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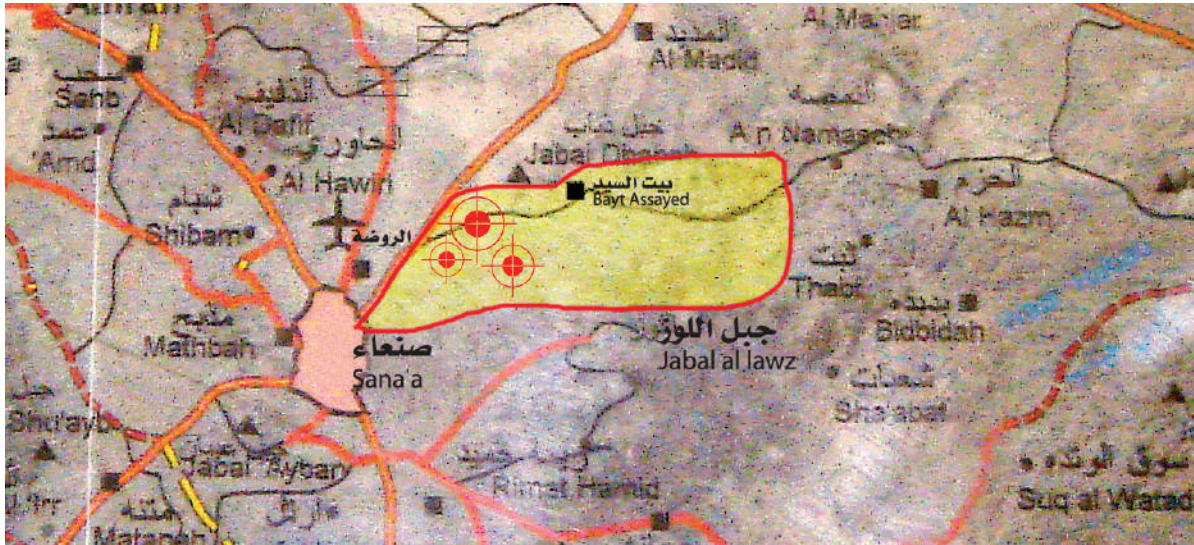


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Bani Hushaish residents' lives deteriorate as security measures escalate



The district of Bani Hushaish, about 45 square kilometers and 75,000 inhabitants, is considered the richest district in Yemen because of its grape and Qat farms. The marks represent the villages of Rejam, Ghathran and Al-Sharyah where intense clashes between the state and the Houthi rebels are taking place currently.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 15 — In an attempt to control the troubled areas of Bani Hushaish district in Sana'a governorate where a number of Houthi rebels took refuge, security authorities placed a blockade around the area on diesel and food products.

According to local sheikhs and citizens in the surrounded area, there are military checkpoints on all roads leading into the district, inhabited by over 75,000 people.

Security forces at the checkpoints prevent any diesel, used primarily for farming equipment like tractors, from entering the district. They also prevent wheat, among other foodstuffs, from entering the area. According to locals, the security forces also won't allow residents to take their products such as vegetables, fruits and qat outside the district. This prevents the Bani Hushaish locals from selling their goods in neighboring markets, including those in Sana'a city.

"People can come and go, but as they reach the checkpoint they are searched thoroughly and if they are carrying anything with them, it is confiscated," said a resident of Bani Hushaish who asked to remain anonymous for fear of governmental reprisal. He described an incident in which a man told the checkpoint security that he was carrying a diesel tank in his vehicle to be delivered to a town in an isolated area outside Bani Hushaish. The resident said that security let him go but followed him and when they realized he was lying because he headed to his home in Bani Hushaish, they confiscated the tank and the vehicle before arresting the man.

An official at the Sana'a Governorate Office, who asked to remain anonymous because of the sensitive subject matter, confirmed these steps and their use as a means to put pressure on both the locals and Houthis in Bani Hushaish area.

"The way Yemeni society is structured in tribal areas would never allow

state control without the locals' acceptance. By creating this siege, we are pushing the locals to understand that they must cooperate with the state against the Houthis even if they are their relatives or neighbors," said the Sana'a Governorate Office source. "When they begin to starve and their source of income is interrupted, they will eventually hand over the Houthis in their area. Also, we try to prevent any ammunition or supplies from reaching the Houthis in Bani Hushaish in order to weaken them," he added.

However, youths from the controlled areas question this strategy and threatened that if things get tough, they might as well turn against the system and join forces with the Houthis.

"We tried to stop the Houthis from staying in our area. A few weeks ago, a group of 10 armed men from my tribe attacked a hideout of Houthis near our village, with the result that four of them were killed," said a young man from Ghathran village in Bani Hushaish.

"We have no idea what kind of losses we caused on their side, and we are not sure it's worth it, especially because no one cared about the men who lost their lives," he continued.

"The security forces oblige us to secure our villages from Houthi followers, though this is not our duty but the government's. They ask us not to allow Houthi followers to pass from our villages while we can't, because they are ready to sacrifice themselves

but we aren't," said another young man from Al-Sharyah village in the district.

Eyewitnesses stated that during the recent clashes in the district, the security forces intentionally destroyed many vineyards, qat farms, water pumps and houses while looking for Houthi followers in the villages of Rejam, Ghathran and Al-Sharyah.

"I admit that there were Houthi followers hiding under the grape and qat trees but during the war we noticed that soldiers deliberately bombed the water pumps and the metal pipes, broke and trampled qat and grape trees," said a farmer in the district.

Since the beginning of the clashes between the security forces and Houthi followers in the district in mid-May, the tension in the area has risen to such

a high level that frantic and extreme measures are imposed by security in order to regain control of the Houthi rebellion.

The increased security measures even reached the outskirts of Sana'a City, where random security checks take place and pedestrians are now asked to show their identification.

"We ask them to show their IDs because we have a list of wanted Houthi followers, and we have strict security measures to ensure that no Houthis enter the capital city. If the person's ID shows he is from troubled areas but is not in our list, we interrogate him until we are sure he is not up to mischief. We have to do this in order to protect our country," said a security officer in Al-Rawdha area, on the out-

skirts of Sana'a.

Many families from the so-called "troubled areas" who could afford to leave abandoned their homes because of the armed clashes and moved to Sana'a temporarily. However, they too have been having a difficult time because of their background.

"We left our homes, farms and everything to secure our women and children but we are shocked that we cannot find a place to rent. Landlords refuse to rent to us because we are from Bani Hushaish district," said a man from the area who has taken his family out of the village and is trying to settle down in Sana'a until peace is restored.

The Ministry of Interior and the Sana'a Security Office refused to comment on this issue.

Rape victim brutally attacked in her home

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

AMRAN, June 15 — A 12-year-old female rape victim was attacked by unidentified people on Saturday in her home, leaving her with serious head cuts.

Sowsan Al-Madhlay, who gained public attention in 2006 when she accused a 60-year-old influential sheikh in her area of kidnapping and raping her, was attacked with a sharp tool - possibly an ax - leaving deep wounds on her head, said Amel Al-Basha, chairwoman of the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights, who adopted Sowsan's case from the beginning.

Sowsan wasn't the only victim of the attack, as her six-year-old sister Fatehia, four-year-old cousin Noor and grandmother were also injured and taken to Amran hospital.

According to Mahmoud Taha, a reporter in Amran, one of Sowsan's rela-

tives came back from the farm when he found his sisters lying on the floor, at which point he ordered a car to take them to the hospital. The hospital is an hour and a half away from Sowsan's house.

"We don't have much information so far. We know that Sowsan and her relatives were attacked on Saturday by unknown men who broke into their house afternoon while they [Sowsan and her relatives] were playing in their yard," said Al-Basha. She did not dismiss the idea that the attackers are connected to the sheikh who was released by the primary court in June 2007 due to lack of evidence, though the Amran hospital's medical report proved the rape incident.

Sowsan, supported by human rights organizations, appealed the verdict. "The area where Sowsan lives is very remote and few families live there, so recognizing the attackers will not be difficult," said Al-Basha, adding that since the



appeal case Sowsan and her family have been subjected to harassment by the sheikh and his followers.

Jamal Al-Shmai, Chairman of Democracy School, a local non-governmental organization that deals with children's rights, condemned the incident saying that the school will send one of its members to Amran to learn more information about the crime.

Security authorities refused to comment on the incident, saying that they will investigate the attack.

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U.S. Supreme Court grants Gitmo prisoners the right to challenge their detention

By: Sarah Wolff

SANA'A, June 15 — The United States Supreme Court announced its decision to allow Guantanamo Bay military facility prisoners to legally question their detention in U.S. courts. The ruling is seen as a victory for detainees and a huge setback for the Bush administration.

This is the third time that the highest court in the U.S. has struck a blow at the military prison in Cuba, which has been the source of much tension for the U.S. government amid the constant allegations of its illegality and use of torture. The decision upholds the rights of the detainees to challenge the legality of their detention in U.S. civilian courts, known in legal terms as "habeas corpus."

The lawsuit, *Boumediene vs. Bush*, was filed by two Guantanamo Bay inmates, Algerian national Lakhdar Boumediene and Kuwaiti Fawzi Al-Odah. Thirty seven other detainees later had their cases consolidated together with Boumediene and Al-Odah's suits. The court split five to four on the decision, which was announced on Thursday.

"The Supreme Court has stripped Guantanamo of its reason for being," said Kenneth Roth, the executive director of Human Rights Watch, a U.S.-based watchdog of worldwide human rights. "It [the decision] will be welcomed around the world as a sign that the era of U.S. lawlessness in fighting terrorism is over."

The decision rejects holding prisoners without charges for extended periods of time. Both U.S. and international laws stipulate all prisoners have the right to habeas corpus; that is, to know the charges against them and challenge the legality of their arrest and imprisonment.

There are approximately 270 prisoners still held at the facility as "unlawful enemy combatants," who were previously denied the rights outlined in the U.S. constitution. Now each of these men will be able to challenge their detention and status as enemy combatants in U.S. civilian courts. Two lawyers for Gitmo detainees already announced plans to file challenges on behalf of their clients in U.S. federal courts.

"This decision will no doubt force the U.S. government to release the detainees and the Yemeni government to receive these detainees," said Khaled Al-Anesi from the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD. "One hundred Yemeni detainees will get benefits from this decision as lawyers will challenge their detention; the former detainees will not benefit."

However, James Ross, the legal and policy director for Human Rights Watch, wrote in an online statement that the U.S. Supreme Court decision does not guarantee the closure of the Guantanamo Bay prison, nor does it order all detainees who have not been charged with an offense to be released.

He added that the decision doesn't specify what factors the civilian courts will consider when deciding whether or not the U.S. government can hold these men.

Two high-profile Yemeni prisoners, Ramzi Bin Al-Shaibah (also spelled Bin Al-Shibh) and Waleed Bin Attash, had trial hearings 10 days ago along with three other men, including Khaled Sheikh Mohammed, the purported mastermind of the 9/11 attacks on the U.S.

Both Bin Al-Shaibah and Bin Attash asked to represent themselves in the military trials. Attash was found to be in a stable enough mental condition to

do so and military judge Ralph Kohlmann granted his request. Kohlmann has not yet made a ruling on whether Bin Al-Shaibah will be allowed to represent himself in the court. Bin Al-Shaibah told the tribunal, "I have been seeking martyrdom for five years."

It is still unclear how the new ruling will affect Bin Al-Shaibah and Bin Attash's upcoming military trials. U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey announced on Friday that the military tribunals would proceed as planned, though this court decision raises other issues, such as which other constitutional rights foreign suspects are entitled to have.

The court itself was divided five to four, and some of the conservative justices publicly acknowledged their disagreement with the final decision. Legal commentators have told the media that this could drag out the detainees' trials even further and likely into the next U.S. president's term. U.S. President George W. Bush said that he will abide by the decision, though he maintained that he did not agree with it.

Yemenis make up the largest group of any single nation still imprisoned at the Guantanamo Bay facility, with approximately 100 detainees. Yemeni and U.S. authorities disagree about how to repatriate former Guantanamo prisoners, which is allegedly the reason why so many Yemenis remain there, though some were cleared for release years ago.

Yemen requires prisoners to enroll in a short-term rehabilitation program and asks family members, tribes and their sheikhs to vouch for the former prisoner's reform. The former prisoner must assure through written documents that he will not attack Yemeni or its allies and their interests.

Yemeni woman wins InterAction's Humanitarian of the Year award

By: Jamal Al-Najjar
Alnajjar7@gmail.com

SANA'A, June 15 — This year, InterAction, a U.S.-based coalition representing more than 165 humanitarian and development nongovernmental organizations working worldwide, presented its annual award for humanitarian work to Yemeni Souad Qassim Saleh, program coordinator of Basic Health Services.

Each year, InterAction recognizes an individual or group who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in support of NGOs and those they serve in the developing world. The award recognizes those whose work reflects leadership qualities such as initiative, courage, creativity, grace under pressure and personal integrity.

InterAction's annual gala last month honored Saleh's persistent efforts and active contributions to safe motherhood and maternal health care programs in Yemen throughout her career.

Saleh directs the Yemen Basic Health Services program, a three-year project that trains reproductive health professionals and improves the quality of clinics and services offered to women. The program is a project of the Pathfinder International Organization, a reproductive health fund administered by the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID.

A forum of more than 800 leaders from member organizations and NGOs in developing countries, as well as representatives from USAID, the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions, chose this year's award recipient.

