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# YEMEN TIMES

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**Readers' Voice**  
Last edition's question:  
Do you think that the newly elected anti-corruption authority will succeed in fighting the spread of corruption in the government sectors?  
Yes (11%) I have no idea (7%) No (82%)  
This edition's question:  
Do you think that any of the accusations against Al-Khaiwani are found?  
- Yes  
- No  
- I don't know  
Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll) and have your voice heard

## Influential people seek to block the peace agreement Sa'ada still tense

By: Mohammed bin Sallam  
SA'ADA, July 1 — Apart from the exchange of mortar fire between Houthis and the army forces in Al Al-Saifi, a tribal source in Sa'ada pointed out that it is relatively calm in most of Sa'ada's districts. The exchange of fire left a soldier killed and another one wounded.  
The same source added, "Houthis breached the truce when they attacked a military site located at Al-Mifrah Mountain. In return, the army forces located somewhere close to Al-Mifrah Mountain, waged an attack using tank shells on sites possessed by Houthis. However, the end result is still unknown."  
According to some sources the Haydan, Saqeen, Qataber and Munabeh districts still witness increased congestion of Houthi loyalists and pro-government tribes men and they exchange fire during night hours.  
Razih district, captured by the army earlier, witnesses relative calm especially after Houthis withdrew from it. Further, its residents started to resume their normal life and the displaced locals are returning. Government insti-



Soldiers still on standby in Sa'ada, expecting the cease fire to end any moment.

tutions also resumed their work and a new district chief was appointed.  
Media sources revealed that two soldiers were arrested by Houthis in Dhahian city last Wednesday. This happened despite the fact that Dhahian was among the areas Houthis agreed to open up for army forces according to the last peace agreement signed in Qatar.  
Despite all these events, the commit-

## Security attacks MP

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri  
SANA'A, July 1 — The Guards of the prison affiliated to the Authority of Passports and Migration attacked human rights activist and parliament member Mr. Ahmed Saif Hashed, who entered the jail in order to investigate the accusations of the death of several foreign inmates inside the prison. In addition, they have taken him to custody and they confiscated his parliamentary card, his mobile, and his camera.  
"I was informed at 12pm, Thursday, that an Eritrean immigrant, namely Ibrahim, who has been at the Passport Authority's prison for a year, died under ambiguous circumstances. So I went to investigate the issue," said Hashed.  
Continued on page 3

## Yemen population reaches 60 million after four decades



Yemen has one of the world's highest population rate.

By: Bushera Al-Ansi For Yemen Times  
SANA'A, June 26 — The representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Mr. Hans Obdeijn confirmed - during a meeting held in Sana'a when announcing the State of World Population (2007) - that rural women can play a vital role in decreasing the growing population. He explained that Yemeni rural women, who form 72% of the women's population, are more subject to early marriage, which leads to fast population growth.  
Obdeijn said that if rural women have a choice, they would not choose early marriage and would prefer family planning for the sake of their own safety.  
The participants also assured the role of the media and mosque preachers to have intensive education and awareness to reduce the increased population growth through reproductive health, family planning and women education as well as enabling the Yemeni women to work.  
Continued on page 3

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## Prosecution accuses Al-Khaiwani of being Pro-Houthi

By: Yemen Times Staff  
SANA'A, July 1 — The Specialized Penal Prosecution, (specializing in terrorism), is investigating the former Editor-in-Chief of Al-Shourah.net over what it calls as "... his contribution in spreading Houthi views."  
Upon his arrest on June 20, the prosecution justified Al-Khaiwani's arrest by his links to Third Sana'a Terrorist Cell affiliated with Houthis. He is accused by official parties of planting bombs in Sana'a, plotting to poison wells that provide army affiliates with water, bombing important state facilities, assassinating high ranking military and civil servants and developing remote explosive mobiles. They also decided to prolong his detention to one month, (instead of one week), following his arrest.  
Continued on page 3

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## In brief

## SANA'A

## Dangers of Mercury

June 30 — Dangers of Mercury, the element not the planet, were discussed over two days, and concluded today Monday July 1, in a workshop organized by the General Authority for Protecting the Environment. The workshop discussed how to use equipments measuring mercury radiation and identifying the percentage which is dangerous for man. The 40 participants are employees of the authority in the department of environment monitoring and evaluation department, as well from other relevant sectors. The training was provided by an international expert from the United National Environment Program.

## Blog for Yemeni scriptures

July 1 — With a total cost of 400 thousand euros, Italy's foreign ministry is sponsoring a creation of a blog for Yemeni inscriptions. The project is a joint venture between Yemen's Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry and the Italian government. It aims at documenting inscriptions, ancient alphabets, and its translations. The Yemeni Ministry of Culture along with the General Authority for Antiquities are going to ease access to the historical monuments and antiquities in Yemeni museums as well as those in the documentation storages.

## Female chess players participate in regional competition

June 30 — Four female players travelled on Sunday with their coach to Damascus in Syria to compete in the Third Arab Clubs Championships organized July 1-10. The ladies are the champions of the Kamaran female Chess Club who have won third place in the first and second clubs competitions previously.

## MUKALLA

## Fifth literary festival

July 1 — The fifth literary festival will be conducted in Mukalla, July 20-25. The festival, which will be organized by the Yemeni Writers Union, will focus on Hadrami writers and poets with contributions from Yemeni intellectuals around the country. The previous festival was conducted in Aden where a number of prestigious Yemeni poets and writers were awarded for their contribution to Yemeni literature.

## Gulf stars caravan in Mukalla

June 30 — The Gulf Stars caravan has arrived to Mukalla port on Saturday in preparation for the Fourth City Tourism Festival occurring in the period of July 19 to August 10. The festival will include numerous activities and cultural events, in addition to creating an entertainment city, which will be stationed at the Balfaqeh Center square. The caravan was welcomed by 150 young men from all over the governorate displaying a live parade.

## MARIH

## 10 summer camps

July 1 — The summer camp authority in Marib, which is affiliated to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, has finalized the action plan for the summer camps this year. There will be 10 summer camps starting on July 10 for boys and girls in four districts around the governorate. The camps' programs were finalized as well to include scouts activities, cultural events, art-work, hand crafts, and awareness sessions in history and environment.

## DHAMAR

## Physiological support and disaster management training

June 30 — A seven-day training on how to face disasters and how to provide physiological support for the distressed victims of disaster concluded on Saturday. The training, which included 30 participants and organized by the Yemeni Red Crescent in Dhamar along with the International Red Cross Organization. Dhamar faced the most disastrous earthquake in 1981 and is prone to earthquakes. The training would enable youth in the city to be more equipped in facing such disasters and assisting in the recovery process. The training also poses as an opportunity to encourage young Yemenis to be active in volunteering activities and social work.

## Yemeni disabled are a way from official employment

SANA'A, July 1 — A parliament report, focused on the activities of the care and rehabilitation fund for disabled, indicated that the Yemeni disabled who have university degrees will not have priorities in the employment in the fund offices.

According to the report, though the fund needs those qualified disabled who have degrees which suit its requirements, the fund won't be able to employ them.

The Yemeni law allocates 5 percent of the total employment opportunities in both public and mixed sectors for the disabled who are qualified in different fields irrespective of their capabilities.

The report added that the fund doesn't get its private revenues which are mentioned in the law since 2002.

In the recent study supported by The Yemeni Supreme Council of Motherhood and Babyhood and prepared by the researcher Ajetahad Ali Abdo indicated that the registered number of Yemeni disabled are

379924.

The study relied on the recent data of the Yemeni census in 2004 which indicated that disability is more prevalent among males than females. It mentioned that about 56.6 percent are disabled males, while 43.3 are females.

According to the study, Taiz governorate has the highest rate of the disabled, having about 52016 disabled. Hodeidah, which has 48398 disabled, is the second. While Al-Mahra, Marab, and Shabw are the lowest governorates in terms of disable cases.

It is worth-mentioning that disability spreads to great extent in rural areas because of many social and health reasons such as relative marriages which cause many diseases.

Weapons and mines are other reasons for increasing disability among males, estimated 88.9 percent of the cases are due to carrying weapons and about 83.6 percent of them are due to landmines. While oldness is the



The study pinpointed that 56.6 percent are male disabled, while 43.3 percent are females, out of the registered cases.

main reason for female disability which reaches 56.3 percent among females.

## PEACEBOAT arrives to Aden

ADEN, July 1 — Japanese cruise ship 'PeaceBoat' arrived to Aden yesterday, carrying over one thousand Japanese and international students in order to promote a culture of peace around the world. Mr. Abpl Sato, coordinator of the voyage in Yemen, stated that the objective of the voyage is to learn about the culture and history of Yemen. He also indicated that several events have been scheduled for the students such as visiting Aden University, Yemeni Women's Union offices, and a number of schools as well as kindergartens.

The students will also visit historical sites in Aden and Taiz governorates, and will hold a football match between the cruise ship's league and one of Aden's prominent teams.

The Voyages of PeaceBoat take part for three months around the world; the



58th Voyage for Peace departed Yokohama, Japan on June 9, 2007 and will return on September 20, 2007. It will visit 22 ports of call, including first ever calls to Mikonos, Greece, and Copenhagen, Denmark, and the first call in many years to the port of Aden, Yemen.

The Peace Boat will take an equato-

rial course around the world, passing through the Suez and Panama canals along the way. Additionally, it organizes its voyages on chartered passenger ships, adapting the onboard spaces to provide a unique and dynamic environment for its participants. Since June 2003, PeaceBoat has been chartering TSS The Topaz for its global voyages

## Journalists and lawyers to work in defending human rights

By: Nisreen Shadad

SANA'A — July 1, For setting human rights teams comprised of lawyers and journalists, working in different Yemeni governorates, HOOD, an organization for defending human rights, hold a two-day training course in the mechanisms of defending and supporting human rights. It is considered the first step in a project intended to create organizations for defending human rights in the governorates.

The participants in this training course are about fifty lawyers and journalists from eight governorates. "We need practical executive authorities that have a supreme mission to work on," said Mohammed Naji Allawo, the coordinator of HOOD organization. "Great works represented in individuals," he added firmly to assure all that they can make a difference in their districts so as to stand against the oppressing rules even if they are alone.

Khalid al-Anisi, the executive director of HOOD organization, confirmed that "HOOD does not aim to set organizations related to HOOD in Yemeni governorates. We want these teams to set up their own organizations. For this aim, we want them to be qualified enough to start their own projects."

Shaikh Hamid al-Ahmar, the Islah MP, confirmed the significant role of

HOOD organizations and the cases they highlight such as the case of Anisa al-Sua'abi's and of Hamdan Dirsi's. He added that HOOD's follow-up of these two cases by making them exposed to public opinion prevented others to violate the rules.

There are numerous governorates that do not have offices of legal practitioners or offices of lawyers. 13 governorates in Yemen only have offices of lawyers, and 8 of them are intended in this training course.

This training course calmed the fear of some of the attendees, since they were afraid of standing against the powerful violators. Allow and Al-Anisi confirmed that they were not threatened. Al-Anisi advised the attendees to understand the judges, "The lawyer is the judge's teacher. Try to find the best way to present your case in front of him."

The attendees got the opportunity to present the problems they have faced during their work as well as to avail themselves of each other experiences. Ahmed Harmal, a lawyer from al-Dhalee, explained how people suffer in his governorate and said, "I was put in prison; which was two meters in height and a meter in width. It is called a developing room (this word came from the word 'developing photos'); these rooms are for compelling the detainees

to make confessions. Inside this room, we are tortured and abused. Adding to that, there are no spaces or windows for air. Even, we were not allowed to go to the bathroom."

Najeb Qahtan, a lawyer in Taiz, agreed with Harmal, "In Taiz as well, there is a similar room in the political security for torturing people to make confessions."

Most of the problems the lawyers have faced in the governorates are almost the same. The activists of human rights in Hadhramaut, however, have some exceptional obstacles, according to Al-Anisi.

The importance of using the media was highlighted during the two-day training course, "Without media, the cases cannot reach people and cannot create awareness," said Allawo.

Khalid al-Maweri, a lawyer in HOOD organization, presented the human rights in the light of the Yemeni legislation. Ahmed Arman, another lawyer, suggested that "We have to document everything that violated/violates the rules such as illegal arrest and torture."

Al-Anisi rang the attendees' bill of the difficulty they are going to face. Also, he called upon them to never give up, "The most important thing you have to know is not to despair... Changing is not for us, but for the others."

## Prize-winning film director Joe Wright in Yemen

SANA'A, June 30 — Prize-winning British director Joe Wright is currently visiting Yemen. He is spending three weeks in the country, visiting the mountains, the coast, and Hadhramaut, and he will be on the lookout for possible locations for his next film, part of which might be set in Yemen.

Joe Wright has agreed to attend a screening of his prize-winning film *Pride & Prejudice*, which was shown in the recent European Film Festival. The screening organized by the British Council in Yemen, will be open to the

public at 1900 on Wednesday 4 July in the Yemeni Cultural Centre. The Director will give a presentation of the film and there will also be a discussion after the screening in which he will answer any questions from the audience.

Elizabeth White, Director of the British Council in Yemen, said, it is a great opportunity to have Joe Wright with us and for Yemen to be looked upon as a possibility for film locations by international filmmakers. It is about time for the world to see the unique

geographical and cultural beauty of this country.

