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Government, employees, and students for Gaza

By: Enas Ahmed and Nisreen Shadad

SANA'A, Jan. 7 — Yemeni activities in support of the Palestinian plight in Gaza are on going as a national campaign on various levels.

Over 700 students at Sana'a University lead by the General Union for Yemeni students held a number of activities in a two day solidarity event with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

On the governmental level, the Cabinet approved a full day's pay of all state employees' salaries, general and mixed sectors, and private funds as a humanitarian donation for the residents of Gaza.

Similarly, a six day solidarity event was launched Jan. 5, under the logon "Al-Quds Arab Culture Capital 2009", by the Yemeni foundation for Sponsorship of Palestinian (Takaful). Culture Minister, Abu Bakr Al-Maflahi, condemned the attacks and commented that such an event is an opportunity to support our brothers in Gaza financially as well as spiritually.

Abdul Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zendani member of the Showra Council and director of the Iman University, condemned the silence of Arab governments and for immediate cessation governments should open the fences for people to go to Gaza or establish a military camps to be able to support them.

Moreover, a media alliance to support Palestinians was launched by Fathya Abdul Wasee, Women and Child



Hundreds of Yemenis continue their campaign in support of Gaza.

Assistant Deputy of the Ministry of Legal Affairs jointly with the women section of al-Quds foundation in Yemen.

Sadiq al-Ahmar, the leader of Hashid tribe in Yemen called on Yemenis to support the Palestinians to continue their struggle with absolute strength and steadfastness.

Mohammed Siyam, an official at Hamas office, attended this festival and said a poem, which describes the situation of Palestine.

Osama al-Ashqar, the head of the Arab Culture Capital national campaign: "Gaza is experiencing shortages in medicine, power and basic supplies due to the Israeli blockade and attacks; therefore, this campaign is to display the pitiful situation of Gaza Strip. Since Gaza cannot celebrate with us, so we should celebrate to highlight their situation more."

The two day university students' activities, included a visual exhibition that bears testament to the suffering of the innocent civilians in Gaza. Money was also raised by selling snacks at a number of food stalls. All money raised will be donated to Gaza.

The money raised will be sent through reliable and official organizations like Al-Aqsa and Shaml net. According to

Redwan Masood, Head of the General Union, "These activities have been a success, with the donated amount exceeding YR 500,000 (approximately USD 2,500).

"Most Sana'a University students are very glad they could express their feelings and stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza," Masood said.

"We all know that the government of Egypt is collaborating with Israel on what's going on in Gaza. It's so clear they're afraid that if Hamas would win that might strengthen the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt," Masood added.

In this festival, there were stands for all foundations in Yemen that have been working for supporting Palestine. In the stands, there were many posters and all crime wars took place in Palestine, including the new attacks across the besieged Gaza Strip. Moreover, there was a big sale, involved Palestinian products.

Representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Yemen, Jamal Essa attended the event which served to highlight the Israeli atrocities in Gaza. "Hamas is working on making bigger weapons in order to kill more than a million Israelis, and Hamas is definitely winning because victory is always for the

good and just," he said.

Professor Khalid Tameem, Head of Sana'a University, attended the carnival and spoke about the situation in Gaza. He thanked the government of Yemen for being cooperative.

"These kinds of activities are usually useful because it could be a threat to the enemy and show it how much we care about Gaza," says Fahd Wahead, a student in the faculty of Linguistics.

Almost 700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and over 3,000 wounded since the war began on December 27th. Seven Israeli soldiers and three civilians have died in the same period.

In a statement made by Palestinian Interior Minister Sa'eed Siyam, Israel bombed most of the civil defense buildings and a number of fire trucks and ambulances. He called on the Red Cross and the international human rights organizations to shoulder their responsibilities towards the protection of headquarters and crews of civil defense and medical care.

John Ging, the director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) operations in the Gaza Strip, has called on Israel, Palestinian factions and European leaders to reach an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Ging described what is happening in the Gaza Strip as "madness" that never occurred before in human history.

About 100 people were wounded in Tuesday's strike on the school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the third school to come under fire in a single day.

Ging also asked Israel to allow entry of fuel to the Gaza power plant, underling that one million Palestinians (two thirds of the Gaza population) were living without electricity while 700,000 (almost half the population) were living without running water.

He told the world leaders that they should stop eating, drinking and even sleeping until they stop the killing of innocent people in the Strip.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Gaza was now in a "full-blown" humanitarian crisis.

The International Criminal Court says war crimes are defined as the violation of the laws and customs of war. These include the murder, ill-treatment, or deportation of civilian residents of an occupied territory. War crimes also include the extensive destruction of cities, towns, and villages, and any devastation not justified by military necessity.

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Activist groups criticize government's reaction to Jewish plight

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Jan. 6 — The Yemen Human Rights Observatory (YHRO) criticizes attacks and offenses launched by irresponsible men and teenagers against Jews in the Raida district of Amran governorate.

In a statement distributed Tuesday, YHRO said that tens of students at Al-Zahra School in Raida assaulted members of the Jewish minority during a random demonstration in protest against the ongoing Israeli attacks in Gaza.

The human rights organization added that it reported many violations that were committed by students of the above mentioned school and citizens against Jews in Raida. They verbally assaulted Jews, threw stones at their houses, and intimidated their women and children.

According to the statement, Jew Zaher Gafri sustained critical injuries, his face swelled up, and his appearance was stained with blood. Other Jewish citizens were subject to various injuries while on the street. The protestors hurled stones at houses of Jews Haim Yaeesh, Shahr Sulaiman, Salem Shaghdari, and Yahya Jaradi, and the houses' occupants were intimidated.

YHRO said it observed the violations experienced by members of the Jewish minority, adding that the security authority's intervention came late. The security personnel arrested some of the assailants and detained them but did not announce the results of their investigation.

The observatory went on to say that the Jewish citizens were subjected to several forms of harassment over the



Amran popular market. Many Jews stopped their usual trade in the Amran popular market fearing they might be attacked or hurt by extremists especially in light of the Israeli aggressions on Gaza.

past time period while local and official authorities did not take any actions to protect Jews and refer perpetrators to court.

The human rights organization held the security authorities responsible for what happened to the Jewish citizens in Raida, accusing them of being indifferent toward Jewish minorities. It continued that the authorities only asked Jews to move to Sana'a, which is another violation against their right to settle wherever they want.

The observatory condemned all the violations committed against the

Jewish citizens that make the human rights culture deteriorate and breach values of forgiveness and intellectual and religious freedoms. It also held the government accountable for protecting its citizens and ensuring their freedoms, as stipulated in Article (18) of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is ratified by the Yemeni Constitution.

YHRO also urged the responsible authorities to take all necessary procedures and actions to prevent the repetition of such attacks, adding that the government is responsible for respect-

ing citizens' rights to practice their own ideologies. The government must ensure that all citizens enjoy equal rights and freedoms without any discrimination towards religion, race, or color.

It claimed that the government compensates Jewish citizens who were targeted by the assaults and protects them inside their homes in order to reinforce Yemeni law and to respect human rights and forgiveness principles.

YHRO called on all civil society organizations and human rights groups in and outside Yemen to stand in soli-

arity with the Jewish minority and to press the official agencies to protect them, respect their rights, and spread the human rights culture countrywide.

Dozens of Amran citizens took to the streets on Sunday in solidarity with the people of Gaza who are currently suffering under the cruelest Israeli offensives. However, some of the protestors turned to throw stones at Jewish citizens in Raida, wounding many of them. The behavior was criticized by human rights groups, describing it as contravening the principle of peaceful coexistence and forgiveness.

Government decides Jews' transition

Media sources reported Tuesday that the government decided to transfer willing Jewish citizens from Raida to Sana'a and temporarily rented two blocks for them in order to avoid any attacks by so-called irresponsible people and teenagers enraged by what is currently happening in Gaza.

During a telephone conversation with Yemen Times, many Jewish citizens said they are unsatisfied with the recent government procedure as being temporary and not ensuring their rights as Yemeni citizens. They urged the government to protect them.

Regarding their transition to Sana'a,

a Jewish citizen, who requested to remain unnamed, said, "We told government officials to transfer us to the tourist city, east of Sana'a, where other Jews coming from Sa'ada live. This area is safer and more secure and suitable for children to play. The government officials, however, refused to do so, and instead rented blocks for us in crowded zones."

Abu Shawarib's Document to Jews

Members of the Jewish minority submitted a document to Sheikh Kahlan Mujahid Abu Shawarib, which was written by his late father Mujahid Abu Shawarib on August 25, 1993, reading: "This document must remain at the possession of Jews residing in Raida, Al-Suq Al-Jadid, Naet, Mahmam, and Athar in Amran. Those Jews are in our protection and their houses, money, and other property must be protected like those of Muslims according to the Islamic Sharia. Any attack against Jews is an attack against us. It is our duty to confront assailants and punish them. This document remains at their hand to show it to those concerned when required."

Members of the Jewish minority met Sheikh Mohammed Najji Al-Shayef, Head of the Parliamentary Rights and Freedoms Committee, and Mrs. Visia Mayris, Human Rights Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a Monday afternoon and discussed those same issues once discussed with Sheikh Abu Shawarib, which included procedures and actions to ensure their protection.

The Jewish minorities have been living in the governorates of Amran and Sa'ada for hundreds of years, but thousands of them migrated to Israel in 1948 and the following years. There are currently nearly 1000 Jews living in Amran. Some of them occasionally travel to Israel, the U.S., and the U.K. to visit their relatives.

The majority of Jews work as carpenters and sliver shapers. However, many of them lack essential living necessities, such as health insurance and access to education.

Arguments aroused by Youth Court in Taiz

By: Ola Al-Shami

SANA'A, Jan 7 — The Youth Court in Taiz recently called on officials at Taiz University to decrease the registration fees for students who have financial difficulties in Taiz, Aden, and Hodeidah.

During meetings held last week, arguments on ways to improve the university's syllabus and means of enhancing the curriculum by integrating practical work were discussed.

The Dean of Taiz University, Mohammed Al-Sofi, did not agree to many of the ideas presented by the Youth Court.

He cited financial difficulties as the reason that many projects could not be implemented. "Taiz University has less financial input as compared with other universities," he said. He addressed the issue of enhancing the curriculum by saying, "The Ministry of Higher Studies is responsible for this issue."

