

**Hertz**  
**HERTZ LEASE**  
 You are in safe hands...  
 Universal Rent a Car  
 Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625  
 Movenpick Branch (01) 546063

# YEMEN TIMES

**Europcar**  
 YOU RENT A LOT MORE THAN A CAR  
 Special Offer from europcar Yemen  
 Rent 7 days pay 6 days  
 Email: europcar@y.net.ye  
 SAM CITY HOTEL, AL-QIYADA ST. P.O. BOX 3072,  
 SANAA, Head Office Tel: (01)270751 Fax: (01)270804  
 Airport Office Tel: (01) 346666 - Fax: (01)346665

Thursday, 21 February, 2008 • Issue No. 1131 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com

Price 40 Yemeni Riyals

**Inside:**



**2**  
 Two children kidnapped because of mistaken identity



**5**  
 A Yemeni soccer player's appeal to get back his dignity



**8**  
 Price of bread loaf doubles in Aden

## Human situation in Sa'ada worsens amid indicators of relative quiet

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Feb. 20 — The presidential mediation committee signed on Monday a schedule to implement an agreement reached by the government and Houthis last June, media sources said, adding the human situation in the governorate is worsening.

Humanitarian news website *irin-news.org* quoted aid workers as saying that children and teenagers in Sa'ada are suffering from psychological disorders and other health problems due to the repeated clashes between government troops and Houthis since June 2004. The website continued that this information is based on a field survey, conducted by the Charitable Medical Association in 15 Sa'ada districts between August and October 2007, funded by UNICEF.

The humanitarian news website, attributed to Social & Psychological Support Program Technical Coordinator Mohammed Al-Makrami, reported that survey results show that locals in the war-affected areas are suffering from grief, depression and trouble due to the fighting. Al-Makrami added that 53.2 percent of those sur-

veyed suffer from acute depression and 49.2 percent are psychologically shocked.

The survey targeted 1,400 participants, among them 630 children and teenagers, with those who witnessed the Sa'ada war accounting for 92.4 percent of those surveyed.

In the midst of the suffering, there appears to be a relative peace. Noted mediation committee member and media officer Abdu Al-Janadi expressed, "Situations are stable in the Sa'ada governorate and both conflicting sides are abiding by the ceasefire agreement."

Al-Janadi continued that "We are optimistic about the Sa'ada situation and have nothing to worry about," pointing out that the committee is practicing its activities flexibly and in cooperation with the Qatari team that arrived in Sa'ada last Thursday to oversee how committed the government and Houthis are to the ceasefire agreement.

Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) leaders stressed their rejection of the war, demanding that clashes be ended through a comprehensive national vision to involve all the Yemeni politi-

cal parties and forces. Only this can ensure an end to the clashes, according to JMP leaders.

Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar met JMP leaders on Sunday and briefed them on the government's viewpoint on the most recent Doha-brokered agreement to end ongoing confrontations between Houthi loyalists and military troops in Sa'ada.

Well-informed sources stated that Prime Minister reproached the opposition parties over their letter addressed to the president of the Republic, which he described as "unjust". He ascertained the government was supporting JMP involvement in the presidential mediation committee; however, some JMP leaders declared they are boycotting the committee and rejecting any compromise between the conflicting sides.

JMP leaders denied what Mujawar said, affirming that their plan of forming the mediation committee comes as part of a national vision and that their letter did not indicate any objection to the committee, mandated to oversee the ceasefire agreement.

Continued on page 2



Children waiting for aids in Sada'a city.

## Danish cartoon reprinting sparks outrage again

By Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — The Yemeni parliament formed a committee in its session on Sunday to prepare letters to the Arab parliament, Islamic parliament, The European Union's parliament, the United Nations and the Danish parlia-

ment denouncing the reprinting of a Danish cartoons insulting Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in 17 Danish newspapers.

The collection of 12 cartoons, which sparked international rioting, was first published two years ago and reprinted all over the world. The most notorious cartoon in the collection depicts the Prophet Muhammad wearing a turban containing a bomb.

The cartoon was reprinted again in Denmark last week, following the arrest of three men in Denmark who were allegedly plotting to kill the cartoonist.

"One of the strongest opponents to the cartoon story did in fact print the cartoon this time," said a representative from International Media Support, a

Danish company that helps train independent media in developing countries. "The chief editor said that this would be the natural reaction by media to show the readers what caused someone to wanting to kill the cartoonist."

The parliamentary committee which will be writing the anti-cartoon letters is comprised of Shawqi Al-Qadhi, Aref Al-Sabri, Sultan Al-Barakani, Sultan Al-Atwani and Nabil Al-Basha, all representing the various Yemeni political parties.

MP Mansour Al-Zindani, from Islamic Islah party, declared his resignation from the Yemeni-Danish Friendship Committee and lamented the government's and political parties' silence in the face of blasphemous caricatures. Al-Zindani asked parliament

to schedule a public protest march at Al-Sabeen Square against the Danish cartoons, demanding the Ministry of Trade and Industry to stop importation from and exportation to Denmark.

MP Shawqi al-Qadhi, who is member of the Rights and Liberties Committee in parliament, called on Yemenis to temper their reactions to the reprinting of the cartoon, unlike the other members of parliaments who call for cutting off friendship with Denmark.

Al-Qadhi called to establish a "communication between Muslims and Danish people" reminding Yemenis that Danish parliament support the Palestinian situation. However, he also said that Muslims have the right to be angry, but they should choose the right

method to express their views without being emotional, which could lead to more misunderstandings. "I'm the one who called for sending letters to the UN, international parliaments and the Organization of Islam conference in order to make a decisive resolution banning the desecration of religions and prophets," said Al-Qadhi.

Ahmed Al-Rabhi, head of the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate, also condemned the republishing of the drawing. Al-Rabhi said that even though the reprinting of the cartoon was shown in relation to reports about the plot to kill the cartoonist, it was not an excuse to republish the hurtful cartoon. "They can put these people on trial, but don't republish the drawings," he said.

The National Committee for Rights

and Freedoms (HOOD) added their voice to the chorus of condemnation for the cartoon reprinting, citing that the reprinting incites discrimination and resentment.

HOOD also condemned the plot to kill the cartoonist and stated that the organization is against any violent attack against any human being. "However, reprinting the cartoons will just widen the hate and the gap between Muslims and the West," said Ahmed Arman, a human rights activist representing HOOD.

The fallout from the cartoon reprinting has caused widespread protests ranging from non-violent, planned marches to spontaneous outbursts of violence. Muslims currently make five percent of the Danish population.

Want service and value?  
**Budget**  
 Car Rental  
 National and International Reservations  
 Reservation Tel. 309618 - 506372, Reservation Fax. 240958,  
 Hadda, Reservation Tel. 411727  
 24 hours (Hot Line) 733652317

**ALSAEED TRADING COMPANY**  
 A Yemeni Closed Stock Company  
**Yemen's Major Exporter of FMCG products.**  
 Yemen, Taiz - P.O. Box 5351  
 Tel: +967 (4) 232727 (10 Lines)  
 Fax: +967 (4) 223851 / 231642 / 219112  
 E-mail: alsaeed@alsaeed.com.ye  
 Website: www.alsaeedtrading.com

المستشفى التخصصي الحديث  
 Modern Hospital  
 مستشفى - فرع عطان - ت - 4444  
 مستشفى - فرع عطان - ت - 4444  
 Email: info@hadithalabi.com  
 www.hadithalabi.com

عبر العالم في الوقت تماماً  
**The World on Time**  
**FedEx**  
 Express  
 خدمات التخليص للملء مجاناً  
**SANA'A Tel.: 440170/67 صنعاء**

**Abu Tawfiq co.**  
 Famous Agents of Swislerland Watches  
 sana'a - tahriyr St.  
 Tel. : 00967 1 280712  
 Fax : 00967 1 273507  
 P.O. Box : 2526  
**AA APPELLA**  
 SWISS MADE SINCE 1843

**Qarnaw**  
 For Oilfield Services  
**قرنأو**  
**QARNAW**  
 (A Member of Al-Shaif Intn'l Group)  
 Qarnaw provides highest quality services through the provision of Competent personnel and State of the Art well-maintained equipment.  
 Tel. 01 448447/8, Fax 01 448446 3rd Floor,  
 Sana'a Trade Center, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
 E-M: godwin@qarnaw.com W: www.shaifgroup.com

**SAMSUNG**  
 imagine sharpness better than real  
**SAM Digital**  
 IT-telecom & AV  
 Tel.: +967 1 494700 - 494999

**KONICA MINOLTA** كونيكا مينولتا  
 COLOUR B/W  
 Choose your best MFP Products Lineup  
**Thabet Son Corporation** مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة  
 Sana'a : Tel.-278546-8 Fax:-283596, Taiz : Tel.-219057 Fax:-214306, Aden : Tel.-244625  
 Fax:-246787, Hodeidah : Tel.-204488 Fax:-204490, Mukalla : Tel.-316710 Fax:-316711  
 E-mail: tsc@yemen.net.ye, Website: www.thabetson.com.ye

شركة صناعات ومطاحن عذون (ش.م.ي)  
**Aden Silos & Mills Co. (S.Y.C.)**

## In Brief

SANA'A

## One million Riyals for 3 modern art paintings

The three best paintings in an exhibit to be organized mid-May this year are to receive financial awards from the Ministry of Culture. The exhibition is a competition for modern art paintings of Yemeni youth not older than 35 years. It will be a part of a Sana'a Arab modern arts exhibit that will be conducted in May. The paintings will be evaluated by an independent committee of well-known Yemeni and Arab artists who will participate in the assembly.

## Education ministry rewards 30 English teachers

Yemen's Education Ministry, in cooperation with the British Council, rewarded on Tuesday 30 Yemeni English teachers from a number of Sana'a schools after they passed a British Cambridge University exam. Education Minister Abdul-Salam al-Jawfi said that the program was the first of its kind, which will contribute to creating excellent English teachers. He expressed his hope that the program will be expanded to train many English teachers in the country. The English Language Education program started in early 2006 and will continue for seven years in Sana'a, Aden and Taiz.

## Second women's sports festival

The second women's sports festival concludes tomorrow in Sana'a after one week of various competitions in chess, karate and track and field. The competitions included female athletes from around the republic and were supervised by representatives of the Yemeni Sports Union and Ministry of Youth and Sports.

ADEN

## Beach cleaning campaign

On the occasion of World Environment Day (Feb. 20), the Environmental Awareness Center in Aden organized a campout on Tuesday to rid beaches of waste and garbage in the governorate. A number of environmentalists led 160 students in the cleaning process on Gold Moor, Abyan and Al-Buriqa beaches. The event was accompanied by a number of awareness sessions on the importance of the environment and how to preserve it.

LAHJ

## Local broadcast station launched

This week, a local radio station in Lahj governorate will begin broadcasting daily between 9 am and 4 pm. The station is state-run and will focus on local issues in Lahj, broadcasting local events such as football games, religious ceremonies and cultural activities in the governorate. The station is equipped with machinery and staff funded from the Ministry of Information.

AMRAN

## Training for school counselor

Nineteen psychological specialists from Amran received training for 11 days on educational therapy and dealing with youth social problems. The training, organized by the Ministry of Education, included counseling basics, tools and techniques to identify problems and methods of treatment. It also included sessions on engaging parents and society involvement in for the well being of students.

MAHWIT

## Preparations for Anti-Bilharzias campaigns in Mahwit discussed

Mahwit's governor and World Health Organization (WHO) officials discussed preparations for the National Anti-Bilharzias Campaign in the province. The campaign, which would be implemented in March by the Ministry of Public Health and Population in cooperation with the WHO, targets 2.5 million children between the ages of 6 and 18 in 107 districts across the country. The National Anti-Bilharzias Program Director said that in 2007, the program carried out surveys in four districts in the province aimed at eradicate Bilharzias, deeming the polluted water resources as the main cause of the disease.

## Two children kidnapped because of mistaken identity

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — Two Yemeni families are still suffering from the kidnapping of their children, taken by tribal groups eight months ago.

The story caught human rights organizations' and the public's attention, and they have demanded that the government take action. Abdul Allah Ali Saleh Al-Komim, 15, and Mohammed Yahya Naser Al-Komim, 17, were kidnapped by a tribe 50 kilometers

outside Sana'a. For over eight months, these children have been kept away from their school, friends and families.

Abdul Allah Al-Komim's family lives in a small home with three rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom. According to the family, their son was kidnapped on May 30, 2007.

"That day he was late for lunch, so I tried to call him," said Namah Saleh Najee Al-Komim, 55, mother of Abdul Allah. But his phone was switched off.

After many attempts, Abdul Allah's mother reached him. "Abdul Allah, where are you, son?" asked Namah Al-Komim.

"I am in Bani Dhabyan," he replied.

She was not shocked to hear that her son had traveled outside of Sana'a; she assumed that he was attending a friend's wedding. But after Abdul Allah told her that he had been kidnapped, she broke down.

"I was informed that eight individuals had kidnapped my son," said Namah Al-Komim. "When the owner of the telecom shop where Abdul Allah worked tried to help him, the kidnappers threatened to hurt him."

"I do not eat, nor drink water, nor sleep," said Namah Al-Komim. "I am fasting and praying to God Almighty to save and return my son."

"The last call I received from him was two days ago," said Namah Al-Komim. "Every second, I think that I hear him knocking and I run to open the door, but do not find him."

## A Case of mistake identity and dispute over land

As the Al-Komim family later found out, their son had been abducted because of a land dispute between a tribe and a businessman who shared their same last name, Abdul Allah Ahmed Saleh Al-Nakeeb Al-Komim. However, the kidnappers demanded a ransom anyway. The problem revolves around land located in Al-Safiya neighborhood, valued at

3,000,000,000 YR. The kidnappers' original aims for or claims to the land are still unclear at this time.

"We [the parents] and the businessman Abdul Allah Ahmed Saleh Al-Nakeeb Al-Komim are from the same countryside, but we do not know him," said Namah Al-Komim. "He has a problem with the kidnappers. We just share the same last name."

When Abdul Allah's parents went to inform Abdul Allah Ahmed Saleh Al-Nakeeb Al-Komim that their son was kidnapped due to a tribal struggle over his land, Al-Komim replied that he sold the disputed land and no longer owns any part of it.

Ali Saleh Al-Komim, Abdul Allah's father, works for a rural water project run by the government.

"As for the ransom, we are not able to pay it. The only thing which we have is this simple home, which cost 3,000,000 YR," said Ali Saleh Al-Komim. "Besides, even this home is a partnership between six people - my brothers, my sisters, and me."

Ali Saleh Al-Komim said he tried to secure the release of his son through both tribal law and the government, but neither method worked.

Abdul Allah's father said that the tribe took his son from school. He often thinks of traveling to Bani Dhabyan, but he knows the tribe is surrounded by mountains that make it inaccessible.

## Another boy kidnapped

According to government records, the same tribe was involved with a second kidnapping of 17-year old Mohammed Yahya Naser Al-Komim. Yahya Al-Komim, Mohammed's father, said his son was kidnapped by six men.

"My son was abducted in front of the mosque," said Yahya Al-Komim. "I lost my job and took my other children out of school."

Mohammed's five other brothers and sisters have also dropped out of school, fearing they would be kidnapped as well.

"We knew that the tribe meant to kidnap this businessman, but because our children have the same last name, they kidnapped the wrong people," said Mohamed's father. "Although the kidnappers knew that they took the wrong people, they won't release them. Instead they asked for 70,000,000 YR."

He added that before his son was kidnapped, he had never heard anything about the tribal land dispute that caused

they are discovered.

Government officials and specialized doctors assured citizens in the infected areas that the disease isn't fatal and can be easily treated.

Majed Al-Juneid, MPHP Preliminary Healthcare Sector Undersecretary, noted, "In case three or even five human cases are found infected with myiasis, this doesn't necessarily mean that people should consider it an epidemic. A glance at the list of epidemics, which citizens have to remain aware of, will reveal that myiasis is not included in the list, nor is it an epidemic at all."

"Our duty is to assure people about the easy treatment of the disease and not to shift our attention from the real health problems that put people's lives at risk," Al-Junaid went on to say.

He confirmed that the disease primarily infects animals, while poor health conditions and personal hygiene are the primary reasons for the infection. "Cleanliness is the first preventative

## Monument to be erected for Spanish tourists

SANA'A, Feb 20 — The Yemeni-Spanish Friendship Association (YSFA) in Sana'a is to organize a commemoration in Marib city in the coming few months. The commemoration is to be held in memory of the Spanish tourists who were killed in Marib.

On July 2, 2007, seven Spanish tourists and two Yemenis were killed when an apparent suicide bomber linked to Al-Qaeda rammed a car packed with explosives into their convoy.

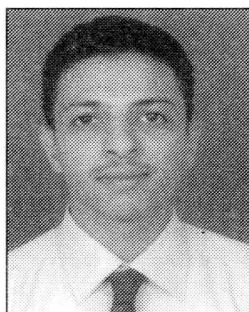
The commemoration is to be held in coordination with Yemen's embassy in Madrid and the Spanish embassy in Sana'a.

Abdullah Nasser Al-Kharraz, chairman of the YSFA, said the event would coincide with the first commemoration of the seven Spanish tourists. He added a monument is to be erected in the place where the incident took place. "The Spanish tourists' families will be invited, in addition to social, media and political Yemeni figures, to attend the event," he said.

