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Relatives of Guantanamo detainees demand more government support

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

Sana'a, Jan. 16 — Families and supporters of dozens of detainees held in the US controlled Guantanamo Bay prison protested on Saturday morning in Freedom Square for more Yemeni government support to release their relatives.

The protesters were joined by several former Guantanamo detainees, including Sami Al-Haj, the Sudanese cameraman for Al-Jazeera news broadcaster who was imprisoned in the camp for six years and released in 2008. He announced that similar demonstrations will be held on the 11th day of each month.

Al-Haj stressed that it is the people's efforts that will eventually lead to change, urging protesters to keep up the pressure. He said that Yemenis are now the majority in the detention facility after Saudi Arabian citizens had been released.

The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) that represents the interests of the detainees held a press conference after the demonstration. Ahmed Arman who is in charge of the Guantanamo file at HOOD said that the Yemeni government was not doing enough for the Yemeni citizens being held in Guantanamo.

"We discovered through WikiLeaks that the government's demands to release them weren't serious. The government merely played its role to aid US intelligence," said Arman.

Last Tuesday, US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, met representatives of HOOD and other local NGOs during her short visit to Yemen. Clinton re-



Sami Al-Haj, the Al-Jazeera cameraman, was detained at Guantanamo Bay for six years and released in 2008. He was in Yemen to protest with the families of Yemeni detainees at the prison.

nounced Obama's promise to close down the detention facility.

However, NGO representatives remained skeptical and considered the meeting a public relations stunt to appease critics. Arman said that Obama had proven to be a liar before.

"Obama lied about closing down Guantanamo," he said.

According to Arman, human rights NGOs relaxed in 2009 when the US president made his promise to shut down the detention camp, but were hugely disappointed.

Continues on page 2

UN refugee agency blamed for bribes

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Jan. 16 — Refugees in Yemen are vulnerable to blackmail by a group of influential employees at the UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, a group of refugees and activists have claimed this week.

This allegation made its way to the Yemen Times office on Saturday, the same day that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, and the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, held a press conference in Sana'a to outline their support for refugees in Yemen.

Hassan Al-Haydari, an Iraqi refugee who fled to Yemen in 2002, alleged that a UNHCR staff member in Sana'a, Naser Al-Jahmi, told him that he should pay USD4,000 for asylum documents that would allow him and his daughter to travel to Canada.

Al-Haydari said that he paid Al-Jahmi the money in May 2010 but he did not receive any documents in return. The Yemen Times repeatedly contacted Al-Jahmi to find out if this was true, but he did not answer his mobile phone. The UNHCR has meanwhile confirmed that Al-Jahmi no longer works with the agency.

Al-Haydari's case against Al-Jahmi is with the Criminal Investigation Authority in Sana'a. He currently has an asylum ID card from the Yemeni government and is unemployed. He still lives in Sana'a with his five-year-old daughter Hadeel who is not in good health and needs medical treatment.

Al-Haydari returned to the UNHCR representative in Sana'a this month to seek assistance. He said that he spoke to the UNHCR's protection officer as well



Two Iraqi refugees in Sana'a with their children who were allegedly blackmailed by employees at the United Nations Refugee Agency in Sana'a.

as its security officer to get his money back or for help to send Hadeel for treatment. But the only response he received was that Al-Jahmi no longer works there.

He said that Al-Jahmi had also threatened to kill him and had hired two tribesmen to beat and intimidate him. They forced him to stop asking for his money.

"When I reported what had happened to the criminal investigation, Al-Jahmi sent two tribesmen to me and they claimed that they were from the national security and that Al-Jahmi sent them to stop me from asking for my money. I need my money back or help to send my daughter for medical treatment," he said.

Al-Haydari said that he then reported the incident to the police in Hadda Street but they allegedly told him that he would be jailed. Al-Haydari is now scared to leave his house because he fears that Al-Jahmi or his men might harm or kill him.

"The day before yesterday, I received a call from Al-Jahmi's cell phone, threatening to kill me if I did not abandon this issue. The man on the phone told me that he was from the special forces of Ahmed Ali Saleh (the Yemeni president's son)," he said.

Al-Haydari played a recording of this threatening phone call when the Yemen Times visited him at his house.

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Tunisian revolt inspires Yemenis to seek change

Story and photos by:
Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Jan. 16 – "Revolution... revolution... against the lying ruler," hundreds of people chanted yesterday in front of the Tunisian embassy in Sana'a, expressing their solidarity with the Tunisians who overthrew their president last week after continuous demonstrations.

"Where is unity and revolution? We have become slaves to the president's family," demonstrators chanted.

The Yemen times spoke to a range of people who were taking part in Sunday's demonstration.

The head of Yemen Students Union, Redhwan Masood, said that people protesting in the streets will serve to awake more people and will eventually change the situation.

"This demonstration is evidence of a new civil awakening. Unfortunately, partisan and NGO movement is slow and inactive," said Masood.

"Civil movement is stronger than party movement. It was normal people who changed the regime in Tunisia."

Abdurrahman Barman, a lawyer,



Yemeni protesters made their way to the Tunisian embassy in Sana'a yesterday where they demanded change in their own land.

told the Yemen Times that he was surprised by the volume of the crowds that were demanding a likewise departure of President Ali Abdullah Saleh from Yemen.

"There is a strong desire for change from Yemenis but they need encouragement. If there are organizations that organize such demonstrations well then many people will get involved,"

he told the Yemen Times.

Barman also added that security crackdowns on such demonstrations will just make the situation even worse for the regime.

Bassam Al-Sharabi, 17, a laboratory scientist, expressed his happiness about the recent change in Tunisia.

"We want the same for Yemen. We want to get rid of corruption and slav-



ery," he said.

He also criticized political parties for their absence from this demonstration, and also called for more youth to take part.

Sofyan Jubran, 26, a TV professional, said that Yemenis suffer from more deprivation and oppression than Tunisians and there is just as much if not more motivation for a similar revolt.

"Implementing the same experience is probable," he told the Yemen Times.

"What happened in Tunisia will fear the ruling party here. I think that prices will decrease as a precautionary measure and that security forces and the army will reconsider how they deal with demonstrators," Jubran said.

He added that Yemenis are extreme-

ly enthusiastic about what happened in Tunisia, indicating that Yemenis are now ready to start a revolution.

Bassam Ahmed, 29, a laborer, said that demonstrations against the regime are very important, especially nowadays.

"Yemenis at large must react immediately to these demonstrations," he said.

Tawakol Karman, the head of Women Journalists without Chains told the Yemen Times that Tunisians have given Yemenis great hopes for change.

"Tunisians have inspired Yemenis. This demonstration will be the first step to change," she said.

"This demonstration is a real expression of change, the youth in Yemen will struggle until they obtain the rights that have been stolen from them. They will go to the streets demanding a safe future and decent life," she said.

Karman also pointed out that the Yemeni regime is trying to turn Yemen into a monarchy.

"Yemenis are being deprived of their dignity, education, employment and many other things. Yemenis have suppressed their anger and this anger will explode."

Millions to reform Yemen's financial situation

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Jan. 16 – The Yemeni government and the World Bank yesterday launched a USD82-million proposal to reform the fiscal situation in Yemen.

At least USD12-million of this money will go to the Public Finance Modernization Project that is specifically designed for Yemen and is being funded by the World Bank's International Development Organization. The project's plan was approved by the government in late December and was presented by Arun Arya, a senior Public Manager Specialist at the World Bank, on Sun-

day at the National Information Center in Sana'a. He added that the remaining USD 70 million will go to the Yemeni government in order to revive its financial situation after the damage caused by the economical crises. The project will run from this year until 2015, at which time it is hoped that Yemen will have the tools it needs to continue independently.

This project will include "technical training" for employees in governmental circles, said Fouad Al-Kholany, Executive Director of the project.

Al-Kholany explained that government employees are still working according to the old systems of collect-

ing and sorting information. He said that nearly 2,500 employees within the governmental authorities will be qualified to cope with the "requirements of preparing budgets and also in computer skills as a large number of employees know nothing about such skills."

Al-Kholany said that the staff of the Fiscal Training Institute within the Ministry of Finance will be the first port of call. Experts will train them and then these individuals will be responsible for training other employees in other departments without outside help. It will also target the ministries of Finance, Education, Health and Population and the Ministry of Public

Labor. Al-Kholany added that by the end of this year six other ministries will be included.

The project will also aim to enhance the capacity of the General Authority for Censorships and Bids. A new section for inquiries will also be established in the Ministry of Finance to provide the necessary and date-to-date information for people who would like to know more about the Ministry's plans.

The aim of the project is to shorten and quicken administrative procedures.

"Instead of long procedures, the Ministry of Finance will implement the findings of this project and interact directly with those who have projects in

the country," said Al-Kholany.

"This will reduce the time and money spent on such procedures."

He added that businessman will now only deal with the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Yemen directly and therefore saving time.

The project depends on the implementation of the Accounting Financial Information Management Systems (AFMIS) that will allow the Ministry of Finance to outline its yearly plans according to its budget without any exaggeration.

"Sometimes the budget is much less than the plan requires. This creates

problems and eventually many projects are not carried out," said Arya.

"Such problems will not occur in the future as the project is based on following the AFMIS system that will help the Ministry of Finance outline its plans according to the budget it has," Al-Kholany confirmed.

"The project, if implemented as it should be, will solve many of Yemen's fiscal problems," said Arya.

