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Government requests citizens' help to catch terrorists

As violence escalates in several southern governorates the Yemeni government offers a substantial reward for any information leading to Al-Qaeda arrests.

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Oct 17 — The Ministry of Interior offered the highest ever reward for information regarding terrorist suspects on Thursday. Almost USD 100,000 has been set aside for anyone who can provide "helpful information on any of the eight wanted Al-Qaeda members."

Although this is not the first time the

government has offered a reward, it's the largest amount ever pledged.

In addition, security authorities arrested 33 year-old Saleh Al-Raimi at Sana'a international airport on suspicion of funding Al-Qaeda in Yemen. Al-Raimi arrived in Yemen on Friday on a flight from Saudi Arabia.

"If it was true that he was Al-Qaeda why did the Saudis not arrest him at their airport? It is just another person

arrested because he shares the last name with a well-known Al-Qaeda member in Yemen," said a security and terrorism analyst who requested to remain anonymous. "The same happened a few years ago when Abu Hamdi Al-Ahdal was arrested for supposedly being the financial manager of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, just because of his sir name."

More violence in the south

A general and former head of the security intelligence branch in Abyan, as well as an officer of the same organization, were injured on Saturday afternoon while trying to defuse an explosive planted under the general's car.

The security men had noticed the bomb, but failed to successfully defuse the device, causing major injuries to both men.

The attempted assassination is one of several in the last three months targeting intelligence authorities and security officers.

The state blamed Al-Qaeda members in Abyan for the failed bomb plot and claimed they were also behind an ambush that targeted a security procession on its way to Am'en district on Saturday.

Locals said that two of the attackers were killed in the ambush, which damaged two tanks and three army vehicles.

State security confirmed the deaths but denied any military vehicles were damaged in the attack.

The air force has joined the army in its fight against suspected terrorist groups in the governorate using fighter jets and helicopters.

This week's security clampdown has, so far, resulted in the arrest of wanted Al-Qaeda member Hani Al-Thuraya. He was said to be carrying explosives and a wireless devise when arrested and is being held under investigation at the governorate's central prison.

The clampdown started as a response to an explosive package that was planted near a police station in Loda

district of Abyan. According to Loda police officers the culprits fled when approached by police before completing their mission. Explosive experts defused the bomb before it exploded while the perpetrators escaped.

Locals from Abyan also reported that three burned bodies, of unidentified security personnel, were found in Modiya district on Thursday. It is claimed they were casualties of armed clashes between government forces and alleged Al-Qaeda members on October 14. Eight soldiers, previously declared missing, were found in good health after taking refuge in a house in the area of the fighting.

Concerns over limited time to amend electoral legislation

Parliamentarians displayed concern that the parliamentary elections due next April might be postponed again. They fear that the remaining six months prior to the elections will not be enough to complete the electoral system amendments resulting from the electoral debates three years ago.

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Oct. 17 — In response to the opposition Joint Meeting Parties' request, president Ali Abdullah Saleh has delegated the task of reforming the electoral system to the National Dialogue Committee.

This delegation may cause a further delay in the parliamentary elections due in April, the last election having taken place in 2003. Some MPs from the ruling party displayed their resentment at this move terming it as the reason why the elections will be postponed again.

The head of the GPC block in parliament, MP Mohammed Al-Shaif, publicly denounced the president's decision.

Members of parliament from both the ruling party, the General Peoples' Congress, and the opposition parties' coalition, the Joint Meeting Parties are concerned that there is too little time to

implement the electoral reforms agreed upon when the elections were postponed in 2009.

"The fate of these amendments is now in the hands of the National Dialogue Committee and not the parliament. It is not in the ruling party's best interest to have the elections on time since its popularity is suffering in many governorates around the country," said MP Shawqi Al-Qadhi of Islah, an opposition Islamic conservative party.

The National Dialogue Committee is a committee that was formed by the ruling party and opposition's parties to find solutions to their disputes and the country's national issues.

If the elections are to be postponed again, the current parliament will have been in session for eight years, which is double the duration of a normal term.

On Oct. 4, the president issued a decree effective immediately to hand over electoral reform discussion to the National Dialogue Committee after the

parliament failed to reach an agreement.

"We only have six months until the next elections and I really doubt that the dialogue committee will have enough time to discuss the amendments," said MP Sinan Al-Aji of the GPC.

The amendments were presented to the parliament for voting mid-September, but the political parties could not agree.

"The JMP didn't give us the names of their candidates for the elections committee in time and this is the main conflict between us. This is why the GPC didn't vote on the amendments," said MP Yasser Al-Awadhi of the ruling party, the GPC.

However, the JMP says this is only an excuse.

"The amendments we agreed on are essential, but the ruling party wants to distract the attention to petty issues such as names of four or five candidates while what we are concerned with is

reforming the entire electoral system," argued Al-Qadhi, of the JMP and member of the freedoms and human rights committee in the parliament.

The disagreement means the parliament will not be able to decide on the amendments and hence a probable delay in the elections due in April 2011.

Without these amendments and changing the current electoral system, the JMP will probably boycott the elections in 2011 if the GPC decides to go ahead with it anyway.

One of the main demands the JMP has is changing the current electoral legislation which is based on the plurality voting system to the representational list system. The later means more representation to smaller parties.

"We will refuse to discuss anything related to the elections unless and until the representational system is in place," said MP Sultan Al-Atwani, former head of the JMP and member of the Nasserite party.

Continued on page 2

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Name-change prohibited due to security reasons

By: Anas Obadi
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Oct. 16 — The Justice Ministry recently issued an order prohibiting name changes. The order is said to be based on security concerns since prior to this decision Yemenis could easily change their first, second and last names in court.

Minister of Justice Dr. Ghazi Al-Aghbari distributed this new order which was issued on Sept. 19 to all courts and judges around the country.

The order allows for the correction of names and personal information but not the names entirely.

“With a new name people could escape their responsibilities. If there is an urgent justified need for changing the name, the court will look into it,” said Khalid Al-Dubais, media relations officer at the ministry.

The Justice Ministry asked judges to carefully examine the justifications and legal evidences behind name change requests.

This decision came following a note written by a number of judges and addressed to the minister commenting on the recent increase in change applications.

Simultaneously, the Civil and Personal Status Authority raised the same issue because it received several ID card change name requests.

Some of the requests according to the authority included changing the father and the grandfather’s names.

“The problem with many Yemenis is that they are quite careless when naming their children. I have come across many students, especially girls whose names are ridiculous and cause them social embarrassment. I met boys and girls who have names like “full-stop”, “small donkey” among many other weird names,” said Mona Mohammed a secondary school teacher.

Moreover, many Yemeni family names have awkward meanings despite the fact that they are well-known families, names such as Al-Tahwar (the bull), Al-Sakran (the drunkard), Al-Busaili (the oniony).

Prior to this new order, it was easy change ones first and last names. The process would start with a request to the court for a name change. The applicant officially pays only for the application form which is no more than Yemeni Riyals 300 (around USD 1.5) and present his or her reasons as to why the name needs to be changed. Two witnesses are supposed to vouch for the credibility of the applicant according to lawyer Abdullah Ali Al-Saqqaf.

The applicant must then publish two advertisements in the an official newspaper declaring his intent on changing his name and calling on anyone who has a problem with this to come forward to the court.

The applicant waits a fixed duration decided by the judge handling the case after the advert is published. Then the applicant’s request is usually accepted and his or her name is changed accordingly. If a new ID card is needed, the court issues a statement in favour of the applicant to the Civil and Personal Affairs Authority.

Foreign governments urge their citizens to leave Yemen

By: Tom Finn

SANA'A, Oct. 17 — Foreign governments are becoming increasingly worried about foreign nationals residing in Yemen with statements released this week by the French and Australian governments urging their citizens to leave the country.

On Wednesday France’s foreign ministry advised the spouses and children of all expatriates working in Yemen to leave the country after a French citizen was shot dead in the capital last week.

The warning was issued the day after president Ali Abdullah Saleh met with French president Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris to discuss security matters in Yemen.

Last Wednesday French contractor, Jacques Spagnolo, working for Austrian energy group OMV was shot dead by a Yemeni security guard on the same day that a British embassy car was targeted by a rocket attack in the Yemeni capital Sana’a.

Yemen’s interior ministry announced on Saturday that the security guard Hisham Mohammed Assem had “contacts with elements in Al-Qaeda” and that the killing

was a “terrorist crime”. The Yemeni government had previously said that the security guard had acted for personal reasons.

There are currently around 840 French nationals living in Yemen.

“Spouses and children are asked to leave Yemeni territory. This is a precautionary measure taken in conjunction with the main French companies on the ground and after informing Yemeni authorities,” foreign ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said.

