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**EDUCATION**  
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## Yemen will not send troops to Somalia

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, June 28 — Yemen does not intend to send any military troops to interfere in the conflict in neighboring Somalia, said high ranking official yesterday.

The source confirmed that, although Yemen supports the current government of Somalia, Yemen is not going to send any troops or peacekeeper soldiers.

Yemen and other African countries are under intense pressure from Somalia to send troops into Somalia to keep the Shabab, Islamist militants, from taking power.

Somali President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed declared last week a state of

emergency, following weeks of intense fighting between Shabab and pro-government forces.

Somali parliamentary speaker requested help from troops in neighboring countries, including Yemen, Kenya, Djibouti, and Ethiopia, to stabilize the nation, while the Shabab, who reportedly have ties with Al-Qaeda, have warned against any foreign intervention.

Somalia's call for help came hours after top politicians were killed in ongoing fighting in the capital.

Although Yemeni has not announced a defined official response to Somalia's request, the diplomatic procedures between the two countries have not been suspended.

Two telephone calls were reported between the Yemeni president and his counterpart in less than five days. According to Yemen's state-run news agency, during the two calls President Saleh asserted Yemen's strong stand with Somalia to achieve national unity and return peace and stability to the country.

The Somali president assured that "extremist forces would not achieve their evil goals to destroy the unity of Somali people," the agency quoted.

Like Yemen, Djibouti hasn't given an official response about the Somali request for troops.

Ethiopia, however, said that it would only intervene under a mandate from the international community. Ethiopia ended a widely unpopular military occupation of Somalia in January under a UN-sponsored peace deal signed in Djibouti.

Kenya also rejected to send its troops after a direct warning from the Shabab, which is listed as terrorist origination at the UN.

Last week, the Shabab warned against any foreign military intervention in the Somali conflict.

"We are sending our clear warning to the neighboring countries. Send your troops to our holy soil if you need to take them back inside coffins," Sheikh Ali Mohamed Rage, a Shabab spokesman, told a news conference in Mogadishu.

"We tell you that our dogs and cats will enjoy eating the dead bodies of your boys if you try to respond to the calls of these stooges, because we wish to die in the way of God more than you wish to live," he said.

More than 4,300 soldiers are already deployed in Somalia as part of an African Union (AU) force, protecting strategic sites such as the presidential office, the port and the airport. But the troops are not allowed to fight alongside

government forces and are authorized only to retaliate if they come under direct attack.

The US government has provided about 40 tons of weapons and ammunition to shore up the besieged government of Somalia in the past six weeks and has sent funding to train Somali soldiers, said the Washington Post on Saturday.

US officials said that Somalia has become a haven for Al-Qaeda operatives.

More than 300 people have died since the clashes in early May. An estimated 18,000 civilians have been killed in the insurgency since early 2007, while over a million have fled.

The insurgency, combined with drought, has left over 4 million Somalis - up to one third of the population - dependent on food aid and has allowed piracy to flourish off the coast of the Horn of Africa nation.

### Repercussions in Yemen

Yemen has been impacted directly by the ongoing war in Somalia which has had no effective government since 1991.

Yemen is the only country on the Arabian Peninsula to be signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol. Yemen has traditionally adopted an open door policy to Somalis, gathering them prima facie refugee status.

In 2008 more than 50,000 new arrivals landed on the shores of Yemen - a 70 percent increase on the previous year. The exodus of hundreds of refugees from the Horn of Africa crossing the Gulf of Aden in Yemen exerts pressure burden the limited economic sources of Yemen, according to the Yemeni experts.

Yemeni former prime minister Abdulkarim Al-Eryani has previously pointed out that such an exodus could



Newly arrived Somalis rest on their smuggler's boat, which was forced ashore by Yemeni armed forces. The smugglers escaped in dinghy.

lead Yemen to suffer famine.

Moreover, Yemeni economic experts have warned of the major risks to local economy caused by ongoing Somali piracy in the Gulf of Aden, threatening one of the world's busiest waterways through which 20,000 vessels and ships pass a year.

Piracy also has paralyzed the movement of fuel tankers in Yemen, causing a grave fuel shortage across the country.

According to the Yemen General Resources the recent increase in pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden has previously halted oil and gas tankers trans-

porting fuel from the Aden refinery to distribution branches throughout the country.

Though many pirate attacks were foiled and dozens of pirates captured by the international anti-pirate forces, the African Union commission chairman, Jean Ping, suggested that more ships would be hijacked unless the conflict in Somalia is resolved.

Piracy off the coast of Somalia was, he said, "a clear indication of the further deterioration of the situation with far reaching consequences for Somalia, the region, and the international community."

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## Jews of Yemen prefer to stay

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, June 28 – The death sentence passed on Abdulaziz Al-Abdi, charged with killing Yemeni Jewish and father of nine Masha Al-Nahari last December, heeds mixed reactions among the Jewish community in Yemen.

Despite growing US and Israeli pressure to bring them out of Yemen and settle them in other destinations, the majority of Yemen's Jews prefer to stay in their ancestral homeland, as long as the government ensures their safety.

Last Sunday's ruling overturned a previous March sentence that deemed the defendant, a retired pilot in the Yemeni air force, "mentally unstable" and ordered him to pay a "blood fine" of YR 50.5 million, about USD 25,000.

Jews in Yemen are only differentiated from their Muslim counterparts by their well guarded age-old customs, including their traditional dress. For the men, it is the side curls that stand out the most.

"This has nothing to do with religion, it is about justice," explains Ibrahim Al-Nahari, Masha's nephew.

"We will stay in our country," he says adding that to ensure their safety and deter others from carrying out hate crimes the courts should execute the sentence.

"We are Arabs, we are Yemenis, we have nothing to do with the Jews in Israel," he replies when asked if he would like to immigrate to the US or Israel.

The Jewish Agency for Israel and a coalition of American organizations that includes the United Jewish Communities, New York's federation, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg have presented attempts to bring Jews out of Yemen as an essential, life-saving operation.

"Only a small number of misinformed people are not tolerant of religions other than Islam," says Himyar Abdallah, a traffic police officer in Raida. "Most of us treat the Jews here as we would treat any other fellow citizens, with dignity and respect."

"Reactions over the death sentence vary," he adds. "While many are pessimistic, others are worried of violent



Yemeni children of Jewish faith in Raida reach to the sky. More needs to be done to preserve religious diversity of Yemen and help them integrate into mainstream society to safeguard a historical heritage that dates back centuries.

reactions, especially after some people tried to attack the judge that passed the verdict."

Many Muslim Yemenis do not differentiate between the Jews in Yemen and the Jews that occupy what has come to be known as Israel. During a performance at a recent graduation ceremony in Sana'a, a theatrical play promoting the unity of Yemen depicted a Jewish soldier as the source of conflict between Aden and Sana'a.

Often when tensions rise in Palestine or even in Iraq, the Jews of Yemen bear the brunt of conflict.

Increasing hostilities have prompted a number of Yemenis Jews to leave the country.

The latest three families, two were

from Al-Nahari's family making up a total of 17 people, which arrived in Israel the same day the death sentence was passed.

An estimated 300-400 Jews remain in Yemen, a country where minorities, including the Akhdam, are not very well tolerated.

Although the government boasts support and tolerance to the Jews, it has been slow to fulfill its promise of providing them with safe havens.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has proposed that the 45 Jewish families in the farming communities of Kharif and the nearby town of Raida in Amran governorate are moved 50 miles southeast to Sana'a, where they can be better protected. He has offered them free plots of

land to build homes.

Abraham Yahya, leader of the Jewish community in Sana'a says, "I have been to many countries including the US and Canada, but I love my country."

The same day a Yemeni appeals court handed a death sentence to Abdul-Aziz Al-Abdi for shooting dead Masha Al-Nahari in December. "All we want is the execution of Allah's judgment," he says.

Following threats to the Yemenite Jewish community, the umbrella body of North American Jewish Federation's plans to evacuate almost half of Yemen's Jewish community to the US over the next two weeks, according to The Jerusalem Post

But the Jewish Agency's Aliya Department director Eli Cohen used the opportunity to call on "all the Jews of Yemen to come to Israel and not to anywhere else in the world," a reference to the United States.

Zionism is the ideology behind "aliya," which means the immigration of Jews to the "Land of Israel," not anywhere else in the world.

Israel defines itself as a Jewish state and offers citizenship to Jews from anywhere in the world, including Yemen, although it continues to refuse the right of return of the Palestinian refugees forced from their homes during the fighting that saw Israel come into existence in 1948.

Freedom of religion and non-discrimination are fundamental principles to strengthening any society. Misinformed community leaders and mosque preachers, promote hatred towards Jews, unbeknownst to them that they are sowing seeds of hatred and discrimination in Yemeni society.

However, not all perceive the Jewish society in Yemen with the same contempt. Religious tolerance is sometimes evident as in the Muslim Charitable Society for Social Welfare when it provided the less fortunate Yemeni Jews in Amran with clothes and gifts for the celebration of Passover in April.

Yemen's Jews are thought to have roots dating back nearly 3,000 years to King Solomon. The community used to number 60,000 but shrank dramatically when most left for the newborn state of Israel. Today, only an estimated 300-400 remain.

## Houthis release 25 soldiers

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, June 28 – Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi ordered his supporters to release 25 soldiers who were handed over to a mediation committee last Wednesday, Houthi spokesman Sheikh Saleh Habra has told the Yemen Times.

The soldiers had been detained in Shada district during confrontations last week that erupted between Houthis and the army and resulted in dozens being killed and injured on both sides.

"Releasing soldiers is a humanitarian sign and positive initiative by Abdulmalik Al-Houthi who hopes that the government deals similarly and releases 1,200 Houthi detainees," said Habra. "Detainees are subjected to the most heinous non-humanitarian treatment in the government's prisons."

An official source in Sa'ada governorate has accused the Houthis of attacking police stations, killing a number of policemen and soldiers, and kidnapping a number of soldiers last week.

The source pointed out that the Houthis controlled some schools, hospitals and government centers in Ghamr district in Sa'ada, where a state of tension has been hovering since the breakout of the first war on June 18, 2004.

Additionally, the Ministry of Interior accused the Houthis of drugs trafficking to supply their rebellion and using drug revenues to purchase weapons. It further pointed out that there is a relation between drugs merchants and the Houthi movement which provides them with protection and safe shelter.

The ministry made clear in a statement published by the state security's media center that there is a notable spread of addiction to drugs among Houthis, as disclosed by investigations with Houthi elements arrested throughout the five wars in Sa'ada.

European conflict resolution think-tank International Crisis Group (ICG) recommended late last May that no countries of the region offer financial or military support to either the

Houthis or the Yemeni government, including the pro-government armed tribes.

The organization, that offers analysis and consultancy to international organizations and countries, recommended the Yemeni government stop the random detention of people from Sa'ada, releasing detainees in the context of the Sa'ada war, and declaring an amnesty for Houthis.

It recommended the government and Houthis stop recruiting tribal militia and survey damage in the areas affected by war through the assistance of independent local and international experts, and launch development projects in Sa'ada. It further recommended that diplomats, journalists, charitable associations and human rights organizations be allowed to reach the areas affected by the war.

ICG also recommended the Yemeni government "condemn the stigmatization of Hash-e-mite identity and facilitate the entry of qualified Hashemites into state institutions."

"The destruction of entire villages and infrastructure by army shelling, air bombardment and indiscriminate military and police violence exacerbated grievances among not only Hashemites generally and Zaydi revivalists in particular but, more broadly, civilians in all northern governorates," said the organization's report.

ICG recommended western donor countries supporting Yemen pressure both sides to end the conflict, and participate in mediation efforts to insist on full access to war-affected regions for diplomats, journalists, and humanitarian and human rights organizations.

It also recommended donors pledge reconstruction assistance for the development of Sa'ada governorate as an incentive to reach a durable peace agreement.

It further advised Houthi leaders articulate political demands and publish a political program as a step toward becoming a political movement or party, and to clearly endorse government sovereignty in Sa'ada governorate and other districts with a rebel presence.

## Students in Sa'ada to sit missing exam

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, June 28 – Secondary students in Sa'ada who missed the first day of exams due to ongoing conflict between the government and Houthis will be given the exceptional opportunity to sit their exams, said the Ministry of Education yesterday.

"The students who couldn't attend the first day of exams in Sa'ada are not going to be deprived the chance to sit the missing exam," said Abdullah Al-Hamdi, vice minister of education. "We are going to give them another chance to take the exam, exceptionally, after the current examinations have ended."

Up to 900 male and female ninth grade students in the three districts were prevented from taking their Islamic education test on June 20.

Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Jawfi accused the Houthis of

hindering examination committees from delivering examination papers for the ninth and twelfth grade last Saturday to Razeh, Shada and Saqain areas which Houthis control. For his part, Sheikh Saleh Habra, political spokesman for the Houthis, told the Yemen Times that three army units, or around 10,000 soldiers, led by General Jawwass, were on their way to Al-Malahidh area last Friday evening, and that they raided Razeh and Shada areas located near the Yemeni-Saudi borders northwest of Sa'ada.

"These forces had 18 tanks, Katushya rockets and long-range artillery. They launched a strike against the area which terrified students and prevented them from going to the examination centers on Saturday," said Habra.

"There was no need to launch that fierce attack by the government against

peaceful residents," added Habra. "The government only insists on harming and terrifying citizens with little regard for their right to live in peace and security, let alone the government's duty toward them."

Over 533,736 students from the ninth and twelfth grades in all the governorates of Yemen have begun their exams for academic year 2008-2009. They were distributed throughout 4,646 examination centers. Al-Jawfi told the state-run Saba news agency that "Up to 312,550 male and female students from the ninth grade took exams in 3,136 examination centers, and 221,186 male and female students from the twelfth grade took exams in 1,510 examination centers throughout the country. 176,744 of these students took scientific exams in 1,039 centers, and 44,442 students took literary exams distributed throughout 471 centers."

## Yemen launches program to protect the Ozone

By : Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, June, 27 – Yemen has launched a national program designed reduce the emission of gases that harm the ozone layer into the atmosphere.

The first stage of the program is directed towards the refrigeration and air conditioning industry in Yemen, which is the major producer of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), which are Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS).

In the 70s, two chemists, F.Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina, discovered that chlorofluorocarbons contribute to ozone layer depletion. In the 80s, countries began to phase out the use of CFCs in order to protect the earth from a growing hole in the ozone layer.

The ozone layer protects the earth from ultraviolet radiation which is dangerous to humans, plants and marine ecology. Through international cooperation, the depletion of the ozone layer has largely halted. If efforts continue, the hole that is currently over the Antarctic is expected to be repaired by mid-century.

But in many cases, products that once released CFCs now release Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)

which are also ODSs. These gases may threaten the ozone layer less directly, but they also contribute to global warming.

"Scientific research gives us enough evidence of environment degradation in general, and ozone layer depletion and global warming in particular, posing some of the greatest challenges confronting humanity," said Pratibha Mehta, United Nations resident coordinator, adding that the poor, especially women, are the most vulnerable to the potential impact of environmental crises.

Yemen is one of the developing countries in the world that secured funding from the Multilateral Fund Operating Under Montreal Protocol to support a program that phases out of the use of ODS. The Yemeni National Ozone Authority is cooperating with United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nation Environment Program (UNEP), United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Chambers of Commerce Union.

These organizations have been provided technical support to help Yemen phase out ODSs, including developing a management plan, and developing and promoting alternatives and technologies.

Vocational institutes have been updated to incorporate the changes across the country.

"Around 480 workshops have been provided with equipment, and accessories to train, repair, and maintenance enterprises that recycle HCFC," said Faisal Nasser, director of Ozone Unit.

The distribution of this equipment, which costs up to YR 225 billion, is based on certain standards. "We have selected workshops whose owners are committed to the training. Also, we considered the number of workshops, their capacities and sizes in each governorate, and the quantity of the HCFC consumption and production."

Yemen approved the Montréal Protocol in 1996, which has been updated to accelerate the phase-out of production and consumption of HCFCs. From 1998 to 2007, Yemen decreased its consumption of HCFCs from 1071 tons to 271 tons, according to recent National Ozone Unit statistics. The international HCFC phase-out management plan was formulated to establish target levels of consumption and production for 2009 and 2010. The plan calls for no increases after 2013, and the complete phase out of all HCFCs by 2030.



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MSF-France is looking for a Yemeni national to be recruited to work in Al-Talh hospital in Saada governorate for the following positions:

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- Capacity to work under tense situation
- Good in computer skills, particularly Word, Excel

Applications must be in English language. Candidates should submit a Cover Letter, CV, copies of diplomas, copies of relevant training and work certificates (originals will be asked during interview), and any recommendations from previous employers.

Deadline for application: July 6th 2009 to be sent to:

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Only short-listed candidates will be contacted to fill a C.V module application and interviews.  
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## Two Suzuki cars model 2008 and YR 1.5 million worth of other precious awards... Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group, sole agent of Rahunji invitation cards, holds prize draw and awards 26 agents



Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group, sole agents of Universal Rahunji Cards on June 18 held at Al-Sumu hall an excellent ceremony with a prize draw of Universal Rahunji Cards awards to honor its agents.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Mohammed Abdulla Al-Anisi, general director of the group, Mr. Mohammed Shiekha, commercial manager for Universal Rahunji Cards in Syria, Mr. Yasser Abdul Elah Al-Anisi, commercial manager, Mr. As'ad Abdulla Al-Anisi, sales and marketing manager, Mr. Basheer Ali Al-Anisi, manager of Rahunji Cards in Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group.

The ceremony was attended also by managers of administrations, departments, showrooms and branches, and the distributors in the different Yemeni governorates, as well as a big gathering of agents of the group and Rahunji cards.

Following the word that he delivered about the group and Rahunji cards, the general manager of the group clarified the conditions through which the best 26 agents were selected to be honored with certificates of recognition and awards.

He announced that Mr. Mohammed Al-Du'ais, owner of the Maktabati bookshop in Sana'a as the best agent,

and awarded him a certificate of recognition. In addition, he announced his winning the award, a Suzuki car model 2008.

After that, 15 agents and distributors were awarded certificates of recognition and cell phones with pre-paid cards charged with YR 1,500 each.