"This is the only project of its kind that has been proposed for Yemen for 2011 and it is a real chance for Yemen to reform its financial system. Yemen should make the best use of this project," he added.



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UN refugee agency blamed for bribes
He said that refugees in Yemen from Iraq, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eretria were subjected to mistreatment.

Another victim for such alleged black-mailing is Dr. Hassan Al-Tamimi who is an Iraqi refugee. He was working as a secretary for a former Iraqi ambassador in Yemen.

Al-Tamimi said that he also went to the UNHCR in Sana'a where he met Al-Jahmi who confirmed that he would process his application within a short period. He said that Al-Jahmi asked him to pay USD6,000 though.

"I do not have that amount and I gave him my car that is worth USD7,000 to

complete my application to travel from Yemen to Europe for resettlement and medication," said Al-Tamimi.

He showed the Yemen Times a copy of the confession that Al-Jahmi made to the criminal investigation administration in Sana'a. In this confession, Al-Jahmi said that he accepted Al-Tamimi's car as a bribe for completing UNHCR documents.

Cagri Hurmuzlu, external relations officer at the UNHCR office in Sana'a, told the Yemen Times that this problem has occurred due to the lack of awareness among refugees. He said that the UNHCR has "zero tolerance for payment for its services".

"Some people are not informed that

there should be no money exchanged," he said.

He said that to prevent such cases the UN Refugee Agency would soon launch a general awareness campaign. One of its objectives would include coordinating with mobile service companies to educate refugees on how to access the UNHCR's services without being victimized.

Hurmuzlu confirmed that Al-Jahmi does not work with the agency and that any UNHCR staff member found taking money from refugees would be fired.

"We have not renewed his contract due to various reasons. However, with respects to charges of any kind of fraudulent behaviors, UNHCR has a zero-

tolerance policy and therefore refers all allegations and cases to our internal investigation unit that is always at our disposal," he said.

"There have been cases and they have been terminated immediately."

He added: "The UNHCR will also strengthen our awareness campaign to let refugees know that no money is to be exchanged at any time when dealing with the UNHCR."

He said that the UNHCR was not responsible for paying back any money that refugees claimed its staff had taken from them as bribes. He said that refugees should turn to Yemeni authorities to resolve such criminal cases.

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Relatives of Guantanamo detainees demand more government support

"Nothing has changed ever since, except that the return of certain detainees is even more restricted," said Arman.

The US insists that it will only release certain prisoners if they undergo rehabilitation in their home country. However, Yemen says it cannot afford to set up a rehabilitation center. One of the protesters therefore suggested launching a campaign to raise private funds for such rehabilitation that would hugely embarrass the Yemeni government within the international community.

For former Guantanamo detainees like Jamal Merea, the Yemeni government's excuses are a testament to its lack of interest in the release of the Yemeni citizens from the camp.

"Allah knows that no government efforts were

behind our release," he told the Yemen Times. One of the detainees' wives questioned why it is mostly Yemenis that are still in detention.

"For how much longer will Yemenis be treated differently only because there is no government that demands their release?" she asked in desperation.

Since January 2008 Yemenis constitute the largest group among the remaining 101 detainees in Guantanamo Bay. Currently 91 Yemenis are kept in the detention center on allegations of terrorist activities.

According to the lawyer Mark Falko from the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York who spoke to the Yemen Times in October, only 30 of the total detainees have actually been charged or tried and eight Yemenis have already obtained the right to repatriation but are still behind bars.



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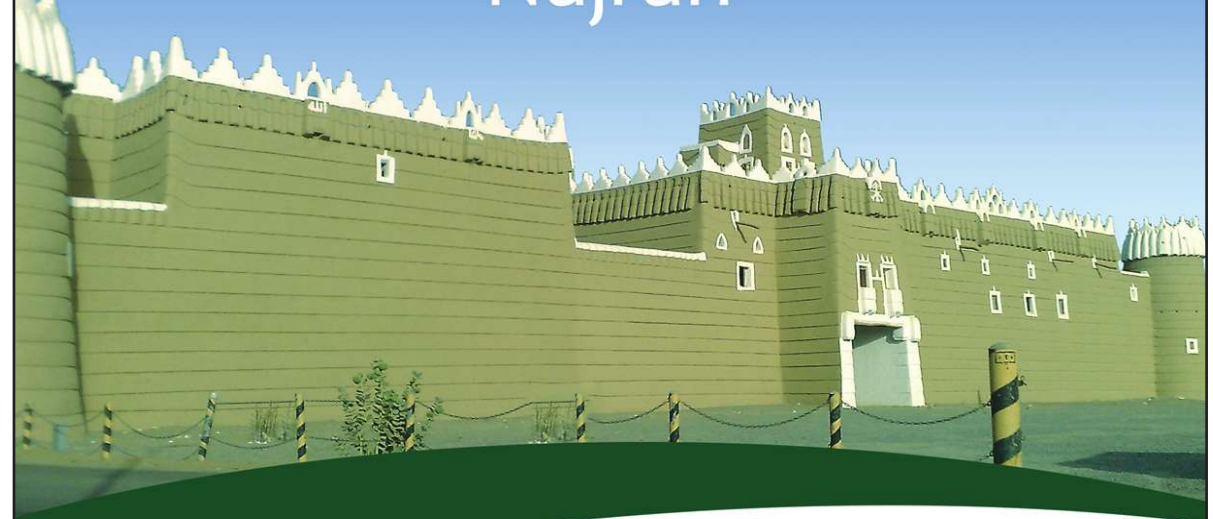
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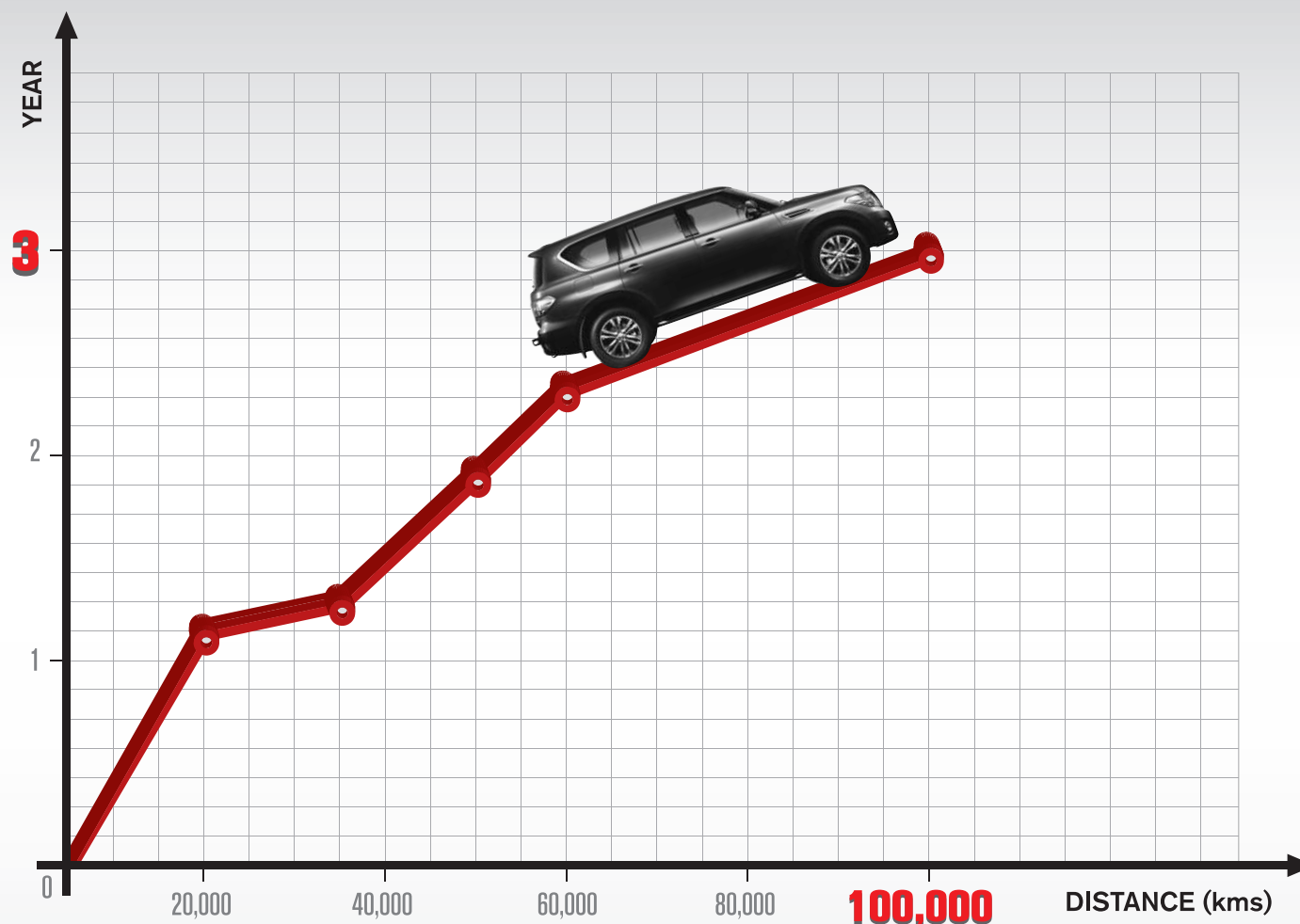
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Foster homes: a welcome change for many destitute youth



Ali Thabet

Story and photos by: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

The Insan Foundation for Development is a private foundation that was established in 2005 and runs houses for orphans and street children. They have two houses in Sana'a, one in Taiz, and one specifically for girls in Aden. The Yemen Times visited one of the houses in Sana'a and Ali Al-Rakhami, head of the Family House 2, provided a tour of the facilities and gave some insight into the foundation and its children.