“Taking account of the deterioration in the security situation after the latest events in Yemen, we urge French expatriates to exercise greater vigilance and caution,” a Foreign Ministry statement said.

France’s embassy in Yemen will continue to function normally.

Meanwhile, Australia lifted its travel warning for Yemen to its highest possible level, ‘do not travel,’ because of a “very high threat of terrorist attacks,” according to a statement released late on Friday by its foreign ministry.

The statement advised Australians against travelling to Yemen because of the

volatile security situation and urged those already in the country to leave.

“Terrorist attacks are likely and could occur at any time anywhere in Yemen with little or no warning,” it said, adding that embassies and hotels could be targeted for suicide attacks.

On Sunday, Yemeni authorities tightened security measures around the British and US embassies in Sana’a, setting up roadblocks and monitoring passing cars, after diplomatic missions warned of a heightened risk of attacks.

These measures come two days after the US embassy in Sana’a warned its “citizens of the high security threat level in Yemen due to terrorist activities.”

It also called on US citizens remaining in the country “despite this warning... [to] make contingency emergency plans and monitor the US embassy website.”

The British embassy remains operational, but is “closed to the public because of the security situation,” according to a statement posted on its website a week after one of its embassy cars came under rocket attack.

Alternative press code in the parliament

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Oct. 17 — Last Tuesday the Yemeni parliament referred an alternative press code to the media committee for review, and later they will present their findings to be voted on.

The current press law, no. 25 for 1990 for press and publications, restricts press freedom and imposes jail terms on journalists who violate the code.

However, the new press code proposed by international experts and Yemeni members of parliament in co-operation with the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, meets international standards of journalism.

The proposal presented to parliament was justified by the need for a new press code as journalism is now a fun-

damental and important component for democratic development, transparency enforcement and good governance. The new press code follows the constitution and is a part of Yemen’s commitment toward international conventions on freedom of expression.

The legal and constitution committee in parliament said that the proposal enforces press freedoms including the freedom of newspapers publishing, and the citizens’ right to freedom of information and access to any newspapers they like. In addition, it will activate freedom of information access for journalists and the protection of sources.

Parliamentarian Abdulmu’ez Dabwan, who participated in forming the new law, told the Yemen Times that this new code is completely different from the currently effective law. He said that

this proposal represents journalists and journalism, as it was a result of workshops held with journalists who shared their opinions regarding the law.

The proposal has canceled censorship on news articles and made the judiciary the only legal authority that resolves possible problems. It also abolishes the Ministry of Information’s control over newspapers and printed media, according to Dabwan.

In addition, the proposal has removed many restrictions so that newspapers can reach minimum international standards in journalism, according to Dabwan.

Imprisoning journalists and licensing requirements for establishing a newspaper have been completely canceled in this law. Now newspapers have to bring a note from the Ministry

of Industry and Trade and three copies of the paper to the Ministry of Information to be published, according to Dabwan.

He called on journalists and interested organizations to work in pushing the proposal forward to replace the current law and enable journalism to play its role in the development of Yemen.

Marwan Damaj, general secretary of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, told the Yemen Times that the syndicate has participated in proposing this law along with some international organizations and members of parliament, to replace the existing press law in order to meet minimum international standards of journalism.

He added that the syndicate strongly supports the proposal to replace the current press law.

Continued from page 1

Concerns over limited time to amend electoral legislation

The controversial amendments

The amendments under discussion are the result of the European monitoring committee’s observations to the 2006 presidential and local council elections. They include six points: Electoral administration’s bias, candidates’ freedom to assemble and express their views, use of state resources, access and use of media in particular state media, voting rights and other issues related to the democratic nature elections such as the legislative framework and the rule of law.

The various political parties had already agreed on these amendments after the 2006 elections and hence decided to postpone the parliamentary elections due in 2007 for two years until April 2009 in order to implement the amendments.

“We agreed to amend the consti-

tution and then work on the electoral system. But so far the president and his party keep delaying this,” said Mohamed Al-Sabri, spokesman of the dialogue committee on behalf of the opposition Nasserite party.

According to the constitution, the parliament is responsible for decreeing laws in Yemen. However, since the parliament has delegated the responsibility of sorting out the amendments issue to the National Dialogue Committee, there is according to Al-Sabri, a good chance that the amendments will not happen in time.

“Of course they [the elections] will be postponed. The parliament has already removed this topic from its current schedule. This automatically means the elections will be postponed. The only beneficiaries of postponing the elections are Ali Abdullah Saleh and his party because postponing the elections means an extension of his time in power,” said Al-Sabri anxiously.



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Interested agents/companies should contact the WFP Country Office in Sana'a or WFP Sub-Office in Aden in order to collect a WFP Transport Questionnaire. Addresses for these offices are listed below. Completed WFP Transport Questionnaires should be submitted to one of the WFP offices along with the following documents:

1. A Letter of Interest
2. The original copy of a letter of support from the interested agent's/company's principle financial banker. The letter should outline the interested agent's/company's financial status and credibility. If such a letter is issued in the name of an individual (guarantor) related to the interested agent/company, the interested agent/company should clearly state on the letter what the guarantor's exact position in the company is, and/or other links that the guarantor has with the company.
3. An audited financial report of the company going back 2 years.
4. Copy of incorporation certificate/license to undertake business in Yemen
5. List of trucks and certificates of ownership of such trucks

The above listed documents should be submitted to one of the WFP offices below by no later than November 3, 2010.

الرغبة في الانضمام إلى قائمة برنامج الأغذية العالمي

يسعى برنامج الأغذية العالمي إلى تأسيس قائمة تضم الشركات والوكالات العاملة في مجالات تقديم الخدمات اللوجستية من وإلى اليمن بما في ذلك خدمات الشحن والتخزين ونقل المواد، وتخزين وتخليص المعاملات الجمركية الخاصة بالإغاثة الإنسانية.

حيث أن تأسيس هذه القائمة لن يعمل على تأجيل أو إعاقة البرنامج في إنزال مناقصة في أي مجال من المجالات المذكورة أعلاه وفي أي وقت يراه البرنامج مناسباً.


وعليه فإن البرنامج يشيد بالشركات الراغبة في الانضمام إلى هذه القائمة التواصل مع المكتب الرئيسي للبرنامج في اليمن (الرجاء العودة إلى أرقام الهواتف المبينة أسفل هذا)، أو التواصل مع مكتبه الفرعي بمدينة عدن، وذلك للحصول على نسخة من استبيان المشاركة اللازم وتعبئته وتسليمه إلى أحد مكاتب البرنامج المذكورة آنفاً، على أن يكون مرفقاً معه المستندات التالية:

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In Brief

SANA'A

Yemen arrests man accused of kidnapping Japanese engineer
A Yemeni man, accused of kidnapping a Japanese engineer in Sana'a in 2009, was captured on Thursday by the security services at Sana'a International Airport. Security sources said on Friday that the security services arrested suspect Khaled Al-Obeidi after his arrival at the airport Thursday coming from the Egyptian capital Cairo. In November 2009, Yemeni tribesmen kidnapped the Japanese engineer near the capital Sana'a and demanded the release of jailed relatives. The Japanese engineer was released unharmed a few days after local tribal leaders negotiated with his abductors. Yemen's security services have captured about 160 men accused of kidnapping foreigners and Yemenis during the last few years.

HAJJA

Four Arab nationals seized for illegal entry into Yemen

Two Arab nationals, aged between 33-40, have been seized by the security forces at a checkpoint in the Hajja governorate, northern Yemen. Security sources said on Friday that the two Arab citizens were seized as they were in a taxi on their way to the capital Sana'a. "They did not have passports or other documents proving their identities," said the sources, adding the two Arab suspects were handed over to the security services in the province. Meanwhile, the security services have seized two Syrian citizens in the capital Sana'a for their entry into the Yemeni lands illegally. The two Syrians have been handed over to the Immigration and Passport Department in Sana'a.

ADEN

Women health training course held in Aden

Ameen Nashir Institute for Health Sciences in cooperation with the Basic Health Services Project and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) organized on Saturday a training of trainers (TOT) on best practices for health of mothers and newborns. The course will be held during October 16 until November 16, 2010 in Aden governorate with 20 midwives. At the opening of the TOT Course, Deputy Chairman of Ameen Nashir Institute for Health Sciences Aidrous Saleh affirmed the importance of outcomes of what is new in the areas of health sciences related to the application of best practices for newborns health and reducing mortality rate among mothers and children.

SEYOUN

Reconstruction project in Hadhramout discussed

Deputy assistant of Hadhramout governorate Fahd Al-Ajam was briefed on Saturday on the activities of a reconstruction project which is funded by the UNDP that aims to help farmers in the areas affected by the 2008 floods. The project director Suheil Amir hailed the cooperation of the local authority for the project.