Al-Kharraz further noted that his association seeks to open a Yemeni-Spanish cultural center in coordination with the Spanish embassy in Sana'a. The center will work to enhance cultural relations between Yemen and Spain.



Ali and Namah Al-Komim sit in front the pile of official papers they have accumulated while trying to secure the release of their son Abdul Allah.



these events.

The family has lived in extreme fear since June 13, 2007, the day that Mohammed was kidnapped. They will not open their front door unless they know who is behind it.

Both families communicate with the kidnappers every two months.

"My son said he is fine, but I don't think he could speak freely, as he might sense that the cell phone is tapped," speculated Yahya Al-Komim.

Yahya Al-Komim wondered why the kidnappers have not followed President Ali Abdullah Saleh's orders to return his son.

## Government efforts fail

In August 2007, President Ali Abdullah Saleh directed an official paper to the

deputy of the head of the cabinet demanding the return of the kidnapped children. The president's statement also called for the arrest of the kidnappers. Though more than five months have passed since the president's demand, the boys are not yet back home.

Both families are calling on the Minister of the Interior - through this inter-

view - to launch a security campaign to rescue the two children. The kidnappers are still demanding a 70,000,000 YR ransom to return the boys.

## Human rights NGOs add their support

The families have also reached out to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that specialize in human rights.

"We have sent a message to the deputy of the head of the Cabinet, asking him to direct specialized security to apply court orders [to release the children]," said Ahmed Arman, an activist with the Hood National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms.

Arman also wants to see the president's orders to punish the kidnappers

enacted as well.

"Despite the fact that the parents told police about the kidnappings immediately, no action has been taken to release the abducted children," said Arman. "In addition, the relevant security authorities refused to execute the prosecution's order to forcibly arrest the suspects and bring them to court."

## Over eight months later, stalemate remains

The dispute between the members of the Bani Dhabyan tribe and Abdul Allah Ahmed Saleh Al-Nakeeb Al-Komim did not result in 3,000,000,000 YR, or even in 70,000,000 YR. It resulted in the abduction of two innocent boys, whose only fault was sharing a name with the land's former owner.

## Correction:

In the article, "Germany donates refugee kits to Shabwa's Mayfa'a Center," in the last issue number 1130, the German Embassy donated \$75,000 to the Mayfa'a Refugee Reception Center, not \$7,500. The Yemen Times regrets the error.

## Government steps up efforts to curb myiasis infestation

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — Yemen's Ministry of Public Health & Population (MPHP) authorized epidemic surveillance teams in Sa'ada and Hajjah governorates to conduct field visits to the areas where animals are infected with myiasis, according to an announcement made by the General Livestock Administration in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI).

Abdulkhalek Al-Kuhlani, MAI's Manager of Disease and Epidemic Surveillance, told the Yemen News Agency that the surveillance teams would conduct field visits in response to a MAI report saying that five people are infected with myiasis.

According to Al-Kuhlani, the teams are also mandated to spread awareness among citizens of the plagued areas about preventive measures to curb proliferation of the disease. He also recommended that citizens notify the surveillance teams and any nearby health units of any infected cases as soon as

measure to ensure non-infestation of myiasis, which spreads via flies or larva," he elaborated.

The government reviewed on Tuesday a report presented by both relevant ministries on the proliferation of myiasis in Sa'ada and Hajjah. The report revealed that poor hygiene is responsible for fly and larva proliferation, thereby helping transmit the disease. During a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar, senior health officials reviewed the necessary measures to

measure to ensure non-infestation of myiasis, which spreads via flies or larva," he elaborated.

According to [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), Myiasis is an animal or human disease caused by parasitic dipterous fly larva feeding on the host's dead or living tissue. Colloquialisms for Myiasis include "fly-strike" and "fly-blown".

Blowfly strike, known as myiasis, is a common disease in sheep, especially in areas where there are hot and wet conditions. The female flies lay their eggs on the sheep in damp, protected

areas soiled with urine and feces, mainly on the breech.

According to senior health officials, myiasis can be treated first by eliminating the larva through pressure around the lesion and then the use of forceps. Secondly, the wound must be cleaned and disinfected, while further control is necessary to avoid further reinfection. They added that it is possible to treat livestock with the use of slow release of boluses containing ivermectin, which provides long-term protection against larva development.

## Continued from page 1

## Human situation in Sa'ada worsens amid indicators of relative quiet

The JMP reviewed the Doha-brokered agreement after the opposition coalition's higher council sent out a letter to President of the Republic, demanding the government must abandon fining Houthis for waging a war against its troops, contribute to resolving tribal issues caused by the war and compensate citizens whose homes and farms were damaged in the war. The compensation funds are to come from the Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund, planned to be established and financed by Qatar.

Haq Party Secretary-General Hassan Zaid told Al-Nass Weekly that terms of the most recent Doha-brokered agreement are the same as those contained in the previous one. "Both sides agreed only on particular points representing a mechanism for implementing the previous agreement," he went on to say. "Qatar's role was necessary because the local forces and parties are, in one way or another, involved in the war."

The current agreement also stipulates that a supervisory committee be formed to ensure that both conflicting sides are committed to the ceasefire

agreement, and that Houthi supporters are allowed to express their ideologies and ideas freely and form a political party if they want. It also indicates that the government must abandon fining Houthis for waging a war against its troops, contribute to resolving tribal issues caused by the war and compensate citizens whose homes and farms were damaged in the war. The compensation funds are to come from the Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund, planned to be established and financed by Qatar.

Haq Party Secretary-General Hassan Zaid told Al-Nass Weekly that terms of the most recent Doha-brokered agreement are the same as those contained in the previous one. "Both sides agreed only on particular points representing a mechanism for implementing the previous agreement," he went on to say. "Qatar's role was necessary because the local forces and parties are, in one way or another, involved in the war."

The current agreement also stipulates that a supervisory committee be formed to ensure that both conflicting sides are committed to the ceasefire

and Sa'ada judicial figures were killed in the war because they refused to surrender. This is the real defeat," Zaid commented. "In order to establish good relations with its citizens, the government wants citizens to be submissive and obedient to it. I think the government won by signing the agreement, and not vice versa."

According to the JMP, the language used by the official media originates from strong totalitarian beliefs, and as the government doesn't acknowledge the JMP's role in settling the Sa'ada crisis, it caused the JMP to appear unconcerned about national issues.

In a statement released on Monday, the JMP denounced the official media's ignorance of the JMP letter sent out to president Saleh ten days ago. The letter contained the JMP vision and position toward the Sa'ada turmoil, as well as the reasons why it was prepared and addressed to President Saleh, which is that the government underestimated the effort needed to end the Sa'ada war, cease bloodshed and maintain law and order

WHAT IT MEANS...

Political Role of Yemeni Tribes (Part 1 of 2)

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 (drafaqih@yahoo.com).

**Y**emeni society suffers from a faulty overall structure that has enabled the worst aspects of the past and present to emerge and become firmly established. Now we perceive the yoking of the worst values and practices of both bygone and contemporary times. New institutions have surfaced, modern in appearance but traditional in essence. They are "disfigured creatures," borrowing from the tribe the most objectionable conventions and customs, such as vengeance killing, which is a phenomenon being transformed into political and partisan vengeance practiced in Sana'a and other Yemeni cities and villages. The "it-is-easy-to-resort-to-arms-and-violence" habit has been increasingly adopted to settle scores instead of resorting to the culture of dialogue and tolerance.

**A social framework characterized by looseness and political overlapping**  
The social reality of Yemen is formless. It features social and functional overlapping at the same time because social classes are not distinct, although the tribal map is highly diverse and pluralistic.

There is an amazing overlapping in Yemeni political life. As such, one should make use of grey cells and political imagination to dismantle the complex of Yemen's society and state.

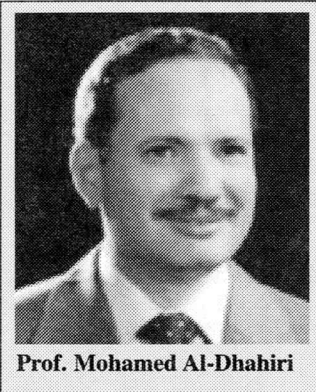
The above claim can be corroborated. It is commonplace to see a tribal sheikh performing multiple roles within the Yemeni political system. He is sometimes a party persona, sometimes a tribal leader, and at other times a Parliament member, mer-

chant, etc. One can also notice that a businessman may add to his business title that of "sheikh", making himself a "sheikh-businessman". This phenomenon is further encouraged by the government's attempt to "breed" sheikhs. It manufactures sheikhs for certain tribes and dresses them in the sheikhdom cloaks in order to ensure the loyalty of these "puppet" sheikhs and foment disputes between the original sheikhs and the cloned ones, with the objective of marginalizing tribal roles and dividing the social body. On the other hand, one can find a government official acting as a businessman, clutching at business and statesmanship simultaneously.

To avoid the deceptive appearances of events and try to address their roots and real causes, one could safely state that the Yemeni citizen resorts to his tribe due to ineffective roles of the ruling elite, who are unable to deliver on promises of reform and elections and do not implement the announced programs.

Thus, the legitimacy of the Yemeni tribe's existence and escalating political role emanates from the illegitimacy and underachievement of the ruling elite.

**The Yemeni tribe as a political concept**  
The West beholds the tribe as a traditional entity that has to be crushed and eliminated because it is the antithesis of development and advancement. The moderniza-



Prof. Mohamed Al-Dhahiri

tion process is sure to dismantle this stagnant anti-development social entity. However, this western view doesn't tally with the Yemeni and Arab situation.

The tribe in Yemen is a part of the state. In ancient times, it formed the nucleus of the state when the so-called "prevailing tribe state" phenomenon came into existence. Today, Yemeni tribes coexist with the state. Not only that, they also participate in decision-making and perform many tasks and duties NGOs are supposed to be doing.

The tribe as a concept is more politically oriented. The Arab worldview generally emphasizes an interactive relationship between the tribe and state. The Arab political community is most often associated with blood relations or tribalism. There is a controversial bond between the tribe and politics. It is observable that the Arab tribe, particularly the Yemeni variant, has always been at the heart of politics and represents one component of the political community.

The Yemeni tribe is a concept of political tribalism. By definition, it is a political concept. The Yemeni political tribe, by definition, has political grounds. It resembles the concept of the state both structurally and politically. It represents a single social, political, economic and military organization.

The Yemeni tribe resembles the State in terms of:

- tribal chieftains acting as leaders (or presidents) of their tribes. They are supposed to represent their respective tribes' interests and protect of their rights.
- a common interest among the tribesmen (both chieftains and individuals).
- alliances among tribes.
- tribal lands, inhabited areas with defined boundaries.
- a considerable martial culture and values with armed fighters, considered a reservoir of men for many Yemeni rulers.

Although the Yemeni political experience (Yemen's democratic tendency) is thought to have had liberal means and resources, Yemenis practice parliamentary, presidential and local elections on tribal, localist and sectarian bases.

The Yemeni people imported the liberal methods and then colored them with their own culture and values, thus leaving a liberal western shell and a Yemeni marrow.

It is notable that the Yemeni political experience has unique characteristics. It depends on a politicized social balance, and additionally features traditionalism and modernism at the same time. The party and tribe are yoked together. In other words, the "tribe-party" concept emerges with the "party being tribalized" and "tribe partisanized."

**Tribes structurally shaken; shrinking legitimacy of chieftains**

The tribe's political role is manifested in a number of actions practiced by the tribe through its representatives (sheikhs) to

achieve the tribe's objectives and interests. The assumption is that the tribe's interests are generally maintained through its leaders (sheikhs). Yet, there is a significant observation, i.e., some sheikhs prioritize their personal self-interests at the expense of other tribesmen. This is negatively telling on the political role of such sheikhs.

This raises an extremely important issue: the legitimacy of tribal leaders. We here distinguish between the legitimacy of the tribe in the eyes of its members and the legitimacy of its leader within the Yemeni tribal system.

Yemeni tribal legitimacy, in the eyes of its members, is permanent as long as its values and customs exist. However, the legitimacy of the tribe's leader is temporary and dependent on his attachment to his tribe and maintenance of its existence, and fulfillment of its requirements and needs. His legitimacy is expected to enhance when he is keen to achieve the tribe's objectives and meet its members' needs.

The tribal leader (sheikh) derives his legitimacy from two main sources. The first is the tribe's customs and conventions. The sense of blood relation begets self-satisfaction, complacency, and acceptance by the members of their leader. The second is the tribal leader's achievements and success in performing his duties and commitments towards the tribe and its members.

Prof. Mohammed M. Al-Thahery is Head of Political Science Dept., Sana'a University.

Their News

International Essay Competition 2008

**Y**oung people are not only the future, they are also the now. More than one fifth of the world's population is between the ages of 12 and 24, with 1.3 billion young people living in developing countries. Over the last two years, consultations and research work with youths have demonstrated that they can make a difference in fighting poverty through their actions and advocacy activities in youth organizations. Youths are key agents of change, but too often the nature and impact of their projects are not recognized or documented sufficiently, and youth face difficulties being heard and engaging more directly in civic life.

In order to learn how youths can make a difference in reducing poverty, the World Bank launched the International Essay Competition. The Essay Competition is an annual, worldwide competition targeting youths aged between 18 to 25 years and managed by the World Bank Office in Paris. The competition is designed and implemented in partnership with Country Offices of the World Bank and Public Information Centers (PIC) in 84 countries, as well as partners representing universities, NGOs and youth organizations all over the world.

The fourth edition of the Essay Competition in 2007 on the theme of Corruption attracted 2240 submissions from over 130 countries all over the world (90% of submissions came from developing countries).

This year the World Bank has teamed up with the Cities Alliance and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - sponsor of the Essay Competition 2008, to invite youths all over the world to participate in the International Essay Competition 2008, under the theme of urbanization: Shaping the City of Your Dreams.

In 2007, for the first time in human history, the majority of people in the world, particularly in developing countries, will be living in urban areas. Life in the city is often associated with more opportunities, better access to employment, education, health and other services. Cities are often called engines of economic growth, contributing disproportionately to the national gross domestic product (GDP). They are also centers of innovation, entrepreneurship and investment. But many cities also

have a large part of their population living in slums, without essential services such as water, sanitation and energy, and threatened by environmental hazards, violence and social exclusion. As more and more people move from the countryside to the city, and as city populations grow, there is a growing need for solutions to the issues of urban poverty, environment, and urban infrastructure (housing, roads, water, energy etc.).

For more information go to: <http://www.essaycompetition.org>.

IATA joins forces with Solar Impulse

**T**he International Air Transport Association (IATA) has become an Institutional Partner of Solar Impulse - the solar airplane that will fly around the world with no fuel and zero emissions. The agreement, signed by Bertrand Piccard, President of Solar Impulse and Giovanni Bisignani, Director General and CEO of IATA, establishes a framework for cooperation between the two organisations. IATA will provide assistance to ensure the smooth passage of the solar plane around the world.

Giovanni Bisignani, Director General and CEO of IATA said, "Solar Impulse and IATA share a vision. We are natural partners. We are both looking towards a zero carbon emission future for air travel. Solar power is one of the building blocks that will make this happen. The Solar Impulse initiative is proof that with vision anything is possible - even carbon free flight."

Solar Impulse is building the first prototype airplane that aims to demonstrate the feasibility of flying day and night, only propelled by solar energy. The first test flights will take place in early 2009. In 2011, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg, CEO, will fly around the world with five stop-overs. IATA will help make this dream a reality by providing support including assistance in obtaining air traffic control clearance.

UNFPA Scales Up Efforts To Save Millions Of Women

**A** new thematic fund for maternal health has been created to boost global efforts to reduce the number of women dying in preg-

nancy and childbirth. The fund, established by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, will also encourage developed countries and private sponsors to contribute more to saving women's lives.

Every minute a woman dies due to complications in pregnancy or childbirth, adding up to half a million women dying every year. Another 10-15 million women suffer serious or long-lasting illnesses or disabilities.

"No woman should die giving life," said UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid. "To have a healthy society, you have to have healthy mothers."

In many countries, however, progress in maternal health has been slow. In some, the situation has actually deteriorated over the last 20 years. The reason is insufficient political will and inadequate resources, as women's health is often pushed off the agenda in favour of other priorities.

"It is critical to invest in women if we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals," said Ms. Obaid. "We urge countries to dedicate more resources to improving national health systems, training skilled birth attendants and promoting family planning. Millions of deaths and disabilities could be prevented, if every woman had access to reproductive health services."

Improving maternal health and reducing maternal deaths are at the heart of Millennium Development Goal number 5.

The thematic fund, which UNFPA has established in partnership with governments, United Nations organizations and other international partners, will help countries increase their access and use of quality maternal health services that would reduce maternal deaths and disabilities. It will also increase the capacity of health systems to provide a broad range of quality maternal health services, strengthen mechanisms to reduce health inequities, and empower women to exercise their right to maternal health.

The thematic fund will focus on supporting 75 countries with the greatest need. The goal is to raise \$465 million during 2008-2011

Poll names Aljazeera the most respected news organization in Middle East

**A**ccording to a poll conducted by The Knowledge World Center for Polls (KWCP),

Aljazeera news channel is the most respected news organization in the Middle East, the *Gulf Times* reports.

Results from the poll are based on responses from Arab academics in over 19 countries.

The poll found that 98 percent of political science and media scholars in the region said they watch at least three hours of Aljazeera every day and about 96 percent found the channel to be a reliable source of news.