The foundation targets only needy children such as homeless orphans and street children or those whose families cannot support them, said Al-Rakhami. He ran through some of the procedures that the foundation carries out when

they receive new children.

"We focus on health and education side. When we receive those children, we immediately bathe them and provide them with new clothes, perfumes, brushes and toothpastes, towels. They have their own cupboard with keys," he said.

He also discussed how the Foundation finds parents who live with the children at the foundation.

The children wake up early to pray, eat breakfast and prepare themselves for their private school. They also receive pocket money plus sandwiches and juice and they have a special bus to transport them to and from school, said Al-Rakhami.

"They have tutors and cultural programs. The foundation also has celebrations to honor top students and the creative ones," he said.

Al-Rakhami stressed that this pro-

gram is not coercive and for children from such backgrounds careful social and psychological development is vital.

"The Foundation has a daily program for children but we don't force them to fully comply with the regulations. We give them the personal freedom and allow them to go outside the building to buy from shops alone," he said.

They are generally more aggressive and badly-behaved than most children and they come from mostly hostile environments, according to Al-Rakhami.

"We keep in mind the psychological and social state of these children. We don't resort to beating them or to raising our voices. These children have come from complicated backgrounds and need special care," he said.

He indicated that children often feel that they are intruders when they first arrive here but they quickly acclimatize to the new place.

"Some children here don't want to leave the place at all," he said.

Ali Thabet, 17, entered the foundation five years ago. His life before entering the foundation was miserable and he felt displaced.

"My grandfather expelled my father and mother from the house in my village. The bad conditions compelled us to live in a shanty house and my father was beating me black and blue," he said.

Thabet then dropped out of school and ran away from his father. He ended up staying on the streets.

"I was lost. A group of bad friends on the street were encouraging me to steal, smoke and do bad things. I was ready to do anything," he said shamefacedly.

"My father heard about the foundation and brought me to here. He had no money to take care of me and he brought me to the foundation. When I entered the place I was crying bitterly because I felt that I'm in strange place," he added.

Thabet said that he was surprised when he saw the couches, TV, games and beds.

"I was wondering about what I would do for lunch but it turned out that there was delicious food every day. Gradually I felt at home and I changed my behaviors and manners," said Thabet, proudly.

He also discussed how he stopped making insulting remarks to people, learnt how to pray and how to maintain his personal hygiene.

Thabet proudly showed us the key for his own cupboard.

"I have many things in my closet.



The Insan Foundation for Development also focuses on entertainment for children. They have a program for studying, playing, reading and watching TV plus other activities.



Children's behaviors gradually improve with the help of social and psychological specialists that help them to rehabilitate.

Jeans, brushes, books, two new pairs of shoes and sandals, shirts, a comb, cream for my hair and many things," he said happily.

"My father came to bring me back to the village but I completely refused. Even if they offer me valuable things in

return for leaving the place I will not go. My real home is here," he said.

In a similar case, Mohammed Mansour, 14, came to the foundation three years ago. He is orphan and was living with his grandfather in his village where he was not studying. Mansour's uncle

brought him to the foundation.

"I can sleep and eat well here. This place is better than my bad village," he said.

"We are treated kindly. We are satisfied and don't need any more things," he added.



After lunch, the children gather to enjoy watching TV in a big hall.



Children at one of the homes run by the Insan Foundation in Sana'a.



The Insan Foundation for Development provides children with a library to urge them to read. Some of the children are not used to reading and are learning more about books.

Deputy PM Al-Arhabi: "Media exaggerate Al-Qa'ida's influence"

In an exclusive interview, he says the government welcomes U.S. help to fight terror

Interview by Felice Friedson
The Media Line

It's rare in the West to hear anything [about Yemen] without the words Al-Qa'ida. Is that accurate? Is that a fair assessment?

No, it is not. It cannot be. You yourself are in Sana'a and you see how Sana'a is. We have some isolated incidents of Al-Qa'ida types from time to time, but many countries are subjected to some threats, so it's not only Yemen. Other countries are subject to similar terror acts. The media is exaggerating. Talking about Al-Qa'ida is exciting and it attracts readers and viewers. That's why whatever relates to Al-Qa'ida is being very much exaggerated and it overshadows the image of Yemen, which is most unfair.

On one hand, there is a story to tell about Yemen, the country. A poor country, but a country with a rich history and beautiful architecture. On the other hand, there are serious incidents in rural areas with Al-Qa'ida and terrorism, so how do you contain that terrorism?

I think the government is doing its best. Yemen unfortunately went through several cycles: or permanent cycles of conflict.

You are first, absolutely right. Yemen is a very interesting country; a unique country; has a rich culture; has a beautiful landscape and a long history of civilization which extends back to 1700 B.C. We have a civilization that is 3,700 years old. The country has very limited resources and unfortunately went

through continuous cycles of conflict for 50 years which has drained resources and energy.

At the present time, the government is trying its best to combat terrorism and Al-Qa'ida -- but we all know that Yemen has very little in terms of financial resources and human resources necessary to deal with Al-Qa'ida. The government is doing its best; and has had several successes in combating Al-Qa'ida.

Does Yemen welcome American assistance and guidance in countering terrorism?

Terrorism is a global threat and unless we all join forces together, we will not be able to defeat that threat. That's why we need to cooperate -- all of us -- in exchanging information, experience and so on; and providing all kinds of necessary support. It is an official position of the Yemeni government to accept support, whether it is coming from the United States or any other development partners.

Abd-A-Karim Al-Arhabi is the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation for the Republic of Yemen. He is also the founder and managing director of the Social Fund for Development.

This past April, Al-Arhabi received a public service award from the World Bank, citing him as a "key champion in the battle to reduce poverty, improve governance and broaden economic growth for Yemen."

The Media Line's Felice Friedson recently spoke with the Deputy Prime Minister in his office in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.



Yemen appears to be making serious efforts towards democratization. Is the West helping sufficiently? Are you satisfied with that assistance or should there be more?

Well, our needs are unlimited, to be fair, in terms of democratization; and in terms of meeting the basic needs of the population. Our needs are unlimited, but we welcome any support. We have some donors and development partners that have been providing us with support for the last three and four decades. But still, what Yemen is getting is very limited. I can give you some examples. The of-

ficial development assistance that Yemen is getting is between \$13 and \$15 per capita per year while the average per capita in the least developing countries is more than \$40 per capita per year. Yemen is very much under-funded. This is a well-known fact. Sometimes you have donors that are focusing on specific parts of the world to provide assistance and sometimes donors confuse us with the Peninsula as a whole. They feel we are part of the huge wealth in the Peninsula which is not true. Yemen is a very poor country.

What is the biggest challenge you face personally in the next 10 years?

There are so many challenges but I think education is a very big challenge. We still have millions of kids who have no access to schools, who drop out. We have problems of educational quality. We have problems to provide the right skill training that the market needs. I think the biggest challenge is education. Education can deal with other challenges, like population growth, health and other money challenges. So I think education is a big, big concern.

Vacancy Announcement

giz | Office Sana'a

The Yemeni Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, for the project **Technical Secretariat (TS) / Consolidation of sectoral reform in the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector** is seeking to fill the position of **"Expert"**.

The "Expert" will support the project team leader of component 1 of the water program and his team in technical, organisational and content wise matters. He/ She will take part in planning and conceptual planning, steering and monitoring of activities in coordination with his/her superior. He/ She may will be given decision making authority for certain tasks and will be accountable in technical, regional and cross-cutting topics to the client, the partner and other stakeholders, in coordination with her/his superior.
The duty station of the "Expert" will be in **Sana'a/Yemen**.

The tasks and responsibilities of the "Expert" will be as the following:

- Support the team leader of the TS to accomplish the GTZ mandate in consolidation of the UWSS sector reform
- Analyze and steer the establishment of at least two public companies in the Yemeni water sector in coordination with the team leader
- Assist in program monitoring, planning and steering
- Carry out ad-hoc requests by the counterparts in coordination with the team leader
- Support the Senior Advisor in issues related to improving PIIS and monitoring UWSS with support of PIIS urban water supply and sanitation benchmarks
- Translation and proof read of various documents from English in Arabic and vice versa
- Write reports and Minutes of Meeting in English and Arabic
- Assists in communication, updating and collection of information regarding guidance work
- Carry out verbal translation where needed
- Support the organization of workshops
- Take over the travel logistic for the team and consultant and other parties if required
- Support the TS with contracting of consultants and translators when needed
- Support the TS team leader in any task which might come up during the assignment.

Requirements for this position are:

Formal Education

- Min. BSc in engineering or economics, business administration or similar field (MSc is an advantage)

Professional Experience

- At least 5 years of professional working experience in a similar position

Further Knowledge

- Reasonable knowledge of the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Yemen
- Sound understanding of institutional and organizational development as well as local administration structures and Yemeni law
- Strong analytical and report writing skills
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Good command of computer skills
- Good team player
- Familiarity with GTZ procedures is an advantage

To apply, please send a **copy of your CV in English and Arabic with a covering letter** to:

1. <giz-jemen@giz.de> or <ana.luqman@giz.de>
with subject Line : Vacancy: " **Expert / TSWR**"
2. HR Officer for Vacancy: " **Expert / TSWR**"
GIZ Office Sana'a
P.O. Box 692
Sana'a, Yemen
3. HR Officer for Vacancy: " **Expert / TSWR**"
GIZ Office Sana'a
Fax: 00967 1 412539

Only Short listed candidates will be contacted and invited for interview.

