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**Inside:**   **2** Vague circumstances surrounding disappearance of Jewish bride  **5** Legal procedures on conducting marriages in Yemen  **8** Yemen has lost billions of dollars, say businessmen

## Yemenia Air not on EU aviation "blacklist"

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, July 15 — Further attesting to the safety of the national carrier, Yemenia Air was not included in the European Commission's (EU) aviation blacklist released Tuesday. The list is used to identify carriers banned from flying to the 27-nation bloc.

"Of course we are not on that list. It's a crime to even consider putting us on it," said Fahd Al-Ariki, director of Yemenia Air in Sana'a.

On June 30, an Airbus A310 operated by Yemenia Air reportedly crashed and was possibly shot down by French forces operating in the Indian Ocean. The accident killed 153 passengers, leaving a sole survivor.

Although the cause of the accident remains unknown, speculation as to Yemenia Air's inclusion in the blacklist arose after the French Transport minister's immediate response to the June 30 Yemenia Air crash. He pointed to a lapse of security with the national carrier.

The list was released the same day that Yemenia Air, acting in good faith, chartered almost 200 relatives of the 153 victims killed in the June 30 accident free of charge from Paris to Moroni, the capital of the Comoros Islands.

Wreckage near the coasts of Tanzania and Kenya and at least 22 dead bodies have been recovered. The bodies are in French custody and have yet to be DNA tested to determine identities, and if indeed they were passengers of the doomed plane.

EU Transport Commissioner Antonio Tajani said last week that an airline should only be placed on the list in response to concrete safety lapses and not on the basis of a single accident.

"It's not one accident that determines whether or not an airline is on the blacklist," he said. "If it has to do with the weather, you can't put the sky on the blacklist."

Published in the Official Journal of the European Union, the list is the 11th update of the blacklist since it was created in March 2006.

The list is made up of airlines from Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, North Korea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Ukraine and Zambia.

Four Indonesian carriers were taken off the blacklist because they now meet the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The list, updated at least four times a

year, is based on deficiencies found during checks when planes land at European airports, as well as on shortcomings discovered by non-EU airline regulators.

### Protests in Yemen continue

Hundreds of members of civil society organizations as well as Yemenia Airways' employees held a demonstration on Tuesday in front of the cabinet and delivered a letter to Prime Minister Ali Mujawar, demanding an unbiased and transparent investigation as to the cause of the crash. They demanded that an international team be formed.

Among the protestors was director Fahd Al-Ariki who said, "We are asking that the transport minister and prime minister do more than what they are doing. They urgently need to use political and economical pressure on the French government.

"It's a national airline and it needs more support. We asked the government to show more responsibility," Al-Ariki added.

Last week's protest had taken place in front of the French embassy. Protestors had accused French authorities of an attempted cover-up by removing Yemeni and Comoran officials from access to the suspected crash site.

"Bodies have been found very far from the crash site, near Tanzania, which could mean that the plane exploded in the air," Al-Ariki stated. "However, we need to investigate."

Protestors also accused French forces of mistakenly shooting down the carrier, citing the location of a French Naval Base in the Indian Ocean as proof. French President Nicolas Sarkozy also formally opened a French military base in the United Arab Emirates in May.

### Debris and bodies found

Kenyan authorities found pieces of the Yemeni jetliner off Mombasa, according to the Committee on Monitoring Civil Aviation Accidents, as reported on Monday. Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya and is located on the Indian Ocean coast.

According to The Standard, a Kenyan newspaper, the debris from the airliner recovered in Mombasa was from the door of a toilet and bore inscriptions in English and Arabic.

Last week, Tanzania was also drawn into the investigations after eight bodies, believed to be of passengers of the ill-fated plane, were found close to Mafia Island, as reported by the Citizen newspaper of Tanzania.

"They found a few pieces [of the plane] and even bodies," confirmed

Al-Ariki. "However, French authorities have so far refused to perform DNA tests on the bodies found [in Tanzania]. They are not even giving any explanations."

French investigators have reportedly concluded that the black boxes, the plane's cockpit voice and flight data recorders, lie in waters too deep for divers, requiring specialized robots to bring them up to the surface.

"They decided to postpone retrieving the black boxes from July 12 to July 17 without even giving any reason for the delay," Al-Ariki said.

"The Yemeni team of investigators was not allowed to cooperate in the investigation. Even the Comoran officials were not allowed to help. Our team came back disappointed," he added.

"France has not shown much cooperation in finding facts about the crash of the jetliner, refusing to conduct DNA tests on the discovered bodies and delaying the retrieval of the black boxes," said chairman of the board of directors of Yemenia Airways Abdul Khaliq Al-Qadhi, according to the Yemeni state-run news agency.

"France is not cooperating as it should," Al-Ariki noted.

### Airbus and weather concerns

With two ocean crashes in one month and no recorders found, Airbus, a European Aeronautic Defense and Space (EADS) company subsidiary, is under considerable pressure to provide answers.

Weather conditions coincided with both of the Airbus plane crashes last month, giving rise to concerns that the planes may not be air worthy under certain conditions, according to the London-based International Federation of Air Line Pilots Association (IFALPA), a group of over 100,000 pilots.

Yemenia Air crashed with reports of strong winds being recorded at the time of the crash. According to Yemen's Minister of Transport Khalid Ibrahim Al-Wazir, winds were gusting up to 60 km/h in the vicinity of the airport in Moroni.

The crash follows the loss of an Air France Airbus A330 earlier this month in the Atlantic when severe thunderstorms were reported.

Air France Flight 447 en route from Rio de Janeiro to Paris crashed in the Atlantic on June 1, killing all 228 people on board.

IFALPA, a well-respected group whose members are very familiar with airports around the world, made the claim in its daily newsletter on Tuesday.



The Yemenia Air crash on July 30 was the first in the company's 50 year history.



Protesters demanded transparent and unbiased investigations during a peaceful protest in front of the cabinet.

A total of 640 pieces of debris from Air France Flight 447 have been shipped from Brazil to France for further studies, according to Airbus.

The cause of the crashes remains unknown and the black boxes, which are actually painted orange in order to be more easily located, of both carriers remain to be found.

"The truth can't be hidden, even if the government wants to hide it.

Media, public opinion and opposition [in France] will bring out the truth. Even the international insurance company is putting pressure on the French government," said Al-Ariki.

"The truth will eventually come out," he added.

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## UNHCR seeks access to non-Somali detainees

By: Heather Murdock

SANA'A, July 15 — In the past month, a group of travelers, believed to be Sudanese, have been held in Yemeni prisons in Amran, Hudeida, and Sana'a. Their numbers have grown from about 135 to more than 300, according to Mohammad Adam, the Sudanese ambassador.

"We are currently trying to determine whether or not all of them are even from Sudan," the ambassador said.

Yemen hosts more than 154,000 legal refugees, according to the latest United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees statistics.

This number includes the about 50,000 people who survived the trip across the Gulf of Aden in 2008-70 percent more than the year before. Over 1,300 died or went missing during the trip.

These numbers do not include people, like the Sudanese detainees, that made it to Yemen and were arrested on arrival for illegal immigration.

The group, which includes women and children, has been detained since their arrival in Yemen at the beginning of June.

The UNHCR office said they are potentially refugees who should be interviewed in order to determine their status under international law.

The Yemeni government says they are illegal immigrants, seeking economic opportunities, and not refugees looking for safety.

The Sudanese ambassador said the travelers were misled by smugglers

who told them they could find jobs in Saudi Arabia.

"They all want to go back," he said.

### Controversial immigrants

Najla H.Othman, a Sudanese resident of Yemen said she believes the detained travelers were captured in Yemen on their way to seek jobs in Saudi Arabia.

Regardless, she said, they should be granted UNHCR interviews as a matter of principle.

"They are unlucky because they arrived in Yemen," she said.

Yemen is a signatory to the two international refugee treaties- the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. As a result, the country is required to allow the international organization to interview immigrants seeking legal refugee status.

Refugees, according to the treaties, are people who left their home countries because they have a "well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

And as refugees, they are entitled to specific rights in the countries they resettle in, like access to public education and courts, and the right to work and own property.

They are also legally protected from "refoulement," which is the forcible return to the country they left to escape persecution.

According to the UNHCR, the detained Sudanese could be fleeing persecution in their country, but the gov-

ernment has denied the organization access, so their status remains undetermined.

When asked why the UNHCR is not permitted to interview the detainees, Ali M. Al-Ayashi, the Deputy Minister for Arabic, African and Asian Affairs said, "Regarding that nobody can answer you."

He said many people come to Yemen and claim that they are refugees, when they are actually looking for jobs in Yemen, or passing through Yemen to a third country for economic opportunities.

Hosting economic immigrants along with Yemen's already massive influx of refugees is more than the nation can bear, according to Al-Ayashi.

"Yemen is becoming a victim to other phenomenon coming from other countries," he said.

Yemen is the only country on the Arabian Peninsula that is party to the refugee conventions, and it also gives automatic refugee status to Somalis.

As a result, large numbers of refugees arrive each year. He said they weaken the country's political stability, economy, and tax its healthcare and criminal justice systems.

International organizations and donor countries help the refugees inside Yemen, but they do not do nearly enough to help Yemen address the problems caused by the influx of refugees, he said.

"One country cannot take the responsibility for this problem," he added. As a result, Yemen is left to bear the brunt of what he said is an internation-

al problem, originating in the Horn of Africa.

### Difficulties for non-Somali migrants

When people come to Yemen seeking asylum they are supposed to be either granted refugee status because they are Somali, or they are interviewed by the UNHCR to determine their status.