In addition, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the director will be meeting his Yemeni counterparts, a group of film directors, to talk about his experience in filmmaking and for them to share with him issues and concerns of the fledgling Yemeni film industry.

Joe Wright has just completed his latest film "Atonement" which is based on the book by Ian McEwan. The film was chosen to open the Venice Film Festival 2007.

## President Saleh back from France

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, June 30 — After a visit described by Yemeni officials as fruitful and successful, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh returned from France on Thursday. Both parties, Yemen and France, discussed a number of issues together with developing the economic and military cooperation between them.

President Saleh met separately with the French President Nicolas Sarkozy as well as with his Defense Minister, Herve Morin and Interior Minister, Michèle Alliot-Marie. The meetings aimed at discussing the development of the bilateral relations and cooperation in the field of fighting terror and providing Yemen with developed French military equipment including radars, helicopters and vessels for coast guard forces.

President Saleh paid a visit to the French Noujour Turmani Electricity Plant, generated by nuclear power and could observe the plant and its operation. He further expressed Yemen's wish to possess a similar plant through which the growing electricity demands could be met.

France volunteered to train Yemeni military affiliates in its colleges and schools as well as helping Yemen fight organized crimes and drugs. The two parties also signed a deal through which Yemen will buy

E350 Airbus planes to support and reinforce its fleet.

In return, Saleh welcomed the French investments especially in fields relating to electricity generation and water purification, assuring that they will be given special care and facilities.



President Saleh

He also commended the strong ties both countries enjoy, particularly in the field of information exchange as well as exchange of experts. He also added that Yemenis have benefited from their French counterparts and many French experts provide lectures to affiliates of the Yemeni Coast Guard.

The French Interior Minister voiced her country's readiness to help Yemen in aspects relating to terror fighting and training and enhancing the performance of the Yemeni coast guards forces. She also expressed France's wish that Yemen would join the Security Cooperation Treaty that binds it to Djibouti. This treaty would enable those countries overlooking the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab Strait, to fight terrorism and smuggling.

This is the second visit of President Saleh to France since his reelection in December 2006. It is also the first visit by an Arab leader to the newly elected President Sarkozy of France.

## Most Yemeni children face violence, says report

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, July 1 — Most Yemeni children are exposed to different shapes of violence whether in schools, homes, or government centers, according to a recently published study which attributes such violations to poverty and poor education as well as illiteracy of parents.

The field study, conducted in main Yemeni cities and some rural areas by the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Babyhood in collaboration with World Health Organization, UNICEF, and Save the Children Sweden, confirmed the existence of violence against children, stressing such violence is linked to the nature of the Yemeni society as well as its bad living situation.

According to the study, violence, which is both direct and indirect, is embodied in different ways of punishment practiced widely by Yemeni parents. Therefore, it leaves a bad effect on Children. Furthermore, the study pinpointed that children are subjected to mistreatment, insults, beating, and sexual harassment.

586 children of both sexes were the population of the study, together with 397 parents in the Capital, Sana'a, and Al-Hodeidah governorates.

Most subjects felt frustration over punishment means adopted by their parents and very few hinted their parents resort to modern education techniques to explain their children's mistakes and point them out.

Concluding the study, the Supreme Council for Motherhood and babyhood demanded the existence of mechanisms that ensure the protection of children against violence, mistreatment, and all sorts of physical, psychological, and sexual abuses.

It also stressed the importance of spreading awareness among parents through mass media on how to treat their children and warn them against the risks of using violent and harsh means of punishment against their children.

Moreover, the council called for enacting school bylaws that regulate the treatment of children in schools, hinting that the existing education measures should be revised in a way that help develop the children's rights.

A regional conference on the protection of children against violence was held on June 18-20 in Sana'a and it sought to bring out a healthy means for



dealing with children. It also discussed, through different working papers submitted to the conference, the causes behind the violence directed to children.

The violence against children in Yemen was mainly attributed to economic factors including the increased number of families below poverty line and the growing rates of unemployment as well as social factors as to the illiteracy of parents, their age and improper relations between fathers and mothers. Psychological factors are also considered.

Many participants assured that most means of education adopted by Yemeni children are improper and are part of violence against children, noting the child's daily life is not free from insults, threats, etc which help create fear within him.

They also noted mistreatment and beating will leave a bad effect and create future complexes within them, adding such treatment will affect his/her performance in the future.

In their recommendations, the participants stressed the importance of enacting the partnership with religious institutions to defend children against violence, calling for the establishment of a national and legal committee to monitor the implementation of the recommendations.

Moreover, the participants called the Arab League to pay more attention to children's issues work on establishing a web to help those countries affected by armed clashes and chaos. They also called for adopting the international treaties relating to children's issues, allocating more funds for the sake of safe and healthy childhood and setting a strategy for defending and protecting Arab children.



# IFC to finance a new Cement plant

By: Essam Addu'ais

SANA'A, June 30 — The Arabian Yemen Cement Company Ltd (AYCC) has signed an agreement with the IFC, the International Finance Corporation, that will help generate employment in one of the Republic of Yemen's least developed regions. The activity was held in the Sana'a-based Movinpic Hotel and attended by a number of Yemeni ministers, on Saturday June 30th.

The financing contract was signed by the representative of the IFC, Michael Essex, Director for the Middle East and North Africa and Zamil Abdulrahman Al-Mugren, the Director of the Arabian Yemen Cement Company which is mostly owned by prominent Saudi sponsors and well-known Saudi business executives, Engineer Abdullah Ahmed Bugshan and Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Al-Amoudi.

At the commencement of the ceremony, Zamil Abdulrahman Al-Mugren delivered a speech in which he said that the IFC will provide a \$ 70 million loan for its own account and will mobilize an additional \$ 55 million from the participating banks to build the first cement plant in eastern Yemen.

Zamil went on to say that the cement plant will be located in Al-Eion area near Mukalla, the capital city of Hadramout governorate. This area

could meet the technical and environmental conditions. The plant will have a capacity of 1.54 million tons per year. It is expected that the project will substitute for imports through out producing comparable cement locally.

It will also have significant environmental return to the area by delivering job opportunities and good infrastructure services such electricity, drinking water, and road projects to the citizens of the area, he further elaborated.

In his turn, Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, the Minister of Planning and International Corporation delivered a speech in which he said, "This initiative will create investment opportunities as well as direct and indirect job opportunities." The Saudi Arabia investment in Yemen reflects the intimate bilateral ties between Yemen and Saudi Arabia Kingdom, he added.

However, the Minister went on to say that the IFC is an active corporation not only in the field of finance but also in other civil work services. Also, he indicated that the Yemeni government will support local and foreign investments so as to improve the investment climate in Yemen.

For his side, Michael Essex said, "With this investment, IFC will commit itself to roughly \$100 million in Yemen, this fiscal year. In IFC's 50-year history, this is by far our highest level of investment in the country. Such financing is recognition of the



While signing the agreement in Movenpic Hotel

investment potential of the country's private sector."

"Yemen is one of the first countries that have relationship with the IFC. This finance aims at creating employment, providing civil services to Yemen, promoting the investment's companies, and encouraging cross-border investment by regional companies," Michael added.

The IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, aims to promote open and competitive markets in developing countries. It supports sus-

tainable private sector companies and other partners in generating productive jobs and delivering basic services. Therefore, people have the opportunity to escape poverty and improve their lives.

Additionally, the IFC's finance aims to build small enterprises, to accelerate private participation in infrastructure, to improve the business-enabling environment, to increase access to finance, and to strengthen environmental and social sustainability, reports said.

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## Continued from page 1

### Sa'ada still tense

The committee members and the Qatari Delegation are still continuing their efforts as they contacted Houthi leaders last Tuesday. They reached an agreement leading to the hand-over of medium-sized weapons by Houthis in the Magz district.

Sources close to the Houthis said that Houthi loyalists voiced their protest against the committee formed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his military leader to supervise the implementation of the Sa'ada Ceasefire Agreement. They demanded that a new committee be formed, half of which members must be from among them [Houthis].

The committee spokesman, Yasser Al-Awadhi, assured that Houthi followers started to descend the mountains and that military units replaced them at all sites.

Al-Awadhi told 26 September.net, that the Houthis deserted the areas of Magz, Baqem and Qataber districts, noting they did not hand over their arms. He added that the ceasefire is effective in all areas and only single cases of ceasefire breach have been registered. These breaches will not affect the agreement or resumption of normal, daily life in all Sa'ada districts.

According to the same source, the evacuation of Houthi sites took place in the presence of the committee members, consisting of Parliament and political party members as well as the Qatari representatives.

The committee arrived last Thursday in Al-Safra, Sahar and Kittaf districts to supervise the evacuation process and hand over these sites to the military units.

Former member of Parliament, Yahya Al-Houthi, reacted and said that Al-Awadhi in his foulness, does not want to make the peaceful process a success.

He also criticized 26 September.net as it has not committed itself to the agreement which calls for halting media campaigns on both sides.

Houthis harshly criticized what they considered attempts by some military leaders and tribal dignitaries to foil Sa'ada's Ceasefire Agreement. He accused them of igniting the crisis and highlighted their involvement in attacking Houthi congregations and their families dwelling in displaced people's camps, especially when 18 women and children were abducted in an effort to force Houthi to surrender.

They also demanded a quick halt of all military operations and the return of military units to their positions held before the fourth Sa'ada war. They also demand all their detainees set free and compensation for all those affected, before handing over their medium-sized weapons.

The Canada-based Yemeni Center for Human Rights demanded the Qatari government to take a serious stance towards abducting 12 women, 7 children and 7 men from Otmah village in Sa'ada. They consider the incident to be a stark violation of the ceasefire agreement.

The center also accused the military leadership of performing the abduction process, asking all Human

Rights Organizations outside Yemen to pressure the Yemeni government to stop their inhuman acts.

They added that the incident took place without any firing and this proves Otmah locals are peace-loving, hinting that militias would have been unable to perform the operation in case the locals were Houthi loyalists.

Head of the Supreme Council of the Joint Meeting Parties, (the five-largest opposition parties) and the Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party Yassin Sa'eed Noman, denied that the Sa'ada war is sectarian and demanded a peaceful solution within the right frame.

In his interview with the Al-Shark Al-Awsat Newspaper, Noman indicated the issue needs to be dealt with in its political, social and economic context, but not from a sectarian angle. He called on the regime to respect the law, stressing that the weight of a political system is in the weighing of its laws and this creates a fixed and strong society.

Local sources mentioned that the committee members meet every day and that they contact Houthis through mobile phones or mediating people. They further indicated that committee members insisted an attendance of Houthis. The latter however asked for a guarantee, (including some tribal Sheikhs to remain at their disposal), to ensure their safe return

### Security attacks MP

"While I was introducing myself to prisoners and listening to their complaints from the prisons' window, an officer shouted at me, and came down with other one wearing plain clothes to attack me," Hashed described.

According to his statement, Hashed told the officer, before the attack, that he (Hashedi) is a human rights committee member at the parliament, but that did not prevent the security from kicking and beating him and his company.

"I was accompanied by a journalist called Sanad Soliman. Although we showed our I.D. cards, they took our camera and our mobiles and they put us in jail" said Hasid "my friend was accused of facilitating my entry to the prison" he added.

Hashed and the reporter left the prison at 5 O'clock pm, after they

received their stuff along with their camera but with zero photo (all photos were deliberately deleted).

"I have noted the miserable dramatic circumstances that prisoners are living in this prison," he commented, adding, "There were three Christian immigrants died two months ago due to hunger and thirsty."

No one was available in Passport Authority to comment on Hashed's statement.

This is not the first time that Hashed faced security as a human rights activist, as in mid June, the Political Security prevented him to visit its prisons in Sana'a. At that time, the activist stated that the security is preventing parliamentarians from visiting such locations to hide the violations and tortures committed by prison officers against detainees.

### Prosecution accuses Al-Khaiwani of being Pro-Houthi

Political powers and Human Rights Organizations and activists reject the accusations directed to Al-Khaiwani and attribute his detention to his recent articles in local newspapers where he harshly criticizes the regime.

Some observers believe changing the accusations against Al-Khaiwani, who was also detained in 2005 and jailed for six months, is evidence of the baseless accusations against him and that it is rather a political detention.

It is worth mentioning that people form the National Security Apparatuses raided Al-Khaiwani's house on June 20th and arrested him in his pajamas before inspecting his house and confiscating his belongings.

A Professor of Political Science at the Sana'a University, Abdulal Al-Faqih, considers Al-Khaiwani to be one of the number of symbols of freedom in Yemen as he receives targeting and suppression of the State.

Al-Faqih, who is also the spokesman of Change Organization for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms, delivered a speech during the demonstration organized last Tuesday before the cabinet building. He noted that Al-Khaiwani was poisoned when uncovering the plans aiming to hand down the ruling to President Saleh's son.

The Arab Network for Human Rights Information demanded of the Yemeni Government to set Al-Khaiwani free, hinting that these are the same accusations directed to journalists who criticize the State's treatment of Sa'ada events.

They went on to say: "Al-Khaiwani has been targeted by State for his writings that criticize the President and the way by which Yemeni government dealt

with the crisis in Sa'ada when resorting to the military instead of peaceful option."

Furthermore, the Network pleaded with the Yemeni Judiciary not to overlook the severe violations made by the security apparatuses during Al-Khaiwani's arrest as well as subjecting him to physical abuse. They gave their message to the Government: "You should not allow the Yemeni Government to drug you into a political enemy against a journalist who did nothing but expressing his opinion peacefully."