"This is the largest poll of its kind ever undertaken in the Arab World, said a KWCP official. "By working for almost one year and sampling almost half of all political science and media professors in the region, we believe that we have illuminated peoples' understanding of broadcast news."

Reuters offers course on news reporting

**R**euters is offering a course in news reporting for journalists from the developing world. Last day to apply: April 7.



The class will be taught by senior TV journalists from Reuters and will offer training in TV production, writ-

ing, camera work, editing and research.

This 5-day course will take place in London between June 2 and 6. The cost for this course is £200 a day (US\$400), which includes travel and living expenses. Full or part time bursaries are available to journalists from the developing world.

Applicants must have at least 2 years of experience and a good level of spoken and written English.

To apply, visit [http://www.reuterslink.org/register.htm?\\_returnUrl=%2Fapply.htm%3Fcourse%3D%252Fcourses%252Ftv\\_london\\_june08.htm](http://www.reuterslink.org/register.htm?_returnUrl=%2Fapply.htm%3Fcourse%3D%252Fcourses%252Ftv_london_june08.htm). To learn more, email [foundation@reuters.com](mailto:foundation@reuters.com).

Arab league adopts a new charter to control TV broadcasts

**T**he Arab League has adopted a new charter giving state control over TV broadcasts deemed controversial. According to Agence France Press, the charter asks all satellite Television broadcasts "not to offend the leaders or national and religious symbols" and to instead "protect Arab identity from the harmful effects of globalization."

In November, The Dubai government, pressured by Pakistan's Pervaiz Musharraf, shut down the popular independent Pakistani Geo TV based in Dubai. The only country in the Arab league that has not so far adopted this charter is Qatar, which is home to

Aljazeera.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has condemned some Arab governments for adopting the new charter, which will give state control over satellite broadcasters. IFJ General Secretary, Aidan White, asserted this action to be a step backward. He said this is "a serious blow to press freedom if it limits media to broadcasting government-friendly views."

Broadcast Managers to get training in organizational development

**T**he Radio Netherlands Training Center is offering an international course to help broadcasting managers in developing or transition countries meet the challenges of their profession. Application deadline: February 29.

Management work involves understanding creativity and production and offering leadership—often with limited resources available. The course goal is to better equip managers for those challenges.

There are no fellowships for this course; applicants must get sponsorship or pay their own way. The training is scheduled for May 26 to June 6, 2008, in Hilversum, Netherlands.

For more information, contact [info@rntc.nl](mailto:info@rntc.nl) or visit <http://www.rnw.nl/rntc/courses/ICBM2008.php>.



## اعلان مناقصة TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### Good Governance Project

Oxfam GB in Yemen intends to award a supply contract for IT equipment and Furniture. The equipment and furniture are for the project "Good Governance in the implementation and monitoring of the Third Five Years Plan ( 3rd F.Y.P. 2006-2010)" with financial assistance from the Netherlands Government.

Equipment and furniture specifications are available from the Oxfam GB-Sana'a office (diplomatic area - just off Djibouti street - phone: 01 444 568/9 Fax: 01 445 650).

Closing date: 27th February 2008.

بِقَلُوبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ تَلْقِينَا نَبَأَ الْفَاجِعَةِ الْمَوْلَمَةِ بِوَفَاةِ الْمَغْفُورِ لَهُ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى

الأستاذ/ محمد عبداللطيف القباطي

وبهذا المصاب الجليل نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى الأخ

باسم محمد عبداللطيف القباطي

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنه فسيح جناته

ويلهم أهله ونويه الصبر والسلوان. إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون: مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

بِقَلُوبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ تَلْقِينَا نَبَأَ الْفَاجِعَةِ الْمَوْلَمَةِ بِوَفَاةِ الْمَغْفُورِ لَهُ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى

الحاج/ سلام علي ثابت

وبهذا المصاب الجليل نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى

للدكتور/ صائب سلام علي ثابت

وكافة أفراد أسرته الكريمة

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله ونويه الصبر والسلوان. إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون: مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

(( وبشر الصابرين الذين إذا أصابتهم مصيبة قالوا إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون )) سرى ربه العظيم

بِقَلُوبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ تَتَقَدَّمُ بِخَالِصِ

العزاء وصادق المواساة إلى:

الأخ / أمين باهمام

في وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى /

شقيقه

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمده الفقيه

بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلهم

أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان ..

ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم

المعزون:

مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة

والطباعة والنشر



## Vacancy

Universal Rent a Car  
is seeking an experienced candidate  
to fill the post of  
Head of Fleet Operations

### Required Qualifications

- At least 7 years experience in Fleet Management Strategies and Vehicle Traffic Solutions.
- Fluent English and Arabic.
- Good communication and management skills.
- Familiar with computerized Fleet Management and Reservation Systems.
- Electromechanical knowledge in automobiles.

For other information, contact Universal Group:

Tel. / Fax: + 967 1 449870

E-mail: [hotels@universalyemen.com](mailto:hotels@universalyemen.com)

### Submission of Applications

(Up to 31 March 2008)

Universal Group

60 meter Road

Sana'a - Yemen

## Oxfam The Middle East needs your energy

You're resourceful and tenacious - and you're determined to make a positive difference in the lives of poor people across the Middle East. Above all, you have the drive and energy to deliver our programmes across the region.

We're now looking to fill a position in Sayoun- Hadhramout. If your experience matches one of them, we'd like to hear from you.

### Programme Coordinator – Yemen

As the manager of Oxfam's field office in Seiyun, you'll be responsible for the overall development and delivery of Oxfam's work in Hadramout district – which includes health care, livelihoods work, and the early marriage campaign.

Reporting to the County Programme Manager, you will contribute to all aspects of the programme in this district: managing and guiding programme officers, sustaining good relationships with partner organisations, representing Oxfam at coordination meetings, liaising with decision makers and donors, and taking an active role in lobbying and campaigning.

We are looking for someone with at least five years of relevant programme management experience, strong interpersonal and team work skills, and the ability to manage staff and financial resources. English and Arabic language skills are essential.

REF: Ref:INT2567

Closes: 5th March 2008

Equality is at the heart of our work and the way we do it, and we seek to gain the benefit of a diverse workforce.

It will save Oxfam money if you apply online at [www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs)

Alternatively, please send a SAE to Anna Dinnis, Oxfam GB, MEEECIS Regional Centre, Oxfam House, John Smith Drive, Oxford OX4 2JY, UK, quoting the job title appropriate reference number.

## JOB VACANCY

A national well known organization is seeking outstanding, committed, and energetic males/females for the following positions:

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Communication
- Administrative Assistant and Reporting

### Academic Qualification Required

- Bachelor Degree or Above in statistics, communication, economics, accounting, or English Literature
- Excellent English skills

### Personal Capacities and Characteristics

- Highly mobile and field oriented
- Ability to take decisions
- Ability to analyze and draft reports
- Ability to organize and coordinate work

Newly graduates with outstanding records very good / excellent are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates can send application letter attached with their CV to [meyemen@gmail.com](mailto:meyemen@gmail.com)

Before March 31st, 2008

Only shortlisted candidates, will be contacted for interview

## Ras Issa Oil Terminal Project Ministry of Oil & Minerals Republic of Yemen

# INVITATION FOR BIDS

### For the Second time

- The Project Directorate Ras Issa Oil Terminal Project, Ministry of Oil & Minerals, Republic of Yemen (the "Employer") intends to develop off shore crude loading facility incorporating jetty and/or SPM at Ghubb Diknaw Bay.
- The Employer invites sealed bids from eligible international firms to carryout investigative studies with regards to "Geophysical, Geotechnical Investigations and Hydrographic Studies" to facilitate detailed design of the off-shore loading facility at Ghubb Diknaw Bay and Dredging of Navigation Channels
- Intending Bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents from the Office of the Employer, located at 5th floor, Yemen Oil & Gas Corporation Building, Haddah St., Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. ( Telephone: 00967 1 440283 / 446854 , Fax: 00967 1 440723, E-mail: [ras\\_issa\\_proj@yahoo.com](mailto:ras_issa_proj@yahoo.com)) on submission of a written application to the above office and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$ 500/- transferred to the following bank address:

Account Name:	Ras Issa Project
Account Number:	01-1010-10155
Bank Name:	Central Bank of Yemen
Bank Address:	P.O. Box 59 Sana'a – Republic of Yemen

In case the bidder wishes to receive the subject documents through courier, additional amount of US \$ 100 will be payable.

- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of 15000 USD in the form of bank guarantee from any bank of Republic of Yemen or from any international bank having its branch in Yemen. The Bid along with Bid Security must reach the office of Employer at or before 1100 hours, on Saturday 1st March 2008. Bids will be opened at 1200 hours on the same day, in the presence of bidders' representatives who may wish to be present.
- As provided in detail, in the bidding documents, the Bidder shall submit, with his Technical Proposal, the details relating to similar projects in hand and those executed in the past ten years, equipment, vessels and soft-wares owned by the bidder. List of technical staff on bidder's pay roll and all financial details necessarily required for the post qualification.
- Financial bid and technical proposal shall be submitted in separate sealed envelopes.
- The financial bids will be opened only for those whom technically qualified in second session. Unqualified bidders will receive back their financial bid unopened.
- For more information about the Project please log in to our website at ([www.yogc.com.ye](http://www.yogc.com.ye)) and contact us for any query on any of above mentioned addresses.

# A Yemeni soccer player's appeal to get back his dignity

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times, Yemeni soccer player Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sanafi reveals that, due to his skin color, he suffers discrimination and social stigmatization, which have damaged his playing concentration and negatively impacted his social status here in Yemen.

Taking a deep breath, Al-Sanafi began, "My story began when my father, Ahmed Mswaud Al-Sanafi, died in 2001 and I discovered that the woman who raised me wasn't my biological mother.

"It was difficult to accept the fact that the woman who raised me for nearly 12 years as one of her eight children wasn't my real mother, although all of my official papers - including my birth certificate, my father's family certificate, my identification card and my high school diploma - all indicate that she's my mother and Ahmed Al-Sanafi is my father," Al-Sanafi noted, showing the papers as proof of this.

"However, that wasn't the real shock. The real shock was when her kind maternal attitude toward me completely changed after my father's death. She hated me, verbally attacked me, tried to kick me out of the house and,

worst of all, she refused to even acknowledge me, to the extent that they dropped my name from father's will!"

Likewise, the 18-year-old told how his neighbors' attitude toward him also changed after learning of his family's rejection.

He continued, "Before my father died, people had hinted that I was different, always implying that I was black and my brothers are white. However, they never dared talk about it until after my father's death and when my stepmother and my brothers refused to acknowledge me. Their rejection of me set tongues wagging."

Al-Sanafi claims that his neighbors are circulating rumors suggesting that he's illegitimate - a bastard - and not a Yemeni, which hurts him deeply, causing him to avoid others and isolate himself from any type of social activity.

"I walk the streets feeling ashamed and unable to lift my head to face those in my neighborhood. Even at my job at the Electricity Ministry, I try not to be social because if my coworkers came to my neighborhood to visit me, they'd hear these rumors and look down on me," Al-Sanafi explained.

Such rumors not only have affected his social status, but also his career as a soccer player. "Until recently, playing soccer was my only release from the pain and suffering caused by these

## 4U

If anyone has information about Mohammed Al-Sanafi's uncle or mother, please contact the Yemen Times on 00967-1-268661. or the writer's e-mail on [amel11ariqi@yahoo.com](mailto:amel11ariqi@yahoo.com)

rumors," he said.

"Once, I was at the airport with my teammates going to play a match outside Sana'a and the official who took my passport asked me, 'Are you Mohammed Al-Sanafi?' When I answered affirmatively, he began asking me personal questions in front of the other players, referring to the same rumors. I don't know how he heard those stories, but I'll never forget the embarrassing and awful feelings I experienced during that time," he recalled.

Having played on the youth soccer team, the national team and many other local teams - always wearing jersey number 23 - Al-Sanafi now has stopped going to the soccer field, even ceasing to participate in team practice matches. "I haven't played soccer in six months," he admitted.

### Why he revealed his painful story

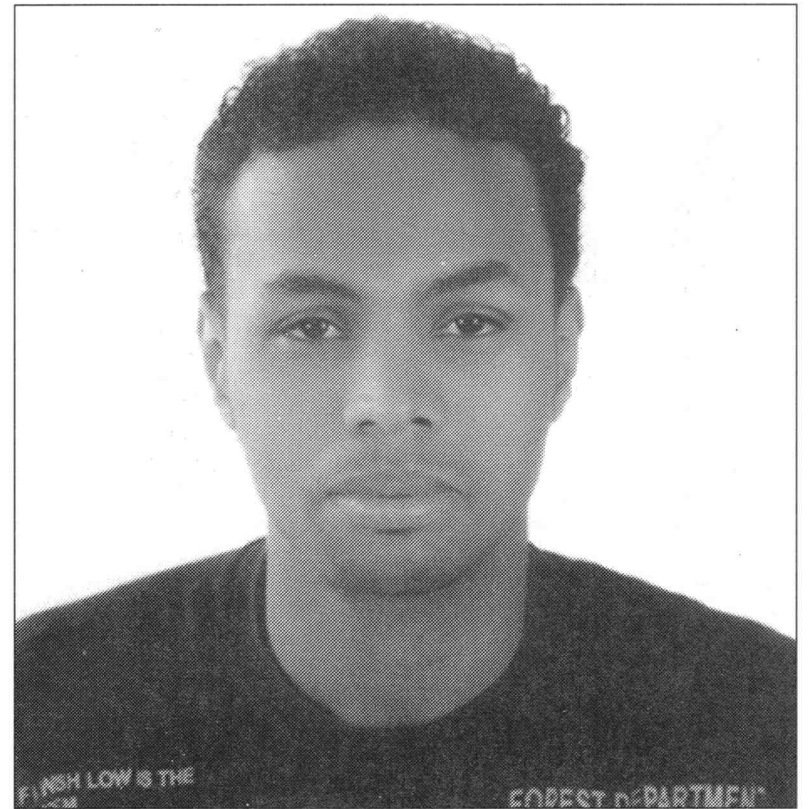
"I recently heard that I have an uncle

(the brother of my real mother) living in Europe. I didn't even know I had an uncle until one day, an old man came up to me at the mosque, telling me that my uncle had been trying to contact my father before his death. He claims that my uncle is the only one with information about my mother and who can prove that I'm the legal son of Ahmed Al-Sanafi," he recounted.

The young player knows he was born in Dhamar and that his mother worked at a United Nations agency when his father married her; however, Al-Sanafi doesn't know her name, why she left him or the name of the agency for which she worked. He also doesn't know in which European country his uncle lives, but he's heard that his uncle's name is Abdulrabb Slammat Tsfy Hili and that he is of Somali descent.

"I came to the Yemen Times because - at the suggestion of the old man I met at the mosque - my uncle may read this interview and recognize my picture. I hope he'll contact me if he learns what I'm going through," Al-Sanafi appealed.

"I have nothing to lose. I realize that publishing such personal information may lead some people to misunderstand me or perhaps criticize me more, especially my brothers and sisters," he continued.



Mohammed Al-Sanafi

"I'm not sure how this interview will impact my career, but I can't live in isolation anymore, nor can I accept the discrimination to which I'm

subjected. I want to know who I am and I want to know my mother, but most importantly, I want my dignity back," Al-Sanafi concluded.

# US Embassy hosts Yemeni applicants for special Undergraduate Programs

The United States Embassy in Sana'a's Public Affairs office has got a variety of programs to attract Yemeni applicants to travel to America. These programs allow Yemeni students an opportunity to study in the U.S. and to get better acquainted with American people and their culture. Megan Goodfellow, the U.S. Embassy's cultural affairs officer, spoke about the new programs and their impact on public diplomacy between Yemen and America.

By Mohammed al-Qadhi For Yemen Times

**Q: What are the Yemen-U.S. exchange programs currently open for Yemeni candidates?**

**A:** The two programs that we are currently accepting applications for are the Undergraduate Exchange Program and the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Summer Leadership Institute. Both programs are for Yemeni students and the application is due on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008.

**Q: What is the focus of each program?**

**A:** For the Undergraduate Exchange Program, students currently enrolled in a university or in their final year of secondary school here in Yemen can apply to spend either one semester or one academic year at a university in the United States. All participants will need to return to Yemen afterwards to finish their university studies.

The universities that students went to last year were all over the United States - there were students in California, students in New York, and students in Wisconsin - and to talk to them when they came back was really interesting! Some of them saw snow for the first time, they met and befriended American students in the dormitories, and some of them even changed the focus of what they'd like to do academically.

The MEPI Summer Leadership Institute is a six week intensive program that will take place this summer at universities throughout the United States.

This program is for Yemeni students who have not only a record of academic excellence but also involvement in community service, demonstrated leadership ability, and who are among the best and the brightest Yemeni university students. It's an ideal program for young leaders who would like to visit the United States and learn more about leadership skills and personal development and how they can come back to Yemen and use these skills to help their communities.

**Q: How can Yemenis apply for these two programs and what are the eligibility requirements?**

**A:** We are using one application for both of the programs. Students who are interested in both the Undergraduate Exchange Program and the MEPI Summer Leadership Institute Program but do not know which they prefer can fill out the application and ask to be considered for both programs. You must be currently enrolled in university. For the Undergraduate Exchange Program you can be in your final year of secondary school now. Applicants for both programs must have excellent English skills. The application is due on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those who are interested can download the application from the U.S. Embassy's exchange program page on our website, at [http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/C/EP\\_page.html](http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/C/EP_page.html).

