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Inside:



2
 Seven demonstrators
 killed in Al-Dhale'
 blast



5
 British Council Regional Director to
 YT: "Yemeni Chevening scholars are
 exceptionally impressive"



8
 The End of Neo-liberalism?

With top Salafi leader Al-Zindani at his side Saleh calls for recruiting tribesmen to fight Houthis

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, July 9 — During a meeting with tribal sheikhs and leaders from Sa'ada governorate, President Ali Abdullah Saleh called for recruiting pro-government tribesmen to back the state in its fight against Houthi supporters, expressing his confidence that prominent sheikhs and social figures in Sa'ada will stand with the government in this war.

Several tribal chiefs suggested Saleh should return to the Doha-brokered ceasefire agreement, which both sides signed this past February, in order to cease bloodshed and protect citizens' property from destruction.

However, other tribal sheikhs were enraged by the government's efforts to recruit thousands of Hashid tribesmen to invade Sa'ada and devastate its infrastructure, noting that this may trigger animosity between tribes. "Fomenting sedition this way may lead to revenge killings lasting for centuries to come," they said.

Informed sources last week reported that the Yemeni government is expending urgent efforts to recruit more than 10,000 citizens under the name of a "Popular Army," revealing that several government parties have pledged future support and a warm reception for the new recruits. However, the sources did not specify those due to fund establishing this army.

Efforts to establish a popular army face several obstacles such as raising tribal disputes over command of this would-be army, particularly as the Hashid tribe wants to exclude the Bakil



President Saleh called all concerned parties to collaborate together against the Houthi rebels. Rashad Al-Alimi former Minister of Interior and Abdulmajeed AlZindani appeared beside the president in the conference. Al-Zindani will be chairing an assembly, which is the first of its kind, on defending virtue in the middle of this month.

tribe from the new army's command.

Sheikh Hussein Bin Abdullah Al-Ahmar of the Hashid tribe, to which President Saleh belongs, has been stepping up his efforts for the past two weeks with the intention of assuming the role of the army's commander.

Sa'ada security situation not good

Regarding the security situation in the war-torn governorate, tribal sources confirm that bloody confrontations continue in numerous Sa'ada areas, most notably in the main Houthi stronghold of Mirran district, as well as in Haidan, Baqem and Harf Sifyan districts.

The same sources note that both sides have incurred heavy losses in the

clashes, adding that the bodies of the dead had been buried over the past few hours. "Neither side made notable progress on the battlefield," the sources pointed out, adding that the Yemeni army, backed by Salafis and jihadists led by Sheikh Abdulmajid Al-Zindani and Tareq Al-Fadhili, is planning a new military campaign against armed Houthi loyalists.

In a statement, Houthis maintain that government troops could not have advanced toward their strategic positions in Mirran district, further denying government claims that its troops had seized control of Khamis Mirran area.

Informed sources in Amran governorate's Harf Sifyan district say Houthis still are entrenching in the

areas of Ayan, Majzaa and Sahbal in Harf Sifyan, while government troops advance toward other remote areas.

The same sources went on to say that Yemeni army troops invaded Wasit area, where Houthis have been entrenching since Monday, adding that the troops surround Houthi gunmen from all directions following fierce armed clashes that killed dozens and wounded others on both sides.

Further, the sources ascertain that Houthi loyalists on Monday seized a military caravan in Harf Sifyan while it was ferrying arms and ammunition to military troops in Sa'ada. They report that the caravan was attempting to use an unpaved road known to be used by smugglers following the blocking of



Remains of a home in Sa'ada, which still witnesses bloody conflicts.

the Sa'ada-Amran Highway.

Because the caravan was on the unpaved smuggling road, this encouraged Houthi gunmen to seize it, however, they allowed the troops manning it to return home.

Other Houthi gunmen still are besieging a military brigade in Barakan area, which the army took over on Saturday following fierce clashes that killed or wounded dozens on both sides and destroyed numerous military tanks and vehicles.

According to independent and party-affiliated news web sites, deadly battles occurred Monday in the areas of Hamma and Wadi Eyan in Harf Sifyan, during which the army, backed by area tribesmen, employed tanks and heavy weaponry in the fight against Houthis.

EC assistance

The European Commission allocated \$1 million in humanitarian assistance to residents affected by the lengthy Sa'ada fighting. An EC press release distributed to various media outlets explained that its assistance targets injured and displaced civilians as a result of the destructive fighting in the area.

According to the press release, the clashes between government troops and Houthi loyalists have displaced 77,000 citizens, thereby increasing the demand for food, water and shelter.

The EC assistance includes emergency food, drinking water, emergency sanitation grids, shelter and first aid kits, which may be sufficient to meet the demands of 49,000 displaced residents.

while security forces detain his supporters Al-Qarni sentenced to 18 months in prison

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf
 Yemen Times Taiz Bureau

TAIZ, July 9 — Security forces in detained a number of people yesterday while they protested in front of the Taiz Court of Appeals soon after the verdict in Fahd Al-Qarni's case was announced. Al-Qarni is a Taiz-based performer who often uses political topics in his satirical songs and plays.

Yesterday morning at around 6am, one hour before the official work time starts, the court found Al-Qarni guilty of illegal acts against the government, which the said he perpetrated through his sarcastic comedic-art productions. Al-Qarni is affiliated with the Islamic Islah party. The early morning verdict was rumored to be a court tactic

designed to prevent the media from covering the announcement.

A reporter for the Islah party mouth-piece Al-Sahwa Newspaper was among the number of the detained. Islah-affiliated Member of Parliament Fuad Dahabab was also subjected to aggression when he allegedly tried to prevent the security forces from hitting one of the protestors. Security forces also shot their weapons near the gathering in order to disperse the crowd.

Al-Qarni was sentenced to one and a half years in prison, fined YR 500,000 and ordered to hand over his recordings of all the productions. In addition, Al-Qarni will have a bail set on the condition that he would not reproduce any of his work.

The court session's timing and tightened security measures reflected the authorities' worries that Al-Qarni's supporters might gather and start riot around the city.

Abdul Hafidh Al-Faqeeh, the head of the Islah Party's Taiz Office, told the Yemen Times that the court's verdict against Al-Qarni was politically motivated. "The verdict was 'cooked' in the GPC's leadership premises and recited by the judge," said Al-Faqeeh.

The defense board registered their right to appeal the verdict, whereas Abu Bakr Al-Qahtani, the head of appeals for the prosecution, affirmed that public prosecution was satisfied with Al-Qarni's verdict and sentence.

After Yemen Times reports problem with Chinese-made toys China asks for Yemen's cooperation to fix the situation

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, July 8 — Chinese government is concerned over the media's attention to the health problems that may have been caused by imported Chinese made toys that are sold in the Yemeni market.

Last Thursday, the Chinese embassy sent official letters to the Yemeni Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Yemeni Standardization & Quality Control Organization and the Yemeni Federation of Chambers of Commerce explaining its concerns about media reports of the unsafe toys. None of the Yemeni oversight bodies have contacted the Chinese embassy in Sana'a about the letter as of yet, according to embassy sources.

The letter said that the "Chinese government is paying great attention and endeavoring to resolve the quality and safety problems of exporting toys," by enhancing cooperation with the Yemeni government "to further improve the quality and safety level of the Chinese-made toys and better protect the consumer's rights" by jointly fighting against these manu-

facturers and importers.

The letter followed a front-page report in the Yemen Times newspaper, issue number 1142, which focused on the medically dangerous impact of the Chinese-made toys. The toys often enter Yemen illegally through smuggling rings, but other times are permitted to enter Yemen legally due to the weak monitoring system at the Yemeni borders.

The report highlighted a list of banned Chinese toys that had been issued by the Yemen Standardization and Quality Control Organization, which stated that such toys contained lead, mercury and some small metal particles that could cause cancer and other problems.

"Since the quality and safety of the toys concerns the health of consumers, especially child consumers, the Chinese government has always paid great attention to it," said the letter, which was written by the Chinese embassy in Yemen's Economic and Commercial

Counselor's office.

The letter said that the Chinese government never evaded its responsibilities during the Chinese-made toy recalls of 2007 though it claims the majority of the problems were caused by toy designs from foreign companies. "The relative Chinese administrative departments immediately punished the companies and at the same time took a series of measures to strengthen the supervision of the toys' quality and carried out large-scale training courses in the toy production factories," said the letter, which added that the overall quality and safety level of Chinese-made toys increased greatly after these measures were taken.

China is the largest toy producer and exporter in the world. In 2007, China exported toys to more than 160 countries, worth a total value of over US \$8 billion. In the first financial quarter of 2008, the Chinese-made toy export business was valued at US \$1.5 billion.

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Security men prevent Al-Khaiwani protestors from reaching judiciary council

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, July, 9—Protesters gathered for a sit-in in front of the Supreme Judiciary Council in support of journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani were surprised by the extensive police deployment on Al-Adel and other nearby streets in Sana'a.

Backed by military vehicles, a group of police imposed a complete blockade against all avenues leading to the judiciary council in order to prevent protesters from reaching and gathering in the area.

Al-Khaiwani, the editor of the weekly Al-Shoura newspaper, is currently serving six years in prison and was sentenced on June 9th.

The protest was organized by civil society groups who objected to a specific point in Al-Khaiwani's sentencing. According to Yemeni law, convicted prisoners do not have begin serving their sentence immediately unless the judge specifies it. Al-Khaiwani was directly imprisoned even though the

judge in his case did not specify that he needed to begin his sentence immediately.

The protesters and the media were banned from taking photos of the military deployment in the area by security forces who tried to confiscate their cameras and video devices. Al-Jazeera channel was also prevented from taking photos of the sit-in and the security's reaction to it.

Following that, protestors moved to the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate's office where they suggested investigation into Al-Khaiwani's sentencing and advocated for his release from prison.

Civil society organizations like Arab Sister Forum that gathered in support of Al-Khaiwani's case said in a statement that the procedures taken by the authorities to prevent peaceful protesters from gathering contradict Yemeni law and the right to freedom of expression.

Local and international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International together with the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate have demanded

the immediate release of Al-Khaiwani.

Al-Khaiwani's sentence came through a primary court, which does not have the final say, so he will still be able to appeal his case.

The Attorney General said that a term in the verdict stipulates that "those who are released on bail are re-imprisoned if the sentence includes immediate execution."

However, the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate released a statement saying that Al-Khaiwani's primary court sentence did not include a request for his immediate execution.

Al-Khaiwani had been released on bail during the trial for health reasons.

The statement, which also addressed the Attorney General and judiciary officials, said that the syndicate recorded a film of the verdict and sentencing session that proved there were no additional terms like a request for immediate execution or a request to start his prison term immediately. The syndicate claims these additional terms were fabricated to justify Al-Khaiwani's immediate transfer to prison.

Seven demonstrators killed in Al-Dhale' blast

By: Ahmed Harmal
For the Yemen Times

AL-DHALE', July 7— Seven people were injured by a grenade that exploded in the main street of Al-Dhale' city last Monday during a former military pensioners' demonstration.

A security source in Al-Dhale' governorate said they have arrested a person who may have thrown the bomb into the crowd of demonstrators but did not reveal the suspect's identity.

Eyewitnesses said that the explosion targeted a group including former military personnel that gathered to demonstrate and coincided with the arrival of central security vehicles that came to disperse the gathering. Monday's activities in Al-Dhale' are the latest developments in a string of incidents besetting the southern governates.

This is the second time - and the same place - in Al-Dhale' that demonstrators were injured. In 2007, eight people were injured by explosion during a similar demonstration by the same organization "Military Pensioners' Association

On the eve of the demonstration, Al-Dhale' city witnessed an extensive security deployment that set checkpoints at the city's entrances and prevented people coming from the governorate's other districts to participate.

Organizers aimed to hold their demonstration last Sunday, which was the first anniversary of their unified protest held in Aden last July. During that protest, the military pensioners wore their old military uniforms for the first time since they were expelled from the army in 1994.

After the civil war of 1994, these men deserted the military. When the president declared amnesty for them, the men came back and asked to join the military again but weren't allowed to rejoin.

In August 2007, the Military Pensioners' Association organized another protest that coincided with the



Carrying Al-Dhale' explosion victims to the hospital.

anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The date was selected by the organizers of the protest to attract the attention of the Arab and international public. During the protest activity, Al-Nubah (head of ex-military soldier's group) spoke for the first time about the issue of south Yemen and demanded the intervention of the Arab League and the United Nations to put an end to the suffering in south Yemen.

The pensioners' activities increased alongside of their demands. At first, they began asking for their right to return to their military positions with an increase in salary.

Then the group started making political demands. In a rally held in Al-Dhale' alongside representatives from the other southern governorates last year, the pensioner associations demanded a part of "the power and public wealth."

As protests continued throughout the south, other groups such as the Jobless Youth Association, the Revolution Warriors and the Martyrs' Families Association appeared on the scene and

organized demonstrations where they claimed southern Yemen's right to self-determination.

In March, participants began rioting after the end of an organized rally in Al-Sumood Stadium in Al-Dhale'. Rioters burned Yemen's flag of and tore down posters of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. They also marched to the former dividing line that separated the two parts of Yemen before the unification and set up signs saying that they wanted secession.

These activities led the government to take procedures against these activities. During March 29 and 30, young people wishing to be recruited for the army began demonstrations in Al-Dhale' that soon turned into riots. In response, the government increased military deployments around the governorate that are still in place now. Hundreds of people were arrested in Al-Dhale', Aden, Lahj and Abyan. Some of the arrested protesters are still in prison until now. Dozens of people died and hundreds were injured in the riots.

Yemen marks World Population Day while it struggles with population growth

By: Ismael Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, July 9—The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is encouraging Yemen to observe July 11th's World Population Day by focusing on the right of women to plan their families, thereby promoting the wellbeing of all family members.

Family planning allows a wife and her husband to decide the number of children they want to have and the time span in between each birth. The world declaration of Human Rights affirms this right, which can be implemented through different forms of contraception available on the market.

But for families to be able to plan, they must first have access to information and to reliable contraceptive methods. This is currently a struggle for Yemen. To help improve reproductive education in the country, UNFPA has organized various training courses for religious leaders throughout the different governorates to spread the message that family planning is Islamically-approved. Islam is one of the most tolerant and open religions in regards to family planning and contraceptive usage. Yemen has some of the world's highest birthrates and maternal mortality rates. Spacing between births and using contraceptives to do this can help reduce the maternal mortality rate dramatically.

"Family planning is also essential to women's empowerment and gender equality. When a woman can plan her family, she can plan the rest of her life," said Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director of the UNFPA, in a statement for the occasion of World Population Day. "Family planning is also an effective means in the fight against poverty. Parents can plan ahead and devote more of their resources to the education and health of each child, which benefits the family, community and nation."

"As the world is marking World



Population Day, Yemen is encountering many population challenges due to the rapid increase of the population," said Dr. Ahmed Bouraji, General Secretary of Yemen's National Population Council.