Member of the Parliament and Yemeni Socialist Party affiliate, Sultan Al-Sam'ee, demanded that the Minister of Interior, Rashad Al-Alimi, attend a Parliament session to question him about the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Al-Khaiwani.

He also described the incident as disgraceful, law and constitution-violating, and against heavenly and earthly doctrines.

"I learnt that Al-Khaiwani had been arrested by security personnel in a barbaric way. He was detained in his pajamas and attacked with one of his daughters," noted Al-Sam'ee.

Al-Khaiwani's lawyers, Khalid Al-Anisi and Abdu Al-Rab Al-Murtada, noted they did not attend the court session, because there was no session at all. They are accusing the prosecution of forging the resolution and attributing it to the court as it has no right to prolong Al-Khaiwani's detention.

Al-Anisi assured that the renewal of detention is illegal and invalid, considering the resolution of prolonging the detention to be a forgery of official minutes.

He added continuing the detention of Al-Khaiwani is unjustified, hinting he filed an appeal against the resolution and considered it to be a scandal which requires further investigation.

As for banning the visit, Al-Anisi declared the visit was banned by the directives of Al-Alimi and demanded an investigation against the party responsible for issuing such directives.

The Yemeni Center for Human Rights based in Canada, decided to internationalize Al-Khaiwani's case and formed a committee including Rahma Hujerah, Adel Al-Dhahb and Lutfi Shatarah. They also allocated

\$500 as prize for the best article modeled after Al-Khaiwani's ideas. The deadline for receiving the article is July 22 and the articles are to be sent to justade11@yahoo.com.

In its statement, the Center (administered by Al-Dhahb), said that the regime managed to detain Al-Khaiwani's body, but not his mind.

It also denounced Al-Khaiwani's detention and considered it to be barbar-

ic, stating that it exposes the State's intention to announce a new war on all those who oppose the Sa'ada war.

Al-Dhahb likened the way by which Al-Khaiwani was arrested to the rules of criminal gangs, rather than those of a responsible State.

### Yemen population reaches 60 million after four decades

However, Mutahar Al-Abasi, the Deputy of Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, pointed out that rural women contribute to the work sector. The ratio is 78% without having wages and only 8% with wages.

The population growth in Yemen remarkably increased in the last years especially in Sana'a and Aden governorates. Reports indicate that the population of the capital city of Sana'a quadrupled in size from 428,000 to 1,748,000 (an increase of 408%) in the last 18 years until 200. Aden almost doubled in size from 327,000 to 590,000 (an increase of 180%) in the last 16 years until 2004. It is growing at an ever increasing speed.

The report also estimated that at the current population growth rate of 3.1%, the population would reach 59.5 million by 2050.

"Where will they live, or perhaps

more importantly, how will they live? Who will feed them and who will give them jobs?" a representative wondered.

The Fourth report of the United Nations Population Fund, titled "Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth" was discussed on Wednesday. The discussion took place in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation with the participation of the Ministry of Health and Population along with the United Nations Population Fund.

The report estimated that 28% of the total population (22.3 million), live in cities with an urban growth rate of 4.6%. This tallies pretty much with the average for the Least Developing Countries.

The report also indicated that most urban growth in the world results from natural increase, rather than from migration.

The report stated their solution: "The only way to meet and defeat urban poverty is head-on: helping the poor find solutions to their own problems as well as to investing in their education and health. This includes education in reproductive health and voluntary family planning as well as giving priority to woman's empowerment. This will increase the health and well-being of families in addition to providing young people with basic services, because almost half of all urban dwellers are of this category



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Brid Beeler to Yemen Times:

“Yemen will always be a special place in my heart”

She is known in the Yemeni community as the beautiful lady with long blond hair wearing Yemeni traditional ornaments. She had come to Yemen 16 years ago and decided to make this country a second home for her. After many years of working in the tourism sector as Group Marketing Manager for Universal Group, Brid Beeler left her mark in Yemen and moved on to Oman to work as a Managing Director for Abercrombie & Kent Oman based in Muscat.

Interviewed by: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

How do you feel about leaving Yemen?

One of the happiest parts of saying goodbye is that I know I will be back.

What attracted you to Yemen?

When I first came to Yemen in 1991, 16 years ago, I fell in love with this beautiful country and I said that someday I would live here. Now I have. It's been challenging, interesting, and sometimes very aggravating, but I've never doubted my decision to come for a single minute. Not once.

So, why are you leaving?

Well, the time came to meet a new challenge in my career. I had worked for Abercrombie & Kent in the past, so it was a logical move when I accepted the position as Managing Director with Abercrombie & Kent for Oman, who are one of the world's largest and best-

known luxury travel companies in the world, operating in 80 countries on all 7 continents. Now stationed in Muscat, overseeing Oman, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, I am responsible for developing A&K's signature tours, along with building the A&K Explorer lodges/hotels and tented camps.

Will you ever come back?

The Middle East is a very small place, obviously not geographically, but it's like one big family. I have found that in the 18 years I have been in the region, you make friendships and connections that last a lifetime and that is the essence and success of doing business in this part of the world. I certainly will be back in Sana'a to see the many friends I have aside from business.

What about your connection with Universal?

Universal and I have had a long relationship going back some 10 years. It all began with Mahmood Al Shaibani who is the General Manager for Universal Touring Company. My time in Yemen as Group Marketing Manager for Universal Group was a very special and rewarding time in my life, and I have many happy memories of my time shared with friends and colleagues.

Any special memories of your time here?

Oh yes, like the terrible night when Khatela, my saluki dog, ran out the front door of my home in Al Bounia.

Everyone in the neighborhood, including the military and police, some 50 people in all, came to my assistance. Hours later she was finally apprehended. I'll never forget how everyone in the community pitched in to help, that is truly unique. Children elsewhere in the world go missing, and nobody cares, but here in Sana'a, in my community, my neighbors cared about me and my lost saluki.

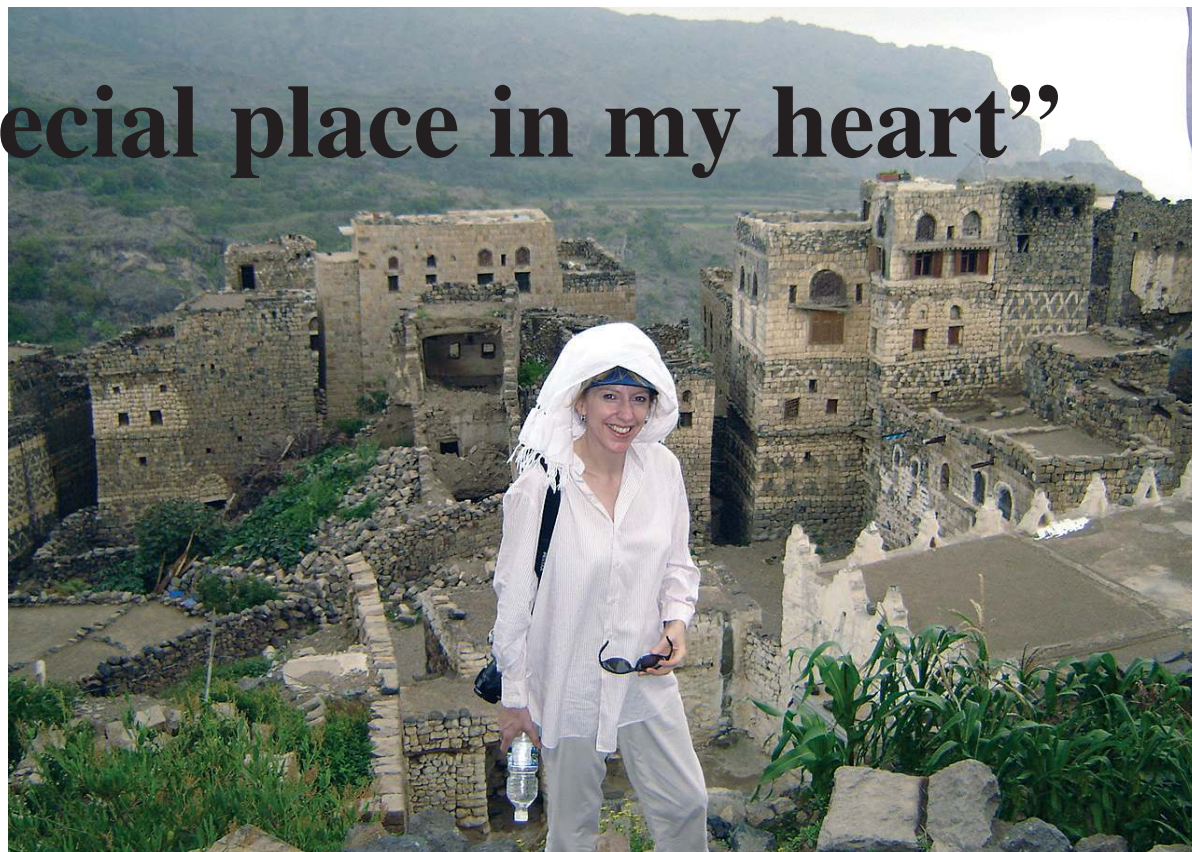
Any others?

Oh sure, too many to mention them all, but another very special time in my life was when I rented a home in the mountains from a Sheikh in Jebel Al Haraz. It was my weekend getaway from the hustle and bustle of life in Sana'a. That village and home where I spent many a happy weekend with friends and my saluki dogs was Shangri La. It was truly heaven on earth. When I think of Yemen today, that is where my mind's eye is drawn to. It is a place I truly miss.

Why Oman?

My first visit to Oman was in 1990, and I have traveled all over the country during many subsequent visits. Like Yemen, Oman is a spectacularly beautiful country and has its own long and fascinating history, and I am looking forward to being part of the development of its tourism sector.

They have an excellent cadre of guides, hotels and infrastructure already in place. It's ripe for development, but with an eye to the preservation of its treasures and culture, paying



Trekking in Cahill in Jebel Al Haraz

attention to its wildlife and other valuable resources.

That sounds very similar to Yemen?

Yes, but I think this is where Yemen can improve. While well thinking, the government continually fails to seriously recognize the importance of tourism to the future of the country. Lack of funds is always cited, but there are funds available, just not necessarily allocated to the appropriate Ministries. Yemen has so much to offer, but without development of the infrastructure, it will continue to lag behind other countries in the region. Companies like Universal Group do what they can, and privately fund important projects where they can, but Yemen's status in the international tourist market deserves to be higher than it is.

Other than maybe Oman, who else in the region is doing well in this sector?

Look at Egypt and Jordan, both are examples of where terrorism incidents took place, yet within a year, tourism had rebounded because the govern-



With Sheika Mai Al Khalifa in Bahrain along side the Yemeni Ambassador to Bahrain, promoting Yemen at an exhibition in June 2006

ment actively put money into marketing on an international level, and that is the problem Yemen is facing, the lack of exposure.

So, you are sure you are not going to forget us? No way, Yemen will always be a special place in my heart

Tourism for pleasure

By: Faud Mussa'ad

“Yemen has enormous tourist potential and attractions represented in its unique natural resorts, long beaches and amazing islands that are ideal for pleasure tourism,” says Abdu Assenwi, deputy assistant of Yemen's General Tourism Development Authority.

Pleasure tourism refers to sightseeing and activities such as fishing, diving, skiing and camping. Once an ancient and well-known type of tourism, it now is widespread all over the world, comprising 80 percent of world tourism.

Countries along the Mediterranean Sea basin are the best attractions for such tourism due to their rich tourist resources including warm climates, eye-catching beaches and many other assets.

Commenting on this issue, Assenwi added that his authority is working day and night to improve and give Yemen's islands a facelift through conducting field visits accompanied by technical teams to analyze the needs of these marvelous islands.

“Furthermore, the authority has drafted numerous coastal investment projects, which were presented and discussed during the Investment Opportunities Conference,” Assenwi noted.

Yemen undeniably has remarkable tourist resources and historical sites qualifying it to take the lead in terms of tourist attractions in the entire region, if not internationally. However, according to Assenwi, Yemeni tourism suffers due to negligence and lack of solid infrastructure, both essential requirements to meet tourists' needs and pave the way for tourism investment.

Shortage of such basic tourist requirements not only results in giving a bad impression and dissatisfaction to tourists, it also reflects negatively on the general tourism situation in Yemen.

According to a study of the entire Arab



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region, the key challenges hindering the revival of tourism investment can be summarized as:

- 1- An apparent decline in institutional tourism planning as an important source of local and regional income, as well as lack of a tourism organizational structure that can address current challenges and benefit from available opportunities.
- 2- Shortage of supportive financial factors such as bank loans to investors and high taxes imposed on tourism facilities.
- 3- A complicated process of obtaining entrance visas and high fees enforced to visit some tourist attractions.
- 4- Insufficient airline destinations and lavish entrance taxes. Because current Arab and international flight destinations are inadequate, new direct destinations are required to connect and facilitate tourist transport at competitive prices.
- 5- Poor tourism infrastructure.
- 6- Lack of tourism planning and uncertain vision withholds investment activity.

Other obstacles also may directly influ-

ence tourism, including economic and political instability, bureaucratic procedures of obtaining a tourism facility license, unstable national currency, lack of qualified staff and outdated labor laws that don't match modern investment concepts.

