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Saudi jets continue hitting Houthies

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SAADA, Nov. 11 — Saudi fighter jets continue their airstrikes against Yemeni villages with Houthis present, particularly in the Maladidh, Shada and Hasama areas.

A statement released by Houthis on Tuesday confirmed that the Saudi aircrafts hit in the morning of the same day the Shada government complex, killing several citizens and wounding others. In the meantime, the Saudi government said that its military operations don't go beyond its territory.

Houthis announced on Monday they took control of the Qutaber area, near the border with Saudi Arabia and seized all the military ammunition, equipment and posts in the area. They accused the Saudi authorities of entering Yemen's territory and using its airspace to hit villages in Razih and Haidan districts.

Houthis also accused the Saudi army of using phosphorus bombs, resulting in fires on the mountainous areas in Maladidh, as well as other areas surrounding

the Dukhan Mountain. Spokesman for the Houthis, Mohammed Abdussalam, denied that Saudi troops took control of the Dukhan Mountain. "We are still at the mountain anticipating ground confrontations... It is impossible for Saudi jets to hit our fighters, who never stay in particular positions."

A Saudi government advisor, declining to reveal his identity, denied that phosphorus bombs were used. "What the Houthis saw is a different type of weapon."

Assistant to Saudi Defense Minister Khalid Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz said that his state will not cease its aerial shelling against Houthis unless they withdraw 10km back inside the Yemeni territory.

During his visit to a military site, near the Saudi border with Yemen, Sultan clarified that the Saudi soil is cleared of Houthi gunmen. "Now the fighting is taking place at the Yemeni-Saudi border."

In the same context, a Saudi official announced on Tuesday that his government's marine forces imposed a siege along Yemen's northern coastline, confirming that his government's warships check any suspicious ships coming from Yemen's shores.

Homeland sovereignty

Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) accused the Yemeni government earlier this week of disregarding homeland sovereignty, holding it accountable for the deteriorating military situation in both volatile provinces of Sa'ada and Amran.

The opposition parties highlighted the Saudi interference in Yemen's domestic

affairs under the allegation of cracking down on Houthis, describing such as a violation of Yemeni sovereignty.

On a side note, Iranian Foreign Minister Mantochehir Matki denied that his state supports the Houthis in Yemen. In the meantime, he warned neighbors against interfering in Yemen's internal affairs. Matki called for dialogue to end the Yemeni crisis, affirming that Tehran cares about Yemen's national unity.

Matki told the media on Tuesday that "Restoring stability to Yemen will help boost stability in the whole region," adding that his state seeks to play a good role in strengthening peace and stability in all states of the region, and "will not involve in any act triggering tension."

Three threats

According to Matki, Yemen is currently facing three real threats one of which is extremism and terrorism. The second threat is that of the secessionist movements while the third is represented by standing conflict between the government and Shia population in the country.

The Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group based in Egypt, urged Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz to stop the military operations in Yemen and reconcile between the government and Houthis. On its website, the group reported that its General Advisor Mohammed Mahdi Akef urged the Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines to immediately stop the fighting and cease bloodshed and killing of innocent civilians.

Continued on page 2

Teachers: Politicizing education created hatred in Yemen

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Nov 11 — The politicizing of education and teaching has caused the current situation of hatred culture that Yemen lives with nowadays, according to teachers.

That was highlighted in the symposium of teaching ethics that the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate launched on Tuesday, Nov. 10 within the meeting of the Islamic Teachers Federation meeting.

"If we looked at the teaching curricula in parallel with the turning points that Yemen experienced either before unification or after that, we will find that each stage is distinguished with a teaching curricula that fits the political system," said Mohamed Kaysh, Officer of Teachers' Affairs at the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate in Hadramout Branch.

"That is an indicator of the absence of independent education, which is supposed to be free from political influence," he added.

The officer also said that even the political system is controlled by the ruling party, and the democratic principle is to peacefully transfer the power, but it is unethical when any party seizes the power and changes the educational system in a way that serves his interests.



Yemen has recently witnessed unrest and violence in more than one place and students were the most attendees in these protests.

"The educational system has to serve all segments of society from all political backgrounds," he said.

The tendency of changing educational systems in a manner that serves one party, by the successive political systems in Yemen, has led to the current backward educational system, which has already created a sense of hatred in Yemeni society, said Kaysh. "If we looked now at the schools- either primary, secondary, or

in universities, we will find just conflict and hatred among teachers and students," he said

"When the student sees that his teachers are in partisan conflict, he or she will immediately imitate them and then separation will move from teachers to the next generation," Kaysh explained.

"The regimes had played a negative role in the ethics breakdown among teachers and education in general," he said

politicizing Education and partisanship will also deepen the culture of hatred among the next generation and will become one of their trends, according to Kaysh, who also criticized the current curriculum, saying it does not serve society in a good way.

Continued on page 2

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Capital sentence for Nusaiba's killer

By: Imad Al Saqaf

TAIZ-Nov, 11— A teenager who raped and killed a female child was sentenced to death by a court here Monday, and was also fined US \$1,500.

Akram Al-Samawi, 18, was found guilty of raping and killing Nusaiba Nadir Al-Sharabi, 5, as well as throwing her body from the fourth floor of a building on Aug. 7. He was also convicted of robbery and torture.

According to the prosecutor, Al-Samawi lured the girl to the roof of his house, hit her head with a stone many times, damaging her jaws and stifling her.

He then raped her and stole her earrings. After the crime he threw her body to the ground from the fourth floor.

Earlier, a medical committee said Al-Samawi was above legal age after doubts were cast over his health and age. The verdict is to execute the accused by firing squad, and fine him 300,000 Yemeni Rials.

The result came during the court session, presided over by the general prosecutor Yahia Al Hudabie last Monday. A medical report has revealed that the accused is eighteen years old, which makes him responsible for his actions, according to the criminal law. The report of the medical commission of the attorney general office in Taiz confirms the previous medical report of the examiner. Head of the prosecution team, lawyer Ali Saeed Al Sediq requested that the judge implement the execution in the



The accused during the trial

location where the crime had been taken place, in order to prevent people from trying to trespass and commit such crimes. "The public execution will prevent the spread of similar crimes. The prosecution lawyer Najeeb Abdulrahman expressed happiness about the ruling. "Issuance of such ruling and the speedy legal action give makes us optimistic about the future of law." He added that the ruling created relief among the people. It restored peace to the city. Yemen is one of 59 countries

which retains the death penalty, according to Amnesty International. Under sharia law, which applies in Yemen, relatives of the victims of certain categories of murder have the power to pardon the offender in exchange for compensation, and may grant a pardon freely or request his or her execution. Taiz residents and NGOs concerned with children's affairs flocked to the court as well as the streets during the five sessions to show solidarity with the victim's family.

Eight Japanese days in Yemen

By: Layla Mohammed

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — Held with the cooperation of Japan Friendship Association, Youth Ship Program and the Ministry of Culture, the Seven Japanese days in Yemen festival was launched for seven weeks, giving Yemenis the opportunity to partake in Japanese culture and lifestyle. Taking place at the Cultural House, the Japanese Festival lasted in Yemen for eight days; five days starting in Sana'a last Saturday, and to concluding with three days in Aden.

The Japanese festival consisted of various games and activities. Such activities included: a tea party, dancing, singing fashion shows mixing music with dance, and many different games.

One of the show's activities was the Drinking Tea Ritual. In this activity, participants had to take of their shoes, kneel on the floor, and put their hands on the ground yelling "Itadkimasu", meaning Allah.

Another activity was the Yosakwi Dance. This activity included three different dances whereby the performers danced in enthusiastic ways mixing modern music with traditional Japanese dance.

The fashion show represented the Japanese culture in an attractive and organized way, that gave People the opportunity to understand their traditions. The show also gave people the opportunity to interact with Japanese citizens as an attempt to have a better understanding of their culture.

Although a Japanese festival, Japa-



The Japanese festival consisted of various games and activities. Such activities included: a tea party, dancing, singing fashion shows mixing music with dance, and many different games.

nese were not the only participants- as some Yemenis from the Youth Ship Program took part as well. The Japanese festival gave Yemenis a distinct look at Japanese culture and traditions.

In addition to those mentioned above, there was another activity, which was the Japanese handwriting called (Shogi) that uses a black ink and a feather in writing. This is the traditional handwriting, and there we saw pictures of many words written in Japanese, such as friendship, good friend, blue sky, love,.... Etc. Moreover, you can get your name written down in a paper, which I did.

There was also a traditional fashion show, where you can try on Japanese clothes such as Kimono and Kendo. The Kimono is a Japanese traditional garment worn by women, men and children, and the word "kimono", which

literally means a "thing to wear" (ki "wear" and mono "thing"). And the Kendo uniform which is the Samurais uniform that is comprised of the keikogi and hakama. These garments are well suited for the functional demands of kendo.

This wasn't all, there were other activities, including games and songs. There were several games such as Or-gami and Kirih that are games with pieces of paper where you draw on and then cut them to pieces to create different shapes, like flower, stars and so on. There was also a chopsticks game, Kendama game, intelligence game, and others. The activities aim to show several things about their traditions and symbolized their way of thinking and dealing with people from rituals and fashion to games and dances and other activities.

Yemen committee works to provide better future

By: Yousef Al-Raddai
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — The Yemeni American Political Action Committee [YAPAC] states that it has been working on educating Yemeni students from all across Michigan about the political system and ways to improve Yemen and Michigan's overall economy.

Members of the committee have been to many high schools and colleges around Michigan in an attempt to educate Yemeni students on acquiring an education in technical career fields that are needed in today's economic market, such as engineering, accounting, pharmacy and business management.

"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow," said the chairman of the endorsement committee Dr. Mike Kaid. "By investing in the youth, we know we are doing the right thing because we are investing in our society. This is one method, and we the committee feel it is necessary to revive the economic situa-

tion in Yemen and in Michigan."

The committee's argument to why Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world is due to the lack of focus in identifying the college degrees that are needed in the market. According to the World Bank, 42 percent of the population in Yemen are living below the poverty line.

The YAPAC Committee strongly believes that by educating the youth on such matters, they will be able to create a better tomorrow with more opportunities and a prosperous outlook for the generations to come.

In addition to educating students about the political system and technical career fields that are needed in tomorrow's economy.

The committee, as expressed on their website www.yapac.com, exercises an agenda that consists of pushing the community's agenda to the forefront, educating Yemenis about the political system, promoting voter registration, encouraging the community to exercise their right to vote and invite more Yemeni Americans

to be politically active. The committee states that by being politically aware, the right political figures who will provide jobs in the community will be selected.

"When you look at the board members of YAPAC, you will see one common theme: we all grew up in Michigan, or have kids that went through the Dearborn public schools, that is why it is essential for us to participate politically and to make sure the next generation feel a sense of responsibility to better our economy," added Dr. Kaid.

According to their website, The Yemeni American Political Action Committee was established in March of 2005. The establishment of the committee was due to a growing need from the Yemeni community to be recognized and represented in the political system. Its diverse board members range from medical doctors to engineers to educators. However, they all have one goal in mind as expressed on their website, to "educate Yemeni students on technical career fields needed in tomorrow's economy."

Activists oppose NGO law amendment, describe it as "unjust"

By: Sadeq Al-Wasabi
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — The NGO Law amendment draft proposed by the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry, which is currently presented to Parliament for debate, provoked rage among rights groups and activists, who described it as "unjust". They accuse the government of attempting to restrict NGO's operations and liberties.

The proposed amendments focused on 12 articles of the law, already in effect, regarding NGO's declaration, funding, dissolution and elimination, which, according to observers, will have negative impacts on NGO operations.

While the Yemeni government confirms that the proposed amendments aim to include some disciplinary rules for civil activities and take necessary procedures against donor organizations that support partisan and terrorist groups, activists hold the view that the government should resort to the judiciary in lieu of amending the law.

Civic democratic initiatives support foundation (CDF) held last week a discussion on the amendments, during which the Foundation Chairperson Abdulmajid Al-Fahd reviewed those amendments proposed by SALM, plus the Foundation's comments on the amendments.

"The law in effect is distinctive for those prerogatives, which the ministry plans to restrict as testified by international and regional organizations," Al-Fahd told the Yemen Times. "For instance, the current law reads that an NGO is entitled to search for local or international funding, and after its activities are over, an NGO shall file a report to SALM at the end of each year." He added, "But under the amendment, an

NGO shall submit a report in advance in order to get funding."

Criticizing the proposed amendments, Executive Director of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, HOOD, Lawyer Khalid Al-Anisi said these amendments multiplied means of supervision and oversight over NGOs and restricted their activities by controlling funding from donors. "The amendments pose a real threat to NGOs and restrict civil society freedom."