Saleh gave a speech at the gala depicting the health situation of women in Yemen and the role of midwives in improving reproductive health services. Close to half of all deaths of child-bearing-age women in Yemen happen during childbirth, which has the highest maternal mortality rate in the region.



Pathfinder International President Dan Pellegrom (left) with 2008 Humanitarian of the Year award recipient Souad Qassim Saleh, her husband Abdullah Mohammed Mubarak and Milka Dinev, director of the Extending Service Delivery project funded by USAID.

For the past 40 years, Saleh has worked to save women's lives, particularly those in Yemen's most remote areas, by advocating and providing critical maternal health care and family planning services.

She undertook a leadership role in the health field as early as 1975, when she was nominated to head the midwifery and nursing department at Aden's Al-Jumhuriya Hospital. Following that, she assumed many different positions in the field of midwifery and maternal health care at various institutions nationwide.

In Yemen, which has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Arab world, Saleh's outspoken leadership and commitment to women's health and rights have been critical.

Her tireless efforts over the years ultimately led to creating the Yemeni National Midwives Association in 2004 under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

Since its establishment, the association has increased government support — both financial and moral — for women's health services, in addition to establishing a family planning center for low-income families, which also provides further education for mid-

wives in order to help women throughout Yemen give birth safely. The association's members now number around 1,800.

Saleh joined Pathfinder International in 2004 and leads a program seeking to improve maternal and child health in five of Yemen's most underserved governorates: Amran, Sa'ada, Al-Jawf, Marib and Shabwa.

She leads efforts to train community midwives in rural areas and calls for establishing private midwifery practices at the national level in order to increase access to women's health services in remote areas, as well as women's participation in civil society.

Pathfinder International President Dan Pellegrom stated that both he and his organization were honored to work with and support Saleh, whom he called "an exemplary individual." He continued, "Ms. Saleh's courage, tenacity and commitment have made a real difference to countless women's lives in Yemen." Saleh remarked that she was happy to receive the award, noting that it's important for people to encourage, value and support others' efforts. "It's my pleasure to be named InterAction's 2008 Humanitarian of the Year," she concluded.

Local police chief under investigation for torturing child

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, June 15 — The head of Al-Qalfan Police Station in the Shumaila district of Sana'a, Khalid Al-Gowski, is under investigation by the Southern Sana'a public prosecutor for the torture and illegal imprisonment of 13-year-old Muneef Al-Khawlani last month.

Muneef Al-Khawlani was arrested by police officers in early May while he was out buying milk for his family at the corner store, according to his earlier statements. While he was at the store, the building's landlord called the police and said that Al-Khawlani had stolen his car battery. "The police came and put me inside their vehicle, where they tied my mouth tightly, and then took me to Al-Qalfan Police Station," Al-Khawlani told the Yemen Times last month. He added, "As soon as we arrived, the station head and his escorts beat my back and the bottom of my feet with wires, seeking to force my confession that I was a thief. They accused me of stealing

car batteries and electric meters from homes." Muneef was later transferred to Alia'a prison in the Shumaila district, though it is illegal in Yemen to imprison juveniles with adults.

Attorney Abdurahman Barman of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, who is representing Al-Khawlani, said he was released from the prison 11 days ago, though only on the condition that he remain in Sana'a and not travel outside of the governorate.

Al-Khawlani spent one month in police custody, though there was no evidence against him and he swears his innocence. The youth's father said his son was arrested because of "personal issues" between himself and station chief Al-Gowski.

Barman added that he was prohibited from attending Al-Gowski's investigation, though it is illegal to ban defense attorneys from observing investigation proceedings.

The Southern Sana'a prosecution stated that the investigation was opened

because the Yemeni media published information about Al-Khawlani's plight, and Barman said that he has evidence — including witnesses from the prison — that Al-Khawlani was tortured there.

The Yemen Times contacted Al-Khawlani's father, Yahya Obad Al-Khawlani, to ask about his son's psychological and physical condition after his release. The family declined to discuss his condition, saying it would affect him and the rest of the family negatively.

Under Yemeni law, persons under 15 cannot be subject to arrest or imprisoned with adults. The law considers arresting or detaining children a crime, punishable by up to five years in prison. Yemen's Crime and Punishment Law stipulates that any employee who tortures others while performing his job, uses his power or threatens any individual can be imprisoned for up to 10 years.

"Police stations are for residents' security, not for violating their rights," said Barman.

Impoverished Sana'a mothers to receive low-cost medical care

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 14 — A new project focusing on expectant and new mothers will provide services to more than 40,000 women in the poorest districts of Sana'a.

Last week, a \$6.23 million grant was approved for the Queen of Sheba Motherhood Project, an initiative introduced and sponsored by the Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid, with the World Bank acting as administrator. In this new program, the Global Partnership will subsidize 90 percent of the care costs for each mother, according to a World Bank statement released last week.

Only around a quarter of births in Yemen are facilitated by a skilled birth attendant and one in every 39 women die in childbirth. A number of programs, including initiatives by the German Technical Corporation, known as GTZ,

and the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, have increased funding and training for safe motherhood projects in light of the country's dire needs.

The United Nations Population Fund, or UNFPA, estimates that 84 percent of women throughout Yemen give birth at home. Those women who experience complications during childbirth sometimes refuse to be taken to hospitals due to lack of female staff; consequently, many Yemeni women die needlessly during childbirth. According to the UNFPA, an estimated 75 percent of maternal mortalities in Yemen are preventable. With the help of two private medical companies, the Saudi-Yemen Healthcare Company and Al-Mawarid Company for Educational and Health Services, the project will improve pre- and post-natal maternal care.


Expectant mothers will receive check-ups and birthing assistance at satellite

clinics, while the two companies' affiliated hospitals will provide critical care for those patients who need it. The program also aims to provide Sana'a mothers skilled birthing attendants, something the country desperately lacks.


Both the Saudi-Yemeni Healthcare Company and Al-Mawarid Company for Educational Services will have to pay for the services out of pocket and will only be reimbursed by the Global Partnership after having provided the promised care.

A local non-governmental organization, SOUL for the Development of Women and Children, will help get the word out to Sana'a's poorer neighborhoods that mothers there are eligible to receive these prenatal and post-natal benefits.


The Queen of Sheba Safe Motherhood Project is a four-year community-based outreach program, according to the International Monetary Fund, a division of the World Bank.



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Their News

First compensation payments by Yemen LNG made to Balhaf landowners

The distribution of first land compensation cheques that passed the approval of the state-run Land Compensation Committee was launched today in Balhaf. Land compensation claims underwent a very rigorous scrutiny of all landownership documentation to ensure their validity and hence the eligibility of claimants to compensation according to Yemeni laws. Eight compensation payments were handed over to landowners from the Balhaf area out of an initial 48 confirmed beneficiaries from the district of Rodhoum, Shabwah Governorate.

At the event, Dr. Ali Hassan Al-Ahmadi, Governor of Shabwah, expressed his happiness that the process has started by paying those "claimants with genuine documentation". He also emphasised the need for to promptly review pending claims from Balhaf and the pipeline route and issue recommendation for endorsement by the relevant authorities.

Marking the occasion, Mr. Abdul-

Malik Alama, Chairman of the Land Compensation Committee, explained to attendants the various steps undertaken in the process. He also stressed that "the Committee has done its best to ensure that those who have right are compensated based on complete and valid legal documentation".

The initial stages of the land compensation process began as early as 1995 when Yemen LNG in conjunction with the Government carried out a detailed survey of households that may be impacted by the project, both on the coast around Balhaf and along the pipeline route. The detailed surveys which were updated and revised in February 2006 have concluded that there is a relatively small number of cases of loss of property and land ownership. It was also concluded that no one will be relocated as a result of project activities, neither on the coast nor on the pipeline route.

To handle claims from landowners and users affected by the Project, two government decrees were issued to set up a Land Compensation Committee which is chaired by Mr. Alama. In addition, the Committee includes in its membership

members of the Parliament, the Deputy Governors of Marib and Shabwah, the two governorates which the pipeline route crosses, and representative from the Land Authority and a Yemen LNG observer.

Technical committees were also created for both Marib and Shabwah to handle the initial review process of claims and legal documentation and recommend appropriate and fair action. Yemen LNG settles the final amounts agreed through this process.

Yemen LNG is committed to compensate all validated claims fairly in accordance with relevant Yemeni laws and international best practices.

Pharma Drugs Company receives exclusive contract to market Ranbaxy medicines

After winning the contract to be the sole agent for the well known Indian drugs company Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, Pharma Drugs company conducted a number of introductory and promotion sessions on the drugs. The sessions were carried in Sana'a, Aden and Taiz cities in the presence of a huge audience of medical related people including drug companies, doctors and pharmacies.

According to media reports To strengthen its presence in the Middle-East, Ranbaxy Laboratories has started operations in Yemen by tying up with a local firm, Pharma.

It is the healthcare division of Natco a diversified regional company with interests in various businesses including Pharma, FMCG and automotives, among others. It is learnt that it is essentially a marketing alliance with no equity participation between Ranbaxy and Pharma.

Pharma is one of the pioneers in the healthcare sector in Yemen while Ranbaxy will be among the first Indian companies to set up presence in the country.

The Yemen company already has alliances with top global companies such as Pfizer, Roche, AstraZeneca, Novartis and Eli Lilly, among others.

The Indian drug producer has robust plans for the Yemen pharmaceutical market and will focus on therapeutic areas such as anti-infectives, gastro-intestinal, cholesterol lowering and anti-allergic categories.

Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited, India's

largest pharmaceutical company, is an integrated, research based, international pharmaceutical company, producing a wide range of quality, affordable generic medicines, trusted by healthcare professionals and patients across geographies. The Company is ranked amongst the top ten global generic companies and has a presence in 23 of the top 25 pharma markets of the world. The Company with a global footprint in 49 countries, world-class manufacturing facilities in 11 and a diverse product portfolio, is rapidly moving towards global leadership, riding on its success in the world's emerging and developed markets.

Royal Jordanian's Majalia is New IATA Chairman, Cathay Pacific's Tyler To Follow In 2009

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced today that Royal Jordanian Airlines CEO, Samer Majali, commenced his one-year term as the Chairman of the IATA Board of Governors. Majali succeeds Fernando Pinto, CEO of TAP Portugal who served as Chairman from June 2007.

Majali, is a 29-year veteran of the air transport industry who has served as CEO of Royal Jordanian since 2001. He successfully led the airline through one of its most challenging periods as it prepared for a successful privatisation. Majali takes on the Chairman duties at a difficult time as the airline industry falls back into the red with fuel prices skyrocketing to unprecedented levels.

"With fuel prices at record highs, the industry faces a crisis and the agenda for the year ahead has extraordinary challenges. Change must be even more aggressive. Finding even more efficiency gains—not just for airlines but throughout the industry value chain—is crucial for our survival. We celebrated a great achievement—100% e-ticketing. But there is no time to lose in pushing forward with the next phase of Simplifying the Business—Fast Travel," said Majali.

Majali noted that change must also involve governments. "In the unexplored territory of astronomical fuel prices, the environment debate takes on a completely new dimension. The incentive for airlines to improve performance has never been bigger, but governments stand in our way.

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Employment Opportunities

An international company developing an exciting new project in the oil/minerals sector has vacancies for the below positions. These positions will be field based for the majority of time:

IT/Office Support Specialist (1)

This person will coordinate all aspects of existing and future computer and communications technology for the office and site. This will include management of all office and site hardware and software, and technical assistance in the procurement of related equipment and services.

In addition the candidate should be prepared to carry out a range of general office duties, including telephone answering, photocopying, and typing, in English and Arabic.

The successful candidate will manage site and office communication systems, including PSTN telephone, VSAT satellite, and UHF radio. They will also be responsible for installing and maintaining servers, workstations, and printers on networks. This role will eventually be based at the mine site, with a lesser amount of time in Sana'a, but for the initial six months the majority of time will be based in Sana'a. Whilst at site food and accommodation will be provided.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Experience and a practical approach is as important as qualifications. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be: Diploma or university degree after High School with minimum 1- 2 years experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified.
- Very good English, reading/speaking skills.
- Troubleshooting skills

Doctors (2)

The Doctor will be based on the mining site and will be responsible for providing routine and emergency medical care in a remote location to up to 350 employees.

He will be responsible for establishing the on-site clinic in the initial stages of the project and will subsequently have wide ranging responsibility for the day to day management of the clinic, ambulance and medical stocks. The doctor will also be required to assist in creating and updating casualty evacuation plans, training company employees in first aid, advising management on health and hygiene issues, and liaison with equipment providers to ensure the effective sourcing and management of medical equipment.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Experience of casualty management, preferably in remote locations.
- Experience in managing medical formularies and equipment.
- Fluent spoken and written Arabic, with a good command of spoken English.
- Ability to develop and manage casualty evacuation procedures in cooperation with the Security Manager.
- Experience in training delivery.
- Computer literacy, including Microsoft office and outlook.
- Ability to work unsupervised.
- The ability to work in remote locations with little infrastructure.

Site Support Officer (1)

This person will ensure under the Site Construction Representative (SCR) that all services that are required at site (accommodation, power, fuel, water supply) are provided, and will assist the SCR with site management duties as required.

