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Bin Al-Shaibah set for trial Eight Prisoners said to be cleared at Guantanamo

BY Sarah Wolff

SANAA, Feb. 13 — Eight Yemeni men prepare to return home from Guantanamo Bay prison as another faces a highly-publicized military trial in the United States.

According to Marc Falkoff, a law professor at Northern Illinois University in the U.S. and acting lawyer for two "cleared" Yemeni inmates, says that the most recent list of repatriation-ready prisoners includes eight Yemeni nationals. Falkoff also says that two of his clients, Mohammed Hassen and Adil Busayss, "have been cleared for release for literally years."

Besides Falkoff's two clients, the prisoners who are rumored to be cleared include Abdul Rahman Qyati, Mohammed Bin Salem, Mahmoud Bin Atef, Ali Yahya Al-Rimi, Asim AlOKhalaqi and Fahed Ghazi.

Though these men are eligible to leave the Guantanamo Bay facility, they currently remain in U.S. military custody and the reasons behind their delayed return is unclear. There are currently 70 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay military prison who are eligible for

release, but the U.S. will not confirm these detainees' nationalities, said Jeffrey Gordan, an employee of the U.S. Department of Defense's public contact office.

"There is a link missing between the U.S. and Yemeni governments," said Khalid Al-Anesi, a lawyer and the director of Hood, an organization that advocates for Yemeni prisoners in the U.S. system. "We think that the Yemeni government is not serious about this issue."

Al-Anesi also claimed that there had been no serious negotiations for the prisoners' release before this month, when President Saleh handed over a letter to the U.S. Ambassador to Yemen demanding the prisoners' release.

"For six years, we didn't hear anything," he said. "The government didn't send any officials [to the U.S.] to negotiate. This is a responsibility of the government."

"We are working with the government of Yemen to have a delegation of Yemeni officials go to Guantanamo to interview the remaining Yemeni detainees, determine their certain identities and nationalities and work with us on a way to return them to Yemen," said

Stephen Seche, the American Ambassador to Yemen, last month. "The point is to cooperate with the Yemeni government to insure the proper treatment of these individuals as they return, whether they need to be incarcerated or rehabilitated."

However, the kind of measures the Yemeni government takes to insure that the former prisoners do not return to terrorist or extremist activities has remained a sticking point between the two countries.

Members of Yemen's parliament and human rights groups had different visions of what must be done to return these citizens to Yemen, but they agreed that the detainees should be repatriated as soon as possible.

"They [America] do not accept to give our detainees over as they have to the other countries like Saudi Arabia," Bassam Al-Shatir, a member of the parliamentary committee reviewing the detainees status.

Al-Shatir added that richer countries have the ability to rehabilitate their detainees financially and socially, but that Yemen's economic situation is deteriorating, and Yemen's programs will be



Ramzi Bin Al-Shaibah

hampered by this.

Still, said Al-Shatir, the Yemeni government will rehabilitate as much as possible with their limited abilities.

According to recent estimates by international media sources, there are nearly 100 Yemenis still held at Guantanamo Bay. Because of this, Yemenis have replaced Saudi Arabians and Afghans as Guantanamo's single largest group of prisoners from any one country. *Continued on page 3*

Armed tribesmen attack leading local newspaper

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANAA, Feb. 13 — Hundreds of people took to the street on Wednesday in different southern governorates in solidarity with Al-Ayyam daily newspaper, which was attacked by armed tribesmen on Tuesday, February 12.

An armed tribal group attacked the premises of Al-Ayyam daily newspaper on Tuesday, causing national outrage. The group, made up of 12 men, fired live bullets into the newspaper's office on Al-Siteen Street in Sana'a. The group also attacked the home of the newspaper's editor, Hisham Ba Sharahil, which is near the newspaper's headquarters. The newspaper's editor and his family were inside the house when it was attacked, but no one was injured.

The Ba Sharahil family's guard fought back when the armed men tried to break into the house. He killed one of the attackers, who was a police officer at the Ministry of Interior but he was clothed in civilian dress. An other two attackers were injured, but the Ba Sharahil's guard escaped unharmed. The attack took place at 1 p.m. Two hours before the attack, some armed men from the same group wrote, "this property belongs to Sheikh Ahmed Al-Hadhary," on the façade of the newspaper's building. The armed tribesmen claim the ownership of the land and say it belongs to their Sheikh, Al-Hadhary. Police came to the scene one hour after the attack, though Ba Sharahil

said he called the police immediately after the attack. The police arrested Ba Sharahil's guard for investigation after the armed men ran away. The police also arrested another four workers from the newspaper because Ba Sharahil refused to hand over one of his sons to the police.

The Ba Sharahil family bought the land in 1979 when it was listed in the government's real estate's registration. On May 13, 2006, Hisham Ba Sharahil received a call and was threatened that the land, on which his house and newspaper are built, would be forcibly occupied.

The editor's son accused influential figures in the state of being behind the attack, which he described as brutal.

Several MPs and tribal Sheikhs announced solidarity with Ba Sharahil and assembled at his home after the attack.

The Al-Ayyam daily held the authorities responsible for its editor's and newspaper workers lives. The paper released a statement that the attack was a result of the authorities' inability to arrest perpetrators.

Established in 1958, Al-Ayyam is a leading independent Yemeni newspaper and a top-circulation paper in Yemen, with a print run of 64,000 copies.

The newspaper has covered several issues regarding recent protests held in southern Yemen against the government. It covers issues that are critical of widespread governmental corruption and land robbery in the country.

Mediation committee starts job to end ongoing clashes

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Feb. 13 — The new committee formed by a presidential decree to oversee the ceasefire agreement, with the aim of ending ongoing confrontations in Sa'ada, started its job on Sunday, official Sana'a sources said.

Affiliated with the Yemeni Army, media outlet 26September.net reported that the new committee has just arrived in the restless governorate to oversee how committed both sides are to the Doha-brokered agreement's terms.

The new committee is comprised

mostly of Shoura Council members, with Mohammed Saleh Qura'a as chairman, and Mohammed Hatim Al-Khawi, Mohammed Al-Moayadi, Qasim Sallam, Abdu Al-Janadi, Dr. Mute'e Jubeir, Ali Nasser Qarsha, Najji Bakhtan, Hemyar Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Abdulaziz Muqbil, Hussein Al-Sawadi, Hussein Thawra and Saleh Mohammed Sharafah as members.

"The committee has already started its job, and within a short time period, it achieved successful results, which the previous mediation committee couldn't reach in months," committee member Qasim Sallam said in a statement to the Yemen Times. "Almost all the Sa'ada districts are quiet and both sides are committed to the ceasefire." He expected the committee to take positive steps toward ending the war under the peace deal signed in Qatar two weeks ago.

Replying to questions critical of the role and intent of the newly formed committee, Sallam explained, "We want to say that [our] homeland is the largest thing, and that the security, sta-

bility, prosperity, happiness, dignity and blessings of its citizens from Sa'ada to Al-Mahra depend much on our sense of brotherhood, love for homeland, and collective efforts and responsibilities in addressing the persisting issues nationwide."

"The comments made by Al-Haq Party Secretary General Hassan Zaid in the Yemen Times' last issue have nothing to do with balance, logic and objectivity. They only meant to trigger sectarian conflicts, which are condemned by principles, values and religions, and rejected by the Yemeni people," Sallam reacted. "We don't want to say to Mr. Zaid anything more than 'Homeland is above every one'."

In the Yemen Times' previous issue, the Al-Haq Party Secretary General criticized the way the new committee was formed, as he claimed it is composed of those who object to reaching any truce or peace deal between the government and Houthis.

"The new committee members, mainly Qasim Sallam, a Baath Socialist

& Nationalist Party staff member who doesn't differentiate between Houthi in Yemen and Sistani in Iraq, belong to an extremist sect that only cares about escalating the Sa'ada fighting until it claims the life of the last Shia child there. Sallam is believed to be leading a Baathi battle against Shias here in Sa'ada," Zaid asserted. He further stated, "The remaining committee members are not different from some irresponsible journalists, like Abdu Al-Janadi and Abdulaziz Muqbel, who are dissatisfied with any security, stability and peace in Yemen."

Zaid concluded that the new committee will only hinder the recent Qatar-brokered peace deal. "I think that this committee shouldn't have been formed, since the Yemeni leadership's political will is serious about ending the crisis, clear-cut evidence of this is the deal signed by presidential delegate Abdulkarim Al-Eryani in the presence of Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, a powerful general in Yemen," he added.

Continued on page 3

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Following ban on YemenPortal.net and attack on vehicle Reporters Without Borders asks for explanation

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — Reporters Without Borders wrote to Yemeni Information minister Hassan Ahmed Al-Lawzi yesterday demanding an explanation for apparent government filtering of the Internet.

The letter came two days after YemenPortal editor Walid Al-Saqaf's car was vandalized on February 10. Saqaf says he is convinced that it was "done by the authorities following the creation of an alternative address to circumvent government censorship." The police said they are investigating.

"Reporters Without Borders is worried about the situation of the Internet in Yemen. Access to the news website and search engine YemenPortal has been blocked twice in less than a month" said the letter, which continued, "Online programs for circumventing censorship, or 'proxies,' are also inaccessible from within Yemen and several opposition websites are regularly blocked. They include al-Shoura (www.al-shora.net), the Yemeni Council (www.al-yemen.org) and Yemen Sound (www.yemen-sound.com) discussion forums, which are among the most popular in the country. The support site for Kareem Amer, an Egyptian blogger who has been arrested for almost a year for exercising his right to online free expression, has also been inaccessible since January 28."

The letter, signed by Robert Ménard, Secretary-General, said "Reporters Without Borders finds these measures to be disturbing for free expression. These new areas of expression are an opportunity for the press. We note with

sadness that your ministry is making increasingly frequent use of Internet filtering to ensure that the opposition is not able to express itself."

Regarding the car incident, Al-Saqaf, who is now in Sweden, has stated that three unidentified men attacked and shattered the front windshield of the vehicle operated by YemenPortal.net's office in Sana'a, Yemen just before midnight on Sunday, February 10.

Al-Saqaf noted that eye witnesses said a taxi driver and two passengers, of whom one was masked, suddenly stopped near the car and kept on smashing the windshield with rocks until neighbors started approaching. Then they returned to the taxi and quickly fled the scene.

None of the eyewitnesses were able to read the car's plate number but some noticed a portrait of President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the back window of the taxi.

A complaint was filed at the closest police station immediately after the attack, which is believed to have been in response to the website's successful initiative in launching the first anti-blocking campaign of its kind in Yemen.

This comes after a third alternative website domain was set up in record time after Yemeni authorities banned the website's domain for the second successive time. This resistance to the block may have been the motive behind the attack, Al-Saqaf said.

Yemeni authorities had previously blocked the original domain of the website (<http://yemenportal.net>) on

January 19 and proceeded to block the alternative domain (<http://arabiportal.net/yemen>) on February 9. The third domain (<http://yemenportal.org>) was set up immediately after the second domain was blocked.

"We expect the authorities to go on blocking the third domain, after which we will simply launch a fourth. This will go on for as long as it takes." Al-Saqaf noted.

The attack comes at a time when YemenPortal.net is leading a country-wide campaign against blocking Yemeni websites. The initiative was to allow all Internet users in Yemen full access of all blocked news and opinion websites, which are accessible through the campaign's website <http://yemenportal.net/blocked>. The authorities had initiated a new wave of bans against political websites without disclosing any reasons.

Authorities have in the past used various methods of intimidation, from sending SMS messages to beating journalists or smashing vehicles. "This is far too familiar," Al-Saqaf said, adding that "If the attack is intended to threaten or intimidate us, I would like to stress that it only strengthens our position and encourages us to continue our mission of fighting to unblock more than a dozen websites that are banned by the authorities."

Al-Saqaf added that before he traveled he had received phone calls from people in the traffic police asking him to turn some papers over about the car that was damaged. According to him, he received the call the night he left the country. He also mentioned that he was



advised to remove the banned website to avoid problems.

Concerned human rights and press freedom organizations in Yemen have pledged to take action to condemn this attack and call upon the authorities to investigate the incident promptly and bring the perpetrators to justice. They also stressed on the need to release the blocked websites, whose ban constitutes a major violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was ratified by the Yemeni govern-

ment.

"The recent attacks against the press, and the online media in particular, lead us to believe that the government's inaction in the past have encouraged some elements to attack journalists and media professionals with a sense of immunity," Al-Saqaf said.

"The wave of website bans and other types of intimidation against the online media is in clear contradiction to government pledges and commitments to

bolster freedom of expression. We call upon the government to respect those commitments and urge the international community to help us resist this unprecedented wave of attacks."

