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Saleh declares an end to Sa'ada fighting

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, July 20 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced on Thursday that fighting with Houthi supporters in Sa'ada, Amran and Sana'a governorates has ended. The announcement came during a brief speech he gave while inaugurating summer camps for youths affiliated with the ruling General People's Congress on the occasion of his 30th anniversary in power.

"Dialogue is the civilized means to resolve conflict because dialogue is better than bloodshed," Saleh remarked, further accusing unnamed political forces of politicizing the issues in a sectarian and racial manner.

Saleh didn't reveal how the fifth war with Houthis ended; therefore, neither did any official source dare to clarify the details. Media reports, once released by Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi on a daily basis, have ceased since Thursday.

Saleh's comments about the end of the Sa'ada war raised numerous questions among politicians, some of whom are convinced that the government and Houthis have inked a political deal beginning with a truce to end the ongoing fighting and unblock the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway following

Saleh's purported communications with Al-Houthi, according to reports by various media outlets last week.

Political observers maintain that Saleh has undertaken to begin pulling government troops from Sa'ada villages, releasing detained Houthi loyalists and assessing the war's damage to citizens' property in order to approve compensation for them.

They add that Saleh will accelerate transferring Salafi military leaders, accused of fueling the fighting in favor of foreign parties, from Sa'ada to Sana'a. The president also promised to stop cracking down on Houthi supporters and pardon them, according to observers.

Numerous politicians related with Abdulmalik Al-Houthi confirm that Houthi followers are serious about ending the war and they trust President's Saleh decision, which they describe as "brave."

"We want the fighting to cease and peoples' suffering to end," Houthi loyalists were quoted as saying. Displaying their readiness not to tolerate any violations that those opposed to Saleh's decision may commit, they added, "We back President Saleh, who has decided to oversee how both warring sides are committed to the truce."

Saleh ceased depending on some

military commanders who, according to the politicians, were fomenting the fighting and exploiting it for their own interests.

Houthis welcome truce, but remain on full alert

While Houthis welcomed the idea of ending the war, they remained on full alert and hesitant about whether to lift their nearly 60-day lockdown of several military brigades that continued until this past Saturday.

However, confirmed reports reveal that the besieged brigades serving in the areas of Saqain and Haidan were released on the same day, adding that the blockade of the 117th Military Division, commanded by Abdulaziz Al-Shahari, ended the following day.

Speaking to Al-Jazeera satellite channel by telephone from his residence in Berlin, Germany, Member of Parliament Yahya Al-Houthi, Abdulmalik's brother, described Saleh's declaration as "good," pointing out that his brother's followers have stopped the war on their side. However, he confirmed that some skirmishes continue and many Houthis still are detained, attributing this to "traitors within the army."

According to Al-Houthi, there is a verbal understanding between



Saleh didn't reveal how the fifth war with Houthis ended; nevertheless, he declared it over.

President Saleh and his brother Abdulmalik to end the war and pull troops out of Houthi-controlled areas.

He indicated that the understanding came after Houthi supporters besieged all of the Yemeni army's strategic positions in Sa'ada.

Official media outlets report that there is widespread popular satisfaction with Saleh's declaration that military operations in Sa'ada have ceased.

The war between the Yemeni army and Houthi gunmen, which first broke out in June 2004, has left thousands of troops and civilians dead, injured or maimed and destroyed citizens' homes and farmlands. Additionally,

the Yemeni state has lost billions of dollars in the war.

According to reports by humanitarian aid agencies, as many as 120,000 people have been directly affected by the war and mass exodus has led to the establishment of six refugee camps in Sa'ada sheltering thousands of displaced residents.

A Yemeni non-governmental organization desiring to remain unnamed notes that 20,000 children have lost their fathers, 10,000 have become incapacitated and 6,000 families have lost their breadwinners.

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Housework restricts women's economic activity

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, July 20 — A recent study undertaken by the Social Development Fund and supported by the German Development Bank (KfW) showed that the amount of housework together with constraints imposed on women in the society as well as lack of public jobs created a shortage that restricted women's work. Women's main jobs are in the fields of dressmaking, incense and perfume trading, hairstyling, animal husbandry and handicrafts.

A few women who have bigger businesses live in the main cities where there are more chances and larger markets for women who work outside home, such as beauty salons

and small stores, according to the study.

The study was conducted between April and June 2008 and confirmed that in spite of the minor projects carried out by the Social Fund in Yemen, only a very few women received official training by the concerned organizations. The majority of women sought assistance from their relatives or neighbors to get limited workplace training. Women who participated in previous workplace training realized that there was no relationship between getting training and receiving loans. This left many of the women stranded without financial resources to make small businesses and projects. In this

respect, the study said that investment in training alone, without a follow-up plan to help women enter the workforce, undermines women's capacity.

The concept of loans for small, female-run businesses has become widely known in the society, although the banking and loan institutions stayed away from financing the women, due to doubts about success of these projects. The study also showed that women are less interested in technical training, but there is a demand for workers who have skills in financial services, marketing and product development.

Upon analysis, the report showed that women's products produced by

these small businesses were not varied enough. Likewise, the activity of agents affiliated with the small loans institutions was limited and made difficulties for women working outside the home to get extra financial support for their families.

The study recommended that small business loan institutions put in place marketing strategies and plans to spread information that can help achieve more contact between their loan agents and the public.

It is also recommended that the institutions offer technical and financial support to these small businesses and establish cooperative networks among them.

Five detainees held for battering a girl are released from jail

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 18 — Public prosecutors released five men held on suspicion of battering a little girl in Al-Madhla region of Amran governate this past June 14.

Sowsan Al-Madhlai, who is around 12 years old, plus her younger sister and her grandmother, were attacked in their home by approximately 11 men bearing sharp tools. The men beat them with the tools, causing deep wounds to their heads, though all three survived the attack.

Nasser Ahmed Zaid, a 60-year-old influential sheikh in the region and his four sons were suspected of attacking Sowsan and her family, after she accused the man of rape back in 2006. Zaid spent a few months in prison while a primary court investigated the claim, but was released in 2007 because there was not enough evidence against him. After this, Sowsan took her case to the Court of Appeals to get the primary court's judgment reversed, but the case hasn't been heard yet.

"We didn't expect the release of our rivals because we presented all the evidence, including the hospital's medical report that proved them guilty," said Sowsan, adding, "Since the release of these antagonists, we feel afraid and



Sowsan and her grandfather at the Arab Sisters Forum

wait for the time they will assault us again - even though we have informed the concerned authorities of our case."

Sowsan said that her family is still subjected to intimidation by Zaid and his sons, who she said threatens them by throwing stones against their house at night to scare them.

For his part Yousif Al-Muhammadi, Sowsan's attorney, said that the prose-

cution's decision to release the accused after three weeks of imprisonment came because the court did not consider the case very important; in a major case, the court can release the accused on bail.

Muhsen Haidar, Sawsan's grandfather, maintained that her elder brother Mabrook Al-Madhla'ie, 13, was held in custody in Amran during the investiga-

tions of the case lest he might be subjected to any aggressive reaction by Zaid and his sons maintaining that this act was based on the prosecution's order. Mohsen Hayder, Sowsan's 80-year-old grandfather, appealed to human rights organizations and concerned activists to advocate for his granddaughter's case. He asked for help during a celebration held by the Arab Sisters Forum to honor a number of activists on the occasion of World Justice Day.

In the speech he delivered during the celebration, Hayder said that what he wants is that those who attacked his family to be punished according to justice. He said that he thinks the prosecution is biased towards the accused men, and said he wondered about the prosecution's decision to release them. Hayder also said that his grandson is still in jail for unknown reasons. "He went to the prosecution to inform them about the aggression towards our family and the result was that he himself was imprisoned," said Hayder.

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- Prepare and coordinate field visits of staff and visiting missions.
- Enter data on development activities, contracts and obligations into the Management Information System (Piramide) in close collaboration with the program officers.
- Keep the information system on contract parties up-to-date in close collaboration with the programme.
- Follow-up on contract obligations; monitor the reporting obligations, make regular overviews of reports to be submitted to the Development Co-operation staff, send out reminders to partners to send in reports and follow-up on the deadlines set, etc.
- Process contracts, payment requests, draft routine correspondence and proof-read materials using proper grammar, punctuation, and style.
- Assist in compiling of management reports through Oracle DISCOVERER.
- Assist in translating letters if necessary.
- Coordinate in office activities (meetings, workshops and conference) in and outside the Embassy.
- Attend & make minutes of Development Co-operation Staff meetings.
- Perform other functions as requested by the Development Co-operation Staff.
- Replace Receptionist – Switchboard Operator when required.

The embassy will provide training for working with the electronic Management Information System for its project activities (Piramide), an important element of the secretary's duties.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Completion of secondary education.
- At least 5 years experience in office logistic management.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Able to utilize MS-Office 2000 (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) to a high standard; affinity with working with databases.
- Familiarity with e-mail correspondence.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing English and Arabic.

Candidate should submit their applications by 31 July 2008 to:
Head of Operational Management
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
PO Box: 463, Sana'a

U.S. releases Arabic version of Yemen Freedom and Democracy Report 2008

By: Jamal Al-Najjar

SANA'A, July 18 — According to a recently-translated report released by the American Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor on "advancing freedom and democracy," Yemen is still facing many problems related to democracy, human rights, freedom of expression, corruption and judicial fairness in addition to social problems such as child trafficking to Saudi Arabia and tribal clashes. The original document was published a few months ago, but the Arabic translation was released last week.

The report revealed that the previous open presidential elections held in September 20, 2006 was characterized by multiple problems with the voting process and use of state resources on behalf of the ruling party, the General People's Congress. Although there is a multiparty system, power is overwhelmingly in the hands of the ruling party and the president himself.

Significant human rights problems continued to exist in some areas, especially in the northern governorates of Sa'ada and Amran, where the government was waging an on-and-off war with Houthi supporters. Weak governmental institutions, tribal patronage networks and pervasive corruption continued to undermine civil liberties. There were reports that government forces committed arbitrary and unlawful killings, and that torture and poor conditions existed in Yemeni prisons. Prolonged pre-trial detention, judicial corruption, and executive interference continued to undermine due process.

The report said that the scope of freedom in Yemen has been hampered particularly by the war in Sa'ada

between Houthis and the government, as well as by protests and arrests that took place recently in the country's southern governorates. "Arbitrary arrest and detention increased, particularly of individuals with suspected links to the Al-Houthi movement in the Sa'ada governorate," said the report, adding that, "restrictions on freedoms of speech, press, and peaceful assembly increased significantly. Pervasive discrimination against women and southerners also occurred, as well as child labor and child trafficking."