**Q: How many candidates will be accepted for these two programs?**

**A:** For the Undergraduate Exchange Program, we are able to nominate five candidates for the academic year program and 12 candidates for the semester-long program. For the MEPI Summer Leadership Institute, we are able to nominate 10 candidates and 5 alternates.

**Q: What are other programs that the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Office is also offering nowadays?**

**A:** On the U.S. Embassy website under the "Cultural Exchange Program" page, you can see a list of all the programs that we offer. We encourage people interested in exchange opportunities to check the website frequently to see which programs they're most interested in and to find out when the application cycles will open.

**Q: Do you think the U.S. exchange programs are achieving their goals in improving the cultural ties between the Yemeni and American people?**

**A:** I do - I think it helps on both sides. It is so wonderful to see Yemeni students come back and not only talk about how their perspectives on

America changed, but also about the lives they have changed in the United States. The families they have stayed with, the friends they met, and every person these students encountered in the United States has a different idea of Yemen now. The Americans these students met - and will meet - are now better able to understand the culture, the history, the traditions, and the religion of the Yemeni people. Each of the students who studied in the U.S. on one of these programs is also able to explain their own personal viewpoints on America and their experiences there with their families and friends here in Yemen.

**Q: Some yellow media outlets claim that sending youngsters to the U.S. on these programs is brainwashing...what is your response?**

**A:** The students selected to go the United States are able to study the subjects they'd like to study and have the friends they want to have. This is their opportunity and it is their responsibility to make the most of it and to spend their time doing the things they think are most valuable. A Yemeni student who participated in one of these programs was interviewed by Yemen TV on a live show last week, and said that these programs are not brainwashing, but mind-opening. The experience for each student is what they choose to make of it.

**Q: Any scholarships or programs for Post-Doctoral candidates?**

**A:** We offer the Fulbright Post-Doctoral scholarships every year, as well as the student Fulbright scholarships. The Fulbright program is one of our most popular and well-known programs.

**Q: I understand that English language proficiency is a requirement to apply for these programs. Do you find competent candidates in terms of language skills easily?**

**A:** We find a lot of very competent applicants, but not a lot of people who have enough English language skills to



Megan Goodfellow

participate in some of these programs. Many of our educational programs require a minimum proficiency in English. The International Visitor program has a number of two- to three-week programs, several of which are available to people who do not have any English skills, since interpretation is provided. Of course, to study at an American university, interpretation is not offered, so students do need to have English skills in advance.

**Q: What are the benefits of such programs on both Yemeni and American side?**

**A:** We have seen a lot of enthusiasm on the Yemeni side from people who want to go to the United States to improve their English skills and also to experience a different academic environment. I think the students are also able to understand American culture in a very different way when

they participate in these programs. It is one thing to see the United States on TV and in the movies, but that's not the reality of life in America! When you live there and you meet people, you see how they really live everyday and that changes your perspective.

On our side, we have so much to gain from these talented young students who are able to act as cultural ambassadors and to educate the American people about Yemen's culture, its traditions and its history. Programs like these help to build lasting friendships and relationships between our cultures.

**Q: What are other activities to further promote the cultural relationship between Yemen and the United States?**

**A:** We're trying to find ways to show our culture to the Yemeni people. We have an American jazz band that will be coming to Sana'a next week, and we are hoping that a lot of people will come and hear them perform. We are having a concert that will be open to the public at the Yemen Cultural Center on Monday, February 25, at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome!

**Q: Any final words?**

**A:** I would like to encourage anyone who is interested - and who thinks these might be good opportunities for them - to apply! We would love to see as many applications as possible from enthusiastic, qualified students.

## Vacancies Announcement

## وظائف شاغرة

An International Gas company announces about the following vacancies for experienced Yemen Nationals:

تعلن شركة أجنبية دولية رائدة في مجال مقاولات الغاز عن وجود وظائف شاغرة لذوي الخبرة من اليمنيين:

- Doctor with trauma experience.
- SCADA Engineer.
- (CAT 345) Excavator Operator.
- (CAT 594) Side Boom Operator.
- Safety Supervisor.
- Blasting Specialist.
- QA/QC Inspector.
- Hydro-test Engineer.
- Instrumentation Engineer.

- طبيب ذو خبرة في الإسعافات الأولية.
- مهندس متخصص في الاسكادا شطشضا
- مشغل بوكيلين (CAT ٣٤٥)
- مشغل رافعة جانبية (CAT ٥٩٤)
- مفتش سلامة مهنية.
- مختص أعمال الديناميت.
- مفتش أعمال الجودة.
- مهندس في أعمال الهيدروليتيست.
- مهندس في أعمال (الأنسترومينيتيشن).

Applicants interested in apply, should fax their CV's to (01-411397)

فعلى الراغبين التقدم للوظائف المذكورة إرسال السيرة الذاتية عن طريق الفاكس رقم: (٠١-٤١١٣٩٧)

# Maps for the new road

By: Dr. Raoufa Hassan

Any map can not be understood without containing its dimensions and directions while the new road maps are those originating from peoples' talks and interests for the sake of Yemen. The one, who contemplates on the titles of press articles or readership's comments on the various articles on daily papers and other media means, will find that people in Yemen are extremely concerned about searching a manner to resolve their daily problems.

Pinning hope in representatives of major parties that gain votes of people in the elections in order to dialogue with each other and reach joint persuasions, suspension of their talks and their return to the dialogue table is a matter that requires good coordination for setting a successful map.

Simply, the idea is traceable back to a media theory, which is one of a series of theories concerned with communications between the smaller groups and it is named "Decision Taking Theory". Small groups are those composed of more or less than 300 people in an attempt to achieve jointly recognized goals and then discuss them face to face or via joint communication means.

These groups have their own mechanisms for thinking and then releasing many theories for interaction between groups such as the ones concerned with decision-making, growing patterns, sharp controversies and fantastic analysis of issues.

These theories are part of the courses taken by mass media students

at different universities in the Arab world and other world countries, but only a few number of media students apply these theories in real-life situations. Consequently, these theories are issued in countries applying science in real-life situations and none of them was produced by any of the Arab universities.

## Differences between dialogue parties: Problem or solution?

The American researcher Carter Stevens from Kentucky University holds the view that a number of questions have to be raised before thinking on how any group will make decisions and set road maps for their decisions. In this article, I use the same questions while thinking about the dialogue group, be it formed under the chairmanship of President of the Republic or Secretary General of the party that called for the dialogue.

The questions are scientific in nature and not a judgment on a commencement. And, from the theoretical and practical viewpoint, we should start thinking on how to give answers to questions of this type: Why does a small group of people make good or bad decisions? Why do small groups come up with false results, however, it goes without saying that they should reach what is better?

Another question is: Do members of the group dialogue with the aim of coming up with a joint result in a way helping them to express themselves equally? Or, do some of them fear to express themselves? We did not know why some group members feel as if they are not responsible for the results that are jointly attained by the group. They then come out with individual viewpoints contradicting the

consensus results. We are also shocked at why leaders of the small groups involved in the dialogue allow their groups to take incorrect decisions.

All those questions don't apply to the groups of individuals who represent their own parties and join the dialogue for the purpose of designing a map for the new decisions, thereby involving different social groups. But, it can apply to the various groups, which we join as human beings in our daily life. People work together in groups everyday, whether in worksites, classrooms, qat sessions, clubs or mosques, and as long as we are members in these groups, it is very important for us to understand how these groups operate and how we can benefit from their experiences.

## Dialogue of contrived intents:

According to modern researchers, any results reached by groups will be necessarily more productive more than the results attained by individuals, particularly when the subject in question needs diverse experiences, backgrounds and skills.

One can simply believe that results of dialogues and decisions, which are attained by a group of individuals, are always positive and produce valuable things. In fact, the current complications of life usually lead to the issuance of incorrect decisions and negative results, and this indicates that some group dialogues need to be studied well.

Any beforehand understanding of these possibilities reduces the amount of betting on a great benefit from a meeting involving a small group of individuals. Qat sessions can be taken as an evident example for the large

number of meetings with the minimum amount of feasibility or feasible decisions. So, not every meeting is feasible and not every session is destructive.

Media theoreticians tried to explain the negative results, bearing in mind that they are connected with the personal components of individuals within the group, as well as the parties, areas or social groups, which these individuals represent or affiliate with. The kind of dialogue also has its influence on the nature of dialoguing parties, whether they are exclusively males or females, or both males and females.

The factors of power and dominance, enjoyed by certain group members, play a great role in influencing other group members, and the case is similar when it comes to the negotiation skills of some individuals that have a great influence on the way groups think. In addition, the theories of group thinking or those concerned with differences or harmony between group members play a significant role in this respect.

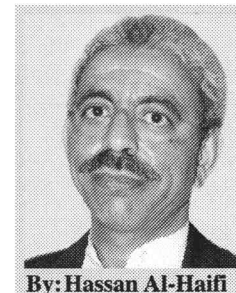
In fact, discrepancy or harmony between group members is, from a theoretical point of view, a very important factor in determining the result. Discrepancy is not necessarily a tool for a negative result, however, it may lead to compromise solutions, which don't seem to be best but they are the most applicable ones. By viewing the T.V. screens and contemplating on faces of the dialogue parties who discuss Yemen's future issues, the designed map will not appear clearly in the faces of dialoguers despite prominent wrinkles of age in their faces.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

## COMMON SENSE

### The ticking is louder

This observer continues to watch events in the region unfold with scaring overtones that the forces of evil in the region and overseas are adamant in keeping the flames of conflict burning until someone decides it is time for a full fledged conflict to flare up. The slaying of Imad Mughniya, the military genius of Hizbullah is surely an incident that confirms this notion and it is not surprising that all the eyes now are turned towards Southern Lebanon.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

After the resounding speech by Hassan Nasrullah<sup>1</sup> late last week, the indefatigable leader of Hizbullah<sup>2</sup>, one is convinced that the course of events in the region is heading for an explosive up turn that will indeed "change the picture of the region for generations to come", as Nasr-Allah said. What the Israeli Mossad undertook in Damascus by the killing of Haj Ridhwan, as Mughniya is sometimes called, was either a grave miscalculation or an act that emanates from a naive notion that the arithmetic can be shifted to the Israeli side as both sides (Hizbullah and Israel) continue to outdo each other in an unusually disproportionate balance of power, in which the guts and the tact have been slipped away from the Israelis and taken over by the cunning and impassioned gusto of the wily and astute (as well as respectfully prudent) Sayyid Hassan Nasrullah.

If the Israelis mistakenly assumed that Nasrullah would not exceed his limitations, as he is now busy with the not yet untangled complex quagmire that the political forum in Lebanon has taken, they surely are entering the snare that Hizbullah is best at arranging. Hizbullah always seems to go ahead of the clock, being fully aware of how the powers in the region are shifting and for whom the hot wind is blowing. In all likelihood, Hizbullah has been meticulously arranging for the big moment when the elements of power will have their tests again and the Israelis certainly have not been doing their arithmetic properly.

For all the apparently lopsided arrangement in Lebanon and the poor stance of the "moderate Arab regimes, as they continue to hedge on American sheer physical power and the strong display of "tough talk" by an obviously incapable war machine that has been shown to be prone to defeat, just as all Goliaths are bound to meet their Davids, Hizbullah is bound to come out of this seemingly intricate mumble jumble of political intrigue and dangerous play with fire in Lebanon with an outstanding display of its own cunning and courageous weighing of the risks involved. The tip-off here will come from the strong preparations that the deceased Mughniya was preparing for. According to Nasr-Allah these preparations have approached their "final touches" before the ill fated assassination of the former and one should never discount the ability of the general population in Lebanon to seize the moment when they once again will show that it is not always might that makes right. Anyone who believes that the Lebanese will not be able to understand what Nasrullah is driving at is mistaken.

The beautiful display of national cohesion and solidarity when Lebanon fended off the most serious threat to its national well-being during the Summer War of 2006 is strong evidence of the clever sensibility of the Lebanese in standing strongly behind the real effective national leaders of Lebanon, who achieve astounding results and continue to make Lebanon and the Lebanese people a nation to be reckoned with, notwithstanding its rather minute physical attributes.

It is really time for the Lebanese leaders on both sides of the ongoing senseless current political squabbling to remember where their real strengths lie and who are the phony stooges that are continuing to serve the real enemies of Lebanon and the Arab World at large. In Nasr-Allah's well chosen words, maybe it is time for the former to pack up their bags and let the Lebanese people and real Lebanese national leadership, who do not confront the enemy with tears, prove once again that from Lebanon will come the salvation of all the Arab Nation, God willing.

<sup>1</sup> Or Nasr-Allah or Nasrallah.

<sup>2</sup> Or Hizb-Allah or Hizbillah, etc.

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

# The necessity of continuing peaceful struggle

By: Ahmad Al-Zaughari

In the governorate of Dhale', we had the honor to meet senior Yemen Socialist Party and opposition leaders and know more about the missing great men, among them the late Jarallah Omar, Assistant YPS Secretary General, who has led a life of struggle following the 1994 Civil War. In the wake of that war, Al-Dhale' has been transformed into a ground for daily confrontations, crackdown, oppression and terrorism, which have been so far resisted by all the means of peaceful struggle.

It is the peaceful struggle that made Al-Dhale' once a home to senior opposition leaders and currently an eternal capital city for peaceful struggle leaders in the south and liberals in the north.

Despite numerous meetings with Omar, there is only one meeting with the great man which can not be forgotten. That was during the YSP Fourth General Conference in Sana'a when positions, viewpoints, debates and arguments between YSP members grow sharper and sharper, thereby having a negative reflection on us as agents.

As the conference's morning session was over, I managed to stop the car of Omar, despite the heavy crowd of

assembling people, and gave the man a leaflet containing a slogan, repeatedly chanted by YSP members and supporters. While trying to put the leaflet in the man's pocket, I angrily requested him to read it. He then opened the leaflet and read it before me finding out that it contains this slogan: "We don't want the political office members to do wrong". I sharply commented on the slogan, saying it is a unanimous viewpoint, and my position did not uphold the late Omar and Mohammed Ba Masdous, another YSP leader. "I do only back the pioneer of peaceful struggle and strive Hassan Ba Aum because he is a field commander and a popular YSP leader," I told Omar. "I am not like you living in an ivory tower near the Republican Palace in Sana'a." The late man responded to my comments with a smile, "This is your opinion and I respect it."

Despite my grievance over the tragic consequences seen in the country as a result of the poor and seemingly tense relations between our leaders, I had my lunch calmly on that day, projecting that our viewpoints and positions, if presented out of will and determination, would be heard as tough by other people.

The viewpoint produced by Omar, which it never forgot, and therefore wrote down in my diary on that day,

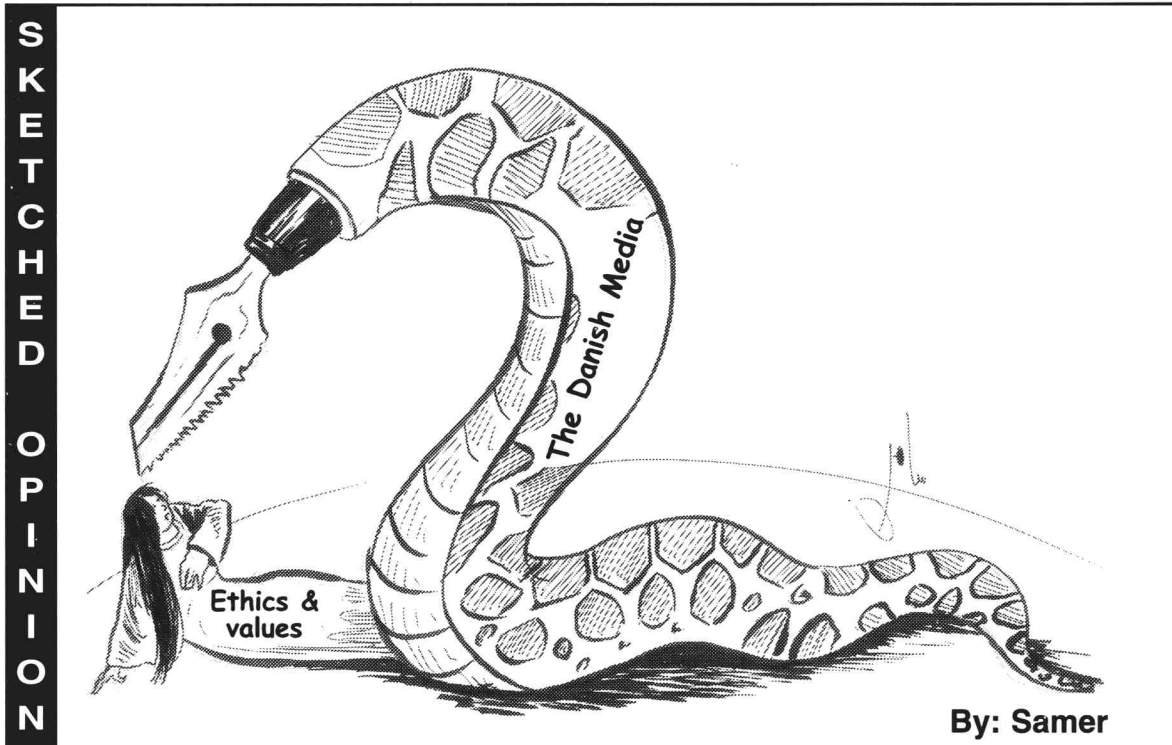
was that of stressing the necessity of scoring victory in the battle but in a way siding with justice. He made this statement at an YSP conference in the Shuaib district on Sep. 30, 2002, and that was only two months before he was assassinated. This statement was also made in the presence of an American professor teaching at the University of Chicago.

