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Yemeni Jews tell their story and demand rescue

Kawkab al-Thaibani
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Feb. 8 — Despite numerous government assurances and presidential instructions to protect and relocate the Jewish minority in Raidah village, Amran governorate, the some 400 Yemeni Jewish citizens fear for their lives today more than ever.

After the murder of a prominent figure among the Jewish community, Masha Al-Nahari, 30, the remaining members expressed their concern at the fact that the trial of the murderer has stalled while his tribe is threatening to eliminate the Jews who remain in Yemen.

The majority of the Jewish men in Amran work in trade and vocational jobs such as cobblers or silversmiths. However, for the last two months they could not practice their usual routine and their children are no longer going to the community school fearing that they will be targeted by extremists from the neighboring villages.

Afraim Al-Nahri, a member of the community, explained that they had been living in peace with their Muslim neighbors until the recent event.

The recent war in Gaza increased hatred towards Yemeni Jews to the

extent that some adults called them names and threw stones at them, according to a local journalist Mahmoud Taha. Amran security denied this, calling what happened as "children's mischief."

One week after the murder, a grenade was thrown at the house of Said Israel, a Yemeni Jew. There were no casualties but some material loss. This attack was also not investigated.

Moreover, former Rabbi Yahia bin Yaish said he received death threats by phone. He gave the numbers to security but identities of the callers were not revealed and no action was taken.

As a response to their demand for protection directly from President Saleh, the president instructed that the Jews relocate to Sana'a governorate. He ordered money for the burial of Masha Al-Nahari and a piece of land in Sana'a (about 222 square meters) for each Jewish family.

The president instructed that they move to apartments in the tourist city in Sana'a while the families manage to sell their old houses in Amran and build new ones on the lands they are supposed to get. However, many Jewish families did not want to move because the apartments in tourist city are quite small compared to the size of their families. Moreover, many did not want to leave their home.

Abraham bin Yahya bin Yusif, a member of the community, explained that local Sheikh Yahya Mujahid Abu Shawarib, who is a deputy at the National Security Apparatus, wants to facilitate the selling of the Jews' homes and lands as well as their transfer to Sana'a where they can get better protection.

"How are we expected to start all over again?" said one of the Jews in the community about the suggested plan. "Even if they give us the lands, who will build the homes for us? And who will buy our homes and lands in the village at a decent price? It all seems very unreal and highly impractical. Instead of protecting us in our own village, they are asking us to leave."

"We want to stay in Yemen because this is our fathers' land and we love it," said Moshe's father Yaish Al-Nahari.



Masha's father Yaish with tears in his eyes: I want justice. I want Mohamed Bin Abdullah's sharia.

Press conference

In a press conference organized by the National Organization for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms, also known as HOOD, relatives of Al-Nahari explained their ordeal and how their lives and livelihoods are threatened every day.

HOOD has taken up representation of Masha's family in court against the killer Abdul-Aziz Al-Abdi, a retired air force pilot with a master's degree in electrical aviation machinery. Al-Abdi shot Nahari on Dec. 11, 2008 in broad day light while the later was leaving his house to buy some groceries from the market, according to his wife Lawza Al-Sulaimi.

"A few minutes after he left, I heard the shooting. Masha's mother went out and came back yelling 'they killed my son,'" she said.

Masha's three year old son Yusif had followed his father out of the house. Yusif saw his father being shot in the back by a man they never saw before.

Al-Abdi, who was still standing there, admitted to the murder when people gathered and reminded them that he had warned Masha three days earlier to either "convert to Islam, leave the country, or die."

Al-Abdi has a criminal record stating that he killed his wife four years ago, but he was pardoned by paying blood

money. His lawyers claim that he is schizophrenic according to previous reports in 2004 issued during the case of his wife's murder by Al-Kholiadi Hospital for Psychological Diseases.

Moreover, the forensic report issued from the prosecution said that Al-Abdi suffers from paranoia with hallucinations. He planned the crime but he has delusional motives, the forensic report says.

According to lawyer Khaled Al-Anesi, executive director of HOOD, Yemeni law acknowledges insanity in the defense of murder only if it is total insanity, when a person "cannot differentiate between day and night."

"If he is really crazy, why doesn't he go about shooting everyone else, why only my Jewish son? And how does a mad person obtain a gun?" demanded an anguished Yaish Al-Nahari, Masha's father.

The forensic report warns the accused is dangerous and may commit another crime. Therefore, he should be kept locked up in a mental sanitarium, the report recommends. Today, Al-Abdi remains in Amran under custody.

Lawyers of Masha's family demanded the transfer of the trial from the Criminal Specialized Court in Amran to Sana'a on grounds of fear from being attacked by Al-Abdi's tribe who showed harmful intentions towards the



Children of deceased Masha Nahari, playing in their front yard. Because of hostility against them and fear of harm they remain indoors as much as possible.

Jewish minority according to both Muslim and Jewish locals.

During court sessions the Jews were advised to hide their plaits so as not to be recognized and attacked. During one aggressive incident against the Jews, the judge imprisoned five of aggressors from Al-Abdi tribe, but they were released after a few hours without bail. Furthermore, according to Al-Anesi, the court did not send soldiers with the Jews to protect them during their journey back and forth to the trial sessions. The lawyers had to escort them to ensure their safety.

No response was received from the general prosecution or the Ministry of Justice concerning the court transfer's request. Dr. Abdullah Al-Olfi, the general prosecutor, said that the transfer request is pending review by Justice Minister Ghazi Al-Aghbari, who wanted an official letter before responding

to the query on the transfer.

People put in charge of managing living places for Jews such as Mohammed Bin Najji al-Shaif, the head of the human rights commission in the Parliament, denied that the places are small for the Jews. "We devoted 54 houses for 42 families, which means that extra housing can be used for the bigger families," Al-Shaif said.

Al-Shaif said that the Jews did not come because they don't want to leave their houses. "Four families took their keys and went back," he said.

Al-Anesi and Taha blamed the public mass media, which generalized what happened in Gaza as being the fault of all Jews. Political parties and religious scholars stood still in this issue Al-Anesi stated, who said that he contacted all of them to help the Yemeni Jews. He added, "This is not a political issue, or international. It is Yemeni."

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Houthis demand President Saleh fulfill his commitments with regard to detainees

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 8 – A press release issued by the office of Houthi leader Abdul Malek Al-Houthi last Saturday said that "President Saleh's authorities didn't offer any positive signs [regarding the release of Houthi detainees] toward Houthi leader Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, who released about 30 military and security prisoners two weeks ago."

Houthis imply that there are still hundreds of their supporters who are being held as detainees in different prisons of the republic. The press release stated: "The detention of hundreds of detainees in the government's prisons for many years without paying any attention to their ordeals, families, children, or relatives is considered a grave crime and big mistake." The release called on human rights organizations to pay attention to the detainees' ordeals.

"Being silent toward this behavior and ignoring the detainees' ordeals is considered a humanitarian betrayal," said the release. "The government procrastinates about promises of releasing the detainees from time to time. It didn't release any detainees, some of whom have been imprisoned in cells for two years," the press release continued.

"We wish that the government would deal with the initiative made by Abdul Malek Al-Houthi to cool the air, bring peace to the area, and try to repair the damage from the five wars in Sa'ada," added the release.

Media sources have already men-

tioned that "Houthis released 30 soldiers in return for a government promise to release 200 detainees around ten days ago. This action was based on a direct agreement between General Abdul Aziz Al-Dhahab – who is in charge of the military leadership in areas that witnessed confrontations between the two sides – and Abdul Malek Al-Houthi.

Mass media reported last August that President Saleh sent a letter to the prime minister to release political detainees who weren't proven guilty of looting, murder, or other criminal acts. This procedure was made in the presence of Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) members who confirmed the news.

"We rely on the president who showed understanding toward this issue and ordered to release the detainees. We don't rely on those who only want to live in atmospheres of crises and disturbances," JMP members said in press statements.

Several human rights organizations – both Arab and foreign – had issued a number of releases and appeals demanding Yemeni authorities to release detainees from the Sa'ada war. They expressed their concerns about the lives of detainees and demanded that the fate of secret detainees be disclosed, after which they should be released.

The JMP's supreme council already strongly condemned the detention of political and secret detainees. The council described this treatment as official violations and illegal practices against political activists who were

involved in peaceful activities in the southern governorates.

The council accused the government of practicing physical and mental torture against hundreds of detainees in individual prison cells underground, pointing out that these political detainees live under difficult health and psychological situations, similar to the situation under which leaders of the peaceful activities in the south live.

Concerning the security situation in the area, tribal sources said that groups of Houthis established checkpoints on the road connecting Al-Jawf and Sa'ada governorates, hoisting slogans against the US and Israel.

The sources said that those checkpoints were established in many areas of Al-Jawf, pointing out that seven of these checkpoints were established based on directives from Abdul Malek Al-Houthi. They further said that a number of military vehicles pass through these checkpoints without being subjected to any harm. In addition, security and army forces pass through checkpoints that Houthis established without harming Houthis in order to avoid potential confrontation. "Houthis don't check any cars or citizens who pass through the checkpoints," said the sources.

This comes at a time when Houthi influence has been extended to Al-Jawf, amid wars – which some call civil wars – between Houthis and some tribes that supported the government army. Reports from Al-Jawf say that the death toll of these confrontations has mounted to 28 from both sides.

"Unprecedented" security alert to tighten the noose around Al-Qaeda

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
For the Yemen times

MARIB, Feb. 8 – Security authorities in Mareb, some 170 kilometers east of Sana'a, announced an unprecedented security alert. This came after President Ali Abdullah Saleh demanded that tribal sheiks hand over some Al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen who recently announced the merger of Al-Qaeda in Yemen and Saudi Arabia under one structure called "Al-Qaeda Organization in the Lands of the Two Holy Mosques."

The state-run Saba News Agency reported that the executive office of Mareb, which is "the highest executive and security authority in the governorate," approved the establishment of new security checkpoints which will be located at Al-Husoon, Al-Khasif and Gas Company roads. Saba News Agency pointed out that a security cordon will also be established around the capital of the governorate.

These procedures come a few days after President Saleh visited the eastern area of the country and met with local, executive, and security leadership figures as well as tribal sheiks in Mareb, Al-Jawf, and Shabwa. These areas witnessed Al-Qaeda attacks that targeted security centers, oil companies, and groups of tourists.

"Terrorism is a blight that harms people and development," said Saleh in his extended meeting which coincided with his presence during the training of a group of Republican Guards led by his elder son Ahmed Ali Abdullah. The president pointed out that development



Yemen has tightened its security alert in Mareb after president demanded local sheiks surrender Al-Qaeda members in the area.

cannot be achieved if "terrorism, sabotage, and violence" continue.

Saleh urged tribal sheiks not to shelter the extremists and to assist the government in its war against Al-Qaeda by handing over members of the organization to authorities. "Move and you will be backed by the army and security forces. The honest people of the governorate will be with you," said Saleh.

Observers specializing in anti-terrorism affairs view that the president's call on the tribal sheiks not to shelter Al-Qaeda elements is "a serious and strong action by the leadership in Yemen to track down those elements and foil their plans." In the context of the government's serious initiatives to tighten the noose around Al-Qaeda, the Minister of Interior, Mutahhar Rashad Al-Masri, ordered security apparatuses in the governorates to coordinate with the military forces to make use of available capabilities in the process of tracking down

those wanted by security, including the use of helicopters.

In a release circulated by official media, Al-Masri called on security apparatuses to pay special importance in these campaigns to chase "dangerous elements and storm their strongholds in all areas." The Yemeni security measures coincide with Saudi Arabia's issuance of a list of 83 people outside Saudi Arabia who are wanted by authorities. Among those wanted are some who are currently in Yemen.

The Saudi list includes two Yemeni nationals: Nasser Abdul Karem Al-Wahishi, known as Abu Bassir, who is the leader of the organization in the Arabian Peninsula, and Qassem Al-Raimi, who is in charge of military affairs of the organization. The two men are also wanted by Yemeni security since their escape from Political Security Prison in Yemen in February 2006.

Russian Navy denies Socotra military base news

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SOCOTRA, Feb. 6 – An official spokesman for the Russian Navy described rumors that the Russian and US Navy will establish military bases in Yemen as "baseless and incorrect."

Colonel Igor Degeluo, assistant of the Russian Navy Commander-in-Chief, said in a statement to the Russian News Agency, RIA Novosti, that the Russian Navy has no intention to establish Russian maritime military bases outside the country.

Local media reported that a source in the Russian Navy leadership had said that there is a political decision to provide bases for the Russian Navy in Yemen, Syria and Libya.

International news agencies reported that Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh suggested to the Russian Kremlin speaker, Sergei Mironov, last October that the country establish a

Russian Navy base in Yemen, information that the Russian Navy denied last January 16.

The Russian News Agency had reported last January that the Russian Navy intended to secure its continuous presence in three foreign countries – Yemen, Syria and Libya.

An unofficial source in the Russian Navy did however say that there is a political decision to provide Russian Navy bases in these countries, within the next few years. The Russian Navy will establish its base on the island of Socotra in Yemen, in the port of Tartus in Syria and in the port of Tripoli in Libya.

General Anatoly Nogovitsyn, vice-commander-in-chief of the Russian Military Forces, told journalists that Russia is conducting discussions with foreign countries to find a base to secure its navy's regular presence in remote seas to protect the supreme

interests of Russia.

Russia views military bases in Tartus and Tripoli as necessary to enable its navy to follow developments in the Middle East.

Experts expressed their doubts about the ability of the Russian Navy to achieve what it aims during the next few years. They said that establishing a military base requires large funds whereas Russia is currently in the grips of a financial crisis, just like the rest of the world.

It has been reported that what Russia aims to do is to find suitable sea ports in which its military ships can dock. The purpose is to provide these sites with the necessary infrastructure to ensure ships can refuel and restock on supplies and ammunition, which is different from establishing a complete military base.

Four Russian military ships are currently based near Yemeni shores to pro-

tect the trade ships from piracy.

A Russian helicopter launched an air strike last month from one of the Russian military ships against a Yemeni fishing boat by mistake. A fisherman was killed and another two injured. Sources said that Russian officials apologized to the Yemeni authorities and showed readiness to pay compensations. They further said that the Russian officials confirmed that they would give strict orders to their soldiers not to fire before having identified the boats in the Gulf of Aden and Yemeni waters.

Local observers told the Yemen Times that the Yemeni authorities facilitated the Russian navy to dock in a Yemeni sea port. They said that through such a move, Yemen would maintain the balance by preventing potential US or Western dominance of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden under the pretext of combating piracy.