In the absence of the SCR he will manage site based support staff. He will be required to assist the SCR with his duties, including liaison with other contractors and stakeholders. The position is expected to be complete at the end of 2009. It is based at the mining site.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 2 years relevant field management experience
- Valid Yemen driving license.
- Completed High school.
- Fluent in English as well as Arabic
- Must have a 'hands on' approach and be willing to 'get hands dirty'
- To be prepared to live on site for long periods of time and in basic conditions.

Deputy Security Manager (1)

The Deputy Security Manager will be responsible, initially reporting to the Security Manager, for assisting in the creation of a security guard force of approximately 65 Guards and Supervisors.

He will be responsible for training delivery in the initial stages of the project and will subsequently have wide ranging responsibility for the day to day management of the guard force. Success in the initial stages will provide scope for rapid promotion. Preference will be given to Yemen nationals. This role will require a significant proportion of time to be spent at site.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 5 years experience in a similar role, ideally in the private sector.
- Experience in training delivery.
- A good knowledge of modern technical security systems.
- Fluent spoken and written Arabic, with a good command of spoken English.
- A thorough knowledge of security standards and procedures in the private sector in Yemen.
- Computer literacy, including Microsoft office and outlook.
- Experience in working with western companies.
- Proven ability to work unsupervised.
- Strong leadership skills.

Interested applicants should apply by sending their CV's not later than June 25, 2008 by email to recruitingchances@gmail.com
Please write the job title in the e-mail subject. Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

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عمل جميع الأشكال و التصاميم الحديثة بوسائل و تكنولوجيا متطورة حسب الرسومات المقدمة إلينا . (درابزين - كلايدنج اعمده - مصاعد كهربائية - ريلات حمايه - بوابات.

نمن على أتم الاستعداد لتقديم خدماتنا بأقل الأسعار من الأسواق الخارجية بمواصفات عالمية منذ التأسيس عام ٢٠٠٣م.

تعاوننا معاً تطور المشاريع الكبيرة و الصغيرة داخل اليمن أو في الخارج: (مراكز تجارية، سوبر ماركت، شركات، فنادق سياحية، فلل و مشاريع سكنية و تجارية، مجمعات طبية حديثة، بنوك محلية و أجنبية تجارية أو استثمارية أو اقتصادية أو متخصصة، شركات الطيران و المطارات الدولية).

لدينا متخصصين و فنيين أجانب و نحظى بسمعه ممتازة بتنفيذ الأعمال و النشاطات بوسائل تكنولوجيا و متطورة و من انجاز اتنا :

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Haraz trades qat for coffee farming

By: Hamed Thabet

Though qat farming is the main source of income for many Yemenis in rural areas because of its high market value, villagers in Haraz are leaving qat behind and going back to their traditional crop: coffee beans.

A study by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2001 estimated that the income from cultivating qat in Yemen was about YR 2.5 million per hectare, while it was only around YR 570,000 per hectare for fruits. This provides strong motivation for farmers to choose qat over other crops. For this reason, qat cultivation grew from 8,000 hectares to 103,000 hectares between 1970 and 2000. However, these numbers are crude estimates and the real figures are believed to be much higher, according to Yemeni agricultural researchers. However, qat farming causes destruction to the soil, robbing it of nutrients and the scarce supply of water.

The idea to shift from planting qat to planting coffee originated with Shabbir Al-Ezzi, when he and his wife Um Hani were visiting their relatives' village in the Haraz Mountains. Realizing the need for change and envisioning the opportunity to restore commercial agriculture to the region, Al-Ezzi started the Haraz Project. Al-Ezzi developed an idea to implement a range of good commercial and community-based business practices through coffee farming.

"Disillusioned farmers had no incentive to produce coffee, realizing the effort is far greater than the return. The rapid migration of locals to the congested cities further added to the deterioration of cultivable land," said Al-Ezzi. "The goal is to assist farmers in becoming self-sufficient and providing solutions for long-term suitability for the region."

After studying the area and its



Haraz is approximately 90 kilometers to the west of Sana'a city, and while the population used to depend on qat farming for their income, it has always been known for its high-quality coffee as well.

geographical history, Al-Ezzi found that approximately 500 farm families resided in the villages sprawled across the Haraz Mountain Region.

During the 1600s, Yemen became rich from the coffee trade, supplying beans to the rest of the world including the fine salons of Europe that paid a premium for the best beans. The name of Yemen's main coffee trading port city, Al-Mukha, evolved in to "Mocha," another name for coffee that we still use today.

Haraz is approximately 90 kilometers to the west of Sana'a city, and while the population used to depend on qat farming for their income, it has always been known for its high-quality coffee as well. Harazi coffee is grown at a very high altitude with a very hard bean. The flavor of the coffee is high-toned, heavy and powerful with a winy acidity and excellent body.

Over the last century, Haraz along with the rest of Yemen has fallen into decline due to economic, political and

geographical reasons. For the same reasons, farming in the Haraz Mountains has also diminished. Easy to grow and sell at a profit, qat became attractive to farmers, aside from the obvious detriments of producing a narcotic as a way of life.

When he started his project in 2006, Al-Ezzi offered the local farmers in Haraz incentives by providing agricultural and technical support, as well as guaranteeing premium prices for crops. And that Al-Ezzi industry buys the coffee from the farmers in high prices. And also open the market outside Yemen that then they can sell the coffee in a good price.

Al-Ezzi also educated the farmers about the amount of water that it takes to grow qat, and how coffee was a better investment because it produced plentiful crops using less water for a longer time. On his end, Al-Ezzi's business, called Al-Ezzi Industries, provided transparency in the supply chain so that coffee buyers came to trust him and the quality of his products.

"International buyers have helped immensely to bring better value back to the farmers," said Al-Ezzi. "We need to envision that the marketing of Haraz Coffee will not only achieve commercial success, but raise awareness of this entire region. Consumers appreciate quality coffee that Haraz offers, along with a program that guarantees higher returns for farmers, and a transparency system that documents authenticity."

True Harazi coffee

The name "Harazi" stands only for coffee that is grown in the Haraz Mountains. The agricultural land in

the region ranges from 4,500 feet to 9,000 feet above sea level, remote from the rest of Yemen and from the world.

Researchers report several varieties of coffee beans grown throughout Yemen such as Dawairi, Tufahi, and Udaini.

Two additional varieties have been recently discovered growing on the stone terraces; Shabriqi and Jadd'di. Some varieties produce beans the whole year round, while some produce beans once a year and others only grow beans in alternate years.

The harvest time is usually between October and December, though some varieties are harvested between March and April. The average yield is between 150 and 200 kilograms of green coffee beans.

With a limited access to any commercial farm supplies, coffee, like all crops in the area, is grown in a naturally organic environment that is free of pollution, using traditional methods handed down through the centuries.

Harazi beans are organic by default because synthetic fertilizers or pesticides are not readily available. Beans are picked by hand and carried to the village rooftops for drying under the sun. The beans are then laid out on mats made from the natural fibers of the date palm. Hard-working farmers take a lot of care to protect the beans from contamination, mold or other detrimental effects during the two-week drying period.

The dried beans are then collected by Al-Ezzi's agents in every village and transported to the collection center in the village of Al-Hutaib. Each farmer's coffee is named according to

village and farmer ID number.

"The creation of unique farm identification created a sense of pride among the isolated communities, reviving their interest in their valuable agricultural land," said Al-Ezzi.

The coffee is then moved to the company's processing facility outside of Sana'a.

Harazi coffee could inherit Mocha's fame

Although there is an old law that prohibits it, suppliers have been able to dupe both retailers and consumers, which resulted in the sale of false products bearing the name "Mocha."

"With the lack of control or standards applied to producing and exporting Yemeni Mocha, the coffee industry lost the ability to discern the authenticity found in these remarkable beans," said Al-Ezzi.

Because of this, the name "Mocha" has become synonymous with a color and a flavor, that of coffee and chocolate together.

One of the most popular specialty coffee drinks served in cafes is called Mocha. Made with espresso, chocolate syrup and steamed milk, Mocha is very tricky because both coffee and chocolate contain similar chemistry. Being able to achieve the right balance of taste requires expertise, as one flavor can easily overpower the other.

But this drink does not have any

correspondence to the actual coffee of Mocha, which is a city in Yemen.

The coffee growing in Haraz has taste characteristics inherited from ancestral roots and revives the original taste of Yemeni Mocha beans, the world's first cultivated coffee, said Al-Ezzi. But unlike other coffees from Yemen, Haraz's coffee is grown in the northwest highlands, an area geographically isolated, thriving exactly as it has for centuries. The terrain consists of rugged brownish-grey mountains of stone where steep, rocky terraces were engineered centuries ago, providing the basis for a method of farming.

Coffee-growing fits with the national plan

Recently, the Yemeni government has taken some steps to encourage the Yemeni farmers to grow other vegetables like potatoes and tomatoes instead of qat by providing agricultural tools and chemical fertilizer, said Bakr Ali, the environmental sector's deputy in Amran governorate.

He added that the government has also opened markets for these farmers to sell their products.

Though the government and the private sector's efforts to promote and encourage vegetable and coffee planting, qat is still the most popular crop for farmers in the country.



Though the government and the private sector's efforts to promote and encourage vegetable and coffee planting, qat is still the most popular crop for farmers in the country.

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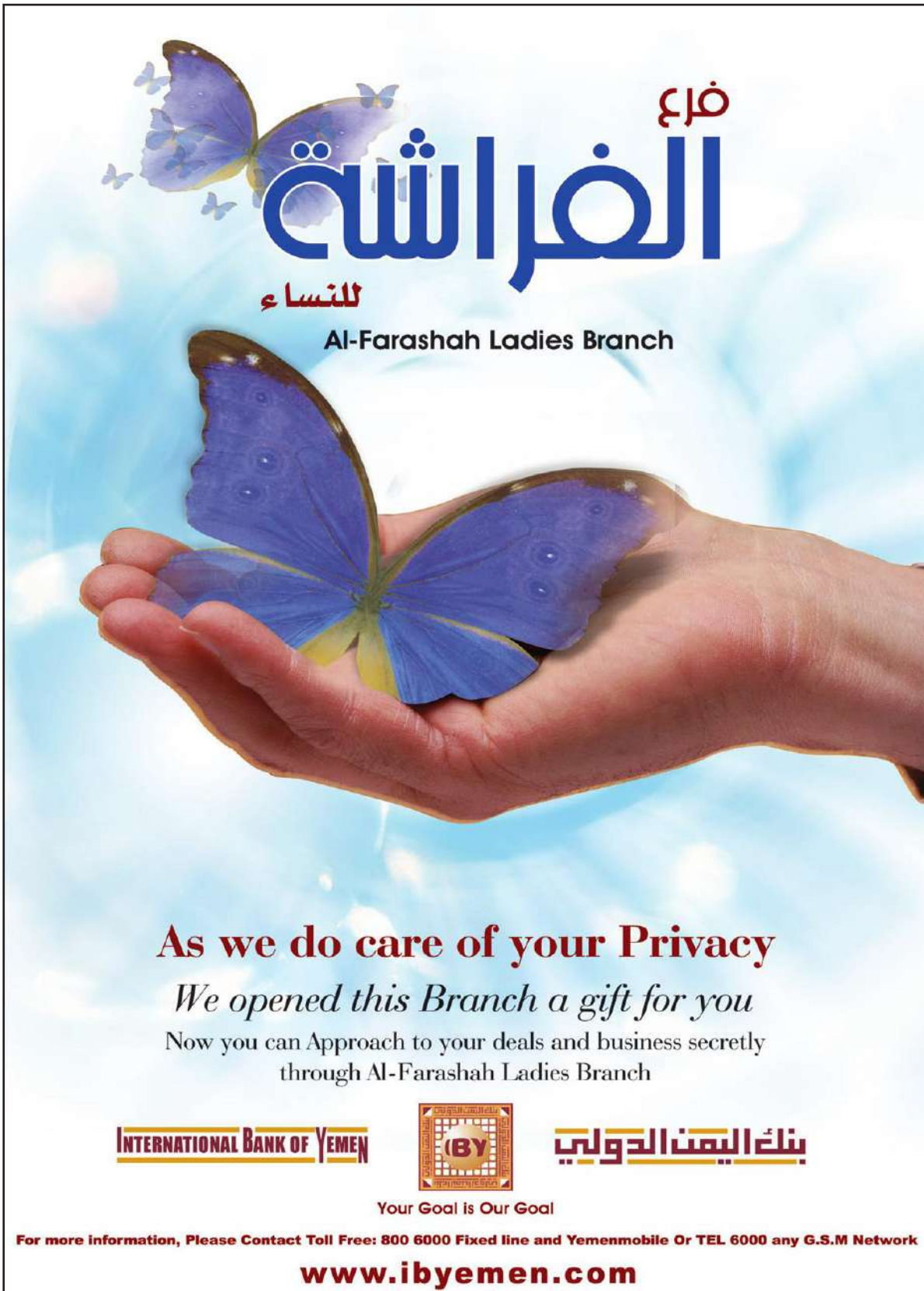
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Requirements

- Yemeni Citizen, holder ID card.
- Excellent knowledge of English language (spoken & written)
- Field Experience with Humanitarian NGO, s.
- Excellent administrative skills use information Technology effectively: programs, including budget estimated and monitoring expenditures.
- Ability to develop and maintain good working relationships.
- Capable of implementing training programs within area of expertise.
- Willing to travel within the travel within the county and abroad.

Candidates Meeting the above Criteria.

