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Inside:

5

The complexity of human rights in the Arab world

7

Around the world in pictures

12

Yemen to launch first desalination project

Yemeni Jewish community demands accelerating execution of murderer

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, June 30 — About 20 Yemeni Jews protested Monday outside the Supreme Court building in Sana'a, demanding that it uphold the final sentence of the death penalty against a Yemeni man for killing a Jewish teacher in Amran in 2008.

Moshe Al-Nahari, a teacher and well-known figure in Yemen's Jewish community in Amran, was killed in the market by Abdulaziz Al -Abdi, a former military pilot, in December 2008.

Minister of Justice Ghazi Al-Aghbari met the representatives of the Jewish community in his office. Upon his request, the Jews submitted a written demand to the President of the Yemen Supreme Court, Judge Essam Al-Samawi, to accelerate the case, according to Ammar Al-Shami, Al-Nahari's lawyer.

The trial will take time, due to the large number of issues considered by the Supreme Court, Al-Nahari's relatives were told at the Supreme Court. Al-Shami believes that this case shouldn't wait longer.

«It is a public opinion case,» said Al-Shami. «The Public is awaiting



Masha lowered into his grave by both Jews and Muslims who attended the burial to bid him their last farewell in December 2008.

the sentence, because the murder was a crime against society and the Jewish community.»

«He killed my husband, so he deserves to die,» said Lawza Soliman, Al-Nahari <s widow, adding that her family is living in fear after the murder of her husband. They have received threats from the murderer's relatives demanding that she either accept blood money for her husband's death or face death for her and her family.

In March 2009, the Criminal Specialized Court sentenced Al -Abdi to pay about 27,500 US dollars in blood money for the family of the murder

victim. Medical reports proved that Al-Abdi was mentally unstable. The initial verdict was rejected by the relatives of Al-Nahari and the Jewish minority in Yemen. In June of the same year, the Court of Appeals sentenced Al-Abdi with the death penalty.

Al -Abdi has admitted to the murder and said before the judge that he killed Al-Nahari after he had warned all Yemeni Jews to convert to Islam or leave the country.

Up to 270 Yemeni Jews are estimated to live in Amran and Sana'a. More than 200 left Yemen to immigrate to the US and Israel after Al-Nihari's murder.

New agreement to end clashes in Sa'ada

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANAA, 30 June — The government has recently signed an agreement with the Houthis to implement six steps toward stopping the war in Sa'ada governorate in the north, according to a statement by Rashad Al-Alimi, Minister of the Local Administration and the deputy of the Prime Minister for Defense Affairs.

According to the Saba News Agency, Al-Alimi, who visited Sa'ada this week, said that his visit comes after President Saleh ordered that he be updated on the situation in Sa'ada and on the needs of the people there.

Al-Alimi is also to discuss the ways to implement the six step agreement signed by Ali Al-Qaisi, the representative of Saudi Arabia, and Yosif Fishi and Ali Naser Qar'a, the representatives of the Houthis. The agreement which was signed on June 21, 2010 is meant to check the implementation of the six factors in Al-Malaheet and on the Saudi border.

The six steps are the mechanism that they hope will end the war between the Yemeni government and the Houthis in Sa'ada, which started in 2004 and continued intermittently for six years.

The six factors in ending the war are a cease fire, opening the roads, removing landmines, that Houthis stop hiding in the mountains, submitting areas in

Sa'ada held by Houthis to the government, and not penetrating the Saudi border as well as releasing all detainees.

Houthis have accused the government of going back on amnesty promises made by President Ali Abdullah Saleh on 22 May on the 20th anniversary of the Yemeni unification.

According to local media reports, fewer than 800 of the more than 3,000 prisoners believed to be covered by the amnesty have been released, Amnesty International published in their website. Saleh had announced an amnesty for all imprisoned southern separatists and Houthi rebels in the north during a speech to commemorate unification in 1990.

“Instead of releasing Houthis according to President Saleh's amnesty agreement, security authorities in the government are launching new campaigns to arrest our men,» Abdulmalenk Al-Houthi said.

Al-Houthi said that the security forces arrested a couple of people in the area of Al-Mazrak, Sa'ada governorate, a few days ago.

However, according to Amnesty International, Interior Ministry official Nisari countered these allegations, saying security patrols were ordered to arrest any citizens bearing arms and to prevent their movements between governorates in order to maintain security and stability.

“Houthis don't want peace... They are using government security measures to restrict the movement of armed men as a pretext for them to breach the truce,» Nisari said. “They don't want displaced families to return home.”

In a related situation, security sources from Mareb and Al-Jawf governorates said that a group of people said to be Houthi supporters from Aal Saleh established a checkpoint in Majzar district in Sa'ada and settled in tents in the area.

According to the media center in the Interior Ministry, one of Sa'ada's sheikhs asked this group to remove their checkpoint, but they ignored him as well as other Sheikhs who tried to solve the problem peacefully.

In Harf Sufian, Amran governorate, dozens of tribal gunmen and Houthis were injured as they exchanged fire last Sunday.

According to tribal sources, the gunmen following parliamentarian Bin Uzair had clashes with Houthis last Sunday.

Houthis, however, said that the gunmen fired at a car going to Sa'ada. A man and a woman were injured as a result, and people targeted the Houthis, assuming they were behind the attack.

Houthis added that this is the ninth attack by Bin Uzair's gunmen against them. Houthis accused the gunmen of closing the road and firing at their supporters.

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and that of exported shipments so as to arrive at a reasonable export fee on fish.

“I believe the ministry does not play its role in helping fishermen as it is only active in Sana'a, while its offices across the country are busy with collecting money,» said Nasr, citing the killing of Yemeni fishermen by Eritrean marine forces and 400 boats that have been seized by Eritrea.

Yemen Times later learned that the trucks had been released by a directive from the Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defense Affairs, Rashad Al-Alimi. But as the exports will reach

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Yemen sentences drug traffickers to death

SANA’A, June 29 (Xinhua) — A security court in Yemen on Tuesday sentenced eight men, including thee Africans, to death after convicting them of drug trafficking, and separately sent six Somali pirates to prison, state-run Saba news agency reported.

The ruling issued by the Hadramout-based court, southeast of the capital Sanaa, read that the eight traffickers, including a Tanzanian, a Kenyan, and a Somali, were found guilty of trying to smuggle 1.68 kg of drugs.

Separately, the same security court handed down a sentence of 12 years in prison on six Somalis convicted of piracy in the Gulf of Aden, according to Saba.

“The six convicted Somali pirates will be deported to their homeland af-

ter serving their sentences,” the verdict cited by Saba read.

The court also ordered the confiscation of their boat and weapons, Saba said. However, the report did not say when these pirates were arrested.

The Gulf of Aden, off the southern coast of Yemen, has the highest risk of piracy in the world. About 25,000 ships pass every year through the maritime trade route that connects the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

Similarly, a Yemeni court last Saturday upheld death sentences against two Pakistanis convicted of drug trafficking, state media reported.

“Salim Dawod Abdulrahim and Imam Bakhs Eyepub Yakoub received death penalty after the court convicted them of smuggling 1,695 kilograms of

hashish into Yemen through its coastal territories,” official Saba news agency cited the court’s verdict as saying.

It said two other Pakistani convicts “Ghulam Jan Wali Mohamed and Mohamed Sadiek Ahmed Badi were sentenced to 25-year jail terms for involving in facilitating the drug trafficking into the Yemeni territories.”

According to Yemeni official media, the appeal court also upheld the acquittal sentences to the remaining seven Pakistani defendants for lack of evidence.

A total of 11 Pakistani fishermen were arrested in May 2008 together with 1,695 kilograms of hashish smuggled from Pakistan in Yemen’s territorial waters. Their trial proceedings began last December.

Yemeni women take the reigns in coffee farming

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

TAIZ, June 28 – At the first crack of dawn, young and old women from the Misrah district of Taiz, Yemen, start off on their daily journey to pick ripe, beautifully red coffee cherries. They then carry the cherries back to the village in bamboo baskets, singing as they walk.

On the roof, they carefully, almost religiously, spread the cherries to allow them to absorb the warm morning sun, while they attend to the demands of the day.

These women are part of a community-based organization called Talook. The organization was established as a charity in 2001 in order to build the capacity of local women for varied forms of employment and to help them improve their economic conditions.

Through investing in coffee farms, which were present in the area but neglected for the past few years due to water problems, Talook hopes to accomplish this goal.

“Most of the other villages have abandoned the coffee plantation and are

now growing other cash crops that don’t need much water or work. We are still loyal to this beautiful tree and are working hard through this organization to provide local farmers with the tools and techniques they need for better quality coffee,” said Fatima, a young woman of 20 who heads the Talook organization.

Local women take pride in their coffee. Girls as young as ten years old put in effort to improve the quality of the coffee produced from Misrah district. Girls and women carry water jerry cans on their heads and on donkeys and fetch water from the neighboring spring in order to water the coffee trees.

“The women are the main laborers working in the coffee farms, as most of the men have migrated to urban areas, leaving the farms to the women,” said Mirvat Haidar, Senior Officer at the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Support (SMEPS) agency affiliated with the Yemeni Social Fund for Development. Among its other projects, SMEPS works to empower the farmers, retailers and traders of the coffee industry in Yemen.

SMEPS also sponsored representa-



tives of Talook to showcase their coffee at the Biofach exhibition in Germany last year. In addition, the agency has created networking channels for this women’s organization to reach local coffee traders and market their products.

In order to tell the world about Yemeni coffee and to provide local Yemeni farmers, such as those affiliated with the Talook organization, the chance to network with international coffee companies, SMEPS will be holding the second international conference on Arabica Naturals in December this year in Sana’a, the capital of Yemen.

Child care scheme helps refugee women become breadwinners

ADEN, 28 June (IRIN) - Mohammed Abdullah’s voice reverberates around the small rooms of a child care centre. He sings a well known Somali children’s song about a rabbit that was told to stay at home whilst his parents went to work. But the rabbit did not heed their advice and left home - only to be eaten by a monkey.

The child care centre, in the home of Saida Ahmed Omar, hosts between 30-40 children of working mothers, and is one of 15 in Basateen, a slum area of Aden, home to about 40,000 Somalis and Yemenis with Somali ties.

“My mum works as a cleaner,” said Mohammed, 10. “My Dad sometimes washes cars, but it is Mum who brings us money and food.” Whilst his father earns 2,000 YR (about US\$8.8) per month, his mother earns 15,000 YR (about \$66).

In Somali communities in southern Yemen, women are increasingly becoming the family breadwinners. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNCHR) Global Report 2009, there were 161,500 Somali refugees in Yemen.

The NGO Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), a partner organization of UNHCR and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), is the chief architect of the child care centres which started in 2007. They are located in the homes of mothers who volunteer to look after other people’s children.

“We provided a system and teachers. The centres are provided by the women themselves,” said SHS spokesperson Nada Ali.

Each centre looks after about 30 children supervised by three teachers. “We have divided the children by age and created activities to match,” said Ali. “That way children can both be looked after when their mothers work and at the same time receive some education.”

Stage one for the 1-4 year-olds is play time with toys. In stage two 4-6 year-olds learn to hold pens and spend time drawing. Stage three for children over



Children receive a lesson in one of the 15 child care centres in Basateen, a slum area of Aden, while their mothers are working

six provides basic education covering the alphabet, English, Arabic, Islamic teaching and songs. The scheme provides school uniforms and bags, and extracurricular activities, for children in school.

The child care centres look after children aged 0-12. “I earn 100 YR (44 cents) per child per day whilst the mothers work,” said Saida. “If the mothers can’t afford it I often just look after their children for free.”

“I used to tie my children to the bed when I went to work,” said Kammar Ahmed, a mother of three in one of the centres. “Many women do that so the children do not get hurt by playing with the gas or electricity.”

Kammar sells clothes on the busy streets of Basateen earning 500-600 YR (\$2-2.5) a day. Her husband left her so she is the sole provider. “Without the child care centre I would have to tie up

my children every day,” she said.

Role reversal

Noora Osman works as a housekeeper and has three children; the youngest is three months old. “Before I heard about the child care centres I had to bring the youngest child to work,” she said. However, the owner of the house where she cleaned asked her not to and she almost had to quit her job. “My baby was too small to be in the house without supervision.”

She giggles at the suggestion that her husband who is unemployed should look after the children while she works. “In our culture men don’t look after children,” she said and added: “I am tired of him; all he does is chew ‘qat’ [a mild narcotic leaf] while I work.”