Parliament questions Interior Minister over escaped criminal

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Feb. 8 – Minister of Interior Motahar Rashad Al-Masri assured Parliament on Saturday that his ministry is doing the best it can to catch the criminals behind the murder of Dr. Derhim Al-Qadasi, head of the Science and Technology University Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

His explanation to Parliament's questioning as to why the culprits still haven't been arrested, despite the fact that they were caught on videotape is: "We can't find the murderer."

This response did not satisfy members of parliament who accused the minister of stalling and demanded his resignation. In response to their demands, he accused the MPs of having evil intentions and causing chaos. He even accused the country's physicians and medical care personnel protesting against the security authorities' incompetence of using the case for their own private political agendas.

"Peaceful protests are a thousand times better than those kidnappers and bandits who apply pressure on the Ministry of Interior by force," remarked MP Shawqi Al-Qadhi of the freedoms and rights committee at the parliament in response to Al-Masri's comments.

MP Sakhar Al-Wajeh was also offended by the minister's comments. He claimed that the culprits are hiding in the residence of one of the country's powerful sheiks, and this is why the state does not dare bring them in.

Al-Masri said in an official statement last week that security authorities had arrested eight men suspected of being involved in the fatal attack on Al-Qadasi in December last year.

Today official reports say that only three suspects are being investigated

on charges of murder, despite hospital camera records giving a clear indication of the attackers' identities.

The three suspects were caught on the day of the attack by unarmed hospital security.

Since the attack on Dec. 28, 2008, family and friends of the deceased have camped outside the Science and Technology University Hospital where Al-Qadasi was stabbed in the back, leading to his death three weeks later.

In protest at the country's security forces' inefficiency in catching the criminals, both public and private medical institutions nationwide have agreed on a total strike every Tuesday.

Tomorrow will be the third Tuesday medical strike.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sermi, head of Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate, said that syndicate representatives visit hospitals to assure their solidarity in striking with other medical institutions each Tuesday.

This solidarity campaign started in response to the refusal of a few hospitals to strike, among them the Al-Mutawakel, Al-Junaid and Saudi German hospitals.

"I believe that those who do not show solidarity with the case don't know how much is in stake," he said.

Late December, head of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Science and Technology Hospital in Sana'a Dr. Al-Qadasi was attacked by a group of 18 tribesmen.

Upon being informed of their father's death by Al-Qadasi, sons and some relatives of patient Ahmed Al-Mafalahi, 85, stormed into the hospital and threatened unarmed security staff. They then made their way to the ICU, found the doctor and stabbed him with a knife. He died three weeks later.

Tourism plan to correct Yemen's negative image abroad

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

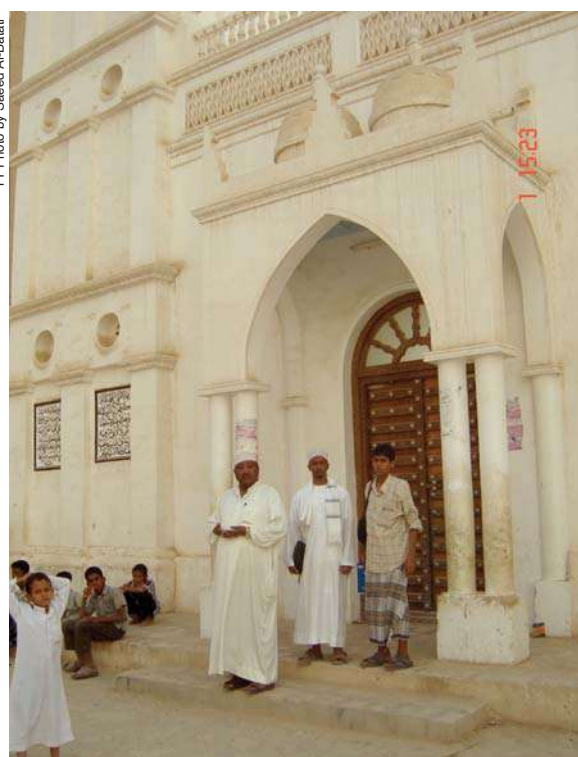
SANA'A, Feb. 7 – The Ministry of Tourism has unveiled its plan for the year 2009 to enhance tourism in Yemen and fix the country's negative image abroad, both in the Arab and European tourist markets.

The new tourism plan includes promotional campaigns on European and Arab television channels, the country's participation in 13 international and regional tourist exhibitions and enlisting the help of companies specialized in public relations in Arab and European countries to promote tourism in Yemen.

The plan was a good step forward by the Ministry of Tourism, according to Mohammed Baze, head of Camelers Tours tourist agency, who thinks it's good to expand the country's participation in international tourist exhibitions and increase the production of tourist maps and brochures.

"Tourist security is very important. There must be coordination between security and drivers of tourist groups," he added.

Also stressing the importance of security, "The coordination between the tourist police and the Ministry of Tourism is absolutely necessary," said Mohammed Al-Adimi Administrative Manager of Arabian Horizon Travel



A building in Shibam historical site in Hadramout. Yemen hopes to promote itself as a tourist destination in 2009 despite security issues.

and Tourism agency.

"The image of military vehicles accompanying tourist groups is not nice. It's better to put security in tourist

sites and checkpoints along the roads to these sites," he said.

Constant and unified coordination between the Ministry of Interior and foreign embassies in Yemen is needed, agree tour operators.

"Sometimes we tell our partners in countries like Germany, France or Japan that the situation is stable after we receive information from the Ministry of Interior, but we are surprised when we find that the country's embassy declares warnings depending on a

another source from the same ministry," Al-Adimi said.

The development of the Strategic Tourism Marketing Plan 2015 is based on an analysis phase. It includes the current tourism situation in Yemen, destination, competitors and interna-

tional trends, according to Kai Partale, a German expert who reviewed the plan.

"Based on these findings we developed a tourism mission statement to position Yemen with its core assets in the international markets," said Partale. "Yemen has the chance now - in these uncertain and exciting days -, to present themselves to the tourism community, as attractively and unusually destination to be experienced by everyone personally and authentically," he said.

"With a professional tourism marketing management structure and a strong focus on internal marketing for awareness-building within Yemeni society, [the country] can tackle and even prevent negative events harming tourism growth and stability," he concluded.

The new plan aims to build resting points along the main roads between cities, organize training courses for tourist guides and use an electronic system to issue business start-up licenses for tourism companies.

It also intends to activate the Ministries of Tourism and Education's joint committee to include the promotion of tourism in the primary school curriculum.

The plan does not include any solutions to security issues, including kidnapping and attacking tourists.

Correction

In the front page article "Anti-corruption law fails to protect foreigners from being kidnapped" by Muaaz Al-Maqtari in Yemen Times' issue 1231, the year of the establishment of the law was incorrectly published as 2008. The correct year for this law is 1998.

In Brief

103mln agreement of funding project of developing secondary education signed

Yemen represented by Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and representatives of donor countries and organizations in Yemen signed on Saturday an agreement of funding a project of developing the secondary education and girl education at sum of \$ 103 million.

The six year project would target 90 schools in 30 districts of Sana'a capital, Lahj, Ibb, Aden, Abyan, Dhamar, Taiz, Hadramout, Hodeidah to narrow gap in education between two females and males and improve quality of the education.

The agreement was signed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Kareem al-Arhabi from the side of the Yemeni government and director of the World Bank in Sana'a, Dutch ambassador to Sana'a and representatives of UK Development Ministry and German Construction Bank.

Al-Arhabi affirmed importance of the project to develop quality of the education and reduce the gap between females and males in education, especially in rural regions.

For his part, the Dutch ambassador delivered a speech on behalf of donors in which he confirmed continuing support of donors for the education in Yemen, affirming importance of evaluating the project after one year of implementation to determine weak and strong aspects.

4000 arrests not linked to terror
Minister of Interior Muthar Rashad al-Masri has denied that the 4000 arrests of wanted suspects announced during the last month were linked to terrorism.

However, the minister said the arrested were of those wanted on criminal charges including killing, burglary and banditry but not on terrorism-related crimes.

He affirmed that al-Qaeda influence has been greatly diminished after large security crackdowns, the latest of which

the raid on a suspected al-Qaeda network in the Secretariat Capital in the last month.

Al-Masri noted that the announcement of the arrests of almost 4000 wanted suspects came within transparency the ministry has to show and its seriousness in dealing with the file of the wanted people.

"The ministry is determined to leave no wanted person at large and it will focus on most dangerous criminals of those who were involved in murders, kidnappings and banditry," the minister said.

In this regard, he affirmed the ministry has announced a reward for information leading to the arrest of Abu Raweyah, a most wanted notorious killer, burglar and bandit. The Ministry of Interior announced late last month the number of wanted people it could arrest over the last year and in the first month of this year reached 4000 suspects.

Fish revenues increased to 19% during 2008

Fish revenues sector has increased to reach 234.7 million dollar during 2008 at an increase of 19% compared with 197 million dollar during 2007 while fish exporting has increased to achieve 105.000 tons from 81.000 tons registered a rate at %30, according to a report published by Ministry of Fisheries Wealth.

The report showed that Aden Port ranks first in the place of maritime outlets exports at rate of 51.000 tons of fish and Hodeidah Port at 7.000 tons as well as Al-Tiwal outlet registered at the first place of landing outlets which fresh fish exports reached 37.000 tons and Shahin outlet at 4.000 tons while Sana'a International Airport ranks at the first place of air outlets with experts about 2.000 tons .

Fish exports and other productions were distributed in five groups including 62 countries in which it achieved a rate of 58% in Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Jordan, the report Added.

The second group of imports targeted countries is China, Vietnam, Thailand and Hong Kong where the fish exporting achieved a rate of 29% and the third group includes France, Spanish, and Italy and Belgium at a rate of 9%, the rest of exports have been distributed to a number of east and western countries.

SANA'A MTEVT to organize workshop on skills for employment in Middle East

Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training (MTEVT) is to organize here on Monday a workshop on skills for employment in the Middle East in collaboration with the British Council in Sana'a .

With Yemen's first participation, the two days workshop will review the technical education experiences in the participating countries to enhance experience exchanging, aiming to establish a communication network for the vocational and technical education in the region , and availing from the successful experiences in Yemen, the Deputy MTEVT for Standards and Quality Sector Dr. Ebtihaj al-Kamal made clear .

She pointed to the significance of this workshop in strengthening the technical ties and cooperation between the participating countries and uniting their efforts to improving the technical and vocational education systems.

The participants will be briefed on the technical and vocational education in Yemen through scouting visit to some technical and vocational educational institutions in Sana'a , al-Kamal added .

Workshop on needs of female journalists

A workshop on needs for developing skills of female journalists was held on Saturday in Sana'a with participation of 30 female journalists from eight governorates.

The workshop is organized by Female Journalist Forum to determine

development media projects that would be adopted by the forum for coming years.

In the opening session of the workshop, Minister of Human Rights Huda al-Ban affirmed importance of the partnership with the civil society organizations to spread knowledge about principles of human rights and training human rights activists and journalists to deal with the human right issues transparently and professionally.

She pointed out to the important role of the female journalists to defend on victims of violations against human rights.

For her part, the deputy director of the forum Wadad al-Badawi said that the workshop comes within a project "female journalists for human rights", which is carried out by the forum for one year.

Project for improving secondary education to be launched

Education Ministry is to launch on Saturday a project of improving secondary education and girls enrollment in schools which will target about 90 schools at 30 districts of 9 governorates.

The projects aim at improving secondary education and create equality between girls and boys .

Speaking to 26 sep.net, executive director of the project department at the ministry Ahmed Al-Arashi said that the project will support government's project to improve gender equality in education field and improve the quality of secondary education with focus on education of girls in rural areas. The project will finance a number of the interventions in 9 governorates such as the Capital Secretariat, Aden, Tiaz, Hadramout, Hodeida, Lahj, Abyan, Dammam and Ibb governorates , Al-Arashi added.

Course on means of carrying out security tasks for police officers warped up

A training course on techniques of carrying out security tasks was warped up on Thursday at the Police Academy,

media center of interior ministry reported. The one-week course was organized in cooperation with the German Embassy in Sana'a and participation of 25 officers who are represented different security units in the country.

The Deputy Minister of Interior Fadl Abdul Majeed highlighted level of the cooperation between Yemen and Germany, especially in field of supporting security bodies, asking the officers to benefit from what

they received in the course in their works to enhance security performance of the country.

For his part, the deputy German ambassador Michel Rois affirmed that his country's readiness to organize further courses for police officers to improve their skills and experiences in order to face crimes.

He said that the course comes within the continuing cooperation between Yemen and Germany in different development fields.

ADEN Awakening women's political participation symposium held in Aden

A symposium on awakening women's political participation culture was held on Saturday in Aden province.

The symposium organized by Social Democratic Forum, dealt with several work papers on women participation situation and the needed policies for involving women in the party work and the need to upgrade and activate this culture .

Secretary General of Local Authority in Aden governorate Abdul Karim Shaif affirmed on the necessity of activating women's participation in all fields and developing their capabilities in the development process, calling on the participants to continue qualifying and awareness programs among women in this regard.

For her part, Programs and Activities Official in the Social Democratic Forum Rana Ghanem reviewed the forums' goals of achieving the social equality and contributing in creating a

wider space for dialogue, pointing to the significance of women participation as a half of society.

Organizing this symposium comes within the project of encouraging women to involve in the political work, aiming to qualify them and provide them with the practical skills for reaching the decision making positions.

Crater to be declared historic city
Director-General of Seera district in Aden province Khalid Wahbi said on Friday that the province is planning to approve a decision to declare Crater a historic city due to its several historic milestones and sites.

Speaking to Saba, Wahbi said that two tourist projects are being implemented in Crater city and funded by the World Bank at the cost of \$ 1180000, adding that the first project is to light the historic castle of Seera in order to facilitate movement and access from and to the castle.

"The second project aims at rehabilitating and restoring the old building of the local Legislative Council in the city". Wahbi added.

He said that Crater city includes many historical monuments such as the beacon of Aden, the old museum, the military museum and a number of mosques and homes date back more than 100 years.

Crater city is situated in a crater of an ancient volcano which forms Shamsan Mountains.

Aden actually is a collection of towns, of which Crater is just one. Crater is the biggest and oldest, surrounded lava rock which gave it its name.

Walking around in Crater reveals the international nature of this town both in people and buildings, another difference from the much more homogenous towns and cities elsewhere in Yemen.