Democratic initiative in Yemen is still weak and in need of reform in order to guarantee that the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for 2009 are credible and fair, according to the report. It also noted that the U.S. government works with both the incumbent bodies in the government and opposition members together with the civil society organizations "to help correct the institutional weaknesses that impede the country's movement towards becoming a truly democratic state where the rule of law prevails."

The report stressed that the U.S. continues to work with the concerned bodies including the Supreme Commission on Elections and Referenda (SCER) and members of the various political to advocate for the needed electoral reforms in the run-up to the 2009 parliamentary elections. A current electoral reform program is being carried out in cooperation with the U.S. and with the participation of the ruling and opposition parties. It focuses on increasing the capacity of the electoral commission to implement its responsibilities efficiently and transparently. The program works with

the government and the opposition to establish impartial electoral district boundaries and campaign financing regulations, while promoting women's political participation, according to the report.

In the areas of human development and economic reform, efforts need to be exerted in order to activate anticorruption and poverty reduction programs through pressing the government to implement its delayed reform commitments and to maximize the benefit of the country's limited resources. Other efforts must be made to enhance the decentralization process at both the national and district levels. In addition, Yemen is still in need of enhancing the ability of parliamentarians to fight corruption and strengthen their ability to legislate and establish and adhere to sound administrative procedures. The report said that the U.S. runs programs in coordination with the Yemeni government and the political party members to help solve these problems.

Additionally, there are also programs focused on resolving tribal disputes that assist tribal leaders to mend longstanding conflicts, promote development in their governorates and better integrate traditional conflict resolution practices with contemporary forms.

According to the report, anti-trafficking projects are of great importance carried out through funding awareness and education programs to combat child trafficking to Saudi Arabia. "The U.S. funds assist in maintaining a rehabilitation center for children who are repatriated to Yemen," said the report.

Republic of Yemen – Ministry of Water and Environment Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the costs of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of recruiting a national Procurement Assistant. Now the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) invites qualified and experienced local candidates to apply for the following post:

Procurement Assistant

Job Description

Under the supervision and guidance of the Procurement Officer, the Procurement Assistant will be responsible for:

1. Assisting the PO in planning and management of the procurement of goods, civil work and consultancy service;
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3. Provides technical support and assistance to Procurement Officer in itemizing and listing all goods and works for preparing and revising the bidding documents according to the procurement program activities;
4. Assist in working with the PO and relevant sectors for reviewing the TORs for the selection of consulting firms;
5. Insuring that documents have received appropriate approval in accordance with the Development Credit Agreement (DCA);
6. Assist in preparing and attending all bidding opening, evaluation, contract preparing, and minutes of bid opening in accordance with procedure described in the procurement manual and IDA guidelines;
7. Contributes to procurement activities quality assurance in term of time and effectiveness;
8. Contributes to arrangement for proper delivery of goods to the project's institutions in accordance with the signed contract and the targeted dates in the implementation schedule;
9. Participate in the preparation of the regularly progress
10. Participate with the PCU team in the random and annual physical count of project warehouse.

Qualification Required

1. A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in engineering commerce, business administration, or equivalent qualification;
2. At least (5) years experience in procurement management activities;
3. Familiarity with the Government and IDA Procurement Guidelines and Procedures;
4. Documented skills in computer application and use of software programs for procurement database and monitoring; and
5. Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

Duration and Assignment

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

All applicants will be through a sort-list and those candidates who are short listed will be invited for an individual interview.

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In brief

SANAA
Parliament, UNHCR discuss enacting refugee law

Member of Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Bassam Ashuter discussed on Saturday with representative of United Nation High Commission for Refugees in Yemen cooperation in field of preparing draft national law taking care of refugees' affairs in Yemen.

The meeting asserted on making use of other brotherly and friendly countries' experiences in this field.

Ashuter expressed appreciation for UNHCR's cooperation and keenness on enacting a law taking care of refugees, noting keenness of parliament's leadership on having such law.

For her part, the UN official expressed importance of having this law, expressing the commission's readiness for providing required experiences and consultations for this purpose.

Yemen, Japan discuss project of tuna growing

Minister of Fisheries Wealth Mohammed Shamlan discussed on Saturday on Saturday with the chairman of Japanese Sojaz Corporation for Investments in the Middle East and Africa over possibilities of setting up a

tuna growing project in Yemen at sum of \$ 20 million.

The chairman of the Japanese corporation said that the project contains five big boxes for growing tuna in the sea and boats to fish alive tunas to bring alive them into these boxes to fattening them as well as stores and freezing centers.

The project would offer more than 7,000 jobs.

Shamlan expressed readiness of the ministry to present all facilitates to bring this project into success, asking the investment unit in the ministry to offer all information to the corporation about suitable places of doing this project.

Meanwhile, Shamlan held a meeting with the secretary general of the Arab union for fishing products Mahmoud Radad.

They discussed project of setting up Arab Company for fishing marketing within efforts of achieving Arab food security.

PM opens plastic exhibition

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar opened on Saturday a three-day plastic exhibition organized by Culture Ministry.

Mujawar went around the exhibition's wings that include about 84 paintings for 70 artists, who portray the development achievements realized under the leader-

ship of President Ali Abdullah Saleh during three decades.

Mujawar praised the high creative level of the artists, wishing them more progress in their future.

For his part, Minister of Culture Mohammed al-Maflahi told Saba that the paintings are a gift from the plastic artists to the President.

MAHWAIT**Collective wedding for 500 couples in Mahweet**

Local sources said on Saturday that a collative wedding for 500 couples will be held in Mahweet province on 31 July. The sources were quoted by the state-run 26sep.net as saying that the ceremony marking the second collative wedding would be attended by the governor of Mahweet Ahmed Ali Muhsen al-Ahwal.

Mahweet also witnessed last year the first collective wedding for 200 couples. The aim of such social activities is to facilitate the marriage for youth.

SAADA**Manna'a inspects Saada citizens' needs**

Governor of Saada Hasan Manna'a

inspected Saturday people's conditions and needs in Attalh area in Sahar district here.

He inspected health care services provided by Attalh Hospital to the citizens after qualifying and supplying it with needed medical equipments.

He also inspected the ongoing work in the additional building of the hospital with the cost of YR 25 million, affirming local council's cooperation for easing all difficulties could face the hospital's work.

ADEN**Yemen, Lebanon to set up scientific university**

The Free Zones Public Authority signed on Saturday a memo of understanding with the Lebanese International University for establishing a scientific university in Aden Free Zone (AFZ).

Under the agreement, the authority will offer the required areas for setting up scientific complexes at "G" block in Aden Free Zone.

The agreement has been signed by vice chairman of the Free Zones Public Authority, the chairman of the AFZ Abdul Jalil al-Shu'aibi and vice chairman of the Lebanese International University Samir Abu Naser.

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Their News

Congress Takes First Step to Restore UNFPA Funding

Renewed U.S. funding for UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, passed its first hurdle yesterday, winning approval from the influential House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations after a closed-door battle.

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), who sponsored the measure, hailed the \$60 million funding for UNFPA as "critical" for the agency's family planning and reproductive health care programs in 140 countries worldwide. The bill, part of an overall \$600 million spending measure for family planning and reproductive health care assistance programs worldwide, does not alter the existing Bush administration ban on use of the funds in China, restricting it use to specific programs with broad general support. These include providing contraceptives and safe motherhood medicine, equipment and supplies; treating obstetric fistula; and combating female genital cutting and child marriage.

Lawmakers Unite to Fight Global Internet Censorship

Repressive regimes that buy U.S. and European technology to control their citizens in cyberspace may one day

find that market closed. At a Freedom House event in Washington July 15, European and U.S. lawmakers announced a rare joint initiative to pass legislation aimed at preventing sensitive surveillance and Internet-blocking technology from being sold to authoritarian governments such as China and Saudi Arabia. European Parliament Member Jules Maaten told a crowd of 70 people assembled in the U.S. Capitol that he would introduce the European Global Online Freedom Act in Brussels this week. The draft legislation would regulate the export of European technology and earmark 20 million Euros to support anti-censorship tools and services. U.S. Representative Christopher Smith, who introduced parallel legislation in the U.S. Congress last year, decried the "very close relationship" that U.S. technology companies have with China's dictatorial leadership and urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to allow his bill to come to a vote. In recent years, Freedom House has recorded a sharp increase in countries that are cracking down on cyber-dissidents. In response, Freedom House launched its Global Internet Freedom Initiative last year to help activists in countries where the Internet is suppressed to fight against Internet censorship.

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التخفيضات الصيفية

1 يوليو إلى 30 أغسطس 2008

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The lifestyle of Yemeni emigrant families in Saudi Arabia

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

The lifestyle of Yemeni emigrant families living in Saudi Arabia doesn't differ much than that in Yemen, as the father goes to the work in the morning and the woman stays at home tending to the children and the home.

Because the father is always busy at work, the rest of the family is forced to stay home most of the time, rarely going out. When they do get a chance to go out, they only visit their relatives.

Yemeni women can't go to Saudi malls alone. When they do go to malls or parks, they go with their husbands or relatives. In most cases, the husband brings home everything his wife needs in the kitchen.

Some Yemeni women don't wish to form relationships with Saudi women due to the differing ways of life each is used to. Even when there are such relations, they are limited; thus, they prefer forming relationships with Yemeni families.

Samia Thabit, 37, a mother of four sons and a young daughter says, "Much of the time, I'm forced to remain in the house because this is the nature of living here. Most of my Yemeni friends are like me, staying home most of the time. When there's an opportunity, we visit each other. I sometimes go to my friend's house with my husband and make fatir (Yemeni bread)."

She adds, "Although I do have good Saudi neighbors, I don't have much contact with them. I don't visit their homes, nor do they visit mine. I don't have Saudi friends here, as all of my friends are Yemenis." She maintains that inferior Saudi women look down at Yemeni women, but those with good natures treat them as equals.

Education issues

Thabit's eldest daughter, 19-year-old Munirah, was unable to attend school this year because of the family's departure from Yemen to Saudi. While she's in the final level of secondary school, she couldn't continue her studies because her education file requires routine procedures from both Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

This isn't a big problem for her or other Yemeni emigrants' daughters, as they may finish their secondary school studies once these procedures are completed. The real challenge they face is attending university in Saudi Arabia because according to Saudi law, emigrants' children have no right to attend Saudi universities.

However, there are exceptions; for example, if a Yemeni emigrant student graduates from secondary school with an average grade of more than 90 percent, he or she will be allowed to attend a Saudi university; otherwise, the student either must attend a private university in Saudi or return to his own country to continue his university studies.