Bouraji said that Yemen's population is growing at the rate of 3.2 percent each year, which could mean serious problems for the country down line, especially in terms of resources like electricity, food and water. He warned that unless the society makes a concert-

ed effort to deal with population growth, Yemen's services like health-care, education and employment will suffer in the future as well.

Bouraji stressed on the cooperative role of local councils and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help get information to the general public about family planning.

He added that family planning family planning creates an ideal population formation that helps improve the family life standards.

Tribal sheikhs in Hajja vow to reduce child trafficking

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

HAJJA, JULY 8 — More than 100 local council members and tribal sheikhs signed pledges to fight this phenomenon, to effectively make their districts' inhabitants aware of the risks associated with child trafficking and the necessity of enrolling their children in schools.

The pledges were signed after a five-day workshop entitled Together to Combat Child Trafficking, which was organized by the Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa Project, known as ACCESS -MENA.

The workshop, which discussed the alternatives to combat child labor and trafficking through education and sustainable services, aimed to make members of the local councils, sheikhs and dignitaries aware of the risks of child trafficking in the districts of Haradh, Hairan, Aflah Al-Yemen, Aflah Al-Sham and Aslam in the Hajja Governorate. Hajja is one of the Yemeni northern governorates, which is believed to have the highest concentration of child trafficking.

At the end of the workshop, the 126 local council members and tribal sheikhs signed the pledges to fight this phenomenon, to effectively make their districts' inhabitants aware of the risks associated with child trafficking and the necessity of enrolling their children in schools.

The pledges also included a commitment to support all efforts to decrease the child trafficking problem and the formation of teams of district citizens to limit child trafficking. The workshop members also pledged to submit recommendations to concerned bodies to find solutions to alleviate poverty and provide the deprived areas with service and developmental projects.

However there are no fix data or studies reveal the accurate numbers of trafficked children due to the lack of facilities at borders required to determine children being sent abroad to work, the vast border region with Saudi Arabia which makes smuggling difficult to control.

Dr. Jamal Al-Haddi, ACCESS Project Manager, took part in the conclusion of

the workshop in Aslam district and delivered a speech to the sheikhs and dignitaries of the district urging them to undertake their responsibilities as community leaders to limit the child trafficking phenomenon and said that the proper place for children are the classroom seats.

Such workshops come within the framework of activities and programs performed by the ACCESS-MENA Project which is currently being implemented by Cooperative Housing Foundation, known as CHF International organization in partnership with the Charitable Society for Social Welfare and with the funding by the US Department of Labor.

The ACCESS-MENA project has made several interventions to combat child trafficking including the re-enrollment of 206 children in school, protecting 1,416 children from dropping out of school, and repairing and maintaining the nine schools targeted by the project, in addition to providing them with social and cultural centers and electrical generators.

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In Brief

Half million people visit Yemen wing in Zaragoza 2008 Expo

Some 450,000 people have visited Yemeni wing in the International Zaragoza 2008 Expo since its opening in mid of last month.

Director of Gold Beach Company Hassan al-Faran told Saba that around 80,000 persons visited the wing during two days ago, most of them are Spanish.Participation of Yemen in the exhibition would attract further Spanish tourists and investors to Yemen.

Yemen currently is displaying its heritage of natural resources management at the exhibition in Spain under the slogan "Water and Sustainable Development."

Spanish media has been quoted as saying that a million guests are expected to visit the event.

Some 104 countries also are participating in the event.

SANAA**Parliament ratifies two international maritime conventions**

In its session held on Sunday, the parliament ratified The International Convention on Maritime Research and Rescue, 1989 after discussion on the light of Transport and Telecommunication Committee's report.

The report considered Yemen's joining to this treaty an important issue because of its location on crowded maritime line and lacking for rescue navy despite its 2500-kilo meters long coast line.

The parliament also ratified a convention concerning sailors' identities after discussing a report of the same

committee that considered Yemen's joining this convention important step for carrying out the country's international commitments concerning security of ships and ports.

The committee indicated in its report that Yemen's joining to this treaty would enable it to be member in international maritime family and provide Yemeni sailor a chance to work outside regional waters.

Head of Asian Judo Union leaves Sana'a

Head of the Asian Judo Union Obaid al-Anizi left Sana'a on Sunday after the conclusion of the Asian Judo Championship for Youth hosted by Yemen for the first time .

In a statement to Saba, al-Anizi said that he is very pleased to see the good level and good results achieved for the first time in the Arab world, adding that he is proud that Yemen received the golden medal achieved by Yemeni player Khalid al-Jarah for the first time at the Arab level in the Asian championships during a period of forty years.

UK companies desire to invest in Yemen: UK ambassador says

The British ambassador to Sana'a Tim Torlot revealed on Sunday a real desire of the British companies to invest in Yemen.

During his meeting with Minister of Industry and Trade Yahya al-Mutawakel, Torlot voiced his country's keenness on enhancing the commercial and economic relations with Yemen.

The meeting dealt also with the investment opportunities in Yemen and the possibility to establish investment joint companies between Yemeni and British businessmen.

It also focused on preparations for holding a meeting for the two countries' businessmen next year to be briefed on the investment opportunities and enhancing the partnership relations as well.

Al-Mutawakel affirmed the importance of exchanging visits among businessmen and gaining advantage of the British experiences to qualify and improve the industrial areas and Free Zone in Aden.

He accentuated increasing the commercial exchange rates and encouraging the private sectors in both countries to strengthen investment and commercial partnership ties, confirming the desire of the Yemeni government to enhance its relations with UK.

FAO grants agriculture sector with US \$ 500,000

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation singed here on Sunday with Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) a grant agreement of US \$ 500,000 for financing improved seeds to support small farmers in this season.

FAO extended this grant to support the Yemeni agriculture sector that will contribute to achieving the food safety in the country and encountering food price soar. After signing the agreement, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mansour al-Hawshabi hailed FAO's assistance for the agriculture sector in the country to develop this vital sector.

\$700,000 worth treaty signed for conducting sanitation survey

A \$ 700,000-worth treaty supplied by General Authority for Rural Water, Social Development Fund (SDF), UNICEF, Public Work Project and

Dutch Government and Dutch government signed on Sunday for conducting sanitation survey in rural areas.

Upon the treaty, singed by Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, the Executive Director of SDF and representative of Dutch government, \$ 700 thousands are assigned for conducting the survey that aims at identifying range of covering sanitation projects in rural areas and active unused projects.

After signing, al-Arhabi stressed on importance of conducting the field survey for it aims at improving future rural projects.

PM launches Jetcom 2008 exhibition in Sana'a

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar inaugurated on Sunday the 10th Al Jazirah Exhibition for Information and Telecommunications Techniques (Jetcom.2008) organized by Apollo for International Exhibitions.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology, the six-day long exhibition includes 41 international companies specialized in information technology and telecommunication fields.

Mujawar went around the exhibition's sections and listened to a detailed explanation from the marketing director general of Apollo Company Omar al-Nehmi about the nature of technical products showed in the exhibition by local, Arab and international companies, noting that the exhibition covers all the needs of business and investment sectors.

The premier affirmed the importance of organizing such exhibitions that considered as a good chance for

the users of telecommunication and information technology to get acquainted with last developments in this field.

AYLHC approves 2007 final financial account

General Assembly of Arab Yemen-Libya Holding Company approved on Sunday final financial account of 2007.

The assembly discussed activities of the company of last year and its investment and trade achievements as well as its future projects.

It also discussed a report presented by the board chairman of the company Abdul-Karim al-Dhabin on its activities .

The report said that the company achieved growth at YR 251 million last year compared to YR 101 million in 2006 at increase of 150 percent.

Incoming period, the company would announce a package of investment projects in different governorates, al-Dhabin said.

The company was set up in 1991 by Yemeni and Libyan investments.

The company's activities focus on agriculture, industry, mining, fishing, tourism, transport and other economic sectors.

ADEN**Yemen, Kuwait discuss medical cooperation**

Rector of Aden University Abdul-Aziz Bin Habor discussed on Sunday with representative of Kuwait's Popular Committee Abdul-Aziz al-Dubae the current relations between the university and committee in the areas of medical and health sciences.

The meeting dealt with the project of

medical laboratories in the Faculty of Medicines and Health Sciences with a total cost amounting to \$ 2 million which will be signed during the coming days.

Bin Habor praised the efforts of the Popular Committee for supporting the University of Aden, pointing out that committee, during the last years, funded the project of College of Pharmacy, which will be inaugurated soon, at a cost of \$ 3 million.

MUKALLA**SIRIM to set up quality center in Mukalla**

The Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) agreed on Sunday to set up a center for quality in Mukalla city and supplying it with required equipment and expert for training Yemeni cadres.

Under a memorandum of understanding signed between the Hardamout commercial and industrial chamber and SIRIM, Malaysian would set up the center and experts in field of agriculture and fishing to Yemen to study needs of developing Yemeni products in these fields.

The memo was signed by SIRIM board chairman Yahya bin Ahmed and chairman of Hardamout chamber.Governor of Hardamout Salam al-Khanbashi affirmed importance of memo to improving Yemeni national products and encouraging experts.

Then, the SIRIM delegation paid a visit to the fishing corporation in the governorate, voicing readiness of the institute to offer experiences to improve products of the corporation.

Their News

Japan provides commuter buses for the Yemeni Association

for the Blind in Sana'a City

The Government of Japan decided to extend a grant to a grass-roots project in the Republic of Yemen under the Japanese scheme called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects." The scheme aims at supporting small scale community-based projects in the area of basic human needs, such as primary health care, basic education and rural water supply in developing countries.

Mr. Masakazu Toshikage, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Yemen, signed today in Sana'a, an agreement to this effect with Mr. Abdulaziz Ali Abdullah BalHaj, Chairman of the Yemen Society for Care and Rehabilitation for the Blind - Sana'a Head Office.

The grant of approximately 8.7 million Yemeni Riyals will be used to purchase 2 buses of 16-seater each, in support of facilitating transportation for the blind to commute to the Yemen Society for Care and Rehabilitation for the Blind - Sana'a Head Office. The grant aims at increasing the number of blind people who can attend classes at the Society, and also encouraging them to receive necessary support and vocational training to merge into society.

During the current Japanese fiscal year (April 2008 – March 2009), Japan has funded 3 grass-roots projects so far in the Republic of Yemen, amounting to US\$197,100 under the above-mentioned Japanese scheme. In the last Japanese fiscal year, Japan funded 17 grass-roots projects in Yemen under the same scheme totaling US\$1,337,350.

Jakarta summit to discuss re-building of Palestine

Indonesia will host a ministerial-level conference for Asian and African countries to discuss technical assistance for Palestine and to plan for its future independence.

The conference, co-hosted by South Africa, will run from July 14 to 15, and will bring together envoys from some 100 countries to discuss the capacity development of Palestine in launching the multi-level development projects. Among other things, it would cover in the fields of governance, infrastructure, economy, security, health and sports.

At the summit, the supporting nations will honor their commitments towards the re-building of Palestine. The Palestine's president and the prime minister are expectedly to attend the two-day meet.

Apart from majority of Asian and African countries, Latin American countries like Argentina, Venezuela and Brazil have also confirmed participation. The NAASP Ministerial Conference on capacity Building for

Palestine is a follow up to the Asian African Leaders' delegation to strongly support to the struggle of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state.

The initiative to hold the Conference was endorsed and agreed at the NAASP Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Durban, September 2006.

While Annapolis Conference was focused on political support and the Paris Donor Conference was aimed at mobilizing financial assistance, the NAASP Ministerial Conference emphasizes the provision of essential capacity building projects based on the respective countries' expertise.

The conference is therefore expected to gather commitments from Asian African countries in the form of capacity building projects based on the list submitted by the Palestinian government. There are over 90 development projects in 21 sectors, which would be presented by the Palestinian side at the conference

The summit is expected to play a constructive role as catalyst to the peace process, primarily through the empowerment of the various Palestinian national components, in preparing and anticipating the eventual establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state in the near future.

The conference initiative is a renewed version of the 1955 Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, which sought independence for all countries on the two continents. Palestine remains the only country from the 1955 conference yet to achieve independence.

Stalled peace talks between Palestine and Israel were revived in November 2007 with the U.S.-sponsored Annapolis conference, which spawned the two-state solution to end the decades-long conflict.

In December 2008, donor countries at a Paris conference pledged US\$7.4 billion to help boost the Palestinian economy.

UNDP and Yemen sign agreements worth 10 Million Dollars

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Yemen signed today four projects with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and respective parties. They will cover different aspects of development that fall within the mandate of UNDP.

The first project is a joint European Commission (EC) and UNDP electoral assistance to Yemen for the years 2008-2010. According to the project document, the EC and UNDP will provide technical assistance to develop the capacity of electoral institutions in Yemen including the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER). The project aims to enhance the capacity of the SCER to

manage the different stages of the electoral process. Its main outcome is to help Yemen to conduct free and fair elections in the coming rounds aiming to reflect the will of the people. One of its major components also is to increase women's participation in the electoral process.

The total budget of this project is USD 5.7 million (Euro 3.7 million). EC will provide approximately

5 million dollars (Euro 3.2 million) while UNDP will provide USD 700,000. The project document was signed by H.E. Abdul Kareem Ismael Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs - Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Mr. Shaif Al-Hussaini - Secretary General for the SCER, and Dr. Selva Ramachandran - UNDP Yemen Resident Representative a.i. The signing ceremony is also witnessed by Mr. Michele Cervone D'URSO EC Charge D' Affair.

The second project contributes to the goal of creating a sustainable and well-governed path of development for the Socotra archipelago, to ensure the conservation of its significant biodiversity. The project aims to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity management considerations into the current process of "decentralizing governance for development" on the Socotra archipelago. The project's outcomes are, local governance support, mainstreaming tools, strengthening, NGOs, advocacy and benefits of biodiversity conservation to local livelihoods. Moreover, the project comes at a time when there are 'preparations for announcing the island of Socotra to be listed on the World Heritage List during the UNESCO meeting this month which will be held in Canada' as reported by the YemenTimes on 23rd June 2008: <http://yementimes.com/article.shtml?i=1166&p=local&a=4>.

The total budget of this project is around 2 million USD, in which the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and UNDP will provide 1 million dollars each. The project document was signed by H.E. Abdul Kareem Ismael Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs - Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Dr. Selva Ramachandran - UNDP Yemen Resident Representative a.i.

The third project aims to promote pro-poor economic growth in the country. It targets achieving a strong alliance through further development of a supportive infrastructure for the microfinance sector in Yemen. In direct partnership with the Social Fund for Development (SFD), this project will create the first National Microfinance Network for the microfinance industry, which will act as a storehouse of knowledge for the sector, facilitating information exchange and the promotion of

industry standards and developments among its members. It will also contribute to the efficient and sustainable use of resources for job creation and growth of the industry, and in doing so it will increase the availability of high quality, cost efficient financial services to the working poor in Yemen, particularly among women and youth.

