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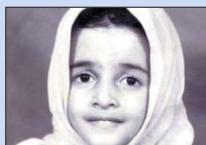
YEMEN TIMES

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Price 40 Yemeni Riyals

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Father sells daughter for qat money



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Hell Fire in Primary School



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Yemen's unemployed youth: Seeking new land

Families and teachers concerned post-attack

Although it's more likely that the mortar attack's main target was the U.S. Embassy, students at the adjacent girls' school are the ones paying the price.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, March 19 — Students at the July 7 High School for girls remain shocked after their school was bombed by three mortar rounds that exploded in the perimeter between the school and the U.S. embassy compound in Sana'a on Tuesday afternoon. One Yemeni security guard stationed at the site died and five additional security personnel were injured. Also injured were 13 girls, three of whom are in critical condition and were flown to Jordan for urgent medical care.

Only a few girls dared attend school on Wednesday, while others remained at home to recover from the shock. Both the schoolyard and the neighborhood were packed with security still investigating the incident and attempting to restore stability.

The school's vice principal, Fawzia Abdu, reported that the mortars were followed by gunshots fired into the air, most likely a reaction by security stationed at the scene in response to the attack.

Yusra Al-Aghbari, who lives in the area and teaches at the school, didn't

report for work because she was unsure if it was safe.

"We're tired of living in fear. Although it was ok because security personnel were looking after us, now with an attack of this size, I don't think we feel safe anymore," she added, commenting on the likelihood that parents will fear for their daughters' lives and withdraw them from school.

Some students' families admit that, for security reasons, they would like to transfer their daughters to schools farther from the U.S. Embassy; however, the concerned education office says it won't allow such transfers unless given clear instructions from higher up in the Ministry of Education. If such permission is not granted, it's very likely that some of the girls will drop out of school during this academic

year. Preliminary official reports by Yemeni authorities state that this was an attack on the school's principal for personal reasons, basing their conclusion on a previous beating principal Shafia Ali Al-Siraji experienced last week.

According to a local security official in the district, "The school principal was subjected to a brutal attack by a gang on Sunday, March 9, due to personal grudges while she was leaving her home for the school. We caught two of the culprits and still are searching for the others."

Al-Siraji heads the women's department in the ruling General People's Congress party in constituency No. 18 and is a member of the local council. According to neighborhood locals,

she's known for her good relations with teachers, students and their families.

The Yemen Times has learned from a source preferring to remain anonymous that contradictory to official Yemeni statements, the U.S. Embassy was the main target of the attack. Following the incident, the embassy closed to the public without specifying when it will resume normal operations.

As described by Al-Aghbari, the first mortar hit outside the school, the second hit the school's roof and the third hit the yard closer to the U.S. Embassy. "If the classrooms had been targeted, dozens of girls would've died," she observed.

Both Yemeni authorities and citizens strongly condemned the attack. President Ali Abdullah Saleh visited

the hospitals where the injured were admitted and instructed that the Yemeni government will pay for their treatment. He further announced a monetary reward for any information on the perpetrators.

Qasim Al-Marhabi, father of two girls studying at the school, said he already lost one daughter 13 years ago when a truck loaded with rocks skid off the road and crashed into the school.

Another parent, Mohammed Muqbil, called on Yemen's Education Ministry to transfer the school to somewhere safer.

While a third parent, Ahmed Awadh, said he wasn't alarmed and sent his daughter to school the day after the attack, he did go there to check that everything was fine during that day.

Ancient temple discovered by German archaeologists in Marib

By: Hamed Thabet

MARIB, March 18 — A unique and well-preserved Sabaeen temple was unearthed in a part of the ancient Sabaeen town of Sirwah in the Marib province. The temple, whose existence was recently disclosed by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI), was discovered during a restoration program carried out in the autumn of 2007.

A team of 25 German and 100 Yemeni archaeologists worked together to find the temple and date it back to approximately the first millennium, B.C.

The new temple has a monumental entrance decorated with pillars and contains a variety of rooms. The ground plan and the construction features of the temple are singular in Yemen; tower-like projections divide the exterior facade of the sanctuary and the building was constructed of both wood and stone.



The newly discovered temple dates back to approximately the first millennium, B.C and has a monumental entrance decorated with pillars and contains a variety of rooms. Excavation will complete by 2009.

According to Dr. Iris Gerlach, the DAI director in Sana'a, the temple is still under excavation. The archaeologists theorized that it was one of the only exclusively religious-use temples in the Sabaeen period. Further studies are still being conducted by German and Yemeni archaeological teams.

"The new discovery will be included in the restoration of the ancient town that will be parallel to the ongoing excavations until its completion in 2009," said Gerlach. "As the discovery is quite

recent, we do not have specific details [about the temple], but it was certainly used for religious ceremonies."

Gerlach added that the Yemeni Social Fund will cover 50 percent of the excavation and restoration expenses, while the DAI will fund the remaining 50 percent.

She mentioned that another recent archaeological find, Al-Maqah temple, is located in the same region. "Monumental ancient pillars of the huge Al-Maqah temple in Marib were re-

erected by crane last week in Sirwah," said Gerlach.

"The pillars, which weigh up to 6 tons, were first analyzed by ultrasonic measurements to check for possible internal cracks," said Gerlach. "The cracks were then fixed with steel dowels invisible on the outside, glued together and filled up with mortar. Seven other pillars were laid down by the crane to be restored in October this year."

According to researchers, Al-Maqah temple was dedicated to the most impor-

tant goddess in the Sabaeen period. Four temples dedicated to the same goddess have been found in Marib. According to Gerlach, what sets Al-Maqah temple apart from the others is the celebrations and ritual meals that used to be held there for animal sacrifices to thank their god and demonstrate their happiness. The stones which were used for sacrific-

ing the animals are still visible. The inscriptions on the temple's walls depict the life of the Sabaeen kings. "We will continue the excavations in order to find other ancient places, as it is believed that in Marib there are still many more ancient historical places to be discovered," said Gerlach.

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In brief

SANA'A

Egypt gives 20 scholarships for Yemeni preachers

Minister of Religious Endowment and Islamic Affairs Hamud al-Hitar discussed with the head of al-Azhar Sheikh Mohammed Sayed Tantawi cooperation relations between Yemen and Egypt.

During the meeting, al-Hitar and Tantawi talked on means of benefiting from al-Azhar specialists in the fields of planning, education and Islamic jurisprudence.

Tantawi said that the al-Azhar would give Yemen 20 scholarships for rehabilitating Yemeni preachers.

Workshop on fight against terrorism

Interior Ministry lunched on Tuesday a workshop on agreements and protocols on international legal fight against terrorism.

The three-day workshop, participated by 40 cadres, dealt with Yemeni experience in fighting against terrorism.

Deputy Interior Minister Saleh Hussein Zuari said that Yemen got affected by terrorism which reflected negatively on economy.

He added that Yemen is standing against terrorism, confirming that many countries praise Yemeni government experiences in the fight against terrorism.

DHAMAR

Seminar on environment protection

The environmental awareness association carried out a seminar on environment protection in cooperation with the college of engineering and dams at Dhamar University. The seminar talked about the dangers facing Yemeni environment especially the issue of using chemicals in agriculture and chaotic use of pesticides. It also touched upon international standards and legislations, which Yemen had ratified.

SA'ADA

50 kilos drugs confiscated

Central security in north Sa'ada confiscated 50 kilos of drugs while it was smuggled across to the Saudi boarder. The smugglers were on a bus about to cross Al-Miqash check point in Yemeni boarder. This is the fourth operation that has been caught since the beginning of this year as over 100 kgs of drugs were confiscated on several check points near the boarder.

LAHJ

No further construction in historical sites

Lahj governor issued a legislation preventing any construction works in or around local historical sites in Hajja. He issued this in an official meeting with the construction authority, the historical preservation authority and local security. The decree includes permits that had been given earlier but have proved now to be a threat to the historical sites.

ADEN

Norwegian containers carrier arrives in Aden Port

Norwegian containers carrier coming from Mali in Africa arrived on Tuesday at the Aden Port.

The carrier unloaded around 117 containers of many imported goods and loaded 32 containers of Yemeni exported fish and cotton.

It is worth mentioning that the Norwegian carrier is one of the largest supertankers which navigate international ports of the world.

HAJJAH

French organization to support health centers in Hajjah

Governor of Hajjah Fareed Mujawar held talks on Tuesday with chairman of the French Doctors of the World organization and discussed with him aspects of the health and medical support provided by organization to health centers of Bani-Qais district in the province.

The governor praised the humanitarian effort of the French organization to support health centers through providing large quantities of medicines and technical equipment for seven health centers. He pointed out to activities and steps adopted by province's leaders to fight epidemic diseases in the region.

For his part, chairman of organization affirmed readiness to provide more medical assistance and treatment, pointing out that organization works with its partners to make Health Department of Bani-Qais succeed for ensuring sustainability of health services.

Bomb blast hits police and municipality office in Ja'ar

ABYAN, March 19 — An explosion rocked a police station as well as the office of public works and the municipality administration office, all located in the same two-story building in Ja'ar in Abyan governorate. The explosion occurred around 3:30 a.m. on Tuesday, badly damaging the building and injuring the three guards who were inside, who were immediately taken to Al-Razi Public Hospital in Jungobar.

After inspecting the scene, a security source said that the explosion was caused by a bomb planted in the building from the outside. Due to the severity of the explosion, neighboring buildings were affected, including the tax administration building, the General Public Congress branch, and some civilians' houses. Shattered glass from the broken windows was scattered everywhere. Terrified nearby residents denounced the incident saying that it was contrary to Islamic beliefs.

They also expressed their desire to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice, and asked the Ministry of Interior to do its duty to maintain peace and educate people to respect civilians and their property. "The people who carried out such a crime are terrorists," said a Yemeni resident who lives close



The three guards of the municipality building are injured when the explosion occurred around 3:30 a.m. The explosion was caused by a bomb implanted in the building from the outside.

to the municipality office. "They claimed to be unfairly treated and humiliated by security members, especially in protests and peaceful sit-ins in, but their violent reactions also lead to civilian deaths."

Photos of the attacked building indicate that the explosives were on the sec-

ond floor, where the police and municipality offices are located. The criminal investigation office in the governorate is now gathering information and looking into the incident. So far, there have been no formal accusations lodged and the type of explosives that were used in the attack have not yet been identified.

Quota system as the way to increase women's political participation

SANA'A, March 16 — A legal solution is the only option left for Yemeni women to participate effectively in the elections as candidates through the 15 percent quota recommended by the president Saleh in 2006. Floor Beaming Program advisor of the NDI concluded this at the second day of a seminar on elections reform in Yemen. "Most problems faced by women candidates in the past are not cultural but are political challenges," she said. Women lacked the institutional protection they needed because political parties failed in increasing the representation of women as candidates from their political parties. Therefore, women were forced to run as independent candidates facing double burden of being a female as well as an independent candidate.

The quota system means either adding 45 seats to the 301 existing members of the Parliament or reserving 45 of the 301 seats creating 15 percent for women.

Bojien suggested a combination of two quotas is the best solution to women's political participation in the Shoura (Consultative) Council and the Parliament. In the Shoura council 15 percent means increasing women's presence from 2 to 17. But it will continue to be an advisory body whose members are nominated by the president. There is a risk that this will be largely symbolic. However, the parliamentary quota would give women the opportunity to compete in elections, they would be able to win seats by electoral power and have more responsibility than those women in the Shoura Council. Also the nomination would give women more exposure to the public and increase their experience in a competitive environment. Most of all, women's quota in the



In the recent local council elections in 2006, only 38 female candidates won from a total of 137 candidates. Most of the winners are from the Ruling Party, the GPC.

Parliament does not require any constitutional changes, only a few in the electoral laws and with a committed political will this can easily be achieved. According to legal experts and former candidates committee's research in 2003, female candidates complained that they were treated dismissibly by the very people who were responsible for the operating of the elections. Also the requirement to gather the 300 signatures of most of the electoral constituency in support of their candidacy as independent candidates was a big problem, which party candidates did not have to deal with.

"The question is: are women ready and qualified to participate in elections as candidates, and are the political parties ready to nominate them as representatives? Without sufficient training

and qualification of female candidates women will not be able to compete adequately especially when they are led down by the political parties," said Ilham Abdulwahab general director of the general department for women's affairs at the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum. She added that the legislations are made by men this is why they don't adhere to women's needs or demands.

The seminar was organized by the NDI in partnership with USAID and International Foundation for Election Systems. The seminar included discussions on the electoral system in Yemen and the bodies managing it. On voters list and registration, candidate nominations, campaign expenditure, counting and reporting, and the complaints systems.

State & private sector tax agreement

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, March 19 — Government and private businesses are joining together to build trust and simplify Yemen's tax system with the help of the International Finance Corporation, or IFC, and the Foreign Investment Advisory Service, or FIAS, two divisions of the World Bank.

Last week, Richard Stern, the program manager for business taxation at the Foreign Investment Advisory Service, the World Bank's business advisory arm, spoke to ministers and representatives from the private sector in Sana'a about reforming Yemen's tax system to increase the country's economic appeal to foreign investors.

The meeting's aim was to build bridges between the private business sector and the government by explaining the new Taxation Simplification Project, a wide-ranging tax reform program the IFC created for Yemen.

The country's investment environment depends on strong partnership between the public and private sectors, which are able to either facilitate or hinder business ventures, according to Stern.

"In addition to helping Yemen adopt sound technical policies based on international good practices, this program supports reform via a solid partnership between the public and private sectors, with stakeholders acting as strong champions to continue moving the agenda forward," Stern said.

The new tax reforms are designed to ease the financial burden of investors, business owners and taxpayers, as well as create jobs and minimize corruption. Stern says the reforms will target small companies, such as importers and small-scale factories making less than YR 50

million annually. Such small companies previously haven't been subjected to standard accounting procedures in Yemen.

Stern suggested strict punishment for tax evasion and fraud, in addition to implementing a real estate tax.

The IFC tax reform project began last year with a FIAS study on tax policies in Yemen. Last November, the IFC, Yemen's Finance Ministry and the private sector agreed to streamline taxation policies using financial support from the United Kingdom to implement the policies.

"There's a strong need to improve the system," noted Ahmed Ghalib, head of Yemen's Tax Authority, adding, "We can increase state revenues, provide better service to citizens and promote investments and economic development."