Assenwi said his authority has communicated continuously with concerned ministries, particularly the Ministry of Planning, explaining and listing the tourist sector's needs and priorities, including roads, water, electricity, telecommunications and other infrastructure components crucial for investment and attracting foreign tourists.

Assenwi further believes that establishing tourism investment banks to provide loans with minimal interest to investors will revitalize Yemen's tourism sector and create more tourism investment opportunities. Due to the high cost of investment projects, such banks will contribute significantly to Yemen's tourism evolution.

Consequently, the government will be fully responsible to focus more on the tourism industry in line with the sector's significance as one of the world's essential economic sources. While there are numerous examples of countries that could successfully employ tourism and utilize its potential economically, they lack the outstanding tourism prospects that Yemen enjoys.

Regardless of problems encountered, the future of Yemeni tourism is very promising. Tourism investment and an increasing number of tourists visiting the country is an indication of the bright future ahead for tourism in Yemen.

Despite the significance of this type of tourism to the national economy, some undesirable outcomes accompany it, such as the so-called “tourist marriage” phenomenon, which recently has spread and struck many beautiful Yemeni areas. Such marriages have led to many social tragedies and left numerous victims in a society where morals and religious values are quite dominant.



Yemeni traditional food is an important part of Yemeni tourism, especially if served by men wearing traditional Yemeni clothes

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## Republic of Yemen Ministry of Oil & Minerals Geological Survey & Mineral Resources Board (Project upgrading of the Seismic Network for Yemen) Yemen Seismological Observation Center, Dhamar

### TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT (TENDER NO: 5/2007)

The Geological Survey & Mineral Resources Board (GSMRB) invites manufactures or authorized dealers of specialized and experienced companies to participate in tender (NO:5/2007) for purchasing equipment for **Telemetric Seismic Network through VSAT communication system facilities.**

Qualified and specialized companies who wish to participate in tender can obtain the tender documents from (Purchasing section –Services and Supply Department, General Department of Financial & Management, Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board located in Al Zubari St, Asier road, near Ministry of Oil and Minerals during working hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 100.00\$US one hundred dollar.

#### The tender offer should be accompanied with the following:

- Offers must be placed in two separate envelopes one for Technical classification and the other for Financial classification both envelopes should be submitted in third envelope sealed by red wax.
- A copy of valid Tax card (with regard to local companies or Agents of foreign companies), and the original documents must be brought for comparison.
- A copy of valid Insurance Card (with regard to local companies or Agents of foreign companies), and the original documents must be brought for comparison.
- A copy of valid Commercial Registration Certificate, (with regard to local companies or Agents of foreign companies), and the original documents must be brought for comparison.
- A copy of registration for the purpose of sales tax according to Yemeni law.
- A copy Al Zakatt Card, and bring the original for comparison
- The tender offer should contain all fees & taxes to handle equipment to purchaser warehouse.
- To facilitate evaluation and comparison, the Purchaser will convert all bid prices expressed in the amounts in various currencies in which the bid prices are payable, to Yemeni Rials to the selling market exchange rates established by the Central Bank of Yemen. Date of exchange rate of commercial bid opening.
- A bid Bond or check payable for 2.5% of the bid offer un-conditionally valid for three months.

The last day for the tender bid is 10.00 a.m on Saturday 21/07/2007. The tenders will be open in public at 11.00 a.m of the same day in GSMRB, in the presence of Tenderers or their representative who may wish to attend.

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## إعلان المناقصة العامة رقم (5) لعام ٢٠٠٧م

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فعلى الشركات المصنعة أو الممثلين الرسميين للشركات المتخصصة الراغبة بالدخول في هذه المناقصة التقدم إلى مقر الهيئة الكائن في شارع الزبيرى - طريق عصر جوار وزارة النفط والمعادن لاستلام نسخة من كراسة الشروط والمواصفات من الإدارة العامة للشؤون المالية والإدارية (أدارة الخدمات والتجهيزات - قسم المشتريات) وذلك في أوقات الدوام الرسمي مقابل رسم وقدره \$100 مائة دولار أمريكي لاترد.

ويشترط على المتقدمين لدخول المناقصة الآتي:

- ١- تقديم العطاءات في مظروفين منفصلين محتويين بالشمع الأحمر بحيث يحتوي الأول على المواصفات الفنية ويحتوي الثاني على العرض المالي ويوضع الطرفين في ظرف مختوم بالشمع الأحمر.
- ٢- إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية سارية المفعول (للشركات المحلية ووكلاء الشركات الأجنبية) مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ٣- إرفاق صورة من البطاقة التأمينية سارية المفعول (للشركات المحلية ووكلاء الشركات الأجنبية) مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ٤- إرفاق صورة من السجل التجاري سارية المفعول (للشركات المحلية ووكلاء الشركات الأجنبية) مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ٥- إرفاق صورة من شهادة التسجيل لأغراض الضريبة العامة على المبيعات.
- ٦- إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الزكوية سارية المفعول (للشركات المحلية ووكلاء الشركات الأجنبية) مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- ٧- يشمل العرض كافة الرسوم والضرائب (توصيل مخازن).
- ٨- ولتسهيل عملية التحليل والمقارنة لعروض الأسعار فإن لجنة المناقصات سوف تقوم بتحويل قيمة العملات الأجنبية إلى الريال اليمني بسعر الصرف المحلي الصادر عن البنك المركزي اليمني وسيكون تاريخ تحويل العملات هو يوم فتح المضاريف.
- ٩- تقديم ضمان ابتدائي بواقع ٢.٥٪ من قيمة إجمالي قيمة العطاء بشيك مقبول الدفع أو ضمان بنكي غير مشروط وساري المفعول لمدة تسعين يوماً.

علماً بأن آخر موعد لقبول العطاءات هو يوم الأحد الموافق ٢١/٧/٢٠٠٧م الساعة العاشرة صباحاً وسيتم فتح المظاريف في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر من نفس اليوم بحضور أصحاب العطاءات أو مندوبيهم



# AMIDEAST: On opportunities for Yemen's Youth

Interview with AMIDEAST Yemen Country Director Sabrina Faber, and Programs Coordinator Elham Fadel

We heard that recently U.S. Department of State-funded youth studying with AMIDEAST Sana'a and AMIDEAST Aden have taken part in a number of community service, environmental activities and educational competitions in Yemen. Who are these students and could you tell us more about their programs?

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchanges through the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a supports the funding of two important programs for Yemeni youth; these are the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program and the English Access Microscholarship Program. The U.S. Department of State YES program in Yemen will send 30 students to the U.S. in August 2007 for one year of study in an American high school. While in the U.S., YES scholarship grantees participate in youth leadership and community service activities as well as experience U.S. culture and society first-hand. Over 80 Yemeni students have traveled on the YES program since 2003. A number of YES alumni routinely support programs and activities that contribute to their communities and Yemen.

The U.S. Department of State English Access Microscholarship Program currently provides high quality English language training to 300 secondary school students from 10 Yemeni governorates. These students were selected from a pool of applicants who are academic achievers in their Yemeni government schools and whose family resources would not be able to provide for this training. English Access training focuses on intensive American English language courses and American culture. To support both initiatives, AMIDEAST offices in Yemen provide



Fursan Nisar, pictured in the center is another YES alumni, who joined English Access students, in visiting a Juvenile Detention Center.

English language learning and study and life skills training appropriate for these students. In the classroom, students are guided by skilled teachers working with a well-developed curriculum that leads to fluency and TOEFL® preparation. The award-winning text is augmented by group and pair exercises designed to ensure the maximum use of the language in the learning process. Teachers use state of the art media presentation and the resources of the CALL (Computer Aided Learning Lab) and the U.S. Department of State EducationUSA-supported library to enhance student success. Students learn to challenge each other in a positive environment where the priority of learning English directs all efforts.

Yes?

In addition to the classroom experience English Access Microscholarship Program and YES students participate in community service presentations, outings and other cultural events which offer them insights into American culture and give them practical opportunities to use their newly-acquired language skills.

Thus, students in these programs are oriented on how they can give back services to their communities and take part in the development process. In the last three years, AMIDEAST students have taken part in Global Youth



Ali Hussein, pictured in the front row with a trophy, is a YES and English Access alumni who won the 2007 English Speaking Union International Public Speaking competition. He is the first Yemeni to win this competition which is now in its 26th year.

Service Day supporting beautification projects in Sabeen Park in Sana'a and in the Aden Marsh, an important stopover along the aviary migratory route between Africa and Eurasia. Students have also taken part in collecting food for marginalized children during the Eid and Christmas holidays as well as supporting Yemen's first Walk for Hunger.

The objectives of these programs and activities are in keeping with AMIDEAST Yemen's mission to provide meaningful training to enable Yemeni citizens to develop the potential of themselves and their country.

**You mentioned that you view participants in these programs as individuals who have the potential to develop their country. Could you clarify this statement?**

Yes. The participants in these programs are provided with training in a variety of skills and this training is supported by a series of best practices derived from the U.S. Department of State's implementation of these programs around the region and around the world. As a result, a number of YES and English Access students are now in university faculties in Yemen and around the world that require strong English language skills, and they perform at the highest levels in their coursework.

By the way, we also proud to announce that Ali Hussein, a YES and English Access grantee, was selected in April 2007 by the English Speaking Union to represent Yemen in an international speaking competition in London. Just two weeks ago, Ali became the first Yemeni to win this prestigious competition which focused on the international issue of water use!

**Still, some of the participants are still young, right? So how can they develop their country?**

Yes, some of the participants, like Ali, aren't in university yet, but they are taking part in a variety of programs for high school-aged students. Ali's speech contributes to raising aware-

ness of water issues. As far as other examples, we're pleased that this year's YES program includes a few Yemeni nominees from the first and second years of the English Access program in Aden. Further, for the last three years, the English Access program has contributed at least one participant each year to the MEPI Summer Youth Leadership Institute, a six-week course of study of the U.S. and its culture, held at selected U.S. universities. We hope that some of these students may have the opportunity for semester-long study in the U.S. as well.

In short and going back to the original question, we are seeing well-rounded young people complete these one-year (and in some case shorter) programs whilst making contributions to Yemen, and with this group of young, we believe that they will succeed in business, law, journalism, civil service, engineering, or any other profession that they choose.

**Do you hear from these alumni?**

Yes absolutely. Further, in March, under the auspices of other U.S. program alumni, we organized a seminar on development issues for Yemeni youth who have taken part in the English Access, YES and MEPI summer leadership programs in Sana'a. We anticipate follow up activities to include professional development seminars in the year ahead. We hope that community leaders—many of whom are alumni of other U.S. programs—will also be involved in these alumni activities. We believe that U.S. alumni have a major impact on Yemen's future and its youth, and they are like a two-way bridge linking American and Yemeni concepts and cultures.

**We have one last question. Now that the Yemen Times has helped provide information about these interesting programs, could you please tell our readers how individuals may apply for these opportunities?**

AMIDEAST, an American non-governmental organization with offices in



Students inside the premises.

Yemen and eleven other countries in the Middle East and North, is proud to be part of the EducationUSA network which provides information about studying and training opportunities and programs in the U.S. In Sana'a we host one advising session per week at no cost to the general public. In both

offices we post announcements about opportunities and we welcome students to drop in or call for more information. Finally the English Access Microscholarships and YES programs are being announced during the summer months. Stay tuned here at the Yemen Times.

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Words of Wisdom



If more meaningful change is to be made in respect for human rights, the daily violations against the rights of ordinary citizens have to be addressed. This means introducing new values through education and re-education. One clear target is to train law-enforcement agencies and officers on the rights of citizens and how to respect them. Another has to do with re-training of prison wardens and personnel.

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



OUR OPINION

A world less divided

Political indicators show that today, despite the claims of globalisation and connectivity the world is growing further apart. "It's a small world after all" seems a less accurate line especially that countries are building physical walls to keep the unwanted "others" at bay.

The situation in Yemen is no exception. More talk is being heard about the differences between people from the south and north, people from the cities and the tribal areas, or between different classes. The categorization is starting to take physical terms through segregation of communities and labelling towns.

In old times, the class system was so cruel that segregation took place physically. There were designated roads and locations for the "lower class" people and others for the "higher classes". These days ethnicity and the social system has intermingled with the economic status, you will find people who used to be considered of "higher race" living in shacks with people of the "lower race" because they all are poor.

These days, not only are there places or avenues designated for the rich, but also they build extremely high fences, sometimes with barbed wires surrounding their homes, sending a loud "Keep Out" message.

Building walls and fences is not only an individual behavior. In a May essay by Simon Robinson of the TIME, he talks about material barriers built between nations.

Pakistan is considering building a fence or a minefield in its border with Afghanistan. India began building a wall part mud and part razor wire along its boarder with Pakistan in 1980s. It is also constructing a fence along its boarder with Bangladesh.

Iran is building a bulwark along its border with Pakistan. Botswana erected a 480 km electric fence along its boundary with Zimbabwe. Saudi Arabia is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on massive ramparts to separate itself from Yemen to the south and from Iraq to the north. Thailand wants a concrete barrier along part of its border with Malaysia. The U.S. is erecting a controversial fence along its Mexico flank. And Israel is building a separation barrier between itself and the West Bank.

I don't know to which extent it is true that the Great Wall of China could be seen from the moon, but if these constructions keep on going, it would not be the only wall seen from above. Old fashions come back to life after some time, and the Berlin wall although no longer exists, comes back to life in many other places.

