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Plan for reconstructing Hadramout

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

HADRAMOUT, Jan. 14 — The reconstruction process of the residences destroyed by the floods in October last year is to start by mid February 2009, said Salem Al-Khanbashi governor of Hadramout.

Marinating the Hadrami architectural style, foundations of the new houses will be designed to resist future disasters, and the locations were chosen in relatively high places out of the floods' natural paths.

Latest statistics by the governorate indicated that about at least 4,500 houses were destroyed totally or partially by the floods.

"Each new residence will be a one story house built on an area of 625 square meters. The houses will include four rooms, three bathrooms, a kitchen and a small yard. Large families will receive an extra piece of land adjacent to their new home on which they can build extra premises in the future," he said.

Many victims of the flood are currently living with relatives; and 1111 families who could not be accommodated as such, were provided rented apartments by the Popular Committee of Hadramout's Businessmen. A third group found refuge in the vacant homes of Yemenis living abroad.

The government had established a reconstruction fund in Nov. last year for areas affected by the floods in the provinces of Hadramout and Al-Mahrah, which were the most affected areas by the floods in eastern region of Yemen.

"Only one room of our home was not destroyed by the continuous rain, and we gathered in that room until conditions permitted and we were able to move to a



Hadramout after the floods. Some 500,000 palm trees were reportedly uprooted.

nearby school along with many of our neighbors. The businessmen committee provided us with an apartment until now," said Saleh Al-Amari a local in Hadramout and a victim of the flood. Local authorities gave victims of the

flood application forms by which they can reclaim new residences when the reconstruction project is completed.

The World Bank's initial estimates of the damage to infrastructure and shelter was roughly calculated at \$525-720 mil-

lion, not including the significant resources (another \$200 or so million) that are needed to build effective flood protection systems in the vulnerable areas of the Wadi Hadramout and in Mukalla city.

The damages
 As of October 31, 2008, over 4,600 houses and another 2,000 huts in both Hadramout and Al-Mahara governorates were totally or substantially damaged, leading to as many as 25,000 internally

displaced persons, according to the World Bank in Yemen. In addition, 73 persons were reported to have lost their lives as a result of the flooding, 30 people were missing and scores have been injured.

The floods' impact on agricultural land and people's livelihoods has been particularly devastating. It is feared that as much as 700,000 persons (representing over 50 percent of the population of Hadramout Governorate) have had their livelihoods destroyed or significantly affected.

Some 500,000 palm trees were reportedly uprooted. In addition, livestock losses exceeded 36,000 heads (camels, goats and cows) and some 60,000 beehives producing the renowned Hadramout honey were reportedly destroyed.

The international community is responding with support to help Yemen cope with this catastrophe, in effect the largest flood to have hit the country since the 1996 floods that have destroyed 1,820 homes and killed 338 persons.

Back ground

Between Oct. 23-25, 2008, Yemen was faced with heavy sustained rains as a result of a level-three tropical storm that hit the country. The storm caused widespread flooding in several locations in the two eastern Governorates of Hadramout and Al-Mahara (estimated 2008 population of 1,300,000 and 100,000 respectively), leading them to be the two most heavily affected areas. The storm and floods led to devastating consequences, including 73 dead persons, 17 missing persons, scores of injuries.

Sa'ada refugees complain of ill-treatment by YRCA employees

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Jan. 14 — A number of people living in Sa'ada refugee camps as a result of the war between the government and the Houthis in the governorate have complained to the Yemeni Red Crescent Association's staff (YRCA) and the organizations that support it.

The refugees said that camp staff mistreat them and deprive them from aid donated by foreign humanitarian organizations including food and blankets, particularly during the winter. They added that they lack medical services in

the four camps of Al-Anad, Ahmed Talh, Al-Ahsa and Sam.

Nashwan Aqabah of Saqain said that Talh camp supervisors dismissed him from the camp because he had demanded that the refugees' situation be improved and accused certain staff members of corruption and oppression against refugees, including women and children.

He confirmed that, whereas the camp once housed 300 refugees, only 70 remain because the YRCA has thrown out all the others who are now homeless. "We don't know where they went. They may be scattered in Sa'ada, Sana'a and the other cities. They may be eating from the garbage cans," said Aqabah.

"What is more painful is that YRCA employees ordered by officials of Sa'ada throw out girls from the camps to live astray and homeless," said Aqabah. "Moneera Mohammed Ali, 18, was thrown out of the camp although she supports her two little brothers after their father was killed during the war in Sa'ada. She has high blood pressure, and needs medical care as well as continuous follow up."

Yemen Times holds a copy of the girl's medical report which shows her health problems. In addition, Yemen Times received a document which includes signatures of around 30 women who represent 274 children - boys and girls- who say they were affected by the non-humanitarian

behavior of the YRCA in Sa'ada, according to the women who signed the document.

A tribal source in Sa'ada said in a statement to the Yemen Times that prostitution has spread notably among the youth in the nearby areas of some camps. The source said that the reasons behind that include families' poverty and hunger, particularly as their children lack the minimum level of food.

"YRCA staff keeps the aid which it receives from different humanitarian associations for itself and to serve influential figures from the ruling party. They don't deliver 10 percent of the aid," said the source.

"The employees hide blankets and cooking utensils from the displaced people and offer them only a little which is not enough. Two men died due to severe cold by the advent of winter," said the source.

Yemeni officials and activists had stated that humanitarian situation in Sa'ada is still difficult. The displaced families are still unable to come back to their villages in spite of the peace agreement between the government and the Houthis. They said that access to citizens in the affected areas far from the city of Sa'ada is still difficult due to the government's siege on some areas under the control of Houthis.

Several local and international humanitarian organizations expressed their concerns about the situation of citizens in the camps and demanded the

government provide a secure passage to deliver food and medicine to the affected areas.

Although seven months have passed since President Ali Abdullah Saleh declared the war over in Sa'ada, affected citizens are still suffering from a lack of many essential needs in the markets as tribes have seized many trucks carrying food supplies to them.

Additionally, the ongoing feud between the Al-Esaimat of the Hashid tribe and the Harb Sufian of the Bakil tribe has complicated the situation in Sa'ada, and Sa'ada citizens - particularly those who are loyal to Houthis- are increasingly being cut off.

Eyewitnesses confirmed that tribal leaders block the passage of trucks including those which carry petrol, gas and food. They said that the tribes seize trucks and drivers when they learn that they belong to Sa'ada citizens and unload the items that they carry. They maintained that they set drivers free and allow them to take back the trucks

empty.

The results of the war between the Al-Esaimat and the Harb Sufian has increased the crisis and caused repeated electricity cuts. The confrontations between the two tribes have left behind many people dead and injured. The war resulted from a dispute for agricultural lands on the border of the two tribes' land.

The price of 20 liters of petrol has increased to YR 2,000 -sometimes YR 1,300- as approved by the concerned parties due to the difficult roads that the oil trucks have to negotiate to reach Sa'ada. The price of gas has risen to YR 2,000 per cylinder. In some areas of Sa'ada, it is difficult to obtain gas at all.

With regard to the reconstruction of the governorate, Yemen Times received a report of a survey conducted from Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund on post-war damage in the governorate. The

report says that so far 7,180 houses, 1,421 farms, 94 schools, 8 clinics, 4 police stations, 3 courts, 3 public buildings, 267 mosques and another 90 houses have been recorded as damaged during the fighting. In total, 9,027 buildings were damaged or destroyed.