Sana'a Chamber of Commerce Director Hassan Al-Kabous also supports the proposed tax reforms and hopes the FIAS project will help both private businesses and taxpayers.

Currently, Yemen's tax revenues are low and the economic environment is difficult for investment. According to a World Bank study, Yemen ranks 84th out of 178 countries regarding ease of tax paying and 113th out of that same number of countries for ease of doing business. The IFC will work in conjunction with Yemen's General Investment Authority to review tax exemption status and national tax revenues. Once these financial norms have been stated, the IFC will focus on reforming the nation's Tax Authority, improving its competence and transparency while reducing the potential for corruption.

The tax reform program is expected to take anywhere from three and a half years to nearly five years to implement.

Sanitation services limited, sewage treatment plants poor

SANA'A, March 15 (IRIN) — Sanitation services in Yemen are limited. Almost all villages in rural areas, where 75 percent of Yemen's 21 million people live, still use traditional means: Sewage is either dumped in watercourses or piped onto open ground.

According to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2007-8, 43 percent of the population used improved sanitation, implying connection to a public sewer, connection to a septic tank system, pour-flush latrines, simple pit latrines or ventilated improved pit latrines.

The UNDP figures indicate an improvement over recent years: The official 2004 population census showed that only 15.9 percent of Yemeni households had access to a sanitary network (implying piped sewage only). Of the houses not connected to sanitation networks, 26.8 percent had covered holes for gathering excreta, 16.6 percent had uncovered holes, and 37.1 percent had nothing.

Officials at the Ministry of Water and Environment said the government was striving to improve sanitation services, but lacked funds.

Saleh al-Hakimi, a senior adviser with the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) office in Yemen, said Yemen was unlikely to achieve the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goal (MDG - halving the proportion of people without access to safe water and sanitation by 2015) unless significant further efforts were made. "The government of Yemen is making efforts to provide sanitation services but these efforts are not sufficient," he said, adding that the lack of adequate sewage treatment plants was leading to groundwater contamination.

The UN has also said Yemen is not on track to meet the sanitation MDG.

Rural areas

Ahmed al-Soufi, an information officer at the National Water and Sanitation Foundation (NWSF), a government body under the Ministry of Water and Environment, told IRIN that in rural areas, human waste was often collected in open places near people's homes.

"Special tanks then carry the human waste to unpopulated areas," he said,

adding that the lack of sanitation services led to health problems like diarrhoeal diseases. He said these areas had no sewage treatment plants.

Mohammed Ibrahim al-Hamdi, deputy minister of water and environment, told IRIN that in rural areas sanitation services were also difficult to set up due to varied geographical and geological conditions.

"People in rural areas do not use as much water as in urban areas. It is difficult to set up sanitation services in mountainous areas. Most villages consist of a few houses and it is difficult to establish sewage treatment facilities in each village," he explained.

Sewage treatment plants ineffective

Salem Mohammed, head of GAPE's Epidemic Surveillance Department, told IRIN that in the 1990s there was bacterial pollution because of waste sewage being dumped outside cities. "But sewage treatment plants solved the problem only to some extent," he said. Their location was often inappropriate as they were close to residential areas. Ali Abdullah al-Dhabhani, head of the Toxins and Wastes Department at the General Authority for Protecting the Environment (GAPE), told IRIN that hospital and medical laboratory waste is treated at sewage works. This waste contains dangerous chemical substances, bacteria and viruses, he said, adding: "Unfortunately, sometimes farmers use such waste water to irrigate their crops."

Al-Dhabhani warned that water treated at sewage works, which also often processed medical waste and waste from abattoirs, was not fit for irrigating crops owing to chemical contamination. The lack of water was also a problem as it meant the concentration of toxic chemicals remained high.

"Health risks include cholera, diarrhoeal diseases and typhoid," GAPE's Mohammed said, adding that sewage plants were "sub-standard".

Sewage treatment plants are found only in the big cities, like Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, and al-Hudeidah.

According to al-Dhabhani, Sanaa's sewage works was designed in the 1980s and opened in 1999, but never designed to cater for a city of around 2.5 million people.

Continued from page 1

Ancient temple discovered by German archaeologists in Marib

The ancient town of Sirwah was located on overland incense trade routes, but was also connected to trade routes to southern Arabia, from the Yemeni highlands down to the old caravan kingdoms on the edge of the Ramlat Al-Sabatayn. Numerous cult installations provide evidence of intensive ritual procedures at the town's sanctuaries, including altars, banquet areas for ritual meals, bone deposits of sacrificed animals and a treasure chamber for storing hundreds of votives. The focal point of the Al-Maqah temple was formed by two monumental stones featuring inscriptions from the time of two Sabaean rulers, Yithar'amar Watar bin Yakrubmalik (715 B.C.) and Karib'il Watar (685 B.C.). The over seven-

meter-long monolithic inscription stones report on both the warlike and the civil activities of these rulers.

During the 1st millennium B.C., the most important center of the Sabaean kingdom was next to the ancient metropolis of Marib. The large Sabaean town was surrounded by a fortified wall, and included many monumental buildings, the most prominent being Al-Maqah Temple, which dates back to the 7th century B.C. and is currently undergoing restoration.

Since 2001, the DAI and the General Organization of Antiquities and Museums have carried out excavations and restoration measures in Sirwah. For 30 years, Germany and Yemen have jointly conducted archaeological and restoration projects which have helped to preserve some of Yemen's most valuable ancient sites.



Five new pillars that were found underground are being re-erected

WHAT IT MEANS...

Yemeni laws discriminate against women

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).

Reviewing the legislative system of Yemen for the first time, one gets the impression that the laws are well-drafted and ensure the rights of both men and women. Upon analyzing and dissecting those laws and regulations, one will inevitably realize that certain elements of this system, which regulates private and public relationships, involve a considerable degree of discrimination against women. This conclusion is supported by the legal teams formed by the National Women's Committee (NWC), which have been working since 2000 to examine Yemeni laws for gender bias.

The NWC wanted to ensure this system complies with the Islamic tenets and principles as the main source of legislation, with the Constitution and with the international conventions ratified by the Republic of Yemen, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The legal review teams came up with proof that there is flagrant discrimination embedded in some provisions, most severely in the Personal Status law, the Nationality law and the Penalty law.

The Personal Status law does not spec-



By: Hooria Mashoor

ify an appropriate age of marriage, which as a result, inadvertently permits early marriage among young females – an especially common problem in rural areas. Early marriage in turn affects girls' ability to continue their education. With early marriage comes early pregnancies, which can cause problems like fistula (a condition that causes incontinence) or even to death during childbirth.

The Personal Status law arbitrates against a wife, as it gives a man the absolute right to polygamy, without provisions mandating that he inform his wife of his plans. The law doesn't restrict polygamy according to Sharia rule, which stipulates non-harassment, equality and justice among wives. The same law dis-

criminate against divorced women to the same degree when it comes to alimony and child custody.

The Nationality law's treatment of a Yemeni man's foreign wife and children is different from its treatment of the foreign husband and children of a Yemeni woman.

Moreover, the Penalty law severely undervalues a woman's worth, since the law claims that the blood of a woman is worth only half as much as a man's. According to this law, a woman, when injured, shall be compensated with half the financial amount given to a man for the same injury. A man's penalty for murdering his wife or any of his female relatives over adultery is mitigated by the law, while the same law says that a female who commits the same act is to be executed.

Around 61 discriminatory provisions have been submitted to the decision-makers since 2001.

Last March, the Cabinet of Ministers approved - in principle - some suggested amendments to laws that discriminate against women. However, the Cabinet excluded the provision to define a legal age of marriage in the Personal Status law, on the grounds that it should be amended in the Child Rights law, as proposed by the Higher Council of Childhood. The

Cabinet also excluded the provisions that call for the application of the "quota" system aimed at rejuvenating women's political participation, under the pretext that this issue is still subject to discussion among different political parties.

The Cabinet formed a ministerial committee comprised of the Ministers of Endowments, Justice, and Legal Affairs, in addition to the Chairperson of the National Women's Committee to study, examine and legally redraft certain laws.

Approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, the legal provisions were then referred to the Parliament last year and were put on the agenda for review and discussion. The Parliament circulate the drafted legal amendments on the specialist committees for discussion and opinion before they are discussed and decided upon by the MPs.

Many laws find their way through the Parliament quickly, but for some reason, those laws related to women's rights are always considered with mistrust and doubt. The proof of this is that the amendments to the Personal Status law were first raised in the early days of the National Women's Committee – back in 1996. Since that time, this issue has stood still. Ironically, this does not invite suspicion because the nature of the Parliament is still the same, not conducive to change.

Nor does it facilitate the improvement of women's legal status, despite the dialogue initiated with the Parliament and its various committees. Although there are voices that support women, they are few, separate and not influential.

Women hope that the Parliament will spend time on legal amendments which logically shouldn't be delayed, especially because those provisions were revised by professional jurisprudence specialists. A ray of hope still glimmers when women remember that most of the MPs, if not all, have won due to female voters. The earlier the Parliament approves those amendments, the more time all of us save. Moreover, such a step would enable the National Women's Committee to proceed to Phase III of the continued Legal Amendments Project, which reacts and adapts to new developments and requirements.

The civil society and women's organizations must play a greater role in terms of mobilization, advocacy, and even pressuring the Parliament to look into and approve those laws. Only then can discrimination against women be eliminated.

Hooria Mashoor is deputy chairperson of the Women National Committee and a strong advocate for women's rights.

Their News

Heads of Mission Spouses Association host annual charity luncheon



SANA'A, YEMEN

The heads of mission spouses association (HOMSA) hosted their annual women-only charity luncheon on Thursday at the Movenpick Hotel in Sana'a, incorporating an entertaining program, raffle, folklore dancing, a fashion show and a rich culinary treats from countries around the world.

The ladies luncheon is one of HOMSA's yearly highlighted activities. It is supported by Ambassador Spouses either by cooking, performance or charitable donations. Tickets – a steep YR4,000 per head were completely sold out at a very early time as Yemeni and foreign ladies were delighted to attend.

"The luncheon was a tremendous success and we thank our sponsors for their generous donations" said Orouba Jaradat, head of HOMSA and wife of the Jordanian Ambassador to Yemen.

"There are some countries who participate in this event by [donating] food and by dancing and the fashion show," said Jaradat. "All what we have raised during the event will go to charity projects".

The association supports women and children's causes in Yemen, often giving charitable donations to poor families and orphaned youngsters. HOMSA also donates to Yemeni women's associations. "They send us letters and we

check on their needs and then after that we send them what they asked us for," said Jaradat.

Associations like HOMSA are active throughout the world, and frequently host events such as this one that benefit charities or help to improve the lives of the residents of the country where they are posted.

UNICEF regional director to spotlight children, women programs

UNICEF Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa, Sigrid Kaag arrives in Sana'a Friday on a 3-day visit for taking a first hand view of UNICEF Program of Cooperation and hold intensive consultations with development partners, UN Heads of agencies and national counterparts to help enhance Yemen's achievement of the development goals for children and women.

Sigrid Kaag follows a hectic schedule of field visits and meetings with the Prime Minister and the ministers from the counterpart departments with key role in translating the vision for children into a reality. With UNICEF's new Country Programme Action Plan 2007-2011 Yemen stands on the anvil of a critical opportunity to fulfill and protect the rights of children and women's access to health, education, water and sanitation and protection from abuse neglect and exploitation.

On her visit to Yemen, after assuming the responsibility of the Regional Director for MENARO that overseas UNICEF program of Cooperation in 15 countries of the region, her visit holds immense significance in view of the country's strident efforts to raise the pro-

file of children and women. Sigrid Kaag's brings rich and varied experience to the region. Prior to her appointment as the Regional Director, she served as the Chief of Staff to the UNICEF Executive Director from April 2006 until December 2007.

In this capacity, she has provided strategic policy, advocacy and leadership support to UNICEF work across the world. She is no stranger to the region and has also served as Senior Advisor to the United Nations/World Bank Joint Assessment Mission for Sudan in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in Khartoum. Sigrid Kaag's itinerary has been carefully crafted to cover the diverse nature of UNICEF mandate making precious space for interaction at different levels and ensuring time for face to face interaction with children, adolescents and community leaders.

UNICEF interventions in the important field of health and nutrition, education and child protection. The field visits to Sanhan district will provide an opportunity to see community level programs devoted to accelerate girls' education, which is one of the priority concerns for UNICEF cooperation.

In Aden, UNICEF Regional Director

will open Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers set up with UNICEF support as part of community based initiatives for HIV/AIDS. The activities in the field will be centered on the articulation of views and voices of young people to encourage their increased involvement in the community level initiatives.



In Sana'a, UNICEF is hosting a reception for her on 22 March for interaction with diplomats, government officials, parliamentarians, NGOs, members of the civil society, private sector and media.

Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) Organizes the Third "Conflict Transformation Training"

The third in the series of conflict transformation and peace building training

workshops will be hosted by Islamic Relief Yemen for 105 participants from Lahj governorate. The training workshops will be held from the 22nd -31 March 2008.

This programme is part of a two year plan where IRY will carry out interactive participatory workshops in four governorates: Saa'da - Sana'a - Lahj - Aden.

The training will be delivered by external trainers in addition to IRY's staff where a total of 665 individuals, from the four governorates, will be trained. Participants include tribal leaders, Imams, other community leaders, teachers, students, members of key civil society organizations, local NGOs, security, army officers and police officers, government officials, members of local courts, and refugees.

The general objective of the workshops is to reduce incidence of violent conflict in Yemen through the mainstreaming of conflict transformation and the promotion of responsible citizenship.

This project has been designed with the expectation that training individuals can lead to social change, when they represent categories of people who can bring changes to the conflict situation.

It is a first experience of its kind in Yemen, in following a holistic approach it is hoped that it will be beneficial in creating space for different social groups to learn from each other, and together gain awareness on human rights while leaning the benefits of dealing with conflict peacefully.

The program aims to provide skills and raise awareness of the participants on conflict transformation and peace building and human rights issues. It will contribute towards the adoption, by target communities, of non-violent approaches to social, economic and political disputes.

The first in the series of conflict transformation and peace building training workshops was hosted by Islamic Relief Yemen for participants from Saa'da governorate (08th - 17th December 2007 at Rahban Hotel - Saa'da), the second for participants from Sana'a governorate between 05th - 10th January 2008 at Sharm Hotel - Sana'a).