Their News

Yemen in the MENA World Economic Forum

The 2010 World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa will take place on 26-28 October in Marrakech, in partnership with the Government of Morocco.

Under the theme "Purpose, Resilience and Prosperity," the meeting will gather the foremost leaders from business, government and civil society to strengthen the MENA region's growth and development strategies in the context of pressing global risks, including oil price volatility, water scarcity and migration. The meeting will provide a unique platform to collectively decode the post-crisis global reality for decision-making at national and regional levels.

The program of the meeting will revolve around three core work streams:

- Regional Responses to Global Risks
- Unlocking Sustainable Growth
- North Africa: New Business Geographies

Mr. Alwan Saeed Al Shaibani, Chairman of the Universal Group has been invited - among other regional business and civil society leaders - to participate in this international forum. He will represent "Yemen Education for Employment" and "Al Khair Foundation for So-



cial Development" as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for both Foundations.

Mr. Shaibani will also participate, prior to the proceedings of the forum; in the EFE global network regional Summit (23 - 25 October) where board members and CEO's from Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, United States and Spain will join as well.

Over 30 service and relief programs implemented by IR in Amran

Islamic Relief (IR) has implemented 32 activities in humanitarian, service and relief areas for internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to Saada war since opening its office in the province.

The IR's report pointed out that these activities included receiving 11,524 IDPs in their community center for the displaced, providing assistance for 540 displaced families in districts of Amran, as well



as helping 469 IDPs to register through coordination with the Red Crescent Society in the governorate.

An IR team helped 149 displaced cases to receive medical care at the medical center of Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and at the Amran Public Hospital, the report said.

The report indicated that the psychologist

at the community center of the IR has provided support for 101 displaced cases and referred 32 of them to another doctor and helped 21 cases to receive treatment through coordination and follow up with MSF.

The IR's activities also included providing legal advices for 157 displaced cases, training six committees of protection network in some districts, and distributing aid and income-generating projects for 273 cases in cooperation with the UNHCR.

According to the report, IR's office in Sana'a, in cooperation with its office in Amran, has carried out two training courses in disaster management and child protection,

and distributed aid during Ramadan to 747 poor families among them 637 displaced families and 110 from the host society.

IR started its activities in Yemen in 1998 through focusing on seasonal projects, before developing its activity after the penning of its office in Yemen in August, 2004 to implement wide activities within the strategic program of Islamic Relief in Yemen in line with the government's strategy to reduce poverty for the period from 2006 to 2010.

IR focused on the areas of priority in development, such as extreme poverty elimination, water, empowerment of women, health, and basic education.

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Government of Yemen Ministry of Water and Environment – Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

Terms of Reference for Internal Auditor

Background:

The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is a multi-donor initiative designed to support the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). WSSP will provide funds of about US\$340 million on a Sector-wide basis over a five year period (2009-2014) to be financed from the Government of Yemen and their Development Partners (WB – Germany – Netherlands).

For the purpose of ensuring the proper coordination and execution of the Program, the Government shall maintain (Inter Ministerial Steering Committee) assisted with an Executive Secretariat in carrying out its duties. Under the Executive Secretariat a centralized Internal Audit department for the program will be established with qualified staff to conduct sample transaction checks and advice corrective measures as needed in order to insure proper and adequate FM implementation of the program.

Now WSSP Executive Secretariat invites qualified and experienced local specialists to apply for the post of Internal Auditor within the program Internal Audit department.

Objective:

The objective of the internal auditor is to provide an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the Program's operations. It is intended to help the Program accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes. This objective is achieved by examining, evaluating and reporting on the adequacy of the project's control environment via a number of individual audits each year. Based on this work, advice and recommendations will be made where necessary, as to how procedures can be improved to manage the risks faced in achieving project objectives.

Scope:

The scope of the internal auditor includes examining and evaluating the policies, procedures and systems which are in place to ensure: reliability and integrity of information, compliance with policies, plans, procedures, laws and regulations; safeguarding assets; economical and efficient use of resources; and accomplishment of project objectives.

Tasks and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the CTAES/WSSP, tasks and responsibilities:

1. Coordinate quarterly visits to the implementing units to (i) perform sample checks; (ii) ensure proper controls are applied; and (iii) review the processes followed to ensure compliance with the Development Partners (DPs) guidelines as well as manuals of the program implementing units.
2. Participate in performing ex-post reviews on sample expenditures and the IFRs to ensure accuracy, reasonability and maintenance of full support by the implementing units.
3. Coordinate the Preparation of progress reports to the CTA on his visits to implementing units including his findings and recommendations.
4. Assist in the preparation of quarterly reports to the CTAES/WSSP and the Minister of Water and Minister of Irrigation with copies to the implementing units FM consultants and fi

nance directors on their field visit results and actions that should be taken

5. Act as a coordinator for all financial aspects in the WSSP program through working closely with the financial specialists of each subsector such as:-
 - Participate on an annual basis in the update of the MTEF, ensuring that NWSSIP/WSSP financing requirements are properly reflected.
 - Consolidate the budgets and disbursement plans for all components and subsectors into a comprehensive annual plan that links financial resource allocation to targeted activities, to outputs and milestones, and to the respective agency procurement plans.

6. Coordinate the external and internal audit functions for WSSP
7. In close collaboration with COCA, ensure that external auditors acceptable to the IMSC and WSSP DPs are recruited, that the external audit is promptly and professionally conducted, and that findings and recommendations at the level of each component and subsector and of NWSSIP/WSSP as a whole are explained and followed up, including any actions required by the implementing agencies.
8. Work closely with the ACAP advisor on financial and relevant aspects. Respond to any other needs that are deemed necessary to the program financial affairs and internal audit control.

Desirable Qualifications and Experience:

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in Finance, Accounting or related fields.
- Minimum 10 years experience in Finance and accounting, preferably in donor financed projects.
- Good writing and speaking in Arabic and English
- Advanced Computer literacy (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, e-mail, searching the internet) as well as experience in the use of website content and Financial Management programs and management systems
- Dynamic, open and networking personality

Duration of assignment:

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contract will be offered thereafter.

Interested applications, who strictly meet above requirements, may send their CV and supporting documents to one of the following addresses:

- a WSSP CS P.O. Box No 12177 old university campus /Sana'a
- b WSSP CS Office western Ring Road (Old Residence of DR Abdullahi Al- Eryani – Sana'a Opposite of MAM Show room)
- c Applicants may also email their CVs and supporting documents to the following e mail address: wssp-cs@yemen.net.ye anmukred@yemen.net.ye

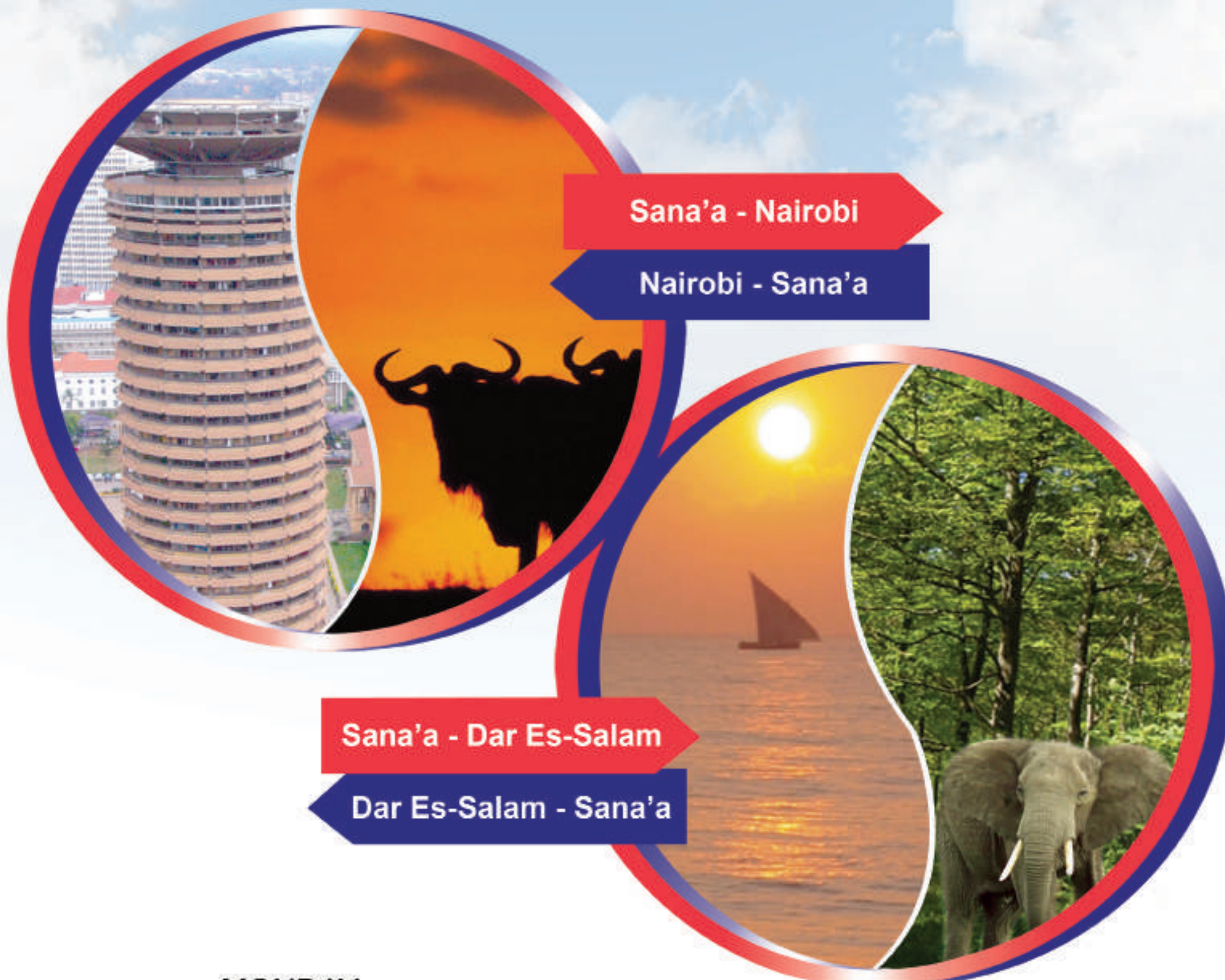
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President of Save the Children to the Yemen Times: “A major challenge for Yemen is how to move health and education out of the major cities to the villages where 75 percent of the people live.”