Deadline for submission of CV is: **22nd January 2011**



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صنعا، الجمهورية اليمنية

صندوق بريد : 12093

اعلان عن مناقصة رقم

(ITB/HCR/BO/11/SPU/01)

مكتب المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين، مقرها في صنعا، الجمهورية اليمنية، لديه التفويض الدولي لحماية اللاجئين والسعي إلى إيجاد حلول دائمة لمشاكلهم. المفوضية تلعب دورا رئيسيا في تنسيق المساعدات إلى اللاجئين والنازحين.

مكتب المفوضية في صنعا يعترزم وضع اتفاق تعاقد لفترة أولية سنة مع امكانية التمديد لمدة سنة إضافية عن الخدمات التالية :

1. صيانة المولدات الكهربائية في كل من صنعا / عمران / حرض
2. صيانة الكهرباء في مباني المفوضية في كل من صنعا / عمران / حرض

تدعو المفوضية الشركات المؤهلة من ذوي الخبرة الأداء لتقديم عرض الشركة للمناقصة.

وثائق المناقصة تتوفر في المفوضية قسم المشتريات، صنعا، على العنوان المذكور أعلاه. هاتف : 01-469771/2/3

يجب أن يتم تسليم العطاءات مختومة الى مكتب المفوضية في صنعا العنوان المذكور أعلاه في أو قبل 26 يناير 2011، وآخر موعد في الساعة 16:00.

تسليم العروض بعد الموعد المحدد أو إرسالها إلى عنوان آخر سيتم رفضها.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION
IRRIGATION AND LAND RECLAMATION SECTOR
WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM (WSSP)
NATIONAL IRRIGATION PROGRAM (NIP)

(IDA GRANT: H-449 RY)
CONSULTING SERVICES
Expressions of Interest

This request for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. (758) dated September 16, 2009 and updated on September 21, 2010.

The Republic of Yemen has received a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) and the government of Netherlands and Germany towards the cost of implementation of the National Irrigation Program (NIP) under the WSSP, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payment for consultants under multi-contracts. The required consultancy services shall include the following fields:

1. Feasibility study and design of spate works (i.e. Weirs, Traditional Free Wadi Intakes, Canals, Cross regulator, Drop structures, Culverts, Aqueduct, Road Bridge on farmer roads, etc.)
2. Feasibility study and design of recharge pool, check dykes,
3. Feasibility study and design of Wadi bank training, flood protection works.
4. Feasibility study and design of farm roads
5. Construction Supervision of implementation of works (spate works, watershed management works, water harvesting works)
6. Rapid assessment study for selection of potential Wadis to be developed under NIP.
7. TA for introduction Participatory Irrigation Management. Process and formation of respective beneficiaries/community organizations including WUG's & WUA's...etc
8. Institutional organization and capacity building for irrigation Sector.
9. TA for introduction of Irrigation Advisory services with required new and appropriate methods that fits for Yemen conditions, field training and workshops.
10. Strategic study to evaluate impact of investment in irrigation modernization by NIP under WSSP

The National Irrigation Program (NIP) now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services for any one or more of the above mentioned fields. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consulting firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Consulting firms 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.
Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 31/01/2011 at 11 a.m

Director of National Irrigation Program (NIP)
Irrigation & Land Reclamation Sector – MIA
Al-Mithak Street, Near Ministry of Planning and international Cooperation
Sana'a – Republic of Yemen
Tel : 967(1)228594
Fax: 967(1)228626 Email: wssp-nip@yemen.net.ye

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة الزراعة والري
قطاع الري واستصلاح الأراضي
برنامج دعم قطاع المياه (WSSP)
البرنامج الوطني للري (NIP)

إعلان ابداء الاهتمام لتأهيل استشاريين

حصلت حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية على منحة من هيئة التنمية الدولية (IDA) وحكومة ألمانيا وسفارة ملكة هولندا لمواجهة تكاليف البرنامج الوطني للري (NIP) الذي يعمل تحت إشراف برنامج دعم قطاع المياه (WSSP) وسيوجه جزء من هذه المنحة لتغطية نفقات خدمات استشاريه تتضمن المجالات التالية :

1. إعداد دراسات وتصاميم لمنشآت الري السيلي (مثل حواجز تحويلية، مداخل تقليدية من قاع الوديان، قنوات، مقسمات عرضية، هدارات، عبارات، طرق زراعية، جسور)
2. إعداد دراسات وتصاميم لأحواض تغذية المياه الجوفية، الحواجز التعويقية، الكرفان، منشآت حصاد المياه الصغيرة
3. إعداد دراسات الجدوى والتصاميم لاعمال حماية وتهذيب ضفاف الوديان من الفيضانات
4. إعداد دراسات وتصاميم للطرق الزراعية
5. الاشراف على تنفيذ الأعمال (منشآت ري سيلي، منشآت ادارة المساقط المائية، منشآت حصاد المياه، أعمال الطرق الاسفلتية، الخ)
6. إعداد دراسات المسح الزراعي السريع لاختيار الوديان الواعدة لادراجها ضمن أنشطة البرنامج الوطني للري
7. تقديم الدعم الفني لادخال مفهوم ادارة الري بالمشاركة بما في ذلك تشكيل مجموعات وجمعيات مستخدمي المياه للمستفيدين
8. في مجال البناء المؤسسي ودعم القدرات لقطاع الري
9. تقديم العون الفني لادخال دراسات ارشاد الري في مناطق عمل البرنامج ويشمل ذلك ادخال الطرق الحديثة والمناسبة، وورش العمل.
10. تقييم الاثر لانشطة تحديث الري من قبل البرنامج

ترغب وزارة الزراعة والري من خلال البرنامج الوطني للري في دعوة المكاتب الاستشارية المؤهلة للقيام بالخدمات المذكورة أعلاه . على المكاتب الاستشارية الراغبة ان تقدم معلومات عن أهليتها لتنفيذ الخدمات الاستشارية أعلاه (دليل الاستشاري، دراسات وخبرة في مشاريع مماثلة مع توفر المهارات الملائمة لدى الكادر الاستشاري الخ ..). وبالإمكان تضامن الاستشاريين لتعزيز مؤهلاتهم
ستتم عملية تأهيل الاستشاريين وفقا للإجراءات المتبعة في دليل البنك الدولي "الاختيار والتعاقد مع الاستشاريين" الصادر عن مقرضى البنك الدولي (إصدار مايو 2004 والمراجع في 2006)، والدعوة مفتوحة لجميع الاستشاريين والشركات الاستشارية من دول مؤهلة كما جاء في الدليل.

تقدم الطلبات في ظروف مغلقة تحتوي على نسخة أصلية وأخرى منسوخة وتسلم على العنوان أدناه في موعد أقصاه 31/01/2011 ومعنونا بوضوح " البرنامج الوطني للري (NIP) طلب التأهيل لخدمات استشاريه
يمكن للمهتمين من المؤهلين الحصول على معلومات إضافية من إدارة البرنامج الوطني للري (NIP) في العنوان المذكور أدناه في أوقات العمل الرسمية من الساعة الثامنة صباحا وحتى الثالثة عصرا

البرنامج الوطني للري
قطاع الري واستصلاح الأراضي
شارع البنيان - خلف وزارة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي
صنعا، هاتف: 01-228594 فاكس: 01-228626
البريد الإلكتروني: WSSP-NIP@yemen.net.ye

Glimpse of life in a Somali refugee camp



Young girls practise their English using picture books.

Story and Photos by: Tom Finn

At first glance the primary school in Kharaz refugee camp looks much like any other school in Yemen. Four brightly painted spacious classrooms decorated with pictures and slogans surround a dusty courtyard where children line up to be counted. A rectangle of steamrolled concrete with make-shift hoops at either end is overrun by a babble of screaming children chasing a basketball. Its only once you have a look inside the classrooms that you realise there is something out of the ordinary here. In a room half the size of a tennis court, 300 Somali infants aged 2-4 are seated on miniature plastic chairs, packed into the room in tight rows like a deck of cards. Two female teachers drift through the sea of children, using sharp hand gestures and the occasional shrill cry to lead them through a series of songs and chants. The fact that these two women are

able to maintain something of a sense of order in this setting (each minding 150 children) is nothing short of a miracle.

"We have four classrooms. We need twenty," Ismail Abubakr Ahmed tells me as we sit in the dark of his cramped office. Like most other Somalis in Yemen, Ismail made it to Yemen by way of a rickety wooden boat fleeing from the terrors of the brutal civil war in Somalia. After arriving in Aden in 1992 he moved to Kharaz and set up the camp's only school. He has been a resident and headmaster there for almost two decades.

"We started in a tent with no curriculum and no support. We used empty cartons as blackboards," Ismail recalls.

"Now we've over 4,000 children enrolled and numbers are growing every year." But overcrowding is not the only problem facing Ismail and his school: another is the temperature. Situated on a dusty, scolding hot plateau about 140k west of Aden and flanked by mountains and barren desert, temperatures in the summer can reach

up to 47 degrees. Crisscrossed by dusty streets in the sweltering heat, the refugees survive thanks to World Food Programme aid and casual labouring jobs in Aden.