If the UNHCR decides they are refugees, they are resettled in Yemen or a third country. If it determines they are not refugees, they are sent home.

But many non-Somali immigrants, like the 300-plus Sudanese, currently detained and awaiting deportation, in Yemeni prisons are not given the chance to make their case to the UNHCR.

According to UNHCR External Relations Officer Andrew Knight, the currently detained Sudanese are "persons of concern," and said the UNHCR is actively seeking access to them.

This issue is not new, he said, and gaining access to non-Somali immigrants in Yemeni prisons is a continuous struggle for the organization.

"We've been trying to get access, but the government is not allowing us," he said.

The organization also struggles with government policy of arresting non-Somali immigrants upon arrival, "with an aim to deportation," according to the 2008 UNHCR Country/Regional Report.

### The policy of deportation

Ethiopians and Eritreans, two of the largest groups of non-Somali asylum

seekers in Yemen, have born the brunt of this policy.

Yemen deported 290 Ethiopians last year, according to the 2009 World Refugee Survey, which is published on the UNHCR Web site and "regularly detained Ethiopian arrivals, and blocked UNHCR access to them."

The Ethiopian Ambassador declined comment, and a representative of the Eritrean Embassy said they don't know how many of their nationals are detained in Yemen.

The Passport and Immigration Authority also declined to say how many people are detained in Yemen, awaiting deportation.

Amnesty International said Yemen deported 1,300 asylum seekers last year in their 2009 report. But the report cited "government statistics," and did not say if that included migrants deported without a UNHCR status evaluation.

### New government department

In February 2008, the Yemeni government told the UN news outlet, Integrated Regional Information Network that it was drafting a new law that would help Yemen conform with international law.

"There is a need to show how someone who has been persecuted in his country should be treated," Sulaiman Tabrizi, head of the rights ministry's International Organizations Department told IRIN. "In some cases, refugees are not treated in accordance with the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol."

But Ali Ahmed Shaglah, the manager of the Deputy Minister for Arabic and African and Asian Affairs office said he does not believe the law has been presented for a vote.

Last month the government did announce it was establishing a department of refugee affairs, a move which should help Yemen "provide shelter to refugees, offer protection, care and supervision," according to a UNHCR June 2009 report.

"The UNHCR is very happy about it," said Knight. "We are hoping to work more closely with the government on issues such as detention."

### Detainees prepare for departure

For the Sudanese presently detained, however, their journey to Yemen is coming to a close, according to the Sudanese ambassador.

About 20 have been sent tickets back to Sudan by their families, he said.

The rest are being interviewed by the embassy to establish that they are Sudanese, and arrangements are being made for their deportation.

Three of the travelers have died along the way. One was shot in the head by a Yemeni guard and later died in an area hospital.

Smugglers continue to land on Yemen's shores for about USD 150 per person.

And people will continue to pay for the trip, despite the risk of death or deportation.

"Smuggling people for money," he said, "has been going on a long time."

## Vague circumstances surround disappearance of Jewish bride

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, July 15 – Dozens of Yemeni Jewish citizens from Sa'ada and Amran staged a sit-in in front of the cabinet last Tuesday in protest against the negative stand of the Ministry of Interior toward the kidnapping of Layyah Saed Hamdi Al-Na'eti.

Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Mujawwar assigned a representative to meet a number of Jewish citizens. The Jews gave the representative two copies of a petition that addressed both the prime minister and the attorney general complaining about the stand of the Ministry of Interior and the guards of Tourist City where they live.

They demanded an urgent investigation into the disappearance of Layyah, 16, and the arrest of those responsible for her "kidnapping". Layyah vanished from her husband's house a week after their wedding.

The protestors further demanded that the culprits hand over the girl as well as the jewelry and money that were in her possession. They stated that the money and jewelry belong to her husband Haroon Salem, 18, of Sa'ada.

There were contradictory news reports about whether Layyah Al-



Rabbi, the husband and the father talking to the media during the sit in

Na'eti was kidnapped or whether she ran away from her husband's last Tuesday of her own accord.

However, reports from the Jewish community confirmed that Abdul Rahman Mohammed Hizam Al-

Hadiqi, a Muslim young man, was accused of kidnapping her. Al-Hadiqi was seen during her wedding party accompanied by a number of his female relatives. Reports said that he took her from the Kharef area of

Amran to the residence of her husband Haroon during her wedding ceremony.

"So far, I have no idea about the fate of my daughter," said Layyah's father who attended the sit-in. "However I heard rumors that she embraced Islam a few days after she was kidnapped and that the judiciary of Amran agreed to marry her to the kidnapper Al-Hadiqi, who is from the Kharef area in Amran."

The Jewish community said that they doubt the news that Layyah embraced Islam, demanding that "a neutral judicial and security committee be formed to investigate the incident and stop any attempt to marry her to another man."

Layyah's husband Haroon Salem grievously narrated to media outlets the circumstances of her disappearance. "During the first week of our marriage, she said that she was menstruating and that I had to wait [to consummate our marriage]," he said. "After one week exactly, on Tuesday evening, she said that she would go to wash and come back. I waited for her impatiently but she never came back to our bedroom. I went to the bathroom to tell her to hurry up but saw nobody. This was on Wednesday at 1:30 in the morning. I

looked for her with relatives in the neighboring apartments but I didn't find her. I rushed out to search for her at the main entry to the city but guards told me that she left accompanied by a number of tribal men. These guards didn't say whether Layyah went out to them or whether the kidnappers were inside the city."

Around 64 members of the Yemeni Jewish community who left their homes in Sa'ada during the war live in the Tourist Residential City in Sana'a. The city is surrounded by a wall is guarded around the clock. It has only one gate and only people who are licensed can enter.

For his part, Rabbi Yahya Yusuf told the Yemen Times that "kidnapper Abdul Rahman Al-Hadiqi is the son of a rich contractor. He has married two Muslim women and has a number of children." Yusuf explained that Al-Hadiqi exploited the poverty and weakness of the Jewish community to commit this crime, and that the state should protect its citizens. "Al-Hadiqi didn't pay any regard to legislation, celestial religions or customs that ban the violation of people's sanctity regardless of their religion or color," said the Rabbi.

"We hold the judiciary and security responsible for negligence with regard to protecting us and maintaining our dignity as Yemeni citizens, not to mention the humiliation that will befall us due to this disgraceful act," added Yusuf. "We demand that the government guarantee our rights completely, first as citizens and second as 'People of the Book' that Islam guaranteed to the Jewish people since its advent 1,430 years ago.

"We demand that civil society organizations and human rights organizations stand with us and with justice and right, and use only one standard in dealing with such issues," Yusuf continued. "A Muslim or non-Muslim Yemeni citizen can never accept such an act against their daughters, relatives or girls from their tribe."

Layyah's husband held the security guards partially responsible for the incident and accused them of collusion as they allowed a group of people to kidnap his wife at a time when entering or going out of the city is not allowed unless a valid reason is given.

If a Jewish woman marries a Muslim man, members of the Jewish community consider her dead and receive condolences.

## Yemeni rural women paralyzed by law and tribal norms

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, July 15 — The Yemeni national legal framework contains gender inequalities that bar rural female agricultural workers from accessing resources and entrepreneurship, according to a recent report from the International Labor Organization (ILO).

As stated in the report, 88 percent of women in Yemen work in the agricultural sector, mostly as informal unpaid workers. As traditional livelihood systems decline, women are becoming increasingly marginalized across the country.

The ILO's report highlighted many aspects that prevent Yemeni women from obtaining decent work, particularly in terms of freedom, equity and security, within the agriculture sector in Yemen. Agriculture is the second largest sector after oil for government revenue and accounts for 20 percent of Yemen's GDP.

The report considered tribal norms and legal inequity to be the main obstacles facing women in rural areas.

The report mentioned that Yemen's personal status law limits the civil liberties of rural women whose freedom of movement is dependent on permission from their husbands or guardians if they want to leave home to travel. This restricts their ability to move freely to sell their products, go to

banks, open bank accounts, register businesses and engage in self-employment.

Although the Yemeni Labor Law and Civil Service Law prohibits gender discrimination in wages, salaries, promotions and working conditions, most rural women producers live too far from authorities that can guarantee them legal protection.

According to both Yemeni inheritance law and Yemeni state law, female heirs inherit half of what male heirs inherit. "Consequently, these laws restrict women's access to land, leaving them landless and significantly disadvantaging rural women's access to resources and entrepreneurship," as stated in the report.

In addition, in some tribal areas and due to the domination of tribal law, women do not inherit any land at all. The report noted that Yemeni women often are either unaware of their legal rights or do not claim them because of social pressure and shame. "The governorates of Imran, Hajja, Mahweet, Shabwa, Marib and Al-Jawf are mainly ruled by tribal customary law that obstructs rural women's access to resources and entrepreneurship. Hence, the enforcement of state law in these governorates is needed," recommended the report.

Although rural women agricultural workers comprise the majority of the

agricultural labor force, most of them are not paid for their labor. Consequently these women are generally invisible and are discriminated against through stereotypes that reduce them to a reproductive role, denying them access to resources that would enhance their social and economic contributions.

Yemeni rural women suffer from discrimination and inequality within the legal and governmental framework as well. For example, the few women-only cooperatives that exist in Yemen receive less financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture than do men-only and mixed cooperatives.

The majority of the cooperatives in Yemen are men-only or mixed cooperatives in which there is little managerial participation by rural women producers due to male domination that is reinforced by culture and tradition, according to the report. Of 427 cooperatives registered with the Agricultural Cooperatives Union, only ten are women-only. None of these women-only cooperatives are currently active due to a lack of resources and management skills, limited government support, corruption and marketing challenges.

