



Thursday, 2 July, 2009 • Issue No. 1273 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com Price 40 Yemeni Riyals

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5 B Inside: Street children search Anti corruption civil society A perspective on the expectations organizations alliance initiative for their identity for the new tax laws

Yemenia Air crash investigations underway

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, July 1 – Amid Yemenia Air's compensation efforts and European Union threats to blacklist the national carrier, investigators continue to search for the cause of Tuesday's devastating crash that left a sole survivor

Flight IY626, which was an Airbus A310-300 crashed early Tuesday into the Indian Ocean as it approached the Comoros islands, killing 153 people, including French nationals, Comorans, a Canadian and a Palestinian.. The 11member crew included six Yemenis, one Ethiopian, one Indonesian, one Filipino and two Moroccans.

"The crash is the first in Yemenia Air's 50 year history," said Fahd Al-Ariki Director of Yemenia Air in Sana'a.

Yemenia Airways chairman Abdul-Khalek Al-Qadhi announced at a press conference that each of the affected families would be paid 20,000 euros, about USD 28,000. Al-Qadhi said the compensation was an advance on the insurance money the families could expect to receive, and not an admission of fault on the airline's part.

"Our passengers' safety is our top priority," Al-Ariki adds. "We are extremely sorry for the loss, and our condolences go out to the families. We will compensate them."

Yemenia is 51 percent owned by the Yemeni government and 49 percent owned by the Saudi Arabian government. Its fleet includes two Airbus 330-200s, four Airbus 310-300s and four Boeing 737-800s, according to the

company website.

Yemeni civil aviation Deputy Chief Mohammed Abdul Qader said it was too early to speculate on the cause of the crash and that the flight data recorder had not been found. The circumstances of the crash may become clearer once investigators find the plane's black box.

But, he added, that the plane landed in the middle of the night in 40mph winds. It had accumulated around 51,900 flight hours in some 17,300 flights.

The original flight left Paris on Monday for Marseille, and then Sana'a, where passengers switched to the older Airbus jet to continue to Djibouti and then onto Moroni, the capital of the Comoros Islands.

Yemen's transport minister said the doomed plane had passed an inspection in May, supervised by Airbus engineers, and it met international standards.

European Union Transport Commissioner Antonio Tajani said the airline had previously met EU safety checks, but would now face a full investigation amid questions as to why passengers switched planes in Sana'a.

Miracle a sea

It appears that the sole survivor is Bakari Baya, a 14-year-old girl of Comoran descent who was traveling with her mother. She was found floating 10 miles away from the islands almost 13 hours after the crash.

"I heard people talking around me in the darkness," she said. "And after a while I didn't hear any talking any



Families of the 153 victims of the Yemenia crash mourn while the sole survivor, 14-year-old Bakari (right most) Baya is reunited with her family.

more. I just hung on." Her name in English means hope.

Nations to the rescue

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has asked the French military to help with the search operation. The French military has also sent medical teams and divers to search for bodies and wreckage of the jet.

The vice president of Comoros criticized French officials for not telling his nation about any suspected problems. "We wish the French could have informed us of any irregularity or any problems with that plane," Idi Nadhoim said Wednesday on French television.

"Most if not all of the planes of Yemenia are Airbus," he said. "They are supposed to be serviced by Airbus. We trust the civil aviation authorities of the countries we are working with," he added. Sixty-six French nationals were onboard the jetliner, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said in a statement Tuesday.

Three bodies were found last night, but harsh sea conditions made the search difficult.

"Yemenia Air, along with a number of concerned agencies has sent investigative teams to the site," Al-Ariki said. A massive rescue effort is underway, which is being coordinated between the French Navy and an assortment of humanitarian organizations.

Last night, as the EU said they would

consider blacklisting Yemenia, the state

airline of Yemen. Angry Comorans in

France accused the carrier of treating

Blacklisting Yemenia

passengers like cattle. And they said their warnings about the airline's safety had been ignored. Airline crashes in 2004 and 2005 that

killed hundreds of Europeans prompted the EU to seek a uniform approach to airline safety through a common blacklist. The list is updated four times a year and is based on deficiencies found during checks at airports, antiquated aircraft and shortcomings spotted by non-EU airline regulators.

The next update of the list is due in about two weeks.

Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Swaziland are among more than 20 countries that don't meet the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's safety standards. Those countries also have airlines on the EU's banned list, created in 2006 with more than 90

carriers.

Airbus said the plane that crashed went into service 19 years ago and had been operated by Yemenia since 1999.

Although airlines in developing nations are considered the most risky by regulators, some of the deadliest crashes happen with first-world carriers. The Air France crash on June 1 that killed all 228 people onboard involved a larger Airbus model, an A330-200.

Airbus planes are under intense scrutiny. Last week the National Safety Transportation Board said it was investigating two reports of Airbus A330 planes experiencing airspeed and altitude malfunctions.

Yemenia met safety program standards of the International Air Transport Association trade group, and was added to its registry in May 2007.

Kidnappings cause decline in international tourism to Yemen

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, July 1 - The tourism sector has recorded a decline in tourists to Yemen, following the kidnapping of nine foreigners in Sa'ada this June and the death of at least three of them.

Tourism was directly affected by the recent kidnapping. Many tourists have canceled their bookings, according to Deputy Minister of Tourism Abduljabar Saeed and 53,000 tourists fewer

stability of Yemen," he said.

He pointed out that kidnappings affect businesses in tourism and affect Yemenis' jobs in hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, transport and shops.

"About 2 million Yemeni citizens working in the tourism sector, including hotels and travel agencies, have been affected by the kidnapping," said Saleh. "An estimated 300,000 Yemeni families have lost their source of income and been severely affected by the decline in tourism revenues.' Hundreds of protesters, including employees in the tourism sector and members of civil society organizations, demonstrated on Monday against the kidnapping. The Association of Yemen for Tourism and Travel Agencies organized the protest Protesters marched in Sana'a from Al-Saba'een square to the German Embassy, carrying banners in Arabic, English and German holding banners reading "Our religion forbids the murder of innocents "and "No to killing". Following the kidnapping on June



12, the bodies of two German nurses and a South Korean teacher were found in one of the valleys outside the town of Sa'ada. The fate of the others, a German family consisting of five members and a British engineer, is still unknown.

As a result of increased kidnapping incidents, the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Tourism will soon provide all tourist vehicles with GPS tracking devices. An operating room is devoted to being in communication with vehicle

tourists are expected in Yemen this year compared to last.

"The estimated damages in tourism are estimated at around 200 million dollars," he said. "Already, the number of employees in tourist businesses has declined, and they are on the brink of closing down."

Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, head of the Association of Yemen for Tourism and Travel Agencies called on all tourism agencies and Yemenis to help state security arrest and bring the perpetrators of last June's killings and kidnapping to justice.

"Kidnappers do not target a specific group or the political system, but the Hundreds of protesters, including employees in the tourism sector and members of civil society organizations, demonstrated on Monday against the kidnapping.





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drivers.

About 400,000 tourists and 690,000 Yemenis living abroad visited Yemen in 2008, a year when tourism revenues reached USD 460 million. During the same year, up to 3,654 tourist groups were escorted by state security, according to the Ministry of Interior.

During the first two months of this year, state security escorted up to 221 tourist groups traveling around Yemen.

The Yemen Tourism Promotion Board is about to launch a campaign in European countries like Germany, Italy, UK and France to promote tourism in Yemen and counter the country's bad reputation for kidnapping and terrorism.

Its marketing strategy will include visiting folklore bands and craftsmen to these countries to promote Yemen as an attractive cultural destination, and advertisements on the major Arab and international satellite channels.

Since 1999 when kidnapping became punishable by death, only three incidents out of 240, including last June's, have ended in fatalities.



Around the Nation



Yemen needs to know the age of its children

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, July 1 - One of the most important events in a child's life is widely taken for granted by too many families and authorities. Many do not realize the link between birth registration, a permanent and official record of a child's existence, and nation building initiatives, such as access to better education, healthcare and other human rights.

Despite the importance of birth registration, according to UNICEF, approximately 50 million newborn babies are not registered each year, accounting for over 40 percent of the children born annually. In Yemen, only 39.7 percent of births were registered in 2007, according to civil registration authorities.

Little Zeina sells copies of the Quran, chewing gum and prayer beads at the roundabout in Hadda. "I don't know," she shyly replies when asked about her age. She looks seven or eight, but with the malnourishment rate of Yemen, she could be up to 14 years old

Birth registration gives a child better social services such as education and healthcare. Proof of their age also helps to protect them against child labor and child marriage.

Save the Children and UNICEF in February 2009 launched training program in Aden, which targets mosque preachers, community leaders, healthcare specialists and schools, on the importance of birth registration.

The program's final success is yet to be determined. But, based on the feedback after the training only, it appears that birth registration has improved by 27 percent. The campaign to actually push families to register their children started last week.

In April-June 2008, there were 3,287 registered births, but in the same period of 2009 there were only 2,588 registered births, according to civil registration centers.

"We target every member in the community to play a role in increasing the birth registration for children as a right to have a name and nationality as the Child Rights Convention states," said Aisha Saeed, protection program specialist.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international convention setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children, states that a child shall be registered immediately after birth and have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

The children and women of Yemen face severe challenges in a country often dubbed 'the poorest nation on the Arab Peninsula.' Education and health coverage are low, and the rugged terrain makes it difficult to reach the most vulnerable.

Little Ahmed in Bani Hushaish is lively and outspoken but he looks confused and runs away when asked about his age. Although he looks three to four years old, local women reply that he is actually seven years old.

Gender equality in education is a major issue in Yemen, with only 41 percent of school-age girls attending primary school, compared to 68 percent of boys. Opportunities worsen as they progress through the system, with only 13 per cent of girls and 35 per cent of boys attending secondary school.

Even where opportunities exist, they are not equal for girls and boys. Over the years girls' attendance has improved, yet almost half receive no primary education.

Yemen has one of the worst child mortality rates in the region. With 1 in 10 dying before the age of five, Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 is unlikely to be met. And MDGs 4 and 5, which target child and maternal mortality, will not be met until services are extended to all who need them.

"Healthcare specialists, especially midwives, play an important in the campaign," adds Aisha Saeed. "We work closely with midwives and many

of them have registration forms and stamps that they use to register births."

Often the link between birth registration and reducing maternal mortality is not realized. Having a birth certificate can actually help prevent early marriage which, in turn, is a major cause of maternal mortality.

In particular, calling for the registrar to ask for a birth certificate, rather than depend on the guardians' word, during marriage registrations would have a positive effect.

Encouraging the person registering for marriage to ask for a birth certificate could prevent many vulnerable young girls from being married to older men for convenience or in an attempt to escape poverty.

Birth registration creates an identity for a child under the law. Although this alone can not guarantee that a child will have access to adequate health care, receive an education, or be free from abuse or exploitation, it is the foundation to ensure many of the child's human rights. Furthermore, the absence of a birth registration leaves a child susceptible to human rights violations

But the importance of registration, or the lack of it, goes beyond the child. Without strong registration systems, it is virtually impossible to plan or implement effective development strategies.

Unregistered children who are invisible in the data are often overlooked in social development planning.

They are completely invisible when important policy and budget decisions are made.

The akhdam minority group is the next to benefit from the ongoing campaign to register children at birth: "The awareness campaign has already commenced in Sana'a and we plan to get at least 4000 children registered," adds Aisha Saeed.

Without proper birth registration, Yemen which has one of the highest birth rates in the world, cannot even be certain of the accuracy of its own birth rate which is estimated to double every 17 years.

Anti corruption civil society organizations alliance initiative

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 30 - Around 20 representatives from different civil society organizations in Yemen gathered last Monday to learn about the best international practices in forming alliances. They also discussed the potential interest and commitment towards creating an alliance in Yemen to fight corruption.

The event was sponsored by the World Bank as a part of its assistance to Yemen in fighting corruption. Currently this assistance is being distributed to several Yemeni organizations, especially the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC).

The World Bank's support on governance in Yemen includes support to national entities such as SNACC, the Central Organization for Control and Auditing and support to Public Funds Courts in the justice sector. The bank also supports reforming legislation,



Participants forming a simulation of a central network where all members are dependent on a central entity which if lost, the network dissolves.

whether to ensure freedom of information, civil society development or improving performance, especially in the water, health and education sectors.

"We also work to boost public-private partnerships, create industries' transparency initiatives and creating a business-enabling environment," said Arun Arya, senior public sector management specialist at World Bank: Yemen.

SNACC Deputy Director Dr. Bilqies Abu Esba' talked to the civil society organizations representatives about SNACC and its achievements and called on the civil community in Yemen to back up the authority in its work. "There is a special component in the authority for civil society's involvement in fighting corruption," she said. "The law legislating the authority's establishment indicates that among the 11 members of SNACC there must be a representative from civil society."

Ezz Aldin Al-Asbahi, the civil society

member of the authority, called on the civil society organizations not to demand from the authority more than it can do. "We started from below zero; we did not even have a place to work from. We need the civil society organizations and media to work with us and not wait for us to do something while criticizing our shortcomings.'

The event was organized by Partners for Democratic Change, the executing partner for the World Bank in initiating the civil society anti-corruption alliance. Nadwa Al-Dawsari, Partners for Democratic Change: Yemen country director, explained that an effective alliance of civil society organizations is what Yemen needs to combat corruption, stating some examples of other countries where civil society made a difference.

The participants were given interactive training on the types of networking by Raga Al-Hiyari from the Partners for Democratic Change: Jordan program.

Partners for Democratic Change will act as the secretariat of the alliance. It will facilitate the development of its strategy of action plan based on the national strategy to combat corruption which will be designed by SNACC.

The civil society alliance against corruption will be created as an initiative of the civil society in Yemen. It will work as an independent organization with an elected chairperson for its partner organizations. SNACC will oversee the alliance's work in terms of integrating and supporting its activities within the authority's national strategy for combating corruption.