Since the beginning of 2006 the Youth Court invited representatives from the Ministry of Education and the deputy principals of the schools in Taiz, Aden, and Hodeidah. They demand that they respond to their opinions and address their concerns.

Discussions mainly focused on possible ways to apply the free registration decision in those three governorates as stated by Abdullah Sallam, manager of the National and Cultural Center of Youth (NCCY).

Sallam added that these youths are trying to investigate why the curricu-



A Youth Court session on the education system, which is a simulation of an actual trial with defendants and prosecution demanding answers and action on a particular issue

lums in universities in the aforementioned cities depend on theoretical rather than practical work, and how that can be changed.

The Youth Court activities, which started in 1997, have trained more than 300 male and female trainers every month. "These young people are considered a means to pressure authorities to listen to their demands and to try to enhance some actions in society, like raising awareness of democracy among them and having the required skills in team building, among other things," said Sallam.

He also pointed out that the Youth Court is regarded as a space for free discussion.

Youth representatives are facing problems such as a lack of funding, and they also lack required responses from the needed authorities. "What we try to do is to let authorities hear our voice. We sometimes find people who try to avoid us as much as they can," said Soltan Abdulhamid, the youth representative in the Education sector. He pointed out that this court is a good chance for them to form their own independent opinion.

Tourism industry opposes electricity tariff increase

By: Ali Saeed and Ridhwan Al-Saqaf

SANA'A, Jan 5 — Hotels owners in Sana'a, Aden, and Hodeidah have expressed their rejection of the governmental decision to start implementing the new electricity tariff paid by tourist facilities in the country.

The 78 percent increase, which is from YR 17 to YR 30 per kilowatt per hour, is expected by many hotel owners to discourage tourists from visiting the country.

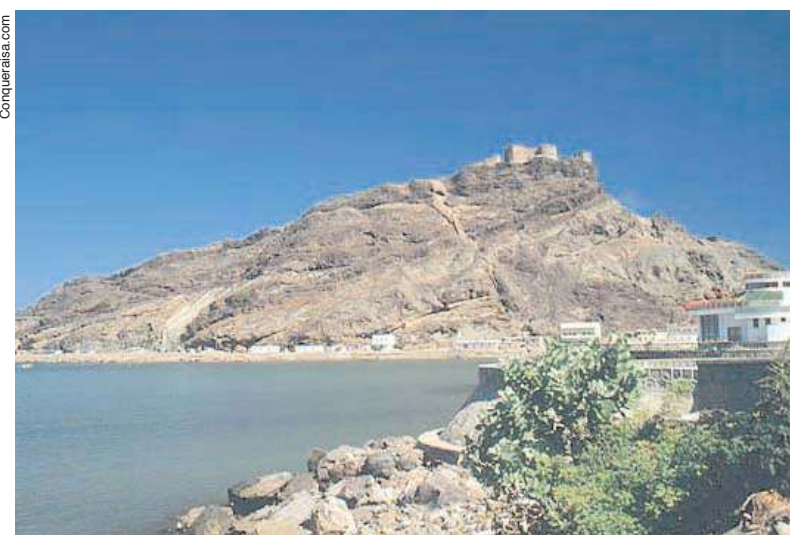
In Aden, 40 percent of hotels owners recently closed down their facilities for two days in protest and in hope that the local authorities will take appropriate measures and repeal the decision. They also held a protest in front of the Aden Governor office for the same reason.

"The hotels and tourism sector will suffer from this decree because it will affect the expenditures and then hotels will not be able to improve their services," Deputy Director of the Tourism Promotion Council Alwan Al-Shiebbani said.

He added that hotels are already going through financial difficulty as there are less tourists and the decree will only expand the problem.

In Sana'a, hotel owners organized a demonstration in front of the cabinet building to trigger the cabinet to look into the issue. They also sent complaints to the President, the Mayor of Sana'a, the Electricity Office, and the Tourism office.

The Hotels Association in Sana'a crit-



Hotels in Aden have been on strike for over two weeks now because of the electricity tariff. Local and international tourists who had planned to spend the New Year in Aden could not do so.

icized the decision and demanded the government to change the decree since it will have a negative affect on the performance of the hotels and tourism sector.

According to Al-Shiebbani, the president directed the government to look at the hotels issue and to tackle the issue of the increasing electricity tariff in order to serve the general wellbeing.

In addition, the Governor of Aden directed the electricity office in Aden to take 50 percent from the hotels in Aden till the government carries out the president's instructions.

Jalal Shafeeq, General Manager of Tourist Affairs and Hotels in Aden, called on the government to facilitate

and assist the tourism sector.

"The entire world supports the tourism sector because it helps the national economy. More facilitation and help should be given to the tourism sector, such as the discharging of taxes and the decrease of power tariffs for tourist facilities," Shafeeq added.

He explained that the power fees in Aden are too expensive given the high consumption rate which is due to warmer weather.

Al-Shiebbani asserted that the time of increasing the power tariff is not appropriate since it coincides with the world financial crisis.

He suggested the government should reconsider the decision.

Taiz honors excellent students

By: Salah Al-Warafy

TAIZ, Jan. 3 — Three hundred excellent graduates of 2008 in Taiz beamed with pride as they received their honorary awards at the fifth Excellence Program Festival on Wednesday.

Organized by the National Organization of Development of Society (NODS), graduates of Taiz University, post-school Technical institute, Vocational Institute, and

Health Institute, as well as the top-ten students of secondary school in Taiz were awarded at the ceremony at the Taiz Tourist Club.

The students not only received certificates of excellence, they also received computers and scholarships for English, computer and human resource courses.

Shawqi Alqadi, Director of NODS in Yemen, said they are looking forward to depending on the outstanding students. He stressed the

importance of acknowledging their achievements lauded efforts to encourage them. He cited other nations whose exceptional students made a significant contribution to development and progress.

Alqadi also stressed the need to develop education.

"Our hopes, aspirations and ambitions are focused on these students. However, education in our country needs to be reformed. Education should be independent and

separated from the partisans and politicians," he said.

Abdulwahab Aljunaid, Deputy Governor of Taiz Governorate said, "When we honor these excellent students, we honor ourselves and every father and mother who helped their children to excel in their study."

Abdulfattah Gamal, Consultant of Ministry of Education, stated that the brilliant students are the only way to follow the developed nations, he added, "Honoring this batch of

students is as a response to our enemy-the Zionists".

He also said that with the excellent students, the country will face economic and development challenges, and tackle the problems that hinder development.

Dr. Anisah Dawkam, General Director of Excellence Programme, said, "It is an honorable conduct to award the excellent students. The Excellence Programme has long-term goals.

I am sure it will have an impact. In addition, it aims at encourage them and provide them with skills through the courses that they will be funded to take them in away that it will contribute to serving the country."

About 1500 excellent students have been honored by NODS since its foundation in 2003.

According to the latest statistics of National Information Centre Taiz has the most number of students among the governorates of Yemen.



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"Success is preparation meeting opportunity"

Najwa Ahmad Ibrahim is testament to the fact that women can have the best of both domestic and career life. She is the first woman to be appointed as a Labor Consultant with an Egyptian Embassy, a position yet to be held by a Yemeni woman, and is considered a pioneer for women in this field. She is also an excellent mother. Though her work is exhausting, the rewards are rich. Interviewed by Salma Ismail

YT Photo by Amma Al Sharif



Najwa Ahmad Ibrahim

"My father, may God rest his soul, always used to say that I was just like him," related Najwa. "My father was also involved in Labor syndicates and unions. At that time I couldn't understand what he meant because there is almost 50 years of age difference between him and me, the youngest of his children. Now I understand what he meant. My passion for my work, concern for others and protection of their rights are some of the traits he had. I love to see the world and the experience and exposure that come with that."

condition that affected her eyes. My goal was to bring her up in such a way that she would not feel that she was less capable or less beautiful than her peers. It was a challenge. After the success of operations to cure her, it was apparent that her medical condition would no longer take so much energy, time, and resources to overcome. I felt that I could finally let go. Today, she is a blooming young girl that is ready to face any challenge head on. My primary goal was to teach my children to study and learn so that later in life they would be independent and able to stand on their two feet. This goal overwhelmed me for almost 10 years.

Tell me a little bit about yourself. How do you describe yourself?
"I appreciate myself as person. Success as a mother and also as a working woman has given me a strong confidence and sense of self esteem. My four children are a source of great pride. One studying to be a doctor and the other a pharmacist in universities in Egypt, the other two are still in school. It is not easy to raise children and provide them with an excellent education, especially with Egypt's education system. As a Business graduate, I took it as a challenge to study English, to develop myself and read every book that I could get my hands on.

What prompted you to make this drastic change?
After she grew up a little, I felt that I wanted to find myself. After being overwhelmed with the chaos of raising my children and my domestic responsibilities, and I started to think about what I can do. I worked and started pursuing my career. After graduating from university, I was assigned to work at a government ministry.

My current education ambition is to complete my doctorate in international agreements in the field of labor. This is something I used to lecture my colleagues on and I have experience.

How easy was it to integrate into the workforce?
My success was a combination of a blessing from God and a lot of effort. I feel it was very challenging. My job entails going to organizations and making sure that they implement the Labor laws in the best way possible. And for me to do that I had to know and understand these laws. Everyone around me was so familiar with these laws and I had to prove myself. I bought books and started studying and preparing myself.

After so many years of totally focusing on domestic life, what challenges did you face when you re-entered the workforce?
During the first part of my life I had no idea that I would be as successful in the workforce as I was successful at home. Besides raising my children, I was protecting my daughter from a medical

It was a coincidence that one day there was a mission and there was nobody to assign. I seized the opportunity. Success is a combination of preparation meeting opportunity. I always felt challenged and at this point I felt

that I had arrived. Then there was a new law issued and I felt that I was on an equal footing with everyone else. I studied hard and was ahead of many employees around me.

Have any other women served as role models or played a role in your success?
The Minister of Workforce and Social Affairs, Ayesha Abdel Hadi is also a woman; she was the first person to encourage me. Other than being an example to other aspiring woman, when she came to the ministry she was always open to ideas and would listen to our concerns. She made six pre-conditions to fulfilling this position [of labor consultant]. Among them were courses, research and exams. Anyone – man or woman – was allowed. She is considered to have opened this field to working women. There are men that stood by me, but at the same time, there were men that were skeptical.