Yemeni cooperative law stipulates that a minimum capital input of YR 500,000 is needed to establish women's cooperatives, which is less than what is required for men-only

cooperatives. "It is nevertheless too much for poor rural women to raise, which is yet another obstacle to their entrepreneurship," said the report.

In addition, women's access to membership in farmers' associations and cooperatives is limited by requirements for loans, proof of credit and collateral, and by restrictions on their mobility since most financial services are based in cities.

Inside the Ministry of Agriculture, its policies and staff structure reflect gender inequality as well. "Of its 21 directorates, only three are run by women and of its total 12,300 staff, only 1,500 are women," stated the report. "There are no women participants in its decision-making bodies; its main decision-making council has three members and all are men." The report added that the ministry urgently needs to revise its structure, human resources policies, monitoring and evaluation systems, and its decision-making body to actualize its stated commitment to gender equality within the ministry.

The ILO report made several recommendations to adjust this issue. Among the first was that female rural agricultural workers must be educated as to their legal rights, particularly regarding their inheritance rights, the personal status law, property and ownership rights, the labor law and the cooperative law. In order to do this,



88 percent of women in Yemen work in the agricultural sector, mostly as informal unpaid workers

workshops should be implemented throughout rural areas. In addition, relevant laws about inheritance and personal status should be reformed in order to reflect gender equality and to provide actual benefits to rural women.

Awareness must also be raised among rural female agricultural workers regarding how to access financial and credit services. Current existing restrictions on access to credit, savings and deposits limit women's

efforts to initiate or expand income-generating activities, making it difficult for the uneducated to even open a bank account. Thus, banks and other financial services should be encouraged to provide suitable credit services and establish less complicated lending procedures. Rural women agricultural workers should also be encouraged to work together to build their own indigenous savings and credit associations.



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# Legal procedures on conducting marriages in Yemen

**A**bdulkarim Naji Al-Mawti is one of the respected marriage officials in Sana'a. He has graduated from Sana'a University from Law College and has been practicing conducting marriage contracts since 1995. Mohammed bin Sallam interviewed him on Yemeni rules and regulations regarding marriage certificates and procedures.



Abdulkarim Naji Al-Mawti

**What are the conditions of selecting an amin [marriage official], or person who conducts the marriage ceremony, and should he be trained periodically in case of any recent developments?**

The conditions of selecting amins consist of the following:

- 1- Must be a Yemeni national.
- 2- Must be completely eligible and free from handicaps that affect practicing the amin profession.
- 3- Shouldn't be younger than 25 or more than 70 years old.
- 4- Must have a strong command of reading, writing and good handwriting.
- 5- Must be acquainted with laws related to legislative procedures.
- 6- Must be just, honest, well-mannered, have a good reputation and committed to Islamic rituals.
- 7- Must be free from any convictions of committing a crime of dishonor or dishonesty.
- 8- Must be elected by people of the neighborhood where he wants to practice the profession and also be accredited by the specialized court (Registry Documentation).
- 9- Must pass the exam of practicing the profession.
- 10- In case of competition for the profession, priority should be given to the more qualified person according to documentation law.

There is no periodical training for amins although it is of utmost importance that they cope with local and

international changes and continually improve their performance.

**What is the governmental body concerned with amins?**

The government body concerned with amins is the Ministry of Justice.

**Do amins have licenses, and if they do, for how long are they valid? In which cases should these licenses be withdrawn?**

Amins are given licenses valid for three years which are then renewed by a Court of Appeals located within the area where the amins practice their profession. Licenses are withdrawn if an amin commits a violation against his job but only after the violation is investigated and reported to the Minister of Justice.

**Do women have the right to be amins?**

The way I see it is that a woman can be an amin based on legal conditions and her qualifications.

**Are contracts of marriage and divorce documented on paper or by computer?**

Documents of marriage and divorce are documented on paper, and some amins have personal computer documentations.

**How can you ensure that a woman hasn't married more than one man at a time, or isn't marrying a mahram (a relative who is not allowed to marry the woman like her brother, uncle, and so forth)?**

The woman's guardian mentioned in the contract ensures that she is not marrying more than one man or one of her mahrams and the other witnesses testify to that as well, but ultimately it is her responsibility.

**How can you know whether the husband has another wife or not? In case of polygamy, is it important to know whether the first wife consents to her husband marrying another woman.**

The condition of the marriage contract according to law is to notify the new wife that the husband has another wife and to inform the first wife that her husband wants to marry another, according to article 12 of the personal conditions law.

**What are the conditions required from the couple before marriage?**

Conditions required from the couple before marriage are as follows:

- 1- Desire and complete consent to get married.
- 2- Ability to pay the cost of marriage.
- 3- In addition to conditions stipulated in personal conditions law, chapter three, good treatment of one another.

**What are the laws and regulations in place in Yemen about marriage contracts?**

Laws and legislations related with marriage contracts in Yemen are personal conditions law no. 29 of the year 1992 and its amendments.

**Why don't legislators approve of premarital medical tests to consider the physical and mental state of the couple?**

There is a deficit in the legislations under the current personal conditions law due to a lack of a pre-marital test to know the mental and physical condition of the couple before marriage. This may show defects before the marriage contract is complete, such as infectious diseases.

**Why don't amins ask the bride directly about whether she agrees to the marriage or not, in addition to asking the two witnesses?**

The legal and religious duty obliges the amin to know the consent of the woman before marriage through the witnesses, and the contract shouldn't be made without consent.

**What is the minimum age of marriage according to Sharia law (Islamic jurisprudence)?**

The determined age of marriage is 15 years, which is considered to be the age of maturity.

**Is there a specific dowry for marriage in Yemen or it left to the bride's family to decide? How different the dowry is from one area to another?**

There is no specific dowry for a woman because this matter is left to her family to decide. Dowries differ from one area to another and from one governorate to another according to the social and financial situation of the couple, but they are generally between YR 100,000 and YR one million.

**What about the so-called tourist or temporary marriage? To what extent were concerned bodies in the government able to restrict it?**

I personally haven't been requested to make a contract for a tourist or temporary marriage. This matter is rejected by religion and such contracts are not allowed. In addition, procedures and regulations have been taken recently for marriage between a couple of two nationalities through the Ministry of the Interior and the corresponding foreign embassy to maintain the rights of the couple, the wife and the children.

**Why isn't it a condition that the bride signs the contract of marriage to confirm that the marriage is safe?**

According to the wife's trust in her guardian who is entrusted to conduct the marriage contract for her, this guardian signs on her behalf. There are certain cases in which the wife signs beside the husband's signature if she wants or if her guardian is weak.

**If two relatives of a girl compete to marry her, how can the problem be solved?**

In case there is a dispute between the girl's relatives over marrying her, the contract shouldn't be made until they solve the dispute either cordially or through the judiciary.

**If the girl's family refuses to marry her to a man she loves, is the judge authorized to allow them to marry in spite of her family's rejection?**

The girl whose family refuses to marry her to a man who she chooses has the right to head to court. She can still marry him in a state of complete consent if there is no dispute of competition.

**What about widows? Is their families' agreement to their marriage necessary? And if their families refuse to allow them remarry, can they refer to the judge?**

The widow's marriage is conducted through her guardian, but if he refuses, she can resort to the court.

**Is there any coordination committee to follow up on information?**

There is no coordination committee for amins, although there should be such a committee or a syndicate similar to the Lawyers Syndicate to achieve public interests and improve performance.

**Is there an authority or monitoring apparatus concerned with violations or complaints against amins?**

The monitoring progress of the accredited amins' performance and following up on complaints are conducted by Documentation Units in the primary courts that belong to the Ministry of Justice within their area.

**What are the difficulties facing amins?**

The difficulties that officially accredited amins face are as follows:

- 1- Lack of coordination among amins and lack of a syndicate.
- 2- Some judges and employees working at courts and prosecution intervene in the job of amins by making marriage or divorce contracts and

other documents that fall within the competence of amins in the neighborhood. Some social dignitaries known by the courts accredit these documents.

3- Overlap in specializations among amins and lack of commitment to the geographic borders nominated for everyone within the area.

4- Lack of material and moral incentives that amins should receive from the body in charge of supervising amins (Ministry of Justice) in the way that mayors of neighborhoods are paid. Incentives encourage innovation, good performance and help amins to exempt cases that cannot afford to pay documentation fees, which is a humanitarian act.

**What is the amount of money that amins receive to make the marriage and divorce contracts?**

There is no specific amount of money that amins receive for conducting the marriage and divorce contracts. Many cases are exempted due to their financial situation. The other cases pay YR 2,000 to YR 5,000 or more.

**If the conditions of marriage are rendered inadequate by either the bride or the groom, is the contract rejected? What are some obstacles that may require rejecting the contract?**

The marriage contract is cancelled when the following conditions are not complete:

- 1- When the girl does not offer her consent or when she is still below the normal age of marriage.
- 2- When there is no guardian for the girl.
- 3- When the couple doesn't agree on the dowry.
- 4- If the man stipulates conditions which the women of her family don't accept, such as employment, continuing education and so forth. In addition, the marriage contract can be cancelled if the bride's family puts conditions on the marriage that the bridegroom doesn't accept. For example, they may ask him to live in a house near the bride's family, prepare the residence based on special specifications, demanding a high dowry, and so forth.

**What are the odd and peculiar things that you have faced as an amin?**

Two strange things and demands that I encountered during my work come to mind.

