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Inside:  "The cooperation opportunities between Yemen and Turkey are limitless."  Climate change in Yemen: A call for action  Yemeni men between fashion and tradition

Seven Germans, a British and a Korean kidnapped in Amran

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

AMRAN, June 14 — An armed group kidnapped a German engineer with his wife and three children along with two German nurses, a British engineer and a Korean teacher who were having a picnic in the Gharah area in Amran on Friday.
The German engineer and nurses, who are working at Al-Jumhuri Hospital, were in the company of the British engineer. The entire group, along with the children's Korean teacher, was kidnapped and taken in a Suzuki Vitara to Bani Sufian according to official media.
Local council authority figures in Amran have been suspended because

of the incident. Meanwhile, the staff at Al-Jumhuri Hospital started a strike in protest against the kidnapping.
The Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Masri in a press statement yesterday said that the culprits behind the kidnapping are from an Al-Houthi group. He added that the local security is working to release the hostages.
The Al-Houthi media office denied being involved in the kidnapping, accusing the state of creating problems to trigger a sixth war.
This incident took place just two days after a large number of foreign workers at Al-Salam Hospital in Harf Bani Sufian in Sa'ada governorate were kidnapped and then released the following day. In total, 24 doctors and health workers were kidnapped by armed groups from the Sabarah tribe in Sa'ada who demanded the release of two of their relatives from prison. The prisoners are detained on murder charges.
Four armed men had stopped the hospital staff's bus while they were on their way to Sana'a on Thursday morning and demanded that the driver get off of the bus. While one of the kidnappers took over the driving, the three remaining kidnappers spread throughout the bus asking passengers to be quiet, according to Egyptian doctor Ayman Mustafa who was one of the passengers on the bus.
The total number of passengers was

24 people including 16 women and five children. The kidnapped were of Indian, Egyptian, Filipino and Sudanese nationalities.
Harf Sufian local council secretariat Mushin bin Ma'aqal mediated between the state and the kidnappers and got the hostages released. According to the kidnappers, they were given two cars, 16 rifles and two goats.
Also, a Prado vehicle from the LG-Nortel Korean mobile networking maintenance company was seized last Monday by six armed men reportedly from Bani Sufian. They forced the driver and a technician out of the car as they were on their way to do some mobile maintenance work in Sa'ada.

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Jan Hoogendoorn and Helen Janszen from Holland in a remote area of Bani Dhabyan district outside Sana'a where they were held for around two weeks by a tribe of Bani Dhabyan in Mareb. The kidnapping of the Dutch couple last April was the last kidnapping incident involving Europeans until this incident in Amran.

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Yemen-politics-unrest-south-FOCUS

Southern Yemen an impoverished hotbed of unrest

By: Christian Chaise

ADEN, June 10 (AFP) - Almost two decades after unification and 15 years after a failed secession bid, southern Yemen feels so estranged from the north that the country's very unity has been thrown into question.

Anger among a large part of the some four million people living in the highly impoverished south has reignited separatist sentiment and caused an upsurge in violence in recent weeks.

Sixteen people, including five members of the security forces, have been killed in clashes in the south since demonstrations erupted in April.

"It has reached dangerous levels of racial hatred. It's like the northerners are another race," one local journalist said.

A businessman in Aden who asked not to be identified told AFP it was "clear" that the violence would escalate in the coming months.

The confrontation "could be long and bloody, since it won't be a battle between two armies," as in the short-lived attempt at secession by the south in 1994, he said.

The current unrest has its roots in the years after Yemeni unification which was proclaimed on May 22, 1990, particularly in the period that followed the

1994 civil war which lasted less than two months.

Known from 1970 as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and run by a socialist government, the south, which was part of the Soviet bloc, was independent from 1967 when the British left until 1990.

"As soon as the northerners came here they just helped themselves -- they looted the land and the economic resources," the businessman said. The north "acted in 1994 as if they were an invader in a defeated country."

The issue of land ownership is particularly thorny. Stories of northerners given huge free tracts of land in the south abound.

"It's mainly people in power, especially military personnel," the Aden businessman said.

But Sheikh Salem Banaffa, general manager of the real estate and urban planning department in Aden province, said: "There is no advantage, no privilege for anybody."

"These are rumours," he said of the free land allegations. "It's not true."

In addition to the land ownership issue, disenchantment with employment conditions runs deep, with many southerners convinced that jobs in the south are reserved for northerners.

Separation is not a viable option

Estimated at 40 percent for the whole country, unemployment is thought to be much higher in the south.

A minister who resigned last year, Abdul Kader Hilal, is now a member of a government commission on the south.

He sees "some similarities" between the current situation in Yemen and in Germany after 1989 when the West merged with the ex-communist East, a former Soviet satellite.

"The southerners do not care about separation, about the north or the south. What they care about is their rights, health, education, electricity and water supply services," he told AFP, indirectly confirming the state's failure to provide basic services.

Many such factors have combined to rekindle separatist ideas, with some southerners claiming their region has been "colonised" by the north.

Such sentiment has led to the birth of the "Southern Movement," a loose coalition of opposition groups from former socialists who were in power in Aden until 1990 to hard-core Islamists who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviets in the 1980s along with Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

Even Al-Qaeda's Arabian Peninsula wing has publicly pledged its support for the south against the central govern-

ment.

Government circles blame the current unrest on the economic crisis, insisting that some unemployed are being manipulated and exploited by the supporters of southern independence, as others are by Al-Qaeda.

This viewpoint looks upon the problem not as one of discrimination but of a lack of development.

Whatever the reason, there is no doubt that the Sanaa government is worried, with President Ali Abdullah Saleh himself warning in April of the risks of Yemen breaking up into "several entities."

Hilal thinks the solution lies in "giving local authorities full responsibilities," and says reform to that effect is in the pipeline.

For many in the south it will be too little too late, but not everyone in the south believes that independence is the solution.

"Separation is not a viable option, because 80 percent of the population of Yemen (estimated at 24 million) live in the north, but the north only has 20 percent of the resources," the businessman said, referring to the fact that most oil and gas fields are in the south.

Independence of the south would create "a powderkeg," with northerners rushing south en masse, he predicted.

German support for Yemeni education

By Salma Ismail

SANA'A, June 14 - In an effort to address the education woes of the country, the Yemeni government signed a funding agreement with the German Development Bank at a sum of \$ 17.5 million (around USD 24.5 million) last Wednesday to fund projects carried out by the Social Fund for Development (SFD).

The agreement, which targets rural regions of the country, was signed by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and SFD Managing Director Abdul-Kareem Al-Arhabi and Bernd Schoenewald, the director of the bank's office in Yemen.

Education, especially for girls, is the key to achieving long-term development. Inadequate basic education services aggravated by illiteracy perpetuate poverty and underdevelopment.

The SFD's vision for education during its third phase seeks to support the National Basic Education Development Strategy and strengthen the overall education system in Yemen. The main goal is to dramatically improve the quality of basic education, and by doing so contribute to development needs and meet the United Nations Millennium



Girls at the Kawkaban School know they have the power to be the future leaders of Yemen. They will usher the country into an era of prosperity and development if they are supported and encouraged to pursue their education.

Development Goals (MDG).

The second MDG is to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Yemen's education indicators are among the worst in the world. With high illiteracy rates, low enrollment in primary education and a wide gap between boys' and girls' enrollment,

especially in rural areas, improvement has been slow.

This situation is the result of insufficient resources, inefficient resource use, inadequate coverage, improper distribution of education facilities and inputs, low-quality education and weak education administration, according to the SFD. In addition, the demand for education is impeded by numerous social,

cultural and economic obstacles.

The SFD acknowledges that enormous efforts are needed to improve the quality and quantity of education opportunities for the vast majority of Yemeni citizens.

In addition, there is a high demand for education in both rural and urban areas. Whenever a school is built or expanded, enrollment increases immediately, the SFD noted.

The program targets the most overcrowded basic education urban schools in the country that have more than 100 students per classroom or 50 students per class. The goal is to expand school capacity, to construct new schools in order to reduce severe crowding and to improve the teaching environment.

The percentage of illiteracy has been reduced from 56 percent to 45.7 percent in the last 10 years. Illiteracy among women is currently 62.1 percent and 29.8 percent among men, according to the Ministry of Education. In 2008 alone, the ministry built 1,234 schools and trained 55,846 teachers.

According to the Illiteracy Eradication Department, a department of the Yemeni government, the rate of illiteracy is declining as the number of people attending literacy classes increases.

According to the 2004 population census, there were 5,484,114 illiterate

people out of a total population of about 21 million, and the illiteracy rate was 45.7 percent. In 1994 the illiteracy rate for women was 56 percent.

The Yemeni Development Agency was established in 1997 with support from the World Bank, bilateral donors and the government of Yemen. In one of the poorest countries in the world, the SFD aims to improve access to basic services such as education and healthcare and support income generation.

With more than 50 percent of its budget dedicated to education, the SFD is making strides in delivering basic education to even the most remote corners of the country. Primary school enrollment has increased from 61 to 67 percent, and the government has set a goal of universal enrollment by 2015, with a particular focus on the number of girls in school whose enrollment numbers are far behind those of boys.

Initial progress has required an expansion of educational facilities. To meet this demand, the SFD built and refurbished 8,790 classrooms. According to US government and United Nations estimates from 2007, about 46 percent of the Yemeni population is under age 15. Slightly more than half the population is between the ages of 15 and 64 and less than 3 percent of the population is 65 and older.

Al-Arhabi expressed appreciation for the Yemeni government for the contribution of the German bank and government for the development process in Yemen.

On the other hand, Al-Arhabi headed a final session for donors of the SFD to review the third phase of the SFD's projects.

The meeting lasted for two weeks with participation from World Bank office in Sana'a, the UK Ministry of International Development, the Dutch embassy, the German Development Bank, the European Union and the Saudi fund.

The Social Fund for Development was established in 1997 as one of the measures to cushion the effects of the government's reform programs on vulnerable groups. It was formed as an autonomous agency with financial and administrative independence, governed by a Board of Directors representing the government, NGOs, and the private sector under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

It seeks to reduce poverty by improving living conditions and providing income generating opportunities for the poor. It focuses on education, health and water, in addition to infrastructure rehabilitation and restoration and maintenance of historical cities as well as religious and archaeological monuments.

Campaign to fight racial discrimination against marginalized women

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, June 13 - Yasmeen grew up in a slum area where marginalized Yemenis of African origin reside on the outskirts of Sana'a. She has always dreamed of escaping this social and economic isolation and becoming a normal member of the Yemeni community without carrying the label of "khadima" or servant.

Her life goes by watching the other children - "white people," as the marginalized community calls them - go to school and grow up to be something, while her destiny is the same as her mother, sisters and most of the women in her community: a street sweeper.