Technology could not bridge the differences between people of varied point of views. There is a reason why this is the new trend, it is insecurity. People and countries do not trust the other, whether it is the next-door neighbor, the foreign family in the avenue, the colleague from another part of the country, or the adjacent country.

The point is that it seems we have not learnt from history. Brick walls or barbed wires cannot keep harm away. Let it be illegal immigrants who want to make their lives better or terrorists who want to make yours worse.

What is needed to establish security on earth is not another brick in the wall, it is in fact, is a world less divided.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf Editor-in-Chief

Arabs and France post Chirac

No doubt Arabs regretted that Jacque Chirac is no longer president of France. He was a close friend of Arabs and had fuller understating of the situation and issues of the Arab world. It is very crucial for us and our French friends to bear in mind that Chirac, who was an intimate friend of Arabs, also excelled at doing his duty for the sake of France on the basis of an independent policy serving the European country.

The former French leader had been a distinctive voice in the international and European Union policies. Unlike the outgoing British Prime Minister Toney Blair, Chirac never said yes to the White House policies, nor did he obey the U.S. Administration. Blair eliminated all the stances and attitudes opposing Washington from his country's foreign policy.

Through his clever and balanced politics, Chirac served France and

gave his country a prestigious international status in various areas, and his reign will remain remembered positively. Particularly his objection to the aggressive wars and his refusal to participate in the swamp of Iraq's war, although there had been shameful Arab attempts to engage France in the swamp of blood.

The Arab regimes, one by one or as a whole, had been able to convince France not to change its friendly stance, as well as not to let the new French President turn his back toward the Arab issues or



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

join the coalition of their enemies. The fact that cannot be ignored is that the Arabs – if they have the will – constitute an economic and political power that can help them dispense with the west. There is no country in the west or the east that doesn't give crucial significance to the Arab existence in their programs at the economic and political levels.

If such negligence happens, only the Arabs would be responsible for it, not others. The wise words, which are repeatedly produced by the key Arab politicians are: "Allah helps not those who doesn't help themselves". It is clear that the Arabs don't help themselves, so why do they expect others to help them?

From this point, if the Arab countries' relations with France or any other European state gets tense, the Arabs have to blame themselves before they blame others, as they have been selecting the wrong way of dealing with others. Entire submission, or strong oppo-

sition, or confrontation, or even animosity toward others are the usual stances adopted by Arabs.

These days, the Arab press is writing a lot about new France under Sarkuzi and these reports make the reader feel that the European country, which used to have great interests thanks to its ties with Arabs, has become more dangerous for the Arab states than the U.S. This is a wrong image and harried interpretation of a new situation, the features of which haven't been identified yet.

Meanwhile, the observer of the French policy over the past few decades, be they rightist or leftist, realizes that the state's interest tops everything and that in the competition climate, it is difficult for this policy to undergo any vital change irrespective of the motives and differences.

No doubt that every new presidential assuming power in any country begins his mandate by saying that he works on introducing radical amendments to his country's

politics. But the real-life situation confirms that as days pass, people reveal that persons who were on the face get changed while the official policies remain the same without any amendment or modification. This is what is expected to happen in France under Sarkuzi, and even though the leftist candidate is the one who win the election, no change will have taken place.

We experience real problems while subsequent experiences and events in the Arab world affirm that Arab politicians, who make regimes and peoples, don't know anything about the world and the daily changes. Also, they know nothing of what will disappear in the mysterious political scene at this moment of the world history.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

Media leaders do nothing for press freedom

By: Tawakul Karaman

Some people say that civil society organizations have no right to issues newspapers. Regrettably, these people are the ones who are supposed to be the main sponsors and protectors of the freedom of expression. We will take a look at the law and see what is permissible and what is prohibited, in order to clarify the issue.

Sirs, the Article No. 33 of the Press and Publications Law ensures all citizens, political parties, social personalities of distinction, ngos and government institutions the right to issue and own newspapers and magazines. So the ownership and issuance of newspapers and magazines must be open to every individual, organization and political party. Denying them the right to own and issue newspapers and magazines is a flagrant violation of their legal and constitutional right. I do not know why these gentlemen do not read the Press and Publication Law before taking any press-related procedures.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate is considered one of the most important civil community organizations and its president is

responsible for maintaining its interests. By maintaining its interests we mean that the syndicate must defend its members from any violation, and claim additional entitlements and privileges for pressmen, huge premises and ensure full independence of its management and finance.

Therefore the YJS President will work vigilantly for the sake of achieving the syndicate's goals as an effective civil organization. And, because this organization is the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, its president has to perform a double duty for the sake of boosting unionism business, journalism and freedom of expression.

What do the YJS President's statements, given on more one occasion and published in more than one newspaper about the legal problems related with transmission of news messages, achieve? More than once, the YJS President has confirmed that civil community organizations have no right to own newspapers or transmit news messages on cell phones.

What kind of law and constitution does the YJS leader Nasr Taha support? As a senior and respected journalist, as well as a leader of Yemeni journalists, he is expected to support freedom of press and expression. What will be achieved

in favor of journalists and journalism if news message services are limited to September Mobile and Saba.net, and the civil society is prevented from providing these services. When did the authorities concerned issue decisions banning the ownership of newspapers and magazines and restricting press freedom?

We don't know why the YJS President has decided to deprive civil community organizations of their legal and constitutional rights to own newspapers and magazines while he is presiding over one of the most important civil community organizations, which is the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate. By this, he violates the ngos' simple regulations and mutual solidarity with each other in the event that one of the ngos comes under attack or suffers violations. Mustafa thwarts freedom of press and expression and does not remain committed to his obligations toward the fourth authority 'journalism', which selected him as its leader. He also abandons the right of his organization to issue newspapers, magazines and any other media means. Does he have the power to do so? Surely, the answer is NO. I would argue that the YJS president with his stands foils any of the civil community organizations' attempts to attain success in various fields and deprives them of establishing mutual solidarity with one another because I realize that his attitudes trigger animosity toward press freedom. He doesn't do his duty in the best way for the sake of the syndicate that selected him as its president.

I fear that our leader Mustafa may have committed three serious mistakes, one of which is frustrating civil community organizations, the second is abandoning the legal and constitutional right of these organizations to have media means and the third is represented by his indifference toward press freedom. He does not boost freedom of the press nor encourage journalists to exercise their noble job in a better way.

Let us come back to media officials' justification for blocking the website of Women Journalists Without Chains (WJC) and depriving

ing it of providing news message services. Their justification is that WJC is not allowed to offer news message services because it is an organization concerned only with human rights and public freedoms. This is a false and illegal justification. We hope to see if the officials, who prevented our organization from providing news message

services, will be brave enough to prevent other establishments, be they official or private, from doing so.

Tawakul Karaman is a prominent women journalist and Chairwoman of Women Journalists Without Chains Source: Al-Sahwa.net

SILVER LINING 'Lest Fighting Corruption' turns joke

The parliament elected last week the 11 members of the Anti-Corruption Committee. The anti-corruption code provision stipulates the establishment of this committee to crack down on corruption, the major headache of the country. It is fine that legal procedures are taken to be a solid ground for any action to address this serious problem. We know some members of the committee are good and serious while others have proved to be hypocrites and their actions have shown them as mere clowns. And their selection does not mean in any case that they are meant to perform another role that fall in line with their talents as clowns only.



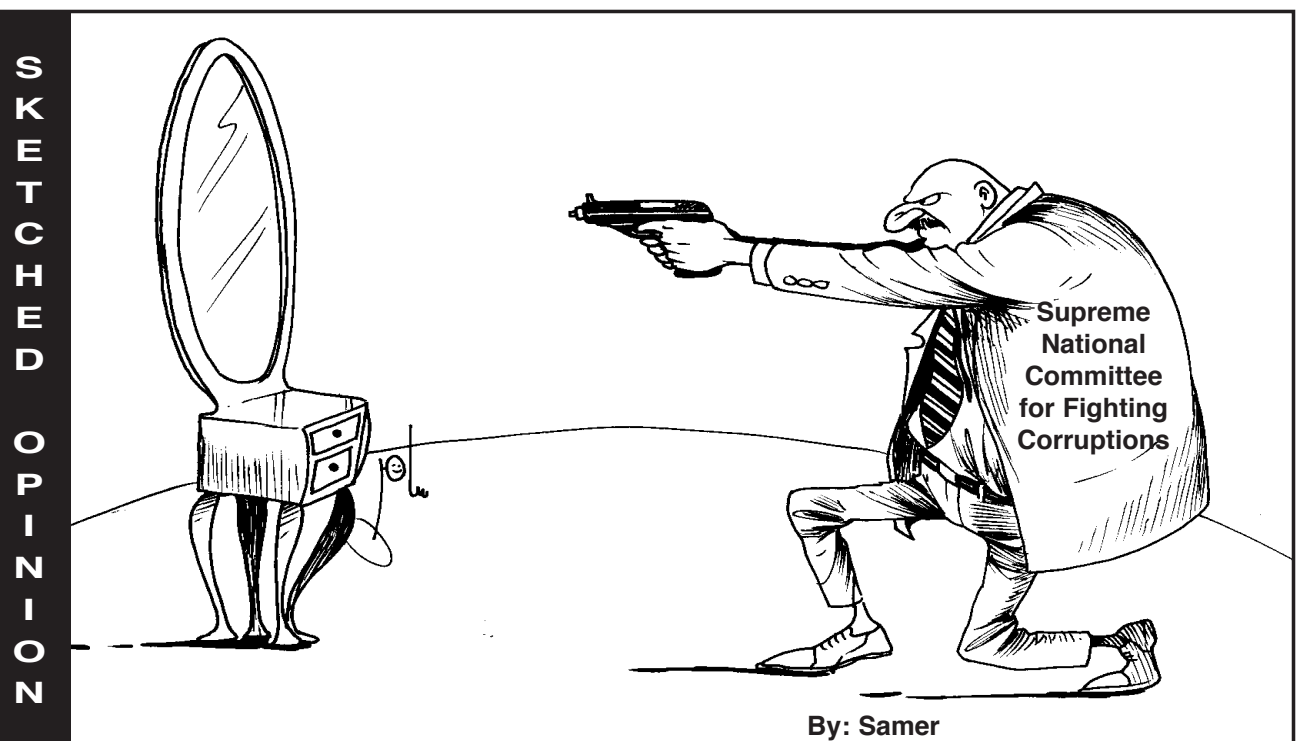
By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

However, we shall keep our fingers crossed in the hope that the work of the good guys in the committee will dominate. Prime Minister Ali Mujawar pledged in his first speech after he and his cabinet members were sworn in last April to wage a war on corruption. "It is enough for corruption," he bluntly said. President Ali Abdullah Saleh addresses the government every now and then to harshly attack corrupt crooks and thieves.

Now, the legal instrument is available and the committee to implement the anti-corruption code is set up. What comes after then?! We do not need any more talk and theories by either the president or his cabinet in terms of tackling corruption issues. We need actions. We need these corrupt crooks to be held accountable.

The formation of this committee should not be taken as a decoration just to show the international community we are serious about good governance. And therefore, the work of the committee should not be just meetings and nothing concrete. We need to see something tangible out of the function of this committee. I guess good and honest people in the committee will not accept to be just clowns and once they feel their role is meant to be this, they will quit. As a matter of fact, when the people see not only ordinary civil servants but also big guys presented before court for corruption, they will believe that they are serious about it. Otherwise, "fighting corruption" will turn to be a disgusting phrase the public prefer not to hear as then they see it no more than a big joke.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.



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# Yemen Press Review



**A-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Yemeni Islah Party**  
Thursday, June 28

**Main Headlines**

- At least one soldier reportedly killed and three others injured in ambush on armored vehicle in Al-Jawf
- Protests in Abyan escalate into violence
- Reforming electoral system tops political parties' dialogue agenda
- Abyan Governor accepts tribal arbitration to settle the issue of his relative's murder
- International report: Poverty responsible for exploiting and molesting children in Yemen

An international report warned the Yemeni government of consequences associating the phenomenon of street children and the exploiting and molestation of children as a result of severe poverty and poor living standards in Yemen, which is one of the poorest Arab countries, the weekly newspaper reported. It continued that the report, which has been prepared by IRIN News, a UN affiliate concerned with humanitarian issues, revealed that kids under age 10 are exposed to sexual abuses. It added that many children, mostly boys selling anything from water and sweets to fruit and tissues, have nowhere to go at night, making them particularly vulnerable to the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation.

According to IRIN report, there are no exact figures on how many children nationwide fall into this category. Of the 13,000-15,000 children estimated to be working on the streets of the capital, many come from remote rural areas,

and are away from their families, making the likelihood of them having a safe and secure environment to return to at night particularly low.



**26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army**  
Thursday, June 28

**Main Headlines**

- Republican Decree names members of Anti-corruption Authority, concerned parliamentary committee to complete procedures
- Yemeni President and his Egyptian counterpart discuss brotherly ties, developments in the region
- Yemen and Egypt coordinates efforts to convince conflicting Palestinian factions adopt peaceful dialogues, settle disputes
- GCC member states' foreign ministers discuss moves for qualifying Yemen's ailing economy
- Prime Minister: We work hard on suggesting possible and strategic solutions to water shortage
- France to fund numerous projects, support Yemen in the field of nuclear technology for generating electricity

The Yemeni army's organ reported in a front page article that France promised to fund several projects in Yemen and provide support for the impoverished country in the area of nuclear technology for generating electricity. This came during President Ali Abdullah Saleh's visit to the European country, which the newspaper described as fruitful. Saleh and his counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy discussed a variety of issues of mutual interest to both countries.