The report didn't mention the areas under the Houthis' control, according to a tribal source. Consequently, the survey committee still needs more time to survey the rest of the damage in the whole governorate.

The Yemen Times called the YRCA and asked them about the refugee camp residents' complaints, but officials in the association did not respond to the accusations. Rusli Al-Haisami, director of YRCA, said that journalists can visit the camps and see the situation there but he confirmed that they should have a prior permission from the security authorities.

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Yemenis tried on charges of spying for Israel

By Aqeel Al-Halali
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Jan. 14 — The trial of three Yemenis accused of spying for Israel and disseminating false statements and news under the name of the "Islamic Jihad Organization" continues next Saturday.

The trial, which is unprecedented in Yemeni political history, started last Saturday at the Primary Penal Court in Sana'a.

Basim Abdullah Al-Haidari, 25, 'Imad Ali Al-Reimi, 23, and 'Ali 'Abdullah Al-Mahfal, 24, are accused of contacting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

The prosecution accused Al-Haidari, also known as Abu Al-Ghaith, of being in "illegitimate" contact with Israel through an email which he sent to Ehud Olmert. The message reads, "We are the Jihad Organization and you are Jews but you are honest and we are ready for anything." The accusation said that the Israeli response included the following: "We are ready to support you to be a stumbling block to the Middle East and we will support you as agents." According to the accusation, this act harms the political and diplomatic position of Yemen which is one of the most anti-Israel countries.

The prosecution accused them of "disseminating and publishing false news under the name of the Islamic Jihad Organization". It accused them of spreading false information, notably via embassy websites as well as local, Arab and foreign satellite channels.

It said that the organization announced it had carried out the attacks on the security buildings in Hadramout and on the US embassy, and that it targets the government and foreign interests.

The accusation said that the three citizens sent information threatening to tar-



Men accused of spying for Israel during the trial.

get governmental sites as well as Arab and foreign embassies. They also demanded USD 5 million in return in exchange for canceling the explosions planned to interrupt a concert given by Egyptian artist Ehab Toufiq in Sana'a.

The prosecution considered that the data "published by the accused in full knowledge that it is false, aimed to destabilize public security, provoke horror among people and harm public interest." The accused denied all the accusations but the court adjourned the case to "complete the procedures of the trial". The Islamic Jihad Organization had announced its responsibility for targeting a security building in Sayoun, Shabwa governorate, last July with a car bomb. It also announced its responsibility for the attack on the US embassy in Sana'a last September, which left 19 Yemenis dead.

These are the two attacks which the Al-Qaeda organization later announced its responsibility for.

Security apparatuses arrested the three citizens last September within a group of six after the Ministry of Interior published releases of the Islamic Jihad Organization in Yemen. Early last October, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced that the group is linked with Israeli intelligence, allegations which the Israeli foreign affairs ministry has denied and described it as "ridiculous".

In parallel with this case, the Primary

Penal Court specialized in affairs of terrorism next Monday will hold a hearing to consider the case of four Yemeni citizens accused of affiliation with Al-Qaeda, preparation for an attack and possession of explosives.

Last Monday, the court reviewed the arms seized by the police and which the latter confessed to possess. Among the items seized were pistols, automatic machineguns, a rifle, RBG missiles, ammunitions, a computer and counterfeit ID cards.

The prosecution said that the accused aimed to attack tourists and government constructions including security buildings. The state-run Saba News Agency reported that one of the three accused confessed that he was "entrusted to register all hotels in the old city of Sana'a and Dar Al-Hajar where tourists exist in order to carry out a suicide attack with an explosive belt so as to target many foreigners as possible".

The agency pointed out that another one confessed that he is entrusted to "attract youth to the cell and prepare them to carry out terrorist operations by training them in camps belonging to the cell in Wadi Jubarah in Sa'ada".

Yemen last year witnessed a series of attacks that targeted security offices, tourist gatherings and oil constructions.

Al-Qaeda announced its responsibility for carrying out most of them.

MPs, government, preachers and activists launch Gaza support activities

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Jan. 14 — More than one third of MPs are organizing the launch of a tent dedicated to the people of Gaza. The tent which is to be set up in the coming few days will be located on Hadda road and will comprise an exhibition, a donation desk, a petition desk, and a place to sign up for fighting in Gaza, said MP Sultan Al-Samee member of the Socialist Party's political office.

"We wanted to hold an urgent session in Parliament but, despite the demand coming from 109 MPs from the various political blocks, the Parliaments presidency denied our request because he thought such a session would be useless. Now we are holding the activities outside the Parliament and including others from the private sector," he said.

The MPs were distraught at the events in Gaza and wanted to do something about it. Condemnation by the public and officials has been ongoing since the first Israeli attack on Gaza earlier this month. Many youths have indicated their desire to go and fight in Gaza if given the opportunity, and many Yemenis have donated money to support the Palestinians in Gaza. Mosque preachers have launched various donation stalls, especially during the Friday congregation. For example, one Friday sermon at Al-Rahman Mosque in the Al-Asbahi district of Sana'a has gathered more than YR seven million, SR 23,000, USD 15,000, a car, eight mobile phones, around 145 grams of gold, and one watch donated from a child, according to Fuad Al-Himyari preacher of the mosque.

Simultaneously, joint private-public venture Yemen Telecommunication Group which includes Yemen Mobile, Tele Yemen and Yemen Net and private



Women protesters hold Hamas symbol as they protest against aggression in Gaza.

telecommunication companies MTN, Sabafone and Y have made calls to Gaza free of charge. Customers can call Gaza from both landlines and mobile phones. Moreover, Y, Yemen Mobile, Sabafone and MTN mobile companies have also facilitated donations from their customers through a specific short code texting service or dialing.

"We were given presidential instructions to open phone lines to Gaza for free. By calling Palestinians we can give them moral support and tell them that they are not alone," said Nouraddeen Wahhass, marketing manager of Yemen Mobile.

Mobile phone users received a text message yesterday informing them of the opportunity to call Gaza free of charge. Yet despite numerous attempts, the lines to Gaza were continuously busy. The companies' service line operators explained that there is an overload on the lines since many Yemenis jumped at the chance to speak with people in Palestine. Earlier this week, Yemen's request to open channels for five hundred injured Palestinians to be

treated in Yemeni hospitals was denied by the Egyptian government. An alternative request to send Yemeni doctors to Gaza was also denied, although negotiations between Yemen and Egypt are still ongoing in this regard.

4U

How to call Gaza:

- Sabafone, MTN, Y and Yemen Mobile users can call directly
- From land lines dial 135, you will be transferred to Tele Yemen service and then dial the number

How to donate

- Sabafone: call (2022) to donate YR 100
- MTN: call (9112) to donate YR 100
- Y: Donate YR 100 through Al-Zahra Association by sending a blank sms to (2008)
- Yemen Mobile: send a blank sms to (100100) to donate YR 100

Yemeni Gitmo detainees continue hunger strike despite forced feeding

By: Kawkab al-Thaibani
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Jan. 13 — Yemeni detainees at Guantanamo Bay Prison are continuing their 40 day hunger strike, although some are being forcefully fed by nasal tubes. The 25 prisoners participating in this strike — a full ten percent of the total detainees — did so to protest the release of Osama Bin Laden's driver Salim Hamdan who was handed over to the Yemeni government in November last year, said David Remes, a lawyer of 17 Yemeni prisoners at Guantanamo. They also protest the bad conditions of the prison which recently got worse despite a statement made by the American military that conditions had improved. "The men are frustrated - as they have been for years - that they remain in prison with no end in sight," stated Remes.