The World Bank will provide technical assistance to SNACC on the development and implementation of the strategy and will consider providing financial support to the civil society organizations for activities aligned with the strategy

Relative calm in Sa'ada despite military tension

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, July 1 - The Sa'ada governorate has been relatively calm for the past few days, after a recent series of armed conflicts between the state and the Houthi movement.

The fights were focused on the northern and western areas along the coastal line of the Red Sea, near the Saudi border. Dozens of causalities from both sides were reported last week, although no specific numbers American embassy in Sana'a. "Our intelligence has found out that

a team of three Americans and two British mapping experts have been flying over our territory for more than a month. They are identifying our locations in order to target us with rockets and artillery in preparation for a sixth war with us," Habra insisted.

Local sources on the Saudi borders have complained of heavy armed clashes during the last week, which indicates that the Houthi movement is still fighting. The sources claim that Saudi Arabian officials at the boarders are worried that Yemen may not be able to control Houthi militants, especially in coastal areas that link Yemen and the kingdom. And as tensions continue to simmer, 74 families of men detained without charges because they are suspected of Houthi affiliation held their 16th sit-in last Tuesday at Freedom Square in front of the cabinet offices in Sana'a. They demanded that the president's orders to release the 1200 men be carried out.

Major new water source discovered in Hadhramaut

months of exploration.

discovered a huge underground drinkoutskirts of Mukalla," Awadh Al-(LCWSS), told IRIN.

faculty of Environmental Science at Hadhramaut University of Science and Technology, did not rule out the possibility of such a find. "When the Canadians started oil exploration in the early 90s in Hadhramaut, their satellite pictures suggested a huge underground reservoir in Wadi Hadhramaut [the Hadhramaut Valley]," he said.

A paper delivered at a Vienna conference in 1996 suggested that a "significant deep groundwater resource may exist" in the Hadhramaut-Masila region



Water company Local Corporation for Water Supply and Sanitation (LCWSS) discovered a huge underground drinking water resource in Al-Ghaliah on the outskirts of Mukalla in Hadhramaut Governorate, southern Yemen.

MUKALLA, June 27 (IRIN) - A water company in Hadhramaut Governorate, southern Yemen, has discovered an important new source of water near the provincial capital, Mukalla, after four

"Using modern machinery, we have ing water resource in Al-Ghaliah on the Ganzal, head of the Local Corporation for Water Supply and Sanitation

were identified.

The government army is gradually heading towards the Midi area, which is known as a Houthi strategic location. Houthi spokesperson Saleh Habra said that the state is intensifying its presence throughout the governorate and creating army strongholds in an attempt to surround Houthi militants.

He restated his claim that a team of American and British military surveillance choppers are assisting the Yemeni government by drawing detailed maps of areas controlled by Houthis, a claim that had been denied directly by the

'Our preliminary assessments regarding the newly discovered field have shown that it will provide Mukalla with potable water for the next 50 years... Water quality is great."

"The field in Al-Ghaliah consists of nine wells, each able to produce 30 litres a second. It will definitely supply the city with drinking water for decades to come," said Mahfood Obaid Bagwaigo, manager of the Mukalla Water Supply and Sanitation company.

"Engineers struck water in sandstone at a depth of 225-320 metres. They couldn't go beyond that because of the immense pressure of water in the reservoir," he added.

of southern Yemen

Al-Ganzal said LCWSS had discovered many promising new water resources in Hadhramaut. "We recently drilled two new wells in Gusair which will provide water west of Mukalla. Work is currently being completed. We have also discovered a new water resource in Wadi Haram."

Contamination

Despite the discoveries there are persistent threats to water resources. One of them is salt water intrusion. "Salinity is posing a great threat to the groundwater in the coastal city of Mukalla. Some wells have been completely contaminated by sea water, and rehabilitation is expensive," Al-Ganzal said.

the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA), told IRIN untreated sewage, mining and building refuse, and the oil spilt by garages also posed threats to Hadhramaut's water sources.

Without naming names or making any specific allegations, Al-Asbahi also pointed the finger at oil companies. The government has recently formed a committee to investigate," he said.

Abdulkarim Bahakim, NWRA manager responsible for the Hadhramaut Valley area, told IRIN the digging of unauthorized wells, the dumping of raw sewage in deep boreholes and the use of fertilizers were significant threats to clean water sources for cities like

Many people in rural areas "are totally unaware of the risks of dumping sewage in the ground - something that must be stopped. Raw sewage can seep into the groundwater and contaminate it," he said.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in 2000, 90 percent of water was used for agriculture, 8 percent by people and 2 percent by industry. Most of the water taken from wells and springs resulted in groundwater depletion as the withdrawal rate exceeded annual groundwater recharge from rainfall. In coastal zones overexploitation of groundwater led to salt water intrusion, it said.

Mohammed al-Mashjri, dean of the

Announcement

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Yemeni companies to take on social responsibility

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, June 25 - Regional businessmen discussed the importance of social responsibility at the Second Conference on Corporate Citizenship and Social Responsibility held last Thursday in Sana'a.

The heads of leading corporations and institutions from Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon discussed how to maintain better relations with society, notably with their employees.

Participants discussed the value of companies enhancing relations with their workers, providing them with social services, increasing work opportunities, and enabling people with special needs to find work.

Organized by the Market and Consumer Studies and Research

Center and sponsored by political advisor to the President Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, the two-day long conference presented work papers on successful social responsibility projects in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Lebanon and Jordan.

Head of the Saudi-based Jamil Bab Rezq Company Ziyad Abu Al-Fahm discussed some of his company's social projects, such as supporting the managers of small projects, offering loans without profits, and providing more work opportunities.

The Saudi company's speech stressed that there are one million poor people in Saudi Arabia and that it is working to help this category. The company does not only train the jobless, but also help them to find employment.

General Manager of Rafiq Al-Hariri Corporation Mustapha Al-Za'ateri spoke about the life of Rafiq Al-Hariri and his contributions to society through charitable acts.

The paper talked about various learning institutions the corporation set up in Lebanon and Palestine, as well as the hospital Al-Hariri built for all Lebanese families. It stressed his and his wife's humanitarian work before and after his death.

Hani Al-Hourani, general manager at the New Jordanian Studies Center spoke about a company's social responsibilities, particularly in the context of the global financial crisis. He stressed it was vital to improve work conditions, include workers in decisionmaking, increase production, and limit mistakes.

'The idea of the conference is humanitarian to show Yemeni companies successful experiences of other companies like Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan in providing social responsibilities to serve their societies," said Hamoud Al-Bukhaiti, chairman of the Market and Consumer Studies and Research Center.

He said the conference aimed to enhance continuous loyalty to a corporation by boosting confidence among consumers, society and the business world. Only social responsibility to protect the environment and increase work opportunities can achieve this.

According to Al-Bukhaiti, the conference conveyed the human message it aimed to. Attendees, especially Yemeni businessmen, heard about social services offered by the private sector in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries.

Hopefully, they will now apply similar ideas in Yemen.



Around the Nation

Their News

Inauguration of three Japanese Funded Grass-roots Projects in Ibb Governorate

The Embassy of Japan in Sana'a and the Health Office in AL-Odyin District , the Local councils in Hubaish and Sebra Districts, Ibb Governorate, held inauguration ceremonies on 27th and 28th June , 2009 for Japanese funded Grass-root projects , in the presence of Mr. Matahiro Yamaguchi, the Counselor /Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in Yemen and other senior government officials from the local authorities concerned .

The Government of Japan extended three grants to fund the projects of improving health facilities and services in Hubaish and Al-Odyn Districts in 2006 and 2007 and the water supply system in Sebra District in 2008 with a total amount of US\$ 258,554 .

Thousands of inhabitants benefit from these grants which aim at promoting health facilities and services and improving living standard in general. During the Japanese fiscal year (April 2008 – March 2009), Japan funded 16 Grass-root projects in Yemen, totaling

up to more than US\$1.2milion . The Government of Japan extends several grants annually, to numerous NGOs in the Republic of Yemen under a Japanese scheme called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects", which aims at supporting small scale community based projects in the areas of basic human needs, such as primary health care, basic education, rural water supply and environment, in the developing countries

UNHCR sponsors Islamic influence on international refugee law study A new study published by UNHCR in cooperation with Naif Arab University and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) says Islam's 1,400year-old tradition of generosity toward people fleeing persecution has had more influence on modernday international refugee law than any other historical source.

The comparative study, commissioned by UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres and contained in a book by Cairo University Law Professor and Dean of the Law Faculty, Ahmed Abu Al-Wafa, is sched-

Medical secretary

Qualifications:

uled for release on Tuesday at Naif Arab University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Presiding over the launch will be Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz, Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Interior and head of Naif Arab University's Supreme Council, together with the High Commissioner, the president of the university and a representative of the OIC.

In his foreword to "The Right to Asylum Between Islamic Shari'ah and International Refugee Law: A Comparative Study," Guterres says the book shows that more than any other historical source, Islamic law and tradition underpin the modern-day legal framework upon which UNHCR bases its global activities on behalf of tens of millions of uprooted people. This includes the right of everyone to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution as well as prohibitions against sending those in need of protection back into danger.

"Even though many of those values were a part of Arab tradition and culture even before Islam, this fact is not always acknowledged today," Guterres writes. "The international community should value this 14-century-old tradition of generosity and hospitality and recognize its contributions to modern law.'

In his study, Professor Abu Al-Wafa describes how Islamic law and tradition respect refugees, including non-Muslims; forbids forcing them to change their beliefs; avoids compromising their rights; seeks to reunite families; and guarantees the protection of their lives and property.

"Today, the majority of refugees worldwide are Muslims," Guterres writes. "This fact occurs at a time when the level of extremism -- ethnic and religious -- is on the rise around the globe, even in the world's most developed societies. Racism, xenophobia and populist fear-mongering manipulate public opinion and confuse refugees with illegal migrants and even terrorists.

"These attitudes have also contributed to misperceptions about Islam, and Muslim refugees have paid a heavy price. Let us be clear: refugees are not terrorists. They are first and foremost the victims of terrorism. This book reminds us of our duty to counter such attitudes."

The book also reflects UNHCR's

close association with the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which itself adopted in 1990 a Declaration on Human Rights in Islam stipulating that every human being fleeing persecution has the right to seek asylum and receive protection in another country.

In his foreword to the book, OIC Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu notes that the book "demonstrates the equitable and tolerant rules Islamic Shari'ah applies to refugees and how it is keenly concerned with their welfare and interests, while confirming human integrity and man's right to a free, decent life."

Naif Arab University's president, Professor Abdul-Aziz bin Saqr al-Ghamedi, said the theme of the study gains importance in the light of the increase in recent years in the numbers of refugees in Arab and Islamic countries.'

Prof. Ahmad At-Tayyib, president of al-Azhar University in Cairo, noted that the Arab concept of asylum" or "ijarah" pre-dated Islam and was endorsed by Islamic Shari'ah "because it was one of the established good practices in their traditions and customs, involving noble manners and ethical values such as rescue of people in distress and protection of the oppressed."

Global groups make an urgent call to end deforestation

A coalition of youth, environmental groups, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples organizations and women's groups delivered a plea to negotiators asking them to ensure a strong climate deal and warning them that they will put our survival at risk if they do not act immediately to halt deforestation and the industrial logging of the world's primary forests (forest degradation).

"Survival is not negotiable. The climate deal signed in Copenhagen needs to ensure the survival of all countries and people. The immediate protection of the world's forests is no longer just an option, it is essential to ensure a safe climate for us and our kids," stated youth spokesperson Gemma Tillack.

The coalitions' plea asks delegates to ensure that any climate deal:

--Immediately ends deforestation, industrial scale logging in primary forests and the conversion of forests to

monoculture tree crops, plantations; --Protects the world's biodiverse forests including primary forests in developed countries (e.g. Australia, Canada and Russia) and tropical forests in developing countries;

--Respects the rights of women, Indigenous peoples and local communities and allow them to lead healthy and sustainable lives whilst stopping deforestation and industrial logging of primary forests in their country; and

--Does not allow developed countries to use forest protection and the avoiding deforestation and industrial scale logging of primary forests in other countries as an offset mechanism for their own emissions.

"The forest is our life, without the forests we would not exist. Avoiding deforestation and stopping industrial logging will allow Indigenous peoples to live and will secure our future," said Adolphine Muley, of the Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"We need to ensure that climate change mitigation plans do not drive the establishment of monoculture tree plantations. The rapid ongoing direct and indirect replacement of forests by plantations is a significant cause of social and environmental harm and contributes significantly to climate change," said Diego Cardona from Friends of the Earth -Colombia and the Global Forest Coalition.

National Humanities Center Fellowships 2010-2011

The National Humanities Center offers 40 residential fellowships for advanced study in the humanities during the academic year, September 2010 through May 2011. Applicants must hold doctorate or equivalent scholarly credentials. Young scholars as well as senior scholars are encouraged to apply, but they must have a record of publication, and new Ph.D.s should be aware that the Center does not support the revision of a doctoral dissertation. In addition to scholars from all fields of the humanities, the Center accepts individuals from the natural and social sciences, the arts, the professions, and public life who are engaged in humanistic projects. The Center is also international and gladly accepts applications from scholars outside the United States.

Most of the Center 's fellowships are unrestricted. Several, however, are designated for particular areas of research. These include environmental studies and history; English literature; art history; French history, literature, or culture; Asian Studies; and theology.

Fellowships are individually determined, the amount depending upon the needs of the Fellow and the Center's ability to meet them. The Center seeks to provide at least half salary and also covers travel expenses to and from North Carolina for Fellows and their dependents.

Facilities and Services . Located in the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina, near Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh, the Center provides an environment for individual research and the exchange of ideas. Its building includes private studies for Fellows, conference rooms, a central commons for dining, lounges, reading areas, a reference library, and a Fellows' workroom. The Center's noted library service delivers books and research materials to Fellows, and support for information technology and editorial assistance are also provided. The Center locates housing for Fellows in the neighboring communities.