Are you a better mother now or when you were a homemaker?
My children are my friends – they don't fear me. I am a better mother now than when I was a home maker. I'll tell you why: it's because my mentality was different when I was at home. All my knowledge was from my house and the houses around me. But when I worked and met people with new ideas and per-

spectives, I was able to give my children more.

Do you feel you have sacrificed to be where you are now?
No, I don't feel that that I have made any sacrifices at all.

What do you consider to be your highest achievement?
My highest achievement is that I am the first woman in Egypt to be assigned as a Labour Consultant. This achievement isn't for me alone; it's for every woman in Egypt and in the Arab world.

Do you really believe that a woman can have best of both, family and career, at the same time?
I don't let my family life interfere with my career and vice versa. It is all about setting priorities and time management. Yes, women are strong and able to multi-task; they have the ability to have the best of both and not let one interfere with the other.

What role do women versus the government play in women development?
Women make differences in the workplace. The woman has the biggest role. With your effort you will achieve. Labor laws do not differentiate between men and women. Not just in Yemen or Egypt, but all over the world. If you work and are absent a lot and never commit to your job, you will give men

a chance to say that you are not capable and that your domestic life is affecting your work.

Have you faced any challenges in the diplomatic field as a woman?
There are obstacles, but in Egypt we don't have any rules that prohibit women from traveling alone; previously, there were. The diplomatic field itself represents the most sophisticated and elite members of society. The challenges of being a diplomat are to integrate into another society, and sometimes to convince people that a woman can hold this position.

What advice do you give to women who aspire to achieve but societal restraints prevent them from doing so?

If a woman sets a certain goal and keeps focused on it she can achieve it. If you give in to other peoples ideas about what you are or are not capable of, then you will be discouraged. You must believe in yourself before you try to convince others. Believe that you can succeed, persevere, and never give up. For example, when I first applied for work, I used to travel all over Cairo so that I could learn English. Everyone questioned why I would need this language. I had no idea that I would need it. I just wanted to learn and quench my

thirst for knowledge. I used study while taking the metro, the public transport. I wasn't a young school girl and other people in the metro used to look at me questioning. "Why is she studying?" It gave me a sense of self confidence and defiance. How much effort you put in God will reward you. And any knowledge you

What advice do you give to Yemeni women that choose to focus on their families only?

Every woman must be satisfied with her life. If a woman feels that she wants to stay at home and take care of her family and children, that is okay. It's a message and there is nothing wrong with that. Any mother could go through this stage after her children grow up and don't need to depend on her anymore.

What are your hopes for your future career-wise?

I feel that to some extent I have achieved my goals. Working overseas gives you a better perspective. I want to further serve my community and my country and obtaining my doctorate, which I hope will be soon, will better position me to do so.

How do you spend your free time?
I love reading, especially classical poetry and Lebanese poet Elia Abu Madi.

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Sana'a

Counterstatement

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany herewith gives its view concerning the article pertaining to Shada Nasser in issue number 1222, page 5 of the Yemen Times dated January 5, 2009:

The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany - contrary to what was stated in the article - did - so far - not meet Shada Nasser nor has a meeting with the Ambassador been requested. As to the cancellation of the visa, the following facts have to be taken into account. Before the intended journey to Germany and after the visa was already issued, a court order was presented to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany with the following content: Shada Nasser was no longer entitled to express any views concerning her former client Noujoud Ali Al-Ahdal, her story/history or their relationship to any national or international media. The German TV channel ZDF - as a consequence of the court decision - withdrew the invitation and informed the Embassy of this decision.

The Schengen visa of Shada Nasser was issued by the German Embassy for the limited purpose and time period of the intended journey to Munich upon invitation of the ZDF. Thus, in accordance with the applicable Schengen regulations, the visa had to be canceled - without prejudice. The legal basis on which it was issued was not existent anymore. This decision had to be taken out of purely legal reasons. With this measure this Embassy is not taking any position whatsoever concerning the activities of Shada Nasser as a lawyer or Human Rights activist.

Sana'a, January 6, 2008
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN

بنك اليمن الدولي

One Objective

20 عام

Unprecedentedly International Bank of Yemen honors its 20-year-working employees

In an unprecedented attempt by other banks, and in a familiar atmosphere filled with love and brotherly feelings, the IBY performed an employee-honoring function for those who have been in service for over 20 years. The function took place on 29/12/2008m corresponding to 1/1/1430.

• Mr. Ahmed Thabet Al-Absi
General manager of the Bank

Mrs. Zainab Al-Ashtal
Human Resource General manager Assistant

Ahmed Thabt, Honoring the first generation is directed to inspire and guide the young leadership function was to send an indirect message to the youth. In the conclusion of his speech, he added that one day would come to magnificently celebrate other leaderships who would have been sparing no efforts to increase the knowledge and experience of this institution. Mrs Zainab Al-Ashtal, HR General Manager Assistant, welcomed the attendees, indicating the grandeur of this function which had been prepared to honor people. Neither relaxation nor laziness they have known; but during two decades they have been

Zainab AL-ashtal: The honored are motivated by loyalty and love paid to this institution driven by loyalty and respect to this institution. In the conclusion of the honoring function, Mr Mohammed Al-Ameri, Board member, and Mr Ahmed Thabet Al-Absi, Bank GM, distributed prizes as well as certificates to the honored laborers. A substantial lunch meal was prepared for all the attendees, Board members, executives, head office and banches employees.

A better future for unemployment

By: Osama Ghalib

Only three hundred, ninety one job opportunities were determined for the capital of congestions, Aden, for the year 2009, while job seekers applying for such opportunities number up to thirteen thousand with various majors. This means that 33 graduates will compete for a single job opportunity in case eligibility verification is fairly applied on applicants, however, this is impossible to take place under the current system of governance.

In the best cases, as many as 100 job opportunities will go to some protest activists in the southern governorate in order to silence them, particularly as the upcoming parliamentary election is drawing nearer and nearer.

Ninety-one job opportunities will be posted in a secret auction, which only the most corrupt individuals will know about. YR 200,000 is the minimum bid (offered as bribes) to be paid by applicants if they are willing to

compete for the available job opportunities. Those who can not afford to pay this amount should seek other jobs, or migrate illegally to neighboring states in search of work, according to a recommendation given by Political Advisor to President of the Republic Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani.

Taiz: Capital of Unemployment

Only 560 job opportunities were designated for the capital of unemployment, Taiz, compared to 40 thousand jobless applicants, who are already registered in the governorate's Civil Service Office. One hundred of these jobs will be given to residents of Bani Wahban district, and the same share to influential individuals, who are loyal with the ruling party.

Applicants for Taiz's share of job opportunities will undergo eligibility verification, provided that Taiz governor, who once served as Minister of Civil Service and Social Insurance, is allegedly an expert in applying this criteria, however, in fact he was notorious for corruption in his ministry.

Establishing a comparison between job opportunities offered for Taiz and

Aden uncovers lack of the simplest criteria, which is the directional relation between the number of job seekers per governorate and the job opportunities provided to them.

The way jobs are designated to each governorate is politicized irrespective of justifications provided by the relevant authorities. Otherwise, how one can explain the provision of a single job opportunity for every 71 graduates in Taiz while a single job opportunity is provided for 33 applicants in Aden. The situation implies that the authority is expecting Taiz residents to take to streets in protests against the government like Aden's residents do in order to get equal treatment.

Hopes to get selected for a job vanish

In general, the number of job opportunities approved for all governorates neither matches with the high scores of job seekers nor meets demands of labor markets. There are large numbers of graduates, who observe official newspapers for years with the hope of seeing their names selected

for the jobs.

According to Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Dr. Amatarraq Hummad, 54 percent of university graduates are jobless. And, as a reaction to such terrible unemployment rates, Deputy Prime Minister Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, who is also Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, says that reducing the high unemployment rate in our country is a top priority the government plans to deal with during the coming time period.

We were surprised to hear Al-Arhabi saying "reducing unemployment" not ending unemployment. He should have said the other wise as a kind of compliment to President of the Republic, who still have only three months before a due date he set as a deadline to end unemployment in Yemen. To end unemployment by the end of 2008 is one of the promises contained in President Saleh's platform ahead of reelecting him for another 7-year mandate in September 2006.

Source: Nasspress.com

COMMON SENSE

Massacre in Gaza:

Where death is the aura of Life

When for close to a century, a people become subjected to death, injury, imprisonment, continuous relocation, agony, separation from loved ones and a perpetually ominous threat of war, one is amazed more than to the rather lackluster concern of an international community that is complacent more with the perpetrator of all these misdeeds rather than it is at showing any compassion and mercy towards the helpless victims of these Godless acts.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The daily and nightly displays of unchallenged military prowess in Gaza used for the total annihilation of a people, who never sought more than to be left alone in peace raising their olives, sheep and oranges, only adds more to the disgust the observer is bound to feel for a regional community that has forgotten the meaning of blood linkage and an international order that has forgotten that it was mainly set up to protect the victims of "holocausts" and ethnic cleansing.

Yes, the current massacre being unleashed in Gaza is a stain in the history of Mankind. Massacres like these are never erased by any "efforts" of polished politicians "seeking a truce" or even a "temporary cease fire". The efforts of these luxuriously attired seekers of press coverage and a quick handshake appearance before the TV camera with impotent power brokers in a disguising philanthropic prodding are fooling no one as they jump from capital to capital enjoying the gourmet of the places they shuttle to and fro, while the people they are supposedly "rescuing" are not even allowed to drink at least one glass of pure clean water a day, and the infants of the latter are denied the right to silent slumber to digest their already sour milk, if they are lucky enough to get even that. It is not easy for infants to find sleep amidst the high screeching sound of F-16s and the ongoing buzzing of drones and Apache helicopters, not to mention the ongoing booms of the lethal ordnance they unleash in every direction of the city of Gaza. Let it not be forgotten that Gaza is indeed one of the most densely crowded cities in the world.

On the first day of Israel's shameless "ground incursion", after its already unforgivable ten days of air, sea and artillery pounding, the casualties reached some 70 dead or injured people, mostly women and children. All those "menacing rocket of Hamas did not injure one Israeli trespasser (What else can one call the Israeli citizens?) Oh sure, the Zionist death machine has exonerated itself by telling the world that they have already dropped hundreds of leaflets, telling the people of Gaza that "they have nothing against them" and that the Gazans should leave their homes, apartments and tents and seek shelter.