The big prize draw then began for the remaining 10 agents out of the 26 who competed for a Suzuki Car and nine reduction coupons. Six agents won reduction coupons of YR 100,000 each, three agents won three reduction coupons of YR 200,000 each, and the tenth agent, Al-Sudaf for

Wedding Cards, Taiz, won a Suzuki car model 2008.

The general manager, sales and marketing manager, manager of Rahunji cards in the group, the commercial manager of Universal Rahunji Cards handed over the awards, amid cheering and pride that the group and Rahunji Cards had fulfilled their promises and paid attention to distributors and agents as well as giving them precious awards.

Winners, distributors and agents expressed their high gratitude to the group for holding the event and praised the trust in commercial dealings between the group and the distribution agents. The latter resulted in achieving success and enhancing the distribution and sales of paper and stationary products, including Rahunji Cards.

They further commended Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed products and its selection of the hugest universal companies to meet requirements of Yemeni consumers, pointing out that these products have the quality to satisfy all groups of the society.

They said that selecting Rahunji cards enabled the group to gain the respect and trust of a great Yemeni audience who preferred them to others, due to their high quality, and different shapes and sizes.

"We consider ourselves partners of this universal trademark that has allowed us to achieve better sales figures this year," said Mr. Mohammed Abdu Elah Al-Anisi, the general manager of Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed. "We were able to make it available in the Yemeni market in the different kinds, shapes, sizes and prices."

"For the second time, we are distributing the Rahunji Cards awards, but this year we added and presented two cars, nine reduction coupons awards worth a total of YR 1.2 million and 15 telephone pre-paid line cards

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charged with YR 1,500 account each to honor 26 agents from the different governorates."

"This is to encourage the rest of the agents to increase sales of these cards and pay attention to them. The event coincides with the semi-annual meeting of managers from our branches, showrooms and administrations through which we achieved the planned target and then to the development of work to offer a better service."

"In addition, we will hold a group wedding for 26 brides and grooms from the group's employees tonight in

this hall. I promise that next year we will increase the number of great awards in next year's prize draw ceremony to encourage the employees to exert more efforts. The Yemeni market will be appreciated through special manufacturing that suits the purchase power of all groups of society."

The group held in the evening of the same day, the group wedding party for 26 brides and bridegrooms from the group's employees. The group supported every bride with YR 100,000 to hold the wedding party and offered a loan to each of them to be paid back in installments from their salary.

## Exceed celebrates graduation of new batch

Under the patronage of Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hajri Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training, and joined by a large audience of families and friends of graduates, the Exceed Language Center 14th batch were celebrated as they graduated on Thursday.



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## Salafi scholar Sheikh Al-Maqtari:

## “Salafi movements are not an organization or party as is the case with the Muslim Brotherhood Movement. The Salafi movement is a method and correct belief.”

**S**heikh Aqeel Bin Mohammed Bin Zaid Al-Maqtari, 50, is one of the prominent Salafia scholars in Yemen. He was taught by many religious scholars on top of whom was Sheikh Abu Abdul Rahman Muqbel Al-Wadi'ee who taught him Hadith (the Prophet's sayings) for over six years in Sa'ada. In 1989, he attained his BA. In 2000, he finished his MA in Hadith at the Al-Wataneya University and in 2008, he attained PHD in Hadith from Universal African University in Sudan. He has travelled to the US, Europe, India and Gulf countries for the purpose of serving the Islamic call. He wrote over 25 books on different religious issues and essays in Al-Muntada Magazine. He established the Al-Hekma Al-Yamania Charitable Association, which raised controversy among Salafia supporters in Yemen. He was criticized by many Salafia sheikhs and students of Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee on the backgrounds of religious issues particularly those related to establishing charitable associations and participating in elections and democracy. In this interview he talks about the reasons behind Salafia schism in Yemen, the difference between Salafia and Muslims Brotherhood Movement, the new trends of Salafia particularly with regard to participation in the political life and their attitudes toward the current political issues in Yemen.



Interviewed by: Hassan Al-Hashidi

**Q: The members of the Salafi movement in Yemen consider themselves to be an expansion of the reformist school adopted by religious figures such as Ibn Al-Amir Al-San'aani, Al-Muqbili and others early in the 1980s. This movement started clearly in Sa'ada. What are the main issues that the Salafi movement focuses on?**

A: Before answering this question, I would like to define the term Salafi. This is a word that refers to the righteous Salafis who were the companions and successors of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). It means the pure Islam that is clear of any heresies and myths and the sound faith that the companions of the prophet and their successors followed during the first three centuries of Islam. After this time, heresies appeared in the field of worship and faith.

Islam reached Yemen during the lifetime of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) when he sent Mu'aath Bin Jabal, Abi Mussa Al-Ash'ari and Ali Bin Abi Taleb to call people to the true religion. This confirms that this [Salafi] method that you talk about entered Yemen in the past. Therefore, the Salafi movement has been fixed in Yemen since the beginning of Islam. The heresies in faith and worship came to Yemen from outside. Mysticism came from Al-Habasha and Tatabbu' came from Iraq, for instance.

To be a Salafi means to study the sources of religion that the companions and successors of the prophet followed, such as the Holy Quran, Sunna, unanimity and juristic reasoning. It also means we should understand Islam and believe in it as those early companions did.

Ibn Al-Wazir Al-Sana'ani, Al-Shawkani, and before them Abdul Razzaq, Mu'ammir bin Rashed and Al-Diri were all proponents of this method. Students of those prominent religious figures are still following this method, although they are not prominent today.

People spread heresies in the past, such as the heresy that some circulated about whether the Holy Quran was created by man. Recently, as you mentioned in your question, in the eighties of the past century, our Sheikh and religious scholar Abu Abdul Rahman Muqbel Al-Wadi'ee started calling people to the Salafi movement. He moved all around Yemen and selected his students carefully. When people heard about him, they went to study with him and were eager to learn the Quran and Sunna.

The late Sheikh went from Sa'ada to Najran and then to Mecca and Medina seeking religious knowledge. He was taught by many sheikhs at the Islamic University in Medina and prepared his master's degree in the Hadith, or sayings of the prophet. Although many sheikhs studied at this university and at other universities in Saudi Arabia such as Imam Ahmed Bin Sa'ud and Um Al-Qura and graduated before the sheikh did, most of these sheikhs joined the Muslim Brotherhood. They worked through this organization in spreading the true faith of Islam in Yemen through religious centers and religious institutes that belong to supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The difference between these sheikhs and our Sheikh Muqbel Al-Wadi'ee is that they undertook many different works, which dispersed their efforts. They worked according to plans of the

Muslim Brotherhood group and I have no doubt that they had a positive effect in spreading the Sunna and the true faith. However, the group raised some issues that have the potential to create controversy and schisms among Muslims. Therefore, it forbid talking about them.

Concerning Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee, the Muslim Brotherhood tried to contain him when he arrived in Yemen and gave him a religious institute to teach at in Dammaj village in Sa'ada, offering him some support for his students. Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee contradicted them however and cancelled the institute. Moreover, he started opposing them in his sermons, lessons and books. He dedicated himself to teaching at Dammaj Mosque and when people both inside and outside Yemen heard about him, they came from all different areas and countries to study religion with him. From time to time, he and some of his students and tribesmen visited the big cities in Yemen including Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb and Dhamar as well as small cities such as Amran and Al-Biedha, calling for people to come to Allah.

Thus the sheikh was able to attract supporters and form features of a Salafi group which spread all over Yemen. Following the unification of North and South Yemen, his call spread throughout most areas in the south including Aden, Abyan, Lahj, Shabwa, Al-Dhal'e and Hadramout.

The major issues that his call tackled were the necessity to return to the Quran and the Sunna as our Muslim religious predecessors understood them, renounce heresies and myths and stick to the Salafi faith that the Salafis of the Islamic nation followed in the past. It also called for people to recognize heresies such as Shi'a and mysticism.

**Q: What are the real reasons behind the problems that occurred between Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee and many of his students, including you, and prompted you to establish Al-Hekma Al-Yamania Charitable Association which is the first Salafi institution in Yemen?**

A: As I mentioned in my answer to the first question, Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee opposed the Muslim Brotherhood movement shortly after he arrived in Yemen. He was very sensitive but he didn't attack the Muslim Brotherhood in the beginning as he dedicated his efforts towards teaching religion. However, some unwise supporters of Muslim Brotherhood at that time dealt with the sheikh poorly and started rumors about some followers of the sheikh which aggravated the conflict between them and made him angry. As a result he wrote his book titled "The Way Out of Sedition."

Many scholars and students of Islam affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood visited him and tried to calm the situation. However, whenever those who came to visit him to calm things down left, his students would return and report things about the Muslim Brotherhood that caused his anger to return.

Some of the speech that was reported was incorrect and the sheikh even received some cassettes that attacked him. They were produced by some supporters of the movement after some of its affiliates visited the sheikh and were impressed when they left. The situation got worse and some Salafi supporters

both inside and outside Yemen began classifying and separating into different religious groups, which resulted in the so-called Sururia, Qutbeyana and Sabteya groups established by Abdulla Al-Sabt and Al-Tableegh.

Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee became sensitive about partisanship and partisans. He accused some of his students of being partisans and dismissed them. While the controversy on these issues was increasing, I moved to Taiz to call people to Allah after I spent six years with the sheikh. Soon after I left, I was accused of being a partisan and promoting Mawled [celebrating the prophet's birthday], which is not true. How can I promote the Mawled if I am the one who wrote a book on this heresy, entitled "The Well of What Came in Al-Mawled"? Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee even wrote its prelude.

At that time, we held lectures and lessons in Taiz. We also reacted to some violations that the Islah Party committed, particularly concerning coordination with the Ba'ath, Socialist and Nasserite parties. This reaction was scientific and fruitful and was in no way misleading. Following that, I established Al-Hekma Al-Yamania Charitable Association. As far as I know, when Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee learned about it, he said that establishing the association is ok on condition that we shouldn't be preoccupied with it and neglect seeking religious knowledge. Nevertheless, as the sheikh was sensitive about parties and involvement in them, he accused the association of partisanship and idolism. Some of his affiliates considered the association as a place in hell.

*To be a Salafi means to study the sources of religion that the companions and successors of the prophet followed, such as the Holy Quran, Sunna, unanimity and juristic reasoning*

The situation worsened and religious scholars were offended both inside and outside Yemen by followers of the sheikh who restricted Salafis or "People of Sunna" to merely hundreds of people worldwide. They offended Sheikh Ibn Baz and Ibn Al-Othaimin in particular.

At the same time, we went to the sheikh in Sa'ada to visit him and settle the matter but his students hindered the process. Having realized that my attempts to solve the problem with the sheikh were in vain, I referred this matter to God and stopped further attempts. His students attacked us in their cassettes and accused us, and we decided not to keep silent with regard to the incorrect scientific issues that they adopted. Therefore, we replied in a scientific manner and ignored the speech that attacked our persons. His students dealt roughly with those who disagree with them, using fatwas issued by the sheikh to test the loyalty of people and considering those who disagree with them as being astray. They also reported wrong information to the sheikh and generally a lack of correct perspective toward some issues, including the misconception about charitable associations. All of this prompted us to take another moderate path other than the one that sheikh followed although we esteem and love him.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mussa Al-Baidhani, one of Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee's

prominent students who is also the sheikh's son-in-law, wrote a book highlighting the shortcomings of the sheikh's call. When he showed him the book before printing, the sheikh rejected it and accused Sheikh Al-Baidhani of being "Ash'abi," although what he wrote in the book was correct in criticizing Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee in a polite way.

**Q: The Al-Hekma Al-Yamania Association contained the most prominent students of Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee, including Sheikh Mohammed Al-Baidhani and Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al-Raimi. However, after a period of time, they announced the establishment of Al-Ehsan Charitable Association although the two associations use the same methods. How different and similar are the two associations?**

A: Sheikh Mohammed Al-Baidhani and Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al-Raimi were members of the board of Al-Hekma association, Sana'a branch. However, they didn't attend meetings of the board because they joined the Al-Sururi Current that belongs to Sheikh Mohammed Surur Zain Al-Abideen which was developing in Yemen. There was a consultation council for sheikhs who are currently running the two associations. The council continued coordination and consultations even after Al-Ehsan association was established, but this stopped after the joint meetings were cancelled.

What is important is that Al-Baidhani and Al-Raimi didn't attend meetings of the board or write in Al-Hekma association's magazine except in one or two issues because they joined the Al-Sururi Current which believes that the leaders of Al-Hekma don't have a clear vision of how to run the country. It is also because the leaders of Al-Hekma association believe that conducting parliamentary elections is a jurisprudential issue where as they themselves deem such elections forbidden in Islam, although some Al-Sururi Current members, including Sheikh Al-Sururi himself, encouraged members of the Islah party to run in elections as candidates. Al-Sururi visited Yemen to urge Salafis [Al-Hekma and Al-Ehsan affiliates] to stand with the Islah party in elections.

These are the main issues that led the two sheikhs to establish their independent association which they called Al-Ehsan. In my opinion, it is not a problem to establish another association on condition that there should be qualitative specialization for each association and coordination between them lest the efforts of both are in vain.

However, the leaders of the two associations began warning their students against each other, which created a rift between the two although the reasoning of Al-Ehsan association leaders doesn't justify this split.

**Q: What is the relationship between Salafi movements in Yemen and the Salafi movements in other Arab countries, including Gulf countries?**

A: Salafi movements are not an organization or party as is the case with the Muslim Brotherhood Movement. The Salafi movement is a method and correct belief. Therefore, Salafi jurisprudence in the Islamic world differs from one place to another due to lack of a unified leadership, which resulted in discrepancies on some issues. I believe that the Salafis in Kuwait represented by the Islamic Heritage Restoration Association is the most mature and realistic among all Salafi groups. In Yemen, Salafis forbid democracy and elections as they don't know the reality of democracy. They apply the fatwa of Sheikh Al-Albani which forbids depositing money in usury banks, but they don't apply his other fatwa that allows women to drive cars. When Abu Hassan Al-Marbi was on their side, they deemed Al-Ber Association which he ran as permissible, but when he left them, they looked at his association as partisan and evil although other associations in Yemen have the same system.

**Q: What forbids the Salafi Current in Yemen from establishing a political party, similar to the Salafis in Kuwait?**

A: The reason is that law forbids establishing any political party unless it signs the so-called charter of honor stipulating that all secular parties are Islamic. Some Salafis look at political parties as part of democracy, which they deem as polytheistic. They believe that democracy plurality is a farce as the government can

cancel the parliament very easily.

**Q: If you don't want to establish a political party, then why did you establish the Salafi Meeting and what are its political objectives?**

A: Salafis are not a political party accredited by the government, nor are they controlled by laws that govern parties. They don't want to form a party because these laws contradict Islamic law. But this doesn't mean that they are busy with religion alone and don't understand politics. On the contrary, Salafis have their own political stands toward many issues which they express through writing in newspapers and Friday preaching. They contribute to forming the public opinion. Consequently, they are in fact a political bloc. The Salafi Meeting that scholars, sheikhs and academics called for and was organized by Al-Hekma Association embodies what I have already mentioned. The meeting aims at discussing the current situation in Yemen from a religious point of view with groups that are zealous about Yemen and its unity and stability, including sheikhs and dignitaries. The plan is to hopefully come up with solutions for Yemen's crises.

**Q: Isn't this meeting considered to be one of the players on the political stage in Yemen?**

A: This could be true if the government supported Salafis in holding this meeting, or if its closing statement was biased towards the government. But as this meeting wasn't supported by anybody and its closing statement diagnosed current political problems and offered solutions, it can never be a card that any party can play.

*I believe that some injustices took place in the south through some influential people whom the government either couldn't or wouldn't control*

**Q: What is the difference between the Islah party and the Salafis?**

A: The Islah Party is an expansion of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement which is an organized group that promotes their own ideas and visions in all fields. Salafis however appeared only in the eighties of the last century when Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee came. Salafi current thought is that most of what Muslim Brotherhood followers do actually contradicts religion. At the same time, I can say that followers of the Muslim Brotherhood played a major role in disseminating religion and fighting polytheism which some wanted to spread in the southern part of the country in the past.

**Q: Many opposition parties look at the Salafi stand as supporting the ruling party in elections. Has the Salafi movement become the religious wing of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC)?**

A: This is absolutely wrong. Salafi viewpoints concerning the elections differ from each other. Al-Ehsan Current considers elections impermissible, even though some of them say it is permissible, but they don't urge their supporters to vote for a specific party. They just recommend they should vote for the best candidates, regardless of their party. Concerning supporters of Sheikh Al-Wadi'ee, they don't vote although they support the president. Salafis do not represent the GPC's religious wing.

**Q: How do you look at Sheikh Abdal Majeed Al-Zandani?**

A: Sheikh Al-Zandani is a famous and brave scholar who is having a strong impact on scholars, intellectuals and tribal sheikhs. He is not biased towards a specific group. Therefore, he is a scholar of a nation dedicating his efforts towards serving the issues of his nation.

**Q: Following the September 11th attacks, many Islamic groups and parties in Arab and Islamic countries adopted a method of internal review. Do you think that the Salafi movement in Yemen needs reviewing? If so, what are the major issues that need urgent review?**

A: Yes. The Salafi movement needs to review many issues, particularly political issues, to assume positions in the government in all fields so that Salafis are not marginalized. In addition, it needs to renew its religious speeches and use modern means to broadcast them,

including using satellite channels. It must also pay more attention to scientific specializations including politics, media, economy and medicine. Salafis should deal with society as it is in reality and not the idealistic society as existed during the time of the companions of the prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and the following rulers. They also need to review their attitudes toward many jurisprudential issues including the banking system, stock markets and stock exchanges.

**Q: What is the stand of Salafis toward the so-called Southern Movement?**

A: The socialists intended to secede after the establishment of unity in Yemen. They tried to secede but they failed. Then they calmed down and participated in corruption, particularly in the southern areas. When people became fed up with the situation, they directed them toward secession again. I believe that some injustices took place in the south through some influential people whom the government either couldn't or wouldn't control. Another injustice was the issue of the retirees. The government didn't solve their problem quickly, which aggravated the situation. After the government solved the retirees' problem, the issue of the illegal appropriation of lands remained. In addition, price hikes and a general feeling among citizens in the south that they are marginalized as well as the deterioration of the economic situation prompted people in the southern governorates, including some religious men, to attempt secession. I would like to say in this regard that the unity of Yemen is a line that shouldn't be crossed. It is forbidden to respond to calls of secession or participate in riots that lead to bloodshed. However, people have the right to demand their rights.