Save the Children, the world's leading independent non-profit organization serving children in need, has been working in Yemen since 1963. As a charity it works both at a community level, through the combination of direct implementation and partners, and at a national level to help promote awareness in the areas of education, protection and a civil society for children's rights.

Since the outbreak of the sixth war in Sa'ada in August 2009, Save the Children has been responding to the crisis in northern Yemen, helping to improve children's health and nutrition, protection and education needs. To date, Save the Children has reached nearly 28,000 children living in displaced camps and communities through their programs.

From October 10 to 13, Charlie MacCormack, the chief executive officer of Save the Children US, visited Yemen to view its programs, in particular its new work in emergency situations in northern Yemen, to meet with governmental officials and to talk with Yemeni children about their situation.

Tom Finn of the Yemen Times met with Charlie MacCormack and Andrew Moore, Yemen's country director, to talk about Save the Children's ongoing work in Yemen.

Is this your first visit to Yemen?

Charles: Yes it's my first visit. It's also the first visit by a senior level member of Save the Children which I think reflects the importance of Yemen at the moment for Save the Children as a global organization.

What's the purpose of your visit?

Charles: When I make these visits, I want to express my appreciation to our staff here who all work incredibly hard. I also want to meet with other national NGOs, the government, and other international organizations. I have to go and ask donors for money for programs and I want to make sure that I know that we have the people and the relationships to really deliver. It's also an opportunity for me to assess of our programs here in Yemen with regards to future funding.

So can we expect an increase in funding to Yemen as a result of your visit?

Charles: Yes you can. I cannot at this point say by exactly how much as we are still developing our 2011 and 2012 budgets, but we are certainly planning to expand our work here in Yemen. Also there has recently been a 400 percent growth in funding to Save the Children programs in Yemen. It used to be just the Save the Children of Sweden who worked in Yemen but now all our member countries are supporting our work in Yemen.

Is Yemen a priority country for Save the Children?

Charles: Yes it is. We focus on basic health,

basic education, early childhood development and nutrition. In much of the Middle East, many of those issues have already been resolved. In Jordan and Egypt for example they've really made great progress: They've almost eliminated child mortality, they don't have malnutrition, almost everyone is literate and most people finish at least ten years of schooling. In Yemen the situation is different. In the Middle East, it is the country that still has the most need for a Save the Children program.

Based on your visit, what are your impressions of the state of children's lives in Yemen?

Charles: I think the situation of children's rights and nutrition and health, especially in the rural areas, is very significant. In the north we have found 16 percent severe malnutrition - which basically means people dying of starvation. Two percent is the international standard for a serious problem. It's a very difficult situation in Yemen for children, especially rural children. And I will say that from what I've seen the difference between Sana'a and Aden - the cities - and the isolated villages is centuries. Sana'a is a big city, it has infrastructure, hospitals, schools, universities but an hour away there are villages that have nothing: no school, no clinic, no village health worker, nothing. A major

challenge for Yemen is how do to move health and education out of the major cities to the villages where 75 percent of the people live.

How does Save the Children approach highly politicized issues such as child marriage?

Charles: We will pursue political issues as long as it doesn't harm the child. In lots of places it depends on how you frame the issue. Early marriage for example is known to increase child mortality. Mothers in their teens are much more likely to lose their children than women in their twenties. Take education for girls, if you frame it as an issue related to child survival it's often much easier for a culture to say yes we want our children to be healthy. In addition, as a global organization, we've learnt that you can take leaders to other countries in the same region where they speak the same language and show them how things are done differently in their country. It's often easier and more effective than for Westerners to come and talk about these topics.

“The difference between Sana'a and Aden - the cities - and the isolated villages in Yemen is centuries.”

So how much of your work in Yemen is done through local actors?

Andrew: We have different strategies. We work with NGOs on national issues like the Democratic School who work through the Children's Parliament. We also work with partners at a local level, such as community youth centers. But the majority of the work we do is through local partners. This means that we have to do a lot of capacity building with local partners since they are often very limited in this respect. Of course there are cases where it's not possible. For example, in the emergency setting we do some direct implantation ourselves such as employing doctors directly. We have 130 national staff and we've got 7 international staff. Of the seven international staff, I'm the only person from Europe.

Does Save the Children have a good level of coordination and cooperation with other large organizations?

Charles: This is something that we can always improve on but the amount of coordination and cooperation is certainly improving. At the global level, there are meet-



Charles MacCormack visits one of the Save the Children projects for emergency response in Amran. The project aims to provide new facilities for life-saving emergency health and nutrition intervention in the conflict-affected areas of northern Yemen.

ings held three times a year where we get together with the ten or fifteen largest agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, WFP and the Red Cross to develop global strategies and priorities. Everybody sees the same issues and realizes that we really have to work together to solve these problems. But we also have to work together on the ground level. Major development organizations now work in what is called a cluster system. In the areas of health, education, water and sanitation, protection, and nutrition, each country has a leading entity that is supposed to organize these sectors. In the areas of education and child protection, UNICEF and Save the Children are the global leaders. So this is an effort to have a concrete mechanism to cooperate.

Do you face any difficulties in working with other organizations doing similar work to your own in Yemen?

Charles: Frankly most of the problems stem from the way the donors work. They [the donors] understandably put out competitive bids for their donations so that might mean that CARE, Save the Children and Oxfam are all competing with each other for a particular project. So, on the one hand we're cooperating but on the other hand the system requires us to compete with each other all the time. This is good for the donors because they can select whoever they think is doing the best job but it's not so good for consistent cooperation. If everyone is appearing to do the same work at the same level, how are you going to distinguish yourselves from

other organizations? It's a dilemma that most global charities like us face.

Andrew: From the Yemeni perspective, if you look at the Sa'ada situation, the level of cooperative has been pretty impressive, especially considering there has never been an emergency like that in Yemen. Nevertheless the UN and NGO structures have pulled together and been able to put out plans and implement programs for the emergency situation. There were some difficulties. For example I think that at a Sana'a level we were able to bring things together very well, but we were slower at providing leadership in the field. But generally it has been an excellent episode of cooperation with the government, with the UN and with other NGOs.



On October 12, MacCormack launched the 'protection' campaign on "the importance of education for all children including refugee children without discrimination," a joint effort by Save the Children and UNHCR.



Charlie MacCormack visits an inclusive education school in Aden supported by Save the Children.

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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

OUR
OPINIONThe worst place to
be a woman AGAIN

The Global Gender Gap Report for 2010 ranked Yemen at the bottom of the list with a score of 134 out of 134 countries. The index assesses the difference between women and men in political, economic, education and health conditions.

Yemeni women are suffering by far the worst conditions. Yemen was declared as the worst place to be a woman for the third year in a row, according to the World Economic Forum's annual report.