"We lose nearly a third of our students over the summer. They follow their parents to Aden in search of a respite from the heat but also money."

"The boys go and beg and the girls work for next to nothing as maids in Yemeni's houses."

Next on Ismail's list of hardships is language. Like most refugee camps, Kharaz was set up as a temporary fix, a place where the basic needs of Somali refugees could be met until the violence in Somalia died down allowing them to return home. It was deemed that the children, despite living in Yemen, ought to continue with the Somali curriculum in their native language.

But in 2003, with tribal violence still raging in Somalia and thousands of African migrants continuing to arrive on Yemen's shores, it was decided that the language of instruction should be changed to Arabic.

"It is our duty to prepare these children for secondary school where they are expected to learn in Arabic" said Ismail.

The transition has been tough at times; according to Sidewa Yacub, the leader of the educational committee in the camp, some of the students still refuse to speak in Arabic.

"It's not only the language but the culture of learning which differs in Yemen. We have had to learn to be flexible in our approach," Sidewa told the Yemen Times.

The school employs a total of 70 teachers (a student-teacher ratio of 60:1) half of which are Yemeni and half Somali. But it has not always been this way.

In 2008, Gawad Mohammed, a Refugee Education Programme Officer from Save the Children was making the journey from Aden to Kharaz when ten masked gunman jumped out from the roadside, ordered him out of the car before driving off with it and leaving him in the desert. The tribesmen were not after money for the car but instead demanded that their teachers from the local villages around Kharaz be employed in the school.

"They wanted us to recruit their teachers

but most of them only have a high school education," said Gawad.

According to May Barazi, from the Head office of UNHCR in Kharaz camp, such skirmishes are still fairly common. Many of the locals believe that refugees in the camp have access to better facilities and services than Yemeni nationals. Outsiders wishing to visit the camp must now travel there with a military escort.

A burning question now faces those living and working in the camp's school. What now?

A second generation of Somalis is on the rise; children born in the camp are now seventeen years old, and having spent the majority of their childhood inside know of little else than camp life.

Some have questioned the sensibility of maintaining the camp in its current form and location.

U.N. Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, Janet Lim, recently visited Kharaz camp and said she thought refugees were better off living in Yemeni cities than in camps. In the cities, there is at least a chance of getting a job and building a new life.

"A camp is not a natural setting," she told a journalist from the Washington Post. "It's far from anywhere, in the middle of nowhere."

"A camp should be a temporary measure, but the more you develop it, the more permanent it becomes," Hakim Ahmed, a young Somali who travels back and forth between Aden and Kharaz, told the Yemen Times.

"The Somali people living here are isolated, apart from the occasional trip to Aden there is not much interaction with the outside world. It's easier for those living in Aden."

But not all of the children of Kharaz are destined for squalor and hopelessness.

Ismail says his proudest moment was the day one of his students, a boy named Abdulrahman Fareh who spent his entire childhood in the camp, received a scholarship courtesy of the German government to study administrative sciences at Aden University.

"We are confident that with better facilities we can produce a generation of educated Somalis who will have something substantial to offer to Yemeni society."



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High level Arab Bank delegation visits Yemen, leaves impact

M. Hani Alkhalil Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Arab Bank - Head Office based in Amman / Jordan, accompanied by Senior Tendant who is Executive Vice President and Head of CIB for Arab Bank and Walid Al-Sumbhat Senior Vice President at Arab Bank PLC made a three day visit to Yemen last week.

The delegation inaugurated a new branch for the bank in Taiz and visited the governor of the Central Bank, Minister of Finance, Director of the General Investment Authority.

They also met with representatives of the business sector in Yemen such as Alshaban Holding, MTN, CCC.

This visit aimed to facilitate the bank's operations in Yemen and provide more credits for its clients on the long run.

Over 80 years ago, the bank's founder Late Abdul Hamid Shoman based the bank's operations on the following values: "Protect my capital, protect my community, protect my staff, and protect my name... and from that, everything else will follow."

Therefore, the Arab Bank's branches worldwide involve in community development as a part of the bank's social responsibility program.



YT vision statement



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

**"To make
Yemen a good
world citizen."**

OUR
OPINIONPower of the
people

Watching the news unfold in Tunisia, where mass demonstrations have recently forced the President to flee the country, creates mixed feelings in Yemen. Many of us are happy that the people of an Arab country are standing up for themselves and creating change in a peaceful manner. Personally, I am jealous, apprehensive and doubtful.

I am jealous of the Tunisian people's strength and unity: how they managed to win the army over to their side.

I wonder whether something like this could happen in Yemen? Could the people revolt and demand dignity? And if they did, would the army be there to support them or would it instead be killing protestors and putting them in prison?

I fear that Yemenis would let each other down. The Tunisian protests began in a few towns in mid-December and spread in a scattered fashion. They were not organized by an opposition political party or by civil society organizations that herded them onto buses or paid for them to chant slogans as we see in Yemen.

Gradually more and more Tunisians took to the streets and joined hands in solidarity at each other's suffering. There were in it together and knew that the way out required that they stood together united.

And I am also doubtful, doubtful whether Yemenis will stand up for themselves any time soon. Certainly not until they stop being sedated by qat and spending hours every day building castles in the sky. Do Yemenis really care about what is going on in their country?

Perhaps the fact that so many Yemenis are illiterate compared to the 100% literacy rate in Tunisia is a factor. But is feeling hunger, deprivation, and injustice dependant on education? Are educated people more sensitive to their physical and emotional needs than uneducated ones?

On the other hand Yemen has much stronger civil society than Tunisia with a more free and independent media and a semi-democratic system that allows for multiple political parties. Both of these were non-existent in Tunisia.

Or maybe it's about history? Tunisians had their revolution 23 years ago compared to ours almost 50 years ago. Perhaps our revolution was so long ago that we've forgotten how to do it?

Yemenis are hungry, unemployed, uneducated, unhealthy and increasingly unhappy. How much lower do we need to sink before we stand up for ourselves and demand more respect from our rulers?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Why Hillary Clinton
made a surprise stop
in Yemen

Hillary Clinton meeting Yemen's opposition party leaders last Tuesday during her visit to Yemen.

By: Laura Kasinof

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton paid an unannounced visit to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sana'a, highlighting the country's rising importance in US foreign policy despite a sometimes rocky relationship.

Ms. Clinton, the first US secretary of State to visit Yemen in more than 20 years, addressed the precarious balance between Washington's counterterrorism needs and the Yemen's domestic agenda, on which terrorism is but one concern. The country is also facing quickly depleting oil and water reserves, the Arab world's poorest economy, a southern secessionist movement and weak rule of law in its rural areas.

Stopping for five hours on her regional tour around the Arabian Gulf, Clinton had lunch and an extended meeting with President Saleh, who has ruled the country for 32 years. But she also addressed opposition lawmakers and average Yemenis at a town-hall meeting.

While she addressed joint US-Yemeni counterterrorism efforts, which many Yemenis distrust, she also sought to portray the US as taking an interest in Yemeni affairs beyond security cooperation, reported The New York Times.

Tiff over presidential term limits

Clinton's high-security stopover in Sana'a comes during a diplomatic tiff between the two nations.

The relationship between the US and Yemen became frosty last month when Yemen's ruling

party ignored US pressure to delay a parliamentary vote on constitutional amendments that would make it possible for Saleh to remain president for life.

All parties should "delay parliamentary action and to return to the negotiating table (to reach) an agreement that will be welcomed by the Yemeni people as well as Yemen's friends," said Mark Toner, acting State Department spokesman, in a Dec. 31 statement.

The US views good governance and national reconciliation between Yemen's feuding political factions as an important facet of its counterterrorism strategy. While Yemen welcomed the doubling of US aid last year as concern grew about the operations of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), it has sought to downplay the level of US involvement.

Yemen went forward with its parliamentary vote on the amendments the day after the State Department statement was released, and the official Saba news agency published a statement warning the United States from interference in Yemeni domestic affairs.

"US officials are aware that Yemen's parliament acts according to constitutional and legal rules, and that the determination of nations can't be decided through external desires," reads the Saba report.

"The US call, which urged all Yemeni parties to postpone the parliamentary procedure and come back to the negotiating table, warning that going ahead with the procedure could worsen the situation, did not live up to diplomacy norms or wisdom."

But Yemen's activities don't always measure up to diplomatic norms either.

Last month, Wikileaks revealed that the Yemeni government has diverted US counterterrorism aid to fight separatists, not Al Qaeda. While the US was aware of how its support was being used, American foreign aid to Yemen still more than doubled in 2010, after AQAP took responsibility for the failed underwear bomb plot aboard a Detroit-bound plane.

Why Clinton visited after tit-for-tat

The Yemeni government knows that counterterrorism is at the top of the US agenda in Yemen, and that it can get away with snubbing US desires for its domestic policy without too many consequences, says Gregory Johnsen, a Yemen specialist at Princeton University in New Jersey.

Mr. Johnsen says that the fact that Clinton's visit followed the tit-for-tat statements over the constitutional amendments shows "how important the US is treating its relationship with the Yemeni government at this time."

The past two official visits by US secretaries of State to Yemen were made by James Baker in 1990 and William Rogers in 1972.

COMMON SENSE

The tide begins to turn
First Tunisia and then?

