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Tentative agreement to reform electoral system

Elections postponed

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 25 — The ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the six Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) representing the political opposition in Yemen have agreed to postpone parliamentary elections for two years.

After battling for over a year and the JMP threatening to boycott the elections, both parties reached an agreement last Thursday in the house of Abdul Karim Al-Eryani, the president's advisor. An extended meeting also took place between the different committees in the Military Forces Officers Club to discuss the remaining details.

"Talks during the upcoming period will be on political and constitutional reforms to broaden the powers of government on a local level and ensure a fair representative electoral system," said Sultan Al-Barakani spokesperson for the GPC. "Other constitutional reforms will be included in both the president's program and the program of comprehensive national political reforms presented by the JMP."

This will be the second time that the parliamentary elections are postponed since they last took place in 2003, elections in which the GPC won a majority

of 229 seats out of 301, and the opposition won a share of 58 seats mostly occupied by the conservative Islah party.

"The GPC and JMP have agreed to highlight the supreme interest of the country, work together toward elections, and conduct economic and political reforms in order to start toward a better future," said Abdu Rabhu Mansoor Hadi, vice-president and GPC secretary general, on Thursday when he met with members of the European Parliament.

"It is expected that the Parliament will approve the bylaw of amending Article 65 in the Constitution that allows adding two years to the period of the parliament course based on an agreement," said Sultan Al-Atwani, head of the JMP bloc in the parliament, to the Yemen Times.

"We agreed to adjourn elections after the ruling party agreed to abide by the proportional list," said Al-Atwani. "It also agreed to move to the two-chamber system within a schedule to be discussed by Parliament, and to conduct other reforms that we suggested in all fields."

Reports from within the JMP confirm that the proportional list system in elections will be applied in 50 percent of the electoral constituencies whereas the other 50 percent will remain under the individual electoral system.

The agreement also included conducting political reforms, the most important of which are constitutional amendments, the formation of a new supreme elections committee, amending the election law and reviewing voter registration.

Further, the agreement included the two-chamber system, which means that



Young boys rally for the GPC during the 2006 local council and presidential elections, generally considered to be Yemen's most competitive and fair elections yet.

members of both Parliament and the Shoura Council will be elected.

Yemen has witnessed much political turmoil during the last two years due to disagreements between the ruling party

and the opposition over parliamentary elections and the electoral system.

Prior to the agreement to postpone the elections for two years, the crisis had been escalating from all sides. Some ruling

party leaders insisted elections be held as planned without applying the proportional system, while the JMP stressed the need for national reforms and consensus before any elections.

Both the ruling party and opposition had warned against the consequences of the crisis, particularly when the GPC insisted to run in parliamentary elections alone after the boycott of the opposition.

Yemeni foreign debts increase by USD 66 million

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Feb.24 — Yemen's external debts had increased at the end of 2008 by USD 66 million from the previous year, according to the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY).

The debt currently stands at USD 5 billion 886 million for 2008, according to the report issued last December. The debt is distributed among many international credit bodies.

Multilateral debts rank first with a sum amounting to USD 3 billion and 71 million, followed by the Paris Club countries at USD 1 billion and 757 million and non-Paris Club countries with a total amounting to USD 861.9 million. The Paris Club is an informal group of creditor governments from major industrialized countries founded in 1956. Members include Australia,

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The CBY indicates that Yemen's outstanding debt to the Paris Club countries increased by USD 21 million from 2007 to 2008. Debt to the non-Paris Club countries also increased by USD 16 million from the 2007 to 2008.

The CBY confirms that Yemen's outstanding external debts are under control, citing the overall reduction from USD 11.4 billion in 1996 to USD 5.886 billion at the end of 2008.

Ahmed Al-Samawi, governor of the CBY, said that Yemen is using modern techniques to seek alternatives to reduce debt and limit new loans.

Bilateral debt

Rank	Creditor	Debt in USD
1.	The International Development Authority (IDA)	2 billion 94.5 million
2.	Russia	1 billion 225.6 million
3.	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)	645.7 million
4.	Saudi Arabia Fund	368.1 million
5.	Japan	277 million
6.	China	180 million
7.	Kuwait Development Fund	153.2 million
8.	International Fund for Agricultural development (IFAD)	120.3 million
9.	USA	98.3 million
10.	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	95.8 million
11.	Algeria	93.2 million
12.	France	88.3 million
13.	Islamic Development Bank	78.9 million
14.	Italy	35.3 million
15.	OPEC Fund for international Development	31.6 million
16.	Poland	26.2 million
17.	Spain	24.9 million

Yemen's external debts, extract from Central Bank of Yemen report 2008.

Foreign debts in Yemen were still increasing in 2006 due to the mismanagement of public debt and the absence of clear long-term policies, according


to a 2006 study by Prof. Mansour Ali Albutani and Mohammed Al-Bawraji, officials at the Central Organization for Controlling and Auditing.

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Yemeni Press freedom 2008

By: Enas Al-Awami

SANA'A, Feb. 24 — The fourth press freedoms report recently issued by Women Journalists Without Chains indicates that press violations in Yemen are on the rise.

In 2005 there were 53 violations and in 2006 the number reached nearly 67 violations. In 2007 the violations increased to 112, and in 2008 the number shot up to 248 violation cases, which is about five incidents in one week.

These violations ranged from beating, kidnapping, arresting, issuance of threats, the prevention of covering events, and the confiscation of equipment or formal papers from journalists.

According to the report, although the Yemeni constitution has given citizens the right to express their opinions, the official directions are to not give the media all of the freedoms and rights that they are supposed to have in Yemen.

About 21 attempts for private radio stations in Hajja and Hadramout have been closed down because the law does not allow for private broadcast media. There are also more than twenty websites blocked by the Yemen Net telecommunications company which is working for the government, and up until press time, Yemen Portal web crawler is blocked.

Among the more prominent violations in 2008 were the arrests of journalists, such as the detainment of Mohammed Al-Maqaleh, chief editor of Al-Eshtrahi.net, and Mohamed Al-Azezi, the chief editor of Al-Oroobah newspaper. This was a direct result of their coverage

Violation	Cases
Confiscation of personal or official documents	6
Illegal detention	56
Prevention from coverage	11
Court case	14
Blocked websites	27
Attack	31
Abduction	6
Confiscation of equipment	18
Harassment	46
Government intimidation	32
Prevention from travelling	1

of municipality officers chasing street vendors.

Another prominent incident involved preventing the media from covering the Festival of Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Aden in Jan. 2008. Anees Mansoor, a journalist for Al-Ayam newspaper, was arrested for covering the festival and other journalists were harassed and intimidated during that time.

Khadeja bin Boraik, an editor for Al-Ayam newspaper, was scolded by authorities while covering an event in Crater in Aden in Mar. 2008, and her camera was confiscated by police officers.

Journalists have also been prevented from travelling, such as when Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani was prevented in November from going to Egypt. Mohammed Al-Mawaleh's passport was confiscated after returning from Syria in January of last year.

The report shows that most harassment and press violations happen during the attempted coverage of demonstrations and protests. Moreover, because of social and economic unrest, 2008 included many demonstrations and hence the increase of attacks against the media.

By: Almgidat Mojalli

SANA'A, Feb. 24 — Thousands of governmental school teachers crowded in front of Parliament last Thursday, demanding an increase in their wages and other constitutional rights.

"Teachers came from 18 governorates demanding the annual increase in their salaries," Ahmed Al-Rabahi, head of the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate (YTS) said.

A teacher's monthly salary ranges from YR 60,000 to YR 80,000 depending on experience and academic qualifications. Each year, a teacher's monthly salary is only increased by YR 2,000.

As a result of similar sit-ins and protests last year, the government promised to increase teachers' monthly salaries by YR 8,000 to YR 12,000, but still has not done so.

"Protests started on Feb. 17 with a sit-in and today [Feb. 24] we have thousands of teachers demonstrating in front of Parliament," said Al-Rabahi.

YTS and Syndicate of Educational Professions representatives have met Parliament's Education Committee to discuss their demands. The committee has promised to examine the issue with Parliament and concerned authorities, and to meet the members of the two unions next Saturday.

"The government has only provided limited solutions to the teachers' problems," said Ahmed Al-Rabahi. "It gives teachers very small salary increases, which are nothing at all in proportion to the price hikes and are always subject to many deductions and taxes."

He added that the maximum salary

Teachers demand their rights



"The development of education depends on bettering the conditions of teachers," said banners at last Thursday's demonstration. YT photo by Saddam Al-Ashmori

for teachers, according to the Wages and Salaries Law, is YR 160,000 per year, but they are only asking for YR 130,000. After tax and insurance deduction, the final amount a teacher receives is around YR 70,000.

In addition, Al-Rabahi is disappointed that, despite strikes last year in many different governorates, the government still has not paid teachers part of their suspended bonuses and salaries.

Mohammed Abdullah, teacher at the Omar Bin Abdul-Aziz School, complained that he joined the Ministry of Education in 2007, but so far hasn't been granted his suspended wages

which amount to almost YR 100,000.

"I have been working for one year," he said. "The government deducts YR 7,200 from my salary every month and informs me that it will be returned but I have received nothing until now."

"Other teachers who joined the Ministry of Education receive more than me," he added. "I receive only YR 26,000 a month, whereas new teachers receive YR 40,000."

"Teachers have the right to stage a sit-in because their salaries are too low for these times of unbelievable price hikes," said Abdulaziz Murshed, father of a student. "Each one of their salary increases is preceded by two or three

price hikes and followed by another two or three."

"But, although they have the right to protest, students will be affected and I'm worried about that," he added.

Jamal Izzaddeen, a student at the Omar Al-Moqtar School, noted that when the teachers leave the school for demonstrations or sit-ins, the school administration locks up the students inside the classrooms without supervision.

Ismael Zaidan, general manager of information for the Ministry of Education, refused to comment, while his personnel manager Faisal Jameel couldn't be reached.

Ministry evaluates health sector

By: Ibrahim Al-Wadi'ee and Alice Hackman

SANA'A, Feb. 25 — The Ministry of Public Health and Population has completed the analysis and benchmark-setting phase of its nationwide health sector review, and is finalizing its strategy to improve the quality of health services in Yemen.

"We are currently preparing a development strategy for the next seven to ten years," said Dr. Rashad Sheikh, director of the Health Policy and Technical Support Unit at the Ministry of Health.

To this end, a team of mostly Yemeni experts has set benchmarks or realistic goals towards improving the efficiency of the public health sector in the country.

"For example, the Ministry of Finance has agreed to increase the health sector's budget every year," said Dr. Martin Kade, health services adviser with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) who helped define the stages of the review.

The two-year long evaluation highlighted certain typically-Yemeni issues to be addressed, including lack of water in many health centers and units, lack of security for health workers and, in some places, a tribal structure permeating the health system at district level.

"One of the results of the review is that role of the Ministry of Health will no longer be as it was in the past," said Sheikh. "It will act as an overseer and evaluator and determine national strategies, but will delegate matters which directly affect beneficiaries to the governorate and district levels."

Yemen's intellectual resources were pooled together to produce a workable plan to develop its health system, explained Kade. The review's key players, chosen according to their experience and expertise to negotiate the best strategy possible, are mostly Yemeni.

The plan's progress will be reviewed each year by all contributors, including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Planning and donors. It is hoped that, if all goes well, Yemen might draw closer to reaching some of the United Nations' health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

"If you don't have a clear dream for 2015, nothing will happen," said Kade. "Maternal mortality is so related to the improvement of service that it is clear that [the strategy] will have an impact."

Quality Improvement Program

To boost quality in health facilities, a quality improvement program has been initiated in seven of Yemen's



Health facilities are invited to sign up for the Quality Improvement Program at their local Health Office. YT photo by Fatima Al-Ajel

governorates. The program, soon to be expanded to all public health facilities in the country works on a voluntary basis.

The facility's staff works with a voluntary "sadiq" [friend] to improve the quality of their services towards being awarded a certificate of quality by the Ministry of Health. In seven governorates, the quality improvement program has had tangible results.

"People vote with their feet," said Kade. "Certified facilities have seen a clear increase in users."

Although the certificate of quality campaign mainly targets public health facilities, it is hoped that private hospitals and health centers will also volunteer to be certified, thereby broadening quality improvement to the national level. In Egypt, said Kade, a similar program was introduced and proved popular with public and private health centers alike.

The joint health sector review is supported by the Netherlands Embassy, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, German Agency for Technical Cooperation or GTZ, the European Union, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund and Population Fund, and the United States Agency for International Development.