Many of the protestors were not charged at all and hence, according to The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), are illegally detained.

Another thirty non-Yemeni detainees are currently also on a hunger strike, which according to the Pentagon is when a detainee refuses nine meals in a row. Detainees are force fed after fasting for 21 days or when they weigh less than 85 percent of their weight upon arrival at the prison. One of those is Adnan Laitif from Taiz, who is reported to have severe mental and physical problems. The military holds him in a ward for psychologically disturbed prisoners.

"He is force-fed twice a day and

treated brutally by the guards. He weighs only about 100 pounds and his waist is only 26 inches," said Remes. "I am convinced that he will succeed in killing himself if he is not returned home soon." Remes implored President Ali Abdullah Saleh to arrange immediately for his release.

On many different occasions, the Yemeni government demanded the release of its citizens. However, the US government refused to hand them over, fearing they will not get a fair trial or rehabilitation. Yemenis comprise the majority of the detainees in Guantanamo and hence are the major obstacle against closing the prison for good.

Abdul-Salam Al-Hela, a 36-year-old Yemeni in Guantanamo, is reported to be suffering from bad health due to the strike, said Marc Falkoff, Assistant Professor at Northern Illinois University.

Some human rights activists, American lawyers, and Yemeni detainees hold the Yemeni government accountable; in some cases, both the Yemeni and American governments are held accountable.

Ahmed Arman, a HOOD representative, blamed both the Yemeni and the American government for this situation.

Arman said that "the prisoners object to the long detention without any fair trials." He further stated that he heard about some obscure agreement between Yemen and the USA on handing over the detainees and demanded it be shared with media and human rights organizations.

Falkoff believed that Yemen should be more proactive in getting its citizens back. "They [Yemeni detainees on strike] are suffering terribly, and I believe that some of them may not survive many more weeks," said Falkoff.

Abdul-Wahab Al-Hela, the younger brother of the prisoner Abdul-Salam, said that Yemen appears to call for the release of its citizens in the media, but in reality, Yemen does nothing.

Yet Mohi Al-Dhabi, the Deputy Prime Minister of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that it is untrue that Yemen did not officially ask for its citizens. "Our demand to get the Yemeni detainees back is not seasonal. It is constant," he stated.

Al-Dhabi said that the Yemeni Rehabilitation Center for prisoners is "under construction," declining to add any further details. He said that it is true that Yemen is in the process of establishing the center, but there are also some commitments that are currently lacking from the American side to participate in the setting up this facility. "Why should Yemen pay for the USA's mistakes?" Al-Dhabi asked.

"The delay in transferring the Yemeni prisoners is because Yemen and the USA have not reached a complete agreement on some points," continued Al-Dhabi. Al-Dhabi declined to reveal these points.

One the other hand, Ryan Gliha, the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, said that the American government is dedicated to shutting down Guantanamo. Before then, however, they have to make sure that the Yemeni government has a ver-

ifiable system of monitoring returnees, to include incarceration if appropriate, and rehabilitation programs to ensure prisoners' re-integration into Yemeni society. "We are working to return Yemeni detainees to their home country; however, we must be certain that they will not return to extremist activities," he said.

Gliha declined to reveal any details about financing the rehabilitation centre or commenting on the response of the Yemeni government.

Salim Hamdan, the aforementioned driver, was sentenced to a 66-month stint in Guantanamo Bay after being charged with supporting terrorism. After that, he was sent to The Political Security Apparatus Prison in Sana'a, Yemen, to finish the rest of his sentence. However, he was kept in prison past his sentence until he supplied authorities with an adequate financial guarantee, which is a statement by some businessman that in the case he returns to terrorist activities, this businessman is to pay a certain amount of compensation to the state if Hamdan could not be found by the security system.

Al-Dhabi said that demanding business guarantees is to a sort of state's procedures based on the nature of the file of the returned detainees.

Yet, Arman said that these guarantees create a lot of problems for the returned detainees. "Asking for the guarantee is not legal, and the court is only entitled to ask for a guarantee, not to force one," he said. "The government must enforce the law and the political security office is not entitled

to imprison people or ask for guarantee for the release. Many guarantors refuse grantee any detainee because "the terrorism" charge will scare them out, said Arman. "We [HOOD] have tons of cases when the guarantors kept in jail because the people they guarantee left or did not show up."

Early last year, 30 American lawyers signed a document stating that the Yemeni government will not torture the detainees upon their return. The purpose of the statement was to encourage Yemen to sign any necessary documents regarding the release of the detainees. The lawyers heard from the American government that the only obstacle for delaying sending the detainees back is that there is no written agreement from the Yemen government regarding torture of the detainees. Additionally, the American government told the Yemeni government that the detainees' lawyers might possibly object to the transfer of the detainees to Yemen. The statement made by the lawyers showed that such an objection would not be an option.

Recently, the US approved ten Yemenis prisoners for transfer or release, said Remes. He added that Yemen told the US that it will accept them, but Remes wondered why the delay of sending them home.

The names of the ten Yemeni men are: Mohammed Mohammed Hassen, Adil Said Al Haj Obeid Al Busayss, Al Khadr Abdallah Muhammed Al Yafi, Asim Thahit Abdullah Al Khalaqi, Fahmi Salem Said Al Sani, Ali Yahya Mahdi Al Raimi, Muhammad Said Salem, Fadi Husayn Salih Hintif,

Sulaiman Awath Sulaiman Bin Ageel Al Nahdi, and Fahed Abdullah Ahmad Ghazi

The young brother of Abdul-Wahab Al-Hela urged the Yemeni government to ask for the release of those in Guantanamo, saying that his brother has been in jail for more than six years, causing his mother to be sick and leaving his three kids alone. "God is enough for us," said Abdul-Wahab sadly.

Chronological order of the number of Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo

2002	779 Yemeni men detained as enemy combatants
2004	At least 520 were transferred to prisons in other countries only 15 were transferred to Yemen
2004	250 Yemeni detainees remained in Guantanamo
2004	Two more Yemenis returned to Yemen
2005	Two Yemenis returned to Yemen
2006	Ten Yemenis returned to Yemen
2006	Body of one Yemeni was returned to Yemen, he was reported to have committed suicide
2007	One Yemeni returned to Yemen
2008	One Yemeni returned to Yemen
2009	103 Yemenis remain in Guantanamo

Government insists on applying sales tax law

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Jan. 12 — After three years of discussions between the commercial sector and the government about applying the sales tax law, the latter announced last week that the law would come into action from this month.

This follows the High Constitutional Court's refusal of the commercial chamber's appeal concerning the ille-

gality of the law.

Ahmed Ghalib, Director of the Tax Authority, emphasized that the law with all its mechanisms would be implemented from the beginning of this month.

The law will be implemented on all taxable items, both local and imported, in three stages: at customs or on the factories, on the supplier and on the retailer.