With an unemployment rate of 35 percent in Yemen many Somali men find it difficult to find work. According to SHS’s Ali, refugee women often have to fend for themselves: “They have no parents with them and are alone here in Yemen. Where women can sew and do housekeeping, the men have great problems finding work - the woman often has to be the stronger one.”

Noora feels there is a growing divide between her and her husband: “I have noticed that I go to work in the morning, collect the children in the evening and then cook the food that I buy. He just sits there,” she said. “And this is where the problems start. I don’t feel he respects me.”

“In Somalia it is the men who work and we respect them - why do we not get respect when we are the ones working?” she asked.

Al-Qaida’s attacks in Yemen urge security to change tactics

By: Mohamed al-Azaki, Wang Qiuyun

SANAA, June 29 (Xinhua) — A suspected al-Qaida’s spectacular break into the highly-guarded intelligence headquarters in south Yemen raises questions on whether this reflects deterioration in the Yemeni security capability.

Some anti-terrorism analysts, however, said Yemen still held the necessary security capabilities to confront terrorist threats, but challenges also existed as the government’s long-year absence in the country’s remote and unruly regions was exploited by al-Qaida in extending its horizontal influence and recruitment there.

On June 19, a group of gunmen stormed the intelligence headquarters in the southern port city of Aden, for which the Yemeni government blamed al-Qaida.

Suspected Al-Qaida attack

“The attack that took place on Saturday, June 19, left seven security guards, three women and a child killed, which bears the characteristic of al-Qaida terrorist group,” the Yemeni supreme security committee said in a statement published by the country’s Defense Ministry’s website.

The gunmen, wearing security uniforms and armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, drove speed-

ily with two cars towards the main gate of the headquarters and broke into it, according to the Defense Ministry.

It is regarded as one of the boldest attack, by which al-Qaida, according to analysts, sought to discredit the capabilities of security apparatus after the group received painful blows in recent weeks.

“This tragic incident underlines the ability of al-Qaida to penetrate one of the most highly-guarded security buildings,” said analyst Mohammed Saif Haidar of the Sana’a-based Sheba Center for Strategic Studies.

“And this does not necessarily reflect a setback for the Yemeni security capabilities as security services carried out a large number of successful anti-terror operations during the past seven months and tightened the noose on the al-Qaida militants and inflicted heavy losses against them,” he said.

Saudi, U.S. contribute Yemeni security

Yemen’s Western allies, neighboring top oil exporter Saudi Arabia and the United States paid more attention to the Yemeni security affairs after the Yemen-based al-Qaida boasted that it was behind a failed attempt to destroy a U.S. passenger plane bound for Detroit in December, 2009.

“Acting on the advice of Washington and Riyadh, Sana’a is concentrating to cement ceasefire deal with Shiite

rebels in the north and is engaging in a peace-bound talks with secessionists in the south in order to focus on its war with al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP),” said colonel Mohammed Rajih, an analyst of the security affairs at the Interior Ministry.

“Such strategic, of course, is yielding good results and allowing the security services to enjoy a high level of readiness and preparedness until now,” said Rajih.

However, Haidar added “the attack targeted the intelligence headquarters in Aden indicates that the terrorist network does not concentrate its attacks on Western interests only, it pays more attention to the local governmental targets such as security and oil vital sectors.”

On June 13, the Yemeni ruling party’s website reported that al-Qaida group killed 37 senior army and security officers during the past three years.

Governmental absence intensifies Al-Qaida operatives

Yemen reels under high unemployment rate, which affects 34 percent of the youth in the country. Poverty also afflicts 40 percent of the population.

“Yemen’s poor economy and uncontrollable armed tribes helped generate al-Qaida operatives,” Abdulelah Haidar Shaiee, a Yemeni analyst on the security affairs and Islamic groups, said.

According to local media, in remote

areas across the impoverished Arab country, al-Qaida operatives could freely walk and use public phones and internet cafes to plan a series of strikes against western and local targets.

As a result, one of the main challenges that Yemeni security services faces now is to change tactics to match an increasingly dangerous atmosphere in its remote and unruly regions.

“Joint Yemeni-American anti-terror operations show that Yemen’s central government is largely absent in remote areas of Marib, Abyan, Shabwa and Arhab provinces,” said Shaiee.

“According to official documents,” Shaiee said, “the army shelled these provinces’ rebellious areas from the air but did not venture a ground invasion due to fear of the local resistance.”

“Residents in these regions do not recognize the legitimacy of the government, and reject its military presence there due to its long absence and lack of security, development and rule of law,” Shaiee explained.

The long-year government’s absence there was exploited by al-Qaida in helping extend its horizontal influence and recruitment over these areas.

Shaiee pointed out that the absence of the governmental authorities also “contributes to undermine the presence of security apparatus there which paved the way for the growth of the extremist groups.”

Earlier the Ministry of the Interior released information that it had attacked Al-Qaeda-based members in Mareb and that they had escaped to the governorates of Haja, Al-Jawf and Sa’ada in the north.

Houthis said that the escape of Al-Qaeda members to Sa’ada governorate was planned in order to create a situation in which it would be possible for the US to strike the governorate with air raids.

Continued from page 1

New agreement to end clashes in Sa’ada

At least 7 Houthi supporters were exposed to gunfire two weeks ago on Wednesday after the two cars they were in were attacked by soldiers from the military who were stationed at Al-Misyad.

According to Houthis, the ninth ambush by the military threatens the truce between Houthis and the government.

The spokesman of the Houthis said on

their website that this ambush is threatening the truce because it resembles the violations which caused the sixth phase of the war in Sa’ada in August 2009.

He added that these actions will add fuel to the fire and that the government should not consider attacking them during the truce.

A Houthi source in their Sa’ada office said that the Houthi information office organized activities last week in Sa’ada and Harf Sufian in Amran governor-

ate to spread awareness among people about the dangers of the Al-Qaeda wing based in Yemen. They said that the US claims that it wants to fight terrorism while it in fact uses the perceived threat of Al-Qaeda members to invade and establish occupations in Arab countries.

Houthis posted stickers and large signs in the main streets and neighborhoods containing phrases like: “Al-Qaeda is a tool used by the US to invade Arab and Muslim countries.”

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Show me what you wear, and I will tell you where you are from

By: Ali Saeed

In Yemen clothes are not just to cover the human body. The clothes of Yemenis indicate their area of origin, tribe and social prestige. But youth are gradually letting go of the clothing traditions of their ancestors. More and more, Yemeni youth feel that they cannot go to the workplace, school or college following the fashion of their grandfathers. Among boys and men, jeans are becoming more popular. However, some Yemenis still take pride in wearing the traditional dress of former generations. Ali Saeed took to the streets.



Hisham Abdu 'Aklan, 45, from Aden
"Our traditions in Aden is to wear a shirt with a futa. If I wore a thawb like Sana'ni men, I would feel naked."



Murad Mohamed Abdullah Al-Thibi, 22, from Abyan
"People in Abyan often dress like this, which is a shirt, a ma'waz and shawl. The price of the ma'waz ranges between YR2,000 to YR 5,000. If someone wears only a T-shirt with the ma'waz [without the shawl], it would look strange."



Abdulhameed Al-Rawhani, 55, from Mahwit
"Youth and old men in our area wear the thawb, coat and the jambiyya plus the head gear."



Abdullah Mohamed Ayed Quhza, 19, from the old city of Sana'a
"Many youth now dress like this, in a t-shirt and jeans. In the past it was shameful to wear such clothes, but now it is ok."



Abdulwahab Mansour, 30, from Hodeida
"Many youth now in Hodeida wear jeans especially those who live in the city."



Samed Ali Salem, 27, from Aden
"Youth in Aden often wear a sleeveless t-shirt with jeans."

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The complexity of human rights in the Arab world

Yousry Mustafa is a human rights advocate from Egypt. He has been working in this field for over ten years and fears that a lack of understanding about the complexities and history of the Arab world hinders the fight for human rights. This is evident in the so called club of international human rights activists whose membership depends on the number and prestige of workshops and conferences they attend, rather than their connection to the communities they are meant to be defending.

Interviewed by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

He moves his hands a lot when he is talking. When he is arguing, be ware of the hand movement as the passion he feels manifests itself clearly. But then again, show me one hot-blooded Arab that does not do that, or for that matter, any human rights activist who is not full of energy as they speak.

Yousry Mustafa comes from a small village south of Egypt. He is a Sa'idi by nature (a reference to Assai'd in the south of Egypt) but has lived in Cairo for the last twenty years. He has been to many countries around the world and has worked on human rights issues extensively.

Yousry has many interesting theories on human rights from both local and global perspectives. He talks about the relation between a global movement for human rights and local cultures, and which rights are resisted the most

ty is yet to be understood and accepted by Arab societies and leaders. There are several challenges coming from the Arab world against the notion of universal human rights. The relativists challenge the universalists claiming that human rights are either a western agenda, are politically motivated, not for all people or not suitable for all cultures, or simply that we don't need all these rights.

"People speak about human rights, the problem is getting the concept of all [human rights] for all [people and cultures] to be accepted and included. Things that are barriers to this happening have either to do with politics or cultural identity," he explained.

But this debate between the universalists and the relativists is not fixed. The point Yousry is trying to make is that the cultural identity of any nation is not unitary, nor is it static, and this is why negotiations continue as power relations change.

"Also let me ask you, who defines



Yousry Mustafa

dards, often stemming from changes in local cultures caused by the need of modernity.

Understanding human rights in the Arab world

Not all human rights are resisted equally. Yousry speculates that attitudes towards rights hardens as the rights become more personal and closer to a person's identity. Relativists can agree on economic and social rights. They can even come to terms with political and civil rights. But more personal rights such as women's rights, or those relating to religion and sexuality face high resistance and become points of conflict.

"The human rights situation in the Arab world today cannot be explained in black and white colors. There is a lot of grey area in between and analysts need to reflect on the region's history, its power relations and political scenarios before being able to come with some answers," he said. This is why it has become very difficult for outsiders to understand how some societies can be so open yet so closed, or how some people can enjoy some rights extensively while other rights are taboo.

A fanatic Islamic trend arose because of the failure of the main intellectual projects in the region such as Arab nationalism. There was a need to fill an emotional void. Governments need-

ed to keep societies busy, and so allowed their manipulation by being sucked into endless debates and conflicts where everyone was talking in the name of God.

"The problem is that there is no one definition of what Islam is, even in the

Who is Yousry Mustafa

Yousry is the Project Director of the GTZ Project: Promotion of Women's Rights in Egypt. From 1997 to 2003, he served as the Executive Director of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. He also served as a human rights consultant and coordinator for the Arab Human Rights Fund and the Women and Memory Forum, a Cairo-based NGO. His work experience in the Middle East includes several years of work with local, regional and international human rights NGOs and research institutions. He has published several writings and research papers on human rights, citizenship and democracy, and identity politics in the Arab region. Mr. Yousry holds a Master's degree in Environmental Pollution from Zagazig University, Egypt.

same society. In any country there are many Islam's and they are dependent on the degree of awareness, financial support from some areas and the democracy of the government. The conflict becomes not about Islam as a religion, but rather about Islam as a social way of living mainly controlling women and how they should behave. This is why you can find communist Muslims who claim to be secular yet they carry a very traditional lifestyle and apply many of the fundamental principles fanatic Islamists advocate," explained Yousry.

Rights and globalization

Human rights groups have played a role in the development of Arab cultures, especially via the media. Often some of the rights gained by women were achieved through high-level female champions advocating for them through the media. For example, Yousry believes that Egypt was able to

gain progress in women's rights to divorce because a group of rich Egyptian women took up the fight for this right and publicly demanded it. The campaign against female genital mutilation experienced a tremendous break through when Suzan Mubarak, the first lady of Egypt, put her weight behind it.

Yousry claims that globalization has created a club of international human rights technocrats whose validation is having been to a conference, workshop or some training whilst having little connection with the communities they are meant to be serving.

This detachment is dangerous, and while these activists may be recognized internationally, their real validation should come from the people or the communities they defend.

"If we survey the so called activists and see how much work they do with their community we will be shocked," he said.

Positioning rights according to relativism



in local cultures. He also claims that a divide has been created between what he calls the international human rights activists' club and their communities. In addition, Yousry asserts that the fanatic Islamic trend which is a cause of many human rights violations, especially against women, has been created to fill an intellectual void created by the failure of other national movements.

Universalists vs. relativists

The universality of human rights means that all rights are for all people. Yousry believes that the concept of universal-

culture? If you want to know the answer to this question see whose voices are loudest and are usually unchallenged in the society. Also a good way to see who really makes the standards of today is to see which are the groups benefitting from the status quo of the cultural norms in the present. The ones who have the power are usually the ones who define the cultural identity and what is acceptable and what is not," said Yousry.