Time and again, this column has often stated that the kind of events that unfolded in Tunisia are bound to occur in any of the Arab States, which have witnessed sufficient grounds for a mass unfavorable public reaction that certainly would make most of the rulers in the Arab World from Mauritania to Yemen wish they had another chance to see just where did they go wrong? Of course, they forget the underlying fact that the reins of authority have been in their hands for at least two decades. This is bound to be enough cause for uprisings by the public, who feel that their democratic right to a peaceful transfer of authority has been ripped off the ballot box, in one way or another. On the other hand, all of these regimes have their ground roots in distant lands; i. e., they originated under suspicious plots engineered outside of their home turf. The overriding cause of their rise emanates from a desire by autocratic regional powers (at least they regard themselves as powers - although they have proven to be weaker than lambs) to do away with any hopes of democratic practice in the Arab World.

We have seen this kind of regional chess time and again. It happened in Yemen on more than one occasion starting in 1973, when the civilian government of Qadhi Abdul-Rahman Al-Iriani was toppled in a bloodless coup d'état that returned the military to the helms of authority after a seven year tryout with civilian democratic rule. Needless to say, what Yemen was given in return apparently meant perpetual military rule. We certainly could have done better without the change. However, the matter was repeated again in Egypt, in Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria and in Mauritania, where military or totalitarian rule was either confirmed or reinstated, in most cases with the support and prodding of the rich oil magnates of Saudi Arabia. The saddest cases as such are in the Sudan and Mauritania, in which genuine democratic government duly elected by their people after genuinely serious military coups, which were exceptional to the common military coups of cutthroat generals we have seen otherwise. But nevertheless, this was disagreeable to certain autocracies in the region and thus you have regimes like Yemen's current totalitarian regime, the failed state regime of Sudan, which is now disintegrating rapidly, the failure manifested by the Bin Ali regime in Tunisia, etc.

It is quite clear that governments that insist on stepping on the necks of their constituencies forever are doomed to collapse, sometimes in a violent and disagreeable way, but nevertheless almost unavoidable.

Regimes that rely on sheer gut power and oppressive means of maintaining their hold on authority are bound to witness the kind of healthy erratic civil uprisings that unfolded last week in Tunisia, whether they liked them or not. In Tunisia (as is the case in all the autocratic regimes in the Arab World), we had all the maladies of most of dictatorial states. These include a reliance on family or clan rule, nepotism and favoritism, not to mention the misallocation of fiscal and natural resources to suit political and business ambitions of the icons of the dictatorial regimes and their bought puppets along the socio-economic spheres, so as to guarantee the longevity of these monstrous regimes.

Tunisia now represents for many of the large masses of the population in the Arab World a symbolic stimulus for unfavorable, but nevertheless mass public reactions to sloppy government that characterize Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, and Mauritania. These latter starts have a common denominator, in that the regimes of these countries have brought on a hopeless aura of poverty, deprivation and corrupt administrative systems that have bled not only the resources of the countries mentioned, but also the will of the people to carry on with the hope that relief is bound to come. They will obviously eventually reach a boiling point when these people realize that they have reached the pit of hopelessness and despair, brought on by the autocratic corrupt regimes that rule them.

In conclusion, this observer would like to reiterate the memorable words of Rejib Tayyib Erdogan, the Mahathir Mohammed of Turkey, who has worked very hard over the last five years or so to catapult Turkey into a dynamic political and economic giant in the region after having done away with an aging military establishment that froze all chances of Turkey to come out of its stagnation. In an interview with Al-Jazeera program, "Without Limits" the outspoken Turkish leader summed up the situation well in the Arab World, when he analyzed it as follows: "Oppressive rulers are bound to be failure in governance, no matter how many laws a state has. Just rulers are the only guarantee for success, even if a state has the worst laws in the world."

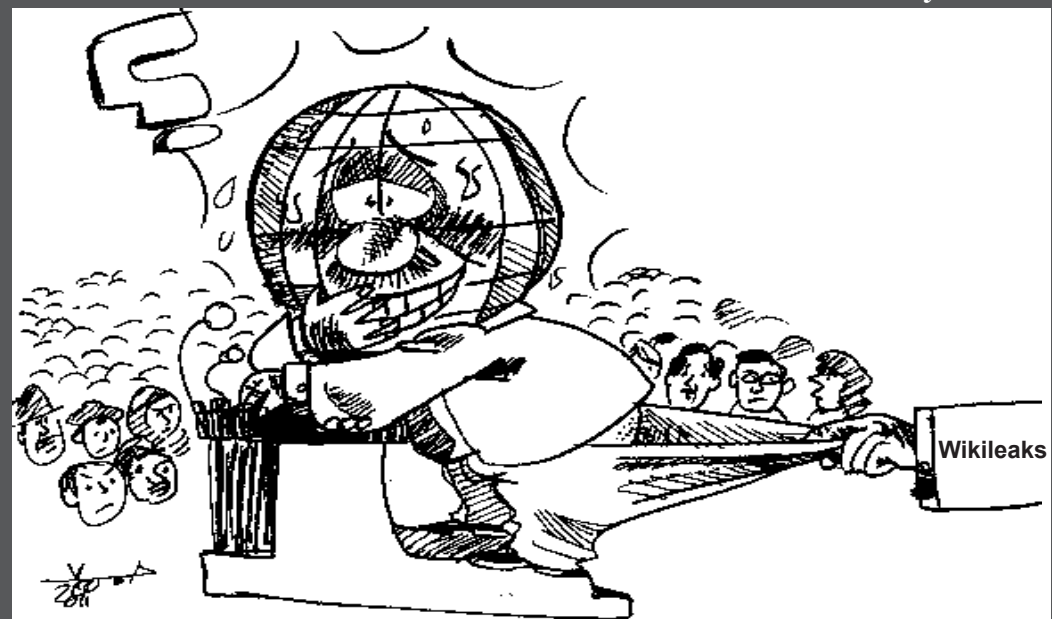
Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. His blog may be read at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com>



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



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SabaFon's sponsorship of the

Fifth equestrian championship of Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar concludes



In the presence of Vice President Abdo Rabo Mansour Hadi, the events of the fifth championship of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al. Ahmar for equestrian individual and divisional jumping categories (juniors, young adults, and adults), was concluded at the Military college equestrian field. It was organized by the General Federation of Equestrian and Camel races. Six organizations have competed in the championship, each of them represented by four competitors. These organizations included the military academy, police academy, the private guards, Sheikh Al-Ahmar's stall, the Economic Corporation, and al-Jar Model Farm.

Yasser Nasser Deputy Head of Equestrian and Camels Union gave a speech welcoming the guests of the championship which was held in the name of one of the most important national symbols.

SabaFon's sponsorship of this event came as a result of the belief of the company's significant contributions of late Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar for the establishment and support of the principles of freedom, development, social, economic and cultural progress as well as his struggle and defense of the revolution, unity, and advocacy for Arab and Islamic national issues.

Horseman Ibrahim Saeed won the singles championship as with full marks of 27 points with great success on his horse Al- Mortajza from al-Kor stable at a record time of 45.07 seconds.

According to the results of the final phase in the single seniors the first five places came as follows.

- First Place, Ibrahim Samee' - Al- Mortajza - Sheikh al- Kor Stable - 27 points - at a time of 45.05 seconds
- Second place, Mulatif al-Tawil - Al-Ghadhab - Guards - 27 points - at a time of 45.96 seconds
- Third Place, Mohammed Al-Gumali - Showtime - Sheikh stable - 27 points - at a time of 47.22 seconds
- Fourth place, Abdullah al-Maghrabi - Flood - al-Harbia - 27 points - at a time of 47.58 seconds
- Fifth place, Ibrahim Al-Ghazali - Saba Star - Sheikh Stable - 27 points - at a time of 48.36 seconds



Honoring Heroes

He Abdo Rabo Mansour Hadi, Vice President of the Republic honored the heroes who won top places in the different categories (juniors, Youth, senior, divisional), offering them cups, medals, and amounts of money incentives, which amounted to YR 4 million at a rate of YR one million to senior adults single category, YR one million five hundred to divisions, YR 750 thousand YR for the single youth, YR 775 thousand for the single juniors as follows.

The Youth category

- First place, Monther Faisal al-Daba- al-Hanon- the Military College - YR 250 thousand.
- Second place, Abdullah Nabil al-Khamiri, Saba Star, al-Ahmar stable, YR 200 thousand
- Third place, Mustafa Shaie' -al- Katie', Police College, YR 150 thousand
- Fourth place, Faris Shomila - Al-Adiah - al-Ahmar stable - YR 100 thousand
- Fifth place, Tareq Farid al-Mathabi, Kamran - Police college, YR 75 thousand

Junior category

- First Place, Ibrahim Al-Ghazali - Saba Star - al-Ahmar stable - YR 250 thousand
- Second place, Abdul-Ghani Shaya - al-Wathab - The Economic Corporation - YR 200 thousand
- Third Place, Ramah al- BaKeer - al-Maimon - al-Akwa' stable - YR 150 thousand
- Fourth place, Ahmed al-Kor -- al- Ghaithana - Military College - YR

100 thousand.

Fifth place, Omar Zubaidi - Thunder - Special Guard - YR 75 thousand.