The tax at all the stages will not

exceed 5 percent, Abdulrab Al-Zarei, General Manager of the Sales Tax at the Tax Authority, explained.

He also questioned why traders and businessmen are worried about the law since the consumer -not them- is the one who will pay. He said that merchants are worried about the law because they will have to draw up clear accounts of what they have sold that will be evidence of their annual income so that they will have to pay

their income tax without cheating.

The government is preparing to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) which asks for the cancellation of custom fees as a condition to join, according to Al-Zarei. Because the government is gradually decreasing custom duties, it seeks to compensate by finding alternatives to support the public treasury.

Taxes highly contribute to the public treasury, he says, as tax revenue in

2007 was around YR 110 billion and in 2008 up to November about YR 99 billion.

He added that tax revenue is on the rise, since tax revenue for 2008 is expected to exceed that of 2007 as December revenues have not yet been collected.

On the other hand, the private sector is worried about the methods and timing of applying the new law. Ahmed Bazaar, head of the Yemeni

Businessmen Club, stated to the press that the government should not rush into applying the sales tax law. He said that Yemeni businessmen oppose the law because it includes some items that are unjust and violate the constitution.

Since the issuing of the sales tax law, traders, lower-income families and the government have been unable to agree on the law's application.

In 2005, demonstrations were held in Sana'a and Hodeidah against the law.

In Brief

SANA - A
Yemeni lawyers to sue Israeli leaders in charge of war crimes in Gaza

The Yemeni lawyers Bar YLB announced forming a legal team to prepare file to sue Israeli war criminals in the International Criminal Court.

The team would charge those leaders of doing war crimes against the Palestinian citizens in Gaza Strip since two weeks.

The Israeli offensive in Gaza resulted in killing 804 Palestinians, half of them are women and children. Some 3310 were injured since the beginning of the Israeli attacks in strip. A source

in the bar told 26sep.net that the team contains ten lawyers chaired over by the head of YLB Abdullah Rajah.

He added that the team would start on Sunday to prepare the file against Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defense Minister Ehud Barak and other commanders in the Israeli army who are involved in crimes against the Palestinians.

Court begins trial of three suspects in charge of contacting with Israeli PM

A primary court began on Saturday a

trial of three suspects in charge of contacting with the Prime Minister of the Israeli entity Ehud Olmert.

The hearing was headed by Judge Muhasin al-Alwan.

In the hearing, the prosecution charged the first suspect Basam Abdullah al-Hidari, 25, of contacting with foreign country illegally and sent emails to the prime minister of the Israeli entity.

"We are the Organization of Islamic Jihad and you are Jews, but you are honest, and we are ready to do anything," Hidari said in the email sent to Olmert, the prosecution accused.

The prosecution said that the offer

was welcomed by Olmert.

"We are ready to support you to become an obstacle in the Middle East. We will support you as an agent," Olmert was quoted as writing back.

The prosecution said that such act might damage political and diplomat position of Yemen.

The suspects are accused of operating under the name of Organization of Islamic Jihad and spreading false news of attacks on government buildings, and embassies (Saudi, UAE and UK embassies) as well as foreign interests in Yemen.

They also claimed that the organization was behind bombing attacks in Sana'a capital, Hadramout and Sayon governorates, the prosecution charged.

The group, which includes Imad al-Raymi, 23, and Ali al-Mahfal, 24, has also claimed in Internet messages that it prepared car bombs to attack governmental buildings and embassies, according to the charges.

The three defendants denied all the charges and demanded a lawyer. The court agreed to their demand and adjourned the hearing to January 17.

On the other hand, the court listened to the suspect No. 4 in the "al-Sininah cell" who is accused of forming armed gang to target tourists and foreign and government institutions.

The suspect Osama al-Saidi denied all accusations. The lawyer of the defendant asked to refer the case of al-Saidi to the juveniles' court as he was arrested at age 14 year old. The court rejected request of the lawyer, considering the case as serious crime. It adjourned the hearing until January 17.

Yemen, S. Korea to set up technology institute

An agreement of setting up a Yemeni-

Korean technology institute to be signed on Monday at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation worth \$19 million, South Korean government would provide \$15.500 million and Yemeni government with \$3.500 million.

Director of International Cooperation with Asia and Australia in Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Omer Abdul-Aziz, in a statement to Saba, considered the agreement comes in the framework of practical translation for the trends of the two Yemeni and Korean governments to boost and develop mutual cooperation framework between Yemen and South Korea.

It is worth mentioning that South Korea has allocated \$100 million to contribute in Yemen's development efforts, in which the funds devoted to set up infrastructural projects in higher education and health fields.

Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul Karim al-Arhabi and South Korean ambassador to Sana'a Won-ho Kwak would sign the agreement.

TAIZ
Yemeni forces arrest 15 illegal Ethiopian immigrants

Yemeni authorities have arrested 15 illegal Ethiopian immigrants, seven of them were arrested at the Yemeni-Omani border and eight other, including three women were arrested at Taiz's coast while trying to enter the country illegally.

According to the information center of Interior Ministry, security forces detained the illegal immigrants for extraditing them to their country.

Meanwhile, security sources said that about 47 Somali refugees, includ-

ing nine women had arrived at the coasts of Hadramout and Taiz provinces.

Thirty nine Somali refugees were handed over to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in order to refer them to the refugees camp at Mayfa district in Shabwa governorate while eight Somali refugees, including five women have been transported to the Kharaz camp of refugees in Lahj governorate.

HODEIDAH
Oil projects in Hodeidah Port inspected

Hodeidah governor Ahmed al-Gabali and executive director of Yemen Oil Company Omar al-Arhabi inspected the projects of oil expanding in Hodeidah Port.

The projects aim at implementing the maintenance of 12 reservoirs with a fire network as well as modernizing and expanding the oil pipelines diameters to facilitate the flow of petroleum products and beside expanding the petrol tanks at the cost of \$5,000,000.

The deputy director of projects department in the company Aziz Almkhlafi said that the ongoing work of the project include establishing two gas reservoirs of 5,375 cubic meters capacity for each, pointing out that the project which supplied

about 70% of the governorates with petroleum materials, will be completed within two years.

The governor and executive director also opened the first branch of petroleum station of the company in Hodeidah at the cost of YR 28 million that is within the company's plan to increase the number of oil derivatives stations in all governorates.

Their News

Hayel Group Company honors workers and celebrates marriage

Yemeni Company for Ghee and Soap Industry (YCGSI) - one of Hayel Saeed Group of Companies held honoring ceremony to 1200 male and female workers of the company. The ceremony was held on the occasion of the annual meeting 2008 held under the motto of "Together We Work, Together We Excel".

On the sideline of this annual occasion, a collective wedding party to 30 bridegrooms of the company's workers was held.

In the ceremony, started with reciting verses of the holy Koran, the attendees stood up for reading al-Ftiha Surat on the souls of Palestinian martyrs because of Israeli genocides in Gaza Strip.

YCGSI's General Manager Hisham Saeed delivered a speech on the occasion. He expressed pride of all the company's affiliates and the group for the developmental contributions the group has provided to the homeland since its establishment 70 years ago. The ceremony also coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of al-Qamariah Ghee.

He called all workers to exert more efforts and undertake the responsibility to overcome challenges facing the company. They can achieve this by discipline, respecting rules, by-laws and working on reducing costs.