The government should stop those influential people who were involved in the illegal appropriation of lands and offending the homeland. The government should be just to all people according to Islamic Sharia, or Islamic law, and establish a court that specializes with cases of injustice. It should select judges who proved themselves to be honest to hasten the procedures. The government should also work to solve the unemployment and economic problems in Yemen.

It also should protect the unity of the country for it knows that the US wants to divide countries such as Iraq, Sudan and Yemen into small weak states. Those who call for secession are only a tool to carry out plans of the US and Zionists. Yemeni people should be aware of this fact and learn from Iraqi agents such as Al-Jalabi and others.

**Q: Finally, are there any messages you want to relate to thank, blame or give advice?**

A: I would like to thank God first and then your newspaper that gave me the opportunity to conduct this interview and publish it for the people. I would like to blame the leaders of Salafi factions in Yemen and other countries for the conflict, fragmentation and disagreements that have no justification and that weakened this blessed group.

Concerning advice, I would like first to address all Salafi leaders in the whole Islamic world and say: you should fear God and conduct dialogue to settle disputes.

Second, I would like to say to the political leadership in Yemen that God ordered you to apply Islamic law in all fields of life so that justice can prevail among people and that sedition, instability and conflicts can vanish. You should also dismiss anyone who committed any oppressive acts and return the rights to the people. You should protect the unity of Yemen's land and people and attract righteous scholars, intellectuals, politicians and pressmen. You should have sessions with scholars who give advice.

Third, I would like to address the leaders of the Southern Movement and the Houthis in Sa'ada. They should fear God and know that raising sedition and shedding blood are forbidden, and that they can demand their rights peacefully. They should all know that through their actions, they carry out plans of the enemies who want to divide Yemen into four states. They should respond to the call of the political leadership to dialogue and then demand their rights in this way.

Fourth, I would like to call the scholars of the country, including politicians, intellectuals and tribal sheikhs, to aim at achieving reconciliation and reform before these issues are internationalized.

# VACANT POSITION



**Organization:** UNDP-YEM  
**Post Title:** Institutional Development Expert  
**Duty Station:** Sana'a  
**Duration:** 2 months  
**Nationality:** Yemeni

## A. Background:

General Directorate of Disaster Management (GDDM) under Civil Defence Authority (CDA) has the mandate in disaster preparedness, mitigation and response. The organization is at the stage of strengthening institutional set-ups; therefore, roles, functions and organisational set-ups need to be clearly specified or further built on to be better prepared for disasters and be able to respond effectively. Therefore, a thorough assessment will be conducted to clearly identify roles and functions of each department at national and governorate levels, map coordination mechanism within civil defence and Ministry of Interior, and line ministries to indicate financial, human and technical resource needs in order to carry out GDDM's functions. The institution needs to be strengthened in a fashion, which allows effective, efficient and sustainable fulfillment of its duties.

## B. Reporting System:

The incumbent reports to the Project Manager who closely coordinates with a national coordinator from GDDM and a UNDP Programme Officer. Deliverables to be submitted to UNDP through the Project Manager with her evaluation note.

## C. Duties & Responsibilities:

- Review the law/decrees including the one to promote the Directorate of Civil Defense to the Authority, regulations & executive lists and institutional development of Civil Defense in order to carry out assessment activities outlined below;
- Review current condition of GDDM including the branches in governorate under CDA;
- Identify challenges and risks of GDDM and its governorate branches;
- Outline means allocated for disaster management in order to be prepared and respond to the disasters occur in/around Yemen;
- Review the functions and roles of disaster management in other governmental departments, ministries, organizations inside/outside Ministry of Interior;
- Carry out an analysis using method such as SWOT for GDDM;
- Prepare detailed job description of various departments and divisions within GDDM, including the roles and functions of its departments;
- Determine the organizational short-term and long-term needs for the smooth and efficient functioning of the GDDM;
- Develop a program of training and capacity building for GDDM and its departments;
- Conduct consultation meetings with stakeholders;
- Identify needs in governorates

## D. Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in social science such as business administration, organisational management, human resource management or related field;
- Experience in disaster management is preferable;
- Minimum 10 years of working experience in institutional development and capacity building

## F. Competencies

- Excellent English and Arabic command in speaking and writing
- Familiarity to Yemen and development context
- Demonstrated analytical skills
- Be able to suggest concrete and realistic recommendations
- Sensitive to cultural context
- Be able to exercise flexibility

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Procurement Unit and response will be made to short listed candidates.  
UNDP, P.O Box 551 Sana'a — Email [procurement.ye@undp.org](mailto:procurement.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 15 July 2009.

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## EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 012/09

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**Title:** Project Assistant  
**Level:** GS5  
**Type of Contract:** Fixed-Term  
**IMIS #:** 14951,14959 and 14961

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

## Responsibilities:

- 1) Assist the Project Officer for continued advocacy and planning to strengthen the capacities of government offices, local institutions and communities to understand the rights and needs of children and women. Assisting in the mobilization of communities to manage their own social services and projects and assist the communities in establishing committees to manage their own services such as school parent-teacher — associations, health facility committees, water management committees etc
- 2) Assist in organizing training workshops and meetings in the areas of basic social services especially in basic education (enrolment and completion), child protection, child rights, HIV/AIDS awareness, birth registration, WASH and improved water-supply is equitably made available to the target communities.
- 3) Assist in monitoring and reporting on the distribution and utilization of all supplies provided including end-user monitoring, also monitoring utilisation of cash assistance to government and liquidated within the agreed period
- 4) Assist the field officer to collect key progress and impact indicators at governorate level on agreed intervals and maintain project documents, records, logs, files and as required.
- 5) In close collaboration with the project officer will provide hands-on monitoring of implementation of community based projects and initiatives such as child friendly schools, sponsor a child initiative, school hygiene and birth registration including the rehabilitation of health centers, construction of classrooms, construction of sanitation facilities and wells.
- 6) Perform other duties as assigned by the Project Officer

## Qualifications:

- University degree in Business administration or related field of work.
- Six years of progressively responsible clerical and administrative work, of which at least one year is closely related to support of programme activities.
- 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](mailto:yemenhr@unicef.org).

Applications received after July 25, 2009 will not be considered.

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

# Invitation for Bids (IFB)

## Procurement of Implementation of Al-Jabeen Sanitation Subproject—East Zone—Phase I. Reima Governorate Tender AF-18/3

- 1- The Government of Yemen/Public Works Project has received a credit from Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. Part of the credit will be apply to cover eligible payments under the contract for the implementation of Al-Jabeen Sanitation Subproject – East Zone – Phase I. Reima Governorate. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
- 2- The Public Works Project invites sealed bids from eligible bidders, who had at least two similar projects, for the implementation of Al-Jabeen Sanitation Subproject according to specifications and bill of quantities included in the tender documents.
- 3- Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at

**Public Works Project office**  
2nd turning on left of 20 m Rd. west 60m Rd.  
**Telephone: 01-407354/407358**  
**Facsimile: 01-407353**  
**E-Mail: [pwp-yem@y.net.ye](mailto:pwp-yem@y.net.ye)**  
**P.O.Box: 18316 Sana'a-Yemen**

For a nonrefundable fee of YR 10000 or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

- 4- Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of 15000 \$ or its equivalent in a convertible currency valid for 120 days after the bid opening, and shall be delivered to Public Works Project Office on or before 11:00 AM on 11/08/2009 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
- 5- For the local contractors, a copy of renew taxation certificate should be attached.

## إعلان مناقصة دولية يعلن مشروع الأشغال العامة عن إنزال مناقصة AF-18/3 للمساهمة في مجاري الجبين – الجزء الشرقي – المرحلة الأولى محافظة ريمة

حصلت الجمهورية اليمنية / مشروع الأشغال العامة على قرض من الصندوق العربي للإنماء الإقتصادي والإجتماعي لتمويل تنفيذ مشروعات مختلفة وقد خصص جزء من هذا القرض لمواجهة تكاليف المساهمة في مجاري الجبين – الجزء الشرقي (المرحلة الأولى).  
تدعو وحدة إدارة مشروع الأشغال العامة المقاولين المؤهلين والذين لديهم خبرة سابقة لاتقل عن مشروعين مماثلين بحسب شروط البنك الدولي لتقديم عطاءاتهم المغلقة لتنفيذ مجاري الجبين-الجزء الشرقي (المرحلة الأولى) بحسب الرسومات والمواصفات وجداول الكميات المضمنة في وثائق المناقصة.

يمكن شراء وثائق المناقصة بموجب طلب كتابي من مقر المشروع في العنوان التالي:- (صنعاء – شرق تقاطع الستين الغربي مع شارع العشرين (مبنى كلية المجتمع سابقاً)  
تلفون ٤٠٧٣٥٤-٤٠٧٣٥٨ / فاكس ٤٠٧٣٥٣ / ص.ب ١٨٣١٦ الجمهورية اليمنية  
مقابل مبلغ لايرد قدره (١٠٠٠٠ ريال) للنسخة الواحدة ويمكن للمتقدمين الراغبين الحصول على المعلومات الإضافية من نفس العنوان.

تقدم العطاءات في ظروف مغلقة ومختومة بالشمع الأحمر وتكون من أصل وصورة وتسلم إلى العنوان المذكور أعلاه في موعد أقصاه الساعة الحادية عشر من صباح يوم الثلاثاء الموافق ٢٠٠٩/٨/١١ على أن تكون العروض صالحة لمدة ٩٠ يوماً بعد موعد فتح المظاريف ويرفق بالعطاء ضمان إبتدائي قدره (١٥٠٠٠) دولار أمريكي صالح لمدة ١٢٠ يوماً بعد موعد فتح المظاريف لصالح وحدة مشروع الأشغال العامة. على المقاولين المحليين إرفاق صورة معتمدة من البطاقة الضريبية مجددة لعام ٢٠٠٩ والبطاقة التأمينية .

سيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق ٢٠٠٩/٨/١١. وذلك بحضور من يرغب من ممثلي المتقدمين ووحدة تنفيذ المشروع غير ملزمة بقبول أقل الأسعار ولها الحق في رفض أي عطاء أو كل العطاءات دون إبداء الأسباب.

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## Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge.

This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

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

OUR  
OPINION30 million  
by 2016

Population growth projections indicate that, even if we have a zero growth rate, i.e. every couple produced only two children, Yemen's population will reach at least 30 million by 2016.

As it is, the state is not able to fulfill basic demands such as education and health care for today's population, and unemployment is on the rise. There have been no grand government health projects, such as building a new hospital or a new university. Most development in health and education is carried out by the private sector whose cost of services can only be afforded by a small percentage of Yemenis.

Yemenis today in their 30s and 40s know what it is like to have reasonably equal access to general facilities, regardless of their economic level. But today, this is not the case. The gap between the upper and middle class is widening and a father who could previously afford to educate his older child in a private school may not be able to do so for his youngest.

Some of my contemporaries studied at the same school as a minister's son or daughter. Even the president's daughters studied at my school, an average private school. But today, the children of VIPs go to more expensive schools where average Yemenis cannot even dream of enrolling their children.

Around ten years ago, a popular government school's classroom would have included 60 to 90 students. Today there are more than 140 students in one classroom, some sitting on the floor for the lack of furniture.

What are we going to do about providing basic needs to the poor in the next few years, now that prices are going up and fuel subsidies are gradually being lifted? It is speculated that by July 1, there will be a small increase on the price of fuel in Yemen. This increase automatically will trigger an increase in everything else, leaving even less money for food and shelter, let alone education or entertainment.

Less than seven years from now, the streets in Sana'a will be even more crowded and pollution will increase. Street vendors will increasingly selling cheap low-quality -sometimes toxic- goods mostly made in China.

In less than seven years time, parents in poor families will have to make a decision whether to educate their children or not, or choose those among their children they want to send to school. In less than seven years, Yemenis at the bottom of the income ladder will move from apartments to slums and from the cities to the outskirts of the cities.

In less than seven years, theft and burglary will increase to the extent that shop owners will install more than one security alarm and citizens who do not already carry a weapon will do so by means of survival. Public transport will be a nightmare and a self-imposed curfew will become a necessity.

The tragedy is that there is nothing we can do about it, because as I said earlier, even if we had a zero growth rate, we would be 30 million by 2016 living in a country with dwindling resources, and politicians busy only with establishing themselves and maintaining their source of wealth.

Nothing more to say. Simply sad but true.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## About corruption with apology

By: Abdul Fattah Haidara

In Yemen, we always disagree about giving names to things and describing problems. Consequently, we disagree on solutions. This applies to many things, including corruption, which Ex-Prime Minister Abdul Qader Ba Jammal described as "the oil of development."

I would like to relate a political joke that describes corruption. The reader can then imagine the solution.

A teenager always hears about political corruption, but doesn't know what it means. He asked his father who tried to make the answer simple to his son. "I represent capitalism since I have money, and your mother represents the government which organizes the affairs of home," said the father to his son. "You represent the people living under our umbrella, your little brother the future and the maid in the house the workforce."

After that the father asked his son to think this over, to understand and then define political corruption. That night the son couldn't sleep because he was busy trying to understand the symbols. Suddenly he heard his little brother crying because he needed someone to clean and take care of him. He went to his mother's bedroom but found her asleep. He looked for his father but found him in the maid's bedroom. As a result, he felt frustrated. In the morning, his father asked him whether he came up with a definition to political corruption.

"Yes. Political corruption is when capitalism trifles with the workforce, the government sleeps deeply, the people consequently become concerned while the future drowns in filth," answered the boy.

Corruption is always filthy, and ironically some corrupt people curse it more than others do. The more the government talks about corruption, the worse the situation becomes. Today, Yemen ranks number 140 on the International Transparency's list of countries' corruption indicator.

I would like to apologize in advance to the readers provoked and disgusted by writing or talking about corruption. They hear and read about combating corruption but don't see any results on the ground.

I am personally provoked by

something more than just writing about corruption, including the news that we read this month. A delegation from the Anti-Corruption Committee and Central Authority for Control and Auditing (COCA) went to ask for German expertise in disclosing and combating corruption!

This is as if corruption in Yemen needs foreign expertise to disclose to us what we visibly see in every ministry and corporation. According to official reports, there are over 8,753 cases of corruption registered by the authority COCA, the Ministry of Interior and Public Finances Prosecution as well as by other government bodies. This number, though huge, doesn't even include the major corruption cases!

The reader can stop reading here and turn to ask people's opinion about the Anti-Corruption Authority. I believe that the answers will all be the same, as the majority of Yemenis don't put a lot of hope in this authority. They no longer believe anything due to what they hear from the government about corruption.

This is a destructive problem and worse than corruption itself because it steals people's hope and trust in a better future and paralyzes their ability to do something that can overcome their desperate situations.

Corruption is not limited to aspects of stealing, trickery and fraud. Rather, it leaks into peoples' minds and becomes public culture. As a result, it is difficult to urge them to change and sacrifice for the sake of principles of virtue.

People are looking for someone who can recover their hope that the well-known veterans of corruption will be brought to justice. The president of the country knows who these people are, particularly given that he read the Basurra-Hilal report. However, nothing brings hope when the highest apparatus in the country concerned with combating corruption, according to the news mentioned above, turns out to be nothing more than conferences and symposiums, tickets without travel, experts coming and going, silly and repeated speeches about the president's electoral program and other things that have no relation to people's suffering. Meanwhile, an ordinary man finds himself unable to complete a simple governmental

procedure or receive any government services until he pays a bribe or kidnaps a foreigner to negotiate with the government.

Most probably, Al-Anisi and other government officials know that they are mere employees unable to do anything. They confess in their statements that they are unable to hold any minister or official accountable. At the same time, they cannot make their own decisions. Consequently it is difficult to expect that they can be respectable enough to resign and apologize to those who relied on them. They only harm us more and provoke us. They prolong the age of corruption which seems endless under the existence of such faces. They are just a new tool of décor aiming to attract donor countries.

It can also be said that they embody a doubled kind of corruption since instead of combating it, they legalize it through their silence about it. They exchange jokes, chew qat and receive the people who are involved in corruption every day. Does Al-Anisi, head of the Anti-Corruption Authority, who seems chaste, realize this or not? I doubt that, and my evidence is that a man like Yassin Abdu Saeed, who is also a member of this authority, cannot combat anything that he believes doesn't originally exist. This is according to his statements while he was campaigning when he was a candidate in the last presidential elections.

The Anti-Corruption Committee is not of course everything. Everybody knows where corruption comes from and under which guise the corrupt appear.

The situation is so bad that the majority of government employees practice corruption in some way or another. Everybody knows about it and therefore makes it legal. How can an employee with a salary of YR 20,000 live without receiving bribes? This question is logical but unfortunately is repeated everywhere instead of anyone taking steps to do something about it. It is used to legalize corruption instead of being directed to the one to whom all questions of the diseased homeland should be directed.

Source: newsyemen.net

## COMMON SENSE

Peace in Yemen  
Further than  
the eye can see

"When will peace ever be realized in this God forsaken country of ours?" asked Antar, as he drank his tea, as he and his friend waited for the high school history exam to begin.

His fellow student Murad from another school, sipped his tea also, but was obviously not glad that his tea was still hot, wiping off the heat from his lip, or so he thought. He then commented: "What is bugging you Antar? We are not at war with any other country?"

"You are right Murad", said Antar, continuing: "We are not at war with any other country. For the past three decades, we have been at war with ourselves, for no apparent reason except to make sure that we never have a peaceful transfer of authority in the country and change the leadership to a more peace loving one that can steer this country to progress and prosperity."

Murad was not sure if this conversation is going to be helpful for the history exam: "Look Antar, we are not going to help our situation much by getting into the political nitty gritty that is making a mess of the country. I know and you know that all these wars are not just for the political status quo to be maintained. They are also a substantial source of income for a lot of greedy people that never have enough of all the public funds and property they scavenge, as they claim to be protecting us from the 1,001 evils that are threatening the national well being of the country."