What these relativists and critics forget is that many human rights do not come to impose upon cultures, but come as a set of legalities and stan-

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Obama's Yemeni odyssey targets China

By: M K Bhadrakumar
Asia Times Online

A year ago, Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Saleh made the startling revelation that his country's security forces apprehended a group of Islamists linked to the Israeli intelligence forces. "A terrorist cell was apprehended and will be referred to the courts for its links with the Israeli intelligence services," he promised.

Saleh added, "You will hear about the trial proceedings." Nothing was ever heard and the trail went cold. Welcome to the magical land of Yemen, where in the womb of time the Arabian Nights were played out.

Combine Yemen with the mystique of Islam, Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda and the Israeli intelligence and you get a heady mix. The head of the US Central Command, General David Petraeus, dropped in at the capital, Sana'a, on Saturday and vowed to Saleh increased American aid to fight al-Qaeda. United States President Barack Obama promptly echoed Petraeus' promise, assuring that the US would step up intelligence-sharing and training of Yemeni forces and perhaps carry out joint attacks against militants in the region.

Another Afghanistan?

Many accounts say that Obama, who is widely regarded as a gifted and intelligent politician, is blundering into a catastrophic mistake by starting another war that could turn out to be as bloody and chaotic and unwinnable as Iraq and Afghanistan. Yes, on the face of it, Obama does seem erratic. The parallels with Afghanistan are striking. There has been an attempt to destroy a US plane by a Nigerian student who says he received training in Yemen. And America wants to go to war.

Yemen, too, is a land of wonderfully beautiful rugged mountains that could be a guerrilla paradise. Yemenis are a hospitable lot, like Afghan tribesmen, but as Irish journalist Patrick Cockburn recalls, while they are generous to passing strangers, they "deem the laws of hospitality to lapse when the stranger leaves their tribal territory, at which time he becomes 'a good back to shoot at'." Surely, there is romance in the air - almost like in the Hindu Kush. Fiercely nationalistic, almost every Yemeni has a gun. Yemen is also, like Afghanistan, a land of conflicting authorities, and with foreign intervention, a little civil war is waiting to flare up.

Is Obama so incredibly forgetful of his own December 1 speech outlining his Afghan strategy that he violated his own canons? Certainly not. Obama is a smart man. The intervention in Yemen will go down as one of the smartest moves that he ever made for perpetuating the US's global hegemony. It is America's answer to China's surge.

A cursory look at the map of region will show that Yemen is one of the most strategic lands adjoining waters of the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. It flanks Saudi Arabia and Oman, which are vital American protectorates. In effect, Uncle Sam is "marking territory" - like a dog on a lamppost. Russia has been toying with the idea of reopening its Soviet-era base in Aden. Well, the US has pipped Moscow in the race.

The US has signaled that the odyssey doesn't end with Yemen. It is also moving into Somalia and Kenya. With that, the US establishes its military presence in an entire unbroken stretch of real estate all along the Indian Ocean's western rim. Chinese officials have of late spoken of their need to establish a naval base in the region. The US has now foreclosed China's options. The only country with a coastline that is available for China to set up a naval base in the region will be Iran. All other countries have a Western military presence.

The American intervention in Yemen is not going to be on the pattern of Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama will ensure he doesn't receive any body bags of American servicemen serving in Yemen. That is what the American public expects from him. He will only deploy drone aircraft and special forces and "focus on providing intelligence and training to help Yemen counter al-Qaeda militants", according to the US military. Obama's main core objective will be to establish an enduring military presence in Yemen. This serves many purposes.

A new great game begins

First, the US move has to be viewed against the historic backdrop of the Shi'ite awakening in the region. The Shi'ites (mostly of the Zaidi group) have been traditionally suppressed in Yemen. Shi'ite uprisings have been a recurring theme in Yemen's history. There has been a deliberate attempt to minimize the percentage of Shi'ites in Yemen, but they could be anywhere up to 45%.

More importantly, in the northern part of the country, they constitute the majority. What bothers the US and moderate Sunni Arab states - and Israel - is that the Believing Youth Organization led by Hussein Badr al-Houthi, which is entrenched in northern Yemen, is modeled after Hezbollah in Lebanon in all respects - politically, economically, socially and culturally.

Yemenis are an intelligent people and are famous in the Arabian Peninsula for their democratic temperament. The Yemeni Shi'ite empowerment on a Hezbollah-model would have far-reaching regional implications. Next-door Oman, which is a key American base, is predominantly Shi'ite. Even more sensitive is the likelihood of the dangerous idea of Shi'ite empowerment spreading to Saudi Arabia's highly restive Shi'ite regions adjoining Yemen, which on top of it all, also happen to be the reservoir of the country's fabulous oil wealth.

Saudi Arabia is entering a highly sensitive phase of political transition as a new generation is set to take over the leadership in Riyadh, and the palace intrigues and fault lines within the royal family are likely to get exacerbated. To put it mildly, given the vast scale of institutionalized Shi'ite persecution in Saudi Arabia by the Wahhabi establishment, Shi'ite empowerment is a veritable minefield that Riyadh is petrified about at this juncture. Its threshold of patience is wearing thin, as the recent uncharacteristic resort to military power against the north Yemeni Shi'ite communities bordering Saudi Arabia testifies.

The US faces a classic dilemma. It is all right for Obama to highlight the need of reform in Muslim societies - as he did eloquently in his Cairo speech last June. But democratization in the Yemeni context - ironically, in the Arab context - would involve Shi'ite empowerment. After the searing experience in Iraq, Washington is literally perched like a cat on a hot tin roof. It would much rather be aligned with the repressive, autocratic government of Saleh than let the genie of reform out of the bottle in the oil rich-region in which it has profound interests. Obama has an erudite mind and he is not unaware that what Yemen desperately needs is reform, but he simply doesn't want to think about it. The paradox he faces is that with all its imperfections, Iran happens to be the only "democratic" system operating in that entire region.

Iran's shadow over the Yemeni Shi'ite consciousness worries the US to no end. Simply put, in the ideological struggle going on in the region, Obama finds himself with the ultra-conservative and brutally autocratic oligarchies that constitute the ruling class in the region. Conceivably, he isn't finding it easy. If his own memoirs are to be believed, there could be times when the vague recollections of his childhood in Indonesia and his precious memories of his own mother, who from all accounts was a free-wheeling intellectual and humanist, must be stalking him in the White House corridors.

Israel moves in

But Obama is first and foremost a realist. Emotions and personal beliefs drain away and strategic considerations weigh uppermost when he works in the Oval Office. With the military presence in Yemen, the US has tightened the cordon around Iran. In the event of a military attack on Iran, Yemen could be put to use as a springboard by the Israelis. These are weighty considerations for Obama.

The fact is that no one is in control as a Yemeni authority. It is a cakewalk for the formidable Israeli intelligence to carve out a niche in Yemen - just as it did in northern Iraq under somewhat comparable circumstances.

Islamism doesn't deter Israel at all.

Saleh couldn't have been far off the mark when he alleged last year that Israeli intelligence had been exposed as having kept links with Yemeni Islamists. The point is, Yemeni Islamists are a highly fragmented lot and no one is sure who owes what sort of allegiance to whom. Israeli intelligence operates marvelously in such twilight zones when the horizon is lacerated with the blood of the vanishing sun.

Israel will find a toehold in Yemen to be a god-sent gift insofar as it registers its presence in the Arabian Peninsula. This is a dream come true for Israel, whose effectiveness as a regional power has always been seriously handicapped by its lack of access to the Persian Gulf region. The overarching US military presence helps.

Israel politically to consolidate its Yemeni chapter. Without doubt, Petraeus is moving on Yemen in tandem with Israel (and Britain). But the "pro-West" Arab states with their rentier mentality have no choice except to remain as mute spectators on the sidelines.

Some among them may actually acquiesce with the Israeli security presence in the region as a safer bet than the spread of the dangerous ideas of Shi'ite empowerment emanating out of Iran, Iraq and Hezbollah. Also, at some stage, Israeli intelligence will begin to infiltrate the extremist Sunni outfits in Yemen, which are commonly known as affiliates of al-Qaeda. That is, if it hasn't done that already. Any such link makes Israel an invaluable ally for the US in its fight against al-Qaeda. In sum, infinite possibilities exist in the paradigm that is taking shape in the Muslim world abutting into the strategic Persian Gulf.

It's all about China

Most important, however, for US global strategies will be the massive gain of control of the port of Aden in Yemen. Britain can vouchsafe that Aden is the gateway to Asia. Control of Aden and the Malacca Strait will put the US in an unassailable position in the "great game" of the Indian Ocean. The sea lanes of the Indian Ocean are literally the jugular veins of China's economy. By controlling them, Washington sends a strong message to Beijing that any notions by the latter that the US is a declining power in Asia would be nothing more than an extravagant indulgence in fantasy.

In the Indian Ocean region, China is increasingly coming under pressure. India is a natural ally of the US in the Indian Ocean region. Both disfavor any significant Chinese naval presence. India is mediating a rapprochement between Washington and Colombo that would

help roll back Chinese influence in Sri Lanka. The US has taken a u-turn in its Myanmar policy and is engaging the regime there with the primary intent of eroding China's influence with the military rulers. The Chinese strategy aimed at strengthening influence in Sri Lanka and Myanmar so as to open a new transportation route towards the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and Africa, where it has begun contesting traditional Western economic dominance.

China is keen to whittle down its dependence on the Malacca Strait for its commerce with Europe and West Asia. The US, on the contrary, is determined that China remains vulnerable to the choke point between Indonesia and Malaysia.

An engrossing struggle is breaking out. The US is unhappy with China's efforts to reach the warm waters of the Persian Gulf through the Central Asian region and Pakistan. Slowly but steadily, Washington is tightening the noose around the neck of the Pakistani elites - civilian and military - and forcing them to make a strategic choice between the US and China. This will put those elites in an unenviable dilemma. Like their Indian counterparts, they are inherently "pro-Western" (even when they are "anti-American") and if the Chinese connection is important for Islamabad, that is primarily because it balances perceived Indian hegemony.

The existential questions with which the Pakistani elites are grappling are apparent. They are seeking answers from Obama. Can Obama maintain a balanced relationship vis-a-vis Pakistan and India? Or, will Obama lapse back to the George W Bush era strategy of building up India as the pre-eminent power in the Indian Ocean under whose shadow Pakistan will have to learn to live?

US-India-Israel axis

On the other hand, the Indian elites are in no compromising mood. Delhi was on a roll during the Bush days. Now, after the initial misgivings about Obama's political philosophy, Delhi is concluding that he is all but a clone of his illustrious predecessor as regards the broad contours of the US's global strategy - of which containment of China is a core template.

The comfort level is palpably rising in Delhi with regard to the Obama presidency. Delhi takes the surge of the Israeli lobby in Washington as the litmus test for the Obama presidency. The surge suits Delhi, since the Jewish lobby was always a helpful ally in cultivating influence in the US Congress, media and the rabble-rousing think-tankers as well as

successive administrations. And all this is happening at a time when the India-Israel security relationship is gaining greater momentum.

United States Defense Secretary Robert Gates is due to visit Delhi in the coming days. The Obama administration is reportedly adopting an increasingly accommodative attitude toward India's longstanding quest for "dual-use" technology from the US. If so, a massive avenue of military cooperation is about to open between the two countries, which will make India a serious challenger to China's growing military prowess. It is a win-win situation as the great Indian arms bazaar offers highly lucrative business for American companies.

Clearly, a cozy three-way US-Israel-India alliance provides the underpinning for all the maneuvering that is going on. It will have significance for the security of the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. Last year, India formalized a naval presence in Oman.

All-in-all, terrorism experts are counting the trees and missing the wood when they analyze the US foray into Yemen in the limited terms of hunting down al-Qaeda. The hard reality is that Obama, whose main plank used to be "change", has careened away and increasingly defaults to the global strategies of the Bush era. The freshness of the Obama magic is dissipating. Traces of the "revisionism" in his foreign policy orientation are beginning to surface. We can see them already with regard to Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the Israel-Palestine problem, Central Asia and towards China and Russia.

Arguably, this sort of "return of the native" by Obama was inevitable. For one thing, he is but a creature of his circumstances. As someone put it brilliantly, Obama's presidency is like driving a train rather than a car: a train cannot be "steered", the driver can at best set its speed, but ultimately, it must run on its tracks.

