to meet requirements of local markets of qualified laborers," said Sagheer.

Other steps included were introducing English language and

computer curricula to the current mainstream education system in order to improve the skills of graduates as per future needs in Gulf countries.

There are no comprehensive statistics about the numbers of Yemeni laborers who work in Gulf states currently, or on laborers who returned from these countries in 1990 due to Yemen's stance on the first Gulf War. However, estimates indicate that were over 2.5 million Yemenis working in Gulf states prior to 1991, the majority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

According to estimates, 1.2 million returned in 1990 and 1991 following Gulf states' restrictions on renewing residential permits for Yemenis on political grounds.

## Parents break cycle of corporal punishment

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, June 3 — Towards ending corporal punishment in Yemen, Save the Children and the Ministry of Education last week held discussions with up to 200 parents on non-violent methods to make their children behave.

Supported by the United Nations' Children's Fund, the four-day training sessions targeted mothers and fathers of pupils from 30 schools in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Lahj, to reinforce similar workshops with their teachers earlier this spring.

Although corporal punishment is banned in Yemeni schools by ministerial decree, it is still lawful at home, and researcher Dr. Abdullah Al-Yahri recently found that up to 80 percent of mothers in rural areas use the method to discipline their children.

Not only does the practice adversely affect a child's cognitive development and progress in school, researchers have found, but its persistence at home also undermines efforts to expel the detrimental practice from educational institutions.

"We changed the teacher's thinking in schools, but it's good to have cooperation between parents and teachers to diminish violence against children," said Aisha Saeed, protection program specialist at Save the Children.

"We learnt to listen to our children, and encourage them," said Saeed Ghalib, a father of five from Lahj who took part in the training. "I sometimes used to hit my children if they did something very bad, but now I would guide them so as not to do it again."

"What is prevalent from the training is that, in bringing up their children, par-

ents repeat the way they were brought up," said trainer Abdulghafoor Ali, who holds a MA in Education and Psychology and has been taking part in the training in Aden.

Save the Children's latest study has found that over 92 percent of parents surveyed used forms of humiliating punishment to discipline their children—although in most cases combined with other positive methods, while up to 26 percent of their children approved physical and humiliating punishment to make them learn.

The best way to break the cycle of abusive behaviors towards the next generation is to hold continuous training sessions to provide alternatives, he said. Especially for those with little or no education, reference to Islamic teachings is very effective.

"In one Hadith, the Prophet said to

teach your children to pray when they are seven, and beat them if they don't when they are ten," he explained. "But the Prophet used a suwak [small wooden stick to brush one's teeth], not a stick. It meant: Advise your children."

"Many parents lead a very difficult life, are jobless and fight to feed their children," added trainer Ilham Raidan, social worker in a school on the outskirts of Aden with an MA in Social Sciences. "When they come home, they are angry and tend to take it out on their children. But parents have been extremely responsive to the training."

Two to three parents from each of the 30 targeted schools attended the training, and are expected to return home and tell others what they have learnt. Through this ripple effect, Save the Children and the ministry's trainers hope to reach as many parents as possible.

**A healthy dose of affection**

Training focused on listening to children, encouraging them and showing them affection. A loving environment encourages development, and fathers in particular were encouraged to be more demonstrative with their sons and daughters.

"I tried to motivate the fathers to show affection to their children," said Ali. "We fathers tend to want to show our sons that they should be strong, that they should be men, but we should also show them that we love them."

"I never hit my children, they are like my brothers and sisters," said father of five Mohammad Mohsen from Lahj. "But I benefited hugely by learning about how to treat children according to their age and mentality."

Save the Children hopes to expand teacher and parent training to the national level in the future, said Saeed, but for

now the organization will conduct an impact study to evaluate the project's success in the four targeted governorates.

Although corporal punishment is lawful at home in Yemen, children are legally protected from violence and abuse by the 2002 Children's Rights Act and the 1994 Yemeni Penal Code, according to grassroots initiative End Corporal Punishment.

Yemen ratified the United Nations' Convention of the Rights of the Child, which protects children from violence and abuse, in 1991.

Despite legislation proposals, Israel is the only country in the Middle East to have prohibited corporal punishment at home, according to End Corporal Punishment. In contrast, 13 out of 22 countries in the region have banned the practice in schools.

## Inter-Arab tourism to counter effects of financial crisis

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, June 3 — To counter an expected decline in tourism after the world financial crisis, Arab ministers of tourism met in Sana'a last week to discuss ways to more actively attract tourists from each other countries to keep the sector afloat.

Although the tourism industry in the Middle East has been less affected by the financial crisis than the rest of the world so far in 2009, experts expect a depression in the tourism sector in some of the region's countries during the second half of 2009 and 2010.

The increase of terrorist attacks and the outbreak of swine flu may also add an extra burden on the sector in the region, said Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Hussein Mujawar at the Arab Ministers of Tourism Council held in Sana'a last week.

Despite the financial crisis, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has declared the Middle East

to have shown the best performance in tourism worldwide in 2008, with 11 percent growth in international tourist arrivals in 2008 compared to the previous year.

However, some countries in the region, including Yemen, have declared that the credit crunch has already had a negative impact on tourism in Yemen, with a decline in the number of tourists coming to Yemen and a rise in hotel booking cancellations.

The impact of the crisis included a decline in foreign currency influx and the dismissal of some employees from tour companies and hotels, according to a February 2009 Ministry of Tourism report. Investment projects declined from 27 projects in 2007 and 12 projects in 2008.

"We are still at the beginning and to achieve our goals we need to have to benefit of other people's experience," said Mujawar, referring to Yemen's ability to

overcome the negative consequences of the global financial crisis by training more Yemenis to work in the tourist sector.

To improve the quality of service in tourism and attract more tourists from the region, the Ministry of Tourism has signed an agreement with the International Hospitality Academy (IHA) in Lebanon to open a branch in Yemen to train Yemenis to work as hosts, guides and managers in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

According to Minister of Tourism Nabil Al-Faqih, the agreement comes within his ministry's plans to enhance the skills of Yemeni personnel in the tourism sector to meet the increasing demand in the local market and from neighboring Gulf countries.

The new Yemeni branch of IHA will open in September 2009, according to Dr. Amjad Naboulsi, head of the IHA, and the training will begin with tailor-made

courses in hospitality and food and beverage. Other Arab countries are expected to follow suit.

Based on the world airports passenger traffic data in the first two months of 2009, the Middle East is the least affected by the global crisis so far. It was the only region with a positive traffic growth of 3.1 percent.

As the economic crisis is expected to continue well into 2009 and probably beyond, the UNWTO's forecast for this year is for an even more modest performance. International tourism is expected to stop progressing or even decline by up to 2 percent during the year. The Americas and Europe expected to be the most affected regions.

In Asia and the Pacific, results are expected to be positive, although growth will continue to be much slower compared with the region's performance in recent years, and the same applies to Africa and the Middle East.

## Vacant Position

An **administrative officer** position is available at the Thani Dubai Mining Yemen Al Mukalla office. The major responsibility of this vacancy includes the administrative and financial management of the company's Al Mukalla office.

Interested parties can forward their CVs in English to [jduplessis@thanigroup.com](mailto:jduplessis@thanigroup.com) and [adubee@thanigroup.com](mailto:adubee@thanigroup.com) before or on 8 June 2009.

Interviews will be scheduled for 12 June 2009 in AL-Makalla

**Minimum requirements:**

- Fluent (speak, read and write) in English and Arabic
- Logistical experience
- Financial experience
- Working knowledge — MS Office
- Valid drivers license



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### Vacancy: Project assistant

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5. Previous working experience in an NGO is **compulsory**
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Applications (CV & letters of interest) should be sent by e-mail at: [recruitment\\_mdm\\_yemen@yahoo.fr](mailto:recruitment_mdm_yemen@yahoo.fr)  
No applications received after May 25 will be considered.

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The deadline for selling BDs will be on [27th June 2009]

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- 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 forcontract effectiveness.)

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.

The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be (Wednesday ) at [11:00 Am] on 1 July 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.



Their News

UNICEF appreciated in Sa'ada

Islah Charity branch in Sa'ada honored last week UNICEF Yemen country representative Aboudou Karimou as a token of appreciation for the organization work in treatment nutrition UNICEF provided for the community in the governorate and the efforts to improve the health care institution's infrastructure to provide nutrition services on continuous basis. The charity is requesting the local authority and UNICEF to extend the project for one year so that the capacities of the staff working in this project is built and they are able to continue the good work of UNICEF in the governorate.