Male emigrant students don't face the same challenge because they may travel to their home country alone to complete their higher education, either living with a relative or renting a room.



Yemeni women living in Saudi Arabia must observe strict Saudi customs.

However, because they are bound by cultural norms and traditions, female students face significant problems doing so, as most Yemenis don't allow their daughters to travel alone or leave the family, even if it's with an uncle or aunt.

Hamid Fare'a, a Yemeni emigrant and businessman living with his family in Saudi Arabia, explains, "My daughters attend Saudi public school, but the eldest, who finished secondary school with a lower than 90 percent average, was unable to attend university. Instead, she now stays home, sometimes teaching the Qur'an to women at charitable societies."

Fare'a's eldest son Jihad is studying medicine in Germany because he didn't score at least 90 percent in secondary school in Saudi. Fare'a is a religious man who believes that daughters shouldn't live apart from their families or travel alone.

However, not all Yemeni emigrants share Fare'a's views, as some have sent their daughters to study at Yemeni universities. While some live with their relatives, the majority live in women's housing at their university.

Marriage between Yemenis and Saudis

Due to the high dowries and complicated lifestyle of Saudi families, some Saudi men turn to other Arab countries to find a wife, most marrying Yemeni women.

Badr Al-Amoudi, an employee at the Saudi Information Ministry, says, "I married two women: a Yemeni woman from Hadramout and a Sudanese woman from Khartoum. I live in Jeddah with my Yemeni wife and our six children, while my Sudanese wife lives in Khartoum. I send her SR 500 every month and I travel to Sudan during summer vacations to stay with her for a month."

Al-Amoudi says he prefers Yemeni and Sudanese women to Saudis because Saudi women are lazy due to their lavish lifestyle. "Both Yemeni and Sudanese women have something unique that makes me love both of them. Both get up early and are hard-working, qualities not found in Saudi woman," he says.

However, it's a different case for Jalal Qayed, a Yemeni emigrant in Saudi who married a Saudi woman. He says, "Saudi women officiate married life. They love their husbands, take care of them and treat them well."

Qayed married a Yemeni woman from his village when he was 17 and he has five children. Although he's been in Saudi Arabia for 19 years, he only brought his family to Riyadh a year ago. His Saudi wife lives in Al-Qussaim.

As an accessories distributor in the three Saudi provinces of Riyadh, Jeddah and Al-Qussaim, he's also successful in distributing his time between his two wives, who live within his work areas.

Differences

Yemeni emigrant women living in Saudi Arabia don't enjoy the lavish lifestyle of their Saudi counterparts. For example, Saudi women have a special car with a driver, something difficult for Yemeni woman to access. Unlike Saudis, most male Yemeni emigrants don't give their families or wives special cars or hire a driver.

The majority of Saudi women also have maids, while the majority of Yemeni women don't have or don't want a maid in their home.

Work opportunities

Yemeni emigrants may operate businesses in the kingdom and some have stores under Saudi names.

As Qayed points out, "Yemeni emigrant woman also can do businesses here. For example, they can work as teachers at Saudi charities, while some do other types of work, such as hair-dressers and accessory sellers."

"What methods should the government use to encourage female education?"

By: Tareq Al-Adil
For The Yemen Times



Tawfiq Ali, 35, perfume merchant

"I think it would be a good idea if the government increased female schools and not mixed them (females with males). Also, putting forth a new curriculum that suits the female nature is very important."



Farhan Alwan, 35, merchant

"The government should educate females in handicrafts and technical education, such as sewing and cooking, which will help her to work and help her family."



Marwan Al-Qubati, 24, pharmacist

"The streets should be secure so women can go and study safely. School management also must focus on girls' daily school attendance and absences."



Amin Al-Absi, 22, mobile phone salesperson

"I think the government should create schools for females and school management and teachers should be females. Also, poor families must be helped to educate their daughters."



Abdulmalik Al-Sairi, 45, tailor

"The government should subsidize poor families to educate their women. Handicapped women also should have special care and education."



Ali Juma'an, 29, physician

"The government should use the media to correct concepts that parents believe about educating women."



Houria Al-Raimi, 20, nurse

"I think the government should build schools in every neighborhood to make schools close and shorten the distance for students to go to school."



Abdusalam Al-Shahari, 26, laboratory technician

"I think the government should guarantee jobs for women after graduation."



Mohammed Abdul Jaleel, 33, baker

"I think schools should be provided for both young and older females in rural areas."



Fatin Al-Amari, 19, receptionist

"Female-only universities should be built to encourage women to complete their education."



Fawaz Al-Sabri, 25, welder

"The government should provide free education to poor families to encourage women to study."



Hammam Al-Absi, 20, spare parts employee

"I think the best thing to encourage women to study is to build more schools in rural areas and provide them handicrafts education."



Roqia Al-Mithali, 19, secretary

"The government should use the media to correct inaccurate concepts about educating females. It's also very important to have schools in every neighborhood."



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Location: **Kharaz**
Closing Date: **31 July 2008**

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4. In co-ordination with the local authorities, monitor the implementation of UNHCR assistance in refugee settlements and assist local implementing partners in matters pertaining to the well-being of refugees;
5. Assist supervisor in planning, formulating, and evaluating projects;
6. Attends to all asylum-seekers and refugees' queries and takes further action where necessary;
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9. Perform other duties as required.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Vacancy No: 4
 Post Title: **Project Manager**
 Organization: SFD (Social Fund for Development) SMED unit.
 Location: Aden
 Duration: 2 years with a possibility of extension, including three (3) months probationary period
 No of Post: 1
 Date Announced: 21 July 2008
 Closing Date: 31 July 2008

Background:

The Social Fund for Development (SFD), the Social Welfare Fund (SWF) and CGAP have jointly initiated a pilot project to test out a new model for graduating the poorest out of extreme poverty. The model targets the poorest and involves linking safety net programs with access to financial services, training and basic messaging on health and social issues. Carefully sequenced project inputs and close monitoring of beneficiaries over a 24 month cycle is expected to create a ladder so that beneficiaries end up leading sustainable livelihoods.

The project will target 1,000 beneficiaries. Preparatory work will begin from July. The Project requires a Project Manager to provide leadership, supervise staff, manage every day activities, identify problems, provide solutions, and ensure effective implementation.

The Project Manager will report directly to the Steering Committee

Specific responsibilities:

The Project Manager will be responsible for the following:

- Reporting to the Steering Committee on a regular basis – weekly telephone conversations and monthly meeting. Writing monthly reports on project implementation, problems encountered and possible solutions.
- Reporting to CGAP through weekly phone conversations.
- Managing and supervising 15 field staff and 3 supervisors. Making regular field visits to ensure proper project implementation, identifying potential problems, report such problems to Steering Committee and assist in developing solutions.
- Coordinating with service providers such as financial, health, schooling and other service providers.
- Supervising the training of staff and beneficiaries.
- Coordinating with the impact assessment team.
- Assisting in organizing meetings and workshops for disseminating information.
- Any other assignments determined by the Steering Committee.

Qualifications

The Project Manager needs to have:

- Masters degree from a reputable University
- Five years of experience in project management
- Sound knowledge of microfinance products and delivery mechanisms
- Proven ability to nurture a smooth working relationship with varied stakeholders (MFIs, banks, technical assistance providers, international donors, research agencies, etc)
- **Proficiency in written and spoken Arabic and English**

Reporting:

The Project Manager will report directly to the Steering Committee.

Submission guideline:

The application should comprise of a one-page cover letter explaining the applicants' interest and suitability for the position, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and a detailed CV.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: Oshami@sfd-yemen.org before July 31, 2008

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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Invitation for General Bid No. (8) for the second time for the year 2008

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (8) for the second time for the year 2008 for buying, importing, supervising installment, checking, operating, confirming, submitting, and guarantee of computers with its stuff.

All the interested specialist and industrial companies, and accredited agents apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

The TV and Radio General Corporation
General Administration for Projects
Tel: (01/ 230751)

For buying and having the entire bid documents with receipt: (\$300) non refundable. The deadline of selling the documents is: 9/8/2008.

The file should be enveloped and sealed with the red wax and submitted to the secretary of bids and out-bids committee of the corporation. The file should be addressed with name of the authority, the name of the project, the number of the bid, and the name of the applicant, and the file should include all the following documents:

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount (\$2000) valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening the files or by a payable check.
- 2- Submitting a copy of the taxing card valid 2008, (all the foreign bidders, who don't work, submit a copy of the register documents for extra cost taxation from their countries.
- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year (the insurance cards are only requested from those companies which have assets in Yemen and have the right to utilize from the revenues given from the general corporation for social insurance in Yemen).
- 4- A copy of valid certificate of registration and classifications.
- 5- A copy of the alms card valid for 2005.

The deadline of receiving the documents and opening the files at 11:00 am on Wednesday morning 13/8/2008 at the main branch of the corporation.



Invitation for General Bid No. (14) for the year 2008

The TV and Radio General Corporation announces its interest in inviting for general bid number (14) 2008 for importing, supervising installation, checking, operating, and confirming as well as guarantee for measurable meter of the fuel with its supplements.

All the interested candidates and the industrial and specialist companies apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

The TV and Radio General Corporation
General Administration for Projects
Tel: (01/ 230752)

For buying and getting the entire bid documents with receipt: (\$100) non refundable. The deadline of selling the documents is 9/8/2008.

The file should be enveloped and sealed with the red wax and submitted to the secretary of bids and out-bids committee of the corporation. The file should be addressed with name of the authority, the name of the project, the number of the bid, and the name of the applicant, and the file should include all the following documents:

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount to (1000\$) valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening the files or by a payable check.
- 2- Submitting a copy of the taxing card valid for 2008, (all the foreign bidders, who don't work in Yemen, submit a copy of the register documents for extra cost taxation from their countries.
- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year (the insurance cards are only requested from those companies which have assets in Yemen and have the right to benefit from the revenues given by the general corporation for social insurance in Yemen).
- 4- A copy of valid certificate of registration and classifications valid for 2008.
- 5- A copy of the alms card valid for 2008.
- 6- A copy of the commercial register valid for 2008.
- 7- A copy of work license valid for 2008.
- 8- A copy of register certificate concerning the public sales taxes valid for 2008.

The deadline of receiving the documents and opening the files at 11:00 am on Wednesday morning 13/8/2008 at the main branch of the corporations.

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Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge. This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR
OPINIONNasserallah's
prisoners'
exchange: closing a
chapter or opening
a new one?