Facilities interested in improving the quality of healthcare they offer are invited to enroll at the Ministry of Health's local Health Office.

New economic reforms

By: Ismael Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Feb. 23 — A recent economic report confirms the government's intention to implement procedures and policies designed to stimulate economic growth rates during 2009 and 2010.

A report issued by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation indicates that the plan will focus on the implementation of procedures and remedies necessary to stimulate economic growth rates in Yemen. This will be accomplished through the completion of reforms that will help to create a favorable investment environment.

The report emphasized that the priorities of the government will cover a number of strategic targets, including the exploitation of potential opportunities in non-oil sectors. Priorities also include the acceleration of following up on donors' pledges to fund development projects.

Other targets will encourage the exploration for oil and minerals in new areas and will promote investment in areas where geological surveys have already proved the presence of commercial quantities of minerals.

The report stated that the govern-

ment is in a position to prepare and implement a national strategy for exploiting local economic potentialities. The government is ready to benefit from the Free Zone in Aden, among other economic resources, and is also planning to improve infrastructure.

The report further pointed out that the government's economic agenda during 2009 will focus on the proper utilization of available resources, including the funding agreed upon with donors. This is especially true concerning the Gulf Cooperation Council; Yemen plans to address the potential shortfall in resources as a result of the decline in oil prices globally.

The report said that the main procedure of the government will address the sharp decline in global oil prices and the government plans to pursue a policy of monetary support in order to reduce price hikes in Yemen. The central bank of Yemen will control liquidity in the local market and will reduce money supply growth rates to match the growth rates of the gross domestic product (GDP) in Yemen. The central bank will also raise the efficiency of monetary policy tools, particularly the freeing of interest

rates, diversifying and developing the foreign exchange market instruments, and the modernization of the payments system.

In addition, the government should review the current financial policy so as to make it one of the major incentives for production and investment. This can be accomplished through the development of revenues, the reduction of tax evasion, the restructuring of public expenditure, and the reduction of current expenditure. A financial policy review could also bring about a balance between investment and operational expenditure and reduce the need to endorse extra crediting for the public budget.

The report concluded that procedures will be adopted in 2009 in order to enhance the flexibility and the degree of the openness of markets. The Yemeni economic scope will be expanded through the strengthening of investment and diversification of sources of national income, and structural forms will be accelerated in order to improve the overall business environment, to increase sustained productivity in the informal sector, and to revitalize the private sector.



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In Brief

SANA'A
Yemen sets up zinc project worth \$200 million

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar laid Monday foundation stone for the first mine project in Yemen for finding out zinc in Sulb Mountain in Nehm area here with investment cost estimated at \$ 200 million.

Mujawar inspected the previous location of the mine and the general diagram of the new project and was briefed on the new mine and the component of the project which will use the latest developments for finding out the zinc.

The Yemeni Authority for Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board Ismael al-Janad and the director of the company which will carry out the project clarified that the production output could reach to 80,000 tons annually. The project they said will provide 400 direct jobs to Yemenis and 1500 indirect jobs.

They indicated that the project would include constructing 400 housing units to its workers and that the first shipment of the Yemeni zinc would be exported in mid of 2010.

In the ceremony made for launching the project, Mujawar affirmed laying foundation stone for this great investment project, almost the first of its kind in Yemen, is in line with the president's electoral program.

He indicated that the government gives great concern to this project that would help developing the area in the framework of developing mineral industries in the wealth triangle (Jawf, Mareb, Shabwa).

He indicated that any security violations would lead to halting such specific investments and the people losing of great profits, in addition to negative effect on the future of investment in minerals field.

He affirmed that Yemen's minerals wealth was and still the choice for developing the national economy and varying income resources in the country.

Al-Janad reviewed efforts exerted during 27 years and different studies taken for laying foundation stone for this project. He hoped the next step will witness setting up and launching a number of projects.

For his part, the Director of the Project said developing this project would make Yemen in the world map of mines. He noted that Jabal Sulb Company Limited which started studying the project since 1999 is keen on providing developed techniques fitting the nature of the area.

SAYOUN
Training course in water field to be held in Sayoun

The General Authority for Rural Water in the Valley and Desert districts of Hadramout is to hold a training course on Tuesday for the specialized cadres in water field in collaboration with UNICEF.

Experts from a British company specializing in groundwater testing will lecture in the two days course which will deal with a number of water resources issues and how to protect them from pollution.

Deputy of Hadramout governorate for Valley and Desert Affairs Ahmed al-Junaid met on Monday with UNICEF representative in the governorate and the British company's expert and discussed with them fields of local cadres training specializing in groundwater and drinking water.

During the meeting, al-Junaid confirmed that the training should include testing water resources, means of water transporting to consumers and analyzing

water's quality which is used in agricultural irrigation.

Al-Junaid also stressed the necessity to find the healthy treatments for water and introducing society to how to solve water pollution problems in the governorate.

The UNICEF official along with the British expert confirmed their interest in training the local cadres in the governorate for finding out a general awareness of the significance of water resources and environment protection from pollution, appreciating the efforts of local authority in this regard.

MAHWEET
Five killed, two injured due to gas cylinder's explosion

Three children and two women from one family killed and two other persons from the same family injured because of gas cylinder's explosion which destroyed four-story house here.

Deputy Security Director of Mahweet Abdul-Kader al-Ma'akhathi told Saba the explosion occurred at 3:30 AM because of infiltration of gas substance in the house of Yahya Abu Bakr, 60.

The blast was ignited while Abu Baker turned on the light without noticing of gas infiltration in the house that led to electric shock and the blast that destroyed the house.

He affirmed that the incident resulted in killing Au Bakr's wife, 45, his sister, 45 and three children; Asma'a, 4, Aesha, 7 and Mohammad, 3. Abu Bakr and his son Abdurrahman, 17 have been injured with several burns.

On the other hand, Governor of Mahweet Ahmad Muhsen inspected the location of the incident and saw the size of the damages and losses resulted by the incident after visiting the injured in

Al-Jomhori Hospital. He directed providing necessary care and aid to them.

HADRAMOUT
More Somali refugees in Yemen

Police in the eastern province of Hadramout have said further 140 Somali refugees including 42 women and 9 children had arrived in the coast of Burm in the province.

The African refugees were gathered and handed over to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to take arrangements for their transfer to a special refuge in the province of Shabwa as a prelude to transfer them to a main refuge in the Kharaz area of Lahj province.

African refugees, most Somalis, continue to arrive in Yemen with those who have already arrived in the country exceeding 800,000 refugees.

The refugees lay more burdens on the country's fragile economy.

They usually arrive through the sea and many die either as overcrowded boats capsize or as the refugees are enforced by smugglers to swim until they reach far Yemeni coasts.

Last month, two ferries carrying more than 300 Somali and Ethiopian displaced people capsized off the Bab El-Mandab strait. Hundreds of the refugees onboard were feared dead and many others were rescued.

TAIZ
Course on combating corruption

A training course started in Taiz province on combating the corruption in the field health with participation of 30 health cadres.

The two-day course is organized by Health Technical Vocational Association in support by the Supreme National

Authority for Combating Corruption and Democracy School.

The course will focus on the national laws and legislations regarding fighting corruption as well as international laws and its effect on the national legislation, in addition to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

At the opening of the course, a number of speeches were delivered in which the participants confirmed the necessity of activating partnership between the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, Democracy School and civil society organizations to face this problems.

The speeches also motivated the participants to spread awareness to fight corruption.

SA'ADA
Reconstruction 1st phase achieved 58 percent

The Executive Director of Reconstruction Fund of Saada province Mohammed Thabet said that the percentage of the first phase of reconstruction reached round %58 in the effected area in Saada.

The reconstruction is going well in which about %79 has been achieved in al-Safra district and %50 in the rest of the province.

Speaking about the damaged houses, Thabet said that the fund has paid the first installment to the people effected by the heavy rains in the province.

In the beginning of March 2009, the 2nd phase of the reconstruction will be launched in 22 residential complexes in three districts of the province.

ADEN
YCA starts 7 training courses

Seven training courses started on Sunday

in the Training Institute of Yemeni Coastguard Authority (YCA) in Aden.

Almost 122 participants from YCA's members will receive, till April 1st, lectures and training on scientific and practical exercises aiming at developing their capabilities, Director of Training Institute Faisal al-Haj said.

Al-Haj added that the institute seeks for qualifying a number of YCA's members in the technical fields connected to their daily duties such as communications, mechanic, supplying, electricity and port security fields.

18 tourist yachts arrive at Aden city

About 18 tourist yachts arrived on Sunday at Aden harbor on board 39 tourists from different nationalities in few-day visit to Yemen.

A tourist program has been prepared for the group including visits to the historical and tourists sites in the city such as water cistern, Sirah castle and popular markets.

HODEIDAH
Hodeidah port receives 48,885 tons of oil, several goods

Hodeidah port received on Sunday nine ships and oil tankers carrying about 48,885 tons of oil derivatives, rice and a number of goods containers.

According to the Red Sea Corporation, Hodeidah has received five oil tankers unloaded about 45,025 tons of oil and fuel oil, a ship unloaded about 3,860 tons of rice and three ships unloaded 658 containers of various goods.

Salif port received two ships one of them carrying 32,780 tons of soy and the other carrying 22,609 tons of wheat.

Meanwhile, two ships unloaded around 4,954 head of sheep and cows and 4,866 tons of diesel and oil in Mocha port.

Their News

The Ford Foundation International Fellowships

Program provides support for up to three years of formal graduate-level study leading to a masters or doctoral degree. Fellows are selected from countries and territories in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Russia and include Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, where the Ford Foundation maintains active overseas programs. U.S. nationals are not eligible, although Fellows may study in the United States.

Fellows are chosen on the basis of their leadership potential and commitment to community or national service, as well as for academic excellence. Fellows may enroll in masters or doctoral programs and may pursue any academic discipline or field of study that is consistent with the interests and goals of the Ford Foundation. The Foundation currently works in thirteen fields to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote

international cooperation, and advance human achievement.

Once selected, Ford Foundation International Fellows may enroll in an appropriate university program anywhere in the world, including their country of residence. The program provides placement assistance to those Fellows not yet admitted to graduate school.

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All applications must be submitted to the appropriate IFP International Partner in the country or region where the applicant resides.

<http://www.fordifp.net/index.aspx?c=2>

Fellowship at UNFPA Special Youth Program

The Special Youth Program fellowship consists of an initial 4.5 months fellowship at UNFPA Headquarters, New York, followed - upon satisfactory performance - by a continued fellowship of another 4.5 months in the UNFPA Regional Office or Country Office in the region / country of the fellow.

UNFPA is currently recruiting for a group of fellows to start their fellowships in April/May.

Objective

This program is designed to give young people from developing countries opportunities to engage in policy development and programming; to help build the capacity of young people; and to sensitize both the young people and UNFPA staff on partnering to address adolescent and youth issues.

During the course of the program, fellows will:


- Attend and participate in UNFPA and UN events and meetings as appropriate
- Undertake research and writing assignments
- Contribute to ongoing projects and programs
- Organize a final presentation to UNFPA HQ staff on their projects and fellowships in Headquarters
- Interact with the New York local youth community on at least one occasion
- Develop a relationship with the Regional and Country Office and provide updates on their activities during the HQ fellowship
- Provide updates to HQ during fellowship at Regional or Country Office

Yemen TV program on elections

Yemen TV will be running a series of political debates on the elections. The sessions will broadcast after the 11 o'clock news every Thursday.

In addition to development opportunities to experience working with a UN agency such as UNFPA, all qualified candidates will be provided the following:

- Cost of return travel from country of origin
 - Assistance with travel documents and visa requirements
 - Health insurance
 - Housing arrangements
 - Subsistence allowance (for meals and other basic needs)
 - A workstation and internet access
 - Opportunities to be mentored by UNFPA staff on issues of interest
 - Administrative assistance as required
- www.unfpa.org/employment/vacancy.htm for more information please contact awasthi@unfpa.org



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteer position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Post Title: Field Assistant
Location: Mayfa'a, Shabwa

Responsibilities:
Under the supervision of the Associate Field Officer, the National Volunteer will be required to carry out the following duties:

- Recording daily new arrivals of refugees with the initial registration form/appointment slip provided by UNHCR.
- Inform refugees and asylum-seekers of their rights and responsibilities towards their host country, asylum procedures and on the role and assistance of UNHCR in Yemen
- Ensure the provision of newly arriving refugees and asylum-seekers with basic assistance (food, emergency medical care, shelter).
- Analyze problems faced by new arrivals at the reception center, and advise Field officer and other heads of units.
- Prepare monthly reports to UNHCR on figures and activities undertaken in Mayfa'a, and provide an analysis of trends and movements of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Assess assistance needs of new arrivals especially EVLs initiate assistance and inform Field officer, Community services Officer and Protection officer.
- Report any violation faced by the New arrivals promote the respect of human rights and act a mediator between new arrivals and local authorities
- Monitor and supervise the implementation of UNHCR funded programs in the reception center, including the delivery of all assistance to new arrivals.
- Act as interpreter when required, translate documents and other relevant correspondence
- Perform other duties as required.