The total budget of this project is 1.5 million dollars, in which UNDP and SFD will provide

USD 750,000 each. The project document was signed by H.E. Abdul Kareem Ismael Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs - Minister of Planning and International Cooperation- SFD Executive Director, and Dr. Selva Ramachandran - UNDP Yemen Resident Representative a.i.

The fourth project aims to strengthen the capacities of the media and civil society organizations (CSOs) in transparency advocacy. The project will provide technical assistance to help the two mentioned target groups in networking and elevating standards at the national level to promote the exchange of independent and objective information on transparency and accountability issues. Accordingly, one of the major component of the project is to undertake trainings for journalists from print media to strengthen their capacity in a more professional and effective manner. It also targets raising awareness of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Yemen on the concept of access to information and building capacity in public resources monitoring techniques.

The total budget of this project is USD 400,000. UNDP is providing USD 200,000, from its core budget, and the remainder of the financing is coming from the UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGITF). The project document was signed by H.E. Abdul Kareem Ismael Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs - Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, H.E. Ahmed Al Anisi -Chairman of Supreme National Anti-Corruption Commission and Dr. Selva Ramachandran - UNDP Yemen Resident Representative a.i.

The signing ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. Hisham Sharaf Deputy Minister for International Cooperation, Mr. Mutahar Al Abbasy Deputy Minister for Planning, Ms. Dena Assaf UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Programme, officials from the related ministries, non-governmental organizations, donors representatives, and others.

Online tutoring program in Michigan

In partnership with the American Muslim Society, Dearborn Michigan

and with the generous and proud support of Western Union and Nationwide Educational Services, the American Association for Yemeni Students and Professionals is proud to announce the launching of our first online tutoring program project. This project represents a unique collaboration effort between Yemeni organizations and business partners to initiate an innovative program in the community. The American Muslim Society serves about 400 students and many of them are expected to benefit from the online tutoring which provides interactive-multimedia courses for grades k-12 in addition to providing workforce readiness programs. Students in the school are expected to start their courses on 7/14 after the staff is trained on the program.

Newspapers Fight "Luxury" Tax in Zimbabwe

The World Association of Newspapers and World Editors Forum have called for the repeal of a punitive "luxury" tax on newspapers that are imported into Zimbabwe, which is preventing independent newspapers from reaching their audience.

The tax was imposed in early June in the run-up to the widely condemned presidential election won by Robert Mugabe after his opponent quit the race in the face of escalating violence against his supporters. It aims to reduce the influence of South African-based news sources, which have been extremely important to Zimbabweans.

"Restricting access to information by punitive taxation constitutes a clear breach of the right to freedom of expression, which is guaranteed by numerous international conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," the Paris-based WAN and WEF, which represent 18,000 newspapers world-wide, said in a letter to President Mugabe.

The two organisations called on Mugabe to remove the luxury tax on foreign publications and to end state intimidation of the independent media. All domestic independent newspapers and broadcasters in Zimbabwe are banned.

Leading Dubai companies take top honours at Middle East call centre awards '08 event

Dnata as top regional call centre, RTA-Salik as best new call centre and CTS with the best regional Call Centre manager were some of the top accolades handed out to Dubai companies at the annual Middle East Call Centre Awards '08 Gala Dinner recently. With call centres at the regional centres of DHL and TNT in Dubai also picking up trophies, Dubai was the biggest winner on

a fun-filled and entertaining evening that has become known as the Middle East Call Centre "Night Of The Year".

According to Dominick Keenaghan, president of event organizers INSIGHTS: "This was the third year that the Awards have been run, and Dubai has never before featured in the two top Awards of Call Centre of the Year and Call Centre Manager of the Year, those categories formerly going to call centres in Riyadh, Muscat and Abu Dhabi. With Dnata winning the former category and Humaira Majid of CTS the latter, the two will now go forward to represent the region at the World Call Centre Congress in Phoenix, USA in September".

Continued Keenaghan: "Individual Awards are becoming more difficult to win each year because more and more regional call centres see the immense value of entering the INSIGHTS' Awards competition. Not only does the process of preparing a submission force a thorough analysis and evaluation of ongoing operations and strategies, those activities in themselves are valuable exercises to expedite ongoing, internal development and improvement initiatives; but the impact and effects of winning an Award has been demonstrated to have many unique, galvanizing benefits for employee morale and motivation. In particular, the accolades are a great way to attract senior management attention to the valuable work going on in the call centre in bottom-line affecting areas such as customer loyalty and retention. We know this because previous Awards winners continue to enter each year in the hope (they tell us) of repeating the joys of winning, being recognized by their regional peers and gaining higher status within their own company."

Other trophies handed out at the Awards 08 event this week included two to Arab National Bank in KSA for "Best Technology Platform" and "Best Quality Assurance Program", SpancoGKS of Qatar for the "Best Internally Developed Call Centre Application", BUPA Arabia of KSA for the "Best Retention & Motivation Program" Award, CrysTelCall of Jordan as "OSP of the Year (less than 71 seats)", Xceed of Egypt for "Best Career & Skill Paths" and "Special Achievement" awards to Etisalat Customer Care Centre and Nada Majid of Zain, Bahrain for "Sales Improvement Program" and "Live Cycle Strategist" respectively. In the Small Call Centre category of less than 71 seats, Brian D'Costa of DHL was "Manager of the Year" and TNT were "Call Centre of the Year".

The Middle East Call Centre Awards 08 evening was jointly sponsored by the region's leading Call Centre supplier, Avaya and the rapidly growing Dnata Contact Centre.



Sam Yemen International School
مدارس سام اليمن الدولية



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Sam Yemen International School is seeking to employ highly qualified teachers in the following specializations for the academic year 2008-2009:

1. Class Teachers for Grade 2 and 4

Qualifications: BA or BSc

Experience: Not less than 3 years (preferably female teachers)

2. English Teacher for Primary/Secondary

Qualifications: BA, MA or Native Speaker

Experience: Not less than 3 years (male or female)

3. Computer Teacher

Qualifications: BSc or MSc (should also know computer maintenance)

Experience: Previous teaching experience required. English speaking (male or female)

4. French Teacher

Qualifications: BA or Native Speaker

Experience: Not less than 3 years (male or female)

5. English Teacher for Higher Secondary (IGCSE System)

Qualifications: MAc or PhD

Experience: Not less than 3 - 5 years (male or female)

6. Math Teacher for Higher Secondary (IGCSE System)

Qualifications: MSc or PhD

Experience: Not less than 3 - 5 years (male or female)

7. Science Teacher for Primary/Secondary

Qualifications: BSc or MSc

Experience: Not less than 3 years (male or female)

8. Physics Teacher for Higher Secondary

Qualifications: MSc or PhD

Experience: Not less than 3 - 5 years (male or female)

9. Chemistry Teacher for Higher Secondary

Qualifications: MSc or PhD

Experience: Not less than 3 - 5 years (male or female)

10. Biology Teacher for Higher Secondary

Qualifications: MSc or PhD

Experience: Not less than 3 - 5 years (male or female)

Note: Applicants preferably with American or British accent for English section are invited to contact us with CV's

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Sana'a, Yemen

Website, www.sam-yemen.com
Email, sysis@sam-yemen.com
Fax. 440090

Tel. 445745/6
770721882

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CONSULTANCY

Within the Social Fund for Development support of the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labor in developing the National Strategy of disability, SFD wishes to engage the temporary services of a consultant in disability for six to eight months.

Responsibilities & tasks:

- 1- Documenting, analyzing and assessing existing programs, activities, policies, laws and regulations related to disability.
- 2- Coordinating with the sectors that are related to developing the national disability strategy.
- 4- Participating in workshops to be conducted for developing the National Social Protection Strategy, the National Disability Strategy and the Strategy of the Rehabilitation & Care of Handicapped Persons Fund.

The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- 1- A degree in Social Sciences.
- 2- Five years practical experience in:
 - disability as well as with programmatic and policy-related disability issues, in general and particularly in Yemen.
 - programs developed and implemented for, or on behalf of, persons with disabilities
- 3- familiarity with a rights-based inclusive approach to disability.
- 4- A proven experience in conducting situational analysis, identifying trends and practices, and proposing recommendations and strategies for targeted social issues is preferable.
- 5- Excellent skills of verbal and written English and Arabic.
- 6- Ability to travel and move among governorates.

Interested applicants shall send their application letters along with their CVs to the Social Fund for Development by the following e-mail:

anoman@sfd-yemen.org

Or by mail to the following address:

Social Fund for Development, Headquarter, Health & Social Protection Unit
Faj Attan, P.O. Box. 15485

Deadline for receiving applications is 17/7/2008



Vacancy Advertisement

In its efforts to prepare an Education Country Status Report for Yemen, the World Bank Office in Sana'a has an immediate vacancy for a junior-level **Education Data Analyst on a consultancy appointment** for about 6 months.

The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- At least B.A. degree in statistics or economics or related fields; MA, Ph.D. preferred;
- Minimum of 2 year experiences in statistical data analysis;
- Some understanding of education statistics and indicators;
- Experience in conducting an econometric analysis is a plus;
- Experience in analyzing quantitative surveys is a plus;
- Proficiency in PC Programs: MS EXCEL, WORD, and Power Point;
- Proficiency in either STATA or SPSS preferred;
- Knowledge in database preferred;
- Strong communication and writing skills in English and in Arabic.
- Motivated and committed personality and attitude to learn

The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Collect and compile published and electronically available data from Ministries of Education, Higher Education, Vocational Training and Technical Education, Planning and International Cooperation, Finance, and Civil Service, and the Central Statistical Organization;
- Compute key sector indicators and provide analysis of sector status:
 - o Coverage of sector: all education levels (early childhood to adult education),
 - o Analytical areas: macroeconomic, employment, and social contexts, education structure, enrollment trend, equity, education spending, quality of education, relevance of curriculum,
 - o Prepare statistical tables for education indicators both in English and Arabic,
 - o Write notes on issues;
- Merge educational databases to allow comprehensive analysis of the sector;
- Assist the CSR technical team and CSR consultants to collect data, conduct data analysis and interpretation, and report writing. As requested, provide statistical training to the government staff;
- Play a coordinating role to ensure the progress of analytical work in each section of the CSR and report to the task team weekly;
- Support analyzing surveys (i.e. Household Budget Survey, Labor Force Survey etc.) by preparing the data (by merging data sheets) and conducting basic analyses;
- Support developing an education simulation model (in EXCEL);
- Undertake special assignments, upon request, as an Education Data Analyst.

For full consideration, please send your CV and a letter of application before July 20, 2008 attn:

Office Administrator via e-mail: WBYemen@worldbank.org

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



UNHCR

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

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES INTERNAL / EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

Title of Post: Principal Secretary to Representative

Post Number: 10008203

Category and Level: GL6

Location: Sana'a

Entry on Duty: 15 August 2008

Duration: One Year

Closing Date: 20 July 2008

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under the direct supervision of the Representative, in the Branch Office Sana'a, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

Terms of reference

1. Arranges appointments and maintains supervisor's calendar, receives high-ranking visitors, places and screens telephone calls and answers queries with discretion;
2. Prepares briefing materials for supervisor for use on official trips or special meetings;
3. In charge of protocol matters: (a) arranges meetings with high-ranking officials; and (b) arranges official receptions given by the Representative;
4. Participates in the organization and preparation of staff meetings or special meetings and takes minutes and/or notes;
5. Prepares informal translations and may act as interpreter;
6. Receives, screens, logs and routes correspondence, attaches necessary background information and maintains follow-up system;
7. Selects and makes pertinent abstracts and undertakes searches for information;
8. Coordinates the secretarial services of the office, distributes special assignments to other secretaries and clears correspondence for the supervisor's signature. Briefs and trains new secretaries and gives guidance to other secretaries on office procedure;
9. Drafts non-substantive correspondence and ensures follow-up;
10. Takes dictation, using shorthand, on a variety of subject-matters and transcribes, ensuring that spelling, punctuation and format are correct. Types correspondence, documents and reports, etc., some of which are highly confidential;
11. Maintains policy, confidential and general management files;
12. Keeps lists of names, addresses and telephone numbers of ministers, government officials and members of the diplomatic corps;
13. Makes travel arrangements for the supervisor and performs liaison duties with other units;

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Skills: Completion of secondary education plus University Level Course in Literature or other related fields.

Experience: No less than a total of 5 years previous job experience, including at least two years of experience as secretary.

Languages: Very good knowledge of Arabic and English.

For internal UNHCR candidates:

Priority consideration will be given to staff members whose grades are equal or below that of the post advertised. Only candidates who have served one year in their present post will be eligible for consideration as internal candidates in connection with the vacancy. Candidates who do not meet the criteria as internal candidates can be considered as external candidates.

For external candidates:

If no suitable internal candidate will be found, external candidates will be considered.

IMPORTANT:

Applications received after the above mentioned closing date will not be considered. All applications should be sent to:

The Administration Officer
UNHCR
P.O. Box 12093, Sana'a
Fax No.: + 967-1-469 770

British Council Regional Director to Yemen Times:

“Yemeni Chevening scholars are exceptionally impressive”

Robert Lynes has been the British Council Regional Director for the Middle East since 2004. As the ME director, he is responsible for eight countries in the region: Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Oman, Qatar and Yemen.

He joined the British Council in 1994 when worked as BC Assistant Director in Saudi Arabia for three years. After that he worked in Poland and UK until he returned to ME region in 2004 as regional director based in UAE.

Lynes studied Russian and Polish and has an MA in Applied Linguistics. He spent his early career in the 1980s working as a linguist in Berlin. Following this he worked in Hungary, as Director of a School and at the Budapest University of Economics.

Lynes will be leaving by end of July to his new post in London as Deputy Director Operations.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Rob Lynes on issues relating to the British Council policies in the region as a whole with focus on Yemen.



Robert Lynes British Council Regional Director for the Middle East



Lynes (right most) visits Raba al-Adawia school, with head teacher Fatima Zuheiri.

Every year, the number of candidates for the Yemeni Chevening scholarship candidates multiplies. This year there were over 200 applicants competing for 7 grants. I know that the Chevening scholarships are from the FCO – but the British Council itself used to grant scholarships, and they were very successful in Yemen. Don't you think Yemen deserves more opportunities?

It's true that the Chevening scholarships in Yemen have been particularly successful. My colleagues in the British Council in Yemen and in the Embassy have commented to me on the dedication, commitment and real ability of the candidates we interview every year for the opportunity which the FCO Chevening scheme offers for one year's fully-funded post-graduate scholarship to complete their MA degree. Every year, we succeed in finding places for Yemeni Chevening scholars at excellent British universities – LSE, Warwick, University College London, for instance – and every year they return with excellent results.