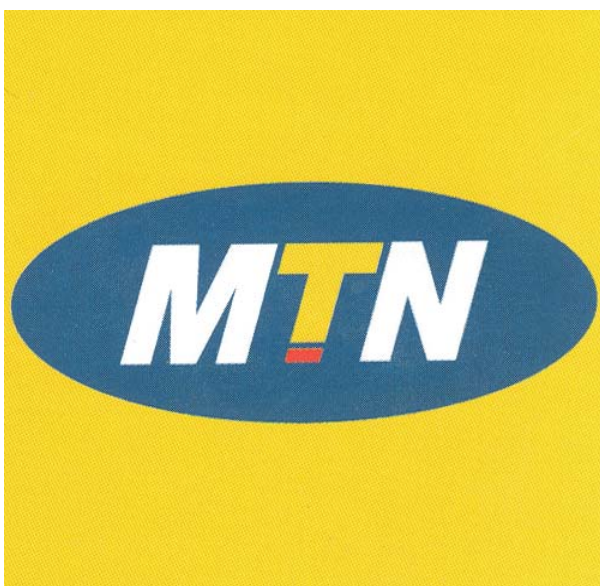
MTN Social service campaign

MTN launched its 21 day campaign in many governorates around the republic to provide social services to the community. The campaign which will last until 22 June 2009, includes more than 800 MTN employee working on 17 service projects funded and supervised by the company.

The campaign also aims at including the private sector in local development and supporting the state's efforts in this field especially with regards to sustainable development. Therefore, the campaign includes service oriented projects whether in environment, healthcare, sports, culture, education, and social fields. It also includes mobilizing youth to clean their environment and inside the mosques and to paint some schools as well as traffic awareness and fighting malaria.

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**Al Yamamah** Agencies - The distributor of Titen Watches in connection with the celebration of National Day of the Yemen Republic opened their third show room of Titan Watches in Shamsan Mall in Almansoorah district.

The chief Guests on this auspicious occasion were Mr. Ahmed Salem Rubay Ali the Deputy of the Governorate and General Directors of Almansoorah, Ahmed Lemles and Fadhl Arrabee, Dar Sadd and Sheikh Othman districts.

Mr. Ahmed Salem Rubay Ali had expressed his admiration of the accurate design and high precession quality of the Titan Watches which helped for high demand in Yemeni and sales increased by 50 % Aden city..

General manager – Alyamamah Agencies – the Distributor of Titan Watches explained the characteristics of Titan Watches.. As he said this is from widely reputed Indian Brand TATA and was founded in 1987. having 26 branches in Asia and has very special models which is famous at world level in the field of watch industry.

They are in the process of making more precision models and very soon expecting automatic and manual models in the market.

Mr. Sheriyar Nwala the distribution manager who attended the celebration of opening the new showroom of Titen Watches with Mr. Ahmed Mohsin Saba and Mr. Mohandas mad it clear that the company produces more than 2.5 million watches annually and more than 1500 different models. In view of the good quality and brand name gained by Titan watches make them the best selling brand in the Middle East and 5th at world level and the one amongst the five leading brands in Dubai and the Leading brand in Sultanate of Oman.

Wadee Al-Maamari the sales manager in Aden branch expressed that Titan watches were able to compete strongly in the market due to their quality and accuracy and competitive prices that made them most selling in Yemen al though they entered in the market only years back.





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# Internews Yemen Akram El-Neis to Yemen Times: “Yemen is a country that leaps bounds into the future and Yemenis should be ready when it happens.”

**I**nternews Network is an international media development organization whose mission is to empower local media worldwide to give people the news and information they need, the ability to connect, and the means to make their voices heard. It has projects in 35 countries around the world including Yemen. Nadia Al-Sakkaf met with Yemen's Internews project director Akram El-Neis and conducted the following interview.



Akram El-Neis

**Internews started its projects in Yemen late compared to other countries around the world. Why the delay? And what are your projects in Yemen?**

Internews works on media development all around the world. We started working in Yemen since July 2008 through a radio production unit project with the Women Media Forum. This is the first solid Internews project in Yemen, aiming to create professional media documentaries to be broadcasted by local radio stations about community issues.

We also are holding a number of awareness raising sessions to address gender inequalities in Yemen, and bring women's voices to the forefront. Internews Network is empowering Yemeni youth and media professionals to explore sensitive issues related to gender, society, and human rights.

We had some workshops and train-

**Don't you think it is rather ambitious to start with a production unit when the law to allow privately broadcast media is not even on the horizon?**

This is where you are wrong. Yemen is country that leaps bounds into the future, and Yemenis have to be ready when it happens. This is why we are working with media organizations in Yemen to prepare Yemeni media today for when the opportunity knocks on their door.

We do not interfere with the contents of the unit's productions or the everyday running of the project. We feel that our role is to facilitate and provide resources so that local capacity is strengthened through such projects.

At the beginning of the project, we had five town hall meetings in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout and Hodeida with local radio stations, journalists and general public to identify the list of

tion, and the project will culminate with the production of 15 thirty-minute radio programs, which will be aired on national and mainstream media. The programs will be based on the issues raised in the town hall meetings.

The first program about begging is already in its final stages, and Radio Sana'a will be broadcasting it soon. This sort of syndication has not happened ever before in Yemen. We have also provided them with training in marketing because we are working for tomorrow, a time when the unit is on its own, so that they can cover their own expenses from their productions until a time comes when a license to create radio stations is granted.

There are so many opportunities in the Yemeni market for media and a project is never too ambitious or too advanced. And our experience with syndication for radio has proved for us.

We also trained them on the use of internet in broadcasting and web design, recording, editing, mixing, and writing radio stories.

I believe that permission for privately broadcast media will come within the next two years. But why not take advantage of the time [we have] and learn the technology. In fact, the production unit we are sponsoring has already signed agreements with existing radio stations in Yemen through which the unit's production would be broadcasted.

**How can you say that Yemen is leaping bounds into the future when internet penetration does not even exceed two percent?**

I am saying this because I see how quickly technology is spreading across the country, and especially among youth. With the increase in demand the price comes down and so technology becomes more accessible to the masses.

I know, as you mentioned, that internet penetration is not that high, but consider this: Have you compared

internet access today to what it was five years ago? Today you can access internet through mobile phones, when just a few years ago dial-up connection was a luxury only accessible to few.

There are also already some internet-based radio broadcasting stations such as Shabab.net. This simply means that there are Yemenis working in this direction. This is a positive step for Yemen's development, particularly Yemen's media, and I am very optimistic that Yemeni media can adapt quickly to new technologies and use them for the betterment of the society.

New projects will help employment through creating new jobs. They will help spread education and awareness and allow for new ideas and more information to get across to people.

**Does this mean that you are open to project proposals from Yemeni media, even if they sound expensive or ambitious?**

As long as it the project's objective is media development, we are open to it. We are not the type of organization that has a few training courses here and there, and then leaves the country.

The way we operate is to accept proposals from local partners. The proposals have to explain how the project meets Internews goals of media development, promoting freedom of expression, professional journalism, and so on.

It is our belief that when you build a good journalist, you are building a community of professional journalists on the long term. Internews funds training programs in Sana'a to empower a few local non-government organizations.

This is an open invitation, and you have my word on that. We are ready to help, provided we are asked to, and we have done it before in many places and were very successful.

**What about media college students? How could their education be improved to allow better graduates in the professional world?**

Let me tell you about an experience we had in Amman, Jordan, with media college students at Al-Yarmouk University.

We supported them to create their own radio station and it was a huge success. It was not a political station and yet it was widely listened to. There were so many responses from listeners saying that we were touching their lives and providing them with interesting content.

Once these students graduated, they found jobs immediately as their experience was quite professional.

**What do you want to do in Yemen?**

We want to encourage the transfer of professional know-how from generation to generation and from success story to new projects, whether within the country or from outside the country, so that we don't have to start from scratch, but rather build on previous successes. We are already supporting this radio production unit, we are supporting a number of training courses on specific topics, and we are yet to start the new large-scale project in Yemen once we get the right proposal.

What is attractive about journalists in Yemen is that they are so eager to learn and improve. They know what they need to learn, have very specific objectives, and are ready to go anywhere in order to be given the tools to learn. So we provide them with the expertise, the training and the tools, and this makes for a good success story of the transfer of know-how.

**And what does media in Yemen need to develop?**

I think they need specific training on new trends in media, especially new media. At the same time, we need to continue with basic skills because there is huge disparity in the level of professionalism among Yemeni journalists. And do not forget the new-comers to the media world who need to start with

the basics.

Yemeni journalists need to learn about advocacy media and how to campaign and lobby for important development issues. We have given similar training in other countries and have done a good job there.

Yemen needs more investigative journalism, more online media, as well as more space for blogs and definitely radio broadcasting, because it is the media form with maximum outreach.

Finally, there is the law issue. We have helped many countries to develop media laws, including in some Arab countries. We are ready to do it here and are open to cooperating with all international and national organizations working in media development.

**But there are already so many national and international organizations working in media. Why should another project be launched, in training, capacity building, or legislation?**

First of all, the media situation in Yemen needs help from all and there can never be too much support. The other issue is that Internews works for sustainable media development, in the sense that we work to empower local media organizations on the long run in large scale projects. We don't just provide one or two weeks training here

and the first of many to come. There were some training sessions before on newspaper sales, but not through the concepts of advertising, branding and media marketing.

Like I told you earlier, new media is coming to Yemen, and now is the time to capitalize on the new opportunities. Imagine how the situation ten years ago was with regards to technology in the media.