One of the sights to see here, apart from a seemingly abandoned Pizza Hut, are the cisterns. Also known as the Aden Tanks, these enormous cisterns were constructed to store water which would allow the city to survive sieges.

Their News

Hyundai to resume its works in electric transport lines project in Marib

Korean Hyundai Company is to resume its activities next Saturday in a project of Sana'a-Marib Electric Transport Lines in al-Damashaqah region of Marib governorate after the company stopped its works in the region since February 2008.

A source at the General Corporation for Electricity told Saba that the company would resume its works by setting up electrical towers in the region as the recent visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the governorate helped to convince sheikhs of the governorate to stand against outlaw elements who committed acts of blocking roads which impact negatively on the development projects in the governorate especially this project.

The source reason behind stop of the company for its works in the project was act of blocking roads and frequent

attacks. The project is considered one of the strategic projects in the country and started in February, 2006. It was expected to be done last February of 2008. An official report showed that the works achieved in Sana'a-Marib project of electrical transport lines reached 92percent.

The project is implemented by Hyundai Company. Director of the project Mohammed al-Thawr said that the company has achieved a big part of the project, expecting to finalize 42 towers in

Damashaqah region within period between three to four months. The total cost of the project is \$ 59 million funded by Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Integrated Newsrooms E-Consulting Program Launched

In these troubled economic times, staying

informed of innovative ideas and best practices from other media groups around the world is key for editors-in-chief and senior news executives. Designed by the World Editors Forum, E-Consulting For Editors is an online, on-demand programme for editors-in-chief, online editors and managing editors who are already engaged in the process of integrating their newsroom, considering it, or simply curious to learn more about what it entails. In creating the programme, WEF has visited the most innovative newsrooms around the world with proven success in integrating their print and online editions. The first cycle of four on-demand sessions, of roughly thirty minute each, will allow editors-in-chief, head of departments, senior news executives and publishers to develop a common language, thereby facilitating the process of integrating print and online editions in a successful unique newsroom.

Among the subjects covered in the first cycle: how to pick the right newsroom design, how to implement your web-first policy and how to adapt workflow for print-online collaboration.

- Each online session consists of:
- * Definitions and concepts to create a common language for your newsroom;
 - * Industry best practices to help identify the goals of your integration strategy;
 - * Video and audio interviews with editors of leading newsrooms;
 - * A self-evaluation and feedback;
 - * Recommendations from the director of the World Editors Forum.

For more information, visit <http://www.wan-press.org/econsulting/programme.php> or write to Judah Grunstein, E-Consulting for Editors Project Manager at jgrunstein@wan.asso.fr

Aden-Dubai Company for Ports Development launches works of developing Aden Containers Terminal

Aden-Dubai Company for Ports Development kicked off works of developing the activity of containers terminal through signing an agreement for extending reserving fields of the terminal for about 8 acres based on standards distinguished with ability to carry all heavy machinery. The financial cost of the project is over YR one billion.

Dubai International Ports Company / Aden which runs the activity of the terminal mentioned that the field has been designed and provided with all necessary and future services such as telecommunication, electricity and preventive updates.

The design and research for the project



was conducted by Halcrow International Company while Shafa Contracting Company will undertake the implementation. The storage capacity of the terminal is about 2000units (ground openings), with over 55 %. Consequently, capacity of the terminal will be 900.000 TEUs per a year.

JOB VACANCIES
ISLAMIC RELIEF YEMEN
Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY - a British INGO) is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following vacancies:

Position: Human Resources & Administration Officer
Reference: HRAO/IPD/090908

Responsibilities:

- ¥ Develop and maintain existing programme support especially HR and office systems.
- ¥ Oversee purchasing inventory, transport and procurement of project material
- ¥ Handle petty cash
- ¥ Assist in management; follow up, monitoring and carrying out different tasks related to custom clearance, vehicles, visas, etc...
- ¥ Maintain smooth office operations including provision and operation of equipment
- ¥ Co-ordinate and organize recruitment processes, induction and HR systems and procedures
- ¥ Support in the coordination and organization of performance management and development activities
- ¥ Ensure that the office runs smoothly and that equipment is maintained, serviced or repaired and that Health and Safety procedures are followed.
- ¥ Maintain effective communication and filing systems in the office
- ¥ Perform other duties as deemed necessary

Requirements:

- ¥ University degree in Business Administration or related field
- ¥ At least 2 years experience in human resources, office management and administration.
- ¥ Experience of managing a team of staff.
- ¥ Excellent communications skills including written and spoken Arabic and English.
- ¥ Ability to deal with people at all levels including partners, staff and officials in government offices.
- ¥ Highly organized, able to meet deadlines and complete on time.
- ¥ Interested in learning about and applying correctly procedures in office management, human resources and logistics..
- ¥ Good computer skills in (Word processing, Excel, PowerPoint & usage of internet)

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 23rd February 2009.
Admin Department
Islamic Relief Yemen,
P O Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No: 01-415998 Or Email: info@iryemen.org

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief
Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Islamic Relief is an international relief and development charity with its headquarters in the UK that aims to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people.

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- Experience of telephone systems and maintenance experience.
- Installing and programming telephones systems and cabling.
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Interested candidates should apply by submitting their CVs to:-

Quicktel-Yemen
Al-Zaraa Street
Tel: +967-1-273514 / 485973
E-mail: gamal-md@quicktel-yemen.com

QUICKTEL
YEMEN

Vacancy Announcement

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SIPC E&P Yemen
SOOGL Yemen

SIPC is a subsidiary of SINOPEC. SINOPEC is rated as the 19th largest Company in the world. SIPC has 3 exploring blocks as an operator & 1 development block as a partner in Yemen. SIPC invites you to apply for the position of

Executive Secretary

Responsibilities are but not limited to:

1. Prepare correspondence, reports, and materials for publications and presentations.
2. Setup GM's travel arrangements.
3. Setup accommodation and entertainment arrangements for the company's VIP visitors.
4. Maintain GM's calendar.
5. Setup and coordinate meetings and conferences.
6. Create, transcribe, and distribute meeting agendas and minutes.
7. Answer telephones and handle them in appropriate manner.
8. Perform and maintain general clerical duties including photocopying, faxing, mailing, and filing.
9. Coordinate project-based work.
10. Supervise support staff.

Qualifications and professional requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree is required.
2. Knowledge of Microsoft Office and telephone protocol.
3. Duties require professional verbal and written communication skills and the ability to type 60 wpm.
4. Visibility of work requires attention to detail.
5. Excellent organizational skills, and discretion with confidential information.
6. At least two to three years of secretarial experience.

Interested, please send your C.V.s and covering letter to:
The following e-mail: Recruitment@sipcyemen.com.ye
Note (only Short listed will be contacted for the interview)
Deadline for applying is 30 / 02 / 2009



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Qualifications:

- Medical doctor
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- Excellent knowledge in first aid and BLS is mandatory.
- Project management experience.
- Experience in supervising and assessing medical programs.
- Arabic is compulsory, English or French is an asset.
- Ability to write monitoring and evaluation reports.
- Diplomatic, able to communicate with a variety of people.
- Flexible attitude, to adjust to a different culture, medical context, political context.
- Good sense of organization is essential.
- Good computer skills.

Hadda Close to MTN. P.O. Box 16372, Sana'a, Yemen
Fax: 410515, Email: recruitment_mdm_yemen@yahoo.fr



الملتقى الثاني للموارد البشرية

HUMAN RESOURCES SECOND FORUM

الدور الاستراتيجي للموارد البشرية في ظل المتغيرات العالمية المعاصرة

2 - 1 مارس 2009م

المحاور الرئيسية للملتقى

المحاور الرئيسية لأوراق عمل الملتقى (صباحاً):

- الدور الاستراتيجي لإدارة الموارد البشرية في ظل التغيرات والأزمات العالمية المعاصرة
- عرض تجربة محاكم دبي في الحصول على جائزة أفضل أداء وتطور للموارد البشرية للعام 2008 من برنامج دبي للأداء الحكومي المتميز
- تقييم الأداء بين الطموح والروتين، نظرة حديثة في فلسفة تقييم الأداء
- الإنجازات الحديثة في التخطيط الاستراتيجي لإدارة الموارد البشرية وعلاقته باستراتيجية المنظمة
- استراتيجية دبي لتنمية الموارد البشرية (معهد دبي لتنمية الموارد البشرية نموذجاً)
- الجودة في نظام الموارد البشرية لتحقيق الجودة الشاملة للمنظمات المعاصرة (Quality in Human Resources)
- استراتيجيات وسياسات الموارد البشرية في ظل المنافسة
- الطرق الإبداعية لتجديد طاقات الموارد البشرية (كيف تحصل على أفضل ما لدى موظفيك)

المحاور الرئيسية لورش الملتقى (مساءً)

- كيفية تفسير الثقافات واستغلال مواهب ومهارات الموارد البشرية في المنظمات المعاصرة
- رؤية ومنظور حديث لتكيفية تخطيط المسار الوظيفي
- كيفية اعداد وتنفيذ برامج التهيئة للموظفين الجدد (New Employees Induction Programs)
- الإدارة الحديثة للموارد البشرية ودورها في التخلص من القيود الروتينية والعوائق الإدارية (تيسير الإجراءات الإدارية للمنظمات الحديثة)
- الأساليب الحديثة لقياس العائد من التدريب
- كيفية وضع الاستراتيجيات المناسبة للمنظمة في ظروف المنافسة

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مجدي عبد الله مقبل

بمناسبة الخطوبة

.. فآلك آلك مبروك

المعشوه :

جميع إخوانك مع الاهل والاصدقاء وهي خاصة من وضاح البشيرى

أحمد التغاني وأطباء التبريكات نعدبها محملة بالفق والرياحيه للمقاوم/

ابو الحارث يحيى القعود

بمناسبة ارتقاة المولود الجديد والذي اسماه

اليمن

.. فآلك آلك مبروك

المعشوه :

والدك وجميع إخوانك مع الاهل والاصدقاء وهي خاصة من رشيد الاستقاف

أحمد التغاني وأطباء التبريكات نعدبها محملة بالفق والرياحيه للأخ/

مالك عبد الجليل الاصبحي

بمناسبة عقد القران وقرن الرفاق

.. فآلك آلك مبروك

المعشوه :

والدك العميد عبد الجليل الاصبحي - د/ معاذ الاصبحي - د/ جمال الاصبحي - الاخ/ سمير عبد الجبار الاصبحي - صلاح العززي - أحمد عبد الولي - نوار عبد السلام - والذى الاصبحي وجميع موظفي مجموعة الجيل الجديد وهي خاصة من ياسين الاصبحي واخوانه

Malaysian Ambassador Abdul Samad Othman to the Yemen Times, "2009 is a crucial year for Yemen"

Yemen and Malaysia recently signed several agreements to help Yemen learn from the Malaysian experience in developing agriculture, tourism and industry at a conference entitled "Industry is the future of Yemen" in Hadramout. It aimed to search for strategic alternatives for the future of the Yemeni economy, particularly in the industrial sector. Guest of honor to the conference, former Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Mahathir Mohammad stressed the importance of a solid educational system, easy licensing procedures to facilitate investment, constant vigilance in combating corruption and improving infrastructure to move Yemen away from a purely agricultural-based economy. Malaysian Ambassador Abdul Samad Othman attended the conference with Mahathir. He spoke to Salma Ismail of the Yemen Times about the similarities between Yemen and Malaysia, and how Yemen might benefit from the Malaysian experience.



Ambassador Abdul Samad Othman is optimistic about Yemen's Future

Malaysia is a multi-racial country consisting of four major ethnic groups—the Malays, Chinese, Indians and Bumiputeras. How is Malaysia similar to Yemen?

We are similar in the sense that we are developing countries, we are Muslim countries. We share history and even culture because a lot of Malaysians are actually from Yemen. In the international forum, we have many common positions on a number of issues. Based on that we think, it is good for us to share our experiences. If you talk about the society, it is very different.

But we also share a lot of common goals. Before we developed our country we had many similar problems in education, corruption and infrastructure. The problems that Yemen is having now, we had before.

Of course Malaysia still has many problems. However, Yemen could follow the experience of Malaysia's development and perhaps take many short-cuts [to] avoid some of the pitfalls that we went through. Through that, perhaps it will be a benefit for Yemen to take advantage of what we have experienced and this is what we have been saying. We are happy to share our experience.

Is Yemen ready to declare the year 2009 a tourist year, similar to Malaysia 2007 tourism year. Contrary to Yemen, Malaysia had many factors in place and it was ready for this endeavor.

You have to start somewhere, whether you like it or not. I recently met with the Minister of Tourism and shared these views. If you want to compare Malaysia

with Yemen, especially in tourism, Yemen in terms of historical tourism attractions has so much to offer. We [Malaysia] have nothing. This country has tremendous tourism attractions.

For historical attraction there is a long history, 5000-6000 years of history, beginning with the Queen of Sheba. We don't have this kind of attraction. Malacca was about 700 year's old. That's the oldest historical site that we have. You have Socotra, beautiful beaches, beautiful mountains and landscape, Old Sana'a.

[But] to develop the tourism industry isn't easy. You need to have security, stability and -of course- infrastructure. If you don't have it, it is difficulty, but you have to start. Yemen has a problem with security. Yemen has a problem with stability too. The infrastructure is struggling. But then again, if we have these three and then we start, it will be too late. Despite the fact that these factors are important we have to struggle to develop with whatever we can.

Could we say that these three -security, stability and infrastructure- are the greatest hindrances to Yemen's development?

Of course they are hindrances, but there are others. In Malaysia, we have to some extent developed, but we still have a lot of hindrances.

To develop the tourism sector, you need investors. It doesn't matter if they are local or foreign. If you manage to get domestic investors that is preferable. If that's not possible, you must rely on foreign investors.

How is Malaysia involved in investment in Yemen?

As an ambassador, I have been telling our businessmen and companies time and time again: Yemen now has tremendous opportunity and the country has opened its doors wide to foreign investors.

The country has also made remarkable reforms in terms of attracting foreign investors. The General Investment Authority of Yemen has played an

important role. I saw and I continue to see their efforts, but then again their efforts alone are not enough. Much more needs to be put in place.

Malaysian investors are interested to come and they are coming again and again, but of course to convince them, real security has to be in place. Incentives must be in place and real efforts by both the government and the private sector must be in place for investments to flourish.

Of course foreign investors won't come just for the sake of helping. It has to be a win-win situation.

Malaysian investors come to Yemen and are surprised at the great potential. They are willing to come and invest, but they are coming slowly. There is no doubt about it. When they came, they saw much potential and have already found local partners. Others are still looking around.