The staff of YemenPortal.net and the free speech group MidEast Youth have decided to organize an online campaign on February 15 (<http://yemenportal.net/blocked>) to call for the unblocking of Yemeni websites and to question the government about online censorship.

Waste Contaminating Water in Sana'a, says Minister of Water & Environment

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, Feb. 11 — Abud Al-Rahman Fathl, Minister of Water & the Environment, said last week that the water treatment station in Sana'a district has undergone damages due to a hazardous waste leak into the sanitation facilities.

The minister, who spoke in a Parliament session about the procedures taken by the government to treat water waste in Sana'a, especially in the Bani Al-Hareth district, confirmed that the workers at the water treatment station faced many difficulties because a great amount of oil and waste from factories, slaughterhouses, and hospitals flows into the groundwater treated in the sanitation facilities. He claims the problem has existed for the last five years.

According to the minister, the contamination, which is in Sana'a Basin in the Bani Al-Hareth district, has consequences. For example, he stated that the water is often not fully treated because the station is not able to remove all of the harmful elements in it, and even

after treatment, the quality of water is still poor, full of water-borne diseases and not suitable for drinking.

Sana'a Basin is one of the largest Basins in Yemen, supplying water to approximately two million residents in the capital and surrounding villages.

"After evaluating and studying the water problems, the ministry is seeking help from experts in water purification in order to find solutions as soon as possible," said the minister, adding that the ministry took unspecified immediate steps, which he claimed have already been accomplished. The ministry also claims to have begun work recently on radical immediate solutions, aided by experts in the water maintenance industry.

The Ministry was training Yemeni workers in general water sanitation so they will be able to deal with urgent water problems. Parliament said that they appreciated the minister's efforts and asked to convene a special committee for observation.

Yemen is far behind other countries in the region when it comes to providing



clean water to its citizens. However, Yemenis use less water than people in any other Arab country, according to World Health Organization (WHO) rankings. Only half of Yemen's water sources are considered safe, according to the WHO, which stated that the other half either needs more chemical treatment or should be avoided altogether.

A 2005 parliamentary report also said that, 55,000 children die annually from diseases related to water pollution. The report, which warned of increased usage of contaminated water, said that 50 percent of childhood deaths in Yemen are due to water pollution, while 20 percent died from diarrhea and another 30 percent from malaria and typhoid.

Al-Moayyad begins hunger strike

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — Sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayyad, a Yemeni philanthropist detained in a U.S. jail along with his companion Mohammed Zayed, has begun a hunger strike and stopped taking medicine for his chronic disease on Wednesday, protesting against a U.S. government decision transferring him to a jail cell reserved for mentally ill prisoners.

"My father told me by phone Monday that he would begin the hunger strike on Wednesday after the U.S. authorities transferred him," said Ibrahim, the eldest son of the aged sheikh, detained in a U.S. jail since January 2003.

The 80-year-old man was transferred to the new cell one and a half months after he sent a congratulatory letter to the new U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Stephen Seche. "In his letter, my father reminded the U.S. envoy of his and his companion Mohammed Zayed's miserable conditions in the U.S. jail," Ibrahim added. "My father's condition is bad and his health worsens over time. We urged him not to go on hunger strike and to continue taking medicine in fear that his health may deteriorate, but he declined our request and insisted not to back out on his decision."

The aged man suffers from hepatitis C and cirrhosis, in addition to diabetes, asthma and rheumatism. "My father receives only pain relievers from the jail administration. He is not given any prescribed medicines for his health problems," the aged detainee's son complained in a telephone conversation with the Yemen Times. "I fear that my father's condition may deteriorate

further after he stopped eating and taking medicine."

Sheikh Al-Moayyad is allowed to call his family members, living in Sana'a, once a month for a duration of no longer than 15 minutes.

Last month, as many as 18 local human rights organizations and groups staged a huge sit-in on the five-year anniversary of the pair's arrest in Germany and subsequent extradition to the U.S. They expressed their solidarity with the two Yemeni victims, who suffer from inhumane torture at the hands of U.S. prison authorities. The event was organized in Al-Tahrir Square, Sana'a downtown and attended by hundreds of tribesmen from Khawlan tribe, 50 km east of Sana'a, and other nearby areas.

The protestors released a statement saying that continued detention of the pair may force Yemeni, Arab and Muslim citizens to form a bad image about the U.S. administration and increase Muslims' hatred and animosity toward Americans.

Many NGO representatives and Parliament members gave speeches at the event, stressing that Al-Moayyad is innocent and demanding that he and his companion be repatriated and compensated for the injustice and oppression they suffered in the U.S. jail over the past five years.

Sheikh Al-Moayyad was arrested in the German city of Frankfurt in January 2003 and then handed over to U.S. authorities, who accused him of funneling money to terrorism and supporting the Palestinian movement Hamas. In the U.S., he was sentenced by a Brooklyn court to 75 years in prison.

Yemen considers replacing wheat flour with composite type

By: Ismael Al-Ghaberi

SANA'A, Feb. 11 — The General Authority for Research and Agricultural Guidance (GARAG) at the Ministry of Agriculture is working on a study to replace wheat flour with other cereal flour like corn, legumes or potatoes for producing bread in Yemen. This kind of technique is called the composite flour technique.

"Applying this technique in Yemen, even with 10% of flour resources, will save tens of million of dollars consumed by the country in importing the wheat flour," said Dr. Ismail Muharram, chief of the GARAG in a workshop conducted in Sana'a on Sunday, in which 25 participants attended from the ministries of Irrigation and Agriculture, Industry, Planning and International Cooperation, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Economic Institution, as well as a number of

agriculture researchers.

In Yemen, annual wheat flour imports comprise 90-95% of people's dietary needs. Bread is considered the main staple for Yemeni people. The daily individual bread consumption is 63 grams, a low amount when compared with quantities consumed by people in ten high bread-consuming countries where quantities range from 277 grams in Belgium to 489 grams in Turkey, except that those countries are self-sufficient in wheat production. The statistics, issued in a report written by the Agriculture Research Authority, indicated a food gap in Yemen and an apparent imbalance between food production and consumption, and a resulting imbalance in food supply and demand. This caused the government to close the gap by importing wheat flour, costing the country millions of dollars annually.

According to the report, the main reasons behind the food gap are the

following:

- Increase in annual population growth rate (3.1%).
- Limitation in agricultural lands (1-1.6 million hectares).
- Decrease in cereal agriculture areas and increase in farmers' tendency to plant a higher income-generating yields directed to the market (internally and externally).
- The country's trend toward economic reform that guarantees free market enterprise and prevents government support of farmers and agriculture.
- Expansion of construction projects into farms across the country.
- Occurrence of important changes in consumption patterns that led to increasing the demand on certain yields most importantly wheat products.

The report also stated that "implementing the composite flour technique in Yemen according to the scientific studies obtained by the center

in the last years can be done by replacing 10% - 30% of wheat flour with different types of corn and millet flour, considering the type of the wheat flour (quantitative and qualitative protein percentage) as well as the required bread to be produced. It is also possible to replace 20% - 30% of wheat flour with thin corn flour and other cereals for baking cakes and biscuits."

Based on expected quantities to be imported in 2008, which might reach 1,666,500 tons at an average of \$385 per ton. Replacing 10% of wheat flour imports with locally produced thin maize flour will save an estimated \$64 million.

The price of wheat flour has risen to its highest level since 1996. This is because of a huge increase in demand and fears of a decline in international productivity, which could cause wheat-importing countries like Yemen to suffer.

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WHAT IT MEANS...

What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih (dralfaqih@yahoo.com).

Electing Al-Rai as speaker of Yemen's house of representatives

After a month of intra-party fighting over who should be the next speaker for the Yemeni House of Representatives (HR), the ruling General People's Congress (GPC)'s substantial majority finally adhered to President Saleh's wishes and unanimously elected Yahya Al-Rai as speaker for the remaining 14 months of the HR's tenure. To keep up with appearances, the election was carried out by a secret ballot on Monday, Feb. 12.

Born in 1953 in Gahrhan district of Dhamar governorate, Al-Rai had been a deputy speaker since 1997.

With late speaker sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmer (1933-2007) spending most of his time over the past four years outside the country for treatment, Al-Rai became the de facto speaker in his place. And with the support of President Saleh as his only "qualification", the little-known politician and ex-officer's climb to the presidency of the HR was anything but democratic. In January, while the HR wasn't in session, many GPC members openly rejected Al-Rai's nomination to the post in statements made to various media outlets. Nonetheless, Al-Rai managed Monday's to collect 186 votes out of the 301 total num-

ber of the HR members who voted in the ballot. His Joint Meeting Parties (JMP)'s rival candidate, Ali Ashal, gathered 69 votes. Interestingly enough, Al-Rai's first deputy, Himeer Abdullah Al-Ahmer—the son of the late speaker—was elected by a majority of 220 votes, gaining 34 more votes over his soon-to-be boss and proving more popular among both JMP and GPC members.

Many Opponents

The most ferocious opposition to Al-Rai's nomination came from within his own party, the GPC. For some GPC members, Al-Rai is a president-made sheikh and military officer who only knows how to obey orders from superiors. For others, Al-Rai belongs to the old guard within the regime and lacks the merits needed for the post. For a third group, Al-Rai's manners are what matters, and they are bad by any standard. Many stories are told by MPs of how Al-Rai has acted improperly, and in many instances verbally abused his colleagues.



By: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih

A brief official resume of Al-Rai—posted to the HR website—says nothing about Al-Rai's educational background, except that he graduated from the Faculty of War in 1972. Official records show that Al-Rai holds a master's degree in military sciences. This claim is not made in the official resume.

However, the widely unpopular new HR speaker might not be intellectually challenged, as some of his opponents claim. Al-Rai might have simply acted according to the system's established rules and tried to accumulate his colleagues' disgust to assure Saleh that he represents no political threat to him. This technique has been frequently employed by some of Saleh's men.

Possible implications

The rise of Al-Rai to the helm of Yemen's House of Representatives seems to be a typical example of how President Saleh has been, and still is, exercising power. While Yemen has dramatically changed over the past decade, Saleh seems to find it difficult

to adapt. As a result, he continues to play his outdated political games. While weighing the pluses and minuses, Saleh must have thought that supporting Al-Rai can have several advantages. First, it reinforces Saleh's principle of "loyalty first" and, as such, sends a message to his men to stick with him because he is the one who makes and breaks leaders.

Second, imposing Al-Rai on GPC Parliament members in the HR also sends a message that, despite increasing opposition to his political style and policies from within his own party, he is still Yemen's most powerful man, who can rally his supporters and opponents alike when necessary. Third, Saleh sees Al-Rai as someone who he can push around in the near future. He can put him next time as a Speaker or as a Deputy Speaker or as a commander of newly created military camp without facing a political rebellion. Saleh himself might have encouraged Al-Rai's opponents to loudly express their dislike as a way of further weakening Al-Rai.

Third, Saleh seeks to undermine the HR's power and morale after a growing number of its members came out openly against him. If all remains the same, Saleh is expected to use the next parliamentary elections in April 2009 to replace all of the trou-

blemakers. He is also expected to use his constitutional initiative to constitutionally and institutionally weaken the HR by adopting bicameralism instead of the current unicameralism.

Saleh's political tactics, however, may turn out to be disastrous. For example, his appointment last year of a little-known political figure as prime minister has created havoc in the executive branch. Likewise, his selection of Al-Rai to succeed sheikh Al-Ahmer is expected to undermine the HR's power, which will in turn weaken Saleh's regime as a whole. In fact, the country's political, economic, and social conditions all pointed in one direction; that is, to select a very strong and credible politician, preferably from the southern governorates. But Saleh, as he has always done during his 30-year reign, chose to swim against the tide.

In another sign of trouble to come, two of President Saleh's allies serving as deputies decided in mid-January, before the HR met early February, not only to step down but also not to run for re-election. The reason cited was President Saleh's insistence on making Al-Rai the HR's new Speaker.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih is a professor of politics at Sana'a University. For comments, please email the author at: dralfaqih@yahoo.com

Their News

MWF launches training project for female students at Media Colleges

The Media Women Forum (MWF), in collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), will launch a project for training female students at the Media Colleges in main cities (Sana'a- Aden- Taiz- Al-Hodeida), scheduled to run from March 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009. The project aims to increase the efficiency of practical performance in the media field by training future female media workers and improving their professional, legal, structural and juristic skills to ensure equal rights and distinguished participation, produce high-level Yemeni journalism and raise their competency level, as well as spread democracy and human rights values.