Besides, history has no instances of a declining world power meekly accepting its destiny and walking into the sunset. The US cannot give up on its global dominance without putting up a real fight. And the reality of all such momentous struggles is that they cannot be fought piece-meal. You cannot fight China without occupying Yemen.

Ambassador M K Bhadrakumar was a career diplomat in the Indian Foreign Service. His assignments included the Soviet Union, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Germany, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Kuwait and Turkey.

20% failure rate in Saudi Gitmo rehab program

Middle East Online

Twenty percent of ex-Guantanamo prisoners who graduated from Saudi Arabia's rehabilitation program made contacts with militants, a senior Saudi counter-terror official said on Saturday.

Twenty-five of the 120 former detainees at the US "war-on-terror" prison committed radical activities after graduation from Riyadh's lauded rehab centre, Abdulrahman al-Hadlaq, who has the post of director of ideological security at the interior ministry, told reporters.

"It's about a 9.5-percent relapse" for all 300 Saudi men, including militants arrested by Saudi authorities, who have passed through the "Care Centre," Hadlaq said.

"But it's more than 20 (percent) among Guantanamo guys."

Of those, 10 or 11 are believed united with Al-Qaeda in Yemen, four have been killed in anti-Qaeda operations, and the others have been rearrested and jailed,

according to interior ministry spokesman General Mansour al-Turki.

The officials blamed most of the incidents on a close-knit group of more than 10 Guantanamo inmates repatriated to Saudi Arabia on November 9, 2007.

"They created the whole (problem)" said Turki. "Of course they infected a number of previously freed Guantanamo detainees."

However critics say many innocent detainees became radicalized after torture and abuse at Guantanamo and were waiting for their first chance to seek revenge.

There are currently three former Guantanamo detainees in the program.

The US continues to hold 13 more Saudis at the US navy facility in Cuba and has not yet granted Riyadh's request to return them to their home country.

Hadlaq said the government was still planning to expand the Care program with new facilities in five cities, with an eye to rehabilitating some of the more than 2,000 Saudis currently imprisoned on charges linked to Al-Qaeda and other

militant activities.

Hadlaq, meanwhile, played down fears echoing through the Saudi media that Saudi women were being recruited by Al-Qaeda in growing numbers.

Such reports surfaced after the arrest of Heila al-Qusayer, allegedly a key woman operative in a recently busted militant cell in the central Qassim region.

"There are very isolated cases, very few cases before her," said Hadlaq.

Qusayer is the widow of a Saudi Al-Qaeda activist killed six years ago by the authorities.

Her name became known earlier this month when a leader of the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula threatened to kidnap members of the ruling Saudi royal family if she was not freed.

The Dubai-based news channel Al-Arabiya described Qusayer, one of 113 suspects whose arrests were announced on March 24, as "the most dangerous woman" in Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia.



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Aerial photo taken on June 28, 2010 shows the flood in Agua Preta in northeast Brazil's Pernambuco State.



Hundreds of people line up hand in hand as part of the Hands Across the Sand event in Pensacola Beach, Florida, June 26, 2010.



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez (R) presents Syria's President Bashar al-Assad with a replica of the sword of national hero Simon Bolivar at Miraflores Palace in Caracas June 26, 2010. A five-meter long crack is seen in a road of Kota Kinabalu, state of Sabah, Malaysia, June 30, 2010.



U.S. General David Petraeus testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee for a confirmation hearing to become commander of the International Security Assistance Force and commander of the U.S. Forces in Afghanistan on Capitol Hill in Washington June 29, 2010.



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Responsive Governance Project (RGP)

Vacancy Announcement



Founded in 1965, Counterpart International is a diverse, non-profit, international development organization dedicated to helping people in need in the areas of civil society, food security, private enterprise, environmental resource management, humanitarian relief, and healthcare. Counterpart does this by building the capacity of local partner nongovernmental organizations, lenders, businesses, governments and other institutions to solve their own self-defined economic, ecological, political, and social problems in ways that are sustainable, practical, and independent.

Counterpart International will be implementing The Yemen Responsive Governance Project (RGP) which is a USAID-funded three year project that works to strengthen government institutions and improve the delivery of public services while encouraging more citizen participation in the political process.

Counterpart International is looking to hire Yemeni national staff for the following positions:

Operations and Administration

JOB TITLE: ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

Administration

- Manage day to day operations and personnel issues;
- Work with the COP and project staff to determine local staffing needs;
- Develop an accurate inventory of all project assets and equipment;
- Supervise the administration and procurement unit to ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness;
- Ensure maximum compliance on all Counterpart Yemen policies and procedures;
- Oversee the procurement of goods and services in accordance with Counterpart and USAID rules and regulations;
- Supervise the preparation of monthly, quarterly and other periodic reports prepared by the respective unit heads as well as oversee the consolidation and submission of all reports to the COP.

Contracting

- Supervise the Administration unit and ensure its effective and efficient operation;
- Oversee the entire procurement and acquisition process, including the:
 - design and issuance of RFQs (Request for Quotes);
 - evaluation of quotes;
 - negotiations with potential vendor and execution of agreements;
 - maintenance of records and other supporting documentation;
- Ensure that Counterpart and USAID policy and regulations vis-à-vis procurement are properly followed and adhered to;
- Ensure coordination between the Finance and Administration unit and other program units.

Finance

- Monitor procurement budgets and keep management informed of any financial concerns requiring their immediate attention;
- Monitor internal control systems to ensure compliance and effective utilization of project resources.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- BA in Public Administration, Business Administration, Finance and Accounting or equivalent;
- MBA or MPA strongly preferred;
- At least 4 years experience working with international NGOs in management positions with an emphasis on finance, administration and security;
- Experience with USAID or other donor funded programs;
- Excellent communication, problem-solving, teamwork and leadership skills;
- Excellent communication and report writing skills in English and Arabic;
- Skills with Quick Book accounting software preferred;
- Experience managing and supervising staff;

JOB TITLE: ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

Administration

- Provide support the Administration Manager in order to:
 - Manage day to day operations and personnel issues;
 - Determine local staffing needs;
 - Develop an accurate inventory of all project assets and equipment;
 - Ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness;
 - Ensure maximum compliance on all Counterpart Yemen policies and procedures;

- Oversee the procurement of goods and services in accordance with Counterpart and USAID rules and regulations;
- Ensure that inventory records are updated on a regular basis and that adequate safeguards are in place to ensure the proper usage of Counterpart property and assets;
- Finalize reports prepared by the Administration unit.

Contracting

- Provide support to the Administration Manager in order to:
 - Supervise the contracts and agreements related to administration, IT, human resources and security;
 - Oversee the contracting and procurement process, including:
 - Design and issuance of RFQs (request for quotes);
 - Evaluation of vendor applications;
 - Negotiations with potential vendors and execution of agreements;
 - Maintenance of records and other supporting documentation;
 - Ensure coordination between the finance and administration unit and other program units.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- BA in Public Administration, Business Administration, Finance/Accounting or equivalent.
- Experience in program operations and administration;
- 2+ years post qualification experience working with local or international NGOs in the areas of administration and security;
- Experience with USAID or other donor funded projects preferred.

JOB TITLE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Under the supervision of the Administration Manager, the incumbent will perform the following tasks.

Overall Information Technology Management and Trainings:

- Provide MS Windows, Ms Office and internet support for staff members and partners team members;
- Install software and trouble-shooting/maintaining computer hardware and other IT equipment;
- Develop and train in IT related policies and procedures;
- Manage the RGP Share Driver and Public Driver;
- Facilitate the design of the RGP website and management information system.
- Trouble Shooting and Technical Support:
 - Troubleshoot a wide range of problems in consultation with Counterpart RGP administrative, programmatic, and technical staff;
 - Update, maintain and troubleshoot whatever issues RGP staff have with their workstations, office printers and other shared systems including office networks and Internet/Intranet connections, Windows file/print/DNS/etc server, WAPs, and switches, and the RGP email server;
 - Maintain regular backups of office data and periodically test their restoration;
 - Train RGP staff on relevant tools and systems;
 - Provide technical assistance to RGP staff and partners on all IT needs within the context of program implementation;
 - Carry out other duties as may be assigned by management;
 - Upload and update RGP Website contents on a regular basis;
 - Create new web documents if/when necessary;

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- BA in Computer Science, IT or similar field;
- Minimum of 3-5 years work experience, international standards preferred;
- Experience in managing and troubleshooting IT networks.

JOB TITLE: FINANCE MANAGER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: The Finance Manager will have primary responsibility for financial reporting and oversight of the RGP program and all RGP sub grants.

Responsibilities include:

- Establish financial management procedures and controls to ensure strict fiscal accountability and compliance with USAID and Counterpart rules and regulations.
- Prepare and maintain financial reports, records, archives, files and cash requests as required by the Finance Division of Counterpart Headquarters;
- Monitor program expenditures and costs incurred by both the RGP and all sub-grantees;
- Support the Grants Manager (GM) in the monitoring and evaluation of RGP NGO partners expenses versus activities to ensure proper burn rate and effective financial oversight of sub grants;
- Oversee all field transactions including procurements and grant recipients, as well as the approval process for all financial disbursements;
- Support COP in developing a process to analyze and evaluate procurement applications, proposals and awards.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- BA in Accounting or Finance;
- Experience implementing international/national accounting practices and systems;
- At least 5 years experience in financial management, including bookkeeping, budget preparation and management of multiple budgets;
- Experience managing procurement activities according to USAID policies (preferred).

JOB TITLE: BOOKKEEPER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Bookkeeper will have a primary responsibility of supporting and assisting the Finance Manager in all components of financial management.

Major duties will include assisting the Finance Manager to:

- Establish financial management procedures and controls to ensure strict fiscal accountability and compliance with USAID and Counterpart rules and regulations;
- Prepare and maintain financial reports, records, files and cash requests for timely submission to Counterpart headquarters;
- Maintain and process payments for office purchasing and manage office petty cash, process staff salaries and other tasks as needed;
- Process all financial disbursements;
- Prepare financial reports as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Formal education in accounting practices and systems;
- BA in Accounting;
- Strong oral and written English and Arabic language skills;
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in procurements and bookkeeping.

JOB TITLE: OFFICE MANAGER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: The Office Manager will assist the COP and the DCOP in coordinating various logistical and administrative activities and will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Coordinate consultancies, report-writing, and monitoring and evaluation of program activities;
- Coordinate training activities in advocacy, institutional strengthening, media, gender, youth, and monitoring and evaluation;
- Coordinate all internal and external communications;
- Update and maintain project files on the project shared drive as needed;
- Update and maintain data on Management Information System (MIS) (training will be provided if needed);
- Assist in recruitment and organizing logistics for support staff;
- Ensure adequate procurement of office supplies (as needed) in compliance with office procurement policies and procedures;
- Participate in trainings, seminars and staff meetings with the COP and DCOP as required;
- Work closely with the COP and DCOP to establish an effective system of record keeping for the RGP.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- BA degree in Business Administration, Law, Political or Social Sciences;
- At least 3-5 years professional experience in supporting implementation of programs through administrative and logistical support;
- Experience working and implementing USAID funded projects preferred.

Technical Jobs

JOB TITLE: ADVOCACY OFFICER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Under the supervision of the Advocacy Specialist, the Advocacy Officer will perform the following tasks:

- Support the design and implementation of program strategies to support nation-wide and local advocacy and civic engagement initiatives in Yemen;
- Assist the Advocacy Specialist to conduct needs assessments for partner NGOs in advocacy capacity-building, and assist the NGOs in developing and implementing national and local level advocacy campaigns;
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of advocacy campaigns;
- Support the Advocacy Specialist in arranging and coordinating cross-border exchanges for NGO leaders and government officials;
- Assist in identifying and establishing contacts with advocacy program stakeholders and potential participants including: NGOs and coalitions, other USAID implementing partners, media representatives and government officials;
- Assist the Advocacy Specialist in providing guidance, technical assistance, and training in designing, organizing and delivering advocacy trainings as well as other capacity building interventions to target groups, including: RGP's NGO partners, media, government officials and other stakeholders;
- Establish and maintain good working relationships with local government officials, ensuring that government counterparts are informed of project activities, and that the project considers their inputs on different advocacy issues;
- Assist with writing of project reports, success stories and press releases;
- Contribute to the overall RGP planning, development and work plan drafting;
- As requested, assist in facilitating and/or participating fully in meetings, trainings and working groups;
- Stay well informed of civic and political issues and developments in Yemen;
- Develop technical knowledge and be able to advise program partners on various areas of institutional strengthening, gender and youth, media and monitoring and evaluation methodologies and tools, to support RGP activities as appropriate.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- University-level degree in Law, Political Science or other social sciences;
- Minimum of 3 years work experience, preferably in the NGO sector and in an advocacy-related position in Yemen;
- Understanding of key elements of policy research and advocacy;
- Experience in working with local and national government officials in Yemen;
- Experience in conducting training workshops and developing training materials.