Murad asked: "What well being are you talking about? Come to think of it, what exactly does well being mean? Does it really exist? As far as I can see, the only well being one hears about is the tireless gibberish that the Government media keeps blabbing about all day in the radio and television - the publicly owned ones mind you, since it would not be for our well being, say our leaders, for the people to have their own broadcast channels! So all day the Government propaganda is describing how wonderful life is under the clear blue sky of our lovely land, which is scorched by a merciless sun that no clouds would now dare to challenge, even in the rainy season. All day, our meteorological authority gives warnings of heavy rains to fall in the next 48 hours, and the only rain one hears about is the rain of the tear drops of the relatives of the dead or missing foreigners, who our government has failed to protect from the other mysterious blood suckers of the state treasury or whoever is hiring them to do such dirty displays of Yemeni hospitality."

Antar had an interesting prognosis: "Look, my friend; we cannot continue to lie to the world that Yemen's values are the best in the world, when we know for sure that the last people that these values apply to are our leaders, sheikhs, military officers and the phony religious leaders, who sell their faith for the cheapest price."

"Now wait a minute Murad, what are you implying?" asked Antar, continuing: "Are you saying that we have a leadership that does not uphold our religious and traditional moral values?"

Murad almost cut in: "Well let me correct you a little bit while answering your question: The only values our leadership in all its manifestations upholds are the values of all the property they have accumulated as they continuously dry up the state coffers of any public funds that could be used to enhance the welfare of the citizenry, or maybe buy medicine to face up to the spread of swine flu, which the Government kept assuring us that Yemen was completely free of for months, until recently. The only reason it took them so long to come to grips with the reality of the disease's presence in Yemen, is because they wanted to see how much they could scrounge of the donors on the premise of combating swine flu, which is now a dangerous threat to Yemen! They have pretty much decided on how to divide the lucrative profits to be made on this front, just as they have pretty much decided on how to divide the profits from unleashing the Sixth War on the poor people of Sa'ada, who have forgotten what a good night's sleep was ever since they realized that the Sixth Round is eminent, now that the foreign hostage game has been well fixed on "the Houthis", by no other than the very people who are bound to profit from the next War on Sa'ada; namely the owners and editors of the newspapers and media that are working night and day to ostensibly mislead the world about the realities of life here in this God forsaken land of Sheba. Arabia Felix it is not and will not be until our leaders simply understand that the people of Yemen, north and south have really had enough of their tireless gambling by the Yemeni leaders with the lives of their subjects, and the absolute carelessness they display in conducting public affairs, just so they can continue to satisfy their greedy hunger for blood money. In such a venue, peace is further than the eye can see."

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/>



By: Hassan Al-Haifi



By Hamid

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# Yemen Press Review



Newsyemen.net, an independent news website  
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

**Top Story**  
- "Yemen could be another Afghanistan," EU official warns  
Yemen is in danger of following Afghanistan down the path of becoming a safe haven for Islamist militants, the website quoted the European Union's anti-terrorism chief as saying in an interview with Reuters last week.

Three foreign women were found dead in Yemen this week after they were kidnapped by an armed group, heightening long-standing fears the country could slip into chaos and provide a launchpad for militant attacks. Gilles de Kerchove, the EU's Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, said he had recommended that Yemen be ranked alongside Pakistan and the northern Sahara as regions that harbor threats to European interests.

"I was in Yemen a month ago. It's a

state that really needs to be assisted. It is confronted with many challenges and we have to avoid Yemen becoming another safe haven or another Afghanistan," de Kerchove told Reuters.

"It's a weak state, so indeed we have to mobilize the international community to avoid that happening," he said on the sidelines of a counter-terrorism conference in the Algerian capital organized by the CAERT research centre.

Security analysts say they believe some al Qaeda militants, seeking new bases of operations after being squeezed out of Saudi Arabia and Iraq, are heading for Yemen.

The Arab world's poorest state, Yemen is already struggling with al Qaeda militancy, along with tribal rivalries and secessionist sentiment in the south, home to most of the country's oil facilities.

On a side note, the website reported that Spokesperson of Shiite rebels in Sa'ada has denied allegations that Al-Houthi received the six missing foreigners kidnapped last Friday from kidnappers.

"This information is baseless," the spokesperson, Saleh Habra, told NewsYemen.

MP for the ruling party, Othman Hussein Mujali, said he got information that the six foreign hostages were handed over to Al-Houthi a week ago.

"They are currently in the Ruzamat area" of Sa'ada province, the centre of the Shiite rebellion in the mountains near the Saudi border, a tribal source told AFP.

The source said that the rebels had identified the kidnappers as being two of their own fighters — Mohsen al-Tam and Fawaz Morqi.

"The rebels are refusing to hand over either the hostages or their kidnappers," the official told AFP.

The six hostages, five Germans and one Briton, were part of a group of nine foreigners kidnapped last Friday June 12. Three of them, two German nurses and a S. Korean female teacher, were found dead in the abduction area two days later.

The issue of missing foreign hostages has become the worry of intelligence services in their countries, a western diplomat told NewsYemen.

The diplomat said the homelands of hostages had assigned their intelligence services start investigating the condition of missing hostages. "The intelligence service may start working on this issue

even without prior coordination with the Yemeni authorities," said the diplomat. The source expressed fear that kidnappers might have killed and buried the hostages to conceal any evidence.



26september.net, affiliated with Yemeni Army  
Thursday, June 25, 2009

**Top Story**  
- Interior Ministry issues list of 3 wanted by security authorities

Yemeni Interior Ministry publicized on Tuesday names of 3 suspects it reported to have been wanted by security authorities due to their involvement in dangerous security issues, the website reported in one of its main stories.

The three men, the interior ministry said, "are citizens of Noshour district in Saada province, where they were wanted by security agencies in Saada for their involvement in dangerous security issues."

The leadership of Interior Ministry asked Authority of Immigration and Passports, Main Department of Criminal Investigation and Security Agencies across the various provinces in the country to enlist names of suspects in the black list as they are considered some of the most dangerous criminal elements.

It instructed all different Yemen's security agencies across the provinces in the country to search for them in every place and take them into custody.

On a side note, the website reported that Mukalla's police arrested 7 men who led rioting, chaos and vandalism acts that took place in Mukalla during past few days.

According to information center, the 7 wanted have spoiled the disturbance of public tranquility and peace, participating in rioting acts in Mukalla, hurling stones at the policemen and burning tires in roads.

They were referred for the legal procedures, information center added.

In the same context, a wanted outlawed person, 33, was arrested over the involvement in fomenting riots, chaos and vandalism acts as well as threatening security and national peace in Mukalla city.

On the other hand, Amran's police arrested 3 wanted persons, their ages ranging from 22-30 years on charges of killing, looting and thefts.

They have been arrested after the security forces searched for them in a checkpoint in Theifan district.

The police said one of the three wanted, considered a dangerous criminal element and enlisted among the wanted, was publicized earlier by the general criminal department. According to the website, Lahj Prosecution referred to the Specialized Penal Prosecution in Sanaa on Monday file of a defendant accused of involvement in undermining the country's national unity, said a judicial source.

The defendant Hussein Muthana Saad Al-Aql is a Ph.D at the Faculty of Education in Lahj province and was arrested holding documents, books and articles via which he calls for separating the country's improvised south, fomenting sectarian conflict and spreading the culture of intolerance and hatred in the country in order to destabilize the society and shake its security, the source pointed out. According to the source, the relevant authorities will begin investigating the defendant within the next two days.

## Rare court decision grants Lebanese mother the right to confer citizenship to her children

By ALEXANDRA SANDELS

In a ground-breaking court ruling on Tuesday, Samira Souweidan was granted the right to pass citizenship onto her children, after the judges concluded that there is currently no legislation that prohibits a Lebanese woman to transfer her nationality to her children after the death of her husband, The Daily Star reported.

Under Lebanon's current nationality law, which dates back to 1925, only Lebanese men married to foreign women can pass their nationality onto their spouses and children. A Lebanese woman married to a foreigner, however, does enjoy the same right and is unable to confer her citizenship onto her hus-

band and children. Those families consisting of a Lebanese mother and a foreign father face a myriad of legal obstacles in Lebanon, including access to health care, schooling and employment. They must also pay regular fees for Lebanese residency permits.

The judges involved in the case, John al-Azzi, Rana Habka and Lamis Kazma of the Jdeideh al-Metn court, also brought up Article 7 of the Lebanese Constitution, which stipulates that all Lebanese citizens have equal rights before the law.

Speaking to the Daily Star, judge Azzi said the decision was "an achievement" and that he expects to see many similar court cases to follow after Tuesday's verdict. He emphasized his "will" to change

Lebanon's current legislation on nationality, which he referred to as "not fair."

In the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhar, Souweidan said that she struggled for a long time to pay for the permits necessary for her children to stay in Lebanon legally.

"I used to work for an association to pay for the residency permits for my children to stay here. Sometimes I took loans with interest. One time, I was late in paying the permit fees for my children so they threatened to deport them. I will never forget that day. I cried a lot, and I was afraid I would die before fixing the status of my children."

"When they were kids, I used to take them with me to help me with the cleaning jobs I had. But when they grew up I

stopped, and I let them focus on their studies."

Souweidan said that after the court decision came out she didn't work because she was so happy, though sometimes she still fears that the decision will be revoked.

"Yesterday I was afraid the decision would be withdrawn. But my lawyer Suha Ismail always encourages me and tells me to have faith, so I know things will go well."

**New parliament should uphold their promises**

Expectedly, Lebanon's women's rights groups have welcomed Tuesday's court decision.

"We believe this [ruling] is a very

important step forward toward breaking the taboo on the issue of women's nationality rights," said Zoya Rouhana of the women's rights group KAFA.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the women's rights campaign group, "My nationality is a right for me and my family" referred to the court decision as a "bold move."


Nadim Houry, Lebanon Researcher at Human Rights Watch, also welcomed the decision, saying the move recognized the discrimination that exists in Lebanese law. Meanwhile, he emphasized the need for a change in the nationality law.


"We welcome any decision that promotes the rights of women and children. But the outcome remains limited. This (ruling) does not preclude the need for a


law that doesn't discriminate between men and women. I hope there will be more space for judicial action to promote these rights," Houry told MENASSAT.

Lebanese rights group have for several years lobbied before the country's politicians for an amendment to the nationality law, and in the past year there has been a surge in media coverage on the issue. Houry believes there has been an "absence of a political will to enact a change in the law." He urges Lebanon's new Parliament, that was formed after the recent elections, to stand by the promises made by the political blocks on human rights issues.

"The new parliament, especially the various blocked, should not forget the promises they've made," he concluded.










**Based on the Trademark / Brands protection law**

On Wednesday the 17th of June, 2009, and based on the judiciary verdict issued by Hodeidah Primary Trade Court on the 3/06/2009, quantity of fake trademarks of **PHILIPS** lighting products were destroyed, with the attendance of a committee consisted of representatives of the court, representatives from the concerned parties, including General Authority for Standards and Specifications, Environment Health Prosecutor, and local reporters.

Hence, Mohammed Abdulwahab Alzubairi and Bro Company the sole agent of **PHILIPS** lighting products in the Republic of Yemen. The products which are marked by international commercial brands **PHILIPS** owned by PHILLIPS ELECTRONIC in the Netherlands; is warning that it will take all the legal actions and measures through the official authorities **PHILIPS** against any attempt to import, counterfeit, and fake any of the Brands **PHILIPS** as well as its products into Yemen. In addition, such products would be subject to confiscation, destruction, and compensation, and that is for the protection of all the consumers and customers of genuine products of **PHILIPS**, which are characterized by excellent qualities, reliability, and long service and have the confidence of all its customers in the local and international markets.





## Vacancy Announcement

The ideal candidates for the **Project Officer job** should possess the following essential qualifications and skills:

1. Yemeni nationality
2. Holder of a BA degree in Medicine & Medical sciences, Social Sciences or Business Administration or any other related disciplines.
3. Free to take up a fulltime job
4. Have at least 3 years of experience in developmental or social works.
5. Have good experience of working in the field of Safe Motherhood
6. Fluent in speaking and writing both Arabic and English.
7. Experience in planning and organizing workshops, training programs meetings and other related logistics.
8. Experience in monitoring and evaluating programs.
9. Familiarity with the main computer programs and use of the Internet
10. Other required skills:
  - Good communication skills
  - Ability to work in a team.
  - Ability to advocate for the project and work with other development partners.
11. The readiness to travel inside and outside of the country.

**Responsibilities of the project officer:**

- Coordinate, plan, monitor and report on the implementation of the grant funded activities according to the project plan and timeline
- Promote the project activities with relevant organizations and departments (government agencies, NGOs, UN agencies, donors, and other members and partners)
- Write detailed reports and updates as required by the NSMA core group and the DFID grant project.
- Submit reports based on timeline agreed upon with WRA Global Secretariat and based on DFID reporting requirements
- Document progress of the project activities and events throughout the project implementation.
- Coordinate the implementation of project activities with the related agencies
- Suggest other possible future projects for NSMA
- Coordinate and prepare for the meetings of NSMA Board and core groups.
- Effective communication with NSMA members
- Work in a disciplined and transparent way
- Other duties as required by the NSMA office

THE WORK will be for three years. Interested applicants should send their applications with photocopies of their qualifications, enclosed with a Curriculum Vitae to:

**National Safe Motherhood Alliance**  
Haddah street ,behind Syrian Embassy  
Sana'a —Republic of Yemen

For more enquiries and details contact us :01 426476  
Email :ynsma@yemen.net.ye      nsma.yemen@yahoo.com

**No applications will be accepted after ten days from the date of the advertisement.**

# 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

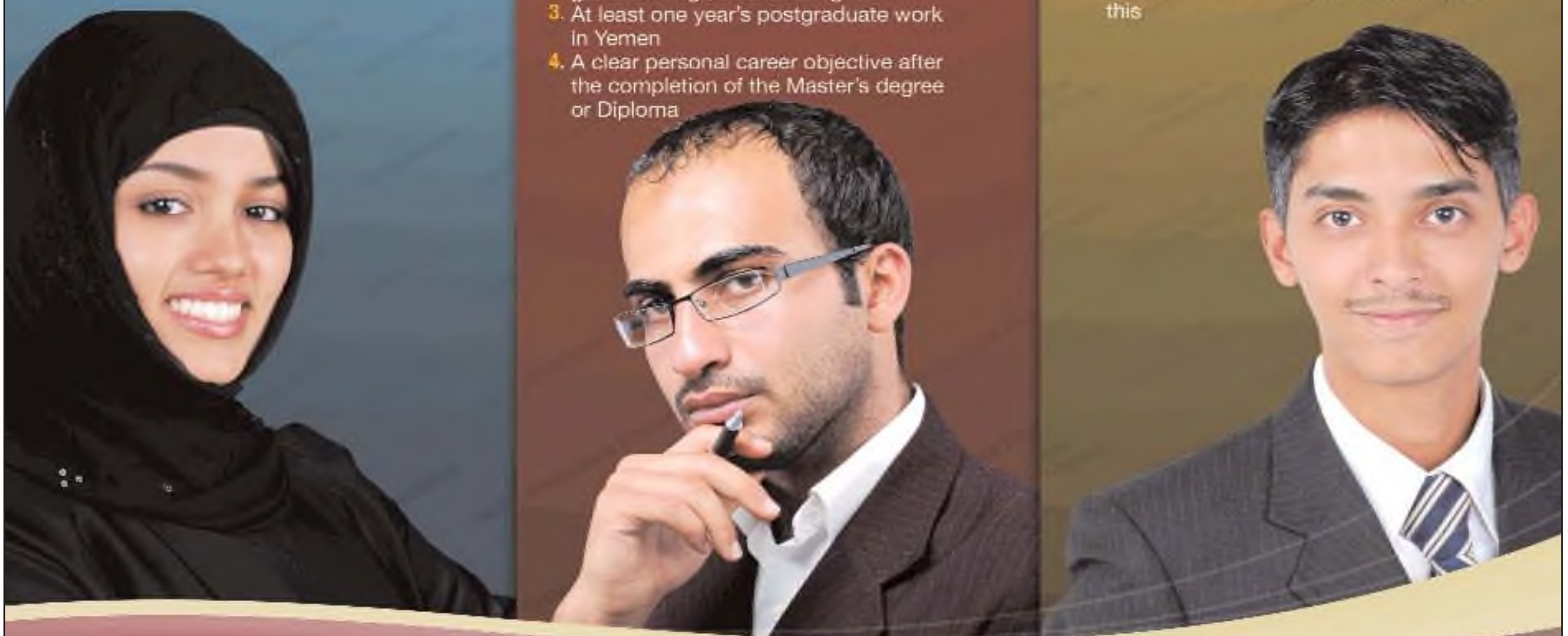
## Professional Certificates

### 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](http://www.yemenlng.com/scholarships)

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



**EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

The Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen is seeking to recruit for its offices in Sana'a qualified personnel to fill the position of:

## **Administrative Assistant**

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and the Head of Administration, the incumbent shall assist in the management of the administration section with particular attention to the human resources, logistic and financial management activities of the Delegation.

**Functions and duties:**

**Human Resource Management**

- Maintain and follow-up of personnel files, job descriptions and local legislation.
- Assist in recruitment and administrative procedures for contractual agents and local staff.
- Management of local staff overtime and medical claims.
- Manage mission requests expenses and travel allowances and ensure efficient management of leave.
- Assist in establishing and follow-up of staff training plans.
- Management of service contract staff.

**Logistics Management**

- Maintain a database of all maintenance and real estate contracts and ensure their financial and administrative follow-up.
- Supervise and follow all contractual obligations regarding the Delegation, the Residence and officials' housing lease contracts, house works and related furniture.
- Manage office supplies of the Delegation and contacts with suppliers.
- Procurement and contractual management for estates, works and supplies.
- Ensure services are rendered appropriately by cleaning, maintenance and security service providers for the Delegation's premises, the Residence and other designated locations.
- Supervise vehicle maintenance, service sheets and log books.
- Liaison for all IT issues.