The project includes eight training courses on field media work requirements through comprehensive training methodologies prepared by local and Arab qualified trainers. In addition,

two workshops will be conducted, the first on law and journalism and the second on how to raise the position of media and media curricula. The MWF will conduct interviews with media institutions concerning project goals to create real training opportunities for the trainees with the objective of bridging the gap between theory and practice.

This project is considered the first of its kind that targets (third and fourth level) female students at Media Colleges from different specializations. Before carrying out the project, profession needs and potential impediments that would hinder effective performance of female media workers in Yemeni journalism will be identified. This will be done via questionnaires to be filled out during field visits. The project is also considered the second of its kind to be implemented by the MWF, in cooperation with NED. The previous project targeted female media

workers in different official, party and national media organizations in Yemen.

Mud-house builders establish association

Two hundred mud house builders held last week in Tarim the first "Association of Mud Architecture Houses Builders" meeting, which aims at coordinating efforts for maintaining adobe-built houses in Tarim.

Ali Khamis Sabih, head of Development and Planning in Tarim's local council, lauded the cultural and architectural heritage of the city and called for its preservation.

The constituent group appointed 11 members to be the association's administrative staff, headed by Ashoor Bashamkiah. The establishment announcement is part of other procedures taken by the local council to enroll the city in a competition with forty cities for luring the German-

Yemen program for preservation and Rehabilitation. The program's funding is crucial in preserving the crumbling remains of Al-Kaff Palaces in Tarim.

Yemen, France discuss mutual military cooperation

The commander of French Forces stationed in the Indian Ocean, Admiral Giran Valan, and an accompanying delegation met on Monday Staff General

Ali Qassim Talib, Deputy Chief of Yemen's General Staff. They held talks on the mutual military cooperation between the two countries.

During the talks, Talib praised the growing bilateral relations between the two countries' armies, especially in the fields of technical and training cooperation, the fight against piracy, smuggling and terrorism so as to enhance security and stability of the region, and

protecting the corridors of international navigation in the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the African Horn.

For his part, the French naval commander hailed the Yemeni-French relations, stressing the importance of strengthening cooperation between the two armies and exchanging military and security expertise in fighting terrorism.

Continued from page 1

Mediation committee starts job to end ongoing clashes

"Sa'ada locals, in turn, show a strong and true desire to implement the agreement because they have been living in constant suffering since the fighting broke out in June 2004."

Tribal sheikhs, who wished to remain unidentified, stated that the new mediation committee may succeed, but on condition that the government banish Salafi extremist volunteers from Sa'ada governorate, or force them to return to their original areas. Another condition is that the government sack military commanders belonging to the Salafi sect. According to the tribal leaders, if both conditions are satisfied, the committee can end the fighting even amid the current situations.

Armed tribesmen killed on Tuesday Sheikh Shayea Bakhtan, brother of Saleh Bakhtan, one of the new mediation committee members, along with two of his escorts, and wounded others in Al-Salem area. There has been conflicting news about motives of the incident. According to local sources, the murder was the result of disputes between the victim and his brother Naji, while other sources claimed that anonymous gunmen set up an ambush to Al Bakhtan family members on a road feeder and fired into the victim's car. The sources expect that the unidentified gunmen wanted to foil mediation efforts.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Naji Al-Shayef, Parliament member and Parliamentary Rights and Freedoms Committee Head, lashed out at the most recent Doha-brokered deal between Yemeni government and Houthis, describing it as "insulting the Yemeni government, army and peo-

ple."

He inferred that the deal contains some secret terms agreed upon by the government and Houthis, though Parliament authorized the government to end the fighting by military operations.

Al-Shayef and another 50 MPs demanded that defense and interior ministers should appear before Parliament to explain what is secret or invisible in the agreement, which they described as 'dangerous and insulting'. "By signing the deal, the government committed a legal violation against Parliament and its efforts to expose war-related facts," Al-Shayef stated.

Sheikh Saleh Habra, the Houthi representative at the Doha Peace Deal between the government and Houthis, revealed that the Qatari committee mandated to oversee the ceasefire agreement arrived in Sana'a on last Thursday and then headed for Sa'ada. According to Habra, the deal stated that Houthis should be represented by five members in the new presidential committee, formed after the Qatari mediation.

He confirmed that the most recent agreement discussed the case file of those detained in several Yemeni governorates over alleged connections with the Sa'ada fighting, stating that the detainees must be released within at least one month from the deal's date.

"Other numerous files regarding those killed or injured in the fighting were brought to Doha to be discussed as part of the deal's proceedings," Habra said. "The government has undertaken to treat all those wounded in the events in Yemen or abroad, as well as form a committee from Yemeni and Qatari officials, and Houthis to assess the damage on citizens' homes,

farms and other property."

Yemeni authorities allowed the family of MP Yahya Al-Houthi to fly to Qatar and return to Germany, where the MP is residing. The Yemeni Socialist Party-affiliated Al-Thawri weekly reported that such a step is the deal's first fruit, confirming that Al-Houthi's wife and her 9-year-old child, Mohammed Yahya Al-Houthi, and his cousin Mohammed Hamid Al-Houthi, 20, flew to Doha via Sana'a Airport on Wednesday after the government facilitated their flight procedures.

Bin Al-Shaibah set for trial Eight Prisoners said to be cleared at Guantanamo

Additionally, the U.S. government released news this week that six "high-priority" detainees are having their cases prepared for military trial in the next few months. Ramzi Bin Al-Shaibah (sometimes referred to as Bin Al-Shibh), a Yemeni, is one of these high-priority detainees who will go on trial.

U.S. Diplomatic sources confirmed that Bin Al-Shaibah along with the five other prisoners will be tried for capital crimes, meaning that if they are found guilty, they will be eligible for the death penalty.

Al-Anesi said that Bin Al-Shaibah's case has already been tried in the court of public opinion, especially in the U.S.

"He is guilty without any trial because of what the administration has given the media to publish in the last few years," said Al-Anesi. "He should have an international court trial by judge, not by jury."

Both Falkoff and Al-Anesi felt that Bin Al-Shaibah's military trial would not be a fair one.

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Job Qualifications:

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Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Process or Chemical Engineering
- Minimum of 3 years of Engineering with 2 years experience in process

Cost Controller (position based in Sana'a)

Job Duties:

- Assist in the ongoing development and maintenance of the respective budget and take responsibility for the cost reporting.
- Prepare the accruals on monthly basis in liaison with the technical staff.
- Check the quantities with commitment, reception and unit price to be in line with the contracts, and that all required supporting documents are enclosed, and insure the validity of signatures as per delegation of authorities.

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in accounting
- Minimum of 3 years experience in accounting in the oil and gas field especially in contracts.

Material Control Supervisor (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Liaise with the Material Manager, and coordinate all material delivery activities between the Construction Department in Sanaa, the Logistics Department on Site and the Construction Team on site.
- Ensure that all materials are reported and entered into the database (Salsa) and follow up on site with the site stock list and correct both as necessary.
- Issue the necessary material requisitions upon the request of the Construction Team.

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Engineering
- Minimum of 3 years experience in logistics in the oil and gas industry.

Computerized Maintenance Management System Coordinator (position based in Sana'a)

Job Duties:

- Provide CMMS Administration for DataStream D7i CMMS
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- Follow up and insure the link between all systems is running.

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Engineering
- Minimum of 5 years in maintenance engineering or maintenance contract

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- Insure reproduction and editing of GSR documents (paper and CD/DVDs) are sent to TEPY correspondents (PEPA, Block 10 Partners, TOTAL HQ).
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- Keep track of all documents (paper and CD/DVD's) that are sent to TEPY correspondents (PEPA, Block 10 Partners, TOTAL HQ)

Job Qualifications:

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- Minimum of 1 year experience in in general administrative work

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Job Duties:

- Monitor closely all instrumentation and electrical activities.
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Job Qualifications:

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Price hikes, lack of monitoring, weight cheating are killing Yemenis

By: Almidad Dahesh Mojalli

The president, the government, officials, practically all of the newspapers, radio and television – all have talked about Yemen's price hikes. The government has made numerous promises regarding finding solutions for the cancer that's eating citizens alive, daily announcing plans and projects to fight such price hikes, but announcing no aid to decrease or even stop them.

For this reason, the Yemen Times took to the streets, talking with those from many different layers of society – retailers, wholesalers, employees and everyday citizens – about the price hikes, their causes, affects and possible solutions.

would miss the past. We've heard that price hikes are worldwide but I don't think it's to that extent because these hikes affect every commodity – even national products like fruits and vegetables. I was sure the hikes were only on certain goods. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is responsible for these hikes and the best solution is to develop agriculture and build dams."



Merchant Sa'ad Al-Malah says, "These price hikes have affected all aspects of people's lives so that they barely can buy the very essentials. In the past, people used to buy complementary items, but now they hardly can buy the essentials. I think the government is responsible because there's no inspection or monitoring by the Ministry of Trade and Industry."

He continued, "I haven't raised prices on my goods, which are women's and children's clothing. The best solution to the problem is to stop the robbery by officials and then everything will be fine."



Farmer Abdulhakim Ahmed Mahdi says, "These price hikes haven't just affected us, but as you can see, they've slaughtered us! I'm responsible for two families and I have nothing to give them. We used to store wheat, fuel and many other things, but now we can barely afford the very essentials."

"There's no state monitoring or inspection at all. The state is totally responsible for everything in this country. We're farmers with no government positions in order to receive salaries, so we really hate this life."



Regarding the hikes, Farouq Mohammed, an employee in a wholesale shop, remarks, "They're a catastrophe for everyone because they

concern citizens' foodstuffs, which are their main lifeline. In the past, we used to buy wheat, sugar and rice in 50-kilogram quantities, but we now purchase them by the kilo. In the very best of situations, I buy half that quantity."

He further explains, "Only part of the price hikes are worldwide, while most are done by Yemeni businessmen. The government is responsible because there's no monitoring, so merchants toy with the prices as they like. I make YR 30,000 per month, but I spend more than YR 50,000, so I've also had to stop chewing qat."



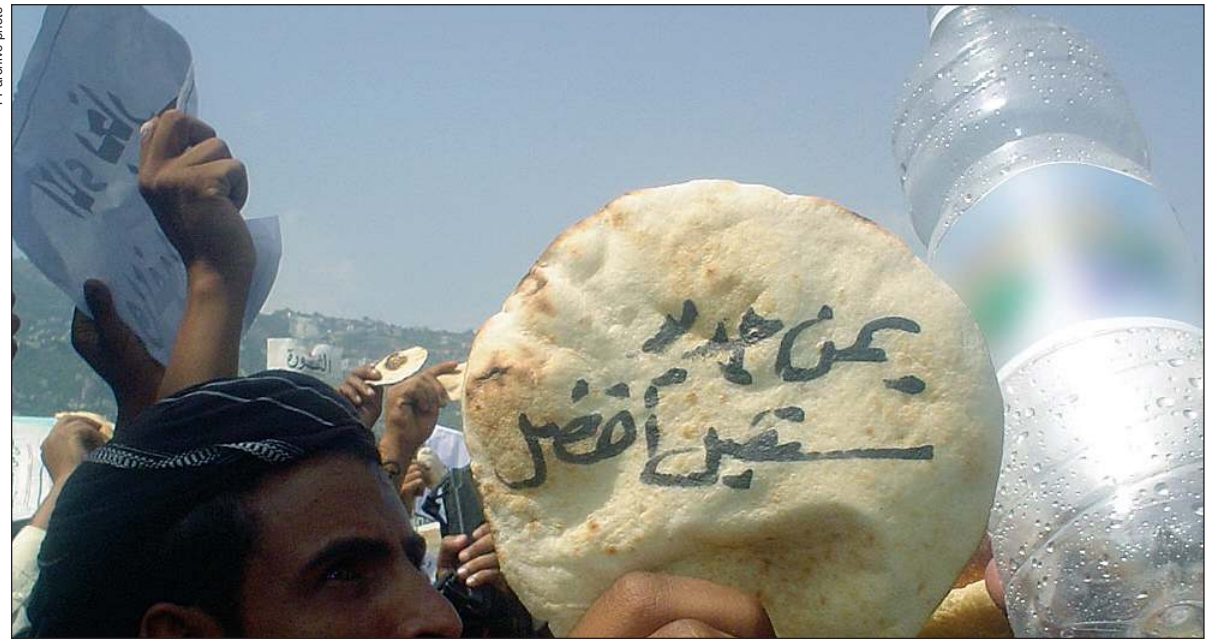
Wholesale merchant Hassan Rajeh says, "These price hikes not only affect ordinary citizens, but also us, the businessmen. As you can see, my shop has no customers. People have stopped buying clothes like they used to in the past. They now just simply try to afford the essential foodstuffs such as wheat, rice, milk and other things. For example, a can of milk is now YR 4,800 whereas it was YR 2,800."