The fact of the matter is that there are no civilian shelters in Gaza; the people of Gaza do not have the unlimited backing of a United Arab Appeal, AIPAC or an Anti Defamation League - funds for the construction of a sophisticated shelter system enjoyed by the displacers of the original inhabitants of the land that was theirs for centuries prior to the advent of the Zionist uprooters of the indigenous Palestinians. All the people of Gaza have is the hope that God will not abandon them as the rest of humanity has. They have no choice but to read these leaflets with some feeling of ridicule and despair at the rather helpless fate that they are subjected to under the observing eyes of the world.

The leaflets are supposedly enough to render the horrible Zionist death machine innocent of all crimes as whole families - fathers, mothers, offspring of all ages are wiped out of existence by a humanless drone or a distant Apache helicopter, whose operator and crew haven't the slightest idea who they are eliminating from existence, or even have the slightest care as to the military value of their target. No, these death machine operators have been scientifically reared to believe that the elimination of human life is a noble cause. In fact they regard the death of Palestinians as an essential luxury of Zionist existence and a source of pride as they distort the true sense of justice God intended for this world and wish to convince all of mankind that they are only carrying out God's "promise".

If that is the promise God has granted to murderers, assassins, thugs and outright criminals, then what are they leaving for the good people of the earth, who these modern mobsters kill, even as the victims are leaning with their foreheads on the ground in total submission to Him in his houses of worship. On the eve of the ground excursion an Israeli air attack killed 13 worshippers of the Sunset prayer in a mosque as they devoutly seek relief from God Almighty, following that with a similar attack that killed nine worshippers as they are bowing in prayer at Dawn of the following day. No, it is for certain that this is not done rightly in the name of the Almighty; those who are still willing to risk their lives to show their faith in Him and undertake their rites of prayer, even with the possibility that death is more likely than the hope of drinking their morning breakfast coffee know that their Lord is much more merciful than that.

How can one express the agony and disgust that one feels at the epitome of human justice, when it renders an entire people as not worthy of humanity's pity and concern? No, agony and disgust would be praise for such abominable justice. Heartbreak is more the right way of describing the sadness within the chests of those who really hoped that humanity could be far more sensitive to the suffering of their own kind. But then, we live in an age where the power of aluminum drones and black Apache helicopters and Markova tanks kill all sense of humanity within the human spirit.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

In light of the president's call

By: Yahya Ali Nuri

Faithful and honest efforts exerted by President Ali Abdullah Saleh concerning the Palestinian issue will continue to be one of the largest and most important sources of assistance that will put an end to such issues. These current disagreements sound the alarm on both the present and future of Palestine and its security. The president's efforts led to the 'Sana'a declaration' which outlined a strong plan to achieve Palestinian reconciliation and to prevent more internal conflicts which serve only the Israeli occupation.

The recent events in Palestine, particularly the Israeli criminal aggression against the Palestinians and their continuation of massacres, come during a difficult stage of the Palestinian struggle. This most recent stage is characterized by splits and fragmentation among the Palestinian active powers, particularly between Fatah and Hamas. The split created an atmosphere for Israel to continue Palestinian

bloodshed out of its belief that the recent conditions represent a suitable opportunity to practice more aggressions to undermine the Palestinian people.

In addition, the enemy views the Palestinian disagreements as a golden opportunity to achieve further fragmentation in the various stances of the Arab nations toward the Palestinian issue. Arabs look at the recent developments from different perspectives based on their interests and attitudes toward the different ideologies related to the Palestinian issue.

These visions and discrepancies made Arab policies confused in determining the right political path guaranteeing advocacy for the Palestinian people. Many examples reflect this confusion, particularly the manifestation of protests against the Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people in Gaza as well as the inconsistent opinions that assess the performance of Fatah and Hamas. There is both sympathy and blame for both groups depending where you are in the Arab world, which indicates the fragile

stands toward the Palestinian issue.

Additionally, regional Middle East powers utilized the Palestinian issue as a means of pressure to achieve their political interests both internally as well as internationally. These relations, in turn, created requirements on the level of the international community's efforts to combat terror. It also furthered confusion between the concepts of terrorism and legitimate resistance of people who groan under occupation.

As a result of this confusion, we find that successful tactics that will recover the spirit of the Palestinian must include unified leadership. This call for unified leadership represents the first and final demand today. As such, Ali Abdullah Saleh's call to hold an emergency Arab Summit to discuss the dimensions of the Palestinian scene is a welcome and needed proposal. In holding such a summit, the president doesn't aim to absorb the rage of the Arab peoples; rather, he aims to put an end to the inconsistencies among Palestinians. That is why the president called for all Palestinian

factions to actively participate in the summit.

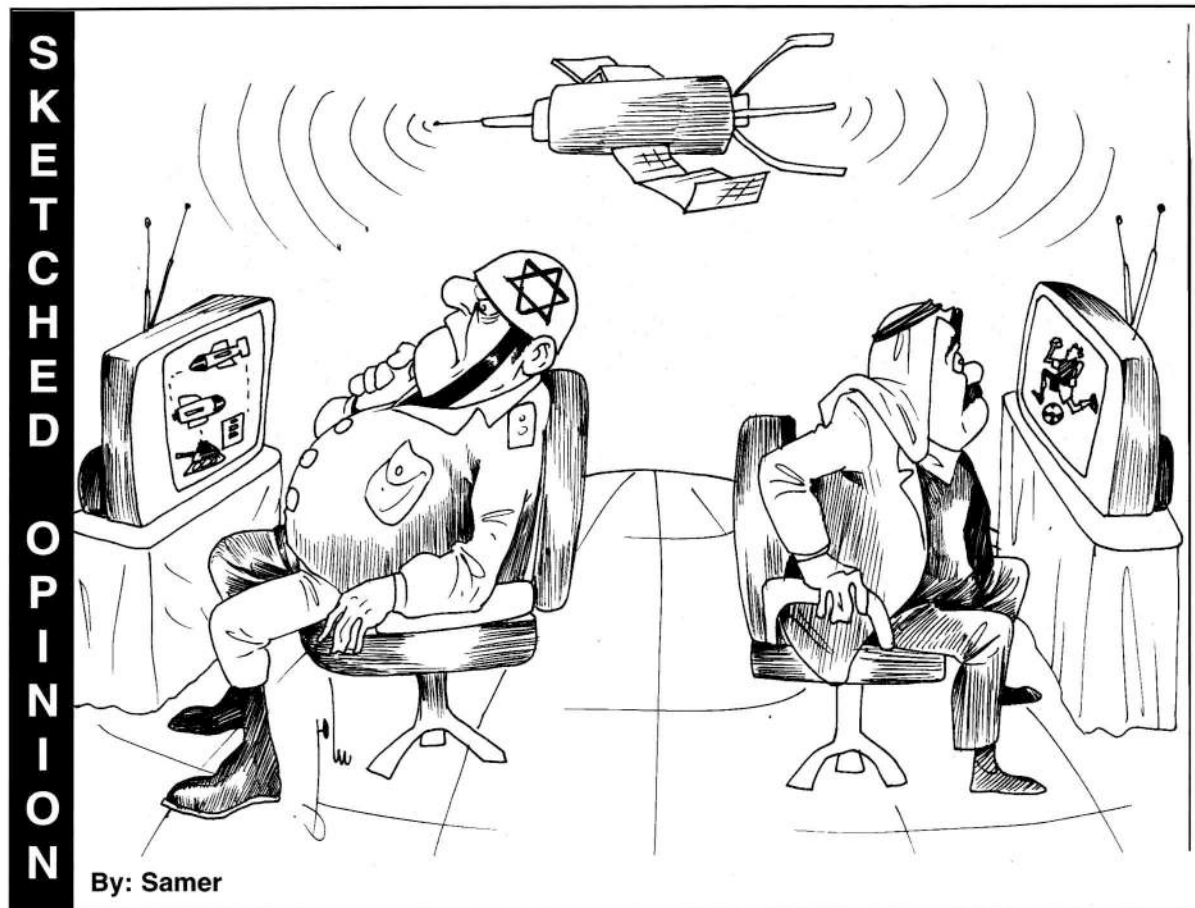
This vision indicates the credibility of his readings of the Palestinian situation, as not only does he look at the situation from the angle of the Israeli aggressions on the Palestinians but also from the international angle as well. The president's vision stresses that the right way to come out of this critical juncture is to produce a plan that recovers the unity of Palestine and unifies their various stances that serve the Palestinian interest overall.

Therefore, the Arab Summit, if held, should achieve a political goal that includes more than the recitation of mere mottoes and national political terms, which people are tired of hearing. It should make the Palestinian issue the real initiative toward the future and create a positive Arab drive to support the Palestinians without any bias toward or against any Palestinian faction. In such a case, we can guarantee that all Palestinians will put the supreme interest of the country as the main goal of every activity. Such unification will also put an end to Israeli aggressions against Palestine, whether the agreed upon choice made by Palestinians will be armed struggle or diplomatic channels.

As long as Palestinian and Arab factions are scattered and disjointed, what happened in Gaza can happen again. If unity is achieved, the world will deal with the Palestinian issue from the perspective that its factions decide and agree on. This reconciliation obliges the international community, particularly Arabs who failed to put an end to the Palestinian disagreements, to consider the demands of the Palestinian people. Israel benefited from this split in the Palestinian and Arab stances to commit massacres, particularly the massacres in Gaza. Such massacres aroused rage not only on Israel but also on the Palestinian bodies that contributed to more political and national congestion inside occupied lands.

A realignment of Palestinian leadership should be achieved as the first and main goal in order to rid the siege imposed on the people in Gaza. Unity of leadership will also put an end to Israeli arrogance and the inattention of the colonization powers, particularly the United States of America.

Source: Al-Thawra state run daily.



SKETCHED OPINION

By: Samer

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Yemeni non-oil exports caught between expectations and obstacles

By: Ali Saeed

Yemen's economy highly depends on oil resources, with the country's oil exports accounting for around 85 percent of export revenues and 33 percent of the GDP, according to Oct. 2007 statistics.

These figures indicate how heavily Yemen depends on oil, although the depletion threatens the oil reserves which are estimated at 116,800,000 barrels per year and 320,000 barrels per day, on average in 2007.

Yemeni non-oil exports accounted for about 27 percent of export revenues in 2007, with little improvement from 22 percent in 2006. This information came from Yahya Al-Motwakel, Minister of Industry and Trade, who reported it in the latest National Exports Conference which was held in Sana'a between November 24th and 25th, 2008.