The Nordic countries were shown to be the best countries with Iceland coming out on top.

Why is the gender gap in Yemen so huge? I think it is simply because there is no genuine political will to improve the situation of women. Some say the situation of Yemeni people in general is bad and hence women are by default doing worse.

But, this is not a good justification considering that women from other developing countries are also going through difficult times. Countries such as Mozambique and Cuba are doing much better than us.

Perhaps it is communism that helped women enjoy their rights? I tend to believe this explanation especially since women in the former socialist south Yemen had accomplished much more compared to their peers in the north.

Moreover, communism is a top-down approach, which means the leaders at the highest level enforce it. They decide how the citizens, men and women, should interact and what they should expect. This also means that empowering women comes through a national policy whether it is a socialist one or not.

I feel that our government is not really interested in improving the situation of women for real. Otherwise how do we explain the millions of Yemeni riyals spent on training officials on issues faced by women when in reality there is hardly any improvement?

I was shocked to hear that the ILO spent more than six million dollars on the gender component in Yemen yet nothing has changed and now the ministry of social affairs, who is the main partner for ILO, says gender is not a priority anymore.

Considering that the minister of social affairs is a woman, it is shocking to hear this. We are talking of a labor force that could double productivity and instead of being dependents with adequate training women can become income generators.

Health wise it is also disturbing to see that women's access to healthcare is getting worse. Similarly education for women will help a nation's progress or without it see it stagnate.

We keep bragging about political participation and that Yemeni women were given the right to vote and become candidates before many other nations in the region. But what has it done for them so far? In fact, testimonies from women working in political life repeatedly say that they are being used to show that Yemen is a modern democratic country without really empowering women in the decision making positions, without giving them real authority.

It has become embarrassing to be a woman from Yemen, but more so it is very sad.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

A breakdown
in our values

Bonuses are a symbol of business's bigger problem - an eroded sense of duty to the wider community

Klaus Schwab
guardian.co.uk

Given the uncertainty of the recovery and fears about the social impact of the economic crisis, it is little wonder that debate about corporate bonuses has crept back on to the agenda. You wonder whether managers have learned from the excesses that have to a large extent caused the crisis.

Nevertheless, this discussion is superficial, as it doesn't consider the essential point: the role that companies, including banks, play in society, and the role of executives within those companies. The bonus discussion is actually just a symbol of a much deeper transformation that has taken place in the business world. Let me outline this transformation, as it has severe social implications.

Almost 40 years ago, I developed the «stakeholder» theory for businesses. This considers the enterprise as a community, with a number of social groups connected directly or indirectly to the enterprise which are dependent on its success and prosperity. These of course include shareholders and creditors; but employees, customers, suppliers, the state and the society in which the enterprise is active are stakeholders.

The idea at the core of the Davos meetings was to create a platform where managers could meet their stakeholders and discuss their mutual responsibility. According to the stakeholder approach, the management of the enterprise acts as a trustee for all stakeholders – not just for share owners. It is based on the principle that each individual is embedded in societal communities in which the common good can only be promoted through the interaction of all participants – and business success is also embedded in this interaction.

We have witnessed a gradual erosion of this communitarian spirit over recent years. This erosion of societal values has progressed particularly in the business world, and is also one of the primary reasons of the current economic crisis.

The enterprise has transformed from a purposeful unit to a functional unit: the purpose of an enterprise – to create goods and services for the common good – in society has been replaced by a purely functional enterprise philosophy, aimed at maximising profits in the shortest time possible with the aim of maximising shareholder

value. But if management decision-making processes are decoupled from the responsibility of managers for their own risk-taking, the entrepreneurial system becomes perverted.

In this context, the enterprise is no longer an organic community; it becomes a functional «profit-generating machine». All parts that do not fulfil their purpose are replaceable: managers, employees, products, locations. This development was particularly visible in the financial sector, where there is at best only an indirect connection with the original purpose of an enterprise, meaning the creation of substantive, real value.

This has consequences for individual behaviour: one cannot expect anything but selfish thought and action from somebody who knows that he or she is replaceable at any time. Instead of a communitarian sense of duty, there is a rise of individualistic profit-seeking behaviour in which society plays only a secondary role.

The current crisis should actually sound the alarm for us to fundamentally rethink the development of our morals, our ethical norms and the regulatory mechanisms that underpin our economy, politics and global interconnectedness. It would be a wasted opportunity for all of us if we pretended that the crisis was simply a bad dream, especially now that we are beginning to see the first signs of improvement in rising share prices or quarterly profits returning to banks – with corresponding bonuses – which are admittedly only financial indicators.

Unfortunately the reality we are hiding from looks different: the financial crisis has led not only to an increasing level of unemployment that will remain with us for years to come. It also puts an enormous pressure on public goods and services, as governments are forced to pay off ballooning debts. The billions that are needed to pay off the debts will lead to higher taxes, reductions of social and public health systems, and reduced investments in education and infrastructure. In the end, it is the taxpayer, the average citizen, who pays for the costs of the crisis.

There is a real danger that the financial and economic crisis will develop into a social crisis. Difficult times lie ahead. If we want to keep society together, a sense of community and solidarity are more important now than ever before. This communitarian spirit is the basis of the stakeholder principle. We need to embrace that stakeholder principle, not just within the narrow confines of companies, but at a national and global level as well.

From this context, the bonus debate is just a symbol of a more fundamental question: whether we can adopt a more communitarian spirit or whether we will fall back into old habits and excesses, thereby further undermining social peace.

SKETCHED OPINION

No no, it's not The Thinker... It's a graduate without connections turned to stone waiting outside the Ministry of Civil Service!



By: Hamid

COMMON SENSE

There is a way out of all this mess

Do we need
all this violence?

The situation in Yemen is in need of some thorough analysis and contemplation, because as it stands now, it is very difficult to determine in what direction the country is heading. Needless to say, Yemen is beset by an awesome assortment of challenges, none of which seem to have a beginning or an end all to themselves, and moreover none of them can be isolated and resolved without some parallel solutions at work in all the other challenges.

There are obvious political difficulties, some of which have taken on a color of violence that is not at all helpful towards meeting any of the challenges. But even this increasing violence has not awakened the Government and the general population of Yemeni to a harsh reality that Yemen is further sinking into an abysmal scenario of death, injury and destruction. It is not clear if this violence is pursued for want of political leverage, or for simply dragging the country further into a ripe venue for war lords, arms dealers and contractors of death, to harness their bloodsucking energies to find a niche to reap exorbitant profits. With minimal effort and – sadly – minimal risk, these vagrants will allow Yemeni blood to be spilled needlessly and mercilessly, wherever their greedy bloodletting enterprising minds take them. This violence will be cloaked in various facades from the religious to the political to the economic to the tribal and so on and so forth. The players in this seemingly fuzzy, open and undesirable free for all will certainly add misery and destitution to an already overtaxed Yemeni population. Never mind that the latter are broken by unbearable loads of social fragmentation (spiced with large population displacement, obstructed demographic configurations, behavioral and social depravation, and a deterioration of values).

The economic situation does not provide any aura of hope that the problems of high unemployment, inadequate or absent public services, poor access to natural, material and financial resources will be resolved – especially the ones most in need of these fundamental economic basics. It is safe to state that the latter could otherwise be highly productive elements of the society, in all sectors of the economy and more importantly in all the social strata that comprise Yemen's diversified and colorful social mix. The issue in the economic sphere boils down to giving equitable access to the resources of the land and allowing the fruits of development to spew out to the outlying and remote areas of the country, some of which have never seen an electric light bulb, let alone a school or a health center.

As it stands now the natural and institutional resources of Yemen are clearly and easily working to make the rich become richer and the poor become poorer. This is compounded by the unhelpful rigid bureaucracy that has nurtured a corrupt network of unfaithful cadre of civil, military and security personnel (many of whom have actually forgotten that in the end they are public servants), sleazy merchants and exploitative social dignitaries, who cannot seem to come to the maximum marginal propensity to acquire wealth and bleed their constituents of all their belongings. One cannot fail to see that the latter only seek to disassociate the social fabric of the society from the binds, guarantees and obligations of the constitutional, institutional and regulatory framework that sound government must be based on and which would guarantee the equality of all citizens before the law.

The Yemeni people are famous for being industrious, for their loyalty to God, country and government. But then the Yemeni people are entitled to some returns for this loyalty. When talking to most Yemeni people from all the different geographical, social and economic backgrounds, one cannot help but note that now the only real faith they have rests with the Almighty, who they view as the only one who can lift them out of all the misery and despondency easy to observe wherever one finds a significant assembly of Yemenis.