Fellowships are supported by the Center's own endowment, private foundation grants, alumni contributions, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Applicants submit the Center's form, supported by a curriculum vitae, a 1000word project proposal, and three letters of recommendation. You may request application material from Fellowship Program, National Humanities Center, Post Office Box 12256, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709-2256, or obtain the form and instructions from the Center's website. Applications and letters of recommendation must be postmarked by October 15,2009.

MTN community service campaign concluded

Raed Ahmed MTN executive manager in Yemen encouraged the private sector companies to stand together and shoulder their responsibility towards the community similarly to what MTN is doing in Yemen. He said this at the conclusion of a 21 day community service campaign the company carries out as an annual tradition for the third time.

"This campaign comes as a part of MTN's international strategy to include private sector in developing and serving the local communities and contributing to the state's efforts in infrastructure, solid development projects and long term sustainable development," he said.





This year the campaign included governorates outside Sana'a and included many activities such environment protection, awareness raising, volunteer and charity work.

Noor Baabad deputy minister of social affairs commended MTN's social participation saying that private sector's involvement in charity and development activities would contribute to reducing corruption and bad practices.

During the 21 day campaign, 800 MTN staff members worked on a greenery project whereby they planted trees, cleaned parks and evened

playground areas. The campaign included sports activities and maintenance of sport stadiums. They also cleaned mosques, and historical places around the country. Traffic awareness sessions and education on malaria and how to combat it as well as painting some schools.

Throughout the campaign a total of 30 projects were carried out and medical equipment were dedicated to some of the state hospitals including a dialysis unit for Thawara Hospital in Sana'a. a bus for local transportation was also donated from the company for Al-Rahama Orphanage for girls

الصهنئون

1. At least 3 years previous experience of secretary works in medical field. Paramedical back ground is mandatory, laborato-

Nurse

VACANCIES

M decins du Monde

Yemen, Sa ada

Qualifications: 1. Diploma in nursing or medical assisting (at least

- 2 years after the secondary education). At least 7 years of practical experience in nursing
- 2
- ry background is an asset.
- Previous experience in school health is an asset. 3
- Experience in registration of medical and labora-4. tory data.
- 5. Previous work experience in a humanitarian context is mandatory
- 6. Ability to work with team spirit.
- Arabic, English is compulsory, French is an asset. 7.
- Diplomatic, able to communicate with a variety of 8. people
- 9 Flexible attitude, to adjust to a different culture.
- 10. Good sense of organization is essential.

Physician

Qualifications:

- Medical doctor, practical experience in public 1. health is an asset
- Ability and experience in monitoring and leading 2. medical team.
- Previous experience in school health is an asset. 3
- Experience in first aid and health education is an 4. asset.
- 5. Previous work experience in a humanitarian context is mandatory
- 6. Experience in assessment of a medical needs.
- Arabic, English is compulsory, French is an asset. 7
- Ability to write assessment, monitoring reports. 8.
- 9. Diplomatic, able to communicate with a variety of people.
- Flexible attitude, to adjust to a different culture. 10.
- 11. Good sense of organization is essential.

- especially in hospitals and medical centres. 3.
- Previous training in infection control is an asset.
- Previous experience in school health is an asset. 4.
- Previous experience in registration and medical 5. records.
- 6. Previous work experience in a humanitarian context is mandatory.
- Ability to work with team spirit. 7.
- Arabic, English is compulsory, French is an asset. 8.
- Diplomatic, able to communicate with a variety of 9. people.
- 10. Flexible attitude, to adjust to a different culture.
- 11. Good sense of organization is essential.

Laboratory Technicien

- **Qualifications:** Diploma in laboratory science. 1
 - 2. At least 7 years of practical experience in laboratory work especially microbiology.
 - Previous training to conduct Kato Katz stool test 3
 - is an asset.
 - Previous experience in school health is an asset.
 - Training in safety measures during laboratory 5. work is mandatory.
 - Previous work experience in a humanitarian con-6. text is mandatory.
 - 7 Ability to work with team spirit.
 - Experience in writing laboratory reports. 8.
 - 9. Arabic, English is compulsory, French is an asset.
 - Diplomatic, able to communicate with a variety of 10. people
 - 11. Flexible attitude, to adjust to a different culture, medical context.
 - 12. Good sense of organization is essential.

CV and letter of interest should be sent by e-mail at: recruitment_mdm_yemen@yahoo.fr, under the applied reference.

Females are highly encouraged to apply for this job. No applications received after 26th of July will be considered.

- لتهانى وأطيب التبريكات
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Hedley emphasized that for Lufthansa, excellent service on ground is equally important as on board, which is reflected in the ongoing investment of the airline in its lounges and terminal facilities which speaks for itself. By 2013, Lufthansa will have invested around 150 million Euros in the renovation and improvement of its lounges across the

Lufthansa offers its customers a lounge portfolio which covers 65 lounges worldwide plus 660 lounges operated by our Star Alliance partners. And since January it opened a Welcome Lounge at Frankfurt Airport. The first lounge of its kind in Lufthansa's worldwide network. The lounge

concept is geared to the needs of passengers arriving on longhaul Lufthansa flights and can be used exclusively by First and Business Class passengers as well as by status customers. A state of the art 1200 Square meter lounge which provides our arriving passengers in Frankfurt, a perfect start to their day: They can relax, recharge their batteries and freshen up in the new Welcome lounge.

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Lufthansa

Report

Street children search for their identity

By: Mohammed Al-Soofi and Yasser Abdul Baqi For the Yemen Times

eski was afraid of the sea. Her thin body was shaking due to the movement of the boat in the sea. Her father grasped her hand. She put her small head on his chest to sleep. The boat was meant to hold only 20 people, but it was congested with over 50 Somalis, their children and three armed men

One on the three armed men on the boat shot several bullets in the air. The passengers shivered. A child fell into the sea and his mother dropped herself to follow him. The two disappeared. The men point their guns at the passengers and demanded that some of them jump into the water under the pretext that they all will drown unless they decrease the load. Whoever objected to the demand would face a bullet in his head or chest.

Somali women and their children cried but an armed men ordered them to be silent, or they would be killed. Silence hovered over them, but children were shivering with fear. Mothers put their hands on children's mouths to prevent them from crying.

Meski cried quietly and held tightly on to her father. An armed man lit a cigar and turned to his two colleagues smiling. A child choked and his mother shook him strongly. He fell down with no movement. She cried but the armed men ordered her to be silent and threatened to kill her. She reached into her bag, took out a knife and pushed toward the armed men.

One of them hit her with his gun on her forehead. As a result, she fell into the water, and an armed man threw his cigar into the place where she drowned.

One of the passengers was enraged. He ran toward the armed men but they shot and injured him. The passengers were angry. They stood up shouting and the boat shook due to their movement

Meski fell into the water. Her father jumped into the water and saved her but when he got on board, an armed man shot him dead and let him fall into the water. Silence resumed after the boat lost half the passengers.

It was 2 a.m. when the Somali passengers reached the Yemeni coast in search of refuge. They all slept on the beach.

A year passed after 18-year-old Meski arrived in Yemen. She begged



from 7 o'clock in the morning until 8 in the evening on streets. Before she would go to her residence in Al-Bassatin camp in Aden, she would sit in front of a barbershop to count the money she collected. She hid some money in a secret pocket.

Ali learned that Meski hid half the money from her aunt, and kept it for herself. The relationship between Ali and Meski became strong. He discovered that she earned more money through begging than he did in his barbershop. He proposed, on the condition that she paid for the residence. She agreed without hesitation.

He married her without paying any dowry, but her situation changed following marriage. Her income decreased because she went begging at 9 a.m. and came back home at 2 p.m. Ali treated her differently. She gave birth into a dark-skinned baby who she called Jam'i, which angered Ali, the white man.

Ali didn't recognize his son, who is black. He threw Meski and her son out of his house

Heyam Mubarak, director of Safe Childhood Center, said that Jam'i grew up without identity and his mother died when he was 5 years old. She said that she saw the child while he was hanging around on the street at 10 p.m.

She learned about him and took him to the childhood center where he became part of the group in the house. But his father refused to give his birth document that to prove his identity. Jam'i entered school and excelled in

his study. Mubarak says that Jam'i is only an

example of hundreds of children living in the center. She believes that Yemen has recently seen an explosion in the number of street children. Street children are found with scruffy torn clothes, mainly begging, cleaning cars, selling newspapers and tissues or cleaning shoes.

She said that the center was established because children are living on the street, and it and others provide them with rehabilitation and protection programs. Further, it provides a venue for children to discuss their problems and work on solving them.

"I believe that due to decrease of the households' income as a result of deterioration of economic and social situations and family disintegration, this phenomenon has spread," said Mubarak. "In addition, substandard schools, and lack of family monitoring aggravate the problem."

She said that disputes between parents make children feel that they are the reason behind the family problems,

which prompts them to leave homes for streets. Family, media, and school should create a suitable climate for children to prevent them from thinking of leaving house.

On the street, we found Saddam, 10, at 8 p.m. He was afraid when we wanted to talk to him. His face was covered with dust and he had some money in his pocket. He told us that his stepmother forced him to work, as his father doesn't have a regular income. Asked about his mother, he said that she married a man who refused to allow him to live with her.

Mariam and Adnan have a different story. They stay on street all the time and their father is a fish-seller. He comes home drunk, late at night. He is accustomed to hitting his children and wife whenever he arrives home. As a result, the children go to street to avoid seeing their father.

According to statistics from Save the Children, over 30 thousand children in Yemen live on streets, 88 percent of teachers practice corporal punishment against children at schools and 80 percent of fathers practice violence against their children.

All these children need protection. Many families deprive their children of education and force them to work in dangerous jobs or beg, with little

regard to the dangers that they face. Child labor laws are not applied and official monitoring of children's welfare is absent.

Although the government supports some children, it is no longer enough due to increase of street children and deterioration of economic conditions of many families, which makes many children believe that they should work to attain their living. This leads them to cut off study and head to streets to work. Around half a million children don't go to school, which makes them illiterate.

In Al-Tuwahi district of Aden, we saw Samar, a 10 year-old child girl, on the street at night along with another young boy. She said that her stepfather harassed her sexually for many times.

"He put his hands on certain places of my body with view to harassing me," said Samar. "I told my mother but she didn't believe me and, instead, she hit me severely. This prompted me to escape home very often and my aunt forces me to beg.

In Aden, particularly in Sheikh Othman city, children very often work pushing trolleys to move goods from the market to houses to earn a little money.

Hana Al-Tahs, a teacher at 7 July school, said that families shouldn't lie to or beat their children because this leads the children to mistrust their parents and head to street. Parents also create a safe environment for their children to enable them express themselves freely.

For his part, Ayyob Abu Bakr, general manager of Ministry of Social Affairs' Office in Aden, said that the amount street children in Yemen constitute a disaster that it is increasing on a daily basis. He attributed this problem to poverty and lack of job opportunities

"Poor living standards of families increase social problems including lack of collaboration," said Abu Bakr. "As a result, husbands live in state of boredom and treat their children and wives harshly. This, in turn, leads to family disintegration and forces children to resort to streets which they consider preferable to such state of tension. Parents don't take care of or ask about their children."

He pointed out that street children are subjected to deviation because many bad people exploit them for nonhumanitarian purposes.

Asked about role of the concerned bodies in the government, Abu Bakr said that the ministry tried to tackle this

phenomenon. "In cooperation with UNICEF, we established the Safe Childhood Center five years ago in Al-Mu'alla city of Aden," he said. "The center contains 120 children, 60 of whom were brought from streets through a specialized work team. The center provides these children with social, heath and education services.

In addition, there is a department in the center called "daytime reception." This department admits children who want to participate in activities during the day and go back home in the evening. The aim is to protect them against going to streets to learn bad things.

Dr. Waheed Mohammed Sulaiman, head of Psychology Department at Aden University's Faculty of Arts, said that many studies showed that the economic factor is the major motivation that forces children to resort to streets.

"Over 30 percent of the families in Yemen are poor," said Dr. Sulaiman. "Degree of poverty differs from a society to another. Human Development report of 2001 classified Yemen as number 133 out of the total 262 countries in terms of level of human development. Many families are forced to send their children to streets to beg for a living."

"Street children are psychologically affected by the suffering they face on streets. This shocks their personality at early age, which results in extremism toward things, people and other issues of life. In addition, they feel the need of protection because violence, rape and exploitation threaten their life," added Sulaiman.

Dr. Ali Abdulla Al-Zakhami, family medicine specialist, said that street children are a result of family and society problems which result from social and economic as well as environmental conditions.

"Family violence and the bad surrounding conditions in the society are the reasons behind this problem," said Al-Zakhami. "In addition, some bad people send their children to streets to beg. I paid a visit to many places where street children exist. Unfortunately, I was surprised that many employees in the government are behind the problem.

He pointed out that family violence is not the only reason. "Violence is practiced against the society. The big gap between the needs of the society and living standards are also behind this problem. The only solution to the problem is social equality based on justice in distribution of revenues."