- 1- A female lawyer came to my office and demanded that I make a marriage contract for her and her fiancé who accompanied her without any guardian for the girl. She said that she holds a scientific qualification and she is more aware of her personal interests than her aged and uneducated custodian. I refused to make the contract.
- 2- Some husbands ignore the legal and religious rights of their wives. They neglect to provide domestic needs and use the marriage contract as a source of extortion against their weak wives. They look at the marriage contract as a document of property for men forever, but these cases are rare.

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# Yearning for an Arab Hero

By Zeinab A. Mansour

The first Asia-Africa Conference was held in Bandung, Indonesia, in April, 1955.

Forty-one years later, on May 11, 1996, I sat watching a film at the Asia-Africa Museum, site of the Bandung Conference.

The film captured the spirit of the beginning of the new Non-Aligned Movement. I listened to the speeches by the leaders of Asian and African nations, bonded by common cause. The primary objectives of the Conference were to build a sense of Asian-African solidarity, to end racism and colonialism, and to promote social justice and equality.

The key figures of the conference included Indonesian President Sukarno, Prime Minister Nehru of India, and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt.

On April 18, 1955, President Gamal Abdel Nasser addressed the delegates, speaking of such issues as race, reli-

gion, colonialism, and national sovereignty. He called for increasing support for human rights, social equality, and the self-determination of people and nations.

President Nasser stressed the need for cooperation between Asian and African nations in the cultural, economic and social fields, stating, "Cooperation between the nations can lead these countries representing the biggest two continents of the world and more than half mankind towards progress and better standards of living."

On colonialism, he raised the question, "On what grounds can anyone condone the fact that the countries of North Africa which, for centuries, were independent nations and the seats of great civilizations are now being degraded to the status of non self-governing territories?"

Laying the foundation for Pan-Arabism, Nasser said, "We have been witnessing for some years the rising tide of nationalism, not only in our part of the world but also in various parts of Asia and Africa." A year after

Nasser denounced colonialism at the Bandung Conference; he challenged the West by "nationalizing" the Suez Canal on July 26, 1956. His action led to military confrontation with major super powers. As a result, Gamal Abdel Nasser emerged as a hero in the Arab world.

Anthony Nutting, who at the time was the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom, resigned his position as a protest against the Suez invasion. Nutting articulated the triumph of Nasser in his book, *No End of a Lesson: the Story of Suez*:

"We had raised him to a pinnacle of power and prestige unknown in the Arab World since the beginning of the 18th century, when Mohammed Ali defied the combined pressures of the Ottoman Sultan and of Lord Palmerstone's England to enthrone himself as the independent ruler of renaissance Egypt."

Even during times of tribulation following the 1967 war, the Arab masses continued to support Nasser and embrace his vision. He advocated for

Arab unity until the final hours of his life, when he called for an emergency summit to deal with a crisis in Jordan. Due to the dynamic inspiration of his leadership, Nasser was able to help contain the crisis. Just a few hours later, on September 28, 1970, the life of Nasser ended.

Dr. Clovis Maksud expressed his view on the Arab peoples' relationship with president Nasser in an article published in *Arab Studies Quarterly* (Summer 1997) entitled, "From June 1967 to June 1997: Learning from Our Mistakes." Dr. Maksud writes, "Nasser's articulation of our deepest yearnings, ennobling defiance of dominance, charismatic personality and sincere commitment tendered the Arab masses uncritical and totally identified with every decision he made and with every policy he sought to pursue. The identification was of such intimacy that when he resigned in the aftermath of the disastrous defeat of 1967, the instant and stunning popular reaction calling on him to stay on was tantamount to a restorative act. While this reaction may in

part have been an expression of fear of the unknown, it revealed an institutional vacuum that the masses instinctively sought to fill by an unprecedented demonstration of loyalty and affection. This was the same phenomenon that manifested itself when President Nasser died on 28 September 1970."

Some say that Arab Nationalism is dead and buried with him, but what is the Concept of Arab Nationalism?

Nasser elaborated on Arab Nationalism during an interview on January 27, 1958, with American editors and commentators, "A quick glance at the history of the area establishes beyond the shadow of the doubt the fact that the aspirations of its entire people have always been for unity and solidarity. This is in fact what we mean when we speak of Arab Nationalism. Solidarity is a step towards unity. It will definitely be the solution if unity cannot be achieved". In a speech on December 23, 1958, in Port Said, Egypt, Nasser referred to Arab Nationalism as "... not mere words to be repeated; it is not only a

slogan but rather a great aim and an ideal."

Gamal Abdel Nasser left a great impact not only on Egypt, but also on the Arab World.

Anthony Nutting, in his biography, *Nasser*, described Gamal Abdel Nasser's prominent role in the Arab world, his impact not only on Egyptian history but also on Arab history, and how he gave a sense of dignity and national pride to the people. Mr. Nutting writes,

"For all his faults and failures, Nasser helped to give Egypt and the Arabs that sense of dignity, which for him was the hallmark of independent nationhood."

Perhaps these qualities of a hero that Abdel Nasser possessed explain why people in the Arab world still cling to his memory to this day, and are perhaps hoping for a new Arab dawn with that same sense of pride and dignity.

*\*The Author is a Library Consultant and resides in Chevy Chase, Maryland.*

# The nightmare of state failure in Yemen

By: Khaled Fattah  
University of St Andrews-UK

How can we explain the sustainability of a central state in Yemen that is currently so weak? How seriously should we take the circulating domestic predictions and international warnings about the slow but sure erosion and total failure of the central governing authorities in Yemen? How different are these predictions and warnings from the ones made by political observers of Yemen some years ago? What to do to prevent the nightmare scenario of the Somalization or Afghanization of Yemen from becoming a horrific truth?

Before suggesting answers, I would like to ask the readers to keep in mind that in less than five decades, Yemen's political community has experienced an isolated theocratic Zaydi imamate, eight years of civil war, direct and indirect external military interventions, a British Crown Colony, dozens of emirates and sultanates, a federation, a northern conservative tribal

republic, a southern Marxist republic, dozens of political assassinations, multiple border wars, a united tribal and Marxist republic and a destructive all-out North-South war. It is indeed remarkable that a peripheral Middle Eastern country with an inherently weak central authority governing a fragmented and heavily armed tribal population could have emerged and survived despite all these accumulated political shocks and security upheavals in such a short period of time. This remarkable fact in the modern political history of Yemen is a powerful source of temptation for some analysts to draw the conclusion that Yemen's central state weakness is resistant to sliding down into state failure. This conclusion, however, is questionable because it relies on a limited approach that focuses on how Yemen's weak central authority existed and persisted, not on why it may fail.

Returning to the questions I have posed, let me start by noting that the central authority in post revolutionary Yemen has been living on borrowed time. As a result, the most persistent

logic that has guided the operations of politics in Yemen has been the pursuit of survival strategies, even if survival strategies mean radical shifts in posture and policy. In post-unification Yemen, such strategies have been mirrored in the political swapping and purchasing of political allies and in the development of a vast network of patronage connecting the political, tribal and military elites from highland Yemen with the commercial elite from lower Yemen. Clearly this politico-economic network encouraged and continues to encourage a multitude of social actors to create an alternative system to the central authority and to replace formal and legitimate channels of state-society communication with their own system. In this regard, one may point to the wide-spread endemic corruption, the expansion of 'dark spaces' that are far beyond the reach of the state's eyes and hands, the growth of hidden economies, and the tendency to ignore the juridical processes of the state.

Amazingly, these anomalies are recognized even by top ruling party politicians. For instance, Yasser Al-

Awadhi, the former head of the GPC block in the Parliament, admitted in 2007 that there is an invisible force in Yemen's political arena other than the GPC, which, according to him, is responsible for running the country's affairs.

In addition to the highly influential Saudi role, survival strategies are at the heart of the dilemma of the weakness of the central authorities. This weakness has turned the Yemeni state from being an agency for providing law, order, security and welfare for the masses into being an elitist fountain for providing privilege, wealth and power for a small group of people. In other words, instead of being a provider of solutions, Yemen's central government became a source of problems, losing its infrastructural power. This loss is evident in the absence of the state in many parts of the country, in the inability of state institutions to counter lawlessness and social disorder, in the very poor quality of basic government services, and in the very limited impact of state controls. Unsurprisingly, Yemen today is one of the best examples of political entities where the state is performing 'self-canceling.'

Furthermore, the focus on survival strategies led to a lack of fulfillment of many state building-related projects, thereby undermining possible sources of loyalty to Yemen's central authority. For example, the disappointing results of Yemen's post revolutionary national project for education have led to the failure to inculcate loyalty to the state. Today, in the first decade of the 21st century, the illiteracy rate among women in Yemen stands at more than 62 percent, and the number of children who are outside the educational system is estimated to be more than two million. Bearing in mind that more than 70 percent of Yemen's population lives in rural areas, these education-related figures have solidly placed Yemen in the list of developing and least developed countries that have the lowest educational achievement in the world. As Lisa Wedeen, one of the prominent academic observers of Yemen, put it, this failure to educate has contributed significantly to the failure of turning tribal people and villagers into Yemenis. The failure of economic and human development, on the other

hand, led to the failure of the Yemeni state to cultivate utilitarian compliance. Yemen's increasing macro-imbalances, its high levels of poverty, and its very poor human development indicators have an enormous negative impact on the legitimacy and political consolidation of the central authority.