Last year, for instance, five Chevening scholars gained distinctions in their Master's degrees; the year before, one Yemeni was judged best in his year. And on their return, the Chevening scholars rise quickly on the career ladder in government, in the pri-

vate sector and in civil society – we even find Chevening scholars as editors of Yemen's leading newspaper. I've met many of the ex-Chevening scholars on my visits to Yemen, and I agree that they are exceptionally impressive. Given this track record, we must agree that Yemen deserves opportunity and can benefit from that opportunity.

The FCO is currently revising its policy on Chevening scholarship and its allocations of places; we hope that this might result in more places available for those countries which will benefit most.

Although we provide many opportunities for Yemenis to study or to visit and make useful contacts in the UK every year, the British Council does not run open scholarship schemes similar to the Chevening scholarship. We have in the past often administered scholarships for particular groups – for instance, in the past we sent ninety power industry engineers to the UK under a project of co-operation with the Overseas Development Administration – but the main competition for Yemeni applicants will remain the Chevening scheme.

We're looking at co-funding for the Chevening scheme to see whether in this way too we can extend the numbers of scholarships available and will hope to see yet more opportunities for Yemen in the near future.

Has the recent security problems in Yemen affected your planning of future projects in Yemen?

We take seriously the recent changes in the security situation in Yemen. However, we also take very seriously our commitment to work with and for the people of Yemen and the links we can establish between Yemen and the UK.

We will be making some changes in project planning to reflect the current contingency, but we will not be diminishing our level of activity and our ongoing involvement in education, English language teaching, the arts and sciences. For instance, we are currently

seminar to Qatar – and we will be supporting the travel for 30 Yemeni teachers from across the country to travel to Doha for this.

What happened to the British Council English classes? They used to be very popular and there is really a very great demand to re-establishing them in Yemen.

We have always worked in support of English language teaching and learning in Yemen, ever since we first opened our teaching centre in Aden in 1940. In some countries and at some times this has meant direct teaching in British Council teaching centres; in other

useful contacts with the UK resource, but also to share experiences with their colleagues in the Gulf countries.

For example, we have been working over the past two years on an ambitious programme of Museums Management training, and experts from Yemen have had the chance to take part in these high-level seminars in Muscat while also strengthening contacts with those involved in the major museums developments in Qatar and Oman.

Most of the focus on education in the regional British Council is targeted at the students; do you have any programs in the region working with teachers and national educational systems?

In most countries in the region the British Council offers quality direct teaching of English to students – but in every country we also work closely with the Ministries of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education.

One of the many programmes we have where we work with schools is the Connecting Classrooms project, which is a programme of activities for Middle East and UK schools. The aim of the project is to provide opportunities and support for Middle East schools to form mutually beneficial partnerships with their UK counterparts. Through these international partnerships it is hoped that young people will increase their awareness and understanding of each other's cultures.

146 schools formed partnerships in Year one of the project and a further 123 have joined so far in Year two. The partnerships are supported directly for two years with activities including: a 'contact seminar' to initiate the partnership, then ICT training in British Council collaborative working websites and a seminar for head teachers to examine best practice for leading on international work in the school – then a UK Study Visit to share experience and build on the first year of activity, leading to joint curriculum project funding for two years with school visits and personal support from local British Council staff.

What kind of exchange programmes and regional projects exist that would include Yemen and integrate it with the gulf countries?

For the past three years, the British Council has had a strong focus on regional working, developing opportunities and setting up networks in fields where we can identify common ground across Yemen and the Gulf Countries.

We take advantage of the language and cultural similarities between the countries in the regional to allow us to target the areas of shared interest, and often run events and seminars within the region – so that the people we deal with have the chance not only to make

year programme of co-operation with the Ministry of Education providing teaching methodology training and curriculum support to the Ministry's aim of introducing English into the schools.

What kind of diversity and equal opportunity projects and initiatives you are carrying out in Yemen and in the region?

We take seriously the recent changes in the security situation in Yemen. However, we also take very seriously our commitment to work with and for the people of Yemen and the links we can establish between Yemen and the UK.

One new project area which we are very proud of is the introduction of the UK's phenomenally successful Springboard development course for women in the Middle East; this is a programme which we have trailed in Saudi Arabia and in Yemen, and which we now intend to work with across the region. The Springboard

Women's Development Programme enables women and girls to take more control over their own lives by identifying the clear, practical and realistic steps that they want to take - and developing the skills and confidence to take them.

The Springboard Women's Development Programme has now been successfully used by over 180,000 women world-wide; it's delivered, to great acclaim, through a specially trained network of professional trainers.

It is designed for women from all backgrounds, ages and stages of their lives, but it's perhaps mostly used by management and professional women, or women seeking to move into management. For employers, the programme enables them to develop their staff to their fullest potential and is often a key component in any Diversity and/or gender initiatives.

We have two qualified trainers already at the British Council in Yemen, and we'll be hoping to train a further 100 qualified trainers around the region, reaching 15,000 young women who will be taking more control over their lives, developing their leadership skills

and contributing more positively to their organisations. These networks will provide coaching and mentoring support empowering women to become better leaders, to reach more senior positions and participate in policy making.

I've met many of the ex-Chevening scholars on my visits to Yemen, and I agree that they are exceptionally impressive. Given this track record, we must agree that Yemen deserves opportunity and can benefit from that opportunity.



Rob Lynes with David Green Director-General of the British Council and Elizabeth White Yemen Director during Green's visit to Yemen in 2006.



Robt Lynes with president Saleh during the GCC Donors conference in London in Nov. 2006.

The opposition and political action alphabets

By: Ali Mohammed Al-Khamisi

Through this article, I don't want to deliver political recommendations or lessons on how Yemen's political parties should oppose the authority in a positive manner or according to the constructive content that is internationally recognized in most of the world countries, particularly the ones applying democratic systems of governance.

This is because I am sure that the majority of opposition parties in our beloved homeland don't need advice or lessons from this point of view. Instead, they are in need of real efforts to remind them that they are aside from constructive political action alphabets. Had these political parties cared about alphabets of the political action, they would have been seen closer to logic and objective speech.

As is widely known, the opposition represents the other face of government in any country, and this means that it should not go beyond the limit of the political regime's entire frame. Consequently, peaceful transfer of power will be the common goal for both the government and opposition while difference of visions, policies and programs is the only means adopted by each party to win peoples' support and trust via ballot boxes.

This is the democratic concept or

principle we want to be established in the thoughts and behaviors of our parties. It encourages us to have talks about reality of the political business exercised by the opposition parties in the political arena. Regretfully, the way the opposition parties exercise political business on the ground makes us pessimistic about seeing an improved democratic experience in the future of Yemen.

The opposition parties, specifically Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), consider the political action in their dictionary, or as demonstrated through their behavior, a means for extortion or sharing or division according to its stained concept of what it calls 'political game'.

At this point, I suggest a different viewpoint for this strange terminology in politics because I think that politics, by its broad concept, is not merely a game at the hand of a particular party (ruling or opposition).

Had we but admitted that politics is an art of the possible, this possible would not have got away from the national principles and higher interests of the people. Consequently, a political action framed with narrow partisan interests, cheap extortion and under-table practices is doomed to fail.

There is an elected authority that controls the country, and therefore we must let this authority implement its platform via which it won support of

the majority of voters. We should also monitor the way it performs one by one, and having realized that this authority did not achieve promises it had made to people, the opposition must then assume its role via civilized, democratic, peaceful and constructive means to uncover the real mistakes the authority might have so far committed during implementation of its platform.

We must not carry the hammer of destruction like JMP does everyday and then tells us that it practices its political right as ensured by the Constitution.

Dear sirs, the Constitution was set up by a legislator to organize an existing relation between partners of the political action, taking into account that every action should be in favor of the nation and citizens. The Constitution doesn't justify lies, fabrications and destructive partisan activities, nor does it call for sharing power and senior posts in the government.

Please be loyal with this homeland that gave you more and more interests and favors. Please stop plotting a gloomy a future for the coming generations of this nation for the sake of gaining power and senior posts in the government. The current stage is so sensitive and requires all patriots in the ruling and opposition parties to care about the higher interest of the nation and stand up against those who attempt to harm security, stability and unity of

Yemeni people. I conclude this by giving a piece of advice to our brothers in JMP to give up their scandalous political maneuvers, make use of any viewpoints and constructive criticism directed to them and look at them positively, though contradictory to their policies this criticism is.

The opposition parties must not throw any advice or criticism they receive to their own cycle bin because this may uncover their baseless allegation that they accept the democratic option and welcome other's criticism. These parties are advised not to hurriedly direct charges to any people criticizing their behaviors or policies as part of a campaign against them since such campaigns are merely intended to disclose certain facts the JMP is trying to hide by employing the various methods and means available.

The position parties suffer a great problem, and this is why they resort to halting progress of their political action at one time, and adopting extremist acts at another time.

I think that it is time to forget about obstinacy, arrogance and narrow partisan interests. It is time for us to get closer and closer to serious and real dialogue for discussing higher interests of the nation that help lead to a prosperous future for Yemen and its coming generations.

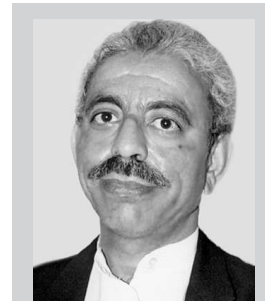
Source: Nabanews.net

COMMON SENSE

In Yemen and elsewhere:

The Saudis have got it all wrong!

When the Saudi Arabian Al-Shark Al-Awsat Newspaper (SA for short) first came out in the 1980s in Arabic and later in English, one then thought really that now the Saudis are quickly jumping into the institutional frameworks that will create a vibrant and robust free Arab press. The anticipation was that this signaled a healthy break away from the melancholic press organs that have generally characterized the public media channels of the Arab World, which mostly were mouthpieces of the



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

oppressive regimes of the region and which eventually froze all the potential trends toward achieving meaningful cultural progress in the region at large. With the SA being published in London, this only reinforced such an apparently misguided contention. That contention however easily evaporated early in the minds of this and many other observers, as the SABecame more inclined to glamorizing the Saudi regime and to the defense of the latter when any criticism thereof came from anywhere such criticism might arise. Again, that in itself was perhaps understandable (but not of course professionally forgivable), but what is now worrying is that the SA will go out of its way to nurture religious animosities and feed the readers with the dogmatic and horrendously mischievous political intuitions of the Wahhabi establishment as the latter seeks to project itself throughout the world as the only voice of Islam. It is not the intention of this article to proceed from where the grossly inaccurate "view" of SA's Mshari Zaydi left off, nor to add more fuel to the sectarian underpinnings of the latter's article (see <http://aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=2&id=13206>). On the contrary, one is somewhat baffled by the clearly obvious extremely official-like effort (i.e., more than just being "diplomatic") by Mshari to arouse unsubstantiated fears of the "Persian" Monster, which he has sought to personify in Hizb-Allah (which he erroneously but deliberately translated in the article as the "divine party", of Lebanon when in fact the correct definition is the "Party of Allah" or the "Party of God"), and the Huthis of Yemen. This observer does not have an interest in defending Iran or Hizb-Allah or even the Huthis, for I think it is obvious that Mshari is only echoing a dictated political position, rather than expressing a personally formulated commentary. I do think, however, that the SA should have displayed more maturity by avoiding being tied to such outlandish gross misinterpretations of regional events and simply putting the "article" as a clearly marked official view of the Saudi Government and their "temporal mentors", the Wahhabi Establishment, in whatever forms the latter takes in the Saudi power structure. Again, to avoid getting entangled in a meaningless dispute about the analytical merits of Mr. Za-eedi (to distinguish from Zeidi) political theological sermon, one cannot help but notice a strong similarity of the argumentative tools used in the cited article with the very same tools used by the International Zionist Establishment when it sends "feedback" or promotes "editorial content" to respond to any articles or views that are not in congruence with established Zionist dogma, temporally or politically. But, apparently for all intents and purposes, the Zionist threat does not pose a great worry to the Saudi regime or its temporal partners, as the Saudi view has come to be seen lately as being more eye to eye with the Israelis, on many matters, especially on the horridification of Iran as well as Hizb-Allah. From an Arab nationalistic perspective, the latter would be in conflict with the generally very favorable popular view that the overwhelming majority of the Arab masses have with respect to Hizb-Allah, or its highly respected leader if not liked, even by the Israelis, no matter how hard the Saudis and their "friends" try to discolor them. One would think that this is public relations in bad taste on the part of the Saudis, who usually project rationally sensitive reactions to public opinion. As for Iran, surprisingly, the attitude of the Iranians has been remarkably more cool and restrained (maybe even more Islamic), notwithstanding the unusually blunt (though perhaps unreasonably so) and curiously inimical indirect or "third" party commentary (e.g., the AS article) and subtly direct attitude (as reflected by official positions and covert operations) of the Saudi Government. When reflecting upon the past strong Saudi collaboration with, if not the prodding of Saddam Hussein, to unleash his unholy war against Iran in the early Eighties, one would think the Saudis would find it more palatable now to return to the more genuinely Islamic and fervently nationalistic attitude and policies and the universally more acceptable moderate religious inclinations diligently pursued by the late great Saudi leader King Faisal Bin Abd Al-Aziz Al-Saud, may his martyred soul rest in eternal peace and bliss. For then and only then, can Saudi Arabia play its rightful leadership role and remove all intentional and unintentional doubts and suspicions as to the genuine national and religious goals, which the Saudi regime truly strives to attain, and as to the sincerity of its sentiments towards its fellow Arabs and Moslems alike and to the real serious threatening issues confronting both, to which the Saudis eventually will be the most vulnerable.

Back to Yemen

With the recent launching of the unofficial Matawa'a, or religious police, in many of the major cities in Yemen, it looks like we are now a suburb of the Wahhabi Center of Dir'iya, the former stronghold of the Wahhabis in Nejd, now in Saudi Arabia, when their rising dominance in the Peninsula induced the Ottomans Turks to send a force led by the Albanian, Ibrahim Ali Pasha (brother of Mohammed Ali Pasha of Egypt), to chase them back to and eventually literally blow them out of Dir'iya itself in the Early 19th Century, because of the nuisance they have become then to many of the regions then under the domains of the Porte, especially in the Arabian Peninsula. It was not until the English returned the Saudis and their Matawa'a "Brethren" back to power in Nejd in the First Quarter of the last century that they again began to spread their misrepresentations of Islam throughout the world and look at the mess the world is in now because of it!

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

Between prosperous beginning and tragic end

By: Dr. Abdulqawi Al-Shamiri

Mr. President: you began your rule while the National Front was leading rebellion in several central and southern areas. And, as your rule is coming to an end, rebellion has expanded from Yemen's north region to the angry northern areas in the south. You began your rule by announcing compulsory recruitment in the army as a result of unrest and your fragile authority, and today as your rule is nearer and nearer to an end, you once again announced compulsory recruitment in the army as a result of political deadlock and fragility of your authority too.

You assumed power while Yemen was having two states with two different regimes and geographical areas. However, as your reign approaches an end, bad indicators imply that you will quit and leave Yemen without law and order. The nation is on the way to being fragmented into smaller entities, tribes, emirates, sultanates and gangs.