Rajeh goes on, "I'm a businessman and I can confirm that it's a lie that these price hikes are worldwide. They're only on some items, but here, everything is hiked. Both the government and businesses are responsible for this problem. I'm a businessman and for more than five years, I've never seen even one inspector or observer from the Ministry of Trade and Industry."



Retired employee Ali Al-Harazi says, "Our problem not only involves the price hikes; rather, it's beyond that because that's only the first part of the problem. The other part of the problem is cheating regarding the weight of a product. For example, I bought a 10-kilo sack of rice for YR 1,150 but when I weighed it, I found it was only 8.8 kilos. I also purchased ghee, but when I opened it, I found the net quantity only two thirds of the container."

He went on, "We suffer a lot. This government wants to kill us. I used to



A protester raising a loaf of bread on which is written a phrase that reads "New Yemen: Better Future."

buy my children meat daily, but now they get it only on Fridays. Is this the 'New Yemen and better future' the president promised us? Where's the government inspection and monitoring? It's as if we live in a jungle because there's neither law nor state. Every day, we hear promises from the state, but find nothing in reality."



Abdu Ali Sala, an employee in a raisin shop, commented, "Whatever I say, I can never express what we suffer as a result of these price hikes. I make only YR 18,000 (\$190) a month and the same is true for my brother. Both of us are married and can't afford even the barest essentials for our families, who live in the countryside. We barely visit them once every two months, so it's really a problem. I must work a month to be able to afford one sack of wheat, sugar and rice, but what about meat and other things? We eat meat only once a week."



Silversmith Mohsen Amer says, "Price hikes have affected both my family and my work. I can barely afford the very essentials for my family.

Regarding my business, people have stopped thinking about silver necklaces, rings and bracelets because they can only think about how to stay alive. Because they can't find jobs, these price hikes are killing them. My income is approximately YR 40,000, but I spend more than YR 70,000. The government must come up with a serious solution to this catastrophe."



Women's clothing seller Mohammed Mohsen Fare responds, "Absolutely, price hikes have affected us. I used to have many customers in my shop but now, as a result of these hikes, I have only one to three at most per day. The state is wholly responsible for this miserable situation."



Allam Al-Kaboudi, an employee in a women's clothing shop, said, "Price hikes have affected us greatly because people have stopped buying clothes due to the high prices. I can't afford even half the things I used to buy my family."

He continued, "My problem is double

because my family lives in the village. Here, 50 kilos of wheat has increased from YR 2,200 to YR 6,000, while the price of a gas cylinder has increased from YR 420 to YR 550. In my village, 50 kilos of wheat is YR 7,000 and gas is YR 900. How can we live like this and to whom can we complain?"



Wholesale foodstuff merchant Mahdi Al-Osami admitted, "I had to raise all the prices on foodstuffs in my store, such as rice, wheat, oil, milk, sugar – everything. According to my importers, these price hikes are worldwide, but I'm not so sure."

He continues, "The state is responsible for everything, including solving this problem. Price hikes affect and are killing everyone, even me. In the past, many citizens used to come and purchase foodstuffs in large quantities, but they now buy only in kilos."

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Those who work hard make mistakes

By: Taha Al-Ameri

Every national civilized experience has its own negatives and each great transformation has its own mistakes. And, as those who don't work don't necessarily commit mistakes, it is impossible for great men producing great transformations to avoid mistakes. It is normal for any work to be accompanied by mistakes, however, such mistakes have to be objectively assessed in light of the reached national achievements that must not be employed for the sake of targeting other people or harming their reputation.

Under President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen has so far made great national and civilized achievements. But, it is natural for these achievements to be accompanied by unintentional mistakes. Consequently, people must not exploit such mistakes, if they exist, for targeting or damaging all the reached transformations. The national, political, moral and democratic logic necessitates that those elements have to assess the experienced mistakes, if

available, in light of the positive phenomena, achievements and transformations.

When the positive phenomena account for 98 percent of the whole achievements, as opposed to only 2 percent for the negative phenomena, the matter necessitates more reason and judiciousness to be considered by any opposition addresses (speeches usually given by opposition leaders), which are supposed to be critical and not malicious. There is a huge difference between criticism and malice, as the former contributes much to developing and building the nation while the latter destroys any bonds, increases fear and spreads chaos, as well as casts doubt on any achieved national transformations.

The above-said addresses don't pay harm to the democratic course or transformation, nor do they damage reputation of the regime, its symbols and mechanisms. Instead, they primarily cause much harm to the addressers (opposition speakers) and their credibility.

Those who defiantly speak ill of the government and the national transformations and achievements,

and underestimate all the positive data, only confirm seriousness and credibility of these transformations and achievements. Had the case been like what those malicious elements say in their malicious addresses, they would have reached their sough-after results.

It is this way the veteran observer can assess the current civilized reality of Yemen, plus the irresponsible plots machinated against the democratic transformation and progress. We all admit that any national activities must go beyond the scope of partisanship and media. Instead, they have to be based on the rules of economic development and reconstruction, plus admitting the availability of crises and problems that accompany national transformations.

As the national transformations have their own subjective and objective motives, the logical outcome is that it is normal for transformations to be accompanied by mistakes and the likes because these transformations are eventually multi-aspect and multi-goal interactions. Moreover, they are managed by human beings but not infallible angels.

On the contrary, the credibility of any criticism has to be assessed in light of the critic's credibility, his patriotism and faith in transformations, plus his loyalty with his people and his care for national development and prosperity. All these are the main factors in light of which criticisms can be assessed.

In this context, Yemen has so far achieved great transformations and its President managed to overcome numerous obstacles, difficulties and challenges that have been, for a long time, encountering will, dreams and expectations of the Yemeni people. Having acknowledged, these facts and understood them well, the greatest challenging facing us today will only be that of the absence of national education and awareness.

Both education and awareness constitute two major problems to understanding the concept of patriotism and love for one's homeland. Having overcome the two problems, or at least one of them, it will be easy for us to realize the progressive course of transformations.

Source: 26 September Weekly.

COMMON SENSE

Trying to beat the clock

Even after the American Intelligence Report that clearly requested George W. Bush to keep his pistols in his pocket, as he finishes his regrettably unfinished eight year term, there worrisome signs that his war adventures are not yet over. All this belligerency one is hearing emanating from the Levant and from Tel Aviv indicates that the Bush Administration is looking for some kind of flare up, just so it can leave the office with either a big headache for the New Administration that takes over the White House or a continuous reminder to the world of the evil that men can wreak and leave behind.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Surely, the ugly belligerency issued by Walid Jumblatt, a leading and seemingly boisterous spokesman for the ruling elements in Lebanon threatening to "burn everything in sight ('white, green and dry')" – an Arab expression that everything 'wet and dry' will be burned, while adding the white to show emphasis in his threat was not made in haste or to express a mere 'lack of patience', as some pro ruling clique supporters put it. In fact, the statement was read from a previously worded statement to the supposedly able speaker (in the dialectical sense). This indicates clearly that Mr. Jumblatt was given every word in his statement from some overlords either in the Mossad or in the CIA. This observer is of the strong opinion, based on the very attitude that Jumblatt has shown that by a sneaky covert action, Mr. Jumblatt has been set up in an embarrassing "sting" ultimately put him under the take of the Mossad or some other intelligence agency that serves the interests of Israel or the United States (Bush Administration). This is further reinforced by the fact that Jumblatt is not speaking as one would have expected Jumblatt to speak, even if he did believe all those profound statements he has been making since the divide was instilled in Lebanese politics by the cunning CIA right after the Israeli aggression on Lebanon in the Summer of 2006.

On the other hand, the recent statements of Ehud Barack the Minister of (War) Defense in Israel, who is supposedly a member of the political party that opts for peace in the Middle East, the Labor Party, provides another reason that the region may be enticed to further bloodshed of the kind the Bush cronies crave for, where especially thousands of civilians are made victims of a senseless barrage of fire-works intended to inflict the most damage and casualties at the highest costs, just to keep the military – industrial complex in the US feeling happy and to excite the Zionist demagogues, whose entire philosophy of Zionism can only be sustained with an ongoing bloodbath that will eventually turn the Red Sea literally red soon enough.

In defense of free speech

The recent attack and vandalism of the office vehicle of the Yemenportal.net office by mysterious hooligans, who were more likely to be the bums, who undertake the regime's dirty work to suppress political views or free expression, surely point to a hypocritical stance of the regime. Last month, President Ali Abdullah Saleh went to Madrid, Spain to plead with the King of Spain for the release of Tayseer Allouny, who was sentenced to imprisonment for supposedly having ties to terrorist groups. Although, most free thinking journalists know for a fact that nothing is further than the truth and Tayseer has no terrorist link to speak of, except that his honest reporting of the bloodletting inflicted by the American invasion of Afghanistan (especially the indiscriminate bombings) was not appreciated by the Cheney War Machine. But one cannot help notice the paradoxical stance of the regime ruling in Yemen as it tries to display a strong defense of free speech by the poorly staged appeal to the Spanish king, while at the same time it uses tactics like it used against the assets of Yemenportal.net, as it seeks to scare all free speakers in Yemen, who speak out against the regime's total disregard for human rights into silence. But as Walid Al-Saqqaf, the creator of Yemenportal.net says: "Such tactics only make our case stronger and increase our adamancy to carry on our struggle for 'REAL Freedom of Speech'" and not the kind that placates gullible western ears, who seem to have forgotten that those who are constituents of regimes like the Saleh regime are in fact real people who also yearn to be free. Thank God no one was hurt by this heinous display of totalitarian rule, but nevertheless it does not do any good for the regime to show its reliance on Mafia tactics to keep the Yemeni people under outright subjugation.

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

Under the guise of fighting terrorism

By: Ali Al-Was'ei

The Crusade America decided to launch a war on Islam, however, it invents fabricated justifications for what it alleges. In fighting terrorism, it has found a strong justification, notably after the 9/11 Terrorist Attack on the world's superpower. Undoubtedly, that attack was plotted by it or its staunch ally, Israel, in order to renew a strong pretext for its wrong and detestable policies targeting Muslims in different parts of the world.

All such functions and events, which take place in more than one place in the world, protest against the U.S. Administration and denounce its unjust policies that oppress innocent peoples and nations. America is still waging a crusade war against Muslims and turns to use the term "fighting terrorism" as a cover for its crimes against humanity. If non-Muslims believe in what they say, it is marvelous for the statement to apply to those claiming to be Muslims.

The crusade wars that erupted after the 10th Century and discussed by great historians are futile if compared to the present time crusade wars. In the past, battles used to take place between two armies in which one wins and the other loses, and when another war occurs, the loser wins while the winner loses. All these are ordinary wars that used to break out from time to time. On the contrary, the present time's crusade wars are crushing and annihilative since they annihilate peoples and destroy states, as well as eliminate every alive and static thing in any targeted territory.

Where is Afghanistan and what happened to Iraq? The crusaders deposed the true regimes of both countries and brought groups of traitors to behave according to their interests. I don't know weather those, who collaborate with the U.S. and pride themselves for being partners in the US-led war on terrorism, have understood and realized the threat

posed by the Zionist Movement. I advise them that it is time for them to fight the U.S., and its injustice and oppression, and having done so, I assure them that terrorism will disappear.

I don't know how long the crusade war will continue, particularly as obedient leaders of several Muslim and non-Muslim countries support what is wrong and back the crusade oppression practiced by crusaders who have no mercy on Muslims. I advise the Arab and Muslim leaders to contemplate on what is happening in Palestine and check whether the crusaders sympathize with innocent women and children, particularly after the whole world strongly denounced what is taking place in Gaza. We have to admit that the crusade enemy creates a hurdle to any humanitarian efforts that usually follows any worldwide condemnation of the Zionist aggression and crimes against humanity.

The Bush administration has been fervently fighting "terrorism," Israel has been remarkably effective in drawing non-existent parallels that serve Zionist purposes. Following the 11 September attacks, Israel was the first state to compare the resistance to its aggression with the attacks on the World Trade Center by equating the number of American victims to Israeli deaths.

After the United States toppled the Taliban government and raided suspected Al-Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan, Israel tightened its chokehold on the Palestinian territories, and invaded Palestinian population centers for the first time since the negotiated withdrawal.

After President George W. Bush declared war on Iraq and began hunting down Saddam Hussein, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accelerated illegal targeted assassinations against supposed terrorist leaders. Both leaders have in common the fact that their victims never stood before a court of justice,

but rather faced a barrage of accusations based on a cloud of "classified" intelligence gathered by secret, usually biased sources.