Politicians, experts and researchers questioned how YSP could take the lead despite what happened to it in the war, plus the continuant media campaign against it, the mass exodus of its prominent leaders to other countries, the exile of others and dismissal of some party members from their senior government posts. Many observers were shocked at how the party could survive, but great leaders proved that the party survived since people still need it.

Full of sacrifices and critical situations throughout the different stages in defense of land and humanity, Al-Dhale's history has the word 'silence' repeated twice in the province's record of struggle. The first time was used when an YSP leader was assassinated after leaving a conference organized by the party in this province. That was on June 5, 2000. The province has witnessed the first peaceful and huge demonstration on that day and the martyr Omar was

among the participants. The second time the word "silence" was seen in the province's record of struggle was during the funeral of the martyr in Jan. 1, 2003. Al-Dhale', since then, has been known as the fist Yemeni city to organize silence funeral services.

Source: Al-Thawri Weekly.



By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: editor@yementimes.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Letters: letters@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief  
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Managing Editor  
Amel Al-Ariqi

Feature Editor  
Mohammed Al-Jabri

Copy Editor

Dana Patterson

Head of News Dept.  
Mohamed bin Sallam

Senior Reporter  
Ismail Al-Ghabri

Head of Design Dept.  
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Mojallif, Almigdad Thabet, Hamed

Offices

Aden Bureau:

Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed  
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596  
Fax: +967 (2) 347056  
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Abdullah  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,  
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157  
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz  
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Subscription rates:

Individuals: YR 7,000  
Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000  
Foreign companies/organizations: \$ 80

Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.  
- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.  
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.  
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices

# Europe's power to lead

By: Joseph S. Nye

At this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, the buzz was about Asia's growing power. One Asian analyst argued that by 2050, there will be three world powers: the United States, China, and India. He did not mention Europe, but underestimating Europe's power is a mistake.

Yes, Europe currently punches below its weight. It is fragmented, peaceful, and normative in a world of hard power, but part of the world is not about military power. The use of force among advanced industrial democracies is virtually unthinkable. In their relations with each other, such countries are all from Venus, to paraphrase Robert Kagan, and here Europe's focus on law and institutions is an asset.

As for other parts of the world, a recent Pew poll found that many Europeans would like Europe to play a larger role, but to balance American military power would require a doubling or tripling of defense

spending, and few Europeans are interested in such an increase. Nevertheless, a smart strategy for Europe will require greater investments in hard power.

The picture for Europe, however, is not as bleak as pessimists assume. Power is the ability to get the outcomes one wants, and the resources that produce such behavior depend upon the context. In functional terms, power is distributed like a three-dimensional chess game. On the top board are military relations among states, with the US the world's only superpower with global reach. Here the world is uni-polar.

On the middle board are economic relations, where the world is already multi-polar. Here, Europe acts as a union, and other countries like Japan and China play big roles. The US cannot reach a trade agreement or settle anti-trust cases without the approval of the EU. Or, to take another example, Europe was able to lead the drive to remove Paul Wolfowitz from the World Bank.

The bottom chessboard includes

transnational relations outside the control of governments – everything from drugs to infectious diseases to climate change to terrorism. On this board, power is chaotically distributed among non-state actors, and it makes no sense to call this world either uni-polar or multipolar.

Here, close civilian cooperation is important, for which Europe is well endowed. European countries' success in overcoming centuries of animosity, and the development of a large internal market, has given them a great deal of soft power. At the Cold War's end, East European countries did not try to form local alliances, as they did in the 1920's, but looked toward Brussels to secure their future. Similarly, countries like Turkey and Ukraine have adjusted their policies in response to their attraction to Europe.

Recently, the US National Intelligence Council published four widely different scenarios for the world in 2020: Davos World, in which economic globalization continues, but with a more Asian face; Pax Americana, where the US continues to dominate the

global order; New Caliphate, where Islamic religious identity challenges the dominance of western norms; and Cycle of Fear, in which non-state forces create shocks to security that produce Orwellian societies. Like any exercises in futurology, such scenarios have their limits, but they help us ask which three or four major political factors will help shape the outcome.

The first is the rise of Asia. The big question will be China and its internal evolution. China has lifted 400 million people out of poverty since 1990, but another 400 million still live on less than \$2 per day. Unlike India, China has not solved the problem of political participation. If China replaces its eroded communism with nationalism or ensure social cohesion, the result could be a more aggressive foreign policy and unwillingness to deal with issues like climate change. Or it may deal with its problems and become a "responsible stakeholder" in world politics.

Europe can contribute significantly to China's integration into global norms and institutions. In general, Europe and the US have more to fear from a weak

China than they do from a wealthy Islam. Political Islam and how it develops will be the second factor. The struggle against extreme Islamism is not a "clash of civilizations," but a civil war within Islam. A radical minority is using violence to impose a simplified and ideological version on a mainstream with more diverse views.

While the largest number of Muslims live in Asia, they are influenced by the heart of this struggle in the Middle East, an area that has lagged behind the rest of the world in globalization, openness, institutions, and democratization. Here Europe's economic might and soft power have a lot to contribute. More open trade, economic growth, education, development of civil society institutions, and gradual increases in political participation might help strengthen the mainstream over time, as could the way Muslims are treated in Europe and the US. Equally important will be whether Western policies toward the Middle East satisfy mainstream Muslims or reinforce the radicals' narrative of a war against

Islam. The third major determinant of which scenario prevails will be American power and how it is used. The US will remain the most powerful country in 2020, but, paradoxically, the strongest state since the days of Rome will be unable to protect its citizens acting alone.

American military might is not adequate to deal with threats such as global pandemics, climate change, terrorism, and international crime. These issues require cooperation in the provision of global public goods and the soft power of attracting support. No part of the world shares more values or has a greater capacity to influence American attitudes and power than does Europe. That suggests that the fourth political determinant of the future will be the evolution of European policies and power.

Joseph S. Nye is a professor at Harvard and author most recently of *The Powers to Lead*.

Source: Project Syndicate, 2008. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

## Documentary "War Child"

# From child soldier to Hip-Hop star

Young people in Central Europe have difficulty imagining the horrors Emmanuel Jal experienced as a child and his turbulent life. The documentary film *War Child* tells the story of the musician, who was born in southern Sudan in 1980 and who once wanted "to kill as many Arabs or Muslims as possible." By Silke Bartlick

Emmanuel Jal is a lanky young man with dishevelled dreadlocks. Born in Sudan, Jal now lives in London. Music, he says, has always been part of his life.

It was only when life got too tough that he stopped singing. And life was tough when he was growing up in his

native Sudan. "There was a war and we had to fight alone. There was no-one there to help us. This is why everyone had to get involved and defend the country," he recalls.

Jal was born in the southern Sudanese city of Tonj in 1980. His father was a member of the Sudan

People's Liberation Army, which fought against the economic, political, religious, and social dominance of the Arab-Muslim north. Just like many other children in the region, he experienced violence and brutality at an early age:

"My cousins and my aunt were raped; my mother died in the conflict; our villages were destroyed; our house burned down," says Jal. He was only seven years old when his mother died. After her death, he trained as a child soldier in Ethiopia. Looking back, he explains why: "because we wanted to help in the fight against our enemy and wanted to protect our country."

### No prospects

In his documentary film *War Child*, which is currently being shown at the Berlinale, director Christian Karim Chrobog tells the life story of the 28-year-old. Unlike Jal, approximately 20,000 former Sudanese child soldiers are leading what Chrobog refers to as "a generally dismal life that is devoid of prospects. These former child soldiers in southern Sudan have never really been integrated into society."

He travelled to Sudan for filming in early 2007. Three years previously, rebels in the Christian-Animistic south

concluded a peace agreement with the central government of Sudan, which is predominantly Muslim. According to estimates, the 20-year civil war cost 2 million lives; 4 million were displaced.

"We saw many former child soldiers who are now just hanging around, addicted to alcohol. For former child soldiers, many of whom are orphans, there are "by no means enough schools" in the refugee camps. Chrobog believes that international assistance will have to be stepped up if the bleak situation is to be improved.

The 30-year-old director is the son of the former secretary of state in Germany's Foreign Affairs Ministry, Jürgen Chrobog. Originally, Chrobog Junior wanted to shoot a series on hip-hop. But when he met Jal, he immediately saw the potential in filming his life story.

### Music as a weapon

In 1991, Emmanuel Jal deserted with 400 other children. Only twelve of them survived. He was later adopted by a woman who worked for the child aid organisation Street Kids. He moved to Nairobi, where he went to school.

Despite this change for the better, he was constantly haunted by what he had experienced during the war, so great



From child soldier to musician: Emmanuel Jal.

was the hate he felt growing up: "I wanted to avenge my people. And that is why I wanted to kill as many Arabs or Muslims as possible."

The film *War Child* tells the story of how the child soldier Emmanuel Jal changed into the person he is today. The transformation began when he discovered music as a weapon. "It helps me as a person. I am doing well. I have peace in my heart. But I have to use my experience to tell others about my people's struggle," he says.

Today, Jal is a spokesman for Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and has been

an ambassador for the aid organisation Oxfam since 2006. Not only that, but he is also a world-renowned hip-hop musician who, among other things, collaborated on the soundtrack to the film *Blood Diamond*, which starred Leonardo DiCaprio. He sings in English, Arabic, Swahili, and in two southern Sudanese languages. His lyrics are about the civil war in Sudan and call for peace and tolerance: "Words can be used to make people kill each other; or forgive each other."

Source: DEUTSCHE WELLE 2008



"War Child" – a documentary film about the former child soldier Emmanuel Jal.

## Sadness

By: Hussein Shobokshi

On February 14, as most countries around the world celebrated Valentine's Day with red roses, the only red visible in Lebanon was the blood shed by the various parties of the depressing political scene. Each party has sought to market its "martyr" at the expense of the other pronouncing its glory and legend to everyone.

However, the truth is that whilst both men, Rafik Hariri and Imad Mughniyeh, are in their graves, there are facts on the ground that cannot be overlooked. There are major differences between one who was constructing, building a national consensus that was not based on weak sectarian preferences and keen to establish internal and international relations based on respect and law and the other who caused terror, intimidation and death in Kuwait, Khobar and Mecca and established a state of fear amongst innocents who had no connection to the issue at hand, whatever that issue and its purposes may be.

In the Holy Quran, God Almighty

said, "Allah puts forth a parable a man belonging to many partners at variance with each other, and a man belonging entirely to one master: are those two equal in comparison? Praise be to Allah! But most of them have no knowledge." This verse came to mind as I observed the depressing situation in Lebanon as it clarifies the necessity to scrutinize and compare carefully between characters that "monopolize" and propagate heroism, jihad and martyrdom in a haphazard way that entails destruction, meddling and loss.

The Arab world in particular is still captive to delusional ambiguous characters whose heroism is promoted and whose biographies and stories are weaved around them to such an extent that even certain political positions and principles support them in spite of the repercussions this may have.

The persistence in justifying the cost of innocent lives as a result of the actions of the "jihadist" or "hero" as permissible and inoffensive as long as the ultimate purpose is "noble, honest and blessed" is no different to the military options put forward by the neoconservatives of the American administration since it views the killing of the innocent women, children and

elderly as a result of air raids or military operations in general as collateral damage, which is a humiliating description. However, it is a consistent method for whoever needs to justify [an act] at any cost.

Judgment needs to be more sensitive, precise and honest in judging man's contributions and value and the extent to which he benefits or harms people. These aspects are clear to whoever wants to live by his conscience however if it has fallen captive to partiality then judgment will undoubtedly be unjust.

The basic idea here is not to judge one person over another; rather, it is more important for there to be a real revision of the way in which people are judged and how we reach final conclusions.

There are numerous Arab names which, had there been justice and competence in the way that they were judged, would never have been glorified in the history books. There is a big difference between the person for whom you sincerely ask God to have mercy upon and the person who instills fear in your heart if you do not ask God for the same mercy.

Source: <http://www.asharqalawsat.com>

## Old Jeddah: In search of the lost city

Recently discovered archaeological remains are indicating that Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is home to an undiscovered and historical city buried under modern-day Jeddah.

Researchers, who argue this point, have drawn evidence from discoveries that were made when some inhabitants and architects found old ruins and tools whilst digging in certain areas. Sources revealed to Asharq Al-Awsat that talks are being held with a number of house owners in the Ain Faraj vicinity in an attempt to gain permission to excavate beneath their houses, since it is clear that the spring of Ain Faraj extends below in an area that has previously gone undiscovered.

One source said: "It is apparent that a deeper history lies beneath this historical city in which we live," and confirmed that "there is definitely another history to the city." Sami Nawar, who heads Jeddah's Tourism and Culture Department, told Asharq Al-Awsat: "Many discoveries have been made to support this claim. For example, a resident of Al Mazloom Quarter was digging for a water reservoir at six meters deep when he found three hand mills, amongst other items." Numerous other discoveries

have been made in this region since.

For his part, writer and expert in the affairs of Jeddah's old city, Abdul Wahab Abu Zanada, related a similar story stating that when he was excavating the Malika building, located in Al Balad region, he found a number of rusty canons and undetonated bombs, as well some other archaeological remains.

Abu Zanada cited many historical facts that support the claim that there is a buried city underneath modern-day Jeddah: "What is noticeable is that when you pass by Al Meamar Mosque, you would see that the southern side of the mosque is four meters high. But coming from the northern entrance of the mosque, one would find that it is at a higher level indicating that it was built on a hill, that is, the northern Jeddah plateau that extends to Al Atiq Mosque."

Abu Zanada stated that there are indications that this hill, the area of which covers approximately two kilometres, is the location of the original city upon which the present city was built. It is the area that is bordered by Al Mazloom quarter and the north-eastern part of Al Sham quarter.

Abu Zanada stated that the existence of a historical city dating back approximately 2,400 years is supported by the

fact that Alexander the Great came to Mecca as mentioned in the book 'Al Akhbar al Diwal' by Ahmed Bin Dawoud al Dinuri. "Alexander the Great was born and died in the fourth century, which confirms that Jeddah was discovered approximately 2,400 years ago. If we add to that the fact that the Qudaa'ah tribe once inhabited Jeddah, it confirms that Jeddah was known of in the second century."

Abu Zanada continued, "When the Persian city of Siraf was attacked, some of its residents moved to Jeddah where they settled and built two fortresses around the city, one made of stone and the other of water (water canals that enclosed the city). In 568, they built a four-meter deep water tank." He added, "I do not think that anything remains of it."

Abu Zanada indicated that Thamudic inscription was found in Wadi Bowaiab, approximately 14 kilometres north-east of Jeddah. The inscription by Saket Bin Yaashan included a prayer to his deity to grant him health, integrity and peace and to cure a woman called 'Jamath' or perhaps 'Jumaah' from fever. This inscription asserted that the Thamud tribe settled in Jeddah before the Qudaa'ah tribe.

Source: <http://www.asharqalawsat.com>

# Parliament members furious over poor management of economy

By: YemenTimes Staff

Following Prime Minister Mujawar's presentation to the parliament regarding the economic achievements of his cabinet during 2007, parliament members expressed fury and anger at the poor performance of the government, given the record inflation experienced during the year. The prime minister started his presentation by highlighting the economic growth and developmental achievements during the last three years, but he also stated that economic growth has declined from 3.6 % in 2006 to 3.2 % in 2007. He also explained to the parliament that the government is suffering from immense pressures due to the decline in oil production and in turn revenue.

## Removal of oil subsidies

The Prime Minister also added that the government will be forced to remove oil subsidies due to the cost of the subsidies on the government budget; he stated that in 2005 subsidies constituted 23.5 % of the budget, dropping to 21.2% in 2006. However, he added that in 2007 the subsidy will exceed 30 % due to the increases in international oil prices. He also added that the World Bank states that less than 23% of the subsidy benefits the population living under the poverty line, indicating that the other 75 % of the subsidy simply goes to smugglers of refined oil products to outside the country. The prime minister also added that the government of Yemen has failed in putting a stop to five oil and diesel smugglers who smuggle refined oil products out of the country.



Prime Minister Mujawar

"I am not saying that we will remove all oil subsidies immediately, but I wanted to inform you about the challenges the government faces including the fact that 6000 billion Riyals of oil subsidies isn't going to the poor, but only 4 % of subsidies is" the prime minister stated, adding that the government needs the help of the parliament in making the decision to remove oil subsidies.

In response, parliament members strongly opposed the notion of removing oil subsidies stating that the increase in oil

prices will be accompanied by a price hike in all other products, which will increase inflation and become an economic and social catastrophe. Head of Al-Ishah parliamentary block Dr. AbdulRahman bafadhl stated that the Yemeni public will not be able to tolerate any additional increase in retail prices. While the head of the socialist parliamentary block Dr. Aydarous Al-Naqib stated that removing the subsidies is the opposite of what the public is expecting from the government, adding that holds the government respon-

sible for any consequences of removing the subsidies, demanding that the government holds the corrupt officials and those who misuse public resources accountable and punish them instead of punishing the Yemeni people. He concluded his remarks by saying "we, and the government, complain of corruption but we've never heard of holding any corrupt officials accountable".