"In line with President's platform"

From its side, the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry clarified that it is not able to oversee all NGOs numbering up to 7,000, pointing out that there are limitations in the administrative and technical aspects of the law implementation. The ministry added that it seeks to amend the law to be in line with the platform of President Saleh.

Al-Fahd says that the ministry listed several justifications for amending the law, one of which is "to be in line with President's Platform", however, the platform ensured freedom for NGOs.

"Under no circumstance may an amendment be in line with electoral platforms," Al-Fahd maintained.

According to Chairman of the Chairman of Organization for Childhood Protection SEYAJ Organization for Childhood Protection (SOCP) Ahmad Al-Qurashi, amending the law is a dangerous setback contravening Constitution of the unified State. "The Constitution entitles citizens to establish organizations while the law denies this right," he said.

He added that we reject the amendments proposed by the government as there is no justification to eliminate liberties. "The proposed amendments don't

allow us to hang a banner unless it is approved by the government."

Al-Qurashi maintained that each organization secure jobs for five or six people and helps in reducing unemployment. "Therefore, we call on Parliament to be in the side of Yemeni people and consider the various services offered by NGOs."

"Ten years backward"

Parliament Member Ali Hussein Al-Ansi, who drafted a new NGO Law, urged Parliament to endorse its draft. "The draft was based on experiences of other countries, but we were surprised by the government's amendments to restrict NGOs operations," he said. "My draft law is still with the Constitutional Committee."

Al-Ansi continued, "This amendment will kill the law already placed in effect... I heard a researcher saying that Yemeni will jump 10 years backward because of this amendment."

According to Lawyer Ghena'a Al-Miqdad, the proposed amendments are illogical and aren't in favor of NGOs. She said: "I urge Parliament to give the homeland interest precedence over everything... I urge the ministry to show us the assessment it made since 2001. Why it did not take measures against those violating the law over past 8 years."

SALM Undersecretary Ali Saleh Abdullah noted that the amendments will be fair, will not allow chaos or lawlessness and will create a strong institutional structure.

Yemeni NGOs are waiting for outcomes due to be reached by Parliament regarding the proposed amendments over the next few days. Activists vowed to react extraordinarily in the event the amendments are approved.

Germany supports Yemeni Coast Guard's medical care

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A Nov 11 — The German Embassy in Sana'a agreed on Tuesday to support the Yemeni Coast Guard in the amount of 750, 000 Euros to strengthen its health facilities.

According to the agreement Germany will build and equip three medical stations of the Coast Guard in Aden, in Khor Omera 150 km west of Aden, and on the Perim or Meyun island west of Aden. Coast Guard employees, local people and fishermen will benefit from the services, according to the Ministry of Interior's official website.

German Ambassador Michael Klor-Berchold appreciated the recent successes of the Yemeni Coast Guard in fighting piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. "We decided to support the medical facilities of the Coast Guard to reach two objectives, assisting the Coast Guard in its important work and improving the access to health for the population, as civilians will be treated in the medical stations of the Coast Guard as well," he said.

Recently Germany had committed 79 million Euro for development in Yemen as well as 1.5 million Euro to mitigate the effects of the armed conflict in Saada on displaced persons.

To protect the Yemeni ports from terrorism, the Yemeni Coast Guard was established in 2002 immediately after the attack on the American destroyer USS Cole in Aden harbor which killed 17 American sailors. They are now combating an increase in piracy in the Arabian and Red Seas.

The Yemeni coast Guard currently has about sixty boats distributed along the 2,000 km long coasts.

In 2008 there were 92 piracy attacks, most in the Gulf of Aden, of which 36 were successful hijackings, according to the International Maritime Organization.

Continued from page 1

Teachers: Politicizing education created hatred in Yemen

"We are going to have a generation that deepens hate rather than adopting love, and the reasons behind that are the wrong actions being taken in politics and ethics," he said.

"The decision makers must change their policies toward this issue, and give independence to the judiciary, education, and media," he suggested.

"The three fields of judiciary, education and journalism are important elements in the development and they should be distant from influence by any party, because they were created for the interest of the nation, and when they are being controlled by any influential body, they will have deviated from their tracks," he said

The Head of the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate, Ahmed Al-Rabahi agreed with Kaysh's statement saying that education politicization and partisanship has entered education, and are not values we wish to have as part of our education system. "Politicizing education is one of the negative values that harms education in Yemen," Al-Rabahi said. It also harms objectivity in universities selection of candidates' selection, according to Al-Rabahi.

"Using teaching for political or partisan objective is against our interests, and we would like to return to objectivity," Al-Rabahi said. "We are calling on all to stop using education for political or partisan aims."

Cheating is rampant among student

Another unethical behavior that is widespread in all Yemeni schools is cheating on exams among students, especially the transitional exams between primary to secondary and from secondary to college, according to teachers who participated in the symposium.

Al-Rabahi described this phenomenon as "ethically disturbing," for teachers, students, and the future of Yemen. "The reason this phenomenon is so widespread in our society is because our youth is reflecting the regime's treatment of society without responsibility. This is across the boards, including but not limited to falsifying public opinion, and this has been reflected in education," he said.

"Another reason is also the dysfunction in the school administration and education office administration personnel in governorates which is basically not done according to fairness and efficiency," he said.

"Cheating on exams is an action that is dishonest and the educators should work hard in combating it," he added.

The Islamic Teachers Federation is an Islamic union that was created in October 2008 in Kuwait with 12 teachers organizations from different Islamic and Arab countries.

The current member organizations of the federation now are from Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Yemen, Sudan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey and Albania.

"We are looking forward to joining all the teachers' unions in the Islamic

world," said Al-Rabahi.

Saudi jets continue hitting Houthies

A Yemeni army spokesman denied reports by Houthis that they downed a Yemeni warplane in Sa'ada's Razih area. "The warplane fell down because of a technical flaw that emerged before striking Houthi strongholds. The pilot landed safely with a parachute and is now feeling well.

Humanitarian Situation

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) expressed its concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in north Yemen where ongoing clashes between the government troops and Houthis displaced over 175,000 people since 2004.

We again appeal for the protection of civilians and secure and unhindered access for humanitarian workers to deliver much needed assistance," UNHCR spokesman, Andrej Mahecic, told journalists in Geneva.

A growing number of forcibly displaced families from the embattled Sa'ada governorate have been arriving at the Mazrak camp in Hajja governorate to the south-west in recent days. "On average, 130 to 140 families arrived at the Mazrak camp both on Saturday and Sunday, and another 80 families yesterday - in total some 2,000 people," Mahecic said.

According to the agency, the Mazrak camp hosts up to 8700 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In Brief

ADEN

Landmark investment conference opens in Yemen

Launching an Aden landmark investment conference, Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Mujawar said on Wednesday that investment was put on top of the priorities as the government has started to secure an improved and competitive investment climate.

The government has adopted a series of measures over investment and trade, first and foremost investment law, corporate law, tax and custom laws besides other legislation for boosting transparency and accountability, he said.

All taken were aimed at improving the investment atmosphere through guarantees and trust factors admired by investors, he affirmed.

Moreover, he said in the conference held under the slogan Aden... Yemen's gate to the world, the government has launched the single window system, activating commercial courts, accelerating steps to set up a stock market, setting up and preparing industrial

zones, providing free plots for large investments and engaging the private sector in development and

infrastructure projects.

Commenting on the event, Mujawar said the conference provides a typical opportunity to explore investment opportunities across the country after the success of the 2007 investment opportunities exploration conference.

He also highlighted investment legislation and facilities at a time when Yemen is struggling to boost its national economy.

Many regional and international delegations have landed in Yemen for the two-day conference held in Yemen's business capital of Aden.

The meeting would discuss several topics, mainly related to economic and investment. Piracy and maritime security in a region where piracy has soared in recent years would be addressed as well.

Universities of Aden, Italian Pisa sign partnership agreement

President of Aden University Abdul Aziz bin Habtor and Vice-Rector of Italian Pisa University signed here on Tuesday a partnership agreement between the two universities in field of archeology and ancient inscriptions.

The agreement stipulated that the

two sides work on activating the joint scientific cooperation in developing the curricula in archeology section in Aden University to make them equal to the grade level in Italy.

The agreement also included that Pisa University provides academic scholarships for students from Aden University in graduate programs in antiquities and inscriptions field with the possibility of joint scientific supervision.

According to the agreement, the two sides will perform joint works in Yemen through collecting and studying Yemeni ancient inscriptions within the Yemeni inscriptions code draft in the electronic network.

Furthermore, the two sides will study the possibility of carrying out joint explorations in Yemen to contribute to studying and spreading the ancient civilization of Yemen and developing the field research and exchanging courses, books and publications related to inscriptions, antiquities and ancient history between the two universities.

Regarding museums and antiques restoration, the agreement stated that the Italian side will present opportunities for workers and students

from Aden University to join Italian training courses in this field.

Bin Habtor discussed with the Italian side means of developing the academic and scientific cooperation relations between the two sides.

SANA'A

Yemen, US sign military, security cooperation agreement

The Yemeni-US joint staff 2nd talks round was concluded on Tuesday in Sana'a in which the two sides signed an agreement of cooperation in exchanging experiences, trainings and qualification in the military and security field between the two countries armed forces.

On the conclusion of the two-day talks, Chief of General Staff Ahmed Ali al-Ashwal evaluated efforts of the US in boosting joint cooperation fields between the two countries, confirming that this round has achieved good results with its joint goals represented by boosting cooperation to end terrorism, trafficking and sea piracy which has become a big obstacle in front of international navigation in the Red Sea.

On his part, director of planning in US joint staff Jeffery Smith ex-

pressed his happiness for holding this 2nd round which gathered Yemeni and American joint staffs and its positive results.

This round is considered extension for the good and permanent relations between the two sides and we will continue visits in order to improve the two countries relations to its highest level, Smith said, confirming continuation of the US support for Yemen to preserve its unity, security and stability.

SADA'A

Over \$ 1.9 mln Japanese aid for Saada displaced people

Japan announced on Tuesday granting urgent aid of \$ 1,920,000 for the displaced people of Saada.

The Japanese Embassy said in a press release that the assistance would be granted via World Food Program (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Health Organization (WHO).

The embassy said that the Japanese government considers the Yemen's security is very essential not only for the Yemeni citizens but also for the Japanese, emphasizing Ja-

pan's support to Yemen's unity and security.

TAIZ

French support for Taiz University discussed

Rector of Taiz University Mohamed Abdullah al-Sofi held Tuesday talks with French ambassador to Yemen Joseph Silva on the aspect of support provided by the French government within the program of educational development.

The talks dealt with the French support in the field of teaching the French culture in the French Department in Faculty of Arts, logistical support of the Department and sending a number of academicians to French universities in the field of medicine and learning the language.

The Rector praised the role of the French ambassador to support Taiz University, particularly the French Department in Taiz University and the qualification of the university staff to work in this area.

For his part, French diplomat affirmed his readiness to support the Taiz University to become a member in the francophone associations.

Their News

WAY 60th Anniversary Celebration

The World Assembly of Youth (WAY) is pleased to extend an invitation for you to participate in the WAY's 60th Anniversary Celebration (London to Melaka, 1949-2009) with the theme 'One Youth- One World: We are the World' to be held from 10 to 12 December 2009, in Melaka, Malaysia.

The WAY's 60th Anniversary

Celebration is organised by the World Assembly of Youth in partnership with the Melaka State Government, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (Malaysia), the Malaysian Youth Council and the Asian Youth Council.

The selected theme for this celebration is 'One Youth - One World: We are the World'. This theme has been selected in realization of the need to educate, increase awareness,

and encourage youth participation and involvement in global development.

WAY invites participants from National Youth Councils. National delegations are encouraged to register gender-balanced groups. There is no specific age limit but delegations are encouraged to include young people below the age of 30. The total number of participants in this program shall be 200 from at least 50 different countries.

Two winter short courses on refugee law

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies CMRS at the American University in Cairo AUC is offering the following two winter short courses on refugee law:

Please note that the deadline for receiving applications has been extended to November 11, 2009.

1. Introduction to Refugee Law (January 10-14, 2010):

Course Description:

The course will provide post-graduate students, international agency staff, NGO workers, lawyers and others working with refugees or interested in refugee issues with an introduction to the international legal framework which governs the protection of refugees. Through lectures, case studies and small group sessions, course participants will learn about the basic features of international refugee law including the components of the international refugee protection regime; the elements of the definition(s) of "refugee" contained in international instruments; the ethical and professional obligations of those representing refugees; the basic elements of the process by which refugee status is determined; and, the rights of refugees under international law. A background in law is useful but not required. The course will include a simulated refugee hearing in which course participants will be assigned roles to carry out in mock refugee status determination proceedings.