In the ceremony, a number of songs, which reflected workers issues, concerns and aspirations, have

been performed.

Alawai Abdul-Haq delivered the workers' speech. He expressed thanks to the company management for efforts it exerted for holding this honoring activity. He reviewed workers' concerns and their aspirations, calling the supreme management of the company to consider these issues for it is responsible on taking care of workers.

The activity concluded by honoring a group of ideal workers in the company. All attendants were happy for attending the wedding ceremony of 30 bridegrooms of the company workers. The ceremony reflected brotherhood and intimacy between the company's individuals.

STU 2007-8 batches graduate

The University of Science and Technology celebrated the graduation of its 2007/2008 batch of Medicine, distant learning and open learning students.

Hameed Aqlan, vice rector of the university, pointed out that the univer-

sity, aspires to become one of the best universities on the national and regional levels.

"In order to achieve this aspiration we have improved our performance and provided encouraging environments for efficient education and

applied researches," he said.

The University also aims at serving the community better not only thought graduating batches of professional individuals but also through its projects that are oriented towards development and community service.

Despite financial crises Toyota remains popular brand globally

Aidrous Bazara', Managing director of the Automotive and Machinery Trading center (AMTC), the sole distributor of Toyota Brand of Cars in Yemen explained that Toyota is still a top selling brand in most of the part of the world. The price hike is due to the Japanese Yen appreciation with respect to US Dollar.



Mr Bazara' said that the Global financial crisis has affected Toyota adversely like any other brands. The American and European cars became cheaper mainly due to the Depreciation of their currencies.

Despite all these, he said that the price hike was reasonably slight and was imminent. Mr

He said that the increase in car prices including Toyota will continue until the Japanese Yen rise against the US Dollar is resolved.

The Managing director also expressed his satisfaction over AMTC sales performance during the year 2008, adding that the AMTC has achieved overall sales growth of 25 percent over the previous year 2007, despite the Global financial crisis which hit the world in the last quarter of the year.

Bazara' reiterated that this hike would not affect customer's demand, "whose trust in Toyota is consolidated with over the years of time and experience and value for Money."

Mr Bazara' said that the Yen appreciation since the last September at the rate of 25% against the dollar, has compelled the hike of Toyota car prices at a considerable rate, not giving the manufacturing company a chance to reduce the price, however it is putting forth limited efforts to improve prices.

Yemeni-Korean High Technical Institute Project

The Government of the Republic of Korea has decided to provide a loan of US\$ 15,380,287 from the Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) for the purpose of implementing "the Yemeni-Korean High Technical Institute Project". For this purpose, both H.E. Mr. Won-ho Kwak, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Sana'a and H.E. Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of the Republic of Yemen signed a Loan Arrangement on January 12, 2009 in Sana'a.

Under this loan program, the Korean government will finance the purchase of the equipment and the operational facilities, the training of local teachers, the development of texts at the High Technical Institute, as well as the dispatch of Korean experts from high technical fields, etc. in order to help the High

Technical Institute operate in an effective manner.

The Government of the Republic of Korea takes this opportunity to express its sincere hope that the Government of the Republic of Yemen will be able to educate as many talented Yemeni students as possible and explore their potential through this loan program. The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Sana'a will continue to work closely with the related government agencies of the Republic of Yemen to facilitate the disbursement of this loan.

In 2006, the Government of the Republic of Korea had helped the Yemeni government with its expanded telecommunication network project by providing the EDCF loan of US\$ 30 million. Furthermore, in 2008, the Korean government also expressed its intention to provide the Yemeni government with an additional loan of US\$ 100 million for a period of five years.

Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (2) 2009 for 1st Time
(One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The **Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden** here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (2) for supplying **One No. Twin Screw Fast Pilot boat for Port of Aden** which will be financed from: **Government sources.**

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to [Tender committee Secretary] to receive Bidding Documents for an amount **150 USD** non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at

Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden- Tawahi
Tel : 00 967 02 200168
Fax: 00 967 02 201541
YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on **18th February 2009**

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the **Chairman of the Board Executive Chairman**. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum **(60,000 USD for one pilot boat) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars)** Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than **150 days** from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- 2- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT

- 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- 4- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate. The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be (Sunday) at **[11:00 Am] on 22 February 2009** . Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened. Bid Opening will take place at **[the Office Chairman Executive — Headquarters]** and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives. Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period **27 days** starting from advertisement.



Job Vacancy

Save the Children, a leading international relief and development organization, is seeking to recruit a **Yemen Program Manager** for its **Regional Program Naseej - CYDI**

The Naseej Yemen Program Manager (NYPM) will be responsible of:

- **Overall management of the Naseej Yemen Sub grants:**
Mentor sub grants partners during the implementation of their activities and monitor & evaluate sub-grant partners in through regular field visits and reports reviews.
- **Outreach and linkages:**
Organize , conduct workshops, roundtable discussions to partners, Seek out initiate and maintain contacts with national media and enhance outreach of messages, initiate contacts with youth centered and focused organizations and encourage in building partnerships and coalitions with relevant constituencies including youth development foundations
- **Yemen Portfolio Administration:**
Prepare and submit monthly progress reports and financial summaries on the progress of sub-grant and other activities, Keep and maintain all Naseej Yemen Program related files (English & Arabic).

- Qualifications**
- Bachelor or Masters Degree in a Social Science or related field;
 - Minimum of 7 years of relevant professional experience including youth development work;
 - Good experience in youth development and community development work;
 - Good grant management experience; and Excellent Project design and management experience;
 - Excellent communication and interaction skills;
 - Arabic as a first Language with good command of English; Excellent English and Arabic written skills.

For a full Job Description, please send your request to the e-mail below.

Interested applicants should submit their CVs with cover letters no later than **January 30 , 2009**
To E-mail: Naseej@savechildren.org.jo Please put the post name in the subject heading.

Vacancies for 2 Sales Executives

Yemen Computer Co. Ltd., Sana'a, Yemen, is looking to hire two Sales Executives for Sales and Marketing of IT and IT related products. Interested candidates having the following qualifications can apply:

- Graduates in Computer or Electronics Engineering
- Minimum two years experience in sale/marketing of IT and IT related products.
- Well versed in both Arabic and English languages.

Applications are to be sent to:

The Personnel Manager
Yemen Computer Co. Ltd.
P.O. Box 340, Sana'a, Yemen
Fax: 01 209523
Tel: 01 208811
Email: ycc@yccnet.com



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VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Sharyof Oil Field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr. Dove Energy Limited invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the following positions:

Position Title: HR Administrator
Location: Sana'a
Deadline Date: 31st January 2009

Responsibilities:

- Maintain up-to-date Employee Human Resource records in digital and hard-copy files.
- Ensure all employees have contracts in place and all personnel documentation is up to date.
- Assist in Recruitment processes, communicate with newspaper for adverts, CVs are screened and interviews are set up and conducted in accordance with company procedures. Prepare interviews.
- Receive all CVs, enter into a database and respond to CVs and Job Requests.
- Maintain records of vacations, leave entitlements and sickness time-off for all employees.
- Prepare & Follow up the procedure needed and administering of training courses (Internal & External).
- Maintain HR Personnel & General Filing & Archiving.
- Must be flexible and available to work additional hours occasionally

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Should be Yemeni Nationality.
- Bachelor degree or equivalent diploma
- 2+ Years work experience in the HR field
- Good communication and writing skills in English Language.
- Multi-disciplinary team work.
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications

Position Title: General Services Officer (GSO)
Location: Sana'a
Deadline Date: 31st January 2009

Responsibilities:

- Coach & Coordinate with Services & Security Supervisors activities and ensure quality of work and meet the expectations.
- Authorize the Sana'a office drivers, maintenance, gardeners and maids. Sign off on timesheets, overtime vacation and bonus payments for the Safety & Personnel Manager approval.
- Monitor on Company vehicles in Sana'a including fuel, maintenance, insurance, annual registrations and repairs.
- Monitor Company vehicles in Sana'a & CPF for insurance, annual registrations and repairs.
- Supervise Services & Security Department in accordance with company policies and procedures
- Assist Services & Security Supervisors in resolving complex policy and operation problems
- Manage company premises maintenance, services & security.