The total revenue of the non-oil exports rose from around twelve billion YR in 2000 to YR 123 billion in 2007, according to Noman Al-Mulsi, secretary general of the Yemeni Export Supreme Council.

The conference discussed Yemeni non-oil export challenges and recommendations. Stakeholders in the conference discussed the non-oil sectors that Yemen has and the difficulties that stand against their export development.

The participants in the conference said that Yemen has many heterogeneous non-oil sectors such as agricultural products, fishery wealth, industrial exports, and mining industries.

Agricultural Exports

According to the World Bank, the agriculture sector comprises up to 57 percent of the non-oil exports. However, there are challenges facing the agriculture exports; namely water scarcity and the consumption of the scarce water resources in qat production. Annual use totals around 800 million cubic meters of water, equivalent to 30 percent of the water used for irrigation.

In the National Exports Conference, Farooq Mohammed Qasim, general manager of marketing and agricultural trade, said that there are many obstacles facing agriculture exports. First, the scattered agricultural areas contribute to the shortage of specialized exporting farms. Second, the expansion of agricultural production without planning created outputs that do not meet the needs in the external markets. Third, degradation of the productive capitals such as grapes and coffee. Fourth, the weak infrastructure. Finally, there are no specialized companies in agricultural transportation and marketing.

About the financial side of the agri-



Noman Al-Mulsi, Secretary General of the Yemeni Export Supreme Council

culture exports, the manager said that until now, there is no bank or any financial foundation that can finance exports. He added that Yemeni agricultural exports are not able to compete in the external markets due to the high cost of air cargo.

Fishery Exports

Dr. Saeed Banaeemoun, head of the investment committee at the commercial and industrial chambers, said that Yemen is in a good location since it is located southwest of the Arabian Peninsula and has outlets to both the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. The length of the Yemeni coastline is 2250 KM. In addition, the country has more than 150 islands, most of them in the Red Sea.

The Ministry of Fishery wealth reports indicate that Yemen has huge fishery resources. These resources allow fishing harvests around 400,000 tons yearly and up to 400 types of fish. Statistics point that the fish resources that are being severely exploited is around 60 different types of fish, and these types are in high demand both locally and globally. The severely exploited fish form around 17 percent of the total types of fish found in Yemeni seas. Yemen is fourth among Arab countries in fish production.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Statistics indicate that Yemen was globally the first in producing and exporting squid, and the fourth in Arab countries in producing Rockfish up to 2004.

However, information about the fishery stock is old and needs updating. Previous statistics were compiled randomly, and the Tsunami in the Pacific Ocean caused a decrease in the quantity of fish in the Arabian Sea.

Yemeni fishery exports contribute to non-oil exports by 40 percent, and Yemeni fish is well respected among

the Arabian and foreign markets. In 2006, Yemen exported 89.6 thousand tons of fish, with a total value exceeding USD 259 million.

The dominant percent of production is traditional and was estimated to be 97.2 percent of fish production in 2006. Categories of exporters range between individuals, specialized companies, and non-specialized companies; however, the individuals seem to have the largest portion of exports with 50.5 percent. Specialized companies have 33.5 percent, and the non-specialized companies, 16 percent.

Banaeemoun noted that the individual sector exports the biggest quantity and that most of the individuals' exports are raw. He added that the individuals' exports are being sold cheaply because they export only to Saudi Arabia. He commented that this kind of exporting affects national economic revenues. Individuals use traditional means for storing fish to be exported. These methods do not maintain the freshness of the fish, hence leading to quantities of spoiled fish and losing money.

Banaeemoun spoke about the challenges that face the exportation of fish, numbering off the obstacles. First, there is the declining of traditional fish production in the past years. Second, there is the obstruction of companies that work in fish preparation to fish using modern facilities. Third, the high price of fish that is due to the decrease in production, which leads to the high price of fish while simultaneously weakening the competitive ability of Yemeni fish exports in the external markets. Fourth, the taxes and fees in the secondhand market result in the high cost of purchasing fish. Fifth, there are complications involving the exporting procedures, and there are no unified procedures in the different areas of exportation.

Sixth, paperwork of fish exporters to Saudi Arabia is conducted without proper exporting licenses from the Ministry of Fishery Wealth, unlike the companies. Seventh, the high cost of the air shipment of fish impacts poor fishermen, which is roughly \$2 for 1 kilogram. Eighth, there is a quality of exported fish, because the land shipment from Hadramout to Sana'a creates problems in transporting fish safely. Ninth, problems of air shipment with the Yemenia Air line occur due to the inability of Yemenia to ship from Al-Mukalla to Europe. Lastly, the long distance between exporting windows and the producing areas creates problems with fish quality, especially in the eastern Area.

Mining Exports

About the mining industries exports, Nabeel Ahmed Al-Razih, engineer at the General Authority Survey of



Animal wealth is one of the main sources of income for many Yemeni rural families.

Yemen, said that mining industry activities in Yemen are concentrated on gypsum, rock salt, building bricks, and ornamental stones.

He added that Yemen has privileged geology and geographical features, including a number of old rock formations that date back to 300 billion years.

He revealed that mining projects in Yemen are still new and that Yemen has huge mineral reserves and rocks. In 2005, Yemen exported 42,842 tons of minerals and industrial rocks with a return of YR 352,680, and in 2007 with a total value of YR 225,187.

Al-Razih pointed out that the mining industry sector faces obstacles such as no financial allocations, a weak artificial structure, lack of awareness of natural resources, and insufficient infrastructure.

Future Vision

The government represented by the Yemeni Export Supreme Council is working in the field of non-oil exports development. The Secretary General of the Yemeni Export Supreme Council said that the future vision of the non-oil exports is to enhance and increase the competitiveness of this sector and increase it by more than ten percent. The third five-year strategy aims to increase it to 19 percent. The strategies that the council adopted them to achieve that is as follows:

First: Developing the exporting institutions' structure by the following:

- Developing bodies that work in the field of exports.
- Activating the work of commer-

cial representation and embassies abroad in order to serve Yemeni non-oil exports.

c) Creating exporters associations for competitive and distinguished products, such as the association of the fishery wealth exporters, association of building stones exporters, association of the coffee exporters, association of the vegetables exporters, and association of the fruit exporters.

All these will work on developing the non-oil exports and serving the exporters rights.

d) Benefiting from international companies that specialize in marketing and transforming the technology to the exporting block by encouraging the foreign direct investment (FDI).

Second: Facing and removing all the obstacles standing against the exporting sectors, whether through taxes or financing by the following:

a) Facilitating the procedures of the paid customs restoring the raw materials.

b) Entering the temporary permitting system for the products' inputs and discharging the exporting produces machines from the taxes, as stated in investment law no. 22 for 2002.

Third: Creating remittance and financing mechanisms that are considered to be one of the motivations in directed investment in exporting through the following:

a) Activating the renting financial law that recently was approved by the parliament.

b) Creating special bank for exports finance

Fourth: Solving the difficulties that

are relevant to air shipment, marine, and ground cargo by:

a) Establishing cargo companies that will transport and export from the production area to the targeted countries.

b) Decreasing the cost of air, marine, and ground shipment and the ports tariff that will contribute in reducing the production cost.

c) Establishing an air shipment company or providing sufficient spaces in the Yemenia Air Lines.

d) Supporting agricultural and fishery shipments through an agricultural and fishery supporting fund that will contribute in reducing the production costs.

Fifth: Activating promotional activities through the following:

a) Participating in international fairs and developing export branches through the matching grant system (program funded by the World Bank) that involves both the public and private sector. In this system, the exporter pays 50 percent and the matching grant pays the rest.

b) Promoting Yemeni exportable products that will contribute in the movement of the non-oil exports.

Finally, activating the developing activities that concern foreign market studies as well as raising the skills of the exporters and companies that work in this field through workshops and training courses that concern quality. Also, the plan includes strengthening the information center that belongs to the Yemen Export Supreme council to provide useful data concerning exportation to foreign markets and the chances there.



Yemeni non-oil exports including fruits and vegetables accounted for about 27 percent of export revenues in 2007



Notice from the British Embassy, Sana'a

Due to fluctuating exchange rates all visa applicants should check the Embassy website, <http://ukinyemen.fco.gov.uk/en/>, before attending their appointment to ensure they bring the correct fee at the time of submitting their application. Applicants who do not bring the correct fee will be asked to make a new appointment.

Safety Company for Cars Periodical Technical Check-up inaugurated

SOON!

Traffic Safety

Safety is a means and an end. It is a means for you to reach your destination and an end to reach safely. Therefore, it is natural that a person cares about safety and exerts efforts to achieve it as well as aims to be always safe.

Human safety consists in the protection of the body from harm at first and then the protection of properties through preserving and using them properly as well as preventing others from causing them any harm. Car is one of the properties that people should take care of and provide safety for as, nowadays, it is no longer a means of entertainment. Rather, it has become a necessary means that people cannot dispense with. With the increase and overlap of interests and with all progress plans- the importance of cars increases as a means of transportation in people's life. Therefore, the main duty of people is to protect their cars and be careful not to cause them- by themselves- any breakdown or damage.

In addition, people should prevent others from causing any breakdown to their cars through following the system during driving. They should be careful not to commit mistakes and be cautious to avoid the mistakes of others.

Importance of the check-up

- ¥ Technical check-up is considered necessary to ensure safety of the car from any defect.
- ¥ It is considered a civilized system that can achieve safety and security for all users of cars.
- ¥ Proper maintenance of cars is considered the nucleus of safety as it prevents all causes of many serious accidents.
- ¥ Lack of proper maintenance leads to traffic accidents which result in human and material damage.
- ¥ Technical check-up is considered a positive program since it is one of the procedures that are taken to prevent the accidents and their sequences.

Aims of Check-up

- 1- To obtain the minimum conditions of safe performance of the car.
- 2- To put the minimum level of regulations and rules of establishing and operating stations of car check-up.
- 3- To provide periodical check-up to ensure that all the registered cars which work in public roads meet the safety specifications.
- 4- Conducting the check-up specifies the broken parts which cause defects in the performance and security of the car.
- 5- To make ensure that all defects discovered during the check-up were repaired during a suitable time.
- 6- To evaluate the program of periodical check-up of cars.
- 7- To develop the program and include amendments on it based on results of the evaluation.