JOB TITLE: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OFFICER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Under the supervision of the Institutional Strengthening Specialist, the Institutional Strengthening Officer will perform the following tasks: Assist the Institutional Strengthening Specialist in conducting participatory Organizational Development (OD) assessments of partner NGOs and write comprehensive assessment reports;

- Assist NGO partners to identify priorities, determine goals, and develop action plans for their organization development grant;
- Follow up with the RGP partners on the implementation of their action plans. This includes maintaining regular contact with partners, reviewing partners' project reports to assess activities and results against action plans, and providing on-going feedback and support;
- Assist the RGP partners to access resources for OD and help them to plan for and get the most out of OD interventions (trainings, consultations, technical assistance, etc) and coordinate OD efforts with other project activities;
- Assist the Institutional Strengthening Specialist in addressing project implementation issues raised by the partners and other constituents and suggest necessary corrections in project implementation after consultations with partners;
- Participate in collecting information for and preparing organizational, monthly and quarterly reports on the RGP activities, including collecting and drafting institutional/OD success stories;
- Identify external and other in-country OD resources and assist the M&E Officer to develop a database of training and OD providing individuals and organizations ;
- Contribute to the overall RGP planning, development and work plan drafting;
- As requested, assist in facilitating and/or participating fully in meetings and working groups;
- Assist the Institutional Strengthening Specialist in the preparation of reports, as required;
- Stay well informed on civic and political issues and developments in Yemen;
- Other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- University degree in business administration, management, social sciences or other relevant field;
- At least 3-5 years of progressively more responsible experience working in civil society development programs in Yemen, including experience on institutional strengthening and/or capacity building programming for NGO development;
- NGO/CSO management experience highly desirable;
- Facilitation, consulting, and/or training experience required;
- Demonstrated experience analyzing and synthesizing information and writing analytical reports.

JOB TITLE: MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER

POSITION LOCATION: Sana'a, Yemen

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Under supervision of the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will perform the following tasks:

- Assist in the design, development and implementation of program monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems according to Counterpart's standard methodologies and in support of Counterpart's Management and Information System (MIS);
- Coordinate collection and reporting of RGP input, output and impact data and supporting materials into Counterpart MIS;
- Help design the RGP grants program monitoring, evaluating and reporting systems;
- Assist in analyzing and evaluating grant applications, proposals and awards;
- Work with respective specialists to monitor and evaluate partner activities and impacts under RGP grants;
- Contribute to the overall RGP planning, development and work plan drafting;
- As requested, assist in facilitating and/or participating fully in meetings and working groups;
- Assist the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist in the preparation of qualitative and quantitative project reports as required;
- Stay well informed on civic and political issues and developments in Yemen;
- Other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- University degree in Political Science, Sociology, Statistics or a related field;
- Professional experience in monitoring and evaluation, including monitoring and evaluation of programs, trainings and grants with an international development organization;
- At least 3-5 years of progressively more responsible experience working in civil society development programs in Yemen, including experience specifically in monitoring and evaluation;
- Strong computer skills, particularly with databases and MS office.

POSITION TITLE: GENDER AND YOUTH OFFICER

LOCATION: Yemen

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Under the supervision of the Gender and Youth Specialist, the Gender and Youth Officer will perform the following tasks:

- Support the Gender and Youth Specialist to provide technical knowledge regarding gender and youth programming to Yemen program staff and to RGP NGO partners;
- Assist the Gender and Youth Specialist to propose and oversee administrative and logistical aspects related to gender and youth activities;
- Assist the Gender and Youth Specialist to implement training and technical assistance for RGP NGO partners to increase their organizational capacity and policy awareness;
- Support the Gender and Youth Specialist to develop publications and tools that promote best-practices for gender and youth organizations in Yemen;
- Assist the Gender and Youth Specialist to guide and ensure the highest quality of project monitoring & evaluation, reporting and communication;
- Provide any required support to the Gender and Youth Specialist to develop strong organizational relationships and partnerships with local, regional and national RGP NGO partners and other stakeholders;

- Contribute to the overall RGP planning, development and work plan drafting;
- As requested, assist in facilitating and/or participating fully in meetings and working groups;
- Assist Gender and Youth Specialist in the preparation of reports as required;
- Stay will informed on civic and political issues and developments in Yemen;
- Other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- BA in Social Science, Political Science, Women's Studies or a similar field;
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience with development programs working with CSOs, women's groups, youth organizations, and government;
- Experience working in Yemen with an understanding of the current status and overall capacity of women and youth organizations to affect change in Yemen
- Technical expertise in the areas of capacity building, training and policy formulation with a focus on gender and youth issues.

POSITION TITLE: MEDIA OFFICER

LOCATION: Yemen

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Under the supervision of the Media Specialist, the Media Officer will perform the following tasks:

- Assist in providing technical knowledge about media and media development to RGP staff and relevant RGP NGO partners;
- Assist Media Specialist to propose and oversee administrative and logistical aspects related to media and promotional activities;
- Provide assistance to implement training and technical assistance for relevant media agencies to increase their institutional capacity, policy awareness and service delivery;
- Support in developing publications and tools that promote best-practices for media organizations in Yemen;
- Assist in developing media-specific project monitoring & evaluation, reporting and communication;
- Assist the Media Specialist to develop strong organizational relationships and partnerships with local and national media professionals;
- Assist Media Specialist in the preparation of project reports as required;
- Contribute to the development of the Media Strategy by carrying out the research, compiling and analyzing relevant data;
- Provide technical assistance on the production of materials and oversee the qualitative aspect of production such as quality control of translations;
- Monitor all media and public outreach activities for the RGP and report to the Media Specialist;
- Ensure that all materials are delivered to the target recipients in a timely manner;
- Contribute to the overall RGP planning, development and work plan drafting;
- As requested, assist in facilitating and/or participating fully in meetings and working groups;
- Keep informed on civil society issues and developments in Yemen;
- Draft the quarterly fact sheet, including compiling the strips (achievements bullet points of each activity) and all other information, for review by Media Specialist;
- Other tasks may be assigned by the RGP Media Specialist.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- BA in Social Science, Political Science, Public Policy, Communications/Journalism or a similar field;
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience with development programs working with CSOs, media, government, and private-sector institutions;
- Minimum of 2 years experience working in Yemen with an understanding of the current capacity of Yemen media agencies;
- Technical expertise in the areas of capacity building and policy formulation with a focus on media;
- Excellent report writing ability.

*All applicants must demonstrate the following specified skills and abilities:

- Excellent English and Arabic;
- Willingness to perform other duties and work irregular hours;
- Demonstrated competency with computer software especially Microsoft Office;
- Excellent communication and organizational skills;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including patience, diplomacy, willingness to listen and respect for colleagues;
- Must be capable of working individually and on a team;
- Willingness to enhance knowledge through training and personal initiative;
- Strong time management skills;
- Willingness to be flexible in responding to organizational needs.

"Counterpart International strongly believes in equal opportunity for all, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, sex, veteran's status, age, marital status, disability or any other protected personal characteristic."

TO APPLY:

Individuals interested in working with Counterpart International on this project, should send a cover letter and resumes to RGP@counterpart.org, no later than July 10, 2010.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

((يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي)) صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تلقينا نبأ وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

((الحاج / علي علي الرحبي))

وبهذا المصاب الجلل لا يسعنا إلا أن نرفع أحر التعازي والمواساة القلبية الى أخيه الشيخ /

جابر علي الرحبي

((وجميع آل الرحبي))

سائلين الله تعالى أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان ...

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

مركز يمن مول للتسوق

الشركة المتحدة لصناعة الأغذية الخفيفة

شركة عدن التجارية

الشركة اليمنية لصناعة المنتجات الحديدية

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابُوا مَصِيْبًا قَالُوا إِنَّ الْبَلَاءَ مَا نَحْنُ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَإِلَىٰ جُحُودِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Condolence

With deep sorrow Yemen Times management and staff extend their heartfelt condolences to

Fahd Al-Ariqi
Yemenia Cairo Area Manager

On the sad demise of his mother may she rest in eternal peace.

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره يتقدم كافة طاقم صحيفة يمن تايمز بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى

الأستاذ / فهد العريقي

مدير منطقة الخطوط الجوية اليمنية في القاهرة

لوفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى والدته

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيدة بواسع رحمته ومغفرته وأن يسكنها فسيح جناته ويلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان
إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

Condolences will be received at the Sky Home hall off Zubairi Street in front of Sabafone building.

سيتم إستقبال العزاء يوم الخميس الموافق 2010/ 7/ 1 في صنعاء - قاعة سكاى هوم - شارع الزبيرى - أمام شركة سبافون

Top five scams in the Middle East

By: Adam Gonn
The Media Line

As three Iranians go on trial for trying to swindle a UAE bank out of \$4 billion, The Media Line explores some of the most outlandish scams in the Middle East.

Magic Money

In July, 2009, two men were arrested in Abu Dhabi, for trying to sell a money multiplying powder to an undercover police agent.

The men, from the UAE's capital, made claims the magical blend would double any amount of money when sprinkled over banknotes in a closed bag.

The scam worked by dusting some of the powder on the notes they wanted to double, then placing the notes in a bag while their victims were asked not to open the bag until the blend took effect. The money was then switched with fake notes covered with powder and closed in the bag.

The usual method involved giving

the victims, most of whom came from the northern emirates, an initial "demonstration" of the powder's inflationary properties, before asking them to hand over a large number of notes. The single largest swindle involved \$1.6m.

A regional paper quoted a local police officer as saying 'a massive number of people have lost money to them.'

Laboratory tests showed the powder consisted of flour and washing powder.

The Bullet Proofing Stone

A 52 year old Yemeni man was sentenced to six months in jail by a court in Dubai, for attempting to sell an onyx which, he claims, bullet proofs the bearer.

'I am willing to prove to the world that it's a bulletproofing onyx stone... I am ready to face a death sentence if that's what it will take for me to prove that the stone is unquestionably bullet-proofing' the defendant said, though the judge refused to allow for a test of the stone's alleged capabilities.

During the hearing, the defendant argued that the stone proved bullet-

proof when he tried it four times on sheep

The Yemeni man had put an advertisement in a local paper stating that he was selling the stone for approximately \$490,000 at a stand he had at a local fair. As for the origin of the stone, the defendant claimed he had found it in Yemen without providing further details.

Disclosure: It should be noted the stone was never proven not to make its bearer bullet proof.

The Billion Dollar Heist

Following two separate scam attempts within less than thirty nine hours, police in Abu Dhabi arrested five suspects who allegedly tried to withdraw \$42bn from the country's central bank.

The first attempt involved the manager of a local bank, who together with two men visiting from abroad allegedly forged documents showing that the UAE Central Bank owed the leader of their group \$14.4bn.

When arrested the bank manager was reported to have admitted that a foreign woman persuaded him that the Central Bank held 44 boxes containing

\$14.4 billion and that he would get 20% of the money if he was willing to help.

The second attempt involved two men who also produced forged documents claiming the Central Bank owed them \$28 billion. One of the suspects was visiting the country and admitted that he was asked to withdraw the money for a third party in return for 1% of the sum. The role of the second suspect was to show the man visiting the way to another emirate to the premises of the central bank.

The primary police investigation alleges that both attempts were masterminded by the same sixth person living in another country in the region.

The Dream Job

An Australian man, R.K. thought he had landed a dream job when through the help of a recruitment agency, he'd been offered a \$300,000 a year job in the Middle East.

R.K., a structural mechanical engineer has worked in mines all over the world. After paying \$600 to have his CV put in front of key employers in the Gulf region he was delighted when

he got a call from a man claiming to be the head of human resources with the Ajman Petroleum company, in the United Arab Emirates, offering him a highly paid supervisor's position.

The HR head asked for \$1,546 to acquire the Australian's visa and other documents. R.K. who has worked previously in Asia, but not in the Middle East, didn't think much of the request and sent the money.

But it wasn't until he was asked for another \$6,695 to cover a range of other things including airfares, that alarm bells began to ring and he realized that he had been the victim of a so called Nigerian scam.

Ajman Petroleum states they have never heard of the HR head.