**Financial and General Management**

- Ensure coordination and support the activities of the accounting team as required.
- Verify financial and budgetary reports received from accountants.
- Monitor the Delegation's financial and contractual obligations.
- Set up and manage the administration section's archiving system.
- Draft routine correspondence on administrative issues.
- Any other tasks required by the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. or the Head of Administration.

**Qualifications and skills required:-**

- Secondary Education + 2 years further education/training preferably in the field of management, finance, accounting or human resources.
- Possess a minimum of 5 years relevant experience.
- Good working knowledge of all commonly used informatics and accounting tools and readiness to acquire new knowledge. Capacity to work in particular in administrative information systems (ABAC, Assets, Contracts, Immogest, eDelHRM).
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (oral and written); knowledge of a 2nd EU language is considered an advantage.
- Excellent communication skills with internal and external actors; capacity to work as a team player with good inter-personal skills, ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- Ability to quickly grasp rules and procedures and contribute to effective and efficient administration.
- Capacity to focus on priorities, to organize work and deliver in a timely manner.
- Highly motivated, dynamic, receptive to new demands, discreet and able to work under pressure.

Interested candidates are requested to send an application letter specifically referring to the 'Administrative Assistant' position together with a detailed curriculum vitae to the:

**Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen**  
**Att: Mr. Michele Cervone d'Urso, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.**  
**Fax: 01-432549**  
**or Email: [delegation-yemen-vacancy@ec.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-yemen-vacancy@ec.europa.eu)**

Applications received after Sunday 5th July 2009 will not be taken into consideration.



**EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

The Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen is seeking to recruit for its offices in Sana'a a qualified personnel to fill the position of:

## **Secretary to the Development Operations Section**

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and the Head of Cooperation, the incumbent shall provide general administrative and secretarial assistance, as well as document management services to the Development Operations section.

**Functions and duties:**

**Administrative co-ordination**

- Administrative and clerical support to Head of Development co-operation and programme managers.
- Management of section phone calls and operate if required as telephone operator for Delegation and transfer calls within the Delegation to the appropriate persons.
- Participate in Delegation / section meetings, draft minutes and ensure follow-up.
- Registration of the sections mail and internal assignment.
- Transmit and coordinate the circulation of correspondence and information within the section.
- Assist with the installation of new colleagues of the section.
- Follow-up and liaising with administrative section of the delegation concerning missions, training and leave.

**Administrative support to the section**

- Draft routine/standard letters and notes
- Translation of basic documents from English into Arabic.
- Follow-up of incoming mail, correspondence, outgoing mail, mailing and addressees lists as well as handling of files
- Assist in maintaining the (automated) filing system of the Delegation for incoming and outgoing correspondence
- Maintain filing systems for project correspondence and documents
- Maintain filing system for subject files
- Contacts with Yemeni ministries and organisations as well as with foreign Embassies and implementing partners
- Manage office equipment, information and promotional material; follow-up inventory of the section
- Replacement of the other secretary in the operational section during his / her absence.
- Initial encoding in CRIS as support to programme managers.

**Organisation of meetings and travel**

- Maintain and coordinate the agendas of section members (incl. organisation and preparation of meetings, arranging appointments, collecting information, preparing files and briefings)
- Organise / support external missions from Headquarters, other Delegations or other European institutions
- Arrange meetings (Section meetings, workshops, donor coordination), minute taking
- Coordinate the use of drivers for meetings outside the Delegation.
- Organise and support section staff missions in Yemen or to other countries.

**Qualifications and skills required:-**

- Post-secondary education attested by a diploma, or
- A secondary education attested by a diploma giving access to post-secondary education and appropriate professional experience of three years, or
- Successful completion of intermediate education plus two years' relevant supplementary specialised training plus five years' appropriate professional experience.
- Secretarial experience of at least two years is required. Experience of five years or more is considered an advantage.
- Thorough knowledge of English (oral and written) and Arabic (oral and written). Knowledge of a second Community language would be an advantage.

Interested candidates are requested to send an application letter specifically referring to the 'Secretary to the Development Operations Section' position together with a detailed curriculum vitae to the:

**Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen**  
**Att: Mr. Michele Cervone d'Urso, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.**  
**Fax: 01-432549**  
**or Email: [delegation-yemen-vacancy@ec.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-yemen-vacancy@ec.europa.eu)**

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**EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

The Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen is seeking to recruit for its offices in Sana'a qualified personnel to fill the position of:

## **Press and Communication Officer**

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

- Act as interpreter/translator for the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., visiting missions and other staff as required.
- Conceive and implement the EC Communication strategy and planning.
- Prepare daily press reviews and contribute to morning briefings for Headquarters.
- Financial and strategic management of the annual Information/Communication budget.
- Monitor impact and evaluate communication activities.
- Manage the press, information and documentation centre and the EC promotional materials.
- Develop and manage of the website of the EC Delegation.
- Coordinate with the EU Member States (and other relevant stakeholders) on communication, media-related issues and cultural activities.
- Organize information and communication activities (e.g. press conference, events, Europe Week, project visits) for the Delegation.
- Conduct pilot communication activities for specific target groups (youth, media, EU-members, NGOs, policy makers) with emphasis on the local culture and the use of traditional and/or new media.
- Develop and maintain contacts with various media in Yemen.
- Provide advice to EC Programme Managers and projects on visibility matters (as per EC guidelines).
- Assist in organising cultural activities.
- Draft written translations from Arabic/English.
- Other tasks as requested by the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

**Qualifications and skills required:-**

- University degree; specialised studies would be considered an asset.
- Proven on-the-job experience of a minimum of 3 years in the field of media and information as well as in interpretation.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (oral and written); knowledge of a 2nd EU language is considered an advantage.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural team, high sense of responsibility and initiative, resourceful, result-oriented.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Proven experience with donor relations is an advantage.

Interested candidates are requested to send an application letter specifically referring to the 'Press and Communication Officer' position together with a detailed curriculum vitae to the:

**Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen**  
**Att: Mr. Michele Cervone d'Urso, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.**  
**Fax: 01-432549**  
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**EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
TO THEREPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

The Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen is seeking to recruit for its office in Sana'a qualified personnel to fill the position of:

## **Temporary Driver**

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and the Head of Administration, the incumbent shall perform the following main tasks:

- Operate and maintain diplomatic vehicles with a focus on safety and efficiency.
- Drive senior officials respecting required protocol and security norms.
- Drive EC staff to various destinations throughout the city of Sana'a and Yemen.
- Dispatch courier in the city of Sana'a.
- Perform daily pre-trip and post-trip vehicle inspections.
- Perform minor maintenance tasks on the vehicles when necessary.
- Ensure fuelling of vehicles, periodic scheduled vehicle maintenance and report potential mechanical problems.
- Ensure interior and exterior cleaning of vehicles.
- Prepare route and overtime reports.
- Prepare accident reports as appropriate.
- Provide other services as requested by Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

We offer a contract for a 12 months period.

**Qualifications and skills required:**

- Completed Secondary Education.
- Possession of a valid Yemeni driving license.
- Proven on-the-job experience of a minimum of 5 years with an Embassy and/or international organization would be considered an advantage.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (oral and written), knowledge of a 2nd EU language is considered an advantage.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural team and with a team of drivers, ability to work under pressure (meet deadlines at any cost), high sense of responsibility, discretion and initiative.
- Neat and tidy appearance, punctual and ready to work long hours.

Interested candidates are requested to send an application letter referring specifically to the 'Temporary Driver' position together with a detailed curriculum vitae to the:

**Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen**  
**Attn: Mr. Michele Cervone d'Urso, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.**  
**Fax: 01-432549**  
**or Email: [delegation-yemen-vacancy@ec.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-yemen-vacancy@ec.europa.eu)**

Applications received after Sunday 5th July 2009 will not be taken into consideration.

# Social discrimination still dominates Yemeni culture

By: Ola Al-Shami  
and Marwa Al-Zubairi

Saeeda was a young Yemeni woman from the akhdam. She was working as a street cleaner in Sana'a when a group of men began to harass her. The men ended up slicing Saeeda's neck, killing her, and stabbing her brother in the chest several times. Nothing was done by authorities to investigate or avenge Saeeda's death.

More than 50 decades ago, there were only two visible classes, the Imam and his family who were descendants of the Prophet, and the rest of the public. But after the Imamate rule ended, three classes emerged: the Hashemite or saada, the tribes, known as a'raab or qabail, and the mazaayina, also known as atraaf.

An additional class has emerged, popularly known as the akhdam. This term, however, carries with it a negative stigma, and they prefer to call themselves, al-muhamasheen, or the marginalized ones.

The muhamasheen is the impoverished class. They are isolated socially and economically. They frequently live in places like slums on the outskirts of Sana'a, where there are make-shifts homes and no electricity. Children often have limited, if any, access to education, adequate nutrition or sanitation.

The muhamasheen are also often victims of discrimination or prejudice. Children drop out of school because they are looked down upon by their peers. Homes flood when it rains. Ali Izzil Muhammad Obaid told the New York Times: "We are surviving but we are not living."

The government has not done much to fix this problem. The Yemeni constitution says, "The state shall guarantee equal opportunities for all citizens in the fields of political, economic, social and cultural activities." It also says Yemeni Society is based in social solidarity, which is based on justice, freedom and equality according to the law.

Although the Yemeni constitution promises equality for all, it doesn't provide it. In articles 24 and 25 of chapter 3 on social and cultural foundations, it says that it will provide the same opportunities to all Yemenis culturally, economically, politically and even socially, but none of this has happened.

The constitution was laid down in 1994 and 15 years later, the situation is as bad as ever.

## Prisoners of war

According to Iranian historian Mohammed Hussein Fadhlallah, Ethiopians also known as the Ahbash in

Arabic ruled Yemen for 72 years over 1,500 years ago.

During their rule, one of their kings called Abraha wanted to save the Yemeni deteriorating economy then by directing trade and attention to Sana'a instead of Hijaz in what is known today as Saudi Arabia.

He realized that he needed to destroy the Ka'aba and attract world pilgrimage and hence trade towards Yemen by building a magnificent church he called "Al-Qilees."

However, his attack on Mecca failed and he returned to Yemen in 571 A.C. while his people in Yemen were fought by a Yemeni leader with support from Persia called Saif bin Thee Yazan.

The Ahbash were then enslaved and made to work in demeaning jobs such as cleaning bathrooms, washing dishes and sweeping streets. They were not allowed to slaughter animals or cook food until recently because they were considered by Yemenis as 'unclean' because of their slavery status.

The mazaayina, however, were. According to renowned 9th century historian Ibn Al-Saeb Al-Kalbi, the latter were prisoners of war caught during the Islamic expansion towards northern Arabia. This is why they usually have fair skin and blue and green eyes.

They appeared in Yemen many years after the Ahbash slaves and so they were given a slightly higher status through being able to serve in the houses in cooking and slaughtering, or barbers or working in the Turkish baths known as hamams.

The mazaayina are traditionally considered working-class, and work as barbers, entertainers and butchers. However, many work as circumcisers, give injections or administer first aid. They are referred to as doctors by almost all the social classes, especially in the rural areas. The mazaayina also traditionally sing at weddings, help to prepare brides for their wedding day, and serve in wealthy homes.

At the top of the social ladder, the saada claim Hashemite ancestry, dating back to the prophet Mohammed (P.B.U.H.). They traditionally work as judges or religious leaders because of their history of access to education and leadership.

The saada and the tribes once kept their distance, but now share a closer relationship. It used to be unacceptable for a saada to marry someone from any tribe. More recently, however, the saada marriage range has expanded, and they are allowed to marry members of the tribes.

Most saada families, however, will not permit their relatives to marry members

of the mazaayina or muhamasheen. Neither are members of the tribal class.

Yemeni tribes are divided into four main groups that describe themselves as the decedents of four sheiks: Hashid, Bakil, Hamdan and Madhaj. The tribes are now lead by sheikhs who enforce a tribal system of law. Yemeni sheikhs have their own prisons, arms and soldiers.

## Pervasive discrimination

The last two classes suffer from social discrimination although for the muhamasheen it is much worse because of their dark skin color.

This is a prevalent concept, although they are not necessarily black especially since, over the years, some abandoned children were conceived outside wedlock by qabael or saada and dumped in the akhdam's neighborhood. The akhdam took care of the children as their own and married them with their own, and so with time some families have lighter skin colors because of this.

There are some Yemenis who are of dark skin and those are generally from coastal areas or the valley in Hadramout. Where they live, they are integrated normally into society but when they travel to other areas in Yemen they are sometimes looked down upon just because they are black, despite the fact that they could be from a higher social class.

However, muhamasheen remain the most discriminated against and are also regularly denied basic rights like property, credit or employment.

According to people from rural Taiz, each area or district had its akhdam. Each area's inhabitants were responsible for protecting them, giving them food and shelter in return for the akhdam's services, in the form of domestic work and especially during weddings and social occasions.

The trend was that the akhdam of one area or village were not allowed to work in another. They belonged to a specific territory and had to operate within that.

During weddings for example, their job was to play the drums, sing and entertain the people. They also helped in domestic chores mainly cleaning and serving people.

During the dancing, friends and family would throw money into the lap of the akhdam entertainment leader after gesturing circles with the money on top of the bride or the groom's head. This show was a cultural tradition supposed to break the evil eye, and say, "Your value is above all money."

When the bride or groom dances, family and friends compete to see who can throw in the more money. It is a special treat for the akhdam that day.

Outside the wedding seasons, the akhdam earn money by doing services in the village. When there is no work, they can easily go to houses and demand money or food or clothes. Locals were obliged to give them because they were the responsibility of the village.

In recent years, some akhdam went to schools and broke free from this form of unwritten slavery, and some even traveled and worked abroad. But for the majority, especially in the cities, they are still heavily discriminated against and looked down upon.

"These groups face tyrannical treatment from society because of their unknown origins, according to which they are now not allowed to take leading positions in the state, and in the past were not allowed to in the tribe," said Mohammed Al-Khayat, a professor of social studies at the University of Sana'a. "So, they worked in jobs considered as low professions socially."

## Challenging the norm

Challenging social norms is not easy, and in some cases the costs are heavy.

"A man from the saada class wanted to marry his daughter to her relative who was of the a'raab," said Um Ali, an a'raab who asked not to be identified by her full name. "When they came to Sana'a to buy the clothes for the bride, her elder brothers who live in Sana'a refused to let the marriage to happen."

"[The brothers] disobeyed their father, who told them of his agreement with his [potential] new son-in-law. They kept on refusing the marriage, which caused the father to be paralyzed for nearly three years which ended in his death."

Some saada think they are too good to socialize with other classes. A saada woman would never invite a neighbor from the tribes over to her house for lunch, and she would never let her children hang out with muhamasheen.

"The saada and qabael interact socially and invite each other to their weddings or celebrations, but it is unheard of to invite mazaayina or akhdam as guests," said Mohammed Noman Al-Hakimi a writer from Taiz. "There is a red line between those two groups and the saada and mazaayina that cannot be crossed."

"In fact if you were to insult someone you would call him 'ya muzayyin,'" he



Drumming and Sana'ani flute was only for Mazayyina Yemenis. Today new forms of music have been created merging traditional music with modern instruments and – except for traditional drumming – making music has become for all.

continued. "Even if we were to invite the akhdam, they are generally dirty and don't dress up nicely. As for the mazaayina, it is impossible to even consider inviting them."

A wealthy mazaayina man wanted to marry a saada woman and since her family would never accept him, he changed his last name to one of the common names of saada families. He claimed he had no family members or relatives. The ruse worked because the lived in a town where nobody knew his past. Her family agreed and the couple married.

After three years, the man and his wife traveled to Egypt to visit her brother. He met another man whose last name was the same as the mazaayina man's acclaimed surname.

The other man doubted his origin and asked him about specific details known only to those from the family. The mazaayina was forced to confess that he lied in order to marry. His wife's family then forced him to divorce her, although they had just had a baby together a few months before.

## Society's apathy and winds of change

Kevin Aldrich, a teacher at the Sana'a International School said that he tried to organize a charity walk to benefit the muhamasheen. He cancelled the event

because people lacked interest or enthusiasm. The students were simply not interested in this topic, he said.

But when another teacher, David Stanton, organized a charity walk to raise money for the Arabian leopards which are in danger of extinction, people jumped at the opportunity and raised USD 5,000 that day.

There are some NGOs made by the marginalized communities mostly from akhdams who have organized themselves in order to change their conditions such as Amer and Uqbi Association. Increasingly humanitarian and rights based organizations in Yemen are executing projects to improve their situation. A documentary has been released recently by WINTESS and Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights on the plight of akhdam and injustice happening to that community in Yemen. The documentary discussed the situation of akhdams in Yemen with focus on Saeeda's story calling for social action against such injustice.

Some mazaayina have also broken from the isolation and availed good education and are now working abroad in respectable jobs. In Yemen, there remains discriminated against regardless of their education or wealth but the trend is slowly changing.

Continued from Back page

## My journey to Yemen

The sun seems to always shine in this country and especially light-colored people like me have to be really careful in the strong sun. At noon it's just too hot to go anywhere, but when it gets cooler in the afternoon, it so much fun to go to all these different places.

I went on a trip to the Imam's palace. What an amazing place! All the little rooms in there and the men were dancing the traditional jambiyya dance! It was a fantastic experience and I was amazed by how well this place is kept, and especially since it is so clean.

The whole country offers so many possibilities to enjoy the landscape, but they may not all be exploited to their full potential because of security issues.

### Daily adventure on the dabab

At the beginning of June, I started to work at the German Embassy as an intern and with that I began taking dababs [mini-buses] to work from Old Sana'a to Hadda. This would prove to be a daily adventure for me. Never before have I seen so many people in such a small vehicle. What was most fascinating was that the driver would stop wherever people wanted.

I tried to imagine the chaos that would break out if somebody ever tried to stop his car in the middle of the road in Germany – it would be a disaster.

The constant use of the car horn confused me at the beginning. I would look up every time I heard one, wondering what was wrong, simply because in Germany it is forbidden by law to use it ever, except in an accident or emergency.

The typical Yemeni way of driving

did scare me at the beginning, but after a while I simply became fascinated by how well it all actually worked. At first, I had the feeling that there were no rules behind the driving at all and that everybody could just do whatever they wanted. I would be proven wrong. Some people finally told me about the magic behind it, but I assume that there are still some secret rules that foreigners just don't understand.