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26 Sep Street Building No 102nd floor
Att: Mr. Mohamed Yahya Sawlan
Disaster Management Coordinator
Tel fax No. 01 485416
Email: mohamed.sawlan@ifrc.org

اعلان

تعلن جمعية الهلال الاحمر اليمني عن ملى الوظيفة الشاغرة لذوى المؤهلات والخبرة لوظيفة منسق خدمات البحث عن المفقودين في المركز الرئيسي للجمعية بصنعاء . وحسب الشروط التالية :

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- تنفيذ انشطه البحث عن المفقودين
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فعلى من تتوفر لديه المهارات والمؤهلات المطلوبة التقدم بطلب كتابي مشفوعا بالسيرة الذاتية والوثائق المؤيده لذلك الى :
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فاكس - ٤٨٥٤١٦
بريد الكتروني: mohamed.sawlan@ifrc.org

آخر موعد لتقديم الطلبات غاية ٢١ يونيو ٢٠٠٨ ، وستحدد موعد المقابلة مع من يقع عليه الاختيار لاحقا.

Section I. Invitation for Bids Tender Advertisement no. (2) of 2008 (One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The Tax Authority here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (2 /2008) for the printing and supply of two billion banderol stamps on locally produced cigarettes which will be financed from the following sources:

- a) 100% government Funding

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to Tax Authority Headquarter to receive Bidding Documents for an amount YR 100,000 non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at:

Tax Authority – General department of Financial Affairs / Procurement Department
Southern Safiah – Besides the Ministry of Finance – P.O. Box 11366-5746

The deadline for selling BDs will be on Sunday 06.07.2008.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Tax Authority mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

1. A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum 10,000,000 of (YR or Convertible currency.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
2. Valid tax card (foreign bidders not conducting any business in Yemen have to submit VAT registration documents in their countries).
3. Insurance card (insurance card is required for companies having business in Yemen and eligible for benefits of the General Social Security Corporation in Yemen).
4. Registration and classification certificate. (in case contract is awarded and the winning bidder has no registration documents, relevant registration documents will be requested as a condition for contract implementation).
5. GST registration certificate.

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.

The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be 11:00AM on Wednesday 09.07.2008. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened..

Bid Opening will take place at Tax Authority Headquarters, Office of the Deputy Chairman and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period of 27 days starting from advertisement.

إعلان المناقصة رقم (٢) لسنة ٢٠٠٨ م

تعلن / مصلحة الضرائب / عن رغبتها في إنزال المناقصة العامة رقم (٢) لعام ٢٠٠٨ م لطباعة وتوريد اثنتين مليار طابع بندرول على السجائر المنتجة محليا والتي سيتم تمويلها من مصدر حكومي ١٠٠٪ على الراغبين المشاركة في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلباتهم الخطية خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي إلى العنوان التالي:

**مصلحة الضرائب - الإدارة العامة للشؤون المالية / إدارة المشتريات
الصافية الجنوبية - جوار وزارة المالية - ص ١٠ ب (٥٧٤٦٠١١٣٣٦)**

لشراء واستلام وثائق المناقصة نظير مبلغ وقدره (١٠٠٠٠٠٠٠) مائة ألف ريال لا يرد .
- وآخر موعد لبيع الوثائق هو تاريخ ٦ / ٧ / ٢٠٠٨ م

يقدم العطاء في مظروف مغلق ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر إلى عنوان مصلحة الضرائب ومكتوب عليه اسم (المصلحة) والمشروع ورقم المناقصة، واسم مقدم العطاء، وفي طيه الوثائق التالية:

- ١- ضمان بنكي غير مشروط بمبلغ مقطوع قدره (١٠٠٠٠٠٠٠٠) عشرة مليون ريال، صالح لمدة (١٥٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف، أو شيك مقبول الدفع.
- ٢- بطاقة ضريبية سارية المفعول (على المتناقصين الأجانب الذين لا يقومون بأي أعمال في اليمن عليهم تقديم نسخة من وثائق التسجيل لضريبة القيمة المضافة في بلدانهم) .
- ٣- بطاقة تأمينية، سارية المفعول (تطلب بطائق التأمين فقط من الشركات التي لديها عمال في اليمن والتي يحق لها الاستفادة من العوائد المقدمة من المؤسسة العامة للضمان الاجتماعي في اليمن)
- ٤- شهادة تسجيل وتصنيف سارية المفعول (في حالة إرساء العقد وإذا لم تكن الشركة التي فازت بالمناقصة مسجلة حينها سيطلب منها تقديم إثبات تسجيلها في الجهات ذات العلاقة في اليمن وذلك كمطلب لتنفيذ العقد).
- ٥- شهادة التسجيل لأغراض الضريبة العامة على المبيعات.

- آخر موعد لاستلام العطاءات وفتح المظاريف هو الساعة (الحادية عشرة) من يوم (الأربعاء) الموافق ٩ / ٧ / ٢٠٠٨ م ولن تقبل العطاءات التي ترد بعد هذا الموعد ويتم إعادتها مغلقة.
- سيتم فتح المظاريف بمكتب وكيل المصلحة بحضور أصحاب العطاءات أو من يمثلهم بتفويض رسمي موقع ومختوم.
- يمكن للراغبين في المشاركة في هذه المناقصة الاطلاع على وثائق المناقصة قبل شراؤها وذلك خلال الدوام الرسمي لفترة ٢٧ يوم من فترة الإعلان.

Words of Wisdom



In the Third World today, the rulers have no fixed budgets or allocations, even when these exist on paper. The rulers simply spend as they please. Actually, the only limiting element is the lack of funds or the general poverty of the country. Here in Yemen, this problem exists in a shameless way. Just a couple of weeks ago, a number of government palaces built by foreign aid were simply given away to the top president's men.

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

OUR
OPINION

What are we going to do about the Houthis?

Houthis is the made-in-Yemeni term for those followers and supporters of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi an infamous Yemeni rebel from Sa'ada. In the nineties, his father created a religious group of Shiite of the Ethnashri sect who practiced their religion north of Yemen for several years peacefully until it turned political. Today, a war that started in 2002 is on going on and off, has consumed the lives of hundreds of Yemeni soldiers and Houthis all the same. The war has caused more than sixty thousand Yemenis to leave their homes and become displaced people living in camps. It has disturbed the lives of many more in some way or the other. The affected people are mostly from Sa'ada and neighbouring areas, but it has also reached other governorates around the republic.

Today, there are people who are starving because they live in areas where the Houthi rebels hide. The roads to those troubled areas are blocked and no food, medicine, fuel or anything else can come in, and the citizens cannot cross over in fear of being shot on the way.

The problem is that although widely used, Houthism does not really have a clearly defined meaning. You cannot make out if the person you are talking to is a Houthi unless he or she tells you so, or someone else tells on them. It is something like terrorism. No one really knows what it is, although we have seen or felt its consequences or signs one way or the other.

I met a lady at the doctor's waiting room. She was from Sa'ada, and came to the capital city Sana'a to be treated. This was her second attempt to come here within a week because the first time the roads were blocked by authorities. She and her husband had to turn back and go home mid way. While they were in Sana'a clashes renewed on the road to Sa'ada, which were blocked again. She does not know when she can go back home or if the rest of her family is safe. Phone lines have been disturbed intentionally and it has become very difficult to call someone in that area.

When I was talking to her, she seemed sympathetic with what we call Houthis and what she called students in her area. For her, they are just a few people who wanted to practice their religion and were prevented by the state, the hard way. Was she a Houthi too? And what would that mean or should mean to me as a more neutral citizen talking to her?

We have heard of stories in neighbouring towns like Bani Hushiesh less than an hour from Sana'a where the struggle between the state and the Houthis has reached. Stories of how if being remotely linked to Houthis or having sympathized with Houthism could directly take you to jail for an indefinite time, if not kill you. Families and neighbourhood have split and some people used this accusation to get even with others because of personal grudges. The alarming issue here is that you did not need evidence to accuse someone of being Houthi, all you needed is create doubt and make anyone with some authority believe you.

The more people killed because of this conflict the stronger it becomes and the wider it spreads. They are Yemenis after all, and they can be anywhere. You can never fight faith with force. How much more time would the state spend on this war? Especially that while it is struggling to control a bunch of rebels, others are on the rise. Others who have totally different objectives, they just want to take advantage of a troubled worn out state. One that does not know what it is going to do with the Houthis, and frankly speaking, I don't think anyone has a good answer to this question.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

No dialogue without involvement of all parties concerned

By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qahiri

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has called on all political parties in Yemen to participate in a national dialogue while the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) General Secretariat specified a seemingly irrelevant vision for dialogue, which was published in ruling party-affiliated newspapers.

The first remark is that what has happened is merely an announcement that contains no real vision for dialogue. On the contrary, it contained major obstacles to dialogue such as the ready-made charges directed to citizens of South Yemen and Houthis. The ruling party invited Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) to join them in a war against Houthis and citizens of southern governorates as a primary condition for dialogue.

The dialogue announcement was accompanied by a series of governmental procedures hindering dialogue, one of which is extending the imprisonment terms for critics and protest activists contrarily to the relevant laws placed in effect.

The relevant authorities in the government adjourned trials of those detained over protests and alleged collaboration with Houthi-led rebellion and refused to open the Sa'ada crisis dossier for journalists and civil society activists. These authorities also refused to receive a letter for popular campaign entitled "Together against Sa'ada Fighting" but invented justifications they are planning to use in the future to cover up any illegal and arbitrary practices against opposition activists.

The government is planning to crack down on groups of 'Promote goodness and prevent evil' which are said to be behaving in a way contradicting statutes of official and popular organizations since their programs are implemented via dishonest coordination with regional parties.

Therefore, the so-called vision has not specified the executive mechanisms for dialogue. The best thing for the vision was to name President of the Republic or Prime Minister to moderate the dialogue in the name of the authority because both Presidential Palace and Council of Ministers are the only institutions that possess the

direct tools for executing many terms of the dialogue. The vision should not have named GPC, which is a random organization, to be in charge of moderating the dialogue.

The so-called vision is nothing more than a plot machinated by the ruling party to involve JMP members in extortion and irresponsible acts, which are justified by the ruling party's policies. Have Mr. President and his party become so arrogant until the extent of arranging things upside down? Or will this arrogance be in favor of JMP that may accept a dialogue with such repulsive data?

Unprecedented collapse:

Practically, it is clear that the authority, due to its accumulative failure from the past days, is progressing toward an unprecedented collapse. This authority is no longer able to end ongoing fighting in North Yemen or stop escalating protests in the southern governorates before it is time for it to start the process of voter registration and prepare for the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 2009.

This implies that it is impossible for the government to mislead people by saying the current situations may help allow Yemen to conduct real and safe elections as scheduled. Consequently, dialoguing on election mechanisms is no longer a priority.

Ending Sa'ada fighting, resolving South Yemen's issue, reforming the election system and improving performance in the various government offices is the correct order of these four top priority issues to be dealt with one by one. And, conducting a dialogue with this list of top priority issues requires effective participation of all parties involved such as protest activists in South Yemen and Houthi-led rebellion leaders in northern Sa'ada province.

The JMP and government should avoid the policy of guardianship or the policy of labeling themselves honest in order to reprimand protest activists via inventing the kind of justifications relating with selfish motives that are impossible to resist real facts. Accepting involvement of these parties in dialogue brings to mind the principle reading: "It is impossible

for a doctor to diagnose and treat the wound in the absence of the wounded person."

If these motives lead the authority and JMP to reject involvement of all those concerned in the dialogue, the situation will complicate, thereby producing new problems, while the government and JMP will find themselves in the future before additional complex issues that make the dialogue impossible.

The JMP and authority has to remember that if the rounds of previous dialogues, limited to discussing election mechanisms, were credible and successful, they would never found themselves before additional terms and conditions.

Therefore, a successful dialogue requires full participation of those involved, who in return should attempt to put a stop to military operations in the north and security crackdowns in the south, as well as release all the political detainees in the various government jails. Holding dialogue in the presence of President of the Republic or Prime Minister should also be considered a primary condition.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com

Why does the ruler hate the ruled?

By: Jamal Anam

Opposing the authority is not an action. Instead it is a position, as well as a free option that is taken individually or collectively. Opposing the authority doesn't condition that the opposition entity should be from outside the government's structure or its official business.

To oppose the authority doesn't mean to be an idle, nor does it mean to be a surplus workforce. It also doesn't mean that the opponent must be free of any life-related obligations in order to be able to avenge against an unjust authority.

The right to work is given precedence over the other basic rights, among them the right to object to an oppressive authority. The right to work must be granted to everyone without an exception or discrimination, and it means that all the most important requirements of freedom have to be satisfied. No liberty without work and no democracy without free economy and an open market that provides equal opportunity and multiple options to all competitors, and brings man the main components of good living.

We lack much of the democratic foundations, the most important of which is democracy of work. In Yemen, the authority remains the only employer and the only master that controls funds and spends them as it likes. It is the only possessor of the state and controller of governance and ruled citizens. It is a tyrannous regime that only works on strengthening the master-servant relation.

Despite all this, this authority seems to be unable to fulfill its

obligations to such an unjust relation. The ruler dominated everything including the government job, which he considers as the most important means to control its citizens, particularly under the kind of democracy imposed on him from outside forces.

The ruler gives jobs to applicants on the basis of their political affiliation, favoritism or nepotism at the expense of eligibility verification. In other words, the tyrannous ruler has become a victim of its oppression as it failed to perform his slavery role as a master. It also failed as an emerging and small democrat.