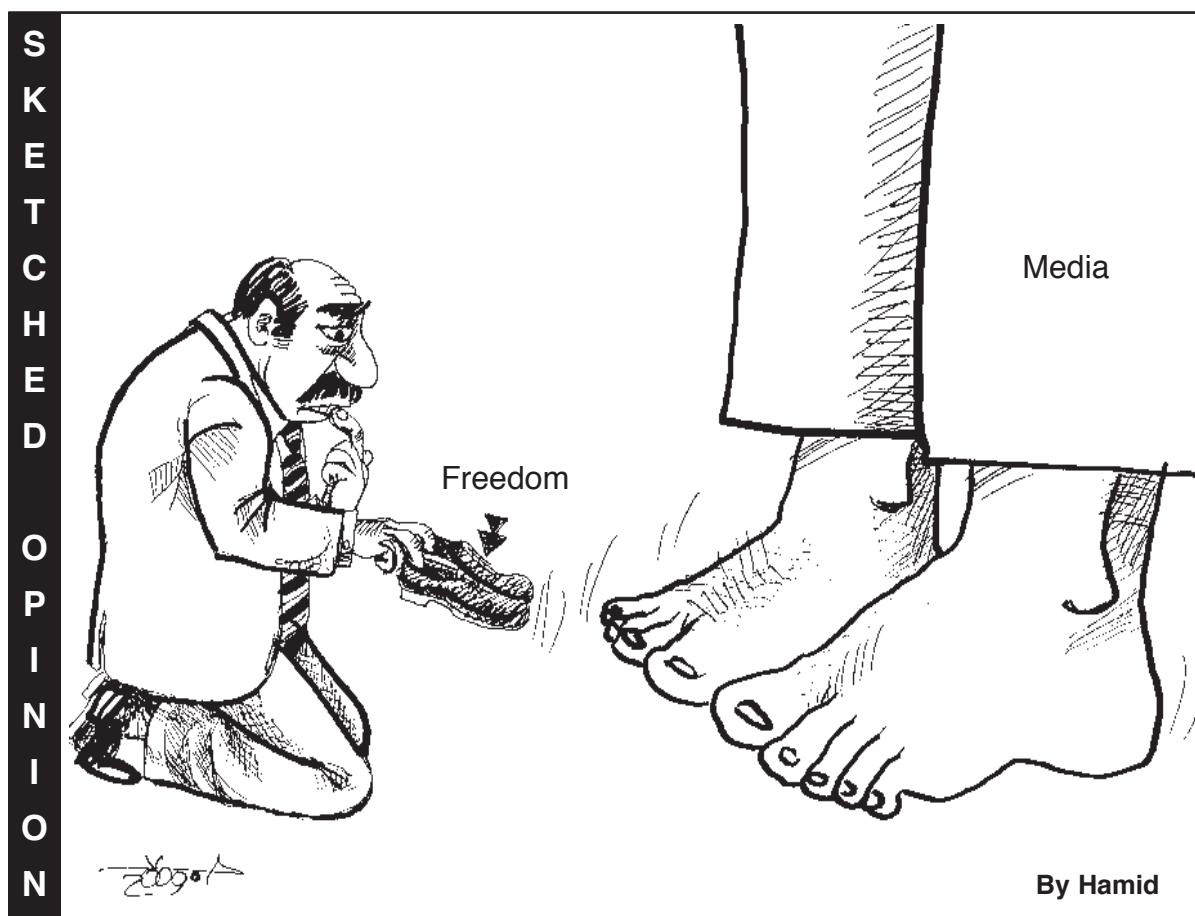
The current predications and warnings about the possibilities of Yemen's political disintegration and its collapse into an atomized society managed by autonomous tribal leaders, warlords, ambitious advocates of sectarianism and militant religious extremists should be taken very seriously. Although united Yemen has been holding together as a fragile Middle Eastern state, the wide array of anti-central authority actors who are engaged in varying degrees of violence and subversion are operating within a new poisonous environment that can push Yemen towards joining the list of failed states.

On the socioeconomic front, the new Yemeni context includes a toxic cocktail of record current account deficit, an increasing fiscal deficit, extremely sluggish private sector investment, an energy shortage, a decrease in oil revenues, inflation with artificially-controlled prices, a decline in exports, severe water shortages, a high degree of food-insecurity and high unemployment among the youth.

On the other hand, on the political-security front the sole republic in the Arabian Peninsula - Yemen - is badly suffering from serious political unrest and security crisis. The militarized solutions adopted by the Yemeni government in dealing with unrest and threats to national security have been swallowing the limited public funds and have reinforced public distrust in different parts of the country. A birds-eye view of the current security situation in Yemen reveals how the Weberian notion of a state that enjoys a monopoly on violence is nothing more than a fantasy. The words am'an (security) and istiqrar (stability), which was the core message from the ruling GPC during election campaigns, are slowly leaving the dictionary of Yemen's socio-political life. Al-Qaeda is actively assembling itself in the 'dark spaces' of the country, the escalating southern uprisings are getting more frequent and bloodier,

Sa'ada is tense and ready to explode for the sixth time into a war zone, and Yemen's coast is paying heavily for the breakdown of law and order in Somalia. This is indeed a bleak outlook and is heavily loaded with time bombs. It requires, therefore, a wake-up call for domestic, regional and international stakeholders to respond soon. Foreign financial and/or technical assistance alone, however, can't make up for the lack of will among these stakeholders to develop an integrated, efficient and well coordinated response. In order to protect their own interests, the governments of the GCC, EU and the US must notice the increasing dangerous pressure on Yemen and must respond immediately to prevent the creation of a Somalia or Afghanistan in Arabia. As a general rule, preferences for solutions to prevent cases of state failure depend on the explanations we accept for their potential disintegration and decay. In my view, there are root structural causes behind the potential slide of the state in Yemen towards failure.

The appropriate response should be carefully constructed on the basis of a developmentally oriented structural prevention. At the heart of Yemen's acute political, economic and security problems lies the fact that 'development' and 'modernization' did not work. President Al-Hamdi's period (1974-77) is an excellent example of how 'development' and 'modernization' can be the motor behind the creation of centralizing momentum in an inherently weak Yemen. It is essential, therefore, that any responsive strategy to save the region and the world from the Somalization or Afghanization of Yemen should pay much of its attention to a thorough understanding of the particularities of state-society relations in the modern history of Yemen. It should also pay close attention to the maximum utilization and mobilization of internal and external resources, both material and ideational. It is furthermore essential to attach strings of 'power sharing' and legitimate redistributive governance to the strategy of saving Yemen. In short, the success or failure of preventing the Somalization or Afghanization of Yemen depends on the tradeoffs between ensuring security and order and fulfilling the representation and welfare functions of the Yemeni state.



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## Goethe Institut Yemen Yemen's Fragile Unity

Yemen was a divided country until 1990. Yet the country's unity is fragile. The Goethe Institut in Sana'a has brought artists from both parts of the country together. Klaus Heymach reports.

In the courtyard of the Sana'a National Museum, North and South mix as if the Yemeni union were perfectly harmonious. The setting is unmistakably part of the North: tall buildings made of fired clay bricks, the windows intricately decorated with white plasterwork.

The folklore music playing on the cassette recorder on the other hand is from the South: the singer and lute-player comes from close to Aden. The artists painting their canvases here with acrylic and oils are working hand in hand: the black-veiled woman painter from Sana'a side by side with the male sculptor from Aden.

"We have a lot in common - we were united in the same year," says the painter Kamal al-Makrami from Aden. The project is particularly exciting for him as he has been to Germany himself and knows the country's divided history.

**Across the borders - Journey of the Wall project**

The Goethe Institut has brought eight artists together in Sana'a: four from the formerly socialist South and four from

the North. Their job is to decorate giant bricks. The polystyrene blocks with canvas covers are symbolic of the Berlin Wall. On 9 November, the anniversary of the fall of the Wall, they will be toppled like dominoes at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

Makrami paints a fist holding a German flag on his block. On the back, he adds two oil barrels. "They're to commemorate Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin," the painter (48) explains. "But they're also part of Yemen's past, as there were checkpoints here too."

In the same year as East and West Germany, two completely different states in the south of the Arab peninsula also came together to form the Republic of Yemen: the formerly socialist South with its capital of Aden and the Republic in the mountainous North, dominated by conservative Islamic tribes and with its own capital, Sana'a.

**"Godless beer-drinkers" and "backwards tribal warriors"**

Just as the East and West Germans have their differences, the Yemenis also criticise each other. The socialists in the



Many of the tribal traditions, the role of religion and the position of women in the North are completely alien to al-Makrami, who comes from Aden. But the artist now often travels to Sana'a.

South are "Godless beer-drinkers" for the Northerners, while the people of the South complain about the "backwards tribal warriors" in the North.

The painter Makrami too still often feels like an outsider in the tribal-dominated city of Sana'a. "There are huge differences between Aden and Sana'a," he says.

"Before unity, they were the capitals of two different countries. I travelled around Europe a great deal at the time, but I never went to North Yemen." But

Makrami doesn't only feel like an outsider. He also feels discriminated against. Since the union, the North has had the dominant role, he complains.

"We in the South had to abandon our traditions, women have to wear the veil now; there have been many changes for us."

Yemen has never really melded into a single nation. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in office for the past three decades, may have held the country together to date by handing out money and offices.

But this is getting ever more difficult as Yemen's resources come to an end.

**Tough times for Yemen's socialists**

Yemen is one of the world's poorest countries, with its oil and water sources rapidly drying up. This is causing unrest in the South in particular, where the last reserves are sited but where little of the oil income trickles down.

15 years ago, this combination of economic crisis and mistrust led to the socialists declaring secession - the overture to a civil war in which the North finally gained military victory over the South.

Any visitor to the socialists' headquarters in Sana'a can tell how little power the party now has. The building is dilapidated, the large meeting hall abandoned. Secession is no longer on the party's agenda, says the parliamentary party leader Aiderus an-Nagib. His party, he claims, has no control over the protests in the South, where hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets to date. He calls for urgent action from the government. "The powers that be have long regarded the South as their property," he says.