Later on, the United States turned its attention towards Syria. Bush publicly warned Syria of its alleged harboring of terrorist groups. Israel's attack on Syria pursues the same cycle of follow-the-leader politics that the Sharon government played with the Bush administration. In each case, Israel acts aggressively and with impunity to test the U.S. reaction. Under this guise, Sharon ordered preliminary gunfire on the Lebanese border and has left open the option to strike Syria again.

Immediately following the attacks, Sharon declared that "Israel was prepared to strike anywhere, any way." These are neither the words nor the actions of a peacemaker, but rather of an empire builder who has found his moment of opportunity.

The Bush administration has come under increased internal scrutiny due to the absence of any weapons of mass destruction that Iraq supposedly harbored.

The Bush administration, in an effort to divert attention from legitimate cries of foul play, is rattling the cages of other regional governments to help in the search for Saddam's elusive weapons - thus the focus on Syria and then Lebanon and Iran. The message is clear: either assist the United States in its unpopular war, risk open reprimand or worse.

In order for the Bush administration to be successful and get reelected, it was paramount that U.S. inspectors either find weapons of mass destruction or that the Bush administration keeps diverting attention across the region, continuing to play upon post 11 September popular fright and outrage.

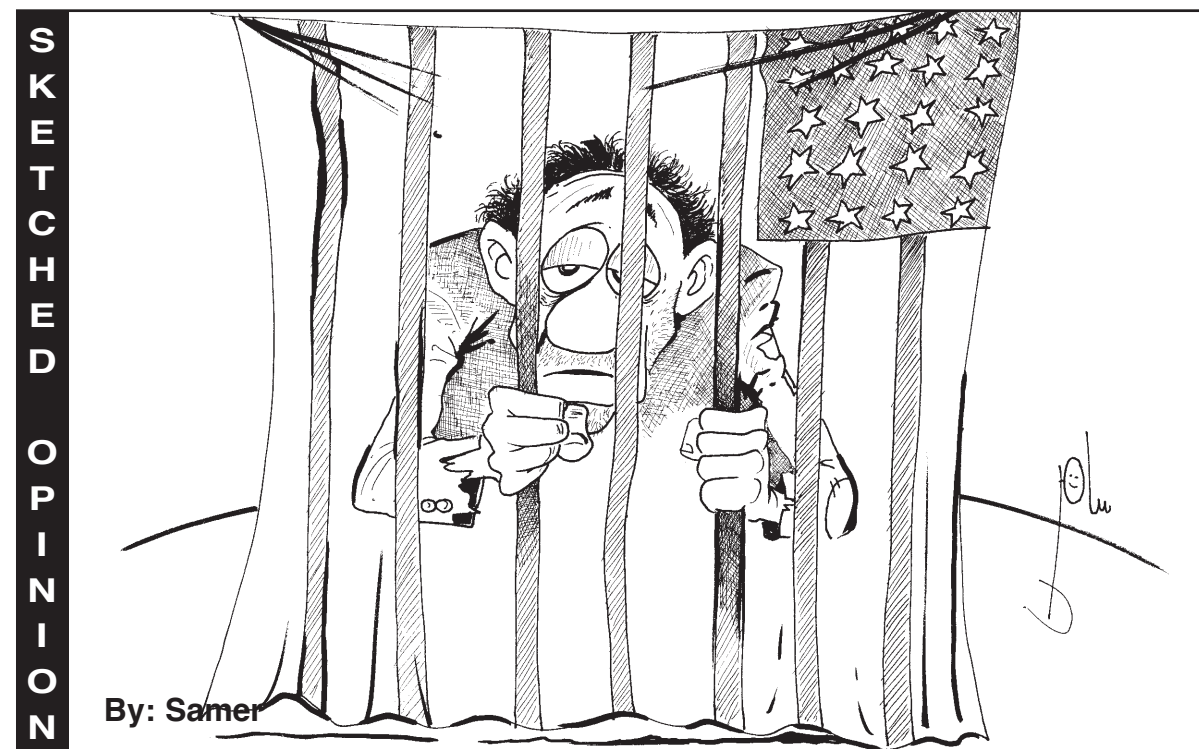
Where will the war of rhetoric go next? As Americans have seen in recent years, occupation is neither popular nor welcomed. The U.S. occupation of Iraq has produced many U.S. casualties and American troops

are increasingly coming under fire. The Sharon spin-doctors might likely have started to empathize with the Bush administration on the difficulties in keeping ungrateful Arabs under occupation.

Of course, it will be worded much more eloquently by an American public relations firm; however the message is the same. Israel will once again recolor the struggle for Palestinian self-determination as a large-scale terrorist operation undertaken by militants who need to be destroyed or kept under close observation and separate from the 'free, western-styled democracy' of Israel.

By the time the Americans realize this move was just an ideological farce, Palestinians found themselves to be living in ghettos created by the segregation wall and Israeli troops might have positioned themselves at the gates of Beirut and Damascus under the auspices of 'security.'

Source: Al-Sahwa.net



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The Islamism debate

Political discourse without Islamist groups would be unthinkable in many Islamic-dominated countries. But what is Islamism actually? Is it more than a fanaticism of losers? And how should the West deal with the "moderate Islamists"? Answers from Sonja Zekri

By: God's Counterculture

From Rabat to Damascus, religious groups are proving to be an alternative to decadent, despotic regimes, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the oldest, largest, and most influential Islamist organization. Yet we notice no shift and hear no rejoicing. Palestine, the highly symbolic reference conflict for the entire region, is in many respects an exceptional case, but most important, the Islamist movements in the neighboring states have long since renounced violence.

"Our governments know very well that the Muslim Brothers are not planning a coup," says political scientist Dina Rashwan from the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo.

One of the vital questions in the

Arab world is whether the Islamist groups' commitment to nonviolence is sincere or merely tactical. Islam experts like Olivier Roy advocate dauntless positivism for the time being, however. Even Islamists must be judged by their actions, not their intentions: "Sincerity is not a political concept."

Nihilistic jihadism shocks the West with seemingly relentless terrorist campaigns across all borders, but moderate Islamism succeeds locally. In Morocco, the Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) supported King Muhammad VI's "Mudawana," a startlingly progressive family law which grants women the right to a divorce, raises the minimum age for marriage to 18, and, in the event of separation, stipulates equal distribution of property. Muslim Brothers in Jordan condemned the Iraq War, while their comrades in Iraq sat in the Iraqi gov-

ernment.

Flexible pragmatism of Islamist groups

As a result of this flexible pragmatism, in many countries Islamists have risen to become the only serious opposition. In Egypt, where the Muslim Brotherhood is officially banned and puts forward only independent candidates, it would receive at least thirty percent of the votes in free elections, Rashwan estimates, and even more with a lower turnout at the polls, because their adherents can be mobilized at any time.

Socialists, liberals, and nationalists have long been marginalized. The fact that many regimes use the threatening theocracy as a pretext to deal with the secular opposition at the same time only plays into the hands of the Islamists.

As countries like Egypt and Tunisia have demonstrated, the price of suppressing Islamism in the name of freedom is the undermining of democracy. This presents a dilemma for the West. Today Islamists are among the most passionate advocates of freedom of speech, fair elections, and pluralism – genuinely Western values.

Unlikely alliances are forming. The now marginalized Egyptian protest movement "Kifaya" (Enough!), a melting pot of diverse political forces, marched together with the Muslim Brotherhood against the Mubarak gerontocracy. In Cairo, bloggers and Islamists have long protested jointly for more freedom in the Net.

Islamists' uncertain attitude toward democracy

No one knows whether Islamists have a more than functional attitude toward democracy, whether they will actually allow themselves to be voted out of office, or whether their understanding of pluralism amounts to nothing more than Bernard Lewis's phrase "One man, one vote, one time" – everyone has a vote, but only once. The young sociologist Mohsen Elahmadi from

Rabat, who lived in Paris for ten years and is studying Islamist movements in Morocco, argues that the Islamists operate with "holiness" on the unholy terrain of politics and history. "They have never understood that democracy is an essential value of our age."

But party arithmetic alone does not do justice to Islamism anyway. It is not a political phenomenon, not even a religious one, but a giant social and cultural transformation. Elahmadi calls it a "counterculture," and the German Islamic studies specialist Gudrun Krämer compares it to the Greens.

"The Greens are not politically dominant today, but Green opinions are extremely influential. From a purely functional standpoint, it is much the same with the Islamists. They determine how one dresses, what one eats. In these areas, they are incredibly successful."

Giant social and cultural transformation

Even if the Islamists never come to power, they have transformed their countries. Not only with hospitals, kindergartens, and social services, which probably have a socially stabilizing effect as well. The headscarves in Rabat, Algiers, and Alexandria, where short skirts and sleeveless dresses were still fashionable thirty years ago, are only the obvious component of the change.

Prayer niches in Cairo's metro stations, the word "Allah" set with stones in the middle of the desert, prayer watches with compass (Mecca) and Hidschra mode (Ramadan) – despite all the tricks with which an individual avoids religious obligations, the religious saturation of society is nevertheless based on a widespread consensus.

There are demonstrations against Israel and America, against the Muhammad cartoons and terrorism, even against their own government, but never against Islamization – not even by women. In this respect, any attempt at a Marxist explanation that interprets religiousness merely as a reaction to



As a result of their flexible pragmatism, in many countries Islamists have risen to become the only serious opposition to repressive regime

poverty and need falls short. First of all, Islamists are recruited in particular from the middle-class, technically trained intelligentsia, and, second, the Gulf States prove that affluence and reactionary narrow-mindedness are not mutually exclusive.

Thus, although Mohsen Elahmadi mocks the spiritual background noise – "We are fixated on the hereafter, as though we were going to die tomorrow!" – he also welcomes it as immunization against the great leveler, globalization. "The Islamist movements are the sign of a culture that is defending itself against an outside aggressor." The Islamic world just sets the imperialism of spiritual values against the imperialism of material values, he says. That sounds like Samuel P. Huntington.

Dialectics of Islamism

Even secularists counter the issue of the rights of women and social minorities by pointing to old people's homes in the West. Justice, consideration for weaker persons, tolerance toward people of different faiths – it is all in the Koran. Even the oppression of women

cannot be blamed on the Prophet but rather his exegetes. Homosexuality is banned in many Arab countries with secular governments – yet it exists. Hatred of Israel and America is not a prerogative of the Islamists; it is only with effort channeled by official bodies.

All attempts to isolate or neutralize religious persons have thus far resulted in bloody acts of terrorism (Algeria) or repression (Egypt). They have not been able to halt either the radicalization of individual groups or the creeping Islamization of the masses.

Old, cautious Europe, which achieved secularism and victory over nationalism and fascism only through wars involving heavy losses, views this utopian infatuation with even greater horror, since no country has ever been able to save another from a painful experience.

Most important, however, the dialectics of Islamism question the liberating effect of democratic processes in general. The phobic reaction to all demands for participation by Islamists is also the result of a profound European feeling of insecurity.



"No one knows whether Islamists have a more than functional attitude toward democracy, whether they will actually allow themselves to be voted out of office", scruples Sonja Zekri.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT (HRSP) – CR NO. 3625 CREDIT ADMINISTRATION UNIT (CAU)

Announcement for Recruitment an Arbitrator to solve Dispute between the MOPHP represented by HRSP and CORAL (Baseline Health Facilities and Needs Assessment Survey) Consultant)

Health Reform Support Project - Cr. 3625

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) within the Ministry of Public Health & Population intends to hire an arbitrator who will be contracted to carry out the following tasks:

Objective of the Consultancy

The arbitrator is expected to solve and settle down the dispute between the Ministry of Public Health and Population represented by HRSP and CORAL (Baseline Health Facilities and Needs Assessment Survey Consultant) based on the contract signed on December 2004.

Proposed Tasks of the Consultant

The arbitrator is expected to carryout the following activities and/or responsibilities, which include but will not be limited to:

- 1- To solve and settle down the dispute between the Ministry of Public Health and Population represented by HRSP and CORAL based on the contract between the two parties signed on December 2004.
- 2- To look for the dispute between the two parties reflected in the following documents.
 - 2.1- The signed contract between the two parties.
 - 2.2- The correspondences between the two parties.
 - 2.3- The final survey report submitted by CORAL.
 - 2.4- The comments on the final report by the Project.
 - 2.5- Any related documents referred to the subject.
- 3- To review all the documents related to the dispute, and not accept any document from the project or CORAL unless signed by related management officials.
- 4- Any discussions or requests for clarifications from any party should be in the presence of the representative of other party, to assure unbiased according to the arbitration law.
- 5- The arbitrator will be solely responsible for all results and legal affects based on his arbitration, or in any delay.