The entire Arab and Muslim world is joyful - almost ecstatic with delight - at the successful prisoners' exchange orchestrated by Hezbollah. It would seem that it is not a really fair bargain especially since two dead soldiers were exchanged for five live ones and the bodies of 197 men from Lebanon. Hezbollah has regained its popularity in the region, but especially in Lebanon, after the party lost some of its glamour because of the heavy destruction caused by Israel's war in 2006, a war which in essence was caused by Hezbollah's refusal to surrender the two soldiers.

But today, it seems like the 2006 war is a story of the past, and both Israel and Lebanon want to close this chapter. This occasion also helped Lebanese groups find peace after a long time dispute that had cost lives in the streets of Beirut.

But all being said and done, what does Israel get from such a deal? To start with, as the Israeli government puts it, the exchange shows, if nothing else, the solidarity of the Israeli people and their commitment above everything else to bring Israeli sons home. It also gives them the closure they needed to be able to bury their sons and go back to their lives.

But politically speaking, I think that this exchange has allowed all governments an opportunity to learn about negotiating. The Israeli government has an indicator that even their most evil enemy, Iran at the moment, might be persuaded to find some common ground or joint interest as Lebanon has done.

For many in Yemen, Hassan Nasserallah is an icon of resistance and a symbol for all Muslims. His photos are hung on walls in shops and homes and even on cars. It does not matter that he is a Shi'ite Muslim or that his religious practices of Islam are quite different from the majority of Yemen.

Then how come Yemenis are not able to accept their own countrymen and women who are of a different sect? The answer is that they do. The ongoing war in Yemen is not a sectarian or religious one; it is purely political and encouraged by war merchants who keep supplying weapons and drugs to all sides in order to get richer and richer.

Perhaps the lessons learned from the prisoners' exchange are not only applicable to the Levant region, but perhaps also to our government in Yemen who could make use of it. If historic enemies could strike some sort of deal, then why can't people of the same country do the same and allow peace to return to Yemen?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Why has South Yemen become
a ground for growing turmoil?

By: Raddad Al-Salami

South Yemen has been peacefully resisting the ruling regime for nearly 15 months, and their resistance reached its climax on July 7, which they see as the day of death for the national unity. Since the 1994 Civil War during which President Saleh's forces defeated forces of his counterpart, who had ruled South Yemen for several years and was an effective partner in establishing Yemen's Unity in 1990, citizens of South Yemen have undergone hard conditions.

Yemeni Socialist Party and citizens of South Yemen have been negatively affected by that war that dismissed them from their government posts, edged out their role and eliminated their presence in the various state's institutions.

As a result, the political regime

was accused of encouraging racial discrimination and making leadership exclusively limited to Saleh's dynasty and relatives, who never feel ashamed of looting property and resources of the nation. Even worse, powerful military and security leaders in the Saleh's regime, whose main duty is to protect the nation and its citizens, use their power to plunder citizens' lands.

Having realized that protests escalate in South Yemen, President Saleh resorted to forming a fact-finding committee to investigate the real reasons behind what is happening in the southern part of Yemen. The committee, chaired by Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Saleh Basurra, who belongs to southern Hadhramout

governorate, prepared a comprehensive report on the most important reasons for the escalating turmoil in South Yemen.

According to the report, some 16 Yemeni ministers are responsible for what is happening in the southern governorates. In the same context, a prominent Yemeni opposition leader said that Saleh was given two options to choose between: whether to select homeland or the 16 ministers. Seemingly, he preferred the 16 ministers.

In addition, foreign observers are of the opinion that Yemen is undergoing a critical stage because it suffers from multiple economic, social, political and cultural problems, which they described as 'flagrant'.

In the political sphere, Yemen is suffering a deadlock and sharp crisis between the authority and opposi-

tion, which was engaged in a serious of dialogues with the regime, and these dialogues were described by political analysts as 'sterile' because they reached no tangible results, particularly what regards composition of the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER).

People's will for reform deceived:

The Yemeni opposition accuses Saleh's regime of manipulating the political and democratic life in Yemen and deceiving people's will for reform. It also held the regime accountable for producing contradictions and creating insurmountable crisis between the ruling and opposition parties, adding that it reproduces the same replica of itself via rigged elections.

According to opposition leaders, the way the regime reproduces the

same replica of itself again and again via elections, accompanied by violations and discrepancies, is the main reason why Yemen is progressing toward unprecedented collapse.

Other political observers hold the view that Yemen's opposition is weak and affected by the influence of tribal leaders and tradesmen who express allegiance with President Saleh to protect their interests. Consequently, this opposition poses no threat to the regime in order to persuade it to respond to its political demands, which observers viewed as fair and constitutional. To conclude, the way the regime behaves is the primary reason why South Yemeni has become a ground for growing turmoil.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com

Reforms, amendments and the government

By: Mohammed Al-Maqaleh

While the Yemeni opposition leader was conducting consultative dialogues with President of the Republic on political detainees, proportional list in elections, electoral domiciles and election management, believed to be top priority issues, the latter (President Saleh) decided to present a proposal of important constitutional amendments to the Shoura Council. Saleh also distributed the proposal to the various private and party-affiliated newspapers without even considering the role of his partner in such amendments.

We got surprised when we heard the news of these amendments. In all circumstances, such an individually-

taken method in discussing critical issues is one of the factors behind fragmentation, loss of confidence and damage of dialogue values.

This method made each party cast doubt on what the other party does even if the thing being done proceeds to its advantage and is in favor of the nation. The opposition is entitled to object to the amendments proposal. It has the right to consider the ruler's behavior as one-sided step that may not ensure neutrality in the discussion of critical issues.

A very important question being raised here is that, "What are the top priority issues listed by the opposition? Are they political reforms or upcoming parliamentary elections, or both?"

I am not against the constitutional amendments in principle or in terms of the timing. However, I see that the

current time period is the most convenient occasion for dialoguing on the suggested constitutional amendments and various viewpoints on this regard. We need not engage ourselves in futile deliberations on electoral domiciles and election management body, which if exclusively formed from the opposition without reforming both the political and electoral systems, it would never help address real problems on the ground.

If Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) give top priority to reforming the Yemeni state, not to reviewing the election management body, even if the latter is a small part of the former, the normal reference for this kind of political and national reforms will be the constitution and any required amendments, as well as any disagreements or agreements on

these amendments.

The election law and any agreements or disagreements on amending this law have nothing to do with reforming the Yemeni state. In event a serious political will is available to reform both spheres (the Yemeni state and its election system) as part of the comprehensive national reform program, any expended efforts in this regard will make progress.

Today, there is no notable disagreement between the relevant parties over the fact that Yemen is experiencing a dangerous crisis that threatens national unity, security and stability. The various parties involved understand that the only way to help the nation get rid of its current crisis is conducting comprehensive political reforms concerned with the Yemeni state.

These reforms should change the nature of state's performance, convince it to accept national partnership and peaceful transfer of power, expand the base of popular participation, separate the three authorities from each other and compose a bicameral legislature of both chambers, one to represent population, and the other to be formed in light of geographical areas.

Both chambers of the bicameral legislature must constitute a unified body to discuss any pressing national issues and enhance local governance with broad powers in a way encouraging the establishment of a really effective local authority to exercise oversight over performance of the various executive offices in the government.

Source: Al-Thawri Weekly.

Sa'ada tribal leaders and the peace road

By: Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakil

In response to a suggestion from National Solidarity Council (NSC), many prominent tribal leaders from the war-ravaged Sa'ada governorate are expending hard efforts to end an unjust war taking place in their area without any clear objective or issue. No clear reason behind breakout of the war except for arrogance, on the one hand, and foolishness and unwise estimation, on the other.

Sa'ada tribal sheikhs, scholars and wise men are the first people entitled to take full responsibility for ending a war that killed thousands of innocent citizens and destroyed public and private property. It is them who are burnt by fire of the war, and it is their children and women who suffer the most from the war negative consequences. It is also their homes and farmlands, which have become a source of fuel for an unjust war, of which the negative impacts are reflected on the living of every Yemeni citizen, as well as all the Arab and Muslim nationals.

In order for Sa'ada tribal leaders to succeed in stopping the destructive war, they should abide by three Islamic principles:

First: These sheikhs should establish the kind of cooperation based on obedience and faith, not on sin and animosity. Second: they should work on the basis of reconciliation and reformation. If it becomes impossible

for them to do so having realized and understood well the circumstances and conditions of each party, the uncommitted party must be held accountable for any consequences incurred by its behavior.

Third: These mediators should observe justice, particularly as the Holy Quran stipulates justice to be observed by any mediators exerting effort to conciliate between two conflicting parties.

An open advice to Sa'ada sheikhs:

In order to achieve justice, you need to adopt a thorough criterion, via which you can identify the violating party, or the party that doesn't remain committed to any agreement reached in this regard. No criterion is more thorough than the Constitution, which regulates the relation between the ruler and the ruled, as well as the relation between individuals and society.

No one is over the Constitution and Law, be he an ordinary citizen or a government official. The authority is not entitled to violate the constitutional and legal rights of citizens, and under no circumstance a citizen may be allowed to behave in a way contradicting the Constitution and effective laws.

Success of your mediation depends mostly on your ability to support both conflicting sides through demonstrating neutrality and objectivity, and observing justice in your dealings with both parties. Your success in this regard also depends on your capacity to reform an uncommitted party and

take it to the right track.