Like Yasmeen there are hundreds of other marginalized women discriminated against because of being black. They end up earning a living either in mundane jobs or as beggars, while they live on the fringes of Yemeni society on the outskirts of the cities.

According to official estimates, the total number of akhdam [servants] countrywide is approximately 500,000, some 100,000 of which live in the outskirts of the capital Sana'a.

"Our issue is that legislation does not protect this minority," said Amal Al-Basha director of the Sisters Arab



The SAF-WITNESS campaign aims to change the situation of the akhdam in Yemen. Set out by their dark skin and often perceived by other Yemenis as "lazy" or "dishonest," they live isolated in low-income districts outside cities. Few of their children are enrolled in school, both for social and economic reasons.

Forum (SAF) who, with international human rights organization WITNESS, is raising awareness about the plight of women in Yemen, particularly akhdam women.

"It is not enough that the Yemeni laws do not prevent women from marginalized community from availing their rights," she explained. "The laws must be proactive and institutionalize

affirmative measures to integrate them and seize their rights for them."

"We are organizing a video action plan to screen documentaries about the akhdam and Yemeni women's human rights concerns," said Aisha Gawad, head of the WITNESS Middle East and Africa Program. "The first set of screenings is scheduled for July 16 in locations across Sana'a, Yemen and New York City."

As part of the campaign, the film Voice of the Voiceless will be shown to an audience including Yemeni governmental offices, the Arab media, regional human rights activists and organizations in Sana'a, as well as international organizations concerned with human rights issues in US.

The film is about the death of a young Yemeni woman from the akhdam named Saeda. She was working as a street cleaner in Sana'a when a group of men began to harass her. The men ended up slicing Saeda's neck, killing her, and stabbing her brother in the chest several times.

Nothing was done by authorities to investigate or avenge Saeda's death, and the film chronicles her family's reactions, both to her loss and to the situation of the akhdam in Yemen in general. The film also features interviews

with women in an akhdam camp in the slums of Sana'a.

This documentary is a part of a two year project SAF is carrying out with WITNESS to highlight the issue of violence against women and empower Yemeni activists through capacity building so that they are able to combat violence against women through documentary campaigns.

Since the start of this project last year, a team of six activists have received training in how to document abuse and give a voice to those who are discriminated against, and campaign for their rights through the media. As a result of the training, this team created a documentary on the plight of the women of the akhdam community in order to advocate for a change in policy.

The goal of this campaign is to work towards the government issuing a law criminalizing abuses and discrimination against women in Yemen, the implementation and enforcement of existing laws to protect the rights of women, and media attention to spread awareness and reject stereotypes on the situation of the akhdam.

"As it is, women in Yemen are discriminated against, in both cultural or economic dealings," said Al-Basha.

"Women from this marginalized group suffer from multiple discrimination because of their skin color, their poverty and, on many occasions, their weak health. It is time we highlight their plight, even if it means shocking the Yemeni community to wake up and deal with the problem."

Yemen was ranked last out of 128 countries by the 2007 World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index. This documentary campaign is a start of other documentaries the trained activist team is to make in the coming year.

Voice of the Voiceless and all other films will be screened in SAF's premises, distributed to local and international NGOs and media for several days and is likely to be screened in other governorates around the republic.

"With this documentary, we will participate in the EU Human Rights documentary exhibition in Brussels," said Al-Basha. "We want this issue to reach as many people as possible in order to make change."

"I know that there will be resistance in Yemen and that some people will accuse us of displaying our dirty laundry out in public for the world to see, but if we don't face the problems our society has, we will never overcome them," she concluded.

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Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Donmez to Yemen Times: "The cooperation opportunities between Yemen and Turkey are limitless."

Mehmet Donmez commenced his duty as Turkish ambassador to Yemen in April 2009. Before this he was posted as First Class Consul General at Turkish Consul General in Hamburg, Germany. His previous postings were at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, Albania, London and Germany. He has a degree in International Relations from Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University and long experience in finance and economic affairs. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed His Excellency about Yemeni Turkish relations.

YT photo by Nadia Al-Sakkaf



Mehmet Donmez

Your previous posting was in Germany. How do you compare the general environment between the two places?

I am proud to be here. I have felt very welcomed and when the regular Yemeni people in the streets know that I am Turkish they smile from their hearts and welcome me genuinely. It is much easier to be in an environment where you feel welcomed and loved by the people and leadership. As a Turkish citizen, I have felt welcome in Yemen from the very top leadership to the person in the streets. And this is why you will see expanding cooperation and joint projects between the two countries.

What is new on the political level of bilateral relations between Yemen and Turkey?

President Saleh came to Turkey in 2008 and our former Prime Minister Ali Babacan visited Yemen earlier this year.

Next year there is a plan for our president to visit Yemen. So you see the political relations between Yemen and Turkey are on very good terms and we will continue to have high level delegation visits between the two countries.

We have feedback from the Yemeni government that it supports Turkey's political policies in the Middle East and there is especial appreciation for Turkey's position regarding the conflicts in Palestine and Iraq.

Similarly, the Turkish government appreciates Yemen's role in the region and is a strong supporter of its claim to join the Gulf Council Countries. Next month, we will be having a consultative meeting in Istanbul with the gulf foreign offices and I am sure the topic of Yemen's joining the GCC will be brought up and advocated for by the Turkish side.

It seems the Turkish community in Yemen is gradually increasing. What is this a sign of?

It is not just the expatriate community that is increasing; there has been a significant increase in the influx of Turkish citizens visiting Yemen during the past few years. We have tourists coming to Yemen, we have businessmen, we have medical teams and we have educational experts. You will notice that there have been bilateral business relations between Yemen and Turkey. I was just with the Yemeni Minister of Trade Dr. Yahya Al-

Mutwakil this week and he confirmed that there are 168 Turkish businesses in Yemen. Just a few days ago, Yemeni businessmen returned from Turkey after participating in the Turkey World Trade Bridge 2009 conference. I don't have the results of their participation yet, but I am sure that they met many Turkish and international businessmen as the conference included representatives from 160 countries, and these meetings will create ideas for many projects.

Also, there is a clear vision to form a joint Turkish-Yemeni business council. This will be championed from the Turkish side by DEIK, the foreign economic international council.

DEIK is the umbrella organization of all the bilateral business councils. Its purpose is to pave the way for the development of Turkey's economic, commercial, industrial and financial relations with foreign countries as well as international business communities.

I am also aware that a large delegation of Turkish businessmen will come to Yemen to participate in the commercial trade fair organized by the Ministry of Commerce at the end of this month.

Yet from talking to many Turkish businessmen in Yemen, they regret venturing into the Yemeni market, saying that bureaucracy and corruption have discouraged them from continuing. How will you overcome this problem?

I understand your concern, but let me tell you that Yemen has great potential and the business opportunities in Yemen are abundant. Businessmen are aware of the challenges and are still interested in working in Yemen.

Moreover, we have had repeated invitations from the Yemeni government, whether from the president himself, the prime minister or the minister of trade, to encourage Turkish investments in Yemen. They have also ensured that they will work with all

concerned authorities to make Yemen a friendly environment for businesses and investments.

We must not be pessimistic and say that there are too many problems in Yemen and pack up and leave. We must compare the opportunities to the challenges, analyze problems from past experiences and think of ways to overcome them.

This is not only applicable to trade relations but also to medical, education and tourist relations between Turkey and Yemen as well. We have had many medical teams performing free treatment for Yemenis, whether from official teams or by volunteers through NGOs. There are many first class hospitals and specialized medical centers in Turkey who are interested in Yemen. Next month there will be a group of Yemeni doctors who will be trained in Turkish hospitals in cardiology through an exchange program between the two governments.

The cooperation opportunities between Yemen and Turkey are limitless, and it is my duty to see to it that cooperation between the two countries is continuously growing.

Turkey is working with the Yemeni government on many levels, most recently taking over the marine forces leadership in the Indian Ocean after

the Americans. Why Turkey? And why the marines?

Turkey is a part of a marine task force that includes many other countries to patrol the Indian Ocean and ensure protection of vessels from pirates. Three Turkish vessels were hijacked in the Gulf of Aden in 2008, the last of them being released on Feb 2 this year. As a result, we realized we have to be active on the patrolling task force. There is nothing special or particular about our leading the task force this time because it is a four month rotational leadership; our turn started in May. We have one ship dedicated to this issue.

Is there security cooperation between Yemen and Turkey? Recently we had some Yemeni military personnel travelling to study in Turkish military colleges. Will this become a trend?

We welcome cooperation between Yemen and Turkey on all levels and yes, recently three high ranking officers from the doctrine commandments of the army travelled to Turkey as per an invitation from their counterparts in Turkey to exchange experiences and receive technical training in military and security issues.

Though we have some cooperation with Yemen concerning security, we are willing to expand this cooperation and hope the issue of security will be included in future cooperation projects.

Yemeni-Turkish relations in recent years

Yemeni-Turkish relations have witnessed continuous growth over last five years, particularly after the first visit of Turkey Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Sana'a in October 2005.

Feb 08	President Saleh's visit to Turkey
March 08	Commander of Turkish Coast Guard Admiral Can Ereno_lu [at the time] visit to Yemen
Oct. 08	H.E. Nazim Ekren, the then Deputy PM and Minister of State visit to Yemen
Oct. 08	Medical team visit Yemen to follow up on medical agreements
Feb. 09	Ali Babacan, Minister of Foreign Affairs visit to Yemen
March 09	Koksal Toptan, Speaker of Parliament visit to Yemen
June 09	A large group of Yemeni businessmen visit Turkey to participate in the Turkish-Arab Economic Forum

Grants, scholarships and agreements

Turkey committed to give 1 million USD to Yemen in London Donors Conference. The grants is proposed to help build a technical high school in Sana.

Turkey provides 15 scholarships to Yemen every year. Ten scholarships are for BA degrees, five for M.A or Phd or post-Phd studies.

Every year 25 Yemeni patients are to be treated in Turkish Hospitals as a grant from the Turkish government. This medical agreement was signed in 2008 and is yet to be approved by the Turkish Parliament.

Turkish Coast Guard provided trainings for Yemeni Coast Guard Officers in al-Hudaydah in June 2008.

There are pending agreements on the prevention of double taxation, setting up a Yemeni-Turkish businessmen council and agreements in the fields of tourism, youth and sports, promoting exports, and agriculture.

In 2008, Turkey's export to Yemen amounted to 353.218.123 USD and Yemen's export to Turkey was at 702.533 USD.



Enjoying the view of Sana'a old city from the roof of one of the old buildings at Bab Al-Yaman marketplace.