Duration of the assignment

The arbitrator undertakes and finalizes the assignment within **one month** including all the procedures.

Expected Deliverable

To provide final judgment, ensuring both parties rights in accordance with Yemeni laws

Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

- A university degree in Economics / Finance or a degree in Health Economics / Health Care Finance.
- Previous experience in similar analytical studies, preferably in the area of Health Economics or Health Care Finance.
- Capability to carry out related fieldwork activities.
- Verbal and written capability in Arabic Language and preferably in English Language.

Applications with supporting document and CV's - should be submitted to the credit Administration unit by 24th February 2008 to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.-Tel : 00 967 1 252 224 - Fax : 00 967 1 251 622 -Email : hrsp@y.net.ye



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- **Language:** Shell, Ruby, Perl, Python, HTML, Java, JavaScript, PHP, SQL, UML.
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Arwa Al-Hamdany:**“Governor AlKohlani: please give some respect to the court’s decision”**

In spite of investment reforms, the irony of discriminating against smaller investors is hurting the overall investment climate in the country; as large investors are granted free land to implement their project, smaller ones run the risk of bandits occupying their bought/ owned lands.

It is evident that the investment environment has seen quiet a transformation through the last few years, thanks to reforms including improving the investment legal framework, effectiveness of the General Investment Authority (GIA), enforcement of the investment law, and the granting of very lucrative tax holidays, free real estate, and other measures aimed at attracting the big – and very big – investors, smaller and medium-sized investors have witnessed an intensification of measures that limit their business freedom, and their ability to go about their planned investment due to the partial implementation of all investment-related laws, to be limited only to the largest of investments. In this interview, we speak to a Arwa Al-Hamdany, UK-based investor of Yemeni origin, who has been suffering from the system’s corruption and refusal of the implementation of laws that protect the rights of investors. Interviewed by AbdulQawi Sha’alan.



Arwa Al-Hamdany

Ms. Arwa, we understand that you've been suffering as a result of your decision to invest in Yemen, can you please inform the reader of the issue's background?

My story started a few years ago and will not seem to end any time soon, I own two pieces of land in Aden governorate one of them was inherited to me from my father, where we had constructed a charitable school on one of the lands, however, several businessmen including a member of the parliament occupied that land and used the school building as a for-profit wood and carpentry workshop, and claimed ownership of the property.

After much disputed I obtained a court order reinforcing my rights to the land and forcing the occupiers to pay me rents for the period they used the land as a workshop. The occupiers refused to pay the rents and hired outlaw bandits in order to continue harassing me and – for the second time – occupying my property.

In spite of complaining to the police in Al-Shaikh Othman police station, the only thing the police did is stop my son from entering the premises, protect the bandits, and even filed suite against me

and issued an order of arrest. This matter of injustice escalated and reached the governor of Aden Al-Kohlani, who came by, inspected my legal documentations and property deeds, following that the governor cleared me from the police accusations but he did not do anything to support my case and instead harbored the bandits.

News said that the bandits owned property inside the land, how do you explain that?

While they were occupying the land they

had built an extension and an entrance to a neighboring house inside the land, they also claimed that had containers filled with wood worth US\$ 125,000 inside the land, but the truth is that they used my land to store their property without my permission inside my land and refused to get it out, they then claimed it was stolen and accuse me of stealing it, and demand the ownership of the land as compensation, its an utterly fraud which shows you how far bandits and criminals sponsored by the system can go.

The governor, deputy governor, district attorney, and the police continued to reject the court order, refuse to implement the president’s decision who specifically instructed that the court order be implemented, especially since none of the other parties has any legal documentation that the land is their property.

What are the measures the government has taken in order to implement the court order?

Talk! There were four letters sent to the governor of Aden demanding immediate implementation, one from the presidential office, one from the prime minister himself, one from the minister of local administration, and one from the President of the Authority for government estate. However the governor did not do anything whatsoever, and the deputy governor – who happens to be the chief of police – said that he will implement the orders, but until date he did not do anything. There were also appeals and

interventions from ten international bodies but the governor of Aden does not seem to care.

Why not?

Because the courts and the whole legal system – in spite of evident integrity – are valueless and meaningless, because whatever outcome from the legal system proceedings, it is going to be ignored. Or even worse, promote those corrupt persons such as the previous deputy attorney general of Aden who files many unfounded accusations against me in order to put me in jail, all these accusations were unfounded and following the court clearing me I demanded that the ethics committee investigate the deputy attorney, that didn’t happen and he automatically got promoted.

What do you plan on doing next?

Only one thing to do, I will appeal again to president Saleh and continue the struggle until my rightful right is realized and I reclaim my property even if it took me a hundred years, and my children after me will continue with the same demands even if this took forever.

Any last comments?

I just want to ask the governor of Aden to give some respect to his own decisions and commitments, and not to ignore implementing the court orders. God will uphold the justice regime even if it wasn’t a Muslim regime, and will stand up against the injustice regime even if that was a Muslim regime.

The IMF as Global Financial Anchor

By: Age Bakker and Perry Warjiyo

Today’s financial market turmoil has exposed weaknesses in the current global financial system, of which many were known but went unaddressed. This lack of action reflects the increased complexity and linkages of the global financial system, and the absence of an effective anchor for financial stability. Restoring financial market confidence has had to rely on liquidity injections by major central banks. While this appears to have been successful, questions remain as to whether the turmoil could have been averted and its impact mitigated.

The IMF can play an important role in this regard, owing to its truly global perspective – one that encompasses both advanced economies and emerging and developing economies, which are increasingly integrating into the global financial system. Moreover, the IMF does not focus on financial markets per se, but has unique expertise on the linkages between the real and financial economy. Finally, the IMF’s perspective is universal, looking across sectors and markets.

So far, the Fund has not fully exploited its unique position, because it has often been passive in reaching out, giving clear messages, and making recommendations to its members. But the current financial market turmoil has shown that there are regulatory and supervisory gaps and poorly understood international linkages that call for a global response. We believe that the IMF needs to move decisively on financial stability issues and be more proactive to help prevent and mitigate future crises. The IMF should work closely with the Financial Stability Forum, the Bank for International Settlements and other relevant international bodies. To strengthen the Fund’s financial stability role, we propose action in three related areas.

First, the IMF should promote financial stability through multilateral surveillance. It should be positioned at the center of international financial markets and provide an analytical platform, not only for central banks and finance ministries, but also for regulators, standard setters, and market participants. In particular, the Fund should enhance its understanding of the links between supervisory frameworks and macroeconomic conditions, including balance-of-payments and exchange-rate developments, by leveraging the wealth of cross-country information and expertise that it acquires

through missions to its 185 members.

This would enable it to identify macroeconomic threats to stability and encourage best practices for supervisors and regulators. Building on its research, the IMF could contribute more to the debate on the macroeconomic and financial implications of private equity, hedge funds, and sovereign wealth funds, and develop practical recommendations to enhance their contribution to international financial stability.

Second, the IMF should promote financial stability through bilateral surveillance. It needs to rethink how to address financial stability in its day-to-day work with members. Financial sector analysis should become fully integrated into the IMF’s surveillance activities. The IMF should also be more proactive and speak with greater candor in systemically important countries, where shortcomings in financial supervision and crisis management have appeared. It should assist emerging economies in shaping sound domestic financial markets.

These steps would require the IMF mission teams to become more diverse, bringing financial sector expertise in addition to the traditional macro and fiscal skills. The Fund needs to hire more financial sector experts, relying less on academic professionals.

Third, the Fund should assist members who have well-defined programs for liberalizing and integrating their economy into the global financial system. It should consider developing appropriate liquidity instruments to give confidence to emerging market economies that may be affected by a crisis beyond their control, rather than forcing them to build up ever-larger reserves or resort to regional arrangements for self-insurance.

Action in these three areas would help to create a multilateral institution with the authority and expertise to advise countries on supervisory and regulatory issues of systemic importance. The current turmoil highlights the international financial system’s need for such an institution. The members that we represent – advanced and emerging countries in Asia and Europe – want to play a role in re-establishing a strengthened IMF at the heart of the international monetary system.

Age Bakker and Perry Warjiyo are Executive Directors of the IMF from the Netherlands and Indonesia, respectively, and represent 25 countries in Asia and Europe. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.

Business in Brief

1.5 billion tones of genetically modified wheat seeds distributed

The General Corporation for increasing genetically improved seeds has distributed over 1.559 billion tones of wheat seeds in 2007, compared to 399 tones in 2006. This was done as a part of a six-year strategy to improve Yemen’s food security and encourage local farmers to produce wheat. The corporation is also buying the produce from the farmers at an increased price of 105,000 Riyals per tone from 65,000 Riyals per tone in previous years in order to increase farmers’ economic returns.

International trade to increase in 2008

The Ministry of Trade and Industry announced that it has licensed 563 new international trade agencies last year, and renewed licenses for another 2122 agencies. This substantial increase in the number of new trade agencies indicate better integration with the international trade market, with special focus on trading with the east, as Chinese companies got the lion share of 77 new agencies, followed by India with 51 new agencies.

Customs Director: Custom exemptions are corruption hotbeds

Director of the customs authority stated that custom exemptions are corruption hotbeds as they lead to forcing importers to finding questionable ways of seeking exemptions, stating that the government of Yemen had lost over 33 billion Riyals last year alone from these exemptions. The director also stated that they need to complete the customs computerization process and risk management unit to help the authority increase government revenue.

Al-Mutawakel: Corporate Governance is the bases of a stock market

Minister of Trade Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakel stated that Corporate Governance is very important to the development and expansion of the privat sector in Yemen. He also stated that pushing forward corporate governance is urgently needed in order to help the privat sector vitalize a planned stock exchange.

Agriculture Officials to be prosecuted for corruption

A source at the ministry of agriculture stated that high level officials will be prosecuted for conspiracy for corruption, for selling a government-owned agricultural company to a privat sector businessman for around 4.3% of the company’s worth. The Central Organization for Control and Audit is preparing the background documents for the prosecution.

Anti-corruption authority seeks cooperation

Director of the Supreme National Anti-Corruption Committee stated that the committee is seeking cooperation from all local and international partners and stakeholders in order to help it succeed. He also applauded assistance given by the World Bank, including training and capacity building activities for government officials in order to become more instrumental in combating corruption.

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You® View

Every month, there will be a fixed topic on which we would like to encourage Yemen Times readers to participate in. It could be an article, a short story, a poem, or even a picture. The person with the best contribution will receive a Yemen Times cap, T-Shirt or Mug. Send your contributions under the title of YOUR VIEW to: eljabree@gmail.com

This month view is about exam system in schools and universities: Good or bad?

Takeaway exams

By: Abdullah Faisal Al-Shamiry
New graduate, Sana'a University
Faculty of Languages, Translation
Dept.

I want to talk about the exam system in Yemeni schools and universities. The system is bad at some schools and universities, but good at others.

The bad involves most schools during high school ministerial exams. I've heard stories about one village school where a high school exam was conducted.

Approximately 15 minutes after students receive their exams, one of them throws his paper out of the classroom window where another

friend receives it and immediately goes to a teacher to answer the questions. He then returns the answers to the students via someone claiming to bring sandwiches and drinks into the exam hall.

Every morning, a committee comes to the village from the city. After 15 minutes, the students ask, "Where's the answer committee?" referring to the exam brokers who answer their questions.

Everyone in the exam hall prepares and there's a representative in every exam hall to collect the money to be given to the exam monitor to allow them to cheat.

Some students use SMS inside the exam hall to ask about some questions by contacting their friends nearby in

the exam.

The following are some incidents from this same high school:

- 1- Some exam brokers stand outside exam halls waiting for students to buy qat for them.
- 2- Students enter the classroom and open their answer booklets, awaiting the answers from outside.
- 3- Brokers sit in a nearby house with a computer to copy the exam and the cheated answers.
- 4- An exam committee chairman purchased a new cell phone, bought with money collected from students, but then he didn't know how to use it. When the mobile rang, he answered, "Hello?" without pressing the OK button.



Early marriage among women in developing countries

By: Saddam Ahmed Al-Ameri
Sad-sabri@maktoob.com

A study using data from 40 demographic and health surveys shows that a substantial proportion of women in developing countries continue to marry as adolescents.

Overall, between 20 and 50 percent of such women marry or enter a union by age 18, with between 40 and 70 percent doing so by their 20th birthday. Early marriage is most prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Women between ages 20 and 24 are less likely to have married by age 20 than are women aged 40-44. The differential is at least 10 percentage points in most countries, reaching 30-40 percentage points in some countries.