The ruler has transformed the government into a private project, on the structure of which more private, racial and tribal projects grew while the beneficiaries of these projects, who are counted by fingers, make tax-free profits at the expense of the majority party and its government that waste public funds and property for the sake of maintaining opportunists' allegiance.

The ruler continues to destroy its structure by enhancing centralization of power and distributing resources to corrupt and influential persons to maintain their allegiance with its system of government. As a result, his behavior enraged the vulnerable groups in the different parts of the country that vented their anger at the rampant corruption, which the regime continues to feed until such an immoral and irresponsible phenomenon turned to threaten his stay in power.

Now, the regime found that it is so difficult for it to fight or even put a stop to growing corruption in the various government offices,

mainly amid its poor policies, which judicious people hold accountable for destroying the main components of the real democratic experience. It is now when this authority learned that it lost the last deliverance opportunity.

Pluralism has changed into a moral authorization for the ruler to practice on his citizens while general elections have become a redundant process repeating the same image and reproducing the same bad and used version. It re-cooks the same ingredient that is notorious for its disgusting taste and smelling.

The state continues to shrink, thus becoming smaller and smaller over time while democracy has begun as a big fool in a plighted

and vulnerable country, governed by looters and opportunists who are less than eligible to be described as dictators or tyrants because they even failed to play their tyrannous and oppressive role.

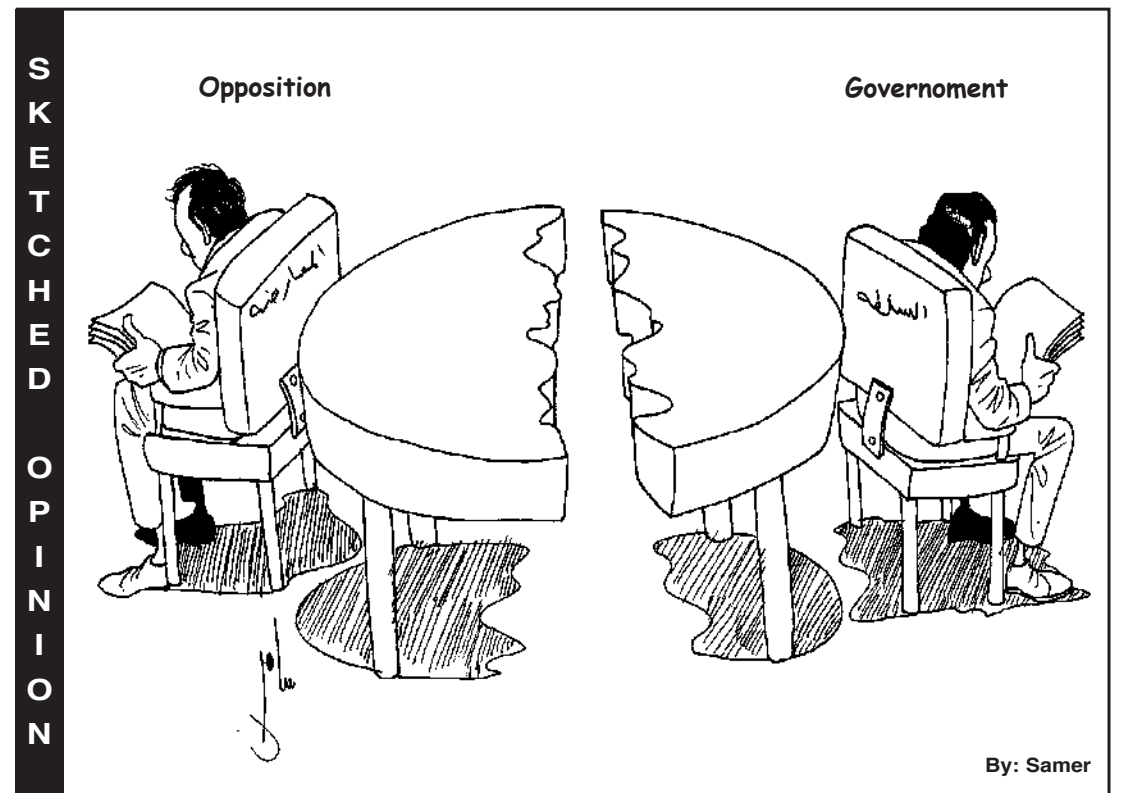
In South Yemen, military retirees demand that the government should reinstate them. The foolish government doesn't concentrate on such a demand while searching for the real motives behind escalating protests in the southern governorates.

Yemen's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi announced earlier that Yemen needs to create at least 180 thousand job opportunities per year in order to meet the growing number of applicants. And, studies conducted

by his ministry in 2006 confirmed that up to 34 percent of the country's young population is unemployed while, according to official reports, the government only provides 16 thousand job opportunities per year.

We demand that the government should fulfill its obligations to us for being good citizens who are more able to serve the society and perform the duty of government employees although such an ambition is not in line with our democratic expectations that object to giving jobs to applicants on the basis of nepotism and political affiliation. All such facts are the main reason why the ruler hates the ruled.

Source: Al-Sahwa Weekly.



By: Samer

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Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, June 12, 2008

Top Stories

- Islah Party leader: Election is part of multi-dimensional crisis
- Hood director calls on journalists to elect Al-Khaiwani YJS President
- Dengue fever infections on the rise in Shabwa governorate
- Human rights groups concerned about Al-Khaiwani's jailing

Many Yemeni and International organizations, journalists and activists strongly condemned a six-year jail sentence issued on Monday against an outspoken journalist Abdul-Karim Al-Khaiwani, who was shortly arrested in the wake of issuing the sentence, the weekly reported. It added that Al-Khaiwani, a former editor-in-chief of the banned Al-Shoura newspaper, was accused of involvement in an armed gang, propagating pro-Houthi publications and inciting violence against the government.

The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS) condemned the sentence, describing it as devastating to press freedom. In the meantime, the syndicate demanded that the court immediately release Al-Khaiwani and called on all human rights organizations to stand by Al-Khaiwani and press the government to stop violating press freedoms.

Deputy President of YJS Saeed Thabit Saeed said that this sentence is tough, demanding the appeal court to revoke it since Al-Khaiwani is innocent.

The US State Department condemned the jailing of Al-Khaiwani, saying it points to a "distressing trend" in which Yemeni courts muzzle independent media.

The Yemen-based Media Women Forum strongly condemned the ruling, saying it was politically motivated. The forum appealed to all Arab and international bodies to press on Yemen's authorities in order to annul the verdict, urging local organizations to hold a meeting at once and see how to rescue the jailed journalist.

The forum further affirmed that the court verdict hurts the fledgling democracy Yemen's president boasts of as the best achievement in Yemen, stressing that this verdict bodes ill for the future of democracy and freedom of expression and hoped that the President helps put a stop to violations practiced against Al-Khaiwani.

For its part, Amnesty International slammed the jailing of Al-Khaiwani in Yemen just days before an event in London at which the journalist is in line for a human rights media award.



Al-Wahdawi.net, affiliated with the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Top Stories

- During a meeting with President Saleh, JMP leaders confirm dealing with elections as an integrated system
- Popular demands for government to suggest mechanism for distributing wheat donated by UAE to Yemeni

citizens

- Hood: State Security Court is illegal
- CTPJF condemns court verdict against Al-Khaiwani

Center for Training & Protecting Journalistic Freedoms (CTPJF) strongly condemned a verdict issued by the State Security Court against the reputed journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani sentencing him to six years in jail, the website reported in its lead story. In a statement, of which a copy was obtained by the Al-Wahdawi.net, the center denounced the verdict describing it as 'political' and saying it provides clear evidence of Yemen's judiciary that lacks independence and neutrality.

According to CTPJF, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Shoura Weekly faced trial in an unconstitutional and illegal court. The center pressed the relevant authorities in the government to annul these unconstitutional courts that may take Yemen back to the reign of totalitarianism.

It called on all civil society organizations and human rights groups, as well as political forces, to establish a popular body to defend press freedom and resist Yemen's political courts. The court falsely accused Al-Khaiwani of involvement in an armed band, distributing publications in support of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi and his loyalists, who are clashing with the army, and instigating violence against the state.

Security authorities arrested the journalist just as the court issued a verdict sentencing him to six years in prison. The victim was then taken to the Sana'a-based Central Prison along with other 14 suspects the government accuses of composing a terrorist cell backing Houthis in their fight with the army.

The court's verdict was harshly criticized by many human rights activists and journalists who demanded it abolished. They described it as 'unfair', saying it represents a new violation of press freedom in Yemen.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with the General People Congress (Ruling Party)
Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Top Stories

- Broad campaign to reform education with a total cost of US\$ 274 million
- Tunisian businesspersons plan to initiate investment projects in Yemen
- Central Bank of Yemen injects US\$ 93 to stabilize exchange rate
- Foreign Minister lashes out at U.S. Statement Department for criticizing Al-Khaiwani's sentence

An official source at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry on Tuesday expressed surprise over the statement made by the U.S. State Department Spokesman on Monday concerning the judicial sentence against Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani after an open and fair trial he faced as a member of a group of sabotage that threatens security and stability of the nation, the website reported. It went on to say that the group murdered a security officer and an innocent child.

The source said it is strange that this statement comes under ignoring violations of human rights in Guantanamo, Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world, which have

been condemned by all humanitarian organizations and human rights groups worldwide.

The source added that the U.S. State Department should rather blame its administration for the political prosecution of sheikh Mohammed Al-Mouayad and his companion Mohammed Zayid for crimes they had not committed. The pair is still detained over false charges the U.S. Administration attributes to them.

The foreign Ministry pointed out that issues of human rights should not become means for political pressure or promoting the crime under consideration by justice as issues of the freedom of expression.

According to the website, the Foreign Ministry official source said the Republic of Yemen respects and is principally committed to respect all freedoms particularly human rights and the freedom of expression but at the same time it is committed to the Yemeni laws that incriminate the practice of violence and instigation of seditions in the nation.

The judiciary is the only competent authority to discuss and then give subsequent rulings on such issues that pose real threats to the national unity and stability.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, June 12, 2008

Top Stories

- Military and security authorities continue clearing rebels from Sa'ada

areas

- Saudi universities attracts Yemeni teaching professors to work for them
- Aden security seizes explosives in house of Qaeda suspect
- Local Administration encourages women's political participation

Local Administration Minister Abdul-Qader Ali Hilal revealed Wednesday a plan of appointing five women as deputies and assistants deputy governor in the capital Sana'a and the provinces of Aden, Ibb, Taiz and Hodeidah, the weekly reported in a front page story.

Opening a meeting for the Ministry's women leaders by giving a speech, Hilal stressed the necessity of the meeting increasing political participation of Yemeni women.

Hilal pointed out that women's participation in the local rule and listening to their viewpoints is clear evidence of the awareness of the political leadership about the importance of woman's role in society. The official said that the local governance is a comprehensive system with political, economic, social and cultural structure that aims to improve people's living standards.

For her part, deputy Minister for woman affairs Khadijah Radman said the meeting seeks to achieve many goals topped by activating the woman-run administrations in the local authority.

Radman highlighted the efforts that have been done by the government to create a real position for Yemeni women such as the Ministry's decisions appointing deputies and assistants deputy governor in 5 local positions.

The two-day meeting was organized by the Woman Sector in the Ministry and the project of Equal Opportunities and Woman Development of (GTZ).

What Ehud Olmert should – but probably didn't – tell George Bush

By: Ori Nir

What Ehud Olmert should – but probably won't – tell George Bush last Wednesday in the White House.

Thanks for seeing me, George. This may be my last meeting with you as Israel's prime minister.

I'm in a pinch, you know, and I'm fighting to save my political life. All these calls in recent days for me to resign have broadened my perspective. They have actually inspired me to speak bluntly to you.

You still have more than six months in office, time you can use to do some

good in our region. The window of opportunity for peace that we both saw two years ago should not come slamming down on your fingers. It is up to you to hold the window open now.

Please, let me have your attention for just a few minutes. Please focus on these points. There are only three and they are pretty simple:

The peace process with the Palestinians is going nowhere at an alarming speed. What Abu-Mazen and I agree on behind closed doors matters very little as long as there is no improvement of the situation on the ground. Read the reports by your own envoys to the region. They are correct: We are still building in West Bank settlements, we have not removed any illegal outposts and we have lifted

only a handful of the 600 roadblocks in the West Bank. Why? Because you never unequivocally demanded that we do so. The only way an Israeli prime minister can face internal opposition to measures such as a freeze on settlements and removing outposts and roadblocks is by telling the Israeli public: "I gave my word to the Americans and our relationship with Washington is our number one strategic asset."

Because of the mixed messages from your administration, I couldn't use that argument. Everyone would have seen right through it.

I know that you hate it when I bring up talks with Syria, but allow me to be frank, George: you are not being reasonable on this issue. Listen, we need a peace deal with Syria and we see an

opportunity to sway Assad away from Tehran. It's in your interest as much as it is in ours. Get serious, George: You can't just sit on the sidelines while Turkey tries to broker peace between us and the Syrians. I need your help on the Syrian track and if I don't survive this crisis, whoever comes after me will need it even more. America will only gain from Israeli-Syrian peace, and you know it.

Neither of us seriously engaged with the Arab League's peace plan. That was a mistake, George. My intelligence community sees an opportunity there. This Arab initiative may provide us with a tool to introduce a paradigm shift in our relations with the entire Arab world. Progress toward comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace could be

used as a key lever toward further isolating Iran. We both have our qualms about the Arab initiative, sure. But, George, if we harness this plan to talk with the Palestinians and the Syrians, we could give a real boost to moderates in the region. Why not make the Arab League's peace initiative a key component of an American regional diplomatic strategy? You do have one, right?