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نور الدين
بمناسبة النجاح والتفوق
الدراسي من الصف السادس
الى الصف السابع
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Test Survey: Over 50 percent of Yemeni bachelors can't afford to get married

By: Ali Saeed

A survey performed by Yemen Times last week on a random sample of 50 Yemeni youth in Sana'a revealed that around 52 percent of single men cannot afford to get married because of marriage and wedding expenses.

The interviewees were between 17 and 39 years old and included secondary school dropouts, graduate and undergraduate university students, and employees working in the private sector.

Although most young men feel upset that it is difficult to get married due to a lack of funds, they still have high aspirations for marriage. Only 30 percent of the sample said that completing university education is a priority before marriage.

Moreover, results of the survey showed that about 20 percent can't get married because of unemployment.

According to official statistics, the unemployment rate in Yemen is more than 16 percent. However, experts criticize this figure saying unemployment can be estimated as high as 46 percent. Dr. Mohammed Jubran, professor of economics at Sana'a University, did just this two months ago in a research paper.

An obvious conclusion from the survey was that having a job is considered to be a condition for Yemeni men before they can get married. This means that 20 percent of youth who are unemployed will have to wait a long time before they can begin to find their other half.

The survey showed that 38 percent of unmarried Yemeni men said that once a man has a job he should and



could get married because this means he can afford to have a family of his own. The survey also revealed that 26 percent of Yemenis based the readiness of someone for marriage on the ability to run a family.

Furthermore, one participant who called himself 'single forever' said that what prevents him from getting married is a low salary, high prices, instability and insecurity in the country, and the expensive dowry.

Suitable age for marriage

One of the questions in the survey asked about the best age for Yemeni

men to get married.

Answers varied; however, the highest percentage, at 40 percent, suggested that 25 is the best age for a man to marry. Several reasons were given for this opinion. First, they said that at this age a man would have graduated from university and probably have a job. Second, a man who has a job would be able to support his family's needs and be responsible for the family decisions. Finally, they said that at 25 a man would be mature enough to appropriately decide on things that could benefit him and his family.

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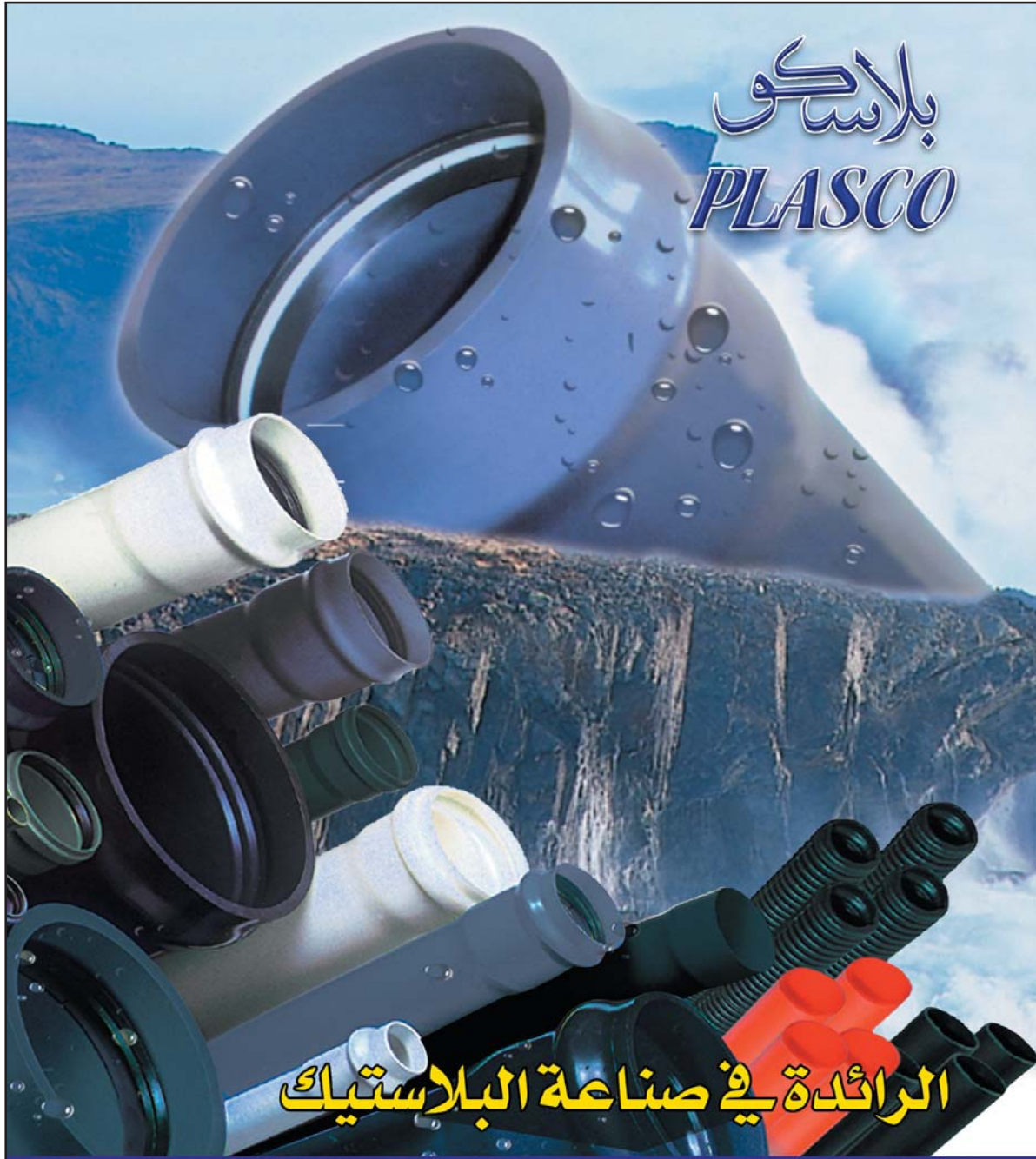
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Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINIONThe class system
in Yemen

Beside poverty, instability, and the deterioration of both the economy and civil rights, Yemen faces yet another challenge in its social texture. The Yemeni class system dictates social interaction and relations between Yemeni people. To the outsider it might not be visible, but to Yemenis it permeates everyday life, especially in traditional families.

There are formally four social classes: the saada [lords] who are also called the Hashemite [descendants of Prophet Mohammed], qabael [tribes], mazaayina [barbers or butchers] and akhdam [servants]. Unfortunately, this class system still prevails in the 21st century, sometimes in a very ugly way.

For example, intermarriages are unthinkable, especially if the potential groom is from a lower class. Businesses are not possible unless a member of the upper class hires a member of the lower class as an employee, although this business barrier is not so rigid between the saada and qabael. Interaction and friendships are also limited. Although you would usually not be able to distinguish between the first three groups in appearance, the last group usually stands out because of their skin color, for being originally immigrants from Africa.

I will never forget an email I received from one of our readers now working in the United Kingdom. He was very bitter about the term "akhdam," saying that although he is a distinguished engineer and has made a good name for himself in a highly competitive environment, in Yemen he is still labeled according to his class. "What more do I have to do just not to be looked down upon?" asked.

Since then, we have avoided using this term, instead referring to this community in our reports as Yemenis of African origin, just like the African-American term. But sensitivity is still very much there.

The mazaayina, who used to be barbers or butchers, still suffer from social discrimination although they can be very wealthy. The class system in Yemen is genetic: You are either born with noble blood or you aren't. Education or money will not erase the fact that you are of that doomed class, and this is very unfair.

Sadly, Yemen has a very racist culture. The consequences of this racism have stepped out of social life and moved into politics. When the Houthis movement started in 2002, many saada families supported the Houthis -who are also saada- and claimed that the government clamp-down on the Houthis was an attack against the Hashemite people, thus fueling a life-time enmity between the latter and the qabael who are usually in government.

If Yemenis cannot get along with each other socially, how will they get along politically? If as human beings, they cannot recognize equality or fairness, how can they recognize human right laws or international conventions?

We are living in very difficult times, with narrowing freedom of press, political tension and decreasing democratic space. But in my opinion, it is more important to have a just culture where people act fairly because they believe they are all born equal, exactly as Islam - that Yemenis claim to adhere to- preaches. Without a culture of fairness, we will never have stability or peace in the country because justice is the basis of all good.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Mosques and the Dutch government

By: Handhala Al-Yamani

Behind the scenes of the General People's Congress (GPC) and the Parliament lays a draft law project for mosques. The aim of this draft law is not, of course, to increase the number of people who pray, expand mosque construction, reduce the financial burdens on mosques or exempt them from paying electricity bills!

The sole strategic objective of this draft law is to ensure that imams don't elections based on their popularity.

This objective is standard for the GPC government. Winning elections and attaining the majority is the axis of its understanding and activity. Therefore, whenever elections approach, tractors work more actively to level dirt roads, and other new projects emerge. Officials put down foundation stones with no intention of finishing the projects. And as a result of these fake projects, the price of ribbons and scissors increases two, three and four times!

Last month, the secular Dutch gov-

ernment, which doesn't build mosques or religious colleges, and doesn't have religious guidance within its structure, funded a study about the activities of mosques in the Netherlands, in response to Muslim Netherlanders' demand that the government treat religious institutions equally.

The study showed amazing results about the contribution of mosques to social services and developmental activities without receiving any support from the government. It revealed that mosques provide vital services, including offering language training, sheltering homeless people, and feeding the needy.

The study estimated that these activities cost 150 million euro, which is the cash equivalent of providing at least 2,600 full time jobs.

Since the Dutch government is experiencing a financial crisis, it was pleased to find mosques taking on some of its responsibilities.

And since democracy in the Netherlands is not new, elections are not rigged and Supreme Committee for Elections is independent. No one in the government demanded that a law be

issued to put mosques under the control and mercy of the ruling party, or impose constraints on activities like receiving the donations that provide social services for the needy! The Dutch government will also not impose a unified Friday preaching or central Athan [call for prayer], like some Arab countries.

In Yemen, despite the good that many mosques provide for poor people, the government does not miss a chance to politicize religion and mosques. The government ignores the fact that there are people in need of relief from suffering.

If it doesn't change, those people might find a leader who says, "Don't you know that hungry people have the right to protest or revolt?"

Will mosques in Yemen someday ask the secular governments in Europe to protect them from the laws of the Yemeni government? The government must be forced to deal with Yemeni mosques as the Netherlands deals with its mosques. Shouldn't Yemeni mosques have the same rights that mosques have in the Netherlands?

Source: *alsahwa.net*.

What do we want from the local governance?

By: Abdul Majed Al-Ariqi

What we want from the local government is development and an improvement in the standard of living, particularly in rural areas. In these areas, 70 percent of the population produce not only agricultural products, but also capable, competent and well-qualified people.

In addition, there are abundant natural capabilities in the Yemeni rural areas that are ripe for development. Therefore, we can't ignore the backwardness and miserable conditions in the countryside, especially given that all statistics and field studies that say the poverty rate in rural areas is higher than in urban areas.