One of my daily highlights was the shopping on the market at Tahrir. The great varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables just seemed amazing to me, and I also often seized the chance to drink a fresh juice in one of the many fresh juice stalls that line the side of the road.

### The suq and daily blackouts

Living in old Sana'a seems to be the best place to live in the city. From the first minute, I loved its old houses and small alleys. Especially after sunset when all the lights are on, the atmosphere is just amazing. It is such a pleasure to walk around and to step into one of the many small shops selling all kinds of wonderful things.

What I found most interesting about the suq, is that there are alleys for each section. Their is a whole section dedicated to spices, one for clothes, and others for jambiyyas and silver. I have never a place be so crowded yet organized at the same time. Back in Germany, I will miss this great atmosphere of traditional work and modern things.

What I do miss in Sana'a is cultural life. There are hardly any theaters, cinemas or other places to go to in the evenings. Cultural life outside families' houses is as developed as in

Europe. Since it is not easy for foreigners to enter the world of Yemeni families, there is not much to do in the evenings.

One of the things I started to love most are the daily blackouts. Although they can be annoying, I find it wonderful to see how everybody lights up candles or walks around with flashlights.

### Huge cheeks full of qat

For Europeans, qat is a very controversial topic. The drug, illegal in Germany, divides people. Every day after one o'clock, the streets fill up with men chewing the leaf and somehow it seems that, with qat, the mood changes and people seem to be more impatient than usual.

Everybody wants to make their way home or to the place they want to chew. Especially taxi drivers often drive dangerously enough to scare Germans who are used to very controlled, "boring" traffic and driving.

In the evening, people seem more relaxed, shops open up again, and one can find about 80 percent of men with a huge cheek full of qat. The first time I saw this, I wondered what in the world all these people were doing. After being here for nearly eight weeks, I am only amazed by how much qat some people can chew at the same time.

I still haven't tried qat yet, but I am planning to do so before will leave to Germany again.

Coming to Yemen was one of the best and most interesting experiences in my life so far. I have learned a lot about Yemeni culture and the Arab way of life. Yemeni generosity especially impressed me. Yemen is definitely a country worth visiting.

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## Water and sanitation across the country – Part 5

# Water crisis spirals into unknown future in Amran

By: Heather Murdock

Amran is running out of water fast. But year after year, the governorate still uses more than three times the amount of water that nature yields, and wells now sink as deep as 6 meters, according to Bashir Al-Nasairi, the National Water Resource Authority coordinator for the Amran basin community.

And the doomsday scenario—the absence of ground water in Amran—is looming ahead, as the population continues to expand rapidly, and government and non-government organizations struggle to make the best use of limited resources within a flawed system.

“The window of opportunity is decreasing unless hard decisions are made by the government and the people,” said Ramon Scoble, who leads a team working to reverse the water crisis in Amran. “Opportunities are rapidly running out.”

The crisis in Amran mirrors that in Sana'a, which loses about 5 meters of groundwater per year, said Scoble, who is a consultant for the German development corporation, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

He cited a report approved by the Yemeni government and the World Bank, and said that Sana'a's groundwater level was 200 meters, 10 years ago. The statistics indicate the Sana'a basin will be depleted of groundwater within about 15 years.

The Amran basin has an even smaller supply of groundwater, and it is disappearing at a similar rate, he said. Unless drastic—and unlikely—changes are made, the Amran basin can also expect dry out in about 15 years.

“Sooner or later the bucket just runs out,” Scoble added.

The problem, however, is not just water. Healthcare, education and population control are inextricably linked to the water crisis, and between lack of federal money and misdirected household finances, none of these issues are being adequately addressed in Amran.

On a national level, the Ministry of Water and the Environment is ineffective and underfunded, Scoble said. The ministry is also limited by the law, which does not allow it to directly fund and manage community level projects. As a result, ministry supervision stops at the district level, and miscommunication and lack of oversight ensue.

### Communities lack direction

When individuals in rural areas need water assistance, they can appeal to their local councils, and those councils decide which projects to fund with little guidance or expertise. Sound business plans are not presented, and local leaders disperse funds on a reactionary basis, rather than as a result of careful planning and financial analysis. As a result, available resources are mismanaged and often wasted.

“Basically, the loudest voice gets heard,” said Scoble.

The lifestyles of ordinary people also exacerbate the problem. In Amran, Scoble has taught household financial management. Many of the men he worked with spend a considerable amount of their income on qat and cigarettes.

Qat accounts for 27 percent of the nation's annual water usage, according to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. But beyond draining water, qat sucks money from communities and



In Shahara, villagers have water piped into their homes, but they still gather water for household use from a traditional rainwater harvesting system.

families, which could be spent on healthcare, education and water.

But, he said, the kind of massive social change required to minimize the impact of qat on the water crisis is not likely to happen.

“The internal economy of qat would fund almost all the improvements in healthcare and education in this country,” he added.

Scoble would like to see qat taxed in the same way alcohol and cigarettes are in Western Europe and America. The idea is that vices are taxed heavily because they do not inherently contribute to society. The revenue from the taxes is supposed to be used for social services to offset the substance's negative impact on society.

In theory, the practice also reduces usage, which increases productivity, promotes good health, and allows more money to go towards families' needs.

### Population explosion drains Amran and the nation

Some may argue that qat is also a cash crop, supporting farmers in poor areas. But there is no single more frightening element of the water crises than Yemen's current, past, and pending population explosion.

According to 2007 UNICEF statistics, almost 70 percent of Yemen's population was younger than 18 years old that year, and Yemeni women average 5 to 6 children over the course of their lifetimes.

The population growth rate in Yemen is 3.5 percent compared to the 1.9 percent population growth worldwide, according to the CIA Factbook. This growth, coupled with the fact that there is already a huge water deficit, presents a disturbing prognosis for the region, and the country.

Yemen's population problem should be met head on by governmental educational programs that teach reproductive health, family planning and provide contraceptives, Scoble said. But the government is not doing nearly enough.

Dr. Mohamad Al-Hamdi, the Deputy Minister of Water and Environment for

water affairs agreed that more needs to be done to slow population growth, and that targeted education and women's health programs have been effective. Between 1999 and 2004, government programs helped slow population growth by almost 20 percent, according to the Deputy Minister.

But, the Yemeni government has shifted away from reproductive health awareness because experts now recommend approaching population control through economic and educational development, he said.

He pointed to Saudi Arabia as an example of a country that drastically reduced its population growth rate by focusing on developmental issues. According to the CIA World Factbook, the Saudi population growth rate slowed by 40 percent between 1998 and 2007.

But according to the World Bank, reproductive education and access to contraceptives are integral parts of economic and social development.

A 2008 World Bank study said that countries with high birth rates are also strained by women's health issues. For instance, mothers that give birth less than 15 months after their last child are more than twice as likely to die in the process. This issue, according to the World Bank, is not being adequately addressed.

“It's simply tragic that so many leaders in poor countries and their aid donors have allowed reproductive health programs to fall off the radar,” said Joy Phumaphi, the World Bank's Vice President for Human Development in a press release about the study.

Al-Hamdi said that both approaches are effective, and complement each other, but, lacking government funds, educational programs are currently relying on private donors. And many people in Yemen are mistrustful of programs funded by foreign donors.

“People see it as a foreign agenda,” he said, “not a local agenda.”

Both Al-Hamdi and Scoble said that water shortages keep children, especially

girls, out of school because long, daily treks to collect water prevent them from attending classes. Research shows that this has a cyclical effect over time.

When girls grow up with little or no education, they generally have more children. And because groundwater in Yemen is a finite resource, the more the population grows, the harder it is to find water. The next generation of girls is therefore even less likely to get an adequate education, because they will be collecting water for their families to survive.

“Promoting girls' and women's education is just as important in reducing birth rates in the long run as promoting contra-

ception and family planning,” said Sadia Chowdhury, the co-author of the above-mentioned study and a reproductive and child health specialist at the World Bank in a press release.

“Education becomes a form of social contraception for women. Time and time again, we see how women's education provides life-saving knowledge, and builds job skills that allow her to join the workforce.”

### Experts discuss improbable solutions

The Ministry of Water and the Environment alone, according to Al-Hamdi, cannot solve the water crisis. The ministry is small, relatively new and designed to provide oversight and management, not to implement programs.

He also said the issue is critical to every aspect of the country's future, and too important to rely on a single governmental department for a solution.

“Everybody is involved, particularly politicians. What happens if the Ministry of Water fails to solve the problem?” he asked. “Water means stability, be it social stability, economic stability or political stability.”

When people do not have stability, they move, causing political and economic upheaval, he added.

There is also a misperception that the water crisis can be solved technically, but the problem is more far reaching, he said. A viable solution would require the cooperation of the public, local governments, the Ministry of the Interior, the Cabinet and the President. It would require funding for the government to be able to enforce water laws, and an influx of expertise to do so correctly.

Al-Hamdi also pointed to the fact that people dig wells in rural areas without permits, curbing local authorities' ability to manage resources. The ministry does not have the power to stop them.

But illegal wells are just a symptom of the problem, according to Scoble.

A larger problem, he said, is that many Amran communities simply do not know how to conserve or collect water, or manage sanitation.

GTZ plans to work with at least three

Amran communities over the next three years in a project intended to demonstrate how small changes in water management can make a huge difference in availability. For instance, properly covering rainwater collection systems alone can double the amount of water saved on warm days.

The communities chosen will be close to the city of Amran, which is more accessible by road than other parts of the governorate, Scoble said. And he anticipates the project will have a measurable positive impact on the communities it touches directly.

But, he said, neither international organizations nor the Yemeni government has the will to implement this kind of project nation-wide, or even within a single governorate. And, despite the fact that the project budget will be between 2 and 2.5 million euros over the next three years, he does not anticipate it creating a stable water supply for Amran because the target area is limited.

“It doesn't matter what value system you come from,” he said. “As a general rule you will not see spill over from model communities to non-model ones.”

Another potential water supply—the salt water surrounding the Arabian Peninsula—was rejected as a long-term solution for Amran and for the country.

A desalination plant to supply Amran would require an influx of cash that is almost impossible to image, according to Scoble. And like Sana'a, the city of Amran is a basin. Desalination would require water to be transported over the mountains from the Red Sea. This could raise the cost of imported water for the consumer from about a half liter per liter to as much as YR 20 per liter.

Desalination plants are a potential solution for household use, Al-Hamdi said, but they are too expensive to sustain an agricultural society because they use tremendous amounts of energy, which is also a finite resource.

And the Deputy Minister does not see the situation improving or stabilizing under the current system.

“It's really a gloomy picture,” he said. “We are moving into the unknown, and the unknown is scary.”

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# My journey to Yemen

By: Anne Sophia Czambor

Last November, when it was finally decided that I would be going to Yemen to work at the German Embassy for two months, I had no idea what the country would be like. One of my teachers at university always talked very enthusiastically about Yemen and this was, in the end, the reason why I chose to come to Yemen and not to go to any other Arabic-speaking country.

Living in a country for a longer time seems to be the best way to experience it, and I wanted to get a closer look than a tourist could possibly get. In late April, the journey could finally begin.

The first thing I saw when I had



Hiking Trip from Thulla to Shibam.

reached Sana'a airport at three o'clock in the morning were many soldiers standing outside the airport, guarding it with their machine guns.

At this point I became a little scared, because it's just impossible to walk around with a gun in Germany and you hardly see any soldiers there at all. But I decided that I would have to be tolerant and open, because each country is different and things might be a little scary at first, but I would have to look closer and see what's behind. This would prove to be a good way of thinking and I would have many, many beautiful moments in this country.

Architecture and scorching sun  
The first time that I saw the German

Archaeological Institute guest house where I would be staying, I was very much impressed by the architecture. Especially the colorful windows and the old wooden doors caught my eye. The palm tree in the yard was the top contribution to this beautiful place.

My first days in Sana'a were so different from everything that I knew in Germany or other countries I have been to. Since my hometown lies only 65 meters above sea level, living in Sana'a 2250 meters above the sea was a challenge. The thin air and the hot and dusty climate made me really short-winded. My physical fitness would be challenged even more on a hiking trip from Thulla to Shibam. I enjoyed the wonderful view so much and seeing a blue gecko was one of the highlights that day.

Continued on page 12

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## Emirates honors its special agents

Emirates Airlines awarded its top travel agents in Yemen last Wednesday at the Sheraton hotel in Sana'a. While wearing the Yemeni national dress, Satish Sethi, Emirates Area Manager in Yemen praised the travel agents for their support which resulted in Emirates success in the region.

"Due to the magnificent demand, we are increasing our flights between Sana'a and Dubai from 6 to 7 times a week, making our operations daily effective July 5th" he said. "Emirates has recently moved to a brand new state-of-the-art office on Sitteen street which is bigger and better equipped to serve our customers better" he added. During the event, 13 travel agents were awarded who have significantly contributed to Emirates revenue in Yemen. Arabian Peninsula Travel got the number 1 agency award followed by Murjan Travel and Yemen Intercontinental Travel. The celebration also included a draw of various gifts including a business class ticket to Dubai with 2 nights accommodation in a 5-star hotel. Attendees also enjoyed their dinner on the sounds of live Yemeni music.

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# Education

A free monthly Supplement offered by Yemen Times and presented by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

No. 41

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## Lisez toujours, amusez-vous pour toujours

Chers amis,  
Je me rappelle un dicton anglais: "One comes to know what kind of a person he/she is from the fact that what books he/she reads. The same person would be better understood and known from the fact that what books he/she reads". Cela veut dire qu'on peut connaître quelle sorte de personne elle/il est quand on sait que quel livre qu'il/elle lit. La même personne serait mieux comprise et connue du fait que quel livre qu'elle/il relit. Alors, je suis sûr que vous avez compris ce que j'essaie de vous dire.



Dr. Ajith Kanna  
Associate Professor of French  
Centre of French & Francophone Studies  
School of Languages  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi, India

Mes chers amis, quand je rédigeais ce petit article je lisais le bouquin des récits d'Anton Chekhov (version anglaise) que j'ai emprunté à mon ami

Sebastian, il y a un an. Le premier conte que j'ai lu s'intitule "The Confession". Moi-même je con-

fesse à tous mes amis, collègues, professeurs et mes parents que la lecture que j'ai faite jusqu'à présent n'est pas suffisante pour mon âge et ma profession.

Je vous prie donc, de ne pas répéter cette faute et vous supplie de commencer à lire tous les jours. En vous souhaitant une bonne chance et bonne lecture je vous laisse bosser.

### Read everyday, enjoy yourselves forever

Dear friends,  
I am reminded of an English dictum: "One comes to know what kind of a person someone is from the books he/she reads. Now I am

sure you all have understood what I am trying to say.

My dear friends, when I was writing this write-up I was reading Anton Chekhov's selected stories (English version) which I had borrowed from my friend Sebastian one year ago. The very first story that I read is titled "The Confession". I myself would confess to all my friends, colleagues, professors and my parents that the reading I have done till now is not sufficient for my age and profession.

I, therefore, beg of you not to repeat this mistake and start reading everyday. Happy reading! Good luck!!

(English translation of the above write-up in French.)

## Being a friendly teacher is a great bliss

Abeer Alghazali  
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What I learn from my friends stays in my mind more than what I learn from my teachers. This is a statement often made by many students. I also endorse it. The fact is that a student feels scared of the exam as well as of the teacher and therefore forgets the lesson easily. That prevents the student to recall what he/she learnt, after a few days of the exam.

However, the teacher can solve this problem by being friendly, but not too much, with the students. They will accept him, feel more secure and the anxiety of exams will be reduced. Exams are necessary, but the teacher should explain to the students that exams are a tool of evaluation, and is not intended to frighten them.

What is more important is that students

should work together, either in pairs or in groups. Students who study a foreign language should practice their acquired knowledge with someone they trust. They can learn from each other new idioms, expressions or vocabulary items. They can even correct each other's mistakes in a less threatening way.

Some students regard the teacher as the only source of knowledge. They do not know that students vary in their background and level of knowledge. A student often feels inferior when his or her classmates performs better than him or her. There is a way out. The teacher should not praise the clever students too much. He should encourage and give a chance to the weaker students as well by engaging them in less challenging but stimulating tasks. Thereby, the slow learners will be confident and start competing with the rest of the students.

To conclude, when a person learns from a friend, it strengthens their relationship and makes them remember the things they learn from one another.

### I. What to Say

Situations and Expression (105):  
Effort (variation)

Effort is a job requiring serious application and leading to productive work. It is the action of accomplishing something notable. "Rome was not built in a day." One needs single-minded devotion, and dedication coupled with perseverance for the fulfillment of a mission for which one has to work consistently. As the poet says, "...and in small measures life may perfect be" and as the adage goes, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a small step." Effort is the key to success.

- A: I find French extremely difficult. I simply can't learn that language.  
B: Why do you say so? I thought you were improving.  
A: No. I am not  
B: Learning a foreign language is not a cake walk. You have to try and try again.  
A: I'm losing hope.  
B: Please don't. Be patient. Remember, success is a journey, not a destination.  
A: What do you advise me to do/ what am I supposed to do?  
B: Why don't you begin practicing short dialogues with a friend of yours?  
A: I think that's a good idea. I shall try again. Thank you.  
Note: cake walk: very easy

### II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct grammatical or idiomatic errors, if any, in the following sentences

- The few Americans that are in Bombay are law abiding citizens unlike other foreigners.
- The crowd dragged the thief from the prison and lynched him despite his repeated requests.
- Whenever I come to Sana'a during my holiday, it rains each day.
- Bread and butter are the only food of my son who is now in the tenth grade.
- While coming to office I saw your neighbor's child, it was crying.

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- Yesterday being a very hot day, I did not permit my wife and children to go out of the house. Note: However, it is possible to say that "someone came from the house."
- They loved each other so much that they thought of no one else when they were away from each other.
- I shall be leaving tonight for Delhi to congratulate my cousin for his good fortune. Note: You congratulate someone for having achieved something, whereas you wish someone on some occasion, for example, a birthday.
- It must be said to his credit that he stood by his friend through thick and thin.
- The man who had cheated me was arrested yesterday by the police. Note: Since 'the man' is particularized, definite article 'the' must be used here.