The year 2009 is crucial for Yemen - if we move in the right direction. By "we", I mean both Malaysian and Yemeni business sectors. I believe we can come out with more tangible partnerships.

A few agreements were signed at the meeting in Mukalla. Four memorandums of understanding were signed. Apart from that, other projects have been highlighted and a number of discussions have taken place. Implementation will come soon.

It took a strong leader -Mahathir Mohammad- to get Malaysia where it is today. Can Yemen progress with its current leadership?

There are different types of leadership for different times. Strong leadership is crucial to move forward. It is not easy to move a country from one stage to another except with a strong push from the leader.

The Yemeni president is a good figure. But one leader is not enough: He needs assistance. There must be a strong team of leaders, strong ministers, strong civil servants and strong leaders in the private sector. Then only can you move forward.

What are some examples of human development that were successful in Malaysia that could be applied to Yemen?

We have been investing in the education sector since day one of our independence, over 50 years ago.

Each year we have given priority to education and this has been translated in our human resource development. It always comes first in our annual budget. Only 30 years ago, we had five universities. Today we have over 100 colleges and universities in Malaysia and worldwide. We are also hosting over 20,000 foreign students now.

This is because of the yearly expenditures that we have given to education. Yemen needs strong human resource development by investing in education. There is no option. Education is very vital. Even the most developed countries in the world stress education.

So countries like Yemen and Malaysia have no choice. To develop human resource you must develop education. And you must do that by investing more in education and giving it more priority in the annual budget.

Malaysia's 50 years in investment is paying off.

How long will it take Yemen to reach where Malaysia is today in education?

Let me quote Mahathir Mohammad: "It will take long." It will take long to see the results but you must not give up. You must do it, you must work towards it and sooner or later the results will be seen. As far as Malaysia is concerning we are seeing results.

Yemen has basic infrastructure, now the country needs to push more, the develop more. Many universities are coming to Yemen. In fact, we are hoping to open a new university campus [here] in March and it is already open for enrolment. The International University College of Technology Twintech (IUCTT) will be a complete campus branch. Hopefully our education minister will officially open the campus. We also have three Malaysian universities running programs in Yemen's University of Science and Technology (UST).

Do you think that the existence of international maritime forces protecting the Gulf of Aden will solve the problem of piracy? Or is the solution a strong and stable Somali state? If yes, can Malaysia be a part of the international forces?

There are so many countries sending their navy ships to protect their interests in the region, including the United States, Russia and China. In the short-term, it will help in some limited areas. But that won't solve the problem.

I see two ways to solve the problem.

Malaysia also had a similar problem in the Straits of Malacca [where] we used to have a lot of pirates. But Malaysia joined forces with its neighboring countries -Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore- and worked hand in hand to control the Straits. Last year, we heard of only one case of piracy. Ten years ago, every ship passing through had to worry. Today, we solved the problem.

What I'm trying to say is that regional countries -Somalia, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen and others- must work together. That is the real solution.

Second, we must address the root of the problem. We must find political solutions in Somalia

In the Straits of Malacca, most of the pirates were Indonesian and the reason was poverty. For them, it was the easiest solution to their poverty. And that gave a negative reputation for the country. We told Indonesia, we will help you to solve your problem and, at the same time, we are helping address our common problem.

For Somalia, the reason is also poverty, development and politics. And that invites many more problems.

During Mahathir's times, he introduced the concept of helping to enrich your neighbor, meaning that we help our neighbors to get rich, and once that happens they won't have to come to our country seeking employment.

Second, if they are rich, we can export our products to them. It's a win-win situation.

We must not neglect our neighbors as they also benefit us.

Investment climate Yemen enjoys a strategic geographical location at the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula and Asia overlooking the Bab Al Mandab Strait controlling the entrance into the Red Sea.

Investment incentives

Investment Law 22 of 1991 offers a number of privileges and incentives for investment in Yemen.

- Investors can transfer foreign currency to Yemen for investment purposes and can re-export invested capital upon liquidation or project disposal. Net profits resulting from investment of foreign funds can be transferred freely outside Yemen.
- Projects may not be nationalized or seized. Moreover their funds may not be blocked, confiscated, frozen, withheld or sequestered by other than the Courts of Law.
- No performance requirements are specified. There is provision for exemption from Customs fees and taxes on the fixed assets of the project and a tax holiday on profits for a period of seven years, renewable up to a maximum of 18 years (subject to the restrictions specified in the Investment Law).
- The right for ownership of land and buildings.

Copies of this Law and information about its application can be obtained from the General Investment Authority.



One of the most isolated islands on Earth; Socotra is a jewel in biodiversity and was recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008



With its over millennium old architecture, the buildings in the Old City of Sana'a are UNESCO World Heritage Site



The Embassy of the United States of America announces its invitation to submit a proposal for the

"Concession Contract for Travel Services."

Bidders who wish to participate in this tender may receive the solicitation package from the US Embassy by calling first, or bidders may send a request for the solicitation package by e-mail to Campbellgm@state.gov or westdk@state.gov. For any queries please call 755-2307.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked

"Proposal Enclosed" to Ms. Ginger Campbell, General Services Office, and American Embassy - Sanaa on or before 16:00 pm local time on February 18, 2009.

Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen need accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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



OUR OPINION

Kidnapping law

In 1998, the Yemeni government issued a law according to which any bandits responsible for kidnapping foreigners or blocking roads and terrorizing people are to be executed. The law stems from Islamic jurisprudence according to which those who spread terror and threaten people's security are to receive maximum punishment because of the severity and implications of their act.

In Islamic jurisprudence, anyone involved in the act - i.e. kidnapers and bandits - should be executed. However, the 1998 law issues this punishment only to the leaders of such gangs and not those who actually carried out the crime. And although in the last decade over 220 kidnapping of foreigners incidents have taken place, no one has been executed. Instead a few people were caught, imprisoned and given sentences between ten and 15 years.

The reason the prosecution gives for not carrying out the law is that they could not catch the culprits behind the kidnapping or road blocking. The authorities say this despite the fact that those behind these acts of terrorism are well-known, even to the kidnapped foreigners themselves.

Last year, a special court was created to deal with such cases. Its creation seems rather ridiculous because, if you don't catch the criminals, there is no point in having a court - unless it is designed for those who are tried in absentia like Abu Hamza Al-Masri who has a death sentence attached to his name in Yemeni judiciary records, but lives in the UK.

If we want to ensure security in the county, laws and courts will not help until people feel the power of the law and believe that they are equal before it. There is no point in spreading security check points when a vehicle with no number carrying three German hostages can speed by three check points between Sana'a and Mareb without being stopped. What's the point of check points and over seven percent of GDP spent on the military if we can't even fend off pirates in our own shores, if we can't protect the Jewish minority from an influential figure or a teenage girl [Sawsan from Amran] from being raped and beaten repeatedly by her neighbor just because he can?

How are we to encourage businesses and investments from abroad when we can't even guarantee that they will not have to pay three times for the same land because new owners keep appearing claiming it?

It will take much more than a law, a court or a policeman to protect both foreigners and Yemenis in the country. What we really need is honest leadership and a fair justice system.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Real Change Hampered by Political Maneuvering

By: Muneer Ahmad Qaed

As days pass and the scheduled date for the upcoming parliamentary elections, which is April 27, 2009, draws nearer and nearer, the so-called electoral crisis between the opposition parties and the government grows sharper. Opposition parties continue to describe the crisis as "national" as contained in the draft of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) concerning how to hold the elections.

In fact, if we suppose that a real crisis does exist, such a crisis should be associated with conflict over power and future arrangements regarding power. As this conflict grows, it will have negative impacts on political parties and organizations. It seems that the relations among components of the political map and those directly involved in the electoral situation are similar and overlap each other to a great extent. This makes it difficult for an ordinary observer to eliminate overlapping and interrelationships, which are the products of interactions on the ground.

In order for these interrelationships to be put in its official frame, the movement of conflict among various political components should take its time as part of a sorting-out process. Such a sorting-out will ultimately cause all those involved in

the crisis as well as all political players to ultimately meet at the same point.

These interrelationships are ready to form the official framework of the third option, over which controversy, discussion, and debate grew over the past time period in both the media and political community. This framework will not be crystallized until the sorting-out process undertaken by the government and opposition is completed, along with its positives and negatives.

Real change hampered

The political authority in the country suffers from continuing control and dominance of traditional and corrupt individuals in the government and society. Those influential individuals hinder the development of any great national project progressing toward real change.

Those influential individuals also control the direction of JMP member parties. The JMP recently called for a conference to which they invited all leaders of the southern movement, Houthi followers, and opposition leaders abroad. Behaving this way, the opposition parties are rendering a natural service to the traditional influential figures in Yemeni society.

Thanks to their notable dominance over the government and opposition, powerful individuals succeeded in using the Houthi movement as an obedient instrument

to serve their interests both directly and indirectly. They also exploited the southern movement to help them remain in power and foil the proposed project of change.

However, President Ali Abdullah Saleh's decision to end the Sa'ada fighting between Houthis and the army was an historical and strategic decision. The consequences of this decision confirm that the Houthi movement and the protests in the southern governorates are not, in fact, aligned with either the government or the opposition. The Houthi movement and the southern protests are contained within a third option, the components of which are extremely varied. They face attempts intended to hinder their meeting and integration within the context of a new national project due to be initiated by influential individuals in the government and their strategic allies in the JMP member parties.

Such a new project is intended to hinder the project of change, most notably as the traditional powerful leaders in the opposition adopt and support those protests staged under the guise of claiming the rights of military and civil retirees in the southern governorates. Those leaders do so with the intention of forcing elements advocating change in the authority to abandon their project.

Source: Al-Sharea Weekly

Boycotting the elections is our sole positive option

By: Mohammed Al-Maqaleh

There is not enough time to further confuse the position of opposition parties about the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled to take place on April 27, 2009. We have only three months until the scheduled date for the elections, which is a very short period. This period is not enough for us even to change our direction in a way that fits the position concerning this democratic right.

It is an obvious and clear statement, with no ambiguity, reading that Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) will not participate in the upcoming elections. Those parties will boycott the elections. They will not allow the authority to decide on the fate of the elections, the political process, or future of the nation, which are

patiently awaited by the opposition fans.

By logic, the candidature period must not begin according to agendas of the current authority. In addition, opposition fans don't exactly know the final and decisive position of JMP member parties about such a fatal process. They don't know whether the opposition alliance will participate in the elections or boycott it.

And, in the event that the JMP does participate in the elections, under which conditions is it likely to do so? Is the remaining time sufficient to carry out the process? Or does the interest of the JMP and the existing political process necessitate dialogue with the ruling authority? Will popular pressure on the authority be enough to postpone the elections in order to achieve the sought-after national and electoral reforms? Answers to those numerous questions play the most important role in paralyzing and confusing opposition supporters and making them unable to come up with the right position concerning carrying out the electoral process on time.

Four months ago, one of the JMP leaders made this famous statement: "We will not participate in the elections according to the ruling party's conditions, nor will we boycott according to its agenda." The statement appeared to be surprising, while some people began to talk about the ambiguity in the JMP positions concerning the elections.

However, as the election date draws nearer and nearer and the popular protests are suspended, while the authority on the other hand continues its individualized procedures, the above-cited statement turned out to mean nothing

more than another ambiguity in a confusing vision of the opposition, frustrating its supporters.

Similar facts agreed upon by JMP leaders

When you review statements made by well-known JMP leaders over the past months and weeks, you will explore many facts, such as the following:

The opposition rejects the proposed postponement of the upcoming parliamentary elections even for one day, as recently declared by its official spokesman Mohammed Al-Mansour. The same was previously declared by many other opposition leaders.

The opposition rejects participating in the elections according to conditions dictated by the ruling General People's Congress (GPC), a fact that was confirmed by various statements made by JMP leaders.

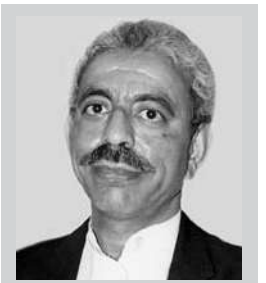
The opposition speaks about continuing protests rejecting policies pursued by the ruling party and its government; however, it does nothing practical to escalate such protests. Rather, the opposition suspended all popular protests following the voter registration process despite its being ensured that public opinion sides with it and backs its plan to boycott the upcoming elections. The opposition says that fair and free elections constitute an effective approach to help the country get rid of the current crises, such as the repeated protests in the southern governorates and the fighting between Houthis and the army in Sa'ada. The opposition calls for comprehensive political reforms, but it opposes amending the constitution or holding a dialogue on the constitutional amendments in order for President Saleh not to take the

COMMON SENSE

Turkey Comes to the Rescue Again

Turkey Has Done it Before

The role of Turkey in Islamic history is perhaps unequalled by any other Moslem countries. It is the only non-Arab nation which took on the caliphate and ardently defended the nation against unbelievable odds throughout its history. Under the Seljuks, the Turks became a prominent member of nations that stood up for the defense of Islam and were able to contain the Crusades considerably. Even



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Saladin, who was responsible for liberating Jerusalem from the Crusades and defeating King Richard the Lion-Hearted after teaching him some etiquette and a few other features of Islamic civilization, was far closer to the Turks than to the Arabs. Actually he was a Kurd, but then most of the Turcomen trace themselves to a Kurdish ancestry anyway. Whatever the case, the important thing to remember is that Islam and Turkey are inseparable and the efforts by the West to have Turkey keep its face turned toward the West proved futile, especially as the Europeans continue to give Turkey the runaround about joining the European Union.

It is really high time we give credit when it is due and for sure the Turks have a lot of credit to be given when considering the millions of lives they gave to the defense of Islam, especially in the four hundred years history of the Ottoman Empire. For sure, the Arabs and most Moslems do not do the Turks justice for not studying the magnificent history of the Ottoman Turks, who not only proved to be superior to most of the European powers throughout most of the period of Ottoman history, when quite often they were able to repel substantial forces of more than one European power as they tried to bring down the caliphate in Istanbul. I have often tried to convince many of the Turkish brothers that, although they have a right to complain about the lack of gratitude, the fact of the matter is that most Arabs do not even know their own history, let alone the glorious history of their brothers. If they did, they would really not be in the hopeless situation they are in now, with Israel thinking it can step on them and treat them anyway it wants to without them raising a whimper. One should recall that the Turks had come just at the right time to rescue the Arab World after the loss of the Iberian Peninsula in 1492. While Spain itself could not be saved, the Turks surely were instrumental in keeping the conquistadores from North Africa and the Holy Land, not to mention being able to take Istanbul, whereas the Arabs have never succeeded despite a long history of sieges and assaults.