George, there is very little I can do right now to bring peace to my people. Even if I figure out a way to stay in office for a while, I don't have my people's confidence to make any bold moves on my own. Time is running out for you too, but it's far from over. Let's face it: Neither of us will go down in history as the leader who brought

peace between Arabs and Jews. I may go down as a leader who didn't try hard enough. But you, at least, can hand over a more promising Middle East to your successor. History will thank you for that. So will Israelis. Now, how are things back at the ranch?

Ori Nir, former West Bank correspondent for the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, is the spokesman for Americans for Peace Now, a Jewish organisation that promotes Israel's security through peace. His e-mail is onir@peacenow.org. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

What exactly is pro-Israel?

By: Marc Gopin

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, one of the most powerful lobby groups in the United States, just concluded its annual Washington conference. It drew a long line of administration officials and the presidential candidates to its doorsteps, all touting orthodox lines on what it means to be pro-Israel—messages carefully crafted to please the lobby.

Now is a good time to ask, what exactly does "pro-Israel" mean, and who is pro-Israel in the United States today? The ones who twist every arm in Congress to be silent, to suppress what they know is right to do in terms of a fair Israeli-Palestinian deal? We have before us now a hair-trigger set of confrontations from Lebanon to the

Persian Gulf, with long-range missiles, chemical and nuclear capable, aimed at Israel from a country in the Persian Gulf that has no business in Gaza. And yet, due to the unending festering of the Palestinian tragedy, Shiite Iran has stepped into Sunni Gaza, in addition to Iraq and Lebanon, primarily because the United States failed to engage fairly or at all in the last eight years.

Have our actions made Israel safer, and do they reflect a pro-Israel position? Or is this in fact an anti-Israel position that is sacrificing Jewish and Palestinian children on an altar of self-destructive fears and hatreds? In the end, American politicians are going to say and do what the most effective lobbyists tell them to do regarding Israel. And that translates back to the American people and their voice. The American people must decide what is pro-Israel and what is anti-Israel.

Some interesting lessons learned come from Northern Ireland. On March 26, 2007 Ian Paisley, co-founder of the DUP party of Northern Ireland, sat side by side with Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein, his most reviled enemy, and the two of them pledged their full participation in an Irish government. This is the same Ian Paisley who had consistently been the voice of Protestant opposition and demonisation of Catholics. This is the same Sinn Fein that had represented the Irish Republican Army as it carried out decades of violence against Protestants. How did these enemies get to 2007? There was a little stop along the way in 1998, in which the United States and one George Mitchell played an entral role.

In 1998, former Senator George Mitchell, of Irish descent, oversaw the completion of the historic Good Friday Accord that led eventually to the power

sharing arrangements which Northern Ireland now enjoys. He was supported by another man of partial Irish descent, President Bill Clinton.

Senator Mitchell once told me in person exactly how he managed to successfully outmaneuver the spoilers in the Irish/Protestant conflict. He explained to me: I had a pad of paper with my handwritten notes. I had the only copy. On it I placed what each side pledged to do, and exactly when and in what sequence they would do it. I let them know that if either side failed in the sequence, then the President of the United States would publicly lay the blame for the failure of the entire accord on the side that had broken their word.

These words were so simple, so remarkable, so pristine in their understanding of negotiation and arbitration. And this is precisely what has been missing from

Palestinian/Israeli peace processes from the very beginning. It is not as if the American road to Irish peacemaking was easy. There were spoilers in America, just as there are now regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. There were people on both sides who thought they were pro-Israel. But were they pro-Israel all those decades or anti-Israel? In the end, it was Mitchell and Clinton who were the most pro-Israel, because they stopped the killing of Irish children once and for all.

It goes without saying that the issues were exceedingly complex, that it took years to identify the compromises, and that Mitchell's charisma and skills added up to much more than a pad of paper. However, what was irreplaceable was the American political will to authorise Mr. Mitchell to boil it all down to that pad of paper and its

conditions.

Perhaps it is time to finally tell our congressmen to tell George Mitchell to go to the Holy Land, with a single pad of paper in hand, armed with the only weapon necessary: the American will to write on that pad of paper what needs to be written, what everyone knows must be written. How many more Palestinian and Jewish children have to die before the American people find the willpower to send a brilliant negotiator to the Middle East with a single pad of paper?

Marc Gopin is the James Laue Professor of World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University in Washington D.C. He can be reached at mgopin@gmu.edu. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

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NO. (8) 2008 year

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (8) 2008 year for buying , importing, supervising installment, checking , operating , confirming , submitting , and guarantee of computers with its stuff .

All the interested specialist and industrial companies, and accredited agents apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:


The TV and Radio General Corporation – General Administration for Projects - tel: (01/ 230751)

For buying and having the entire bid documents with receipt: (300 \$) non refundable. The deadline of selling the documents is: 6/7/2008.

The file should be enveloped and sealed with the red wax and submitted to the secretary of bids and out-bids committee of the corporation. The file should be addressed with name of the authority, the name of the project, the number of the bid, and the name of the applicant, and the file should include all the following documents:

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount (2000 \$) valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening the files or by a payable check.
- 2- Submitting a copy of the taxing card valid 2008,(all the foreign bidders, who don't work, submit a copy of the register documents for extra cost taxation from their countries.
- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year (the insurance cards are only requested from those companies which have assets in Yemen and have the right to utilize from the revenues given from the general corporation for social insurance in Yemen).
- 4- A copy of valid certificate of registration and classifications.
- 5- A copy of the alms card valid for 2005.
- 6- The deadline of receiving the documents and opening the files at 11:00 am on Saturday morning 12/7/2008 at the main branch of the corporation.

ننوه أنه حدث خطأ في اعلان الإذاعة والتلفزيون الخاص بالمناقصة رقم ٨ والذي نشر في العدد السابق حيث تم تحديد موعد فتح المظاريف يوم الثلاثاء ١٢/٧/٢٠٠٨م والصحيح هو يوم السبت ١٢/٧/٢٠٠٨. لذلك لزم التنويه.

unicef  **EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 14/08**

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

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Type of Contract: **Temporary Fixed Term (Nine months)**
Duty station: **Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**

Under the supervision of the Chief of Education Officer, (L-4), the incumbent will perform the following main responsibilities:

- Collects information mainly from records, reports, field trips and meetings and prepares periodic and ad hoc reports on programme and project activities,
- Organizes data and information, prepares and maintains records, documents and control plans for the monitoring of projects/programme implementation
- Contributes to the preparation of reports, project documents and submissions to governments by providing by providing information, preparing tables and drafting relatively routine sections. Prepares background information for use in discussions with governments and other organizations. Participates in the briefing and debriefing of project personnel.
- Scrutinizes plans of operation, exchanges of letters and takes appropriate follow-up action. Assists in the administrative process of government requests for assistance.
- May be required to carry out specific administrative operational/control tasks for project/programme activities. Perform other duties as required.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

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Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae and copies of the performance evaluation report (most recent two reports) to - yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after 30 June 2008 will not be considered.

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Yemen marks World Blood Donor Day

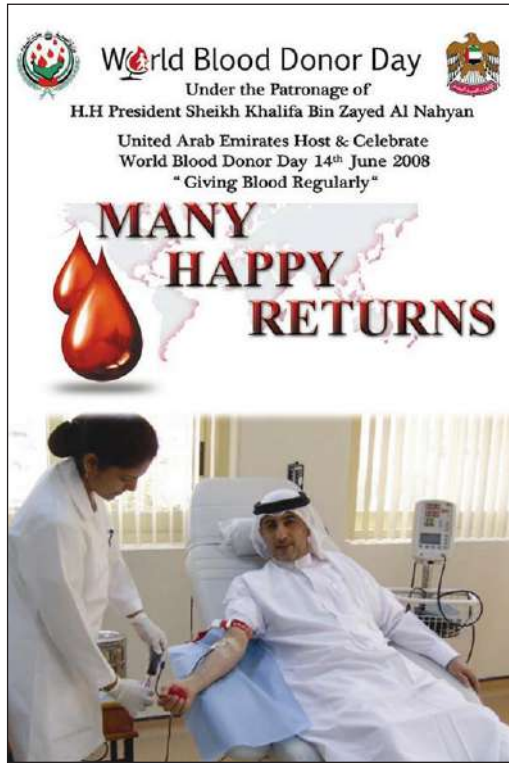
By: Yemen Times Staff

This past Saturday, Yemen marked World Blood Donor Day, a World Health Organization-sponsored event focusing on the role of voluntary unpaid blood donations in the fight to save lives across the globe.

"This annual event highlights the role blood donors play in saving lives and improving the health of millions. It creates awareness about the availability, safety and appropriate use of blood and blood products," a WHO statement said about the event.

Voluntary blood donation in Yemen still is somewhat uncommon, as most patients needing blood get it from relatives who donate whenever the need arises, but the Ministry of Health is trying to change this.

"We've conducted a blood donation campaign on television for the past two days ago [since June 12] trying to make people aware that this is something healthy to do, as well as being good for them and for their



blood circulation," explains Dr. Ghrazi Al-Ismail, deputy minister of the Health Ministry's medical sector.

He adds, "It makes the blood clean, so we encourage them [volunteers] to do it." The actual blood collection drive has been soliciting donors for nearly two weeks.

Al-Ismail notes that the majority of Yemen's blood donors are between the ages of 20 and 45 and are either college students or working professionals.

Many different types of Yemenis need blood transfusions for surgery or as treatment for illness. For example, sufferers of thalassemia, a chronic and hereditary disease, require blood transfusions every three weeks. Some estimates say that more than 4.5 percent of Yemen's total population suffers from thalassemia, also called "Mediterranean Anemia," due

to its prevalence in the region.

Blood donors in Sana'a can go to the Center for Blood Transfer Services, as it has the proper equipment to receive voluntary blood donations.

MTN mobile telephone company also encourages its employees to donate by setting up a blood donation station tent in front of its building. "Plenty of people came to donate, especially those who work for MTN," Al-Ismail noted.

According to WHO, there has been a 22 percent increase in voluntary [unpaid] blood donors in developing and transitional countries throughout the world. Even though 80 percent of the world's population lives in developing countries, only 45 percent of all blood donations come from these places and developing countries like Yemen still have much work to do when it comes to mobilizing voluntary blood donors.

The theme of this year's World Blood Donor Day was "Giving Blood Regularly," stressing the importance of a long-term commitment to unpaid voluntary blood donation to help build up

every nation's blood reserves.

WHO warns that every nation, but particularly developing countries, should be on guard to avoid blood shortages and that blood screening should be stringent to ensure that donations are free of hazardous diseases. At the very least, it says blood must be screened for HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis.

"The safest blood is given by the safest blood donors. The prevalence of HIV, hepatitis viruses and other blood-borne infections is lowest among voluntary unpaid blood donors who give blood purely for altruistic reasons," according to WHO's blood donation safety data.

"Worldwide, the highest infection rates are found among donors who give blood for money or for other forms of payment," it continued, noting that an adequate supply of safe blood can be assured only through regular donation by voluntary unpaid blood donors.

This year, the international campaign centered in two countries, China and the United Arab Emirates, both of which are blood donation success sto-

ries, as each went from nearly no voluntary blood donations a decade ago to nearly 100 percent voluntary blood donations this year. In both countries, previous blood donations were made either in exchange for money or came from family members.

4U

To donate blood, you must:

- Be between 18 and 60 years old
- Weigh more than 50 kilograms for men and more than 45 kilograms for women
- Be free of blood-borne diseases such as HIV, hepatitis and syphilis
- Not be pregnant or nursing at the time of donation
- Not be on antibiotics or various other medications and drugs
- Be healthy and free of illnesses such as cancer and malaria

Check with a doctor to find out if there are any other impediments to your donating blood.
Information courtesy of www.redcross.com

Muslims Clamp Down on Halal Fraud

The global industry of halal, or foods that are permitted for consumption by Muslims, has a turnover of hundreds of billions of dollars every year, and is constantly growing.

But the swell in demand for halal has given rise to fraud, especially in the labeling and certification industry. Now, Muslims are clubbing together to combat deception and standardize halal regulations.

By: Rachel Klinger
The Media Line

The global industry of halal, or foods that are permitted for consumption by Muslims, has a turnover of hundreds of billions of dollars every year, and is constantly growing.

But the swell in demand for halal has given rise to fraud, especially in the labeling and certification industry. Now, Muslims are clubbing together to combat deception and standardize halal regulations.

When most people go shopping for meat, they don't put much thought into the task beyond the quality and the price.

What is halal?

Halal is an Arabic word meaning permissible, and refers to anything permitted according to Shari'a, or Muslim law, as opposed to haram, which means unlawful or forbidden.

The word halal is usually used in the context of foods that are permitted for consumption by Muslims.

The Quran, the holy book in Islam, instructs followers of Islam as to what is haram.

"Forbidden to you (for food) are: dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine and that on which hath been invoked the name of other than Allah, that which hath been killed by strangling or by a violent blow, or by a headlong fall or by being gored to death; that which hath been (partly) eaten by a wild animal unless ye are able to slaughter it (in due form); that which is sacrificed on stone (altars); forbidden also is the division (of meat) by raffling with arrows; that is impiety."