You started your rule receiving support from different nationalist and Islamist currents, but today as your rule is about to expire, all these currents are opposing your failed policies and the way you are managing the country.

You began your rule on the basis of tribal backing from Hashid tribes and its dignitaries, but as your rule is on its way to collapse, the Hashid Tribe is no longer the tribe known to Yemenis in the past. You have started to lose confidence even in your home district of Sanhan and among other family members including the sons of your brother the late Mohammed Abdullah Saleh.

Mr. President:

You began your rule welcoming the majority of Yemeni people regardless of their viewpoints, ideas and political affiliations. But now, your regime doesn't consider any Yemeni criticizing you or saying you are progressing on the wrong path. Your regime only welcomes influential individuals who loot public and private property and never cease illegal practices.

You began your rule while any quali-

fied Yemeni citizen is granted the job of a general manager or a ministerial undersecretary as long as he/she holds the required qualification. But, toward the end of your rule, no qualified and honest Yemeni citizen may not get even a modest job in one of your government's institutions.

Only those who ignored their national and human values, and are hypocrites or oppressors may join your ruling General People Congress (GPC). In fact, GPC is nothing more than a face or shadow for an invisible reality. Many GPC General Committee officials declared that GPC is merely a picture for a reality that serves irrelevant purposes.

You began your rule while Yemeni citizens used to see expatriation or immigration as hardship and stigma. But, as your rule is coming to an end, Yemenis see expatriation as a kind of honor or the only remedy to help them escape miserable living standards.

You began your rule while the Yemeni citizen was paid between USD 500 – 1000 in average per month and this amount had been covering the

monthly expenses needed by a person to lead a good life. Workers used to save some of their monthly income to buy houses or cars. But with the end of your reign is drawing nearer and nearer, the monthly salary paid to a teacher, doctor or engineer may not cover the cost of bread.

You began your rule while a primary school leaver is able to assume the responsibility of a governmental department, but toward the end of your rule, a university graduate is not eligible to be a clerk because he/she may not be able to read and write. Your authority teaches public service servants how to get promotions not how to learn by doing.

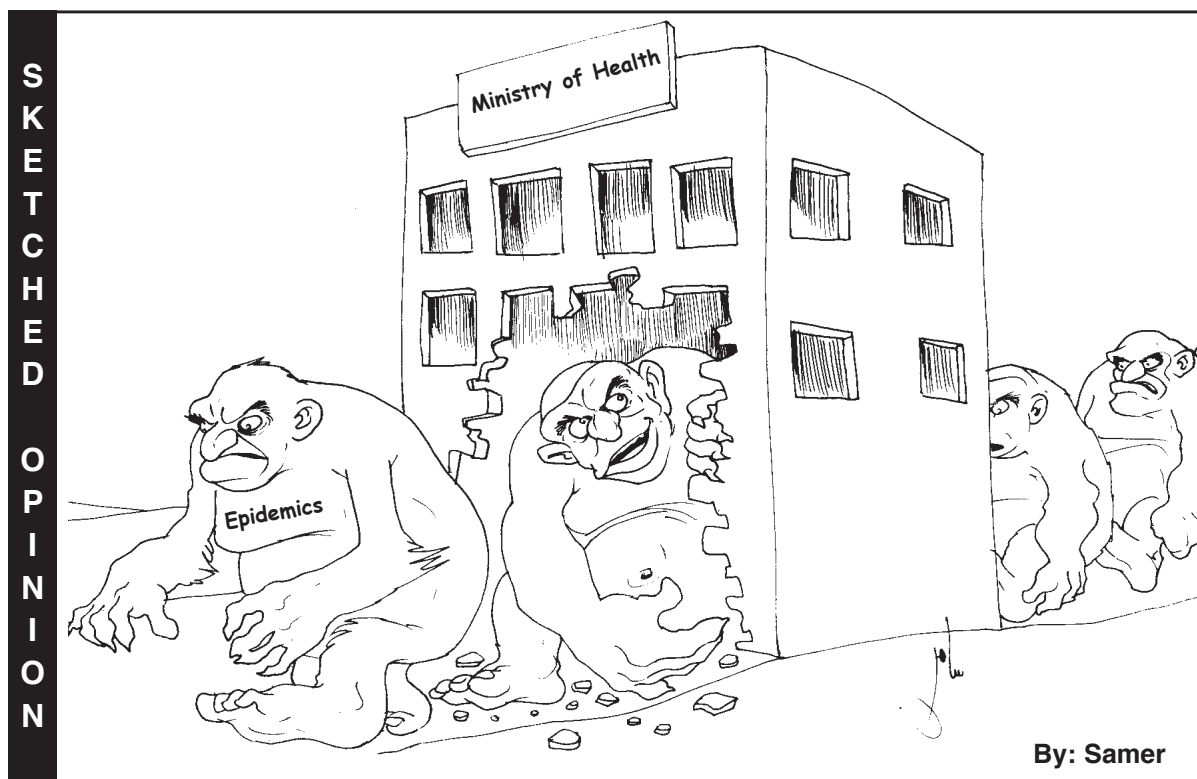
In addition, public sector servants learned how to extort and blackmail citizens until the extent of introducing a slogan in Yemen, which is "Be a skilled scholar in the art of hypocrisy and extortion in order to get promoted".

You began your rule like Ziyad Bari did when he unified Somalia and drove Italian and British occupiers off his territory, and Mopoto Siesko, the Uniter of Zaire, which is currently known as the Democratic Republic of Congo. Both African leaders unified their countries, but the disease of power and retaining it for decades has grown into malignant cancer that destroyed unities of both African states.

The same case even applies to Toto who unified Yugoslavia. When the Yugoslavian leader was infected with the chronic disease as a result of lengthy stay in power, the artilleries of his brain blew up. Consequently, the man suffered from internal bleeding in his brain, which led to his expiry. The country, which he unified, couldn't outlive him.

Mr. President:

Regretfully, no one of those around you has dared advise you that the situation is risky and continues worsening. No one has dared tell you that 'Yemen must be given precedence over Ali Abdullah Saleh.' Mr. President! You have turned to be like President George W Bush whose policy faces harsh criticism in and outside the United States of America, as he was deceived by the new conservatives around him.



By: Samer

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Olmert as King Solomon

By: David Harris with Adam Gonn
The Media Line

The biblical tale tells of two women who came to the Israelite king, Solomon, both claiming to be the mother of a babe in arms. "Then the king said, 'bring me a sword.' So they brought a sword for the king. He then gave an order: 'Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.' The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, 'Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!' But the other said, 'neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!'"

Solomon's wisdom was the substance that Israel's premier, Ehud Olmert, needed this week as he chaired the cabinet meeting that determined the fate of two soldiers kidnapped by Hizbullah two years ago, an act that led to the war between Israel and Hizbullah. "Every week at the cabinet meeting, sensitive and important issues arise that determine the daily life and quality of life in the State of Israel, and sometimes even life itself," Olmert told his ministerial colleagues and the world's media as the cabinet session began. "Even in the routine context of the importance of cabinet discussions, there is no doubt that

today's discussion is very special, exceptionally sensitive and perhaps has deep national-moral consequences that are not typical of the important discussions held around the Cabinet table."

As the politicians began their marathon session a small group of people gathered outside the Prime Minister's Office awaiting its outcome. Central among them were the immediate families of the kidnapped soldiers – Udi Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

Asked how every-day life has been these past 719 days, Goldwasser's mother, Miki, sums it up in a single word: "hell."

On Sunday the politicians decided to bring that hell to an end – for better or for worse.

The working assumption has been for some time that one or both of the soldiers were killed during the gun battle on the Lebanon border when they were captured by Hizbullah fighters. Now that Hizbullah is seemingly not asking for the release on hundreds of prisoners in exchange for the pair, Jerusalem is more convinced than ever that both are dead.

This has led to fierce debate in Israeli society as to the rights and wrongs of a prisoner exchange. Were Goldwasser and Regev still alive there is wall-to wall agreement in Israel that

pretty much any price would be worth paying for their release. However, many argue that it is wrong to free convicted murderers from Israeli jails in order to allow the remains of the two to be interred at home. Among those objecting to the deal are the heads of Israel's security services.

They remain opposed to the release of one Samir Quntar in exchange for the soldiers. Quntar is serving a life sentence after perpetrating what Israelis say is one of the country's most chilling terror attacks. On April 22nd 1979, Quntar entered Israel with three Lebanese companions on a dinghy and landed on the beach of Nahariyah, a coastal town in northern Israel.

Around midnight, after killing a police officer on the beach, the terrorists burst into a residential building using gunfire and grenades. The Haran family – Smadar and Danny with their two daughters aged 4 and 2 were in their apartment.

Smadar Haran gave her personal account of the story to the Washington Post in May 2003 in connection to the person who orchestrated the attack, Lebanese terrorist Abu 'Abbas.

As the terrorists stormed into the building, Haran's husband, Danny, raced out of the apartment with their older daughter seeking shelter. Smadar hid in a closet with the younger daugh-

ter covering the infant's mouth with her hand so as not to reveal the hideout to the terrorists, who were meanwhile raging about the apartment hunting for them.

Danny and his daughter Einat were captured. Eyewitnesses said later the terrorists took them to the beach where they shot Danny in the head and then smashed the four-year-old's skull with a rifle butt, Haran recalled.

Two of the terrorists were killed. The other two were arrested – one of them was Samir Quntar.

Smadar was later rescued from the hideout, but by then she had accidentally smothered her daughter to death.

The aim of the attack, Haran explained, and as later confirmed by the terrorists' dispatcher, was to protest against the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

Quntar's name has been linked to other terror attacks such as the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985. Quntar was one of 50 prisoners whom the hijackers demanded Israel release. That incident gained world-wide media coverage after the terrorists threw American tourist Leon Klinghoffer off the ship in his wheelchair. "We're dealing with much more than one criminal, Samir Quntar," says Goldwasser's father, Shlomo. "We're talking about values that are very important to Israeli youngsters who

are going into the army." This is arguably the key point made by the families of the kidnapped. They have repeatedly said over the last two years that even if all that remains are the bones of their loved ones the Israeli government and military must do all in their power to bring them home. The issue already threatens army morale. Recent conscripts and veteran soldiers tell The Media Line that it is commonplace for troops to maintain the belief that if captured, little will be done to obtain their freedom.

The push for the return of Goldwasser and Regev at whatever cost cannot be seen in the isolation of Israel's battle with its neighbor to the north and the Syrian- and Iranian-backed Hizbullah. The Olmert government is also attempting to secure the release after two years in captivity of Gilad Shalit, a soldier captured by Hamas and held in the Gaza Strip.

The negotiations are running concurrently with Hizbullah and Hamas. While The Media Line's Ramallah correspondent says the two are not directly linked, he adds Hamas is watching the Hizbullah deal with keen interest.

The parents of Shalit on the one hand and Goldwasser and Regev on the other, knowingly or otherwise, have been engaged in a battle of their own, trying to make sure that their

case is seen as top priority.

That has left Olmert and his negotiators with a huge headache. They have had to deal with both Hamas and Hizbullah at the same time, attempting to secure the freedom of all three soldiers, while averting a possible war to the north and pushing for a truce with Hamas and countless other armed factions in Gaza.

"At the end of the day we're talking about my little brother," says Ofer Regev. "After two years of not knowing, it's a terrible feeling."

Olmert, himself beset by personal problems, has had to act like Solomon for two years, determining the fate of children, with parents beseeching him to make "the right choice."

The nature of that decision was summed up by Olmert as he asked his ministers to look into their minds and souls as they voted on the Hizbullah deal: "In the end, we are the ministers who bear the supreme, collective responsibility for government decisions and we will need to bear this responsibility in such a way that we will be able to look in the eyes of the members of the families, and in the eyes of every citizen of the State of Israel, and mainly so that we will be able to face our own consciences and say that our consciences were clean at the time we made these critical decisions."

Is Yemen an ally in the war on terror?

By: MARK N. KATZ
Middle East Times

May 17 Washington Post op-ed piece by Ali H. Soufan entitled, "Coddling Terrorists" derided how Yemen has let free some of al-Qaida terrorists responsible for the October 2000 bombing of the USS Cole warship in the Yemeni port of Aden. In his article, Soufan (who played a key role in the FBI investigation of the bombing) declared, "If Yemen is truly an ally, it should act as an ally." Why, then, has the Yemeni government not done so, especially since al-Qaida threatens it as well as the United States?

The answer to this question requires some discussion of the complicated history of Yemen – a country that is little known not just in the West, but even in the Arab world which it is a part of.

What is now the Republic of Yemen came into being in 1990 with the unification of what was then North Yemen and South Yemen, known officially as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

South Yemen had a Marxist regime that was both pro-Soviet and anti-American. From South Yemen's independence from Britain in 1967 until unification in 1990 (and even afterward in a failed effort to re-establish South Yemeni independence in 1994), relations between North and South were highly contentious.

North Yemen, though, was not the "conservative" government that it and

united Yemen are often portrayed. The Arab nationalist revolution that ousted its monarchy in 1962 brought to power a "revolutionary" government that was often anti-American.

In visits I paid to North Yemen prior to unification, I was amazed at how much hostility and resentment government officials and ordinary citizens expressed toward the United States. Yemenis were especially incensed about American support for Israel, and more importantly, for Saudi Arabia – Yemen's neighbor with which it was frequently at odds over the course of the 20th century.

Yemen's one and only president since unification – Ali Abdallah Saleh – was previously president of North Yemen from 1978 to 1990.

During the Cold War, Saleh was a master at playing the United States and Saudi Arabia on the one hand off against the Soviet Union on the other. In what can only be considered a masterstroke of willness, he even succeeded in getting Soviet military assistance in combating a Marxist insurgency inside North Yemen that Soviet-backed Marxist South Yemen was supporting.

In the aftermath of a 1986 civil war between warring Marxist factions of the South Yemeni government and the collapse of communism a few years later, Saleh became the dominant Yemeni leader upon unification in May 1990.

Shortly thereafter, Saleh openly supported Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and confrontation with the United States and its allies. This move

was widely supported by the Yemeni public not so much because it was enamored of Saddam but because it strongly supported Saleh's anti-American and anti-Saudi stance.

In retrospect, of course, this move was a mistake. Saudi Arabia reacted by expelling up to 1 million Yemenis who had been working in the kingdom, leading both to an abrupt end to the remittances they had been sending home and to an unwelcome addition to the ranks of the unemployed in Yemen. The United States also sharply cut back its aid to Yemen. The U.S. administration of George H.W. Bush had taken pains to improve ties to Yemen before the war in Kuwait, and was especially bitter over what it regarded as the Saleh regime's betrayal.

True to form, however, Saleh managed to slowly re-ingratiate himself with the United States – the post-Cold War power that mattered most.