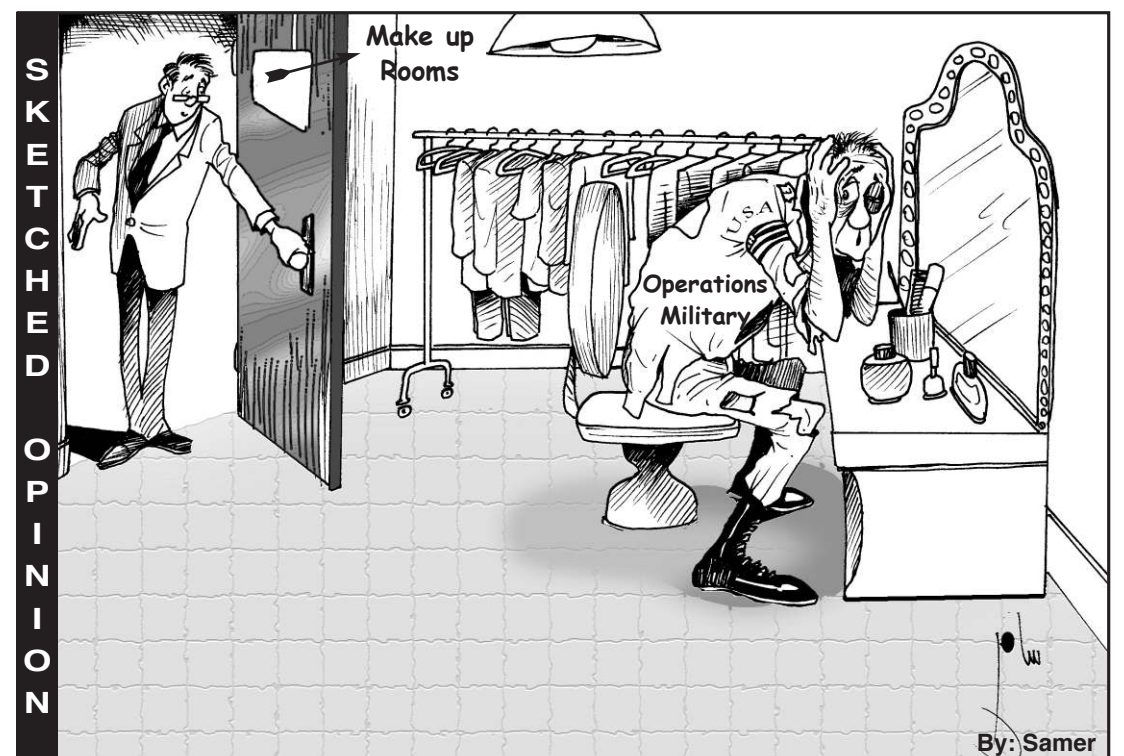
Supposedly, If Al-Houthi, Al-Rizami and their supporters surrendered their weapons, abandoned their mountaintop positions and relied on your guarantees, but the authority violated its commitments and began cracking down on Houthi followers, all your mediation efforts would go awry. As a result, the situation will create numerous obstacles and complications to any mediation efforts in

the future.

You need to take such issues into consideration before you begin your mediation efforts to conciliate between both conflicting parties. You should prepare yourselves with new recruits from tribesmen, as promised by the government, and collect artillery and sufficient funding prior to the mediation efforts. "What doesn't come with the bride will not come after her."

Afterward, you should request the government to leave the ground for your command in order to avoid any potential disputes with army members and military commanders. Request the authority to replace deployed army personnel by civil police and civil servants in the public sector. Only this may ensure success of your mediation.

Source: Al-Wasat Weekly.



By: Samer

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Marebpress.net, an independent news website
Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Top Stories

- U.S. report criticizes Yemeni military forces over human rights abuses
- First Virtue Forum elects Sheikh Al-Zindani chairman and Sadeq Al-Ahmar deputy chairman
- JMP opposes composition of 'Vice & Virtue Committee'

Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) refused the formation of the so-called 'Vice and Virtue Committee', the independent news website reported in one of its lead stories. It went on to say that Higher Council of the opposition coalition said in a statement, "The Composition of Vice and Virtue Committee should not conceal the real political intentions behind its formation which aims to confuse the political life in helpless and exposed attempt to divert the attention away the phenomenon of rampant corruption practiced in the various government offices."

"The formation of such a committee will make no tangible results rather it will weaken the role of official institutions and laws currently placed in effect." the statement added.

"Virtue is a noble social and moral value and it is the responsibility of the whole society with all its sectors and it is not confined to a certain group," the website quoted a source having close relation with the committee as saying.

The Vice & Virtue Committee closed

last week two Chinese restaurants trading in alcohol.

The committees are not yet formed in Yemen as a debate continues on what the task of these committees would be, presumably to focus mainly on fighting the trend toward night clubs, trading in alcohol, and movies in hotels.



26 September.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Army
Thursday, July 17, 2008

Top Stories

- Yemen's external loans are within safe limits, says Governor of Central Bank of Yemen
- Shoura Council discusses constitutional amendments proposal
- Saleh conducts scrutiny visit to Dhamar

President Saleh paid on Tuesday a scrutiny visit to Dhamar governorate where he was received local councilors and executive offices' staff in the governorate, the website reported. During his visit, president Saleh listened to issues of the citizens and work process in several development projects in the governorate.

According to the website, Saleh also addressed the soldiers, officers and students, that the security and defense institution is the possession of all Yemeni people, stressing the necessity of establishing modern training programs to qualify individuals of personnel of this institution.

He said that the leadership has offered all capacities to help police do their tasks

in well manner and professionally, highlighting achievements as a result of security deployment and combating terror and crime.

President Saleh said that military and security forces would stand against elements who try to undermine stability and security of the nation and enemies of revolution and unification who call for imamate and regionalism are two faces for same coin. He also described them as mercenaries working to damage stability and security of the nation.

Then, he visited the camp of 30th brigade of republican guards where he highlighted victories of military and security forces against rebels in some Sa'ada areas.



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, July 17, 2008

Top Stories

- US State Department report accuses Yemen of violating public freedoms and practicing human rights abuses
- World Bank: price hikes may cause instability in Arab states
- Freedom House release 2008 report on Yemen

Yemen's government continued to clash with Zaidi Muslim rebels in the north in 2007, the website quoted a Freedom House's report on Yemen for 2008 as saying. The report added that the authorities also continued their crackdown on the press and free speech, prosecuting

journalists who criticized the state and especially its northern military campaign. Also in 2007, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation pledged more than \$20 million in aid to fight accelerating corruption in the government.

The report adds that in September 2006, Yemen held its second presidential election since unification. President Ali Abdullah Saleh was reelected with 77 percent of the vote, and the ruling Grand People's Congress (GPC) party won by a similar margin in concurrent provincial and local council elections.

The 2006 presidential race was the first in which a serious opposition candidate challenged the incumbent. Saleh's main opponent, Faisal Ben Shamlan, was supported by a coalition of Islamist and other opposition parties and received 22 percent of the vote. The elections, which international observers deemed free and fair despite opposition allegations of fraud, secured Saleh's rule for another seven years and opened the door for the possible political candidacy of his son.

Yemen has faced security challenges from terrorist and secessionist movements over the past decade. Clashes in the northern region of Saada as part of an uprising by some members of Yemen's large community of Zaidi Shiite Muslims continued in 2007; hundreds of people had been killed in the fighting since it broke out in 2004.

The government faced other sources of opposition as well. In September 2007, police killed two army veterans who participated in protests aimed at government discrimination against communities in southern Yemen. In ongoing tensions between tribes and the government over

poor social conditions, tribesmen near Sanaa blew up an oil pipeline in October. Revenues from oil exports make up 70 percent of Yemen's national budget.

The country continues to be plagued by serious economic problems, including widespread poverty. Economic growth has been slow, and unemployment hovers around 40 percent.



Al-Methaq.net, affiliated with General People Congress (GPC)
Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Top Stories

- IFES warns against delaying composition of Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum
 - Many deceived Houthi supporters surrender themselves to army
 - Saleh explains election law amendments to political party leaderships
- President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Sunday explained to leaderships of the General People's Congress (GPC), opposition parties of the National Council and both Baath Nationalist Socialist Yemen League Sons parties the latest developments in the national arena, the website reported, adding that the explanation covered aspects related to draft constitutional reforms.

The Sunday's consultative meeting dealt with issues and developments in the national arena especially the draft of constitutional reforms, presently under discussion at the Shoura council. These amendments aim to develop the political and democratic system, address worsen-

ing situations in Saada and eliminate practices of some terrorist elements that threaten security and stability nationwide.

According to the website, Saleh pointed out that these amendments are intended to improve the political and democratic system through establishing bicameral legislature and strengthening local governance with broad powers.

The meeting also discussed work papers and visions on establishing alliance, coordination and cooperation between the GPC and member parties of the Opposition National Council and other political organizations involved in the meeting with the aim of realizing the national interest and enhancing the democratic and pluralist experiment, as well as expanding the scope of popular participation via local governance with full powers.

The meeting set up a joint committee from the parties involved to study all what was mentioned in the work papers and visions in order to come out with joint perceptions on the convenient formula for the establishment of this national democratic alliance on grounds of commitment to national achievements, particularly the Constitution, the Revolution, the Republic, the unity, realization of the national interest in the first place and enrichment of the democratic practice.

President Saleh also talked about the ongoing deliberations on amending the General Elections Law and formation of the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum in order to conducted upcoming parliamentary elections with high transparency according to their schedule.

Mediating the nuclear impasse

By: Alon Ben-Meir

Iran's insistence on enriching uranium in defiance of three UN Security Council resolutions, combined with a bevy of antagonistic threats aimed at Israel's existence has created an explosive recipe that may well precipitate a horrifying regional conflagration. For Iran's own best interests, its contentious leaders would be well advised to tone down their anti-Israeli threats, which have not been taken lightly this far, and find a diplomatic solution to Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program. The recent Israeli air force exercises and American naval maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, which were countered by Iran's test-firing of a variety of missiles, have only heightened an already tense atmosphere.

It is now critical to look at who might be in a position to defuse the tension and restore some stability to a volatile region already battered by a devastating war in Iraq. At this point, Turkey has made itself well positioned geopolitically to play such a significant role.

The fact that the Bush administration has shifted policy after nearly three decades and agreed to participate in the international talks with Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili in Geneva may well open the door for future direct talks to be facilitated by the Turks.

Israeli concerns over Iran's nuclear program are real and escalating rapidly, regardless of the fact that the US and the International Energy and Atomic Agency (IEAE) show different estimates of how close Iran is to obtaining the needed materials and technology. Israelis know well that while the United States and Europe are weary of Iran's nuclear ambitions, they do not share Israel's sense of urgency about Iran's nuclear potential. The Jews' history in Europe does not offer Israel the luxury of taking matters of national survival lightly.

Thus Israel tends to limit the scope of risks it can take with any one of its neighbors. Israel's Defense Minister Ehud Barak noted recently that "Israel is the strongest country in the region and has proved in the past it is not afraid to take action when its vital security interests are at stake." Indeed, when survival is at stake, an Israeli official told me during my recent visit to the region, the Israelis will not worry about public relations.

That being said, Israel wants to avoid escalation of the conflict with Iran fearing that such an extremely sensitive issue could result in a terrible miscalculation. Syrian President Bashar Assad also spoke on the issue last week stating that "The problem is that when one starts such action in the Middle East, one cannot manage the reactions that can spread out over years or even decades." For this rea-

son, Israel will continue to seek and push for a diplomatic solution and welcomes the American participation in the upcoming talks with Iran. However, should there not be a breakthrough in these and future talks, Israel will not wait until Iran reaches the point of no return-the point in which Iran musters the technology to produce a nuclear weapon.