Consider the education problems in rural areas: truancy, girls deprived of education, poor quality teaching and weak discipline.

People in rural areas also suffer from lack of potable water. One can see painful scenes of women and girls moving from one place to another to fetch drinking water, particularly during a draught. People in rural areas also do not often consider potential contaminants in the water because of the pressure of water scarcity.

All this is reflected in public health and infectious diseases data, and the problem is aggravated by the limited health services in these areas.

We expected that local councils would be active canals to start solving these complicated problems and that officials would listen to their ordeals

and alleviate their suffering. But some of these local councils turned out to be a new burden on citizens, while other local councils worked hard for positive change.

If there is a real initiative to activate local governments for the benefit of the people, attention should be paid to improving the lives of individuals in rural areas. This requires that local councils have realistic plans that utilize local and national resources.

Local councils can make outstanding breakthroughs if they understand this role, apply the law, and if members of local councils pay attention to the areas where they were elected.

Not all problems can be solved overnight, and there is no a magic rod that can provide all the financial capabilities within a year. However, considering the lives of the people, particularly in rural areas, will make the local plans more realistic and useful.

Visitors to any rural area will find that people adapt, despite difficult standards of living which are further aggravated by draught and the deterioration of agriculture. In addition, new consumption patterns have entered the Yemeni rural areas that imitate the city. People now import their needs, particularly foods, from cities.

In the past, rural areas were the source of urban food and resources. Now suffering in the countryside drags down national development on many levels.

If we consider the population problem with its different dimensions and concentrate on the issue of population growth, we will realize that the highest population growth is in the Yemeni

rural areas. This is not strange, as family planning services in rural areas are limited.

Upon considering the health situations, we find that people from rural areas are the biggest source of diseases coming to hospitals and medical centers in the main cities. This reflects weak health services and a lack of health awareness, as 70 percent of diseases among children are caused by contaminated water in rural areas. Poor education and illiteracy exacerbate the problem.

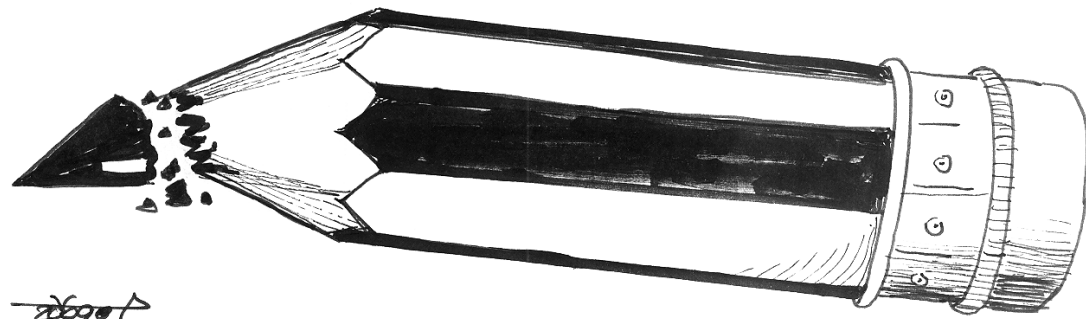
Therefore, many issues and major challenges that face development in Yemen can be tackled only if we pay attention to rural areas, where 70 percent of the population lives.

Local authority can play a major role in reducing problems if it investigates and surveys the problem and then works to provide basic services. Activating youth, an encouraging community participation and continuous education would help. Also, encouraging productive initiatives such as renovating agricultural terraces, and building facilities to harvest rain water would improve the situation. Educating girls and providing family planning services would raise awareness of women's health issues.

We need to use all possible means to provide rural areas with stability and reduce internal immigration into urban areas. If we do not, the countryside may cease to be a feasible place to survive, and all of us could live in crowded cities, surrounded by construction and short on jobs.

Source: *Al Thawra Daily*.

SKETCHED
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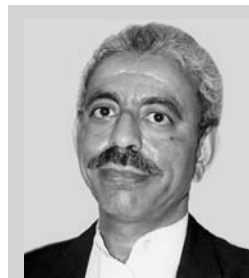


Separation

By Hamid

COMMON SENSE

Peace in the Middle East (1/2)

Can Mr. Obama
really do it?

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The events that unfolded in the United States over the last decade have been at best unpredictable and at worst tragic. America can be said to have witnessed one of the worst periods in its history since a combination of both the Post Civil War period and the period of the Carpetbaggers, and the period of the Great Depression.

In addition, the George W. Bush epoch of calamity and despair, with its unabashed and unrelenting execution of the designs of the Conservative New Right and the highly active prodding of the Zionist lobby led by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and its puppets within the Bush-Cheney Administration have actually created an unpleasant venue for any President to work in. Mr. Barack Hussein Obama put forth all the aspirations of the American people in a sweeping campaign for the highest political office in the country. When the campaign for the Presidency of the United States began, there were actually no indications that Mr. Bush was going to leave his office with his country in a total mess politically, economically and socially. While no one had any illusions that Mr. Bush was a flip-flop in all the sense of the word, it is really distressing to hear the former constituencies in the Republican Party rush to point out all the errors and failings of the "Obama" Administration. Even veteran politicians in the Congress are quick to point out that Mr. Obama has been untrue in his assessment of his own strengths. "He promised this and he promised that! Well where is it folks?" they say.

All one can say is that there is simply no fairness in these people. An American who recently came to Yemen was heard by this observer trying to explain to a few Yemenis, who had some knowledge of English in varying degrees that "Mr. Obama has actually spent in his first 100 days in the White House more than all the money that George W. Bush spent in all his eight years in the White House". I could not help but wonder why all this effort to undermine the Presidency of a man, who for the first time rose to the Presidency without the moral, financial and political backing of any of the icons of the American socio-economic and political establishment. Mr. Obama arose from the grass roots, by the grass roots and for the grass roots of the American people, who were the hardest hit by the follies of the Bush Administration. Never mind that the latter was guided more by the "security of Israel" and the "ability of Israel to defend itself" from the totally repressed victims of an ongoing aggression and occupation that has been slowly chewing at all the fabric of the Palestinians, who have not yet been driven to the Diaspora of the refugee camps, emigrant communities and graves of the thousands of innocent victims that were targeted by one of the most violence prone regime since that of Adolf Hitler, who they claim is their *raison d'être*. Of course many of these in the grassroots of the American social fabric, had no idea that Israel was in the end going to cost thousands of American lives, trillions of US Dollars and the credibility and reputation of the United States as a fair and just broker of peace and international stability. Yet it is a fact that the Israelis were not mindful of what comes out of all this calamitous behavior that characterized the Bush Administration, as shown recently by the visit of Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House. The latter had the audacity to come to urge the White House to start pointing its guns at Iran "before Iran's nukes become the world's greatest danger to the western world". Never mind, that Mr. Obama has a haunting economic crisis to overcome. Never mind that Israel itself has over two hundred nukes at its disposal and its human rights record has not justified at all the right to possess such an arsenal, especially when considering that the Arabs for all practical purposes do not pose any military threat to speak of to Israel, and are far from annihilating the mutant state that was implanted in their midst. The Israeli Prime Minister's Brooklyn mentality actually made him believe that he could put Mr. Obama to the first Zionist challenge of his Presidency: either you go by what AIPAC dictates or we will show you what the instruments of the Israeli lobby can engineer against an unyielding American President. Thus the right wing conservative political machinery and AIPAC worked diligently to block the closure of Guantanamo Bay, even with the backing of the majority of the American Democrats in the Senate. This is how the Zionist lobby works even against those ideals that are what Obama considers to be the backbone of American political philosophy: America will not have torture camps, etc. For AIPAC and friends that is anathema to the entire social and political rhetoric upon which Zionism thrives and insists others should accept. With 11,000 Palestinians locked up in Zionist Concentration Camps, it is understandable why AIPAC and its friends would rather hold off the closure of Guantanamo Bay. Does this make sense? There is more on this to follow.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. He may be blogged at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com/>

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Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, June 11, 2009

Top Story

• HR Minister slams criticizes AI report on human rights

Human Rights Minister Huda Alban has affirmed that her ministry deals with all human rights reports on Yemen seriously, particularly those reports issued by the Amnesty International.

A recently-issued report by AI has accused the Yemeni government of using excessive force in dealing with riot acts in the southern Yemen. Alban said that the reports of Amnesty International's and any other organizations' had to be objective and impartial in dealing with rioting and sabotage acts.

She pointed out that if the violations mentioned in the Amnesty International's report were proved true, then the Human Rights Ministry would contact the authorities.

The London-based AI had said that security forces killed deliberately several protestors during peaceful protests and that no independent investigations were carried out on the security forces' killings.

In a report issued in late May, AI said that Yemen conducted hundreds of new arrests in previous years, pointing out that the authorities failed to investigate possible extrajudicial executions and other killings by security forces.

The report explained that the Yemeni government proposed negative changes to the penal code on corporal punishment discriminations against women and criminalization of criticism of religion, indicating that the government proposed law on counter terrorism and money laundering, adding the financing of terrorism law was vague and that such procedures would weaken safeguards for the protection of suspects.

Amnesty International also cited that hundreds of people were arrested in 2008 for peaceful protest because they were suspected of being supporters of Hussain Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, supporters of Al-Qaeda, apostates or spies.

It also stated that police brutality and torture of detainees held in connection with politically motivated acts or protests as well as ordinary criminal suspects were reported to be widespread and carried out with impunity.

"Confessions allegedly obtained under torture or other duress were accepted as evidence by the courts without being investigated adequately, if at all. Reported methods of torture included beating with sticks, punching, kicking, prolonged suspension by the wrists or ankles,

burning with cigarettes, being stripped naked, denial of food and prompt access to medical help, and threats of sexual abuse," the report revealed.

"Women continued to face discrimination in law and practice and were inadequately protected against domestic and other violence," the AI report highlighted.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with General People Congress (Ruling Party)
Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Top Story

• President Saleh: Military institutions are symbol of unity

President Ali Abdullah Saleh underlined on Saturday that military institutions are a symbol of national unity, a safety valve and a guardian of the country's achievements and gains, the website reported.

During his visit Saturday to Maaz bin Jabal camp, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces inspected the conditions of the members of the 14th Armored Republican Guards Brigade and stressed the concern of the leadership to develop, supply and strengthen such a

military institution with different weapons and defense and security capabilities as well so as to perform its role in different circumstances.

Affiliates of military and security institutions will be given all care and interest to raise their level of living and be trained and qualified, Saleh said.

Through the visit, Saleh expressed his satisfaction with the discipline and high morale of officers and soldiers in the camp, urging them to care for continued attention to the implementation of tactical projects and aspects of advanced rehabilitation and training that refine fighters' skills and develop their abilities.