(The Quran, Al-Maida, Sura 5 verse 3, translation published by the Amana Corporation, 1989)

Based on this source and other scriptures, The Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA) outlines the following as foods that are

haram, and not permitted for consumption by Muslims:

- Swine or pork and their by-products
- Animals improperly slaughtered or dead before slaughtering
- Animals killed in the name of other than Allah (God)
- Alcohol and intoxicants
- Carnivorous animals, birds of prey and land animals without external ears
- Blood and by-products of blood
- Foods contaminated by any of the above products

Food containing ingredients such as gelatin, enzymes and emulsifiers are mashboub, or questionable, because the origin of these ingredients is unknown and more information is needed in order to categorize them as halal or haram.

For the meat to be halal, some rules must be followed in the interest of animal welfare: the animal must be fed as normal and given water prior to slaughter; the animal must not witness another animal being slaughtered; the knife must be razor sharp and must slit the animal's throat from vein to vein with one swipe; and the slaughterer and the animal should be facing Mecca.

Show the same meat to observant Muslims, and they will ask you a whole slew of questions: is the meat from an animal that can be eaten; was it slaughtered properly; did someone say a blessing before it was slaughtered; was it marinated in alcohol; did it come into contact with wine?

The industry of halal, foods that are permitted for consumption according to Muslim law is gaining a strong foothold – both in the United States and beyond – and has an estimated global turnover of \$580 billion a year, catering for many non-Muslims as well as Muslims.

But the swell in demand for halal products has given rise to fraud, where companies and exporters are labeling foods as halal, when, in fact, this is not the case.

The problem is causing Muslims worldwide to rethink the halal certification process and minimize instances in which Muslim beliefs are being exploited for the sake of a fast buck.

With this in mind, the World Halal Forum, which convened in Malaysia at the beginning of May, has established an International Halal Integrity Alliance, which aims to counter halal deception and standardize halal regulations.

The alliance technically works on a voluntary basis in which companies will adopt the IHI standards. If a halal certifier is recognized by the IHI, this will give them more credibility in the eyes of the consumer.

"This is a group of people who have no vested interest except for integrity," Nordin Abdullah, deputy chairman of the World Halal Forum, told The Media Line. Islam currently has some 1.5 billion followers, many of whom are observant, and their numbers are continuously increasing. Food manufacturers have a vested economic interest in labeling a product permissible for consumption by Muslims, since it can boost the sales considerably.

Up until now there has been no centralized body that defines the standards of halal and accredits certification organizations.

The lack of order in the halal certification industry has been problematic in some countries, including the Middle East, home to a significant percentage of the world's Muslim population.

The U.S., surprisingly, has a relatively good record on halal certification, but there have been problems there too, and Muslims are now trying to make the process more systematic.

"Especially now, with the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, there's an increase in demand for American goods in the Muslim world," says Jalel Aosey, director of business development at Midamar, a U.S.-based company which manufactures and exports halal foods.

Manufacturing companies are supplying to the Middle East and they are seeking halal certification, he says.

While truth in labeling laws in the U.S. is quite stringent and any false information can involve heavy penalties, the laws regarding food exports are more lax. Aosey explains that, "Many exporter consolidators buy American food products that are knowingly not halal and they will put either a sticker on it or they will get a supposed halal certifier that will give them a certificate. That certificate is separate from the product and they send that product overseas. The importer, in Arab countries in particular, needs that certificate in order to clear the goods and show that it's halal."

The vast majority of U.S. food products are not identified on their packaging as halal, he says. However, the certificate will say it is a halal product slaughtered according to Muslim law and that slip of paper makes the products permissible for Muslims.

"You can go to any supermarket in the Middle East and find American goods that are being sold as halal, but you would never find that product sold as halal in the United States," Aosey says. "I think it would be shocking if people really knew how few products are actually halal in this part of the world that are being sold as such."

Consumers in the Middle East are becoming increasingly aware of this

problem and are being asked to play a more active role in determining what is permissible according to Islamic law.

Midamar is creating a consumer organization, which will contact American food manufacturers and ask them in writing whether their foods are halal or not. It is a relatively simple process to find out whether a certificate is legitimate or not, Aosey says.

If the American manufacturer says it does not produce halal products, but it is reaching countries overseas as halal, this indicates that someone in the U.S. is "making" the product halal before it leaves the country.

In some ways, the halal industry is learning from the Jewish kosher industry, in which products have to be identified as kosher directly on the packages.

"The product is only kosher if identified with the seal on the package. They do not accept paper certificates for obvious reasons, as the halal industry is learning now," Aosey says.

Surprisingly, Southeast Asian countries and not the Middle East are spearheading efforts to make the halal certification more regulated.

In Malaysia, for example, there is already a system in place where a consumer can pull a product off a shelf in the supermarket and send the number of the barcode in a text message to a central database. The consumer then receives a text message back informing him or her whether the product is registered with the Malaysian halal certification authority or not.

Halal fraud can be done with malice or it can be purely accidental, Abdullah says.

"Maybe there are some clever marketing people who want to put a halal logo on a product because it then sells better in the Middle East, without knowing what this really represents," he says.

"The other level is people who know there are pork-based components in the product and do it anyway. Every few weeks we find a company that does that.

We think that with the increase of Internet usage those companies will find it's not worth the risk, because people send an e-mail out, and the information gets around very quickly."

On the other hand, Abdullah says, this is being abused for purposes of slander, where people will accuse a company – perhaps a competitor – of halal fraud when in fact there is nothing wrong with their conduct.

"The International Halal Integrity Alliance is playing an increasingly regulatory role because it protects the companies that are doing things properly and it also protects the consumer," he says.

Aosey believes that while some people in the industry are intentionally practicing deception, there is also a lack of education about what it takes for a food product to be halal certified.

"Some companies think it's just paperwork. They don't understand there's a true process from the slaughter to the processing," he says.

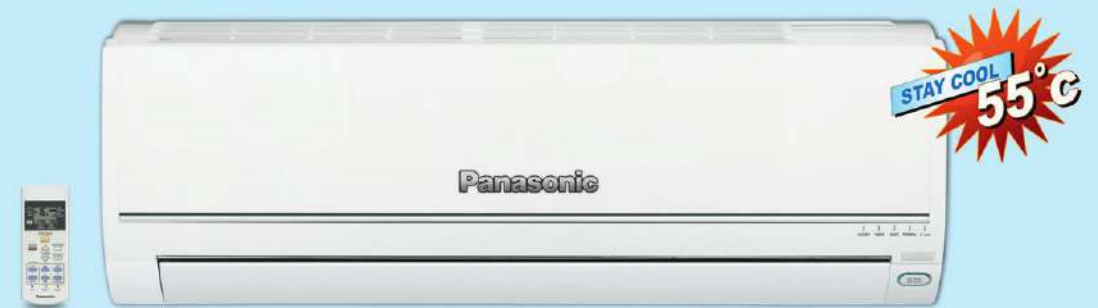
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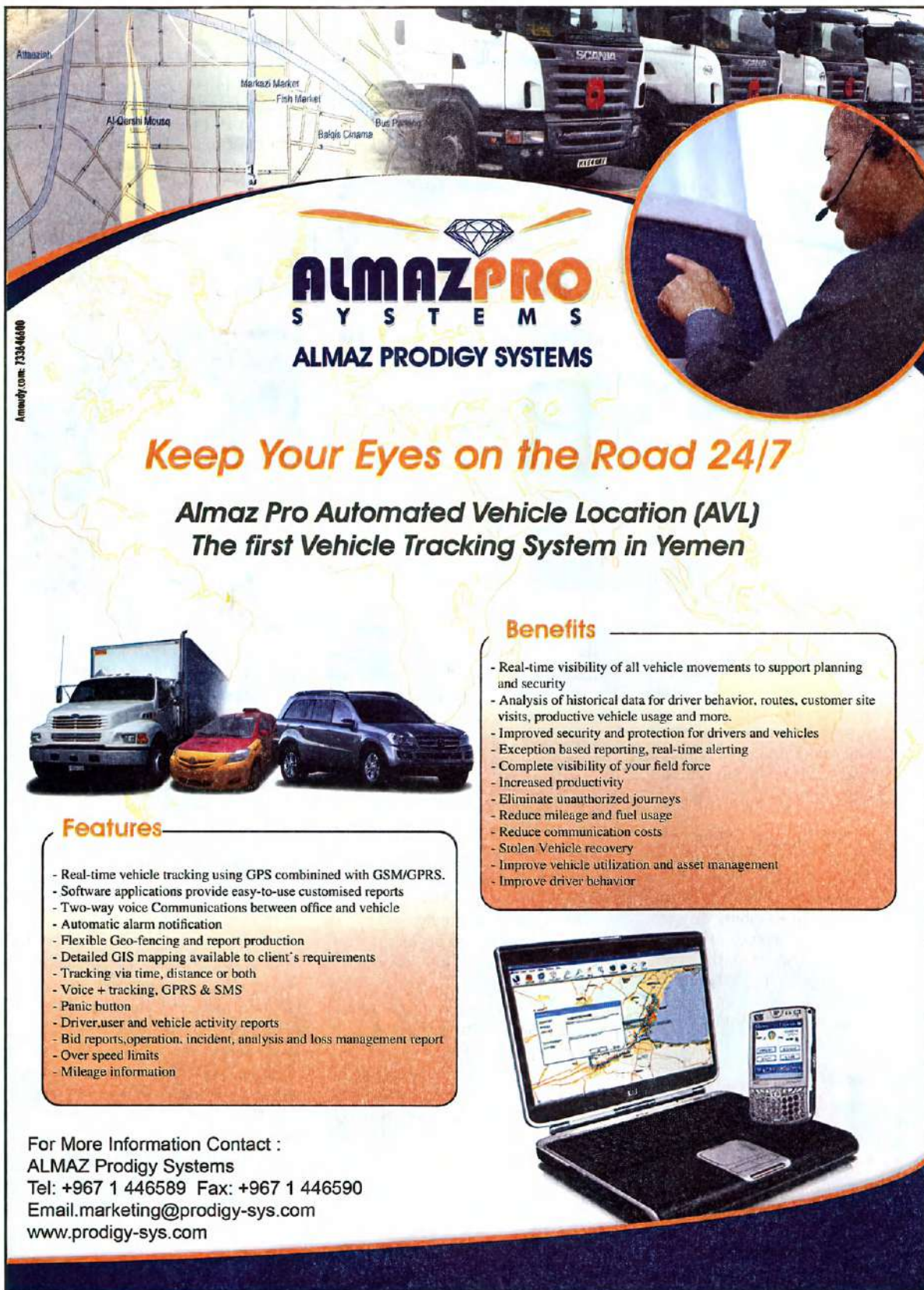
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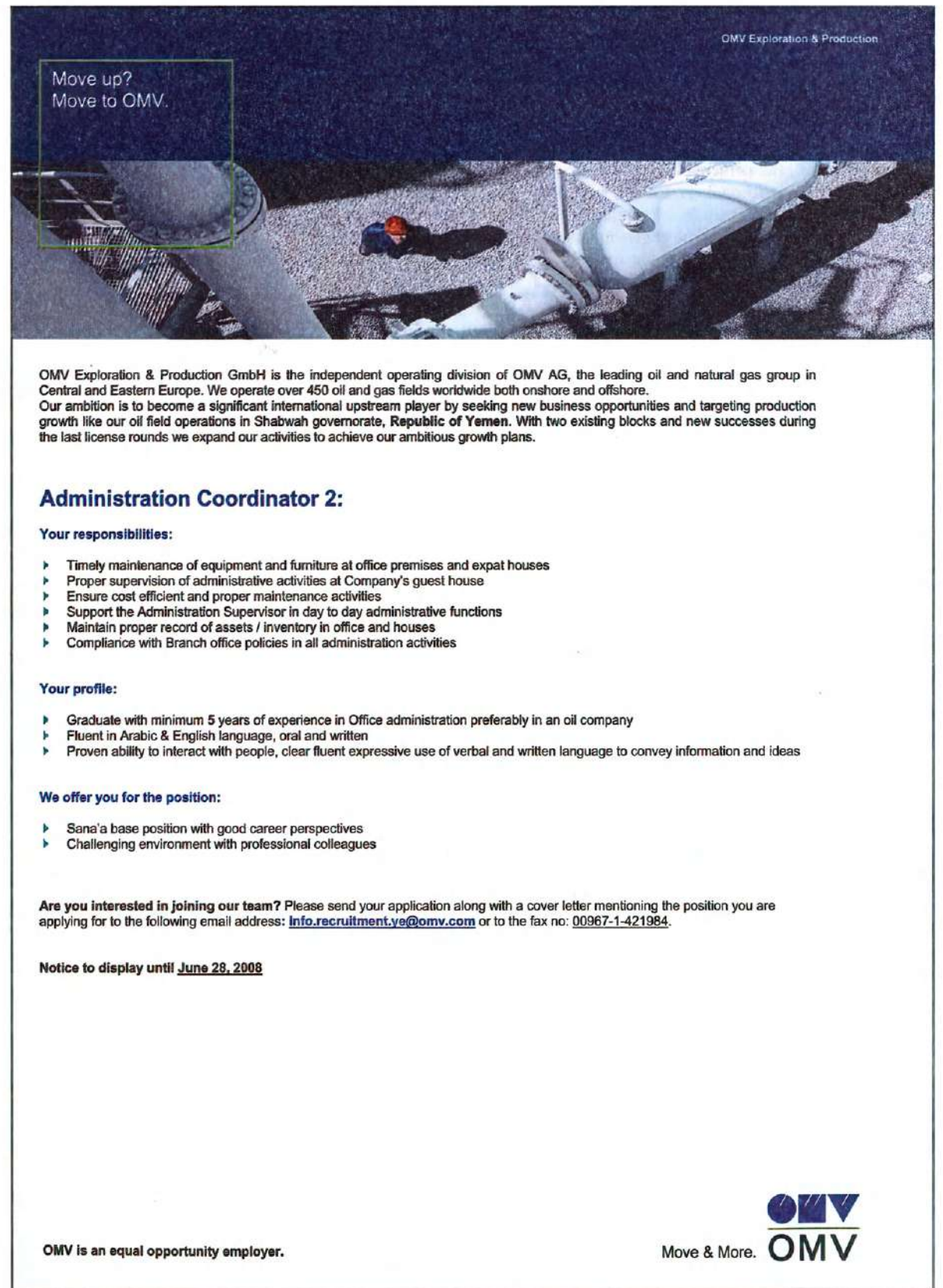
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Islamic Jerusalem as a model for conflict resolution, peaceful co-existence, and co-operation

The Muslim core teaching sources conform to the methodology of *Tadafu*, the concept of *Adl*, the principle of not excluding others, and the constructive argumentation methodology. Preserving human dignity is very central in Muslim thoughts and attitude. Islamic Jerusalem provides and promotes a climate of religious and cultural engagement and dialogue, tolerance and diversity, and social justice. It also encourages, supports and contributes to fostering a multicultural ethos of mutual cultural understanding and respect, and a common understanding between different communities and individuals at all levels.