This observer has taken notice of the current Prime Minister of Turkey when Prime Minister Tayyip (meaning "kind") Erdogan came to Sana'a in late October 2005 (<http://www.yementimes.com/article.shtml?i=890&p=opinion&a=1>) and the humanitarian gesture he displayed to a sick Sana'ani citizen, during his tour of the Old City of Sana'a then in Ramadan. Needless to say, the history of Yemen and Turkey was not a pleasant one, with Yemen being called the graveyard of the Turks. However, Yemen refused to join with the Allies in World War to fight against the already overtaxed Ottoman Porte. The Imam of Yemen then (Imam Yahya Hamid Al-Din) was given a thank you letter from the last Sultan Abdul Hamid for remembering that Moslems should not ally themselves against non-Moslems who are seeking to eliminate Islam.

Back to the present. The importance of recent developments in the Moslem World and elsewhere are beginning to show some important signs of positive developments that simply cannot be ignored. This observer once noted in CS that of all the Moslem countries that are showing rapid development, Turkey, Iran and Malaysia stand out as the leading hope. Iran has just sent out its own built and engineered communications satellite, which it takes all the credit for manufacturing and propelling into space, under the auspices of its very own scientists. This column also predicted long ago that Iran would certainly be a nation to reckon with and should not be viewed as some moronic mullahs as the pro-Israeli western press likes to paint them. As for Turkey, not until the kind Erdogan took the helms have we realized Turkish leaders taking a true fraternal stand against ongoing Zionist aggression. These are indeed refreshing signs after having seen Islam smeared by the extremist elements, who have not shown any favorable stand or even accomplishment for the sake of the Moslem World, except to bring on factional and sectarian strife amongst Moslems throughout the world, which the Moslem World could do well without, not to mention the misrepresentation of real Moslem conduct and practice by their backward and unsubstantiated behavior.

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

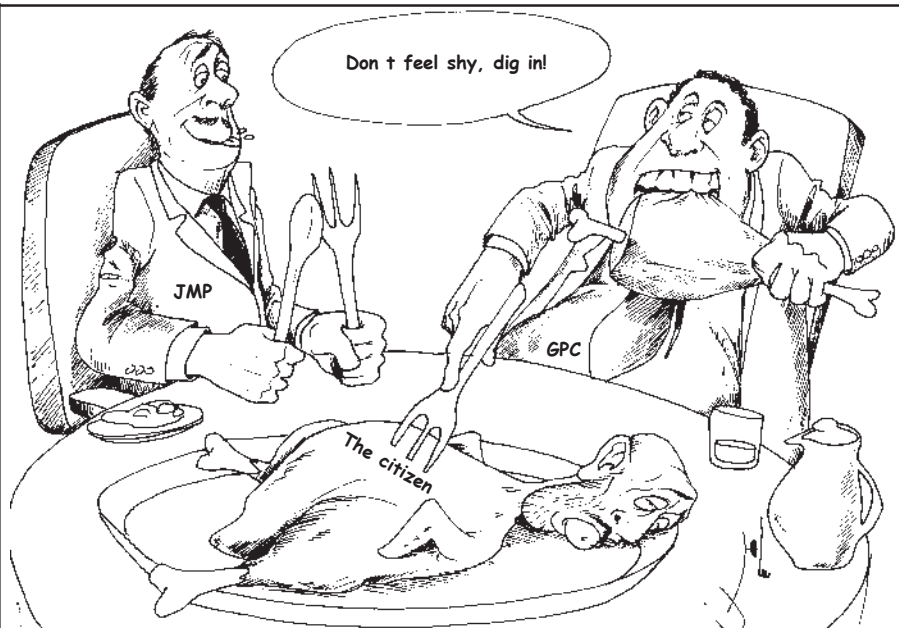
matter back to the zero point.

The opposition insists that previous agreements reached with the ruling party must be implemented. It rejects dialogue with the government after its efforts reached an impasse, but rather suggests the idea

of dialogue with Houthi followers, protest leaders in the south, and civil society organizations in order to settle the multi-faceted political crisis in the nation.

Source: Aleshteraki.net

SKETCHED OPINION



By: Samer

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Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009

Top Stories

- 11 detained Qaeda suspects released from Aden prison
- International community warns against soaring food prices in Yemen
- Senior opposition leader: Yemen witnesses crisis of political system

Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Yasim Sayeed Numan said that Yemen witnesses a crisis of a failed political system and that it has become unable to solve its troubles due to lack of national partnership, the website reported.

In a recent interview with the Dubai-based mass circulation daily, Numan maintained that the JMP would not take part in the polls in the event that the regime failed to meet opposition demands for a real political partnership. He cautioned that the country might relapse into lawlessness if the GPC pursued its "standoffish" stance towards the political forces.

"Partial and tentative solutions are not enough to resolve the current crisis. Rather, we should seek comprehensive solutions. The crisis has a lot of aspects, including the complicated situation in the

southern governorates, the situation in Sa'ada, the worsening economic conditions, and terrorism. Therefore, we should seriously consider all such factors," he noted.

When asked whether the opposition wants the polls postponed indefinitely, he said, "We still believe that this election, which is due to be held next April, must contribute to the resolution of the crisis. However, there are conditions for holding the vote. If the regime stopped using state resources for holding already rigged elections, then the electoral process would serve the interests of the whole nation. Otherwise, it will only serve the interests of the regime."

The Socialist leader, however, stopped short of saying whether the opposition will boycott the ballot or hold mass protests to block the polls.

Also, when asked if President Saleh has made any political concessions to JMP, he replied, "The regime has never ever made any concessions. However, it may regard a mere talk with the opposition as a concession to them. The problem is that the regime is making mistakes, but when it is obliged to rectify them, it considers this as a concession. This was the case with the proposed amendments to the election law that were submitted last August to Parliament for approval, yet all such amendments were rejected. The GPC even rejected the endorsement of the proportional representation system agreed upon in previous talks."

The YSP leader advocated dialogue as

the only means for bringing the country out of political squabbling.

He confirmed that the peaceful protests still persisting in the southern and eastern provinces were aimed at achieving real power and wealth sharing, as well as pressuring the regime into respecting human rights and freedoms.

He urged the regime to search for real solutions to the smoldering crisis raging in southern provinces, including the adoption of a comprehensive political settlement involving all political players.

On a side note, the website reported that newspapers affiliated with the GPC have reported that the ruling party is planning to amend election laws, even though the issue was recently discussed in August 2008.

From their side, the JMP member parties renewed in a meeting held on Monday their refusal to any steps taken without mutual consultations with the GPC, considering such acts as illegal and harmful to the state's interests.

Yemen's political scene has reached a deadlock due to disagreements between the JMP and the GPC over the election system and rules. The GPC insists on going through with the elections via its own means and ignoring demands of the main alliance of Yemen's opposition. This stresses the necessity of barring government officials from using influence to affect the vote, confining the registration of voters to their place of birth or residence, and guaranteeing the neutrality of public financing and state-run media during election campaigns.



Al-mithaq.net, affiliated with General People's Congress (ruling party)
Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009

Top Stories

- Ruling party official: JMP always breaks agreements with us
- Parliament members affiliated with the Islah party reject investment facilitations
- GPC accuses opposition parties of hosting terrorist groups

A ruling party leader accused the Islamist Islah Party and Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) of hosting terrorist groups and promoting their extremist ideas and ideologies via their newspapers with the aim of hindering the democratic process and upcoming parliamentary elections, the website reported. It quoted the official as adding that both parties also attempt to shake security and stability in the nation.

According to the website, Abdullah Ahmad Ghanim, Head of the General People Congress (GPC) Media Sector, clarified in a statement to 26september.net that the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) plan to establish a strong alliance with extremist Al-Qaeda groups, secession instigators, and rebels under the guise of what it calls a "national

consultation conference" to hinder the upcoming elections.

Chanim questioned why those opposition parties promote extremist ideas and ideologies in a way that contravenes the Constitution and effective laws in the Republic of Yemen during the current time period. "Why do those parties highlight name of Al-Qaeda in Yemen and their unity with other Al-Qaeda comrades in Saudi Arabia?" Ghanim asked, adding, "I wonder why the Islah Party-affiliated Al-Nass weekly and YSP-affiliated Al-Thawri weekly promote Al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen and publish their ideas."

According to the ruling party official, the so-called consultation conference as planned by the JMP member parties is an initial step to create a new political alliance. This alliance may involve, in addition to JMP member parties, Houthi rebels in Sana'a, those who instigate secession in southern governorates, and representatives of extremist and terrorist currents that have ties with the Islah Party.

"The Islah party and the YSP highlight visions of those extremist groups, which are intended to hinder democratic development in the nation," Ghanim said, pointing out that such a new alliance aims to foil the democratic process and the upcoming elections by all available means in a way that contravenes the Constitution and laws. He said it is impossible for those opposition parties to achieve their malicious objectives since Yemeni people are able to protect their electoral rights and democratic

achievements.

"We feel that the new alliance as plotted by JMP member parties will not only hurt the democratic process, but it may harm the JMP too," he went on to say.

Regarding dialogue with the JMP concerning participation in the elections, the GPC official said that the opposition coalition hasn't yet made a final decision to participate or boycott, while his party encourages those opposition parties to run in the elections. He affirmed that JMP participation doesn't mean adding legitimacy to the elections, as legitimacy, according to him, lies in people's selection of their representatives to the legislative body.

With regard to the proportional list of the electoral system, Ghanim said that his party doesn't oppose this electoral system in principle, adding that GPC sees it like the first past-the-post system. However, he commented that the level of electoral education among the electorate in Yemen may not fit the application of the proportional list.

He continued that there is not enough time to apply the proposed electoral system during the upcoming parliamentary elections. "The GPC is ready to discuss applicability of the proportional list in the future or establish integration between the first past-the-post and proportional list systems in the event that this serves Yemen's democratic development," he stated, pointing out that there is more than one type of system within the proportional list.

Obama on Al-Arabiya extends hand to the Arab world

US President Barack Obama appeared on TV screens in living rooms across the Arab world on Tuesday, urging dialogue and expressing a "readiness to listen rather than to dictate." Significantly, Obama's first TV interview since his inauguration went to the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya.

By: Alexandra Sandels
Menassat

When US President Barack Obama appeared Tuesday night on the pan-Arabic satellite TV station Al-Arabiya, the Arab street was in utter disbelief. Coffee shops, bars, and internet cafes in Beirut were buzzing.

Not only was it his first TV interview from the White House since his inauguration on January 20, but his administration had picked a Dubai-based Arabic-language news channel and not CNN, Fox, BBC - insert big western media outlet here.

Hisham Melham, the Washington Bureau Chief for Al-Arabiya, said station management had prepared him to conduct an exclusive interview with Obama's new US Middle East envoy, George Mitchell.

Melham had earlier pressed for an interview with Mitchell when he learned the new envoy was due to travel to the Middle East immediately after his official appointment.

Al-Arabiya executives were told by the White House to be ready for a "major interview" on Monday, and shortly before 9 am on Monday morning, Melham received a call from a very particular Washington D.C. number.

"It was that 202 area code number. We knew it was the White House," said a smiling Melham commenting on his Obama scoop on Al-Arabiya Tuesday night.

The voice on the phone continued saying, as Melham remembers it, "My name is so and so, and I'm either going to make your day or ruin your day. Would you like to chat with the President at about 5 p.m. today?"

Melham jokingly responded, "I guess I can accommodate the President."

On Monday afternoon, Melham arrived at the White House at 3pm, and some three hours later, Melham was "schmoozing" with Obama in the Oval Office.

'Listening-not dictating'

In the interview, which was broadcast across the Arab world, Obama stressed it was his job "to communicate to the Muslim world that the Americans are



Hisham Melham, the Washington Bureau Chief for Al-Arabiya, conducting the first interview with President Barack Obama on Tuesday night.

not your enemy."

"We sometimes make mistakes," continued Obama, while saying that America was not born as a colonial power and that he hoped for a restoration of "the same respect and partnership that America had with the Muslim world as recently as 20 or 30 years ago."

Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the new President said, "The most important thing was for the United States to get engaged right away."

Obama said he said he told new Middle East envoy George Mitchell to "start by listening, because all too often the United States starts by dictating."

"Ultimately, we cannot tell either the Israelis or the Palestinians what's best for them. They're going to have to make some decisions. But I do believe that the moment is ripe for both sides to realize that the path that they are on is not going to result in prosperity and security for their people. And that, instead, it's time

to return to the negotiating table," said Obama.

Obama also emphasized that Israel will continue to be "a strong ally of the United States" and that he sees Israel's security as "paramount."

"But", he said, "I also believe that there are Israelis who recognize that it is important to achieve peace. They will be willing to make sacrifices if the time is appropriate and if there is serious partnership on the other side."

Obama also said he believed that it was "possible for us to see a Palestinian state" although he did not comment on the timeline of the issue.

There was also talk about Iran, and Obama criticized Teheran for acting in ways that "are not conducive to peace and prosperity in the region," including their suspected pursuit of a nuclear weapon, threats against Israel and "their support of terrorist organizations in the past."

Yet, he emphasized it was important to show willingness to speak to Iranian leaders and look for "potential avenues for progress."

'Internal debate'

In the hours following Obama's appearance on Al-Arabiya, Arab commentators where clear in their analysis: the Obama interview was a clear signal to Muslims around the world.

But, says Melham, there had been internal debates taking place at the White House about whether it was the proper timing for Obama to give an interview to the Arab media.

Once the decision was made, however, Al Arabiya had been given most of the support by Obama advisers.

In comparison to its rival, the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television, Saudi-backed Al-Arabiya with its headquarters in Dubai is viewed as a more moderate voice in the Middle East compared to Al-Jazeera's reporting which is perceived by western critics as more sensationalist.

In Beirut cafes following the broadcast of the Obama interview, patrons could not help notice Al-Arabiya's staff - reporters and news anchors - were "like kids in a candy store," smiling and breaking into veiled laughter while on-air.

Al-Arabiya reporters were apparently so excited with the "scoop" that they were slipping in words in their colloquial Arabic dialects instead of the classical Arabic that is used in Arab news presentation.

And according to Melham, Obama assured that this was just the beginning of Obama's relationship with the Arabic-language news media. "There will be more (interviews)," Obama is quoted as saying as Melham left the White House.