2. Advanced Refugee Law (January 17th- 21st, 2010):

Course Description:

The course will provide post-graduate students, international agency staff, NGO workers, lawyers and others working with refugees with further training on new developments and current debates regarding the international legal framework which governs the protection of refugees.

Through lectures, case studies and small group sessions, course participants will discuss and debate the sources and governance of international refugee law; the minimum requirements of and best practices in refugee status determination; the nature of the "nexus" requirement; the nature of "persecution" (including the circumstances under which socio-economic disadvantage may qualify as persecution); how to distinguish between "persecution" and "prosecution"; the definition of refugee contained in the *Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa*; the ethical and professional dilemmas encountered in legal representation of and advocacy on behalf of refugees; and, the obligations to refugees arising from other areas of international law. The course will be taught using examples from past and current refugee policy and jurisprudence from different jurisdictions. *Successful completion of an introductory course in refugee law or equivalent experience with refugee law is required. *The course will include a multi-party negotiation exercise based upon a simulated refugee crisis in which course participants will be assigned the roles of affected states, UNHCR and civil society and be required to negotiate a solution.

Information about the Instructor:

Martin Jones is a lecturer in international human rights law at the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York. He previously taught and served as a visiting researcher at Osgoode Hall Law School (Canada), Queen's University (Canada), the Centre for Refugee Studies (Canada), the University of East London (UK), Georgetown University (USA), the University of Michigan (USA), the American University in Cairo (Egypt) and, most recently, the University of Melbourne (Australia). Martin is a member of the executive committee of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration and past chair of its 11th biennial conference in Cairo. He is managing editor of the journal *Refugee*.

Martin is a founding and active member of the Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network, its voluntary director of research and training and a consultant to refugee legal aid organizations in Cyprus, Egypt, Hong Kong, Jordan, Malaysia and Turkey.. Before his returning to academia in 2002, he practiced as a refugee lawyer in Canada where he in 2008, he co-founded the Egyptian Foundation

for Refugee Rights which provides legal aid to refugees and migrants in Egypt. He serves as the chair of the Legal Aid Working Group of the Asia Pacific Network for Refugee Rights, a regional coalition of over 100 NGOs, and sits on its steering committee.

He has co-authored a textbook on refugee law in Canada and has published on various topics, including the interpretation of the definition of refugee, refugee status determination and the prohibition on refoulement to torture.

His research interests include the reform of the governance of the international refugee protection regime, the interaction between international and national refugee law, and refugee law in Asia. He is currently working on a project funded by the US Institute for Peace to develop in partnership with local legal aid NGOs networks of pro bono lawyers to assist refugees in securing protection in eight jurisdictions in Asia.

Application procedure:

To apply for one or both courses, please fill in the application form: www.ucegypt.edu/ResearchatAUC/rc/cmrs/Documents/CMRS_Refugee...

and send an updated copy of your CV to Sara Sadek, CMRS outreach coordinator: ssadek@ucegypt.edu

World Society Foundation offering \$10,000 to Outstanding Research Papers on the Global Economic Crisis

World Society Foundation (WSF) is inviting research paper proposals from researchers and scholars to undertake a study of the global economic crisis. The crisis started off with failure of financial institutions in the United States, but soon the impact was seen all over the world with major economies dropping in recession that had not happened before since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Consequently, changes have occurred not only at the country-level but also in the international political environment where "several semiperipheral countries are profiting from their considerable foreign currency reserves to gain more political weight in international financial institutions, peripheral countries are experiencing sharp rises in poverty and accumulating new foreign debt." It is believed that such a situation can carry a greater risk where prices of essential commodities such as oil and food can increase again since semiperipheral countries have shown signs of fast recovery from the recession

while "peripheral countries are likely to suffer substantially longer from the crisis fallout than the rest of the world." Even the accepted theories of free market have received a jolt and many policymakers around the world have found themselves in "an ideological vacuum." In this context, it is important to understand, analyze and interpret the crisis to generate policy responses. WSF has requested this call for research paper proposals "to investigate into the social construction of crisis interpretations and/or the effects of the current crisis on perceptions of global social relations (economic globalization, North-South relations, multilateralism, etc).

Issues that may be addressed include:

* Crisis representations and interpretations in the mass media (qualitative and quantitative content analysis) or the general population (quantitative surveys);

* Crisis framing by social movement organizations, business actors, or international organizations (content analysis, participant observation, etc);

* Impacts on political mobilization and transnational organizing among civil society organizations (protest event analysis, participant observation, interviews, etc);

* Impacts on national and international regulating agencies and mechanisms;

* Effects of the crisis, and policy responses to the crisis, on trust in (international) political institutions;

* Effects of the crisis, and policy responses to the crisis, on perceptions of global and regional governance institutions."

The proposals submitted will be reviewed by the Foundation's Board of Members and successful ones will be requested to submit full papers of not more than 8000 words. Papers which meet quality standards will be honoured with \$1000 and will be published in a forthcoming volume (2010-2011) of World Society Studies. Besides, candidates whose papers are outstanding will receive the Award of Excellence in World Society Research (2010), which carries cash prizes worth \$10,000 and \$5000. The prize winners will also be invited at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, on September 10-11, 2010 to receive the award.

The last date to submit the research proposals is 15 December 2009. For more information, <http://www.funds-forngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/world-society-fou...>

إعلان عن وظائف شاغرة

منظمة المعونات الطبية الدولية (AMI)، منظمة فرنسية غير حكومية إنسانية غير سياسية ولا ربحية، تمارس أعمالها في 9 دول و لاكثر من 15 عاماً. تقوم المنظمة بتقديم الخدمات الطبية للسكان المتضررين والمجرومين من كافة أنظمة الرعاية الصحية.

تعمل المنظمة حالياً في الجمهورية اليمنية منذ بداية عام 2007م، وتقوم بدعم خدمات الرعاية الصحية الأولية في محافظة الحديدة وتنفيذ نشاطاتها بالتعاون مع وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان. وتركز بشكل رئيسي على رفع مستوى القدرات التنظيمية والتقنية للمرافق الصحية في مديرتي الحالي والمراوعة وذلك لتمكينهم من تقديم أفضل الخدمات الصحية المناسبة وذات الكفاءة.

يعلن مقر المكتب التنفيذي للمنظمة عن فرص عمل في المجال التالي:

طبيب عام

ملخص الوظيفة:

سيعمل الطبيب العام تحت إشراف مثله طبية أجنبية. وستكون مهامه ضمن ساعات الدوام الرسمي كالتالي: أولاً تنفيذ المهام الموكلة اليه حسب جدول مواعيد أسبوعي أو شهري، خديداً التقييم الدائم للأششطة العلاجية التي يتم تنفيذها في المرافق الصحية، التقرير اليومي من سجل البيانات والمشاركة في وضع وتنظيم الأمور اللازمة، وأخيراً المشاركة في خديداً وإختيار المستفيدين.

كما ان الطبيب مسئول عن التأكد من توفير أفضل الخدمات الصحية للمستفيدين في جميع المرافق. وأخيراً كما ان على الطبيب العام خضير تقرير حول نشاطاته و مناقشتها في الإجماع الطبي، بالإضافة إلى كتابة تقرير شهري عن إشرافه وتسليمها للممثل الطبي المسئول عنه.

لا بد من توفر الشروط التالية في المتقدمين:

حاصل على شهادة رسمية في الطب العام ولديه خبرة عمل سابقة في المجال المذكور.

اللغة: إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية (التحدث، القراءة، الكتابة بشكل متناهي).

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متفرغ لدوام عمل كامل بالحديدة.

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- على المتقدمين للوظيفة تقديم سيرتهم الذاتية ورسالة باللغة الإنجليزية توضح خبراتهم وحمسهم للعمل بالتفصيل على العناوين التالية:

مكتب منظمة المعونات الطبية الدولية (AMI) الحي التجاري - جوار مدرسة دار العارف
تلفاكس: 0120-8785
البريد الإلكتروني: yemen@amifrance.org

- آخر موعد لتقديم الطلبات: الأربعاء 30/نوفمبر/2009 م. في الساعة 4.00 مساءً


- الطلبات التي لا تتوفر فيها الشروط المذكورة أعلاه، لن ينظر فيها.

- سيتم التواصل فقط بالعدد المختار من المرشحين للمقابلة الشخصية.

Embassy of India Sana'a


GET-TOGETHER

The Embassy of India plans to organize a **Get-together** on the occasion of **International Students Day** in the Embassy premises shortly. All Yemeni students who have availed of scholarship in the previous years under the **ICCR Scheme of Government of India or any other Scheme**, may please contact this Embassy at Tel. Nos. 441251, 441252 or 441263; or e-mail to indcom@y.net.ye, indiaemb@y.net.ye urgently.



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The first and the second pages of this manuscript are decorated by integrated colors of purple, red, yellow surrounding a circle in the middle of each page

For the Yemen Times

"Saving our national heritage such as manuscripts, contributes in enriching the national identity of our community members," said Ahmed Bin Mohammed Al-Maqhafi,

Head of the Yemen Center for Manuscripts and Heritage Revival.

The center is the first civil institution that provides CDs and photocopies of different manuscripts, which include arts, medicine, chemistry, legal studies, Islamic foundations, and logic to students and researchers.

According to Al-Maqhafi, the center

includes old manuscripts of the Holy Qur'an, such as the Holy Qura'an manuscript written by Ali Bin Mohammed Al-Akwa, who wrote 65 Qur'an manuscripts a hundred years ago, which is divided into three sections. The first section has 144 pages written on Ottoman papers. The second section contains 154 pages and the third section consists of 161 pages.

The first and the second pages of this manuscript are decorated by integrated colors of purple, red, and yellow surrounding a circle in the middle of each page where the Qur'anic sura's title is written in gold ink. On the corners, a bird-like shape encloses each circle from four sides.

More than 224 original manuscripts are available for researchers and interested students, and include about 1,000 titles in different branches of science written by Yemeni and non-Yemeni scientists and thinkers, amongst which is the oldest manuscript present, which was brought to Yemen in the fifth century after the Hijrah, and is written in Kufic script.

Tracing the manuscripts available in the center, there is a manuscript called "The Single Poem Manuscript" which

أرض حمير للتجارة
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includes 10,303 lines of a poem ending with the letter "N", and is 700 years old.

Al-Maqhafi said that it is called "the Single" or "the Orphan" because nobody found an equivalent version of it. It is also known as "Al-Noonia" because every line in it ends with an "N" sound.

The diversity of manuscripts which are available allows interested musi-

cians to trace an old version of a musical piece. According to Al-Maqhafi, these scores are from five to six hundred years old, and the collection includes Yemeni musical pieces and in parts has Yemeni Zamil notes- a type of Yemeni song performed at weddings in tribes or villages- as well as a German musical composition. However, due to bad storage conditions there are no records about the composer. Al-Maqhafi added that this piece and the other two compositions need investigation and historical traces done by expert researchers.

There are 2,000 CDs containing manuscript photocopies, and six physical copies of manuscripts, 70,000 stamps from a number of countries over the world including old Yemeni stamps, and 3,000 different coins from the Himyari era to the present, and are made from different materials such as bronze, silver and iron.

The Ministry of Culture supports the center in paying its lease. It should provide more support to the center to guarantee that these manuscripts are preserved on shelves and appropriate cabinets and have a modern storage policy.

Al-Maqhafi said that he and his staff

are trying to preserve these manuscripts by documenting their names and providing annexes for researchers to choose the needed manuscript, instead of turning their pages over and over. These manuscripts need to be preserved safely in order to be useful for the coming generations.

Students and researchers, according to Al-Maqhafi, are provided with CDs and photocopies of any requested manuscripts.



This music note ages from 5 to 6 hundred years and it includes Yemeni music notes and German music notes



The Single Poem Manuscript which includes 10303 line of a poem ends with N rhyme scheme and aged 700 year

4U

- Yemen Center for Manuscripts and Heritage Revival contains different manuscripts on medicine, legal issues, chemistry, arts and Islamic foundations and logic.
- It is open to all researchers and anyone interested in manuscripts and heritage.

To contact the center:
Address: Sana'a- P.O. Box no (5778)
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E-mail: Abomneer777@hotmail.com

Yemen war leading to regional conflicts

By: Rachele Kliger

The war between the army and rebels in northern Yemen is spilling into other countries in the region.