Red Mercury

In April 2009 Saudi Arabia was buzzing with rumors that the mythical substance "red mercury" could be found in old sewing machines from the brand Singer. The price of machines subsequently skyrocketed from \$53 to \$53,000. The rumors which started on the internet, claimed that foreign buyers ranging from Swiss and American

experts to wealthy Kuwaitis were traveling around the Kingdom looking for old sewing machines. As a result of the rumors, people started to search markets and even rob tailors to get a hold of the machines.

Reports of the so called 'red mercury', first appeared in Western and Russian media during the 1980s without specifics as to what the object was and what it looked like. Despite this, the reports claimed the material to be a key ingredient in the construction of nuclear weapons. It has never been proved that "red mercury" actually exist, this has however not stopped rumors circulating that it can be used to summon genies, extract gold, locate buried treasure and perform various types of magic.

According to rumors one should be able to determine the existence of the mercury in the machine's needle by using a cell phone. If the line is cut while holding the phone close to the needle, it's a sure sign of the presence of "red mercury". The rumors did not however provide any guidance on how to extract the substance from the machine.

Skype to open first Middle East office

Internet call provider expands MidEast market with a new office in Bahrain

By: Adam Gonn
The Media Line

Online communications operator Skype is setting up its first Middle East base in an effort to expand its client base, the company announced Monday.

Skype, which allows its user to make free voice and video call over the internet by downloading their software, chose Manama, capital of the tiny Gulf state of Bahrain, as the location for their first regional office.

"It is our eyes and ears and a platform to reach out to our partners in the Middle East and Africa region," Skype's Head of Middle East & Africa Market Development Rouzbeh Pasha told The Media Line. "We went through a list of countries in the region and Bahrain ticked the most boxes for

Skype as an online software company."

Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, cited a number of factors behind Skype's choice to set up camp in Bahrain over other regional competitors.

"We were obviously keen to attract Skype to Bahrain given the reputation of the business and the success it has had in recent years," Al Khalifa told The Media Line. "Fundamentally, they were attracted to set up their regional representative office here by Bahrain's liberal and advanced ICT [information and communication technology] infrastructure and policies."

"I think it's vital for the region that ICT development and investment continues, because other sectors such as energy and financial services are growing and require world class ICT support and infrastructure," he said in ref-

erence to growth throughout the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), made up of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. "We have a growing young population eager to learn and exploit new technologies, such as Skype's, whilst the moves towards closer integration across the GCC nations will provide further opportunities."

"We have invested in our infrastructure and people to maximize our strategic position as the gateway to the Gulf, which together with our strong track record, robust and effective regulation and low operating costs, will continue to offer international businesses an attractive base to access the Gulf's trillion dollar economy," Al Khalifa added.

Bahrain's leadership in ICT-based development was recently noted in the World Economic Forum's Global



Information Technology Report, which assesses the impact of ICT on the development process and the competitiveness of nations.

"Bahrain consolidates the impressive

upward trend started last year, with another eight-place improvement and a performance driven by an extremely ICT- and business-friendly market environment," the 2009-2010 report

read.

While the United Arab Emirates was ranked higher in the report, it has banned access to Skype, as have Oman and Kuwait.

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), the technical term for voice communications via the Internet, is also illegal in Lebanon. In accordance with the 2002 Lebanese Telecoms Act, over the last couple months officials have been shutting down a number of VoIP services similar to Skype. To date Skype has not been affected by the regulations in Lebanon.

In addition to being popular among Middle Eastern youth, Skype is also used by many of the expatriates that have migrated to the region to find employment, often leaving their families back home.

Skype has 560 million subscribers around the world.

Archaeologists in Israel dig up goldmine of pagan antiquities from bronze age Excavation reveals ancient trade links and keen foresight of Canaanite priests

By: Arie O'Sullivan
The Media Line

Descending into a natural hollow in the bedrock, archaeologist Edwin van den Brink discovered a "bottomless" pit holding hundreds of intact ritual vessels hidden there by pagan priests over 3,500 years ago.

"We were expecting a pre-historic site and we came upon a collapsed cave. We took apart the roof of the cave and inside the cave there turned out to be about 200 vessels," Brink told The Media Line.

Archaeologists in northern Israel were called in to do a routine salvage excavation before a gas pipeline was laid. But in this cradle of civilization such routines are often subsumed by unexpected findings. Speaking at the Israel Antiquities Authority storerooms

in Jerusalem, Brink said every time they thought they reached the bottom of the cavity, a new and fascinating layer of complete vessels was discovered beneath.

The cave was about a hundred meters from the ancient Canaanite town of Tel Qashish, not far from Megiddo, also known as Armageddon.

Archaeologists have dated the cache to the 14th century B.C. At that time, Pharaoh Thutmose III, the Napoleon of ancient Egypt and his army were laying waste to the Levant.

The preservation of the vessels shows that they were all very carefully placed there by humans, perhaps because they were no longer used in the temple, but more likely because someone wanted to protect them from the impending Egyptian invasion.

The Canaanite priests in the village either had a premonition, or were savvy enough to see danger on the

horizon.

"The priests in this temple were afraid that their temple would be ransacked so they took their furniture and put it in a place not even within the temple but far away outside the temple area," said Brink.

Archaeological evidence shows that the Late Bronze age town was destroyed in a great conflagration as the Egyptians vanquished the region. Brink said that they have yet to locate the temple in the region.

At this time, monotheism had yet to take root in the world and pagan worship was widespread.

Showing just how cosmopolitan these pagans were, the finds included a number of perfectly preserved pots, sculpted on wheels in ancient Greece across the Mediterranean. The recovered goblets, bowls and other ceramic vessels shed light on pagan worship and ancient trade.



"We do have a group of vessels which are not locally made but imported from Mycenaean, mainland Greece. Actually it is this kind of vessel which gives us the exact date for the whole assemblage," Brink said.

"One indication that these ceramics or vessels are connected to some kind of cult are these huge, quite tall stands, fenestrated with holes, on top of which would be placed a bowl and in the bowl there would be either fruit or

incense which would be burned as an offering to the gods worshiped in this specific temple," Brink said.

Holding one of the goblets, Brink said they probably contained wine or alcohol which was used to libate the gods. Pointing out a collection of well preserved juglets, he said some were made in Cyprus and others were locally made copies.

"What is clear, especially with the imported vessels, [is that] they were all small containers so whatever must have been in [them] should have been precious oils or ointments, because it is not [a] large quantity. It is in small quantities and the openings, the orifices are very small so only droplets would come out," Brink said.

Scientists have taken samples from inside the jugs to try to decipher exactly which precious liquids they held.

One particularly notable find was a sculpted face, possibly part of a cup.

Preserved for 35 centuries, the detail is still clearly intact.

"This human head, which looks at first sight to me at least a little bit Egyptian, but it is more a tradition of human shaped vessels from the area. It is not smiling so maybe it is a death mask of somebody?" Brink pondered.

Brink said that the discovery is an exceptional discovery because it is older than similar vessels previously unearthed and it is well preserved.

"It is rare. It is not a daily find. It is even more rare in the sense that we do have these caches of cultic vessels in a spot but the ones I know of, the majority are from the Iron Age some 400 to 500 years later, so this is one of the earlier context of these kinds of vessels in one place," he said.

Brink added that a railroad is to be laid in the area and hopes that the salvage dig for that work will reveal other finds and perhaps the pagan temple.

Egyptian trade with US on the rise

Due to the lowered value of the Egyptian pound, exports to the United States are soaring

By: Adam Gonn
The Media Line

Egyptian trade to the US has grown by 22 percent in the first quarter of 2010, says the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The falling value of the Egyptian pound has resulted in a boost for Egyptian export to the American market, which reached \$2.3 billion in the first quarter of 2010, compared to \$1.8 billion for the same quarter last year.

Data from the Ministry of Trade and

Industry shows that the Egyptian trade deficit decreased by 9.5% as exports to the United States increased by 55% to \$700 million, while Egyptian imports from the US fell to \$840 million, further increasing the American trade deficit.

"Egyptian export is very important to our economy," Abdel Fattah el Gibaly, head of the economic research unit at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo told The Media Line.

"Export plays the role of the engine in our economy; it's the source of our Gross Domestic Production [GDP]

growth," he said.

Among the main export products Gibaly mentioned was oil, cotton, vegetables and industrial goods.

According to statistics from the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry, oil and bioproduct exports generated a total value of \$947 million in 2009, while export of fruits and fertilizers was valued at \$799 million and \$766 million respectively.

Egyptian imports from the United States included grains, nuclear reactors, mineral fuels, iron, steel, cereals, oil seeds, aircrafts, cars, electrical appli-

ances, plastic products, weapons, ammunition, photography equipment, dairy products and meat, according to the Ministry of Trade.

Justin Alexander, an expert on Egypt from the Economist Intelligence Unit disagreed with el Gibaly on the importance of Egyptian exports.

"Physical trade is not too major a part of the Egyptian economy," Alexander told The Media Line.

"With imports at about 20% of Gross Domestic Production and exports 10%, hence a 10% [difference]," he said.

Alexander explained that the U.S. is

not Egypt's most significant trade partner.

"The U.S. is not a particularly important trade partner. The European Union is far more significant," he said.

In February 2010 Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif announced plans to increase the value of Egyptian exports from \$14 billion to \$36 billion in the next four years. The drive was part of efforts to maintain Egypt's high economic growth rate, which currently stands at 7%.

"The challenge and the goal for Egypt is to keep growing at 7 plus per-

cent," Nazif was quoted as saying, adding that a lack of infrastructure, transportation and energy in the industrial sector were main factors hindering Egypt's economic growth.

However, during the first years of Nazif's term as Prime Minister the world enjoyed a period of high trade and investment growth, with global trade flows increasing by an average of 7.7% per year.

The Economist Intelligence Unit predicted that, in comparison, world trade growth in 2010 to 2014, would average at about 5.6% per year.

Yemen to launch first desalination project

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Several cities in Yemen are threatened with water shortage. Taiz city is one of the cities suffering from severe water problems especially since the city is one of the most populated areas in Yemen with over two and half million inhabitants. Until recently, desalination was not an option despite the fact that Yemen has the longest sea coast in the Middle East of over 2000 kilometers across the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf. However, since modern technology has helped reduce the cost of desalination, Hayel Saeed Group of Companies has just constructed the first desalination unit in Al-Makha coast to supply their factories and companies with clean water.

Sea water will be desalinated in Al-Makha and fresh water will then be transported to Taiz city using large 50,000 liters water trucks. through this project, fifty trucks will be dedicated to daily transmission of water from the

port to Taiz city.

According to Ahmad Abdo, co-director of the Al-Makha Desalination Unit, the unit is now capable of desalinating 4,500 cubic meter per day. half of the water produced is used by the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies while the other half is sold through a water retail point to residents and businesses in Taiz.

Transportation costs is yet an issue that the unit is working on resolving because by the time fresh water reaches the city, the cost has tripled from YR 400 per cubic meter to YR 1,200. Despite this cost, the water shortage in the city is so severe that citizens are considering buying desalinated sea water favorably.

Ahmad believe that desalinating sea water will soon become the best solution for Yemen's water problems even for cities far away from the sea.

Expansion of the desalination units
General Manager of Desalination Project in government-run National Water



By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Sea water will be desalinated in Al-Makha and fresh water will then be transported to Taiz city using large 50,000 liters water trucks. through this project, fifty trucks will be dedicated to daily transmission of water from the port to Taiz city.

and Sanitation Authority (NWSA) Taiz Branch- Hasan Mujahed said that there will be joint cooperation between the government and the private sector to expand the desalination

project to supply the whole Taiz city with water.

The work will be with Hayel Saeed Ana'am Group. The existing desalination unit they have in Al-Makha will be expanded.

He said that four units will be constructed in Al-Makha as a joint venture between the government and the business group. He added that for more sustainable transportation, a network of pipelines will be constructed and the costs of constructing the pipelines from Al-Makha to Taiz city will be funded Saudi Arabia. Last week, prince Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz agreed to support Yemen with USD 220 million for constructing the pipelines.

According to Mujahed, four units will be constructed in Al-Makha, with a total production capacity of 150 thousand cubic meters per day. The project will be implemented in three stages: the production in the first stage will be 50 thousand cubic meters daily, then 100 thousand cubic meters daily in the second and third stages.

The pipeline will be 120 centimeters in diameter to be extended from the desalination units in Makha to Taiz city and then to Ibb city. Then four



By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Sea water will be desalinated in Al-Makha and fresh water will then be transported to Taiz city using large 50,000 liters water trucks. through this project, fifty trucks will be dedicated to daily transmission of water from the port to Taiz city.

pumping stations will be constructed across the pipeline in Taiz and another four across the pipeline to Ibb.