Qualifications:

- University degree in the field of Political Science, International Law, Social Sciences or other related fields.
- 2 years experience in this capacity or related field of work
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Full knowledge of computer
- Very good knowledge of English and Arabic. Knowledge in Somali and/or Ethiopian is an added advantage.

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to unvemen.info@undp.org Subject: Field Assistant - Mayfa'a

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply. Deadline for receiving applications is 6 March 2009

Vacancy Announcement



SIPC is a subsidiary of SINOPEC. SINOPEC is rated as the 19th largest Company in the world. SIPC has 3 exploring blocks as an operator & 1 development block as a partner in Yemen. SIPC invites you to apply for the position of

Contracts Coordinator


Responsibilities are but not limited to:

- Preparing contracts and ensuring that they are timely approved, signed and notified in accordance with the procures described in the procurement manual.
- Help in Developing contract administration policies, procedures, standards, and plans.
- Handle necessary amendments and/or updates to existing contracts.
- Identify interface issues between the contractors and the company to optimize the use of resources for all contracts, and ensure their performance in a cost effective manner.
- Recommends cancellation of contracts when unwarranted deviations occur.
- Assisting and advising other departments on certain legal matters.
- Providing support on all legal matters to the company.
- Systematically attend all bid opening, evaluation, and contracts award sessions and preparing minutes of bid opening and evaluation reports, in accordance with the company policy.
- Prepare specifications for requests for bids in order to identify and select appropriate bidders.

Qualifications and professional requirements:

- Bachelor's degree is required.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office and telephone protocol.
- Duties require professional verbal and written communication skills and the ability to type 60 wpm.
- Visibility of work requires attention to detail.
- Excellent organizational skills, and discretion with confidential information.
- At least two to three years of secretarial experience.

Interested, please send your C.Vs and covering letter to the following e-mail: Recruitment@sipcemen.com.ye
Note: (only Short listed will be contacted for the interview)
Deadline for applying is 20 / 03 / 2009



Save the Children in Yemen is looking for eligible candidates for the position of:

Children's Rights Specialist

for all its programs in Yemen, in specific; Sana'a, Sa'ada, Aden, Ibb, Lahej and Abyan. The successful candidate for the position of Children's Rights Specialist will be responsible for the development, management, monitoring, evaluation of Children's Rights programs, as well as ensuring that all SC programs use a child rights based approach in its programming. It will include the training of all staff in children's rights and child rights programming as well as developing capacity building programs for partner organizations. The CR Specialist will also be responsible to work closely with other specialists to develop and implement child rights advocacy plans.

Requirements:
Educational attainment in a relevant subject, preferably in human or children's rights, experience working with civil society and others in improving human rights/children's rights, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, capacity building/training skills and strong Arabic and English language skills. Willingness to travel within Yemen and in the region a must.

We are looking for both men and women from Yemen with enthusiasm and commitment to improve the rights of children in Yemen. Applications and requests for a detailed Job Description need to be addressed to:

Hisham Al Hakimi, Administrator, Save the Children Sweden Office, Algiers Street, behind Al Tahama Company Halhakimi@scsmena.org

The deadline for the submission applications is the 8 of March, 2009



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Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Reform Support Project (Cr. 3625- YEM)
Credit Administration Unit

**Announcement for National Individual Consultant
for a study on provision of basic and comprehensive EmOC
services in targeted health facilities -(RFP # 41)**

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) within the Ministry of Public Health & Population intends to hire an individual national consultant who will be contracted to carry out Study on provision of basic and comprehensive EmOC services in targeted health facilities.

1. Rationale for conducting the study

The HRSP has given high priority to reproductive health, particularly maternal and neonatal health with greater emphasis on emergency obstetric care (EmOC). The key interventions financed by the IDA credit include the rehabilitation of three hospitals and 12 health centres, training of service providers and provision of equipment, drugs and supplies. All these are expected to be in place by the end of 2008, at which time basic and emergency obstetric care will be available on a regular basis.

This is a major component of the project and it is therefore important to carry out independent study relating to its implementation. However, as the services are expected to start by the end of 2008, it would be appropriate for this study to be conducted towards the end of the project.

2. Objective of the Consultancy

The objectives of this study are to:

- assess the physical standard of health facilities for providing basic and emergency obstetric care,
- assess the availability of qualified service providers,
- assess the provision of equipment, drugs and supplies,
- assess the trends and pattern of service use by month since the provision of services,
- identify the gaps, and,
- identify the measures that need to put in place in order to optimize provision and utilization of services.

3. Duration of the assignment

The expected time to finish the work is one month from the date of signed contract.

4. Expected Deliverable

The consultant should produce and deliver the following:

- A complete study plan approved by HRSP.
- Pre-tested data collection instruments and guidelines.
- Draft consolidated report .
- Final report — revised following comments and feedback from HRSP, the consultant will submit the final report in hard copies (2 copies) and electronic soft copy (2 copies).

5. Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

- Masters Degree in a relevant health science, who has documented at least three research/study reports.
- Previous experience of research on Reproductive Health.

Applications with supporting document and CV's - should be submitted to the Credit Administration unit by 10th March 2009 to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.

Tel : 00 967 1 252 224 - Fax : 00 967 1 251 622 - Email : nabilat@mophp-hrsp.org

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Reform Support Project (Cr. 3625- YEM)
Credit Administration Unit

**Announcement for National Individual Consultant
for a study on rehabilitation status of health facilities - (RFP#44)**

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) within the Ministry of Public Health & Population intends to hire an individual national consultant who will be contracted to carry out a study on rehabilitation status of health facilities

1. Rationale for conducting the study

HRSP has given high priority to improving physical facilities of five district hospitals and 17 health centres. More than US\$10 million, one third of total budget of the HRSP, will be spent on the renovation of buildings and provision of medical equipment and supplies. These interventions aim to ensure these facilities are able to provide good quality health care services. This survey study has been proposed in order to assess the physical and equipment standards of these facilities and their impact on the provision and utilization of health care services.

2. Objectives of Consultancy :

The objectives of this study are to:

- assess the physical and equipment standard of the rehabilitated health facilities,
- assess the availability of qualified providers.
- compare the service utilization rate for a month before and after rehabilitation of the facilities.
- identify any gaps in the facility rehabilitation, and
- identify the measures that need to put in place in order to optimize provision and utilization of services.

3. Duration of the assignment

Study work should take place within one month from the date of signed contract.

4. Expected Deliverable

The consultant should produce and deliver the following:

- A complete study plan approved by HRSP.
- Pre-tested data collection instruments and guidelines.
- Draft consolidated report .
- Final report — revised following comments and feedback from HRSP , the consultant will submit the final report in hard copies (2 copies) and electronic soft copy (2 copies).

5. Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

A degree in medical engineering or equivalent related field and at least three years experience in designing and conducting research and studies.

Applications with supporting document and CV's - should be submitted to the Credit Administration Unit by 10th March 2009 to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.

Tel : 00 967 1 252 224 - Fax : 00 967 1 251 622 - Email : nabilat@mophp-hrsp.org

Head of ICRC sub-delegation in Sa'ada to Yemen Times:

“Life under a tent is no solution on the long run, and everyone should be able to return home sooner than later.”

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been present in Sa'ada since 2004 and opened its office in Sa'ada in April 2007 in response to the conflict in the northern areas. The sub-delegation in Sa'ada includes six international and 37 local staff. Its humanitarian activities focus on victims of the latest round of conflict, in other words, those with the most urgent needs. The provision of food and other essential items, water and health services to IDP camps and people in all conflict-affected areas of the Sa'ada governorate remain the ICRC's priority. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Klaus Spreyermann, head of the ICRC sub-delegation in Sa'ada, about the organization's work and the humanitarian situation in Sa'ada.



Klaus Spreyermann

Situation in the Internally Displaced Person's camps

Internally Displaced Persons' Camps were set up in Sa'ada during 2007 and 2008 by the Yemeni Red Crescent Society (YRCS) and the ICRC based on the request of the authorities in Sa'ada and in coordination with them. Until mid 2008, there were six camps accommodating some 15,000 IDPs, a number which has decreased now to less than 7,000 persons accommodated in four camps. The day-to-day management of the camps remains a shared responsibility between the YRCS and the ICRC.

The four camps are Al-Anad, Sam, Al-Talh, and Al-Bugalat. Al-Anad camp alone is currently hosting more than 5,100 IDPs. Women and young girls in the camp represent a bit over half of the IDP population, and some 64 percent of these IDPs are children, many of whom were actually born in one of the camps.

IDPs are provided with essential items necessary for their survival. More precisely, families are supplied with tents, groundsheet, mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and cooking items. They receive a regular supply of soap and washing powder, and replacement of or additional items when necessary.

Moreover, ICRC and the YRCS insure a regular supply of drinking water of a minimum of 20 litres per

person per day via water-trucks, have set up distribution networks and water points, built brick latrines in each section for women and for men, and continue to help maintain the camps in terms of waste-management.

Healthcare is also a crucial service available in all four camps. Healthcare units come in the shape of a tent equipped with basic materials and medicine, and women and men may consult the clinic on alternative days. For medical conditions that require further attention, two ambulances are on standby to transfer patients to hospitals in Sa'ada and the treatment is charged to the ICRC and the YRCS.

“It is important to remember that the health services provided for any population [IDPs included] is, in the first place, the responsibility of the concerned authorities, and that the YRCS and the ICRC support is only a temporary solution.”

Food rations are usually supplied to the IDPs by the World Food Programme (WFP) on a monthly basis. ICRC stepped in on one occasion during the last round of fighting in 2008 when the WFP's supply was interrupted and distributed food to the inhabitants of the camps. Otherwise, ICRC is concentrating its food assistance to conflict-affected populations outside Sa'ada town.

ICRC has a food warehouse that was used to provide the emergency food when the WFP supply was interrupted. Food supply today is provided through this warehouse which is used to stock supplies from WFP.

During winter time, the ICRC and the YRCS replaced one hundred tents in November last year and another one hundred in January this year. The organizations also supplied the IDPs with 7,000 additional blankets in November and another 6,500 in Dec. 2008.

Addressing the effects of war

So far, according to Spreyermann, the ICRC had not received any reports on crimes such as rape or burglary in the camps.

“I am not aware of any particular reports beyond the occasional incidents or accidents that may happen in a 7,000-person community.”

However, he ensured that if the organisation came across acts that are deliberately meant to “target” a certain population, ICRC's delegates would

crosscheck the information and address the allegedly responsible entity, in a confidential manner, with the aim of preventing such acts recurring in the future.

The ICRC strives to respond to the immediate and urgent needs of persons affected by an armed conflict by providing humanitarian assistance that is necessary to the survival of the most vulnerable populations.

“Our institution's focus is on purely humanitarian matters; we work in a neutral and independent way.”

At the current time, there is no counselling or psychological treatment in the camps as the organization concentrates on basic survival needs: “We don't have the resources to extend our support beyond the services we already provide now.”

As for children's education in the camps, Spreyermann explained that ICRC's main objective is to provide conflict-affected areas with the essential items that are necessary for their survival. Long term rehabilitation or construction goes beyond this mission and is rather the duty of the country's government.

“As is the case in other countries around the globe, it is the government's responsibility to insure that children are able to attend schools and have a proper education. To my knowledge, an agreement was reached in January this year between the Education Office in Sa'ada and the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) to give IDP children the chance of attending the nearest school. From what I have seen, many children have either lost years of their schooling or never had the chance to attend school due to the conflict.”

Accusations of discrimination

When asked about reported accusations in the Yemen Times on a previous issue that YRCS staff discriminate in their treatment of internally displaced persons against Houthis and throwing them out of the camps, Spreyermann said they were baseless.

“I was shocked when I read this article, not only about the grave accusations, but also about the fact that a reputed newspaper published such allegations of ‘corruption’ without either properly crosschecking the information or [providing] substantial proof.”