Even parliament members of the ruling party were disappointed at the prime minister's justification for removing oil subsidies, saying that the smuggling of oil is done through tankers coming to Yemeni ports and sailing across the sea, not smuggled by donkeys which the government cannot trace. While other parliament members denounced the government's inability to put a stop to organized oil smuggling, unless the smugglers are a part of the government itself.

## Parliament members mistrust in government

Parliament members continued to attack the prime minister's presentation and government economic policies, MP Abdullah Al-Badani stated that he always feels suspicious and horrified whenever the government visits the parliament to present its achievements. He stated that he cannot see the economic progress the government is referring to while the value of the Yemeni Riyal is collapsing as opposed to other currencies, stating that the government economic policies are similar to a missile attack that aims at the destruction of the country, calling on the government members to go to the street and see the thousand who eat out of the garbage.

MP Sakher Al-Wajeh inquired why does the government have a monopoly on a single entity in importing refined oil products, adding that the government's reliance on treasury bills to control the supply of money is a sign of economic failure. He also demanded an explanation why the government has monopolized import of scrap metal to only two selected businessmen, in turn driving many others out of business. MP AbdulRazaj Al-Hajri also commented on the prime minister's achievement in giving raises to seven thousand retired political security officers, and said that we need seven thousand bakeries to feed the people, and this achievement is no achievement at all and the government needs to reprioritize.

MP Abdulkarim Shaiban stated that the economic development mentioned in the prime minister's presentation is simply a myth and un true numbers, adding that the government has failed in preparing a business environment that succeeds in attracting investments, as evident by the declining investments coming to Yemen. He also added that the privet sector has become tired of continued restrictions on business and additional taxes.

Several other parliament members criticized the government for providing inconclusive information relation to other issues including security issues and the unrest in the south which have a direct bearing on the economy. MPs also demanded that the prime minister revises his report and includes detailed information on the price hikes, how the proposed subsidy funds are going to be used if the oil subsidy is removed. The prime minister promised to resubmit his report in mid April.

# Price of bread loaf doubles in Aden

By: YemenTimes Staff

The People of Aden city were appalled to realize the price of the bread loaf has doubled, following a statement signed on by 16 major bakeries in Aden city, saying that the increase in the prices of wheat and overhead and labor costs made it unfeasible to continue retailing bread at the price of 10 Riyals, the bakers stated that the weight of the bread loaf will increase along with the price, in order not to harm the end consumer.

In retaliation, the office of the ministry of trade and industry in Aden stated that such an action is illegal,



The doubling price of wheat had had its effect on the size of the bread loaf. (Photo w/YT)

and that the office will prosecute any bakery which does not comply with the standard retail price of 10 Riyals. However, YemenTimes interviews several bakeries in Aden and consumers to hear from them on the subject.

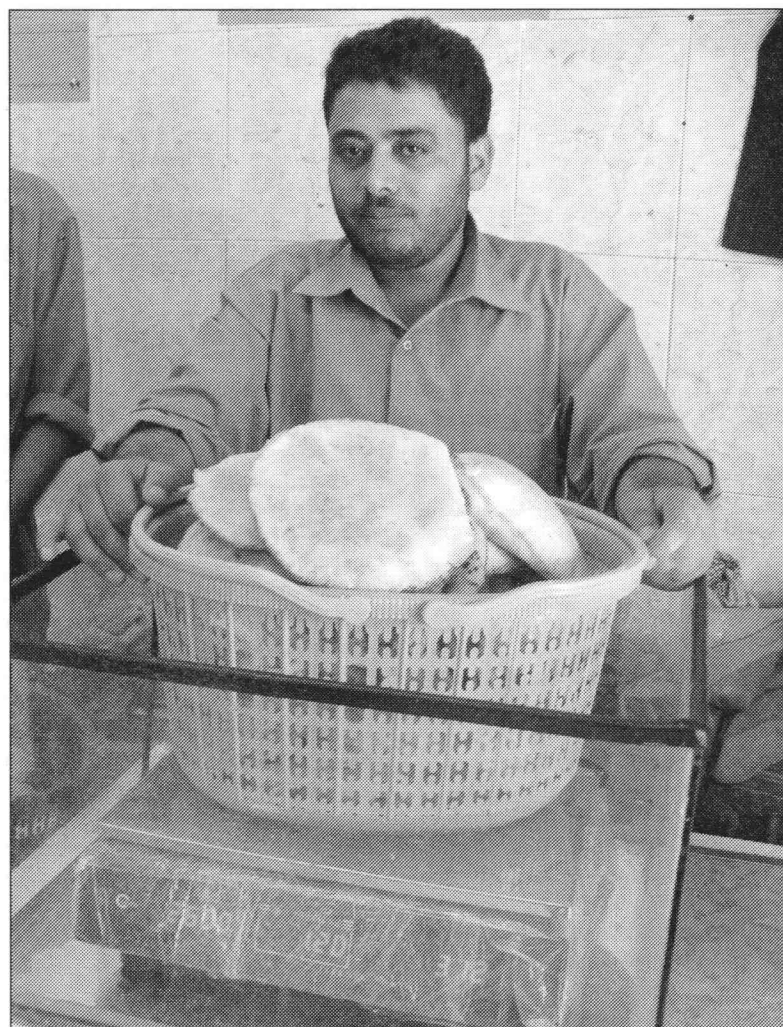
Abdullah Mansour, a bakery owner who is a part of the doubling the price campaign stated that the price of flour has increased from 2500 Riyals to 6300 Riyals since the price of the bread loaf was set at ten Riyals, coupled with the increase in the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas and the labor costs, he stated that they have appealed to the government and to the ministry of trade to find a solution for them otherwise they will have to shut down, however there was no response from the authorities.

Another person said this whole thing is a joke, adding that the problem isn't in the bread, it is the value of the Riyal, which has become

value less, during the last few years all prices have been increasing, and bread is no exception. He also added that other bakeries in other parts in the country will follow suit.

A lady who was shocked to find the price of bread doubling, said I used to buy 10 loafs for a 100 riyals, and make a sandwich for each of my four kids and have another six for dinner, now I need 200 Riyals per day, I don't know how we can cope with this increase.

The feeling overall was not very shocked regarding this move among the people, in fact many were expecting this to happen, the bakers have been saying they will increase the price, and the people considered this just to be another sad day for the city of Aden.



Measures to control price inflation included using weight as a cost definer.

## Business in Brief

### 13.8 % decline in fisheries production in 2007

Yemen has registered a decline in fisheries export from US\$ 259.2 million in 2006 to US\$ 197.6 million in 2007, with a decline of 13.8 %. The decline in export was attributed to the policy to ban export of selected types of fish products in order to maintain the supply of fisheries to the local market. The main importer of fisheries was the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for US\$ 98.4 million.

### Yemen to establish the first stock exchange

Deputy Minister of Finance Jalal Yaqoub had told media sources that Yemen is working with the Financial Services Volunteer Corps in preparing the feasibility study of establishing the country's first stock exchange and financial market. Yaqoub stated that the process might take up to 30 months in preparation for the stock market.

### Urban Development Program announces 2008 - 2010 action plan

The Urban development program affiliated to the Ministry of public works has announced its action plan for the years 2008 - 2010. The main pillars of the plan include the redevelopment of casual residential areas in seven governorates, in order to improve access to basic services and the quality of life for the residents of targeted casual locations which were ignored in urban planning development projects.

### Yemen suffers from negative trade balance with USA

Yemen has registered a negative trade balance with the United States of America of US\$ 350 million during 2007, compared to a positive trade balance of US\$ 192 million in 2006 and US\$ 59 million in 2005. The negative trade balance is the result of importing substantial amounts of wheat from the United States, in addition to the decline in Yemeni exports to USA which has fallen from US\$ 447.4 million in 2006 to US\$ 291.9 million in 2007.

### Social Fund for Development approves 2008 annual plan

The Social Fund for Development has approved its 2008 annual action plan, totaling for US\$ 170.8 million, funded from the central government, selected donors, and from the beneficences of the program. The focus of the 2008 action plan remains on education, water management, health services, and enterprising.

### Bahah: We will combat oil smuggling

Minister of Oil, Gas, and Mineral resources Khalid Bahah stated that his ministry has an action plan to combat smuggling of refined oil products such as diesel to outside the country. He stated that the smugglers will be identified and their names will be published, and serious measures will be taken against them.

### Total E&P launches community development program in Hadhramout

Inaugurated by the Minister of Oil Khalid bahah, Total E&P has funded the establishment of the Saah community development center in Hadhramout, the center aims at helping the local community in economic and social development, including helping in the economic empowerment of youth. The establishment of the center is a part of Total's Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy being implemented to benefit the local communities in which the company is working at in Yemen.



## JOIN OUR OUTSTANDING TEAM

In our rapidly changing and dynamic environment, we are currently recruiting for the following position in our Sana'a office in Yemen:

### Coordinator, Customer Services

For a complete description on the above-mentioned position, as well as contact details for application submission, visit our Careers page at [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)

(For further queries: [kumaimn@iata.org](mailto:kumaimn@iata.org) or 733 430 660 -Nabeel Kumaim)

Deadline for submission on: **26 February 2008**  
We thank all candidates for applying, but can only acknowledge those under consideration.

IATA offers internationally competitive salary packages and benefits. Candidates should be focused on results, embrace innovation and change, be people/team oriented, demonstrate leadership and personality integrity.

[www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)

and that the office will prosecute any bakery which does not comply with the standard retail price of 10 Riyals. However, YemenTimes interviews several bakeries in Aden and consumers to hear from them on the subject.

Abdullah Mansour, a bakery owner who is a part of the doubling the price campaign stated that the price of flour has increased from 2500 Riyals to 6300 Riyals since the price of the bread loaf was set at ten Riyals, coupled with the increase in the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas and the labor costs, he stated that they have appealed to the government and to the ministry of trade to find a solution for them otherwise they will have to shut down, however there was no response from the authorities.

He also added that this measure is a last resort and is jointly done by many bakeries, including others who have not signed the declaration or initially participated in the campaign, because every one of them will benefit and will be able to survive the increases in the price of wheat and flour.

When asked on the expected retaliation of the authorities, he said that is making both types of bread loaf, the 10 Riyal and the 20 Riyal as well, just in case, he says: "Local authorities are pirates, they don't care about the issue all they want is an opportunity to extract bribes and money from us".

Another baker who requested not to





**ZPEB International (Yemen)  
Yemeni Nationals Only**

ZPEB Yemen announces the following vacancies:

**1) Roustabout /Floorman**

**Requirements:**

- a. 1 year of experience in the oil and gas industry.
- b. Basic understanding of drilling technology and procedure.

**2) Derrick man/ Assist Driller/Driller**

**Requirements:**

- a. 5 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and have good understanding of drilling technology and procedure.
- b. Ability to operate and maintain the equipment skillfully related to his position.

**3) HSE officer/ Toolpusher**

**Requirements:**

- a. 8 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and good knowledge of drilling operation and HSE regulations.
- b. Good team supervisory skills, good personnel relations and communication skills.

**4) Electrical / Mechanical Engineer**

**Requirements:**

- a. Bachelor in electrical/mechanical engineering discipline or higher
- b. 8 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and excellent knowledge of equipment, maintenance system and methods.

**Application Criteria:**

- All candidates can speak both Arabic and English fluently, must be healthy and can do the field-work.
- The candidate with experience in same position should have the priority.
- Please send your CV in English with your qualification only by e-mail to the following address: [zpebvm@y.net.ye](mailto:zpebvm@y.net.ye)
- Applications must be submitted no later than Feb 25, 2008

**أعلى معدلات الأرباح**  
**على الودائع لجميع العملات**  
**من بنك سبأ الإسلامي**

**15%**  
بالريال اليمني  
لمدة عام

**6.45%**  
بالعملات الأجنبية  
لمدة عام

emirates.com/ye

# Six flights weekly.

Introducing an additional weekly flight to Dubai and beyond.

Emirates gives you more flexibility and choice with an extra flight every week from 5th February 2008. You can now fly to Dubai and onward to over 90 destinations around the world at your own convenience.

Fly Emirates. Keep discovering.

Days	Depart Sana'a	Arrive Dubai	Flight
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	1015	1345	EK962
Days	Depart Dubai	Arrive Sana'a	Flight
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	0710	0900	EK961



## To wear or not to wear the hijab

By: Hafsa Kanjwal and Khadijah Zarafshar

**W**e are American Muslim women, who strongly identify with our faith. We are Georgetown University seniors who remain active and involved with the American Muslim community. One of us wears a headscarf, known in Arabic as the hijab. The other does not. Yet the right to wear the headscarf – without censure, condemnation or patronising pity – is a right we both defend.

The notion of the sexually exotic but tragically repressed Muslim woman has resided within the Western consciousness since the West first interacted with the Muslim world. In an article which appeared in *Islamica Magazine*, Mohja Kahf, a professor at the University of Arkansas links this hackneyed character to the "era of Romantic literature, and the Byronic plot of a white man saving a harem girl, [which] continued to thrive in the heyday of European colonialism, feeding a white Christian supremacist hero complex."

In modern times, the veil has become an emotionally charged symbol of the struggle between tradition and modernity, between Islam and the West. It has arguably served as a partial political justification for certain policies spearheaded by the United States to "liberate Muslim women" in Afghanistan or Iraq. We, as American Muslim women, simply by living our dual identity, demand a re-evaluation of this externally imposed dichotomy. As Americans, it is not our place to speak on behalf of the women of other nations. What we can do is share our experiences and insights into what hijab means to us, here in the United States.

Muslim women are not a monolithic entity. One might think that this sentence is stating the obvious, yet we often encounter peers and professors alike who fail to understand that the

broad, abstract concepts they encounter in academia do not take the same invariable form when actualised in the lives of real people. It is only to be expected, then, that the reasons and motivations behind wearing the headscarf, and the form it takes, are not uniform. Many assume that a covered woman is a repressed woman, forced by some male authority figure to dress a certain way. In reality, it is this profoundly prejudiced projection of ignorance onto our beliefs that is constricting, insulting, and, in a twisted, hypocritical gesture of concern, serves only to undermine our autonomy and intelligence.

It is important here to clarify that wearing the hijab is not a pillar of Islam. It is directly related to the notion of modesty, which is an essential virtue that Muslims, men and women, are enjoined upon to embody. We say this not to devalue it, but simply to point out that the breadth of Islamic teachings and practices extend far beyond a piece of cloth. Yet we wish to address the hijab specifically because it is so deeply misunderstood by many and is representative of general misconceptions of Islam.

If you ask Muslim women why they do or do not wear the hijab, you will come across no simple answer. Perhaps the most prevalent reason offered for wearing the headscarf is one of sincere conviction – women believe it is obligatory according to the teachings of Islam, and reference the Qur'anic verse in which women are instructed "not to display their charms [in public] beyond what may be apparent thereof; hence, let them draw their head-coverings over their bosoms" (Qur'an, 24:31).

Some women wear a headscarf because they want to visibly express their Muslim identity. Other women may wear the hijab as protection, because according to her conceptualisation, she does not have to reveal her body to strange men. And for others, the hijab serves as a personal, constant reminder to remain true to the values that Islam espouses.

Standing out in a society that places such emphasis on physical attractiveness is not easy, and is often uncomfortable. The women who do decide to cover their hair – in direct contradiction of the values and standards of the mainstream society to which we belong – require conviction, strength of will, and a deep, personal understanding of its significance.

For those who chose not to wear the hijab, the reasoning also differs. Some Muslim women interpret the aforementioned Qur'anic verse differently; they believe that although the principles of modesty are mentioned and extolled upon in the Qur'an, donning the headscarf is more of a cultural interpretation or continuation rather than a requirement. Others may feel that although it is important, it does not reflect their personal level of spirituality or religious practice.

There is a somewhat prevalent perception that women who wear the headscarf must abide by a certain standard of behaviour; this view oftentimes deters women from covering their hair. Others believe that the values the headscarf espouses can be manifested in other ways. While wearing the headscarf may have been important in the past, today – especially in the United States – a veiled woman will garner more attention, rather than less attention, which goes contrary to the headscarf allowing women to engage in society without being judged for her personal appearance.

At the end of the day, why a woman wears the headscarf is her personal decision. It is important that those looking at the headscarf from outside the tradition keep an open mind – open enough to let the true reasons and motivations of Muslim women in. To do anything less is a profound injustice.

Hafsa Kanjwal and Khadijah Zarafshar are both seniors at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

## Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy  
maged\_thabet@hotmail.com



### Private hospitals: expectations vs. reality

**N**owadays, private hospitals are everywhere in Yemen in nearly every city and in many rural areas and villages. Firstly, we thank the Yemeni government for caring about people's health, which isn't to be expected in public hospitals. We also must thank the investors who are doing a favor for the entire Yemeni nation by offering patients medical facilities.

Private hospitals are founded in Yemen to be – as they claim – better alternatives within the health system. Public hospitals still exist and operate, mostly dealing with those of low social and financial rank – in other words, the poor.

At times, a poor person no longer can bear his ill health, which usually worsens in a public hospital. Therefore, he constantly talks – to himself – about private hospitals, where he thinks his health will improve. This is his only aim due to imagining something that reality may not offer.