During the Bill Clinton administration, Saleh convinced many in Washington that he was steering Yemen toward free elections and tolerance. This paid off in the 1994 Yemeni civil war. Although Saudi Arabia backed the South Yemeni secessionists, the Clinton administration and the Western allies did not. After several weeks of fighting, Saleh's forces prevailed.

By the end of the Clinton administration, it was increasingly clear that Saleh was not serious about democratization. Many of the freedoms that he introduced earlier were greatly reduced by then.

However, the bombing of the USS Cole in October 2000 and Sept. 11 gave Saleh another means for currying favor with the incoming George W. Bush administration: the war on terror.

After initial hesitation, the Saleh regime cooperated with the FBI's investigation into the bombing of the USS Cole, convicting several of those whom the investigation found to be responsible for it.

After 9/11, Saleh went out of his way to cooperate with Washington, even allowing the United States to launch a targeted missile attack on its (as well as his) Islamist opponents in Yemen. His actions stood in stark contrast to the Saudi government's lack of cooperation with the United States in the aftermath of the 1996 Khobar Towers bombings and then of 9/11.

It is in the context of this previous history that Yemen's release of terrorists, including those convicted for taking part in the bombing of the USS Cole, needs be understood.

To begin with, Saleh's close cooperation with the United States was never popular in Yemen where not just the public but government officials have long viewed the U.S. with hostility.

While happy to receive American assistance in order to keep himself in power and get rid of some of his opponents, the problem for Saleh is that the closer he is to Washington, the more like an American "agent" (as some of al-Qaida's Yemeni affiliates have accused him of being) he appears.

American criticism of Yemen (including that by Soufan) for not cooperating with the United States in

the war on terror, by contrast, makes Saleh look good in the eyes of the Yemeni public.

There are also three other reasons for his changed behavior.

First, Saleh's cooperation with the Bush administration was strongest in the aftermath of the U.S.-led interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq when these appeared to be successful and there was talk in Washington about possibly intervening in Yemen.

Saleh's cooperation with Washington then may well have been intended to forestall this. By contrast, with the United States now preoccupied by Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and North Korea (not to mention a presidential election and a host of domestic issues), it is highly unlikely that the U.S. is going to intervene in Yemen. Thus, Saleh does not need to work nearly as hard to forestall this.

Second, while al-Qaida affiliates continue to be active in Yemen and are even targeting Yemeni government forces and installations, they are not Saleh's principal domestic opposition. More serious is the renewed demand in the former South for independence.

More serious still is the insurgency Saleh's forces have been fighting against the "Huthis" – a Shiite group in the far north of Yemen – since 2004 in a conflict that has reportedly led to thousands of casualties.

Just as in 1994 when Saleh enlisted Islamists to fight against southern secessionists, he now appears to be recruiting radical Sunnis in the fight against this Shiite group. While radical Sunnis may be America's principal

opponents, they are not Saleh's – at least, not right now.

Third, Saleh appears to be more interested in forestalling Yemenis linked to al-Qaida from either attacking his regime or fomenting opposition to it now and in the future than in punishing them for past attacks on Americans. Like the Pakistani government, he appears willing to reach a modus vivendi with Sunni radicals even if this leaves them free to focus on the United States – something that, however unfortunate, the Yemeni public does not appear particularly alarmed about.

With regard to Soufan's observation that, "If Yemen is truly an ally, it should act as an ally," the fact of the matter is: Yemen is not truly an ally. Its leader, President Saleh, cooperates with the United States when he sees it in his interests to do so, but not when he doesn't.

The trick for Washington, then, is to figure out how to induce Saleh and Yemenis generally to cooperate with the United States.

As has already been seen, this is no easy task. Avoiding failure at this will require that U.S. government officials not assume Yemen is an ally, because they think it should be or even because its government says it is, but that they be well aware of the factors that need to be overcome to obtain – and retain – even limited Yemeni cooperation with the U.S. in the war on terror.

Mark N. Katz is a professor of government and politics at George Mason University.

The world after Bush

By Chris Patten

There is a marvelous painting by Brueghel in the Brussels art gallery. The British poet, W.H. Auden, was sufficiently impressed to write a poem about it.

The painting shows Icarus, his wings melted, plunging to a watery grave. No one seems very interested. The world goes on, the peasants continue plowing their fields, getting on with their lives. They show no interest in the dramatic fall of Icarus.

Real life often seems simply to tick on like that, regardless of headline news and momentous events. So President George W. Bush will go back to Crawford, Texas at the end of the year. Will anyone notice? Does anyone care anymore? His wings scorched from Iraq to Guantánamo, Bush already seems to be yesterday's story; his minders carefully steer audiences into the front rows at public events,

lest the absence of interest in what he is doing and saying becomes too obvious.

The reason we should take more notice of his departure is not what his absence will make possible, but what will remain absolutely the same. Consider four examples.

First, we will still have to find better ways of managing the world's economy, reducing its inequities, and coping with its environmental hazards. Most importantly, American and European leadership is required to avoid a lurch into protectionism and the consequent killing off of the Doha trade round.

At the same time, the West needs to develop together a negotiating position on carbon emissions and climate change that will engage China and India. It will have to take account of its historic responsibility for today's global warming, of size of population, and of present economic strength.

Second, the Palestine-Israel struggle will continue. Moreover, the American

presidential campaign has shown that it is not only the absence of a responsible hands-on American policy in the last seven years that has contributed to today's bloody stand-off. Even Senator Barack Obama, who has demonstrated a clear commitment to building a more open-minded, less unilateral relationship with the rest of the world, has said things about Palestine and Israel that would appear to rule out the sort of initiatives required for a peace agreement.

Indeed, far from criticizing continuing Israeli settlement of the West Bank, Obama has pledged his support – more than some members of the Israeli Cabinet have done – to Jerusalem as an undivided capital of Israel. This looks like a green light for all those intransigent supporters of the settlers who have campaigned for the development of East Jerusalem deep into the West Bank, a line of settlements running down to the Dead Sea. It is difficult to see how any future American diploma-

cy based on this approach will attract Palestinian support. So the Middle East will continue to dominate diplomatic argument and debate.

Third, nuclear proliferation will still plague us. How do we deal conclusively with North Korea, which probably already possesses a handful of nuclear weapons? How do we manage our relationship with Iran, which may – or may not – wish to develop a military nuclear capability as well as civil nuclear power?

These questions, with all the knock-on effects in East and West Asia, must be tackled in the run-up to discussions about the renewal of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2010.

The nuclear powers that signed the NPT believe it is solely about preventing proliferation. Other countries argue that it is about disarmament, and that the nuclear countries have clearly agreed to work towards giving up their nuclear weapons. This fudge has been the foundation for the international

approach to proliferation. It now seems clear that if we want a non-proliferation treaty with more teeth – for example, tougher monitoring and surveillance – countries with nuclear weapons will have to honor what others believe is their side of an unfair bargain.

Finally, even after Bush – who became so unpopular in Europe (not always fairly) – the European Union will find it hard to become the partner in tackling global problems that America needs and seeks.

The latest row about the so-called Lisbon Treaty, caused by its rejection in a referendum in Ireland, reminds everyone of Europe's main problem. Europe sometimes seems more concerned about its own institutional arrangements and internal affairs than about its global responsibilities. But global poverty, environmental catastrophe, proliferation, Afghanistan and the Middle East are not problems that can be put on hold while Europe talks to itself.

Moreover, Europe too often gives the impression that its citizens can be taken for granted. If what Europe's leaders decide among themselves is criticized or rejected by those who elect them, it just shows – the elite seems to suggest – how correct it was to ignore them in the first place. But Europe cannot be built on this democratic deficit. The EU must increase the involvement of its own voters in endorsing and supporting the decisions taken in Brussels. This lesson needs to be learned fast.

So, Bush and Cheney will go. But a lot of the same old problems will be around. Welcome to the real world.

Lord Patten is a former Governor of Hong Kong and European Commissioner for External Affairs. He is currently Chancellor of Oxford University and Co-Chair of the International Crisis Group. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008. www.project-syndicate.org

Investing in Higher Education: A deal gone bad?

By: YemenTimes Staff

The third five-year strategic development plan of Yemen puts great emphasis on the improvements in education, and how important it is to make substantial investments in the availability and quality of education if this strategic plan is to succeed. The reference to education is not limited to theoretical development plans and strategies but it is an integral part of any political discourse referring to a brighter future for the Yemeni people.

As translated into the national budget, investment in education has substantially increased as a percentage increasing from 10.2% in 2002 to 14.17% in 2006, similarly, 18% of all new infrastructure investments were in the education sector, in terms of construction of schools and colleges as well as training staff, equipment, and other educational investments. However, the increased investments, especially for primary education, are still short of the need according to a recent UN survey, which indicates that Yemen needs all the help the international community can offer in order to achieve the millennium challenge goal and diminish illiteracy,

and reduce the gender gap in school enrollment.

But where does higher education fall into all this? The five-year plan puts an emphasis on the construction of new colleges and facilities, establishment of two new universities, but puts very little emphasis on catching up with the rest of the world on the most advanced learning techniques and updating curricula, resulting in severe hardships and shocks for university graduates when they join the job market. Official statistics indicate that there are over 200,000 university graduates who are either unemployed seeking employment or underemployed, while a total of 11,157 university graduates were able to find jobs during 2007. In this report, YemenTimes examines further that is needed for improving investments in Higher Education from the university lecturers and students as well.

There are eight public universities in Yemen, hosting 87 facilities out of which 50 are theoretical and 37 are technical, providing diplomas, degrees, and post-graduate certifications, graduating around 25,000 students every academic year, out of which 33 % are female graduates.

Professors vs. Students vs. Employers
University professors indicate that

learning is the student's primal responsibility, and a significant amount of this learning should be self-driven by students, with a little guidance from their professors, says Dr. AbdulRahim Al-Shawri, professor in the faculty of media, adding that students complain they their academic studies do not qualify them for the job market, but during the course of the study, students are not concerns with getting qualified for the job market, but their primal concern is how to get a higher grade in their exams.

Further reiterates Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sho'aibi, dean of the faculty of commerce, stating that if the student is to succeed in his life he has to depend on his own effort, not the professor's teaching effort, and a student must prepare himself for the role he is going to take thereafter, and students simply do not have that sort of vision.

But students have a very different perspective on the subject matter, believing that their enrollment in academic education is the means to employment and a better life, says Mohammed Al-Hadhri, student in the faculty of arts: "It isn't my fault that the curricula is not relevant or the professors cannot relate to the job market, when I am here to learn about a specific subject, there shouldn't be a

very huge gap between what we study in the university and what is out there, this makes enrolling in university a waste of time and a very questionable step".

Huda Al-Sarri, student in the faculty of engineering, says that university education teaches you only the basics of science that is usually not relevant in the job market, you no longer need to know algebra to perform math, a calculator and a computer will do that for you, but I spent a year learning stuff I know I will never use on the job market.

Hazim Saleh agrees adding: "university degrees should be result focused, and this learning process should aim at qualifying students to be able to join the job market, not teach things that are no longer relevant, just because it is in the curricula or the professor knows a great deal about it in the 70s, why must we?"

AbdulRab Salman, pharmaceutical student, disagrees, stating that in his major the job market only requires one to know the names of the brands of the drugs, and is far behind what is taught in the university, therefore energetic and creative students are crushed by the realities of the job market and are over qualified for retailing drugs per their commercial names.

Afra Azan, who work in an

employment agency, states that there is huge difficulty for students to exhibit their uniqueness from others, especially since grades are not much of a determining factor given experience with high scoring students who do not well with employers. A university should produce sophisticated humans, not glossy certificates, and unfortunately this is what I see.

AbdulBari Rajeh, a human resources manager in a local industrial company, says that resumes and qualifications are very misleading, employers seek staff who have experience, as experienced staff do not need much training and are more mature to deal with, comparing to fresh graduates who think that their qualifications are worth while.

What needs to be done?

If the government's vision is to succeed, a fundamental change in how higher education is conceptualized, administered and implemented should take place, students feel frustrated as their results of their education disappoints their expectations, while professors believe that students are not doing their proper role in the educational process, while employers continue to seek able staff and they are not getting that from the current educational process.

Business In Brief

Yemen Oil Exports Exceed US\$ 2 billion

Central Bank Statistics indicated that Yemen's oil sales during the period January – May 2008 has reached US\$ 2.1 billion, compared to US\$ 1.015 billion during the same period of 2007. Furthermore, Oil production in the same period has increased from 16.86 million barrels in 2007 to 19.61 million barrels in 2008.

Social Affairs: One Million Yemenis on welfare

Minister of Social Affairs Amat Al-Razak Hummad has stated that over one million Yemeni people are receiving welfare assistance, thereby benefiting another four million persons indirectly who experience improvements in their quality of life. Yemen's welfare systems provides assistance ranging from US\$ 15 – 100 per family.

FAO grants US\$ 500,000 for Yemen's Agricultural sector

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has granted US\$ 500,000 to improve the usage of improved seeds among Yemen's small scale farmers. This grant aims at increasing Yemen's agricultural production and in turn improve food security in Yemen.

Yemen to receive US\$ 34 million for water and sewage systems

The government of Yemen will receive 10 million Kuwaiti Dollars (US\$ 34.6 million) as a loan from the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, in order to construct Aden's Water and Sewage systems.

GIA registers 85 new projects in Q2, 2008

The General Investment Authority has registered 85 new projects during the period April – June 2008 (Q2). The new projects are worth 106 billion Riyals and will provide around 3500 new work opportunities.

JITCOM Information Technology Exhibition launched

Organized by Apollo Expos, JITCOM Al-Jazeera Information Technology exhibition was launched by Prime Minister Mujawar last week. The exhibition includes 33 participating companies exhibiting their latest technologies and offering special sale discounts to visitors.

The End of Neo-liberalism?

The world has not been kind to neo-liberalism, that grab-bag of ideas based on the fundamentalist notion that markets are self-correcting, allocate resources efficiently, and serve the public interest well. It was this market fundamentalism that underlay Thatcherism, Reaganomics, and the so-called "Washington Consensus" in favor of privatization, liberalization, and independent central banks focusing single-mindedly on inflation.

For a quarter-century, there has been a contest among developing countries, and the losers are clear: countries that pursued neo-liberal policies not only lost the growth sweepstakes; when they did grow, the benefits accrued disproportionately to those at the top.

Though neo-liberals do not want to admit it, their ideology also failed another test. No one can claim that financial markets did a stellar job in allocating resources in the late 1990's, with 97% of investments in fiber optics taking years to see any light. But at least that mistake had an unintended benefit: as costs of communication were driven down, India and China became more integrated into the global economy.

But it is hard to see such benefits to the massive misallocation of resources to housing. The newly constructed homes built for families that could not afford them get trashed and gutted as millions of families are forced out of their homes, in some communities, government has finally stepped in – to remove the remains. In others, the blight spreads. So even those who have been model citizens, borrowing prudently and maintaining their homes, now find that markets have driven down the value of their homes beyond their worst nightmares.