As for the consumer end two main water selling points will be built one in Taiz and the second in Ibb. Every one of them will contain 20,000 cubic meters. Several distribution points will be built in the two cities.

However, General Manager of NWSA Fuad Al-Jabery said that Taiz city currently consumes 56,000 cubic meters of water on daily basis. "When the project starts, the individual's share of water in Taiz will raise from 30 liters a day to 60 liters," he anticipated. The expanded capacity also means that by producing 150,000 cubic meters per day water could be distributed to Ibb governorate, according to Mujahed.

Spokesman of Hayel Saeed's Office in Taiz, Abdul-Ghani Abdulrab said the desalination project will be run by Saudis as the Saudi Projects Authority will carry out the pipeline project from Al-Makha to the city of Taiz and the unit will be constructed by Saudi companies.

He said that Hayel Saeed Group will be only a local partner with the

Saudi company. He added that more information about the project will be disclosed to the public soon including details on management of the whole project and its construction phases.

Minister of Water and Environment Abdulrahman El-Iryani said desalinating water from the sea is the most important solution to water crisis in Yemen although transporting desalinated water at a reasonable cost to remote and mountainous areas will remain a challenge.

He explained that people in such areas cannot afford to pay for the water bill as the price one cubic meter already was put as US seven dollars.

Although people in coastal areas and other neighboring areas like Taiz and Ibb will be able to buy water at a cheaper price.

Despite the optimism about this newly created water project, Dr. Gerhard Lichtenthaler, the Manager of Integrated Water Resources Management in GTZ Yemen says supplying people with desalinated water from the sea will not be fruitful because of bad water network in the country. Most water networks in Yemen cities are leaking and need maintenance.



Yemen's coast is 2500 km long and has 9 governorates overlooking the Red and Arabian Seas.



USAID | YEMEN
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Job Vacancy

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for an immediate job opening within its organization:

“Democracy and Governance Specialist”

The incumbent serves as a Democracy and Governance Specialist under the supervision of the USAID Democracy and Governance Team Leader. The incumbent as USAID Yemen's local Democracy and Governance Specialist serves as the advisor and analyst on areas such as supporting the development of a civil society; fostering free, open, and democratic elections; strengthening independent media; training and strengthening reform-minded Parliament members; promoting more responsive and accountable local governments and representative institutions; strengthening anti corruption measures and rule of law, and strengthening legal systems and processes in support of democratic and economic reforms.

S/he provides input and technical direction into the design, implementation, management, and monitoring and evaluation of assigned activities and projects. S/he also conducts related discussions and negotiations with officials from the Yemen Government, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and donors. The incumbent will also work with other donors in the democracy sphere coordinating USAID assistance to complement other donor activities.

USAID's current democracy & governance portfolio is comprised of several initiatives, including community-based activities through USAID's new Community Livelihood Project (CLP), the policy and institutional reform effort Responsive Governance Project (RGP), and several other implementation mechanisms. The incumbent is required to work with other US Government agencies, particular the Department of State, to advise them and the US Embassy regarding the programming of their assistance.

***For detailed Position Description and requirement of qualifications please go to our website** <http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/vacancies.html>

Grade/Salary: *Ordinarily Resident:

- FSN - 10 (Trainee Level) US \$ 19,321 per annum Starting Salary plus \$5,000 in kind of benefits and allowances for six months. After six months incumbent will be promoted to FSN-11 (Full Performance Level) US\$24,481 plus \$6,000 benefits and allowances. USAID has to right to keep the incumbent at a trainee level for another six months if the incumbent did not perform the first six months at a satisfactory level.

How to apply:

Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned). All applications also must include a letter which explains the candidate's past experience and how it relates to the required qualifications, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa or via Fax No. 303-182 or through e-mail address: hrosanaa@state.gov no later than July 14, 2010.

Please note that only qualified candidates will be called for interview.

*** NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

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تبدأ المسابقة من ٢٠١٠/٦/١ وحتى نفاذ الكمية
استلام الجوائز من أحد فروع شركة متكو أو أقرب مركز إستبدال

نوع: ٢٤٨٨٩٤/٥٧ صنف: ٢٠٤٢٢٧-٢١٥١٤٥ عن: ٢٥٠٩٤٨٣٥٠٨٥٩ الجديدة: ٢٢٠٨٤٩-٢٢٠٨٢٥
اب: ٤١٧٧٢٢٤ الفاكس: ٢١٤٢٦٩ سيمون: ٤٠٥٢٦٦

COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION TITLE: Deputy Chief of Party
DIVISION: Civil Society
LOCATION: Yemen
EXPECTED START DATE: June 30th, 2010
RESPONSIBLE TO: Responsive Governance Program Chief of Party (RGP COP)

Founded in 1965, Counterpart International is a diverse, non-profit, international development organization dedicated to helping people in need in the areas of civil society, food security, private enterprise, environmental resource management, humanitarian relief, and healthcare. Counterpart does this by building the capacity of local partner nongovernmental organizations, lenders, businesses, governments and other institutions to solve their own self-defined economic, ecological, political, and social problems in ways that are sustainable, practical, and independent.

SUMMARY:

Counterpart International is seeking a Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) for the 3 to 5-year, USAID-funded Responsive Governance Project in Yemen. The position will be based in Sana'a, Yemen. The DCOP will support the Chief of Party (COP) in overall project and staff management responsibilities, including financial oversight, donor relations and effective partnership development with local and international organizations.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Program Management and Development

- Support the COP and RGP staff in the development and implementation of program strategies and work plans.
- Manage the day-to-day implementation of program activities in coordination with international and local implementing partners.
- Identify program expansion and collaboration opportunities and participate in program development, local recruitment, partner identification and other duties as required.

Capacity Building

- Identify capacity building needs of the RGP program team and develop a capacity building plan.
- Oversee capacity building activities for local civil society organizations and community based organizations in the areas of organizational development, advocacy, policy analysis and negotiation skill-building.

Communications/Reporting

- Ensure quality program reporting to Counterpart HQ and USAID.
- Produce success stories, case studies, web-publications and other relevant materials as needed for reporting and communications.
- Represent Counterpart at external events with stakeholders, including: beneficiaries, partner organizations, donors, and government representatives.
- Document program methodologies, best practices and lessons learned.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Ensure high quality project monitoring and evaluation; work closely with M&E staff to monitor program outputs against the Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.
- Oversee the work of Monitoring and Evaluation staff to produce qualitative and quantitative reports for Counterpart's Management Information System.

Finance and Administration

- Work in close coordination with the COP to:
 - o Monitor budgets to ensure adequate oversight of program spending;
 - o Ensure thorough review of financial reports submitted by sub-grantees.
 - o Ensure quality submission of financial reporting to Counterpart HQ.
- Work with the COP and program staff to determine staffing needs.
- Assist the COP in the coordination of activities between office Counterpart HQ and the field office.
- Other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum of 5 years experience working on one or more of the following: international good governance; institutional capacity building; or advocacy development programs
- A Masters Degree in International Development, Political Science, Public Policy or a similar field.
- Previous USAID-funded program experience, preferably in the Middle East.
- Minimum of 5 years of work experience in the Middle East.
- Previous work experience in Yemen and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the country.
- Technical areas of expertise including policy formulation, implementing transparency initiatives, grant making, civil society promotion, and training program design.
- Excellent public speaking and writing skills in English.
- Fluency in Arabic.
- Fluency in at least one local Yemeni dialect.
- Yemeni nationals are strongly encouraged to apply.

"Counterpart International strongly believes in equal opportunity for all, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, sex, veteran's status, age, marital status, sexual preference, disability or any other protected personal characteristic."

TO APPLY:

Individuals interested in working with Counterpart International on this project, should send their resumes and salary requirements to RGP@counterpart.org. Deadline for the application is July 5, 2010.

Living in Yemen

Part I - Tafruta

By: Lorraine Zamora Chamas
(Jalilah)

From April 1996 to March 1999 I lived in Yemen. I was there with my husband who was working to promote the country as a tourist destination. It was wonderful. Many are surprised to hear this, imagining me locked up, veiled and bored out of my mind. I was anything but that; I loved living in Yemen.

Although Yemen is a very conservative Moslem country, Yemeni women are allowed to drive and vote. Many women are in the Yemeni work force as teachers, nurses, doctors and even as businesswomen and television announcers.

The veiling of women is not law in Yemen as it is in Saudi Arabia. Many younger, educated women merely cover their heads, but not their faces, and some do not veil at all. Those who do, do so in deference to tradition, not to law. Foreign women are not expected to veil and I myself never did. Veiling provides women with a kind of anonymity, which, I was to learn, has certain advantages.

However, in the beginning, veiling posed a distinct problem for me. I kept getting separated from my friends when in the crowded «Suq» or marketplace because I was unable to tell the veiled women apart. They all looked alike to me!

The most common cover-ups are the black «Abaya», also worn by women in many other Arab countries, and the «Sharshaf», the traditional Yemeni women's outer garment, also black. The «Sharshaf» was brought to Yemen by the Ottoman Turks who occupied Yemen in the 16th century and again in the 19th century. Upper class Yemeni women first started wearing the «Sharshaf» because they considered it fashionable.

The original cover up is the colorful «Sitarah». It is still worn by the more traditional women in the old city of Sanaa or by those who need a quick cover up. The «Sitarah», with its bright red and blue patterns, resembles a tablecloth. Many foreigners, including us, actually used it for one. This, of course, evoked giggles and loud shrieks of laughter from my Yemeni friends the first time they came to visit my home.

Traditional Yemeni women get up early in the morning, bake their own bread, prepare breakfast, do housework, and then prepare lunch, the main meal in Yemen. Afterwards, they are usually free to get together with their women friends, often at gatherings called «Tafrutas».

On the second day after my arrival I met my neighbor, Arwa, a traditional veiled Yemeni woman, who invited me to visit her the following afternoon. A friendship developed between us. Arwa could always understand my less than perfect Egyptian Arabic, even when the other women couldn't, and I could always understand her.

Yemeni Arabic is quite different from other Arabic dialects and the women additionally speak a dialect all their own. I later learned that this was to insure more privacy and to avoid being understood by the men!

Arwa introduced me to all her friends and I started accompanying her to the «Tafrutas».

The women sat around exchanging gossip, drinking tea steeped with cardamom and flavored with sugar and milk. They primarily gossip when they get together, taking about all of the neighbors' lives, the husbands, and the children. They also discuss, their and their families concerns and

problems. At my first afternoon gathering I discovered that the women knew everything about the men's lives, although the men know nothing of theirs! They knew all about my husband, what he looked like, where he went every day. One of the advantages of veiling is that the women can see every thing while remaining unseen!

Some of the woman chewed Qat, a plant with a mildly narcotic effect, which is very popular in Yemen. The leaves of the Qat plant are put in the side of the mouth until a ball is formed. Swallowing the juice of the leaves leads to a state of mild stimulation. In general, women chew much less Qat than men, often chewing only on Thursdays and Fridays, the days when weddings are celebrated. (Many men chew Qat everyday.)

It was not until my fourth afternoon gathering that I finally got my first impression of dance in Yemen. The women were talking about a wedding that would soon be taking place. I thought it would be an appropriate time to ask about what went on at the weddings and if there was any music or dancing. Due to the conservative nature of Yemeni society, I had not yet ventured upon this subject. Because my husband and I planned to live in Yemen for many years, and I in no way wanted to jeopardize our position there, I did not want word to get out that I was a professional dancer, nor did I want to say or do anything that would cause my morals to be questioned.

The response to my question as to whether there was any music or dance was an enthusiastic, «Oh, yes!» I explained that I'd been to Lebanese weddings and seen Lebanese dance and to Egyptian weddings and seen Egyptian dance. It was then quite natural to ask about dance at Yemeni weddings.

A simple question was all they needed to get them into motion!

Anissa, a young woman in her late teens jumped up and began demonstrating a few steps. Rugaya, Anissa's mother, who was hosting the gathering that day, put on a cassette. Hoda, another young woman who lived in the neighborhood, also got up and the two young women performed a dance that is danced in pairs. It was called «Laheji», named after the region of Lahj, where the dance originates. When I asked why

a dance from Lahj was done in Sanaa, I was told that, because it was easy to do and pretty to watch, it had become very popular in Sanaa. The basic footwork is a type of «1-2-3» step, somewhat like the «cha cha» step in the States.