IRY is an International NGO working in Yemen focusing on development and emergency. These include Conflict Transformation, Disaster Management, Water, Health, Child Welfare and Orphans, seasonal projects and In-Kind Donations.

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YEMAD/MSC/HCR/214
19th March 2008

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INTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE**

Title of Post: **Admin Clerk**
Position Number: 10012573
Category & Level: **GL 4**
Location: **Aden**

Date of Entry on Duty: **01 May 08**
Duration: **31 Dec. 2008**
Closing Date: **1st April. 08**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Under the direct supervision of the Admin. Office SO Aden, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

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2. Preparing recurring reports as scheduled and special reports as required for budget preparation, audit and other reasons;
3. Assisting in the processing of entitlements, issuance of contracts and maintenance of various personnel records and files;
4. Preparing of correspondence, reports, evaluations and justifications, as required, on general administrative tasks;
5. Assisting in the preparation of office budgets applicable to staff and service costs and maintaining budgetary control records;
6. Requisitioning of office supplies and equipment and arranging for control of distribution and maintenance of appropriate inventory records;
7. Assisting in the recruitment of General Service staff by evaluating candidate applications and conducting preliminary interviews;
8. Attending meetings on day-to-day administrative matters; administering the movement of local staff members, their attendance, leave plans, overtime, etc.
9. Perform other duties as may be requested from time to time.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
Completion of secondary education, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in a field related to the work of the organization.
Experience: Should have at least 6 Years of previous job experience related to the function with an international organization;
Should be familiar with UNHCR software related to Administration and Finance
Languages: Knowledge of English is essential. Knowledge of a UN second language and a local language is an asset.

IMPORTANT:
* APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF UNHCR.

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P.O. Box: 6090,
Aden- Republic of Yemen

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Sanaa

Die Deutsche Botschaft Sanaa sucht zum 01. Mai 2008

**Eine/n Mitarbeiter/in (halbtags)
zur Mitarbeit in der Pass- und Visastelle**

Bewerberinnen und Bewerber sollten über folgende Qualifikationen und Erfahrungen verfügen:

- Perfekte Arabischkenntnisse;
- Sehr gute Deutschkenntnisse (mündlich und schriftlich);
- Gute Englischkenntnisse erwünscht (mündlich und schriftlich);
- PC-Kenntnisse;
- Hochschulabschluss oder Berufserfahrung;

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(Alle Dokumente in arabischer Sprache sollen mit einer deutschen Übersetzung versehen sein)

bis zum 02. April 2008 an:
Deutsche Botschaft; Postfach 41, Sanaa
Zu Hdn. Herrn Peter Speyer

Nur Bewerberinnen und Bewerber, die in die engere Vorauswahl kommen, werden von uns benachrichtigt.

¹ Neben fachlichen auch persönliche Anforderungen wie Fähigkeit zur Teamarbeit, Belastbarkeit, Freude am Umgang mit Besuchern etc.



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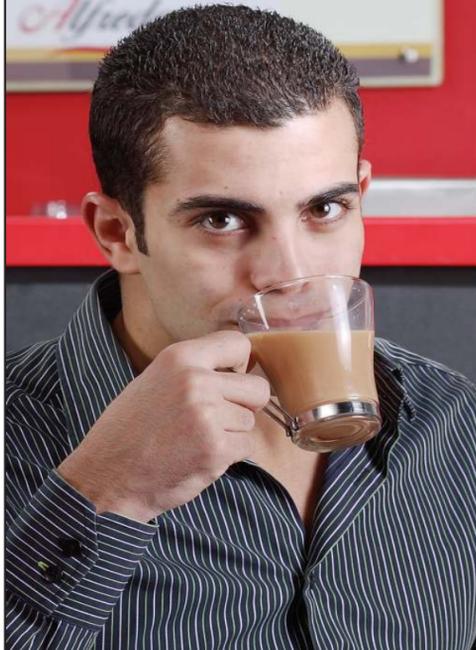
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Father sells daughter for qat money

By: Abdulqawi Shi'alan
For Yemen Times

Having no money to buy qat and cigarettes, Ahmad Al-Dhabri sold his eldest child, 11-year-old Aisha, for YR 30,000, or approximately \$150, and forced his three other children to beg on the streets, thereby exposing them to molestation and other forms of abuse.

However, the Prosecution's investigative minutes reveal that Al-Dhabri has been found guilty of mistreating his children and hasn't rule out his involvement – along with his second wife and his brother – in selling Aisha after the prosecutor heard testimony by one witness after another and verified that their testimonies were identical in support of a June 12, 2007 lawsuit the victim's mother filed against the father.

Aisha's younger sister Karima died as a result of being run over while begging late one night in Hawdh Al-Ashraf in the presence of her brother Marwan and sister Enas, who since then have been educated and received kind treatment by their father in Taiz.

It's been seven years since Aisha's father sold her to a stranger for YR 30,000 and the location of where she's living now still remains unknown. Some say she's in Aden, while others claim she appeared once in Yemen's eastern Al-Mahrah governorate before crossing the eastern border into Oman in the company of the man who bought her. After divorcing Ahmad Al-Dhabri more than 10 years ago, Aisha's 45-year-old mother Hamama remarried a man from Dhamar governorate. She's now filing a lawsuit against her ex-husband, who was found guilty of selling Aisha and neglecting his other three children. "He mistreated them and forced them to beg on the streets to bring him money for qat and cigarettes," Hamama testified tearfully in a Taiz court.

After bursting into tears at the court, she was asked about what had happened. "They sold my daughter to an unidentified individual for YR 30,000," she answered. When asked, "Who sold your daughter?" she replied, "Her father, her paternal uncle and a Somali woman," adding that she searched for her everywhere, but couldn't find her.

"I went to Aden, Sana'a and several villages in Taiz in search of her. Additionally, I made an appeal on Yemen satellite channel's television program, 'Nauh Al-Tayyur,' but no one responded. Only God knows where my daughter is after being sold by her inhuman father," she recounted as she continued crying.

"Even worse, my second husband practices all types of insult and humiliation against me when I ask to visit my children, always refusing to allow me to go to Taiz, where they live with their father, my ex-husband."

According to Hamama, her second husband also is cruel, hardly allowing her to contact her children. "When I finally managed to visit my children at their father's home, I didn't find Aisha there. When I inquired as to her fate, the only response I got was, 'She's at her uncle's house and in good condition,'" the mother recalled.

"Even though I knew her uncle was an indecent man, that was enough to assure me, so I returned to Dhamar without seeing her. However, I eventually discovered that she wasn't at her uncle's home, but that she'd been sold to an unknown individual, according to eyewitnesses. I believe that her father, uncle and stepmother – the Somali woman – are responsible for her fate."

New neighbor brings trouble

Hamama's friend Minal Al-Qubati maintains that because he was extremely jealous of his wife, Al-Dhabri used to lock her in their home whenever he left. "Hamama was always surprised



Aisha

at his behavior, finding him sitting alone in his room for several hours every day.

"After a while, she got a new neighbor of Somali origin but with a Yemeni father. Her name was Hanan. She established a strong relationship with Hanan and used to exchange visits

It's been seven years since Aisha's father sold her to a stranger for YR 30,000 and the location of where she's living now still remains unknown.

with her, thereby unwittingly helping her husband learn about Hanan and then form a suspicious relationship with her, which Hamama discovered," Al-Qubati recounted.

"Aisha's mother couldn't do anything to force her husband to break off his suspicious relationship with Hanan, who subsequently married him. Immediately divorcing Hamama, he

retained their children, including Aisha, who lived with him and their new stepmother."

According to Al-Qubati, police frequently arrested the lighter-skinned Aisha when they found her begging in the company of black-skinned children from Yemen's marginalized social group. After her mother's divorce, Aisha spent most of her time jailed in police stations or mistreated by her father and her uncle until she disappeared.

In suing her ex-husband for mistreating their children and forcing them to beg, Hamama discovered that their father and stepmother had beaten and tortured them severely. Eastern Taiz Prosecution's investigation minutes reveal that Aisha was sold to an unidentified individual, an act for which the abovementioned three perpetrators are primarily responsible.

Mother sells henna

Hamama began selling henna while moving from one city to another and from house to house in search of her daughter, choosing this particular job in the belief that it would facilitate her entry into numerous homes and communication with many women she doesn't know. The job also helps her make money to live on throughout her long journey of searching for her lost daughter.

The bereaved mother also contacted fortunetellers in Sana'a and other areas while selling henna, but they gave her false information about where her daughter is living. Some claimed Aisha was in Hadramout, while others said she was in Aden.

Most Yemenis know that these fortunetellers, pretending to have accurate information and facts, usually lie. In any event, Hamama was misled or confused by these fortunetellers, none of whom gave the same location where Aisha was living.

One female fortuneteller told Hamama that Aisha was married to a

man in Hadramout, which is 800 kilometers east of Taiz, and that he often beats her. So she traveled to Hadramout only to discover that the fortuneteller was lying because Aisha wasn't there.

Father and uncle deny charges

Jobless, Aisha's 45-year-old father denies the Prosecution's charges against him, instead alleging that police and his district's chief broke into his home and kidnapped her. Asked why he hasn't searched for his daughter until years after her disappearance, Al-Dhabri justifies his inaction due to being assured by the district chief that Aisha was living in the home of her paternal uncle, Abdu Al-Dhabri, a 33-year-old taxi driver.

Fearing that his brother may charge him, Aisha's uncle Abdu disclosed to the prosecutor that her stepmother Hanan told him that her father had handed her over to strangers on Taiz's Bir Bash Street.

This matches what her mother Hamama said, also citing Aisha's stepmother as saying this. Both her uncle and stepmother separately revealed the specific date when Aisha's father handed her over to strangers more than seven years ago.

A YR 30,000 price tag

Responding to the Prosecution's questions, Hanan said her brother-in-law Abdu one day came with his mother and told her that Aisha had run away a year before, adding that she had been found by Dhirba district's chief in Taiz, who handed over her and two dark-skinned boys to the nearby police station. However, asked to claim his daughter, her father and uncle refused to do so until a medical team examined her.

According to Hanan, Abdu Al-Dhabri returned with two other men and chewed qat together in the home of Aisha's father, who was unavailable at that time.

The three then went out, taking Aisha with them, and she hasn't returned home since.

Eyewitnesses, including Hussein Mohammed Ali, testified to the Prosecution, revealing that Ahmad Al-Dhabri personally sold his daughter to a stranger for YR 30,000.

One female fortuneteller told Hamama that Aisha was married to a man in Hadramout, which is 800 kilometers east of Taiz, and that he often beats her. So she traveled to Hadramout only to discover that the fortuneteller was lying because Aisha wasn't there.

Selling children is a crime

According to her mother's friend Al-Qubati, who also is an attorney, selling children is a flagrant crime, particularly when the perpetrators are their parents, who facilitate such trafficking as a result of poverty. She says that after being sold to strangers, such children may be exploited for dangerous purposes, such as the selling their organs or being forced to work in risky environments.

"Many Yemeni children often are smuggled to Saudi Arabia or Oman, where they work at underpaid jobs and are exposed to physical risks," she continued, citing Article No. 248 of the relevant law, which reads, "Anyone found guilty of trafficking children shall face no less than a 10-year term of imprisonment."

Another persistent problem in Yemeni society, according to Al-Qubati, is child torture, aside from the fact that all international human rights conventions and legislation – which the Yemeni government has signed and ratified – ban such torture.

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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

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Experience: Minimum 7-10 years experience in the drilling, workover and completion operations, plus excellent computer skills.
Language: Proficiency in English (Oral and Written)
 Computer Skills

Major Responsibilities:

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- Production and Plant Operations
- Well Evaluation
- Computer Skills.

Language: Proficiency in English (Oral and Written)

Major Responsibilities:

- Responsible for preparing studies for projects and facilities expansion.
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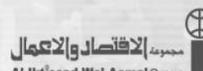
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Ja'ashin citizens and the endless tragedy

By: Raima Al-Shami

For the second consecutive year, the Ja'ashin citizens evacuate their homes to flee oppression, slavery and other illegal practices they are suffering under the control of the powerful Sheikh Mohammed Ahmad Mansour, who is Mr. President's Poet. The influential sheikh is proud of the government's knowledge of his practices, and likewise, Mr. President knows well about his behavior. Are Mansour's practices accepted by any tradition, legislation or religion?

Is it possible for Mr. President to accept such crimes and oppression practiced by his poet against citizens whom he promised of eliminating all the influential persons ahead of 2006 presidential elections?

For the second time, the oppressed Ja'ashin citizens came to Yemen's capital city to claim their constitutional and legal right. They want nothing more than ceasing the oppression practiced against them and incorporating their district into the State of the Republic of Yemen for being geographically located to the south of Ibb, one of the Yemeni governorates.

Monarchic state of Ja'ashin:

Imagine that after the passage of more than 40 years since the 26 September Revolution broke out and the Republican system of governance was established, the Ja'ashin district has been a feudal kingdom administered by Sheikh Mansour, who controls the district with imprisonments, oppression, heavy ransoms and citizen intimidation. Because he is backed by Mr. President, he changed the Ja'ashin citizen's living into hell, slavery and poverty, as they work hard in order to

pay for the ransoms Mansour levied on them. They did so in order to escape forcible displacement, imprisonment and that their cattle and other property may be looted or confiscated, having not paid the illegally levied ransom. Simply, this is how a Ja'ashin citizen lives since the first day of his/her birth until he/she is laid in his/her final resting place.

The government, various state agencies and rule of law have not yet entered the Ja'ashin kingdom despite the passage of decades since the 26 September Revolution broke out with the intention of eliminating oppression, tyranny, poverty and illiteracy. Mr. President's poet is the state with all its various institutions, mainly as he imposes taxes on citizens, jails them and does what he wants to maintain his dominance over them. Any thing in the district, even eggs, is Mansour's exclusive property.

The human tragedy is terrible and indescribable in the Ja'ashin district where Mansour applies his own law and legislation to control the area citizens. The feudal man, who receives support from different official agencies, threatens his peasants of bad consequences if they refuse to obey his orders and is only concerned about collecting money illegally from peasants under the guise of Zakat. He never cares about the miserable conditions of the rural area peasants who hardly provide for their families, and therefore imposes on them heavy sums of money, which they can not afford.

Private Jails:

Anyway, the Ja'ashin citizens found themselves obliged to pay such illegal ransoms at any cost. If they refuse to do so, the Sheikh Mansour's followers will forcibly confiscate their cattle and

household effects, as well as raid their homes, attack innocent women and children and take them to private confinements, which the tyrannous man prepared for penniless peasants, who can not afford paying ransoms to him.