Elaph: the number online newspaper in the Arab world

Elaph.com, launched in May 2001 by Saudi journalist and businessman Osman el-Omeir, is the most widely read news website in the Arab world not associated with any established print or broadcast medium. In an interview with the APN, Elie Hajj, one of Elaph's senior Lebanon correspondents, noted, "Elaph is not afraid to take risks in putting out its news stories. Because it is based in London, it does not face the same censorship as other media in the Arab world, and is even banned in certain countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia and Syria."

By Patricia Khoder

Every morning at 9:00 am (GMT), Elaph's senior correspondents, department heads and editors-in-chief meet simultaneously in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. They don't leave the house; instead they sit in front of their computers, logged onto MSN. The editorial meeting lasts exactly 40 minutes. Each person gives a brief account of the situation in his country, provides an opinion, offers his ideas, and advises the others of the story he plans to cover.

Elaph is the brainchild of Saudi journalist and businessman Osman el-Omeir, former editor-in-chief of the pan-Arab, London-based *Al-Shark Al-Awsat* daily. When Arab print and broadcast media outlets began launching their own websites, el-Omeir was

the first to conceive of an news website not associated with an established print or broadcast medium. The idea turned into an adventure; Elaph, which started out with rather limited means, quickly grew into an important player on the Arab news scene. Osman el-Omeir wanted the website to be "a bridge linking Arab people around the world," and maintains that the site has no political or partisan affiliations.

'Everything up for discussion'

The same idea is expressed by one of Elaph's senior Lebanon correspondents, Elie Hajj. "We're liberals. We have no taboos, whether religious or social. Everything is up for discussion and everyone is allowed to express themselves. For example, on the website, there are sections entitled 'Our Writers' and 'Elaph's Views', where writers and journalists can express their opinions.

Also, readers can post comments on each article published on the site. These comments allow us to gauge public opinion. But they do not dictate how we cover a story," Hajj is quick to add, highlighting the importance of this "interaction with readers."

"Our information is accurate and neutral," he says. "We publish our own opinions too, because everyone is entitled to their opinion, as long as you don't attack someone's reputation, or incite violence or go after anything sacred," he says. "We also denounce any position or event that violates human dignity, equality or democracy. We always defend religious and ethnic minorities, including the Kurds, the Copts and the Christians in Lebanon, because we believe that new democracies must respect their minorities," he says.

"Elaph goes far in its coverage... The site is not afraid to take risks by putting out certain stories. We are also quick when it comes to publishing rectifications of persons implicated in a particular news item," he adds. "It's the only media in the Arab world - with the exception of the Lebanese press - where everything is open to discussion." If Elaph is free to express its opinions, it's because the site is based in London. "We do not face the same censorship as

newspapers and media outlets based in the Arab world. In fact, in certain countries in the region - in Saudi Arabia and Syria, for example - Elaph banned."

The site boasts a number of sections - politics, economics, health, sports, technology, music, cinema, style, miscellanies - and offers online broadcasts where one can watch the news stories of the day. There is also a section featuring articles from Arabic-language newspapers as well as articles from foreign newspapers translated into Arabic.

In 2008, to mark its 7th birthday, Elaph launched two new sections. The first, "Digital Elaph", spent two years in the beta stage before its official launch. It is accessible only by subscribers, offering them a preview of investigative reports and special features several days before they are uploaded to the regular site. "Elaph's Bloggers", the other feature launched in 2008, was created for bloggers, enabling them to publish their texts via the Elaph website. The section has grown quickly; today it hosts one of the largest blogger communities of all Arabic language websites.

Internet advertising

For Hajj, online news sites such as Elaph offer proof of the efficiency of Internet. "A site like this," he says "is

more important than any print-based newspaper in terms of speed. It is also more important than television, which relies on image. With a global network of correspondents, Elaph publishes its news online and follows up on its stories from every angle. It does not rely solely on image," he explains.

"Like an agency, Elaph is a go-to source for news, particularly for its interviews and in-depth reports. Sometimes, the site features news that would go unnoticed in the regular media," he adds.

Elaph employs about 90 Arabic-speaking journalists in cities across the globe. "Each section is responsible for the content they publish. Editors from London to Marrakesh work on the layout of the day's stories.

To update news around the clock, a shift system has been set up in the Arab capitals, much the same as the one used in news agencies, except that at Elaph, journalists work from home," Hajj explains. "Whatever the news, Elaph's site cannot go more than an hour without being updated.

The home page may be changed as often as every ten minutes. A story's position on the home page will change constantly until it eventually ends up in one of the features pages or in the

archives. It all depends on the news that day."

As for funding, Hajj notes, "Clearly, running a round-the-clock news website does not require the same level of funding as publishing a newspaper or running a television station, for example.

Also, most of our journalists are freelancers. The site is funded by 'Digital Elaph' subscribers and by advertisers, although for the moment there is not really a culture of Internet advertising in the Arab world."

Elaph readers can be found in Egypt (11.4%), Saudi Arabia (8.3%), the United States (8.0%), Iraq (6.8%), the United Arab Emirates (6.4%), Libya (5.0%), Kuwait (4.9%), Algeria (4.8%), Lebanon (4.6%) and Qatar (4.0%). A significant number can also be found in Germany, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria, France, Finland and Switzerland.

In 2008, the number of visitors to the Elaph site rose by 15%, with more than 56 million people visiting the site that year. In that year, the number of hits reached 13 million a day, while the number of readers hit 5 million a month. On 5 November 2008, the day following the US Presidential elections, Elaph hit an all-time record high of 18 million hits.

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- Fluent in English

Procurement Officer. (1) Position reference JS0302.

This Procurement Officer will report to the procurement manager. They will be responsible on to find potential sources and suppliers of the company procurement team to provide all materials and equipments needed in the plant to ensure operation reliability. The procurement officer will manage vendor performance to ensure the continuous improvement of vendor compliance and capability. The procurement officer is expected to travel as required, within reasonable constraints, and has to be a person with a high degree of integrity.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of 3 years demonstrable experience of procurement in industrial purchasing.
- Integrity
- Good understanding of how to reduce costs and improve delivery and quality performance
- Understanding of the Yemeni and international market, cost structure and key points for the whole materials and equipment procurement.
- Able to optimise all internal and external sources to successfully deliver the needs
- Good understanding of Terms and Conditions relating to purchased items
- Professional qualifications in purchasing
- Bi lingual Arabic/English

Environmental, Health and Safety Manager. (1) Position reference JS0310

The Environmental, Health and Safety Manager will report to the general manager. They will be responsible for the following: the development and maintenance of the Site's EHS management system: processes, programs and procedures: to assure compliance with regulatory: site and corporate requirements, along with the analyse and assess trend data: manage health programs.

From a training perspective they will: work in conjunction with other site leaders on the development of an ongoing EHS training needs analysis: the development and implementation of EHS training programs that will give company staff the understanding, practical skills and motivation to carry out their particular work-related tasks, and to develop and where appropriate, deliver EHS training sessions to all levels of staff at the company site facility. You should define what training as this reads it seems to imply ALL training.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of 5 years experience of EHS in chemical plant, oil industry or in a mining.
- Bachelor degree in chemical engineering, or mining engineering or any related discipline.
- Supervisory experience required.
- Broad Knowledge on waste management and pollution prevention and control.
- Professional qualifications in all main EHS aspects, such as confined spaces entry, lock out tag out.
- Excellent training and policies development

skills in relation to EHS standards and practices.....

- Work in a team environment to drive company initiatives
- Applied knowledge of ISO 14001 and OH-SAS 18001
- Strong communication and leadership skills
- Fluent in English

Shift Supervisor /mine captain. (4) Positions reference JS0135-138.

The Mine Captain will report to the deputy mining manager and will be responsible on the implementation the mine planning sequence. They will also execute mine designs and scheduling. Supply data to enable the mine management to maintain the mine production data base and mentor and train junior engineers.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A Mining Engineering Diploma
- 5 years (post diploma) minimum experience in open pit operations.
- Or without diploma you will have 15 years experience in open pit mining operations, a minimum of 5 years of which should be at a senior level.
- Computer literacy in any mining software
- The ability to read and write English

Drill/Blast Supervisor. (4) Positions reference JS0139-142.

The Drill/Blast Supervisor will report to the deputy mining manager and be responsible with the coordinating and supervising drill and blast activities within the open pit. Along with the preparation of drill and blast components in alignment with the daily plan for open pit mining. Statutory role of magazine holder What does this mean? (in th explosive store room and to control stock levels including storage, handling and use of explosives.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of a Diploma, in Mining Engineering
- 5 years minimum (post diploma) experience in open pit blasting operations
- or 15 years experience in open pit drilling and blasting mining operations, a minimum of 5 years of which should be at a senior level. (without

Diploma)

- A current shot firers ticket or equivalent training.
- Experience with pneumatic hammer drills and rotary drilling blast hole rigs.
- A good working knowledge of relevant mining regulations, explosives act and environmental issues.
- The ability to read and write English.

Senior Mine Geologist (1) Position reference JS0226

The Senior Mine Geologist will report to the mining manager They will be responsible on the ore and waste reconciliation reports at end of month periods. They will also be responsible for the following: Supervise and report blending of ore stockpiles for mill requirements: Manage the geological database: Manage all Grade control and Exploration drilling and sampling: Investigate and report on structural controls on the deposit: Review all assay results, and make recommendations regarding laboratory QA/QC procedures.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A degree in Geology.
- 5 years post degree experience in a similar position.
- Software literacy in one of the major mining packages

Grade Control Ass/ junior Geologist. (4) Positions reference JS0228-231.

The Grade Control Assistant will report to the senior mine geologist. They will be responsible with keeping correct data on daily drill samples and other sampling in mine areas. Work as drill sampling off sider. Ore mark-outs and pit wall mapping under supervision.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of a diploma in Geology or related discipline
- Software literacy in any Mining software is desirable.

Blasting Shot firer. (4) Positions reference JS0143-146.

The Blasting Shot Firer will report to the deputy mining manager. They will be responsible for the following: action of blasting activities within the open pit: Charging the blast holes in the specified time: Implementation of safe blasting as per the company procedures: Liaison with drill sections to ensure smooth operations: Minimization of ore dilution through systematic sequencing: Ensuring secure safe zone maintained during the blasting operation

eration

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of 5 Years experience in a similar position on open pit metal mine.
- A current shot firers ticket or evidence of equivalent training with extensive experience in open pit blasting.
- The ability to read and write English or Arabic is essential

Drill Rig Operator (8) Positions reference JS0153-161.

The Drill Rig Operator will report to the drill and blast supervisor and be responsible on the operation of Atlas Copco 460PC drills in an open pit. They will also be responsible for the following: Drilling blast and grade control holes: Daily minor maintenance on drill rigs: Assist Shot firer in charging and firing: Help in the mentoring and training of trainee drillers and blast crew: Maximize productivity of the drilling equipment

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- 3 years experience in a production blast hole drilling environment as a drilling operator.
- Experience with pneumatic hammer drills and rotary drilling blast hole rigs in a mining environment.

Blasting Helper (6) Positions reference JS0147-152.

The Blasting Helper will report to the blasting shot firer and be responsible for the explosives handling, loading blast holes and stemming and blast guard duties.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Experience with explosives handling or equivalent will be desirable.
- 9th Standard school pass.

Drilling helper (8) Positions reference JS0162-169

The Drilling Helper will report to the Drill/Blast Supervisor and be responsible on the operating and up keep of Drill compressors and Air hoses along with the handling of drill rods and drill bits and marking drill holes and sample preparation.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Experience with pneumatic hammer drills and rotary drilling blast hole rigs are desirable.
- 9th Standard school pass.

Heavy Equipment Operators Trainers (5) Positions reference JS0173, JS0193, JS0197, JS0203, JS0209.

The HEOT will report to the shift supervisor and responsible be for the initial operation of the Caterpillar mining fleet. They will also be responsible for the: Completion of transfer of skills to the trainee operator team within the planned time frame: Training of the junior operators on basic daily checks and maintenance: Reporting of any breakdown on the equipment in accordance with the company operating procedures.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Current Operators Competency documents from other operations.
- 5 year experience as a truck operator in open pit operation.
- Ability to operate at least 3 of the following items:
 - o Hydraulic Excavator
 - o Front End Loader
 - o Graders
 - o Bulldozers
 - o Rigid off-highway dump trucks
- The ability to read and write English or Arabic

Senior Human Resources Advisor (1) Positions reference JS0030

The Senior Human Resources Advisor (SHRA) will be based at our site with limited time spent at our office in Sana'a and will report to the HR Manager (Yemen). Initially the main focus will be in recruiting up to 350 employees; however, as recruitment nears completion the role will focus more on a generalist HR role. You will also be supporting line managers in the full employee cycle from recruitment to exit. Working with the support of the HR Manager and working closely with functional and operational colleagues, you will provide a first class reactive and planned HR service to all site employees.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- 3 years experience ideally in private sector oil/telecoms/manufacturing. in senior HR role
- Excellent knowledge of Yemen Labour Law, and demonstrated ability to implement this.
- Fluent spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Ability to develop HR policy to international standards in conjunction with Human Resources Manager (Yemen)
- Computer literacy, including Microsoft office and outlook.
- Experience in working with western companies.
- Excellent planning and organizational skills.
- Ability to influence across a range of management levels from senior managers to supervisory level
- Experience of working in a diverse workforce being able to communicate at all levels

To apply please send your CV with a cover letter to recruitingchances@gmail.com. The subject of your e-mail should be the job title you are applying for along with the Position Reference Number which is shown alongside the job title. Any application without the required information will not be considered for any of the roles. The closing date for applications is 25 February 09. Due to the high interest shown in these roles it will unfortunately not be possible to reply to everyone.

Therefore if you have not heard from us by 30 March 09 please take it that you have not been considered for the role this time.



Automotive and Machinery Trading Center (AMTC) launches Toyota's Biggest SUV in Yemen

Automotive and Machinery Trading Center (AMTC), has recently launched, Toyota's Biggest SUV in Yemen at a ceremony held on 5th of February 2009 at Hotel Movenpick, Sanaa which was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade HE. Dr. Yahya Al-Mutwakkil, large number of Dignitaries and Guests including Haj Abu Bakr Bazara, Chairman, AMTC, Ambassadors of Japan, Oman and Malaysia and Toyota Motor corporation was represented by Mr. M. Araya, Chief Engineer of Sequoia, MR T. Asazuma Assistant General Manager-Sales & Marketing Bahrain Representative Office and Mr. George R Irving Jr, Toyota Motors Sales USA.