With this kind of an aura hovering above the coasts, mountains and deserts of this great country, it is imperative to suggest that Yemen need not be turned into a country overtaken by chaos and mob rule. There is still a chance that the Yemeni people could find ways out of all the predicaments they are under now, including even this series of acts of increasing violence and lawlessness. There are many good people in Yemen; many are endowed with high intellect, sagacity and good will, not to mention a strong love for their country and people. If these people continue to be left on the sidelines, then Yemen will, day by day, become less capable of overcoming all its current problems, since many of these people are nearing the end of their destiny – while no replacements are forthcoming. Surely we have seen what the existing decision making machine has produced and to where it is driving the nation. The widespread violence being witnessed these days is more than a warning sign that the country better shape up or else fall into the merciless violence that characterizes all societies and countries that have thrown reason and good sense out of the window, just so a few could continue to bleed their society of all their resources, deprive them of all their rights and deny them all their dignity and honor.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. His blog may be read at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com>

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Alsharif Ali Alsharif
Bachelor of Applied Technology,
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Rania Hassan
Bachelor of Applied Technology,
Information Systems

Nexen's Yemen Scholarship Program

Yemeni graduates share their Canadian experience



Written by Nicole Smayda

To celebrate the company's 10th anniversary in Yemen, Nexen developed a post-secondary scholarship program in 1997 to assist Yemeni students with advancing their educational aspirations. Since that time, Nexen has awarded 120 scholarships to Yemeni students under its Yemen Scholarship Program, in what is today the company's largest community investment initiative throughout its global operations.

The program offers students the opportunity to pursue four-year bachelor's degrees in Canada in disciplines including engineering, computer science,

geophysics, information technology and health sciences. The program has been a success. A total of 62 students have completed their programs to date and have graduated with degrees from the University of Calgary, the University of Ottawa, SAIT Polytechnic and the University of Alberta.

Nexen has extended its Yemen Scholarship Program to award an additional ten scholarships in 2011. Recruitment began at the end of September and the final selection will take place in January 2011. More information on qualifying criteria, the selection process and how to apply are available at

www.nexeninc.com and www.amideast.org. The deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, November 10, 2010.

The scholarship recipients are inspirational leaders who have strong academic qualifications, the courage to embark on a new cross-cultural experience, and the ambition to take advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to advance their education in Canada.

A number of the program's 2010 graduates share their experiences and offer advice for students interested in applying to the program:

Lu'ai Eshaq

Not only is he an engineer but he's also an emerging artist. Lu'ai graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Calgary in April 2010. In his spare time, he enjoys writing scripts for film and hopes to develop documentaries and movies in the future.

"Learn to appreciate the value of people and building relationships because it's very important," says Lu'ai. "Open your heart, volunteer and get out there."



Lu'ai Eshaq
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering



Nuha Bazara
Bachelor of Applied Technology

Nuha Bazara

The hardest thing she ever had to do was leave her family and move to a foreign country in order to advance her education. Nuha thanks her parents for all of their help and support along the way. She will now graduate with a Bachelor of Applied Technology Information Systems from SAIT in December 2010.

Her advice for future applicants?

"Hard work and dedication will turn theory into reality," says Nuha. "Always believe in yourself and take advantage of opportunities."



Akram Al-Ashwal
Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering



Saleh Al-Bar
Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering

Akram Al-Ashwal

After graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Ottawa in April 2010, Akram now wants to do a master's degree in engineering at the University of Toronto. He credits his time in Canada with giving him an appreciation for other cultures and being open to new ideas.

"Don't take this opportunity for granted," says Akram. "Take it seriously because it's an amazing opportunity that can really help you grow."

Saleh Al-Bar

He has a passion for cars and wants to become a rally driver one day. But, for now, Saleh is an engineer working for an engineering and construction firm in Calgary. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Calgary in April 2010. He has learned a lot about different cultures as a result of living in Canada's global village.

"By embracing diversity, we open our minds and learn the most from each other," says Saleh.

Sahar Daer

Sahar's passion and curiosity about the natural world – mountains, landscapes, and waterways – led her to study ecosystems. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Biological Sciences from the University of Calgary in December 2010. She would love to return to Yemen and share her knowledge with the Yemeni people.

"Remember when it comes to education and a better future, never lose hope, be persistent and keep trying," says Sahar.



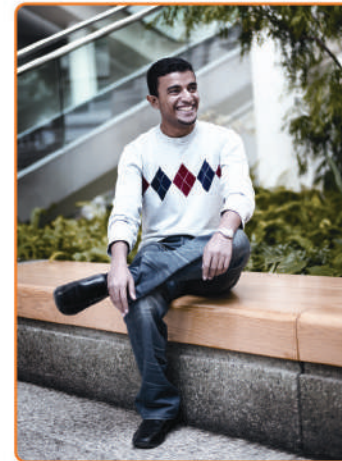
Abdullah Al-Gawfi
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering



Sahar Daer
Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Biological Sciences

Abdullah Al-Gawfi

He put the books, lectures and labs to the test when he completed a 15-month internship in Fort McMurray at Nexen's Long Lake facility in Alberta, Canada. Abdullah is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Calgary. During his time in Canada, he really grew to respect Canada's rich cultural mosaic. "Seize the opportunity because this only happens once-in-a-lifetime," explains Abdullah. "And, Canada is a great country."



Abdullah Bin Salm
Bachelor of Applied Technology Information Systems

Abdullah Bin Salm

Abdullah had to adapt to Canadian winters after leaving the warm temperatures in Aden. He now enjoys the country's winters because he's developed a passion for snowboarding. Abdullah graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Technology Information Systems from SAIT in January 2010 and has gained valuable experience in his field as an application and web developer as well as a systems analyst for an oil and gas company.

"Don't miss your chance, go and apply for the scholarship," says Abdullah. "Research the country and contact the graduates for advice."

Mohammed Al-Shehari

The scholarship was a life-changing experience and helped Mohammed discover his potential. He graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Technology Information Systems from SAIT in April 2010. Mohammed has learned that being open to all perspectives will help you see the big picture and make better decisions.

"Everything is attainable," says Mohammed. "With dedication and commitment, you will achieve anything you set out to do."

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Borrowed from nature

By: Ashwini Bhanagay
For The Yemen Times

Mud is a building material which, in the real sense, is only borrowed from nature for a period of time. After use, it returns back to the earth without leaving even as much as a footprint behind!

Australia's guide to environmentally sustainable homes, a technical manual on mud bricks says, "the ideal building material would be 'borrowed' from the

environment and replaced after use. There would be little or no processing of the raw material and all the energy inputs would be directly, or indirectly, from the sun. This ideal material would also be cheap. Mud bricks come close to this ideal, or they can do."

Today people are studying mud as a sustainable and 'green' building material. But for the people of Yemen, brick has been the 'ideal' building material for ages. Even today, choosing mud bricks over concrete blocks for construction comes as naturally to Yemenis as breathing.

A country with a past boasting of zero-waste cities, where there literally used to be no waste and even human waste was collected and reused, Yemen has lived 'green' throughout the ages and continues to do so, at least as far as building houses is concerned.

From basic rammed earth construction, sun-baked mud bricks to fired mud bricks, earthen construction forms have adorned the cities of Yemen, both in the south as well as in the north. Where sun-baked bricks are commonly used in Hadramout in the south, fired bricks are most common

in the north.

Sun-baked brick structures of the south – Shibam and Tarim

Amongst the sun baked brick structures, the most stunning are the trapezoidal skyscrapers of Shibam, nicknamed 'the Manhattan of the Desert' and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The 16th century walled city, with its five to nine storey buildings built out of mud bricks and clay, has stood firmly rooted in the dusty desert for centuries.

Once on the edge of becoming a ghost city, when most of its inhabitants wanted to leave the dilapidating structures, Shibam has been restored by the collective efforts of many, and is now once again an inhabited and living city.

The buildings of Shibam get their characteristic trapezoidal shape from using broader bricks at the base and narrower ones on the upper levels, a simple traditional technique used to reduce the dead weight on the walls. The bricks at the ground levels are usually 50.5 x 32.75 cms in size, and their size reduces as you proceed upwards until they reach the smallest size of 25.5 x 23 cms. As a result, the walls on the ground floor are 86 cms thick with the thickness gradually diminishing to 23 cms on the seventh floor.

In Shibam tests have shown that the material used for bricks in the past were of an excellent quality, unusually high in its content of clay binding material. This is because the earth was traditionally gathered from around the roots of date palms and from nearby river beds.

Houses made of mud bricks are accepted, but Seiyun in Hadramout even has an airport built of mud bricks! Another super structure is the the Al-Muhdar mosque in Tarim known for its soaring 53 m mud brick minaret.