The ongoing war between the Yemeni army and rebels in the country's north is causing ripples throughout the region, stirring local political conflicts and increasing tensions between Sunnis and Shi'ites.

The most recent flare up came Sunday when Egypt's largest opposition movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, called on Saudi King Abdallah to stop fighting on the Saudi-Yemeni border and halt the killing of innocent people.

While maintaining Saudi Arabia's right to protect its borders, the head of the movement, Muhammad Mahdi Akef, called on Saudi Arabia to "put an immediate end to the fighting in Yemen's battles."

That call has stirred a spat with Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), which says the Brotherhood is using the conflict in northern Yemen to sow strife among Muslims..

Dr. Mustafa Alani, research program director at the Gulf Research Center, said it was not surprising that a conflict that has drawn intervention from Saudi Arabia and Iran is of concern to political players in Egypt.

"The main reason why this all started is because Hamas moved closer to Tehran, and Hamas is one of the most successful products of the Muslim Brotherhood," Alani told The Media Line. "This is why the Muslim Brotherhood in general has been accused of taking a relaxed attitude towards the Iranian interventionist policies. The Iranians believe the Muslim Brotherhood is helping to promote national interests."

The rebellion in North Yemen, led by a Shia affiliated group called the

Al-Houthis, began in 2004, intensified in August and over the past week has drawn military intervention from the Saudi army.

Saudi Arabia claimed to regain control over an area seized by rebels last week, but insists that its offensive has been restricted to its own soil and has not drifted into Yemen.

Yemen accuses Tehran of providing training and support to the rebels as part of the Sunni-Shia power struggle in the region.

NDP officials argue that the Brotherhood has condemned the Saudis for defending Saudi territory, but has never censured Al-Houthi rebels for killing Yemeni civilians.

"Why isn't the Muslim Brotherhood issuing a statement about the Al-Houthis spilling of blood, or at least targeting the Al-Houthis and Saudi Arabia, rather than just the Saudis?" Mustafa Fiqqi, head of the Egyptian parliament's Foreign Relations Committee told A-Sharq Al-Awsat.

Regional analysts are concerned that the conflict may stir wider confrontations between Sunnis and Shi'ites in the Middle East.

"For Saudi Arabia, Yemen is the backyard of Saudi security," Alani said, explaining why Riyadh would be concerned about the rebellion. "The assassination attempt on [Saudi] Prince Muhammad was organized in Yemen and Al-Qa'ida is now active in Yemen, not necessarily against Yemen but against Saudi Arabia. It's the same with the Houthis - it's an internal problem but they're crossing the border to Saudi Arabia."

"But you can't compare the concerns in Saudi Arabia about the developments in Yemen with the Iranian position," he continued. "The Iranian position is to try to take advantage by using Yemen to undermine Saudi security and stability."

In this sense, Alani said, Iran was

using the rebels as a proxy to serve their own interests.

As well as putting Iran on the spot, Yemen officials are also accusing groups in Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia of providing the rebels with material support. All of these countries have Shi'ite populations likely to be supportive of a Shi'ite rebellion.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed al-Sabah rejected the accusations on Sunday, telling Al-Arabiya that his country stood by Saudi Arabia's right to protect its borders against "any foreign hostilities."

"Kuwait strongly condemns any criminal activity carried out by armed men who infiltrated Saudi Arabia in the Jazan district," the minister said in a statement.

The conflict is also rousing tension between Shi'ite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia ahead of the Hajj, or annual pilgrimage. Tehran claims the Saudis are mistreating Iranian nationals wishing to enter the kingdom to carry out the religious ritual.

Rebels affiliated with the Al-Houthi clan are based in Yemen's north, and have been involved in violent clashes with the national army in which hundreds of people on both sides have been killed.

Al-Houthi fighters belong to the Zaidi minority, an offshoot of Shia Islam. The Zaidis form a minority in Yemen but are the majority in the country's north. Al-Houthi fighters wish to restore the Zaidi imam, which was overthrown in a 1962 coup, and accuse the Yemenite government of being too closely allied with the United States.

Yemen's army has been stretched since May by a separate secessionist rebellion in the south.

In addition, Sana'a is trying to eradicate an Al-Qa'ida presence in the country.

Source: media line

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Sa'ada Thoughts is a series of reflections on life and people in Sa'ada from an independent perspective, written by a nurse from the Philippines who had been working in Sa'ada for two years. He could be reached at lev9ph2000@yahoo.com.

The raid in Dhamaj and the bombings in Souk al Talah (1)

The salary was early to anticipate Eid and the ten days holiday for the employees and medical personnel in the administration, engineering and out-patient departments. I passed by my friend's room to accompany me to get our bankbooks and money. Before we went to the finance department, we punched our cards to ensure we came on time or earlier. Then, we took our money and proceed to ER. When we were about to open the door, we saw the staff nurses were running to and fro. I knew from the start it's going to be a busy day because these past few days they haven't been bringing patients and the bombings are increasing day by day especially from 12 midnight until 6 am. The would bring a few patients but most of their injuries are not fatal except one soldier who got shot in his shoulder with a big wound and a vascular injury – this means a blood vessel got damage or was cut off and there was severe bleeding which couldn't be stopped by ordinary measures. When this patient came our shift was about to end. We wanted to help but our mudira told us to go and leave things to them.

My friend, an amazing and intelligent lady full of stories came to me when their shift in the morning was about to end. I heard some of the nurses told me bearded men with a white cloth wrapped around their heads were attacked in some place but I didn't think Dhamaj – of all the places in Sa'ada would be involved in the war. Last year, they were attacked by the rebels but the republican army was able to guard them from most attempts. This particular friend of mine was sympathetic because four of the pupils were shot to death; one of them was a "sheikh". According to her, the rebels came inside their quarters and shot the brothers to death. The one who was seen lying on the hospital floor, grieving in desperation was the other who survived the raid. I knew a lot of people from Dhamaj. Before the war, my Yemeni friends and I were planning to visit this school that not only attracts Arabs to study Islam in its purest and rawest form but also foreigners coming from all parts of the world. In one of my adventures, I met a German student from Dhamaj. I didn't know he was German because I usually meet Yemeni's with green piercing eyes and crooked eyes. When I heard him speak Arabic I knew he was different. I was laughing my way through the ruins my dear Yemeni friend brought me. I didn't know he was German because he had this cloth wrapped around his head, an inverted triangular beard, Yemeni clothes and a cute jambiya - I thought it was small but the looks of it meant it had value and was very expensive.

It was my first encounter with a student from Dhamaj. I was supposed to go there that day but I didn't have a copy of my passport to get pass the checkpoint of the military. My second encounter was with a young lady who went to ER, about my age, with a complaint of stomachache. She told me she was studying in a university. I was taken aback because I didn't know there was a university in Sa'ada. She spoke nicely in English. I told her I didn't know a university existed in Sa'ada. She told me it is a 30 to 45 minutes ride from the city. When I heard this, I knew she was referring to Dhamaj. I didn't extend our conversation because it is not good to see men and women talking especially in an ultra conservative province like Sa'ada. I had to cut the conversation short and bid farewell to her. I was not supposed to inject the medication because she was a "she" but during that time there were many male nurses and our female colleague was busy attending her patients inside. I had no choice. I had to give her the injection. My encounters with the pupils of Dhamaj have been enlightening. They told taught me about the pages of Quran. One time, I had dinner with a Sudanese studying there for more than ten years. I tried to argue about my "faith" but he was there sitting and nodding. I knew arguing would be futile if I face people who are enlightened.

My friend told me they were busy since the shift started because they came around 8 am. She got nauseated from the smell of blood and sweat. She had to rest inside the utility room to catch her breath. Four bloody bodies including the sheikh were brought to ER and pronounced dead. They all had fatal shots which led to their quick deaths. The body of the revered sheikh was surrounded by bearded civilians. I had no time to take note of his name or if I did get his name I will conceal it in respect to those who mourn their deaths. I wasn't there when it happened. But since I knew the school existed and how their students look like, I have been treating them ever since with deep understanding and respect. This is a sad day indeed.

The evening shift was busy from 3 to 9 pm. Patients were coming one by one until ER became crowded. It was ignorable if they had small wounds but when they came it's either they were on the brink of dying, little chance for them to live or no way of treating their injuries except waiting for their deaths. I had to ask one of their folks because it seems they already received first aid treatment from another hospital before they were shifted. One of the patient's folks could speak English. He told me the military dropped bombs to the infamous Souk al Talah. Souk al Talah, one of the famous tourist spots before the 9/11 terrorist attack in America, is also a market for arms, oil and smuggled goods from Saudi Arabia. Al Talah itself is home to the supporters of the Houthi. And this is the reason the war is being held in this small district in Sa'ada. This is also the place where the Doctor's Without Borders put up their hospital.

In a war where many lives are sacrificed and ignored, one cannot measure the devastation it has caused the population in its venues. An 8 year old child was brought to the hospital gasping and had shrapnel all over her body. She was also having difficulty of breathing so we started pumping air to assist her lungs. When we were about to transfer her to the trauma room, she arrested. I started cardiac compressions and we felt her heart and pulse coming back. She was drowning in her own secretions: Blood, saliva and gastric contents. There was no time to lose. We had to keep her going. In the end, we didn't have a chance against the amount of blood she was loosing internally. She might have a liver damage. Her abdominal ultrasound showed fluids. It might have been blood. There was no way of keeping her alive. Her loss saddened all of us. She was too young. Or she was one of our young deaths. I can no longer count them. I have seen many children who died in this war.

Kabul, Lahore, and Sa'ada

By: Ghassan Charbel

No army leaves Afghanistan victorious. Its people are as tough as its landscape. They fight foreigners without any mercy. Even in the absence of foreigners, Afghans fight on the ethnic and sectarian demarcation lines. Afghans pay without counting to become victorious over those who violate their isolation, then proceed to lose the victory and drown in their own blood.

The Afghan territory is often the scene of great experiments. The Mujahideen have exhausted for years the Soviet Treasury and the Red Army. The United States has punished the "Empire of Evil" and Pakistan has played the role of a passageway and incubator for the defeat of the Soviets in Kabul.

Today, the world is following another scene. America is stuck in a merciless war there. A clear and sweeping victory is impossible because of the nature of the scene and the country's structure. Withdrawing and leaving Afghanistan in the care of Mullah Omar and Osama bin Laden is a defeat that is hard for the West to tolerate. Its repercussions in the Islamic world will also be unbearable. In this country where violence and corruption poison the days, battles, and elections, Barack Obama stands perplexed. Neither a pullout is conceivable today nor is a victory possible tomorrow.

Afghanistan is not the only war that concerns close and remote countries. There is a neighboring inseparable war in Pakistan, which has entered a new phase with the land aggression launched by the army in southern Waziristan along Afghanistan. This war also involves close and remote countries.

Followers of the news must not forget the third war that is taking place in another part of the world. It is the war in Yemen and it involves both close and remote countries.

There is a point in common among the three scenes. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan was sanctioned because it offered a safe haven to Al Qaeda and

refused to abandon it following the "New York and Washington invasions". Because the Afghanistan war cannot waged without relying on the Pakistani depth, the battle of Pakistan's position in the "war on terror" and in the Afghan war has been launched right from the start.

It can be said here that Pakistan is paying the price of its successes in previous roles: the "production" of Mujahideen; the "production" of Taliban supporters; entrusting the military intelligence with managing the cards of the Afghan scene and turning Afghanistan into a depth for Pakistan in the regional game, especially with India. Today, the Pakistani authorities find themselves before Taliban-Pakistan, along with Al Qaeda.

Despite the particularity of the war in Yemen with the Houthis and the Iranian fingerprints there according to San'aa, we cannot ignore Al Qaeda's wish to find a safe haven there. It can be said that any diminution of the Yemeni state's authority due to the war with the Houthis and the appearance of secessionist calls in the South would offer Al Qaeda a golden opportunity that greatly exceeds the Somali opportunity. It can also be noted that Iran is involved in the three wars, whether for geographical reasons, the allegiance of a group of fighters, or its aspiration to turn into a great state in the region and the Islamic world.