On a side note, the website reported that Saleh attended an expanded conference of Ibb province's local authority last week for two days under the motto of "Active Management is the Foundation of Comprehensive Development".

The event was attended by ministers, parliamentarians, local councilors, senior official in the province and representatives of political parties and civil society organizations.

Addressing the participants at the conference, President Saleh said that the conference has great importance as it comprises the representatives of officials, political parties and civil society organizations to discuss all concerns and challenges which face the development in the province and address all difficulties

and problems.

"The election of local councils was a significant achievement to expand the popular participation in decision-making and the management of development process", Saleh continued.

"We have moved from the election of local councils into the election of governors. Now we prepare to amend the local authority law in order to move to a system of local government", he added.

"In light of the transition to the local rule, all the centralization tasks and responsibilities would be transferred to the local authorities, including local police and all administrative bodies".

President Saleh pointed out that these functions and powers would be entrusted with the local authorities for applying the local government.

"It will be part of your function to elect governors and directors of districts and civil and security institutions", he declared.

"There are elements that try to fault the multiparty system of the country with the intention of forcing the political leadership to reverse its decision approved by the Yemeni people to apply political pluralism and freedom of the press and respect human rights", he said, confirming that these essentials have become irreversible options.

Saleh added that all issues should be resolved through dialogue within the local or governmental authorities. "Dialogue is

best way to address any disagreements or inconsistencies in order to serve the development and modernization in the country".

"We are against bloodshed. We support the development, security, stability and serious and meaningful dialogue".

For the sectors of agriculture and electricity, President Saleh ordered the local authority to refrain from committing mistakes in the issuance of licenses indiscriminately for drilling further water wells, which causes the depletion of water for watering non-food crops, particularly Qat.

Saleh also ordered the relevant bodies and local authorities in all provinces of the country to stop the depletion of water and the prohibition of drilling indiscriminately water wells.

President Saleh said that the capacity of 340 megawatts of Marib electric gas station would be operated next month for reducing somewhat the problem of power generation.

"There are no development and no industry without electrical power. Another electric station will be established at the port of Balhaf in Shabwa province to generate electric power".

The President called on the government to accelerate the implementation of his directives and support industrial and agricultural projects.

Lebanese media, a fourth estate?

Historically, media was referred to as the fourth estate because of its power to criticize and question those in power, in other words, to function as watchdog for the government. In a democracy, the media should be a fourth estate, and the government should guarantee enough protection for the media to carry out this task.

Bayan Itani – Sawt el Shabab

Although the elites in Lebanon praise the

role of the media as a fourth estate, both Lebanese broadcast and print laws have restrictions that prevent the media from discussing certain topics, and ones that make politicians safe from media's criticism, neglecting the fact that the evaluation of performance of these political elites is at the heart of media's responsibility.

For instance, some articles in the law are vague and susceptible to various interpretations Article 25 of the print law is one clear example of such laws. This article

states that the distribution of a publication can be banned if it included what may endanger the country's unity. So are media outlets then supposed not to report racial or sectarian conflicts that erupt in the country, considering that an item about these events may boost racial or sectarian conflicts in other areas of the country? Isn't it the job of the media to cover and investigate these conflicts in depth, and critically evaluate the performance of defense ministry and security forces in the presence of such conflicts?

Well, even if monitoring the function of the cabinet is the job of the media, the fact that the law prohibits criticism of any official personnel works against the interest of the Lebanese public. It is true that officials should be respected and not be defamed by the media but does not mean that officials will be immune from media criticisms. If a president or a minister or a parliament member is involved in drug transactions or illegal money transfer operations or any other shameful act, the media should inform the public about the reality

of this official.

So, the laws do constitute a barrier that prevents media outlets in Lebanon from functioning as government watchdogs. However, another more significant barrier exists, which is that the political elites protected by these laws are themselves the owners of the media outlets that we are counting on to function as a fourth estates.

The Lebanese public and the intellectuals in the country should be aware that the information they are receiving through the media does not construct the complete

true picture of what is really happening, but rather a distorted image that different powerful politicians want the public to perceive. Changing the law does not guarantee for the deceived public a better understanding of their country and a fair evaluation of people in power, but rather calling for the formation of alternative independent media could be the answer for a desired fourth estate.

This article is part of the Sawt el Shabab project



Job Summary: Provide service to customers by installing, repairing or removing wellhead equipment according to blueprints and manufacturer's instructions. Apply knowledge of mechanical, hydraulic and electrical machinery.

Functional Roles, Responsibilities and Essential Duties: Essential duties and responsibilities include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

- Fully participate in HSE Management Program and comply with all Safety, Health and Environmental policies/regulations.
- Ensure compliance in respective areas of control with all QHSE Management System requirements, policies and procedures.
- Must be available to work "on-call" 24/7 – an essential duty.
- Ensure the promotion of awareness of customer requirements in respective areas of responsibility and/or location and monitor customer satisfaction.
- Prepares and submits written reports after each service job to the customer.
- Follow customer service orders as dispatched from Service Manager.
- Inspect, assemble and disassemble all types and brands of wellhead equipment.
- Complete necessary paperwork for invoicing, equipment identification/tracking, inventory control and expense monitoring.
- Ensure periodic maintenance and repairs to Company vehicle consistent with Company policy.
- Maintain Company vehicle with necessary tools and equipment to perform service jobs.
- Operate Company vehicle in compliance with applicable Company policy and/or applicable DOT regulations.
- Provide input and assistance to other functional areas throughout assigned facility and/or region in order to improve processes and customer satisfaction levels.
- Assist Valve Mechanics, as needed.

Job Requirements:

Education, Training, Experience:	▪ Bachelor's degree from a four year college or university; or four to five years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.
Certifications, Licenses, Registrations:	▪ Certified in Wellhead Field Service; Casing Hanger; Service Policy; Production Safety Systems (T2); Fall Protection; H2S; SCBA; Casing Saw Cut; Gas Detection Monitoring, Hydraulic Wrench Certificate, Rigger Certificate, Confined Space Certificate, Water Survival/HUET and WACHS Cutter.
Knowledge, Skills, Abilities:	▪ Working knowledge of Mechanical, Electrical and/or Hydraulics; Service Documentation and Record Keeping; WGPC Equipment Identification; Field Equipment Repair w/o Assistance; Equipment Troubleshooting-WGPC Equipment; New WGPC Product Installation; Customer Service Best Practices ▪ Basic Computer Skills ▪ Basic Language Skills, Intermediate Mathematical Skills and Intermediate Reasoning Ability

Dhakwan Petroleum & Mineral Services Co. Ltd
 Tele : 00967 1 413171/6 – 423443 Fax : 413173 – P.O. Box : 7192
 Sana'a – Republic of Yemen Email : DPMC@Y.NET.YE / INFO@DPMC-YE.COM

UNICEF YEMEN

P. O. BOX 725
 SANAA, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
 TEL: (967.1) 211 400
 FAX: (967.1) 206 092

EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 009/09

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni Nationals for the following Position:

Title: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer **Level:** NOB
Type of contract: Fixed-Term **Duty station:** Sana'a
Case #: YEM09013

Responsibilities:
 Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chief Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

- Responsibilities:**
- 1) Assess trends and measure outcomes relating to goals for children, in the context of country programme. Contribute to the quality assurance of surveys and the preparation of the Situation Analysis by compiling data, analyzing and evaluating information, and participate the write-up of the analysis.
 - 2) Design and maintain a database of social indicators on the situation of children and women and country programme indicators. Oversee and support the transfer of available data from various sources including MICS to user-friendly media such as DevInfo for situation and performance monitoring related to children and women
 - 3) Participate in the development of the sectoral workplan using results-based management principles; ensure compliance to specific assigned objectives. Provide guidance and support to staff in formulating project results, indicators and in monitoring progress against these targets. Prepares integrated monitoring and evaluation plans
 - 4) Participate in the preparation of documents for the Country Programme Document (CPD), Plans of Action, programme analysis, programme/project status reports required for management, annual reports and various other country reports.
 - 5) Prepares national and sub-national analysis of trends on the MDGs and prepare detailed briefs on selected goals focusing on children and women. Provides technical advice to programme staff, government officials and other counterparts. Participate in Programme mid-term review and annual reviews
 - 6) Participates in the design of data collection tools methodologies and research related to programme interventions; (Sentinel Site Survey, RAP, CAP, etc.). Conducts research and data analysis. Assist in the introduction of new approaches and methods in project monitoring and evaluation.
 - 7) Meet with national and international agencies covering monitoring and evaluation of programmes/projects and development assistance. Participate in meetings with ministries responsible for programme/project review and follow-up on implementation of recommendations and agreements
 - 8) Undertake field visits to collect data and monitor programmes with government counterparts and other partners. Provide technical advice and assistance to government officials and other partners at the central and regional levels in data collection, analysis and maintenance.
 - 9) Participate in intersect oral collaboration with programme and operations colleagues in tracking programme financial inputs and outputs. Collaborates with the Information/Communication staff in the selection and dissemination of statistical results from the Situation Analysis to national and local levels.
 - 10) Assist Government authorities to plan and organize M&E training programmes. Identifies training needs for the purpose of capacity building in monitoring and evaluation. Liaises with the regional M&E Officer and the Evaluation and Research Office at UNICEF Headquarters in this regard

Qualifications:
 - Master degree in Social Sciences, Demography, Epidemiology, Statistics or related technical field. participation and HIV prevention is desirable
 - At least Five years of progressively responsible experience in Monitoring. Demonstrated experience in data development and management, MICS, DHS, PAPFAM or similar household surveys.
 - Fluency in English and Arabic language is required.
 - Computer skills, including internet navigation and various office applications required, specialized training in statistics or demography, ability to organize and implement training.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their CV to the yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after July 15, 2009 will not be considered.

UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non smoking environment

Yemen LNG Company Scholarship Programme

In support of the ongoing professional development of the citizens of Yemen, Yemen LNG Company is pleased to announce the launch of its scholarship programme. The programme aims to provide a range of scholarships which will

- deliver world class university education to recently graduated young high school students
- equip fresh college graduates with additional qualifications such as diplomas and master's degrees
- enhance the skills of professionals already working in occupations which directly benefit the country

The scholarships are open to all citizens of Yemen, and the programmes which will be offered each year are detailed below.