With the best of intentions Britain, France and Germany, representing the EU in the negotiations with Iran have thus far failed to persuade Iran to cease its enrichment of uranium. Swimming with oil money, Iran continues to defy three sets of UN sanctions almost with impunity while making considerable progress in its nuclear program. From the Iranian vantage point, the American preoccupation in Iraq and increasingly in Afghanistan substantially reduces the risks of an American attack on Iran. It is doubtful that under the present circumstances the next round of talks even with US participation will produce different results.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei plainly stated on July 16th that "In relations to the negotiations—we have clearly defined red lines"—a reference to Iran's insistence that it has the right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes.

Whether the next round of talks with Iran will help alleviate the tension

between the US and Iran remains to be seen. What is needed at this critical time is a dramatic shift in the dynamic of the conflict, and this is where Turkey might be better suited to mediate Iran's nuclear issue. In the five days of meetings I had in Ankara just recently, whenever the subject of Iran's nuclear program was mentioned Turkish officials and academics expressed grave concerns about the growing danger of yet another avoidable and potentially devastating war in the Middle East. For the Turks, finding a diplomatic solution is not one of many options but the only sane option to prevent a horrific outcome.

Apart from Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan's recent claims that "Maybe the mediator role regarding Iran's nuclear issue will soon be given to Turkey" due to its recent diplomatic achievements between Israel and Syria, there are many reasons why Turkey may succeed in mediating a peaceful solution to the nuclear impasse. Other than being directly affected by regional events, Turkey generally enjoys good relations with all states in the region, it has not been tainted with the war in Iraq; it is a predominantly Muslim State, Middle Eastern as well as European. Turkey shares the longest-standing border with Iran, and has maintained good neighborly relations with Tehran for centuries with expanding trade relations. Moreover, Turkey and Iran

share a similar sentiment and have collaborated recently on the Kurdish issue, and both have a shared interest in this regard for the emergence of a stable Iraq.

Whereas Turkey, at this juncture, may not be able to mediate between Israel and Iran, Ankara certainly stands a much better chance to mediate between Washington and Tehran. Moreover, the Iranian government is mostly concerned with the Bush Administration's attitude toward regime change in Tehran. Iran is terrified of the prospect of an American attack on its nuclear facilities, but its leadership wants assurances from the US that Washington will no longer pursue regime change and will treat it with dignity and respect in dealing with the nuclear issue. Because of Turkey's standing in the region and as a credible bridge to the West, Turkey might succeed where others have failed. Turkey is a close ally and a reliable friend of the United States; it is an important member of NATO, it has worked fervently to maintain the democratic nature of the state, and has received due praise for its recent diplomatic mediating efforts.

Turkey can better understand the nature of Iran's threats, specifically in connection with the United States who has made no secret of its efforts to support Ahmadinejad's opponents. Arzu Celalifer, a Turkish expert on Iran from the ISRO Center for Middle Eastern

Studies in Ankara suggested that "Turkey may also be in a better position than the EU representatives to bypass Ahmadinejad and reach out directly to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei." In addition, she said, "Turkey may offer a sort of plan B whereby Iran can be persuaded to enrich uranium on Turkish soil under strict IAEA monitoring." Turkey, in short, can change the dynamics by offering a new venue for Americans and Iranians to meet and by generating a new momentum for serious dialogue. Finally, Turkey can provide Iran with a dignified disengagement plan, because if Iran is to make any concessions it will more likely make them to a fellow Muslim-majority state with which it has long and friendly relations.

The decision by the Bush administration to participate in the upcoming round of negotiations, however belated, is a wise one. It offers an opportunity to end the nuclear conflict with Iran. Turkey and the US should build on this development and prevent once and for all the prospect of another potentially devastating war.

Alon Ben-Meir is a professor of international relations at the Center for Global Affairs at NYU. He teaches courses on international negotiation and Middle Eastern studies.
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The Death of the Globalization Consensus

By: Dani Rodrik

The world economy has seen globalization collapse once already. The gold standard era – with its free capital mobility and open trade – came to an abrupt end in 1914 and could not be resuscitated after World War I. Are we about to witness a similar global economic breakdown?

The question is not fanciful. Although economic globalization has enabled unprecedented levels of prosperity in advanced countries and has been a boon to hundreds of millions of poor workers in China and elsewhere in Asia, it rests on shaky pillars. Unlike national markets, which tend to be supported by domestic regulatory and political institutions, global markets are only "weakly embedded." There is no global anti-trust authority, no global lender of last resort, no global regulator, no global safety nets, and, of course, no global democracy. In other words, global markets suffer from weak governance, and therefore from weak

popular legitimacy.

Recent events have heightened the urgency with which these issues are discussed. The presidential electoral campaign in the United States has highlighted the frailty of the support for open trade in the world's most powerful nation. The sub-prime mortgage crisis has shown how lack of international coordination and regulation can exacerbate the inherent fragility of financial markets. The rise in food prices has exposed the downside of economic interdependence without global transfer and compensation schemes.

Meanwhile, rising oil prices have increased transport costs, leading analysts to wonder whether the outsourcing era is coming to an end. And there is always the looming disaster of climate change, which may well be the most serious threat the world has ever faced.

So if globalization is in danger, who are its real enemies? There was a time when global elites could comfort themselves with the thought that opposition to the world trading regime consisted of violent anarchists, self-serving protectionists,

trade unionists, and ignorant, idealistic youth. Meanwhile, they regarded themselves as the true progressives, because they understood that safeguarding and advancing globalization was the best remedy against poverty and insecurity.

But that self-assured attitude has all but disappeared, replaced by doubts, questions, and skepticism. Gone also are the violent street protests and mass movements against globalization. What makes news nowadays is the growing list of mainstream economists who are questioning globalization's supposedly unmitigated virtues. So we have Paul Samuelson, the author of the postwar era's landmark economics textbook, reminding his fellow economists that China's gains in globalization may well come at the expense of the US; Paul Krugman, today's foremost international trade theorist, arguing that trade with low-income countries is no longer too small to have an effect on inequality; Alan Blinder, a former US Federal Reserve vice chairman, worrying that international outsourcing will cause unprecedented dislocations for

the US labor force; Martin Wolf, the Financial Times columnist and one of the most articulate advocates of globalization, writing of his disappointment with how financial globalization has turned out; and Larry Summers, the US Treasury chief and the Clinton administration's "Mr. Globalization," musing about the dangers of a race to the bottom in national regulations and the need for international labor standards.

While these worries hardly amount to the full frontal attack mounted by the likes of Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel-prize winning economist, they still constitute a remarkable turnaround in the intellectual climate. Moreover, even those who have not lost heart often disagree vehemently about the direction in which they would like to see globalization go.

For example, Jagdish Bhagwati, the distinguished free trader, and Fred Bergsten, the director of the pro-globalization Peterson Institute for International Economics, have both been on the frontlines arguing that critics vastly exaggerate globalization's ills and under-appreciate

its benefits. But their debates on the merits of regional trade agreements – Bergsten for, Bhagwati against – are as heated as each one's disagreements with the authors mentioned above.

None of these intellectuals is against globalization, of course. What they want is not to turn back globalization, but to create new institutions and compensation mechanisms – at home or internationally – that will render globalization more effective, fairer, and more sustainable. Their policy proposals are often vague (when specified at all), and command little consensus. But confrontation over globalization has clearly moved well beyond the streets to the columns of the financial press and the rostrums of mainstream think tanks.

That is an important point for globalization's cheerleaders to understand, as they often behave as if the "other side" still consists of protectionists and anarchists. Today, the question is no longer, "Are you for or against globalization?" The question is, "What should the rules of globalization be?" The cheerleaders' true

sparring partners today are not rock-throwing youths but their fellow intellectuals.

The first three decades after 1945 were governed by the Bretton Woods consensus – a shallow multilateralism that permitted policymakers to focus on domestic social and employment needs while enabling global trade to recover and flourish. This regime was superseded in the 1980's and 1990's by an agenda of deeper liberalization and economic integration. That model, we have learned, is unsustainable. If globalization is to survive, it will need a new intellectual consensus to underpin it. The world economy desperately awaits its new Keynes.

Dani Rodrik, Professor of Political Economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is the first recipient of the Social Science Research Council's Albert O. Hirschman Prize. His latest book is One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and Economic Growth. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.



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- Assist with the assessment of capacity building needs of government staff in the areas of sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination.
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- Participate in the identification of capacity gaps in the development, implementation and oversight of the national plan.

Qualification:

- A university degree in one of the social sciences.
- Minimum 3 years of experience.
- Ability to work within a multi-disciplinary framework.
- Sound analytical background.
- Good analytical ability.
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This request for expression of interest (Eol) follows the general procurement notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business No. 583, dated May 31, 2002.

The Republic of Yemen has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Credit to payments under the contract for the provision of training to key staff of the Local Water Supply and Sanitation Corporations. The training to be provided includes the following training courses:

Group 1: Eol to be submitted by local providers only

English language training,
Computer skills training, and
MS-Excel skills training.

Group 2: Eol to be submitted by local and/or regional providers

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Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers,
Basic management,
Problem Analysis/Decision Making,
Communication Skills,
Organization Structuring,
Strategic Management/Business Planning,
Modern Utility Management,
Time Management,
MIS/Performance Monitoring and Reporting, and
Reporting skills

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the UWSSP, on behalf of the Ministry of Water and Environment invites eligible local and regional training providers to indicate their interest in providing one or more of the above mentioned training courses. Interested training providers must provide information that they are qualified to perform the requested services (brochures, description of providing similar services). In case of regional training providers, joint ventures or associations with local training providers are encouraged. The venue for all training to be provided will be Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

A training provider (or a joint venture/association) will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997, revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002, and is open to all firms from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Interested training providers may obtain further information between 09.00 and 14.30 hrs at the address below.

Two copies of the Eol must be delivered to the address below not later 30th July, 2008 at 1.00 pm (Yemen Standard Time) to the address below.

The minimum requirements for short listing are:

Submission of the latest company's prospectus/profile (with attachments, if necessary),
Description of/References from previous and ongoing similar assignments.

Project Manager
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project
Al-Mugashi Villa
North to Al-Jandool Supermarket/behind Al-Dewan restaurant,
Hadda, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
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Hijama, or cupping, clinics in Sana'a often are unclean and unlicensed

By: Moneer Al-Homaidi
For The Yemen Times

The ancient acupuncture healing technique known as hijama in Arabic and cupping in English often is used to treat aches and pains, but it also can cause serious infections if done incorrectly.

Hijama is performed at the site of pain on the surface of the skin, which is cleaned and shaved, if needed. The practitioner then places a glass or plastic cup tightly over the skin, creating a small vacuum to draw the skin up inside the cup.