The divisional

First place, the Military College -YR 600 thousand and similarly to horsemen Abdullah Samie, Abdullah al-Maghrabi, Mohamed al-Rimi, Abdullah Alwan

Second place, the Special Guard - YR 500 thousand and similarly the other horsemen Jamal al-Tawil, Mulatef al-Tawil, Mohammed al-Khawi and Maher al-Yameni

Third Place, Sheikh al-Ahmar stable - YR 400 thousand and similarly the other horsemen Muhammed al- Qumali, Elias al-Khamisi, Abdul Razzaq al- Abbasi, Ibrahim al-Ghazali

Juniors' category

- First place, Ibrahim Samie - al-Murtajaza - al-Kor stable - YR 300 thousand
- Second Place, Mulatif al-Tawil - al-Ghadhab - the Special Guard - YR 250 thousand
- Third place, Mohammed al-Qumali - Showtime - al-Ahmar stable - YR 200 thousand
- Fourth place, Abdullah al-Maghrabi - al-Tofan - Military College - 150 thousand

The final competitions were attended by Hassan Mohammed al- Laozi, the Information Minister, Engineer Kamal al-Jabri, Minister of Transport and Information Technology, Ibrahim Hajri, Minister of Vocational and Training Education, Sheikh Hashed Bin Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar, Vice Youth and Sports Minister, head of the General Equestrian and Camels Union, Brigadier General Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh of the Central Security, Abdullah Hadi Bahian, Deputy Youth Minister, Abdul Hameed Al-Saidi, deputy Minister for the sports sector, Hussein Ba Salim, head of the Yemen Space channel, Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ahjori Secretary General of the Yemeni Olympic Committee, Brigadier General Ahmed Ali al-Wali Director of the Military College, Brigadier General Mujali Megidea the Military police commander and a number of youth, sports, military and security leaderships, social figures, heads of a number of sports federations and members of the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Equestrian and Camels. It is notable that the Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar Equestrian championship tournament is held annually under the exclusive sponsorship of SabaFon.



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Yemen to issue first Islamic sukuk

Story and Photos by: Ali Saeed

The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) plans to release its first Islamic sukuk within the first quarter of this year, Kamal Al-Rabee, director of the newly established Islamic Sukuk Unit at the CBY, told the Yemen Times.

The sukuk of CBY will be Yemeni state bonds that respect Islamic law as they function without fixed interest

rates. While investment in the sukuk will be open to banks, companies and individuals in Yemen and abroad, it will be of particular interest to Islamic banks.

As Al-Rabee explained, Islamic banks in Yemen currently have no possibility to invest in the state budget as this involves signing a contract with a specific interest rate. The Islamic sukuk of CBY will therefore be the first opportunity for Islamic banks to invest in Yemeni state bonds.

Al-Rabee added that an independent authority in Islamic law will monitor the compliance of the sukuk's contracts and projects with Islamic law.

The sukuk will be released by CBY in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, which will define projects in need of funds. As Deputy Finance Minister, Jalal Yaquob, told the business news website Bloomberg, the first sukuk will be sold at USD 500 million.

In a first phase, the sukuk will cover comprehensive development projects in Yemen, including infrastructural improvements in electricity, roads and the health sector, Al-Rabee said. Later it is planned to expand the sukuk to private business projects in the industrial and housing sectors.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Shaibani, legal consultant for the Islamic Sukuk Unit at CBY, expressed his hope that the sukuk will boost Yemen's development efforts. He explained that the new financial tool will increase the amount of money that is invested in Yemen as Islamic banks will no longer be forced to send their funds to sukuk abroad.

"There are four Islamic banks in Yemen and they have large cash reserves. As they are not allowed to invest in treasury bonds, they resort to sending their money abroad," he said.

Al-Rabee said that investment risks in Yemen's sukuk were minimal in comparison to risks abroad. Referring to the international financial crisis of

2008, he pointed out that the compliance with Islamic law would not allow investments that were not backed up by real value.

Ali Al-Asmar, assistant general manager for investment and marketing at the Saba Islamic Bank, denied that Islamic banks were investing their money outside of Yemen. He said that their foreign cash reserve does not exceed 30 percent of all deposits, which only covers their external commitments for exporting traders.

However, Al-Asmar stressed that Islamic banks welcome the introduction of sukuk by CBY. According to the banker, the idea to issue sukuk had originally been raised by Islamic banks that wanted to contribute to covering the state's budget deficit.

"Such investment also supports the development, as workers are hired, new projects are created and the governmental expenditure is increased, which leads to economic growth," Al-Asmar explained.

The banker told the Yemen Times that the Islamic sukuk will enable Islamic banks to better compete with conventional banks in Yemen. Due to their access to state bonds, conventional banks are able to pay their depositors high interest rates that CBY fixes at around 20 per cent.

"If Islamic banks tried to pay similar interest rates to their depositors (without having access to high-profit state



Kamal Al-Rabee, director of the Islamic Sukuk Unit at the Central Bank of Yemen.

bonds), the finance cost would be very high on borrowers," he said.

Yemeni state bonds were first introduced in 1998 to cover an increasing budget deficit. Since then CBY annually has been offering the bonds to conventional banks, companies and individuals for a fixed interest rate. The Islamic sukuk will not replace the conventional

bonds, but will serve as an additional investment opportunity.

Al-Asmar said he wished that the Islamic sukuk of CBY will comply with Islamic law in terms of application, clearance and profits payment. He expressed his hope that it will support real businesses and enable a positive shift in Yemen's economy.



Ali Al-Asmar, assistant general manager of Saba Islamic Bank.

Silatech program combats unemployment among Yemeni youth

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

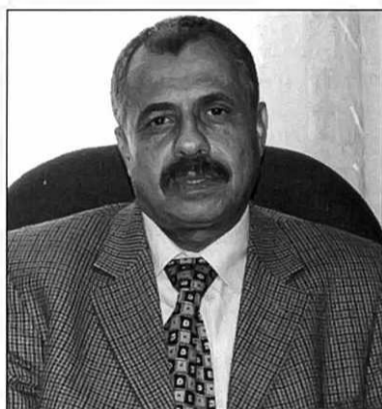
Today more than 50 million Arab youth are without employment. By the year 2020 this number is estimated to double. Although unemployment statistics in Yemen range between 17 to 35 percent according to whom you ask, the fact is that the rate is particularly high among Yemeni youth.

"Unemployment is the most dangerous problem because it is not only an economic challenge, it is also about dignity. Unemployment can have negative psychological effects on the youth," says Silatech's country representative, Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami.

Silatech is a social enterprise that was launched in 2008 by Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa and Sheikhha Moza, the prince and princess of Qatar. It aims to provide employment opportunities for unemployed Arab youth. So far Silatech has concentrated its efforts on three pilot countries: Syria, Yemen and Morocco.

As Al-Maitami told the Yemen Times, Silatech deals with unemployment from three angles to enable youth to enter the job market: access to capital, access to market and access to financial systems. He stressed that the cooperation of public and private sectors is thereby crucial to the success.

"One of the main pillars by which this program seeks to create sustainable change is through ensuring



Silatech's country representative, Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami

the involvement of both public and private sectors in a strong partnership," explained Al-Maitami.

Silatech encourages companies and government institutions to give qualified youth a chance, even if they have little or no professional experience.

"We want to create financial public and private policies that are biased towards youth, i.e. men and women between 18 and 35 years old," said Al-Maitami.

At the same time, Silatech aims

Silatech vision: Silatech envisions a world in which every young person is prepared to succeed, engaged in decent work, and actively pursuing their dreams.

to change the mindset and encourage youth to take up an occupation by stressing that all work is sacred. According to Silatech's philosophy, there is no work that should be looked down upon as long as it is legal and dignified. Silatech also supports women and provides them with work opportunities.

In Yemen, Silatech has five main programs:

Youth Microfinance Initiative

This initiative is delivered in partnership with Al-Amal Microfinance Bank (AMB), a leading Yemeni micro-finance institution. Since December 2009, over 7,000 young micro-entrepreneurs have been provided with formal financing averaging USD 215. Thereby the initiative has sustained or created an estimated 10,000 jobs - about five times more than anticipated.

Due to the high demand, a significant expansion of the partnership is planned for 2010-2013. Silatech and AMB are in active discussions with a range of additional partners about the provision of financial and non-financial support for this initiative.

Entrepreneurship training and business incubation program (Khadija)

The program is delivered in partnership with the Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDLF) as well as the Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS). It is also known as the "Khadija Initiative".

The program consists of various courses for young entrepreneurs. 200 trainees recently completed the basic business training and the advanced business training has just started. AMB and the Social Economic Development Fund (SEDF) signed a cooperation agreement so that graduates of the program have priority access to micro and small business financing. SEDF also provided ten bursaries for young women to join the training program.

Silatech, SMEPS and YLDLF are in discussions with several NGOs to establish partnerships in other regions of Yemen. Silatech also hopes that a number of corporate partners will provide additional bursaries for disadvantaged youth.

Construction skills training and placement initiative

The initiative is delivered in partnership with Qatari Diar, a real-



estate investment company, Shibam Holding, the investment arm of the Yemeni government. Consolidated Contractors Corporation (CCC), Yemen Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training (TEVT), and Pearson, an international media and education company.

As per January 2011, over 1,200 young people have been trained and certified for jobs on the Al-Rayaan Hills construction site and other projects in Yemen. 13 Yemeni trainers have received their qualification as vocational instructors and are now trainers on the course.

The successful pilot project at Sana'a Community College already elicited a very positive national and international response. It has catalyzed the further collaboration of the private and public sectors in Yemen to build sustainable models for the development of professional skills.