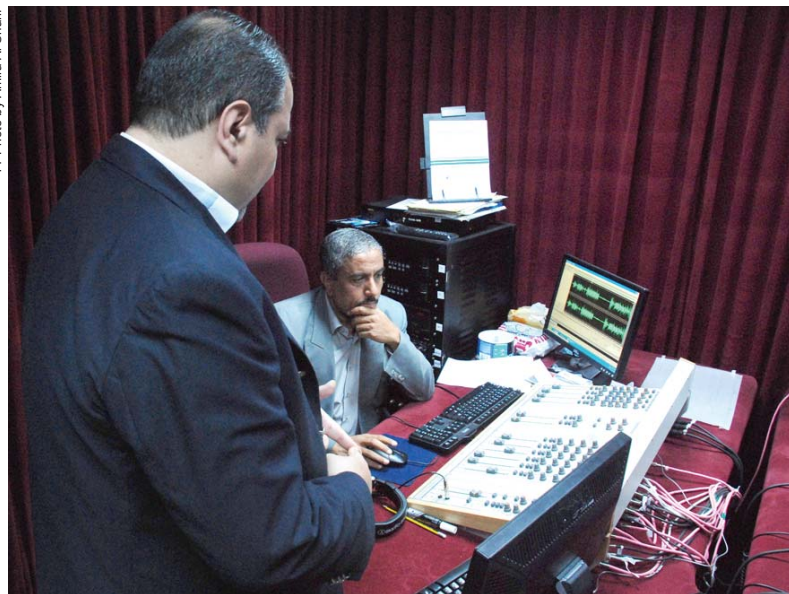
There is a world of technology in Yemen. You even have V-sat technology, and there are high-tech services available. With the increase in subscribers, the cost will come down. Think about how the situation will be five years from now. Media owners have to think from now in a different way in order to meet the demands of tomorrow.

**Is there a technology risk when opening to new technology and making it accessible to anyone?**

Never. Technology is inevitable and we cannot hold it back thinking it is too risky. Modernization will help Yemen come in line with the rest of the world and save time in development.

Yemeni society is ready for new technology.

We just need to adjust current laws and practices to accommodate the developments of tomorrow. It is not



With Taher Al-Harazi technical manager of the radio production unit. According to El-Neis, Internews does not interfere with the contents of the unit's productions or the everyday running of the project, as Internews's role is to facilitate and provide resources so that local capacity is strengthened through such projects.

ings in Yemen some years ago but nothing as concrete as the ongoing project. In 2004 we had funded and co-organized training on economic journalism with the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.

Seven years ago we started targeting the Middle East region. All our country directors are Arabic-speaking so that we can ensure adequate communication with all partners.

topics that people need to know about.

We worked with local activists and media professionals to address these issues which do not receive much media attention. Through the project, "Yemeni Voices: Women and Youth in Support of Free Media," Internews Network has created the first ever digital radio production unit in Yemen.

Young people and professional journalists are trained and will receive more practical training in radio produc-



El-Neis with administrative and finance assistant Fares Anam. Internews works for sustainable media development to empower local media organizations on the long run in large scale projects.

and there.

Moreover, we also focus on income generation through marketing and advertising in local media. We conducted training last month in media marketing in Yemen. It was the first program of its kind, in the country,

just about independent media, private television and radio stations, but about envisioning what will be required tomorrow and adjusting media law and practices to accommodate these changes soon to become reality in Yemen.

## About Internews

Information is the power that can change the world. We are in the midst of a revolution in human communication that is profoundly reshaping our future. Yet, for nearly half the planet, the promise of this revolution has not been fulfilled.

Formed in 1982, Internews Network is an organization headquartered in California. It has worked in over 70 countries, and currently has offices in 35 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. Internews Network is a founding member of Internews International, an umbrella organization, based in Paris, made up of 12 media development ngos.

Since inception, Internews has worked with 5,500 radio and television stations and print publications. Internews activities include:

- Training. Internews has trained over 70,000 people in journalism, production and management skills, including over 10,000 in 2007 alone. For more advanced students, Internews offers training in topics such as computer graphics, media law, and investigative journalism.
- Production. To strengthen the

independent media sector, Internews works with local media professionals to produce original, high-quality programming. Last year this came to 6,200 hours of television and radio programming, with a combined potential audience of nearly 300 million radio listeners and nearly 200 million TV viewers.

- Media infrastructure. Internews provides a broad range of infrastructure support to enable independent media to provide vital news and information, including providing journalists and stations with production equipment, creating production studios, and building radio stations from the ground up.

- Media law and policy. To allow independent media to fulfill their "watchdog" function, Internews has worked for the adoption and implementation of fair media laws and policies in 21 countries.

As part of its work fostering independent media and access to information, Internews has developed special global programs in health journalism, environmental journalism, humanitarian media, information and communications technology, and governance and transparency.



The radio production unit project with the Women Media Forum is the first solid Internews project in Yemen, aiming to create professional media documentaries to be broadcasted by local radio stations about community issues.



## Will we benefit from these two transitional years?

By: Nasr Taha Mostafa

For a year, we had been wondering whether the parliamentary elections scheduled on April 27, 2009 would be conducted on time or not. As time passed and still no agreement was reached between political partners, tensions increased among us citizens even more that among politicians. With the elections approaching, dialogues were conducted to amend the election law.

Political parties reached a final decision and only procedures of voting and party representation to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) remained. People sighed in relief as consensus meant elections would be conducted peacefully. However, opposition parties were

late in naming their SCER representatives, and the ghost of worry returned among citizens.

To confirm its seriousness in preparing for the elections, the ruling party ordered nine of its prominent ministers to resign in order to legally run as candidates in the elections. Opposition parties organized rallies and popular meetings to reject the elections, however not making clear whether they would boycott them or not.

In fact, many voices inside the ruling party showed their concerns over the possibility of it running in elections alone. Not only would this provoke political and security chaos, but also might cause Yemen to lose the support of the US and European Union, who believe that Yemen stands out in the Arab region for its democracy based on real pluralism and contest.

President Saleh realizes these facts well as he himself sponsored the dialogue between the two sides after many elements of agreement had crystallized between them. The two agreed on the necessity to postpone the elections, which the Americans and Europeans encouraged, although by no more than six months.

The ruling party thought that elections should not be postponed by more than a year, whereas the opposition parties demanded two years to have enough time to achieve many political and constitutional reforms on political and electoral system. Thus, the crisis that had lasted for a year was solved in ten days!

The five main parties in Yemen approved the elections' postponement in the parliament through their parliamentary blocs and demand for a consti-

tutional amendment to extend the current parliament's mandate for two more years. This amendment would be valid beginning from this past April if three quarters of the parliament members voted for it.

The question here is whether our country will benefit from the postponement despite it contradicting democratic norms. Postponement was necessary to avoid potentially dangerous problems that could have threatened the stability of this poor country.

There are many political, economic and security problems that to be tackled in calm climates away from political disagreements. Leaders of the government don't hide their happiness at the postponement, as this will enable it to achieve many strategic projects it has not been able to achieve during the past period.

These include the gas-fueled power project, the reconstruction of Sa'ada and the affected areas in Hadramout due to flash floods, and the political problems in some southern governorates and Sa'ada.

During the next two years, a difficult dialogue will be conducted between the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) on their visions on constitutional amendments to reform the political and electoral systems.

The JMP wants parliamentary and proportional list systems, whereas the GPC prefers presidential and individual electoral systems. Other opposition parties, such as the Yemen Sons League, prefer a mixture between the presidential and proportional list systems.

Amid all these visions, there is a

deep crisis of trust between all parties. Serious dedication and honesty are needed to promote the nation's supreme interests over limited political interests. Yemen should prioritize economy and security, before any political reforms.

If the government doesn't make the best from the two-year postponement to correct the administrative defects in its structure, crystallize a complete vision for a real climate of investment, and tackle security problems that negatively affect Yemen's image abroad, nothing will have changed for Yemenis in two year's time.

This is something which all Yemenis reject particularly after Al-Qaeda recently attempted to resume its terrorist activities in the country.

Source: [newsyemen.net](http://newsyemen.net)

## The Opposition and Swine Flu

By: Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed

When he called his opposition secessionist opponents swine flu viruses, President Ali Abdullah Saleh did not know that he was in fact praising them because this means that they can spread very rapidly, and move into any place, no matter how protected or remote it may be, and, on top of this, it is fatal. This is a description of a successful opposition, not a despicable one, as he wanted to say in his mass rally speech.

There are two types of opposition in Yemen: an official opposition that has pledged allegiance to the regime, and that voices its views through Parliament, the registered parties and the authorized newspapers; and a second opposition that is separatist and rebellious against the whole regime, and which is to be found in north Yemen where the fight against the Huthis is taking place. There is an opposition in the south of the country too, which is the one described by the president as a dangerous virus.