Undergraduate Programme

Majors:

- Civil Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Electrical Engineering

Requirements:

1. Yemeni national residing in Yemen and aged between 18 and 21 years
2. A certificate from a secondary school in Yemen, recognized by the Yemeni Ministry of Education
3. A grade average of 85% or higher - Science section
4. Good English language skills and the willingness to undertake additional training to reach the required level
5. Commitment to complete a four-year study programme and to return to work in Yemen

Postgraduate Programme

Master Majors:

- Masters of Public Administration
- Tourism Development
- Tourism Management
- Water Regulation and Management
- International Health Care
- Environmental Law and Policy
- Executive MBA
- Finance and Investment Management
- Energy Law and Policy
- International Dispute Resolution and Management
- Mineral Law and Policy
- Petroleum Law and Policy
- Petroleum Taxation and Finance

Diploma Majors:

- Energy Law and Policy
- Environmental Law and Policy
- Finance and Investment Management
- International Health Care
- Petroleum Law and Policy
- Petroleum Taxation and Finance
- International Dispute Resolution and Management
- Mineral Law and Policy

Requirements:

1. A TOEFL score of at least 450 in English and the willingness to undertake additional training to reach the required level
2. A pre-existing BA/BSc degree with a grade average of at least "good"
3. At least one year's postgraduate work in Yemen
4. A clear personal career objective after the completion of the Master's degree or Diploma

Professional Certificates

Majors:

- Strategic Management
- Financial Management
- Project Appraisal and Management
- Environmental management
- Managerial Control and MIS
- E-government
- Certificate in HR Administration
- Certificate in Recruitment & Selection
- Certificate in Purchasing & Supply
- HR Management
- Contracts Strategy and Management
- Human Resource Planning & Development
- International Diplomas in Educational Planning & development
- General Management for Senior Executives
- International Training Programme on Management Systems for Developing countries
- International Training Programme in Standardization & Quality Assurance for Developing Countries

Requirements:

1. A TOEFL score of at least 450 in English to reach the required level
2. A letter from the current employer which must state the professional need for the candidate to undertake this training and the benefit that the individual and the employing Organisation will gain from it
3. A reference letter from the current employer, supporting the candidate's application and giving clear reasons for this



For more information about the programmes and how to apply, please visit our Website

www.yemenlng.com/scholarships

All applications must be submitted no later than 15th July 2009. Additional scholarships will be advertised annually.

UNICEF YEMEN

P. O. BOX 725
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TEL: (967.1) 211 400
FAX: (967.1) 206 092

EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 011/09

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

Title: Communication Officer **Level:** NOB
Type of contract: Fixed-Term **Duty station:** Sana'a
Case #: YEM0915

Responsibilities

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chief communications Officer (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

Responsibilities

- 1) Contributes to the development of advocacy and communication strategy by coordinating appropriate audience research and scanning the national media (Arabic and English) and assists in Launching Advocacy and social mobilization initiatives
- 2) Assists in developing and maintaining close collaboration with mass media, as well as with groups and organizations (including private sector) whose support is essential to the achievement of results for children as envisaged in the countries programme of cooperation and advocacy and communication objectives and awareness creation among families and communities
- 3) Assists in drafting and editing advocacy articles, press releases, human interest stories and other advocacy/information materials for both web-based and traditional media, as appropriate.
- 4) Prepares background communication and promotional materials for briefings and visits of media, goodwill ambassadors, donors, national committee representatives and other special interest groups. Assists in the planning, logistic and administrative arrangements for them at the national and governorate level (in close collaboration with field offices)
- 5) Helps organize and generate public support for special events and activities to promote country programme goals and corporate advocacy objectives and assists with inter-agency collaboration in the area of information, education and communication (IEC)
- 6) Monitors the public perception of UNICEF in the country and recommends appropriate action to maintain a positive image for the organization.
- 7) Follows up on the production and dissemination of communication for development materials (C4D), of advocacy and communication materials. The incumbent will be responsible for assisting the communication section in production and overseeing the dissemination of communication material covering films, video, audio-visual, and printed material, aspects of production, (e.g., quality control, translation, review of layouts and graphic design). Monitors their impact periodically.
- 8) Monitors Section budget for cash & supply assistance to partners using financial management tools (Proms and Rover reports), follows up on implementation of activities, liquidation of CAGS and does periodic end user monitoring of supplies
- 9) The incumbent will be responsible for supporting C4D work based on systematic and evidence based information at the national and field level working particularly in the five governorates of Hodeidah, Ibb, Lahj, Dhala and Taiz

Qualifications

- Master degree in Communication, Journalism, Public relations or equivalent professional work experience in the communication area; combined with a university degree in a related field
- At least three years of professional work experience in communication, print and broadcast media or interactive digital media, at either the national or international level including NGO's
- Experience in advocacy, social mobilization and behavioral changes and communication.
- Fluency in English and Arabic language is required.
- Computer skills, including internet navigation and various office applications required
- Proven ability to work in a team
- Ability to research analyze, evaluate and synthesize information

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their CV to the yemenhr@unicef.org. **Applications received after July 15, 2009 will not be considered.**

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EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 007/09

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni Nationals for the following duty stations, **Aden, Dhala'a, Ibb, Hodediah and Taiz.**

Title: Health Officers **Level:** NOB
Type of Contract: Fixed-Term **Case #:** YEM09008

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the field officers (NO-B), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

Responsibilities:

1. Collect and analyzes data for the situation Analyzes, programme/project, planning management, and monitoring and evaluation purposes. Analyzes programme implementation reports and evaluate against established programme recommendations and plan of action. Analyze health programme implementation reports and evaluates it against the established health programme targets and annual plan of action. Reports outcome of analysis and propose corrective action.
2. Undertakes ongoing visits to UNICEF project sites, assesses local conditions and resources, and monitors UNICEF inputs. Communicates with local counterpart authorities on project feasibility and effectiveness including monitoring the flow of supply and non-supply assistance.
3. Represent UNICEF at the governorate and district level and advocates for UNICEF mission and program priorities. Cooperates and works closely with counterpart colleagues at different level for implementation of UNICEF programme/project activities. Attend coordination meetings, prepare notes and undertakes follow-up action.
4. Facilitates programme planning meetings, and programme monitoring, donor and media visit.
5. Coordinates, under the PO, Field Operations, with the Sana'a team and technical sections to initiate advocacy and implementation of various components of the field operations programme
6. Follow-up on cash advances and ensures that funds are used for the intended purposes, and no advance is outstanding for a period over six months. Reviews liquidation documents and submits to Sana'a office for action.

Qualifications:

- Master degree in Public Health or MNH related specialty.
- Five years of progressively professional work experience at the national levels in health, social development or management, EPI, IMCI, Nutrition etc.
- Fluency in English and Arabic language is required.
- Computer skills, including internet navigation and various office applications required

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their CV to the yemenhr@unicef.org. **Applications received after July 15, 2009 will not be considered.**

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Ministry of Education

Project Administration Unit (PAU)

Basic Education Development Project (BEDP)

Credit No. 3988-Yeme & Grant No. TF-053721 & KfW 2004 66 268

Request for Expressions of Interest

Technical Assistance (TA) to train the Ministry of Education (MoE) staff on Basic Requirements on the Modern Administration and English Language & Technical Assistance (TA) to train Cadres of Literacy and Adult Education Organization on Basic Skills and English Language

This Request for Expressions of Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the Development Business and Dg Market dated of Feb 2, 2005. The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen, has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), Multi Donor Grant and KfW Grant; intend to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above consulting service.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible Consulting Firms to indicate their interest in providing the service for conducting Technical Assistance (TA) to train the Ministry of Education (MoE) staff on Basic Requirement of the Modern Administration and English Language & Technical Assistant (TA) to train Cadres of Literacy and Adult Education Organization on Basic Skills and English Language.

Interested Consulting Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service profiles, description of similar assignments, experience in similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc. and experience in Yemen and other countries in the region.

The selection of the Consulting Firms and training institutes will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: **Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004.** Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat-Wed from 10:00AM to 3:00PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by July 15, 2009.

Basic Education Development Project
60m Southern Rd-Bait Meyad
Tel: 00967-01-619160, Fax: 00967-01-619219 or to
Email: The Project Director: a.al-arashi@y.net.ye



Botschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Sanaa

**The German Embassy Sanaa
is seeking to hire as soon as possible:**

1 driver

Applicants should have an extensive knowledge of the streets and locations in Sanaa, be of excellent health and fitness, be able to work at odd hours and have experience as drivers. They should have good command of the English or, preferably, the German language.

Job-applications should include a c.v., recommendation letters from former employers, diplomas, and one photograph. Any documents in Arabic should be accompanied by an English or German translation.

**Please submit your application by June 20, 2009 to the
German Embassy; P.O.Box 41, Sana'a
Attn. Mr. Peter Speyrer**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Climate change in Yemen: A call for action

Climate change and changing weather of the earth is a global serious threat that endangers our life on this planet. One of its most feared effects on the poor countries is its devastating health impacts. In these countries, where the infra structure of public health is already poorly developed, the burden on the population will be huge. This article will overview some of the important aspects of climate change in Yemen and how these changes interact, both directly and indirectly, to produce a devastating effects on health.

By: Yasir Abdul Majeed Hammed
MBCChB, Iraq

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods'.

This warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising average sea level.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that climate change induced by global warming will affect, in profoundly adverse ways, some of the most fundamental determinants of health. These are food, air, water.

The manifestations will be devastating and will greatly affect the poor communities in the developing world in the form of an increase in natural disasters, decreased food resources, decreased fresh water availability and increased spread of diseases.

This in turn, can further lead to famine, homelessness, displacement of communities, and even armed conflict as people compete with each other for land, water, food, and energy.

These facts and much more have resulted in the WHO topic selection for World Health Day on 7 April 2008 to be "Protecting Health from Climate Change".

Yemen, being one of the least developed countries in the world; is facing a great challenge in how to prepare and respond to these effects.

The climate of Yemen is hot and humid on the coastal strip, moderate

renewable water resources and the demand for water in 2005.

Yemen is extremely vulnerable to draught, which is one of the most feared effects of climate change in Yemen.

Being in an arid region, Yemen has a scarce rainfall in many of its regions with a high evaporation rate of water.

Yemen population depends mainly on rain-fed agriculture and about 90% of the water resources are consumed for agricultural purposes.

Despite the lack of accurate statistics, qat (or khat) cultivation account for a large portion of this consumption.

Qat plays a major economic and social role in Yemen. It behaves like amphetamines in increasing locomotor activity, oxygen consumption and other central nervous system functions.

Qat production accounts for 6% of GDP, 1/3 of agricultural GDP and provides greater employment than the public sector, employing about 500,000 people (or 1 of every 7 Yemenis).

Despite its significant economic gain the net effect of qat consumption is negative for Yemen's economic development.

Due to its high profitability, qat cultivation is depleting the country's agricultural and water resources.

The excessive and uncontrolled water consumption for qat cultivation has resulted in declining of the groundwater levels in Sana'a at a rate of 3-6 m a year. In addition, numerous underground water basins are either dried up or being threatened with depletion mainly in Sana'a, Sa'ada, and Taiz basins and it is expected to dry out in just a little over 10 years.