Technical Check-up — Nucleolus of Safety

As you know, any breakdown or defect in the parts of the car constitutes a danger to the passengers of the car and those in the other cars on the road as well as pedestrians. In addition, natural corrosion of the parts may increase the potential of accidents unless parts are repaired in the right way.

People who are aware care about their cars and their operation. But check-up is of vital importance if drivers don't maintain and take care of their cars.

In order to ensure that all cars on the road are in a good condition and that they were exposed to necessary maintenance in a sound manner, many countries oblige drivers to conduct periodical check-up on cars.

Finally, it can be said that proper maintenance of cars that can be made obligatory through periodical check-up eradicates the causes of dangerous accidents.

Therefore, the Safety Company for Cars Periodical Check-up was established. We hope that it will be a nucleus safe traffic in Yemen.



Information on the Safety Company for Car Technical Check-up

- ¥ An investment company in charge of conducting comprehensive check-up on cars to know their level of safety and show their defects.
- ¥ The owner: Arwa Investment Co. Limited owns 60 %, Retirement and Social Security Fund of Ministry of Interior 40 %.
- ¥ The company's capital: YR 1 billion.
- ¥ Supervision: General Administration of Traffic.
- ¥ The company is currently in the beginning of the experimental operation and training of the staff that will operate the centers.
- ¥ Work is currently beginning in five centers in (Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout and Hudieda).
- ¥ The company uses a modern German Technique through which cars are checked up automatically.
- ¥ Up to 250 graduates from the Yemeni universities will work initially in the company.
- ¥ Up to 15 foreign trainers participate in training.



Dear drivers: Checking-up the car .. ensures your safety

Gaza - do not cry

By: Mohammed Y. Rezq
rezq.yemen@hotmail.com

Not once upon a time there is a sad story
Two girls were born surrounded by an army
This army was in Gaza but belongs to the enemy
Their house was not a house; it looks more like a cemetery
However, they were not crying, their faces were smiley
The one who was crying was their poor weak mommy
Said their grandma or maybe another lady
Don't cry daughter don't cry
Because they want us to cry so, baby don't cry
How is the baby? Is it okay?
You have a twin baby

The nurse said they might be born before the day
Therefore, you were to be sent away but as usual there is no way
But mama where is their daddy?
Fady... Fady... Is very far away
No way. No way. When did he go? And why
Today, way down there he went to pray
When he was thrown away
Some said, it was his body
They read your name in his silver marriage ring
He told me not to cry
Yes, that was on Saturday
As if he felt that his time was about to end, that's why in his face was glory
December 30th was his birthday
He was to be 30 by Wednesday
Oh dear he was killed even before his birthday
One night he told me about his old

dream that was his father's originally
He wanted to have a girl for every city
Gaza, Al-Dafa, Al-Quds, Haifa, Yafa, Akaa, Areha, Tolkarm, Naples, Ganaa, and Tabreaa
You know my son told me the same dream one day
He left to collect some money
He promised to let me chose his wife freely
He also asked me not to cry
Since then no one saw a single tear in my eye, you too do not have to cry
We have Gaza and Al-Dafa today
Later on we will have the whole family
Please be stronger, Gaza started to cry
Let us start now as we have a long way
They could damage everything except our dream which they cannot destroy
If I am not here tomorrow or any other day
Please tell your girls not to cry

Shoes thrown at President Bush

Mofeed Aljaad
mofeed336@yahoo.com

For the first time ever we watched as a journalist threw both of his shoes, one after the other, at a president of a great country. At a joint press conference, Montazer Al-Zaidi, an Iraqi journalist, threw his shoes at the American President George W. Bush, expressing his deepest anger toward the savage crimes committed by Bush's military in Iraq. The American administration, represented by George W. Bush, claims that they "entered the virgin land of Iraq in order to emancipate the Iraqi people from Saddam's cruel and corrupt regime," asserting that the Iraqi people received them with bunches of flowers as an expression of their happiness and satisfaction. But Montazer Al-Zaidi's heroic act clarifies the naked reality which stands against Bush's fabricated rumors. Under the pretext of eliminating the threat posed by the "availability of nuclear weapons," George W. Bush destroyed Iraq, one of the greatest countries in the Arab World. Bush sucked Iraq's wealth dry, killed its heroes, slaughtered its innocent civilians, raped

its virgin girls, and tortured its faithful men. Consequently, Montazer Al-Zaidi threw his shoes at Bush, telling him that: "This is your farewell kiss, dog!"

Some may ask what purpose is served by throwing your shoes after somebody has killed your brothers and destroyed your homeland. However, these people evaluate the matter physically, ignoring the valuable cultural aspects that distinguish the Arabic nations from others. The Arab men prefer to be killed rather than to have shoes thrown at them. This cultural difference means that most foreigners don't consider the matter to be a serious insult against the American Republican Party in general, or against Bush in particular.

Above all, Latin presidents in their joint conference take the matter as a humorous joke with which to entertain each other. But these foreigners should view the matter through the cultural lens of the Arab World, in which throwing a shoe at somebody is the worst possible insult.

Undeniably, Montazer Al-Zaidi is a brave man who represents not only the oppressed Iraqi people but also the Arabic and Islamic nation as a whole. Montazer's courageous act is regarded as

revenge for the savage crimes that Bush committed in the Arab world, which is likely why the value of his shoe reached USD \$20 million.

What troubles me is the behavior and actions of those who help the occupier to eat the flesh of their brothers. After the shoes were thrown at Bush, some Iraqi journalists beat Montazer severely, to satisfy those who killed their brothers and raped their sisters. Amid this shameful atmosphere I wonder if there is a sense of Arabic dignity within the hearts of those cowards who help the enemy to occupy their own homeland.

Moreover, through the bravery of the Iraqi journalist, Montazer Al-Zaidi, we can see that history repeats itself; where in the past we watched some poor Iraqi people pelting Saddam's image with shoes, we now watch the brave Iraqi journalist, who has a patriotic soul and a living conscience, throwing a pair of shoes back at Bush. As a young Arab man I feel a sense of honor and pride regarding the courageous action of this faithful Iraqi journalist. He may suffer greatly and receive a tough penalty for his deed, but history will recognize his bravery with golden water, and his story will remain as a blot in American history.

Through

The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



Gaza, a victim of conspiracy!

Having been occupied, Gaza is now invaded and destroyed. Who pays the costs of the killed people, of the destroyed houses, and of the chaos that resulted from the Israeli aggression in Gaza? People in Gaza, of course, pay the cost. In fact, all Palestinians pay the cost. All Arabs and Muslims also pay the cost. But who is responsible for all that? The question that everybody asks is: "Can Israel do all this without a green light from some Palestinians, some Arab countries, America, and European countries? This is easily reflected in the reactions of Muslim nations in the current crisis of Gaza. Their reactions, as well as the ultimate aims of the Israeli attacks, clearly reflect the fact that Gaza is a victim of a conspiracy between Israel and most (if not all) of the Arab countries.

Gaza is a part of the country of Palestine. The other part of Palestine was not seized like Gaza and was not attacked by Israeli forces. The leader or what is called the "President" of this part has done nothing to respond to what is going on in the Gaza strip. He has friendly and peaceful relations with Israel and America. So he behaves as if Gaza is no longer a part of Palestine, not realizing that he has been trapped by the Israeli policy which is "Separate

to rule." Now he says nothing more than "yes" to the instructions of Israel. And now he is a part in the conspiracies woven to destroy Hamas and Gaza.

Attacking Gaza to kill unarmed people, to kill women and children, makes hearts burn inside. Hundreds of people have been killed, and thousands injured. What else to do? The whole strip is upside-down due to the aggressive Israeli attacks. In spite of this, some Arab and Muslim countries are silent. They did not even condemn the attacks. Worse still, they blame the Hamas for terrifying the Israelis. The problem is that such Arab and Muslim leaders express their own opinions while their nations are against such opinions, rejecting the silence of their leaders towards the Israeli attacks. The situation is worse with those leaders who did not allow their nations to express their opinions. Such leaders stopped their nations for demonstrating their condemnation of these attacks. Why are such leaders behaving like this? Isn't it a conspiracy?

The United Nations did nothing to stop the Israeli attacks in Gaza. It held a meeting, but it ended with nothing. America supported Israeli to continue its war against the occupied and unarmed people in Gaza, claiming that the Israelis have the right to protect themselves against the terrorists in

Gaza. Such a claim ended the meeting of the United Nations with nothing.

Taking into account of the Israeli aims of attacking, destroying, and killing the people in Gaza shows that Israel does not only want to protect its nation from Hamas, but it aims to destroy all resistance in Palestine as a whole. It wants to get rid of those who say "no" to Israel and replace them by those who can say nothing more than "yes," as occurred in the other part of Palestine. In this case, there would be no longer "nos" in Palestine, and as a result, Israel can start a new step in its plan to dominate without any obstacles.

Sorrowfully, Israel gets help from the Palestinians themselves, and then from some Arab and Muslim countries. Of course, such help is paid for by Israel in advance. For instance, some seek money, some seek power, and some seek high positions. When Israel provides all these rewards for these people and these countries, then they can never disobey Israel. This is what is happening now in the case of Gaza, which really is a victim of conspiracy.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinions writer from Taiz. He holds a Masters Degree from the English department at Taiz University and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

When I look into her eyes

By: Abdullah Saleh Ali Ali
almiroraida@hotmail.com

when I look into her eyes
I can't feel myself on earth or on the sky
and I can't breathe every time beside
them I pass by
when I look into her eyes
I forget the time the world and all my
fights
and all my feelings toward them arise
I can't stop thinking about her eyes

I always tell the guys
what beautiful secret I can't keep
I became prisoner of those eyes in deep
when I look into her eyes
I see a sparkle as starlight
makes my black nightmare turns white
and makes my darkest day become
bright
if only I can see her eyes all day all
night
I'll dispense with world and for her
eyes I'll fight

I never see such an infinite beauty as
her eyes' light
those eyes never let me down I always
feel them by my side
for those eyes my heart has disobeyed
me
and got out of the circle of my pride
it knelt and became their shadow and
became their knight
all I wanna say I love you
so do you believe in love from first
sight



INVITATION FOR APPLICATION OF VACANCY (ONLY LIMITED POSTS ARE AVAILABLE)

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DP World Aden, a Company that manages and operates Aden Container Terminal invites qualified Citizens to apply for the following limited posts:

1. JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

Responsible for: Monitoring/reviewing/accuracy on day to day Finance functions, training of staff, liaising with Auditors and handling monthly closings, billing issues and debtors' collections.