A poor individual such as this may sell his wife's gold, his house or other precious items for nothing more than the sake of his health, building up an imaginary world in which he dreams of proper treatment and health care in such private hospitals. However, the pain may not afford this person the opportunity to think about the best hospital, as, to him, all are good.

Finally, he goes to a private hospital near his home so his wife and children won't need bus fare when they want to visit him. However, the moment he enters the hospital, he starts comparing between his expectations and reality.

Crossing through the gate, he's received by an ever-smiling receptionist who requests payment before asking anything further. The woman's smile both before and after receiving this

money raises the poor man's morale. She then shows him where to find a specific doctor.

Upon reaching the doctor's crowded waiting room, it reminds him of a similar situation – maybe in a public hospital. He asks someone what's going on. "Nothing, we're just waiting for the doctor," the person replies.

It's 4:30 p.m. and the doctor still hasn't arrived. "What's wrong?" the poor man asks, to which another responds, "Nothing, we must wait."

All await the arrival of the doctor, who, once he does arrive, immediately tells the patients to prepare their receipts showing that they've paid and a woman begins calling patients' names to see the doctor.

The poor man observes that patients exit the doctor's examining room very quickly, each one exiting with a sheet of paper. He assumes they simply have finished quickly and received a prescription for their medicine.

When it's his turn to meet with the doctor, he feels like he'll have no more sickness afterward because, after all, this is a private hospital, not a public one, he observes.

Before examining him, the doctor takes his receipt and immediately begins writing down the tests that must be done. "Go quickly and do these medical tests," the doctor instructs him. The man tells the doctor that he's already done many tests at the public hospital, but the doctor replies, "That's something else. We can't rely on those."

So, he goes to the medical laboratory where he pays for all of these new tests and awaits the results. He then returns to the doctor's office where patients are running to the lab and the pharmacy. Taking the man's test results, the doctor begins writing on a sheet of paper and suddenly instructs him to go and buy

some medicines.

However, after purchasing the medicine and beginning to take it, the patient begins to feel abnormal and he doesn't know what to do. A friend visiting him the next day advises him to go to another private hospital.

So, off he goes to another hospital where the doctor requests he do the very same tests. He tells the doctor that he's just done these tests, to which the doctor replies, "Well, we can't rely on those results."

Following this second batch of tests, the doctor examines him again and starts writing on a piece of paper. "Buy these medicines," he instructs, but once again, his health worsens upon taking them.

He was advised to go to yet another private hospital. However, he did this twice, but in vain because every doctor said something different and no two doctors gave him the same results.

This is the reality that poor man faced. His expectations regarding private hospitals as modern technical machines with qualified staff and standard medical procedures weren't realized, but these types of hospitals do exist.

It's actually fair to blame these types of hospitals because they belong to investors, who care more about profits, just as it's fair to blame Yemen's health system itself, which has the authority to regulate them.

However, a portion of the blame also should be placed on citizens themselves because they will accept anything – even if it affects their health. This is simply my advice to readers because our health isn't something for sale but rather, something to care about. Everyone should know who is dealing with his or her health so that any future affects can be avoided in the earlier stages.

## Tolerance has two faces

By: Christelle Sadeghi and Josiane Bechara

**A**s the world enters a new age of enlightenment both technologically and intellectually, conflicts plague the earth while large distances between continents vanish as a result of a newly emerging global community. The amalgamation of people with different cultural backgrounds, traditions and values enriches this community, yet it also contributes to the appearance of ideological deadlocks and collisions. The result is a multitude of vast cultural clefs separating people today. The consequential dilemmas have instigated a search for a process of peace-making through the promotion of tolerance.

UNESCO's Declaration of the Principles of Tolerance states that

"tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. Tolerance is harmony in difference". The Oxford Dictionary states that tolerance is the ability to tolerate the beliefs and actions of others and to permit them. It also describes tolerance as being "the capacity to endure hardship or pain".

However, when the pain of acceptance sometimes exceeds its threshold, can tolerance still achieve harmony? One could then consider tolerance as promoting passivity towards injustices that violate our basic human rights. Without attempting to further understand people who are different from us, this form of tolerance can actually lead to intolerance. It can shut down conversations rather than encourage them.

This kind of tolerance can be a form of

avoidance – it prevents individuals from asking questions, learning about themselves and others. By defining the limits of tolerance, one might run the risk of promoting intolerance too. Instead one should view it as the capacity to question what should and should not be tolerated through action, not passive acceptance. Self-criticism should be the basis of this new approach. It is with self-criticism that one can start to form stronger bonds; delving deeper into understanding one's self can lead to an understanding of others.

Xenophobia, a phenomenon that affects the entire world, is the product of a timorous conscience, namely of individuals who lack sufficient self-confidence and who do not feel secure in their personal status. Strangers are thus regarded as a threat. It is precisely when we do not feel sure of ourselves that we consider others, especially strangers, a

danger.

It is unfortunate to think that attitudes are not changing fast enough. Many of us had thought that globalisation, television, the Internet and people's increased eagerness to travel would lead to greater tolerance, yet we are regularly confronted with the opposite. The element of exclusion/isolation is key. In 2006 a report entitled "Muslims in the European Union - Discrimination and Islamophobia" stated that the main issues in regard to tolerance are, on one hand, a large proportion of society discriminating against Muslims and, on the other hand, a problem of self-isolation by Muslims.

However, the more people live, talk and work together, the more they recognise the value of the other. Without these kinds of interaction, one cannot gain recognition of equal value.

It is thus important to see how

understanding through self-criticism is a valuable goal. It involves active dialogue with others, and asking questions that test our perceptions of others – such as their religious practices, traditional attire and belief systems. Instead of quickly developing preconceived notions, we must define others for ourselves. Genuine communication is imperative if one is to learn about others on their own terms. It is also sometimes important to reject a certain state of conditioning. We retain the right to no longer engage in the negative aspect of labeling or judgment. Thus, this kind of tolerance can promote the impetus to refuse corruption, bigotry, and prejudice.

Instead of passively accepting one's fate by normalising and tolerating a corrupt system, one should question, reason and actively criticise. No longer can we be lenient towards a system bound to self-destruct as a result of

human intolerance. Sometimes a refusal to tolerate the status quo is needed to galvanise change. It is through active intolerance that one can improve the basic human welfare of a nation and its citizens. No longer can one hold onto the constant expectation that tomorrow's policies will solve today's issues. It is obvious that action towards a better future starts now.

Tolerance born out of real understanding becomes a great transformative activity. It promotes true integration, fusing people from various backgrounds into a truly global and multicultural community.

Josiane Bechara recently graduated from the American University of Beirut (AUB) with a bachelor degree in psychology. Christelle Sadeghi is currently a student at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

### Terry Fox Run

By: Rajendra Aneja  
29016, Dubai, UAE.  
rajuaneja@hotmail.com

**M**y friends and colleagues in office laugh at me, because of the about 10,000 participants in the Terry Fox Run on 15th February 2008 in Dubai, I was the last one to complete the race. I started at 9.30 am and finished at 2 pm. By the time I finished, the organizers had folded their furniture, the stage was about to be dismantled, the start area was isolated. A salesgirl who was supposed to sell me a Terry Fox T-shirt, had also departed.

In the parking area, I was hoping to get a juice or a banana. But even these vans had exhausted their stocks and were

leaving. So, I had the dubious distinction of being the last participant, to complete the full race. My friends waited for me for over 2 hours.

Though my colleagues scoff at me, I derive satisfaction from another incident. In the 1968 Mexican Olympics Marathon, a Tanzanian, Stephen Akhwari, finished last, since he had had a fall. When he finished, it was pitch dark at the stadium. A few spectators and organisers were waiting. When asked why he had not retired, since there was no chance of winning, he replied, "My country didn't send me to start the race. They sent me to finish it!"

I hope my friends, colleagues read this. I ran/walked for myself! Though I was suffering from viral fever and a terrible toothache, at least I participated and completed the full race of 8.5 kms.  
Regards

### Ghanaian Gratitude

**W**e often wonder years after a project how our presence may have impacted a community. We are happy to report that, four years after our successful project in Ghana at the Wieja Leprosarium and Pantang psychiatric hospital, other religious bodies and NGOs now extend their humanitarian services, visiting and interacting with the patients, different from the way it was sometime ago.

Rev. Father Andrew Campbell, the chairman of the leprosarium, sends his gratitude for the encouragement Religious Youth Service gave to others to associate with the leprosarium.

Smiles have returned to the faces of the patients. He assures us that the inmates now get a lot of gifts in kind and cash from the religious bodies, NGOs and caring individuals. The government has also increased the daily stipends of the outpatients for their social well-being.

Father Campbell thanks us with this update, for our support and for giving our best to these institutions. Little did we know that our project would compel the general public to focus so much attention on them. As for the cured lepers, they are grateful for the public support because they no longer need to beg in the cities as before.

info@religiousyouthservice.org

### Fidel Castro's resigning

By: Paul Kokoski  
Ontario, Canada

**W**orld influence in the transition Cuba will face now that Fidel Castro's rule has come to an end should be decidedly geared towards the implementation of a new democracy with free and fair elections.

Cuba's present communist government falsely presents itself as the authentic spokesman for the aspirations of the people, and claims to be able, though by recourse to violent means, to bring about the radical changes which will put an end to the oppression and misery of people.  
Marxist communism, is

characterized by the "class struggle" which implies that society is founded on violence. Within this perspective, any reference to ethical requirements calling for courageous and radical institutional and structural reforms makes no sense. In this system, every affirmation of faith or of theology is subordinated to a political criterion, which in turn depends on the class struggle, the driving force of history.

Participation in the class struggle is presented as a requirement of charity itself. The desire to love everyone here and now, despite his class, and to go out to meet him with the non-violent means of dialogue and persuasion, is denounced as counterproductive.

With the changing of the guard in Cuba, let us hope a new wave of freedom from the tyranny of communism is on the horizon.

I, Roberto Arrow Donnelly (divorcee) of Tourist City tower # 4 flat # 9 Sana'a Intend to marry Zeinab Adem Ibrahim Ali (spinster) Of Al Asbahe Binoon Street Sana'a At the British Embassy Sana'a On 19. March 2008 Any person knowing of any lawful impediment to the marriage should without delay notify: British Embassy Sana'a 129 Abu Al-Hasan Al-Hamadani Street.

**مطعم ومخازنة الشيباني**  
**AI-SHAIBANI RESTAURANT SUPER DELUX**  
 باسم محمد عبده الشيباني

صنعا - شارع حده - أمام مركز الكيم التجاري  
 تلفون: ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٠٥٢٩٠  
 فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩  
 ص.ب: ٥٤٦٥  
 Email: shaibani@yemen.net.ye

Haddah st. in front of Al-Komaim Center  
 Tel: 266375 - 505290  
 Fax: 267619  
 P.O Box: 5465

مكتب أحمد محسن المرسي  
 للخدمات العقارية  
 حدة - الحي السياسي - الأصبحي - بيت بوس  
 سيار: ٢٨٥٥ - ٧٣٣٨٠

للبيع: أرضية وقف شارعين ، حده ، خلف منزل علوي السلامي، مساحتها ٢٧ لينة . سعر المنطقه.  
 \* للبيع نورين مؤجر بالدولار ، حده ، مساحة الأرضية حوالي ١٤ لينة حر . الموقع ممتاز جداً.  
 \* للبيع ٣ أنوار ، حده ، شارعين ركن ، مساحة الأرضية ١٤ لينة حر . سعر البيع مائة مليون ريال.  
 \* للبيع نور ويدروم 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 لينة ٣ شوارع مسطحة.  
 \* للإيجار: نورين وملحق في الدور الثالث، مفروشة، حده، ٣ غرف نوم، ٤ حمامات، صالة جلوس، صالة طعام، ديوان في الدور الثالث مع حديقة في السطح، منظر جميل للمدينة. الإيجار الشهري: ١٠٠٠٠٠ دولار  
 \* نورين ويدروم، جديد، حده، ١٠ غرف، صالون كبيرتين، ٦ حمامات، حوش السيارات. الإيجار الشهري ٣٠٠٠ ألف دولار

**A reputed Oil and Gas Service Company is seeking to recruit Sales Engineer**

**Required with the following qualifications:**

- Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering or other suitable technical background.
- Excellent verbal and writing skills bi-lingual proficiency in Arabic and English
- Strong computer skills.
- Minimum 4 years of experience in the oil field supplies

If you meet the above requirements, please contact us 01- 498883/2 or send your CV with a cover letter + the reference number to: Fax: 01 - 279809

نقدم بخالص التعاطف وأطيب التبركات للشباب الخلوقة / محمد البروساني بمئاسسة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف العترة

أرسلناكم البروساني - محمد الخلوقة - محمد عبده المرسي - صديق الأمان

تخصصه  
 للتواصل: ٧٧١٩٥٩٦٩٤

• موسى الصلوي - خريج المعهد التقني - تخصص كهرباء عام - تقدير جيد جداً - خبرة في مجال استخدام الحاسوب - يبحث عن عمل مناسب  
 للتواصل: ٧٢٤٧٥٥٠١

• محمد حزام قطان - بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب ونظم معلومات بتقدير عام جيد جداً - خبرة في صيانة الكمبيوتر وفي البرمجة - خبرة في التعامل مع برامج أوفيس وكذلك فوتوشوب - 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: ٧٧١٩٥٩٦٩٤

• علي يحيى - خريج كلية المجتمع - صنعا - برمجة كمبيوتر - جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه  
 للتواصل: ٧٧٨٥١٥٥٨

• كمال اسماعيل - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - خبرة طويلة في تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية وفي مجال المبيعات. يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أوفي أي مجال مناسب.  
 للتواصل: ٧٧١٥٢٣٩٣٣

• معاذ عبد الواحد - بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة تعز - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر - خبرة في النظام المحاسبي (يمن سوفت) الإصدار السادس لمدة سنتين - خبرة في النظام المحاسبي اليدوي - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه.  
 للتواصل: ٧٧١٥٢٣٩٣٣

• متوكل - بكالوريوس ترميز - عمل في مستشفى مصطفى التخصصي - مستشفى ابن سينا - المستشفى الأهلي الحديث - مستشفى التضامن الإسلامي - خبرة سنتين في مجال الصيدلة.  
 للتواصل: ٧٧١١٨٥٩٦٥

• محسن سيف - بكالوريوس هندسة معماري - خبرة في مجال التصميم والإخراج المعماري باستخدام

• عدنان محمد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية (أداب) - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية بطلاقة - خبرة عالية في مجال الترجمة واستخدام الكمبيوتر والإنترنت.  
 للتواصل: ٧٧٢٣٣٨٩٤

• بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب - خبرة في مجال الصيانة والبرمجة - خبرة في مجال بيع وبرمجة التلغون السيار - دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية وفي مجال المبيعات - له القدرة على تصميم المواقع - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه.  
 للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠

• ثانوية عامة - كلية التجارة مستوى ٣ - دبلوم كمبيوتر حديث - حاصل على عدة دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية والإنترنت و دورات في النظام المحاسبي (يمن سوفت) - خبرة في مجال الحسابات والسكترارية + خبرة في مجال العلاقات العامة.  
 للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٠٢٩٢١

• للبيع: فيلا - المساحة ٨ لين حجر مسلح - مكتونة من ٥ غرف مع مجلس وصالة - ٢ حمامات ومطبخ - الحوش دائري يتسع لعدة سيارات - الموقع قريبة من شارع ٢٢ مايو  
 للتواصل: ٧٧٧٤٠٨٧١١

• للإيجار: شقة مؤنثة بطريقة حديثة مكتونة من غرفتين وحمام ومطبخ وصالة - الموقع: قرب وزارة الخارجية - حديقة العلفي وحولها كل الخدمات.  
 للإيجار: ١٥٠ دولار  
 للتواصل: ٤٠٤١٢٩

**سيارات**

• للبيع: سيارة دايهاتسو ٢٠٠٣ - نظيفة جداً - السعر مغري  
 للتواصل: ٧٧١٣٥٥٢٤٢

• للبيع: سيارة جلت ميسوبيشي - 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: ٧٧١٧٥٥٣٣١

• للبيع: سيارة هيلوكس غمارتين - موديل ٨٧ - اللون أبيض - اللوحة خصوصي - الحالة جيدة  
 للتواصل: ٧٢٤٢٣٧٥٥٥

**كمبيوتر، أثاث، أدوات كهربائية، تلفونات، وأشياء أخرى**

• للبيع: ماكينة نجارة متعددة الاستخدام نوع Sentent - إيطاليا الصنع.  
 للتواصل: ٧٧٧١٦٦٥١

• للبيع: ثلاثة طولية كبيرة جداً

**ارقام مهم**  
**IMPORTANT Numbers**

للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال على ٢٦٦٦٦٦ تحويله ٢٦٦

طوارئ الكهرباء: ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة: ١٩٩، الإطفاء: ١٩١، طوارئ المياه: ١٧١، الإستعلامات: ١١٨، حوادث (المرور): ١٩٤، الشئون الخارجية: ٢٠٢٤٤/٧، الشئون الداخلية: ٢٠٢٧٠/٧، الهجرة: ٢٥٠٠٦١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون): ٧٥٢٣٣٠٢، الإذاعة: ٢٨٢٠٦٦، التلفزيون: ٢٣٣٠٠٧/٣، مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن: ٢٦٦١١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات: ٢٢٥١١/٧/٣، السباحة: ٢٥٤٠٢٢، الصليب الأحمر: ٢٠٢٣١٢/٣، تلمين: ٧٥٢٣٣٣٣