The Launch Ceremony was presided by the Minister of Industry and Trade HE. Dr. Yahya Al-Mutwakkil.

In his speech the Minister said that the Launch of Sequoia at this time came as a surprise as other car Manufacturers are not in a position to introduce any new models at this hour in the market.

Before unveiling the biggest surprise of the year which all came to call through the new nomination "The Big in style" Dr. Yahya Al-Mutwakkil, Minister of Trade and Industry, in his speech said that "We are today in front of two surprises. The first surprise is Sequoia SUV "The Biggest in Toyota family" as they call it. The second surprise is that launch of this model comes under a Global economic crisis during which many companies have halted their manufacturing. He considered this as an incarnation by Toyota to challenge in proceeding the assumption of cars throne worldwide.

He further said that "Under Global economic

Minister of Industry and Trade HE. Dr. Yahya Al-Mutwakkil:
"The Launch of Sequoia at this time came as a surprise as other car Manufacturers are not in a position to introduce any new models at this hour in the market."



crisis, challenge remains the essence of trade and industrial activities. We greet Toyota and AMTC for choosing this challenge at this hour.

He pointed out that launch of this new model confirms that there is good market that is able to consume cars of this kind. He praised Toyota and AMTC, its sole distributor in Yemen for its after sales services for a longer car life.

He valued the role of car companies and agents in providing models that fit the Yemeni market and its specifications. He said that Toyota and AMTC stands as one of the excellent example in this country in the field of commitment to social responsibility, assistance in development of the society and achieving the required collaboration.

The minister concluded his speech by congratulating Toyota Motor Corporation and its agent in Yemen, AMTC on the launch of this excellent model.

During the Launch ceremony Mr. Aidrous Bazara, Managing Director of AMTC in his speech said that Launch of this new model in such a volatile world economic crisis, reflects commitment, innovation and excellence of Toyota in the world market. Toyota has crafted upon manufacturing "Sequoia" towards safety, Comfort and space.

At this hour many car-manufacturers worldwide has failed to maintain their solidarity in front of the world economic storm, Toyota has introduced its big surprise to the world; thus, challenging the crisis and announcing to its customers that, the trust and experience what it has gained from them has accumulated during all these years, has enabled

them to overcome crisis.

"The big in Style" is the message that Toyota has introduced at this hour to confirm to its customers that it has experience and power that enabled it to innovate even under this difficult global economic conditions. It confirms that craftsmanship of its engineers and innovators are able to satisfy their tastes and meet their needs even under the difficult economic conditions.

In his word, Mr. Aidrous Bazara, Managing Director of AMTC welcomed attendees and described the event as important represented by "launch of a completely a new product in Yemen and Middle East at the same time from Toyota."

Mr. Bazara considered the launch of this model a fulfillment of commitment that Toyota made to its audience to introduce them a completely new car in terms of form, size and content, adding that "We are certain that it will be the favorite car for many." He considered that it is a continuation of Toyota in introducing whatever new and surprising from time to time.

He further said that launch of this new model in such economic condition is an incarnation of power and place of Toyota in the world market and its excellence, confirming that Toyota "relies a lot on the trust of its agents and admirers."

Aidrous Bazara confirmed that Toyota is in the hearts of millions in our country and many countries in the world, which is considered a source of absolute trust in the success of this excellent step that resulted in developing this new and wonderful model which he says it came out of a huge effort that took years of persistent and continuous hard work. He wished that "Sequoia" will repre-



Mr. Aidrous Bazara, Managing Director of AMTC in his speech:
"Launch of this new model in such a volatile world economic crisis, reflects commitment, innovation and excellence of Toyota in the world market."

sent a qualitative addition to car market in Yemen which Toyota covers 70 % of it.

The Managing director said that Sequoia has come to fulfill the requirement of large families. "This is the major feature of the Yemeni family. Sequoia car is excellent for large families."

To clarify the image of the new model of Toyota, Bazara explained the difference between Sequoia SUV and Land cruiser, pointing out that the major differences are represented by the big size of Sequoia compared with its predecessors. Sequoia has rear-wheel drive and great Engine which adds enjoyment and flexibility during driving on highways and cities. In addition, sequoia has competitive price compared with Land Cruiser and Competition SUV's of similar size.

During the ceremony, Mr. Motohru Araya, Chief engineer of Sequoia, presented a detailed explanation about specifications of the car which Toyota cared to provide with safety and comfort means.

"Sequoia" which is originally a name of a giant American tree distinguished with its hugeness and lofty height has three models: Platinum-Limited- S. R. 5. Every model has different detailed specifications and price, in excellent colors.





DHL Yemen Celebrates 2008 Achievements Success and Awards Its Employees for Excellent Performance



On the occasion of annual honoring celebration for DHL Company employees, the company held last Sunday February 1st, 2009 at Shahrn Hotel a ceremony to honor the employees. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani, Chairman of the Universal Group, Mr. Omar Mohammed Omar, Managing Director and Dr. Mansour Al-Absi, Country Manager of DHL Express, Yemen. In the welcome word, Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani talked about this occasion. "I am very glad to be with you. We are glad as Higher Management with the results that you have achieved," said Mr. Al-Shaibani. "We are proud of being evaluated by others as high achievers and attaining advanced results. We hope to maintain this level and we will make this year a year of challenging."

Upon concluding, Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani congratulated all the employees on being honored and urged them to exert more efforts during the new year.

Dr. Mansour Al-Absi delivered a word in which he said: "I'd like to seize this occasion to congratulate everyone of you for what you did during the last year. All of you participated in this success."

Dr. Mansour Al-Absi reviewed steps and objectives through which work in the upcoming phase can succeed. "Last year was not easy as there were internal and external obstacles. There were also factors which affected business such as natural disasters, demonstrations and instability in some parts of the country."

Concerning the Company's 2009 mission,

Dr. Mansour Al-Absi said: "We will be recognized as the most progressive express operator in Yemen and achieve profitable growth through customer services, innovation, quality and commitment."

Dr. Mansour concluded his word by saying: "We are committed to make this new year better than the previous year in terms of both revenue performance and quality because we are part of DHL Global-Duetsche Post World Net and better than others in knowledge about the market in Yemen. We will be working as one team to achieve great accomplishments in 2009."

At the end of the ceremony, certificates of recognition were distributed among honored by Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani, Mr. Omar Mohammed Omar and Dr. Mansour Al-Absi. Those who were honored are as follows:

1. **Malek Al Sheibani**
Best Department Employee of the Quarter IT Department
2. **Hassan Al Bazia**
Best Manager of the Quarter Operations Department
3. **Osama Bahakim**
Extra Miler of the Quarter Sales Department
4. **Sami Sanganee**
Extra Miler of the Quarter Quality Department
5. **Jamil Taha**
Extra Miler of the Quarter HR Department
6. **Hussein Bashuaib**
IT Employee of the Year IT Department



7. **Amani Al Baidhani**
Best Department Employee of the Quarter CM Office
8. **Saeed Al Tahami**
Best Department Employee of the Quarter Finance Department
9. **Adnan Eissa**
Best Collector of the Quarter Finance Department
10. **Adel Al Aoshari**
Best Department Employee of the Quarter Sales Department
11. **Nabil Al Sayidi**
Courier of the Year Operations Department
12. **Enas Al Sheibani**
Best Department Employee of the Quarter Customer Services Department
13. **Emad Marzouk**
Best Department Employee of the Quarter Operations Department
14. **Wissam Al Qaifi**
Extra Miler for December Operations Department
15. **Bassam Hizam**
Best Department Employee of the Quarter HR Department
16. **Mohammed Al Qassimi**
Best Seller of Express 9 & 12 (TDD) Customer Services Department
17. **Hosni Mubarak**
Employee of the Year — 2008 DHL Yemen
18. **Nayel Shaikh**
Employee of the Month — Dec 08 DHL Yemen



DHL employees in a pleasing environment during three days trip to Aden. We Care for our Employees!



Traditional Yemeni food: nutritional benefits

By: Enas Ahmad

Traditional Yemeni food is very simple and always prepared with fresh ingredients. Although it differs from one region to another, basic dishes are similar and often include bread, rice, vegetables, beans, chicken, beef and lamb. These are rich in spices -though not fiery- and low in fats and sugars. Most Yemeni families continue to prepare their traditional food, believing in its nutritional and health benefits.

Um Ali, mother of seven boys, said that she takes pride in that she raises her boys on Yemeni traditional food such as salta [meat broth], bint al sahn [bread eaten with honey], shafout [bread soaked in yoghurt with coriander], fatta [bread soaked in milk, broth and honey], break [bread stuffed with egg and meat], nashoof [bread with bulgur wheat, milk and yoghurt], aseef [porridge] and traditional Yemeni bread.

"There are a lot of nutritional benefits in Yemeni food, I don't serve lunch without fresh salad and it has a lot of vitamins, moreover the salta has a lot of protein and starches because it includes meat, coriander, mint and fenugreek," Um Ali said.

To each region its dishes

Although salta, a meat broth topped with fenugreek, is eaten all over the country, it is believed to have first been prepared over a hot furnace in Sana'a.

In South Yemen, especially in the coastal towns of Aden and Hodeidah, fish is cooked in a unique and delicious way. Tafaya is a dish cooked using tomatoes and red Aden chilies.

Another dish consists of rice, fried fish and fried potato, displayed in layers and sprinkled with spices.

Yemenis all over the country like to drink meat or chicken broth, which is nutritious and very healthy. Seasoned with black pepper and lemon juice, it helps the body defend itself against flu.

Food for different times of the day

A typical Yemeni breakfast consists of fool [a stew with brown beans, tomato, onion and chili], fried eggs



Nutritionists approve of salta, a typically Yemeni spicy meat-based stew

with onion and tomatoes or liver cooked with spices. Yemenis usually eat them with a large pancake-like bread, made from wheat flour, sometimes covered with black sesame seeds.

Lunch is the main Yemeni meal and is served between 11:00 and 13:30, or even as late as 14:00 or 15:00. The national dish that is usually served for lunch is a thick, fiery, spicy green stew called salta that consists of lamb or chicken with lentils, beans, chickpeas, coriander, fenugreek and some other spices. In the northern part of Yemen, you can find fatta, a dish made from dry bread soaked in honey, broth or milk.

Dinner is always important for Yemenis but for those who are not looking to gain weight, dinner is usually a light meal, consisting for example of an egg or cheese.

Yemenis everyday refreshment of choice is red tea, drunk from small glasses at every occasion. It is usually very sweet. There's more than one way to make tea, and how you make it depends on which part of the country

you're in.

There are two kinds of tea: the one prepared with or without milk.

Yemenis drink two kinds of coffee, one is prepared from coffee beans and it is called bun. A more common drink is qishr or qahwa which is prepared from coffee bean shells, cinnamon and ginger.

Tinned goods and the rise of fast food

Although tinned food is much easier to prepare, Yemeni housewives nowadays still prefer fresh ingredients in the traditional dishes they prepare.

Amina Ahmed prefers to feed her two children on bint al-sahn, a sweet bread made with eggs, flour and ghee, because of its high nutritional value. She also makes shafout, a thin bread with milk, fresh mint and coriander, for the calcium.

"I don't know how to cook traditional Yemeni food, although I like it so much," Aliya, mother of a girl and two boys said. "All I can cook is rice with meat and sambosa."

Fast food restaurants are becoming more and more common in Yemen, especially in Sana'a, and increasingly more Yemenis prefer fast food although it is not the healthy option.

"I love burgers and roast chicken," said Hanan Abdulkhalig, 22, student at Sana'a University. "I know it will make me fat but I don't know how to cook and I don't have time to cook either."

Nutritionists approve of salta

"There are different kinds of traditional food in Yemen," said Dr. Dhekra Al-Nuzaili, nutrition officer at UNICEF. "Salta, popular in the north of Yemen, contains vitamins A and C as well as protein, and is easy to digest."

"It's important to mention that food loses its nutritional value when overcooked," she added. "It's supposed to be crunchy just like Chinese and Japanese food, but that only for the vegetables; meat and chicken should be well-cooked because they can contain a lot of parasites."

"Fast food is harmful according to international medical reports, especially in Yemen where they reuse oil, which is harmful to the liver," added Dr. Al-Nuzaili. "There is not enough supervision [in fast food restaurants], so imagine how many parasites and how much bacteria can be transmitted to our body."

Najeeb Abdulbaghi, a nutrition expert at the Ministry of Health, said that globally a daily diet contains 75 percent of carbohydrates. In Yemen, most meals include starches, especially in aseef, fatta, shafout, rice, potato and bint al-sahn.

"Only salta has different nutritional value as it contains protein and vegetables," he added. "But sadly, Yemenis rarely eat salad and vegetables in general, especially in the countryside where they are unaware of importance of vegetables and fruit in boosting a body's immunity," he said.

"My advice for Yemenis is to eat the traditional kedma [a type of bread], not only because it contains different grains but also because it is eaten with raw fresh vegetables," he concluded. "If it's hard to eat them raw, you can parboil them."

Yemeni ingredients



Wheat, contained in **ma'souba** and **aseef**, contains manganese and magnesium in very large quantities, and is rich in zinc, copper, iron and potassium. It is a great source of vitamin B6 -a vitamin found to cut risks of Parkinson's disease by up to a half- and has a high nutritional value. When consumed, whole wheat contributes to a healthy metabolism, and has been found to prevent breast cancer, gallstones, asthma and heart problems. It also reduces the risk of high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol.



Yoghurt, found in **shafout**, boosts the immune system and ensures good digestion. One serving a day is said to prevent osteoporosis.



Garlic, an essential ingredient in **shafout**, fool and **salta**, is a good source of calcium, phosphorus and selenium, and a very good source of vitamin C, vitamin B6 and manganese. Garlic is recommended in diets to prevent asthma, breast cancer and high blood pressure.



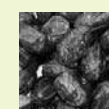
Fresh **coriander**, contained in **salta**, has been used in Iranian medicine to prevent anxiety and insomnia. Reportedly, coriander juice is part of a treatment for acne, applied to the face like a toner.



Tomatoes, contained in **salta** and many other Yemeni dishes, are a great source of vitamin E, thiamin, niacin, vitamin B6, folic acid, magnesium, phosphorus and copper, and a very good source of dietary fiber, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin K, potassium and manganese.



Fenugreek seeds, an indispensable ingredient in **salta**, have been proven to have anti-diabetic effects and to boost the metabolic symptoms of those suffering from both type of diabetes. Fenugreek seeds are sometimes used by nursing mothers to increase their production of breast milk.