Education and age at first marriage are strongly linked at both the individual and the societal level. For example, a woman who has attended high school is considerably less likely to marry during adolescence, and in those countries with a higher proportion of women with secondary education, the proportion of those marrying as adolescents is lower.

The timing of the marriage or union is an important dimension of women's reproductive behavior with far-reaching consequences, particularly for their reproductive health and social

status. In many developing countries, between half and three-quarters of all first births for married women occur less than two years after entering their first union.

Thus, early marriage typically coincides with childbearing at a young age. Early pregnancy poses great health risks for a young woman, as well as for the infant, if she carries the pregnancy to term. These risks are exacerbated by poverty and inadequate access to maternal and child health services.

Moreover, those who marry at a young age likely will find motherhood the sole focus of their lives at the expense of development in other areas such as formal education and training for employment, work experience and personal growth.

Even their marriage may be jeopardized. A first marriage at an early age is associated in the long term with a higher probability of divorce and separation. In turn, marriage dissolution creates social and economic challenges for women who, as single parents, often assume full responsibility for dependent family members.

Due to concern about the negative consequences of early marriage among women, much of the 'girl child' discussion at the recent International Women's Conference in Beijing focused on the problem of girls marrying at a very young age, in some cases, even younger than a country's

legal minimum.

Many women's organizations regard early marriage as having detrimental consequences for women; therefore, advocacy groups and some national governments have responded with policy recommendations and programs to delay first marriages.

Across the developing world, the traditional patterns of early marriage for women have given way to later ages at first marriage, as the age at which women marry continues to vary widely both across and within countries.

This article will describe these differentials and trends over time and examines their association with socioeconomic development. Such information can provide insight into past and future trends in women's age at marriage, as well as assist policymakers and service providers in planning to meet young women's current and future educational, employment and health care needs.

We'll begin by describing women's current marriage patterns concerning the timing and changes in the marriage age over time. For example, how frequently do women in developing countries marry at relatively young ages and how has their age at first marriage changed over the past 20 years?

Throughout, we'll adopt a broad definition of marriage encompassing formal or legal marriage, as well as cohabitation; hence, we'll use the

Children lost in the jungle

By: Shafeek Al-Homaidi
shafeek990@yahoo.com

It's an unspeakable phenomenon that will really distract you if you take a real look at how it's creeping into our society. Actually, it's the affliction of child labor, where children under age 18 work on the streets.

A generation deemed to be a perfect picture of any country strikingly reflects its civilization and development. If a nation aspires toward a better and prosperous tomorrow, it first must treat its generations properly because its long-term goals will come true only through its future generations. However, in Yemen, where a child is the main source of income for his or her family, most children are completely deprived of even their most basic educational, health and welfare rights.

Poverty and dire basic needs have turned Yemeni children into workers and beggars on every street corner. It has pushed them outdoors to do any type of work, stretching out their hands for a palm-sized meal to satisfy their hunger.

Because parents are considered a family's main source of income, as soon as they are gone, the family feels it has no means left to maintain life and no legacy for a child to inherit except for an older child who is able to carry a huge responsibility on his or her shoulders. Such responsibility binds him to provide his family the major necessities.

The questions left quite unanswered are: What about those children who don't have any economic alternative to earning for their lives or no source of income? Do they think only of selling and buying commodities or will their thoughts carry them farther to commit crimes or violent acts against themselves or others?

The answer is a sad and predictable "Yes." This is what happens most in our society as we daily hear and read news reports about those who commit suicide or harm others by robbing, blackmailing, quarreling and even murdering.

As these deprived children grow up, they undoubtedly turn out to be vengeful toward their society with a passion to create panic among their family members and then eventually perpetrate so many social violent acts,



By: Shafeek Al-Homaidi

that we ignore the consequences.

I believe our society is afflicted with so-called "disturbing flight" because our children are far from settled, becoming lost and abandoned in a type of jungle.

I feel that everything here is brutal due to the way of living, which causes most children under age 14 to be saddled with major responsibilities and huge burdens for their families and thus, must work day and night to make their families' economic conditions boom.

It's a pity that these working children have inclinations, desires and passions to achieve and become distinguished in numerous educational fields via the learning process. However, at the same time, they are fully aware that their stumbling and disabled conditions will never allow their wings to carry them to the green oasis except through buying and selling those commodities consumed by their daily customers.

Allow me to speak freely. What comes to my mind is an incident that occurred when I was sent to teach the girls' section of a government high school. Some moments frustrated me, but one major problem left me miserable when one of my smartest students one day informed me, "Master, I'm leaving school after today," so I asked her, "Why such a sudden decision?"

She explained, "My family is comprised of my mother, my little brother and seven sisters, so I'm bound to do any type of legal work in order to raise myself and my family. Yet I know this work will never end our suffering and misery."

I responded to her, "You're so special and smart, being the best in every subject," to which she bitterly replied, "I know smartness brings education, education yields true hardworking children, true children bring fame and success to a nation and success brings money, so where's the money?"

I stood mute and tongue-tied, unable

to utter goodbye to the talented boys and girls like her who drop out of school to become beggars and workers. The number of children who beg has increased exponentially because they find that choosing this shortcut path is booming in places where it barely existed before.

In order to confront these challenges and prove that our government is doing right toward these children, not just kicking and sweeping them off corners or on the sidewalk if they're found working on the streets, should police strictly and relentlessly seize and remove their fragile goods or rather, should we spread awareness among these starving children and their families in an effort to reduce its increase? How can we condemn some children, particularly by condemning a crime generally?

We're all aware of the economic situations and increasing cost of living standards in our society. Food prices either creep or soar upward daily, sometimes seeming to increase one Yemeni riyal every minute.

Such price increases are like a poisonous snake moving underwater. We feel it but are unable to stop it, to the extent that all of those employed and being paid more or less in their positions – such as managers, teachers, engineers and doctors – sometimes consider selling on the streets, like these deprived children, just to keep pace with the rising prices.

All are afflicted by the worst possible acts in society. I'm not hinting at a general segment of our nation, but rather, one in particular and that is children.

How did we reach this stage? When we daily read about abuses and denied rights, we must ask ourselves the reason for such. The whole idea of legal guardianship of such children is for their protection; however, somewhere along the line, things shifted from "protection" to "controlling."

It's time to ask what the system has done to help the homeless and those living outdoors and the answer is nothing. They'll remain in these horrible and miserable conditions unless they receive something even worse for committing a crime.

When we met these fleeting children, they observe us with considerable bitterness, proclaiming, "Even the animals outside of Yemen have guardians to defend and care for them!"

In conclusion, I fear for my future children because one day, they'll be working on the street, as it is in Yemeni society.

New Year Again

By: Abdullatef Kaid AL-Jabri
Abdullatef_aljbree@yahoo.com

Superbly,
with the beams of that dawn
with the breeze of love mixing the
hopes tune,
with the clouds of faith shading
into our zone,
New dawn started, scattering the
nights gloom.

New years dawn come once again,
passed us on the life train.
Appeared to clean a year's pains
The renewed fountain,
where we irrigate the bliss, for the
glee we obtain.

on lakes of love, on shores to
entertain.
he grants us a chance to love,
to grow better grain,
to increase our gain.
Today, with his new stain,
wants to garland and paint
a new sheet in memory's chain.

But !!
Something, in this sheet seems
strange,
its souls stay on lonely steep
stone,
with weak smiles devoid of

intimate deeds,
inharmoniously dancing on a pale
face

From deep-rooted means,
there only the trace.

While we are sifting chaff from
husk

in place of grain of grace,
by the happiness ash, in his
portrait,

we wanna deface
What a strange case!?!
Weighing down in mourning
burden,

for our restraints want to slacken
Frustrated, stunned year's, by us
can't be loosened

Even his ghost tries to sneak,
scanning the horizon,
Lost in thought, seeking the
reason

Why we became sailors in the
Dark Ocean?
why love and faith gonna be
broken and hidden?

Is this theirs or life's chosen?
And wonders,
When will these wooden souls
waken?!

Laden with love to get my
leaven?!

and by God's boon our
love and peace will be grown?!

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فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩
ص.ب: ٥٤٦٥
Email: shaibani@yemen.net.ye

مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي
للخدمات العقارية
حده - الحي السياسي - الأصحي - بيت بوس
سيار: ٧٣٣٨٠٢٨٥٥

للبيع: أرضية وفق شارعين ، حده ، خلف منزل لوي السلامي، مساحتها ٢٧ لينة . سعر المنطقة.
* للبيع دورين مؤجر بالدرار ، حده ، مساحة الأرضية حوالي ١٤ لينة حر . الموقع ممتاز جدا.
* للبيع ٣ أدوار ، حده ، شارعين ركن ، مساحة الأرضية ١٤ لينة حر. سعر البيع مائة مليون ريال.
* للبيع: دور وبدوم جديد ، حده ، مؤجر بالدولار، مساحة الأرضية حوالي ١١ لينة حر. حجر دائري.
* للبيع: أرضية حر استثمارية قريبة جداً من شارع حده، حده، مساحتها أكثر من ١٠٠ شوارع مسفلته.
* للإيجار: دورين وملحق في الدور الثالث، مفروشة، حده، ٣ غرف نوم، ٤ حمامات، صالة جلوس، صالة طعام، ديوان في الدور الثالث مع حديقة في السطوح، منظر جميل للمدينة. الإيجار الشهري: ١٠٢٠٠ دولار
* دورين وبدوم، جديد، حده، ١٠ غرف، صالتيْن كبيرتين، ٦ حمامات، حوش للسيارات. الإيجار الشهري ٣٠٠٠ ألف دولار

للتواصل: ٧١١٧٠٤٣٩١

سيارات

- للبيع: سيارة دايهاتسو ٢٠٠٣ - نظيفة جدا - السعر مغري للتواصل: ٧١١٣٥٥٢٤٣
- للبيع: سيارة جلنت ميتسوبيشي - موديل ٨٥ - اللون ذهبي - المواصفات خليجية - السعر مغري جداً للتواصل: ٧٧٧١٠٣٥٥٤
- للبيع: سيارة كرسيدا موديل (٩٣) - XL عادي - اللون أحمر (دم الغزال) - نظيفة - بدون جمارك للتواصل: ٧١١٧٥٥٣٣١ - ٠١/٥١٩٠٢٩
- للبيع: سيارة هيلوكس غمارتين - موديل ٨٧ - اللون أبيض - اللوحة خصوصي - الحالة جيدة للتواصل: ٧٣٤٣٢٧٥٥٥

الوقت المسائي.

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٣٦٨٩٤٠

- يحي حسين حسين - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية + دبلوم سكرتارية - خبرة لمدة ستة أشهر في شركة سياحية كبيرة في اليمن - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية واستخدام الكمبيوتر. للتواصل: ٧١٢٤٨٧٤١٠
- عدنان محمد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية (آداب) - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية بطلاقة - خبرة عالية في مجال الترجمة واستخدام الكمبيوتر والإنترنت. للتواصل: ٧١٣٢٨٢١٥١
- بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب - خبرة في مجال الصيانة والبرمجة - خبرة في مجال بيع وبرمجة التلفون السيار - دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية وفي مجال المبيعات - له القدرة على تصميم المواقع - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه. للتواصل: ٧١٨١٨٤٢٠
- ثانوية عامة - كلية التجارة مستوى ٣ - دبلوم كمبيوتر حديث - حاصل على عدة دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية والإنترنت + دورة في النظام الحاسوبي يمن سوفت + خبرة في مجال الحسابات والسكترارية + خبرة في مجال العلاقات العامة. للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٠٢٩٢١

عقارات

فوتوشوب - خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية ، السكرتارية والترجمة والكمبيوتر والبحوث - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه في الفترة الصباحية

التواصل: ٧١١٤٣٩٤٨

- محمد المقطري - بكالوريوس ميكروبيولوجي طبي (مختبرات) - جامعة اب - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه
- للتواصل: ٧٧١٩٥٩٦٩٤
- موسى الصلوي - خريج المعهد التقني - تخصص كهرباء عام - تقدير جيد جداً - خبرة في مجال استخدام الحاسوب - يبحث عن عمل مناسب للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧٥٥٠٠١
- محمد حزام قحطان - بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب ونظم معلومات بتقدير عام جيد جداً - خبرة في صيانة الكمبيوتر وفي البرمجة - خبرة في التعامل مع برامج أوفيس وكذلك الفوتوشوب - خبرة في تحليل وتصميم نظم - تصميم مواقع ويب باستخدام فرونت بيج - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أو في أي مجال مناسب. للتواصل: ٧١٢١٠٦٥٨٢
- علي يحي - خريج كلية المجتمع - صنعاء - برمجة كمبيوتر - جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧٨٥١٥٥٨