In addition to the low quantity of water, there is also a huge lack of safe water for drinking and poor sanitation services. It is estimated that about 53 percent of the urban population has no access to



Between October 23-25, 2008, Yemen was faced with heavy sustained rains as a result of a level-three tropical storm that hit the country. The storm caused widespread flooding in several locations in the two eastern Governorates of Hadramout and Al-Mahara, leading them to be the two most heavily affected areas. Environmentalists report that climate change has participated in increasing the occurrence of devastating storms around the world in recent years.

create a crisis of internal displacement, which will have major health and social consequences.

This has already occurred in the governorate of Abyan, Sirar district, south of Yemen where approximately 2000 people had to be displaced to other areas after their wells dried up due to lack of rain.

Lastly but not the least, scarce water resources will lead families to increase the quantity of water stored inside their houses or depend on wells for their daily uses which will lead to an increase in cases of household water contamination.

All of the above mentioned health consequences are already occurring in Yemen on a large scale.

Infectious disease impact:

Climate change increases the health impacts of infectious diseases, particularly those spreading by vector, water and food.

This will burden health services and exacerbate their weaknesses particularly in low-income countries like Yemen.

World wide, climate change was estimated to be responsible for approximately 2.4% of worldwide diarrhoea, and 6% of malaria in some middle-income countries in the year 2000.

The so-called climate-sensitive diseases (e.g., diarrhea, malaria and protein-energy malnutrition) already causing more than 3 million deaths globally.

The WHO estimates that climate change is already causing approximately 100,000 deaths from malaria, malnutrition and child diarrhoea.

Yemen's health situation is one of the least favourable in the world. This situation will definitely worsen under the effects of climate change if no steps are taken to improve it.

Government health services are generally weak, both in infrastructure and in resources, and are not targeting the poor.

Health coverage is unequally distributed between urban and rural areas. It reaches 80% in urban areas and 25% in rural areas. Taking into account that more than 60% of the population lives in rural areas and less than 25.5% are urban dwellers, we can see the magnitude of this problem.

Government expenditure on health was 5.1% of GDP in 2005.

The private health sector is thriving but with substantial high cost of tests and treatment which is the single most important reason why the poor do not seek care when they are sick.

The public health system is generally weak and struggling to detect, control and treat infectious diseases especially in rural areas where even the basic medical facilities are lacking.

There is a huge lack of physicians and healthcare professionals. According to the Main Health Indicators report published by the Central Statistical Organization in 2006, the number of inhabitants per

physician was 3495.

Malnutrition in general population and specifically in children is a serious health concern in Yemen, as nearly one-third of children between two and five years old are severely stunted.

Poverty plays an important role in causing malnutrition and climate change will work to exacerbate malnutrition through a vicious cycle of draught, decrease food supplies and diseases.

studies suggest.

The World Health Organization estimates that about 300 million people around the world already have asthma and allergies and that about 250 000 people die each year from asthma.

Although there is a lack of specific statistics here in Yemen, but as some officials pointed out that there has been an increase in average temperatures in Sana'a over the last 20 years.

Being a vector-borne disease, Malaria is one of the most serious health problems in Yemen that is predicted to expand in its magnitude with climate change.

Approximately 60 percent of the population lives in malarial areas. The national malaria program has achieved some success but its weaknesses in human resources and infra structure and out dated treatment guidelines are still hinders to achieve its objectives in reducing malaria mortality and morbidity by 75% by 2010.

The 2005 Annual Report issued by the National Malaria Program of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, estimates that between one and two million people are newly infected with malaria each year in Yemen, about 15,000 to 20,000 Yemenis die each year as a result of this serious disease.

In 2007, there were 233,000 malaria cases reported by the National Malaria Program, however, the WHO estimated the annual incidence of malaria in Yemen is 80,000 to 900,000 cases.

With the coming climate change effect the impact of malaria will be more devastating than the current situation. This should alert the health authorities to work harder to achieve the targets of rollback malaria set by the WHO.

Global Warming and Disease Patterns:

Climate change through causing warmer temperature can cause an increase in infectious and allergic diseases through complex mechanisms.

There is a suggested link between the increase in temperature (from climate change) and high risk of diarrhoeal disease. A recent study has suggested that for every degree of increase in temperature the rate of hospitalisation of children with diarrhoea increased by 8 per cent.

In addition, warmer temperature result in increased incidence of malaria, and asthma and heat related illnesses (such as heat stroke).

There is a predicted increase in asthma attacks and allergic reactions because of the increase in temperature as some scientific

studies suggest.

The World Health Organization estimates that about 300 million people around the world already have asthma and allergies and that about 250 000 people die each year from asthma.

Although there is a lack of specific statistics here in Yemen, but as some officials pointed out that there has been an increase in average temperatures in Sana'a over the last 20 years.

environment has announced that Yemen now is ready to apply the CDM.

In addition, the Climate Change Unit at the General Authority of Environment Preservation is working to put plans aimed at adapting with climate change in Yemen

As a result Yemen has prepared a national program for adaptation to climate change and received advice and consultations from the international experts so that the national program will be consistent with similar climate change programs throughout the world.

However, there is much work to be done in various sectors in order to rise to the level of threat posed by climate change on Yemen.

Climate change is a global public health problem and is considered as the defining issue for health in the 21st century.

Its effects are already manifesting in Yemen. There is a strong and urgent need to strengthen the capacity of the primary health care system that is the main frontline for preparing and responding to climate change.

The greatest challenge is how to build such strong system in resource poor settings.

We need a strong political will with an international cooperation to overcome this challenge.

We also must stress on the important rule of prevention and control of diseases.

There are already programs for disease control and immunization coverage in Yemen but they are still to a high degree ineffectual. We need to review and strengthen these existing activities for disease control and health protection.

Health professionals must play a major role in spreading the awareness of climate change effects on health and stressing the importance of acting now to mitigate climate change.

If medicine is about saving lives, not just by last ditch interventions but by trying to avert illness, then working to alter patterns of behaviour that contribute to climate change could arguably become a priority for clinicians—as an urgent preventive measure. Until these steps are taken, we will be one of the most vulnerable nations to climate change.

This will lead to incalculable consequences for the people in this country.

Factors which make Yemen extremely liable to climate change effects:

- it is a low-income country with poorly developed health system infrastructure
- geographically vulnerable to extreme weather changes
- rapidly growing population
- suffering from acute water shortages
- has substantial coastal area
- More than two thirds of the population lives in rural and remote areas with scarcity of fresh water and depend on rain-fed agriculture as the main source of their livelihood.

on the mountains, and desert climate in desert areas. Rainfall spans the whole year, raring in quantity from season to season, minimizing in the winter, in the summer and spring, and maximizing during the months of June, July, and August.

This location has very important implications on the vulnerability of Yemen to climate change.

Yemen and Climate Change:

Key health impacts of climate change in Yemen and globally are considered from the perspective of extreme weather events, infectious diseases, and drought related problems.

Drought and its health impacts:

Yemen is one of the countries with the scarcest water resources in the world.

By the year 2000, the total annual water use in the country was almost 50 percent more than the estimated renewable water resources. This results in an imbalance between the

centralized water supply systems, and about 75 percent is without centralized sanitation services.

With this dreadful situation of water, which will be worsened during the coming few years because of climate change, there are huge health impacts that will affect the population.

First is the negative impact on agriculture that leads to a decrease in food production and increase food prices. This will directly result in financial hardship for low-income families and nutritional consequences mainly in children.

Secondly, is the spread of water borne diseases, mainly diarrhoea and other intestinal infections to unprecedented levels that will aggravate health problems, particularly malnutrition especially in children.

Thirdly is that people living in rural areas will have to travel long distances to bring water or to leave their villages to other areas. This will

Summary of health risks of climate change in Yemen:

- Increased risks of gastroenteritis
- Change in the range and seasonality of outbreaks of mosquito borne infections (e.g. malaria)
- Adverse health impact of more severe droughts and long term drying conditions on rural/remote communities
- exposure to extremes of heat, dust, smoke
- fresh water shortages with consequences for hygiene and sanitation
- Regional increase in pollens and spores that cause/exacerbate asthma

Adapted from (Climate change and primary health care. Blashki G, McMichael T, Karoly DJ. Australian Family Physician Vol. 36, No. 12, December 2007)

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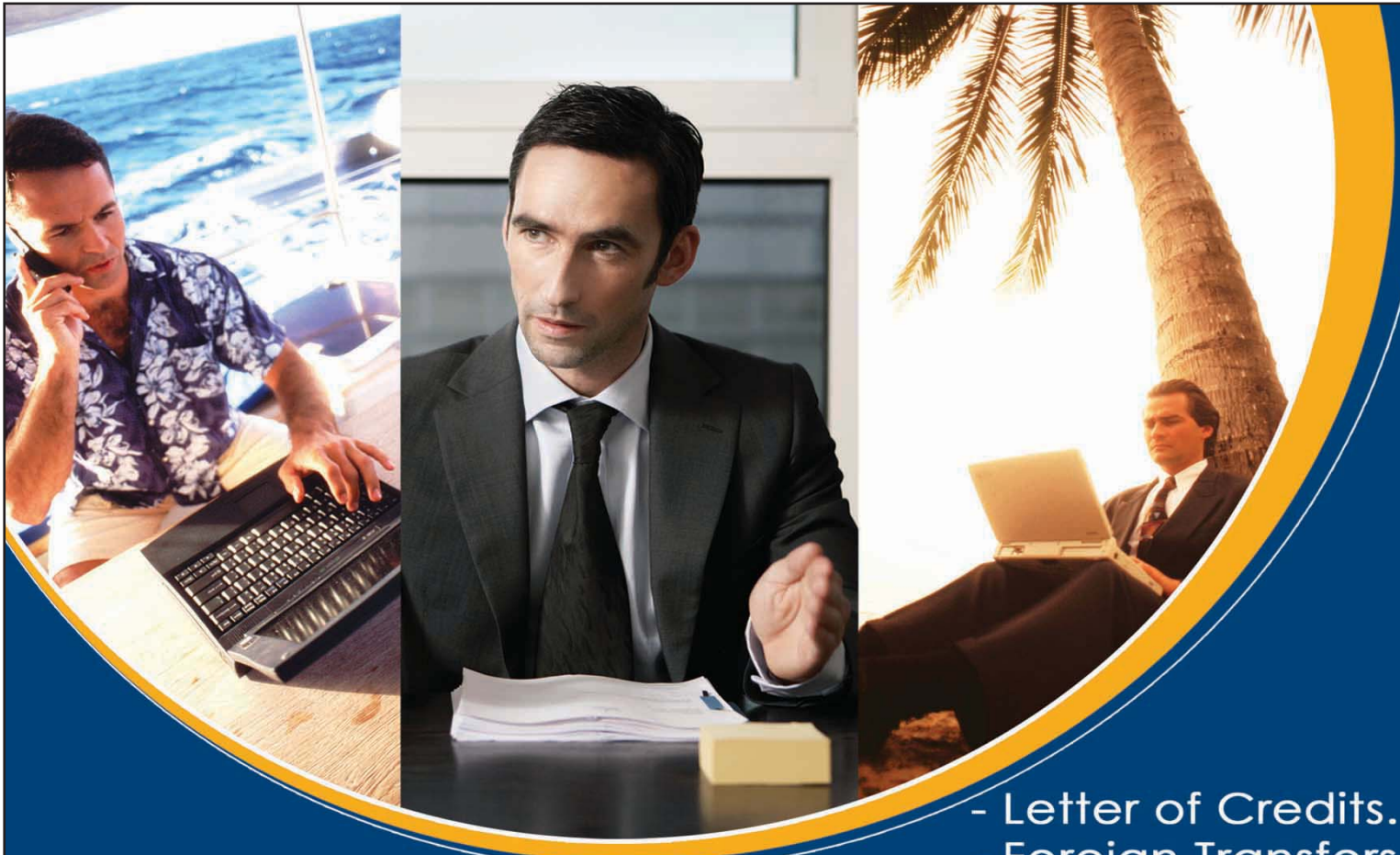
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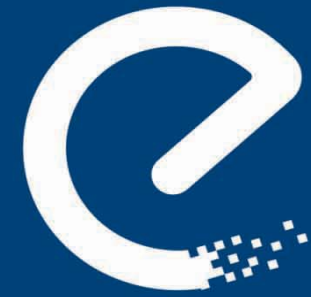
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Yemeni men between fashion and tradition