Constitution of the Republic of Yemen bans private jails and one of its articles reads that no Yemeni citizen may be jailed for more than 24 hours unless there is a prosecution order. But Mansour has four private confinements namely they are: Al-Wakra, Al-Haddah, Al-Akama and Al-Hanash, the last of which is the most notorious, according to displaced or homeless citizens who spent some days of their life in that jail. The jail's notoriety was derived from its name since it is designed in the form of a high a circular watch tower, resembling a fortress, where a snake is living inside and any inmates see it while being imprisoned. According to inmates, who suffered the jail's agony and torture, the snake moves among them, goes outside and returns to sleep in the ceiling over them.

The homeless peasants, currently existing at the Yemen Female Media Forum in Sana'a, are the second batch of victims tortured by President Saleh's poet within a year. They evacuated their homes and abandoned their farmlands to escape Mansour's oppression and tyranny, notably those who can not afford paying ransoms to the powerful sheikh in exchange for peaceful living among their women and children.

After evicting them from their homes, Mansour confiscated their livestock and other property, raided their houses and tortured their families because he is quite sure that neither the Constitution nor the government could stop his oppression. Condition of the second batch of displaced peasants is not different from that of the previous

batches, which fled the area last year as a result of the harsh torture and oppression Mansour practiced against them. By destiny, the Ja'ashin citizens are doomed to live homeless or remain displaced away from their villages for an indefinite period of time because of an influential tribal leader practicing the various forms of oppression, injustice and torture against them, thanks to Mr. President's nepotism and support for his poet.

This is "the New Yemen":

More tragic is that Mr. President did promise his people ahead of the most recent presidential elections in September 2006 that he would exterminate all the influential people and put a stop to their oppression and tyranny. However, the terrible conditions experienced by the Ja'ashin citizens and repeated for the second time within less than a year evidently clarify the policy of President Saleh who mostly relies on influential persons and allow them to practice all the forms of violence and legal violations against citizens in order to maintain his stay in power. Moreover, he seems to be encouraging them to do so and provide them with adequate protection, as well as immunity from accountability and questioning. The situation of the Ja'ashin peasants displaced for the second time within less than a year at the hands of his poet is an evident example of Saleh's irresponsible and inhuman policy.

When a state lacks law and order:

The Yemeni state seems to be absent, along with its institutions, Constitution, and laws, and doesn't show any concern over the injustice and inhuman practices exercised by influential individuals against innocent peasants. For the second time, the Ja'ashin peasants

sets up their tent at the Yemeni Female Media Forum appealing to the concerned human organization to alleviate their sufferings and lift the oppression practiced by Mansour and his followers against them. They complained that the tyrannous sheikh freely fine them for committing no sin and illegally force them to pay ransoms to him under the guise of Zakat.

We are shocked at the indecency, inhumanity and irresponsibility of such influential persons who are fund of oppressing simple peasants, illegally grabbing their property and forcibly

taking their money to build luxurious villas, buy large plots of land and establish trade companies. Sheikh Mansour lives in a luxurious palace in Taiz city that was constructed with funds coming from needy peasants who pay ransoms to the sheikh so that they can live in peace and escape his oppression and injustice. On our part, we appeal to Mr. President to fulfill the promises he made to his people prior to re-electing him for another presidential mandate in September 2006.

Source: Marebpress.net

COMMON SENSE

Back Home:

Could It Really Get Worse?

For almost three decades now the Yemeni people have been living on the contention that things could never get worse! With every "crisis" Yemen has gone through, starting from the petty guerilla fighting of the Eighties, which was supposedly meant to root out the leftist radicals that were said to cause havoc in the heartland of what was then the Yemen Arab Republic, especially against social dignitaries (sheikhs, notables, merchants and other notables). When that ended when the people of the areas rose up in arms against these menacing social thorns (of course, as is always the case, the Salafis sought to steal the credit from the genuine popular forces that rose against these sadistic militants and sure enough the regime actually believed them!



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Then came the oil and, wow, everyone in the country thought that Yemen's troubles were over at last! How easily swayed are Yemenis by exaggerated representations of everything that might be slightly good for the country (if used properly of course and is subject to public accounting). Of course, the oil flowed out and the petrodollars began to flow in. Although the amounts of foreign currency inflows from oil were more than enough to make up for the decreasing remittances from the hard-working Yemeni emigrants and expatriate laborers, especially in the Gulf States. Unfortunately the people's hopes were thrown out the window, when it was realized that the oil revenues were out of touch in terms of public scrutiny and more importantly public good. The petrodollars simply provided a cushion for the military regime to carry on for an indefinite and unpredictable tenure, and the former foreign supporters of the regime so no harm in that since they would not be subject to blackmail anymore. As for the people of Yemen, well as many people with foresight then had predicted, the economic conditions of the country did not see the light of day with oil. The Yemeni Riyal, which was actually undervalued at YR 4.5 to the US Dollar began its inevitable decline as a result of an economy that lacked any meaningful credible management, because it ranked in last place in the not so prudent wisdom of a regime that considered all the resources as a God-sent blessing to fund its lease on power and the development and entrenchment of the oppressive vehicles that the regime relies on to maintain a tight noose against the innocent people of Yemen, lest any of them start getting the idea that they have a right to start raising eyebrows against the horrendously unorthodox principles of governance the regime has also sought to engrain in the fabric of public affairs.

When unification came, surely then it was thought the balance of power and the wise inputs initiated of democracy and political pluralism, which was insisted upon by our Southern brothers, who were then (November 30, 1989) at the helms in the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and which was born out of the unification agreement, would lend itself to bringing about all the reforms the Yemeni people in both north and south of Mukairas, were crying for almost since the Revolutions of September 26, 1962 and the November 30, 1967 evacuation of the British Crown from Aden Colony and the Protectorates that were eventually joined together as the short-lived South Arabian Federation and subsequently the PDRY.

Then came the brief period of genuine freedom and democratic practice – albeit in an increasing aura of signs that indicate that the sweet taste of freedom then realized in the Transitional Period were no more than a short-lived optical illusion. One wonders how all the elements of sound democratic political dynamics could be contested in Yemen and outside by so many forces that so in Yemen's democratization a threat to dubious vested interests.

In any case, the four-year wedding celebration that Yemen enjoyed in the post unification period was suddenly transformed into a military confrontation, which surely indicated that our leaders have forgotten themselves, their people and their sworn pledges to keep the good wheels rolling. Even after having signed the Agreement of Pledge and Accord in Amman in February 1994, it seemed that our leaders do not give any value to commitments and pledges, especially towards their people. Both sides had, in fact, already reached the point of no return, even if they sign a pledge to the contrary otherwise in blood. It was war and a tragic end to a spirit of jubilation that still kept glowing even when the war drums were beating already prior to the signing of the Agreement of Pledge and Accord, which most analysts and observers hailed as a landmark document that came out of genuine political considerations to return government back to the people. More to come.

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

This nation should have at least a wise man

I think that it is enough for Yemen to tolerate the ongoing fighting in Sa'ada that has not ended until the movement. Only God knows how the aftermath will look like in this plighted country, remarkably as political congestions in the south keep on escalating, and therefore are projected to take Yemen into an unprecedented dilemma. Oppressive citizens in the southern governorates are proceeding toward a mutiny unless this country has a wise man to prevent the situation from worsening.

The ruling party seems to be living its last but one political stage. It is the stage of political isolation due to be immediately followed by the stage of collapse or fall. The party's search for

new allies to replace its allies of the past, who cut their relation with the party, having observed that it lacks prudence, is impossible to reach fruitful results.

It is impossible to ignore or underestimate the nationwide consensus rejecting the ruling party's policies that do nothing for the community except for generating dire situations and poor living standards. Today, Yemen is hastily progressing toward the unknown while government dignitaries are extremely engaged in securing their interests and preparing for their sons to replace them.

If we don't come together to protect our rights and freedoms and defend the oppressed citizens – mainly those of the



By: Khalid Yahya
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southern governorates – not only unity will be risked, but the Revolution and any other national achievements may not escape the potential risk. Our homeland is in an urgent need for a

national rescue program to end the escalating congestions and turmoil, even through the involvement of Arab and international parties. To maintain the national unity, this program should be applied. Calming voices of the oppressed and backing an imprudent authority that spoiled every beautiful thing can not be a solution to the escalating turmoil.

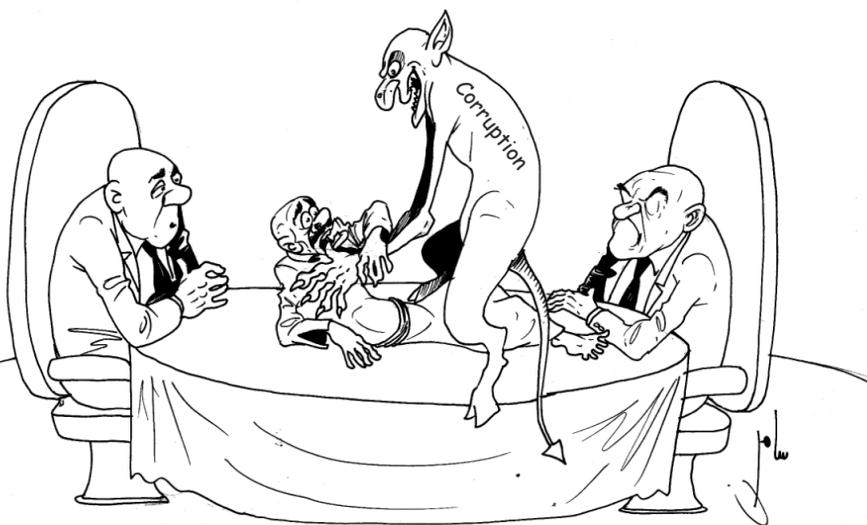
In order to end the country's plight, we should not be blinded against the injustice and oppression practiced on citizens under the guise of protecting the national unity. Rescuing the county from the current turmoil necessitates holding the standing authority accountable for its poor policies.

We support the authority in case it is on the right path, but we don't tolerate they way it uses 'the unity' as an umbrella to blind us against any mistakes made by the government or the ruling party. We don't support having the unity as an umbrella for influential officials to plunder lands, embezzle public funds, and intimidate people, prevent them to practice their political rights or accuse them of secession, extremism or terrorism.

The authority is recommended to eliminate the bad consequences left by the 1994 War, refer corrupt officials to court to be tried over their irresponsible behavior, reform the election system, ensure that judiciary, media and army are neutral and independent, cease price doses and eradicate poverty and unemployment. It is also advised to create more job opportunities, and negotiate with retirees and resolve their issues.

In addition, the government should understand well that people may no longer tolerate its poor policies. It has to learn that people are ready to sacrifice all what they have to get rid of the dire situation. We want to see the government behaving wisely and logically, even for one time, while dealing with any national issues.

Political parties dialogue



By: Samer

SKETCHED OPINION

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Educational Policy in Saudi Arabia

Hell Fire in Primary School

By: Joseph Croitoru

Saudi Arabia is hoping to modernise its image with new school textbooks. The new books were published recently and made available in the internet. Joseph Croitoru has read them, and reports that they leave an ambiguous impression

Following the attacks of 11th September, in which the majority of those involved were Saudi nationals, international attention focussed on the Saudi education system. Studies by Western experts showed that, not only did education in the Kingdom concentrate very strongly on religion, it was also extremely tendentious. In 2006 an American study demonstrated that Saudi children were taught to be missionaries of Islam.

The religion was to be spread, if necessary, by Holy War. In addition, children were told that they had to continue to defend themselves against the Crusades – which were still continuing. Violence against Jews was glorified, and the anti-semitic forgery "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" was taught as fact.

Rigid education with a tendentious approach

The Saudi education ministry has recently reacted to these criticisms, not only by issuing new school textbooks, but also by publishing their complete texts directly in the internet. By doing so, the Kingdom wants evidently to demonstrate its transparency and

openness to the world. And indeed the contents of the new books is significantly more modern than that of the old.

Children in their first year at primary school are still mainly taught about the fundamental beliefs of Islam, but they also learn arithmetic and the basic principles of biology and natural science. "Unified Faith and Religious Law" – a textbook on religion which is adapted for use in each grade up to the twelfth – teaches the youngest children that they are all adherents of Islam, created by God. But the introduction to religion soon turns into a rigid education with a tendentious and exclusivist approach:

Children are told that, to be a Muslim, one must reject all other religions. The reward for those who are faithful to God is paradise. The book concludes with an unmistakable statement: "Whoever rejects the teaching of the Prophet Mohammed can expect to suffer the fires of hell."

From the fourth grade onwards, children take civics classes which focus on discipline, obedience and social conduct in a mixture of patriotism and religion. The history course restricts itself almost entirely to the life of the Prophet Mohammed. However, already in the second grade, religion teachers are told to teach the life and achievements of Muhammad Abdel Wahhab, the founder of Wahhabism.

Second graders are to be taught to accept his dogmatic teachings, such as the rejection of cults linked with saints and grave-sites and the obligation to

fight against heretics, as well as to accept national duties such as military service. The textbooks teach consistently that military service is the highest form of service to the Fatherland; to defend it, citizens should be prepared to die an honourable death in Jihad.

Children learn almost nothing about world history; instead, they concentrate on the history of Islam, repeatedly emphasising the victorious battles of the Muslims. The children have a picture of their own glorious history drummed into them, according to which, for century after century, Islam ruled half the world, "destroying all heretics" and ensuring justice and order. They are taught that, while Islam may have suffered military setbacks in the past, in the end it cannot be defeated.

Islam is currently enjoying a boom, they learn, even if the West is currently attempting to split the Umma – as the Crusaders did in the past. In this connection, the "Crusader mentality" is linked with "International Zionism".

Mideast Conflict objectivity

Surprisingly, the "Palestine problem" is treated remarkably objectively. The textbooks avoid references to "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," but there are leftovers of old conspiracy theories in the eleventh grade textbook "Cultural and Political History of the Muslims," where one can read that Zionism seeks to conquer Arab lands from Alexandria to Baghdad.

The new books differ from the old in



Splendid isolation? In Saudi Arabia, children learn almost nothing about world history; instead, they concentrate on the history of Islam.

that there is now no incitement against Shiites, although the Ahmadiyya and Baha'i sects are described as heretical. As before, the new Saudi textbooks treat secular pan-Arabism as an enemy, even if that ideology is now historically outdated, and they argue in favour of global Muslim solidarity and the need

for Muslims to defend themselves against Western imperialism – nowadays mainly of the cultural variety.