As for **dates**, contained in **ma'souba**, they have a high nutritional value. They are rich in natural fibers and contain oil, calcium, sulfur, iron, potassium, phosphorus, manganese, copper and magnesium. Studies have pointed to them being good, soaked overnight and crushed, for those with a weak heart. Regular consumption of dates has been found to help the growth of friendly bacteria in the intestines, and to be effective in preventing abdominal cancer.



Red and green **chilies**, essential ingredients in many Yemeni dishes, are a good source of vitamin B6. Red chilies also contain vitamin C and carotene. Chilies have been shown to delay the onset of arthritis and reduce associated inflammation and pain.



Fresh **mint**, contained in **salta**, is a good source of vitamin B6. It helps relieve stomach ache and chest pains.

Sources: Wikipedia, nutritiondata.com, whfoods.org

The National Bank of Yemen Board of Directors confirmed the Financial statements for the Year ended in 31 December 2008 .

البنك الأهلي اليمني
National Bank Of Yemen



Mr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed Al-Kuhali

The National Bank of Yemen Board of Directors held his annual meeting on Tuesday February 3rd 2009 in the presence of all the members and the participation of the bank executive management, to approve the financial statements of the bank for the Financial Year ended as of 31 December, 2008 and hear the report of the external Auditor M/s. Dahman RSM about those statements.

The meeting began with a speech by Mr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed Al-Kuhali, the chairman of the Board of Directors, the General Manager, stated that and during the year 2008,, the efforts of the bank's management and executives upon the internal work development in order to prepare for the transfer to a new advanced stage of development of the bank by the beginning of the year 2009, aiming to develop the bank financial position, increase the profitability ratio to a reasonable rate, compatible risk management and implementing the modern techniques in all the bank tasks to achieve an optimum compatibility with the five years bank strategy plan, and with the development and moderation project comprehensively; and also intiation to develop the human cadres to make them enable to comprehend with the modern technology and the advanced techniques in the developed banking industry.

The chairman of the Board of Directors added, our effort during the year 2008, and with the support of our prudent Government to enhance and strengthening owner's equity was raised by the end of the year up to Y R 11,200 Million a increase of 15,2 % from the year 2007. This increase in owner's equity enhanced the financial strength of the bank, there by capital adequacy was raised to 56% comparing with 43% in the year 2007, and according to the Basel Committee and the Central Bank instructions.

Furthermore, the Chairman of the Board of Directors expressed in his speech that the bank achieved during the year 2008, a number of initiatives to modernize the information technology and the special programs related to the information systems, and the completion of the analysis of the suppliers tenders for the new banking system, with the cooperation of an international consultant company, we are working in the meantime finalizing the procedures for the successful supplier of the systems and equipments and the hard ware for networking branches with head office, to start implementation of the second stage of the bank's project of organization restructuring , with an aim to raise the business techniques in the bank and its services and products to highest r possible levels in the terms of the client satisfaction and innovation suitable to their needs.

As he added saying: the distinct achievements which accompanied the bank process in the past years led the international rating agency "Capital Intelligence" to raise the long term commitments rating of the National Bank of Yemen to "B" instead of "-B" in November, 2008 and that rating reflects the strong financial performance of the bank, and the up grading of the assets quality supported by a strong liquidity, and the excellent capital adequacy which the bank enjoys. Capital Intelligence expressed in its report 'stable outlook', which reflected that the bank will continue enhance its position in the market and maintaining it strong position, in addition to that the Capital Intelligence institution maintained the bank rating level "BB" in terms of financial strength, and this rating is considered the highest rating given to a bank in the Republic of Yemen.

On the other side, the Chairman of the Board of Directors indicated that the National Bank of Yemen is working in a big competitive business environment, and the bank is working within yearly business plans built upon a long term strategy, and in addition to achieve profits, the bank is endeavor to provide services and products which are suitable to the clients needs, create job opportunities, the social responsibility towards the local society, increasing the bank market share by expanding the its services and extension channels and enhance its financial position through a clear business strategy by implementing the modern techniques in all the bank business which compatible with the techniques used in the developed banks, and as the bank is working with set and cleared targets and work plans consisting strategies to achieve balance in management the bank asset with liabilities and by concentrating upon keeping the owner 's equity and clients are in compliance with the rules and directions of the Central Bank of Yemen.

Mr. Dahamn Awadh Dahamn - external Auditor -read his report and which demonstrated the fairness of the bank financial statements for the year ended as of 31st December, 2008

The Board of Directors and the Executive Management and the Employees in the bank present these achievements made during the year 2008 to His Excellency the President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the president of the Republic in an acknowledgement of gratitude t for his prudent leadership and directive to achieve comprehensive economical development in our country and the stability of the investment environment and to enhance the Yemeni Economy They also expressed their thanks to the Prime Minister and to the Council of Ministers, the Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen, all the Ministers, Department Directors, the Government Corporations and the honorable Bank Clients for their loyalty and continues support to the bank.

As the Board of Directors sent greeting and thanks to the Bank Executive Management and all the Employees for their loyalty and efforts and professionalism in performing development their duties.



تحت شعار

”نحو مشاريع آمنة“



برعاية معالي الدكتور يحيى المتوكل وزير الصناعة والتجارة

تقيم

المتحدة للتأمين

ندوة التأمين الهندسي

الاثنين والثلاثاء 9 - 10 فبراير 2009 - فندق موفنبيك

المتحدة للتأمين
UNITED INSURANCE

ثقة بحجم المسؤولية

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Lamia Al-Eryany, a poetess expressing life

By: Ola Al-Shami

Coming from an artistic family, Lamia Yahya Al-Eryany recently launched her first book "To You" which is a collection of short stories and poems.

Lamia Al-Eryany is the wife of a veterinarian and the mother of three girls and a boy. Her oldest daughter is studying cinema production in Malaysia. She is a graduate of Sana'a University Bachelor of Arts in General Management and Political Science. In 2005, she received a diploma in early childhood development from Victoria University in Canada. Three years later she received her masters in child rights from the Lebanese University in Beirut.



Lamia Al-Eryany

Lamia is currently the director of the Shawthab Foundation for Child Welfare which she established in 2004. The foundation was established to care for all

aspects of Yemeni children's development. The name Shawthab itself comes from a delicate plant that grows in the most difficult environment and survives harsh weather. She feels that Yemeni children are somewhat like this plant, and this is why her foundation wants to support them to build a brighter future for Yemen.

Lamia Al-Eryany writes stories and poems for several newspapers and recites in public events such as at the Al-Afif Foundation. The only time when she realizes how unaccepting some readers are of a female poet is when she receives letters from male readers commenting on some of her poems or stories published in the papers.

"Some men think that everything I write has to be about me," she said.

"They personalize my writing and so it becomes difficult to communicate with them without them making certain judgments. Some have offered to marry me. Some have sent love letters in response to my poetry."

Her new book comes after one year of hard work as a manifestation of her father's will. Yahya Al-Eryany was an ambassador, and despite his involvement in politics he had a poetic side that only his close family knew. He wanted her to publish a book of her own. She started writing when she was thirteen years old.

"I remember when I was thirteen my father brought me some books by George Zaidan," Lamia remembered. "Then he asked me to read those books and to put in my mind that he will further discuss each and every thing with me.

That was the first literary challenge I faced and thus by reading those books I enjoyed reading and started to read more literature. Therefore, I started my own attempts to understand literature with the permanent encouragement and support of my father."

During the launch of "To You," she was surrounded by her family who was very joyful at the publication of her first book. She reflected on their love and realized that she is very lucky to have such a supportive family. Other Yemeni women writers could face more difficulties because of cultural barriers. She interacts with other female writers and poetesses but does not encourage having a particular union or association for women writers. "We can all be included within the Yemeni Writers Union. I don't

approve of gender discrimination," she said.

Her dearest work yet is her poem which holds the same title as the book: "To You." In this poem, she describes the ordeal of a woman and her words to her husband. "Because She Is a Woman" is another poem she feels passionately about because in this one she depicts the feelings of a woman she met in real life. The woman's husband was going to marry another woman and she was talking about her feelings to the extent that Lamia was touched and was inspired to write the poem. Lamia understands that her writings, whether poems or short stories, are greatly reflected by her work at Shawthab where she deals with unfortunate children and sad stories on a daily basis.

Qat increasingly turns on Yemeni women groupies

By: Magda Abu-Fadil

Director of Journalism Training Program at the American University of Beirut

(Huffington Post) It's a daily male ritual that can take up to six hours - enough to make one's teeth ache and cheeks bulge - and yet Yemen's national pastime of chewing qat (a stimulant to some, a doping agent to others), has increased to alarming proportions and drawn larger numbers of women.

"I really enjoy my qat sessions and find they invigorate me," said Suad (not her real name) during an all-female chewing party grouping civil society activists, journalists, employees of international organizations, a German graduate student, a Yemeni-American researcher and two Lebanese visitors.

Men and women chew qat in gender-specific sessions, although some avant-garde families hold mixed gatherings.

Suad said the effects of the stronger quality (and more expensive) qat she chewed helped her whiz through in three hours office reports that would normally take several days, admitting that the after-effects were lethargy and exhaustion following an evening of highs.

Aficionados at the party cautioned novices not to chew too fast and to avoid



Jaw breaking "takhzeen"

swallowing the small leaves washed of dust and pollutants and dried meticulously. The novices were advised to grab a small bunch, push it into their cheek, chew slowly, then take another bunch and repeat the exercise, until the cheek was full blown.

Chewers can still eat, drink and smoke if they wish, the regulars said.

Randa, the hostess, leads a double life. The thirty-something divorcee and mother of a preteen is an ambitious and hyperkinetic head of a women's NGO with aspirations of becoming the country's president.

On her qat afternoons/evenings, the attractive diminutive veiled woman

turns into a vivacious throw-it-all-to-the-wind party animal dressed in the skimpiest shimmering skirt and plunging neckline sleeveless top.

"I really get my kicks from qat and love sharing this experience with friends," she said of get-togethers she organizes or attends at least every other day.

After a generous lunch at a popular restaurant, she invited several co-workers and like-minded women to a qat chewing session at her home that included smoking the Yemeni "shisha," or water pipe, nibbling on finger foods, drinking raw ginger juice mixed with milk and sugar, dancing, singing and

showing off the latest revealing fashions.

While not minding the presence of curious visitors, Randa and the others requested that no pictures be taken of their frolicking, notably since several were well known in Yemeni society and feared the exposure would undermine their careers. What did not bother them was Randa's child coming in and out of the room and witnessing the group chew.

"High blood pressure, tooth decay, constipation, hemorrhoids, hernias, paranoia and depression are among the direct health hazards posed by regular qat chewing," said World Bank sustainable development expert Julie Valoria-Williams.

She told the Yemen Times that in many families, children as young as seven start chewing because of parental influence, with uneducated mothers considering qat a means of binding their offspring to the family.

A merchant in Sana'a's old town market pointed to his five-year-old brother and told this writer the little boy occasionally chewed qat.

Yemen is one of the poorest Arab countries with a population of over 23 million and some 60-70% illiterates, by some estimates. According to the Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture, quoted

by the Yemen Times, qat is the country's leading crop and accounts for 35% of total agricultural production.

The plant, known by the botanical term *catha edulis forskal*, is grown, sold and used legally in that country at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. Its leaves could be small or large, green or a mixture of green tinged with reddish brown.

It is grown in backyards, fields, along roads and highways and even on the premises of historic tourist attractions, and, is harvested year-round.

It is also slicing into Yemenis' meager incomes, leading to family breakups and sapping a dwindling supply of water needed for fruits, vegetables and grazing. Qat consumes 23% of Yemen's total water supply and 25% of that used for agriculture, the Yemen Times reported. But qat farmers view it as a fast cash crop and large supplies of it are sold in Saudi Arabia, Dubai and other Gulf countries where it is cheaper than hard drugs. "The bunch is for 400 riyals (\$2)," said a village qat hawker to a visitor. Another tradesman offered a higher quality for 1,00 riyals (\$5). Rich users can pay a few hundred dollars for the "very special" grades of the plant.

Yemenis making \$6 or less per day and supporting families are undeterred

by the cost and health hazards, to the dismay of reformers who see qat as the major hindrance to their country's development.

But the ubiquitous habit is hard to break, and business comes to an almost screeching halt after lunch when countless Yemenis on the street, in offices (if they're still working), in the cities' markets, and in outlying villages grab bunches out of plastic bags and start their quotidian "takhzeen," or storing of the leaves into their cheeks.

On a recent business trip to Yemen, my driver was upset when after a morning of driving me to meetings around Sana'a I asked to be taken to the old town for some sightseeing and shopping. It cut into his daily afternoon "takhzeen."

Perhaps the only time Yemenis somewhat abstain is during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, but many turn to the mild narcotic after sundown when they break their fast.

"I wish the government would pass laws banning qat and punish those growing and selling it," said an exasperated Yemeni female journalist deriding her compatriots for their laissez-faire attitude. "We need to catch up with the rest of the world, not stay stuck in our under development."



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A Kind Gesture shown by M.A.Othman School Students

By: Minal S.
For the Yemen Times

A new year starts with the bloodshed of innocent children and the people of Gaza. Who wants to have such a beginning towards yet another year? Unfortunately, a few inhumane people do prefer such a scenario of mankind and we have witnessed this in Gaza.

As the proverb goes, "Charity begins at home." Every common man wants to protect Gaza and to shield the Gaza strip in every possible way, helping with whatever small contribution they can offer.

This is exactly what the students of Mohammed Ali Othman School did in



Taiz. Special prayers during the morning assembly were carried out for the deceased ones in Gaza along with a collection for charity. Exclusive

speeches were conducted almost every day in the school, and on the 19th the staff as well as the students were dressed in black scarves with words of comfort, help, and prayers inscribed on the cloth. Each class representative displayed the National flag of Gaza as a symbol of their sympathies and feelings towards the victims.

When I spoke to some of the children, really felt how concerned they were. Maha, a Grade 9 student said, "If we don't show support at this moment of crisis towards Gaza, it's like drinking the blood of the victims and quenching our thirst." The pupils came forward with their own ideas, like Gaza should be assisted with their military power, medical aid should be provided, schools should be refilled with resources so that students there don't get affected, demolished houses be rebuilt and above all, prayer for the irreparable damage done.

If we try to be in the skin of our brethren and give careful consideration to the situation, we can at least make an effort in every possible manner.

And for those who try to disturb peace on this planet; can you please refrain from violence and have a vision for a peaceful, positive, vibrant, and better tomorrow for both you and me!!!!

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