### III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

# Improve Your English: 331

- Cord or belt fastened round the waist to keep clothes in position
- Mass of ice formed by snow on mountains, moving slowly along a valley
- Power of beauty or romance to move the feelings
- Take a quick look at something or somebody
- Strong, fierce, unpleasant light

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- Use movements of the hands, arms, or head instead of speaking: **gesticulate** (vi)
- Movement of the hand or head to indicate or illustrate an idea: **gesture**(n)
- Talk fast or make meaningless sounds like an ape: **gibber** (vi)
- Causing the feeling that everything is turning round: **giddy** (adj)
- Laugh in a nervous or silly way: **giggle** (vi)

#### (B) Words often confused

Bring out difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. gild, guild	2. gilt, guilt	3. gird, guard
4. oar, ore	5. premier, premiere	

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- meet** (n) (a meeting of people, especially for sports events): The Inter-university sports meet will begin tomorrow.  
**meeting** (n) (a gathering of people, especially for a purpose): The Annual General Meeting of the university employees has been postponed to next month.
- brief** (adj) (short, especially in time. It cannot be applied to distance): The speaker gave a brief but informative lecture.  
**short** (adj) (It applies to duration and distance both): The university is at a short distance from here.
- free thinker** (n) (refers to any rational man who thinks independently): The President is known as a free thinker.  
**freethinker** (n) (refers to a rationalist or a person who rejects authority in religion): In the past freethinkers were severely punished by the ruler.
- hail** (v) (to greet): The boxing champion was hailed by the spectators.  
**hale** (adj) (healthy, full of vigor): I hope you are hale and hearty.
- indexes** (n) (lists of tables of contents in a book): The indexes must be clear.  
**indices** (n) (symbols in Algebra): The indices are not properly tabulated and presented.

#### (C) Synonyms and Antonyms

##### i) Synonyms

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one in bold in the following sentences

- The editor of the independent newspaper **delivers** his message even under duress.  
a. grants b. spreads

- |          |              |             |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| c. gives | d. announces | e. displays |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
- We should all work hard to **realize** the dreams of the father of our nation.  
a. establish b. cherish  
c. prove d. fulfill e. understand

- The voice of truth cannot be **hushed**.  
a. silenced b. appeased  
c. composed d. provoked e. soothed
- Respect is **commanded**, not demanded.  
a. dictated b. wielded  
c. ordered d. deserved
- It remains to be seen if the future developments in genetics will be able to **obliterate** disease from the world.  
a. wipe out b. wipe off c. eradicate  
d. very literate e. give birth to

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

Word	Synonym
1. refuge	shelter
2. retreat	retire
3. suite	room
4. ultimately	finally
5. heed	notice

##### ii) Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given in bold in the following sentences

- Sedentary life style and lack of exercise can be **detrimental** to health.  
a) useful b) destructive  
c) beneficial d) injurious
- He poses himself as a specialist, although he has a **superficial** knowledge of the subject.  
a. sufficient b. profound  
c. excessive d. wide
- His writings are just an **extension** of his exemplary life.  
a. diminution b. condensation  
c. deletion d. subtraction e. weakening
- A social reformer must know that what moves people is the **authentic** life, not mere writing.  
a. wretched b. unfaithful  
c. harmful d. unreal e. improper
- We should be full of pious thoughts and **sacred** resolutions.  
a. ignoble b. impure  
c. ordinary d. unimportant e. trivial

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

Word	Antonym
1. serene	ruffled
2. obscure	well-known
3. explicit	ambiguous
4. adversely	favorably

- |                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| 5. flexibility | rigidity |
|----------------|----------|

#### (D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelled word

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. a. amity   | b. amiti   |
| c. amitee     | d. ammitt  |
| 2. a. amble   | b. ample   |
| c. ampl       | d. ampil   |
| 3. a. amuze   | b. amudze  |
| c. amuse      | d. amouse  |
| 4. a. anaemia | b. aneamia |
| c. enamia     | d. enemia  |
| 5. a. analyze | b. analise |
| c. analyz     | d. analys  |

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- amazement
- ambiguous
- ambition
- ambulance
- ammunition

#### (E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following in sentence of your own

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. carry the day  | 2. keep your nose clean    |
| 3. rise and shine | 4. have one's work cut out |
| 5. up to scratch  |                            |

#### Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- packed like herring in a barrel** (very tightly packed): Passengers in the taxi were packed like herring in a barrel.
- none the worse for something** (to be completely unharmed by something): Faisal was met with an accident but he was none the worse for the accident.
- risk their necks** (to take a risk): The girl risked her neck trying to save the drowning child.
- sell (someone) down the river** (to betray someone): The trade union leader sold his colleagues down the river when he reached a secret understanding with the management.
- pick one's way** (to go carefully): You must pick your way through the muddy passage.

### IV. Grammar and Composition

Complete these sentences with 'if' or 'unless'

- I'll be home at 5.30 .... the traffic isn't too bad.
- I won't be able to give him the message .... he rings me, because I don't know where he is.
- You're going to lose all your money .... you stop gambling.
- I won't be able to afford a new car .... I get a good pay rise.
- I'll come and see you .... I have time.
- I'll tell her the news .... I see her first.
- ..... something quite unexpected happens, Prince Nassim will definitely win the boxing championship.
- .... they arrive after midnight, they might not be able to get into the guest house.
- You won't be able to get onto the flight .... you make a reservation soon.
- You'd feel much better .... you took some exercise.

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- Rosy: Hello! How are you?  
Sue: Fine, thanks. And you?  
Rosy: Ready for a holiday! If I **did not get** a break from all this work soon I **would have gone** crazy.  
Sue: Yes, I know the feeling. Where are you going this year?  
Rosy: Well, if we **have** time, we **shall go** to Spain and France.  
Sue: Didn't you do that last year?  
Rosy: We were going to. In fact, if the children **had not gone** to a Scout Camp, we **could/would have spent** three weeks touring there but we couldn't because of the Camp.  
Sue: If you **had** a longer summer holiday every year, what **would you do**?  
Rosy: If I **had** the time and the money, I **would travel** round the world – but that's not likely to happen!  
Sue: True! By the way, if you **had not given** us a lift last weekend, we **could never have reached** the train.  
Rosy: Oh right. Glad we could help.  
Sue: Oh, and if you **see** Jim, **tell** him I've got the information he wanted last week.  
Rosy: Will do. Bye!

#### (B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

**148: WHEN A PROUD MAN HEARS ANOTHER PRAISED, HE FEELS HIMSELF INJURED**

**147: COMING TOGETHER IS BEGINNING WORKING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS**

Coming together means being united in a spirit of dynamic togetherness for the fulfillment of a common objective. There will always be challenges, obstacles and less than perfect conditions. But we should get started with the spirit of unity which is the primary step to accomplish any lofty ideal. Unity gives us strength. With each step we take, we grow stronger and stronger, more and more skilled, more and more self-confident, and closer and closer to achieving the goal. The next step is keeping together, strengthening the bond, maintaining a harmonious relationship in thought and deeds, and moving forward. The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. A longstanding, fruitful, continuing relationship and constancy in purpose give us the vigor, vitality and the will to work and the will to win. So the maxim underscores the importance of the spirit of cooperative endeavor by people who chase their dream and who are working together to get better.

#### V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

**Thy Lord is quick in retribution, but He is also Off-forgiving, Most Merciful.** S7:A167

#### VI. Words of Wisdom

**Our duty is to believe that for which we have sufficient evidence, and to suspend our judgment when we have not.**

—John Lubbock

# ELT Panoramama

## Sinbad of teaching



**Mohammed Aish Hejash**  
Demonstrator, English Department,  
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Thamar University, Thamar.

learners. Consequently, teachers mechanically implement them in the class.

Sinbad of Teaching is an imaginary system that creative teachers adopt whenever teaching becomes boring rather than entertaining. I want to share this concept with teachers who face an uphill task when teaching. When a teacher banks upon this system he/she becomes like a sailor or an adventurer in the ocean of creative and imaginative teaching.

The vital fact about this concept is that teachers learn how to draw students' attention when introducing, presenting and practicing the lesson. Being a Sinbadian tutor means fancifully crossing the limitations which handicap the teachers' creativity in giving classes.

The main focus of this article will be on the English Language Teaching. It will only shed some light on how to introduce the topic of any lesson, using the Sinbad of Teaching concept. But let me begin with some important tips which can help those who struggle hard for ways to introduce their lessons:

1- Imagine any adventure that

Sinbad had gone through.

2- If you had no source ; use the Arabian Nights book.

2- Change the elements of your lesson into dramatic characters.

3- The role of a teacher would be a narrator of that adventure.

Let me give an example of how some teachers introduce the topic of their lessons, using boring ways. Here is an example of how to introduce the prepositions of time in Grammar teaching.

"Today, We have Grammar. Firstly, we'll know what the prepositions of time mean, mention their types and finally how to use them."

In the above introduction, the teacher failed to have a good start for the lesson that could attract the attention of pupils. That was because he had no other ways to introduce the topic of his lesson.

The pupils of his class would always say these words were said yesterday and the day before yesterday. But if he had a good deal of knowledge about imaginatively presenting the same lesson, he would never fall into that trap ever again.

On the other hand, teachers, who

can operate the Sinbad of teaching system, have no worry when introducing the same thing. Let's get the ball rolling on the Sinbad of teaching court. Here is the same introduction given by a Sinbadian teacher who took time and used his imagination and creativity in saying it.

"Today we will have a wonderful journey to the island of Grammar , over there we'll pay a visit to the prepositions of time cottage and we'll try to get to know the family members of time and search for the usage treasure that the cottage has. Are you ready to sail with me?"

This teacher has successfully learned the tricks of the trade, transformed the elements of the lesson into some dramatic characters and finally narrated those elements using an entertaining method that would enchant his pupils to the magical way of introduction.

The Sinbadian Teaching needs a lot of preparation and effort before stepping into the classroom but at the end it makes young pupils feel excited and entertained. It shows how imaginative and creative the teacher is, especially when taking his pupils into another world.

## The seventh sense?

**D**octor, do you know my name?' is the oft-repeated question from my girl students in Yemen. How can one identify a girl when she is veiled? My negative answer always disappoints them, but what to do, I haven't got the seventh sense, some of my Yemeni friends possess, to my great surprise.



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It has always been a 'mystery' for me and many of my Indian friends how a Yemeni child correctly spots its veiled mother amongst several women standing at a distance. I was recently with one of my Yemeni friends who can identify veiled girl students without any problem; he doesn't spend an extra minute to look for any clue, or wait for them to speak. He said that he can do it even when they are away at a distance. How? He is at a loss to explain. Not all Yemeni men can do it, he said, quoting a friend of his who most often fails to identify his wife in a crowd. He had a humorous episode to share with us: once in a bank, when an unveiled woman wished him, he couldn't recognize her as his old classmate, as she had always had a veil when she was a student. A man who can identify women with veils just like that was thoroughly bowled over by someone who had removed the veil!

Most of us, Indian teachers, identify a few of the girl students, the veiled ones, with the help of some identifying marks such as the colour of the eyes, the bags they carry (if they carry the same one), the place they occupy in the class (if they don't change places often) or their voice quality or their gait or any such distinguishing feature peculiar to each one of them. With no such distinction, it is always a mind-boggling exercise, which most of us would like to escape from.

Isn't it the seventh sense my friend possesses? An LAD-like factor. I can't think of any other reason for this extraordinary feat except that some of them are born with this seventh sense and most others develop it, as it is an inevitable necessity, from their childhood through conscious practice. How then some of the Yemeni men not have this ability, I wonder. Absence of the seventh sense? Or lack of conscious practice?

LAD - Language Acquisition Device, human beings are born with, which is said to enable a human being to acquire a language.

**C**reative teachers always burn the midnight oil studying and searching for suitable methods to help their students sitting pretty and tight in the classroom.

They expect nobody to appreciate their divine mission of overcoming boredom. There are, however, some handicaps which twist the arms of teachers and prevent them from being creative. These handicaps constitute uninteresting lessons which offer no challenge to the

## Testing language skills



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must be related with the ways and types of questions. It has a wash-back effect on the entire educational process including goals, contents, methodology and evaluation. All these processes are, in fact, interrelated with each other.

Testing plays a major role in the teaching-learning process. Good testing is essential for good teaching and good learning especially in normal school and university programs. Researches have shown that both teachers and students emphasize what tests emphasize. So, if there is a leak in the testing system, this will cause leaks in the processes of teaching and learning.

My focus in this essay is on testing and examining skills of language in general and English language in particular. In fact, we teach words, conversations, rules of grammar, listening, etc. As far as foreign language testing is concerned, tests should cover all the skills involved in learning a foreign language according to the objectives of a specific program. However, teachers of English need to focus on the following points for general guidance:

**Pronunciation.** Students are tested in the production and recognition

of the sounds of the English language.

**Grammar:** Students are tested to measure their abilities to produce and understand syntactic patterns or grammatical structure of sentences.

**Vocabulary:** A vocabulary test aims at measuring the students' abilities to use the words of the target language in meaningful contexts.

**Spelling:** A spelling test measures the students' abilities to correctly spell the words they have learnt.

**Handwriting:** At the early stages of learning a foreign language students' handwriting may be evaluated.

**Aural comprehension:** an aural comprehension test aims at measuring the students' ability to comprehend a passage through listening.

**Visual comprehension:** a visual comprehension test aims at measuring the student's ability to comprehend a passage through reading.

**Composition:** a composition test measures the students' ability to write one paragraph or more on a certain topic, observing rules of cohesion and coherence.

**Punctuation:** A punctuation test requires supplying a written passage with the omitted punctuation marks.

**Speaking:** a speech test aims at measuring the student's ability to speak the foreign language correctly and at a reasonable speed.

Students must prepare for all these kinds of tests from the beginning of the school year or academic year. My dear students, this is not easy unless you prepare perseverantly and consistently. You must follow up the teachers for every class, and study for acquiring knowledge and passing the exam at the same time. It is harmful for your health to stay up late during days of exams until dawn. This will affect your performance negatively. Work regularly and give every activity its rightful time. You need to sleep well, you need to study well, you need to eat well, you need to practice your hobbies, and so forth. Then, what is the best way to get all of these? The best way to fulfill all your duties is by organizing your time. You must have a schedule that helps you to go by. Nowadays you are on the threshold of exams, some of you have begun, so don't make yourselves very conscious. This will affect your performance. Try to be confident and quiet. Best of luck in your final year exam.

## ANY GUESSES?

1. What does 'happy-go-lucky' mean?
2. What is the meaning of 'wink at'?
3. How do we use 'paper over (something)'?
4. What does 'kow/tow' mean?
5. What is the meaning of the proverb 'Money will make the mare go'?

**Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions**

1. When you **cotton on** to something, you understand it yourself. Other people shouldn't help you. Example: **Finally Sahid cottoned on to the fact that Ibrahim was merely using him.** In American English, 'cotton to something' means 'to take a liking to something.'
2. We discuss something not about something. There can be discussion about something. 'discuss about' is a common mistake.
3. One of the meanings of 'rusty' is 'of a poor quality or standard through lack of practice.' For example, I can say 'My brother's driving is rusty.' 'My backhand is rusty,' meaning it's full of rust.
4. When something causes a person to become vain, you say it has turned his head. 'There are very few whose heads don't turn when they are continuously successful.'
5. 'About' is used when the book is written in an informal style for the general reader, i.e. 'I am reading a book about animals' means that I am a general reader. I am reading a book written in an informal style for the general reader, describing animals. 'On' is used when the book is written for the academics in a scholarly style. So the sentence 'I am reading a book on animals' implies that I am a specialist, not a general reader, reading a book written in a scholarly style critically analyzing different aspects of animals.

## YOUTH FORUM

### Years in happiness

Years in happiness were dreams  
And when those dreams began to end I screamed;  
Asking time to return where we started  
Our friendship was shining like sun beams  
Today my happiness knows no bounds;  
But at this moment, I can say that I'm very dizzy,  
My mind has a tide of unforgettable memory  
The moments I shared with my graduate classmates  
My heart is throbbing with great feelings.  
Of their love, friendship, brotherly relations,  
My eyes are filled with sad tears,  
For being soon separated from each other  
My ears are obsessed with echoes of their words  
My tongue is silenced by their kindness  
My hands are ready to write volumes,  
Of memories about our togetherness  
In this castle of knowledge and illuminations  
Boys and girls with different faces  
And different names shared oneness  
My feet are exhausted by snuggling of the aimless  
Into the desert of loneliness without company of yours  
All my body is aching due to its lost parts.  
Really, I also miss you all, dear pioneers;  
My respected Professors, Doctors, Teachers  
Who are real Divine gifts from Allah for us,  
Their presence made us indeed "future Leaders"  
With books and markers in their hands;

Lecturing to us on the sterling values  
Telling us stories about the meaning of our presence  
Inspiring us with their good will and determination;  
Passing over to us the key to success,  
So did we listen to Dr. Shailendra Kumar Mukul  
For four years in his best of humor and patience cool  
And with Dr. Ebrahim Al-Shami, we're very happy  
His loyalty, sincerity, nobility are legendary  
And Dr. Mustafa, the third bulbul who came lately  
Pushing our ship toward the beach of victory,  
How to convey to them our gratefulness,  
Like candles they are that lighted our ways  
Like fathers when training their kids how to pronounce  
Like birds who sing to others to give happiness  
To them special gratitude and warmest thanks  
O time! Time passed by very quickly  
How painful is it to bid them goodbye  
So, I hope Allah to join all of us  
In heaven where happiness and eternal bliss  
At last, I owe a lot to you and to our beloved teachers



**Bakeel Al-Ansi**  
Level 4, Dept of English  
Faculty of Education and Languages  
Amran University

### Eastern girl

My tongue stopped talking  
My pen stopped writing  
Pen is my expression  
My heart is full of love  
My brain is my thought  
My language is my behavior  
Why not? I'm an eastern girl  
Without any doubt full of love and honesty too  
As a candle whom I do love  
Why do you search for freedom  
You are free but with Islam  
Please, don't make any one change you  
Think before you regret  
You are beautiful with pride, dignity  
You are free not to change.