وظائف شاغرة

- مطلوب موظفة تجيد الآتي ١- اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً ٢- المراسلات التجارية ٣- تكون حسنة المظهر. الفترة دوامين - الراتب: ٢٥٠ دولار تُرسل السيرة الذاتية علفاكس رقم ٠١ / ٢١٨٣٣٥
- مطلوب موظفين عدد اثنين لوكالة سفريات على أن تتوفر فيهما - خبرة في مجال إصدار التذاكر والحجز ولديهما شهادات في BASIC و INTERMEDIATE و BSB - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية واستخدام الكمبيوتر. ترسل الطلبات إلى فاكس (٠١٤١٥٣١٦)

باحثون عن وظيفة

- بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة تعز - دورات في الكمبيوتر - دورة في النظام الحاسوبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت) - خبرة في المحلات التجارية للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢
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مستشفيات

مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٢٤٩٦٧-٦٦
مستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٣٧٤٢٨١/٧٧
مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤١٣٩١١
مستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠٠
فاكس: ٤١٨١١٦
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

فندق قرصا ت: ٠١-٤٣٥٧٧-١/٢
فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠٠
فندق موفيميك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
فندق تاج سبا ت: ٠١-٣٧٣٧٣٧
فندق ريلكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٨٧١١
فندق واجحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٣٥٠ - ٦٠٣٣٥٠/٨

البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج
فرع عدن ت: ٢٣٧٨٩٩ - ٢٣٧٨٩٩
بنك التضامن الإسلامي ت: ٠١/٦٦٦٦٦٦
البنك التجاري ت: ٧٧٣٢٤
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٣٧٥٠٣٤٧٠٢
فاكس: ٣٦٧٠٣٥٠-٣٥٠٣٥٠

معاهد

معهد يالي ت: ٤٤٨٠٣٧-٣٧٠٤٥٤٢
معهد اللغة الألمانية ت: ٢٠٠٩٤٥
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٣٦٦٣٢٢
فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥

تأجير سيارات

زايوه (Budget) ت: ٣٠٩٦١٨-٥٠٦٣٧٢
يوروب كار ت: ٢٧-٧٥١
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٥٩٥٥
عدن ت: ٢٠٤٥٦٣٥

شركات للتأمين

الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٢٧٧١٣/٧٧٧١٣
مأرب للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٠٦١٢٩/٨١٣
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعاء ت: ٣٨٤١٩٣
عدن ت: ٣٤٤٣٨٠
تعز ت: ٣٥٨٨١١

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

أبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١.

صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٣٣٠٥
فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٧٤١٩
عدن ت: ٢٠٠٣٧١٩٩
تعز ت: ٤٠٢٥-٢٤٣٠
المكلا ت: ٥٠٢-٧٤٩٢

مدارس

مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٣٧/٤٢٤-٤٣٣
مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٣٧-١٩١٧/٤
مدرسة التركية الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

البريد السريع

Infnit Education T: 444553
NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

سفرات

النسيم للسفرات ت: ٣٧٠٧٥٠
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١٥١٥/٦٠

مطاعم

مطعم ومخبزة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون: ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩

قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣)

Nominated World Heritage Site facing development threats

Socotra is a spectacular group of remote Yemen islands in the Arabian Sea. With a long history of isolation the archipelago possesses a high level of endemism (species found nowhere else in the world), with over 300 unique plants, 21 reptiles and over 60 endemic butterflies and moths.

The uniqueness of Socotra's avifauna is also impressive with at least eight endemic species. Additionally, 12 species occur that are classified as threatened and 24 occur in internationally significant numbers. The islands' population of the Endangered Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* is in excess of 1,000 individuals, probably the highest concentration in the world.

"The people of Socotra certainly need some essential roads. However they also need to preserve their unique environment, as it is certainly their most important economic asset"

Malek Abdulaziz, Programme Manager for the Socotra Conservation and Development Programme

The archipelago is also of international importance for its breeding

seabirds. Ten species breed, two species of which (Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax* and Socotra Cormorant *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*) are classified as globally threatened. All this makes these islands globally important for birds.

In view of this amazing richness in biodiversity Socotra has been nominated for the prestigious accolade of a World Heritage Site.

"We are so proud that our wonderful island of Socotra has been nominated as a World Heritage Site because of its unique biodiversity", says Abdul-Rahman Al-Eryani, Yemen's Minister of Water and Environment. The Minister was also excited by Socotra's Detwah Lagoon becoming Yemen's first Ramsar site following the country's recent accession to the Ramsar Convention.

However, sensitive and ecologically important areas of Socotra are currently threatened by uncontrolled development, in particular the proposal to construct a new road system. The scale and construction of many new roads is inappropriate, given the sensitive nature of the Socotran ecosystem.

If these roads are built they will seriously impact on the island's wildlife and especially its unique plants and birds. Nineteen bird species of conservation concern could be affected because of the likely destruction of their breeding habitat and nest sites. These include Jouanin's Petrel,



The Socotran race of Golden-winged Grosbeak is one of the species threatened by uncontrolled development on Socotra.



Dragon's Blood Trees: Socotra has over 300 species of endemic plant

Island Cisticola *Cisticola haesitatus*, Socotra Warbler *Incana incana*, Socotra Starling *Onychognathus frater*, Socotra Sunbird *Nectarinia balfouri*, Golden-winged Grosbeak *Rhynchostruthus socotranus* and Socotra Bunting *Emberiza socotrana*.

"It is essential that this proposed road building programme is examined carefully by the Yemen Government before it seriously affects Socotra's fragile and internationally renowned environment", says Richard Porter, one of the authors of a report on the roads recently sent to the President of Yemen by BirdLife International and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

"The people of Socotra certainly need some essential roads.

"It would be a global tragedy if this programme were to affect Socotra's chances of becoming a World Heritage Site"

Richard Porter

However they also need to preserve their unique environment, as it is certainly their most important economic asset. A sound balance between development and biodiversity conservation is therefore critical for the appropriate development of the island", said

Malek Abdulaziz, Programme Manager for the Socotra Conservation and Development Programme.

BirdLife is calling on the government of Yemen to build only essential roads that are beneficial for local communities, in a way that is sensitive to the environment. In addition, the cost saving would be enormous, allowing much needed small-scale local development, and there would not be the serious impact on wildlife and the island's increasingly important eco-tourism.

"It would be a global tragedy if this programme were to affect Socotra's chances of becoming a World Heritage Site", says Porter.

Source: www.birdlife.org



Uncontrolled road building has devastating effects on Socotra's biodiversity

Odd News

Woman, 89, uses ax to get back home
DURANGO, Colo.(AP) — Accidentally locked out of her home and stuck in the bitter cold, Geraldine "Gerry" Palmer took matters into her own hands.

An ax, to be more specific. Palmer, who turns 90 this weekend, said a sliding glass door locked behind her Saturday after she went outside to rearrange some things that had gotten wet on the patio. Snow had formed a pile about 7 feet high between her and the yard, so she had no escape.

So Palmer picked up an old ax she had once used to chop wood and broke into her own home.

"I had to bang the glass four times with the ax before it broke," she said.

After smashing the glass in the sliding patio door, she reached inside and unlock it.

Ghost-like white stag spotted
LONDON (Reuters) - A mythical and ghostly creature has appeared in the wilds of the Scottish Highlands — and has been caught on camera.

The rare white stag, from the red deer species, is believed to be among just a tiny handful living in Britain, according to a conservation group.

The John Muir Trust is now keeping the stag's location secret for fear of poachers.

"To see him amongst the other stags was truly thrilling because he does look like a ghost: you do a double-take," Trust Partnership Manager Fran Lockhart, who filmed the stag, told Reuters.

White stags are seen as a magical and powerful force in many mythologies.

The animal's ghostly glow comes from a recessive gene which causes leucism, a condition which reduces the normal brown coloring in hair and skin. They are not albinos, which have red eyes due to lack of pigment.

In Celtic traditions, white stags represent messengers from the afterlife. Arthurian legend has it that the creature can never be caught — King Arthur's pursuit of the animal represents mankind's spiritual quest.

It is also said that for those who set eyes on the animal, a momentous moment is near.

"They say their appearance is meant to herald some profound change in life for those who encounter them — but I am still waiting," said Lockhart.

Her dog, though, stood transfixed for 45 minutes watching the white stag, instead of his usual scampering around.

Lockhart believes the Scottish Highlands' white stag is between 6 and 7 years old. She said he is maturing well, with a good set of antlers.

The last official recording of a white red stag in Britain, not to be confused with the more common white fallow deer, was last October when the body of one was found decapitated on the moors between Devon and Cornwall.



Man plunges to death into reservoir after capturing and releasing skunk

SAN DIMAS - After capturing and releasing a skunk Thursday, a man was killed when his SUV went off San Dimas Canyon Road and plunged into the San Dimas Reservoir, officials said.

Relatives called the sheriff's San Dimas Station about 11:30 a.m. to report that 60-year-old Frank Wykofka, of San Dimas, had not returned after driving up to the area near the dam at about 8 a.m. to release a skunk he captured in his back yard, family members and officials said.

Wykofka's Ford SUV was pulled from the reservoir about 4:20 p.m. and his body was found inside, said California Highway Patrol Officer John Tapia.

Wykofka's daughter, Theresa Loose, 33, of La Verne, said he would

often come up into the area to release captured skunks so they wouldn't get run over by cars in the city.

"It's something he does all the time," she said.

He had been sprayed by a skunk several weeks ago while setting it free in the area, family members said, but wouldn't let that deter him from helping the animals.

Wykofka enjoyed spending time outdoors and "he always loved animals," said his sister, Donna Wright, 60, of La Verne.

Family members became worried when Wykofka didn't show up for work at Gaston Termite and Pest Control in San Dimas, which he owned, said Loose.

After reporting Wykofka missing to the sheriff's department, more than a dozen of his family members searched the area near the reservoir themselves, said U.S. Forest Service Capt. Herman Garcia.

About 1 p.m., Wykofka's family went to the ranger station at 9292 San Dimas Canyon Road to ask if anyone has seen him, Garcia said.

Garcia said he began searching himself and soon discovered "some debris which appeared to be fresh," along a sharp turn in San Dimas Canyon Road above the dam, as well as disturbed dirt and plants between the road and the water, indicating a recent crash.

Garcia said when he went down to the water's edge for a closer look and found a map book and Wykofka's business cards.

Sheriff's rescue divers from the San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team were called in and located the vehicle, but could not locate the body in the murky water, Tapia said.

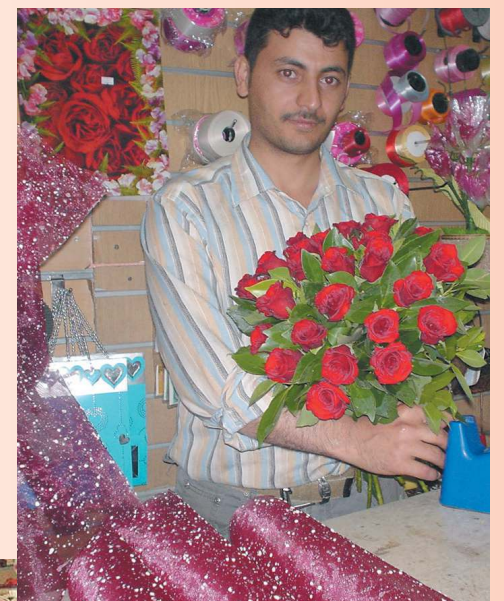
A second more specialized team of divers was called in to search for a body and prepare the SUV to be hoisted out of the water by a large tow truck, said Tapia. Once the SUV was recovered, the body was discovered inside, he said.

Loose said Wykofka, a Vietnam War veteran, is survived by his wife Cathy, his children Theresa, Franky and Heather, and two grandchildren. www.pasadenastarnews.com

Valentine in photos



Valentine's Day is the biggest money-maker for florists in Yemen. Mother's Day is the next best holiday for floral sales.



Florists said that their daily income averages around YR 15,000 per day, but on Valentine's Day, they can make up to YR 1,000,000.



Most flower and gifts shops prepare their Valentine's Day offerings and specials up to one month beforehand.



70 percent of florists' customers on Valentine's Day are female. Many girls at universities in Sana'a wear something red and give red gifts to each other.



Fresh flowers, teddy bears, and love notes are the most desired gifts on Valentine's Day.