"They've grabbed land and properties and driven the people away. This injustice has to end now."

The government must return the

offices, land and property to those they belong to, Nagib demands. More than 200,000 civil servants and soldiers, he says, have not been allowed to return to work since the civil war.

**Anti-unity protests**

"They have to get their jobs back and receive compensation for the past 15 years." President Saleh has been ignoring these demands for years now. But the protests in the South are getting louder and louder, with the military firing live ammunition at demonstrators. Now even Saleh himself has warned that the country could disintegrate into tribes and clans if Aden really should secede.

While the artists are painting their bricks for the Berlin Wall in Sana'a, thousands of people are protesting against unity on the streets of Aden. The 20th anniversary of Yemeni unification in the coming year is not a happy occasion for all, says even the painter Makrami as he sketches out the fist on his canvases.

"Some people will celebrate and other won't, I'm sure of that." But is there a way out of the crisis? "The people in power have to think of their country," says Makrami. "All they have to do is ask themselves: What we're doing - is it good for our country or only good for us? Then they'll find a solution," says the painter.



The painter Kamal al-Makrami relates his design for the block to Yemen's past - there were checkpoints in Yemen too, he says.



Decades of regression: "The powers that be have long regarded the South as their property" - Aden, the former capital of socialist South Yemen.



A total of eight Yemeni artists took part in the Goethe Institut's Journey of the Wall project. Their wall artworks will be on display at the Sana'a National Museum until 25 June.

**Ministry of Education (MOE)  
Project Administration Unit (PAU)  
Basic Education Development Project (BEDP)  
Credit No. 3988-Yem & Grant No. TF-053721  
& KFW(2004 66 268)**

### Request for Expressions of Interest

**Technical Assistance (TA) to train the Ministry of Education (MOE) staff on  
Basic Requirement of the Modern Administration and English Language  
Technical Assistance (TA) to train Cadres of Literacy and Adult Education  
Organization (LAEO) on Basic Skills and English Language**

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

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible Consulting Firms to participate in one or more of the training programs. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service profiles, description of similar assignments and experience in similar assignment.

The main objective of the TAs are to train MOE and LAEO staff in general management and administrative skills, improve the basic skills of staff in modern administration and improve their skills in using English language for dealing with international organizations as well as use modern information technology for communication etc.

The selection of the Consulting Firms and Training Institutes will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: *Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004.* Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. from 08:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by August 11, 2009.

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

### إعلان تمديد موعد تقديم مناقصة

المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي بأمانة العاصمة  
مشروع شبكات الصرف الصحي بصنعاء  
مناقصه رفع كفاءة محطة المعالجة في صنعاء  
قرض الصندوق العربي (٩٩/٣٨٣)

بالإشارة لإعلان طرح المناقصة بشأن العطاء أعلاه وبحسب طلب عدد من الشركات تعلن المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي بأمانة العاصمة عن تمديد الموعد النهائي لتقديم العروض الى يوم ٢٠٠٩/٠٨/٢٦ الساعة (١:٣٠) الواحد والنصف ظهرا في عنوان المؤسسة المبين أدناه.

عنوان المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي:

الحصبة - بجانب وزارة الصحة العامة والإسكان شارع الحصبة  
صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية  
هاتف + ٩٦٧١٢٣٠٦٥٦  
فاكس + ٩٦٧١٢٣٠٦٥٦  
بريد الالكتروني cdteam@y.net.ye

### Bid Submission Postponement Announcement

**Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation Local Corporation  
Sana'a Wastewater Networks Project  
Sana'a Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Tender  
AFESD Loan No.383-99.**

Reference to the previous announcement for the above mentioned Tender and as a response to the requests of some companies for extension

Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation now announces that the final Bid Submission Date for the Tender is postponed till 26th Aug. 2009 at (1:30) pm at the corporation address below mentioned.

**SWSLC Address:**

**Al-Hasaba. Beside the Ministry of Public Health & Population  
Al-Hasaba Street., Al-Hasaba.  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Phone + 967 1230656  
Fax + 967 1230656  
E-mail cdteam@y.net.ye**

# Yemen has lost billions of dollars, say businessmen

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Yemen, like most of the world, is battling the aftermaths of the global financial crisis that shook US financial markets late 2008, with repercussions in the European and Asian markets, say businessmen.

Yemeni businessmen criticized the government for not seriously responding to its effects in the country, and refuted the government's announcement earlier this year that its markets were not affected by the crisis because it had invested in what it perceived as safe European markets.

"The global financial crisis affected all people and nobody [in Yemen] was excluded from its effects," said businessman Khaled Taha Mustapha, the owner of Tarim Poultry Group.

"It is difficult to assess the size of Yemeni losses in this time," he added. "There are no clear financial issues. People are still hiding the truth and will not expose the reality [about their losses]."

He further said that the crisis has added another burden on the country's economy, besides Yemen's other problems such as piracy and unrest.

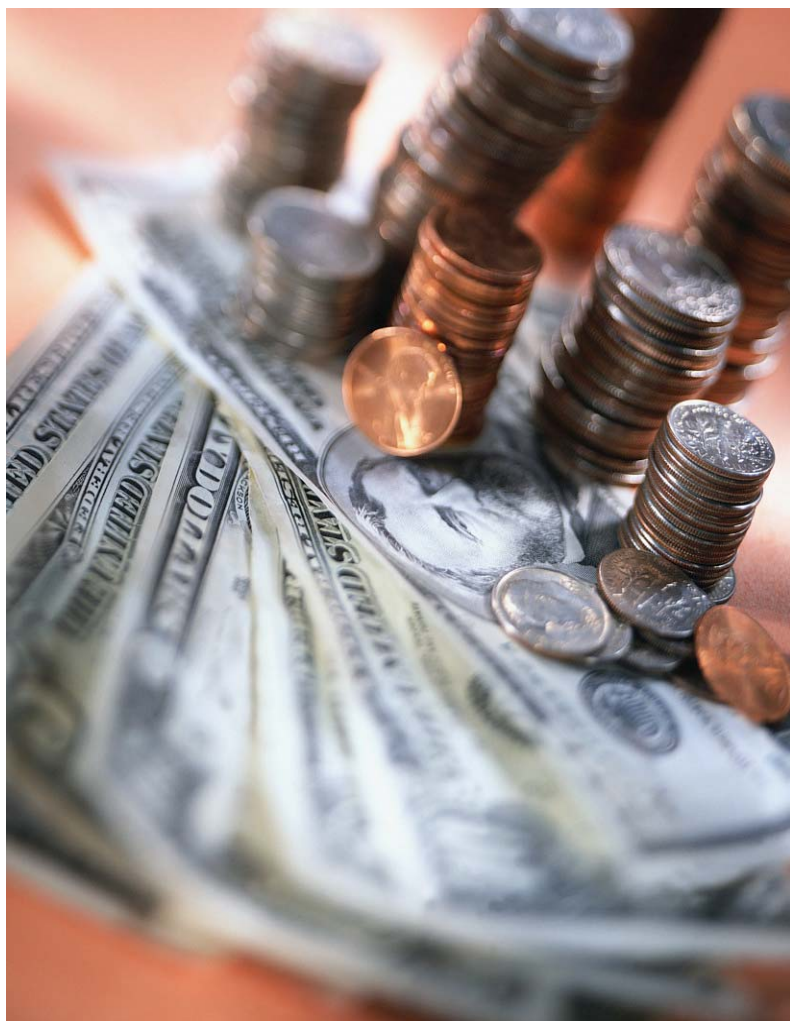
The financial crisis brought down the prices of oil, the revenues from which Yemen depends on for up to 90 percent of its public budget.

Businessman Abdullah Al-Sunaidar pointed out that the global financial crisis had caused Yemeni businessmen huge losses exceeding USD 2 billion, according to Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Siyasa Al-Kuwaitiyya.

Al-Sunaidar said that he had lost 15 percent of his capital but admitted that he had reaped profits from the real estate business.

Al-Sunaidar, who owns 48 percent of shares in the Bank of Yemen and Kuwait, said he and great number of businessmen he knows have been much affected by the crisis.

He criticized governmental officials



who downplayed the crisis' effects on Yemen saying, "The government did not say the truth or announce the real losses for Yemen's economy."

"The government has hidden what people should be told, including economic measures to take to face the effects of the crisis," said Al-Sunaidar.

Businessman Tawfiq Al-Khamiri, who is Deputy Chairman of Yemeni Businessmen and Investors Council, told Saudi publication Al-Iqtisadiyya that Yemen's private sector has suffered bitter losses of over USD 1 billion because of investments in some Arab and international exchange markets, especially Gulf markets.

Al-Khamiri said that the private sector has also suffered other losses because of high and volatile prices.

He made it clear that he has statistics for Yemeni businessmen who jointly lost USD 1 billion. He mentioned three of them by example, the first of which lost USD 200 million, while the other two lost USD 160 million and USD 45 million respectively.

The Yemeni private sector is so affected that businessmen are avoiding any new investments, especially in real estate, he said.

"Yemeni businessmen have been strongly affected by the crisis," said Mustapha Nasr, the Chairman of

Economic Media Center.

"On the government level, the budget deficit this year will exceed safe boundaries after the crisis' effects on oil, the greatest source of revenue at almost 90 percent to the public budget," he said.

"The loss will surpass 70 percent of the budget's income," he said, "and you can imagine the extent of its effects on all sectors."

He made it clear that in Yemen's private sector, contractors, banks, insurance companies or even ordinary traders, depend mainly on government projects. As the private sector's contribution to moving the economy still limited, it often depends on government expenditure to stimulate the economy.