To be sure, there were some short-term benefits from the excess investment in real estate: some Americans (perhaps only for a few months) enjoyed the pleasures of home ownership and living in a bigger home than they otherwise would have. But at what a cost to themselves and the world economy! Millions will lose their life savings as they lose their homes. And the housing foreclosures have precipitated a global slowdown. There is an increasing consensus on the prognosis: this downturn will be prolonged and widespread.

Nor did markets prepare us well for soaring oil and food prices. Of course, neither sector is an example of free-



By: Joseph E. Stiglitz

market economics, but that is partly the point: free-market rhetoric has been used selectively – embraced when it serves special interests and discarded when it does not.

Perhaps one of the few virtues of George W. Bush's administration is that the gap between rhetoric and reality is

narrower than it was under Ronald Reagan. For all Reagan's free-trade rhetoric, he freely imposed trade restrictions, including the notorious "voluntary" export restraints on automobiles.

Bush's policies have been worse, but the extent to which he has openly served America's military-industrial complex has been more naked. The only time that the Bush administration turned green was when it came to ethanol subsidies, whose environmental benefits are dubious. Distortions in the energy market (especially through the tax system) continue, and if Bush could have gotten away with it, matters would have been worse.

This mixture of free-market rhetoric and government intervention has worked particularly badly for developing countries. They were told to stop intervening in agriculture, thereby exposing their farmers to devastating competition from the United States and

Europe. Their farmers might have been able to compete with American and European farmers, but they could not compete with US and European Union subsidies. Not surprisingly, investments in agriculture in developing countries faded, and a food gap widened.

Those who promulgated this mistaken advice do not have to worry about carrying malpractice insurance. The costs will be borne by those in developing countries, especially the poor. This year will see a large rise in poverty, especially if we measure it correctly.

Simply put, in a world of plenty, millions in the developing world still cannot afford the minimum nutritional requirements. In many countries, increases in food and energy prices will have a particularly devastating effect on the poor, because these items constitute a larger share of their expenditures.

The anger around the world is palpable. Speculators, not surprisingly, have borne more than a little of the wrath. The speculators argue: we are not the cause of the problem; we are simply engaged in "price discovery" – in other words, discovering – a little late to do much about the problem this year – that there is scarcity.

But that answer is disingenuous. Expectations of rising and volatile prices encourage hundreds of millions of farmers to take precautions. They might make more money if they hoard a little of their grain today and sell it later; and if they do not, they won't be able to

afford it if next year's crop is smaller than hoped. A little grain taken off the market by hundreds of millions of farmers around the world adds up.

Defenders of market fundamentalism want to shift the blame from market failure to government failure. One senior Chinese official was quoted as saying that the problem was that the US government should have done more to help low-income Americans with their housing.

I agree. But that does not change the facts: US banks mismanaged risk on a colossal scale, with global consequences, while those running these institutions have walked away with billions of dollars in compensation.

Today, there is a mismatch between social and private returns. Unless they are closely aligned, the market system cannot work well.

Neo-liberal market fundamentalism was always a political doctrine serving certain interests. It was never supported by economic theory. Nor, it should now be clear, is it supported by historical experience. Learning this lesson may be the silver lining in the cloud now hanging over the global economy.

Joseph E. Stiglitz, Professor at Columbia University, received the 2001 Nobel Prize in economics. He is the co-author, with Linda Bilmes, of The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Costs of the Iraq Conflict. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

British Embassy Sana'a Visa Section

The Visa Section of the British Embassy will be closed to the public between Saturday 26 July and Saturday 1 August 2008.

During this period no applications for visas will be processed.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Visa Section
British Embassy
Sana'a
9 July 2008

VACANCIES

A pioneering company in oil services seeks to recruit the following:

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- Minimum years experience at electrical fields, as mentioned above.
- Ability to use the computer system.
- Fluent in Arabic and English written and oral.
- Ability to optimize teamwork.

MECHANIC ENGINEER

Job description:

- Supervise to set up, maintain and operate the different types of pumps compressors, diesel generators.
- Any other works requested by management and related to his qualification and experience.

Profile:

- Bsc in electrical Engineering
- Minimum years experience of set up, operate and maintenance the mechanic equipment the different types of pumps compressors, diesel generators.
- Fluent in Arabic and English written and oral.
- Ability to optimize teamwork.

CIVIL ENGINEER

Job description:

- Oil reads construction
- Oil wells and camps location construction
- Design executes and supervises on different civil works activities.
- Any other works requested by management and related to his qualification and experience.

Profile:

- Bsc in Civil Engineering
- From three to five years experience at oil and gas industry.
- Fluent in Arabic and English written and oral.
- Ability to optimize teamwork.

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- The summer program is open to MANARAT and non-MANARAT students, starting on the 28th of June and ending on the 30th of July 2008. The program will run from Saturday to Wednesday, from 8:00 a.m till 1:00 p.m.
- Children will also have the opportunity to embark on our weekly educational and fun trips.
- Our summer program is divided into two categories; the Early Years Program and the Activities / Enrichment Program.



EARLY YEARS PROGRAM (2-3)

A fun and educational program aimed at strengthening their knowledge and creative skills. The program will include arts and crafts, story-telling, song and dance, outdoor games and many more surprises.

THE ACTIVITIES / ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (4-13)

Children will be divided into their relevant age group. Each group will be offered a variety of basic and extra-curricular subjects to choose from, which they will follow throughout the program. "MANARAT Summer", is a well rounded fun-filled experience that every child will enjoy and remember.

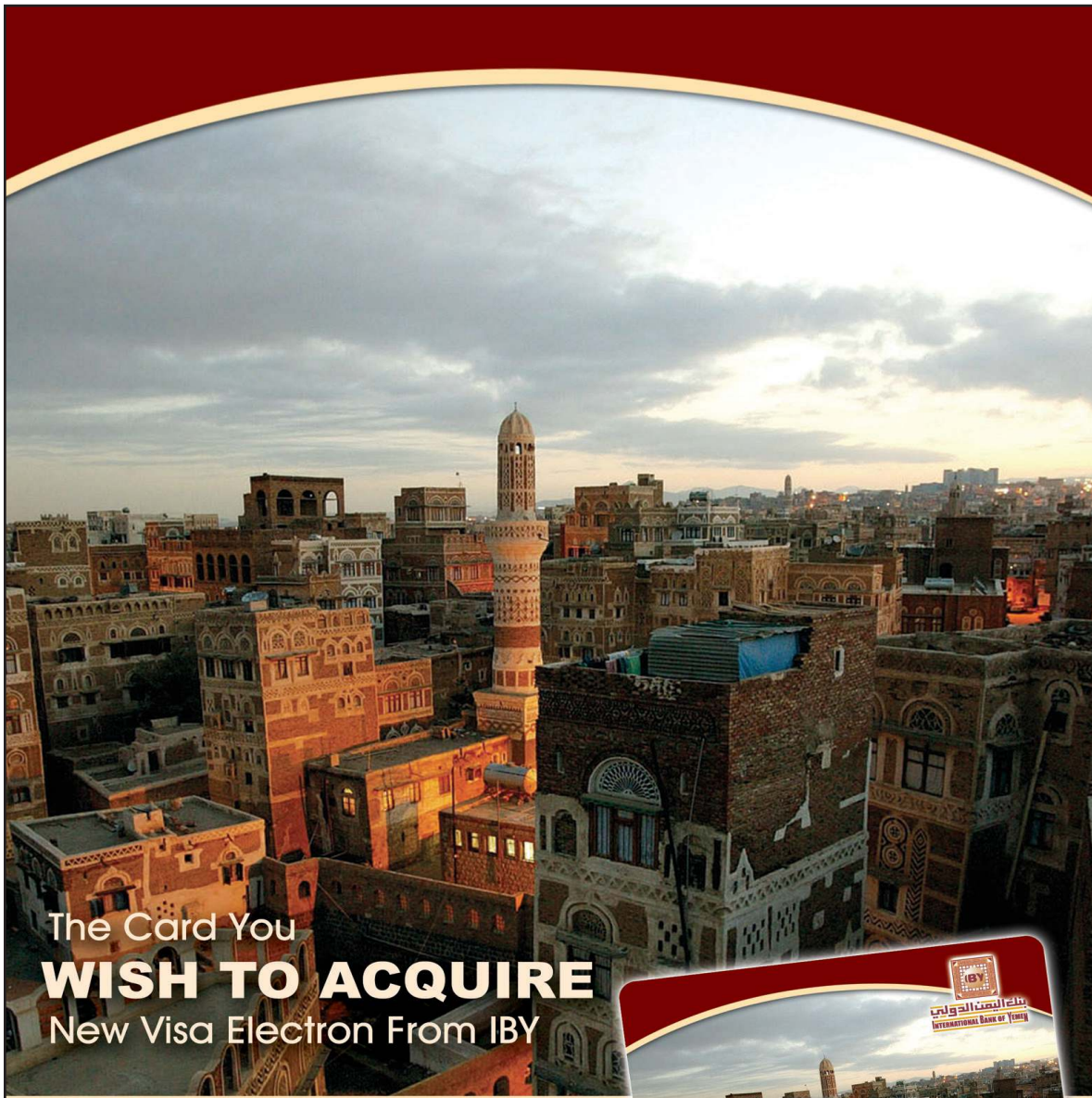
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Yemeni Women: Poor Victims of solid Customs

By: Fuad Hazaea
alsharabifuad@yahoo.com

Yemeni Women are victims of solid customs that accept no change. While the whole world is moving from a men-based authority to a shared-based authority, Yemeni people have their unique ideology regarding this matter: ignorant and illiterate women can be controlled easier, a false statement with an exemplary truth to its stupid believers. Women are only a mere object to be enjoyed, controlled and enslaved by the perfect man.

Women for men as the night for the day, they complement each other: two sides for the same coin. Therefore, equal education is the cornerstone for a well-balanced society. A one-legged nation is weak and unconscious: never will it stand strong and still. As a great leader is said to be backed by a great woman, a prospered nation is backed by the significant contribution of its womanpower. Without promoting women's rules in all aspects of life, Yemen will never be civilized and

developed.

Not all Yemenis have a short-scoped mentality but unfortunately most of them do. A baby-girl is condemned when born as if the girl is a sin and the boy is a mighty virtue. For some Yemenis, especially in the rural and tribal areas, to educate a girl is to bring up a snake that will poison the respected reputation of the family. Putting an end for an expected dishonor, girls are prohibited from their basic rights, to be educated. Why a girl should be educated when having half a brain! She should be kept home, working hard for the comfort and happiness of the lucky man.

If the soft-skin sex is such a shame, should not we be ashamed of our beloved mothers, darling wives, adored daughters and precious sisters? The importance of women's rule in the society is handicap without education. Change is not a bestowed gift but an outcome of cultivation and education. However, illiteracy rate among Yemenis is very high. Many people do not know the fact that women are as important as men. Many families beg in the streets for food whereas they

have potential source that was not invested.

During my studies in the USA, I lived for a month with a 76-old woman who knows how to fly, swim, drive, ski...etc, but in Yemen a 21-old girl does not know how to open the door of the car. What happened to our Queens whose rights were protected by our religion but corrupted by our customs? Taking your circumstances into consideration, dear mother and sister, I do not expect you to be treated like the western woman but I expect you to be treated as a human being.

Though there are many laws that protect women rights, no vital improvement can be traced. As mentioned previously, Yemeni people have their unique ideology regarding all matters but unluckily they will never be recognized. I do not say that our customs are the only factor of this marginal situation of our queens but the most significant one.

Therefore, dear reader it is your responsibility to cultivate all around you about the women's rights and their importance for the nation and the family alike.

Smart vs. chic

By: Noorin Mohammed Hassan

Hurriedly eating breakfast while watching "BBC News," reading local newspapers on the bus and searching the web before I go to bed has become my daily ritual.

These rituals have replaced other rituals such as standing in front of the mirror for an hour, polishing my nails in the bus station, reading about my seasonal colors on the bus and last but not least, my very own cucumber night mask.

Replacing these rituals was simply my way of retaliating for not being an aware or involved citizen over the past years or, to be more accurate, since my teen years, since at that time, I was never interested in any issue, whether global or local.

My friends and I simply disdained any form of media that discussed serious issues. In our dictionary, serious meant boring, "global issue" was a synonym for "none of my business," politics was a word for the art of deception and news reports were, if I may say, the art of marketing lies. For those of us watching Al Jazeera or any other news channel, it was an extremely dramatic and monotonous reality show that would alter our mood.

Now, this doesn't mean that everything I perceive is necessarily true or that seeing injuries, starvation, earthquakes and human miseries doesn't bother me; rather, I simply realized that not knowing about these events won't make them disappear.

Just today, I was watching an interview with Mohamed ElBaradei (director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency) about Iran's true potential when it comes to owning weapons of mass destruction and how

other rivals deal with it.

The old me would've thought watching a program like "Bisarah Ahla" and discussing the colors of summer was more interesting.

However, when you watch such interviews, not only does your awareness bloom, but also other feelings, such as indignation, because while Iran is considered as an unpredictable threat that should be disarmed, Israel seems to have every right to own such destructive weapons.

Maybe this is why, along with numerous other reasons, determining one's seasonal colors seemed more appealing to me.

Every day, the news channels show excruciating images of starving people and homeless citizens. Once again, the old me would've preferred watching a reality show about spoiled rich kids living in Beverly Hills, depicting nothing other than their normal lives; a show where watching these brats get in style, party and drive around is as far as it goes.

It's not that women don't care about the world, nor is it that we're self-centered, although we sometimes can be superficial and think that just by avoiding exposure to such issues will make them better.

An entire episode of the show "Al-Wasta" hosted by Tareq Al-Suwaidan was devoted to discussing the phenomenon of lack of prominent women. However, for a brief moment, Al-Suwaidan reprimanded the women for being superficial, wondering how a makeup set could be more important to them than the Palestinian issue.

Now, looking back, I can't quite understand why a broken nail could ruin my day or why finding the perfectly suitable seasonal colors for me could lift my spirits so high. However, it's not – as Al-Suwaidan asserted –

kneeling will be sick at the core."

St. Thomas Aquinas and Pope John Paul II also have stated that only a priest, who stands as an intermediary between God and the people, should touch the sacred host because only his hands are anointed especially for this task at his ordination.

Kneeling and receiving Communion on the tongue assists the devotion of the faithful and introduces the sense of mystery of the Mass more easily. Hopefully, all Catholic bishops and priests will follow the pope's lead in helping to restore in the faithful a more profound sense of the sacred.

Paul Kokoski
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Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
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To marry educated or uneducated woman??!

As the title suggests, the article raises a frequently asked question. Though I have my personal viewpoint to answer, I will first try to shed light on the viewpoints of others, supporting them with real stories from the society. As usual, the topic is left open for all readers to give their opinions with reasons, referring to real stories as supporting examples.

In this article, I will start with shedding light on the opinions that look at the matter of marrying uneducated woman better than marrying educated ones. The opinions which support marrying educated women will be discussed in issues to come.