Whether the opposition is like a bout of measles or swine flu, simple and temporary or contagious and fatal, what is happening in the south of Yemen cannot be reduced to medical terms, because it represents a situation that would prove to be very dangerous for the country if it is not tackled with

various remedies: First, with dialogue, second with the investigation of local complaints, and third through a comprehensive and genuine solution, not a partial, temporary one.

The situation of the regime is very difficult, according to the president himself, who has already warned that the success of the separatists in the south would divide the whole of Yemen into several small warring mini-states. He is right in his assessment and in his warning. The president has given the impression that Yemen is going through a very serious situation, which has prompted him to make such pessimistic utterances.

One does not need to be privy to Yemeni details to realize the danger of the situation there; it suffices for one to look at the geographical neighborhood of Yemen to find out that it is in the vicinity of the disaster-stricken Horn of Africa countries, and of the pirates' sea; it is also a rallying point for refugees from miserable Somalia, which is in fact divided by civil war.

The emergency situation in Yemen, specifically in the south where separatist calls have been revived, is extremely serious because it can exhaust and weaken the state everywhere in the country. Moreover, if tension escalates from Sada to Aden, and if the country gets embroiled in a fight against the Iran-backed Huthis in the northern mountains, and in an attempt to put an end to rebellion in the southern plains, the situation will worsen,

and the army will have to carry out large-scale military operations. As a result, the state will find itself exhausted at a time when it needs every single dollar to spend on basic services.

I do not know whether there is a way out of this situation other than negotiations with the southerners, considering that there are leaders among them, who are committed to the protection of unity and to staying within the framework of the regime. Nonetheless, they have claims that deserve to be heard, if they serve public interest. Their political participation should be widened, and public services should be extended. The aim should be the protection of Yemen as a whole, with an invigoration of relations with a region which, only a few years ago, was an independent state, and which, during the unification, was promised that it would be part of the unified state.

The Yemeni president is expected to take the initiative toward this end, because he is the architect of Yemen's modern history, and he is the one behind the unity project. So, he is required to protect unity, which means putting forward new ideas, not just enticing opposition leaders inside and outside the country with promises of senior posts

Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed the general manager of Al-Arabiya television. Mr. Al Rashed is also the former editor-in-chief of Asharq Al-Awsat  
Source: [Asharq Al-Awsat](http://AsharqAl-Awsat)

## Saudi policy is vital to enhancing the stability of Yemen

By: Mai Yamani

In a prominent hadith, the Prophet Mohammed said: "If disorder threatens, take refuge in Yemen." The Prophet was referring to the prosperous and civilized Yemen. But today disorder and radicalization in Yemen are beginning to infect Saudi Arabia, and thus the safety of the world's largest oil producer.

The Prophet's hadith about Yemen has enjoyed new resonance ever since the 1980s, when Saudi Arabia - in line with American policy - sought to export domestic dissenters, most prominently Osama bin Laden, a Yemeni of Saudi birth, to fight Soviet infidels in Afghanistan. Although dissent was mostly diverted to Afghanistan, bin Laden's most trusted companions (his wife, too) have remained mainly in Yemen.

In the wake of the Taliban's ouster in Afghanistan, bin Laden and his followers have come to regard Yemen, alongside Pakistan, as a haven. Indeed, Yemen is now a bubbling cauldron of jihadists who have flocked there because, like Afghanistan and Pakistan, it has weak, easily manipulated state institutions.

US President Barack Obama's recent order to shut down the Guantanamo Bay detention facility has made the problem of Yemen's weakness a lead-

ing international issue. One-third of the Guantanamo detainees are Yemeni, but Yemen cannot guarantee the United States that the detainees will be controlled effectively if they are returned home. This fear is real. Many previously released Guantanamo inmates have disappeared underground.

Saudi Arabia, unlike Yemen, has supposedly created a "model" system for reintegrating Guantanamo returnees. The Al-Munasaha rehabilitation center is supposed to "cure" jihadist passions, and Saudi returnees from Guantanamo who spend time at Al-Munasaha are later offered jobs and wives.

But many of them relapse and escape to Yemen. Most notorious among these recidivists is Abu Sufyan al-Shihri, now "Deputy Leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula." Seven other Saudi jihadists who escaped to Yemen are also known to be active in Al-Qaeda there.

Thus the two largest countries on the Arabian Peninsula - Saudi Arabia, the biggest in terms of landmass and oil wealth, and Yemen in terms of population - are now locked in life-and-death struggles with internal enemies

The paradox is that, although the threat to both countries is the same, each is worsening the outlook for the other by the policies they are pursuing.

For example, in the 1980s, millions of Yemeni men worked in the Saudi kingdom. Remittance income formed a big part of Yemen's budget. But in 1991, 800,000 Yemenis were expelled because they were seen as a domestic security threat in the run-up to the first Gulf war. Since then, Yemeni labor has been banned from Saudi Arabia.

Embittered and unemployed, young Yemeni men often become subject to another Saudi policy gone awry - its propagation for export of the Sunni Wahhabi form of Islam. With new Wahhabi religious schools popping up everywhere in Yemen because of Saudi financial support, it is small wonder that the number of Yemeni jihadists has grown exponentially. But Yemen, too, is engaged in its own destructive policies. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has regularly used Yemeni Wahhabis to defeat his domestic opponents - first the communists, then the Zaidis, and then the Huthis. Saudi Arabia's relationship with Yemen is unlike that with any other Arab country. The two countries are joined through historical, ethnic, and tribal ties, yet neither has the means to resolve popular resentments and resistance. Saudi Arabia's traditional "soft power" foreign policy tools - lavish spending of oil money and Daawa, "the Call," are no longer effec-

tive. Building fences and sending helicopters to police the borders will not be sufficient, and the idea that jihadists can be rehabilitated is a myth. No medicine will work if, when the patient is released, he encounters the same virus: institutionalized Wahhabism

Yet there are things the Saudis can do to vaccinate themselves, and Yemen as well, from fanaticism. The tentative moves toward liberalization that King Abdullah has made over the past two years need to be accelerated, made more daring, and become more effective in removing the Wahhabi ideology as an incubator for radicalism.

This should not be impossible, because both Saudi Arabia and Yemen have moderate, indigenous Islamic traditions that can be mobilized against jihadism. If given the financial support that the Wahhabis received, these forces could reverse the current drift to fanaticism. Both King Abdullah and President Saleh understand the problem; they need to stop using the old tactics and grasp the strategic need for change.

The first change is economic. Instead of exporting radicalism, Saudi Arabia must start importing Yemeni manpower by lifting its ban on Yemeni workers. Yemeni officials have also requested admission to the Gulf Cooperation Council. Up to now, the GCC has spurned Yemen's membership for the same reasons the European Union fears admitting Turkey: Yemen would instantly become the bloc's most populous country.

Indeed, Yemen's population exceeds that of all six GCC members - Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, and Saudi Arabia - combined. But if Yemen's masses are not to become more radicalized, they will need to be incorporated into an economic zone that offers hope for the future. The GCC can and must assume that role.

Yemen is strategically important, not only for Saudi Arabia, but for the world, because it is the only country on the Arabian Peninsula from which oil can reach the open seas without passing through a narrow strait - either the Strait of Hormuz or the Suez Canal. To endanger this passage is to endanger the world economy's energy lifeline.

When considering Yemen's future, therefore, the stakes could hardly be higher.

Mai Yamani is an author whose most recent book is "Cradle of Islam." THE DAILY STAR publishes this commentary in collaboration with Project Syndicate (c) ([www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)).



By Hamid

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Letters: [yteditor@gmail.com](mailto:yteditor@gmail.com)

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

CEO  
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Ali Saeed  
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Mahmoud Assamee  
Mariem Al-Yameni  
Ola Al-Shami

Offices

Aden Bureau:  
Ridwan Alawi Ahmed  
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596  
Fax: +967 (2) 347056  
Email: [ytaden@y.net.ye](mailto:ytagen@y.net.ye)

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

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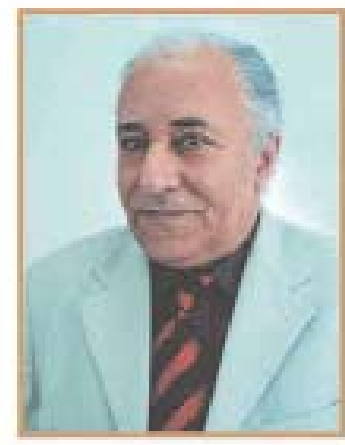




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Mr. Abdulrahman M. Al-Kuhali  
Chairman and General Manager



On the occasion of the 19th anniversary of Yemen Unity and Labour Day, First of May, an award ceremony was held on May 25, 2009; to bestow honour by the management of the National Bank of Yemen, along with Mr. Ahmed Ben Ahmed Addhulai, the assistant deputy governor representing the governorate leadership in Aden; to number of staff of department and branches and retired staffs of National Bank of Yemen, in appreciation of their national and professional role; whose dedicated efforts achieved prosperity to the bank.