Calls for government to face crisis Earlier, researchers and economists demanded the government prepare an emergency plan to face the repercussions of the global financial crisis on the national economy.

Economist Mansour Al-Bashiri said such a plan would help avoid any unexpected cases like the bankruptcy of a bank because of the crisis.

Al-Bashiri, who is in charge of projections and economic studies at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, stressed that the rial exchange rate should be kept high so that the currency does not deteriorate.

He urged the government to attract more support to the five-year plan, 2011-2015 via doubling communication with donors and putting new initiatives. He pointed to the complete silence on financial losses Yemen has lost because the crisis.

"There is no number, either from the government or private sector," he said.

### Positive effects on Yemen

While the aftermaths of the global financial crisis were bitter on industrial economies, like the United States and on some developing countries hosting stock markets like the United Arab

Emirates, some Yemeni economists believe Yemen could make use of the crisis.

"I am optimistic and always said Yemen would benefit from the crisis," said Salah Al-Attar, the Chairman of the General Investment Authority. "Investors, instead of investing their money in financial markets or stock markets, they will turn to real investments on the ground."

He further explained that Yemen can attract investors from neighboring countries to invest in agriculture, fisheries, housing and other fields in the country, given that Yemen has an encouraging investment law.

For his part, Dr. Taha Al-Fusayel, professor of economics at the University of Sana'a has a different view. He says that positive effects of the crisis are a drop in the price of food and basic goods, as well as iron and construction materials.

"We have to think soundly about how to make use of this crisis to ponder two things: developing our non-oil resources, and attracting Arab investment, namely from the Gulf," he said.

### Yemen's crisis before global one

"Yemen has suffered a big financial crisis in terms of assets in the Central Bank of Yemen or in other banks operating in the country," said Al-Bashiri, adding that the Yemeni economy witnessed a slowdown before the crisis, despite positive factors like the past increase in the price of oil.

He affirmed that economic growth has not been as desired and planned for in development programs.

Dr. Saadadden Taleb, member of the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC), spoke earlier to the state-run 26 September weekly more frankly.

"Before we talk about the effects of the global financial crisis, I would like to point out that our country had already experienced its own crisis earlier, after the drop in oil prices

which affected general revenues to the public budget," he said.

The reason behind this crisis was the government not making use of increased oil prices to make plans for alternative resources, like productive projects and foreign investments, he explained.

Corruption was behind Yemen's crisis, he added, because it hinders bodies combating corruption like the parliament, the Central Organization for Control and Auditing, and the SNACC from playing their roles.

No real efforts to face the crisis "Before talking about the solutions to the effects of the crisis in Yemen, there is a basic issue we have to talk about which is: The government does not admit there is a crisis in Yemen," said Dr. Taha Al-Fusayel, advisor to the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

"If we admit there is a crisis, we will be able to face its effects," he said. "The losses are huge and the government and the private sector have to stand together to address them."

He condemned the government's decision to reduce public expenditure to 50 percent, in the aftermath of the crisis.

"While other countries like the Gulf states increased their public spending, Yemen reduces these expenses," he explained. "This makes the effects of the crisis even bitterer because it will increase poverty."

Chairman of Sana'a's Chamber of Industry and Trade Khaled Taha Mustapha said that they have not done anything to face the crisis.

"We do not have real numbers on the extent of the losses, we do not have plans to [react to] the crisis, and we do not have any strategy for future solutions," he said.

The global financial crisis, which began in late 2008 in the US financial and stock markets, rippled throughout the whole world. It is believed that more than USD 50 trillion has been lost because of the crisis.

## University of Science & Technology (USTY), Yemen.



Opening of Registration & Admission for the Academic Year 2009/2010 in the Following Programs/ Specializations:

### Faculty of Medical Science

- Medicine
- Dentistry (Diploma-Bachelor).
- Pharmacy (Diploma-Bachelor).
- Medical Labs.
- X-Ray.
- Health of Society.
- Nursing.



### Faculty of Science & Eng.

- Information Technology & Computer Science Dept. (Computer net- Information Technology - Programs' Eng.- Diploma Computer Programming)
- Electronic Eng Dept. (Computer Eng.- Eng. of Communication- Medical Instruments Eng.- Diploma of Electronic Eng.
- Architecture
- Civil Eng.



### Faculty of Administrative & Human Science

- Islamic & Arabic Studies Dept. (Quran Science, Islamic Studies, Arabic Language, Arabic Language for Non-native Speakers)
- Accountancy & Administrative Science Dept. (Marketing, Accountancy, Business Administration, ...)
- Information System Dept. (Information System, accounting) - (Information System Administration) - E-Commerce).
- English Dept. (Translation, Literature, Applied Linguistics).
- Law & Sharia Dept. (Sharia & Law, Islamic Regulations, ...)
- Social Science Dept. (Psychology, Sociology) Science, Media (G. relations) Media (Journalism), History.
- Nursery



### International college (IC)

English Medium Programs in collaboration with the relevant Malaysian Universities.

- Information Technology (UUM).
- Business Administration (UUM).
- Graphic Design & Digital Media (UiTM).
- Interior Architecture (UiTM).



### Female Students' Branch.

Including all the University specializations

In this branch, and for the second year, admission & registration were opened for:

- Bachelor of Architecture Eng.
- Bachelor of Pharmacy
- For the first time,
- Bachelor of Nursery.



Scientific Agreements of Cooperation for Postgraduate Programs at (USTY) implemented with the following universities:

### University

Arabic Academy for Financial & Banking Science  
Open University - Malaysia (International College) (IC)  
National University - Malaysia (UKM).

### Programs Available

Islamic banks- Info. Tech- Financial Admin - Marketing (Arabic)- Marketing (English) - Business Administration (Arabic) Business Admin. (English) Accountancy, Public Banks.  
Master of Business Administration, Master of Information Technology, Master of Info. Tec.  
Master of Hospital Management.

### University

Tanta University  
Bani Sweef University.  
Al-Faiyoum University.

### Programs Available

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Master/ PhD of Business Administration/ Accountancy.  
Master/ PhD of (Islamic Studies).  
Arabic Language, Islamic sharia)

The Programs of Open Learning and Remote/ Indirect-Teaching System

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Number & G. Site of the University:  
**373237**  
info@ust.edu  
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## Short Story: The Hungry Jaws Series

## Invest In Yemen (1)

By: kais Aliriani

I never realized how little I knew about investment in Yemen. I heard through the media about how the government is facilitating investments and trying to encourage more investors to come to Yemen. I am aware of the Investment Law, which gives a lot of tax breaks to investors, and I heard about the good work the General Investment Authority (GIA) is doing to help investors. With all of this in mind, I thought, "Well great, I will do business

here." Now I had to face it. I am planning to run a small business, but I cannot go through the GIA or make use of the facilities of the Investment Law. I have to go through the local authorities. How do I start? There is no way to find out except by asking someone who went through the same experience. After asking around, I found the place to start: the Ministry of Trade and Industry. But I got some extra information in addition!

One of my friends told me about his experience.

"I started my private school three years

ago. I was told that I don't need any licenses immediately and that I could start right away. After a while, I started the licensing process with the Local Council. "Great," is what I originally thought, I don't have to go to the ministry which is on the other side of the city. I filled out hundreds of forms, telling every detail of the school, before I even had an idea about many things. Then came the first group of investigators who criticized everything. "The building is small, the yard is not big enough," and so forth. I was confused! I knew many schools that

had very small buildings and no yards at all. Finally, the person who was following the paperwork told me, "Just give them some money," and it worked. This was not the end. After that the papers and same process was repeated, but at the Capital Secretariat level, then again at the Ministry level. "You just have to pay," was what I kept hearing.

"How lucky I am" I thought. I am not planning to invest in schools or in education, thanks to Allah. I don't need to go to the Ministry of Education. I have other plans, and I am optimistic..

## True friendship means you are no more important than the other

By: Adnan Al-Halmi  
adnanalhalmi@yahoo.com

I have the pleasure to write a response to Al-Gaad's article entitled "Friendship is seldom lasting but between equals," published on June 25. I always enjoy reading his articles because they speak out about reality and try to expose social faults to the public to be corrected. But this time I would have to slightly disagree with what he included in his article, as he says that "friendship is a strong emotional relationship, built between two people of the same sex." This may sound illogical, but I contest Al-Gaad's definition that says an emotional relationship may be between a man and woman, not between the same sex.

I do agree that a certain type of emotional relationship can only be between a man and woman and not between a man and a woman and vice versa. But friendship is a difficult word. It means something different for every person. For this reason it isn't easy to define it.

People are social beings. Friendship is very important for most people. Some even believe that friendship is more important than love. Good friendship is certainly more valuable than gold. If you have a good friend or find someone with a soul akin to yours, your problems disap-

pear and life isn't so sad.

Friendship is a great art. Love has a natural instinct behind it; friendship has no natural instinct behind it. Friendship is something conscious; love is unconscious. This is why friendship is greater than love. Friendship means you are no more important than the other - that is the soul of real friendship.

Another point I would disagree with is "a successful and permanent friendship can only hold between people who are socially, emotionally and financially equal." This isn't true because although people can be equal in terms of financial and social status, how can they be equal emotionally? Therefore it doesn't matter how financially, emotionally, and socially equal two friends are. What is more important is how understanding and respectful they are to each other, which is the only bridge to everlasting, real, and outstanding friendship.

To be a friend and to have friends is one of the noblest goals we can try to achieve. Friendship is complex and has many facets, but it certainly exhibits the following five attributes, as stated by David Claasen: "Friendship means understanding and being understood, friendship means affirming and being affirmed, friendship means accepting and being accepted, friendship means helping and being helped, and friendship means for-

giving and being forgiven."