- Must possess a college degree in accountancy/finance from the recognized university
- Knowledge and proficiency of Finance/Accounting principles
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer skills - MS Excel/Word and other finance related skills
- Minimum experience of 3 to 5 years in related field of profession
- Must be organized, possess the ability to multi-task, have good leadership skills and focused to team-work orientation.

2. CLERICAL OFFICER

Responsible for: Day to day Finance activities.

- Must possess a college degree/Diploma in accountancy from the recognized university
- Computer skills - MS Excel/Word and other finance related skills
- Minimum of 1 to 2 years experience in related field is preferable.
- Must possess good communication skill

Interested candidates who meet the requirements for either of the above positions, should send their CVs and a covering letter specifying the post applied to the following address, and post it in a box located at the Free Zone Check point:

The Human Resource Department
Aden Container Terminal
P.O. Box 6116-Khormaksar
Aden-Republic of Yemen

Or by fax: No. (02-383388)

The deadline for receiving applications is 14th January 2009.

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be notified and the selected candidates will have to undergo training.

UNICEF YEMEN

P. O. BOX 725
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TEL: (967.1) 211 400
FAX: (967.1) 206 092

Consultancy for Emergency response for six months 02/09

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified applicants to monitor implementation of UNICEF supported activities within the overall Emergency response as follows:

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

Specific Tasks

- * In consultation and collaboration with partners, the consultant will continuously assess the situation of women and children in Sa'ada governorate and report to UNICEF-Sana'a on a **weekly basis**.
- ¥ Monitor and strengthen linkages in the implementation of the humanitarian assistance through the UNICEF-supported NGOs at the local level, in close collaboration with the implementing partners, including the governorate offices and UN agencies; and report weekly on the progress of the following components:
 - ¥ Nutrition and health component,
 - ¥ Child protection and HIV prevention component,
 - ¥ Education component and,
 - ¥ WES and hygiene component,
- * Undertake regular visits to UNICEF supported project sites, assess local conditions and resources, and monitor UNICEF inputs. Communicate with implementing partners, local counterparts authorities and beneficiaries themselves on project feasibilities and effectiveness including monitoring the flow of supply and non supply assistance,
- * Analyze implementation reports by UNICEF's partners and evaluate against signed project cooperation agreements providing regular feedback to the emergency focal point and the deputy representative after discussion with programme sections.
- * In consultation with partner organisations & UN agencies working in Sa'ada, report on the general situation of humanitarian assistance delivered by counterparts, partners and UN agencies in the governorate. Participate regularly in co-ordination mechanisms established by the Government and donors to avoid unnecessary overlap and to achieve optimal results.

Methodology

- The consultant will;
- ¥ Work under the direct supervision of the emergency focal point, under the overall guidance of the Deputy Representative and in close consultation with programme sections for technical advice,
 - ¥ Will be based in Sa'ada city and will work full time, within the duration of the contract,
 - ¥ Will liaise and coordinate with partner organisations and government counterparts to facilitate the delivery of UNICEF assistance,
 - ¥ Will prepare a weekly monitoring report on the activities undertaken including the situation of women and children in Sa'ada,
 - ¥ Will prepare final report with recommendations at the end of the assignment

Expected Deliverables

Weekly report in English on the status of implementation of humanitarian assistance supported by UNICEF, Detailed end of mission report at the end of the consultancy period.

Expected background and Experience

- ¥ MA degree in social sciences or related fields,
- ¥ Minimum three years experience in development. Previous emergency work or community-based experience is preferable,
- ¥ Computer skills like using word processing and spreadsheets,
- ¥ Fluency in both English and Arabic languages written and spoken.
- ¥ Residence of Sada'a city is preferable

Interested and qualified candidates should send their CV and application to yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after **22 January 2009** will not be considered. Only short listed consultant will be contacted. UNICEF encourages qualified women to apply. UNICEF is non smoking environment.

الشيبياني
Basem M.A. AlShaibani

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Tel: 466086 Fax: 534598 Mob: 771808382 - 777884803 Email : YPGSECURITY@yemen.net.ye

للإعلان: ٧١٢٤٩٩٥٣

- بسام محمد الخضمي - ثانوية عامة - حاصل على برنامج EADA - أساسيات التسويق - علاقات عامة - مراسلات وتقارير
- نور - حاصل على رخصة قيادة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر وصيانة الشبكات - يبحث عن عمل في صنعا
- داود حيدر الخضمي - بك/تربية / إجتماعيات - حاصل على برنامج EADA - أساسيات التسويق - علاقات عامة - مراسلات وتقارير - إعداد مشاريع - أساسيات إنترنت - شهادة مساعد إداري
- بكالوريوس محاسبة - بكالوريوس إنجليزي - دبلوم كمبيوتر - خبرة واسعة في الحسابات التجارية في اليمن
- مدرس لغة إنجليزية يعمل في مدرسة أهلية - يرغب في العمل كمدرس خصوصي من الساعة الواحدة ظهراً وحتى الثالثة عصراً أو بعد المغرب
- بكالوريوس آداب - لغة إنجليزية - شهادة في المراسلات التجارية - معهد NCC - خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية والترجمة - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر
- مدرسين المواد التالية (كيمياء - فيزياء - رياضيات) يقومون بتدريس هذه المواد باللغة الإنجليزية - يريدون إعطاء دروس خصوصية في هذه المواد وبأسعار مناسبة
- مظهر أحمد - مهندس ميكانيكي (تحكم ميكانيكي) - خبرة عالية - يجيد اللغة

والمخدرات والمواد الكيميائية - فحص المواد باستخدام جهاز GC/MS - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - يبحث عن عمل في مجال تخصصه أو في أي مجال آخر

للإعلان: ٧٧٧٢٠٥٠٩٢

- سمير - مدرس لغة إنجليزية ومدرب كمبيوتر ICIDL - يرغب في العمل كمدرس خصوصي في المنازل في الفترة المسائية
- تعليم اللغة الإنجليزية وتدريب الكمبيوتر
- بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - كلية التربية - يبحث عن وظيفة في شركة أو في أي مجال حسب مؤهله ومستعد للإختبار وممارسة العمل في أي وقت
- عبدالكريم أحمد - بكالوريوس علوم سياسية واقتصادية (روسيا) - يجيد اللغتين الإنجليزية والروسية
- محمد صالح - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - خبرة في الترجمة والسكرتارية وتنسيق برامج ومشاريع - حاصل على دورات في الإدارة والتدريب ولغة البرمجة العصبية وإدارة الاجتماعات والإتصال والتواصل والرقابة والمتابعة والتقييم وأنماط الشخصية وكتابة التقارير وغيرها من الدورات
- مربية أطفال - أوثوبية - تنظف وتطبخ - تحمل رخصة عمل وإقامة رسمية وضمانة إعتبارية.
- بدر الدين حسن - بكالوريوس قانون - جامعة النيلين السودان - دبلوم العلوم الشرطية - كلية الشرطة والمعاهد السودان - دبلوم إدارة - خبرة خمسة عشر سنة في مجال الخدمات الأمنية في السودان وأمريكا - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - شهادة في مجال البيع والمشترقات وخدمات الزبائن في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

عقارات

- للأيجار: شقة مفروشة مكونة من غرفتين نوم - حمامين ومطبخ - غرفة جلوس عربي - صالة استقبال
- للإيجار: مكتب مفروشة مكونة مع ملحقاتها + خطين هاتف - إنترنت
- للبيع: فيلا دور مع مسبح مسلح حجر - المساحة ١٢ حر - مكونة من ٥ غرف مع ديوان وصالة - ٣ حمامات ومطبخ - الحوش يتسع لعدة سيارات - الموقع: بيت بوس

للإعلان: ٧٧٧٤٠٨٧١١

كمبيوتر، نااث، أدوات كهربائية، تلفونات، و أشياء اخرى

- للبيع: جهاز كمبيوتر محمول - شركة دل موديل ٦٠٠ - هارد ١٠ جيجا - رام ٥١٢ - سواقة ديفيدي - نسخ أقراص - كرت الشاشة ٣٢ - في حالة جيدة جداً - مستخدم نظيف - سعر نهائي \$ ٢٥٠
- مطلوب شراء ساعة رولكس أو ساعة أوميغا بسعر ٥٠٠ دولار
- للإيجار (لأي شركة أجنبية أو محلية) : باص خصوصي - ١٦ راكب للإستئجار: ٧٢٣٥٣٠٠٠٠

مفقودات

- البيع: موتور سيكل - موديل ٢٠٠٧ - محرك رياضي
- البيع: كمبيوتر لاب توب - المعالج (١.٧Ghz) - الرام (١٥٢mb) - الهارد (٦٠GB) - الشاشة (١٤.٥) - توشيبا ستالايت - وايرلس - DVD RW

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- المستشفى الجمهوري: ٠١-٢٤٩٦٧٠/٧٧
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- المستشفى الألماني الحديث: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠/٧١٠٠٠٠٠

E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

- فندق قرصا: ٠١-٤٣٥٧٠/٧١٢
- فندق شيراتون: ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠٠
- فندق موفيسك: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
- فندق سيا: ٠١-٣٧٣٣٧٣
- فندق ريلكس ان: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
- فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي: ٠١-٦٠٣٥٥٠ - ٦٠٣١٢٥٠/١

مكاتب ترجمة

- الشهاب لخدمات الترجمة (عربي- إنجليزي) (إنجليزي- عربي) تلفون: ٧٧٧٧٣٢٠٢ أو ٧٣٠٠٠٨٦١ - فاكس: ٧٣٠٠٠٨٦١
- إيميل: sts.yemen@gmail.com

معاهد

- معهد ياني: ٤٤٨٠٣٧-٢٧
- معهد اللغة الألمانية: ٢٠٠٩٤٥٠
- المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر: ٣٦٦٦٦٦٦٦
- معهد كاروكوس: ٥١٤٧٥٥
- معهد أليكس: ٥٢٢٤٣٦
- معهد أليكس: ٣٦٥٥٣٧