The Kingdom of Saud wants to strengthen Muslims throughout the world in their fight against this imperialism, and contribute to what the

books call a better Muslim society – with the help of the Sharia, Islamic religious law. That is something the West ought to take seriously.

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Translated from the German by Michael Lawton.

Death

By: Mshari Al-Zaydi

In Ahmed Al Rabey's last article that was published in Asharq Al-Awsat February 14, 2007 entitled 'A Beautiful Long Night,' he wrote, "Our conscience is in need of peace, our souls are in need of rest, our minds are in need of the tranquillity of rationality...a long beautiful night but the morning is inevitably approaching!"

I will not write words of condolence for the late fighter Ahmed Al Rabey despite my sadness for his death and my memories of the last time I saw him after his return to Kuwait. I spent two days with him in Kuwait in between his office, Diwanias [social gatherings to discuss various issues] and his home. He spoke eloquently and would mock this and discuss that and would offer his critical analysis of a political or social subject and then would end the conversation talking about different kinds of dates and palm trees, for which he held a strong interest.

I will not offer words of condolence since those who knew him better and for longer than me such as Ahmed Al Khatib, Jasem Al Qattami, Ahmed Al Dayean, Yusuf al Jasem, Abdul Rahman Al Rashed and other colleagues have already done so.

However the man that I knew during the last few years of his life had had many experiences in various respects.

He was characterized by his deep diverse knowledge, his genuineness and his support for values of freedom and progress as well as his distinct aptitude in speaking and protesting.

I asked him why he hadn't recorded his life story in an autobiography starting with his tumultuous revolutionary beginnings in Kuwait with Abdullatif Al Duajj and other young revolutionaries and about the armed Dhofar rebellion, his imprisonment in the enormous Al Jalali fort, his studies in the US, the return to Kuwait and the Diwanias, the ministry, the anti-segregation law, Kuwait's foreign battles with the northern Arab intellectuals, Kuwait post-occupation and so on and so forth.

Al Rabey answered my question a few months ago whilst in his house: "The first thing I felt since recuperating from brain surgery was regret for not writing about these events and the various stages of my life."

I do not know whether he managed to write about them before passing away.

Al Rabey battled against no ordinary death; he fought it on a philosophical and psychological level. Al Rabey proved that fighting fate is a battle that draws its strength from the degree of man's awareness.

Death has an ever-changing definition that is determined by how we define it. It may be passing, repetitive or consumed in obituaries ever since

the idea of consolation first came about. Or it may become a prominent event, an intellectual turning point and a philosophical conquest over darkness such as Saadallah Wannous' death that was a journey of light "into the unknown of fleeting death."

Al Rabey aimed the arrow of life towards the heart of death. In his last televised interview with his friend Yusuf Al Jasem, he said that terminal illness is like a pack of wolves; if it finds that you are inactive and afraid, it will fiercely attack you. If it sees that you are strong and mature, it will fear you. Those wolves certainly feared Ahmed's indifference!

Death is the core question of human beings; philosophy is nothing but "the contemplation of death" in the words of Plato. In that he meant – just as the late Egyptian philosopher Abdel Rahman Badawi also explained – that death enables philosophers to think appropriately! The philosopher's life, according to Plato, is devoted to contemplating images and forms and he cannot truly reflect upon forms as long as the soul is imprisoned within the body.

Therefore, death, according to Plato, is a beginning and not an end. Badawi indicated that [Arthur] Schopenhauer understood the issue, as it seems, as death itself constituting the key issues of philosophy and that it played a fundamental role in major philosophical works – if not the most

prominent of all existential issues in philosophy.

How does death, or the feeling of death, transform into psychological force and one of the levels of spiritual transcendence without that being conditional to the dissolution of individual character into collective character and its attitudes towards ambiguous and frightening death?

This is the challenge that only a few rebellious spirits have succeeded in.

Death, according to some philosophical approaches, is one of the most remarkable of life's potentials; in fact it is the only real potential. It is a hidden element of existence itself; no existence can be conceived without it and it is the master of existence. It is the only exit through which man can pass to freedom; with the exception of death everything is predestined, the consequences of which are known, as Abdul Rahman Badawi quoted the German poet Angelus Silesius: "I say since it alone can set my spirit free, that death must be the best of all good things for me."

The other side of the coin is death and without it there would no be life in the same way that without day there is no night and without night there is no day. Nietzsche used to say, "Let us beware of saying that death is opposite to life."

What those philosophers mean is looking into where death stands from the point of existence and its

relationship with the process of human existence itself and the extent to which it forms the objective of this existence, its nature and its limits.

However, there is a nicer, more agreeable and euphemistic meaning that is that death is complementary to life and is simply another layer to life. This is the literary meaning that focuses on the victory of moral immortality over physical death as the Iraqi poet Mohammed Mahdi Al Jawahri said when commemorating the Iraqi poet Marouf Al Rasafi. What concerned al Jawahri is the demise of this mental and spiritual talent and how it transformed into a shriveling corpse buried in a grave.

He wrote: What puzzles every mind is that thought transforms into earth

He rejected that Al Rasafi's existence depended on the existence of the mortal body and became tense because of death's betrayal and deception to man. He wrote:

I detest devious death and its apparition
Just as I detest the apparitions of deceptive entities

Why does he hate treacherous death to this extent? He wrote:

A wolf lurked around me and on its teeth was the blood of my brothers, relatives and friends

Another rebellious spirit that raised thorny questions about this fatigue that accompanies man in existence and had

"reflected upon death" in the words of Plato is the great poet and philosopher Abu Alaa Al Ma'arri who was sensitive towards the tragedy of human beings in death as he elegized one of his fellow scholars. It is one of the deepest and most beautiful poems by al Ma'arri:

Soften your tread
Methinks the earth's surface is but bodies of the dead,

Walk slowly in the air, so you do not trample on the remains of God's servants

And ends with:
Life is all hardship and I am surprised by those who want more

At the beginning of this article, I stated that I would not write words of condolence for the late Ahmed Al Rabey; rather I reflected upon the occurrence of death. Al Rabey was a brilliant thinker of bold determination. This is where al Jawahri's words come in since "what puzzles every mind is that thought transforms into earth."

Al Rabey's story will never end with that wolf that "lurked around me and killed my relatives and friends."

Al Rabey defeated this wolf and many others as he said in his last interview.

Those who defeat the wolf will always remain whereas those who fear it will perish and this is the final lesson of the professor of philosophy, Dr Ahmed al Rabey.

Source: www.asharqalawsat.com

US universities turn schools for spies and more

American exchange students in Morocco, Jordan, Egypt could be studding more than just Arabic.

By: Karin Zeitvogel

That young American exchange student who stayed with you last summer to do a language immersion course could be part of a new program to educate the next generation of US intelligence agents.

But don't worry: even if she does end up working for the CIA, the likelihood of her becoming an undercover operative is slim.

"Intelligence doesn't just mean spying, skulking around in a trench coat," said Jim Robbins, director of the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (IC CAE) at

Trinity University in Washington, one of nine programs aimed at revamping the US intelligence community.

"The CIA is the best known part of it, but the intelligence community writ large involves all the agencies throughout the government that are involved in the collection and analysis of information about threats," he said.

Trinity opened the doors to the pilot course for the Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence three years ago.

The program is funded by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the umbrella agency which oversees the 16 intelligence agencies in the United States, some of which – such as the Treasury or Department of

the Environment – would not be linked automatically to intelligence activities.

Since 2005, the center has swelled, with eight more universities across the United States signing on to the program that wants to revamp the way young Americans perceive intelligence – it isn't just spying – and are trained to work in the very diverse field.

The program aims to "bring in groups to the intelligence community – women, minorities, what have you – who were previously under-represented," said Robbins.

Schools which are selected to be part of the program – and there is not an Ivy League university, the formerly all-male schools which used to be the preferred hunting ground for intelligence recruiters, on the radar screen – receive a grant from the ODNI, and set up their own, unique

curriculum.

"We don't want a cookie cutter approach," said Dr Lenora Peters Gant, the ODNI official who oversees the CAE program.

"We want the curriculum to be interdisciplinary.

"Think about this: wouldn't it be nice to have an engineer who knows something about world religions, world cultures and can speak Farsi or Urdu?" she said.

Arabic is a critical language need
The ODNI grant is used to send students abroad to study a language and learn about another culture.

Tanjier Belton went to France in 2006 from Trinity to study French. She aims to study law and then go on to work for the CIA.

Jesmeen Khan got a stipend to go to Austria, the Czech Republic and Hungary last year. Her tentative

ambition is to work for the State Department.

"Every university that has a grant has to identify students to become IC CAE scholars," Gant explained.

"Those students are required to go abroad and study a language or study culture and they get a stipend to go abroad," she said.

Florida International University (FIU) sent 16 students abroad last year as part of its IC CAE program.

"People want to go to China, to Brazil to study Portuguese, to Spain. They want to study Arabic, which is a critical language need. So far we have had people go to Morocco, Jordan and Egypt," said David Twigg, associate director of the Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies at FIU.

"They're not going there as spies; they're going there as people who are

trying to understand what's going on."

When the students return to the United States and complete their studies, they are under no obligation to work for one of the agencies under the umbrella of the ODNI.

"We do go out and recruit them, but we don't make them work for us," said Gant.

But many of the more than 400 scholars who have been in the program "want to come and work for us because of the mission," she said, slipping momentarily into the kind of spy-speak you hear in a James Bond film.

The lapse didn't last long.
"They want to do something that's altruistic for the world and America. They want to do something that will make a difference in everyday lives," Gant said.

www.middle-east-online.com

Yemen's unemployed youth: Seeking new land

By: YemenTimes Staff

Yemen is the most underdeveloped country in the region suffering from significant development challenges ranging from education and healthcare, to employment and economic opportunities. Within this reality over ten million Yemeni youth are finding themselves lost in between the grim realities and an unpromising future. However, most youth believe that the path towards a brighter future abroad, through migrating to another country in order to find work and remit funds back to their families, and eventually return to Yemen with a lump sum amount that would enable them to live the lives they've always wanted. YemenTimes surveyed a number of youth and got their opinions on this regards.

Mustapha Aqlan, a university student, stated that there are simply too many people competing for the same amount of jobs in Yemen, forcing many of them to remain in unemployment ranks. He reiterated that after 16 years of studies and learning many find themselves achieving nothing and their educational efforts are unrecognized.

AbdulSalam Ahmed, another university student, added that even if you find a job, the compensation is very low and is barely enough to buy food given the high inflation and the rising costs of everything, he stated that the minimum government salary standing at US\$ 100 is not enough to pay the rent, mind you buy the food and pay the bills.

Fatima A., a Human Resource officer, stated that the outcome of the educational system in Yemen is



From a young age, youth resort to manual labor as a means for livelihood

unable to produce the required type of workers by many organizations, and hence many companies have foreign employees working for them such as

Iraqis, Indians, and Philipinos. She also reiterated that there are many problems when dealing with qualified Yemeni employees, including

unreliability, continuing to change jobs, and that they are less cooperative compared to Asians and others who abide by their contracts.

Nasser Ahmed, a construction contractor, stated that the inability to find good jobs forces many graduates to work in manual labor, he said: "I have university graduates from the facilities of art, science, and commerce working as manual laborers, I even have one who graduated among the top of his class."

When asked about what are their plans to escape this reality, many stated that they want to migrate to gulf states and to the west as there are better jobs there. Ahmed Al-Showafi stated that he raising funds in order to pay smugglers to smuggle him to Saudi, he said that it will cost him around US\$ 500, and there are chances that he will not succeed, but the opportunity is worth the try, he added.

Saeed Al-Maqtari, a doctor, stated that he had applied to many hospitals and clinics throughout gulf states through email, and also submitted many applications through employment offices in Yemen, however, so far he has been unable to land a good job worth the trouble.

He said: "for one offer, the employing agent wanted the salary of six months for a two-year contract,

Business In Brief

CPA: 75% of Yemenis need food aid

Deputy director of the Consumer Protection Agency Fadhil Mansour stated that 75% of the Yemeni people are in dire need for food aid as a result of their inability to afford sufficient foodstuff. He also demanded that the government makes a direct intervention to reduce the burden on the people either through removal of income tax for lower segments or subsidizing wheat and flour.

CBY: Yemen's Economic Policy promotes business freedom

Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen Al-Samawi stated that the economic policies of the government aim at providing more economic freedom for the business sector, through reducing financial and monetary restrictions as well as stabilizing the value of the local currency.

DB World, inc Registered in Aden

Last week, the registration of DB World services corporation was registered in the Aden Free Zone, this company is a joint venture of the Dubai Port Authority and Buqshan, a Saudi investor of Yemeni origin. The company provides a range of services focusing on the trade and maritime industries.

Turkey to build a vocational training institute worth US\$ 1 million

The Ambassador of Turkey to Yemen stated that Turkey will construct a state-of-the-art vocational training institute worth US\$ 1 million, in order to help Yemen's economic development, in order to help Yemen learn from the Turkish pioneering example in economic development.

Felix Airline to buy 8 Canadian Airplanes

Yemen's first domestic air carrier Felix airline has announced a deal to buy eight passenger aircrafts in order to start operations upcoming September. Felix airline's paid up capital stands at US\$ 80 million, 75% of which is owned by the Islamic Corporation for privet sector development, while Yemenia Yemen Airlines owns 25% of the shares.

Syndicate to protect investors' rights to be formed

Businessman Mahdi BaBakri has stated that efforts are ongoing in order to form the first syndicate with the objective of protecting investors' rights and looking after their interests. BaBakri hopes that the formation of this syndicate will empower investors and will act as a communications channel between investors and the Government of Yemen.

Hayel Saeed Group organizes CRM workshop

Group organized a customer relationship management workshop for other Hayel Saeed Anam Group of companies and others in order to share lessons learnt and approaches to implementing customer relationship management techniques in the Yemeni Market. Over 70 participants participated in the workshop.

NDI organizes anti-corruption workshop

The National Democratic Institute has arranged an anti-corruption workshop for civil society organizations in order to build the capacity of the organizations and partnerships to combat corruption, as well as establish a joint work plan for civil society organizations to act as a watchdog in combating corruption.