According to Spreyermann, these camps have been set up and are managed by the YRCS on a day-to-day



ICRC Health Delegate and Field Officer speak with children in the IDP camp of Sam.



The ICRC and the YRCS carry out an essential items distribution in Al-Humeidan, north of Sa'ada governorate.

basis and with the support of the ICRC.

“While we do not know about every ‘quarrel’ that might happen within a 7,000 person community, I have absolutely no doubt that accusations of throwing IDPs out of the camps are baseless.”

Spreyermann explained that the very IDP cited in the mentioned article is still living in Al-Talh camp, as before, and claimed that he was wrongly quoted by the Yemen Times journalist who interviewed him:

“In our field of work, people expect action to speak louder than words, and I think it might be fair to say that our humanitarian work and presence in Yemen since the early sixties up until now speak for themselves.”

He emphasized that the ICRC and

Following reconstruction

The ICRC is closely following ongoing mediation and reconstruction efforts towards the potential return of IDPs to their homes. However, the economic sustainability or reconstruction of the conflict areas is mainly the government's responsibility.

“You have to understand that the ICRC works in exceptional situations [armed conflict] and carries out strictly emergency programmes, that is to say, we give temporary assistance for a temporary situation until the time comes for IDPs to become returnees and have the chance to restart their lives. We are an organisation with a clear mandate. There's so much we can achieve in terms of urgent response, but not long-term development programmes.”

Although the four camps have medical services, regular water supply, proper latrines and waste-disposal system.

“Living in a camp is never an ideal situation – life under a tent is no solution on the long run, and everyone should be able to return home sooner than later. In the time being, until that day comes, we believe that we are providing assistance to the best of our capacity.”

Expanding aid outside the camps

The ICRC and the YRCS' main concern is to be able to assist the victims of conflict, wherever they are. In addition to assisting IDP camps in Sa'ada, the organization runs much larger programmes in favour of returnees and resident populations in war-affected areas outside the town of Sa'ada.

For instance 7,500 families were assisted with food in the Safra, Sahar, Majz and Haydan districts, and over 130,000 persons are benefiting from water rehabilitation projects in Sahar, Dahyan and several villages in Sahar and Safra districts and others.

In addition to the mentioned areas, the ICRC and the YRCS are presently

running programs in favour of the conflict-affected populations in Saqayn and Al-Dhahr, Al-Malaheet.

The large majority of the people benefiting from the ICRC's humanitarian assistance are living outside the camps. For instance, since October 2008, food distributions have been carried out to more than 7,500 households in Haydan, Sahar, Safra and Majz districts.

Last year, up to 31,614 medical consultations were carried out by the YRCS/ICRC healthcare units in the IDP camps and another four mobile healthcare units in the villages of Sudan, Al-Abgoor, Mahdah and Al Malaheet.

Today, support is being provided to the governmental health centres in Maran and Haydan in Sa'ada as well as Harf Sufyan in the governorate of Amran, where the ICRC is providing medicine, supporting the rehabilitation of the centres and is planning for the training of the staff.

Finally, the rehabilitation of water networks and water points in 2008 is currently benefiting over 130,000 persons who did not have regular access to this vital service.

Despite this expansion, there are places that cannot be reached because of security concerns and this is tied to the entities involved in the conflict.

“In any given context in the world, the safe access of our staff and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance depend on the acceptance of and in agreement with all involved entities.”

The ICRC maintains a bilateral dialogue with the government, armed groups, local communities and tribes, but it does not comment publicly about these bilateral discussions.

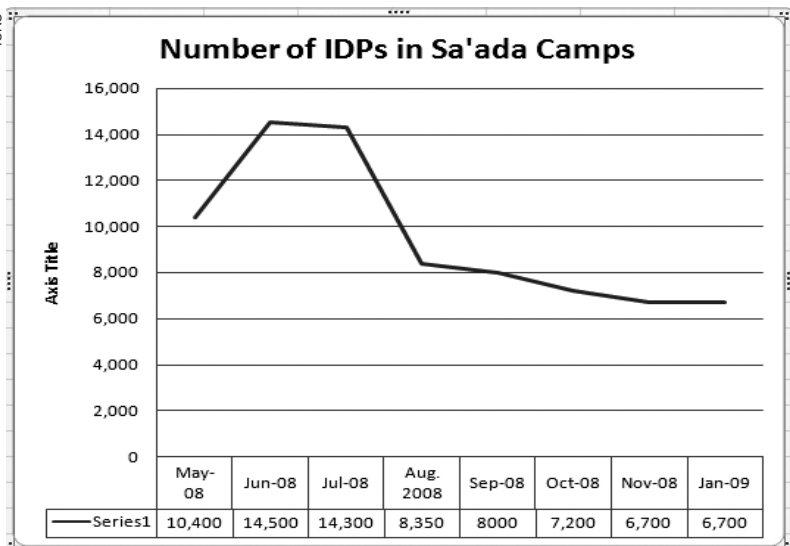
The ICRC also carries out its own assessment of the security situation and acts after having a complete image of potential risks versus the possibility of providing a humanitarian response.

The ICRC in Yemen

The ICRC has been active in Yemen since 1962, when, after the overthrow of the Imamate in Northern Yemen, armed conflict broke out between Republicans and Royalists. During the years of fighting that followed, ICRC delegates provided medical assistance, visited detainees on both sides of the conflict, and acted as a neutral intermediary for purely humanitarian issues.

Later on, the ICRC intervened again during the civil war in 1994. Activities included carrying out visits to detainees, providing assistance to war-affected civilians, monitoring the evacuation of foreign nationals, acting as a neutral intermediary between parties to the conflict, and promoting International Humanitarian Law among governmental authorities and civil society institutions. The ICRC has also been assisting the Yemeni Red Crescent Society (YRCS) since its foundation in 1970.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral and impartial humanitarian organisation, with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The ICRC's mandate is to protect and assist the victims of armed conflict based on International Humanitarian Law, namely through the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two additional protocols of 1977.



the YRCS work in full transparency, and are open to receiving and verifying any credible complaints.

“We believe journalists bear a serious responsibility on their shoulders. The spreading of accusations – sown with neither proof nor crosschecking from so-called undisclosed ‘tribal sources’ – may jeopardize the safety of our staff in the field, and consequently our humanitarian activities in favour of the most disadvantaged people.”

While the ICRC considers media to be an essential element in its work, the YRCS had similarly extended an invitation to the media on an earlier occasion and said they have no reservation whatsoever if media representatives wish to visit the camps and see things for themselves.

The government should learn how to avoid poverty factors

By: Farouk Al-Hakimi

The statement given by Political Advisor to the Yemeni President Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani to the Al-Hurra Satellite Channel provoked a controversy concerning his ugly description of opposition leaders abroad, among them former Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Attas.

Giving such an ugly description, Al-Eryani seems to have thrown a smoke grenade to draw people's attention away from another letter he wanted to deliver to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states regarding local public opinion about the dire situation in Yemen.

In this letter, Al-Eryani explained how Yemen's situation would soon deteriorate, particularly when he concentrated on Yemeni laborers, which I am discussing in this article.

What attracted my attention in this regard is Al-Eryani's statement to Al-Hurra Satellite Channel saying that Yemen is in a state of extreme poverty, adding that "if the GCC states don't accommodate the Yemeni workforce, this may pose threats to Gulf security."

The official highlighted that Somalis fled poverty in their homeland to Yemen by all possible means. By this, he gives an indication that Yemenis may behave like Somalis if poverty becomes severer.

At this point, I should remind my dear brother Al-Eryani that the Somalis didn't escape from their homeland under circumstances of peace. I also want to remind him that Somalis fled a civil war that lasted up for a long time period and burnt what was green and dry countrywide.

In the past, Yemenis used to migrate to Somalia, most notably under the rule of the tyrannous and oppressive Imamate which was responsible for such a mass exodus.

The rule of the Imamate forced a large number of Yemeni citizens to leave their homes and villages because of poverty and destitution, as well as in search of a brighter future.

Al-Eryani no doubt still remembers this. Seemingly, the senior politician wanted to tell us that the oppressive rule of Imamate coerced Yemenis to flee their homeland, like what is happening to our Somali brothers these days.

I know well that Al-Eryani doesn't speak randomly and that he has long-term and unforeseeable objectives of what he says.

Is Al-Eryani making a gesture to the GCC states from his sensitive position that a civil war is likely to break out, with all the negative consequences such a war would entail? Or does he say to the local and international public opinion that excessive injustice, like what had been practiced during the reign of Imamate, may force Yemenis to migrate in abundance to other states?

Work conditions changed worldwide

If the senior politician spontaneously claims that GCC states should accommodate the Yemeni workforce, we then need to highlight that work conditions have changed in the GCC states and worldwide. In the past, development conditions in the neighboring states needed and accepted millions of Yemeni laborers.

While serving as Prime Minister, Mr. Al-Eryani well knew that the Yemeni government must work harder and harder to train and qualify its citizens in order to help them cope

with developments and the demands of labor markets in Yemen and abroad.

Exporting a skilled and qualified workforce has become one of the most important income sources for many countries, not just for Yemen. And welcoming a workforce is not charitable work; it has specific conditions that must be satisfied at the local level.

Had our esteemed government saved the valuable funds that go into the pockets of corrupt officials and spent it on developing education and improving technical and vocational training to meet the demands of today's labor markets instead, this would have produced a skilled workforce to work in the GCC states and bring tens of billions of dollars to Yemen.

Having done this, our government would have avoided one of the reasons of poverty as highlighted by Al-Eryani.

Farouk Al-Hakimi is a former Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism.

He also served once as General Investment Manager in Aden, Lahj and Abyan.

COMMON SENSE

A way out of the regional dead end

“What does the Regional Development Report show for Yemen?”

asked Maryam, as she noticed her brother reading a big glossy volume, which looked like an international agency report of some kind.

Sabry sadly pointed out: “Maryam, my dear nosy sister, I am unable to tell you what any of these annual reports are saying about Yemen or any other country of the Arab World for that matter. If I tried to tell you, I might lead you to losing any hope for you and your children for the foreseeable future.”

Maryam did not like the word ‘nosy’: “Look my dear brother; I am only trying to maximize the use of my precious time by asking you to brief me on how Yemen stands in the community of nations, now that Yemen has become a bona fide member of the international community, or so our government media is telling us. I do not have time to go through all that fine print you are reading.”

“I am not sure Maryam if our officials care to delve into the fine print in these reports also. I have never seen our officials carry any such reports or even cite them as they make all these speeches glorifying the leadership of the country and getting themselves prepared for the next leader to come along!” Sabry was telling his sister that she was not alone.

Imad their youngest brother, had a different view: “Look all these reports are simply tools used by the real influential nations of the world to justify their policy actions towards any country they are targeting, if they have any ludicrous intentions for such countries. If they like your government they will make the report reflect a beautiful picture of the country and the leaders of the ‘international community’ will go to their legislatures to get them to appropriate the necessary ‘aid’ to the country that will bolster the regime. If you are a rich country, they will not meddle in the affairs of the country and let the rulers of the country do as they please, without regard to human rights or any of the other issues that matter to the general population.”

Sabry, wanted to enlighten his brother a little more: “Imad, you are not of course referring to some of the independent agencies that dish out reports on our governments. Most of these reports are critical of almost all the Arab governments, especially in the areas of governance, the fight against corruption, the equitable and just application of law and the issues of human rights and civil liberties. The governments of the region unfortunately do not care about such reports, because they weigh different factors in assessing their relations with the donor countries or agencies.”

Maryam had a more current prognosis of that presumption: “Imad, that may have been true during the former Administration of George W. Bush. But I think that with the change in Washington to a more populist Administration, the attention to these reports will be more focused.”

Imad again had something to say, in this respect: “Don't jump to optimistic conclusions, as Mr. Barack Obama is so enamored in trying to find remedies for the economic mess left for him by the Bush Administration, that he simply doesn't have the time to look at the horrific mess our leaders have left Yemen and the rest of the Arab World in, while these leaders are living high on the hog at their people's expense!”

However, it is up to us the people of the region to start paying serious attention to the reports issued by organizations like Amnesty International, Global Integrity, Human Rights Watch, and the Red Cross, not to mention the many independent press reports that have presented bleak reports about our countries.

It would seem appropriate that Arab constituencies begin to demand that our leaders show some signs of improvement or else let us find other leaders who can deliver such badly needed improvements in the way state of affairs are managed in the region. After all, their people have given them more than ample time to shape up or else ship out.”