The function was attended by the members of the bank's board of directors, and a large number of employees, and representatives of the media, and the prominent financial personality, such as Mr. Mohammed Omar Bamashmoos, the Chairman of the Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and his deputy Sheikh Nabeel Arrammah, and the outstanding businessman Mr. Ahmed Basabbaa', Mr. Abdulrahman Mohammed Alkuhali the Chairman of the board of directors, and the general manager of National Bank of Yemen, in his speech confirmed that this honour of the distinguished employees who made great efforts in their work, is an honour for all employees of the National Bank of Yemen, and have embossed in good achievements made by the bank in 2008. Mr. Abdulrahman Alkuhali added that the bank's board of directors and executive department had given and will give all its employees essential care and attention through improvement of their standard of living, and providing opportunities for professional development in order to be able to carry out the tasks in the bank's service to their best level.

He stressed that the bestow of honour to the distinguish staffs is an incentive for all employees to put in more efforts to achieve prosperity to the bank in order to become modern bank capable of serving the national economy and main participant in the economic development in our country. He indicated that the management, and employees of the bank and its branches in all governorates are holding to the national principles, and that the bank under the blessed Yemeni unity had achieved continuous successes thanks to the security and stability in our country under the leadership, of His Excellency, the President of The Republic, Ali Abdulla Saleh under whose prudent and guidance are considered by all as advanced and great. This make us today reciprocate the President, Ali Abdulla Salch's faithfulness for protecting and preserving the Yemeni Unity.

At the end of his speech he congratulated in his name and on behalf of all members of board of directors and employees of the National Bank of Yemen and the audiences, His Excellency the President and all Yemeni people and workers on the May Day occasion; wishing our country and its dedicated leadership more achievement, progress and prosperity under the leadership of the President, Ali Abdulla Saleh.

Mr. Ahmed Adhulalii spoke as representing, of the governorate in which he confirmed the big role played by the National Bank of Yemen as one of the most important; with its good management and efficient staff won confidence of the public thus leading the bank to its present lead position. Several speeches were also given which confirmed the unity, and to build the homeland under the umbrella of the unity, and their adherence to the national principles.





# 25 Percent of Yemeni recycling plants are insolvent



Yemenis use enormous quantities of plastic bags especially for Qat. The plastic along with other materials that could be recycled is found in abundance at garbage dumps which are also considered an environmental hazard.

By: Ali Saeed

**M**ohammed Abdullah Yahia Al-Awami, a Yemeni businessman who left Ethiopia to transfer his project in steel waste recycling to Yemen, was surprised recently when he went broke after the president's office banned the export of steel waste materials.

The presidential decree banning the export of steel waste, including scrap iron, came after a ban on steel exports at the beginning of 2004 that made steel available in significant quantities within domestic markets to ease inflationary pressures.

However, the latest ban harmed steel waste recycling factories in Yemen. Investors in solid waste are facing harsh new realities: dwindling orders, production cuts, and layoffs. Now about 25 percent of these establishments are insolvent.

"I used to have a recycling project in Ethiopia with a capital of USD 200,000," said Al-Awami. "The project there was good, but I used to

watch Yemen's television that promotes investment in Yemen. The television portrayed investment as very lucrative with more facilitation from the government, so I decided to move the project to Yemen to lessen the risks of waste materials in my homeland and invest my money at the same time."

But Al-Awami no longer has the USD 200,000. Now, he only has USD 40,000 left.

Al-Awami said he opened his solid waste recycling plant in Sana'a in May 2007.

It was successful and generated revenue until "three months ago when customs fees authorities surprised us at the Hodiedah port by preventing us from exporting the recycled solid waste."

Al-Awami added that customs authorities informed him that the ban came from the president's office.

"In my plant there were about 50 employees working with me, now I have just two employees," said Al-Awami.

Moreover, the deepening of the global financial crisis and the sharp drop in energy prices has forced companies to scale back spending.

"Officials in the government stated repeatedly that Yemeni businessmen are not affected by the global financial crisis, and that is ultimately false," said Al-Awami.

"Before the crisis we used to sell one ton of the recycled waste for USD 420 and now we sell a ton for USD 200 and sometimes USD 180."

Al-Awami's waste recycling plant is not the only one that was affected by the ban on exporting solid waste and the world financial crisis.

Recycling fish waste in Yemen has also been affected by the financial crisis, even though fishery waste recycling can be lucrative and poses less risk to the environment.

"These plants are specialized in fishery waste recycling.

They collect the fish waste such as fish heads, bones, skins and intestines and then recycle it into animal feed for poultries, cows, sheep and goats through different processes," said Hasan Al-Rajhi, the owner of fishery waste recycling plant in Hadramout.

"They first dry the waste and then grind it into animal feed, and we sell one ton of that for USD 600," added Al-Rajhi.

"I opened a fish waste recycling plant in 2004 in Hadramout and the project continued for about four years, but now the plant has been stopped for around eight months after diesel prices went up," stated Al-Rajhi.

"I became unable to continue the project because of the high price of fuel and because there was no governmental or private body to help me finance the project," explained the owner.

"The plant is well equipped with all the industrial requirements, but lacks the finances."

There are 20 licensed waste recycling plants in Yemen with 500 employees working in the sector, according to recent information from the General Investment Authority.

There are many types of recycling in Yemen including paper, metal, plastic, scrap iron, and fish waste. The first waste recycling plant that the GIA licensed was in Sana'a in 1995.

However, not all operating plants are licensed and there are no available statistics on how many non-licensed recycling plants there are in Yemen.

The financial crisis and the governments' decrees to absorb the impacts of the crisis have not just affected these factories. The effects extend to the basic level of the recycling industry in Yemen, waste junkyards.

"I opened a waste junkyard with a capital of YR 100,000 in Sana'a. The project continued for just two months but I gave up after I heard that exportation is banned. The financial crisis affected me too, because no one came to buy from me," said Naif Far'a, who was a junkyard owner and is now bankrupted and a waste collector.

Another junkyard owner who was affected negatively by the exportation ban is Ali Haza'a. He has three junkyards in Sana'a, Taiz and Lahj.

"I have three waste junkyards in three governorates.

I used to have 80 employees working in my yards, but after exportation was banned we had to downsize. Now there are only 15 employees working with me," said Haza'a.

Reducing personnel was not the only result of the ban for Haza'a. He also lost money because he was forced to sell purchased waste at deeply reduced prices.

In Yemen, owners of these yards sell collected waste to recycling plants that either recycle it into new products or export it.

"I used to sell a ton of iron for USD 300, but after exporting was banned I had to sell the ton for USD 150 and sometimes USD 75," explained Haza'a, confirming that owners of the junkyards are complaining nowadays from insolvency due to the export ban and the financial crisis.

"I was not the only one affected, I know a lot of people like me and I know about 1,500 people that became idle after the ban was implemented," added Haza'a.

According to the US Environment Protection Agency, recycling provides around one million manufacturing jobs and more than USD 100 billion in revenue.

According to Arabic research online by Dr. Ahmed Al-Maqwari, titled "Recycling Industry Investment Horizons and Environment Protection," the recycling industry in Arab countries presents many opportunities for investment, but needs a proper legislative framework to enable the industry to develop.

The Yemen Times contacted the Ministry of Industry and Trade for comment on Yemen's strategy for the recycling industry and on what the ministry has done for businessmen who are now bankrupted due to the export ban, but they did not respond.



For a few riyals children sell junk metal to the recycling shops making a little income to support their families. Every kilo of collected metal is worth 300 riyals.

Sana'a British School  
(SBS)



**NEW AT THE SANA'A  
BRITISH SCHOOL  
YEAR 12 and the AS  
LEVELS**

SBS will add Year 12 beginning in August 2009. The program to be followed will be the University of Cambridge's Advanced Subsidiary or AS Level. The AS Level subjects are completed in one year and are qualifications in their own right. Many universities, especially those in this region of the world, accept AS Levels for admission. Parents who are interested in enrolling their children in Year 12 at SBS should contact the School at:

Administrative Office  
Sana'a British School

e-mail: [administrator@sbsyemen.org](mailto:administrator@sbsyemen.org)

telephone: 203 950

**SANA'A BRITISH SCHOOL  
PUPIL ENROLLMENT FOR  
AUGUST 2009**

The Sana'a British School (SBS) is now accepting applications for enrollment for the 2009-2010 academic year. SBS offers the British National Curriculum (the National Curriculum of England and Wales) to pupils aged 2 to 14. Cambridge's IGCSE and AS Levels are taught to students aged 15 through 18. Interested families are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Application forms, tuition rates, and other information are available at the school or by telephone and e-mail. Contact details are below.