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In the last six years, the world has witnessed much debate on new forms of the global phenomena of fundamentalism and extremism. People are more aware of the intense political climate, clashes that have come to be known as "fundamentalism" or "extremism".

The concept of a 'clash of civilisations' has become part of our everyday vocabulary. However, the basis of any such clash is either sheer ignorance or an extreme interpretation of the religious scriptures or secular ideologies on which people found their beliefs and actions.

The main principles for the Muslim theoretical frame of reference towards dealing with others are based basically on the core Muslim sources, the Qur'an and Sunnah. It was mainly on these sources that the Muslims developed their conceptual and theoretical framework towards non-Muslims. Based on the core Muslim sources, the main key elements of such a model are: the methodological approach of *Tadafu* (counterbalance) and the concept of *Adl* (Justice), the principle of non exclusion, and the constructive argumentation methodology.

Tadafu methodology

Muslim core teachings reject the philosophy of a conflict based on eliminating the other party so that the victor can have the stage to himself. This would mean in effect annulling the principle of plurality and diversity. Islam considers that plurality is the basis of everything apart from God. Indeed plurality in nations, religions and religious laws is part of the design of the universe. As confirmation of that idea, Islam favoured another method, namely *Tadafu* or counterbalance, as a means of adjusting positions using movement instead of conflict.

This conflict-free method is what Muslim teachings see as a means of preserving a non-Muslim presence in this life. *Tadafu* is not only to preserve Muslim's sacred places, but to preserve the sacred places of others.

Concept of 'Adl (justice)

This methodology is linked to a very central concept in the core Muslim sources, the concept of *Adl* or justice which encompasses all without dis-

crimination between Muslim and non-Muslim. For example, the Quran states:

Wa la yajrimannakum shana'an qawmin 'alla an la ta'dilu. 'idilu huwa 'aqabu li al-taqwa.

... and do not let the enmity and hatred of some people lead you away from justice, but adhere to justice, for that is closer to piety. (Qur'an, 5: 8).

The command to be just in this Qur'anic verse is general without specifying any race or group above another. The Prophet Muhammad warned against any unjust action by using a very clear and strong instruction to Muslims that they must deal with non-Muslims justly.

The principle of non exclusion

The claims that Muslims adopt the principle of excluding others to live with them, as in the case of Jews barred from residence in Islamic Jerusalem (which is the area around Al-Aqsa Mosque bound from the North by Nablus, from the South by Beer Shiva, from the East by Mu'tah in Jordan and from the West by the Mediterranean Sea) is the during the first Muslim *Fatih*, has not only not been historically proven incorrect, but also contradicts the core Muslim teachings which reject the notion of supremacy of one people or race over others. It contravenes the most basic Islamic principles concerning treatment of the People of the Book. Indeed, the reference in particular to the Jews is out of step, and even seems to clash with the main Muslim teachings, based on the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Constructive argumentation methodology

The Qur'an encourages Muslims to engage in discussion with all people in general and with the People of the Book in particular, through constructive argumentation, "argue with them *bi-alati hia Ahsanin* in the most beautiful (politest) manner" (Qur'an, 16: 125). The Qur'an lays down one condition for this constructive argumentation methodology, namely, that it should not be only in a beautiful way but in the "most beautiful manner".

According to the Qur'an, the starting point for any conflict resolution should be through constructive argumentation based on the power of knowledge and not from an arrogant



Al-Janna Well, one of the wells at the Sakrah Mosque Square area.

position. In addition, constructive argumentation is a methodology encouraged by the Qur'an as a means for "constructive dialogue" and positive negotiation with others.

Peaceful co-existence and mutual respect

The other Muslim core teaching sources conform to this methodology of *Tadafu*, the concept of *Adl*, the principal of not excluding others, and the constructive argumentation methodology. Both methodologies, concept, and principals emphasise the need to care for preserving human dignity and belongings. Preserving human dignity is very central in Muslim thoughts and attitude.

This preservation leads to the establishment of tolerance, which not only means rejecting the notion of compulsion in religions and cultures but promoting the appreciation and acceptance of others. This should lead not only to respect for non-Muslim rights but to granting them protection of lives and properties, freedom, security and support, and enabling them to become citizens and members of the society without interference in their culture and religion. Determining the status and rights of non-Muslims should act as a means to a peaceful co-existence and mutual respect among the different cultures and religions in a society.

Islamic Jerusalem as a model

The best practical and clear model to represent this policy of dealing with non-Muslims is the Umar's Assurance of Safety to the people of Aelia. Indeed, the Assurance is the major religious pillar and the frame of reference to establish the nature of this relationship between the communities of Islamic Jerusalem's society, which rejects the notion of the supremacy of one people or race over others.

The methodology of *Tadafu*, the concept of *Adl*; the principle of non exclusion, and the constructive argu-

mentation methodology are intertwined key elements of this model. It is not possible to separate them as not one of them operates without the others. They are also linked and interlinked with their religious context. However, they do not operate simultaneously, with one simply reflecting the others.

Perhaps all these elements is what prompted Salah al-Din's letter of reply to King Richard I 'the Lionheart' of England in October 1191 CE during the negotiations in the third Crusade. In an exclusive agenda, Richard claimed that "Jerusalem is the centre of our worship, which we shall never renounce, even if there is only one of us left" Salah al-Din replied by stating that Islamic Jerusalem is the sacred legacy of the followers of all nations. He asserted the Muslim rights without denying the Christian rights in Islamic Jerusalem and refuted Richard's claim that Muslims were invaders. In his reply, he stated that: "Islamic Jerusalem is ours as much as it is yours. It is even more important for us, since it is the site of our Prophet's Night Journey and the place where the people will assemble on the Day of Judgment. Do not imagine, therefore, that we can waver in this regard".

One good example which represents Islamic Jerusalem as a model for conflict resolution were the negotiations between Salah al-Din and King Richard I 'the Lionheart' of England during the third Crusade (1189-1193). Their constructive dialogues not only led to resolving very complicated competing claims but ended with building confidence and establishing a good relationship and mutual respect between the two great leaders - which in their turn led to secure peace in one of the most conflicted areas. They succeeded in reaching an agreement, Al-Ramla Peace Treaty, which was signed on 23 Sha'ban 588AH/2 September 1192 CE.

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Clarice Lispector, an influential and original Brazilian writer

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Brazilian novelist, short story writer, newspaper columnist and translator Clarice Lispector was born Dec. 10, 1920 in southern Ukraine's Chechelnyk village. Her family suffered terribly during the unstable political situations following the dissolution of the Russian Empire in 1917.

In 1920, they eventually managed to escape to Bucharest, Romania, where they were issued passports for Brazil. They arrived at Maceió, an Atlantic Ocean seaport and the capital of Alagoas state.

Lispector spent her childhood at Recife, capital of Pernambuco state, attending João Barbalho Elementary School before entering junior high in 1932. Her family moved to Rio de Janeiro when she was 14.

Lispector eventually enrolled in Brazil University's college of law in 1939. While still in law school in 1940, she began working as a journalist, first at the official government press service, Agência Nacional (the Brazilian News Agency), and then at A Noite (The Night) newspaper.

Lispector graduated from law school and was granted Brazilian citizenship in the same year, 1943. That same year, she also married her colleague, Maury Valente, who was embarking upon his career as a Brazilian diplomat.

Lispector left Brazil in mid-1944 bound for Naples, Italy, where her husband was posted at the Brazilian consulate. While there, she worked at the hospital, taking care of wounded Brazilian troops fighting against the Nazis alongside the Allies.

Lispector then moved to Bern, Switzerland with her husband in 1946 when he was posted to the Brazilian Embassy there. After leaving Switzerland in 1949 and spending nearly a year in Rio de Janeiro, Lispector next accompanied her husband to Torquay, England.

She returned to Rio in 1952, working under the pseudonym Teresa Quadros at the short-lived newspaper, Comício (Rally). That same year, Lispector's family moved to Washington in the United States, living there for several years.

In the late 1950s, although she did perfectly what she had to as a diplomat's wife, Lispector found herself becoming discontent with the diplomatic milieu; consequently, she left her husband in mid-1959 and returned to Rio de Janeiro, where she would spend the rest of her life.

Back in Brazil, she struggled financially, working as a journalist at the *Correio da Manhã* (Morning Gazette) newspaper. In the early 1960s, Lispector had her own column in the *Diário da Noite* (Evening Daily News) newspaper and began writing a weekly column for the *Jornal do Brasil* in 1967.

During this time, she intensified her journalistic activities, also conducting interviews for the glossy magazine, *Manchete* (Headline). However, at the end of 1973, Lispector was fired from



the *Jornal do Brasil*, which put her under increasing financial pressure. Accordingly, she began painting and increased her translating activities.

Lispector is widely considered the 20th century's most original and innovative female Brazilian writer. Her literary works include nine novels, eight short story collections, four children's works and translations of several classic literary works.

The primary importance of Lispector's works is that they are a first definitive step in women's search for a female voice in Latin America. Her writings also reveal a constant preoccupation with the interconnectedness between literature, ethics, language and gender.

Lispector published her first novel, "Perto do Coração Selvagem" (Near the Wild Heart), in December 1943. Marked by an intense focus on interior emotional states, the book won the prestigious Graça Aranha Prize in 1944, in addition to being awarded the best debut novel of 1943 by the Brazilian Academy of Letters.

Her second novel was 1946's "O Lustre" (The Chandelier), while her third, "A Cidade Sitiada" (The Besieged City, 1948), chronicled the story of a female protagonist and the growth of her town from a small settlement to a large city.

However, Lispector's most famous short story collection is "Laços de Família" (Family Ties, 1960). A compilation of 13 short stories, it provides a comprehensive picture of Lispector's private world of deep psychological complexities.

"A Maçã No Escuro" (Apple in the Dark, 1961) was her fourth novel and the first to be translated into English, also receiving the 1962 Carmen Dolores Barbosa Prize.

Among Lispector's other renowned novels are 1964's "A Paixão Segundo G.H." (The Passion According to G.H.) and 1973's "Água Viva" (The Stream of Life). Her last novel, "A Hora da Estrela" (The Hour of The Star, 1977), focused directly and explicitly on poverty and marginality in Brazil.

Published posthumously in 1984, "A Descoberta do Mundo" (Discovering the World), contains Lispector's so-called "crônicas" or columns she wrote for *Jornal do Brasil*. The volume comprises a miscellaneous collection of maxims, reminiscences, interviews, travel observations, serialized stories and brief essays somewhat loosely defined as 'chronicles,' a genre particular to Brazil.

Lispector published her first children's book, "O Mistério do Coelho Pensante" (The Mystery of the Thinking Rabbit), in 1967. Her other children's literature includes "The Woman Who Killed the Fish" (1968) and "Laura's Intimate Life" (1974).

In 1976, Lispector was awarded a prize by the Federal District Cultural Foundation for her entire body of work.

Lispector died of cancer in Rio de Janeiro on Dec. 9, 1977. However, during her lifetime, she was able to awaken Brazilian literature from a depressing and degrading lethargy, elevating it to a level of universal perfection. In a television interview, she once stated, "When I'm not writing, I'm dead."



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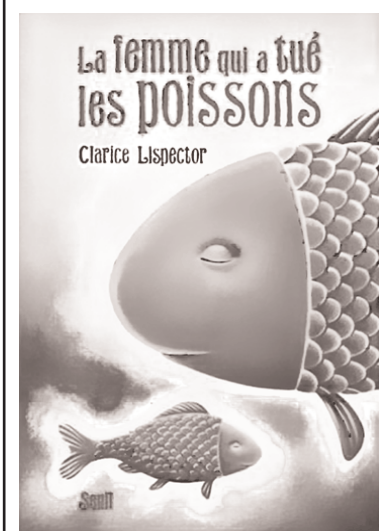
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