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Should be Yemeni Nationality.
- Graduated from High school or have advanced diploma
- 3+ Years work experience in the security & services field.
- Good communication and writing skills in English Language.
- Multi-disciplinary team work.
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: hr@doveyemen.com. (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V

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EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01/09

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following positions:

Title : Project Assistant
Level : GS-5
Type of Contract : Temporary Fixed Term (Ten months)
Duty station : Ibb and Dhala, Republic of Yemen

Under the supervision of the Project Officer, (NOB), the incumbent will perform the following main responsibilities:

- Assist the Project Officer for continued advocacy and planning to strengthen the capacities of government offices, local institutions and communities to understand the rights and needs of children and women. Assisting in the mobilization of communities to manage their own social services and projects and assist the communities in establishing committees to manage their own services such as school parent-teacher – associations, health facility committees, water management committees...
- Assist in organizing training workshops and meetings in the area of basic social services especially in basic education (enrolment and completion), child protection, child rights, HIV/AIDS awareness, birth registration, WASH and improved water supply is equitably made available to the target communities
- Assist in monitoring and reporting on the distribution and utilization of all supplies provided including end user monitoring, also monitoring utilization of cash assistance to government and liquidated within the agreed period.
- Assist the field officer to collect key progress and impact indicator at governorate level on agreed intervals and maintains project documents, records, logs, files and as required.
- In close collaboration with the project officer will provide hand-on monitoring of implementation of community based projects and initiative such as child friendly schools, sponsor a child initiative, school hygiene and birth registration including the rehabilitation of health centres, construction of classrooms, construction of sanitation facilities and wells.
- Perform other duties as required as assigned by the Project Officer

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- University Degree in Business Administration or related field is desirable.
- Fluency in English and Arabic is required
- Six years progressively responsible clerical or administrative work, of which at least one year is closely related to support of programme activities.
- Ability to research, analyzes, evaluate and synthesize information.
- Ability to express clearly and concisely, ideas and concepts in written and oral form.
- Proven skills in communication, networking, advocacy and negotiation, especially at the community level.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae. Please mention in your CV the governorate you wish to apply for and send to - yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after 25 January 2009 will not be considered.

"UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non-smoking environment."

Palm leaf handicrafts in Hadramout

The Hadrami culture is very rich and includes various aspects that are linked to business and trade. Many of the trades and trade routes go back centuries and are still very much alive today. Using palm leaves to manufacture baskets and other objects is still popular in Hadramout despite the availability of metal and plastic utensils all around.

By: Yemen Times Staff

Al-Khus, or Al-Shataf (products from palm leaves), is considered one of the traditional handicrafts in Yemen, particularly in the regions where palm trees are available such as Wadi Hadramout. Thanks to the significance of this popular art, a lot of centers were established in order to maintain such handicrafts and protect them from man-made actions that affect nature. This is particularly given that human beings represent one of the leading causes of environmental devastation.

In the past, Al-Khus was a daily necessity, as women could meet most of their household needs from its products in its different forms. This handicraft is also called the "date industry" since all tools used in this

art are taken from palm trees that produce dates.

Arabs called this handicraft "Khuwasah," which means using palm leaves to make products. The handicraft still exists in different parts of Yemen and its availability and quality differ from one region to another based on the availability of palm trees. Among the areas that still preserve this art are Sayoun, Tarim, Taris, Sah, Madudah, Al-Hutah, and Al-Soum. This popular and traditional art receives attention from several international organizations, such as the German Development Organization DED.

The Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training coordinates with such organizations to put plans and programs that enhance and preserve these handicrafts through training courses. Such programs also provide instruments that help trainees

to practice this art and to make a living in doing so.

What makes this handicraft easy for people is that the tools used for this art are easily accessible, including needles and palm leaves. Palm leaves have different usages according to their location in the palm tree. Palm leaves located in the top of the tree are used for making bread baskets and their coverings as well as for food mats. Craftsmen use other kinds of colored palm leaves to decorate utensils they make.

Tradesmen color palm leaves through a dyeing process in which palm leaves are immersed in boiled water. Then they pour the dye of their choosing into the water, commonly using red, green, or blue. Then they leave the palm leaves in the water for about five minutes until the leaves become colored. Palm leaves can be colored by other means, such as when white palm leaves are created by exposing them to the sun. After a

utensil is made from palm leaves, it should be immersed in water so that it becomes flexible.

There is no specific place in which this handicraft is made since craftsmen can sit anywhere to make these products. While some of them prefer to work at home, others work under the shadow of palm trees. This art is not restricted to women only; men also master it.

Products made from palm leaves attract people's attention due to the different utensils made as well as the different colors of these products. This market is a clear manifestation of the greatness of Yemeni women in producing such soft goods particularly in Hadramout.

People in Hadramout still use these palm products daily. Such products include rugs, bread scuttles and their coverings, and dishes. While in Hadramout, you can protect yourself from heat of the sun by using a local umbrella made of palm leaves. The

A'al Mutabbaq family in Hadramout is considered the most famous family in the mastery of this art.

Khubrah Industry "Khubrah" is the name given to a basket made of palm leaves. This art is common in different parts of Hadramout, particularly in the rural areas. The art is old and masters of this art use different kinds of palm leaves which differ in quality.

A sort of palm leaf called "mus'h" is considered the best quality of palm leaves, in addition to "batuti" and "haradhah" leaves. All of these kinds of palm leaves are brought from rural areas of Hadramout and Al-Mahra governorates.

The Madudah area in Hadramout has been considered the most famous area in the mastery and availability of palm leaf baskets since ancient times. Other areas, like Wadi Bur and Taribah as well as Tarim, still master this art and use these palm leaf baskets in their life. The main purpose

of this product is to keep dates from spoiling when they are still on the trees, i.e. before they are harvested. This process is called "Qunamah" in which these baskets are installed in the palm trees to keep dates in good condition.

Khubrah baskets have the shape of the fishing boat and they come in all different sizes. The largest of these sizes is called "uqdah," followed by "kabar al-hutah," "kabar sayoun," "Al-Rub'e Al-Shafi," and "Al-Rub'e Al-Sagghir."