KNOG

Korea National Oil corporation (KNOG) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions with its office in Sana'a

BUDGET PLANNER Ref: # 01

QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE

- B.A. degree in Accounting or Finance
- Have a good knowledge on budget & accounting.
- Skillful user for accounting software.
- Fluent in Arabic & English.
- Minimum 3 years experience of making work program & budget with production oil company.

PAYROLL MAKER Ref: # 02

QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor Degree in Accounting
- Minimum 3 years experience in the payroll and administration
- Timely and accurate processing of monthly payroll and employee re-imbursements
- Fluent in Arabic & English.
- Skillful user for accounting software.

ACCOUNTANT Ref: # 03

QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE

- three years work experience of general accounting with exploration & production companies.
- Bachelor's degree in one of the following or related fields: Accounting, business Administration and finance required.
- Have a good experience with budgeting and planning.
- Skillful user for computer & accounting software.
- Fluent in Arabic & English.

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT Ref: # 04

QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE

- B.A in business Administration.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Fluent English.
- Good at computer.
- Good experience in the HR and administrations field

LOGISTIC SECRETARY Ref: # 05

QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE

- Good English (writing and speaking).
- Good computer skills: Excel, Word, Power Point.
- Good experience is required.
- Good education at college level
- Excellent management and communication skills, proactive approach to problem solving

Candidates meeting the above criteria are required to forward their detailed CV ,color picture, covering letter and the reference number of each position by Fax: 429321 or by E mail: roua@knoyemen.com

((وبشر الصابرين الذين اذا اصابتهم مصيبة قالوا إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون))

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة إلى الأخ / :

عبد الله حسين حميد

مدير إدارة الاستحقاقات بالإدارة العامة للشؤون الإدارية بديوان عام وزارة الإعلام

في وفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى /

والدته

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمده بفضله بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنها فسيح جناته وأن

يلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان ..

ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم

المعزون :

أ / أمين الشريفي - مجدي أبو بكر السقاف - خالد عبد الله الصلوي - ذياب يحيى أبو ذياب

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

Announcement for National Individual Consultants on

**(Study on Comparative and Analytical Study on Operational & Maintenance Costs RFP # 35)
FOR HEALTH POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT**

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

Objective of the Consultancy

The consultant is expected to conduct a comparative and analytical study on Operational & Maintenance Costs, and producing a study report. The study is expected to review and analyze the operational and maintenance allocated budgets in the national health system over the past three financial years 2004-2007. These are to be compared with the actual needs on all levels of the system and interpreted into recommendation for further action. The consultant will be accountable to the Head of the Credit Administrative Unit and the Director General of the Health policy Unit.

Proposed Tasks of the Consultant

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

- Carry out a study which will review and analyze operational and maintenance allocated budgets and expenditures over the past three financial years 2004-2007.
- Comment on the financial gaps and trends in allocation and actual spending based on relevant financial data. The review ought to explore the appropriateness of the current system of budgeting and disbursement of funds in these areas compared to best practices.
- Findings of the review are to be compared with the actual financial requirements of optimum operation and maintenance. The scope of examine the financial gaps includes all levels of the national health system.
- Review of related documents and reports including MoPHP financial accounts on different levels corresponding to the given years of review (2004- 2007).
- Carryout related field visits as well as meetings and interviews with related bodies leading to gathering of essential review information.
- Produce a report on the findings and analysis of financial trends of the study as well as policy recommendations; fiscal adjustments; expenditure prioritization and resource allocation and budgeting leading to further action. The report is expected to produce in Arabic language.
- To present the findings of the review to the senior public health officials and interested parties in a workshop organized after the completion of the consultancy.

Duration of the assignment

- The expected time to finish the work is six weeks.

Expected Deliverable

- Draft Report will be submitted to CAU for approval by Health policy & Technical Unit.
- Submit to the CAU the final Report Original in the form of hard copies (2 copies) as well as an electronic soft copy (2 Copies).

Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

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

Applications with supporting document and CV's -should be submitted to the credit Administration unit by 15th April 2008 to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.

Tel: 00967 1 252224- Fax: 00 976 1 251622 – Email: hrsp@y.net.ye

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

**Announcement for National Individual Consultants on
(Survey on Cost-Sharing in Public Health Services RFP # 30)
FOR HEALTH POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT**

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) within the ministry of Public Health & population intends to hire and individual consultancy who will be contracted to carry out the following tasks:

Objective of the Consultancy

The consultant is expected to conduct a survey on cost-sharing in public health services and producing a report on the findings. The survey is expected to explore the cost-sharing revenues in different levels of the national health system. These data are to be elicited through the development and application of a survey tool that will explore these costs from the prospective of the health providers and consumers of health services. The findings of the survey will feed into the current effort of the MoPHP in developing the coming National Health Accounts report. The consultant will be accountable to the Head of the Credit Administrative Unit and the Director General of the Health Policy Unit.

Proposed Tasks of the Consultant

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

- Carry out a survey on cost-sharing on different levels of the national health system. Accordingly, a framework for the study and a survey tool will be developed and shared with the MoPHP before pre-testing and application.
- To choose a representative sample of health facilities on different levels of the national health system; health units, health centers, district hospitals and governorate hospitals in agreement with the MoPHP. Consequently, the survey tool will be applied followed by collection of data and analysis.
- The survey tool shall include two elements to gather the information from the prospective of health providers and consumers. The MoPHP will facilitate the communication with public health providers through its governorate and district health offices.
- Review of related documents and reports in the issue of cost-sharing as well as applicable laws and guidelines.
- Carryout related field visits as well as meetings and interviews with related bodies leading to gathering of and validation of essential review information.
- Produce a report on the findings and analysis of cost-sharing in public health services as well as policy recommendations for further action. The report is expected to be produced in Arabic language.

To present the findings of the review to the senior public health officials and interested parties in a workshop organized after the completion of the consultancy.

Duration of the assignment

- The expected time to finish the work is one month.

Expected Deliverable

- Draft Report will be submitted to CAU for approval by Health Policy & Technical Unit.
- Submit to the CAU the final Report Original in the form of hard copies (2 copies) as well as an electronic soft copy (2 Copies).

Required qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

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

Applications with supporting document and CV's – should be submitted to the credit Administration unit by 15th April 2008 to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.

Tel: 00967 1 252224 – Fax: 00967 1 251622 – Email: hrsp@y.net.ye

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

**Announcement for National Individual Consultants on
(Survey on Development Partners Contributions to the National Health System RFP # 29)
FOR HEALTH POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT**

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

Objective of the Consultancy

The consultant is expected to conduct a survey on Development Partners contribution to the national health sector and producing a report on the findings. The survey is expected to explore the development partner's contribution through projects and programmes as well as direct support to the national health system. These data are to be elicited through the development and application of a survey tool that will gather information from those partners and other national bodies.

The findings of the survey will feed into the current effort of the MoPHP in developing the coming National Health Accounts report. The consultant will be accountable to the Head of the Credit Administrative Unit and the Director General of the Health Policy Unit.

Proposed Tasks of the Consultant

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

- Carry out a survey on development partner's (bi-lateral and multi-lateral assistance) contributions to the national health system
- Accordingly, a framework for the study and a survey tool will be developed and shared with the MoPHP before pre-testing and application. The framework will include the scope of the survey, the categorization of the expenditures and the final presentation of findings, considering that the framework and the tool will be subject for annual updating in the future.
- To consult with the MoPHP on communication with the development partner's agencies in order to carryout data collection.
- Review of related documents and reports.
- Carryout related field visits as well as meetings and interviews with related bodies leading to gathering of and validation of information.
- Produce a report on the findings and analysis of amount and scope of developments partners' contribution as well as policy recommendations for further action. The report is expected to be produced in Arabic and English language.
- To present the findings of the review to the senior public health officials and interested parties in a workshop organized after the completion of the consultancy.

Duration of the assignment

- The expected time to finish the work is one month.

Expected Deliverable

- Draft Report will be submitted to CAU for approval by Health Policy & Technical Unit.
- Submit to the CAU the final Report Original in the form of hard copies (2 copies) as well as an electronic soft copy (2 Copies).

Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

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

Applications with supporting document and CV's should be submitted to the Credit Administration Unit by 15th April 2008. The HRSP is located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.

Tel: 00 967 1 252 224 – Fax: 00 967 1 251 622 – Email: hrsp@y.net.ye



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Request for Proposals to Design and Install Movable Partitions For Multipurpose rooms in Amran, Mareb and Shabwah Governorates

Within the framework of cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Yemen and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in support of basic education improvements, the Basic Education project has built six multipurpose rooms in Amran, Mareb and Shabwah governorates in accordance with the priorities set by the Ministry of Education.

The Basic Education project invites qualified local contractors with experience in Design and Installation of movable aluminum or wood partitions to come to the project's office to receive copies of the bidding documents, which will include the names and locations of the multipurpose rooms, bills of quantities, drawings, specifications and contract template. The project office is located at:

USAID Basic Education Program (EQUIP1-Yemen)
Tourist City, Tower 4, Apartment 4
Sana'a, Yemen
Tel: 00-967-1-302-737
Attn: Ahmad Altashi

- Only majority Yemeni owned firms will be permitted to bid;
- Proposals shall be submitted along with a primary guarantee not less than (2.5%) of the total proposal valid for 45 days of the day of bid opening. Proposals with no primary guarantees shall be disqualified;
- Past Performance and Experience certificates and copies of valid Tax Book and Commercial Records shall be attached to proposals; and,

Proposals shall be opened in the project office with the presence of contractors or their representatives, at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 31, 2008. Any proposals arriving after the above set deadline shall be rejected.

CONCLUSION OF TOYOTA WORLD CONTEST FOR SKILLS

Aidrous Basra'ah : We endeavor to satisfy our clients by developing the skills of our staff and upgrading maintenance workshops




The team of the 21st century : thus mother Toyota company called its new training program which aim sat creating professional and technical team to match with this nomination.

As a step to achieve this program, the automobiles trade center (AMTC) began to execute practical steps of this program which was in itself at the level of responsibility, in that it was able during the years 2006 and 2007 to rehabilitate the technical staff working at its after sale service centers by 100% so as to become reliable by Toyota company-head office after they participated in internal and external training courses, sat to examinations and obtained certificates.

Client Satisfaction ... the axis of operation

With what Toyota has achieved through its agent in Yemen automobiles trade center attached to Basra'ah group of trust with its clients and complete satisfaction with the automobiles which proved its challenge to terrains and fitted all tastes and became since decades the popular and official Yemeni choice according to the expression of the chairman of its board of directors, Al-Haj Abo Bakr Basra'ah, it has recently focused its attention to develop and upgrade after sale services that the customer of Toyota will find that automobiles trade center is continuing to take care of him at all stages.

The automobiles trade center has celebrated last Thursday the conclusion of the world Toyota contest for skills, which was organized by maintenance administration to all staff working in workshops attached to the center, starting with the competition among all working team in each workshop n the competition at the level of governorates and ending by elimination at the national level to be ready to participate in the contest at the regional level, to be held in Bahrain next November.

Matches were undertaken in the field of technicians and responsible of customers service within the program, team 21, sponsored by mother Toyota company.

At the end of the celebration, Mr. Aidrous Basra'ah, the executive chairman of the automobiles trade center

Dr. Al-Shkhdari: The AMTC Keeness to rehabilitate its staff is the secret of its distinction in after sale services.

Aidrous Basra'ah: The increasing trust of Yemenis in TOYOTA cars requires us to improve after sale services.

(AMTC) stressed that these matches come within the continued efforts, which the center is exerting to develop the skills of its staff and to upgrade after sale services in an effort to provide best service to Toyota customers in line with doubling of the number of Toyota cars received by the Yemeni market every year, particularly in last years.

Development in the Volume of Trust

Basra'ah stressed that the increase in the volume of Toyota sales in Yemen has formed a significant pressure on after sale services centers, referring that the center in addition to its efforts to develop human skills of its staff, it will keep pace with that pressure by opening new workshop equipped with modern techniques in Sa'aon, Al-Mulalla and Sana'a by the end of 2008, in addition to four workshops existing in Aden, Sana'a, Al-Hodeida and Taiz and to equip them with up-to-date screening equipment and computer systems used also in screening.

On his part, the Director general of Maintenance at (AMTC), engineer Wael Al-Ataibi said that what maintenance department has witnessed of upgrading is but a result of the continuous support of the executive chairman of the center, indicating that the volume of execution in this field is not the end, but it is only the first foundation of our ambition in a larger expansion which maintenance department will witness in the upcoming period towards gaining customer satisfaction.

The Secret of Distinction

On the part of guests, Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Shakhdari, professor of mechanical engineering at the college of engineering – Sana'a University delivered a speech, in which he expressed his admiration of the efforts achieved by (AMTC) to uplift the level of services. He said the endeavor of the center to rehabilitate its staff is the secret of its distinction in after sale services offered to Toyota clients.

He also expressed satisfaction of the role played by the center in employing work force from among graduates of technical institutes and collage who received practical skills in mechanics, which he considered as a pioneering



national contribution.

The celebration was attended by Ahmed Abo Baker Basra'ah, member of AMTC board, engineer Abidrabbo, dean of the industrial – technical institute at capital secretariat and his deputies for technical, administrative and educational affairs.

Team 21

After Toyota company for automobiles has become the company No. 1 worldwide in car sales surpassing general Motors and others, and its sales worldwide have reached 85 million cars last year – 2007, it had to concentrate on amelioration and development of after sale services. Thus, it has innovated the team 21 system which aims at uplifting the level of technicians performance and training them on most modern techniques used by Toyota. This system provides a training to classify technicians into four stages:

First Stage: Toyota technician who has minor technical knowledge.

Second Stage: Advanced Toyota technician.

Third Stage: Toyota technician – defects identifying.

Fourth Stage: Professional Toyota technician, who reaches this stage after he becomes well-versed in car affairs and acquainted with Japanese modern technology.

The application of this system by AMTC in Yemen aims at uplifting after sale services and an attempt to reach customer satisfaction to meet with world reputation of Toyota and the great trust it has acquired in Yemeni market.

It is to be recalled that AMTC has brought trainers from Japan to train technical staff and dispatched others to the regional office of Toyota and to come back as trainers. According to the executive chairman of the company the thrust forward in this program has created competition among Toyota technicians and contributed in uplifting the level of service they present to customer.