Sana'a British School

No.18, St. 21 (off Nouakchott St.)

e-mail: [administrator@sbsyemen.org](mailto:administrator@sbsyemen.org)

telephone: 203 950

**SANA'A BRITISH SCHOOL  
TEACHER AND TEACHER  
ASSISTANT VACANCIES  
for 2009-2010**

Due to continued expansion and success, the Sana'a British School has teacher and teacher assistant vacancies for August 2009 in both the Primary School and the Secondary School. Required for teachers are: an undergraduate degree in the teaching subject, teacher certification, and proficiency in English. Required for teacher assistants are: experience working with children, a willingness to contribute to instructional planning and extra-curricular activities, and good English language capabilities. Please note that the contract day is 7:30 until 3:15 daily. Salaries and benefits are good. The Sana'a British School is in a period of exciting and rapid development. Those interested should apply by e-mail with a covering letter, cv, and a list of referees to:

The Head Teacher Sana'a British School e-mail:

[administrator@sbsyemen.org](mailto:administrator@sbsyemen.org)

telephone: 203 950



## INVITATION FOR BID

ADEN REFINERY COMPANY (ARC) INVITES LOCAL CONTRACTORS CLASSIFIED IN GRADE (1) AND FOREIGN CONTRACTING COMPANIES WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY ARE SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED IN TURN-KEY PROJECTS AS A PRIME CONTRACTOR TO SUBMIT BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADEN REFINERY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

- INTENDING BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE FROM THE PROJECT DEPARTMENT AT (ARC) HEADQUARTER, ADEN, UPON PAYMENT OF NON-REFUNDABLE FEE (500 USD)
- BIDDERS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR SEALED OFFERS, ONE ORIGINAL + TWO COPIES, TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS

ADEN REFINERY COMPANY  
REFINER MANAGER, CHAIRMAN OF TENDER BOARD  
LITTLE ADEN, ADEN

TEL: + 967 2 376258 FAX + 967 2 376600

BIDS MUST REACH THE HEADQUARTER OF (ARC) BEFORE 11:00 HOURS ON 1.9.2009 LATE BIDS WILL BE REJECTED  
BIDS WILL BE OPENED IN THE PRESENCE OF BIDDERS REPRESENTATIVES WHO CHOSE TO ATTEND AT 11:00 HOURS ON 1/9/2009  
BIDS WILL BE PRELIMINARY QUALIFIED TO COMPLY WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS TO TENDERERS

- BID SECURITY IN THE SUM OF 2.5% OF THE TENDER VALUE VALLD FOR 90 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF BIDS OPENING OBTAINED FROM A LOCALLY REGISTERED BANK OR IN THE FORM OF A CERTIFIED CHECK.
- DETAILS OF SIMILAR PROJECTS CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS AS A PRIME CONTRACTOR, DETAILS OF THE CLIENTS FOR WHOM THE WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN

THE LOCAL BIDDER SHALL ACCOMPANY BY HIS BID THE FOLLOWING

- CERTIFICATE OF GRADE(1) CONTRACTOR
- VALID TAX CARD
- VALID INSURANCE CARD
- VALID COMMERCIAL REGISTRY CERTIFICATE

FOREIGN BIDDER SHALL ACCOMPANY BY HIS BID THE FOLLOWING:

- A VALID COMPANY REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
- A VALID CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE.

THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE OBLIGED TO PAY A CITY SERVICES FEES IN THE SUM OF 1% OF THE BID VALUE A. ANY TAXES, DUTES, LEVEIS RELATED TO THE WORKS SHALL BE PAID BY SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR TO ACCORDING LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

ARC WILL FACILITATE A SITE VISIT FOR CLIGIBLE BIDDERS UPON THEIR REQUEST, INTENDING BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE FOLLOWING CONTACT ADDRESS ( SAT-WED 7:00a.m-4.00p.m.)

ADEN REFINERY COMPANY  
MANAGER PROJECTS  
LITTLE ADEN, ADEN

TEL : + 967 2 376231 FAX + 967 2 376600



## مناقصة عامة للمرة الثانية لمشروع تشييد مبنى الإدارة العامة لشركة مصافي عدن

تعلن شركة مصافي عدن لشركات المقاولات المحلية والمقاولين المحليين المصنفين في الدرجة (1) والشركات الأجنبية المتخصصة في المشاريع الإنشائية للدخول في المناقصة العامة لمشروع تشييد مبنى الإدارة العامة لشركة مصافي عدن على أن تتوفر في الجهة المتقدمة للمناقصة المؤهلات والخبرات كمقاول رئيسي للمشاريع الإنشائية والأعمال والأنظمة المتخصصة المكتملة لها.

يمكن للراغبين في التقدم للمناقصة الحصول على المجموعة الكاملة لوثائق المناقصة (باللغة الإنجليزية من إدارة المشاريع بشركة مصافي عدن مقابل رسم وقدره (٥٠٠ دولار) لايرد.

يتم تقديم العطاءات في مطايف مختومة من أصل + نسختين قبل الساعة ١١ صباحاً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق (٢٠٠٩/٩/١) على العنوان التالي

شركة مصافي عدن مدير المصافي - رئيس لجنة المناقصات

تلفون +٩٦٧٢٣٧٦٢٥٨ فاكس +٩٦٧٢٣٧٦٦٠٠

سيتم فتح المطايف بحضور مندوبي المقاولين والشركات المتقدمة للمناقصة ( حسب رغبتهم) وذلك في الساعة ١١ صباحاً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق (٢٠٠٩/٩/١) ولن يتم إستلام أي عطاء يصل بعد المهلة المحددة.

لن ينظر في العطاءات المقدمة مالم تكن مستوفية لتعليمات المناقصة وعلى المتقدمين تسليم عطاءاتهم مصحوبة بالوثائق التالية.

تأمين إبتدائي لا يقل عن ٢.٥٪ من قيمة العطاء بواسطة ضمانة بنكية سارية المفعول لمدة لا تقل عن ١٢٠ يوماً من تاريخ فتح المطايف أو شيك مقبول الدفع من أحد البنوك المعتمدة

بيانات الخبرة السابقة في تنفيذ المشاريع المماثلة خلال الخمس سنوات الماضية كمقاول رئيسي والجهات المنفذة لها تلك المشاريع.

على الشركات والمقاولين المحليين إرفاق عطاءاتهم بمايلي

شهادة التصنيف في الدرجة الأولى سارية المفعول

البطاقة الضريبية (سارية المفعول) البطاقة التأمينية (سارية المفعول)

شهادة مزاولة المهنة (سارية المفعول)

على الشركات الأجنبية إرفاق عطاءاتهم بمايلي

شهادة تأمين (سارية المفعول)

شهادة السجل التجاري (سارية المفعول)

يلتزم صاحب العطاء الفائز بالمناقصة بدفع ١٪ من قيمة العطاء كرسوم تحسين المحافظة، كما يلتزم بسداد أية ضرائب أو رسوم مرتبطة بتنفيذ المشروع وبحسب القوانين النافذة في الجمهورية اليمنية.

للاستفسار أو التسبيق لزيارة الموقع أثناء إعداد العطاءات للاتصال بالعنوان التالي: (السبت إلى الاربعاء من الساعة صباحاً ٧ إلى ٤ عصراً)

شركة مصافي عدن - مدير إدارة المشاريع

تلفون +٩٦٧٢٣٧٦٢٣١ فاكس +٩٦٧٢٣٧٦٦٠٠

### Republic of Yemen

### Ministry of Water and Environment

### Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation Local Corporation

### Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Design and Tender Document, and Construction Supervision Invitation for Expressions of Interest

1. The Republic of Yemen, has received a Credit from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) towards 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 eligible international consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc.) **Joint venture or association among foreign, Arab and local consulting firms is encouraged.**

3. A consultant (or a joint venture/association) will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Arab fund and Government of Yemen Guidelines (www.htb.gov.ye).

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 TUE. June 30, 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 of 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.

### الجمهورية اليمنية

### وزارة المياه والبيئة

### المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي - أمانة العاصمة

### طلب إبداء الرغبة في تقديم الخدمات الاستشارية لإعداد التصاميم النهائية ووثيقة المناقصة والإشراف على التنفيذ

١- حصلت الجمهورية اليمنية على قرض من الصندوق العربي للإنماء الاقتصادي والاجتماعي لتمويل تكاليف مشروع شبكات الصرف الصحي / الأعمال الاستشارية لمحطة معالجة مياه الصرف الصحي الجديد، وسوف يتم تخصيص جزء من التمويل لتغطية عقد خدمات استشارية لمشروع محطة معالجة مياه الصرف الصحي الجديد وإعادة استخدام المياه المعالجة كالتالي

المرحلة الأولى : إعداد التصاميم النهائية ووثائق المناقصة.

المرحلة الثانية : الإشراف على تنفيذ المشروع.

٢- تدعو وزارة المياه والبيئة ممثلة بالمؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي - أمانة العاصمة جميع الشركات والمكاتب الاستشارية الدولية للتعبير عن اهتمامها وتقديم وثائقها لانجاز الخدمات المذكورة أعلاه. يجب على الشركات المهتمة تقديم الوثائق (نشره تعريفي - وصف لأعمال مماثلة قامت بها الشركة - توضيح لكفاءة الاستشاري المتقدم والكادر العامل لديه) ويفضل الشركات التي لديها ائتلاف مع شركات استشارية عربية ومحلية.

٣- سوف يتم اختيار الشركة على معايير الصندوق العربي للإنماء الاقتصادي والاجتماعي ولوائح الجمهورية اليمنية (www.htb.gov.ye).