Yemen's foundlings struggle to belong

By: Shuaib M. Al-Mosawa For the Yemen Times

ddle aged men and

Sometimes, to acknowledge the birth where she was heard crying, according would put the mother's life in danger. to the delivery room supervisor at the

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

destroying their future," said Arwa Al-They said that the program would be najjar, a doctor at the Educational and For example, the loss of her virginity hospital. A nurse also found another "a shelter for crimes" and may help Psychological Counseling Center at

inaction is partially because governmental and private bodies are ashamed to support them under the name of foundling." The word is associated with fallen morals in a conservative society. And while millions of dollars are being donated to charitable groups, the foundlings have received nothing. Instead, they are ignored and they often end up in streets as homeless beggars. The Yemeni streets are home to many foundlings who have no choice but to be beggars or criminals. Yaser Al-Hashedi, a 22 year-old man, who once sold bottled water at intersections joined a group of young people stealing mobile phones. "We rob only the rich, and the ones who just want to talk, and have no need for them," he said. Many abandoned children suffer in foster families. But 20-year-old Jubran Al-Selwi did not have the opportunity to be adopted, and or escape from the orphanage. His mother, who left him in a dark place soon after his birth, knew where he was and came back for him. It was, however, too late and Al-Selwi refused his mother's offer. "I needed her care when I was a new born baby looking at anyone to turn to, and found nothing but darkness and barking dogs," said Al-Selwi, preferring to remain at the orphanage with his only friend, Sareea, the dog, to complete school. Al-Selwi said that going to university will prove useful later in life. All alone in the world, abandoned children struggle to live beyond the confines of orphanages in the hope they would find some relief and integration.

women hustle and bustle, carrying sacks of food supplies on their backs amidst the mountainous terrain in Yemen every week. The honking of vehicles creates a chaotic melody, while people scurry to hail down public transport.

A few meters away, a 40 year-old man, sitting in front of his radio repair shop cries out in anger. He criticizes and complains about the unfairness of the world daily, until the hot sun dwindles into the quiet night. Known as Ahmed "Al-Askary," he is believed to be the child of a soldier that raped his deaf and mute mother during the chaos of Yemen's civil war in the 1960's.

As the story goes, Ahmed's mother came home one day from her job as a servant, stained with blood and fighting back tears. She gestured towards a remote field but the soldier was long gone. Later on, she died giving birth to Ahmed, who was raised by the family until he was old enough to take care of himself.

Al-Askari, along with many others, is known as a foundling. As babies, they were abandoned by their parents as a result of illegitimate relationships or shame. Abandoning children is a social phenomenon rapidly increasing across the country.

A foundling has no known birth date, name or parents. They are frequently named by the person who finds them or by the hospital staff where they are taken. They also often are given names relating to the place they were found.

People abandon their children for many social and cultural reasons.

would make it hard for her to find a husband. Also, sometimes the mother cannot look after the baby and there is no one else available to help, especially during famines or social upheavals, and where social services and adoption agencies do not exist.

Moving downtown, Al-Askary struggled to open his own radio repair shop and later met and fell in love with a 60 year-old woman, who later became his wife. The couple met in the qat market where she routinely begs for gat, the popular stimulant leaf that is chewed by Yemenis during the afternoons.

Al-Askary decided to marry her, and was happy to be her seventh (or maybe eighth) husband, according to an old woman living next door to Al-Askary's wife. At night Al-Askary, however, delivers loud, bitter speeches and his voice gets louder and louder.

Unlike Ahmed Al-Askary, Kasem's last name didn't originate from military or security ranks. Al-Kash-ha is a slang word meaning a bush, on which Kasem was found. Al-Kash-ha later moved from one area to the next and took multiple jobs. Later, he became the father of four children.

Al-Kash-ha doesn't shout at night. Rather, he tells children his innermost secrets such as his ability to stay alive inside the neighboring lake for three days or (to the disappointment of children) the invisible space craft he uses to check up on them.

Often new born babies wrapped in garments, and left at mosques, hospitals and orphanages. At Al-Sabeen hospital, two babies were recently found. One was a baby girl found in the yard

baby inside.

"We have been witnessing quite a few over many years, and take care of them until they are adopted by someone who are usually sterile, or sent by the administration to orphanages- as usual," added the supervisor.

Orphanages receive orphans, the poor, as well as abandoned children, who are raised as orphans. One couple put a baby girl at Al-Rahmah orphanage a month ago, claiming to have found her somewhere in the capital.

"Though suspicious, we couldn't do anything except to follow legal procedures," said the president of the orphanage.

According to the law, orphanages have to put the foundling on record and include their personal details and those of the person who found them. The information is sent it to the Civil Affairs Authority, which has the power to name them.

"The first name is invented but the last one in named after the place where they were found. For example if a baby was found in Al-Rawtha area, her/his last name would be 'Al-Rawthi' and so on," said Maj. Ahmed M. Al-Sorabi, the manager of the registry office in Sana'a.

Looking for solutions for the rising numbers of foundlings, Sana'a officials turned to the Jordon Children Village Program as a model of success. The program focuses on building special homes for them and later integrating them into families.

However, the program was blocked due to the specialists' lack of understanding, said Rasheedah Al-Nosairi, the Director of Women and Child in the

encourage parents to abandon unwanted children.

The program, however, will be implemented in Aden and the initial stages have been started by the ministry, which also helps the abandoned children get access to social services.

"All those solutions are not satisfactory. There are no plans or strategies in this regard and the ministry has no statistics for them so they deal with individuals instead," added Al-Nosairi.

There are no special homes for abandoned chilfen and they are enrolled at orphanages that cannot accommodate their special needs.

At a state-run orphanage, more than 100 foundlings-all of them males- live among 1500 orphans.

"The last one we received was an 8year-old boy whose adoptive father brought him here because his children began to insult him," said Ahmed Al-Shami, the general director of the orphanage. "There should be a place for them where they can interact with one another without being hurt, insulted, or isolated, Al-Shami added.

"I have no friends or parents to take care of me", said Akram Al-Sana'ani, a 20-year-old man who lives in an orphanage in Sana'a city. "But I found someone who promised they would take care of me.

The foundlings' social position is considered by many Yemeni people to be a major threat to the fabric of Yemen society. As a result, they have failed to maintain their position as even the lowest class, living with the harsh reality of being unwelcome guests.

"The word 'foundling' is a negative term of abuse, killing the person and Sana'a University

Abandoned children are often a product of adultery or pre-marital sex. They suffer ostracism and often cannot find a spouse. Consequently, they sometimes hold society accountable for their situation and display aggressive behavior against it, according to Al-Najjar.

The increasing amount of abandoned children has also been a major concern for sociologist Sokaina Hashem, who feels that pre-marital sex and poverty are largely to blame. A campaign aimed at women, encouraging them not to respond to sexual advances and a close watch of teenagers' behavior was among the solutions Hashem suggested.

Ahmed Al-Hasani, a Yemeni a journalist, thinks that social class inequalities- where no one is held responsibleare among the reasons for the rising phenomena.

"In the feudal communities, there is so much sexual exploitation of women that it has become a common proverb that, 'A son of a rich man has sex with poor women with only a loaf of bread," Al-Hasani added. He also said that women do not discuss their problems because they risk being arrested, or even killed, for sexual activity.

Some foundlings want a place where they can live without being insulted or discriminated against. "They call me names like 'son of bitch' and 'bastard'. No one loves me in this place," complained Sammer Al-khawlani, who lives in one orphanage.

Because abandoned children fail to raise enough concern to inspire action, it seems they will have to wait. The

Maybe civil society organizations or charities could help make the Yemeni people aware of the foundling's humanitarian situation. Perhaps they could raise enough money to build foundlings a place of their own.

Opinion



By Ahmed Al-Zorqa Alzorqa11@hotmail.com

racking the culprits who killed three of the nine kidnapped foreigners (seven Germans, one British and one South Korean) seems like an unattainable task in view of the lack of definite information held by authorities. The information that has been released seems illogical, lending itself to the remote possibly that the authorities do not hold such information in the first place.

The Ministry of the Interior's accusation that Houthis committed this crime and the Houthis' subsequent denial proves that the ministry's groundless stance is little more than an effort to mitigate its responsibility to preserve the lives of the remaining victims. But this does not exempt security forces from their liability and their duty to prove the allegations of Minister of Interior Gen. Mutahhar Rashad Al-Alimi as well as the allegations of the oft-quoted "security source" that clear signs indicate the Houthis' involvement in the incident.

An official spokesperson for the Houthis said it was not in their best interests to target foreigners, and that attitude has never been one of their strategies. That is, of course, if we exclude the hand grenade attack by a Houthi fanatic on a military bus with Russian military experts onboard back in 2006.

Nevertheless, the fact that Yahia Al-Houthi is in Germany and has assumed his languid political activities from there is a good reason that would prevent the Houthis from alienating the German community. After all, this is one the outlets through which they are trying to convince the world of their just cause against the Yemeni government!

The constant flow of unproved accusations from both the Houthis and the government has made the situation more complicated. This may be an indication of a third party who has an interest in forcing an intermittent six-year war to reappear, a war that has not been settled in favor of either party throughout its past five rounds. Such accusations might be merely an attempt by the two parties to score points against each other, endeavoring to look for a scapegoat. Proof of this is the announcement made recently by the government of a reward for anyone who come forth with information on the whereabouts of the remaining kidnapped persons and the mysterious party behind the kidnapping.

The exchanged accusations between the government and the Houthis concerning the location of the kidnapping or where the three women's corpses were later found shows that the kidnappers could move freely throughout both Houthi and government controlled locations in Sa'ada. After all, the foreigners were kidnapped in lands controlled by the government but their bodies were found in an area controlled by the Houthis.

This shows that the kidnappers could have easily baited the foreigners during the kidnapping process, which could also mean that the perpetrators were locals and thus familiar with the area since no one had testified to seeing them. This is, of course, if we exclude the possibility of connivance on the part of the local people with the kidnappers.

The Houthis have repeatedly accused a tribal pro-government leader in the area and said some of his men carried out the incident as a means to press the government to compensate them for one of their relatives who died while fighting against the Houthis.

Another view has it that the operation was conducted by drug dealers in the area, which is one of the outlets for smuggling drugs into neighboring countries after the government seized a large drug shipment. The same theory holds that when the smugglers contacted authorities and got only the cold shoulder, they killed three of their hostages to show that they meant business.

Germany said it has 'information intelligence' that Al-Qaeda was behind the crime because the organization had repeatedly stated that it would target German subjects and interests.

The German statement seemed to appeal to the Houthis who promised the Germans that they would hunt down and identify the kidnappers. However, the German accusation was not received well by the Yemeni government as it still blames Houthis for the incident since, according to the famous anonymous security source, Al-Qaeda is not known to be active in Sa'ada governorate.

The government theory about the Houthis contradicts what Yemeni and Saudi security forces reported two months ago, which was that Saudis had been told by an Al-Qaeda detainee that there was a connection between the organization and the Houthis.

The prisoner above was said to disclose that the Houthis had contacted Al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen and offered to help them to carry out acts of sabotage against foreign interests. The Houthis promptly denied this, calling the accusation "a Yemeni-Saudi fabrication."

The method of the kidnapping is not Al-Qaeda-like because the organization prefers abrupt and direct attack while taking no prisoners. This is because Al-Qaeda's main objective is to inflict the greatest possible damage to their enemies, except when the goal is to negotiate with the government for releasing prisoners.

Two weeks before the incident, during a Friday sermon a Salafi preacher incited violence against foreigners working within a charity health group, accusing them of practicing missionary activities under the cover of humanitarian work. Such statements went quietly and the authorities did not bother to investigate the matter.

That charity delegation has been working at Al-Jumhori Hospital in Sa'ada for 25 years and not one of its members had been subject to any attack, which raises a question about the reason behind targeting them at this particular time.

Last Wednesday, the three women's dead bodies arrived in Sana'a shrouded in secrecy. Official news did not mention how the women had been murdered or the weapon used or whether they had been killed during armed conflict

even when it fails and collapses. They

believe that grants and foreign relief will

play the same role that the public budget

did. This issue needs only one organiza-

tion in order to receive the support

offered by anti-famine and humanitarian

aid organizations. As such, they have

prepared the Saleh Organization Social

Development Fund as well as other

funds for the purpose of receiving any

As their senior the president once did

when he went to Hadhramout during the

flash flood disaster last year, we will

hear official statements and warnings

against giving grants to any organiza-

tions or funds other than those which

belong to Saleh. He led us into poverty

and famine out of his wisdom. Then he

told us stories about the wisdom in

receiving grants and aid given by the

The most experienced presidential

advisor in both economics and politics

gave us advice associated with his warn-

grants or support.

compassionate!

between the kidnappers and another party. It didn't bother to clarify, as has been said, that they were killed while trying to escape their abductors.

There are many parties who may wish that the kidnapping and the killing of the foreigners would rekindle the conflict between the government and Al-Houthis. Such interested parties include both regional and international entities as well as drugs and weapons dealers whose business flourished during the past wars in the area.

The helplessness of the government and its security authorities in unraveling this incident can easily harm Yemen's relations with Germany, one of our largest economic donors. It shows our country failing where security is concerned and as an unsafe place for foreigners, something that will reflect itself on both the economic and political activities between Yemen and the world.

The incident exposes the fragility of security and the fact that Sa'ada governorate is out of control of the state, a state that recognizes only the logic of power and oppression and denies other concepts. This leads to chaos as the only alternative for compulsory absence, something proved by the recent kidnappings.

ings. He said that leaders of the Southern

Movement are "extremists aiming to

return the country to separation. They

have to realize that this is destructive to

them and to Yemen in its entirety," he

said. I don't know what else he would

threaten us with! Maybe death due to

hunger within a year has become a cer-

tainty for some unless the world has

with? Please close your mouths and

silence your trumpets. Stop talking

about accomplishments of the revolution

and republic under which your bad

In turn I would like to tell you that the

revolution of the hungry is coming. After

a year, the villas of those who live in lux-

ury will not be safe. We will have some-

one honorable who will sweep your cor-

rupt regime out of our public and private

regime makes us suffer.

Source: Alsahwa.net

What else do you have to horrify us

mercy on us.

lives.

By: Twakkul Abdul Salam Kurman

president recently he resumed his good leadership, full of giant accomplishments, as expressed by Al-Lawzi satellite channel and its peers. He extravagantly put forward the foundation stones for hundreds of projects in Taiz, Aden and other governorates. At the same time, we were surprised by his political advisor Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Eriani who warned from Beirut about a potential famine in Yemen that will affect 70 percent of the population.