Silatech, together with the Ministry of Technical Education and Vo-

cal Training, Shibam Holdings and Pearson are now planning to scale up the program to over 20,000 Yemeni youth, 80 trainers, and five additional community colleges. In addition, it is planned to expand the curriculum to four craft skills areas and to link Yemeni workers to employment opportunities across the Gulf region.

Small enterprise development program

The program is implemented in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development Fund (SEDF),

By the end of 2011, Silatech in partnership with the Yemeni government aims to have trained 100,000 Yemenis to work in the Gulf region.

a leading Yemeni loan provider to micro and small enterprises. Since December 2009, it has provided formal financing to more than 350 young Yemeni entrepreneurs with loans averaging USD 1,600. An estimated 1,400 jobs have been sustained or created as a result of the program, which is more than three times the anticipated rate.

Due to the high demand, Silatech and SEDF have committed to scaling up the cooperation and are in active discussions with a range of partners about the provision of additional financial and non-financial support for this initiative.

Labour market policy initiative
This initiative is implemented in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MoSAL). It involves a survey among the labour force that is due to be fielded early in 2011 in 22,000 households.



Yemeni vocational workers need to learn about international safety standards and work obligations to become employable anywhere in the world.

Basketball in Yemen is a sport without spectators

By: Safiya Al-Jabry

“We won...we won...we won...ninth winning streak!”

When Bachir Salim wrote this exclamation on his Facebook wall one Sunday, he was very excited: the Chicago Orleans, his favorite basketball team, had won a play-off.

“NBA tournaments are like the World Cup for basketball fans like me,” Bachir explained knowing that only few people in Yemen would understand his passion.

Basketball fever is something well known in countries like the USA, Spain and Turkey. During basketball tournaments, thousands of fans gather to watch and support their teams. Players like Michael Jordan, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O’Neal and Kobe Bryan have left their names marked in history as some of the best basketball players of all time.

In Yemen, however, basketball is a little known sport that struggles to attract attention and spectators. Just a couple of weeks ago, not long after the 20th Gulf Cup, the local basketball championships were held in Aden. However, while thousands of fans came to the city from all over Yemen to cheer for their favorite football teams, only few went to see the basketball matches.

Akram Ahmed, who plays for the 22nd May team that won the competition, said that they could literally count their fans.

“Instead of them cheering for us, we were the ones cheering for their presence,” he said jokingly.

“The low awareness about basketball in Yemen makes it difficult for people to actually care about the game and follow up on any news about play-offs and championships,” he complained.

Winning the championship in Aden involved a lot of hard work, talent, determination and passion. Nevertheless, the players in Ahmed’s team agree that being a semi-professional basketball

player in Yemen is not such a big deal after all, as the sport does not receive the attention it deserves.

As Ahmed pointed out, even though he deeply loves basketball, it is more like a hobby than a profession for him. He told the Yemen Times there was no point in being a professional player in Yemen as basketball offered little prospects.

Mayad Aqlan, one of Ahmed team mates, agreed but still hoped that the sport would become better known in Yemen. In his view basketball should be a school activity and championships should receive more attention in the media in order to increase awareness and interest in the sport.

“Local tournaments should be televised to promote the game. For us players, basketball is not just a game, it’s a healthy activity and also fun,” Mayad said.

Hani Ahmed, who earned himself the title “Most Valuable Player” of the team, shared this view.

“I wish more people knew about basketball. It would be good if the

Basketball Union organized more competitions and focused on the game, took better care of the players and encouraged them to represent Yemen in the Olympics,” he said.

Hesham Abdullah is the coach of the 22nd May Team. He started coaching kids while he was still playing himself. After quitting his career as a player in 2003 he dedicated his talent to being a full-time coach – with great success: Abdullah has won every tournament with his previous teams and already two more as the coach of the 22nd May Team.



Youngsters shooting hoops on a basketball court in Hadda.

Nevertheless, the trainer seemed somewhat disillusioned about the prospects of basketball in Yemen.

“Most people in Yemen like football more than any other sport, let alone basketball, because of the influence of the Gulf Cup and the World Cup,” he said.

“The future of basketball in Yemen is in the hands of the Basketball Union and various clubs in Yemen. They should concentrate on finding fresh talents and developing them into professional players. They should promote basketball as a sport and an activity for Yemeni youth”, the trainer suggested.

Basketball fan Bachir told Yemen Times there was a lot of unused potential in Yemen.

“I’ve seen amazing players, some of whom are my friends, but they never get the support that they really need in order to improve. Plus, they prefer to focus on professions that will pay the bills, as sports don’t really pay that much in Yemen,” he said disappointedly.

According to Bachir, Yemeni’s interest in basketball is increasing slightly. Many youth are turning to the game as it is related to the hip hop culture that is becoming more and more popular in Yemen.

Until now, however, Bachir is one of only few fans supporting their teams at life tournaments. He admitted that matches in Yemen not only lack the cheering crowds, but also the particular impassioned atmosphere of life events. He therefore prefers to watch basketball on TV, or to read about championships in the newspaper.

Some facts about basketball

James Naismith, a teacher at the YMCA in Springfield Massachusetts, is credited with inventing basketball in 1891.

The first ‘hoops’ were actually just peach baskets and the first backboards were made of wire. The first basketball league was formed in 1898.

Basketball became an official Olympic Event at the summer Games in Berlin, Germany in 1936.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) in the USA was created by the merger of the National Basketball League (NBL) and the Basketball Association of America (BAA) after the season 1948-49.

Many teams in the NBA now have foreign players, who represent their native countries during the Olympic Games.

Source: www.2020site.org



The 22nd May basketball team.



Hani Ahmed and Akram Ahmed show off their medals and trophy after a basketball tournament.



Ahmed Najib and Bachir Salim play basketball during their free time at university.

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	1230	1000	Sanaa / Sayoun / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 182.3	
	1230	1100	Sanaa /Hodeidah / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 866.7	
	1450	1300	Sanaa /Ataq / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 190.1	
	1855	1400	Sanaa/Aden/ Sayoun / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 186.7	
	1745	1515	Sanaa / Mukalla / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 152.3	
	1820	1630	Sanaa / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 114.5	
2220	2030	Sanaa / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 120.1		
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	0900	0730	Sanaa /Hodeidah / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 170.1	
	0950	0800	Sanaa / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 110.1	
	1130	1000	Sanaa /Taiz / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 160.1	
	1300	1030	Sanaa / Sayoun / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 182.3	
	1555	1245	Sanaa /Gaidah / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 198.9	
	2100	1400	Sanaa/Aden/ Jeddah / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 820.1	
	1730	1600	Sanaa /Taiz / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 166.7	
	1900	1630	Sanaa /Mukalla / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 154.5	
	2250	2100	Sanaa / Aden / Sanaa	CRJ 700	FO 120.1	
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0900		0730	Sanaa /Hodeidah / Sanaa	CRJ 200	FO 170.1	
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Youth celebrate Wikipedia

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Wikipedia, the free on-line encyclopedia, celebrated its tenth anniversary on January 15 and invited users around the globe to mark the occasion.

The world's fifth most popular website has become well-liked in Yemen, where more and more researchers, academics, journalists and general web users look up its information. It was therefore no surprise when Yemeni fans responded to the call and organized an event at Mokha Bunn coffee shop in Sana'a on January 15.



YT photo by Rejwan Al-Sagoff

Rana Jarhum, who calls herself the number one Wikipedia fan in Yemen invited Yemeni Wikipedia users to the gathering through the social online network Facebook. She explained what fascinates her about the website.

"Wikipedia is organic. It is made by people who get together from all around the world in order to accumulate human knowledge in one place," she said.

Wikipedia users are part of the success of the site, as they can freely participate in creating and editing articles, thereby spreading the ownership of Wikipedia across the globe.

"For once, history is written by the people and not only by those in power," Jarhum emphasized.

Several Yemeni Wikipedia fans followed Jarhum's invitation to mark the occasion. Afrah Naser is a journalist and uses the website for her work. She participated in the celebration to show the world that Yemenis also use and support the website.

"I want to tell the world that internet freaks and news junkies like me are here in Yemen and celebrate this useful website," she said.

Ahmed Qasem works as accountant with IOM. He has used Wikipedia not only for general research, but also for specific information related to his work, such as accounting terms and definitions.

"I like the idea of Wikipedia and I am a fan. You get everything in one place. I am here to support the site," Qasem said.

Arabic Wikipedia

The problem with Wikipedia for the Arab world is that the Arabic version of the site is "terribly awful", as the gathering agreed.

Jarhum said that especially the information on Yemen that is available in Arabic is of bad quality.

"The topics are not as many and the information is not written in a comprehensive way," she complained.

Bilal Murad is a third year university student who has never used Wikipedia, but nevertheless decided to attend the event. He said that there are few references to Wikipedia in the Arabic internet.

"Wikipedia articles hardly come up when I make a google search. When I heard about this event I was intrigued so I came to see what this excitement is all about," he said.

The low quality of the Arabic Wikipedia is the reason why only few non-English speakers in the Arab world know of the website or make use of it. Almost all the fans gathered at the coffee shop knew English well enough to browse Wikipedia articles in both languages.

The participatory character of Wikipedia means that the quality of its content depends on the users who actively contribute to the site by writing and editing articles.

While this approach has the potential of bringing together the best knowledge from around the world, it cannot assure that an article has actually been written by a specialist on the topic.

Credibility is therefore a main problem of the website, as the Yemeni fans gathering in Sana'a agreed.

Yemen's Wikipedia fan number 1, Jarhum added that as an open source web-

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