The world cannot bear to see the disintegration of Pakistan or the safety of its nuclear arsenal threatened. The region cannot bear to see the disintegration of Yemen, the retraction of the central authority in it, and the entrenchment of Al Qaeda on part of its territory. It is hard for the world to see Mullah Omar return as master of Kabul and a sponsor of Osama bin Laden. These three wars are a mixture of fears, terror, extremism with its sources and schools, nuclear safety, oil safety, regional roles, and the awe of the sole great superpower. These three wars are worrisome... and concern close and remote countries

Source: Dar Al Hayat

The Huthis: Between the world's loathing and the disgrace of defeat

By: Muhammad Diyab

The lack of arms control in Yemen – over the past few decades – represents a danger to the country's stability and security. Weapons were previously considered to be a source of pride to the Yemenis; however they have now crossed the line and these are no longer "Jambiyaa" [traditional Yemeni dagger] but rather guns, anti-tank missiles, surface-to-air missiles, mortars, bazookas, etc. The recent war between the government and the Huthi rebels reflects the danger that the influx of weapons into the country represents, and this has allowed the Huthi rebels to continue their insurgency against the state.

With the official talk from Yemen initially disparaging the strength and potential of the Huthis everybody expected the Yemeni government to resolve this crisis in a few short days. However the Huthi insurgency surviving for this length of time leaves no room for doubt that what was being seen on the surface with regards to the Huthi [military] preparations was nothing more than the tip of the iceberg, and accurate information about the Huthis military arsenal, internal organization, and external links are lacking. Events have clarified the enormity of the Huthi problem, which is not confined to the Yemeni border, but has now stepped over the line to include Yemen's northern neighbor, Saudi Arabia. This

was seen in Huthi militants creeping across the Saudi border to attack border guard stations, and threaten residents of nearby villages. The Huthis embarked upon this campaign after they failed to convince anybody of their claim that the Saudi Arabian Air Force was attacking them in coordination with the Yemeni army.

I am confident that the Huthis have committed a grave mistake by expanding their military operations onto Saudi Arabian soil, and this will exact a heavy toll from them. Despite Saudi's awareness of the danger that the Huthi rebels represent, and the slogans and ideology that they believe in, and the position that they adopt, Saudi Arabia previously regarded the Huthis merely as an internal Yemeni issue. However the Huthis transgressing upon Saudi territory has filled the Saudi Arabians with firmness and determination which will cost the Huthis a heavy price. Every inch of Saudi territory that the Huthis advance represents Riyadh, Mecca, Dammam, Ha'il, Jizan and Abha, and the security and stability of one region of Saudi Arabia is the security and stability of Saudi Arabia as a whole. The Huthis failed to understand this, and failed to appreciate the consequences of crossing into Saudi Arabia. They believed that crossing into Saudi Arabia would gain them media hype, but they gained nothing but the loathing of the world and the disgrace of defeat.

Source: Asharq alawast



By: Khaled Fattah
KF62@st-andrews.ac.uk

The fall of the Berlin Wall: A lesson to Yemen

Twenty years ago, on a cold night in November 1989, the German nation was celebrating, euphorically, the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. On that historically famous night of national ecstasy, Germans went out in the streets of Berlin celebrating in a very spontaneous way the end of the division of their homeland into two halves, each with its own political ideology and economic system. After 28 years as prisoners locked in their own country, people of East Germany streamed to the heavily guarded checkpoints, many falling tearfully into the arms of their West German country fellows on the other side. It was a very special night and a massive electrifying mood.

Today, two decades after the historical November's night, a walk through the center of Berlin illustrates the amazing transformation brought by the German of unification. The Potsdamer Platz, or Potsdam Square, for instance, which once had a wall with watch towers and barbed wires between the Eastern and Western halves of Germany, has turned into a glittering and exciting city center full of impressive post-modern buildings, restaurants, cafes, cinemas, theaters and attractive shopping areas. The very same square that was once 'No Man's Land' has become, in a very short time, an impressive symbol of the healing of historical wounds of division and separation, and a bright new image of a self-confident united German nation-state.

As with Germany, the division of Yemen into two different political entities was sustained by politics of the Cold War. Unlike Germany, however, the Yemeni project of unification relied on a top-down approach, which was designed and implemented by the two leaderships in the North and South. In the case of Germany, a bottom-up democratic pressure played the most significant role in making the unification a dream come true. Such a pressure took the form of spontaneous demonstrations and public meetings, with East German citizens demanding political and economic reforms, and their human rights. Another major difference between the German and Yemeni projects of unification is that in the case of Yemen, the project was threatened and continues to be threatened by southern political elites and groups who are dissatisfied with the results of the unification. According to these elites and groups, the unification brought social injustice, economic hardships, and political marginalization.

Furthermore, many intellectuals and ordinary people in the former southern republic of Yemen feel that the unification carried with it what they call 'northern tribal colonization.' Unlike the Yemeni project, the German one paid and continues to pay much attention to the post-division process of healing. The latter, in my view, is the most important missing part in the project of one united Yemen. Approaching the end of two decades of Yemen's unification, it is becoming very clear that 'national healing' is essential for recovering the country from the current fracture, violence and instability. The following should be the key words in any attempt of initiating a Yemeni national healing process: negotiation, compromise and peaceful accommodation of the diversity of demands and interests.

Under no conditions should the country consider a return to a divided Yemen. Instead, there should be a continuous move forward to a united Yemen, but with the rights and duties of 'citizenship' not 'tribalism' and 'regionalism' as the guiding torches for the Yemeni nation-state.

Khaled Fattah is an academic researcher and political analyst. He can be reached at KF62@st-andrews.ac.uk



By: Hamid

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Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

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P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com

Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

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Editorial Staff

Ali Saeed
Khaled Al-Hilaly

Mahmoud Assamiee
Mariem Al-Yameni

Offices

Aden Bureau:

Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed

Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596

Fax: +967 (2) 347056

Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,

Telefax: +967 (4) 217157

P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz

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Learning to leave extremism

By: Paul Salem

BEIRUT – Report after report from the World Bank, United Nations Development Program, and the Arab League emphasize that the education deficit in the Arab world is among the main causes of its underdevelopment. With 5% of the world's population and the bulk of the world's oil and gas, the Arab world nonetheless lags behind most of the rest of the world, and suffers from what can best be termed "educational poverty." Without dramatic improvement at all educational levels, unemployment, illiteracy, and income inequality will continue to worsen, and the region will remain a danger to itself and its neighbors.

Even before the current economic recession, unemployment in the Arab world was estimated at 14% – the world's highest average outside sub-Saharan Africa. Among young people and recent graduates, the figure is more

than double.

The Arab world also has the highest population growth rate in the world, with almost 40% of its population now below the age of 15. According to some estimates, the Arab world accounts for one-quarter of the world's unemployment among the 15-24 age group. Just to keep up with the inflow of young people into the labor market, Arab economies will have to generate 100 million new jobs over the next 10 years, which will be impossible if education remains impoverished.

Enrollment ratios in the Arab world have improved over the past decade, but Arab countries still have one of the lowest average net enrollment ratios in the developing world. About one-fifth of eligible children, more than seven million, are not in school, and 60% of these are girls. The average years of schooling for Arabs is less than half that for the East Asian countries. Not surprisingly, despite progress in recent

decades, illiteracy remains at around 30% on average, and in some Arab countries reaches 50% and 60%.

The quality of Arab education is also an obstacle. Today's job market demands skills based on problem-solving, critical thinking, modern languages, and technology, but Arab educational systems generally remain traditional, rote-based, and authoritarian.

Research throughout the world shows that education is a key prerequisite for sustainable growth. The East Asian tigers invested heavily in education, and it paid off in terms of a capable and modern workforce. By contrast, development in the Arab world, driven largely by oil revenues, has left the population under-educated and economically marginalized.

Education is also important in the Arab context because of its special status in Islam, which, like Judaism and Christianity, is a religion of the book. The Gospel of St. John says, "In the

beginning was the Word"; the first word that was revealed to the prophet Muhammad by the Angel Gabriel was "Read..." Among the Prophet's sayings is, "It is the duty of every Muslim man and woman to seek learning."

Moreover, Islam does not have a priesthood, just scholars. The Arab golden ages, in eleventh-century Baghdad and fourteenth-century Andalusia, are revered as periods of great learning. Schools and universities received large-scale support, and students and scholars traveled from city to city in pursuit of knowledge. After these golden ages, education fell into decline.

By the 1970's and 1980's, the Arab world's post-independence states had made great improvements in their education sector. But they did not have the resources to keep up with their own growing populations. The dramatic levels of investment of the 1950's and 1960's tapered off, with the result that too many children are now either out-

side the school system or are receiving a low-quality education that leaves them without basic literacy and numeracy skills. And there are still too many disparities based on gender, location, wealth, disability, and other markers of marginalization.

What the West has most, and what the Arab world most needs, is education. It requires more schools and fewer guns; more universities and fewer aircraft carriers. The American University of Beirut, founded in 1866, has arguably done more to transform the Middle East in positive ways than any other comparable institution, yet it receives only \$3 million in annual aid from the United States, which spends billions on armies and weaponry in the region.

Indeed, the cost of a single month of western military spending in Iraq or Afghanistan would be enough to triple total aid for education in the Middle East. The cost of two cruise missiles

would build a school, the cost of a Eurofighter a small university.

Education can also have a fundamental effect on forming values. Radical Islamists recognized this long ago and plowed their resources into schools. Saudi Arabia recognized it in the 1970's as it sought to expand its influence, and over the years the Kingdom has funded thousands of schools and colleges that teach its stringent brand of Wahhabi Islam.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the radical vision is conveyed to the young in religious schools known as madrasas. Indeed, "Taliban" means "students." The struggle for the future of the Arab and Muslim worlds that is being fought now will be won or lost not on the battlefield, but in the classroom.

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Our other drug problem

By: Silvio Garattini
Project Syndicate

With all the official and media attention given to the worldwide trade in illicit drugs, the public has at most a dim awareness of the serious problems affecting the production, testing, and sale of the legal kind: the medicines that we take to treat or cure everything from AIDS to Yellow Fever.

The development of new drugs is a complex and lengthy process. It starts with an idea and requires a wide range of skills to bring that idea to fruition: synthesis or extraction of more or less complicated molecules, proof of their therapeutic effect in cell cultures and animals, testing for toxicity, and clinical studies.

Along this path, many potential drugs are withdrawn, and even successfully tested drugs face the additional hurdle of regulatory approval. Finally, the

drug reaches the market, where it must be followed closely, because many adverse reactions are detected only with a large number of patients and after years of use.

There are several thousand drugs currently on the market, with a worldwide value of about \$3 trillion. But conditions in the drug market are far from optimal. Ideally, drugs should have a favorable risk-benefit ratio. Compared with other drugs with the same indications, new drugs should be selected on the basis of their safety, effectiveness, and cost. But the financial interests involved tend to distort the process by creating incentives to overestimate the benefits of new drugs, underestimate the risks, and, above all, boost prescriptions.

What can be done? First, new drugs should always offer added value – better efficacy, lower toxicity, or greater ease of treatment. Unfortunately, this is not required by current legislation in Europe, where only quality, efficacy, and safety must

be demonstrated, without any need for comparative studies. There is therefore the risk that new drugs may in fact be worse than products already on the market.

New drugs are often tested against placebos or drugs that are not the best treatment available, the point being to demonstrate that the new drug is not inferior to any already on the market. But it is ethically questionable to test a drug for "non-inferiority," because patients are exposed to potential risks while contributing, in the best case, to the development of a drug that is no better than those already available. Patients' informed consent usually does not provide a clear description of a non-inferiority trial, and the lack of added value indicates that in many cases the development of a new drug is driven by commercial aims rather than patients' needs.

Second, improvement of drug development requires more transparency from the regulatory bodies. At present, a new drug's

producer prepares the entire dossier presented to the regulatory authority for approval; in the interests of the public, at least one of the clinical trials should be carried out by an independent non-profit organization. Moreover, only the regulators can examine the dossiers, which are highly confidential.

It is unacceptable that patients participating voluntarily in clinical trials, and their representatives, have no right to see data that would not exist without them.

Third, better conditions for the approval of new drugs should be matched by better use of drugs, which requires better information for prescribers. Today, information provided by drug makers largely predominates over independent information. As a result, certain drugs are used much more frequently than would be expected from their approved indications.

This so-called "off-label" use is sustained by continuous propaganda

aimed not only at doctors, but also directly at the public.

Direct but shadowy information tends to lead to "disease mongering" – the creation of diseases in order to boost prescriptions. For example, the concept of "pre-hypertension" could extend the use of anti-hypertensive drugs dramatically, because everybody's blood pressure rises with age. Likewise, the notion that blood cholesterol should be as low as possible clears a path to treating healthy people with anticholesteremic agents. Clearly, health authorities must take closer control of information by becoming more responsible for physicians' continuous education.

If the conditions for drug approval and marketing become more severe, pharmaceutical companies will be forced to produce fewer me-too drugs and more products of clinical importance. Requiring longer testing periods, and possibly extra resources, could be compensated by new drugs'

greater longevity on the market, and patent coverage could be extended.