“I doubt if the people of Yemen and their fellow Arabs elsewhere can find ways to get to their leaders to rationally convince them to give others a chance to seek better ways to manage the countries we live in, since they have continuously proven themselves incapable of putting their countries on the right track to political and economic development.” Sabry could not be any more pessimistic.

Maryam had the right idea, or so she feels: “Look! All these centuries, you men have imposed your will on the people of the region as you like, and unfortunately have proven to be absolute blunderers. This is without mentioning the horrendous mismanagement of the resources of the region, funneling these resources mainly to serve the narrow interests of the rulers and the interests of the foreign powers that are giving them the license to continue bleeding their constituencies.”

I can almost speak with absolute certainty that women would probably make better leaders and managers of the affairs of state of the regional jigsaw puzzle of nations that never seem to find ways to get off ground zero in their endeavor to climb towards development. We women would pay attention to such objective reports about our state of being”.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Yemen between two axes

By: Muneer Al-Mawri

Two years ago, I wrote an article about two axes that started to be formed in the Middle East region. The first of these axes is led by Iran, and has Syria, Sudan, Qatar, the Lebanese Hezbollah Party, and the Palestinian Hamas Movement as its members. The second axis is led by Saudi Arabia and has Egypt, Jordan, and the remaining Gulf states as its members.

In that article, I pointed out that Yemen lies between the two axes as the Yemeni leadership couldn't make an effective decision in order to help it join either axis.

What happened in Qatar a few days ago verifies the authenticity of what I wrote in my article indicating that the Yemeni leadership failed to gratify

either axis, and therefore will face the consequences of playing with both sides.

Our leadership may succeed in deceiving its people, but it is very difficult for it to cheat other countries. When Mr. President backed out on a decision he once made not to run for president again ahead of the most recent elections that took place in September 2006, the reputation of Yemen and Yemenis went down in the eyes of Arab peoples.

The tragedy was repeated when the Yemeni diplomacy bravely demonstrated its arrogance by calling for an Arab summit to discuss the cause of Gaza. When the date of the summit drew nearer and nearer, the Yemeni leadership backed out on the call following a single telephone conversation. It didn't receive an invitation from the other axis to attend

a Sharm el-Sheikh-based summit.

During a Damascus-based summit as per a call by Syrian President Bashar Al-Asad, the Yemeni government sent Vice-President Abdurabbu Mansour Hadi, who wasn't authorized to attend, while Mr. President absented himself from the summit. This caused Yemeni-Syrian relations to intensify, thereby obliging the Syrian leader to cancel a scheduled visit to Yemen.

Despite my strong belief that neither the Doha summit, the Damascus summit, nor the Kuwait summit may help rescue the Palestinian people from the agony they have been suffering, I am, like any other Yemeni, disappointed by the confusion of Yemen's foreign policy which seems to be in its teenage stage. Yemen's foreign policy is not yet so mature that it may feel ashamed of

losing credibility both at the local and international level.

Potential consequences of Yemeni leadership behavior

I am also enraged by the fact that the Yemeni leadership couldn't make an independent political decision, even after the passage of 30 years since it first assumed power.

Our leadership attempts to eat on all the tables and gratify all the parties. However, it will eventually miss all the parties and face the following consequences.

From now on, the Arabian Peninsula will side with the opposition and will not stop directing harsh criticism towards the Yemeni leadership. This is consequence number one.

Consequence two is that Iran will side with the Houthis, while the third consequence is that Syria will host senior Yemeni opposition leaders. At the same time, it will be difficult for the Yemeni regime to deal with Syria according to the reciprocity principle.

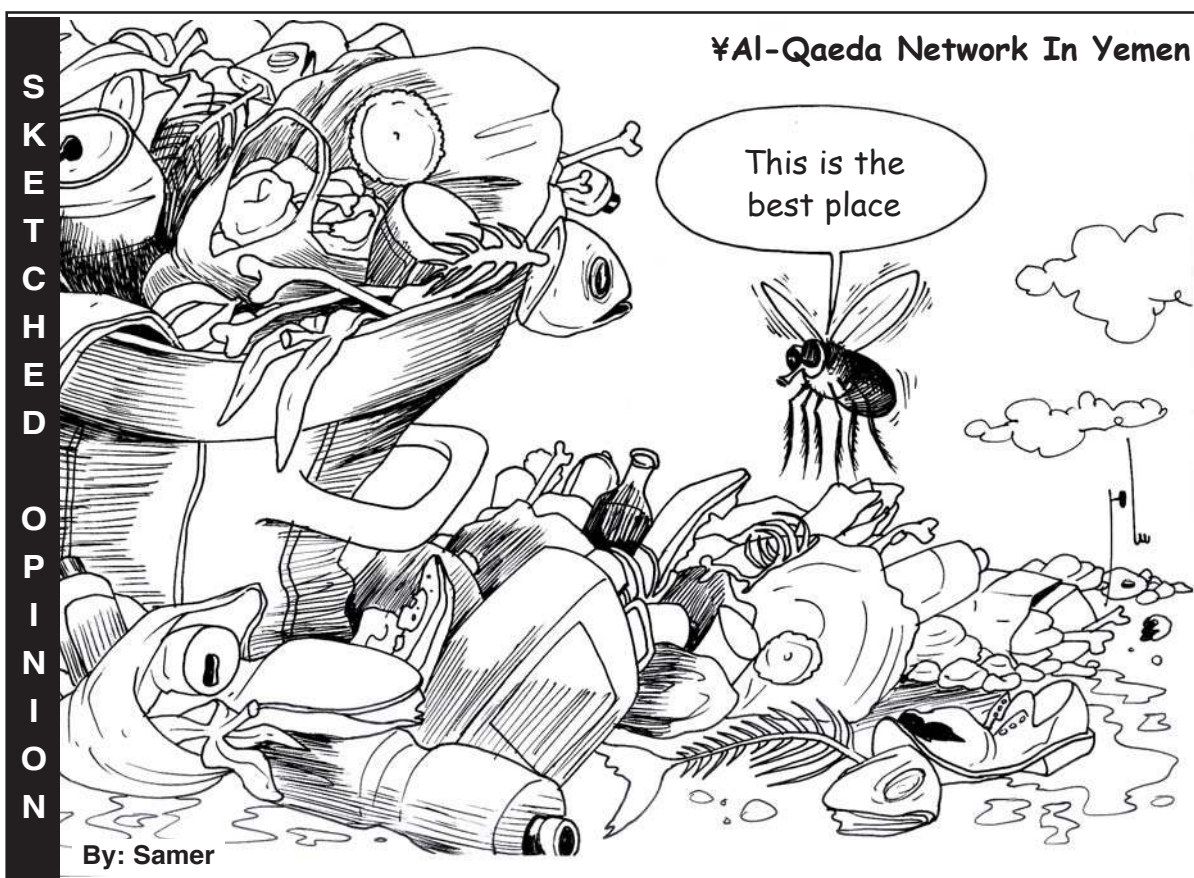
Consequence four is that Saudi Arabia will excuse itself from offering its assistance to such a regime because oil prices will lower, and the budget of the special committee cannot afford it.

The fifth consequence is that the opposition inside Yemen will escalate its criticism of a submissive regime while demonstrations in solidarity with Gazans may turn out to be protests in support of opposition leaders.

Consequence six is that the Palestinians will understand that the Arab knight has a sword made of wood while the Canaan Society, allegedly formed to support the Palestinians, is merely a tent made of hay.

Other consequences may include Yemeni peoples contemplating on what their leadership has done for them over the past 30 years and why it is so submissive.

Source: Al-Masdar.com



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Blockade of Israel?

By: Dr. Terry Lacey

So Benjamin Netanyahu may lead the next Israeli coalition. He says he will not be tied by pledges by outgoing Prime Minister Olmert to withdraw settlers from occupied Palestinian territory. He is opposed to political progress on the twin state solution, talks on borders or dividing (or sharing) Jerusalem. (Patrick Moser, *AFP, Jakarta Post* 21.02.09).

He prefers economic rather than political progress with the Palestinians. In his acceptance speech he ignored Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, did not mention the twin state and stressed the threat from Iran. He has vowed to topple the Hamas rulers of Gaza. (*Jakarta*

Globe 21-22.02.09 and *AFP*).

When last in power he blocked the Oslo 1 peace talks on the twin state, and would not accept commitments made by the previous government of Yitzhak Rabin.

It is therefore clear the Peace Quartet led by the United States, but including the EU, Russia and the UN, may become very frustrated with the elected Israeli government.

Informed observers say that the Quartet believes the new Israeli government should accept political positions on peace agreed by previous Israeli governments, to engage in peace talks on the twin state, stop expansion of settlements in occupied territories, stop the blockade of the elected Hamas government, and accept its right to exist.

In the event the Israeli government does not see sense, the Quartet may have no choice but to agree to back the moderate President Shimon Peres to form a rival Israeli government, to mobilize the moderates and pursue talks on the twin state.

The Quartet may even start funding a non-elected Israeli government, based on Haifa and Tiberius, to handle all trade and economic relations with the outside, to encourage moderate Israelis to rally to peace, while blockading the rest of Israel.

If the elected but banned Israeli government fails to agree the Quartet position, there may be the risk of Western airstrikes against Israeli settlements on Palestinian territory and right wing suburbs of Tel Aviv, carefully avoiding collateral damage to Labour or Kadima voters.

Since there is a grave danger that this terrible sequence of events may now unfold, responsible people everywhere should try to persuade the Peace Quartet not to take such an extreme collision course with the Israeli right, especially since similar tactics in similar circumstances failed to work with Hamas since 2006.

Instead of taking such an extreme course of action the Quartet should see if the Kadima and Labour parties might not join with Likud, Yisrael Beiteinu and Shas in a national coalition.

This coalition could form a government which could advocate no twin state on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and try to conclude negotiations on a twin state on Tuesdays,

Thursdays and Sundays.

Friday night and Saturdays could be a holiday, since it would be hard work maintaining a government with two positions on nearly everything, on alternate days.

The two parts of the coalition could set up different time zones on alternate days to make it clear that they did not agree on the time. They could however agree to disagree. The time for Saturdays could be changed once a week so both blocks would have a fair share of control of holiday time.

Whatever coalition the Israelis come up with, maybe the Quartet could desist from blockades and try a new tactic of listening to people who are elected, and stop trying to force solutions on people who may not want them, or prefer to evolve them their own way, and in their own good time.

The international community should reasonably ask that there should be no wars while this longer path to a durable peace is taken, and should insist on the economic progress which even Bibi Netanyahu says he may agree to.

Aside from that lets stop telling the Israelis and the Palestinians what to do and help them to do what they want to do, once they and we have discovered what it is.

Terry Lacey is a development economist who writes from Jakarta on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic banking.

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Capitalism's new clothes

By: Peter Singer

Is the global financial crisis an opportunity to forge a new form of capitalism based on sound values?

So French President Nicholas Sarkozy and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair appear to think. At a symposium in Paris last month entitled "New World, New Capitalism," Sarkozy described capitalism based on financial speculation as "an immoral system" that has "perverted the logic of capitalism."

He argued that capitalism needs to find new moral values and to accept a stronger role for governments. Blair called for a new financial order based on "values other than the maximum short-term profit."

It is surprising how readily politicians of all parties – even strong ideological defenders of the unregulated market – accepted the idea that the

state should bail out banks and insurance companies when they got into trouble. With the exception of a small number of ideologically committed defenders of free enterprise, few were willing to take the risks inherent in letting major banks collapse.

Who knows what the consequences would have been? Many feared mass unemployment, a tidal wave of bankruptcies, millions of families evicted from their homes, the social safety net strained to the breaking point, and perhaps even riots and a resurgence of the political extremism that brought Hitler to power in Germany during the depression of the 1930's.

The choice to save the banks from the financial consequences of their own errors indicates a shift in values away from belief in the wisdom of the market. Evidently, the market got some things – like the value of certain financial securities – horrendously wrong. But will the downturn also produce a deeper shift in the values of con-

sumers?

It is no accident that the "New World, New Capitalism" symposium was held in France, where some critics have seen the global financial crisis as necessary and desirable precisely because it is producing this change in values. In the newspaper *Le Figaro*, a section on how to scale back one's expenses predicted a "revolution in values" and claimed that people will put family ahead of work. (Americans think the French, with their shorter working hours and longer summer vacations, already put family ahead of work.)