The newspaper said that informed sources expected Saleh's 4-day visit to

the European country to achieve positive and tangible results that may help consolidate cooperation between Yemen and France in the months to come. During his visit, Saleh held a summit with the French Leader Sarkuzi and met with senior French government officials.



**AL-Wasat Comprehensive Political Weekly**  
Wednesday, June 27

**Main Headlines**

- Al-Wasat Weekly publishes communications between American Embassy and Houthi mediators
- Sa'ada ceasefire breached as efforts face difficulty containing the crisis
- As Arhabi criticizes donors for not fulfilling their pledge, government report reveals that international funds to Yemen increased
- Army pensioner returns hijacked armored vehicle to government while his fellowmen bomb government installation
- Government commits itself to clarify to Parliament the fate of grants and loans
- Yemen illegal immigrants disclose their torture in Saudi jails
- International organizations condemn Al-Khaiwani's detention, call for his immediate release

The weekly reported that the detention of the active journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani enraged various local and international organizations interested in human rights issues. These organizations considered Al-Khaiwani's detention a flagrant violation of the international press conventions and the principles of press freedoms, which Yemen

is committed to abide by.

The newspaper went on to say that the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) urged the Yemeni government to show its evidence for accusing Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani of having links with terrorist cells. In a statement carrying the name of its executive director, the committee said that "Despite such dangerous charges, we are concerned that Mr. Al-Khaiwani may be punished for his writings that criticize President Ali Abdullah Saleh over his policy toward the Sa'ada fighting.

Reporters Without Borders (RWB) lashed out the Yemeni authorities for capturing Al-Khaiwani and claimed them to immediately release the journalist.



**Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)**  
Tuesday, June 26

**Main Headlines**

- Soldier opens fire on citizens in Ibb after he returned from duty in Sa'ada
- Five oil experts killed, injured in Shabwa gunfire after company workers suspend strike
- Gunmen attack gas truck, block Sana'a-Marib highway over oil job opportunities
- Al-Harbi appointed Chairman for Joint Meeting Parties Leadership in the capital, Dailami assigned his deputy
- Dissident Houthis form new leadership to abide by the treaty reached with government
- 100-journalist campaign criticizes government policies toward Sa'ada crisis

- Joint Meeting Parties MPs refrain from voting in Anti-Corruption Authority elections

The parliamentary blocs of Joint Meeting Parties refrained from participating in electing members of the Anti-Corruption Authority, the weekly newspaper reported in a front page article. The newspaper quoted MP Mohammed Thabet Al-Asali, member of the NUPO Parliamentary Bloc as saying, "Withdrawal of JMP blocs from the election came as an objection to illegal procedures taken ahead of the vote." He added that the JMP blocs quit the vote in order not to be perjurers in such a fraudulent process and not to be engaged in creating extra burdens on the Yemeni people.

Al-Asali clarified that the election report was returned to the Parliamentary Committee concerned with elections and referenda sometime earlier because it didn't meet all the legal requirements to be eligible for discussion. The Parliament Presidency Board started the nomination procedures without verifying the candidates' credentials. The parliament selected 11 people, out of 30 candidates, to become members of the Anti-corruption Authority. The 30 candidates, who were public personalities, judges, members in civil society organizations and woman associations, were selected by the Shura Council last March 2007.



**Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (Ruling Party)**  
Monday, June 25

**Main Headlines**

- Injured head of ruling party's parli-

mentary block returns home after recovery from illness

- Situations in Sa'ada gradually back to normal after troops cleared areas of terrorists
- Number of oil blocks in Yemen increases up to 104 this year
- Economic and regional issues top agenda of Saleh and Sarkuzi's discussions
- Armed band arrested after attempt to break into Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry, assassinate Scholarships Department Chief
- Rains prevent Sayoun students from going to schools for high school examinations
- Ruling party leader: Houthis have neither identity nor specific political demands
- Human Rights Minister vows to put a stop to all illegal prisons and mistreatments

The ruling party's weekly reported on its front page that Minister of Human Rights Huda Abdullatif Al-Ban declared that her ministry is working hard to eliminate any illegal jails in the country, be they private or used for hostages. "The Human Right Ministry will coordinate efforts with the security authorities in different Yemeni governorates in order to put a limit to the spread of private prisons used for jailing fugitives, escaped murderers or hostages" the newspaper quoted Al-Ban as saying.

The Human Right Minister revealed that a committee, recently formed by her ministry, will conduct organized field visits to prisons in the governorates, and any right abuses, mistreatments or violations will be immediately reported to the Council of Ministers to take the necessary procedures. She noted that the ministry is receiving inmates' complaints to review and assess them before forwarding them to the concerned authorities.

## Admitting failure

By: Jihad El-Khazen

We have lost the war in Iraq. That was a statement in two headlines by the 'Los Angeles Times' and the 'Washington Post' this month. These two newspapers are of the most elite newspapers in the US and worldwide. Earlier in the month, the Pentagon had issued a report about the course of the war from mid-February till mid-June admitting failure on most fronts and that violence was not being reduced.

The Department of Defense's report talked of a single point of success which is that sectarian violence has been reduced. But no sooner had this report been issued than this type of violence resumed and the war of mosques returned to Samarra, Baghdad and elsewhere.

The two influential newspapers' articles were to the effect that once the popular support for a war is lost, it is lost forever. There is no example of a public

opinion that changed its mind once it turned against a war. On the contrary, the precedents show that a lost war affects the national psyche negatively; and "the Vietnam syndrome divided this country for decades; the Iraq syndrome will be no different," according to the 'Los Angeles Times' - the Soviet Union was hit by the Afghanistan syndrome.

The newspapers added that the Iraq war perhaps is the biggest strategic mistake in US history, as the impact of this failure would extend to neighboring states, while Vietnam did not affect any other nation as the theory of the fall of 'dominoes' did not work. Now the same officials who failed to manage the war are trying to convince the Americans of threats that exist in a future that has not yet taken place; they warn of a regional war and a mini-state for al-Qaeda in Anbar. They even went as far as claiming that China would play a regional role.

The two newspapers want the US troops to pull out of Iraq, and the Pentagon admits to failure after the increase of troops. But what is Bush's

position?

Sources in the administration have suddenly started talking about permanent US presence in Iraq. The first hint I heard about it was from US Presidential Spokesman John Snow who compared a permanent US existence in Iraq to the presence of 30,000 or 40,000 US troops in South Korea for decades. Then we heard US Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who is moderate, speaking of long-term US military presence in Iraq. US newspapers also quoted US military commanders in Iraq talking about the need of prolonged US military presence there on the pretext of training the Iraqi forces.

Snow made clear that the US forces were in Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi government and that those who made the invitation have the right to withdraw it.

This talk is nonsense; the Americans have invaded Iraq without an international mandate and installed a government that is subordinate to them. The Bush administration assumes that every Iraqi government would invite the US troops

to stay in fear of a civil war. Add to this that the comparison to South Korea is impossible as the Koreans had welcomed the Americans in their country while the Iraqis did not, as both the Sunni resistance and the Shiite majority rejected it. The US presence gives al-Qaeda and other terrorists a permanent target in Iraq and makes it a recruitment center for terrorists and suicide bombers around the world.

The truth is as follows:

The US lost the war in Iraq and it is over. The Iraqis are being slaughtered today on the altar of the pride of an arrogant administration that combines an ignorant president and an extremist vice-president to the criminal conduct of the neo-conservatives.

The administration is now talking about a permanent presence although President Bush had promised at the beginning that the occupation would not last for long, and that it would be similar to the occupation of Germany and Japan just to put Iraq on the track of democracy, make it an example for the whole

Middle East region and then withdraw.

Roughly one million Iraqis were killed since then. No democracy was achieved. The US casualties hit 3,500 dead and 25,000 injured. The cost of the war reached \$400 billion along with current monthly expenses of around \$6 to \$7 billion. This brings the final cost of the war to an astronomical figure of \$2.3 and \$4.3 trillion, including medical care for soldiers who were permanently handicapped or who sustained psychological illnesses that would continue for decades to come.

The loss also includes the violation of US civil liberties by eavesdropping of their phone calls and monitoring their bank accounts without prior court ruling as stipulated by the law. It also includes breaching the principals of the US democracy through torturing the detainees and prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib and Bagram Base prisons. We have recently heard that George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld were personally aware of the torture in Abu Ghraib.

But these are American problems that

concern only the Americans. I leave the administration to reap what it had sown. All what I personally care about is Iraq and the Iraqi people. I find that the lethal mixture of ignorance and crime keeps the administration from admitting to losing the war. Thus it presses ahead and doubles the loss every day, as 30, 50 or 60 Iraqis and some US soldiers are killed every day without any hope for a military settlement today, tomorrow or the day after.

Until when will the killing of Iraqis continue?

How would the US protect its interests by killing hundreds thousands of people? How can it expect that the Iraqis accept a permanent US military presence in their homeland?

Will the day come when the war cabal is tried by an international war crimes tribunal? Will Dick Cheney die of a heart attack before that day? Or will he live to stand behind bars?

Will this night not come to an end?

Source: Al-Hayat newspaper

## Beware of Murdoch buying The Wall Street Journal

By: Jonathan Power

Prime Minister Tony Blair's widely reported bitter attack on the "feral" nature of the British Press, the "Beast", drew plenty of condemnation. British journalists don't like being berated for not distinguishing between news and opinion, for being celebrity obsessed, for refusing to see shades of an argument, for sensation, for failing to do their research.

Yet a little more frank self criticism might not be amiss, even though a degree of retaliation against a man who outrageously misled, via the Press, public opinion on the reasons for going to war against Saddam Hussein, is quite understandable.

Blair could have stirred the pot even more if instead of a critical aside about

The Independent, a paper that has been against Iraq policy all along, if he had made a passing reference to Rupert Murdoch. Many serious journalists who privately agree with much of the Blair critique believe that one can date the decline into mediocrity of the British Press from Murdoch's first purchases thirty years ago. Today if he doesn't own a particular concern he certainly paces it, threatening more careful papers with losing circulation to the front-runners in his stable if they don't follow him downhill.

With Murdoch poised to buy The Wall Street Journal, Americans should cast an eye over the pond, and even further afield, before taking more of his shackles.

Nine years ago I got caught up as a bit player in a Murdoch drama. I was just about to sign a contract with his

publishing house, HarperCollins, to write a history of Amnesty International when a storm broke about my head. Murdoch, it was learnt by the brave resignation of one of his editors, Stuart Proffitt, had stopped HarperCollins going ahead with the publication of "East and West", a book authored by Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong and a highly respected British Conservative politician. "Kill the book", an angry Murdoch banged the table as he shouted at Anthea Disney, chief executive of Murdoch's News Corporation empire in New York.

Murdoch's underlings should not have been surprised. Indeed the only question was why they had signed Patten up since their boss had a long record of cosying up to Beijing and Patten had an equally long record of fighting Beijing tooth and nail over his

admirable if belated effort to introduce a degree of democracy into Britain's last colony before Hong Kong was returned to China.

Murdoch's interests were transparent: to secure carriage of his Asian Star satellite TV channel on a pan-Chinese cable system, a proposition that could only go ahead if the hierarchy of the Communist Party approved it. To this end four years before he had cancelled his contract with the BBC to relay it on Star when it broadcast a documentary critical of Mao Tse-tung and the ruling elite. Likewise he sold his stake in the outspokenly liberal — and exceedingly profitable — Hong Kong newspaper, The South China Morning Post, to avoid offending the Chinese government in the run up to the end of British rule.

Murdoch also published a hagiography of Deng Xiaoping by his

daughter in an overt attempt to ingratiate himself further with the powers that be in China. With Patten Murdoch took a step too far. Axing that book met with outrage, a boycott by HarperCollins authors, the threat of a major court case and, most important, a tangible sense that the tables on the deck, at least momentarily, had shifted. As Andrew Neil, one of his former and very successful newspaper editors, observed, "I cannot help feeling that the Patten episode is a turning point against him. The scandal has devalued the status of everything he publishes."

I had my moment of glory when my statement on withdrawing my own book was the lead front page story of "The Independent"; even Murdoch's own "Times" published it prominently. There was more than a groundswell of revolt and who knows where it may have

ended up if Murdoch a couple of days later did what he had never done before, publicly apologised. He also promised to reach a generous financial settlement with both Patten and Proffitt. But the damage was done — the Politburo in Beijing were convinced that Murdoch was too Machiavellian by half and Murdoch has never reaped the rewards that he once hoped for in China.

Freedom of the Press is a phrase that Murdoch only uses to fight off privacy laws. Long ago Murdoch became a danger to both democracy and good taste. Why, they must ask themselves should the family owners of the Wall Street Journal want to be remembered for selling out to him?