شركات للتأمين

- الوطنية للتأمين: ٣٧٣٧٣٧/٣٧٣٧٣٧
- مارب للتأمين: ٢٠٦٦٦٦/٧١٣
- الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين: ٣٨٤١٣٣
- شركة اليمن للتأمين: ٣٤٢٨٠
- شركة اليمن للتأمين: ٣٥٨٨١
- شركة اليمن للتأمين: ٣٧٣٨٠٠٠٠/٣٧٣٧٣٧/٣٧٣٧٣٧
- شركة اليمن للتأمين: ٣٤٧١٧٧
- شركة اليمن للتأمين: ٣٥٠٣٥٥

مدارس

- مدرسة رينبو: ٤١٤٠٠٣٧/٤٢٤-٤٣٣
- مدارس صنعا الدولية: ٣٧-١٩١١/٤
- مدرسة الزكية الدولية: ٤٤٣٥٨/٩
- مدرسة الماجد اليمنية: ٢٠٦٦٦٦

سفرات

- النسيم للسفرات: ٣٧٠٧٥٠
- العالمية للسفرات والسياحة: ٤٤١١٥٨٩/٦٠

الانقاذ
تفهمك
IMPORTANT Numbers
للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال على
تصويبة ٣٦٨٦٦٦

طوارئ: الكهراء ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة ١٩٩، الإطفاء ١٩١، طوارئ المياه ١٧١، الإسعافات ١١٨، حوادث (المرور) ١٩٤، الشؤون الخارجية ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧، لشؤون الداخلية ٢٠٣٧٠-١٧، الهجرة ٢٥٠-٧١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٧٥٣٣٠٠٢، الإذاعة ٣٨٠٦٦، التلفزيون ٣٣٠٠٠١٢، مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات ٢٥٠٠٠٠/٣، الصابحة ٢٥٠-٣٢، الصليب الأحمر ٢٠٣٢١٧/٣، تأمين ٧٥٣٢٣٧

البنوك

- بنك اليمن والخليج: فاكس: ٣٦٠٨٢٤، تلفون: ٩٦٧-١-٢٦-٨٣٣
- فرع عدن: ٢٣٧٨٩٩ - ٢٣٧٨٩٩
- بنك التضامن الإسلامي: ٠١/٦٦٦٦٦٦
- البنك التجاري: ٣٧٣٣٣٣ - فاكس: ٣٧٣٣٣٣
- مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل: ٣٦٨٧٥٠، ٣٦٨٧٥٠
- بنك اليمن الدولي: ٠١-٤٠٧٠٣٠
- البنك العربي: ٠١-٣٧٥٥٥/٤
- بنك التسليف الزراعي: ٠١-٥٦٣٨١٣
- البنك المركزي: ٠١-٣٧٤٣٤٤

تأجير سيارات

- زوييه (Budget): ٣٠٩٦١٨-٥٠-٣٣٣٣ - فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
- يورب كار: ٣٧-٧٥١ - فاكس: ٣٧-٨٠٤
- هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعا: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
- فرع شيراتون: ٥٥٥٩٥٥
- عدن: ٢٠٢٤٥٦٢٥

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

- أتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الإنترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١
- صنعا: ٠١-٤٢٨٣٠٥
- فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٧٤١٩
- عدن: ٢٠٣٧٣٧٣٩
- تمر: ٤٠٢٥-٢٤٣٣
- المكلا: ٥٠٢-٧٤٩٢

البريد السريع

Infinet Education T: 444553
٤٤٥٥١/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

FedEx
صنعا: ٤٤-١٧٠/٧٧
الحديدة: ٢٤٨٣٣
إب: ٤١١٩٨٨
المكلا: ٣٠٦٤١
شبه: ٢٠٣٣٦٦
سيئون: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

كوبون للإعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)

بيع | شراء | إيجار | إستئجار | طلب وظيفة | وظائف شاغرة | غير ذلك

تفاصيل الاعلان:

قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٣٦٨٣٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعا

Eating from your own garden

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Agriculture provides around 20 percent of the total GDP according to 2007 statistics, with an average annual growth of five percent. Around half of the country's employment is hosted in the agriculture sector, and majority of

this workforce is comprised of women.

Because of the constant immigration to the cities, Yemenis take less interest in their land or in farming generally. Yet some take this interest with them to the cities and try to grow plants wherever they can.

"My mom was the one who insisted on growing some plants in our



Despite the increase in fruits and vegetable prices, many people would rather buy from the market than grow the vegetables at home. YT Photo by Ali Saeed

backyard. She says she misses her farm in our village. She is the only one taking interest in the gardening," said Buthina Abdu from Sana'a.

In Sana'a, the architectural design does not allow much for gardening, especially with the increasing demand on real estate. Many farms are being transformed into residential building and offices, leaving less space for greenery.

Some people who are interested in gardening overcome this problem by using small containers to plant decorative plants on the staircases or window ledges. Some are even more creative and make their own gardens on the roof tops.

Ola Hussien explains that her brother split a water tank into two, took it to the roof, and filled it with soil. Now they grow tomatoes, potatoes, and mint, among other plants used for decoration or for a good scent such as jasmine.

"My brother grows onion in his garden and he brings me some every time he visits. I wish I could have my own land instead of living in an apartment – I would have grown lots of fruit and vegetables, and even own livestock," said Mahmoud Mohammed.

There are various problems that stand against gardening in Sana'a. The issue of space is one of the main complaints interested Yemenis have. Then comes the problem of skill in using appropriate fertilizers, growing the right plants in the right season, or birds eating the fruit.

More so, most of the people who do have some sort of garden often use it for decoration and just for the interest in greenery instead of consumption.

"We have many trees in our garden: lemon, coffee, passion fruit, and an apple tree. We also grow small plants such as mint, lavender, and roses," said Izdihar Abdulkarim.

However, she admitted her family would rather buy apples from the market rather than eat from the garden because their apple tree's apples are not as sweet.

"We never buy lemon or mint leaves as they grow nicely in our garden. The rest we buy from outside," she said.

On the national level, major agricultural products include fruits, vegetables, and cereals, but production is rarely sufficient to meet domestic demand. As a result, Yemen continues to import most of its food.

Even during cold weather when the food products are quite expensive, the thought of going local and growing some of fruits and vegetables at home is not really taken seriously by many Yemenis who have gardens.

Although the in-house produce is guaranteed to be organic and healthier nutrition wise, it is generally smaller than and not as tasty as those bought from large scale farms or imported from abroad. The exception is cultivating qat because it is easier to grow, and people who grow qat in their own gardens take great care and pride in it.

Awareness of the dangers of chemicals used in agriculture and the importance of organic food is not common in Yemen. This is perhaps why home gardening in Yemen is not advocated,



Most people with large yards prefer to grow fruit trees in their gardens rather than vegetables and herbs because of the nice view and shade the trees provide as well as the fact that they are easy to maintain.



How to grow your own garden

Preparing the soil

Prepare your garden the old fashioned way. Rent a roto-tiller and turn over the earth in a given plot exposing the earth to the sun and the rain.

In early spring, hard rake the earth and break up the clumps. Dig a 5-inch deep trench around the plot and fill with sharp stones. This stops voles from burrowing into the garden. Sprinkle the earth with Milky Spore powder to do away with white grubs that eat away at the roots of garden plants. Milky Spore was developed by the USDA, is nontoxic and approved for organic farming by the manufacturer.

Planting

Begin by planting early cool season crops like spring onions, lettuce, radishes, green peas, Chinese cabbage, broccoli and turnips. A trip to your local garden center will provide you with lots of growing ideas. Don't pick seeds that have been genetically altered like GM corn, soy or wheat. These seeds contain the DNA of pesticides. Buy old fashioned heirloom seeds that grandfather planted. Use organic fertilizer, not the chemical kind.

Plant watermelon, tomatoes and other great garden crops. Plant blackberries and raspberries as these keep coming back year after year and require little attention. Just a few blackberries contain more vitamin C than an orange.

Watering

Vegetables need a steady supply of water, especially when they are flowering or fruiting. There are no exact formulas for watering, because there can be many variations in soil, temperature, and drying breezes. The basic rule of thumb is to water thoroughly, to moisten the soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches. Then let the soil dry out a bit, and when it needs it, water again. You can tell when to water by feeling the soil a couple of inches below the surface. If it feels cool to the touch but doesn't get your finger muddy, it's just the right time to water. Never let the soil get dry and dusty. For the most part, putting vegetables under water stress will greatly affect your harvest. Snap beans will drop their blossoms. Lettuce - whose shallow root system requires a steady supply of moisture - will turn bitter. Cucumbers will stop growing altogether (although they will resume if watered again). Beets will become tough and stringy. Radishes will turn hot. Turnips will develop too strong a flavor. Muskmelons will lose their sweetness. You can control blossom drop of tomatoes (caused by high night temperatures or insufficient watering) by applying a thick mulch to retain soil moisture.

Vegetable Critical Watering Period

- ¥ Asparagus As ferns begin to grow their foliage
- ¥ Broccoli During the time the heads begin to develop
- ¥ Cabbage During the time the heads begin to develop
- ¥ Carrot As roots begin to enlarge
- ¥ Cauliflower During flowering and head development
- ¥ Corn As ear silk develops and tassels become apparent
- ¥ Cucumber During flowering as well as through fruit development
- ¥ Eggplant During flowering as well as through fruit development
- ¥ Lettuce Head - As heads begin to develop Leaf - consistently throughout development
- ¥ Lima Beans Beginning at pollination and continuing through pod development
- ¥ Melon During flowering and evenly throughout fruit development
- ¥ Onion When bulbs begin to enlarge

You can tell when to water by feeling the soil a couple of inches below the surface. If it feels cool to the touch but doesn't get your finger muddy, it's just the right time to water. Never let the soil get dry and dusty.

For the most part, putting vegetables under water stress will greatly affect your harvest. Snap beans will drop their blossoms. Lettuce - whose shallow root system requires a steady supply of moisture - will turn bitter. Cucumbers will stop growing altogether (although they will resume if watered again). Beets will become tough and stringy. Radishes will turn hot. Turnips will develop too strong a flavor. Muskmelons will lose their sweetness.

You can control blossom drop of tomatoes (caused by high night temperatures or insufficient watering) by applying a thick mulch to retain soil moisture.

Put in companion plants such as mint and other herbs that repel insects and bugs.

When weeds arrive, pull them out by hand, or, selectively spray them with an organic weed killer.

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