The French have always been less likely to go into debt – when they pay with plastic, they tend to use debit cards, drawing on funds they already have, rather than credit cards. Now they see the current crisis as a vindication of the value of not spending money that you don't have.

That means, in many cases, less luxury spending – something that is hard

to reconcile with the image of France as the country of fashion, perfume, and champagne.

But excess is out of style, and there are reports of cutbacks in luxury goods everywhere. Richemont, the Swiss luxury goods company that owns the Cartier and Montblanc brands, has said that it is facing "the toughest market conditions since its formation 20 years ago."

But does this mark an enduring change in values, or just a temporary reduction, forced upon consumers by investment losses and greater economic uncertainty?

In his inauguration speech, American President Barack Obama said, "The time has come to set aside childish things" and instead to choose the noble idea that "all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness."

It would be an excellent thing if the global financial crisis restored a proper sense of what is important.

Could the crisis remind us that we buy luxury items more because of the status they bring than because of their intrinsic value? Could it help us to appreciate that many things are more central to our happiness than our ability to spend money on fashion, expensive watches, and fine dining? Could it even, as Obama suggests, make us more aware of the needs of those who are living in real poverty and are far worse off than we will ever be, financial crisis or no financial crisis?

The danger is that the potential for a real change in values will be co-opted, as has happened so often before, by those who see it as just another opportunity to make money.

The designer Nathalie Rykiel is reportedly planning to show the new Sonia Rykiel collection in March not in the usual vast rented area, but in the smaller space of her own boutique. "It's a desire for intimacy, to go back to values," she told the *International Herald Tribune*. "We need to return to a small-

er scale, one that touches people. We will be saying, 'Come to my house. Look at and feel the clothes.'"

Ah yes, in a world in which ten million children die every year from avoidable, poverty-related causes, and greenhouse-gas emissions threaten to create hundreds of millions of climate refugees, we should be visiting Paris boutiques and feeling the clothes.

If people were really concerned about defensible moral values, they wouldn't be buying designer clothes at all. But what are the chances of Nathalie Rykiel – or the affluent elites of France, or Italy, or the United States – adopting those values?

Peter Singer's new book, The Life You Can Save: Acting Now to End World Poverty, will be published in several countries during the coming months. For details, see www.thelifeyoucansave.com.

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

Announcement for National Consultant on NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS (NHA) FOR THE YEARS 2006 & 2007 FOR THE HEALTH POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT (HPTSU)

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

Objective of the Consultancy

The consultant is expected to accomplish a NHA study for the fiscal years (2006&2007) and producing a study report. The consultant will be accountable to the coordinator of the health policy unit as the focal partner and beneficiary.

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:

- Produce work plan and discuss it with the HPTSU before commencing the study.
- Carry out related field visits as well as meetings and interviews with related institutions in coordination with the HPTSU to collect essential information and all required data for the development of the NHA report from the national and international bodies in the country.
- Analyses collected data and information to produce the required indicators for the NHA of the specified years. Furthermore, compare the results of the analysis with the finding of the previous NHA reports and with neighboring and regional countries.
- Estimate the not responding entities expenditures according the international NHA guidelines and standards.
- Produce a report on the NHA for the year 2006 in the both Arabic and English languages in accordance with international guidelines of NHA with policy recommendations. The report will include analysis of financial trends and data.
- Coordinate and discuss progress of work with the HPTSU and provide all necessary raw data and materials in both soft and hard copies which might be required for future use by the related technical persons in the HPTSU.
- Present the findings of the review to the senior public health officials and interested parties in workshop organized after the completion of the consultancy.

Duration of the assignment

The expected time to finish the work is maximum two months from the date of signed contract.

Expected Deliverable

- Draft report will be submitted for approval by the health policy & technical support unit.
- After commenting on the draft report the consultant will submit the final report in the form of coloured excellent bind hard copies (2copies) as well as electronic soft copy in word format and excel format (2 copies).

Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

- A university degree in economics, finance or a degree in health economics and/or health care finance.
- Previous experience in similar analytical studies, preferably in the area health economics or health care finance.
- Capability to carry out related fieldwork activities.
- Verbal and written capability in Arabic language and in English language.
- Excellent communication skills.

Applications with supporting document and CV's - should be submitted to the Credit Administration Unit by 10th March 2009 to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a. - Tel : 00 967 1 252 224 - Fax : 00 967 1 251 622- E-mail: nabilat@mophp-hrsp.org

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

Announcement for National Consultant on PUBLIC EXPENDITURE REVIEW FOR THE YEARS 2004 TO 2007 FOR THE HEALTH POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT (HPTSU)

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

Objective of the Consultancy

The consultant is expected to carry out a public health expenditure review (PER) study for the fiscal years (2004, 2005, 2006 & 2007) and producing a study report. The consultant will be accountable to the coordinator of the health policy unit as the focal partner and beneficiary.

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:

- Further, develop a framework of the public health expenditure review study: a draft — guiding framework of public expenditure is provided to facilities the required assignment. The framework will define the objective, scope and desired outcomes of the review, and would act as reference document guiding the process.
- Review previous consultancy services of the public health expenditure review (1998) and (1999-2003), and accordingly develop an update framework.
- Identify, review and analyze existing finance data for the fiscal years(2004, 2005, 2006 & 2007) based on the framework.
- Report on main findings of the review process and subsequently develop policy recommendations based on the above analysis.
- Produce a report on public health expenditure review (PER 2004 to 2007) in both Arabic and English languages with policy recommendations to fiscal adjustments, expenditure prioritization and resource allocation and budgeting. The report will include an analysis of financial trends and future expectations.
- Carryout related field visits as well as a meetings and interviews with related institutions to gather essential review information.
- Discuss progress of work with the HPTSU and provide all necessary data and raw materials which might be required for future use by the related technical persons in the HPTSU.
- Present the findings of the review 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 2 months from the date of signed contract.

Expected Deliverable

- Draft report will be submitted for approval by the health policy & technical support unit.
- After commenting on the draft report the consultant will submit the final report in the form of coloured excellent bind hard copies (2copies) as well as electronic soft copy in word format and excel format (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, preferable in the area of health economics or health care finance.
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Preparing today's youth for tomorrow's jobs

Vocational training is one of the most important sectors in Yemen and around the world. Yet weak quality control and lack of skills handicap the vocational workforce from real contribution in the national economy, and around the world.

The British Council launched a strategic program with the Ministry of Vocational Training on how to develop this sector and allow Yemenis technicians to operate in international standards.

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Turned down again, he curses his luck as he heads out of another job interview for a technical job in an automobile workshop in the United Arab Emirates.

"We'd rather employ an Asian worker who will cost us much more than you, because at least we know he can read and understand the instruction manuals and vehicle references" the employers explain repeatedly.

Hundreds of vocational Yemeni workers get rejected when applying to work in abroad such as the gulf countries or even the western world. Even in Yemen, employers complain that the vocational and technical training graduates do not live up to the job requirements.

For example companies working in IT, tourism, veterinary, agriculture, printing and banking technology complain of lack of local expertise to the extent that they have to hire people from abroad.

Every year, according to the ministry of vocational training more than five thousand Yemenis graduate from various technical institutes. However, many Yemeni companies employ foreigners to work in the vocational field rather than Yemenis who land up jobless especially as the unemployment rate has increased by at least 10 percent since the latest official statistics in 2006 estimating Yemeni unemployment rate at 35 percent.

To overcome this problem, the British Council is looking at supporting the Technical Education and Vocational Training Ministry through the 'Skills for Employability' program.

The aim of this three-year program is to improve the overall quality and skills of vocational training graduates and hence their chances at better employment whether in Yemen or abroad. Moreover, as a result of this program the attitude towards vocational work will change.

"Yemenis who join vocational training education do so because it was their last option and they could not be admitted in universities. Through this program, we hope that the Ministry of vocational training will create a new vision for vocational training in Yemen, and hence it will be an attractive well paid field," said Nawaf Shamsan, assistant director of the British Council.

In six months, promised Shamsan, the Ministry of Vocational training will be able to identify and align its strategies in a revolutionary way that would help Yemen's economy and Yemeni individuals in the same time.

The program consists of training and capacity building workshops for the leaders and staff in vocational training ministry and institutes. It will include exchange visits with similar bodies in the gulf region and UK. Finally there will be twinning between bodies for

sustainable learning on how to ensure quality of the vocational education in Yemen.

Opportunities abroad

When a young person in Yemen who has worked hard for their qualification goes to a different country, they are not offered a simple job in someone else's shop. They actually have key positions with an organization. This is what the program is aiming to do. It's to have consistency, collaboration, and compatibility with different countries' qualifications, and how you can mesh them together within one framework.

Najm Al-Deen Saif, an English teacher from Taiz's Technical and Industrial Institute, has an idea how countries like Saudi Arabia, Oman, or the United Arab Emirates could manage to apply the different skills needed in the labor market.

The first step in this three year program was taken when the British Council and the Ministry of Vocational Training jointly launched the 'Skills for Employability' workshop last week. Participants from the Yemeni vocational sector exchanged ideas and experiences with their colleagues from UK, Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE.

"We learned about quality control, the importance of learning the English language, and meeting the needs of labor markets in Yemen as well as in the Gulf countries," said Abdulmalek Al-Buhaish, head of the vocational institute in Hodeida.

Exchanging experience with Saudi Arabia, Oman and UAE are particularly important as there is a large potential for employments for Yemenis provided they are qualified enough. According to the former Saudi ambassador in Yemen there are thousands of job opportunities that Yemenis could avail if they have the rights skills.

The important factor with such change is that the qualifications locally granted have to be recognized outside Yemen, and to do that Yemen needs to develop a quality assurance framework so that the outputs of vocational education will at least be recognized in the region.

Project Manager of Vocational Education and Higher Education at the British Council in Saudi Arabia commented that by sharing the skills for employability experiences, the British Council allows the countries which have not started or are somehow halfway in their vocational education programs to pick up where the other countries are and go from there.

"We don't need construction laborers or plumbers and painters, we need skilled technicians with high level skills," said former Saudi ambassador to Yemen Al-Qahtani on a previous occasion.

Consequently, KSA has funded 18 vocational training institutes and centers in 2008 to help create this workforce. According to 2004 census there are 1.8

Sadeek: Moose combootar eez broblam. Fix you me want? Veery imbortant!



million Yemeni working abroad majority of them in the gulf countries. Their annual remittance is 1.3 milliard dollars.

Developing good quality vocational education systems within the country will produce an exportable workforce which can compete not just nationally but internationally for a wide range of jobs. These jobs would include not just working in shops or restaurants but would actually be high positions within other countries.

"The aim of this workshop in Yemen, which was in partnership with the Ministry of Vocational Education, is showcasing good practice that is going on in the region," said Melanie Relton, the British council regional manager for vocational education. "With the change in industry, the skills required from young people today are not the skills required ten years ago. Part of preparing young people for the future is by looking at how you can help them learn to diversify their skills."

English for specific purposes is an especially urgent need in Yemen because there aren't specific English courses, such as English for engineering, English for electronics, and English for electricians, according to Saif.

Innovation Award

The British Council is looking into developing a Young Persons' Innovation Award, for which young people can compete, and hence create an environment of creativity and innovation. The purpose of this award is to encourage youth to develop their skills and adjust them to the industry's needs. These skills include team working, communication skills, and time management skills.

"There would be an award winner in Yemen and there will be also regional winner. The winners will go to the UK and actually work in partnership with the industry or organizations that they are interested in. It could be fashion, it

could be media, it could be graphic design, and so on. We will partner them with an organization or mentor in UK, so they will have an experiences they can bring back to Yemen and share with their colleagues. Also, they will have an international angle to that experience," Relton said.

The opportunity to learn from other country's experiences has given hope and determination for improving to directors of vocational training departments around the country.

"We compared the systems applied in the Gulf countries and in Britain with ours," said Nawal Al-Jawi, head of quality and standards administration at

the Technical Education and Vocational Training Office in Aden. "In Yemen there are training administrations in work places that only train their employed staff," she said, "while in Gulf countries they train freshly graduated students before starting jobs. The program ranges from one month to one year."

However, Al-Buhaish from Hodeidah admitted that applying high quality control standards is going to be tough. "Only when there is a strong will can these policies and standards can be applied in Yemen."

Mohammad Mudhafar, Assistant deputy minister in the standards and

quality sector of ministry agreed that continuation of the quality control momentum is challenging. He admitted that there had been several experiments and projects before, but they did not last.