Jonathan Power is a widely published commentator.  
Source: www.khaleejtimes.com





برعاية معالي وزير الثقافة

د. محمد أبو بكر المفلحي

2007/7/22-18

# أمتع اللحظات مع ليالي الإنشاد العربي



محمد العزاوي - العراق



أحمد الهاجري - الكويت



عبدالقادر فوزع - اليمن



محمد الجبالي - السعودية



عبدالفتاح عوينات - الأردن



أمين حامييم - اليمن



يحي حوي - سوريا



عبدالكريم عبدالفتي - اليمن



حمود الخضر - الكويت



أشرف يوسف - الأردن



موسى مصطفى - سوريا

المنظمون

تعزيز ٢٥٨٢٣٣ ٠٤  
شركائنا في تعزيز

للحجز ٧١١٤٣٣٣٥٣ ٧٣٣٥٣٤٦٤٧ ٢٠٥٥٧٥

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بِقَلُوبٍ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَارٍ تَعَاوَى وَالْمَوَاسَاةَ إِلَى الْأَسْتَاذِ:

### حسَن أحمد اللوزي - وزير الإعلام

في وفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى عمته  
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدها بواسع رحمته ورضوانه  
ويدخلها فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان  
(إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون)

#### الأسيفون: صحيفة يمن تايمز

الأستاذة/ نادية عبدالعزيز السقاف  
رئيس مجلس الإدارة - رئيس التحرير  
الأستاذ/ ريدان عبدالعزيز السقاف  
الأستاذ/ محمد بن سلام

بِقَلُوبٍ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَارٍ تَعَاوَى وَالْمَوَاسَاةَ إِلَى الْأَسْتَاذِ:

الدكتور/ أحمد محمد الأصبحي - عضو مجلس الشورى

#### الأستاذ/ إسكندر محمد الأصبحي

في وفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى والدتهما  
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدها بواسع رحمته ورضوانه  
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الأستاذة/ نادية عبدالعزيز السقاف  
رئيس مجلس الإدارة - رئيس التحرير  
الأستاذ/ ريدان عبدالعزيز السقاف  
الأستاذ/ محمد بن سلام  
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# Can NWSSIP save Yemen from water crisis?

By: Amel Al-Ariqi  
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Yemen is officially classified in UN Human Development Reports not only as a water scarce country but a country facing a water crisis. Yemen lacks big rivers or lakes with its main water supply originating from rainfall or groundwater which already faces overexploitation. At the end of 2006, only 60% of the urban population and 37.5% of the rural population had access to water. The discrepancy between water consumption and available resources reached more than 1000 Mm<sub>3</sub> in 2005, and this figure is increasing every year.

The above mentioned crisis has been pranced since the 1980s, ever since that time many environment experts believe that the best way to face this crisis is to plan and implement proper water resource management schemes in coordination with all the actors involved- the government, public and private sectors, foreign representatives, and civil society organizations.



Water trucks spilling water at a water station. These trucks are also involved in moving water from one well to another.



Only 38 percents of rural residents have access to save water, others may tend to use polluted water.

This consideration has been translated into the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Program, NWSSIP (2005-2009).

The NWSSIP is a consolidated strategy, action plan and investment program for the water sector, which faces complex development problems, its most serious challenge being scarcity of water resources and over-exploitation of aquifers.

To tackle these problems, the Ministry of Water and Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, has formed four sub-sectors: urban water and sanitation, rural water and sanitation, irrigation and water resources, with a total membership of more than 100 professionals, parliamentarians, donors and civil society representatives.

Work groups drafted the proposed strategy and investment program in 2004 to be discussed with a broad base of governmental representatives and donors.

The NWSSIP proposes a set of institutional and financial measures aimed at addressing the four sub-sectors in an attempt to work out solutions to

Yemen's water crisis and protect stakeholders' interests in such resources. The strategy, which covers the period 2005-2009, requires an investment of US\$ 300 million per year with the key donors in the sector comprising the World Bank, Germany, and the Netherlands

After two years of approving this strategy, Yemen is still facing the same crisis, which becomes crystal-clear with time elapse with time passing. People keep on complaining of constant water cut off other trend to use polluted water in spite of their knowledge of its risks. Additionally random wells are being dug here and there by rich people, a phenomenon which leads to careless depletion of water sources.

Such attitudes and circumstances posed many questions about the efficiency of the proposed plan.

However, The Minister of Water and Environment Abdulrahman Alaryani confirmed that Yemen has the best water strategy and hydrocarbon preservation legislation in the Middle East, but such measures are yet to be put into action; "the problem lies in the implementation" he said.

The minister statement was proved in the first and second annual joint review of the strategy. These reviews were documented by a monitoring and evaluation unit to evaluate and measure implantation and results alongside NWSSIP targets.

The first annual review, was issued in 2005 revealed that limited financial sources stand in the way of achieving the goals of the NWSSIP.

The total five-year NWSSIP investment program is \$153.8 million - 27.9 percent financed by the Yemeni government, 35.8 percent from donors and 36.3 percent as yet un-financed. Therefore, to achieve NWSSIP objectives, the water sectors require an estimated \$307.6 million annual disbursement for each of the five years. Total disbursement was only \$102 million in 2005, leaving an estimated funding gap of \$205.6 million.

The second review, issued last week, showed also that NWSSIP actions in year 2006 were again under financed, making available only 52% of total requirements (2005 = 39%)

The review blamed in this regard the Yemeni government, represented by the financial ministry, which did not fulfill its commitment of providing the water sector budget with 30%. The ministry provided the water sector only with 10%.

However, I don't consider limited financial sources is the main problem that facing NWSSIP" said Anwar Al-Sahooly, Chairman of the Technical Secretariat in water environment ministry, who added

"There are shortcomings from outside... We do not have the competent



capacity to apply the projects, with those fancied by the government or the donors. We are lack of qualified and training staff. So this year our focus will be on capacity building, software, which goes with career development"

He pointed out that some of the NWSSIP's goals may be reconsidered in terms of water services delivery "we try not just to meet the strategy goals but also the Development Millennium Goals and that is a challenging task, so we will do our best to get the capital capacity to meet these goals" he added.

Besides the limited financial support, both review repeated many obstacles and difficulties that prevent the complete implementation of many NSSIP'S targets, such as the Constant urban population growth part, constant random wells digging, expanding of qat planting, and lack of awareness regarding water management among locals.

There was slight difference of the

first evaluation and the second: the first described the overall performance of the water sector by "moderately satisfactory", whereas the second review described the implantation of the strategy during 2006-2007 is "satisfactory."

The tow evaluations gave the impartation that there is little happened in implantation process during these two years. That leads the donors to explain their concern "we are concerned that the implementation of agreed actions and recommendations of last years first joint annual review workshop has been rather poor. This not only invalidates the efforts made to conduct this sector review, but also raises doubts about the seriousness in addressing identified shortcomings." Said Annette Frick, who gave this statement on behalf of the Donor Core Group in the conference that held to discuss the second annual review.

"Donors have voiced repeatedly the need to advance, particularly on the

water management front in terms of actions aimed at improving the highly deficient water resource balance" she added.

She insisted on that Water, or rather the water crisis, cannot be the responsibility of a single institution or a particular sector" it is one of the main development challenges Yemen faces today. The objective to reduce unsustainable groundwater abstraction in order to ensure availability of water for the livelihood of future generations deserves high political support and a combined effort by all."

She concluded her statement by calling upon the government of Yemen to formally establish the Inter-ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) under the auspices of HE the Prime Minister and make the Steering Committee fully responsible for the implementation of NWSSIP, related action plans and recommendations emanating from this JAR.

## Fluoridation and its relevance

By: Dr. Ali M. Al-Mashhadani  
ali-almashhadani@yahoo.com

Fluoridation is a safe, simple procedure, which prevents tooth decay. It adds nothing new to water, but simply adjusts the natural level of fluoride to an amount which has been proven to reduce dental decay.

Fluoride is found in varying mineral combinations in rocks and soil. Small amounts occur in most natural waters in the form of soluble fluoride ions. Small quantities of fluoride are also present in nearly all foods, and in the human body, where fluoride is concentrated in bones and teeth. However, there is not enough fluoride present in our daily diet or in most water supplies to maintain our teeth in a normal, healthy state.

Wherever fluoridation is practiced, the amount used varies according to climate conditions. The usual recommended dose is microscopic - not more than one part of fluoride for every mil-

lion parts of water (1 ppm), roughly enough to cover a pin-head in a four-gallon tank of water.

The nature of water is completely unaltered by the addition of fluoride. Taste, odour and color remain the same. In fact, only two tests can ever demonstrate fluoride in the water, the decrease in dental decay, and delicate chemical analysis.

Water containing fluoride from rocks and soil is indistinguishable from water to which the appropriate amount of fluoride has been added and both have exactly the same effects on the enamel of teeth. The fluorine enters into the enamel structure of the tooth and makes the enamel more resistant to the acids that cause decay.

### The role of fluoridation

Fluoridation prevents up to 60 percent or more of all tooth decay.

If a baby drinks fluoridated water, it can start its protective strengthening process in the teeth when they are forming in the jaws. In addition, it will

continue to strengthen the material of the second teeth before they break through.

The stronger the enamel the better it will resist acid attacks and the less will be the dental decay.

The younger the child, the more benefit she will gain from fluoridation, because a child has two sets of teeth. If the milk teeth are lost too early, the permanent teeth tend to erupt in a jaw which is too small. The teeth are crowded and the child may need expensive corrective treatment. But the benefits of fluoridation are not confined solely to childhood. Radioisotope studies have shown that the fluoride content of adult teeth also can be enriched. A person who starts drinking fluoridated water as a baby, and continues to drink it as he gets older, will carry his resistance to dental decay into adult life.

### Some myths about fluoridation

Fluoridated water does not cause cancer, goiter, kidney disease, falling hair,

brittle fingernails, or any other symptom of ill health. It does not cause corrosion in water pipe or harm to plant life, as has sometimes been suggested.

In fact water fluoridated at the recommended level of 1 ppm is perfectly safe, and is not dangerous to life or property in any way. To consume a lethal amount of fluoridated water a man would have to drink about 500 gallons of fluoridated water at one sitting.

Where the fluoride concentration is in excess of 1.9 ppm mottled or white flecked enamel may develop during the formative years. This may be regarded as unsightly but is not harmful in any way. 0.5 - 1 ppm has been chosen as the recommended level - a level where no distinguishable mottling occurs, but dental benefits do.

### Implications for students of dentistry

Dental students must have full knowledge about the role played by fluoride in the control of dental caries by acting in the following ways.

1. By producing a tooth mineral more resistant to attack by bacteria
2. By inhibiting the production of acid by bacteria
3. To induce remineralisation of the tooth, if caries starts.
4. Fluoride is thought to concentrate in the mucoid plaque which cover each tooth and so exert its action.
5. fluoride lowers free surface energy. This will decrease the plaque accumulation on the treated enamel surface.
6. In communities with fluoridated water supply, there is a trend to shallower fissures and lower cusp height and smaller tooth size. This will decrease caries susceptibility.

### Administration of fluoride

1. Systemic route i.e. by ingestion fluoride for example
  - a. Water fluoridation
  - b. Fluoridation of school water supply
  - c. Fluoride supplements. This can be in the form of fluoride tablets,

- a. drops or syrups.
- b. Fluoride incorporation in various foods such as salt, milk, bread, rice, etc.

### 2. Topical application

The topical application of fluoride can be carried out either by the patient himself or by members of the dental profession such as

- a. Fluoride tooth pastes
- b. Brushing or rinsing with fluoride solution
- c. Fluoride gel
- d. Fluoride dental floss

There are different forms of fluorides which have been utilized for the topical use by dental personnel. These are

- a. Sodium fluoride
- b. Stannous fluoride
- c. Acidulated phosphate fluoride
- d. Prophylactic paste

Dr. Al-Mashhadani is an Associate Professor at University of Science and Technology, Sana'a.



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# The other side of Socatra: Archeological discoveries

Yemen possesses a coastal line extending from the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea that stretches along more than 2500km. This littoral extension has made Yemen possess a large number of islands scattered along the two Red and Arabian Seas. The number of Yemeni islands in these regions amounts to 182 islands, the most important of which is the Island of Socatra. Other Yemeni islands are scattered in three main sectors, namely, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.

By: Nisreen Shadad

Tourists and Yemenis alike agree that Socatra Island has an enchanting nature, and a climate and environment that composed a life homogenous with its inhabitants. Yet, very little has been mentioned about the history and the archaeological features.

Excavation and exploration missions in Socatra have been on going for quite sometime in order to unveil the secrets of this enchanting island. Yemeni archeologist Ahmed Billah, who is researcher working in Socatra, is concerned that the ancient features must be protected from the adventures of man.

"I recommended in my last report on the island practical solutions to overcome the dangers threatening the ancient landmarks in Socatra. People are using flagstones and ancient rocks in building the houses. Add to that, the ancient areas are facing a partially as well as entirely destruction as a result of building roads," he said.

Billah and his fellow archeologist Sami al-Mandi carried out a field study in Socatra between March and April this year. The archeologists explored caves, ancient tombs, and other old places in the island. They documented their research in order to for it to be used as a reference by the General organization for Antiques or any other concerned authority.

"We took photos of all the features as well as we documented their types, location and their sizes. These monuments need more attention," said Billah.

**New discoveries of ancient mysteries**  
The field study revealed the existence of numerous landmarks related to the ancient settlement and its customs, particularly regarding burying the dead.

The archeologists found out that ancient Socatrans buried their dead on the top of mountains in places. Through interpreting the architecture of the cemeteries and graves they discovered that graves must be dug where water was available, whether running or stagnated.