Making sun-baked mud bricks

Even today in Hadramout mud bricks are widely used for constructing houses. All that is needed is mud, straw, water, wooden frames and sunlight. This highly energy efficient construction technique involves mixing all the elements manually to form a consistent malleable mixture. Bricks are cast immediately in wooden frames without any puddling process. After letting them bake in the sun for at least a week, the dried bricks are removed and stacked on edge for air hardening.

The hardened bricks are then laid in mud mortar on a rammed rubble and lime mortar foundation, to build walls which are topped with wooden beams made from the local 'ilb or sidr' or 'itli or tamarisk' wood. The room spans are restricted to 3.5 meters as both these species do not grow very tall.

Waterproofing

Though the upper layer of these bricks can be blown off by the wind, their core is waterproof. Waterproofing becomes critical especially at the base and the top. Traditionally foundations are built in stone and rise at least 50 cms to 1 m above ground. Roofs are made out of

Photo By Nadia Al-Sakaf



Photo by Khaled Al-Hilay



mud bricks but vulnerable areas such as corners, parapets and at times the entire roof, are finished in 'ramad'. This is a high quality lime plaster made from lime, wood ashes, coarse sand or mud and straw plaster painted with lime. 'Ramad' is more expensive, but can last for as long as 50 years and though the mud plaster is cheaper, its life is no more than 15 years.

The perfected green, cost effective and modular technique

This perfectly 'green' construction technique with no smoke to pollute the air, no waste, no artificial materials, and no energy needed other than direct sunlight, literally costs nothing. If you want you can use the excavated soil from your own site and make your own bricks or buy them from outside if you don't have the time. And if this is not enough, these houses offer much more insulation and better acoustics than concrete block houses.

What's more, the technique which is passed on from one generation to another, is in fact modular and highly standardized. The 'dhira' constitutes the basic unit of construction and measures approximately 45.8 cms. All building parts including brick sizes are in fractions or multiples of the 'dhira'.

In order to make the perfect brick mixture, four parts mud and one part straw

are mixed. The sizes of bricks are fixed and narrower bricks are specially produced to be used for upper floors. Building designs, room sizes, and the placement of doors and windows is also standardized.

Fired mud brick buildings of the north – Sana'a and Zabid

Up in the north, the capital city of Sana'a is the best example of construction in fired mud bricks. Brick houses richly decorated by intricate brick patterns on their external surfaces are not only found inside the walled old city of Sana'a, but are found in every nook and cranny and in the lanes of the city. The traditional construction techniques are still preferred by many and imparts a rather out-of-this-world ambience to the entire city.

Not to forget the buildings in Zabid, rich in brick patterns, beautifully covered in lime plaster.

Be it the sun baked brick constructions of Hadramout in the south, or the fired brick constructions and carvings of Sana'a and Zabid in the north, the unique techniques used by Yemenis are simple and can be easily adopted by non-expert owner-builders.

So if you want to build an environment friendly 'green' home, why not borrow some building materials from nature itself?



Yemen Red Crescent Society Vacancy

The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the vacant job: **Health and Care Coordinator** based in Sana'a YRCS headquarters. The position holder will be responsible of the overall management of health and care department in terms of programs, programs' activities and staff. He/She will act as a link with related stakeholders to ensure that there is adequate information flow and progressive implementation of programs' work plans.

Main Tasks:

- To plan and budget for health and care department's programme activities (annually, quarterly and monthly).
- To coordinate and give strategic directions within YRCS strategic frame-work to multiple partner-implemented community health interventions.
- To develop community based initiatives starting from the local community needs and considering the social and cultural construct of people.
- To participate in the development of YRCS strategy representing his department
- To train staff and volunteers in participatory community based health approaches, particularly in community based health first aid (CBHFA).
- To provide technical support to staff in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programme activities.
- To ensure that programs and programme activities are designed in a gender sensitive manner.
- To provide training and be an internal resource on HIV/AIDS, giving up to date information on epidemic status in Yemen.
- To ensure timely follow up of programme implementation progress as per the agreed log-frame and make informed decisions in case of delay.
- To lead evaluation process of programs and projects under health and care department.
- To undertake supervisory field visits to projects' target areas.

Successful applicant should fulfill the following requirements:

- University education in medicine/public health, master degree is preferable.
- A minimum of 3 years working experience in community health.
- Familiar with participatory approaches such as PHAST (participatory Hygiene and sanitation Transformation).
- Demonstrated ability of analyzing and reporting.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multicultural environment.
- Proven skills in leadership and team building.
- Fluent English and good computer operating skills.

Contract:

- One year contract with possibility of extension
- Full time based in Sana'a with frequent visits to project areas.
- Salary, according to YRCS salary scale.

Applicants should submit their CVs with a cover letter to email address: hmd@yrcs.org.ye not later than Thursday, 3:00 PM, October 28th. Position's Job description could be requested from the mentioned email address.

Females are encouraged to apply. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

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Yemen's Flora



Basil: Mentioned in the Quran



A girl wearing traditional Taizi clothes and decorating her head scarf with basil and flowers at the Basil Festival in Taiz, June 2010.



In Indian medicine, basil is used to cure ear infections, rheumatism, joints pain, skin diseases and malaria.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Basil is an essential detail of a Yemeni bride and groom's outfit. Women place it inside the pockets of their clothes and near their bosom while the men wear it inside their head scarf. It is even placed in the windows of the bridal car that will take the couple to their new home.

These uses are not only based on the herb's beautiful fragrance, but also on the notion that it is a blessed herb as it is mentioned in the Quran.

"It is one of the plants of heaven," religious scholar and herbalist Abdulbasit Abdulsamad told the Yemen Times. "It is mentioned twice in the Quran in many descriptions of heaven's beauty. It is also said in the Prophet's sayings that if someone offers you basil you should not reject it because it is light to carry and nice to smell."

From weddings to the celebration of motherhood, basil is very much present in the lives of Yemenis. It is used in a hot drink for the new mother within hours of delivery as it is said to help remove the placenta and ease the discharge of pregnancy fluids.

Basil is also bought and placed around the new born. Yemenis believe that it brings blessings and repels bad spirits.

Writer and specialist in Yemeni tradition Arwa Abdu Othman says Yemenis consider basil as a good omen and a symbol of life and fertility.

"Basil is believed to protect from the evil eye and therefore is an integral part of celebrations such as weddings and births," she said.

This aromatic plant follows Yemenis until their graves, as it is placed in the shroud and planted on the grave. Traditionally Yemenis visit the deceased on Fridays usually after the Friday sermon and they bring basil plants to leave on the graves of their

loved ones similarly to the western practice of leaving flowers on the graves.

In fact, some Yemenis who grow basil in their backyard or near their homes take the plants with them to Friday prayers and distribute them to the attendees on their way out of the mosque as a gesture of friendliness.

National heritage

The Yemeni government has realized and cherished the use of basil in the tradition. In 2005, a conference on basil and other fragrance flora was carried out by the municipality of Sana'a.

Abdullah Sonbul, at the time deputy mayor for the environment, launched training for dozens of housewives to teach them how to grow basil in their homes, among other practices to maintain greenery in the domestic environment.

"We are trying to preserve a tradition of planting and using flora in the Yemeni home," he said. "This is one of the government's many other initiatives to maintain this tradition."

The most recent initiative was in the Taiz governorate in June this year when the basil festival was organized.

Firki Qasim, the manager of the festival, said that the strength of Yemenis is not in the guns they carry or wars they win.

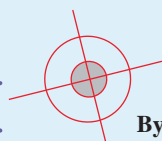
"It is in the aroma of the Arabica coffee and fragrance of basil and incense they use," he said.

At the festival's inauguration, Yemeni girls wore traditional Taizi clothes from the Saber Mountain in Taiz as well as basil and shathab, another aromatic herb, in their hair. The girls received the festivals' visitors with traditional songs and escorted them to the entrance.

Traditionally basil is used to disinfect the digestive system of worms, to ease stomach pain and improve the digestion in general.

It is also used to remove bruising and ulcers in the mouth. Yemenis use it in the salads as an appetizer, and to heal coughs and other respiratory infections.

Yemenis also create perfumes from basil by mixing it with other aromatic plants. In traditional perfume shops, the plant fetches a good price.

HEALTH
WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column is to disseminate health information to the readers in Yemen and outside. Dr. Siva is currently working at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Life style diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

Control allergens in your home



One of my friends brought his son to my clinic because he couldn't find the ear, nose and throat specialist. It seems he was suffering from frequent episodes of wheezing, sneezing and runny nose. He was very uncomfortable and his face was red and nose swollen due to wiping them frequently. He mentioned that he developed these complaints right

after shifting to our company quarters.

I visited his house in the evening. I found the reason for his son's problems.