The cup is left clinging to the skin for 10 minutes – at most – before it is removed, leaving a red raised area on the skin's surface, something thought to improve blood circulation.

Once the cup is removed, a small vertical incision is made inside the cupped area with a razor blade. The cup then is reapplied to the same spot and remains on the skin until it is filled with blood. Hajjams, those who perform hijama, claim that drawing the "bad blood" out eases pain.

Afterward, the hajjam shows the patient the cup of bad blood, supposedly to give the patient a psychological boost as he or she is expelling the bad blood. The cupped and cut spots then are cleaned with a soft dry cloth. Finally, the cupped spots are left uncovered or – according to traditional method – an herbal powder is applied, after which the patient is instructed to keep the wounds dry for one day.



Many hijama clinics in Sana'a are unclean, operating without sterilized instruments and rooms without fresh air.

Hamoud Al-Halimi, a hijama specialist who studied traditional remedies in Syria, explains that hijama employs specific procedures and equipment, noting that the best results depend upon the sites cupped on the skin as well as the time of the year when the cupping is done.

He lists several points on the body where hijama typically is performed: the neck, back, shoulders, coccyx, mid-forearms, legs and heels. Al-Halimi also claims that the best time to do hijama is on the 17th, 19th or 21st of

the lunar months in the spring or fall in order to avoid overheating during warm seasons or getting sick during the cold seasons. Hijama often is prescribed after asking patients to explain what ailments they are suffering.

Although Chinese practitioners have been doing it for 3,000 years, if done improperly, hijama can transmit diseases or cause infections. Many Yemeni hijama practitioners are illiterate, having learned the techniques by apprenticing with another

experienced hajjam.

"Learning hijama doesn't require many training courses," points out Zohair Mohammed Abdullah, a hijama student just beginning to practice on patients, "rather, it depends on practicing it."

According to Egyptian hijama specialist Dr. Al-Saiyd Atyia Salama, some hajjams test a patient's blood pressure, but others don't. Some also don't consider a patient's age or whether they carry infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS. Likewise, some don't ask patients if they have certain diseases that can be affected by hijama, like diabetes, or whether they are sick and carrying any viruses.

Al-Halimi stresses that hijama must be done in a clean environment with fresh open air to get rid of the blood smell, as well as allow the patient to breathe in and out while the cups suck out the bad blood. However, he didn't specify whether hijama should be done in a clean facility or not.

Many hijama clinics in Sana'a are unclean, operating without sterilized instruments and rooms without fresh air. A good number of hijama clinics practicing this type of acupuncture also are unlicensed.

As the Yemen Times observed hijama patients are doing cupping at the same time as their family members waited nearby. None of the four hajjams wore hygienic gloves or used a clean cloth to dry the wounds and the smell of blood hung in the air. Some hajjams readily admit that it's easy for germs to spread from one patient to another in this way.

However, the biggest problem is that many hajjams use unclean and non-hygienic razors, blades, cups and gloves, a practice that easily can spread diseases or cause infections in patients' open wounds.

Additionally, hajjams sometimes unconsciously use a blade twice on one patient or even use the same blade on different patients.

Because poor patients from the countryside rarely have enough money to pay for the treatment, which is around YR 4,000, they often are allowed to pay only YR 2,000, but that excludes the cost of using new instruments, according to Al-Halimi, who maintains that this happens at many hijama clinics.

He goes on to explain that the vertical incision into the cupped areas should be different from one patient to another, depending on their skin color. For example, if a patient has darker skin, the razor blade must be inserted deeply and very carefully, whereas it is inserted only slightly into Caucasian skin.

Some hajjams also don't consider the abundance, scarcity or viscosity of a patient's blood. As Salama notes, another common problem with hijama is that once the hajjam finishes drawing out the patient's blood, the incised area continues bleeding and it's difficult for hajjams to stop it.

Government view of hijama

"Cupping therapy could help cure some diseases, but only if there's control and monitoring by the state, particularly the Health Ministry," says

Abdullah Al-Ma'alimi, a blood disease specialist at Al-Jumhuri Hospital. "Although cupping therapy is well-known, unfortunately, it's not implemented in the field nowadays."

Al-Ma'alimi suggests the Yemeni Health Ministry's preventive medicine specialists manage and monitor hijama clinics in an effort to control their quality of care and limit the spread of infectious diseases.

The Yemen Times visited three Ministry of Health departments: the General Administration for Monitoring, the General Administration for Small and Private Institutions and the Medical Remedy department.

Desiring to remain anonymous, the general manager of the General Administration for Monitoring said his department isn't concerned with this type of alternative or traditional medicine.

He added, "Although we're supposed to monitor and check these clinics, the General Administration for Small and Private Institutions grants licenses for all different types of clinics, monitoring them at the same time."

However, officials at the General Administration for Small and Private Institutions, who also requested anonymity due to the alleged sensitivity of the topic, maintained that they don't license hijama clinics because they practice alternative medicine.

The ministry's Medical Remedy department was closed for unknown reasons.

Despite USAID renovation,

Amran medical centers still await doctors, equipment

By: Jamal Al-Najjar
alnajjar7@gmail.com

Medical centers in Amran governorate's Habour Dhulaima and Swair districts still suffer lack of health services and specialized staff, despite recent intervention by the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID.

Residents of the two districts complain about lack of health services and poor access to city hospitals, especially given that these areas have endemic diseases requiring urgent care.

Habour Dhulaima

In Habour Dhulaima, located approximately 165 kilometers north of Sana'a, USAID built a residence for Habour Dhulaima medical center's personnel and provided the center basic medical equipment such as an ultrasound machine and an echocardiogram (known as an ECG), which measure the heart's electrical pulses. It also provided the center health education equipment and trained local midwives to serve at the center.

According to the center's manager, Yahya Mohammed Al-Ahmar, "More than 45,000 Habour Dhulaima residents – and many from the nearby districts – will benefit from this center, particularly after USAID's recent renovation."

He notes that the center offers reproductive health services, X-rays, ultrasounds, essential medical checkups, vaccinations and tuberculosis treatment. However, due to lack of specialized doctors and medicine, the center, which was established in 1985, still can't offer district residents proper health services.

As Al-Ahmar explains, "Because we have only one general practitioner, we can't perform any surgeries and while USAID provided us an ECG, no one can use it. We have a delivery room, but we have neither an obstetrics department nor a female surgeon to



The only GP in the center was trained in the ultra sound. He says that lack of medicine in the center hinders the treatment process.

help those women who require Caesarean sections during childbirth. In such cases, we're forced to transfer them to Sana'a hospitals for surgery there."

He further notes that because the majority of residents are poor, they can't afford to travel to Sana'a for treatment, as hiring a vehicle to the capital city costs more than YR 20,000. Additionally, the road is unpaved and the conditions upon it are very bad.

"If we had an obstetrics department and a female surgeon, area residents would receive health care here at the center and they wouldn't have to suffer the long trip to Sana'a for treatment," Al-Ahmar says.

The center's sole general practitioner, Dr. Abdullah Saif Al-Salihi maintains that the facility has witnessed a noticeable increase in the number of patients coming for treatment, but he says the center often can't meet residents' demands because it can't provide the necessary treatment for several diseases specific to the area.

Due to impure drinking water in Habour Dhulaima, bilharzia and renal failure are endemic to the area,

according to Al-Salihi, who points out that the center has a shortage of bilharzia medicine and that most bilharzia patients are children. Kidney stones and associated problems are among the area's major complaints due to the salinated water residents drink.

"Kidney stones are common among area residents. You may find three or four patients in the same family with the same disease," Al-Salihi says, adding that the center can't offer such patients the required treatment due to lack of medicine in its pharmacy.

Ali Ahmed Shuraha, a resident of the town of Habour Dhulaima, says he has suffered renal failure for a long time, but the center can't offer him anything. "I must travel to Sana'a at least twice a week for dialysis [cleansing the blood through a machine]," he explains, "Each trip to Sana'a costs me around YR 15,000. I can't afford to pay all of these costs because I'm poor."

Al-Ahmar confirms that there are more than 20 renal failure patients just in the town of Habour Dhulaima alone, most of whom are poor. "Despite the fact that they're poor, some are obliged to rent a house in Sana'a in order to

better access the hospital where they do dialysis," he says, noting that even diabetics suffer due to a lack of insulin, which they can only get in Sana'a.

"The number of patients we see is related to the services offered," Al-Salihi says, adding, "In the past, our center would receive approximately 300 patients per month, but that number now has increased to about 500 due to the recent USAID renovation. Regardless, we transfer most cases to Amran and Sana'a hospitals because we don't have a female surgeon, an obstetrics department or even medicine."

Additionally, Al-Salihi reveals that the center's pharmacy lacks necessary medicines, adding that the pharmacy sometimes runs out of medicine and waits more than three months for the Amran Health Office to provide more.

"Imagine some patients coming to this center for treatment – we often prescribe them medicine, but unfortunately, they find nothing at the center's pharmacy," Al-Salihi says. "As a result, they must travel to Amran to purchase medicine at their own expense because there's no private drugstore here in town."

"No specialists, no female surgeon, no qualified lab technician – how can I depend on such a medical center?" asks Ali Ahmed Jurfan, a Habour Dhulaima town local. "The pharmacy doesn't cover even 10 percent of the required drugs, so even if we receive treatment at the center, we must travel to the city to buy medicine."

Serving the entire district are 18 USAID-trained midwives, some of whom work at the center while others help deliver in homes, which reduces the pressure upon the center, but also increases the potential for maternal deaths.

Swair district

The situation at Shaib Medical Center in Swair district, located some 180 kilometers north of Sana'a, is similar to the Habour Dhulaima center, but is worse in terms of essential health services. USAID has provided the

center an electric generator, built a residence for staff and established an obstetrics department.

However, because all of the center's personnel are technicians and there isn't even one general practitioner, it can't offer even the minimum level of health services, according to Hind Saleh Qayed, a midwife at the center.

"We don't have any delivery needs such as gloves, disinfectant, oxygen or even gauze. As a result, area residents don't come to the center – especially women, who need family planning. More than 20 percent of women are concerned about family planning, but

they don't come here because there are no health services," Qayed says.

Manager Mahmoud Yahya Abu Helfah points out that the center has only two midwives, a lab technician and four nurses, noting that the center, which serves approximately 12,000 people, desperately needs equipment and a female doctor who can offer prenatal maternal health care.

He adds, "Sometimes, we don't even have paracetamol; thus, the Amran Health Office and Yemen's Health Ministry should consider our center's situation and provide us the essential needs."