By: Ola Al-Shami

While many young Yemenis decide to challenge their communities' perceptions by following pop stars in their clothes and hair styles, others prefer to stick to traditional Yemeni fashions.

However, even those who follow pop fashions follow traditional customs for various social occasions. For example, at Sana'ni wedding parties, the groom as well as the guests will consider wearing traditional clothing. For grooms, this is usually a qamis (long white men's dress) with a jambiah (Yemeni dagger) on a decorated belt, a sumatah (square wrapped cloth) on the head decorated with basil and a sword on their shoulder.

Traditional clothing for men comes first and foremost as a formal style. Such customs also refer to the variety of Yemeni costumes which differ according to the various regions in Yemen. A thawb, or a long men's dress, and the jambiah are more common among Sana'ni youth, and the ma'waz, or a piece of cloth wrapped around the midsection, and a shirt is popular among Taizis, Adenis and youth from Hadramout.

Apart from wedding parties, Yemeni youths, especially those who are teenagers, tend to follow Arab and international pop stars like Tamer

Hosni, Rashid Al-Majid, Mohanad, Emenint and Amro Mostafa. These stars are considered to be the models, and youth throughout Yemen imitate their fashions and hairstyles.

The trend of following pop stars among teenagers leads the market to provide colorful foreign designs and clothes. Jeans with t-shirts and denim jackets are very popular, even though jeans weren't acceptable to the previous generation.

"Ten years ago, people in my village used to call me saye' [ill-behaved] when I wore jeans. Nowadays most men, if not all of them, are wearing jeans," said Khaled Abdo.

Besides foreign clothes, some young Yemeni men are starting to wear accessories like chains and bracelets. Such looks are still facing resistance and criticism within conservative Yemeni society, which considers such accessories to be made for girls only.

However, these different tendencies towards fashion appeared also in the seventeenth century. "Chains and bracelets were popular in that period and there was a group known as hippies who wore such things until the beginning of the eighteenth century when the government used to catch those who wore strange clothes," said Arwa Othman, a researcher in traditional heritage.

Fashions are influenced by TV and by what is found in magazines, and many Yemeni designers refer to the

media influence on directing youths regarding their look. "No stable fashion can be followed nowadays because of the unlimited television channels," said Mohammed Mahmoud Sha'lah who works in a boutique shop in Sana'a.

A variety in clothing styles is not seen as contradictory to Yemeni identity. "Besides conservative traditions, the various modern fashion trends help to reinforce the original and beautiful aspects of the old inheritance," Othman said.

The current fashion

Names are given to some pants that Yemeni men wear such as 'Tafheetah' (faded jeans) and 'Taiheeni' pants (baggy jeans hanging off the buttocks). "My friends and I like the so-called Taiheeni pants and also the jeans that have silver chains in place of belts," said Ibrahim Mohammed, a secondary school student. He added that these fashions are popular because they see Tamer Hosni and other stars wearing them.

Three weeks ago, Tamer Hosni showed up at a concert that was aired on various entertainment and music channels wearing a black jacket, dark blue jeans with a big black belt, and a striped shirt. Since then, these items have been in high demand. However, some youth were unable to find their stars' clothes. "I'm trying to get Tamer's clothes from the market and I found the jacket and the trousers but I



Even those who follow pop fashions follow traditional customs for various social occasions. For example, at Sana'ni wedding parties, the groom as well as the guests will consider wearing traditional clothing.

am still looking for the shirt. We are fans of Tamer Hosni," said Akram Al-Kharabi, a university student.

However, TV concerts are not the only source for youth fashions. Some youth create their own fashion which then is copied by their friends. "When I go shopping I sometimes try to choose pieces that match with each other, and when my friends like the way I wear my clothes they start imitating me though they may choose different colors," said Ibrahim Mohammed.

The most popular pants in Sana'a are designed in Hael Street where there are many men's tailor shops. "Most of the youth who come to me are between the ages of 17 and 27 and demand what is called Tafheetah or Taiheeni pants," said Abdo Nassir, a worker in Al-Faris shop for men's clothes. "We import the material from abroad, from Syria or India or any country that has the required material. Then we design according to youth demands."

Hair style

Deciding to have a distinctive hair style is more challenging because it's a long term change, so it needs strong determination and courage to confront the conservative community.

Some prefer to have long hair that reaches to their shoulders, and others like to shave their head bald. The first option is more common among teenagers, while the second is more common among adults.

Like clothes, hairstyles are brought to Yemeni youth via different sources. The TV is the most imitated and the most popular source youth learn their hairstyles from.

"The stars' hair styles in cinema or

video clips are copied," said Mohammed Sha'lah. He added that the most popular hair styles are the 'Al-Nadshah' and 'Massari' styles.

"Al-Nadshah is a hair style that requires your hair to be long and curly. I like it even though my family comments on my hair style and calls me Faisal Alawi, the Yemeni singer," said Ibraheem Mohammed. He added that he feels happy since he does what he likes in spite of others' comments.

Massari is a new hair style that requires one to shave his hair. "Massari is a singer who originated from Lebanon. He is the leader of the new style called the zero style, which is called Massari," said Al-Kharabi. He added that he imitates Massari the singer because he likes his songs and his fame.

Following hairstyles is expensive for most Yemeni men. Some complain that they do not have facilities like hair dryer in their homes or hair gel. Consequently they create their own way. "Hair gel is so expensive if we want to style our hair as Al-Nadshah or any other hairstyle. So a very common tradition is to mix Pepsi with a cheap hair gel that usually costs only a hundred Yemeni Riyals.

This mixture makes the hair stand or curl the way we want," said Ibraheem Mohammed.

However, new hairstyles are criticized and avoided by some Yemeni youth as many prefer to follow what is acceptable and avoid imitating singers and actors. "We should not try to be like the singers or actors. We should have our own style and the best in my opinion is the short hair style," said Ayman Al-Bare'e.

Despite the new trends, fashion

obsessions have not reached many rural and or tribal regions. On the contrary, most young men there prefer not to wear modern clothes in their villages or among relatives, as tribal clothing fits better there as opposed to the fashionable clothes they wear in cities. "I wear jeans and t-shirts, but of course I don't wear them when I go to my village. Instead I wear the thawb and jambiah," said Sha'lah.

However, some tribal youth refuse to imitate the imported fashions, as they call it. "It's not nice to blindly imitate whatever appears on television channels, becoming like clowns," said Ali Hassan Bilal, 29. He added that Yemen has a variety of clothes that Yemeni youth should feel proud of when they wear them.

For many it doesn't really matter what they wear as long as it is comfortable. "I follow what is popular sometimes, but most of the time I choose my clothes according to what I am content to wear and not necessarily according to the current fashion," said Abdulaziz Al-Matari, a 17 year old secondary school graduate. He added that he likes wearing Yemeni clothes and his new jambiah with a silver handle.

Despite the conservative nature of clothes some Yemeni wear, fashion is still evolving. It is affected a lot by Yemenis who had been abroad or lived some part of their lives in other countries. Although most of the decisions are those made by the youth themselves, on many occasions their girlfriends affect their dressing style and push them towards become more 'hip.' But for most Yemeni men, once they are married, that is the end of the fashion experimenting game.



The trend of following pop stars among teenagers leads the market to provide colorful foreign designs and clothes. Jeans with t-shirts and denim jackets are very popular, even though jeans weren't acceptable to the previous generation.

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World Refugee Day – 2009

‘Real people, real needs’

As part of the activities in the build up to this year's World Refugee Day, taking place on 20th June, Amideast, an English language institute, and UNHCR initiated a project to raise awareness on refugee issues for around 200 students in Sana'a, Yemen.

The initiative consisted of designing and implementing refugee centered English language classes where students learnt about and discussed the different kinds of refugees around the world, the reasons why people become refugees, where refugees tend to flee to, some of the

stereotypes surrounding refugees and, amongst other things, the similarities between refugee law and Islam. Students also conducted an activity where they were asked to put themselves into the shoes of refugees and imagine how they would feel if they were forced to leave their country, their home, their friends, their family and had to go to another country where they did not know the language or the culture and had no social network or family connections to fall back on.

During the second half of each class, Sana'a based refugees came into the classroom so that students and refugees could meet and talk together. The aim was

to help dispel some of the negative stereotypes of refugees that exist not only here in Yemen, but also around the world. For the vast majority of students, this exercise represented the first time that students had actually met with – let alone spoken to – a 'real' refugee! More than that, students spent at least an hour and a half thinking about refugee issues and listening to refugees' experiences and the problems that refugees face. A 19 year old student Ibrahim, said "I think I know I have to respond to a refugee, they have come to our country for help, we need to be friends and make them feel welcome".



The feedback has been very positive. Doa'a, age 18, commented "I learnt we must help refugees, they have feeling[s] like we do, and often think they are unwanted in Yemen". Perhaps the biggest success of the whole exercise was the students' realization that, beyond the stereotypes, refugees are indeed real people with real needs.



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Electronic Cash Register

PC at back office
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Printer
ECR1 in the restaurant
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ECR3 at souvenir shop in the restaurant

Up to 4 kitchen printers can be shared among the ECRs in network
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