Finally, incentives must be found to encourage pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs that fulfill the needs of patients still awaiting therapy. There are more than 6,000 rare and neglected diseases – many in developing countries – that lack remedies.

The challenge is how to produce new drugs that – because patients are too few or too poor – promise very limited returns.

A partnership between governments, non-profit research institutions, charities and pharmaceutical companies might be one way to clean up the approval process for new drugs. If public awareness of the current problems stimulates politicians to find a solution that works, better drugs and better drug use will be achievable.

Silvio Garattini is Director of the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research in Milan.

An Islam at home in Britain

By: Asim Siddiqui

This month saw the launch of a report authored by a theologically diverse group of leading British Muslims entitled "Contextualising Islam in Britain". The scholars and practitioners who contributed to the report, published by Cambridge University, sought to answer a deceptively simple question: What does it mean to live faithfully as a Muslim in Britain today?

One problem Muslim groups face when articulating their concerns to a mainly secular audience is that what one side says is not necessarily what the other side hears. Islamic terms such as shariah, jihad, and khilafa often mean very different things to secular Western ears than they may mean to Muslims. So the report

argues that, rather than insisting on using Qur'anic terms, English should be used when engaging in public conversations about Islam. Using a "shared moral language", the report states, will avoid giving the "false impression" that secular and Islamic ethical values are at odds with each other.

While an important point, this should not mean that mainstream Muslims give up on Islamic terminology and effectively surrender them to extremists—on both sides—who will continue to (mis)use the terms. The report tackles now-contentious terms such as khilafa, which is understood by many as an "Islamic system of government". The report says the word never meant the establishment of an Islamic state and that the original meaning from classical Islamic theology needs to be reasserted: an

ethics based on individual moral responsibility.

But how one is to proactively reclaim the use of Qur'anic terms in the public imagination while only using English is unclear.

The authors of the report also try to explain how Islam can be faithfully understood as compatible with a secular state. It explores the "problematic understanding of divine sovereignty" and suggests that the separation of temporal and spiritual authority may be closer to the Islamic ideal. A number of 20th century proponents of political Islam have argued that God's sovereignty is manifested through the incorporation of a political framework where a single individual or group claims divine authority to act on God's behalf, a notion completely incompatible with secular democracy.

The report, however, refers to

prominent figures in Islamic history, such as the 8th century Imam Malik ibn Anas and Imam Ahmed ibn Hanbal, both founders of influential schools of thought in Islamic jurisprudence, who believed that the state should not claim divine authority but should be held accountable to universal standards.

In addition to arguing that British Muslims support multicultural secular pluralism because it provides them the freedom to practice their religion, the report tackles hot potato issues such as apostasy and homosexuality in a broad-minded manner. The authors state that while they believe Islam frowns upon such acts, they insist those involved must be respected as equal citizens and treated with dignity. The report also briefly claims that Muslim radicalisation needs to be better understood. It argues that at its

roots violent extremism is a social and political phenomenon, rather than an intrinsically religious one.

The report will be seen as an important step towards a tolerant expression of Islam that has always historically emerged when there has been strong positive engagement between Muslims and non-Muslims, such as in Abbasid Baghdad and Moorish Spain.

With this report, it seems that religious scholars are playing theological catch-up as new and changing contexts emerge, rather than pre-empting change. But, that said, if the panel reflects where mainstream British Muslim thinking is today, then it is more progressive than many Muslims and non-Muslims would have thought. The views reflected in the report are also those that wider non-Muslim civil society and media should note and welcome.

Hardened religious conservatives may cry capitulation and cite as evidence the fact that the government funded the research. However, the authors come from theologically diverse and respected backgrounds. The success of this report will be measured in the longer term in its trickle down effect in influencing the ideas of younger Muslim activists and narrowing the gaps in misunderstanding with wider society.

Asim Siddiqui is a founding trustee of the City Circle, a network of young British Muslim professionals, and a founding board member of Cedar, a pan-European Muslim professional network. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

Source: Common Ground News Service.

Where Egyptian women can go for help

By: Sara Khorshid

Cairo - Egypt has a long-standing history of feminism, but gender-related problems in the country are far from resolved. Issues affecting society as a whole, including corruption, poverty and illiteracy, affect women in particular.

Egyptian women suffer in different ways. Marriage is sometimes imposed on extremely poor girls by their fathers so that their "economic burden" might be lifted off families' shoulders. Discrimination occurs at work, and 83 per cent of Egyptian women report being sexually harassed at some point in their lives, as revealed recently in a study conducted by the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights.

In cooperation with the EU, Egypt's

National Council for Women (NCW) opened an ombudsman's office in 2002 to receive complaints from women about the problems they are facing and to work toward solving them.

The ombudsman acts as a guide who tries to find solutions for women facing discrimination or unfair treatment. The NCW's establishment of the women's ombudsman was a positive step that enabled the council to communicate—directly—with ordinary women.

However, the fact that the NCW is a governmental organisation affects its credibility, because the Egyptian government is widely viewed as undemocratic and corrupt.

Concerns about the NCW were highlighted in a 2004 Human Rights Watch report: "[T]he autonomy of the

NCW, which is presided over by First Lady Suzanne Mubarak, is questionable.... The independence of the NCW and its willingness to publicly criticize laws or policies adverse to women's rights is also undermined by the fact that it is housed in the ruling National Democratic Party headquarters."

But the ombudsman is indeed effective, though on a small scale; it works toward solving the problems of thousands of disadvantaged women every year, whereas millions are in need.

Its effectiveness is also limited by an environment characterised by inequality in gender-related laws, corruption and a lack of education about women's rights across the country.

Yet despite this environment, the ombudsman has gained respect as a player who genuinely listens to women and is committed to addressing their

concerns.

The independent Egyptian newspaper Almasry Alyoum reported in April 2008 that the ombudsman received 2,047 complaints over three months, of which 414 were personal status- and family-related, as women wanted to file lawsuits for divorce or demand alimony from their former husbands. Given that many such women cannot afford the expense of a lawsuit, the ombudsman offers considerable help by providing legal assistance through its hundreds of volunteer lawyers across Egypt.

The problem ultimately lies with the Egyptian court system, in which such cases take years to resolve. Human Rights Watch and local attorneys point to the bribery of lower-ranking court officials—usually by the men against whom the lawsuits have been brought—

as a key problem that draws out family law cases, which already progress slowly due to the small number of judges.

What these problems require is radical solutions reaching to the roots of the problem: corruption, poverty, illiteracy and a lack of awareness of basic rights.

The ombudsman's office frequently analyses the grievances it receives and provides recommendations to the NCW's legislative committee. This committee reaches out to lawmakers and, in some cases, takes part in drafting new laws or amendments.

While this is a step in the right direction, the NCW should go beyond making recommendations to launching far-reaching awareness campaigns that address these root causes that negatively affect both women and

men.

Campaigns must be launched to educate women about the laws that affect them so that they can more successfully articulate their rights within their families, their workplaces and their society.

Above all, NCW must dare to vigorously criticise the deep corruption that is embedded in the regime, because its eradication is central to solving gender-related discrimination in Egypt.

Only then will Egypt begin to address abuse against women.

Sara Khorshid is a journalist in Cairo. This article is part of a series exploring the evolving role of ombudsmen as conflict resolvers in changing times written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

Yemeni businesswomen: Promising opportunities and challenges

By: Ali Saeed

While the current business environment in Yemen is tough for businessmen, with its promising opportunities and challenges, it is even harder for women, according to the Deputy Dean of the Financial Institute, Najat Jama'an, who lectured about Yemeni businesswoman.

Still, Yemeni women do have a presence in the business sector, but the Ministry of Industry and Trade does not have accurate data of the number of Yemeni businesswomen, since many who have a business do not register their trades at the ministry in order to escape from taxes.

The main obstacle that Yemeni women face- both as women in general, and as businesswomen- is cultural and social challenges.

"Some of the Yemeni businesswomen can not appear to run their own businesses, and instead they entitle that to their relatives, such as fathers, husbands and brothers," said Jama'an.

She attributed the inability of Yemeni women to appear as businesswomen, to the Yemeni environment, which sometimes forces them not to reveal themselves and to only be supervisors.

"As far as I know, most projects of businesswomen here are small businesses and are unregistered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade avoiding the paying of tax fees," she said.

In addition to that, Yemeni businesswomen do not register their projects at the ministry using their names, due to the social factor, according to Jama'an.

Another difficulty Yemeni businesswomen face is the competition on bids. There is only a distant chance for women to win a bid for a project, due to the complicated regulations of bids in Yemen and the extensive competition from businessmen.

"One of the obstacles that Yemeni businesswomen deal with is the difficulty to win a bid for a project, because of the complex regulations of bids and the overcrowding from businessmen on the competition," she said.

She suggested applying the quota system temporarily for Yemeni businesswomen to be able to win bidding projects, but on the condition that the businesswomen should be qualified.

Beside that, some Yemeni businesswomen in their businesses are not aware of filing, recording and accounting their daily business activities and they just do it in a simple way. Some of them may not have accountants in their offices.

Now, almost 50 percent of Yemen's population is women, and many of them are still subjected to violence and negligence from their society.

"I do not recognize the woman's right to make decisions and to have discussions with me in final decisions," said Khaled, who is married and educated.

That is not only Khaled's opinion of women. He claimed that it is how people behave to women in his village as well.

Yemen ranked last in over 133 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2009, an index that ranks countries according to gender equality and it is published by the World Economic Forum.

The illiteracy among women also hinders Yemeni businesswomen, as



"Business opportunities are available everywhere, but the women should be smart and resilient in launching their businesses"

the ability to read and write is essential for good management of businesses. Unfortunately, 77 percent of Yemeni women can not read or write.

Financing projects for Yemeni businesswomen is also considered a challenge according to Jama'an. "Yemeni businesswomen find it difficult to get funds for their businesses, since financing foundations see funding businesswomen as risky," She said.

To overcome the aforementioned challenges that deter Yemeni businesswomen from boosting up their dreams and achieve much better score in businesses, Jama'an suggested that they create a lobby or union for defending their rights, that can work under the umbrella of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

"Business opportunities are available everywhere, but the women should be

smart and resilient in launching their businesses," said Jama'an.

"I have businesses in trading, agriculture, and service and oil consultancy and I find myself able to have a business in any field," she added, indicating that there are opportunities, but women should look for them.

Islamic view of woman labor

The woman in Islam is allowed to have

a business and practice her job, but on the condition that she should be decent when she needs to sit, meet or talk with men, according to the Dr. Ali Al-Ahdi, professor of Islamic culture at Sana'a University.

"The woman in Islam has the right to have a business, but she should be respectable in her conversations with men when it is needed to do so or meet them," the professor said.

Also, the woman in Islam has the right to have a job, and can work in a profession that fits her physical nature.

"Islam preserves the woman from the risks that she may encounter, ensures that the labor will not harm her. There are four conditions for women to be allowed to work," he said.

"First, she has to get permission from her guardian. Second, the work must not prevent her from marriage. Third, the work should be legal, and finally, the work should fit her physical build," he said.

The professor went on to say that westerners have the tendency to criticize eastern culture regarding woman labor, yet the woman in their societies only receive 70 percent of the salaries that men receive.

"Sometimes the work wears out the woman and that makes problems for their husbands, which leads to polygamy," the professor explained.

Before searching for job opportunities for women, the professor suggested first looking for vacant positions for youth rather than for women, since unemployment among youth caused a high rate of spinsters in Yemen. "If we employed male youths first, we would contribute to the eradication of spinsterhood," he said.