**Lara Abdulhameed Al-Keshea**  
Level 4, Education, UST

### Who can answer me?

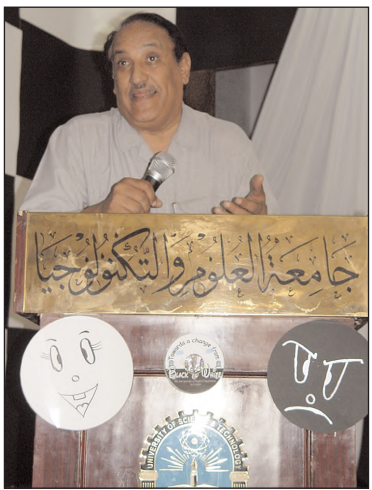
I am a sad person, a bored person, and a foolish person. That's what people say about me. Why? Is it because I have no father, because I am helpless, or I am a poor person? I do not know the reason why people give me names that hurt me. I have feelings as they have. I become sad when they punish me with these bad words. I do not understand life and I do not understand people in life. Why do they punish me by hurting me and making fun of me? I get angry when they beat me even if I have not erred. But what can I say? And what can I do? I shall work to survive. But what makes me more angry is that people throw at me words that I dislike. They put me in a position that makes me foolish. Why do they do that? My father, why did you let me alone in this life? Why did you make me face life alone? My mother, I am lost. My parents, I am without place to live, without money and food to eat, without kindness that can give light to my life. My father, you let me alone in this life, poor and helpless. I have no body to help me and push me up. My mother, I need to sleep in your arms, and by this I will be inspired. I have no friend to talk to. I have nobody to wipe my tears. But because of my world and life, I shall not get anything. Why do I exist in this life? Why was I born like that? Who has the answers to my questions? Who can tell me? Are we Muslims? Does Islam teach us to deal with orphans badly? Or to push them up to feel that they are not lesser than others? I do not know when I can enjoy my life and play like others. Again and again, I am asking, who can answer me? And who has the answers for all my questions?

**Ashgan Abdulkhaleq**  
Level 3  
Taiz University

# The "Open Day" carnival at UST

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

The English Department of University of Science and Technology staged its Annual Open Day on 31st May, 2009 with traditional pomp and grandeur. This year the ceremony adopted a motto of perennial appeal: *From Black to White* implying a progression to illumination from darkness. The motto captured a sterling truth of life – the pursuit of excellence, a glorious journey from the abyss of darkness to the splendor of light, from the sordid plain of mortality to the celestial plain of immortality. Dr. Amira Khaled Al-Qasos, and Yosra Ahmed Aziz at the outset cogently summed up the spirit of the celebration. Dr. Ismail Masoud Naji, Head of English Department, in his welcome address called upon the budding talents to leave no stones unturned for full flowering of the latent sparks of their creativity and dauntlessly scale greater heights of excellence in all spheres of life. What followed in the next couple of hours was an effulgence of colorful creative output brilliantly choreo-



Dr. Ismail presents welcome notes.



Dr. Dawood exhorts the students and other members of the audience.

graphed and superbly showcased by a team comprising Yosra Ahmed Aziz, Abeer Al-Nwfani, Yassmin Al-Mindi, Anhar Al-Serhi, Manal Al-Faiali, Yarra Mohammed, Hibba Mohammed, Hanan Al-Awadhi, Laila Zaid, Fatimh Shamsan, Aisha Al-Sherqui, and Samar Al-Soufi, under the supervision of Dr. Hussein Bahji. Professor Dawood Al-Hudabi, Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, UST, and chief guest of the ceremony lauded the majestic display of the texture of creativity blossomed under the patronizing care of the English Department. He characterized life as a continuum from black to white, darkness to light; life is a stream, and a labyrinth of love in which such moments are important milestones. He expressed his appreciation for bringing out the wall magazine *The Symphony* (volume II) edited by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, and laid out in a brilliant artistic design by Eithah Al-Maghafi, Abeer Adel Al-Shebami, Magda Abdulaziz

Ghanim, Sameerah Hussein Maudah, Asma Mohammed Ismail.

Teacher Fathia Al-Seraji, meticulously coordinated the different nuances of this composite symphony which earned applause from the audience. "Black and White Open Day

Magazine" was edited by Dr. Mahmoud Akhtar. The curtain on the glittering ceremony was drawn with presentation of Certificates of Excellence to distinguished teachers, outstanding students, and secretarial support staff of the department.



Members of the English Department with Dr. Dawood, Dr. Noori and Dr. Yahya Al-Mahdi. In the background is the wall magazine *The Symphony*.

## POETRY CORNER

### Come Christ the Tiger

After the oasis of knowledge,  
Man runs a mad, myopic race!  
Ah, it was a fabulous fantasy ---  
Fancy of dazzles, utopian day-dream!

Was it sham, a futile hope  
Material honour, mirage of craze ?  
Cursed was the lure to criss-cross the grove ,  
Brought bounties of gloom and waste !  
The plunder and pillage proved a rat-race ,  
A bloody masquerade, of stoic maddening rage!

Eden went viewless, as coy Moon in Hades,  
Sun vanquished in broad day noon.  
Oh, bellowing boom !  
Man left beguiled, languish baffled in smoke,  
Dumb as bust, deadened silhouette----  
Lost in twilight of feverish age .

In the game of uncertainty hide and seek,  
Fate foils all efforts of relief !  
In a Godless world of today --  
Bethlehem is put to ablaze!

Ocean boils tartar, smokes of barrels and bombs ,  
Will Heaven send the shower ?  
Ah, amidst frothing fumes of Dragon ---  
Come Christ the Tiger !



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Dept. of English  
Faculty of Arts  
Taiz university

### Without Goodbye

Ebtisam Saleh Senan  
Secondary school Teacher  
Almahra, Alghaida City

You went without saying good bye  
You went without seeing me cry...  
You went without telling me why..  
You went leaving me alone..  
You went saying to me to be strong..  
You went and left me with my thoughts..  
You went and let me with my faults..  
You went and kept me alone on my dreams..  
You went and made way for drawing fancies..  
To escape from sorrows..  
To run away from pictures,

perfumes,  
Which will bring me sweet remembrance..  
How long will you be away?  
May be some day when you will come,  
You will find me a different person..  
You will neglect..  
But I won't forget..  
How can I forget?  
Your tenderness, your sweetness..  
You are the moon in my sky..  
You are the rain in my eye..  
But after a while, You will be here.  
Asking how I dealt with my fear.  
Then I will raise my face..  
Telling it was an easy case.

## Veteran teachers honored

### Amran University



Dr. Mukul responds to the award.



Dr. Shailendra Kumar Mukul is receiving the Certificate of Appreciation from Dr. Ahmed Al Gumari, Secretary General of Amran University on 13th May 2009 for his hard work and excellent teaching. He has been teaching here since 24th Nov. 2001 and has published a number of poems and articles.

## Help the learners with spelling: It's easy



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University of Garyounis  
Department of English  
Faculty of Arts and Science,  
LIBYA

Once I checked the scripts of the Arabic students who study English as a foreign language. I found too many mistakes even in simple words

like *cow, cat, two* etc. I wanted to have a diagnostic test. I gave the scripts and corrected those mistakes in front of them. When I pin-pointed those mistakes and corrected them almost exclaimed "Oh! Ah!" They acknowledged their mistakes and sometimes laughed at themselves for making silly interchange of letters while spelling a word. This interchange of letters accounts for their common errors in spelling. Obviously, their Arabic language interference is the main factor that leads them to commit the mistakes. Arabic language is read and written from right to left and English is from left to right. One has to accept that habits die hard. Moreover, there are twenty six letters which have so many variations or idiosyncrasies in spelling and pronunciation.

Is there any solution?

As far as I am concerned, I always carry a dictionary to the class. A small one is good. It is useful to check spelling now and then although the spelling of a given word is familiar to them. The purpose is to make students confident about the spelling of words.

Secondly, introduce vowels (a, e, i, o, u) and show a few simple 1-letter words 2-letter words 3-letter words etc. It may arouse some interest. Then remove all the vowels from those words and ask the students to fix correctly the vowels in the gaps. The student would do it easily and it is a beginning. Now this is like a game. It is good and worth attempting sincerely. If short comings are there it could be solved at the instance of the teacher.

## READERS' GRIEVANCES

**My Dear Dr. Sahu,**  
I am sorry to tell you that I have found your YEMEN TIMES EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT very irregular. I used to get it in the last week of every month. That was convenient for me for I am a girl student and can't go out to search for it quite often. My friends are also annoyed for the irregular appearance of the page. It would be so considerate of you if you publish the Supplement regularly. I find it very useful for me and I need to get it regularly. Please please please do the needful. You know girls find it not so easy to go out and wait late at night for the arrival of YEMEN

TIMES for it reaches my city late at night. I am disappointed when I wait and no Education page! Please take it into serious consideration. Thanks  
**Fadwa Ali**  
A regular reader of your page

**Dear Fadwa,**  
I appreciate your interest in the Education Supplement and share your agony at the irregularity of its publication. In fact, I have no role to play in the printing of the page. Please send your query regarding this problem to the Chief Editor.  
—Dr. Sahu

Beginning with this issue the column *Readers' Grievances* will make an effort to ventilate the problems of our readers pertaining to the Education Supplement as well as those they face in their respective institutions of study with a view to attracting the attention of the authorities concerned for their redressal.  
—Dr. Sahu

## Why not more English?



Farhaan Abdullah  
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M.A. scholar, Hodeidah Univ.

One of my teachers called me, and asked me to take him to hospital as he was sick. In the hospital while the doctor was trying to diagnose the problem with him, he asked his patient some questions (an Indian patient), but the problem was

the communication between the doctor and his patient. Actually the doctor as well as the nurse found it difficult to track what the problem was because neither of them spoke English, so I was very much needed for translation. Then I realized the need of English for medical students in Hodeidah University, whom I teach occasionally.

English is taught as a requirement subject for two semesters in their first year, but neither the English Department which provides a teacher nor the faculty of medical science which receives the teacher bothers to know what is taught in the class; so the teacher is the one who designs the course without consulting either, English Department or Medical college. Because it is not the main subject, only a requirement subject, less attention is given by

both the departments.

I had a talk with the first year students and asked them why not English for at least four semesters? Some of them say ooh... enough English, we find it difficult! They treat it as a heavy subject and it will add to their suffering, more subjects means more time to study. But when they are in the field they will come to know the need for the language as was the experience of the nurse and the doctor in the hospital with the Indian teacher. I am not saying that we have to teach them a heavy course, what they need is basic and simple English, English for communication in their field. Most of their subjects are in English so what they need is the minimal level of proficiency to communicate in English. They know many things in their field like E.C.G, blood pressure,

stool, blood check and so on, what they need is the ability to communicate in simple English, using situationally appropriate expressions, for example: *Can I check your blood pressure? O.K sir, it is normal, etc;*

In the Fine Arts college, English as a requirement course, is taught for seven semesters whereas in other colleges it is taught for two semesters only. In my view, English is very important and very much needed especially in Medical College because their services are vital to the people in the country, and also because most of the information is available in English. So it is necessary that they communicate with people in Arabic as well as in English, when they come across non-Arabic speaking patients, whose number is ever increasing in Yemen.

# The grand release of the Arabic translation of a great book of philosophy

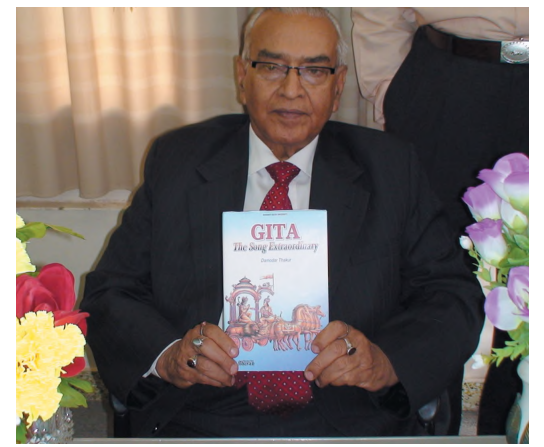
A grand function presided over by Dr. Hamid Alawadhi, the Dean of the Faculty was held in Al-Baradoni Hall on the campus of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 to celebrate the release of the Arabic translation of the book of philosophy entitled *Gita: The Song Extraordinary*. The writer of this book is Dr D Thakur, Professor and Chairman, Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Humanities. It was translated by Dr Abdulwahab Al-Maqaleh, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University and was published by Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (Kalima). Professor Abdul Aziz Al-Maqaleh, the

Cultural Advisor to the President of Yemen, wrote the preface to the Arabic translation of the book.

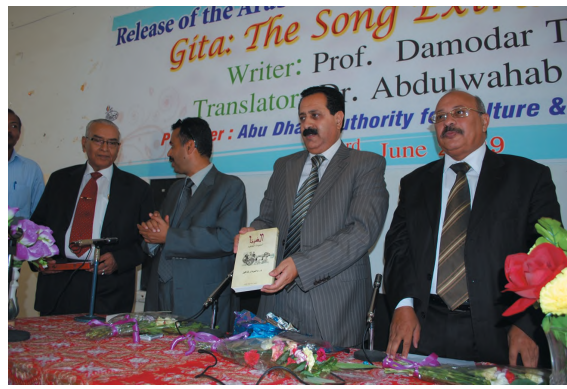
The function started with words of welcome by Dr. B. T. Desai, a senior professor in the Department of English. He extended a hearty welcome to Dr Khaled Tamim, the President of Sana'a University, Dr Ahmed Al-Kebisi, the Vice President of the University for Academic Affairs, Dr Abdulkarim Al-Subari, the Vice President for Students' Affairs, Dr Mohammed Abdulaziz Yusr, the former Dean of the Faculty, Dr Hassan Al-Kuhlani, the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, and teachers from different Departments and Faculties of the University. By way of introducing Professor Thakur, Professor Desai said, "As we all know, Professor Thakur has been here in Yemen all these decades as a teacher of teachers. Professor Thakur is a personality of many facets. He is a well-known orator, and of recent, he has emerged as a notable poet in Hindi. Above all, he is a man of deeply spiritual and mystical bent of mind. He is familiar with almost all the great spiritual classics and philosophies of the world. With his wide-ranging knowledge of, and familiarity with, the different philosophies, probably no other person, here as elsewhere, is as well qualified as Professor Thakur to talk and write about the Gita, which has



Dr Khaled Tamim, Dr Ahmed Alkibsi, Dr Hameed Alauadi, Mr Khurana



The Top Page of the book in English.



A closer view of the release.



Former Dean of Faculty greeting author and translator.

attracted the attention of intellectuals of the world for centuries". Dr Abdulwahab Maqaleh, he said, had done something very valuable by translating this book into Arabic. We are lucky that we have in our midst an excellent translator like him.

Then Dr Khaled Tamim, the President of Sana'a University, released the book and paid glowing tributes to the writer and the translator. He said, "We are very proud that a great book of philosophy was written and translated by staff members of Sana'a University". "We are equally proud", he said, "to have Professor Thakur, who is a well-known scholar and a great linguist, in our University, which is his University now". This was followed by Dr Abdul Azeem Maqaleh's message of greetings and congratulations, which was read out to the audience. On his own behalf and on behalf of India's ambassador in Yemen, who happened not to be in Yemen on that day, Mr. Mahindar Khurana, the Charge d'Affaires of India greeted and congratulated Professor Thakur and Dr. Abdulwahab Maqaleh for their creditable achievements and thanked the University, and particularly the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, for celebrating the release of the book with enthusiasm and admi-

ration.

In his presidential remarks, Dr Hamid Alawadhi quoted Cervantes, who thought translation to be like a carpet with two sides. He praised Dr Thakur's book for its 'poeticity' of his style. The book, he said, was original and the first of its type. He also praised the translation of the book, which was, he said, equally brilliant.

When making his presentation, Professor Thakur said that he had written this book during his professorship in Yemen, and so those things in the book which were described as excellent by great thinkers all over the world were the result of the healthy, creative, and lofty impulses that he had received during his stay in this country. He said that Gita had been translated in more than fifty languages of the world, and more than one hundred translations of and commentaries on the book were available in English, but no linguist had ever attempted to interpret this great spiritual classic. The book originally written in Sanskrit, was praised by people like Gandhi, Einstein, W. B. Yeats, Emerson, and Thoreau. These people were all great people in their own fields, no doubt, but no linguist had ever before studied the syntactic and the semantic structure of the book. No one had in particular studied this

great poem from the point of view of its elegant functional images. T. S. Eliot described it as the second greatest philosophical poem of the world, and Will Durant described it as the loftiest poem of the world. But no one before had tried to discuss this spiritual classic as a poem. 'It was no wonder, therefore,' Dr Thakur said, 'that my book was described as "bold and original" and also as "out and out original".'

The function ended with a vote of thanks followed by a party of snacks and soft drinks served to the guests.



Dr Khaled Tamim addressing the audience.



The audience

Several Yemeni universities have glorified themselves by honoring the contributions and services rendered by distinguished teachers in different disciplines. Thereby, they have upheld the tradition of excellence which is the cornerstone of the educational edifice in Yemen.

## Upholding the tradition of excellence Veteran teachers honored

### Sana'a University

On 4th of June the Faculty of Arts and Humanities honored some of its teachers and awarded a Certificate to them saying that they were distinguished teachers of that Faculty. The following photographs show Dr Thakur being awarded that Certificate of Appreciation.



Dr Thakur showing the Certificate to the audience.



Dr Khaled Tamim awarding the Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Thakur

### University of Science and Technology

On 3rd of June UST President (acting) Dr. Hameed Uqlan presented Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award to members of different disciplines. Dr. Khalid Khan, Manager Quality Assurance, presented introductory remarks. Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, and Dr. Hussein Al-Bahji from the Department of English received the award.



Dr. Hameed presents the award to Dr. Noori, Dean



Dr. Sahu receives the award from Dr. Hameed



Mr. Saiful Bahar, a Malaysian colleague of International College, getting the award as Mr. Khalil Al-Mikhiafi, administrator, IC (middle) looks on



Dr. Khalid greets Dr. Hussein Al-Bahji



Er. Mohammed Dawood, International College, receives the award.



Dr. Ali Ashi of Islamic Studies Department being felicitated by Dr. Khalid.



A section of the audience.