This handicraft needs good experience in order to master it, as there are practical steps that craftsmen must follow. Palm leaves are put in a water container for 24 hours until they become soft. Then palm leaves are taken to a place called "Makhmarah" in order to dry for a day. On the third day, palm leaves become ready to be used and craftsmen can start making these baskets. A skilful craftsman can produce 5 to 7 baskets a day.



Handymen turning palm leaves into amazing domestic products.



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2009: Will it be the worst year in the Arab World?

By: Dr. Abdul A'ti Mohammed

Economists draw an extremely poor image for the situation of the world in 2009 as a result of the bad consequences related to the global financial crisis of 2008. They also confirm that developing countries will suffer severely from such consequences due to the low rate of their economic development and their limited productive and financial capacities. As the Arab region is generally located within the circle of developing countries, in spite of the qualitative and relative economic differences among its members, the economic challenge created by the world's financial crisis will top concerns of the Arab region during the new year. Among the most important issues that this challenge creates are the impacts of the crisis on the fields of jobs and job-seeking, poverty, and food. All indicators show that these fields will witness risks as a result of the crisis. This situation aggravates the social and political pressure of the Arab region and threatens the stability and development plans which were expected to pull people out of poverty and into the new millennium.

Since the beginning of the financial crisis, estimations of International Monetary Fund experts had warned against a pull-back of growth of the international economy to 4 percent, 3.2 percent in the growth of rising countries such as China, Brazil and India, and a severe pull-back of growth rate of the European countries and the US. The experts expected that rapid interventions made by Washington and the great capitals of the world would stop economic deterioration at this level, hoping that the world will pass through this disaster by the summer of 2009. However, soon before the end of 2008, those estimations became more pessimistic, as these experts discovered that the world economy will not improve through these procedures. Rather, the consequences of the financial crisis will worsen. The world growth rate may retract to less than 3 percent and the Chinese and Japanese economy will enter into a stage of recession. The US economy will witness increase only 0.3 percent growth, which led Dominic Chetrawis, Director General of the international

fund, to expect that 2009 will be very bad, with most developing economies suffering from the low growth rates of the rising world economies. Angell Jurua, head of the Economic Cooperation and Development Organization, declared that the number of job seekers will mount to 25 million worldwide by 2010.

These bad expectations will aggravate the problems of poverty and food worldwide, especially in the developing countries. The UN plans to reduce poverty 50 percent by 2015 are no longer tenable. In addition, reports from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) concerning 2008 shocked all observers and experts. They showed that the number of hungry people increased to a total of 936 million, 50 million of whom obtain only the minimum level of food. This represents an increase of 40 million people compared with the previous year. The majority of the hungry people (907 million people) live in the developing countries; two thirds of them live in Asia and 33 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. Up to 75 percent of the African population will be subjected to hunger in 2009.

Our Arab region is in the heart of these dangerous estimations. The first report of the Arab Labor Organization published in September 2008 confirmed that 17 million out of the total 388 million Arabs are job seekers. The report described this figure as the highest and worst in the world, as it constitutes 14 percent of the work force and 25 percent of the Arab youth. It revealed that the rate of job seekers among youth in some Arab countries mounts to 66 percent. There many other reports that show poverty is increasing in Arab countries.

The world financial crisis surprised the Arab countries and worsened their expectations of development projects, which contradicts the situation in the past five years which witnessed a race toward increasing the rates of economic growth. The Middle East newspaper reported on December 22, 2008 that David Carspol, senior economist of Saco Bank, as saying that Gulf markets will be severely affected during the credit crisis as liquidity will deplete and no one wants to take economic risks. It is likely that the economies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will witness slow

growth during 2009, as will the case be in the western economies, according to the newspaper.

Although Carspol indicated that these economies will be able to adjust and come out of the crisis with a relative peace due to positive current accounts and reduction of monetary restrictions, he confirmed at the same time that the rate of job seekers will increase in these countries and that immigrant workers will be affected. No doubt that the plummeting of oil prices, in contrast with the surprising leap of oil prices during the months that preceded the breakout of the global financial crisis in September, 2008, was among the factors that shocked and surprised estimations of experts. These estimations were made in relation to the capability of the Arab economies in general and the Gulf economies in particular in order to pass over this crisis. Since the oil revenues constitute the main source for the Arab countries through which they can increase the rates of growth, as well as help the non-oil Arab countries to increase their growth through investments, the severe drop in oil prices confirmed the expectation that recession, or slow growth in the best cases, will dominate in 2009.

After oil reached \$147 a barrel in the beginning of 2008, it fell 57 percent by the end of the year to reach \$40 a barrel due to the low global demand of oil. There are also expectations that oil prices will drop to \$25 a barrel in the new year.

The increasing losses in shares of US stock during the past November and December, the crisis of the car industry in the US, and the massive drop of Japanese exportations increased the feelings of concern over the world economy and its recession. The result was a continuous retraction of demand on oil for the first time since a quarter century ago.

With this current drop in oil prices, government expenses on development projects will back off. Additionally, the worldwide economy will witness a severe withdrawal as businessmen and investors were subjected to financial damages due to the global financial crisis. Therefore, they feel more hesitant about the future and refrain from taking any risks in expanding their commercial and investment activities. It is not an exaggeration to say that

recession or slow economic growth in the Arab region will lead to social and political problems. According to an estimation of the economist Ahmed Al-Najjar, head of the strategic economic initiatives report which is published by Strategic and Political Studies Center in Al-Ahram, the spread of job seekers is one of the outstanding reasons concerning the appearance of the 'extremist groups' in the Arab world. Therefore, he demands that this phenomenon be considered an issue of national security and that all people should unite efforts to solve it. From the material perspective, he believes that the economic cost for job seeking in 11 different Arab countries mounts to \$25 billion per year, i.e. 2.3 percent of the total local production in the region. He adds that Morocco tops the other Arab countries in bearing the cost of job seeking as it reaches \$7.7 billion per year, Algeria \$5.6 billion, and Egypt \$4.6 billion yearly. If we add the current situation in Gaza as a politically inflamed region, the risk of the return of political extremism will increase amid the economic recession due to the global financial crisis. According to warnings of the World Bank, the siege that Israel imposes on Gaza is leading toward economic collapse of that area.

Saudi Arabia made a good move when it allotted a huge budget for 2009, estimated at SR 475 billion, which is the biggest Saudi budget ever with an increase of SR 65 billion. This is compared with last year, which was at that time considered the biggest Saudi budget. King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz confirmed on the occasion of announcing the new budget that despite the severe drop of oil price that the budget "will enhance development programs that lead to the growth of the national economy and increase confidence, as well as provide job opportunities for male and female citizens." What Saudi Arabia did comes in the framework of official steps taken by Arab governments to face the consequences of the financial crisis and avoid social and economic risks that may result from the crisis. It aims to refresh the market and increase available jobs in order to restrict the phenomenon of unemployment. However, it is not expected that all the Arab countries can perform in the same level as compared with Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Arabian plan shouldn't be used as a mechanism to save the entire region from the risks that threaten them during the new year.

Consequently, the Arab Economic Summit scheduled in Kuwait in January will include a group initiative, not in relation to facing the financial crisis, but to activate Arab economic cooperation in general. It also plans to establish projects of roads and railways, face poverty and the job seeking phenomenon, and provide food through enhancing agriculture in many Arab countries where possible. In addition, the summit is concerned with activating the role of Arab development funds and reconsidering their strategies so that they can help more in these fields. Thus, Arab governments work on both individual and group levels in order to cope with the crisis and prevent its consequences through maintaining positive growth rates. However, what the Arab peoples should be ready to do is to lower the positive ceiling of expectations about the future!