**ARAMEX**  
 أرامكس صنعا ت: ٤٤١٠٢٤/٥  
 عدن ت: ٢٤٣٢٢٤  
 المكلا ت: ٢٠٩١٩٠  
 الحديدة ت: ٢١٩٦٤٢

**شحن وتوصيل**  
 M&M Logistics & Aviation Services  
 Tel : 01-531221/531231  
 ٤٠٧٩٠٥ ت  
 ١-٤٤٤٥٥٠-٤٤١٩٣٥ ت  
 ورد ليك

**مستشفيات**

مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٢٤٦٩١٧-٦٦  
 المستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٧٧٤٢٨٦/٨٧  
 مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤٢٣٨١  
 المستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠٠  
 فاكس: ٤١٨١٦٦  
 E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

**فنادق**

فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٧٠/٧/٢  
 فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠  
 فندق موفديك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦  
 فندق تاج سبا ت: ٠١-٧٧٢٣٧٧  
 فندق ريلاكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١  
 فندق واجهة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٢٣٥٥ - ٦٠٢٣٥٨

**معاهد**

معهد بالي ت: ٤٤٨٠٣٧/٣/٤-٤٤٨٠٣٩  
 معهد اللغة الألمانية ت: ٢٠٠٩٥٥  
 المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٥٤٧٥٥٥  
 معهد كاروكس ت: ٥٢٤٣٦٦  
 معهد أبتك ت: ٠١-٦١٦٦٢٢ - ٢٤٠٨٣٢  
 فاكس: ٢٦٥٥٢٧

**شركات للتأمين**

الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٢٧٧١٢/٢٧٧٨٧٢  
 صنعا ت: ٢٠٦١٢٩/٨/١٢  
 الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعا ت: ٢٨٤٩٣٣  
 عدن ت: ٢٤٤٣٨٠  
 تعز ت: ٢٥٨٨٨١  
 شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعا ت: ٢٧٣٨٠/٢٧٧٩١٧/٤٢  
 عدن ت: ٢٤٧٦١٧  
 تعز ت: ٢٥٠٣٤٥

**مدارس**

مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤-٢١/٤٤٤-٤٢٢  
 مدارس صنعا الدولية ت: ٢٧٠١٩١/٢  
 مدرسة التريكة الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٥٨/٩  
 مدرسة الماجد البنينة ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

**سفرات**

التسليم للسفرات ت: ٢٧٠٧٥٠  
 العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١٥٨٩/٦٠

**مطاعم**

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

**البنوك**

بنك اليمن والخليج فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ ت: ٢٦٠٨٢٢-١-٢٦٠٨٢٢  
 فرع عدن ت: ٢٣٧٨٢٩ ت: ٢٣٧٨٢٩/فاكس  
 بنك التضامن الإسلامي ت: ١/٦٦٦٦٦٦  
 البنك التجاري ت: ٢٧٧٢٢٤ فاكس: ٢٧٧٢٢٤  
 مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٦٦٧٧٥، ٢٦٤٧٠٢ فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٢، ٢٦٤٧٠٢  
 بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٤٠٧٠٢٠  
 البنك العربي ت: ٢٧٦٥٨٥/٢  
 بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ٠١-٥٦٣٨١٢  
 البنك المركزي ت: ٢٧٤٣١٤

**تأجير سيارات**

زايو (Budget) ت: ٢٠٢٣٧٢-٣٠٩١٨٠-٢٣٧٢٢ فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨  
 يوب كاز ت: ٢٧٠٧٥١ فاكس: ٢٧٠٨٠٤  
 هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعا ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٢٠٩  
 فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٩٩٨٥  
 عدن ت: ٢٠٢٤٥٦٢٥

**مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر**

أبناك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة أيزو ٩٠٠١

صنعا ت: ٠١-٤٦٨٣٠٥  
 فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٤٤١٩  
 عدن ت: ٢٠-٢٣٧١٩٩  
 تعز ت: ٠١-٢٥٠٣٤٢  
 المكلا ت: ٥٠٢٠٧٤٢٢

**البريد السريع**

صنعا ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧  
 الحديدة ت: ٢٤٩٨٢  
 إب ت: ٤١١٩٨٨  
 المكلا ت: ٣٠٢٤٤١  
 شبوه ت: ٢٠٢٣٢٦  
 سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٢٩

**FedEx**  
 Federal Express

صنعا ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧  
 الحديدة ت: ٢٤٩٨٢  
 إب ت: ٤١١٩٨٨  
 المكلا ت: ٣٠٢٤٤١  
 شبوه ت: ٢٠٢٣٢٦  
 سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٢٩

**Infinit Education T: 444553**  
 لتعليم الكمبيوتر ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

**كوبون للاعلانات الشخصية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)**

بيع □ شراء □ إيجار □ إستئجار □ طلب وظيفة □ وظائف شاغرة □ غير ذلك

تفاصيل الاعلان:

فص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة اليمن نايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧١ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعا

## Yemen uses German shepherds to find long-buried landmines

By: Hamed Thabet  
Hamed\_thabit@hotmail.com

At a military base not far from an upscale Sana'a hotel, one can hear the cacophonous sound of dogs barking as soon as you drive up. But these barking dogs aren't your average pets or guard dogs. These dogs are used to detect landmines left over from 30 years of conflicts in Yemen.

From the 1962 revolution through the 1994 Civil War, Yemen has witnessed several conflicts, each leaving behind a significant number of landmines. Governorates such as Abyan, Amran, Lahj, Al-Dhale', Al-Beidha and Hadramout are especially affected by these explosive remnants of armed conflict.

Trained dogs are the preferred method for removing landmines because they are reliable, quick, cheap and high quality.

Although Yemen has signed and ratified the United Nations treaty banning landmines, there's no domestic law to implement it.

**Mine detection dogs come to Yemen**  
In 2000, on behalf of Yemen, the German government contracted de-mining dog experts from a canine landmine detection center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The Afghan de-mining center was donated by the German government, as



Mine-sniffer German shepherd.

are nearly all the of the services to train the Yemeni dog handlers and mine dogs, instructors, field supervisors, veterinarians, set leaders and mine dog group leaders, according to Col. Ahmed Al-Kathar, director of the Mine Dog Center located in Sana'a.

When the first Afghan group arrived in Sana'a in August 2001, the group included one dog trainer, two mine dog set leaders, five dog handlers and five German shepherd mine detection dogs,

noted Abdulwahid Leywal, the center's Afghani supervising director.

Following a trial run in Al-Dhale' governorate in December 2001, the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center, which oversees the Sana'a Mine Dog Center, accepted the de-mining dog team and began training Yemeni personnel, Al-Kathar added.

The center originally was located in Aden, but some of the dogs died due to the intense heat there, so it relocated to Sana'a, initiating its own breeding program in April 2004.

### Training

Training for de-mining dogs consists of 18 months of breeding, socialization and training. The dogs then receive two months of explosives training and lastly, a month-long pre-deployment training. During the training, the dogs are taught to recognize the scent of TNT.

The landmine search process goes like this: a

dog first walks the area where landmines have been laid, sniffing for TNT. It then sits next to the mine at a distance of 30 centimeters, while a second dog does the same to ensure that it's actually a landmine.

After this, the dog's leaders will put a small mark next to the mine to signal that it's ready for mine diffusion experts to come to the site.

"Some types of land, such as desert area, aren't good for the dogs," noted Leywal. He adds that when the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center requests help from the Mine Dog Center, they first must check the that land is appropriate for using the de-mining dogs and ensure that mines can indeed be found.

Each landmine is different, with many containing varying amounts of explosive material. Al-Kathar says he won't take dogs to areas with both small explosive mines (9 grams of TNT) and larger explosives with 200 kilograms of TNT, explaining, "When dogs catch the scent of the TNT, they go after the ones with more gunpowder and leave the other [smaller] ones," which could result in killing them.

"An Afghan veterinarian is on hand to assist the other veterinarians in a dog clinic, so if anything does happen, they're prepared for surgery," Al-Kathar noted.

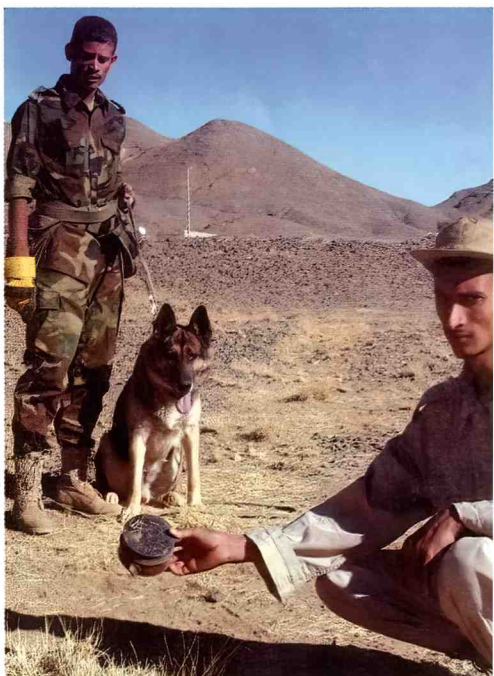
"The most important aspect is the weather. A dog's leader first must determine the direction of the wind before allowing his dog to go into the field because if the wind is blowing straight into the dog's face, it'll be in danger because it can't smell the TNT well," explained Nabil Morshed and Abdullah Othman, two of the Mine Dog Center's dog trainers, "So the wind must come from the left, right or behind."

Whereas there were only five de-mining dogs in 2001, this year, 38 dogs will be ready to search for landmines, most of them 100-percent Yemeni bred.

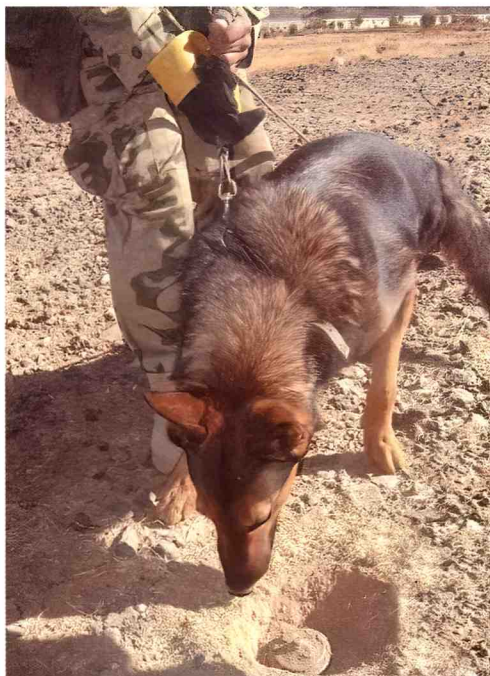
The MDC currently employs 61 mine dog handlers, 23 mines dog set leaders, 38 mine dogs eight para-veterinarians, seven supervisors, six mine group leaders, four mine instructors, four kennel masters and one supervising veterinarian.

The center serves the dogs special food shipped directly from Germany. Adult dogs eat only one meal a day while puppies eat twice a day, since their growing bodies need more energy.

Dogs may work for roughly 10 years, after which they are tested to ensure that they are able to continue working for a few more years. If a dog fails this testing, the center retires it.



Fake mine demonstration.



Finding the mines.

Damascus Street (Hadja) Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Tel.: 00967 - 1 - 418545/47/8  
P.O. Box - 18183  
Fax: 00967 - 1 - 418549 - 418564  
Website: www.shammarhotel.com  
E-mail: info@shammarhotel.com  
shammarhotel@hotmail.com

فندق وأجنحة شمر  
Shammar Hotel & Suites

## Odd News

### How deep is your love? Passion phones know

SEOUL (Reuters)- Valentine's Day in South Korea means chocolates, romantic dinners and a high-tech mobile phone device that can secretly check the passion in the voice of a lover.

The "Love Detector" service from mobile operator KTF uses technology that is supposed to analyze voice patterns to see if a lover is speaking honestly and with affection.

"We created this service because we thought people would want to know what others were feeling about them," said Ahn Hee-jung, a KTF official.

Users who speak by pointing their mobile phones at themselves for video conferences can see a "love meter" bar on the screen of their handset during a conversation.

They later receive an analysis of the conversation delivered through text message that breaks down the amount of affection, surprise, concentration and honesty of the other speaker.

The service costs subscribers a flat fee of 1,500 won (\$1.59) a month for unlimited use or can be accessed at 300 won for each call, KTF said.

"The caller is paying the money, so the information is provided only to him or her," said Ahn.



### DVD in firefighter's coat blocks bullet

WALTERBORO, S.C. AP - A South Carolina man is thankful for a DVD that ended up taking a bullet for him. Colleton County Fire and Rescue Director Barry McRoy says he was leaving a Waffle House restaurant in Walterboro on Saturday morning when two men ran in fighting over a gun. Police say a bullet hit one of the struggling men, shattered a window and then hit McRoy.

The bullet hit a DVD McRoy was carrying in his pocket. He suffered a bruise but didn't realize he had been shot. As he told a police officer what happened he noticed a bullet hole in his jacket, the shattered DVD case and a piece of the bullet.

"I was saved by a DVD," McRoy says. "How lucky can you get?" One man was arrested on assault and battery and gun charges.

The DVD was nicked. It was a gift from an employee who had recorded a TV show about fire extinguishers.

### Briton jailed for urinating on Latvian monument

RIGA (Reuters) - A British man was sentenced to five days' detention on Tuesday for urinating on one of Latvia's most treasured monuments and one of the country's ministers called such people "pigs".

A court official said the man, who denied the charges, would serve his detention in a police cell after being found guilty of urinating on the Freedom Monument.

Erected in 1935, the monument is a 42-metre (138 ft) high symbol of the Baltic state's resistance to foreign rule, which has included 50 years of Soviet occupation.

Latvian state-owned news agency LETA quoted Interior Minister Maris Seglins as saying: "These English people are pigs ... One filthy bunch of pigs."

People detained for acts of disrespect in the past have been fined. One man wearing a kilt uncovered his genitals at the monument last year.

## Yemenis urged to vote for national bird

By: Yemen Times Staff

Yemen's Ministry of Water and the Environment (MWE) called on Yemenis to vote for the country's national bird. The voting is part of a larger process to select a national bird, flower, tree, and animal.

Voting closes on 31 March, and is considered significant as it is the first time in history that Yemenis have been called upon by their government to elect their national bird.

Yemen is also the first Arab country to choose a comprehensive selection of national wildlife symbols. The significance of involving people in the selection is that it stimulates an interest in conservation, especially among the youth, the country's future leaders. The idea to involve the public came from Paul Scholte, director of the Socotra Conservative Development Program.

The public can vote for one out of four birds. The four birds were selected by a committee including Omar Al-Saghier, Secretary General of the Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife, and Abdulkarim Nasher and Masaa al Jumaily, zoology professors at Sana'a University. Advice and recommendations were received from Richard Porter, advisor to BirdLife International, Middle East Division and David Stanton as Chairman of the Yemen



The Golden-winged Grosbeak.



The South Arabian Wheatear.



Arabian Partridge.



Arabian Woodpecker.

Ornithological Society. The candidates were endorsed by Abdul-Rahman al-Eryani, MWE Minister, as suitable candidates because all four are endemic to Yemen, of sufficient conservation interest, and generally recognizable to a good percentage of the Yemeni population.

The candidates for a national bird are as follows:

1) The Golden-winged Grosbeak (*Rhynchostruthus socotranus*) is one of Yemen's most beautiful birds. Found throughout the western mountains, Al Hawf, and Socotra, the bird is divided into two subspecies, which differ slightly in plumage. Observant people can notice golden-winged grosbeaks in hilly areas and in wadis, where they use their stout beaks to eat small berries and crack tough seeds.

2) The South Arabian Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugentoides*) is one of Yemen's most familiar birds, and is known to people throughout the mountainous regions of the country. With its distinct black and white plumage, the wheatear is instantly recognizable, especially to Yemen's many farmers, as these birds often nest in holes in terrace walls. Feeding largely on insects, the wheatear helps protect crops by eating many pests.

### 4U

Yemenis can vote for the bird of their choice by sending their vote to "National Bird" at P.O. Box 2002, Sana'a, or by sending an email with the subject line "Bird" to yos@y.net.ye. They need only include the number of the bird that they are voting for: "1" for the Golden-winged Grosbeak, "2" for the South Arabian Wheatear, "3" for the Arabian Partridge, or "4" for the Arabian Woodpecker.

3) Arabian Partridge (*Alectoris melanocephala*) is well-known to many as it lives throughout the country in vegetated wadis and mountain slopes. Prized by many rural Yemenis as a delicacy, a responsible approach to hunting partridges can ensure that these birds will continue to delight and nourish future generations of Yemenis forever.

4) Arabian Woodpecker (*Dedrocopos dorae*) is a strange little bird that prefers acacia woodlands in the mountains, although it can be found in a wide range of habitats from sea level to altitudes of higher than 2,000 meters. This is the only bird in Arabia that makes its living by pecking holes in the trunks of trees as it searches for insects to eat. The woodpecker has specially constructed feet and tail feathers that enable it to cling to the sides of trees, and a shock absorber in its head to keep it from damaging its brain as it hammers its pointed beak into tree trunks.