"This is a warning for the international community," said Al-Eriani. He confirmed that he "talked to World Food Program about this issue.'

I don't know why Mr. Al-Eriani, who was the prime minister for over four years and advisor to the president, released this warning to the world too late. Why didn't he release it to the pres-

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ident or the government or to its political party, where he was the secretary general for a long time? Does he believe that the rulers of the world are concerned with the problems of Yemen more than its own officials? Does he believe that the rulers of the world will be more merciful and compassionate towards Yemen than its own rulers?

Mr. Al-Eriani, forget the world leaders. You should release your warning and blame to the dinosaurs and fat cats around you who have large enough bank accounts to allow every Yemeni live of off welfare for a long time!

The world has nothing to do with the failures of your insensible regime, as 'whoever commits an evil act should be punished for it.' Rulers, including the political party, the president and the government should bear all the consequences of this painful harvest.

Only Saleh and his regime are responsible for the declared upcoming famine, let alone the famines that haven't been declared for dozens of years. The people in the regime should be charged with treason for its failure and incompetency

to manage people and resources well. Al-Eriani called on the international community, particularly the US, to offer support. He complained that US support to Yemen was retracted while Yemen is exerting its utmost efforts to eradicate extremism.

Governments of the world are held accountable before taxpayers for the support and grants they give. They say that money from taxpayers should go to transparent countries, governments and regimes. They give away this money on the basis of rumors published by Al-Methaq and 22 May newspapers, such as those they spread about the Taliban and mullahs of Islah.

As usual, Al-Eriani went to extort the world on behalf of combating terrorism, saying that "poverty is a twin for terrorism in Yemen as membership in Al-Qaeda Organization is a lucrative job with a good income." Really ?!

Al-Eryani advising and warning

Yes, poverty and terrorism are two faces of the same coin. However, people here believe and have strong evidence that the regime supports terrorism, which as we all know, only begets terrorism.

Mr. Al-Eriani, what people have come to realize is that terrorism and corruption are twins. The more your regime involves itself in corruption, the more dangerous it becomes, even more so than terrorism. We are surprised by daily events concerning this connection.

Mr. Al-Eriani, I know that the ruler and his advisors don't want any foreign aid in order to take pity on their citizens whom they filled with hunger and humiliation. Rather, they are preparing to seize the relief for themselves as a new resource after local resources run out and the country becomes a failed state

In their point of view, Yemen remains a source that will lavish support on them

Initiatives

bring about a real solution and will not delay the establishment of an entity that serves all people and their positive and just futures. This sectarian state holds a fixed reference, whether this reference is traditional or modern. It exploited. and still exploits, the absence of Shafi'ee sect references and the split of

whether people of these initiatives like or not - the continuing dominance of the sectarian and doctrinal state. These initiatives believe that the crucial solution for rule is in the hands of "milibarism." They also aim to abort the southern movement in preparation for burying the southern issue solely as

ence point for their negotiations. Consequently, negotiation and dialogue will have clear objectives. The first objective of the negotiation should be that the "militribals" renounce the sectarian regime without seeking refuge in its sterile slogans. For example, no current leader can convince the people of

By: Abdul Rahim Mohsen No corruption olitical initiatives have within sight! recently been surging into the capital Sana'a. This has been happening against a backdrop of allegations that there is a political crisis and the belief



that there is a modern civil state supported by the unanimity of the population who are connected through a voluntary social contract. Based on this contract, they coexist peacefully, socially, politically and culturally, and society develops on the basis of a just philosophy in which all people benefit from services of the country.

However, such allegations remain completely unrelated to reality and to people's own ambitions. These ambitions are connected with the root of the historical issue which people of initiative refuse to pay attention to so that their initiatives can carry a flavor of the real situation.

This historical issue is that the current state, whose center is Sana'a, wasn't established on the basis of voluntary unification. However, instead it was established on the basis of occupation and invasion, and then continuous control and deception. In a more transparent and realistic sense, it is a sectarian and doctrinal state.

Dealings with this state should be based on real knowledge. This will the intellectual and political group in this oppressed sect.

Sana'a has been experiencing this crisis since 1962, when the authoritarian sect which hid themselves as 'imamate destroyers' dominated the scene following the 1962 coup. This sect became public early in 2003. Now, it is focused between its allied original reference (traditional and modern) and the "milibarism" [military and tribalism] that control the political power. The parties of this crisis are conflicting with each other to completely control the power and reach reconciliation through sharing it. However, they don't recognize the political rights of others. Rather, they stress that inhabitants of the areas living under their control are only subordinates and a source of income for the state.

The two initiatives offered by Mr. Abdulla Sallam Al-Hakimi, Mr. Sultan Al-Sami'ee and Abdul Rahman Al-Jafri as well as others are similar to those initiatives of the authoritarian sect. They emphasize in their content the centralization of the state, which means -

an issue of the occupied lands of Ibb, Taiz and Hodeida.

These initiatives didn't offer a solution to the historical issue that resulted from invasion and occupation as well as the subsequent sectarian regime. Such new initiatives could have made use of the southern movement as a card to play in negotiations to create a new modern state and regime. Instead, they depended on thoughts of selected slavery, or the method we like to call "the cat loves its strangler." They didn't address the violence of the sectarian and doctrinal state against peaceful demonstrators or the state's greed and thirst for genocide.

Moreover, these initiatives didn't pay any attention to arrests and mock trials. They didn't try even to support the detainees including Qassem Askar, Hassan Zaid bin Yahya and Fadi Ba Oum, nor demand their release.

For these initiatives to be right, the political class, "milibarism," should confess that that the current state is sectarian, which will enable all parties to rely on an objective and logical referTaiz, Ibb and Hodeida that they unified with Sana'a voluntarily!

Such a renunciation will solve the historically complicated situation, and all the subsequent associate political entities and ideas will be based on it. They will then turn to open and free options that will be the new keystone of the foundation on which to build this country.

Britain divided the south into eastern and western reserves after it was divided into sultanates and sheikhs. These sultanates formed the federation union. The national front abolished this entity and replaced it with the Republic of Southern Yemen and then the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, giving it the 'hell' of the designation 'Yemen.' It gave a pretext to the sectarian doctrinal regime in Sana'a to demand the restoration of the 'branch' to its 'origin' after calling the occupied lands 'the down Yemen.' All these designations led people to bloody wars. Now, they are no longer right. As such the 'Aden State project' should be discussed away from the slaves' initiatives.

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Israeli and Palestinian mayors fight: But for a common good

Admonishing that the forces of nature do not respond to political diktat, the mayor of Gaza and the mayor of the Israeli city of Ashqelon are working around their respective governmental infrastructures in order to address natural issues affecting both Israelis and Palestinians. A waste treatment facility could be on the horizon if Mayor Abu Ramadan and Mayor Vaknin have their way.

By: Felice Friedson The Media Line News Agency

Ithough it's not an opinion often heard within the context of public debate, there are some who argue that resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be characterized by cooperation rather than separation. While the latter approach fits neatly within the conventional wisdom of the day, Prof. Ilan Juran, an Israeli scientist, makes a compelling case for a peaceful future based on the connection, not severance, of the two peoples who share land and resources.

Prof. Juran's most recent case-inpoint is a dramatic one. Governments have done nothing to stem the daily flow of untreated waste water draining into the Mediterranean Sea off the Palestinian Gaza Strip and re-entering the water system farther north at the Israeli town of Ashqelon. The resulting damage extends far beyond the coast line; it affects the local fishing industry and even the inland aquifers that provide both nations with their respective supplies of potable water. Juran's approach, then, is predicated not only upon human emotion, but also on a pragmatic need driven by the forces of nature. "The ecosystem doesn't stop for checkpoints," he argues, "and such natural forces do not recognize international borders."

Ashqelon Mayor Benny Vaknin, decries "60,000 untreated cubic meters of water entering] the Mediterranean waters every day."

"The goal had been to create an institutional infrastructure for waste water treatment recycling and reuse in agricultural applications and infiltration," adds Gaza Mayor Maged Abu Ramadan. The second part of the goal will be for the two governments to create joint maintenance and standards.

The two mayors met at a Moscow conference sponsored by the United Nations in 2005, where Juran challenged them to stop waiting for their governments to take action and accept upon themselves the responsibility to act on behalf of their constituents. With a boost from the UN Department of Information under the direction of Under-Secretary General Kiyo Akasaka, the Israeli and Palestinian Civil Society Initiative was born. Juran was given the chairmanship. The immediate priority was to com-

plete a project proposed several years earlier: to address the issue of water contamination caused by Gaza sewage. With the Israeli water company Mekorot, the Palestinian Water Authority, the mayors, the UN, and the local municipalities all on board under the umbrella of the Civil Society Initiative, it appeared that positive action was finally destined to happen. The urgency was vital: they believed, and still do, that if preventative action is not implemented today, "it will be hard to get clean water for the next generation." But as is the case so often in the Middle East, the conflict flared and the latest round of violence caused the effort to be halted in its tracks.

If it were not for the resolute personal involvement and remarkable perseverance of the principal players, the project would have died in its germination stage. But Juran, Vaknin and Abu Ramadan stayed in touch. Dysane Durani, who heads the Palestine and Human Rights desk for the UN Department of Information, continued to make the international body aware of the critical importance of the endeavor.

The sheer determination to make it happen appears to have paid off. Nevertheless, the project will be stillborn unless Israel allows the necessary building supplies, including piping and cement, to enter the Gaza Strip for the project, and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud 'Abbas and the Palestinian Water Authority both signoff on the effort. Gaza is presently under an Israeli-imposed boycott of all but a short list of humanitarian goods – metal and concrete specifically excluded.

Assuming the parties feel the necessary preconditions are adequately dealt with, the enabling agreements will be signed at a conference on Middle East peacemaking, sponsored by Durani's department, in Rio de Janeiro in July.

The fact that a project anchored simultaneously in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip and in an Israeli city has proceeded to this point is nothing short of amazing by Middle Eastern standards. Israel has had Gaza under a virtual "lock-down" since Hamas took control in June 2007, and whether pasta qualifies as a humanitarian product worthy of being allowed into Gaza ranks among the most contentious issues of the day. Israelis are banned from entering there, and with few exceptions, Palestinians are prevented from entering Israel. Yet Mayor Vaknin and Mayor Abu Ramadan have looked beyond those grim realities. Rather than allowing the political environment to pollute their chances of success, the two mayors are focusing instead on facilitating a solution to a critical and ongoing problem.

Speaking separately with the mayors, both Mayor Vaknin and Mayor Abu Ramadan point to a long history of similar attempts at cooperation between Gaza and Ashqelon.

Prof. Juran's efforts date back to 1997, when Vaknin agreed talk to Shawwa, the then-Mayor of Gaza who has since died of cancer, to find joint solutions to problems common to the two communities. Dr. Allen Marcus, Ashqelon's Director of Strategic Planning, has worked with Vaknin throughout the attempts at cooperation with Gaza. Marcus recalls agreeing with his colleagues that, "The idea was to benefit both sides...When both sides work together, conflict on the higher level becomes less important. As long as those not interested in peace stand aside, we can continue with these projects for people on both sides of the line."

The first cooperation project was a six-month computer information learning program known as "CLIC" launched in 2000, in which 15 Israeli and 15 Palestinian students studied together in both Gaza and Ashqelon, alternating locations each time. The mayors were surprised to see how easily funding for the proposal was raised: Vaknin remembers that more than \$1 million was collected on a quick trip to Boston, New York and Washington, D.C. But as always in the Middle East, the ultimate obstacle to every aspiring plan is not monetary but the violence in the region, and in this case, it proved insurmountable. As the Second Intifada gained in intensity, the CLIC participants were moved to Hamburg to complete the course. Oren Dayan, one of the CLIC participants, told The Media Line that once the venue changed, the atmosphere did as well, and the program never recovered.

At roughly the same time, the mayors tried launching a second program: a recycling effort called "SCRUB" that had its origin in Canada. But before the proposed plant at the Erez Industrial Zone could be built, the Intifada quashed any hope of cooperation in the program. The waste water program, set to be launched in July, will be the first concrete effort to get a program off the ground since those early attempts at collaboration. Gaza Mayor Abu Ramadan was unable to attend the previous two UN conferences, one in Moscow and one in Japan, because of the violence. But this year, he hopes to be in Rio to sign the agreement that he believes will result in a water treatment plant and an improved eco-system that will be shared by two nations unused to sharing anything at all.

But the plant doesn't come cheap: an estimated \$5 million is needed just to create the framework and set up quality control testing. The building of the actual waste treatment facility will cost upward of \$50 million. Nevertheless, the participants who have persevered for so long are less concerned about finding financial backing than they are about politics and war once again destroying all their hard work.

Mayor Vaknin told The Media Line that he had arranged for a sewage plant that was built in Ashqelon 8 years ago to be used as the prototype for a Palestinian sister-plant. "I want to give our knowledge, experience and expertise as a gift to our neighbors in order to build our peace," he said.

It seems control of the natural forces may at last be within reach, but the ability to harness and sustain good will between men remains as elusive as ever.

Obama effect hits Asian Green Energy

By: Dr. Terry Lacey

alter North, Deputy Head Mission, US Embassy to Indonesia, says the US, will back climate change and renewable energy in Indonesia and Asia.

North was speaking to the first Indonesia Clean Energy Investors Forum organized with the Private Finance Advisory Network (PFAN), showcasing its services to over 130 project developers and associates in its first public event, Thursday, in Jakarta.

Peter du Pont, PFAN team leader, announced it would focus increasing project support and financial brokering on China, Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia.

Participants welcomed that Indonesia was now a top priority for

new US support for renewable energy and climate change projects in Asia. North had said earlier this month to

the Indonesian Renewable Energy Society (METI) that the US was "back in the game" on climate change for a planet in peril.