"The matter is not the financing. The issue is that we need to organize our work and put plans and standards together so beneficiaries will finally have certificates that are recognized internationally," he said. "Sitting and agreeing with the GCC on standards of vocational training graduates will definitely help create job opportunities for Yemenis inside the country as well as in the gulf countries."

Republic of Yemen Minister of Water and Environment

National Water Resources Authority Water Sector Support Program—WSSP

Financial Management Specialist — Individual Consultant

Terms of Reference for Financial Management Specialist — Individual Consultant to build capacity of the accounting department staff of National Water Resources Authority NWRA - The managing agency of the water sub-sector (1) Integrated Water Resource Management

Context

The objective of the Component Integrated Water Resource Management is to ensure sustainable water resources management and economically efficient and equitable water resources development and use under the Water Sector Support Program (2009-2014), with estimated cost of US\$27.0 million to targeted budget support through pooled annual financing plan to be financed from the Government of Yemen and the Donor's Core Group (WB — Germany and Netherlands), the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) would take the overall responsibility of managing this component and in order for the NWRA accounting department to efficiently and properly manage and account for the funds of this component, a qualified FM consultant would be fired to build capacity of the NWRA accounting department staff.

Tasks and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of NWRA director who will be responsible for the implementation of component 1 of this program, the consultant whose duties to build capacity of the NWRA accounting department staff through the following:

- 1) Developing, with the help of the accounting department staff, an acceptable Financial Management policies and procedures manual that depicts the controls and policies and procedures applied to ensure funds are being managed at acceptable risk level.
- 2) Assist the NWRA finance department in the selection and operation of acceptable accounting and reporting system than can record the program transactions and issue the quarterly IFRs.
- 3) Training the NWRA accounting staff on the financial management accounting and reporting system that will be operating.
- 4) Preparing and submitting to the MWE timely acceptable IFRs and disbursement plans with appropriate variation analysis.
- 5) Developing acceptable filing system for the program supporting documents.
- 6) Developing acceptable assets safeguarding system whereby the program assets are recorded in a traceable manner.
- 7) Managing the flow of funds from donors.
- 8) Insuring that internal auditing by the Program Executive Secretary (FM Advisor) is being implemented on regular basis.
- 9) Handling the process of hiring an external auditor acceptable to the donors and ensuring that auditor's needs are smoothly fulfilled to timely deliver of the audit report.
- 10) Any other needs that may be deemed necessary.

Qualifications and Requirements:

1. 10 years of work experience in the field of financial management and related issues.
2. 7 years relevant experience with financial matters and procedures of Foreign Donors.
3. 5 years overall experience with Government financial systems and regulations.
4. Bachelor Degree in Accounting.
5. Good knowledge of English language.
6. Computer literate with strong skills in Microsoft Office and related financial software.
7. Good command with professional skills in transferring the knowledge.

Duration of assignment:

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

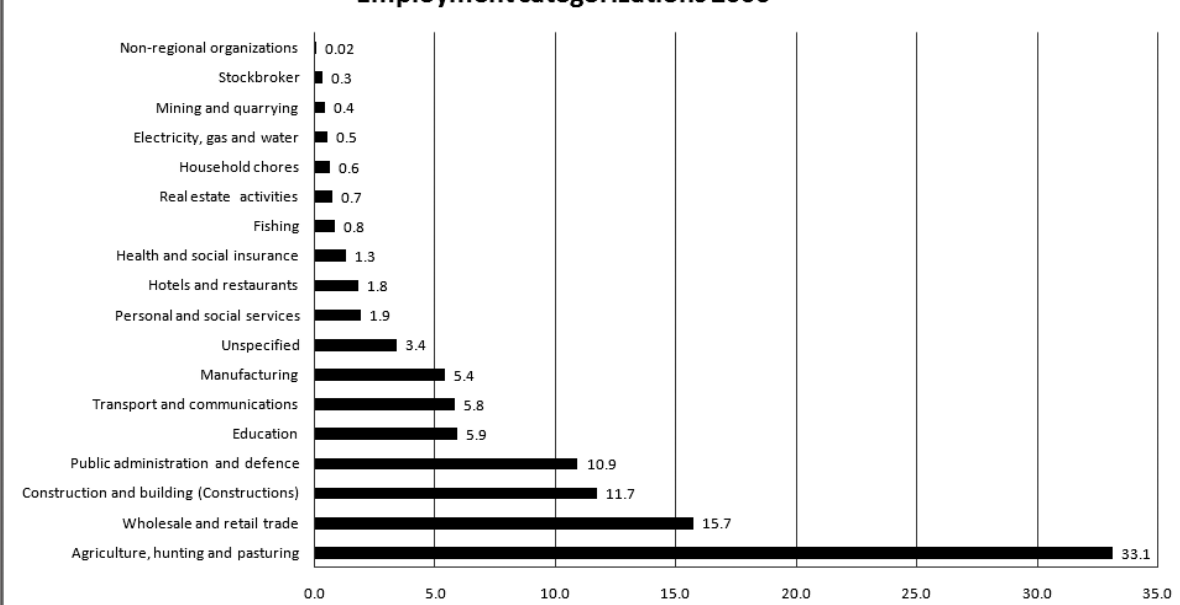
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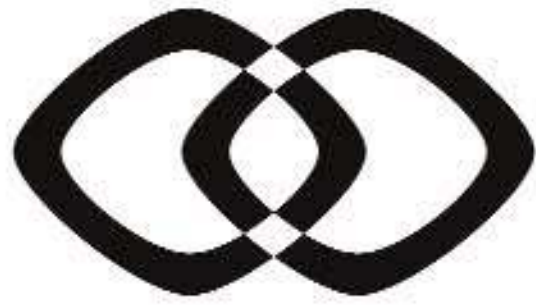
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Email: alhindi72@yahoo.com

Employment categorizations 2006



Number and Percent Distribution of Employed Persons (15 years and over) by Sex and Economic Activity in the Republic - Labour Force. Statistical Year Book 2007 Central Statistical Organization



S O F I T E L
L U X U R Y H O T E L S



5
DAYS ONLY

What to say , and not to say

Terms to avoid from Islamic point of view

By: Abu Huthaifa Alabadi
al_deenal_naseha@yahoo.com

What prompted me to shed some ink on writing this article is in fact our worries to observe how inter-culture impacts may clearly find way to alter our understanding of some religious conceptions.

We read a title of an article in this paper issue dtd. 2nd Feb: "An Albanian fervent scholar of prophetic tradition". No matter, as the writer apparently may have not intended any harm.

However, the very word that irritated me was "tradition". As far as I know, this word is usually used to refer the meaning of "heritage", "customs", or even a set of "ancient beliefs".

Semantically, the word "tradition" here may not be denotation of the prophet Mohamed's "message", and most appropriately could be replaced with prophetic "teachings", or "resalah". Since from Islamic point of view, the gap between "resalah", and "tradition" seems unbridgeable, and may constitute a very controversial issue.

To tell the truth, we should be aware of the ongoing campaign in the west to reduce religions into a mere outdated heritage to be shelved at bookstores or museums as part of human history or as a manifestation of cultural variations worldwide.

This is why we should exercise a due diligence as when to use most appropriate words, applicable as situation demands, in a way not to cause any unwanted alternations to the meaning understood from religious point of view.

Below are some selected expressions and terms that many of us may use in day to day life, and might also have heard them spoken here and there. But, few of us might have ever thought that these expressions or terms

are somehow hiding mistaken implications.

Avoid the use of word "atlas", which is currently meant to refer to science of Earth or study of Maps. The word "Atlas" is said to have been derived from a name of a Greek pagan symbols or idols.

Instead, one can refer to geography, geographical studies, or geophysics, etc.

Avoid some swearing words transmitted to us via Egyptians dialect: For instance, to swear using the words: "wesharafi" (by my honor), "wedeen Annabi" (by religion of the prophet), or "WeLMusahaf ALshareef" (by the Holy Kuran), etc.

Reasons: swearing in Islam cannot be valid except "using God's names or "Sefat", attributes": otherwise, it may be deemed a sin.

Likewise, names like "AbdulNabi" (servant of prophet), "Abdulmuttaleb" (servant of AIMuttaleb), or AbdulAmeer (servant of Ameer) must be avoided when giving names for kids.

Reasons: names of Muslims starting with the word "ABDU" must be coupled only to God's authenticated Names or Attributes, since people are only servants of GOD.

Avoid the use of famous expression "rabbenna Eftakaroh" or "Allah has remembered him", which Egyptians used to say, when reporting the news of the death of somebody.

The word "Eftakaroh" or "remembered him" indicates that he has been forgotten by God all the past, until only the moment of his death.

This is a deadly Error. Always, we must glorify Allah as He is beyond all such imperfections.

Avoid greeting the newly-married couple with expression "belrefae Walbaneen", meaning "to have a har-

monious life and many boys."

That is the custom of ancient Arab to congratulate one another for having begot "boys" or "baneen", and to forget about or dislike "girls" or "banat".

However, the English accurate expression for this: "live in harmony and have many children!"

Avoid to say "My heart told me that", when asked to give "reasons" or judge on merits of somebody or something and better replace that with other expressions like "I think", "as far as I know", or "I feel that" etc.

Reason: referring to the heart function as means of "inspiration" is commonly alleged by Sufis and khawarej.

Avoid the saying after finishing Salat or prayers, the Egyptian expression "haraman", probably intended as Duaa for one another to go to ALHaram Land or Makkah.

This expression has no root in Alketab or alsunna to be said after finishing your SALAT and thus it is a sheer word of Bed'ah.

You may more appropriately replace it with expression "may Allah accept our prayers and yours".

Avoid the short answers: "Me, that is me", when asked "who is knocking the door? or who is calling?, etc".

Instead, openly mention your name.

Reason: an authenticated Hadeeth mentioned by AlBukhari: "Jaber narrated that once he approached home of Prophet Mohamed to repay a debt and when he knocked the door and was asked as "who was there??", he replied "me, that's me". Jaber said "I heard the prophet repeated "ME, ME!!!" as if he disliked the "word".

For a rich collection of similar expressions to avoid, I invite readers, especially those versed in Arabic to read: Moajam AlManahi Allafdehah (dictionary of terms to avoid), compiled by bakr bin Abdullah abu zaid.

Through
The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
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Private hospitals: Where to?

Private hospitals are competing with each other to cover almost all the cities and many of the rural areas and villages. Private hospitals are a service offered by the government with an aim to care about people's health not taken care of in public hospitals. We thank the government and investors who do a favor to the whole nation by offering medical facilities to all.

Private hospitals were founded in Yemen to provide, so they say, better alternatives to people to receive better health care faster. Public hospitals are still there working, mostly dealing with people of low social and financial rank - in other words, to the poor. A sick person with low income imagines that he would be treated much better in a private hospital than a public hospital. The idea becomes his only ambition, as he imagines something that is far away from reality.

A poor person like this may sell his wife's gold or his home, and maybe any precious possessions he has, dreaming of nothing but health. He builds an imaginary world in which he dreams of perfect medical treatment and health in such a private hospital.

Pain may not give him a chance to think about the best hospital. All of them are good for him. He finally goes to a private hospital near his home so as his wife and children need not spend money on buses when they want to visit him. The moment he arrives at the hospital, he starts comparing it to his expectations.

Crossing the gate, he is received by a smiling lady who asks him to pay money, without asking him what brings him here. We must not blame such a

lady because it is her job to collect money. She smiles to raise the morale of this poor man, and shows him where to go to reach the doctor.

He reaches a very crowded doctor's room. The situation reminds him of a similar situation - maybe in a public hospital. He asks somebody about what is going on. "Nothing, we are just waiting for the doctor!" he replies.

By 16:30, the doctor still has not come. "What is wrong?" he repeats. "Nothing," they say, "we have to wait."

When the doctor finally arrives, he immediately asks the patients to prepare their receipts. A lady starts to call the names of the patients. Those whose names have not yet been called out wait patiently as others stream in and out of the doctor's office. Each patient leaves the office with a sheet of paper.

When it is our friend's turn, he eyes light up. Finally, there will be no more sickness. "It is a private hospital, not a public one," he says to himself.

The doctor takes his receipt and starts to write the check-ups that must be taken.

"Quickly, go and complete these medical tests," he says. The patient protests because he has already endured many tests in the public hospital, but the doctor insists: "Those are something else, we don't rely on them."

He goes to the laboratory and pays for all the tests. He waits for the results. He finally returns to the doctor's office, from where people are running off to the laboratory and pharmacy. The doctor examines the test results and writes up a new list on another piece of paper. And, without anything further, the patient is asked to go and buy medicine.