The AMTC has also created new services to clients, foremost AMTC and Toyota clients locally, the center was keen to facilitate communication channels with them through the receipt of their proposals and complaints in all after sale servicing centers by e-mail, fax and suggestions box to enable them to express their views.

The Knights of distinction

The winners in the contest, who are eligible to enter competition at the regional level :

First: winners on the part of technicians are :

- Basheer Salah
- Perrera

Second: Winners on the part of staff of customers service are :

- Mansour Al-Hatemi
- Readan Ahmed





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JOB VACANCIES

Nexen is a Canadian-based, global energy company growing value responsibly. We are strategically positioned in some of the world's most exciting regions: the North Sea, deep-water Gulf of Mexico, Middle East, offshore West Africa and the Canadian Athabasca oil sands. Nexen offers a strong focus on individual training, an attractive compensation package and a benefits plan that extends medical coverage to immediate family, including parents. Job opportunities with Nexen Yemen extend across both our blocks, Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen - Masila (BLK14) & Canadian Petroleum Yemen East Al-Hajr (BLK51).

- 1- **Training Advisor Instruments** - # 0815
- Training Advisor Mechanical** - #0816
- Training Advisor Operations** - #0817

Job Duties:

- Works with client groups to help them understand the elements of employee development and performance and how best to address development and performance issues.
- Assists line groups with identifying their training needs and providing advice on training solutions.
- Designs specific training courses as required to meet identified needs.
- Delivers training which may include English language, technical and non-technical courses.
- Creates and administers tools for testing and evaluation.
- Provides timely and accurate data to ensure the integrity of the Training and Yemenization database.
- May have general coordinating duties.
- Play a mentoring role for Nationals on IDP's in the Department.
- Contributes to course design, materials writing and educational technology development.
- Provides counselling and coaching to individual trainees and employees as required.
- Works with respective line Department if no training duties can be identified.
- Special assignments as required and appropriate

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 Years) followed by 2 years full time formal training in Industrial Mechanics (Millwright) trades.
- A minimum of 7 years job related experience.
- A degree in Mechanical Engineering/Electronic Engineering/Petroleum or Chemical Engineering, from a recognized University or Technical college.
- Adult learning/teaching experience or qualification.
- Successful experience in providing training advice, instruction and/or coordination
- Excellent English oral and written communication and presentation skills
- Spoken English language at near native level

2- **MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN #0332 & 4-35**

Job Duties:

- Overhauls diesel engines. Includes overhauling Caterpillar, Wartsila Ruston and other types of diesel generators, and commissioning same. Performs work from drawings, and diagrams, includes both operational and Maintenance manuals, to manufacturer's, and other specifications. Disassembles equipment using hoists, hand tools and power tools. Determines nature of repair and examines parts to detect problems, uses measuring tools such as calipers, micrometers and other instruments to determine correct tolerances.
- Services generator/Pump drivers. Includes changing oil and lubricants, topping up, lubricating, testing coolants etc. in accordance with planned procedures.
- Carries out daily inspections of solar turbines and generators and includes changing fuel nozzles, repairing leaks, changing fuel and air filters and lubricating oil cooler fan system. Shipping/Mainline Pumps Fire Water Pumps and Systems.
- Repairs and carries out major overhauls on mechanical pumps. Changes mechanical seals, as required. Makes a repair by replacing, reworking, or refinishing worn or damaged parts. Makes adjustments to functional parts of equipment using hand tools, and specialized equipment. Reassembles equipment and tests performance. Carries out services and inspections on all types of Valves including ball valves gate valves and specialized valves associated with tankage.
- Carries out planned maintenance on all of the above plant and equipment. Includes checking fluid levels, checking for leaks in mechanical seals as necessary, taking vibration readings, checking for abnormal noises, and performing quarterly alignments checks. Carries out other similar or related duties such as giving on the job instruction to trainees, and overhauling reciprocating gas compressors

Minimum requirements:

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full-time formal training in mechanical trades.
- 6 years of related experience.
- Fair knowledge of English.

3- **ESP TECHNICIAN #02108**

Job Duties:

- Installs, maintains, repairs and diagnoses trouble in the Driver systems or electrical equipment on well site equipment.
- Participates in planned and preventative maintenance programs and breakdown work. Includes checking, adjusting and diagnosing equipment malfunctions and taking corrective action. Utilizes specialized measuring and testing instruments such as but not limited to, voltmeters, ammeters, and meggers etc. Makes standard assessments relating to load requirements of electrical equipment. Plans and lays out certain work from blueprints, sketches, wiring. Assembles, dissembles and completely overhauls electrical motors, drives, generators, etc. Modifies or reconditions parts and fits manufacturers' spares on electrical circuits, motors and switchgear.
- Authorized for electrical isolations on Variable Speed Drive applications up to and including 5 KV
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as providing on the job instruction to trainees and coordinating work activities of labour contractors.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full-time formal training in ESP trades.
- 6 years of related experience.
- He will have completed Variable Speed Drive Courses and Submersible Pump Course.
- Fair Knowledge of English
- Valid Yemeni Driving License

4- **AC TECHNICIAN # 18-224**

Job Duties:

- Carries out repairs to stand alone A/C units on variable speed drives (VSD) in the field. Includes inspecting equipment, evaluating nature of problem, obtaining spare parts if necessary, carrying out repairs using basic hand tools and a variety of operational equipment, using oxy-acetylene welding equipment, as applicable, replacing refrigeration and vacuum gauges, purging refrigeration lines with nitrogen, attaching vacuum pump and refilling system with required gas.
- Carries out planned maintenance. Includes visiting unit, replacing or cleaning filters, checking control panel and wiring etc., checking tension and condition of belt, checking fire and manual dampers, checking level of refrigerating coolant if necessary, checking thermostat settings, closing up unit and returning unit to service. Carries out own electrical isolation as necessary.
- Carries out repairs to walk-in freezers and chillers in the camp. Includes assessing nature of the problem, obtaining parts as necessary, carrying out repair using a variety of hand tools and equipment, and handing unit back to user.
- Repairs water coolers, domestic fridge-freezers and ice-making machines following standard repair procedures.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as assisting automotive shop mechanics in carrying out auto repairs as required, repairing and maintaining extracting fans on kitchen roof, and providing assistance to electrical technicians during peak loads.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of Secondary (Technical) education followed by two years' full-time formal training in air conditioning/electrical trades.
- 4 years of A/C maintenance experience.
- Commenced hands on training for work order and permit procedures.
- Good English skills.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

- To Apply for this Job and for further information on the Job duties and responsibilities you can visit our website www.nexeninc.com/careers/yemen
- Applications should be submitted NO later than March 31, 2008. Faxed applications will not be considered.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The family: A subjective public case

By: Tareq Al-Adil
tareqaladil@yahoo.com

We mostly listen and see in the various media – television, radio, newspapers, etc., and with the contribution of true stories from real life – people talking about subjective public cases that narrate society's care and culture. People likely are grumbling about how such things happen in a society that ostracizes them.

First, you see people become unwise through a tyrant who uses tricks to convince them of his concepts. At the same time, they feel heartache and sorrow for victims of injustice and hopelessly disheartened at such victims' rights being taken away. Nevertheless, when victims get their rights back in the end, which is the way of life, people are happy at the result, welcoming justice and condemning falsehood. We live in a society with a mixture of idealism, principles, customs and traditions. However, these traditions have begun to fade with the reality and existence of new challenges that didn't exist before. Society has started a new vision of gaining more experience.

Many cases arising in actual life can be solved easily. Even though, with the crowding of life, there's no time to think about these problems and no time taken to solve these matters, people are stunned at finding a solution for every single issue. One then see these problems go through families roughly and hear sighs, moans and groans from such individuals. Don't be surprised when others complain about their close relatives – ones whom Allah created to establish this earth and who are responsible before Allah, his or her fellow citizens and his country to build this nation. From my words, you may wonder who "he" is and that is, the male head of the house. I was wondering about why some people complain about their parents. Such complaints aren't limited to a specific age or gender, but include all categories. When we draw nearer to these people and listen to their miserable stories, we can feel the pain from the depths of their hearts. We sometimes allege that these stories are a type of imagination, however, they are true. Why are some parents unafraid of Allah? Why do they

destroy their children's lives, ruin their future and damage their families? Why don't they consider the ramifications of their behavior toward their children? Why do they lie to others and defame their children's reputation? Why do they plot and conspire against their poor children? Unbelievably, there are stories like this in our society.

Allah commands children to obey their parents and be dutiful toward them, making it conditional to obey Him. Everyone that I've met who is related to these stories is so obedient to their parents, doing everything they can to make them happy and delighted. To the contrary, their parents aren't satisfied with what their children do for them, requiring more and more. Such treatment burdens their children, which makes their patience slowly ebb away until immorality and wickedness start to occur. Why does this happen? We can easily find the answer. When patience is gone, anger arises and the reaction will be huge. The action that is about to occur is unexpected because it is happening in real time.

Many stories involve such wickedness as cursing, assaulting or wishing one's parents dead and then killing them. These behaviors are so aggressive and offensive that Allah, others and society in general can't condone them. It's awful to see children treating their parents in such a rough or crude way because it's unnatural.

Thus, parents should give their children the opportunity to express their feelings, their dreams and their lives. They should help them use their cumulative experiences and then push them toward a good life. Additionally, they must believe in their children and understand what they mean. On the other hand, children must do their best for their parents, as Allah commands, and remain firmly in the midst of reality. Each one should share in all aspects of this life, with every family member caring for the others. In this way, life will be wonderful; otherwise, it will be a slice of hell on earth.

What causes a parent to give a bad look to his children? Moreover, why do children believe they are victims of their parents' injustice? Looking at many miserable stories from society, some common reasons creating these gaps between parents and children are greed to have everything done, not granting others the right to

a normal life and the existence of a father's spiteful wife.

Wrong thinking that "my children are my slaves" dominates some parents' minds. A human life is the property of no one. Life is created for all people to help each other, not someone in particular.

Cooperation is the foundation that makes life more attractive. When each member looks after the other, a family will be more peaceful and comfortable. Additionally, each member must be allowed his own independent opinion and way of thinking – which isn't necessary to correlate with someone else's – in order to experience a respectful lifestyle.

So, just how can a father's wife ruin the children's lives? Unfortunately, that's what's happening in many tragic stories where the father is like a remote control in his wife's hand and sees nothing because it's like he's in hypnotic trance.

Some wives play a role in destroying all of the bonds and relations within family. They may believe they're doing the right thing, when in fact, they're destroying the entire family – even for themselves. For example, differentiation and discrimination applied among children is particularly rude and harsh, so that the children feel as if they're living in two different families.

For these reasons, I invite all parents to think deeply and responsibly about their families. They must look closely to fix what they can in order to keep their family happy. We have to know that family is the cornerstone of every society, whose substructure depends upon it. The stronger this cornerstone is, the more society develops. Readers may ask how we can solve such matters as these. The answer isn't hard when we know it's in our hands. As Muslims, we must take the first solution from our religion. We must know what Allah commands children do for their parents, which is being obedient, kind, modest and generous toward them.

Likewise, parents must treat their children with fairness, mercy and compassion. Thus, in this way, family bonds will strengthen and all situations will return to normal. Culture, life experience and science also contribute to solving such matters, with all solutions emphasizing that the family unit must be cohesive, well-knit and part and parcel of society at large.

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



Why two semesters a year?

The first half of the academic year is over, from which nearly all students have received their results, and a new semester has begun. This sequence of semesters plays a significant role in students' academic progress because it helps them attain more knowledge with better results.

It also reveals which students are doing well and which aren't. Thus, it reminds those careless or indifferent students to wake up and change their routine, which is leading them to failure.

Having two semesters in every academic year is and must be of great use and value to students; however, some don't realize this and therefore, never learn from their mistakes in one semester so as not to repeat them in others.

In reality, only good students learn from their faults in the first or previous semester(s) and consider the good aspects as encouragement to become better.

For example, if a good student receives unacceptable results, he doesn't blame others; rather, he seeks the reason. Once he determines it, he then does his best to avoid doing so again so he'll obtain better results. Moreover, if he achieves good results, he doesn't stop searching for better results; instead, he uses this as encouragement to work harder not for better, but for the best marks.

However, other students (I won't

call them bad) think and behave differently, never learning from their mistakes. If by chance they should make good marks, they take it lightheartedly.

When such students obtain bad results in their first or previous semester(s), they'll move heaven and earth, claiming that it's not their fault, but the fault of others such as their teachers, family members or sometimes the subject itself.

They never compare themselves to the good students nor realize how they behave and work hard because it means nothing to such careless or indifferent students.

If they should happen to achieve good results by chance, they simply attribute it to their natural ability, claiming that there's no need to study hard because they obtain good results without any effort.

Dividing the academic year helps students determine their performance level each semester, as well as providing other useful aspects offering students the chance to obtain knowledge via the learning process.

Students are taught many subjects in a semester, thus, teaching a subject for one semester makes it material easy to understand and memorize. Students can easily follow the topic, which enables them to attain knowledge more easily. Exams each semester also give students the chance to revise and, subsequently, not easily forget what they've learned that semester.

On the other hand, year-long study

obliges students to take in all of the materials for each subject as a whole. Because each subject has much material taught during the full academic year, this slows students' understanding and memorization and, as a result, forgetting comes more quickly.

Dividing the academic year also creates competition between students, as students work hard each semester to attain better and higher marks than others. For example, at the beginning of the semester, students start working to achieve higher marks than their first semester, becoming jealous should their classmates make higher marks.

In year-long study, students are more careless and bored in competing with each other. Because results are given at the end of the academic year during the summer holiday, this doesn't encourage students to work harder for the sake of competing with their other classmates.

These are just some aspects of dividing the academic year into two semesters and although there may be other positive aspects, all of them serve students, who must be given the chance to learn from their faults each semester, to enrich themselves with knowledge and compete with others for the sake of achieving better performance.

Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an editor of English Journal of the University.

Complications regarding routine matters

By: Shafeek Al-Homaidi
shafeek990@yahoo.com

This pertains to the public disapproval of the jobs our ministry employees do in such a way that it's of no avail. Widespread pessimism toward most government offices results from the fact that they neither produce the results nor the proper treatment for which we all hope. I have adopted this same impression regarding routine procedures and ill treatment by Yemeni government bodies toward our citizens and foreigners in general. My Emirati friend handed me an urgent task of getting of his papers signed (a mar-

riage contract, university certification, etc.) by various ministry offices. So during the next week, I visited numerous official ministries to obtain legal approval and get my friend's documents signed and sealed. In truth, it's not easy to get documents legalized or signed by any official office.