The US House of Representatives narrowly passed the climate change bill. Obama said he was very "frank and blunt" with Mrs Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, recently in Washington, that it would take a while to turn the US into a world leader on climate change.

The House of Representatives subsequently passed the bill by only 219 votes in favor to 212 against it, with eight Republicans for and 44 Democrats against. A hard-fought but important victory for President Obama and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. North confirmed the Obama administration expects to re-jig the role of US international agencies including USAID, the Import-Export (Exim) Bank, the supporting role of the US Department of Energy (DOE), and private sector support mechanisms, to help Indonesian and Asian renewable energy developers to develop their projects.

The US hopes soon to upgrade the remit of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to work better in Indonesia. It already works well in India. North said this meeting of the PFAN network in Jakarta was an important first step.

Du Pont, based in Bangkok, but planning to do more work from Jakarta, explained that the gap between project developers and project finance was technical, presentational and conceptual. PFAN targeted projects mostly needing investments from US\$1 million to \$50 millions.

The job of PFAN "Was to identify the fruit, wash it, polish it and present it on a platter to the investors", so PFAN gave technical help to project developers on how to put their case and access funds. This was part of the Climate Technology Initiative (CTI) in cooperation with the UNFCCC Expert Group on Technology Transfer.

Eight Indonesian project developers presented their case for investment during the meeting to a board of judges, and others plan to do so in future. The judges awarded first prize for the best bid to Selo Kencana Energi with a 7.5 MW mini-hydro plant. PT Gikoko came second with a proposal to expand their landfill methane gas technology to more sites. PT Tiara Energi came third with a proposal for a 10 megawatts (MW) rice husk fueled power station in Makassar, in Sulawesi. PFAN will help these firms complete bankable proposals and mobilize funds.

The competition was judged by Dr Indra Darmawan, director of planning for agribusiness and natural resources at the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM); Niki R Joenoes, vice president and head of investment banking of PT BNI Securities; Dr Ir Arnold Soetrisnanto, head of nuclear project development at PT MedCo Power Indonesia and Dr Ir Verana J Wargadalam, coordinator of the renewable energy group at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry.

A panel of speakers discussed the barriers facing renewable energy projects in Indonesia and Asia, including the need for better adaptation of regulatory frameworks, the needs for improved power purchase agreements taking more account of appropriate risk sharing for renewable energy technologies, more incentives for green energy, and removal of subsidies on fossil fuel which hold back development of renewable energy.

Du Pont said PFAN would pursue further cooperation with the National Development Planning Agency (BAP-PENAS), the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM), the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, the state electricity utility (PLN) and other agencies, banks and private sector stakeholders, backed by a regional networking capacity, to support Indonesian renewable energy project developers. *As published in the Jakarta Post* 29.06.09

Terry Lacey is a development economist who writes from Jakarta on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic banking.

The Failed states index

It is a sobering time for the world's most fragile countries—virulent economic crisis, countless natural disasters, and government col-

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failed states demand attention might well come down to which are deemed

lapse. This year, we delve deeper than ever into just what went wrong—and who is to blame.

emen may not yet be front-page news, but it's being watched intently these days in capitals worldwide. A perfect storm of state failure is now brewing there: disappearing oil and water reserves; a mob of migrants, some allegedly with al Qaeda ties, flooding in from Somalia, the failed state next door; and a weak government increasingly unable to keep things running. Many worry Yemen is the next Afghanistan: a global problem wrapped in a failed state.

It's not just Yemen. The financial crisis was a near-death experience for insurgency-plagued Pakistan, which remains on imf life support. Cameroon has been rocked by economic contagion, which sparked riots, violence, and instability. Other countries dependent on the import and export of commodities-from Nigeria to Equatorial Guinea to Bangladesh-had a similarly rough go of it last year, suffering what economist Homi Kharas calls a "whiplash effect" as prices spiked sharply and then plummeted. All indications are that 2009 will bring little to no reprieve.

Instead, the global recession is sparking fears that multiple states could slip all at once into the ranks of the failing. Now more than ever, failed-state triage could become a grim necessity for world leaders from the United Nations and World Bank to U.S. President Barack Obama's White House. All of which puts a fine point on an old and $\frac{44}{5}$ uncomfortable dilemma: Whom do you help when so many need it?

This is a sober question for sober times, and it is the backdrop for the fifth annual Failed States Index—a collaboration between The Fund for Peace, an independent research organization, and Foreign Policy. Using 12 indicators of state cohesion and performance, compiled through a close examination of more than 30,000 publicly available sources, we ranked 177 states in order from most to least at risk of failure. The 60 most vulnerable states are listed in the rankings.

Figuring out which faltering states to help depends in large part on what they need. After all, as Tolstoy might have put it, every failing state is failing in its own way. Georgia, for example, jumped 23 places in this year's index due to a substantial spike in that elusive indicator, "Invaded by Russia." Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are failing because their governments are chronically weak to nonexistent; Zimbabwe and Burma are failing because their governments are strong enough to choke the life out of their societies. Iraq is failing, but its trajectory may be toward greater success, while Haiti is failing as well, and it is hard to imagine success around the corner.

It is also a harsh fact that a greater risk of failure is not always synonymous with greater consequences of failure. For example, Zimbabwe (No. 2 on



Disaster zone: The Gulf country of Yemen has most recently been in the news for its battles with Somali pirates, who routinely seize commercial boats off its western coast. But Yemen's problems run much deeper. Its northern and southern halves united two decades ago, but tensions between the two regions have stoked violence, including a brief civil war, ever since. Yemen is also wracked with poverty, and suffers from a 40 percent unemployment rate. The weak central government has asked the World Bank and European Union for help in stemming possible summer food shortages. Last October, fierce storms and floods destroyed part of the city of Shibam, a UNESCO World Heritage site, showing damage here. After the 2008 storm, the government declared two provinces disaster zones -- a term that could easily apply to the entire country.

the index) is technically failing more than Iraq (6), but the geopolitical implications of state failure in Iraq would be far greater than in Zimbabwe. It's why we worry more about Pakistan (10) than Guinea (9), and North Korea (17) more than the Ivory Coast (11). Then take the paradoxical case of Iran, which jumped 11 spots in the rankings this year. With an already faulty economy, a vampire state mismanaging it further, and a global recession on top of all that, it is no surprise that Iran is faltering. But the state is not

failing—indeed, it is succeeding quite well—in one rather important respect: the pursuit of nuclear weapons. And it is this "success," more than Iran's myriad failings, that keeps it above the fold of other worrying news.

Answering the question of which

to pose the biggest threat to the world at large. But even the widely presumed linkage between failing states and terrorism is less clear than many have come to assume since the Sept. 11. 2001, terrorist attacks sounded the alarm about the consequences of governments not in control of their territory. Take Somalia, once again the No. 1 failed state on this year's index. A recent report by West Point's Combating Terrorism Center, drawing on captured al Qaeda documents, revealed that Osama bin Laden's outfit had an awful experience trying to operate out of Somalia, for all the same reasons that international peacekeepers found Somalia unmanageable in the 1990s: terrible infrastructure, excessive violence and criminality, and few basic services, among other factors. In short, Somalia was too failed even for al Oaeda.

Which failed states are global security threats and which are simply tragedies for their own people? This is one question that will matter most this year of living dangerously, and there are others we present in the following pages: Which countries might blow up next? Are there pockets of success within states of failure? And who (or what) is to blame when things go bad corrupt leaders, dysfunctional societies, bad neighbors, a global recession, unfortunate history, or simply geography itself?

The Failed States Index does not provide all the answers, nor does it claim to be able to. But it is a starting point for a discussion about why states fail and what should be done about them—a discussion, sadly, that we might be having even more frequently this year.

Business



"As a result of tax cuts, Yemen's economy shall benefit " A perspective on the expectations for the new tax laws

Adel Al Ashtal is a researcher that has accumulated 10 years of experience in the investment field. He was the team leader of the Business Enterprise Development Program funded by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. He has also conducted training for young entrepreneurs in Aden and Sana'a. In the article below. He offers his opinion to the Yemen Times on the benefits of the newly proposed income tax and investment law that shall be referred to the parliament soon.

By: Adel Al-Ashtal For the Yemen Times

he Ministerial Cabinet is currently undergoing the final revision of a new income tax and investment law that reduces corporate income tax, also known as the profit tax, from 35 percent to 20 percent, and lifts most of the exemptions granted to investment projects.

The revisions are being overseen by a special committee headed by the Minister of Legal Affairs, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Justice before Ministerial Cabinet approval.

These amendments were originally proposed by the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) and Foreign Investment Advisory Services (FIAS), and they are part of



Anticipated benefits

The process is considered a tax system reform, and the overall outcome foreseen by the government of the proposed laws should benefit if the new tax and customs laws are properly implemented.

As a result of tax cuts, Yemen's economy shall benefit through increasing the tax payers compliance rate, encouraging the full disclosure of companies financial positions which leads to sound corporate governance. This is a prerequisite for companies to be listed on stock market that is planned in Yemen.

In addition, a considerable amount of money that is lost as a result of granting exemptions would be saved. Furthermore, tax cuts would reduce the corruption rate among tax



Adel Al Ashtal

administrators/collectors because it would weaken their bargaining power to ask for more bribes, and widen the tax payers base through attracting new informal firms.

A great number of the small enterprises in Yemen are operating outside of the formal sector so they don't pay taxes. Reducing tax may lure Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to pay taxes in order to enjoy the benefits having commercial licenses, the right to import and export their goods, the right to outsource labor.

They would also have peace of mind and not worry outside the law. Pulling SME's to the formal sector shall stimulate those small enterprises and contribute to economical growth.

Lifting exemption could somewhat level the playing field for the large and small enterprises since the small enterprises are denied the exemptions granted to large investments.

Securing compliance

Promotion campaign should be organized in the major cities involving all business communities, university scholars and enterprise's owners. Securing compliance shall involve raising awareness among the prospective tax payers.

To increase the compliance rate we have to guarantee tax payers equitable treatment, building confidence between tax payers and government agencies through clear procedures, uncorrupted mechanism of tax collection that limits the tax administrator freedom and prevents harassment.

Implication on vital economical sectors and support priorities

Priorities should be set for certain economical sector such as agriculture for which the new amendments should go further enough to address the implications of the new proposed law. The agriculture sector should enjoy consistent support since it is the livelihood for many Yemenis and measures should be enacted to protect it.

It should be known that our economy suffers from soured foreign competition that threatens every national product. However, agriculture continues to provide jobs for more than 30 percent of our labor force.

This should be taken into

consideration before passing such laws by the parliament and we should weigh the pros and cons of the new proposed laws to vital this economical sector.

Institutional capacity and law compliance

The capacity of concerned agencies to execute the laws is of vital importance. The problem always lies with applying and enforcing laws in an corrupt-free, efficient way, not with issuing them.

For once, more attention should be paid to the implementation of the laws to a degree that would satisfy the majority of tax payers, businessmen and investors.

This would come through adapting transparent practices, a clear management vision, and a sound institutional culture.

There are many tools that can be implemented in those agencies such as standardizing procedures, setting deadlines, establishing a monitoring system, installing new software system and finally restricting tax administrators' freedom during settlements.

of participatory Importance approach in formulating new legislations

As a perquisite for the success of any new laws participation of stakeholders, beneficiaries are stressed and frequently emphasized in the publications of many international agencies as they call for the active participation of the stakeholders, community and beneficiaries.

We wonder if those international bodies advise the concerned governmental agencies to involve, consult and share views with all those who have and had accumulated years of interaction and experience with investors in order to address their

concerns and provide appropriate legislation that provides solutions, reduce bureaucracy, simplify procedures and prevent corruption.

After all involving stakeholders shall secure future support within each agency and insure optimal compliance and obedience since all concerned parties have participating in formulating such laws.

Investor Concerns

What concerns investor during early phases is how to get started and reach the operation stage to get the breakeven point? These are problems that every investor faces during early implementation stage.

So the questions are: Are we addressing those concerns in the new laws? What kind of support can we offer at the initial stage of any investment project? Did we address the conflict between the concerned government agencies that hinder investment projects?

A favorable investment climate can only be created by dissolving the impediments such as land disputes, corruption, security, and conflicts between the concerned governmental agencies.

Most of the support sought by investors is at the early stage of project execution. In fact, any investment project that reaches operations stage in Yemen and is considered a success.

All investors can understand the limited resources of the country and the lack of infrastructure. But they cannot understand the disorder and the negligence of the concerned parties.

Facilitation means understanding investors concerns, proceeding with all measure that can tackle their problems and preventing the occurrence of such problem to future investors.

Anti-piracy center to protect business interests

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

he Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) concluded its meetings last week with a pledge to support Yemen in establishing an anti-piracy regional center in the Gulf of Aden.

"The United Arab Emirates believes that the growing threat of piracy needs a coordinated effort to preserve valuable human lives, protect the business interests of all countries, including those of the IOR-ARC members, maintain the region's competitive edge and guarantee the security of our shipping lines." Said UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Mohammed Gargash.

He also said that maritime security is an important issue as the Indian event, the Ninth Ministerial Meeting establish and an anti-piracy regional of the IOR-ARC.

He talked about the challenges piracy presents to the association because it threatens marine lines in the western Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden and south of the Red Sea. Now warships from European and Asian countries have to face piracy in their efforts to protect trade ships.

He talked about Yemen's efforts to protect marine lines, which are thwarted by pirates. He called on the international community and member states of the IOR-ARC to support Yemen in building its coastguard.

He also asked member states to help offset the cost of receiving refugees, and develop a regional center to coordinate efforts to combat piracy.

Mujawar also urged participants to establish a council for cooperation in field of marine transport, a center for technology, and a center to study the fishing industry.

center in the Gulf of Aden and other efforts to combat piracy.