Our friend starts to take the prescribed medicine, but feels abnormal after a few days and does not know what to do. A friend visits him and advises him to go to another private hospital. At the next hospital, the doctor asks him to undergo the same tests again. He complains, but once again the doctor insists: "We do not rely on such results," says the doctor. After the tests, the doctor writes him a medicine prescription that he takes to the pharmacy. Again, his health worsens despite the medication.

He is advised to go to another private hospital, but he has already done that twice and in vain. No two doctors have told him the same. His expectations of private hospitals being modern facilities with qualified staff and standard medical treatment requirements are not there at all. They are, however, all working.

It is fair to blame such hospitals, because they belong to investors who care too much about the money they will earn. It is fair to blame the sector which has the authority to regulate all these. The blame is also on the people who accept anything, even if it will affect their health. They should stop going to such hospitals until they try to offer better medical services.

This is a piece of advice for all the readers because our health is not something for sale. Everybody should know in advance who is going to deal with his/her health so as to avoid ill consequences of bad medical treatment in earlier stages.

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The slow death

Rashad Ali Qaed Almagrebi
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So many writers have been writing about this dangerous phenomenon for a long time, but unfortunately it is increasing day after another. It is the main reason behind so many diseases worldwide. It is the phenomenon of smoking. It is every non-smoker's headache. Some smokers do not actually respect other's feelings and do not try smoking away of people, but they just try to bother non-smokers everywhere. One wakes up in the morning looking for fresh air to breathe, but surprisingly finds smokers from the early morning. One feels like killing those people since it is too disgusting and harmful. One tries to escape from them in open areas, but they appear again in the transportation means where one can not escape. One tries kindly to request them not to smoke inside the bus (for example), some of them

respond but others ignore.

People wonder why our government is in terrible silence and do not take strict measures that must prevent those people from smoking in public places. It is really a very dangerous matter to be taking into account. Many people die every day because of smoking.

The horrified fact is that the number of smokers in Yemen is terribly increasing especially among children aged 12 and above. I really feel sad and disappointed whenever I see an innocent child holding a cigarette in his pure mouth. I have personally seen such children smokers and tried exhaustively to advise them to give up, but all my efforts were futile since they get no strong objection from their families. Their parents are devoid of sense. They are careless in bringing up their children in a good way. One question raises itself here. What does the society expect from those children in future?!

Dear reader, have you ever thought of your role in fighting the widespread

of smoking phenomenon. We should leave no stones unturned to lessen this terrible increase. I hope you are not smokers, but if you are, just follow the following tips so that you might give up slowly.

- Keep busy doing things that make it hard to smoke, like working in the yard, playing football and being more active.
- Fight the urge by going to places where smoking isn't allowed and staying around people who don't smoke.
- Avoid situations that tempt you to smoke, like drinking coffee or chewing Qat.
- Find a substitute to reach for instead of a cigarette. Try a hard candy.
- Don't give up if you smoke a cigarette. Just resolve not to do it again.
- Remind yourself that you're likely to feel better if you stop smoking.
- Tell family members and friends that you need to quit smoking and need their support. If your husband, wife, son or daughter smokes, ask them to quit with you.

The street sweeper

By: Enas AL_Radami
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I was walking down the street on my way home after a hard day at work. It was noon and the sun was hot. I was tired. I felt the sun's rays beat down upon my head and I drank some water, but I was still thirsty. While I was still walking, I found a guy sitting on the side of the road and searching for something in plastic bags full of garbage. There were many of them next to the door of a house.

He looked pale and tired as he looked desperately down into the bags. His eyes eventually just stared at the bottom of the plastic bags, probably because he found nothing. He seemed to be hungry, so he could have been looking for food. I wondered: could he really get something to eat out of the trash?! Could he get a meal to satisfy his hunger out of the dirt? It was painful to see such people suffer with no hope or goal to live for. His hands

promised to find something in the plastic bags, but all his attempts were in vain.

I wished I could help him but it was not possible, especially at that moment; the moment of despair and hopelessness was stronger than anything that could be done. As a matter of fact, I feared to give him money because he might get mad at me for one reason or another. However, I felt sad for not only being unable to help him, but also for all those who suffer from hunger and poverty. Who could imagine that some people would eat from the garbage, but hopelessly it is a fact! I heard before that some poor individuals ate from the trash, but I could hardly believe it and I was shocked. I felt sad and I was unable to imagine the situation.

I crossed the road after waiting for cars to give me a chance to pass. I kept on walking, looking at the crowded cars as if they were in a road race. Finally I reached home and slowly rang the bell, but still the image of the poor guy was in my mind.

The sound of pain

By: Aminah Ali Al-Kldi
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Al-Ahgaif University-Mukalla

Is there a sound for pain?

Yes. There is not just a sound for pain, but the pain can sometimes talk, and I could see so in Gaza. The first day of the attack was a very difficult day, but I did not think that the latter days were going to be more difficult.

During that first day, I was at home watching the news live with my parents, my brother, and my grandmothers, and I can remember how my mother was crying and shouting and how I stopped eating my lunch.

About the second and the third day, I could hear others telling me the news like:

All family members died at the same time, five sisters died together, no treatment for the injured people, etc. I was hearing many pieces of news, but I did not find in myself the desire to see the news on TV. About my feelings, I don't know how to describe them. I think they were mixed of anger, sadness, and the feeling of the futility. As a member of the Islamic and Arabic nation, there is nothing I can do for them but to call Allah to help them in their disaster.

By: Khawla Al-Sai'ari
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Gaza is being awakened by Zionistic air shells, while the local people are at their work. The children are in their schools as well. None of them know anything about this war. The first Zionistic shell aims at the police center; most of the workers in that center are martyred. That is the first scene I saw of this savage and barbaric war.

I was shocked by those photos. I could

Gaza appeals for help

By: Shatha Bahashwan
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Fourteen days have passed since the beginning of the barbarous Israeli bombing against Gaza. It breaks the heart to see the Palestinian women cry for want of a lending hand and the children dead for want of a strong defender. I can't eat or do anything in front of the TV because of the terrible images that we see every day. I can't imagine the tragic situation under which the Palestinian people are living: no water, no electricity, and above all, they expect death at any moment.

We have lived with them moment by moment since the first day of the war. Although we have tests at University and the final examinations are near, we still watch TV everyday to know the latest news of the Israeli invasion. All peoples all over the world are also in sympathy with the cause of Gaza and its people. They show in demonstrations in countries the world over that they disapprove of the haphazard killing of Palestinians perpetrated by the Israelis.

Finally, I am sure that one day we will be the victor though the weakness that we are living in now. Our rights will return to us, all unjust Jews will leave Palestine forever, and we will see the sun's light after a long period of darkness.

The value of Time

By: Rashad Ali Qaed Almagrebi
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- To realize the value of one hour, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
- To realize the value of one minute, ask a person who has missed the train.
- To realize the value of one second, ask a person who has avoided an accident.
- To realize the value of one millisecond, ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.
- To realize the value of one year, ask a student who has failed a grade.
- To realize the value of one month, ask a mother who has given birth to a pre-mature baby.
- To realize the value of one week, ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.
- To realize the value of one day, ask a daily wage laborer who has kids to feed.

The beauty of life is in simplicity

By: Marwa Alzubairi

In the small things of life, the greatest joys are found. In springs colored flowers, that dot the thawing ground. In Outrageous laughter, or inside a warm embrace. In the gentle smile, across a child's face. Without simple beauty, that surrounds us today it easy to get rapped up, in the things others say. Distracted by fashions, or desires and fame. Discarding uniqueness, in effort to be same. Its a simple question, of where your loyalties lie.

Massacre in Gaza

not believe such a thing might happen. Many men lay on the ground, most of them martyred and the others wounded. The shells are continuing, but what hurt me most is the killing of innocent children and women in particular. They are innocent. Now they will never enjoy their childhood. They haven't even lived.

I really sympathize with what is going on in Gaza. The people there encounter many difficulties in life. They encounter electricity blackouts, food shortages, shortages of medical supplies, and so on. But the big problem is a lost sense of security; no place is safe. Everybody is a target to the enemy.

The smell of death and blood is every-

where. The situation is unbearable there. What life can be in Gaza during the siege, and now the war? It is as if the Zionistic enemy is making the people of Gaza choose between the slow death in the siege and the fast death in this cursed war.

The Zionistic Jews are very disgusting as Allah told us in his holy book; they prove day after day to have those bad qualities which are mentioned in the Qur'an. May God destroy them and follow them up with shame.

I hope and wish that the victory will be with Hamas and Gaza, who are the rightful, and the defeat will be with the Zionistic enemy, who are terrorists.

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احذروا التقليل

CEW

A Jewish family's journey from Yemen to Israel

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

A Yemeni family consisting of nine members belonging to the Jewish religion immigrated to Israel last week. The family said Yemeni government failed to protect the Jewish citizens and so they sought an Israeli-Jewish agency working to help transfer those who desire to move to Israel.

Members of the family – Saeed Ben-Yisrael, his wife and their seven children – arrived at Bin Gurwin Airport in Tel Aviv. They currently live in a temporary residence in B'r Al-Saba area until the Israeli government provides them with a permanent residence in Bait Shimis located near Jerusalem.

Ben-Yisrael had been threatened by

anonymous tribesmen who set a hand grenade in on his house located in Kharef district of Amran last December 14, three days after the Yemeni Jewish citizen Masha Ya'eesh Al-Nahari was killed by a tribesman, Abdul Aziz Al-Abdi. The killer was an officer in the Yemeni air force up until four years ago.

Ben-Yisrael had responded to the Yemeni government's demand to sell his properties in Amran including his house. Following that, he moved along with his family to Sana'a to live in the house that the government promised to provide for his family.

However, the government didn't fulfill its promise and Ben-Yisrael faced a real crisis in Sana'a as landlords refused to rent him their houses due to his affiliation with the Jewish religion. This prompted him to ask the Jewish agency to help him



A Jewish woman calling on her neighbor in Raidah, they shrinking community has limited its outdoor activities because of death threats anonymously received through phones.

and transfer his family to Israel.

Jewish families refrained from selling their properties in Raidah lest they be subjected to the bad situation that Ben-Yisrael faced after he sold his property. They confirmed that they will not sell their properties until the Yemeni government provides them with residences in Sana'a. They pointed out that they want to sell their houses for the right prices, not for low prices forced on them due to a lack of security.

Many members of the Jewish community in Yemen demanded the government renew their Yemeni passports or give them new ones but the Yemeni Migration and Passports Authority seized around 70 passports belonging to the Jewish community of Amran, according to Ya'eesh. He said that the authority justified this procedure by saying that computers used to type up passports are broken.

Jewish citizens in Amran confirmed that they received threats via different means after Al-Nahari was killed. They said that they hide their identification when they enter markets to avoid being attacked.

"In Raidah we were imprisoned in our own houses fearing for ourselves," said Yahya Ya'eesh, rabbi of the Jewish community in Raidah district of Amran. "We have been waiting for more than two months for the achievement of the Yemeni government's promises to move us to a safer place in Sana'a."

"The Yemeni government confirmed that President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave his orders to grant every Jewish family desiring to move from Raidah and Kharef areas of Amran to Sana'a a piece of land and a house for free. We have been waiting for these promises for more than two months but nothing happened," said Ya'eesh.

Ya'eesh said that local authorities in Amran asked them to sell their properties that they have in Amran but the Jewish citizens stated that they should be given an alternative place in Sana'a before they sell their property. He said that fears have escalated among the Jewish community in Amran due to negligence of the Yemeni government in protecting them. He pointed

out that this encouraged many people of the tribal area of Amran to threaten them out of knowledge that the government will not be strict with those who threaten the Jewish population.

Over 400 Jewish citizens in Raidah live in fear, particularly after their three synagogues and two schools were closed down. Their fear has increased since last December 11 when Abdul Aziz Al-Abdi, 39, who belongs to Kharef tribe, killed the Jewish citizen Masha Ya'eesh Al-Nahari, father of nine.

The murderer is currently being tried in Amran city, located some 50 kilometers to the north of Sana'a. Al-Abdi said that Jews in Yemen should embrace Islam or leave the country in order to avoid being murdered. It is expected that the court will issue the verdict against Al-Abdi on the



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Ben-Yisrael in Tel Aviv airport.



Masha Nahari's children gather around a family photo. His murder was the alarm that alerted the Jewish community and pushed them to leave Yemen. The three older daughters of Masha have also immigrated to Israeli with their aunt two weeks ago.



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