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Cartoon films seek to counter Yemeni social ills

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

Ahmed is the name of the main character in two cartoon films produced by the Shawthab Foundation for Childhood and Development. The two films are part of a series seeking to enhance the media's role in dealing with children's issues.

In both films, Ahmed is portrayed with brown skin, dark hair, wide black eyes and wearing traditional clothing in most scenes in order to reflect Yemeni children's image as victims of circumstances forced upon them by their communities, whether family or neighbors.

According to the foundation, the first film, "Ahmed is Coming Back," is based on a true story and was created to show the suffering and pain that smuggled Yemeni children experience.

Ahmed's poor unemployed father sends him to a smuggler to enter Saudi Arabia illegally. During his trip, Ahmed witnesses the death of his friend, who gets bitten by a snake. Unable to survive the hunger, fear and the hard work, Ahmed returns to Yemen by car in a miserable condition.

The 20-minute film ends with the smugglers' arrests, although viewers don't know how this happens. Ahmed's father weeps, promising to find work so as not to repeat the mistake of sending his son away.

Considered the first Yemeni dramatic production in this field, the film achieved great success, winning third place at Cairo's annual Children's Cinema Festival in 2007.

At that festival, the Shawthab Foundation also was nominated for the Arab Gulf Foundation for United Nations Development Organizations



educated child from an educated family that rejects the concept of using or carrying weapons. However, this is contrary to Ahmed's neighbor's children, who start carrying weapons following encouragement from their parents.

The film rebukes the Yemeni cultural concept of linking manhood with carrying weapons. "The real weapon is your knowledge and education," Ahmed's father says while addressing his children. In a shockingly dramatic scene, Ahmed is injured and another child is killed when Salim, another child in their neighborhood, is showing off his pistol.

The film ends with the arrest of Salim's father and Ahmed waking up in the hospital, asking for a weapon. "Here's your weapon," his father says while handing Ahmed a book. The message is that education can stop this

"Our establishment contacted various film producers, such as Al-Jazeera, and even schoolchildren in order to get their reactions to the first film, 'Ahmed is Coming Back,' and discover the technical defects in an attempt avoid them and make a good quality film," Al-Shuafi explains, adding that the second film, "Ahmed and Game of Death," will play at Cairo's next Children's Cinema Festival.

Whereas "Ahmed is Coming Back" has been distributed to many schools in Sana'a, Hadramout, Taiz, Hajjah, Socotra, Hodeidah, Abyan, Aden and Ibb, "Ahmed and the Game of Death" will be distributed in five Yemeni governorates where weapons-carrying is widespread: Marib, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Al-Dhale' and Ibb. Al-Shuafi adds that it also will be shown at schools, parks, local councils and civil societies.

She notes, "The first film was well-received, not only by Yemeni audiences, but also by organizations outside Yemen, with immigration centers and documentary production centers in Jordan and Qatar requesting copies of it."

Although the two films reflect topics related to children's rights in Yemen, they haven't been seen on Yemeni television. "Unfortunately, our request to show these films and reach a wider audience in Yemen was rejected by the Information Minister [Hassan Al-Lawzi], who said the films don't reflect the status of Yemeni children," Al-Shuafi says, adding, "We're now trying again with the Information Ministry to show the second film."

Kid-made

Al-Shuafi maintains that the idea to make an educational cartoon film came from Yemeni children working with the foundation. Not only did the children come up with the idea, they also drew the characters, narrated the story, suggested the characters' names and voiced them.

"Addressing and communicating with children isn't easy," Al-Shuafi points out, "so it was important to let them participate in creating the characters."

dangerous culture of bearing arms.

Films to raise awareness

"We tried to avoid the errors we made during the first film," says Mariam Al-Shuafi, secretary-general of the Shawthab Foundation.

Slow action and repetitive scenes were some of these errors that the second film's creators attempted to avoid.



(AGFUND) prize provided by Saudi Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

The foundation's second animated film, "Ahmed and the Game of Death," which was released two weeks ago at an event at the Mövenpick Hotel, focuses on children carrying firearms and was highly critical of the Yemeni tradition of carrying weapons.

This time, Ahmed is portrayed as an



In April 2006, the Shawthab Foundation announced a competition for the best cartoon drawing of a Yemeni family in national newspapers.

Five participants were selected from each of the five competing governorates: Sana'a, Aden, Hajjah, Hodeidah and Taiz. A team of special artists, including Mohammed Al-Yemeni, Adel Al-Mawri and two children, went to those governments to collect and evaluate the drawings. "We insisted on involving the children in everything, even the plans and decisions," Al-Shuafi says.

The winner, Rafah Al-Ashwal, who won YR 100,000 donated by UNICEF, was announced at a June 28, 2006 celebration attended by 120 people, including 30 children. A committee of psychologists, sociologists, young artists and cartoon specialists formed a workshop to evaluate and see what the drawings needed and then completed them before sending them to Cairo to become the films' cartoon characters.

Egypt's AkhnaToon Animation Studio produced the two films, each of which cost \$30,000. Al-Shuafi notes, "Shawthab Foundation is planning to produce a third film next month on how to teach children to accept others' opinions."

however, the language of both films was modern standard Arabic.

As Al-Shuafi explains, "This shows that these problems affect all Yemeni children, regardless of their background. It also overcomes the accent dilemma and provides access to all levels of society, which can comprehend standard Arabic."

She points out that although the two films address children first, they also are made to address parents. "We found that parents and society involve themselves in different ways in shaping children's destiny, so the two films were created to raise awareness among both children and parents."

Short clips dealing with sensitive issues

Al-Shuafi notes that Shawthab Foundation already has produced three animated sketches dealing with instructions to be given to children in an effort to avoid sexual harassment.

"We tried not to shock the children because this topic is very sensitive, so we decided to produce five-minute clips using chants to instruct children on how to avoid [sexual] harassment," she explains, adding that Ahmed and his family members also play the main roles in these videos.



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Duration: till end 2008 & revision

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge:

- Knowledge of electrical systems including generators
- Extended knowledge of supply management
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- Extended knowledge of the importation rules & procedures as used in the Republic of Yemen
- Knowledge of communication systems
- Knowledge of ICT

Experience:

- 5 years of related job duties & responsibilities experience
- Working experience at different levels (Government, International NGOs, Local NGOs, etc.) would be an asset

Language:

- Arabic as mother tongue
- High-level command in English (both oral & written)

Skills:

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CONTACT DETAILS

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter before **July the 25th** to:

Medicins Sans Frontieres – Spain
P.O. Box 16308 Haddah post office
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Friday sermons as a form of media

By: Almgidaj Mojalli

For more than 14 centuries, Juma'a orations, or Friday sermons, at the mosque have been considered the first and most widespread method of addressing Muslims, discussing Islam, as well as social, political and personal issues.

Beginning at around noon and lasting 30 minutes to an hour, the sermon is divided into separate lectures of about 20 to 30 minutes each. Friday sermons must be given in Islamic countries every Friday before prayers and all Muslims men must attend.

For this reason, the sermons target all levels of society. During the sermon, attendees are to be attentive and not interrupt the preacher. In fact, no one is allowed to say even a word, either to the preacher or to any other attendee. Thus, the preacher is ensured a quiet atmosphere where listeners can best absorb the lessons, which he must prepare for a week in order to ensure that it's as effective as possible.

Friday sermons usually address Muslims' life incidents during the past week in relation to religion. For example, a preacher may talk about the

International Criminal Court's accusations against Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir or about the importance of caring for orphans.

Preachers also may use their Friday sermons to teach Muslims their religious duties, such as prayer, since many are ignorant about their duties, but are shy to ask about such things, particularly if they are elderly.

"In Islam, a nation's ruler is the one who should deliver the sermon in which he informs his people about what has happened regarding the past week's political and social developments, relating them to religion," explains Mohammed Al-Hammadi, a preacher at Ammar Ibn Yasser Mosque. "However, because there are millions of people and it's impossible to gather and address them all in one place, there are now preachers for every mosque in the country."

He notes that mosque preachers must discuss their nation's social, political, economic and religious issues and relate them to Islam in an effort to show how Islam relates to all aspects of life.

During his Friday sermon, a preacher also must instruct his fellow Muslims about good behavior and remind them about the Resurrection

Day, which is the coming hell for the guilty and paradise for those who are good.

Additionally, as Abdulwahed Mansour, a preacher at Museik Mosque, explains, "A preacher must know much about religion, such as interpreting verses of the Qur'an and the Hadith [sayings of the Prophet Mohammed]." He also must be able to speak and thoroughly understand modern standard Arabic or Fus'ha.

As one of the most effective and widespread ways to address Muslims, Friday sermons have led to demonstrations regarding local, national and international issues. "Friday sermons can have a very strong effect, especially if the preacher knows how to treat the issue at hand and how to evoke attendees' feelings," Mansour notes.

"Many revolutions, demonstrations against Israeli aggression against Palestinians and against the United States have started after Friday sermons," he adds.

However, as Al-Hammadi explains, mosque preachers also must be moderate and vary their topics because some subjects fall by the wayside, even though they may be more important and touch lives more.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE BY AUCTION

HADDAH LANDS

Kuwaiti Real Estate Investment Group (Kuwaiti closed shareholding company) declares selling of Haddah lands described below by a closed auction that will be held on Monday dated 18/08/2008 at Sheraton Sana'a Hotel at 10:00 am.

Description of Lands

1 - Land # 1

Land # 1 is located in the Political Zone on the main street of Haddah, bordered by sub-streets from the north, south and west. This land is surrounded from all sides and the estimated area is approximately 9,858 square meters (equivalent to 220 lebna). This area is qualified for all investment choices.

2 - Land # 2

Land # 2 is located in the same area of land # 1, bordered by the backstreet of land # 1 to the east, a sub-street to the south, a neighbour to the west, and a neighbour to the north, with an estimated area of about 2446 square meters (equivalent to 55.4 lebna).

- Auction shall begin at a basic price of USD 10,000,000 (US dollars ten millions).
- Individuals who wish to participate in this closed auction must:
 - Purchase the terms of reference as well as descriptions of lands in the amount of USD 1,000 (US Dollars one thousand) which is irrecoverable.
 - Complete an application form to participate in the auction and submit a certified cheque from a local bank with an amount of USD 100,000 or a letter of guarantee from a local bank for a three-month period, from the date of the auction, to Kuwaiti Real Estate Investment Group.
- Only individuals holding invitation cards issued by PricewaterhouseCoopers & Mohammed Al-Jaradi shall be allowed to enter the auction.

For further inquiries and information please contact:

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