He indicated that Yemen presented a project to establish centers to combat piracy in Aden , Mukalla and Hudeidah in purpose of coordinating efforts of combating piracy and directing information to ships could face pirates, affirming that Yemen depends on support of regional countries in this purpose.

The council encouraged expanding cooperation between IOR-ARC member states in various areas including investments, tourism, construction, trade, education, the environment, weather alert systems, and other issues like protecting the fishing industry in the Indian Ocean.

The association held several meetings prior to the main event, the Ninth Meeting of Council Ministers.

The first meeting was for the

VACANCY NOTICE

3 months SSA (proportional period), followed by fixed term appointment of limited duration Type: Title: Technical officer MPS Grade: NOP

Location: WHO Representative's Office, Sana'a, the Republic of Yemen

Objectives of the MPS Programme

The main objective of the current Making Pregnancy Safer (MPS) programme is to support the Population Sector/Reproductive Health Department of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, in designing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation of priority interventions and activities for Making Pregnancy Safer in Yemen. It will ensure that work is thoroughly embedded in the national health system. It also aims at establishing partnerships with other concerned sectors and promoting greater coordination within the health sector and among the various stakeholders. The incumbent will contribute to the national interventions to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality in the Republic of Yemen.

Description of duties

Under the general supervision of the WHO Representative and with technical and strategic guidance from WRH/EMRO, the incumbent will carry out the following duties:

Ocean is home to several checkpoints like the Straits of Hormuz, the Straits of Malacca, the Lombok and the Sunda Straits. He pointed out that piracy could disrupt energy flows and trade.

"Moreover, growing naval commerce means "soft" security issues such as terrorism, smuggling of narcotics, illegal arms trade and environment degradation which are also assuming importance;" he said.

"A starting point to deal with such security issues is to coordinate efforts of multi-dimensional IOR-ARC with that of maritime security-specific Indian Ocean Naval Symposium that was initiated last year," he added.

Although piracy was not highlighted in these meetings, Yemeni delegates raised the issue to get support of member states.

The purpose of the conference was to discus cultural, economic, trade and investment issues between member states, not security issues like piracy, said IOR-ARC's Executive Director Murteza Sarmadi.

But Yemeni Minister of Industry and Trade Yahya Al-Mutawakel was disappointed that piracy was not highlighted more, despite the fact that there are warships on Indian Ocean and the Arab Sea.

"This problem does not only threaten the immediate neighboring countries to the Gulf of Aden, it threatens all countries on the Indian Ocean rim," said Al-Mutawakel.

On Thursday June 25, Prime Minister Ali Mujawar opened the main

"Delaying or slowing down cooperation projects and partnerships will cost precious time to enhance cooperation and partnership," he said, calling to make Sana'a meeting an embarking point for joint work and real activation to the organization.

"This meeting... comes in a time during which the world is witnessing financial crises ravaging global economies. What is pleasing is that effects of the crisis (on our countries) are much lesser than on big industrial countries," Mujawar indicated.

"Yemen gives Gulf of Aden and Red Sea security and stability special concern in its plans to ensure easiness in marine trade activity," said Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi.

"Yemen shoulders the responsibility for protecting international maritime activities in the Arab Sea and the Gulf of Aden, combating piracy and working on restoring Somali peace and stability. These are the real solutions to piracy."

Al-Qirbi, who was handed the presidency of the Ministers Council by Iranian Foreign Minster Manouchehr Mottaki, added that piracy and its effects on international trade require the integration of regional and international efforts in order to eradicate it without affecting fishermen and legal maritime activities.

The Council of Ministers' pressrelease said member states pledged full support to a Yemeni initiative to

Movable University (an educational program designed to facilitate exchange experiences between universities in countries overlooking the Indian Ocean). Delegates from India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenva, Madagascar, Malaysia, Oman, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Yemen discussed issues of regional cooperation, lead by Chair Dr, Charandasi of India.

Delegates also discussed 2008 reports from the last meeting in Iran, amendments to the group's constitution, academic issues, cooperation between member states, natural disasters, marine transport, science, technology, protecting the environment and other issues relating to Indian Ocean.

The fifteenth meeting of IOR-ARC held on Tuesday focused on academic systems, trade and investment.

The IOR- ARC is composed of 18 states, and was established in 1997 to boost economic, scientific and cultural cooperation between states overlooking the Indian Ocean.

The Member states include Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, the Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. China, Egypt, France, Japan and the United Kingdom are dialogue partners, while the Indian Ocean Tourism Organization is an observer.

- Assist in developing, monitoring and evaluating maternal and neonatal health country activities, within the framework of the National Strategy for Reproductive health, in coordination with the concerned UN and international agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.
- 2. Help in providing technical support to the concerned national authorities for the monitoring, evaluation, and assessment of the implementation of their MPS related policies and strategies in order to ensure that the key elements of the WHO Global Strategic Directions for MPS, WHO Global Strategy for Reproductive Health and the Strategic Directions for Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in the Eastern Mediterranean Region are incorporated.
- Provide direct managerial support to the population sector in the MOPHP as required, and act as a liaison between all support units provided by other development partners and the MOPHP.
- Support drawing up the technical expertise of WHO when providing support to the local adaptation of relevant norms, standards, tools, technologies and interventions necessary to improve the country s maternal and neonatal health care, including the Integrated Management for Pregnancy and Childbirth (IMPAC)
- Aid in monitoring and following up on WHO-supported programme activities for MPS and Reproductive Health and Research to ensure their proper and timely implementation
- Attend the Reproductive Health Technical Group s meetings and other collaborative meetings and activities within Ministry of Public Health and Population, WHO and partner agencies.
- Provide proper documentation of all activities, and submit a monthly report to WR, and quarterly report to WRH/EMRO.
- Perform other related duties as requested by WHO Representative in the country: 8.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Education

University degree in Medicine, or other health-related field, with postgraduate qualification in public health. Training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology is desirable.

Competencies Generic:

- Producing results.
- Communicating in a credible and effective way
- Building and promoting partnerships across the Organization and beyond
- Ensuring the effective use of resources
- Moving forward in a changing environment 5.

Functional Skills and Knowledge:

Broad knowledge and experience in maternal and neonatal health. Skills in planning, training, monitoring, and evaluation of interventions, and in development of locally adapted tools and instruments. Good communication skills. Ability to interact with health professionals at various levels. Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a team and adapt to diverse educational and cultural backgrounds and maintain standards of personal conduct.

Experience

At least 5 years' experience at the national level in the development, implementation, and management of maternal and neonatal health issues.

Experience in writing proposals and reports are desirable

<u>Languages</u>

Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English and the local language (Arabic)

Applications should be sent to: World Health Organization , Ministry of Health building - El Hasaba Area P.O Box 543 -Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

Dead line of submission of the applications is 15/07/2009

Only candidates under serious considerations will be contacted for interview and test



Reportage / Advertisement

Ministry of Oil, BMT - Safir Services sign-treaty to protect environment



By: Mahmoud Assamiee



having database over wastes and included.





for investment.

ana'a, June 29- Yemeni Ministry of Oil and Minerals and British B M T Cordah Limited signed on Monday a treaty for protecting environment in Yemen.

The treaty, which was signed by Minister of Oil and Minerals Emir al-Aidrous and BMT's Principal Consultant Stuart Hume, stipulates on preparing policies and regulations to study and evaluate environmental effect in all productive sectors in Yemen.

The treaty includes frameworks, legal and technical legislations and policy concerning congeneral tamination resulted by oil and gas exploration. It stipulates on preparing controlling by-law and national strategy of complete management,

chemicals as well as curing waters. He added that the treaty is in line The treaty also includes evaluating current environment effects emanated from oil and gas industry, surveying and categorizing and managing accompanied chemicals and wastes to keep pace with clean product principles and industrial ecology as well as preparing and carrying out training and qualification programs in field job security and safety.

Following signing the treaty, Minister al-Aidrous stated that the treaty aims at creating complete national system to manage chemical and wastes resulted during oil and gas exploration and production and providing services consulting services in regard to carrying out environmental and social effect offshore and onshore. Preparing national

with president's directions concerning protecting environment in areas of oil and gas exploration and working on carrying out projects contribute in improving and developing local societies.

"We are her to assist the ministry of He further said, the treaty is going oil in preparing environment policies and standards to management of oil and gas industry in Yemen across the whole country. For example looking to way to manage chmical mismanage and waste mismanage so that the potential of soil contamination," BMT's Representative Stuart

What is important, he said, is any country has a national framework in environmental regulation, very clear, very concise and very affective which allow to international strategy concerning this issues also companies to look at that country

" The most exiting thing today, is the fact our company will start a long process. The treaty is the first in Yemen, and I hope this will be the start of a long relationship between BMT and the ministry of oil in Yemen," he said.

to prevent allot of pollution from occurring and is going to prepare a framework so that all oil companies can operate within the country to a high standards, international standards like those applied in GCC's countries.

"The treaty is the first types of treaties have ever been signed in the country. I talked with many people about this. We will spent along time in the future in this building across the next 6-7 months," he concluded.

Reader's View

Our dream, their reality

By: Kais Aliriani kaliriani@gmail.com

y generation is that of the 1970s. This generation was fed with the values of unity and brought up with the dream of one Arab nation. The dream was still alive, even after the death of Nasser. In 1973, the Arabs fought what was meant to be the last war with Israel. I was taught in school about the victory in the Ramadan war, and for years I believed in it.

The dream of the Arab Nation was everyone's. My parents paid little effort to let me live their dream. The Lebanon war, the Jabhah war (1980 civil conflict in Yemen), the conflicts between almost every two neighboring Arab states were little events, given the Big Dream.

But things continued to go wrong. Arab leaders were continuously disagreeing on almost everything. Every one of them was talking about the Big Dream, but all were working against it. They were different. Their dream was not their peoples'.

Finally there came a light of hope in

all the darkness around us. Finally, unity became a shared benefit and an immediate way out for the two Yemens. Suddenly, the dream was coming back. This was a miracle. The fast changing world seems to be working for our benefit. The dream of one Yemen was turning into a reality.

Suddenly, our small country is Big. We no longer needed miracles. A new modern Yemen was forming, and new dreams were forming. A new, strong and independent Yemen, an open political system, a system that respects human rights, and works for the benefits of the people: all of these things were within our grasp. We are the example, the seed for the new flourishing future of our nation.

The leaders worked it out between themselves. They divided the pie, so what? We understand. The future will be ours. These are just temporary arrangements. Things will be normalized soon, in just two years.

Two, four years and more. The war started, who is right, who is wrong... it doesn't matter. How can we protect the dream? The war is over, and our Big Yemen is still one. Our new dreams are

still in our mind. Now, maybe, is the time to work on them.

Ten, fifteen... nineteen years! Did we realize our dreams? Where are we? The picture is blur, and we are far behind! How did this happen? Who is responsible? It does not matter. Our reality is the unified Yemen, which is no longer a dream.

What is happening? The voices of separation are rising. Who are these against one Yemen? What are these new things, the dehbashi, janoubi, hadrami, the southern movement, occupation...? People are taking things to the street. Riots, clashes, blood, dead....

A new generation, the generation of the Republic of Yemen is here.

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A new generation, the generation of the Republic of Yemen is here.

Those who did not share our dream, but live its reality, are rising up. They only know the Republic of Yemen and the flag with the three colors. They lived, and are living, the Republic of Yemen. Is the system aware of them? Do we know their reality, do we know their dreams? Did we participate in forming them? Can the system deal with them?

My generation lived the dream of one Yemen. We are living the reality of one Yemen. We realized one Big Dream, but are still missing many dreams, the dream of a strong, unified Yemen, where the system participates in forming peoples' dreams, where the system helps people realize their dreams.

We ask the elder generation, and the new generation, the generation of the Republic of Yemen, to share one dream with us, the dream of one Yemen. In return, those in charge of the system will listen and understand the dreams of the people, and work with them to make them a reality. The generation of the Republic of Yemen is no longer dreaming about one Yemen. So let the elderly understand and realize this fact. We can help this generation form its dreams, but we cannot impose our old dreams on them.

Let us dream with them because they are the future!

Could we be more connected?

By: Afrah Nasser afrah.nasser@vahoo.com

nternet is the 20th century's biggest achievement. The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks which means it is essentially a network of networks. It has become crucial in our lives; everything depends on it. Therefore you have to be online all the time, even when you're asleep.

You must constantly be online which means you have to be connected all the time. Connected to whom or what for doesn't really matter. If you miss anything that's going on in the world, it means you are offline, one of the worst things that can happen to a person in the 21st century.

enormity of what one could know, hear, read, see, be part of, get involved with, witness and so on. There is a joke about Google that says someone typed in the search box, 'What's going on in the world?' and the computer blew up!

My point is that there is so much to know all at once and it is really overwhelming. I wonder what our ancestors would think about the Internet. I bet the radio was a magical thing for them, let alone being online.

Interestingly enough, Michael Jackson's death came at the right time with this entire internet craze. A legend like him deserves maximum global attention. It was mentioned on CNN's website that "Google News users experienced difficulty accessing search results for queries related to Michael

In the Internet world, it's crazy the Jackson," a Google spokesman told CNET, which also reported that Google News users complained that the service was inaccessible for a time. At its peak, Google Trends rated the Jackson story as "volcanic."

I was asleep when the Michael news was spreading. My sister desperately wanted me to know but she didn't want to wake me. She had to wait until the next day, but that was really painful for her. She truly wished that there was some kind of service that would enable her to send me an SMS or an email to my dreams without disturbing my sleep!

As funny it may sound, that's our generation's spirit. We have to have information immediately at any price. Our biggest demons are to be offline, yet we are online with closed eyes.



To speak not, but to do

By: Firas Mohammed Abu-Mustafa firas.ram@hotmail.com

Words are actions, as long as they are kept in

To release them, then it would be difficult No need to be a superman - nor to be a PHENOMENON Though, all in your lungs - you just

breathe them out.