Dust builds up throughout your home. The dust may contain substances that trigger asthma symptoms, such as wheezing or coughing, or another allergic reaction, such as the rash of atopic dermatitis or stuffy nose of allergic rhinitis. These substances are called allergens. Dust mites are another example of an allergen.

Although there is no strong evidence that reducing dust and dust mites in your home will reduce symptoms of asthma or allergic reactions, the following steps may be helpful.

Air

- Do not use window or attic fans, which bring air containing pollen, mold spores, and other allergens into your home.
- Use air conditioning so you do not have to open windows. This will help reduce the amount of pollen and mold spores that enter your home.
- Use an air cleaner with a special high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. This can help remove some allergens (such as pollen or animal dander) and tobacco smoke from the air in your home.

Furniture, carpets, drapes, and bedding

- Avoid carpet, upholstered furniture, and heavy drapes that collect dust. Avoid furniture covered with fabrics. Use pillow and mattress covers made from a tight-weave fabric that keeps out dust and mites.
- Use furniture made of wood, plastic, leather, or vinyl (including vinyl mattress covers) that you can wipe clean. Note: Synthetic mattress covers can be uncomfortable to sleep on.
- Remove rugs and wall-to-wall carpeting. Talk with your family about this and about how this will affect family life. If you cannot or do not want to remove carpeting throughout the home, consider removing it only in the bedroom.
- Use smaller rugs (throw rugs, area rugs) that you can wash.
- Replace drapes and blinds with roll-down shades or washable curtains.
- Remove "dust collectors" from bedrooms, such as stuffed toys, wall hangings, books, knickknacks, and artificial flowers.
- Avoid wool blankets and down quilts.

Cleaning

- Damp-mop hard floors (tile or hardwood, for example) once a day.
- Dust and vacuum once or twice a week to remove the buildup of allergens. Use a dry cloth to wipe hard surfaces such as countertops, tables, and other furniture.
- Vacuum the carpets and cloth-covered furniture to get rid of as much dust as you can.
- Use a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter or a special double-thickness bag, which collects dust-mite particles and pollen. Standard paper bag filters may allow the stirred-up allergens to escape back into the room.
- Dusting and vacuuming stir up dust, making the air worse until the dust settles. Wear a mask if you do the cleaning yourself. If possible, try to have someone without allergies do the cleaning.
- Consider wet-vacuum cleaning when possible. This can help remove allergens from carpeting because it actually washes the carpet. Also, consider steam cleaning carpets when possible. In addition to cleaning the carpet, the heat of the steam kills dust mites.

Controlling dust mites

- Dust mites are visible only through a microscope. People are allergic to dust mites' droppings, not the dust mites themselves. Allergy to dust mites is a year-round problem.
- Keep the house aired out and dry. Dust mites do well where humidity is greater than 50% but do not do well in dry conditions. Try to keep the moisture level (humidity) below 50%. This may be difficult in some seasons and some climates. Plants and fish tanks contribute to humidity, so keep these out of the bedroom.
- Dry vacuuming doesn't pick up dust mites. Steam clean carpets when possible.
- You can buy chemicals (ascaricides) that kill dust mites to use on carpeting and furniture. However, many experts do not consider them effective enough to be worth the trouble and expense of using them.
- Wash bedding, including pillowcases and mattress covers, in hot water [130 ° F (54.4 ° C)] every 2 weeks. You can also dry bedding at high temperatures.
- You can limit your contact with dust mites by using allergen-proof covers on your mattress, box spring, and pillows, and washing them regularly. This works well as part of an overall plan to reduce allergens in your home. It is not enough to use mattress and pillow covers without some of the other methods mentioned above.

Because adults spend one-third of their time and children spend half of their time in their bedrooms, it is important that you take steps to prevent allergens in this room.

Chicken basil with angel hair pasta

Ingredients

- 8 ounce package angel hair pasta
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup finely chopped white onion
- 1 clove garlic chopped
- 2-1/2 cups chopped tomatoes
- 2 cups boneless chicken breast halves cooked and cubed
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese

How to make it

In a large pot of salted boiling water cook angel hair pasta until al dente about 10 minutes. Drain well then set aside.

In a large skillet heat oil over medium high heat then sauté onions and garlic. Stir in tomatoes, chicken, basil, salt and hot pepper sauce. Reduce heat to medium then cover skillet and simmer 5 minutes stirring frequently. Toss sauce with hot cooked angel hair pasta to coat then serve with parmesan cheese.

Source:
grouprecipes.
com



http://gonomik.wordpress.com

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- Saleh Omar Abdulla Al-Tamimi lost passport No. B 054699 issued from Kenya and his wife's, Nasra Saleh Salem, passport No. A 1212259 issued from Kenya. Tel: 714745571

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	Emierates	EK 961.2	A.332.340.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0850	1005
	Air Arabia	ABY 709.700	A320	Sharjah /Sanaa / Sharjah	1520	1600
	Egypt Air	MS 693.4	B.73A.A.32A	Cairo /Sanaa / Cairo	1245	1345
	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	A.320	Bahrain / Sanaa / Bahrain	1515	1605
	Gulf Air	QR 452.3	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	1255	1640
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	B.757.A.320	Jeddah /Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205
	Lufthansa	DH 652.3	A.343	Frankfort/Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah Frankfort	2225	2359
Sun	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Turkish Airlines	TK 836.7	B.738	Istanbul Sanaa / Istanbul	0050	0145
	Nas Air	XY 743.4	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	0305	0355
	Gulf Air	QR 456.7	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	0320	0420
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo /Sanaa / Cairo	0330	0430
	Emierates	EK 961.2	A.332.340.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0850	1005
	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	A.320	Bahrain / Sanaa / Bahrain	1515	1605
	Lufthansa	DH 652.3	A.343	Frankfort/Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah Frankfort	2205	2359
Mon	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo /Sanaa / Cairo	0330	0430
	Emierates	EK 961.2	A.332.340.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0850	1005
	Gulf Air	QR 452.3	A.300.B.777	Doha / Sanaa / Nairubi	1145	1315
	Ethiopia Airlines	ET 306.7	B.73W	Addis Ababa / Djibuti / Sanaa / Djibuti / Addis Ababa	1430	1615
	Gulf Air	QR 452.3	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	1255	1640
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	Turkish Airlines	TK 836.7	B.738	Istanbul Sanaa / Istanbul	0050	0145
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo /Sanaa / Cairo	0330	0430
	Saudi Airlines	SV 0973	MD.11F.B.747	Jeddah / Sanaa / Addis Ababa	0410	0610
	Emierates	EK 961.2	A.332.340.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0850	1005
	Gulf Air	QR 452.3	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	1255	1640
	Air Arabia	ABY 709.700	A320	Sharjah /Sanaa / Sharjah	1520	1600
	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	A.320	Bahrain / Sanaa / Bahrain	1945	2035
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Wed	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Gulf Air	QR 456.7	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	0320	0420
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo /Sanaa / Cairo	0330	0430
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	Ethiopia Airlines	ET 306.7	B.73W	Addis Ababa / Djibuti / Sanaa / Djibuti / Addis Ababa	1430	1615
	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	A.320	Bahrain / Sanaa / Bahrain	1515	1605
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.5	B.757.A.320	Jeddah /Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205
	Lufthansa	DH 652.3	A.340	Frankfort/Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah Frankfort	2230	2355
Thr	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Ethiopia Airlines	RJ 708.9	A.310	Amman / Sanaa / Amman	0015	0130
	Turkish Airlines	TK 836.7	B.738	Istanbul Sanaa / Istanbul	0050	0145
	Nas Air	XY 743.4	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	0305	0355
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	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo /Sanaa / Cairo	0330	0430
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	Air Arabia	ABY 709.700	A320	Sharjah /Sanaa / Sharjah	1520	1600
	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	A.320	Bahrain / Sanaa / Bahrain	1515	1605
	Gulf Air	SV 653.3	A.300.B.777	Doha / Sanaa / Nairubi	2340	0110
Fri	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Turkish Airlines	TK 836.7	B.738	Istanbul Sanaa / Istanbul	0050	0145
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo /Sanaa / Cairo	0330	0430
	Emierates	EK 961.2	A.332.340.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0850	1005
	Gulf Air	QR 452.3	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	1255	1640
	Ethiopia Airlines	ET 306.7	B.73W	Addis Ababa / Djibuti / Sanaa / Djibuti / Addis Ababa	1430	1615
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	Ethiopia Airlines	RJ 708.9	A.310	Amman / Sanaa / Amman	1315	1430
	Saudi Airlines	SV 682.3	MD 90.A.320	Ryadh / Sanaa / Riyadh	1830	1945

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