They can take months to get things done if one doesn't pay the sum they demand in order to perform these tasks. Who really should take the blame for this? I'm blaming those with small offices and those lower down on the job ladder, as well as the top official responsible at any ministry because they all distort the true image of ministries, in particular, and the Yemeni people in general.

People will wait long hours for any type of credit document to be done properly. I keep wondering if it's just a matter of money and how much one pays to get their documents served up on a platter as fast as needed. Without exaggeration, one must pay for every single legal signature and seal. Routine and monotonous procedures take place in an inappropriate manner in our government foundations as they've become like selling and buying.

Nothing in this country is free, not even obtaining our own rights or performing required duties. What has brought us to this point of such types of treatment are blackmail and greed for bribes, which have corrupted our lives.

What's more is that those employees who receive and handle our credential papers and run our affairs do such malpractice openly and in an unceasing manner, totally unafraid of censor. Comparing Yemen's government institutions to any other country, I'm completely dismayed to discover such a large gap. Imagine a country free of such negative vices as bribery, corruption, etc., and how they enjoy fairness, productivity and peace of mind. In such countries, commercial, education and other documents or personal matters arrive at the doorstep on time and without continually following them up.

However, in Yemen, one must camp outside the door for weeks in order to

obtain their legal rights. Personal concerns are never attained at the first location or at the first time, thus setting one on the wrong track in terms of value for money. Even if one is empty-headed, if he dresses well and fills his pockets with sufficient cash, he'll undoubtedly be welcomed warmly to whatever he wishes – even by those guarding the gates – and his concerns will be handled immediately.

Chaos and mess are significant in our nation due to not abiding by laws or regulations. People feel that everyone assumes his own rule and then imposes it in his favor, regardless of the effect upon public interest. In view of such blackmail, the motivation to attain high-

er positions and serve the nation is high. However, the aim shouldn't be to go elsewhere in the world, but rather to obtain one's necessary requirements and rights easily and on time in our own Yemeni society.

While I think it's good to do what's right and serve our country, the top brass should strain themselves regarding our rights and meet our societal challenges. In my opinion, the major conflicts in the world aren't political, economic or diplomatic; rather, the real conflict involves social issues. To sum it up, don't consider me with a pessimistic view or place me with the losers, as such massive malpractice in our society influences anyone's decisions.

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

YEMAD/HCR/ADMIN/204
15th March 2008

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
INTERNAL & EXTERNALLY VACANCY NOTICE**

Title of Post: Programme assistant
Position Number: 10008219
Category & Level: GL 6
Location: Aden

Date of Entry on Duty: 01 May, 2008
Duration: 31 Dec. 2008
Closing Date: 28 March 2008

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer, in the Sub-Office Aden, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

- Engages in needs assessment, collect / analyze data, monitors project/Sub-Project implementation, and maintains Project/Sub-Project files.
- Provides guidance / assistance to partners especially Implementing Partners. Particularly assists in programme management, financial monitoring and project control including verification of SPMR (Part I) and Implementing Partners' Reports (IPRs). Keep track of the instalment dates and the implementation rate.
- Drafts a request for monthly cash replenishment.
- Participates in training on program management to UNHCR staff and partners especially Implementing Partners.
- Attends various coordination meetings with partners and writes a brief report emphasizing on actions to be taken.
- Prepares for various reports and project documents by providing basic data and information focusing especially on AGDM Participatory Assessment and Standards & Indicators.
- Drafts correspondence to partners.
- Works on MSRP and other UNHCR financial tools as required.
- Assists the designated staff in the management of Supply Chain. Engages in local procurement where necessary.
- Undertakes any other tasks as required.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
Knowledge and Skills: Completion of University degree, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in a field related to the work of the organization. Excellent computer skills (in MS office, including Excel, Word and PowerPoint and People Soft/MSRP)

Experience: Five years of progressively responsible field based work, of which at least one year was closely to programme

activities: Should also have excellent communication skills

Languages: Fluent in Arabic with very good knowledge of English (particularly writing skills)

IMPORTANT:
- APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF UNHCR.

- Tel No.: 235111/231441 Fax No.: 02-234406
- HEAD OF SUB-OFFICE
UNHCR SUB-OFFICE ADEN
P.O. Box: 6090,
Aden- Republic of Yemen

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

YEMAD/HCR/ADMIN/205
15th March 2008

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
INTERNAL & EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE**

Title of Post: Snr. Field/Protection Clerk
Position Number: 10012961
Category & Level: GL 5
Location: Kharaz

Date of Entry on Duty: 1st May 2008
Duration: 31 Dec. 08
Closing Date: 28th March. 08

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Under the direct supervision of the Protection Officer, in the Sub-Office Aden, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

- Meet authorized personnel at designated field locations, travels with them and serves as a guide;
- Collects data and other information on development and/or subject-matter activities of the country or area;
- Follow up, on a regular basis, the overall situation in refugee settlements and other areas where refugees have been accommodated;
- In co-ordination with the local authorities, monitor the implementation of UNHCR assistance in refugee settlements and assist local implementing partners in matters pertaining to the well-being of refugees;
- Assist supervisor in planning, formulating, and evaluating projects;
- Attends to all asylum-seekers and refugees' queries and takes further action where necessary;
- Maintains all protected-related statistical records and files;
- Responsible for the obtaining of all relevant formalities, such as travel documents, transit visas/exit visas or other related documents as required;
- Perform other duties as required.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
Knowledge and Skills: Completion of secondary education, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in a field related to the work of the organization. Excellent computer skills (in MS office, including Excel, Word and PowerPoint)

PowerPoint . Experience: Five years of progressively responsible field based work, of which at least one year was closely to protection/Field activities.

Languages: Fluent in Arabic with very good knowledge of English (particularly writing skills).

IMPORTANT:
- APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF UNHCR.

- Tel No.: 235111/231441 Fax No.: 02-234406
- HEAD OF SUB-OFFICE
UNHCR SUB-OFFICE ADEN
P.O. Box: 6090,
Aden- Republic of Yemen

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

YEMAD/HCR/ADMIN/206
15th March 2008

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
INTERNAL & EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE**

Title of Post: Durable Solutions Clerk
Post Number: 10008229
Category & Level: GL 4
Location: Aden

Date of Entry on Duty: 1st May 2008
Duration: 31 Dec. 2008
Closing Date: 28th March 2008

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Under the direct supervision of the Protection Officer, the incumbent performs the following tasks:

- Disseminate information regarding durable solutions options to refugees, including through frequent visits to the Kharaz refugee camp.
- Assist refugees in choosing a durable solution, identifying and registering those opting for voluntary repatriation or local integration, and drawing the Protection Officer's to possible candidates for resettlement.
- Prepare weekly and monthly reports regarding progress, problems and other issues related to the implementation of durable solutions for refugees, including statistics on registration and movements.
- Develop effective and harmonious working relationships with implementing partners and other relevant counterparts involved in the efforts to secure durable solutions for refugees.
- Organise and monitor, in coordination with these partners, the transportation, transit accommodation and basic assistance for repatriation refugees.
- Maintain contact with Government authorities regarding operational issues and to obtain information and statistics regarding spontaneous repatriation movements taking place without UNHCR involvement.
- Perform any related tasks assigned by supervisor.

QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

- Secondary Education.
- 3-4 years of progressive previous experience in related field
- Proficiency in the use of computers and office software packages
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (Written and Oral)

IMPORTANT:
APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED ONLY IN A SEALED ENVELOP AND LETTERS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF UNHCR ADEN.

UNHCR SUB-OFFICE ADEN
P.O. Box: 6090,
Tel No.: 235111/231441 Fax No.: 02-234406
Aden- Republic of Yemen

Sana'a cemeteries cause problems for mourners and government

By: Almgidat Dahesh Mojalli
almigidads@yahoo.com

Yemenis try their best to have clean, well-kept accommodations in their average daily life, but in Sana'a, it's becoming more difficult to find those same qualities in their final home – the cemetery.

In the past few years, many Sana'a citizens have complained of new financial problems involving cemeteries, in addition to the destruction and corrosion gravesites already face. The capital city has become the most expensive place in all of Yemen to buy a gravesite, according to indicators from the Ministry of Endowments.

Situations causing particular concern are gravediggers who extort the relatives of the not-yet-interred and price hikes regarding burial sites, which recently have exceeded YR 10,000 at some cemeteries such as Majel Al-Demah, Al-Mashhad and Al-Nojaimat.

This is on top of the regular issues to which graveyards are exposed, such as erosion, collapse and destruction due to flood rains, sewer pipes redirecting sewage into cemeteries and general negligence by concerned authorities.

"My father was in the hospital for six months, so when he died, I was out of money," complained 25-year-old Badr Al-Jabri, "When I went to Al-Mashhad Cemetery to purchase a grave for him, the grave digger requested YR 12,000 for it, so I was forced to borrow that sum from my friends."

There have been numerous complaints at Majel Al-Demah and Al-Mashhad Cemeteries about gravediggers who are unsympathetic toward grieving family and friends, instead seizing the chance to extort extra

money exceeding the Ministry of Endowments' gravesite price, which is YR 3,500 per grave.

The Sana'a-based ministry doesn't deny the problem, with office manager Mohammed Al-Ashwal affirming that he has received numerous complaints about graveside extortion.

He notes that his office launched an investigation of Sana'a cemeteries last September, arresting 26 gravediggers who later were released after signing contracts agreeing never again to extort money from mourners.

However, Al-Ashwal says extortion still exists. His office received complaints about gravediggers at Al-Nojaimat Cemetery and hence, launched another investigation resulting in the arrest of 15 employees there.

He requests that the public inform his office of any violations, noting that his office won't hesitate to punish violators.

At most, there are 25 cemeteries in the city of Sana'a and most already are full, particularly the large ones such as Khozaimah, Majel Al-Demah, Al-Nojaimat and Ishat Al-Ra'adi.

According to one employee at the Endowments Ministry, the reason for this is that cemeteries weren't included in the suburban planning for residential areas. Consequently, pressure on the old cemeteries to allow more burials has increased and led to grave digger extortion.

Some cemeteries have found themselves in another troubling situation as a result of flooding that has started eating away at cemeteries, particularly those bordering the capital, such as Mathbah and Al-Sunainah Cemeteries located west of Sana'a and Beit Al-Afif in Hadda district.

Al-Ashwal also notes that residents near Al-Saba'een and Al-Afif

Cemeteries have built homes on top of graves and land owned by the cemetery, causing further gravesite shortage.

"We've reminded them that their forefathers are there, but we can hardly convince them to stop digging and building," noted Al-Ashwal, who learned about this situation after an Endowment team went to inspect the cemeteries.

Another problem is that graves are dug up and used for other bodies. This occurs because either the graves' headstones have disappeared over time and due to inclement weather or because the cemeteries are full and gravediggers want to supplement their income, so they resort to digging up old graves.

Gravediggers like Al-Mashhad Cemetery's Ahmed Al-Mujahid confess to digging up graves, but clarify that it was only by accident and that they never put new bodies in full graves. "I don't deny that I've dug up two or three graves, but it was a mistake," he says, "It happened because the grave markers were swept away by flood rains and wind."

As for extorting the relatives of the dead, Al-Hushaihyah Cemetery gravedigger Ali Bin Ali Musa'id says he's never extorted from anybody, but he admits that he has raised the price of graves due to the recent product-wide price hikes.

"I've never extorted from anybody, but the authorities accuse us of this in order to show off their concern for the people, but they don't care," Musa'id said, "I don't deny that I've raised grave prices. We only have our government salaries and nothing else, so the prices hikes are unreasonable. We can't help it – we must raise prices in order to live."

Mohammed Al-Anisi, who lives near Majel Al-Demah Cemetery, says



Cemeteries in Sana'a city have been crowded with tombs.

his mother's tomb was destroyed by rain floods because the cemetery has no way to drain the water. He adds, "I think fullness was the reason the gravedigger dug up my mother's grave to bury another body in it, but they're supposed to be able to differentiate between free spaces and those with bodies."

Some Sana'a zones have insufficient sanitation services, so residents extend sewage pipes from their homes into

nearby graveyards. This has occurred at both Majel Al-Demah and Khozaimah Cemeteries and has corroded the site.

However, Al-Ashwal says his office has a plan to resolve such problems. The first part of the solution is to maintain the city's current cemeteries and expand them to neighboring plots of land. The second part involves coordinate with the Ministry of Public Works and the Capital Secretariat of Sana'a in

order to ensure that all new zone building plans include a place for a cemetery. He also recommends constructing larger cemeteries on the outskirts of Sana'a.

Rain floods, sanitation problems and extortion don't just disturb the final resting places of the dead, they also cause those Yemenis that are left behind to worry about how their own graves will be cared for once they reach their eternal home.

One-day journalism experience

Youth can now enjoy a journalistic experience at Yemen Times where they create their own newspapers and take home printed sheets of their products.

Two students from Sana'a International School had participated in this exercise whereby they created the front page of their desired newspapers with help from Louisa Glenn a volunteer with Yemen Times and Ramzi Alawi and Basim Al-Qubati of the Technical Department.

Fares Al-Akwa'a chose to write about his favorite soccer team Barca, which he called "Barca's amazing stars", while Mohamed Fathi Hayel chose to write about Skydiving and called "Soaring through the sky".

Describing his experience, Fares said: "At the Yemen Times office, I had a lot of fun because I created my own newspaper. First I picked a topic, which was soccer. Then I wrote information about it and I also added pictures from the Internet. We then went to the technical section where I met a nice guy who helped me by teaching me how to make my own newspaper. After I finished writing it in the program, we printed my stuff and then I looked for mistakes. After I corrected the mistakes we printed the final copy. Finally, we went upstairs to take a picture. I had lots of fun and I hope we can do it again."

Mohammed also had a good time, "My day at Yemen Times Office was



Fares (left) and Mohammed proudly show off their work.



Ramzy showing Fares how to lay out the page with teacher Zalino observing.

fascinating because I got to create a newspaper of my own. First of all, I had to choose a topic and research on it and look for pictures on the Internet. Then after I got a topic, we started typing about it. My topic was about Skydiving. After that, we corrected our mistakes. Then we went to another room where the computer professionals were there. Finally, we put it on a special program for making newspapers and we designed it neatly and printed it out. It was hard but it was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed it. I hope I can go to Yemen Times office again," he said.

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