From A to Z and further - power is in you When sleeping or waking, being happy

or sad, When sitting or standing, being lonely or alone

Determination we sing which is born, but not fed or grown

Thus, it might be fed by a memory, a tear, or a person. By a song, a smile, a dream, or a scene Perhaps by all, from things you already have got

Is fed by you, by me, or by them.

None is stronger, none is the strongest But here above and there is in – you own the ultimate power Here I am the strength that makes you so Motivating speech, people need to be enlightened

Here is a push, here are you, Here you start, and here you go

Through The **Mind'S** Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy *majed_thabet@hotmail.com*



ummer vacation has arrived. There is no more homework or university lectures. Some parents take an advantage of this by making their children help them at work. Others force their children to work elsewhere. Parents want their children to experience life's difficulties, and to earn money. The idea sounds good, but there must be time for everything.

A child 10-years-old or younger should enjoy childhood. He can work for the sake of learning new things, developing skills, and meeting and interacting with new people. He must, however, have time for playing, watching TV, participating in summer camps, and other summer activities.

Children grow fast, and sooner or later they will have to work. Then, there will be not time these activities, which benefit children mentally, psychologically and physically.

Playing helps children to practice physical skills and sports. It activates their creative mind and awakens their intellectual capabilities. It encourages them to compete with each other.

A child, even a young one, may work. But he does so without any interest. He loses interest in work if he sees friends, or neighbors' children playing and enjoying their summer vacations.

He may continue working, especially if he is forced to, or if he is in need. But work for him is an obligation. Obligations can disturb personal development in children ages 10 to 15.

If a child as to work because of circumstances, he is never free. He is ordered around and this inhibits his ability to think creatively. He then grows up to be machine-like, and does what is asked to do regardless of whether or not it is right.

This has a negative impact on the child's future work, relationships, and personal behaviors.

Children who work at a young age also have to deal people that may influence them badly. Some children, for example, start chewing qat, smoking, or abusing others.

Working all summer has a detrimental effect on the education of children. They do not review what they have learned. Consequently, they forget most, if not all, of their lessons.

Summer work also turns children's thoughts away from education and towards money. Then in the fall, they hesitate to go back to school because of financial interests.

But parents can enhance their children's educations by planning suitable summer activities.

Children can attend summer camps, which are designed to suit the age and the interests of the participants and offer a broad range of activities. They can also go to training centers that offer courses in different fields. Some centers, for example, hold courses in tailoring, needlework, and cooking. Courses in computers and languages at other centers also enhance children's studies.

Parents must look for a better tomorrow for their children. It benefits the children and the parents. The matter does not need a lot of thinking or mathematical equations. It is easily settled in the mind's eye.

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





By: Hameed Hussein Al-awdi auditechno@yahoo.com

he tragic incident of kidnapping that resulted in the murder of some foreigners in Sa'ada shocked people all over the country and throughout the world. However, what is more shocking is that it was neither the first incident of its kind, nor will it be the last. As long as no change happens, the issue of kidnapping will remain, and what comes next might be worse and even more tragic.

No one can argue about how heinous the most recent incident was. However, anyone can argue a lot about the causes behind such an incident and the consequences which are to follow if no practical or decisive procedures are undertaken. This country needs procedures capable of eradicating the roots of this phenomenon and wiping it out completely.

In fact, kidnapping - however it ends - represents a threat to the stability, security and prosperity of our homeland and its people. With so many problems and difficulties facing the nation and menacing its future sustenance and existence, kidnapping arouses the most attention. This is not only because it is sensational news but because it negatively affects many other spheres of life in both the shortterm and the long-term. It is enough for us to know that it threatens some of the few promising potentials we look forward to in the future: tourism and investment.

When I referred to the incident above and the phenomenon of kidnapping in general, we can look at it in terms of both comedy and tragedy. It is a tragedy when we consider the consequences and impacts resulting from the phenomenon. It is a tragedy because of the lives of people that are lost due to some ill-mannered criminals who enjoy the bloodshed and sufferings of others. It is a tragedy because the longterm effects are beyond those criminals' minds abilities to comprehend. It is a tragedy because a few culprits violate and defame the noble and sublime ethics so deeply rooted in the customs of a whole nation, and thus we are all judged in terms of the acts of a few. It is a tragedy because of many other reasons that all of us know - or should know

On the other hand, it can be looked at as a comedy as well. It is a comedy because many similar incidents happen from time to time, but each time we fail to prevent them. It is a comedy since many of those who immediately condemn and protest such acts have, at one time or another in one way or another, been involved in similar acts. It is a comedy because the reactions and protests, particularly from the official bodies, prominent figures and sheikhs, have remained the same since the first few incidents, and today signify nothing. It is a comedy since we often prefer to be merely spectators rather than active players. It is a comedy since the government rewards those criminals and at the same time asks them not to do it again.

It is a comedy, and a tragedy at the same time, since the best among our officials, sheikhs - and even the president - act as mediators in such incidents.

The plot of our play - whether a comedy or a tragedy - starts when criminal operations, such as kidnapping, are carried out by outlaws. This is the first act. For the second act, the crimes turn into something much worse, such as the murder of hostages. The third act involves this behavior spreading and materializing through odd and improper doings by misled individuals or groups. The final act shows that this behavior has become a very bad and destructive phenomenon representing a terrible threat capable of damaging and destroying everything. Once it becomes a phenomenon, the order of these acts can be reversed for the play's sequels.

Thus, such a play - comedy or tragedy - will reach its climax when the audience is stunned with the heedless actors playing on the stage, paying no attention to the way they are performing. The climax of our play is always either comic or tragic: comic when the criminals are rewarded for their illegal acts, or tragic when the hostages, possibly even children, are kept for weeks or months at the mercy of the culprits as their sufferings are clearly displayed. The most tragic is when the reward comes late. Here, the criminals waste no time, and what comes next will be what we have seen a few weeks ago.

What is well-acknowledged by all is that the absence of law enforcement plays a fundamental role in this regard. It encourages these criminals to perform their acts under the pretext of different evils. The weakness and corruption featured by our government helps

2 July 2009

ا عــم

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الكمبيوتر والإنترنيت – خبرة سنة في العمل المكتبى وسنة في التدريس – يرغب في العمل في صنعاء أو تعز

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٨٠٣١٩٤





• وسيم حسن – بکالوريوس هندسة كمبيوتر – جامعة حلب - سوريا - مهندس نظم تشغيل وشبكات - معتمد من شركة مايكروسوفت – حاصل على شهادات ميكروسوفت التالية: - MCP MCSE جيد جداً في اللغة الإنجليزية للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧١٤٦٦٢ • بكالوريوس محاسبة – حامعة صنعاء– دبلوم سکر تا ریة کمبیو تر – النظام المحاسبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت) خبرة في الحسابات للتواصل: ٧٧١٩٩٧٥٢٦ والمراجعة والإدارة للتواصل: ٧٣٣٠٧٩٨٨٢ • بكالوريوس هندسة كمبيوتر - دبلوم برمجة حاسوب – فلسطيني الجنسية – خبرة عشر سنوات فی تدریس دورات كمبيوتر - خبرة التواصل: ٧١٢٠١٣٧٩٣ فى إدارة المعاهد – يرغب في العمل في المعاهد.

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باسم محمد عبده الشيباني Basem M.A. ALshaibani

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مستشفيات

ستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٢٤٦٩٦٧-٦٦ المستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٢٨٦/٨٧ ت: ۱۱۲۹۸۱ -۱۰ مستشفى حدة الأهلى ت: ۲۰۰۲۰۰۲/۱۰۲۰۰۸ لمستشفى الالمانى الحديث فاکس: ٤١٨١١٦

E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

فندق فرساي ت: ٢ /٢/٧٠٩٧٠ - ١٠ ت: ۲۳۷۵۰۰ -۱۰ فنق شيراتون فندق موفمىك ت: ٥٤٦٦٦٦ - ١٠ فاكس: ٥٤٦٠٠٠ ت:۲۷۲۳۷۲ -۱۰ فندق سبأ فندق ریلاکس ان ت: ٤٤٩٨٧١ -٠١ فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي

– اللون اسود – دفع رباعى – العداد ٢٥٠٠٠ كم – الحالة ممتازة. السعر: مغرى جدا E V T 9 T V للإ ستفسا ر ///\٩/٩٦١ عقارات أثاث – کمبيو ترات



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البنوك

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للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال عل

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الإطفاء ١٩١، طوارىء المياه ١٧١،

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تأجير سيارات

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مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

آبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر(تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) مهادة ايزو ١. صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٦٨٣٠٥ فاکس : ٤٠٧٤١٩ - ٠١ عدن ت: ۲۰۰-۲۳۷۱۹۹ تعز ت: ۲۵۰۳٤۳-۶۰ المكلاء ت: ۳۰۷٤۹۲-۰۰

Infinit Education T:444553 ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣ NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر

البريد السريع FedEx صنعاء ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٢٢٨/٢٣٠ عدن ت ۲٤٥٦٢٦ الحديده ت: ٢٢٦٩٧٥/٤ ت: ٤١١٩٨٨ المكلات: ۳۰۲٦٤١

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مكاتب ترجمة

الشهاب لخدمات الترجمة:(عربي- إنجليزي)(إنجليزي - عربي) تلفون: ۷۷۷۷٦۲۲۰۲ أو ۷۳۳۰۰۸٦۸۲ - فاكس:۰۱/٤۲۰٦٥٧ الميا: sts.vemen@gmail.com

معاهد

معهد يالي ت: ٤٤٨٠٣٩/ ٤٤٥٤٨٢ فاكس:٤٤٨٠٣٧ معمد اللغة الألمانيه ت: ۲۰۰۹٤٥ المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢ فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥ معهد کاروکوس ت: ٥٣٢٤٣٤/٥ فاکس: ٥٣٢٤٣٦ معهدأبكتك ت: ۲۲۰۸۳۳ - ۵۱۰۶۱۳ فاكس: ۲٦٥٥٣٧

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الوطنية للتأمين ت :۲۷۲۹۲۴/۲۷۲۸۷۳ فاكس:۲۷۲۹۲٤ K. 71 K9/A/18 مأرب للتأمين الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعاء ت: ۲۸٤۱۹۳، مدن ت: ۲٤٤٢٨٠ تعز ت: ۲٥٨٨٨١ شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٧٢٨٠٦/٢٧٢٩٦٢/٤٣ عدن ت: ۲٤٧٦١٧ تعز ت: ۲۵۰۳٤٥

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سفريات

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مطاعم

مطعم ومخبازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني) تلفون : ۲٦٦٣٧٥ – ٢٩، ٥٠٥ فاكس : ٢٦٧٦١٩

للإعلان في هذه الصفحة يرجى الإتصال على الرقم التالي 268661 /01 وإرسال الإعلانات المجانية على فاكس/268276





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US Ambassador visits Dar Al-Salam

By: Amira Al-Sharif For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 1 – US Ambassador to Yemen, Steven Seche, was impressed when he paid a visit to Dar Al-Salam Organization yesterday, where he was exposed to many successful programs implemented by the organization.

Dar Al-Salam members said the visit will help them carry out our future goals in Yemen and gulf countries, as well as cement the infrastructure of the organization. victims of armed conflict.

'The organization has lost 30 of its members in the line of service and several have been injured while performing humanitarian duties. Their sacrifice has earned them respect and the trust of local and international communities," Al-Marwani said. "The general aim of the organization is to combat armed violence and put an end to the growing culture of religious extremism brought to the community." Through field work and education,

Dar Al-Salam aims help communities

It also encourages the community leaders and women to participate in various activities. It also targets mosques, schools, common facilities and tries to bring a new message into every house in Yemen. It connects the educational effort with public rallies, which demand national laws to put an end to problems," Al-Marwani said

'The organization planned 22 public rallies against arms violence and extremism in several governorates, representing a shift in the community to supporting the organization's message," Al-Marwani added.

"The general strategy consists of 29 programs to be implemented during the coming five years to limit and minimize the flow of weapons, violence and extremism in tribal society and to enhance the national policy which aims to minimize their impacts from 2009 to 2013," he added.

"Regarding existence of weapons, although there are no national or international studies but we estimate that the number weapons in hands of civilian people in Yemen are 60 million," Al-Marwani concluded.







Members of Dar Al-Salam showcase the tribal agreement which is signed by 260 tribes and promises not to shoot firearms during the different social occasions.

"We in the American Embassy appreciate the efforts of Dar Salam," Seche said. "We are also impressed with their dialogue on religious tolerance and combating illegal weaponry."

He examined the Yemeni Consensus Document Against Violence which the organization convinced 260 tribes to sign.

"They have already collected the signatures, but are still waiting for implementation," Abdul Rahman Al-Marwani, the chairman of Dar Al-Salam Organization said.

The goals of the agreement include combating violence, bringing murderers to justice, and reducing the incidence of gunfire. They hope to be achieved through cooperation with sheiks, local government and educated elites in five governorates. The agreement is expected to be expanded throughout Yemen.

Dar Al-Salam, which means the House of Peace, was founded in 1997 and recognized officially by the government in 2002. By 2009, the organization had 3400 members.

The organization was founded in order to address five major issues. They include mediation to solve tribal armed conflicts, and combating kidnapping crimes, religious extremism, the spread of small arms among civilians and supporting channel their resources towards development instead of buying arms. It also aims to usher the community into a new era free of hostility, revenge, bigotry, fears and promote tolerance, trust and social partnership

"The organization encourages local, regional and international donors to support the projects and the programs.

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"Other studies cite between 15 and 18 million weapons in hands of civilians. Despite the exaggerations, we should admit the extent of the problem," he said.

The organization selected the governorate with the most weapons, which is Dhamar. There they further narrowed their study to three districts Al-Hada, Anis, and Wesab.

From the results of the study comparisons and recommendation will be made that can further address the issue. Pressure Relief Vaves & Safetiy Valves



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