Many ancient graves were found in Alha and Kadha towns south east Hadibu; the capital of Socatra.

Arisha, on the other hand is another town south west Hadibu and which is rich with rock carving. The carvings include human and animal footprints, as well as various letters and symbols.

Professor Mutaher El-Iryani, a well known Yemeni historian said these type of writing is called Thamudia; Thamud

was an early Arabian tribe which was mentioned in the Qur'an. Thamud were punished for rejecting God's call through his messenger Saleh.

Today, archaeological and historical excavations shed light on mysteries of the past. Billah said that now we know more about this tribe and their story.

The old settlement was concentrated near the coasts, contrary to where they



buried their dead. "These preliminary scientific outcomes are still hypothetical. The settlement in Socatra was during the Sheba, Hadramout, Qataban and Hemyar kingdoms times which can date back to 2500 B. C.; Yemen was occupied and inhabited by numerous remarkable civilizations; by two countries (Awsan and Qataban). Qataban lies to east of Aden and west of Hadramout. It also became a powerful country four hundred years B.C. In the first century BC, it reaches its glorious peak. Fifty years BC, it started to produce gold as a currency, Hadramout state which settled at the valley known with the same name. Then it expanded toward Almahara coast. Maean state that lasted from 50 years B.C. to 115 years B. D, Sheba state lasted from the 9th century B.C. to 115 years B.C. it expanded to include most of the south of Arabian Peninsula and Hemyar state that has been completely gone with the falling of Mareb Dam in the middle of the 6th century A.C." Billah elaborated.

He added that the discoveries indicated a direct relation to a trade route from China, India and the African horn. Moreover, Socatra was one of the main places to producing gums.

In a previous study done in 2006, Billah participated in a Russian archeological expedition. The general pro-

gram of this expedition restricted in a study of the Socotrain language and documenting the ancient features using several tools. The Russian expedition contained four specialists and the Yemeni team consists of two members; Ahmed Billah was one of them.

When excavating two rectangular shaped tombs in Kizra village, archeologists found human remains and pieces of pottery.

The tombs were designed with a big flagstone covering the top of the grave and surrounded by two lines of different size rocks.

In Hijrin village, another grave was found. It had five flagstones covering the grave instead of one. When exploring it, the team found its roof consists



Ahmed Billah



[Top most] Grave with one-piece flagstone surrounded by rocks

[Above] the grave after removing the flagstone.

[Right] Thamudia scribbling on the rocks dating back to the first century B. C.

of five flagstones; one of them missed and remained four.

"We discovered in this grave, two skeletons; one is for an adult and the other for a child, we also found earthenware pieces," Billah explained.

Socatra is the largest Yemeni island located in the Arabian Sea overwhelmed with most peculiar and scarcest species of plants and birds known and unknown. Presently Socatra is one of the world's preservations for rare plants.

According to, an official website of the Yemeni People Congress Party, ancient people gave the island many names such as the 'island of frankincense', 'the island of gum', and "the island of blood of the two brothers". Among the names that bear a social characteristic is that of the 'island abode of bliss' which is traced to the Sanskrit dvipa-sakhadara' and the 'island of the pearl'.

#### The history, as we know it

Historical references indicate that since the beginning of the first millennium AD, Socatra island represented one of the significant centers for production of goods used in religions worshipping rites of the ancient world. Those goods were called the sacred goods. It was a prevailing belief that the land producing sacred goods then was a land blessed by the gods. Therefore, such lands were much mentioned in books written by ancient geographic travelers.

According to the wikipedia the Internet encyclopedia, The local tradition holds that the inhabitants were converted to Christianity by Thomas in AD 52. In the 10th century the Arab geographer Abu Mohammed Al-



Hassan Al-Hamdani stated that in his time most of the inhabitants were Christians. Socatra is also mentioned briefly in The Travels of Marco Polo according to which "the inhabitants are baptized Christians and have an archbishop" who, it is further explained, "has nothing to do with the Pope at Rome, but is subject to an archbishop who lives at Baghdad". In 1507, Portugal landed an occupying force at the then capital of Suq, to "liberate" the assumed friendly Christians from Arab Islamic rule. However they were not welcomed as enthusiastically as they expected and abandoned the island four years later.

The islands passed under the control of the Mahra sultans in 1511. Later in 1886 it became a British protectorate, along with the remainder of the Mahra State of Qishn and Socatra. For the British it was an important strategic stop-over. The P&O ship Aden sank after being wrecked on a reef near Socatra, in 1897, with the loss of 78 lives.

In October 1967 the Mahra sultanate was abolished. November 30th Socatra became part of the People's Republic of South Yemen (later to become the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen). Today it is part of the Republic of Yemen.

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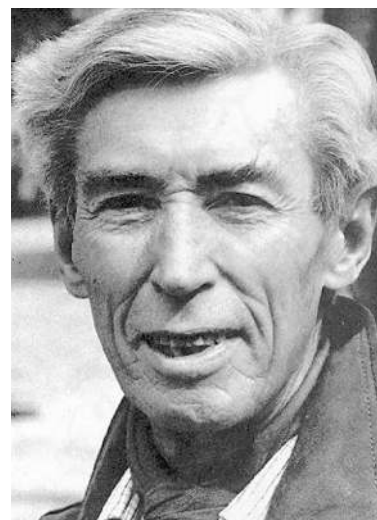
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### Hergé (Son of Tintin)

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Remi, Georges (1907-1983), alias Hergé - his initials reversed and pronounced as in French - was a Belgian comics writer, illustrator and artist. Hergé was born in Brussels, Belgium to middle class parents. Most of his early cartoons came from the time he spent traveling round Europe with the Belgian boy-scouts. His first serious drawings appear in Jamais Assez, his school scouting magazine, and starting in 1923 in the monthly magazine of the Belgian Boy Scout. In the magazine Le Boy-Scout he published his first proper series, Totor, Patrol leader of the Hannetons. Hergé completed his secondary studies at Saint Boniface School, an archiepiscopal school in Brussels. After his graduation in 1925, Hergé joined the subscription department of the daily newspaper Le XX-e Siècle (The Twentieth Century) and was asked to produce a supplement for children that would come out weekly on Thursdays in Le Petit XXe. He decided to create a comic strip of his own, which would adopt the recent American innovation of using speech balloons to depict words coming out of the character's mouth.

Hergé is often considered to be the most influential European comic artist ever with his "clear line" style which was copied by many artists. He was a highly gifted illustrator with a vivid, child-like imagination and deep curiosity in the world around him. Hergé's best-known and most substantial work is The Adventures of Tintin, which he wrote and illustrated during the period of 1929 to 1983, and left twenty-fourth Tintin adventure, Tintin and Alph-Art, unfinished. Tintin in the Land of the Soviets, appeared in the pages of Le Petit XXe in 1929. The strip chronicled the adventures of a young reporter named Tintin and his pet terrier Snowy (Milou) as they journeyed through the Soviet Union. Hergé's second Tintin adventure, Tintin in the Congo, was published in 1930 and followed by Tintin in America and Cigars of the Pharaoh. A meeting with a young Chinese student, Chang Chong-Chen, at the Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels



leave The Land of Black Gold unfinished, due to its anti-fascist overtones, launching instead into Tintin's new adventure The Crab with the Golden Claws (1941). Le Petit XXe was shut down by the Nazi occupation and

Hergé continued "Tintin" in Le Soir, a magazine under German supervision. Fantasy elements dominated The Shooting Star (1942), in which an eccentric old man prophesies the end of the world is coming. He turned to stories with an escapist flavor: a treasure hunt (The Secret of the Unicorn and Red Rackham's Treasure), and a quest to undo an ancient Inca curse (The Seven Crystal Balls and Prisoners of the Sun). On

September 26, 1946, the first issue of the Belgian weekly Tintin Magazine was published. In the following years worldwide

sales of the Tintin books totaled over 120 million, with the annual figure topping four million as the adventures came to be translated into more than fifty languages.

Hergé opened his own studio in 1950, and started to work with Destination Moon (1953) in the same year. Explorers on the Moon (1954), an episode requiring careful technical work as well as great documentary precision and extreme attention to detail, Hergé enlists a number of collaborators. With the aid of the studio, Hergé managed to produce The Calculus Affair (regarded by some as his most polished work) in 1954, followed by The Red Sea Sharks in 1956. Hergé's own favorite adventure was Tintin in Tibet (1960), because, according to him, "it's the one into which I put the most of myself." The last three complete Tintin adventures were produced at a much reduced pace: The Castafiore Emerald (1961), Flight-714 (1966), and Tintin and the Picaros (1974). The unfinished Tintin adventure Tintin and Alph-Art was published posthumously as a set of sketches and notes in 1986.

Hergé Studio was closed and replaced with the Hergé Foundation in 1987. The adventures of Tintin have been adapted in a variety media including animated movies, documentaries, animated television series, and stage plays. Stamps and coins holding Tintin's image and events of his books have been issued in different countries among them Belgium, France, Switzerland, and Netherlands.

Hergé, Son of Tintin, a reversal of the usual theory is due to the fact that without his adventures, without the research and discoveries they required, Hergé himself would not have evolved and matured. New terms have been adopted like "Tintinology" referring to the study of the adventures of Tintin and the people who study "Tintinology" are called "Tintinologists". Among the most famous tintinologists are Steven Spielberg, Rajeev Gandhi, and Charles de Gaulle.

Hergé died on March 3, 1983 in Brussels suffering from anemia. His work remains a strong influence on comics, particularly in Europe. He was inducted into the Comic Book Hall of Fame in 2003.



marks a decisive turning point in Hergé's view on Chinese culture. The adventure which is usually regarded as the first masterpiece of Hergé is The Blue Lotus which set in China during the Sino-Japanese War of 1934, criticized Japanese and Western colonial meddling in China and helped to dispel popular myths about Chinese people. Hergé strives in The Blue Lotus, and in subsequent Tintin adventures, to be meticulously accurate in depicting the places which Tintin visited.

New episodes were set during the period (1935-1940) like The Broken Ear, The Black Island, and King Ottokar's Sceptre (1939). During The Second World War, Hergé was mobilized as a reserve lieutenant and had to

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# 10 months of the American way

By: Mohammed Al-Seragi  
For Yemen Times

A group of 29 students, including nine girls, six from Aden, are home from the United States after an academic and cultural experience through the U.S. State Department's Youth Exchange and Study Program.

This was the fourth group to travel to the U.S. under the program, the first being nine boys and three girls in August 2003, according to AMIDEAST country director Sabrina Faber.

She added, "A good number of students did very well this year. The host families that the students stayed with have reported positively that they

learned a lot about Yemeni culture and traditions."

The exchange program is a scholarship funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for the Middle East and North Africa region and is administered by a consortium of organizations that includes AMIDEAST.

Such public diplomacy initiatives build bridges of international understanding, especially between Americans and those in countries with significant Muslim populations.

Participating students spend approximately 10 months with an American family, attending high school and learning about American culture.

According to AMIDEAST, students are selected based on many qualifications. Youth aged 15-17 by the time of



The students serve as cultural ambassadors for their home countries.

the departure date must have maintained a minimum overall grade of B or 80 percent in all subjects for the past three years. They are expected to demonstrate maturity, good character, scholastic aptitude, flexibility and adaptability. Excellent English skills also are required.

Sabrina Al-Thary, one returning student who was in Washington state, commented, "I learned a lot from this year. It was a very beneficial experience and for sure, I'd like to do it again."

She added, "I volunteered at the food bank for poor families in the community. It was a good chance to introduce my country to others and a good opportunity to give back to my host community."

The students serve as cultural ambassadors for their home countries, representing Yemen and their own rich heritage to their American host communities. "All students are expected to participate in engaging their communities with Yemeni culture and they did," Faber reported.

"I did more than 25 presentations on Yemen, which I offered to my host community, school, locals, etc.," Al-Thary said, adding, "At the beginning, they didn't know anything about Yemen and some had many wrong stereotypes. However, everyone I met, I was able to change their minds about Yemen."

For many, leaving their homeland and going to the United States for the first time is a culture shock. "People spend time wisely in America and stay busy all the time," remarked Yasmine Al-Shaizeri, one of the returning students. "They actually don't have time to waste because they either work part time, going to school at the same time, or they're full-time workers."

She added, "The U.S. education system was another culture shock for me because it's very different from ours. Students have the opportunity to choose their classes, the time of the class and the teacher. By letting students decide, most of the time, they like the subject and will do great in class. It's surely easier than education here."

The exchange students engaged in many typical American activities such

as American football. Ahmed Al-Houthi, who played the sport while he was in Dallas, Texas said, "When I heard about football, I thought it was soccer, but when I went to practice, it turned out to be something else. I played it and I started liking it."

He added, "Now, my favorite sports team ever is the Dallas Cowboys, who play football the best. At first, I wasn't sure if football was a sport or not because of its roughness and the way it's played, but now, I say football is a sport and I love it a lot!" Al-Houthi is planning to return for college in the U.S. after a short break to visit his family and friends.

In July, 19 students, including five girls, from Sana'a will complete their pre-departure orientation and then leave August 7 for a new academic and cultural experience and to represent Yemen as little ambassadors.

Applications for next year's exchange program candidates will be available at AMIDEAST after October 22.



The Yemeni students were selected aged 15-17 based on many qualifications.



The cultural ambassadors showed the Yemeni rich heritage to the American host communities during their visit and practiced different sports.



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