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2009

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- تكوين خطة تسويق ناجحة.
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Civil Works Bid Announcement

For the Rehabilitation of Al-Mukala-Sayhout Road Project (135 km) in Hadramout Governorate IFB#4CW/AFESD/2009 Republic of Yemen

- The Republic of Yemen has received credit no (403/2000) from the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Develop. towards the cost of construction of Al-Mukala-Sayhout Road Project (135km) in Hadramout Governorate, and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds towards eligible payments for the civil work bid whose details are shown below:

S/R No.	Project/Location	Bid No	Date of Availability of Documents	Prie of Bidding Documents	Date and time for pre-bid meeting	Amount of bid Guarantee	Bid submission time & date	Bid opening date
1	Rehabilitation of al-Mukala-Sayhout Road Project (135km) in Hadramout Governorate	IFB#4CW/AFESD/09	14/11/2009	US\$300	11AM 9/12/2009	US\$6600,000.0	10AM 13/1/2010	11AM 13/1/2010

- The Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH), Internationally Funded Projects Implementation Unit (IFPIU), now invites contractors to submit their sealed bids for the construction of the road projects mentioned above. A post-qualification will be conducted for the participating bidders which will include the following:
 - Past experience in similar nature projects
 - Minimum average annual construction work turnover for the last 5 years = US\$12,500,000.0
 - Minimum cash flow and liquid assets=US\$4,500,000.0
- Interested bidders may obtain the required bidding documents upon submission of a written application and payment of the above mentioned non-refundable fee, plus the courier charges for overseas delivery of US\$150, during working Hours (8:00 Am: 2:00 Pm, Sat-Wed) from the following address:

Ministry of Public Works and Highways
Internationally Funded Projects Implementation Unit (IFPIU)
3rd floor, MPWH Head Office Bilding
Nuqum Area, Next to Berlin Public Park
Phone: 00967-01545164
Fax: 00967-01-546134
Email: ifrpiu@yemen.net.ye
Sana'a, RoY

- Interested Bidders can inspect bidding documents before purchasing during working hours until one week before the bid opening date, at the same address shown above.
- Sealed and properly addressed bids should be delivered to the above address, on or before 10:00 AM of the specified date, and shall be accompanied by:
 - A bid Guarantee for the amount shown in the above table and valid for 180 days from the date of bid opening.
 - A valid tax card (for local contractors)
 - Valid registration and Classification Certificate for local Contractors in road construction.
- Bids will be publicly opened in the MPWH-IFPIU office on the date and time specified above at the presence of the bidders/or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position within its office.

Post Title: Donors Relations Assistant
Duration: one year renewable
Duty Station: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

- Support in the development and implementation of Resource Mobilization (RM) strategy.
- Support in enhancing regular and results based donor reporting and the tracking of donor contributions in projects.
- Support in knowledge building and knowledge sharing
- Assisting in the development of RM strategy.
- Assist in the assessment of CO opportunities for resource mobilisation and identification and mapping of current and potential donors.
- Compiling and updating partner profiles specific to various donor countries to assist in identifying potential cooperation areas.
- Share information with the programme teams and senior management on donor-specific partnership policies and conditions
- Assist in ensuring compliance with partner requirements, including systematised and quality reporting to donors.
- Assist in the development of reporting templates and sharing guidelines on preparing reports.
- Maintain complete records of donor agreements, reports and other relevant documentation.
- In liaison with relevant HQ units and the team leader, draft and revise agreements with donors and assist in the negotiation of agreements between CO and partners.
- Assist in tracking and monitoring donor contributions and cost sharing agreements and when requested assist in identifying possible ways of utilising unspent funds.
- Assist in the development of annual evaluation plan for the CO.
- Assist in undertaking periodic field visits to projects to provide assessments of progress achieved and ensure compliance and timely execution of the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) plans by the various projects.
- Assist Advisory Team Leader in the monitoring of Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) implementation.
- Ensure the transparency of, and public access to, all evaluation reports especially by stakeholders and donors to promote their consideration in decision making.
- Upload required documents on the Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC).
- Assist in distilling evaluation findings and lessons for dissemination.
- Share information with the Programme Unit on M&E policies and guidelines.

Qualification:

- Secondary Education with specialized certification in Business or Public Administration, Economics or Social Sciences.
- University Degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics, and Social Sciences desirable.
- 2-3 years relevant experience at the national or international level is required.

Only Online Applications will be accepted.

- Interested candidates are requested to apply online via our website at <http://jobs.undp.org/>
- Response will only be made to short listed candidates.
- The deadline for receiving applications is Monday, 30 November 2009.
- UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply



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وكافة موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز

Isn't Obama afraid of being hit with shoes?

By: Mubeen Esam
Mibo_time@yahoo.com

American president Barack Obama is a liar and a deceptive doll. When Obama, 47 years old, became the president of the United States, the Gaza Strip was assaulted and its infrastructure almost totally destroyed without pity, as the Israeli army waged a brutal war against it. It was a hint that Obama won't be able to oppose Israel.

Obama is feckless and he cannot make effective decisions. I think he realized that he was wrong when he promised to change this world peacefully. He isn't the only one who rules America and the world; the American Congress rules both based on America's interests, so Obama's dreams and promises may take concrete effect. Mr. Obama is restricted by American interests and policy which can't be completely changed by his own personal goals. America's affairs must be protected first, followed by those of the other countries.

I'm sure that Obama regards the Arabs and Muslims as children, so he gives them childish promises. He certainly proved that he can't achieve the promises he gave during the last American election, which include making a nuclear-free world, solving the economic crisis, trying to end the wars all over the world, making a disarmed but independent Palestinian state, protecting the Somali coasts, disarming Iran and North Korea, and penalizing Israel if it refuses to make peace with the Palestinians.

He was too lucky when he made millions of people all over the world hope and look forward to a nice future but I'm afraid that he will face the music if he doesn't make better changes in this world. Obama succeeded in making us feel that his policy will be completely different from the previous president, George W. Bush, but it seems that there is no difference between them. Both presidents are dictators. In my opinion, the only difference that makes Mr. Bush better than Mr. Obama is that Bush's actions speak louder than his words while Obama's words speak louder than his actions. I mean that when Mr. Bush wanted to occupy a country, he carried

out that immediately without any reluctance. But Obama is sly.

The Noble Peace Prize given to Mr. Obama divided people around the world into two parties: those that opposed his being given this award, and those who congratulated him for it. It's too early to give Obama such an award. He hasn't yet carried out any concrete changes around the world or even to America's foreign policy. He just gives us promises and pointless words, but when will these promises become reality? Arabs and Muslims should be aware of this smart president, Obama, who still uses Bush's policy and completes what Bush built but in a sentimental way. Bush's policy aimed at damaging Arabs and Muslims from the beginning of his term but Obama's policy aims at damaging them at the end of his term.

If Obama wants to be more effective, he has to make different policies from all the previous American presidents. We should recognize that Obama isn't Muslim, so how can we bank on him to solve our problems? We should not be deceived by Obama's talk which is full of sympathy and love to the Arabs and Muslims; that helps him pretend to build a nuclear-free world. So, he must be given a Noble Peace Prize for his most attractive speech. Dear readers, you must know that Obama is a liar because he neither has knowledge about the policy or even the economy, he is only interested in human rights. He does not appreciate the importance of being the president of the strongest country in the world.

How can he be given a Noble Peace Prize while he's staging two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? He failed to solve the Israeli-Palestinian crisis after an entire year, he couldn't stop Israeli settlements in the West Bank, he couldn't change America's foreign policy towards Arabs and Muslims, he failed to protect the Somali coasts from the pirates, and he has not closed down Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay. I think he was given this prize in order to embarrass him.

Moreover, Mr. Obama doesn't deserve this honor and he admitted that because he hasn't realized any of his promises. In my opinion, he intends to do worse actions than what Bush did in this world. This honor will only increase the challenges against Obama.

Let us ask Mr. Obama, "When will you be able to make all your promises come true? Were you serious when you promised the people all over the world to change the world for the better?" I think Obama is a double-faced fox, and the Arabs should not trust him as they did when he became the president. Mr. Obama was in over his head when he became the president of the United States because he didn't appreciate the gravity of the president's position. It seems that he has now realized the responsibilities and commitments of his current job. In fact, we discovered that Obama has no particular plans or policy to follow. It seems that he filled us with a lot of imaginative dreams and hopes. Now, after he won, I think he's searching for a way out.

You should definitely know that any American president can't put any other nation's interests before their own. He must care for his own country's interests first. Each American president must invest and utilize the other countries' resources to serve his country's material needs. I think this prize given to Mr. Obama is to remind him of his great promises in the field of human rights, and the social and economic development of the United States. Every American president who was given this prize, except Obama, deserved it because they actually protected human rights and made this world safer. But what did Obama do? It's the first time prize has been given to a person as a result of his lovely intentions and great promises but not for his actions and achievements.

Finally, I ask all the Arabs, Muslims and our leaders to be aware of Mr. Obama and his pointless ways and aimless plans to spread peace all over the Arab world and the Mideast region. I also ask the American nation to demand that Obama resign because he has his head in the clouds when he promises to change the world for the better one and solve the problems inside America or outside it. How can he do so when he can't make decisive decisions? Mr. Obama, try to transform your promises into actions because we are fed up with words that make us dream and waste our time uselessly. Your silly promises and excessive speech let the dire situations all over the world drag on. Mr. Obama, there is no more time to joke.

A friend

By: Ahmed Almualemi
ahmed_almualemi@yahoo.com

Have you ever thought of the meaning of the term «friend»? I bet you have not, unless you have gotten deeply shocked by fake ones.

That is the time when you would consider thinking about this word.

Can you honestly tell me what the standards you have set for your friends are? If you have not, think now about what conditions you have in place for someone who wants to be your friend. How can you make sure that she or he is a real friend, and not a fair-weather friend? How can you guarantee that you will not be deceived by him or her?

It is not that easy to get a loyal trusted life-long friend. Nevertheless, no one is able to continue struggling on without a close friend who shows you the right way when you are about to stray.

A friend is not a normal person whom you meet coincidentally on the street, or through random daily events. She or he is someone with whom you share your

dreams, achievements, and secrets and who never blurs them out. She or he is someone who stands by you in the face of adversity, gives you full support when you are in need of it, and helps get you through difficult situations. She or he is someone who lifts your spirits, cheers you up, and never lets you down. When she or he is away from you, you think that your soul has gone, and you are just an empty body. A friend is a very vital element of your success, and her or his role, which she or he plays in your life, is of paramount importance to you.

Replacing a best friend is not a simple process, and as opportunity only knocks once, you cannot have more than one good friend. This is not a theory, it is a conclusion obtained experimentally. How can a human body have two hearts inside; it would not work. It was my destiny to lose my close friend, and I am really not complaining. I am just not satisfied with what is happening to me. I have tried to get only a smile from others. However, cruel life deprives me even of this small request. It is really difficult to feel that you are alone, or to be surrounded by so-called friends.

Losing rebel south of Yemen

By: Monassar Mohssin Al-sabahi
Monser_2009@hotmail.com

Oh, losing rebel, south of Yemen,
You can't be never brave,
You lead that blind rebellion,
To dig your own grave.
With whom do you fight?
Caring the appointing gun,
To shot no enemy, no target,
But your brother and your son.

If you die, you do with shame,
No cry, no tears for you,
Buried with cursed name,
To hell you must go.

Along with your own wrong beliefs,
You have for destroying Yemen,
To be the master, the other slaves,
To separate Sana'a from Aden.

You work in my lovely country,
For foreign enemies as a spy,
I will fight you till victory,
It does not matter if I die.

Somalis' impact on Yemen: Response to Mr. Murtada's article

By: Abdirahman Nageye
cmn_farah@yahoo.com

Demonstrating its timeless hospitality, Yemen is only Gulf country that has opened its doors to Somali refugees fleeing the mayhem militants started in 1991.. The hospitality has benefited Yemen as well as the Somalis who survive the infamous journey across the Gulf of Aden. Yet (insert first name here) Murtada's article, which the Yemen Times published on the twelfth of October, painted a simplistic picture of Somali refugees taking jobs from Yemen's economy, using improper Arabic, and benefiting from corrupt immigration

authorities giving away Yemeni passports.

Murtada's points are illusory, and as a Somali refugee in Yemen I will cite examples demonstrating Somalis' positive impact on Yemen,

As for the economy: sixty percent of Somalis in Yemen receive financial support from their relatives in the US, Canada, EU, and Australia. Refugees spend that money in Yemen, adding capital and consumers to expand the economy. Minimal numbers of Somali teenagers earn money washing cars or in other low-paying positions. Their employment in low-end jobs does not affect Yemenis' opportunities in the general job market.

Regarding language: Somalis speak

Arabic with pride. In fact, for many Somali children born in Yemen, the Yemeni dialect is their first, and sometimes only, language. Many never learned Somali.

In closing, I address Murtada's confusion about Somalis obtaining Yemeni passports. Many Somalis are born in Yemen to parents who fled across the Gulf of Aden; they are Yemeni citizens. Other children are born to a Somali parent and a Yemeni parent; they are Yemeni citizens.

Murtada substitutes relevant information for erroneous opinions. Reading statistics and spending time with Somalis presents a more balanced view.

God bless Yemen and its unity.

Jasmine - part 2

By: Marwa Abubaker Al-Maisari
marwaalmaisari@gmail.com

The next couple of weeks were pleasurable for the whole family. Poor Jomana kept remembering Samer every once in a while, wishing he was there. Jasmine always wondered what is Samar like now and whether or not he remembers her. She knew she had never forgotten him and she often thought of him. Jasmine thought if he was here they would have been best friends, she might have even confessed to him about her true feelings about Daniel.