I inquired if there were a dance from Sanaa. The two younger women began to show me some other steps only to be interrupted by Khadija, Hoda's mother-in-law. Khadija began demonstrating a dance that at first looked deceptively simple. Upon closer observation, however, I saw the steps were highly intricate, changing according to the rhythm.

I later learned that this «Sanaani» style of dance is usually done by older women, sometimes 2, 3 or more, all dancing in a line. Because it is more complicated, many of the younger women cannot dance the «Sanaani» style properly.

Knowing that the hostess, Rugaya, was from Hadhramawt Valley in the southern part of Yemen, I could not resist asking her about dance in Hadhramawt. Anissa started with the basic «1-2-3» step but then began to throw her hair from side to side in a way similar to «Khaligy» or Arabian Gulf style. This similarity in styles is not surprising when one considers the strong historical and cultural ties between the Hadhramawt valley and both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Many of the well-known «Saudi» or «Khaligy» singers are, in fact, of Yemeni origins. Abu Bakr Salim Belfaqeh and Badwi Zubahr are from Hadhramawt and both Mohamed Abdu and Ahmed Fat'hi are from Hodeida, on the Red Sea coast. I later found out that Anissa and many other Yemeni women could also dance the Khaligy style superbly.

Another woman who lived in the area, Hanan, had been quietly observing what was going on. Finally, she got up to demonstrate the dance of her homeland, Marib, once the capital of the ancient kingdom of Saba or Sheba. Although there was no cassette of appropriate music, she did her best. The dance looked like no other I've seen before. Unfortunately, I never got to see Hanan dance again nor did I ever get to travel to Marib to see the dancing first hand.

Up to this point none of the dances had born any resemblance to Oriental dance. I now felt comfortable about asking if they were familiar with «Raks Sharki».

«Oh, you mean «Raks Masri» (Egyptian dance),» they replied. Again Anissa leapt up, put on a cassette of the Lebanese singer Ragib Alleme and danced a home-style version of Raks Sharki that was not bad at all. Actually more in the style of «Raks Baladi»,

Anissa used only hip and torso movements and stayed primarily on the same spot.

Now that I'd had my first experience of dancing in Yemen, I was really looking forward to my first Yemeni wedding!

non, Turkey, and Hungry, just to name a few), however, all the other details of the event could have been found in an isolated room in the family home of any Yemeni woman. Men are not allowed to these kinds of gatherings; they are restricted only to women. The presence of the opposite sex is a main motivation for young women in the States, and I assume throughout much of the western world, to look their best and cut loose at social gatherings. There have been many times where I remember my female acquaintances backing out of an invite because the anticipated crowd was not up to their standards in terms of the male population. Women in Yemen put on their finest dresses, show skin (frequently lots of skin), wear make-up, and dance and sing for no one, but themselves and the other women in attendance. Smoking sheisha, chewing qat, and eating goodies are usually at the middle of these gatherings along with, of course, the privilege of allowing themselves to say

what they want and do what they want without the same kind of restriction that normally intervenes in their lives. The birthday party that I attended was a costume party. Kim (my eternal partner in crime when it comes to navigating Yemen) and myself were given last minute notice and, seeing as neither of us had a costume on hand nor the money or the will to put one together in such a short time frame, showed up as our foreign selves. When we arrived, we were greatly outdone by the rest of the women there and I was impressed how, with the few resources available, they were able to put together such detailed costumes. Another testament to their appreciation for moments such as these. There is no great climax to this blog entry so I won't pretend to end it with one. It's simply a testament to the humanity of women and the strength that it takes to find happiness in a society where life evolves around the basics of survival; where the woman under the robe blends into the background as an exotic picture on a postcard.

Is there any appropriate age for divorce?

By: Suleiman Raise Bauzer
Al-amal-institute@hotmail.com

The strongly condemnation for early marriage by most of Yemeni scholars who signed against the restricted and specific age of marriage on march 1/ 2010, above fifty of them who show their disapproval of the age which the law has passed, accordingly their confirm is "Compulsion is incompatible with religion, therefore let there be no compulsion in religion." "The Heifer" AL BAQARAH verse 256. Each person knows the leniency of Islam religion, which made it so perfect and suitable for whole nations and races, the easy-goingness of Islam even in the things which are forbidden nevertheless, are permitted for specific sites and times.

Therefore, why should the age of marriage especially in Yemen should be stabilized and precise? no under 18 years old girls must not get married, upon which religious concept this law pass for? What about a girl of 15 however so ready enough to be married, and all the conditions, which the Jurisprudence Committee of Parliament (JCP) has set. Those conditions such as puberty, mental / physical ability and consent. Isn't that law not suitable for some areas where girls are so physically powerful and physically ready to bear that marriage? at the same time as Muslims who have our own religious concepts which in

Sharea are suitable for different situations and people. Hence we don't need others direct us when we must marry and how many children should we have? Islam calls for marriage which aims to be honor, avoid spinsterhood, illegal relationships which consider forbidden, and in order to live a happy live.

Allah says "And those of your women who have renounced the hope of experiencing their menstrual courses again, and you are in doubt of the date or of the nature of the discharge, then they have to wait for a set period of three months. A similar set period is obligatory to those who have not yet experienced these periodic courses. As for those who are in process of gestation, their set period accords with the duration of the pregnancy and ends when they have been relieved of their burden; and he who entertains the profound reverence dutiful Allah, will Allah facilitate his task and lead him to a facile and useful life". "The Divorce" AL TALAQ (4)

According to the verse above "A similar set period....." So Allah allows us to marry even the small girls, except reasonably those who are mentally and physically and for considerate men. consequently here the idea is comprehensible for those who doesn't deem between the real meaning and the time alone.

Our prophet Mohammed peace be upon him married Ayisha while she was nine, however some explainers

are absolutely absorbed in the real abilities rather than her age at that time.

Who knows that our prophet (PBUM) targets us or informs that no matter the girl her age is, unless if she is ready enough for that.

Getting married is the simply way out for nations in order not people involve in fornication or homosexual relationships, which now most of European and American countries afraid of which results in diseases that have not yet known before.

Why Yemen in particular focuses on the early marriage forgetting the demand which published in one of most widely read newspaper that the rewriter demands the Yemeni law to pass a new law for allowing men marry men and women marry women. Isn't that out of the ordinary, and forbidden in our culture. (Al-thagafya newspaper for Al-jamhoria establishment issue No. {524} 21/3/2010.)

If the early marriage which most immense countries are looking for, for the reason that they actually faced the problem which their unstable situations effected citizens who have been effected by, and break laws or at least they don't have long-term marriage - lives when everyone is just responsible for oneself and can have sex any where or any time!. That is why most studies show how dreadful and shameful that ones don't know who are his fathers or mothers. Let's all get married in order to live in peace and rest.

'The land of candles' Japanese volunteers and the Yemeni people

By: Abdul-Nasser Al-Abdali

Japan is the most cooperative countries in the world. The people of Japan have created mutual relationships of cultural exchange with many countries around the world, such as Yemen, Niger, South Africa, and many others. Japan has provided significant assistance to help develop these countries with an emphasis on economy, education, and social infra-

structure.

In Yemen, for example, Japan opened its embassy in Sana'a in 1976 as the first step toward cultivating a strong friendship with Yemen. It also set up the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which strives for the development of the country in many areas of daily life, such as poverty reduction.

In addition, the Japan Friendship Association (JFA) was established in Sana'a in 1990 as a social and cultural

non-profit volunteer organization to promote friendship between Japan and Yemen. In fact, this association plays an important role in supporting and developing the country: It aims to not only introduce Japanese culture to Yemenis, but also to assist people in their daily lives.

This is a powerful example of the good bilateral relations between Japan and Yemen, and it proves that Japan, not Yemen, is actually the 'land Of candles.'



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (YEM10/ADM/02)

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking a qualified candidate for the following post:

Post Title:	Finance Assistant
Duty Station:	Sana'a
UN Category:	SC-3 (G4 equivalent)
Duration of:	Six months
Closing Date:	9 July 2010

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Administrative and Finance Officer, the incumbent will:

- Extract and input data from various sources in financial or accounting systems;
- Respond to accounting, budget or financial queries regarding data from staff in the unit and elsewhere in the Programme;
- Provide information related to financial transactions including calculation of personal entitlements and pro rata;
- Provide assistance to all staff services such as travel, expense claims, document retrieval, etc;
- Assist in the preparation of the payroll by executing validity checks on monthly payroll results;
- Assist in day-to-day petty cash handling and its reconciliation;
- Maintain proper control over various financial records such as commitments and expenditures against budgeted amounts; initiate actions related to the following: general financial information, and travel payments, and procurement transactions;
- Maintain appropriate filing system and update on a timely basis;
- Verify vendor claims for accuracy and conformance with WFP finance rules and regulations; perform claim verifications against documentation to ensure that purchases/services are properly authorised and that the goods have been received or services rendered; and ensure timely recording and processing of vendor invoices in the Programme's information system;
- Monitor vendor advances and other receivables and ensure timely clearance of vendor outstanding items, taking corrective follow up actions where required;
- Prepare necessary receipt and journal vouchers;
- Draft routine correspondence related to the unit's work and type a variety of material such as correspondence, reports and papers;
- Assist in the preparation of budget, accounting, financial reports, statistical reports and other reports as required;
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications:

Education:	Secondary school
Experience:	At least three years of experience of progressively responsible clerical experience in general administrative work including at least one year in the field of finance, accounting, budget, audit or other related field and at least one year at the G3 level or equivalent.
Language:	Fluency in both oral and written Arabic and English.
Knowledge:	Experience in utilising computers, including word processing, spreadsheet and other WFP standard software packages and system. General knowledge of UN system financial policies, rules, regulations and procedures.

Applications must be received by the deadline at the following address:
World Food Programme, Sana'a
P.O. Box 7181
Diplomatic Area, Nowakshot St, House No. 22, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
with reference to the vacancy number on the envelop.

A copy of certificates and licences should be attached to the curriculum vitae.

Only short-listed candidates shall be contacted.

By: Danielle Giacchetti
Beyond Borders blog

Alright, for all you men out there I'm sure you're getting tired of my increasing emphasis on the female population in Yemen, but the women here are amazing on so many levels that I have to add a little more on the topic before slowing down. It's no secret that the lives of women in Yemen are severely limited by their male counterparts, and sometimes by the female population itself. What is secret and in many ways, sacred, is how they persevere in a culture that refuses to acknowledge them as unique and capable individuals. I was invited to a birthday party this weekend for a very progressive and well-traveled Yemeni woman, but a Yemeni woman nonetheless. Her background was the reason for the diverse crowd that attended (all were young women living in Yemen, but originating from Saudi Arabia, Leba-

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فاكس: ٥٣٥ - ٥٣٥ - ١
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العالمية للسفريات والسياحة : ٤٤١١٥٨/٩/١٠

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سنوات. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٦٧٠٣٥
- ٧٣٣٠٧٩٨٨٢

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بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب -
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Yemeni blogs: Lack of popularity

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

The impact of citizen journalism using blogs on the Internet is on the increase, yet blogs in Yemen

are still in their infancy.

Digital illiteracy and a distrust in the role of blogging are hampering their uptake. Among the educated, blogs are relatively unknown and unpopular. To the illiterate, they are

simply inaccessible.

Saddam Motea was one of the first Yemeni bloggers when he started posting in 2006. His blog is www.hoddar.blogspot.com.

"The problem is that people think blogging has a certain form, but I think the basic form of a blog is to be free," said Motea.

"The early basic form of blogging was free writing without any restrictions or ethics. Since then blog writing has developed ethics," he explained.

"Blogging reflects our nature in a spontaneous way," he said. "Like journalism, blogging has become an untraditional source for writing history."

Motea believes that Yemeni blogs could manage to establish an elite audience like those in Egypt. He added that blogging is still not part of Yemeni everyday culture and people still lack the basics of expressing themselves.

Fakhria Ali, former Executive Director of the Media Women's Forum believes that blogging in Yemen is still in its first steps for both bloggers and readers.

"Readers don't trust blogs stories so much or the role of blogging," said Ali. "Most bloggers do not believe in blogs as a media outlet or as a strong tool for

advocacy."

Blogs are often created in Yemen for collecting a writer's opinion pieces written in newspapers, and to have a space to write freely without censorship by their editors or the government.

"Blogging in Yemen is still a new and modern concept to Yemenis, so most bloggers refer to themselves as working on websites rather than as bloggers," Ali added.

Ali pointed out that most training courses available to bloggers were on how to create a blog. They don't deal with blogs as a new form of professional media.



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