Some men always recommend the marriage of uneducated women, claiming that life goes easier than marrying educated ones. For them, uneducated woman accepts things as they are, rarely rejects things even if they are not acceptable to them. "An uneducated woman", said a husband, "can be framed and designed as the man wants". By this he means that the uneducated woman is somehow ignorant of many things like women rights, women freedom, gender equality, and so on. As a result, the man rarely faces problems related to these which usually turn the marriage life to hell.

An educated woman, on the other

hand, realizes everything around her. She can not be deceived or easily convinced if she believes in something else. "If the husband does not allow his educated wife to go on a picnic with her friends, for example, she will make lectures on humanity, the psychology of humans, human rights and so on", said that husband. If this is the case, such a husband should accept either to let her go, or to let her go after being forced to listen to a number of lectures which may continue some days after going on that picnic.

An educated woman thinks it is her right to share the man everything in life. That is really nice. The idea of sharing sometimes disturbs the rest of life when the man takes decisions without consulting his wife. For most of the uneducated women, on the other hand, sharing life with the husband has a different meaning.

To distinguish between the two cases, let us refer to this real example. A man, I personally know, bought some pieces of furniture for his home. He did so when he got some money, thinking that it was better to buy things for home rather spending the money for useless things. He thought that his wife would thank him for that. But the moment he reached home, she rushed with anger towards him, shouting at him for not taking her opinion before buying such

things. He tried to convince her in many ways, but she kept on repeating that it is her right to share everything with him even if in buying furniture for home. As a result, a problem was created, and for more than two weeks the husband and the wife were in dispute for some time.

The other one is a friend of mine who told me that he used to do many things like this, but no problem was created because his wife is uneducated, as he claimed. "I always buy things for home without telling my wife before", he says. As he said, she never tells him that it is her right or not, but on the contrary she feels happy when the husband buys such things for home instead of wasting money in useless things.

In addition to the two cases which advocates marrying uneducated women, there are other opinions which will be discussed in the next articles. Responses to this topic are warmly welcomed to be sent to the newspaper's contacts or my email as shown above. Finally, it is important to remind that I have my own point of view which will be stated when I conclude the discussion of this topic.

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

Vision becoming reality

By: Somaya Al-Shameery
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Faculty of Education
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In this world, we see the unbearable, the undesirable and the unbelievable. We sometimes can't find suitable terminology to help us express what we feel about our surroundings and current situations; instead, silence often is our reaction.

We as humans may encounter tempting offers or situations and we usually accept, but unfortunately, without realizing the consequences of our actions, we tend to make mistakes. This is the nature of humanity. Only one with an awakened conscience will have at least slight regret and realize what he or she has done.

However, such mistakes don't just affect us as individuals only; rather, they have major effects upon our society as a whole. This is because we are the ones who make this society; we are the decision makers.

If we do something negative, it will negatively affect our society; however, if we manage to change it from negative to positive, of course, it will have a positive affect. Most importantly, it will teach subsequent generations how to make the right decisions, how to be truthful and trustworthy and how to finish what we started, but with a clear vision of tomorrow.

We adults, adolescents, children and the elderly should be sympathetic and grateful to each other, joining our hands together to make a better society and try making our vision become reality. "We must give in order to receive."

Remember that simply existing in this laborious and abhorrent world means you can do the impossible and the unbelievable and you can make a magnificent change from worse to better, but what's needed is the INTENTION, so you choose...



Vacancy

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- Must be able to travel to targeted governorates and spend a few days in each on a regular basis.
- Must have good computer skills, and reporting skills.
- Ideally will have some knowledge of the health sector in Yemen

Due to the nature of the project, we are accepting applications from female candidates only.

Deadline for application: 23rd July 2008
Please send a CV in English to: Dr Khadija Mustafa , Fax 01- 425906, email :mustafakhadija@yahoo.com

Papal Masses

I wish to commend Pope Benedict XVI for mandating that communicants kneel and receive Communion on the tongue during papal Masses. This is not a return to tradition, but rather an affirmation of current church norms.

Receiving Communion in the hand while standing is what church middle management abusively and hurriedly introduced in the 1960s as an ecumenical gesture to Protestants and others who don't believe in the actual presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Pope Benedict XVI previously has pointed out that "the one who learns to believe also learns to kneel, and a faith or a liturgy no longer familiar with



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 موبيل: ٢٢٢٤٧٧١٢ ص.ب: ٦٨٤٦١١

- للإيجار شقة أنيقة ونظيفة - غرفتين نوم - صالة طعام - غرف جلوس - حمام - مطبخ - الموقع شارع العدل تقاطع القيادة أمام وزارة الأوقاف

- للتواصل: ٧٢٣٥٠٣٥٧١
- للإيجار: شقة ديلوكس- مؤنثة وأنيقة جداً - تحتوي صالة كبيرة تحوي استقبال شرقي وغربي وغرفتين نوم + بلوكتين + حمام ومطبخ + حوش - الموقع عدن - المعلا - حي حافون الراقي - الإيجار: ٤٠٠ دولار
- للتواصل: ٧١٢٩٧٠٢٧٠ - ٢٤٣٢٣٠
- للإيجار: شقة مؤنثة - الموقع: شارع القصر الدور الثالث - ٤ غرف - صالة - مطبخ - حمام - مؤنثة بجميع متطلبات أي شقة للسكن (تلفزيون ٣٠ بوصة ، ستالايت ، مرواح سقف - تلفون ألعاب للأطفال على السطوح)
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧١٤٧١٤٥

- مطلوب مترجمات غير متفرغات للعمل مع وكالة ترجمة دولية بنظام المراسلة. يرجى إرسال السيرة الذاتية إلى: hr@hacs-yemen.com

- مطلوب للعمل في الفترة المسائية مهندسين خريجين كلية الهندسة لتدريس مادة اتوكاد AUTO CAD للتواصل: ٤٧٢٩٣٧ - ٧٣٣٦٥٠٠٤٠

- باحثون عن وظيفة
- فايز الوصابي - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - كلية التربية - جامعة الحديدة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يجد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر - يبحث عن عمل في شركة أو في أي مجال آخر

- للتواصل: ٧٣٤٦١٥٦١٩
- بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة صنعاء - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - النظام المحاسبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت) - خبرة في مجال الحسابات والمراجعة والإدارة.

- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٧٢٦١٥٤
- مهندسة حاسوب - جامعة الحديدة - دبلوم لغة إنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال للتواصل: ٧١٢١٩٥٦٣٥ - ٧١١٦٤١٢٦٧

عقارات

- للبيع: أراضي بمنطقة جدر - أمانة العاصمة - لبن حر ومخططة - السعر: ٥٥٠,٠٠٠ للبنة الواحدة
- للتواصل: ٧١١٥٩٣٤٥٩

سيارات

- للبيع: سيارة هونداي - اكست - مجمعة - سكان هوا - زجاج أوتوماتيك - مكيف - السعر: ٦٥٠٠\$
- للتواصل: ٧١١٥٩٣٤٥٩

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 الأصمحي - بيت يوس - مكتب ٦٧٩١٦٦ - سيار ٧٣٣٤٧٢٩٨٤

فلل للبيع

* فيلا جديد، دور واحد، حي المثلث الذهبي، مساحة الأرضية حوالي ٦.٦٦ لبن حر، ٣٢ مليون ريال
 * فيلا جديد، دور واحد، حي الإسكان، ٥ غرف، حمامين، مساحة الأرضية ٧ لبن حر، ٣٥ مليون ريال.
 * دور ويدرور، شارعين ركن، المثلث الذهبي، ١١ البنت حر، ٦ غرف، ٣ حمامات ومطبخ، اليدرور كامل، ٥٥ مليون ريال
 * دور ويدرور جديد، ١٣ لبنه، شارعين ركن، ٦ غرف، ٣ حمامات ومطبخ، كبير، تشطيب ممتاز، حي المهندسين، ٨٠ مليون
 * دور ويدرور جديد، كبير، ٦ غرف، ٣ حمامات ومطبخ، ١٥ لبنه، حي المثلث الذهبي، ٧٥ مليون ريال
 * دورين ويدرور، جديد، ٧ لبن، ٦٥ مليون ريال
 * دورين ويدرور، حي شميلة، قريب جداً من السوق، ١١ لبنه حر، شارع ١٤ متر. سعر البيع ٨٠ مليون ريال

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- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٥٣٠٠٠
- مطلوب موظف أو موظفة بالمواصفات التالية - إجادة استخدام الكمبيوتر إجادة تامة - إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - حسن التعامل مع الآخرين - الإنضباط بمواعيد الدوام - ترسل السيرة الذاتية إلى إيميل

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مستشفيات

فنادق

فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٧٧-١/٢
 فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠٠
 فندق موفيميك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
 فندق تاج سبا ت: ٠١-٣٣٣٧٣٢
 فندق ريلاكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٨٧١١
 فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٣٣٥٠-٠٦٢١٥/٨

معاهد

معهد والي ت: ٤٤٨٠٣٧-٣٧-٤٤٥٨٩٣/٣/٤-٤٤٨٠٣٧-٣٧-٤٤٥٨٩٣
 المعهد اللغوي الألماني ت: ٣٦٦٢٣٢
 المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٥١٤٧٥٥
 معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٢٤٣٦
 معهد لينك ت: ٢٤٠٨٣٣-٥١-٦١٢-٣٦٥٣٧

شركات للتأمين

الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٣٧٧٧٣/٣٧٧٧٣٧
 مارب للتأمين ت: ٣٠٦١٢١/٨/١٣
 الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين ت: ٣٨٤١٩٣
 عدن ت: ٣٤٢٨٠
 تعز ت: ٣٥٨٨١
 شركة اليمن للتأمين ت: ٣٧٨٠٦/٣٧٧٦١٢/٤٣
 عدن ت: ٢٤٧٦١٧
 تعز ت: ٣٥٠٣٥٠

مدارس

مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٣٧/٤٢٤-٤٢٣
 مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٣٧٠١٩١/٢
 مدرسة الزكية الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩
 مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٣٠٦١٥٩

سفرات

التسييم للسفرات ت: ٣٧٠٧٥٠
 العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٩/٦٠

مطاعم

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

البريد السريع

صعاء ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧
 الحديدة ت: ٢٤٩٨٣
 إب ت: ٤١١٩٨٨
 المكلا ت: ٣٠٣٦٤١
 شبوة ت: ٢٠٣٣٦٦
 سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

مطاعم

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

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Zamil in war and wedding ceremonies

By: Almigdad Mojalli
almigdads8@yahoo.com

A Zamil is a two-line poem that's considered one of the main popular and tribal conventions used on special occasions in northern and eastern Yemen, being used at both wedding parties, as well as during war mediation. Zamil usually is composed at the time on the spot and conveys a message particular to that occasion.

As 63-year-old Khawlan sheikh Ali Ahmed Al-Sharafi explains, "Zamil is two lines of poetry performed by a chorus of men to express congratulations, consolation or give advice in the event of problems or war."

Zamil verses never exceed two lines, with – at most – between six to 15 men addressing the audience as they perform it. Many different melodies are used for Zamil, which is



Zamil is used at weddings and for setting tribal disputes.

sung, not chanted.

According to Dr. Steven Caton, a professor at Harvard University in the United States, only one poet is responsible for creating the Zamil text on the spot. During the performance, the men are divided into two groups,

with one group reciting the first line, while the other recites the second, as they take turns singing the Zamil.

A common convention is to begin a poem by addressing a messenger, represented by the image of a bird or the wind, which the poet asks to carry his message.

As Caton writes in his definitive book on the subject, "The Peaks of Yemen, I Summon," Zamil can begin as follows:

"Ya ta'ir, ya azim wa gati lil marahil // tayyir wa khabbir Bin Jalal."

"O bird, O messenger, O crosser of the journey's stages, // fly and inform Bin Jalal."

"Jiina bi akhsham al-madala wa al-jaramil // silah Khawlan Al-Tiyal."

"We've come with the nostrils of guns and rifles, // the weapons of Khawlan Al-Tiyal."

As Caton writes in his book, "The Zamil audience is passive. What it sees is ranks of men marching toward it like an army unit on parade in a dusty riverbed. What it hears is their tribal regalia, rifles slung over their shoulders as they walk in brisk step, sometimes hand-in-hand."

He further explains, "A Zamil performance may include poetry and instrumental music, as well as song and dance united as a whole. At wedding ceremonies and religious festivals, a couple of servant drummers may precede the marchers. The musical drumming is for the performance and the dance, each involving a row of men moving in coordinated steps."

Zamil in wartime
However, Zamil's main significance is apparent during war, which often breaks out between two or more tribes. During this time, Zamil is used as a medium to address a problem and suggest solutions to the warring parties.

"In Yemen, the role of the state in rural areas during tribal wars is too weak, so people are used to solving their problems themselves," says Mohammed Zubair, a sheikh in Sana'a governorate's (the Capital Secretariat) Khawlan district.

"If a war breaks out between two or more tribes, the other neighboring tribes join together and go to the struggling tribes to attempt to mediate between them and solve their quarrel, performing Zamil in chorus upon their arrival," he explains.

According to him, the men usually begin Zamil by praising the party to be addressed, reminding them of their good deeds and scolding them for waging war. They then suggest solutions to the conflict. In response, the addressed party creates a new Zamil in which they may accept or refuse the mediator's advice and help.

"Just imagine that a big war sometimes is solved by two or three lines of poetry!" Zubair remarks.

Another of Caton's examples of mediation Zamil in wartime goes like this:

"Ya dhi al-masani dhi badeti, // ma shi ala sharid malamah."

"O, these fortresses towers that have appeared before me, // there's no

blame upon the fugitive."

"Quli li Yahya bin Mohammed // ba naltagi yawm al-qiyaamah."

"Tell Yahya bin Mohammed // we'll meet on the Day of Resurrection."

Zamil in weddings

Zamil is used at men's wedding parties to express congratulations, as well as praise both the guests' and the hosts' hospitality and traditions. The first Zamil performance during a wedding is during the arrival of the guests, who utter several verses in chorus, thereby expressing their happiness to be guests at the occasion and extending their thanks to their hosts for inviting them.

"Wedding guests usually come in groups and every group performs Zamil upon their arrival, congratulating the groom and his relatives and praising the guests, traditions and customs such as hospitality and courage," explains Ahmed Al-Daba, a 45-year-old Khawlan tribesman.

After the guests finish their Zamil, their hosts then receive them with a new Zamil, welcoming the former exuberantly and thanking them for coming. During the wedding party, several Zamil poems are performed, the most important of which is the one bidding farewell to the bride's relatives. In this Zamil, several of the groom's guests and relatives choose the Zamil's words and melody very carefully.

Despite changes that have occurred throughout Yemen's development over the past 50 years, Zamil still is used as one of the main mediums to express feelings and thoughts within tribal communities.



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