٤- يمكن الحصول على معلومات اضافية في أوقات الدوام الرسمي من المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي على الإعلان الموضح أسفل هذا الإعلان.

٥- يجب تسليم نسختين من وثائق إبداء الرغبة إلى العنوان الموضح أسفل الإعلان في موعد أقصاه الساعة ١٢ من يوم الثلاثاء ٣٠ يونيو ٢٠٠٩م.

مكتب مدير المشروع

المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي - أمانة العاصمة

الحصبة - جوار وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان

ص.ب: ٢٦٥٩ تلفون: +٩٦٧١٢٣٠٦٥٦ فاكس: +٩٦٧١٢٣٠٦٥٦ - ٦

يجب أن تشمل وثائق ابداء الرغبة على جميع الوثائق المذكورة أعلاه أو على الأقل الوثائق التالية:

• لإقتراح نشرات تعريفية حديثة عن الشركة (مع أية مرفقات).

• لإخبره لا تقل عن عشر سنوات كشركه استشاريه .

• لإخبره ناجحة لأكثر من خمس سنوات في التصميم والإنشاء أن تكون الشركة قد نفذت مشروعين ذات طبيعة وحجم مشابه ويفضل أن يكون ذلك في اليمن أو في المنطقة.

• لإقتراح رسائل تركيزه من أرباب عمل حاليين أو سابقين .



## Islam teaches nobility, humanity

By: Mohammad Yousuf Naqash  
mohammadyousufnaqash@gmail.com

Why the communal tensions? Why racial discrimination? Why are people's and nations confronting? Why the lust for territorial aggrandizement and subjugation of people's? Why the tendency of over powering weak? Why the tussle between have's and have-not's, Privileged and unprivileged? When mankind is naturally born free from all these devilish acts with Divine obligations and duties.

Actually the present world is not the one of Allah's plan and Liking. Allah Almighty the super natural power and absolute, unlimited and unchanged politico – spiritual authority of the whole universe planned the habitation of human beings all over the world with different religions, cultures, lingual, racial, complexional and territorial labels and identities after creating and crafting them social animals and by virtue of this natural instinct made them socially interdependent.

Under this natural compulsion the human beings irrespective of differing labels and identities constitute the uniqueness in the shape of global society on the values like peace,

justice, compassion, rationalism, humanism, tolerance, pluralism and brotherhood.

This inherently designed human integration by natural arrangement can neither be disintegrated nor destabilized.

Actually man's immortalization in violation of natural arrangement is the result of above referred anti-human and anti-nature tendencies reflecting satanic mindsets and misdeeds. Instead of submitting to the commandments of Allah Almighty mankind generally accepted the servitude of carnal desires and opted to serve and worship these.

This provoked in him the pretext for the expression of hatred, enmity, confrontation and divisiveness and helped in disintegrating the concept of global society and segmented humanity and demarcated territories. Human being has been sent to this world with a specific objective.

Holy Quoran states that Almighty Allah designated the top position to mankind above all creations of the world and bestowed in him the wisdom and sensitivity and at the same time assigned him the responsibility of managing world affairs so that he can work for the betterment welfare and reformation of humanity.

Promote good and eradicate evil. This is the message of Islam, and same is taught by other religions about the

human objective.

But unfortunately we deviated from this right path shown by our respective religions and this deviation instigated us towards wrong and devilish. The result is we ignored our religious teachings.

The most unfortunate fact is that we are behaving like brutes and shamelessly committing these devilish deeds without any fear and equally disgusting is our misinterpretation of religious teachings to justify these evil acts right by one way or the other.

Our conscience has died. We are worse than beasts killing humanity on one or the other pretext. The pretexts keep on changing as per the desires and demands of our immortalization.

The humanity of all sorts is paying heavy costs for sustaining immortalization in the shape of satanic acts like killings, massacres, wars, communal riots, racial discriminations, injustices, hate crimes, socio economic disparities.

If we all really want to serve the objective of Allah Almighty then we have to change ourselves, we have to think in terms of brotherhood, mutual co-existence and interdependence of whole global society which includes all human beings of all nations, all territories, all religions, races and all languages.

We have to accept that we all are equal before Allah Almighty and most

revered is the righteous. We have to keep in mind that Allah Almighty has created all of us from one pair Adam and Eve.

We have to purify our conscious and sub conscious thinking to make it in conformity with the commandments of Allah Almighty so that we are ready to pursue for Divine arrangement of the whole world. For achieving this noble mission

Whole humanity has to work collectively in order to restructure and reshape the present day world. So that there are no further aggressions, no communal riots, no violent acts, no hate crimes, no racial, social and economic discriminations and exploitations.

Nationality should not impede the way of human welfare and development. Borders should be managed in such a way as are irrelevant, and permit the free access to every where.

The heads of the countries should think themselves the promoters of peace and reformers of the humanity. Nations should work as the diversified part of global human society.

Peace justice liberty, brotherhood, tolerance equal socio-economic development of the humanity should be the policy of government and peoples. This whole world belongs to Allah Almighty. We all need to bear this in mind.

## Islam teaches nobility, humanity

This letter is in response to the articles written about the War on Terror debate between United States President Obama and former Vice-President Cheney.

By: Joe Bialek  
jgbialek2@roadrunner.com

First, and most importantly, Mr. Cheney needs to move on with his life's work. Like it or not, the election of 2008 is over and the people have spoken.

Continuing such a debate between current and former national leaders only complicates foreign policy by compromising {at least the appearance of} U.S. intentions.

Terrorism is defined as the use of violence, torture, or physical intimidation by a group or organization as a means of forcing others to satisfy its

demands.

The war on terrorism between the United States and the terrorists is a conflict never experienced before in American history. Some would argue that the guerrilla tactic used by both sides in the Vietnam war is the same kind of tactic employed by the United States and the terrorists.

The difference, however, is that the military tactic employed by the terrorists is a corrupt evolution from guerrilla to terror (from non-conventional to non-ethical). In so-doing, the terrorist willfully surrenders any protections of

citizenship or statehood.

Further, they are not representative of the Arab states nor of the Muslim religion but rather are some sort of cult that satisfies its blood lust by killing people.

If they did represent an established country, the United States would be at war with that country. This, however, was the mistake made with Iraq where we should not have invaded to begin with.

Now it is a haven for terrorists and no longer a check on Iran in the Middle Eastern balance of power.

Unfortunately, however, the U.S. is not willing to take the war on terrorism to the appropriate level. In the movie "Untouchables", Jim Malone advises Elliot Ness that "when dealing with the Mafia, if they send one of your's to the hospital, you send one of their's to the morgue" and then asks "what are you prepared to do?" Perhaps a more appropriate question should be what would Machiavelli suggest?

The U.S. military needs to withdraw all conventional forces immediately from Iraq.

The whole premise for going to war with that country was to disarm it of its supposed weapons of mass destruction (which the U.S. sold them). I supported the war effort because I believed the Bush Administration was telling the truth.

Unfortunately, it appears the American people were deceived into fighting a war for oil and almost 5,000 crack U.S. troops have been killed (and 50,000 crippled) helping to promote greed rather than defend the homeland.

Once the military withdraws, it can regroup and reformulate better combat tactics to be used in the war on terrorism. Accordingly, the U.S. needs to begin training anti-terrorist cells (with Arabic code names that translate into al-gabang, al-gaboom, al-gablast etc) primarily made up of the elite special forces group: Delta Force. These cells will be sent into countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya for the express purpose of covert operations to find, kill and terrorize all pro-terrorist cells.

As for prisoners, instead of water boarding they should be drugged with a "truth serum" such as sodium pentathol until they provide needed information and then be executed.

Frankly, they forfeited their legal rights once they committed an act of terror.

At the end of the day when the terrorist comes home to find his family and house blown to smithereens, he may begin to re-consider the consequences of his actions.

Unfortunately, innocent family members of these terrorists will have to face the same fate many U.S. citizens did on September 11, 2001 as well as those American troops torched, killed or wounded {without the due process of a trial}. The question that remains before the American people however is what are YOU prepared to do?

## Through

## The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy  
majed\_thabet@hotmail.com



## Women work, different prospective

As an Islamic society, Yemen faces many controversial opinions about sensitive topics, especially those related to women. One of these topics is women at work. Opinions about this issue differ from one person to another, sometimes even within the same family. That is why we see many women working outside of the home, and at the same time, many are deprived this right.

In this article, I am not for or against a particular attitude, but I remain neutral and attempt to shed light on the topic as a matter of reflecting on Yemeni culture. I also attempt to present new ideas for readers to think about, give their viewpoints, and make their own decisions on the issue.

The idea of women working in Yemen is not completely rejected by society, nor is it completely welcomed, especially in some rural and tribal areas. Those that accept it and those that reject it have their reasons. Of course, dear readers, if you have other reasons for or against the topic, I would be happy to write about them.

Let us start with those who accept and encourage women to work. Cultured families believe that for women, education is a must. For those families, a woman should study in order to improve her skills and widen her horizons. Such families encourage their daughters to work.