The third point I would contest is the idea of Romanticism and Classicism in friendship. It doesn't matter how classic or romantic your friend is. What matters is how expansive, faithful, respectful, polite, considerate, and trustworthy he or she is.

Moreover, friendship is something very valuable yet it is something that cannot be bought. It must be protected. You have to take care of friendship because it is very easy to lose a friend but much more difficult to recover it again. It is like a treasure and that must be kept safe. If you don't, it will not last. It is soft, so don't scratch!

Have you ever wondered what the real essence of the saying 'a friend in need is a friend indeed' is? People talk about the true value of friendship without knowing what it stands for.

True friendship is when there are no formalities. It is when the person you are talking about is counted as family. It is when the relationship you share reaches a stage when even if you don't correspond for some time, your relationship remains intact. Best friends need not meet up often to make sure that the friendship remains constant. The trust between best friends is such that if one friend gets into trouble, the other will not think twice to help.

If the bond between two friends is strong, true friends can endure even long

distances. They find a way of keeping in touch despite busy schedules. True friendship never fades away; in fact, it grows better with time. True friends don't need a posh place to hang out. Their most precious hideout is each others' rooms! True friendship thrives on trust, inspiration and comfort. Best friends come to know when the other person is in trouble, merely by listening to their 'hello' over the phone.

True friends don't desert each other when there is trouble. They face it together and support each other, even if it hurts the other individual's interest. Best friends don't analyze each other; they don't have to. They accept each other's positive and negative qualities alike. Nothing is hidden between true friends; they know each other's strengths and weaknesses. Best friends won't stand for any outsider commenting or criticizing their friendship, and they can put up a very firm resistance if anyone does so.

True friends are not opportunists. They don't help because they have something to gain from it; they help because that's what friends do. True friendship is selfless. Best friends support each other, even when the whole world is against them. It is not easy getting true friends, and if you have even one true friend, consider yourself blessed. In this world of cynics and backstabbers, there are still some people who are worth being friends with.

Through  
The Mind's EyeBy: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy  
majed\_thabet@hotmail.comMobile phones:  
A blessing or a curse?

Mobile phones have become increasingly common all over the world, and Yemen is no exception. Although I strongly believe that they greatly facilitate communication and have many other positive uses, many consider them as a curse to our lives.

For me and many others, mobile phones bridge great distances across which communication was impossible or lengthy in the past. In this way, people save time and effort for other activities.

They also alleviate worry. For example, a father can contact his family members whenever needed. Without a mobile phone, he might worry and wait up for his sons or daughters when they are outside the home.

But mobiles are also useful for work and study. Some people install an electronic version of the Quran on their phones to listen to or read. Others install a dictionary on it to look up words.

Before having a mobile, I used to have an alarm clock, and always carry a notebook for telephone numbers. I also used to have a notebook to write notes in. Now, instead, I have a mobile phone that does it all.

People also use the mobile to form acquaintances, either through chatting, calling or receiving calls by mistake. This widens their list contacts to include new people of different ages and backgrounds

Mobiles can also be used as a means of entertainment, as games can be installed in the most recent models. Mobile games have recently become more common than Playstation games. You can also listen to music or watch funny or even useful movies on a mobile phone.

But many consider mobiles to be a negative aspect of modern life.

They say that they lead to spending too much money. Young girls and boys nowadays spend school money on credit for their mobiles, instead of school supplies, they say.

For them, mobiles are a curse because they make people forget their religious and social duties.

Nowadays, especially young people are constantly on the phone, when they walk, before they sleep, and even when they study. They write each other messages, chat, play games or listen to music. They forget their duties and do nothing new in their lives.

Some say that mobiles lead to immoral relationships. There have been many stories of men and women, for example, meeting by dialing up the wrong number or chatting.

Dear readers, like many modern inventions, the mobile is a double-edged weapon. Only the users themselves can make it a blessing or a curse. This is my opinion, but I heartily welcome any reader's perspective.

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.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION  
HEALTH AND POPULATION PROJECT (HPP)EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR INDIVIDUAL INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES.  
TO DEVELOP MIDWIFERY TRAINING PROGRAM (2010 - 2015) FOR ACCELERATION OF MDG  
5 AND 4 - PREPARATION PHASE (RFP #3)

The Government of Republic of Yemen has received a grant (PHRD No. TF093103) from Japan, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract to conduct Midwifery Training Program (2010 - 2015)

## OBJECTIVE OF ASSIGNMENT

The general framework and the National Reproductive Health Master Plan to accelerate MDG 5 and 4 mentioned the strengthening of RH service providers as one of the important strategies. The overall midwifery training program objective is to contribute to the acceleration of the reduction of the maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality as well as the TFR to achieve the MDGs 5 and 4".

## SCOPE OF WORK

During the preparation phase of the HPP, in close collaboration with the Population Sector and the joint midwifery training technical committee, provide expert assistance for the design and oversight of the development of the MOPHP Midwifery strategy and program.

## CONSULTANCY TASKS

1. Work with a local consultant, Provide design and oversight to local consultant and the joint midwifery training technical committee to assist the Population Sector to prepare a midwifery training policy and strategy for the period of 2010 - 2015.
2. Provide design and oversight to work with a local consultant and the joint midwifery training technical committee to assist the Population Sector prepare a proposal on midwifery training for resource mobilization for the 2010 - 2015 period, including supportive supervision and monitoring and evaluation,
3. Provide expert opinions on the 2005 curriculum and provide outlines for the new competency-based curriculum that will specifically addresses supportive supervision, quality of care / quality improvement and quality assurance and establishment and maintenance of strong referral systems.
4. Liaise with the Yemen National Association of Midwives to assess its perceived needs and potentials and identify its capacity development for gender empowerment advocacy, to explore the capacity and potential for continuing education of members and other professional interests.

## Qualification Requirements

- Nurse midwife, midwife or medical doctor with more than 15 years midwifery training and field practice experiences
- Public Health and planning background preferred
- Arabic and English fluency required

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that she / he is qualified to perform the services. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004 revised October 2006)

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 9:00 to 14:00 hours. Expressions of interests must be delivered to the address below by 17th August 2009.

Ministry of Public Health and Population  
Grant Management Unit  
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# A giant step towards integration

By: Alice Hackman

Iman was born prematurely, after only seven months in the womb. Her mother, who had only been married for nine months, died in labor, leaving the small baby to be brought up by her sister.

As the little girl grew up, her aunt soon saw that her legs were very weak.

When Iman was six, her aunt brought her to the Challenge Association for Physically Disabled Women, where she was enrolled in the early learning program and started physiotherapy to help her learn to walk.

"[Only two years ago], she was walking in a very bad way, falling and getting up, but now she can walk [about] 30 steps without falling," said Dr. Hisham El-Tohamy, one of the physiotherapists who have been following her progress.

Iman is now 10. On Tuesday, she graduated from the early learning program at the association in a shiny burgundy gown and cap. Present were representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, civil society organizations, teachers and proud relatives.

All clapped vigorously as she, five other girls, and two boys stepped up onto the podium, in a blizzard of party popper glitter and fake snow to celebrate their success.

Younger children from the associa-



Grinning below the tinsel, eight children graduated from the early learning program.

tion, still learning good manners, pronunciation, and the alphabet, galloped around excitedly to music in their best clothes and party hats, in a ceremony foretelling of their own future.

Seven year-old Ismail graduated beside Iman. When he first arrived he had difficulty speaking, said his mother, but now he is much more articulate. Next year he will enter the Challenge School, where he will start his primary education.

"I am very happy," said his mother, whose youngest son 4 year-old Ahmad has cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder that affects movement, and also attends the center to learn how to stand. "Today shows how effective early intervention is," said Jamal Al-Baidhani, head of the association, explaining that some of the children at the ceremony had attended the center since they were little babies.

The association's school follows the

national curriculum as much as it can, but it must adapt it a little to suit its students, explained Ali Al-Qushmari, executive director of the association. Boring texts are cast aside, and pictures are used as much as possible.

Eventually, the idea is to integrate the association's best students into mainstream governmental schools in sixth or ninth grade, said Al-Qushmari, but it is still a new project.

## Preparing the ground

For this to happen, the association along with Save the Children, has started raising awareness about the needs of disabled children in Sana'a's state schools. The sessions are interactive.

Some children are given black cardboard glasses and told to walk across a room filled with chairs to experience blindness. Other children, whose hands have been bound together with sticky tape, are asked to pick up a book, said

Al-Qushmari.

The experience drives home the reality of living with a disability and encourages the children to think of how they can be of help. Children practice helping either by either guiding the "blind" student, or opening a book to the right page for the student with the weak grip.

Fifteen of the most dynamic students from the sessions have been chosen to further spread awareness among their peers all over Yemen, said Al-Qushmari.

"The idea was tried out in Lebanon, and it stuck," he said, explaining that the program should start this year after Ramadan.

## Supporting parents

Until integration into state schools becomes a reality, the association aims to help both children and their parents overcome challenges, through physiotherapy, early intervention, and parent training sessions.

While 5 year-old Dalia learns to say her first words, her mother is a student too. She is advised on how best to help her little girl overcome her speech difficulties. Her mother said she holds out objects and tells her daughter the names.

Other mothers, such as Um Ilham, have learned to read and write at the same time as their children, and the center has helped them overcome their illiteracy.

But the key to helping children with physical disabilities and their parents, stressed El-Tohamy, is early intervention. When parents see that their child is different, they should bring him or her immediately to a doctor.

"We can receive children as [young] as one month," said the physiotherapist.

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