As the family prepared to leave back to Los Angeles, Jasmine scuttled to her aunt's room to pick Samer's address that she had wrote the night before. She tucked it in her jeans and hurried to kiss her aunt good-bye.

"Oh, I can't believe my little child is leaving us, I sure will miss you a whole lot, dear." Mother sobbed as Jasmine was packing her back bag. "Mom please, stop! Or I swear I'll start weeping like a baby. Please, you're not making it any easier." "Come on honey, she'll visit on holidays and she'll write she's even in the same city, so no need to worry. Jasmine is a big girl and we need to give her our support." Father tried to comfort her.

With a few tears, Jasmine arrived to campus. "Wow!" she exclaimed. It was a new and different world that she had never seen before and was eager to find out more. She looked around and tried to search for a familiar face, but with no luck she picked her schedule and wondered around. Many familiar rooms she found such as the library, the gym, the cafeteria and class rooms, but only triple the size. Jasmine was finally tired, so she decided to search for her room and when she finally got there, she realized she had a room mate. "Hi there I'm Maria. So I guess you're my room mate." Jasmine was surprised but thought Maria was friendly. "I guess so. Hi I'm Jasmine."

"Well, get yourself comfy. It's a fine room."

"So where you are from Maria and what are you taking?" Jasmine was eager to find out more about her friendly roommate.

"I am originally from Spain, but I was born in the States. I am taking Ancient Arts. You?"

"What a coincident, am also taking Ancient Arts. That means we will be

classmates as well." A tone of excitement filled Jasmine's voice. "I am originally from Yemen, and I was also born in the States."

The two girls exchanged smiles and continued getting to know each other, until they both were defeated with drowsiness.

The next morning Jasmine and Maria wondered around the campus, trying to figure out more about this new world of theirs. The two girls seemed to get along perfectly and before they knew it, they became the best of friends.

With each passing day, Jasmine thought of Daniel. Wished she could just glimpse at him even from far. Wondered were could he be now, is he in college, does he think of her? Does he even remember her? But all those thoughts would let her down, since she doesn't have the answer to any of them.

Jasmine was going to spend her summer vacation at her parents'. She really had missed them, they wrote to her and she had told them all about University life and how she missed being pampered back when she was home but now she hardly get a decent meal because of how hard she has been studying.

Exams were around the corner, and Jasmine had been dipped in her books day and night. She had the room all by herself since Maria was hardly around. Either at a date, a party, or just hanging around. Maria understood Jasmine's behavior towards dating and partying, she respected her religion and that was the one of many reasons Jasmine liked to stay friends with her. Maria even liked the thought that it was inappropriate for her to date guys.

The two girls had a great year together and exams were great. As each one of them was packing for summer, Jasmine offered Maria to spend two days at her parent's before she goes to her parent's. Jasmine's parents were thrilled to see their daughter and they welcomed their guest. The Al-Mayasi has made a great impression with their Yemeni style of living. Maria loved the food, the customs and the generosity of the family. They all had wonderful times.

The two parents were glad that their child is home. Jasmine was really attached to home and the family atmosphere, she hoped that one day she will go back to Yemen and find out what her home town looked like even though Yemen was actually brought to her by her parents' strong integrity and devotion to their country. And surly Jasmine had in-

herited that from them.

One early Saturday morning, Jasmine woke up on the sound of the mail's popping in. She went down and picked the fliers and there was only one letter and it had her name on it. "I haven't received mail for a long time. Who could that be?" Jasmine thought out loud.

As she opened the letter her eyes opened wide, the letter was from Daniel!!!!

Dear Jas,

I hope you are doing well. How's University with you? Nah, I probably already know the answer to that.... GREAT! Right?

Jasmine in case you are wondering about me...I am not in college or in university... I lost my job at K-mart and so far am unable to stick at one job... My life is a living HELL and I don't know what to do. My father doesn't contact me anymore and I don't even have his address.

Sorry am probably boring you with all this but Jasmine I swear to god I don't even know why am writing this to you. But all I know I need you be by my side...I need a real friend!

Hope to hear from you.

Yours,

Daniel Bengemin

Jasmine stood with astonishment, her feet were stoned to the ground. She read the letter over a hundred times. Could this happen? Could this actually be the start of something? Jasmine tried her best to stay calm and not jump to conclusion. So she replied back as a FRIEND. After almost a thousand drafts, she finally managed to write:

Dear Daniel,

I can't even tell you how happy I am to get in touch with you. Am flattered you are asking for my friendship. About college you can join any time though what you should do is get your life back on track.

Try to find what is really important to you in life and let it take you to as far as it can. You're a smart guy Dan; you just need to think clearly. Am sure your father is also searching for you, just don't give up, keep on trying.

Best of Luck and don't you ever hesitate to write when ever you feel like it. Below is my university address. As you know summer is over.

Yours,

Jasmine Al-Mayasi

The bad shape of our curricular books

By: Fares Nabeel
faresnabeel29@yahoo.com

If anything is good about schooling for junior learners, it is the beautifully-illustrated books which attract the young learners. Normally, these books should be attractive, clear, and with sharp text on glossy paper, and of course, colorful. But look at our school's books and you will be dismayed to see how much carelessness and indifference is shown in the design and print of them.

Our poor junior school pupils (even

those who are admitted to private schools), will have a bad experience with these books, which are designed and printed by the Ministry of Education. One single look, and anyone will be convinced that these books are not worth their price, concerning the print quality and clarity, these books are horribly printed, and a great deal of negligence and inconsideration is shown throughout the pages: bad printing quality, spelling mistakes, hazy and small pictures, smeared text, and low paper quality.

I wonder how the ministry of educa-

tion could produce or accept such curriculum books, which do not meet the least standard of adequacy- unless there is some fishy business going in the ministry. This claim is not baseless, since corruption is deeply-rooted in all governmental institutions.

Now, if we are not to provide our children with the best of everything in their tender ages, we are actually inculcating in them the sense of negligence and indifference. By doing that, we are killing the budding talents they have within themselves. Please give our children decent books.

Places of worship are not for examining political affairs

By: Majed AL-Kotamy
Majedahmed1985@yahoo.com

Amongst the loud voices and obstreperous altercations in Al-Noor mosque, I found myself obliged to write this article in order to shed light on those potentially dangerous consequences resulting from using places of worship for reflecting political affairs, and questioning the existing Yemeni situation.

"This person will not be allowed to ascend that pulpit, nor to preach in this mosque again. Henceforth in this mosque, Friday sermon must be from the sermonic books. We need not include any others," said a sheik Phayz al-Ashmory, sheik of Harit Al-Noor-located in the center of Amran City-resenting the preacher for examining political problems and disclosing some transgressions taking place under all governmental roofs throughout the governorate.

In fact, sheik Phayz does not have the authority to allow or disallow preach-

ers to ascend the pulpit for addressing worshipers in the mosque. Who enables him to decide what preachers should talk about and what they should not? Sheik al-Ashmory is mainly the person responsible for solving people's problems in a small area according to traditions and laws. In other words, to make reconciliation between two groups, not to create problems and arguments in God's houses or in other places, because of personal reasons.

He could create a rebellion in the mosque between GPC supporters and Islah followers from one side, and his family and the family of the preacher from the other side.

On the other hand, the preacher also was in the wrong. He gives himself the right to disclose and reflect on the policy of Yemen in a holy place and in front complicated people, and also during a critical time for Yemen. It's better for the good preacher to advise people, to teach them what is good and what is bad in their life and how to serve Yemen in this complicated period of time. It is not a suitable time to incite people

to stand against the government.

In this time, there are a lot of outlets through which to express your feelings. You can hold meetings, correspond with the press, meet influential people, or stage a demonstration to express your anger. Lets leave the mosque for comfort, not for sedition and to refer this matter to the competent authorities, such as the Ministry of Waqf and National Guidance.

Let's take our mosques out of all private conflicts, partial affiliations, doctrinal differences, and personal interests as well. Let's build Yemen together hand by hand, heart by heart, and to bury the hatchet of the past. We are indeed the sons of modern Yemen. The sons who left the vanities behind them, the sons who not exploit the pulpits to incite people to stand against Yemeni unity or the great national achievements, and the sons who do not create sedition due to personal causes. Let's build, not ruin. Let's reconstruct, not destroy. Let's gather, not dissipate and remember forever that, "No using pulpits as a mass media for anyone or for anything".



لإعلاناتكم

يرجى التواصل مع قسم
الإعلانات والتسويق على

رقم ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣

تحويلة ٢٠٢/٢١١

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Yemenis reject plastic jambiya

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Attractive, Smooth, and shiny almost like the real one, only people who work in the Jambiya or Yemeni dagger profession know it's fake. The plastic Jambiya found its way to shop shelves in the old Sana'a city.

"It is a distortion to the Yemeni jambia handcraft," said Mohammad Al-Saiqal who has been making Jambiyas for more than 30 years.

It is the handle- the most important part of the Jambiya- which has been manufactured from plastic. People who work the industry say it threatens the name of the Jambiya, as it is easily broken and loses its value as a traditional handcraft when it comes from a chemical formula.

He explained how this plastic handled Jambiya is fragile and may be broken while it is still in transport.

The Jambiya with a plastic handle costs between YR 3000 and 20,000 (UD25-100), a little more expensive than ones with the kark or cow-horn handles.

Ali Saleh Al-Mu'fa, trader in the old city of Sana'a said he prefers the Jambiya with Kark (horn) handle rather than the plastic Jambiya or the so called Chinese Jambiya. "The Chinese jambiya looks nicer than the Jambia made of cow horn and it may look like the handle is made of rhino horn, but it easily breaks if it falls."

About a year ago, the plastic Jambiya came to the market and nobody except its inventors knew it is made of plastic. People were deceived by the nice looking handle because the materials used in making



The Plastic Jambiya is not imported from China as many people believe, it is made in Yemen

it added transparent colors which make it look like original rare rhino-horn.

In 1992, a fatwa (religious decree) was issued in Yemen saying that killing rhinos for their horns, skin or other purposes is prohibited. At the end of the same year the Ministry of Supply and Trade issued a decree stating that trading of rhino horn that has not been processed into Jambiya handles is prohibited within Yemen. The two decrees have been effective since. The United Nations Environment Programmer's Special Envoy for rhino conservation has welcomed the decrees.

The first quantities of plastic Jambiyas produced were sold in the Jambiya market in the old city of Sana'a as original Jambiyas. "At that time one jambiya of this type cost between YR 150 to 600 thousand (UD750-3,000)," said Al-Mu'fa. "People discovered that they are made of plastic and now the prices are going down."

The Plastic Jambiya is not imported from China as many people believe, it is made in Yemen. The most important part of the Jambiya is the head or the handle and price of the jambiya depends on what this handle is made of and how old it is; the older the jambiya, the more money it costs. Jambiyas made of rhinos horns cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"An Association can be established to support and protect the profession," said Mohammad Abdullah from old Sana'a city, who has been working as a jambiya craftsman for 10 years. "Jambiya businesses have started to collapse. There should be

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Aden: Tel: +967 2 244295, Fax: +967 2 246237, Mukalla: Tel: +967 5 350997, Fax: +967 5 350529.

an action to stop this because it is just damaging our business," he said, referring to negative impacts of importing cheap instruments from China instead of making them in the local market.

He gave example: the instruments he uses in his work to make Jambiyas used to be manufactured by blacksmiths in the nearby smithery market, but importing them caused many blacksmiths to be unemployed and many shops to be closed.

Abdullah has also expressed his rejection to the one-piece jambiyas for children imported from China and flooding the market.

The plastic Jambia handle doesn't need a lot of work like the one made of cow horn. The money made from making them is the same, according to Abdullah who complained about the recession in the market and the lack of materials, especially during Eid seasons.

"Jambiyas ready for sale stay in the shop a week or more before been sold," Abdullah said pointing to three rows of 15 Jambiyas hanged on his shop wall."

Many of Jambiya dealers said that the plastic jambiya was invented in Al-Mahabisha of Hajja governorate to the north of Yemen.

The material used for making the plastic jambiya comes with water-like supplement imported in jerry cans from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates or China. The material is mixed with other materials like paints, henna or turmeric for color. The water-like supplement is added to the mixture to help make it solid after fifteen minutes of pouring it into jambiya handle-shaped gypsum molds. The 20 liter jerry can costs about YR20, 000 (UD100) and it enough for producing about 100 handles, according to Fawaz Al-Haimi 28-year-old Jambiya dealer in Sana'a.

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