They think it is necessary for women to work for several reasons. The first reason is that working women have self-dependence. This self-dependence is not only financial, but also personal. A working woman, they think, can manage many things in her life. She can make decisions and face challenges. She feels safe if she is married or single. She does not live in fear that her father, husband or brother may pass away, or she may get divorced.

A working woman is sometimes an important source of money for the family. Some families depend mainly on the incomes of their daughters, especially if the fathers are too old to work, or the sons are too young. Such daughters work hard to provide needs for the home, and even when they get married they continue to support to their families. In these cases, women make their families secure, and protect them from the social and financial challenges.

Another reason to encourage woman work is the social status that the working women have in society. Some families are honored if they have educated daughters with career opportunities. They think that the success of their daughters in their education and work reflects the success and the well-being of the family as a whole.

Some families, however, reject the idea of women working outside of the home. Some of them accept the idea of women's education, but completely reject the idea of women working, and they have reasons.

The first reason is that some families believe that women working outside the home shames the whole family. In these families, men are responsible for all outside needs. They do not accept the idea of women working, even if they need financial support. They will make all men in the household work, even the children, rather than allowing a woman to work.

Other families believe women working is a moral negative. For them, women must be kept at home in order to avoid immoral behaviors. When women work, they are in contact with men, which is inherently immoral. For such families, women are best kept at home because it saves them from men.

Some families think that a woman's place is only the kitchen. They think women are responsible for children and other home duties. That is enough for her, and she can perform her duties perfectly well at home. For this reason, we find many families do not reject women working entirely, but prefer them to stay at home.

These are some perspectives about women working outside of the home. I am sure there are many other viewpoints on this topic. Such viewpoints can offered by you, dear readers, so that the issue can be discussed from all the sides.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinion writer from Taiz. He holds an MA in English, and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

## Unlamented Death

By: Saleh Al-Kaladi

One night, when I was walking among the trees of my village's forest, I heard some strange and unrecognizable sounds coming from all around me. As time passed, the sounds increased rapidly and I resolved to stop walking for a while to investigate.

As soon as I stopped, I was surprised because the sounds stopped too. So I decided to keep walking, and not pay attention to imaginary sounds. After walking for about two minutes, I heard the sounds again. But they were more fearful than before. I gave up walking.

With a mind full of horror, I shouted, "Who is there? Is there anybody?" No one answered. My body began to shiver and my heart beat rapidly. I felt as if something had captured my tongue.

After exactly five minutes, without warning, my body stopped like a stone and I could not breathe. I tried to shout and move but all my endeavors were in vain. During those unbearable minutes, the matter begun to emerge clearly when I saw an old and strange man coming towards me. "He looks like the man who died two years ago." This is what came to my mind at that moment.

As the man kept walking up to me I could see him carrying a knife in his hand. The knife shocked me; it appeared to be covered with blood. I tried to escape, but I could not move. No sooner did he approach me, then he aimed his knife at my chest directly. At that moment, I realized that my life was finished.

Suddenly, before the knife touched my body, the phone rang and the dream was interrupted.

It was not merely a dream, but a nightmare that will never be forgotten.





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Interested candidates are encouraged to visit the school, located behind the Shahrani Hotel, to complete an application, including a copy of their Curriculum Vitae. Alternatively, candidates can contact the school for more information:

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## Yemeni Fulbright scholars: Testimonies of success

**E**very year a number of Yemeni youth get the opportunity to do their master's in the United States through the Fulbright Scholarship Program. They come back with new knowledge and awareness of different cultures and more importantly, through a life-changing experience, the a desire to make Yemen a better place.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

**W**ith the June 10 deadline for new Fulbright applications approaching, interested students have their fingers crossed and their anticipation reaching sky high, hoping they will be one of the selected few.

The opportunity to receive a fully-funded scholarship to get a master's degree from a respectable university in the US is a dream for many ambitious Yemeni youth, especially because returning students have proved that the experience is worthwhile in many ways.

"My career has benefitted a lot from this program. It opened many doors for



**Hamdani:** This is one of the most prestigious programs. A lot of the Yemeni leaders nowadays are Fulbright alumni. The program offered them a lot, and now they are giving back to the community

Mohammed Hamdani, a 2004 Fulbright scholar in Ethnic-Specific American Literature and Literary Theories, explained that the program helped him mature intellectually and develop a new understanding of life-related issues.

"It was the focal reason I built up an appreciation for my family, country and friends. Furthermore, I am more understanding of other cultures and willing to bridge gabs between such cultures," he said.

But as Walker Murray, the cultural affairs officer at the US Embassy in Yemen explains, it is not that easy to be accepted. The number of scholarships each year is not limited, but last year only five students were accepted.

"The main challenge for Yemeni applicants is not the leadership skills. It is rather the TOEFL language and GRE tests," said Murray.

To be accepted, candidates must score at least 550 points on the TOEFL. The required GRE score is dependent on the specialization and the school the candidate is applying for.

Hamdani admits that the application process was "grueling with a lot of ups and downs but that is understood because it is a process of refining the selection till the cream of the crop is left."

"As to the candidates," he continued, "They've got to have very good GPAs at college and stay focused on the requirements to be a Fulbright nominee and then a grantee. So planning for being a Fulbrighter should start when in college, and should allow enough time to build the necessary GPA for acceptance. Additionally, they have to study well for the International TOEFL and GRE or GMAT."

Al-Ashwal did not think the application process was as difficult, but he agreed that potential candidates should take English courses and have an idea of how they want to improve their country when they return. They should develop clear and specific short and long-term goals, he said.

Fulbright is a prestigious exchange program that the US conducts that gives people from around the world the opportunity to get a master's degree in the US. It aims to increase the skills of the next generation of leaders and to give them tools to solve problems that their countries, and the rest of the world, confront in the 21st Century.

Some Yemeni students, especially those who had never been abroad, suffer from a cul-

tural shock when going from Yemen to the States, and again when returning home.

Al-Ashwal explains that the culture shocks could play a positive role in developing the candidates' personalities. Unlike many people who return to Yemen and start criticizing everything, he prefers to see the glass half-full, rather than half empty, he explained. He looks at the bright side and tries to do something, no matter how little, to fix the bad around him.

"In the States, I learned that we should always ask ourselves about what we have done for our country instead of asking about what the country has done for us," he said.

During their studies, many Yemenis develop new perspectives on life and start thinking in a constructive way about how they can clearly identify the problems in their society and work for positive change.

"We want to help train future leaders and increase mutual culture understanding between Yemen and the United States. These students understand the American society, and would serve as ambassadors of the American people in Yemen," said Murray.

Al-Ashwal added, "Besides learning about the American culture, Fulbrighters get to clarify some of the misconceptions Americans have about their [the students'] country and culture."

Studying in the US is just the beginning

Because of the nature of the Fulbright program, it is mostly limited to humanitarian and public specializations excluding the fields of medicine, dentistry, engineering, computer science and pharmacy.

The logic behind this, according to Murray, is that the focus of the scholarship is to develop leaders to think of problems holistically and not only on the professional level. The graduates will return to Yemen with more than just a professional degree, they will have developed skills in problem solving, civil society and in other areas. The other reason is that the US wants to push for education in underserved fields, he said. Finally, the Fulbright program is only for two years, and it is not possible to get a degree in medicine or a similar disciplines in such a short time.

### 4 U

#### How can you apply?

Interested candidates must submit their complete applications before June 10 to the AMIDEAST office in Sana'a, Aden or Mukalla. Applicants must be Yemenis residing in Yemen with a bachelor's degree at least one year prior to application, have good grades, have at least two years work experience and strong English skills. For more information contact sanaa@amideast.org (01-400279 / 711416660) or aden@amideast.org (02-235069/711421313) or mukalla@amideast.org (05-371560)

For those candidates who are selected, the study includes community service projects in the States in fields such as press freedom, environmental issues, children rights and social justices.

Students also interact with people and organizations outside the university boundaries. The community service component obliges the students to do research and visit communities, organizations or companies to develop a better understanding of their work, and build bridges between the US and their own countries.

During the application process, personnel from AMIDEAST help candidates clarify their field of interest and work with them until they are admitted to the universities. When they return to Yemen, the students become part of the Fulbright Alumni who are invited to events hosted by the embassy.

"We consider the participation in the Fulbright program as a lasting relation and we are ready to support these graduates to enable them to put into reality the skills they gained from their study," explained Murray.

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**Murray:** These students understand the American society, and would serve as ambassadors of the American people in Yemen.

me. Since I returned, I have worked at Aden Community College, AMIDEAST-Aden and Sana'a, Lahj College of Education, University of Applied Sciences, Lebanese International University, and recently I was accepted in the Diplomatic Corps at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I look forward to serving my country here and overseas," said Hussein Al-Ashwal, who did his master's in Teaching English as a Second/Foreign Language in 2005.



**Al-Ashwal:** I am so grateful to my parents and brothers and sisters and professors at Radford University and AMIDEAST and YALI: colleagues, staff and students for helping me become who I am today.

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