Source: Al-Thawra state run daily

COMMON SENSE

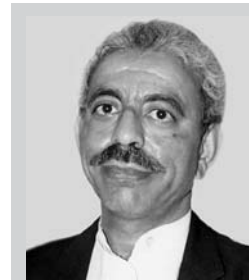
Massacre in Gaza (3): By all means, it is genocide

The pictures here belie much of the hogwash released by the sophisticated Zionist machine about the "defensive nature" of the Israeli genocide being perpetrated in the tragic enclave that Gaza has come to personify. Yet even these horrible pictures of the venue of death this last assault in Gaza has become do not even tell half the full story of the horrors that the powerful Israeli genocide machine is carrying out. There are the four thousand plus wounded, half of whom are civilians (mostly women and children, since males are perplexingly lobbed as "military" casualties) many of whom will be debilitated for life, if not disabled; there is of course the tight siege; there are the hundreds of homes that have been destroyed; there are the thousands of acres of good arable productive agricultural land, which once provided a meager living for its owners; there are the many facilities ("infrastructure of terror", as the Israelis misleadingly call it - they seem to ignore the fact that the biggest infrastructure of terror lies in what was once the peaceful Holy Land, which was blessed with relative calm and peace for close to a millennium until the Zionist trespassers began to trek on its pure grounds), which were built with the handouts of the international community, as the latter has forgotten that it is now an accomplice in the horrible misdeeds now being perpetrated in Gaza, either by its silence, apathy, or outright support of this devilish Zionist bloodbath; and there are the horrific sleepless nights for the children, who are bound to be affected for the rest of their lives by the loud continuous explosions of the live nightmare the Israeli assault on Gaza is to these children and their mothers, not to mention the deprivation of normal children's lives, devoid of the merriment and the glee that children are entitled to by Divine and civil doctrine.

It is probable from the above that either the gung-ho right wing establishment leaving the White House (and the Democratic Party puppets of AIPAC) in the United States are beset by the belief that the madness unleashed by the Israeli War Machine (misleadingly labeled the Israeli Defense Forces) is revenge for the "Baghdad shoe" that was thrown at President Bush - which was a mild reaction to a previous blunder by the White House in Iraq. Maybe it is also a means of preparing for some possible strong initiative by the new Barack Obama to bring the situation in the Middle East to a conclusive end - a very strong gullible wishful thinking held onto by many naive observers, who fail to recognize that the very existence of Israel depends on a perpetual war venue that is continuously nurtured by ongoing Israeli massacres and destruction of well-being and sustenance of the entire indigenous population the Israelis have forcefully replaced. This is reinforced by the welfare gift of 350 containers or so of weaponry recently shipped to Israel by the Bush Administration. But then again, it is Israel exercising its cause d'être to serve the interests of an international conspiracy to maintain total domination of the region that controls well over a quarter of the vital crude oil that has become and will continue to be the lifeblood of the modern economic order of the world for some time. This prognosis is becoming stronger day by day in the minds of many analysts.

Needless to say, for most of the Arab and Moslem citizens of the world, notwithstanding the submissive positions of their governments in most cases, this is clear genocide, based on ethnic chauvinism and arrogance that comes with the laxity in the reactions displayed by most of these governments and the international community, as a whole. This is further strengthened by the very carefree attitude of the international community towards its own resolutions, such as the latest United Nations Council resolution calling for an "immediate cease fire" in Gaza. In other words, Israel has a mandate to override all religious, moral codes and human statutes, duly ordained or Heavenly revealed or embedded in the minds and hearts of all civilized men and women. God have mercy on the people of Gaza and on the rest of humanity when the latter eventually are held to account by the Al-Mighty for the failure of an entire world to bring an end to the Holocaust of Gaza.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi



By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

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Dust to sust: The real Gaza, Israel story

By: David Harris
and Hamza El-Attar
The Media Line News Agency

The body, wrapped only in a flag, is lowered into the ground as family members throw themselves towards the grave screaming in anguish. At that moment their world has ended. For the hundreds standing around them, vengeance is the only path worth treading. It doesn't matter whether you are now imagining the victim as a Palestinian or an Israeli – the scene is identical.

Residents of the Gaza Strip and southern Israel alike will tell you that in years gone by they built up close working relationships, and in some cases real friendships. Yet throughout the last 40 years there has always been an unease between the two, which all-too-often has spilled over into bloodshed.

Ever since the creation of the Palestinian Authority in the early 1990s, Hamas has been a dominant force in Gaza, and when in 2006 the Islamist movement claimed victory in the Palestinian parliamentary election it was clear that soon it would gain de facto control of the narrow coastal enclave. A year later, Hamas took over the running of Gaza from Fatah in what the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud 'Abbas, described as "a bloody coup."

It has left some Gaza-based Fatah officials smarting, angry and even prepared to blame Hamas rather than Israel for the current violence.

"We were protective of the people and made sure that the Palestinian cause was on the right path until we got the world on our side," says Ibrahim Abu A-Naja a member of Fatah's Executive Committee.

However, the overriding view in Gaza is that Israel is directly to blame for the new reality on the ground, in addition to the troubles already besetting Gazans. Similarly in Israel, the residents of the towns and villages that have been under rocket fire for eight years accuse Hamas and the smaller armed organizations in Gaza of being responsible for the violence and bloodshed.

"Yesterday the rocket blew out my window and just missed the gas balloons; and the last time it blew two doors off their hinges and they were blown together like a sandwich," says Yair Madmon, a man in

his late 50s who says he served in the Israeli army as a reservist until he was 48. Like many who live in Sderot, Madmon says he will never leave.

However, that is not the case for everyone. Since the missiles began raining in, people have fled the town. It means businesses are in decline, leaving the local economy in ruins.

The middle-aged mustachioed owner of the local lottery franchise in Sderot, who asks not to be named, says he works on a percentage basis – his income dependent on the number of tickets sold. He says fewer people than ever come his way and he spends much of his day running for shelter in the nearby supermarket.

The strain on his family, both financial and mental, is enormous.

"My wife's worried about me and I am about her," he says, while handing a white and pink lottery ticket to his solitary customer. "We panic when one of us doesn't answer the phone, or if the line's engaged, or if it's out of order."

The conversation with the customer at the lottery booth is rudely interrupted by a stern female voice, broadcast via a hidden loudspeaker, warning all residents to take cover. The few people in the public square run for shelter in the local supermarket. They have 15 seconds before the rockets hit.

That rocket was fired from just a handful of miles away in Gaza.

"Leave it, it's mine," is a normal cry from a Gazan who has spent his day in a line in front of a bakery waiting to purchase a package of bread. There has been a lack of flour since the first day of the Israeli military operation.

That aerial attack at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 27, came like a bolt out of the blue for Palestinians, and for Hamas in particular. Some 150 Hamas security personnel were killed in just three minutes. Since then, Gazans have awoken every day to the sound of explosions and smoke plumes peppering the sky. Many residents use the same word to describe their life over the last week: "Hell."

Empty streets, closed stores, pale faces, police officers sleeping on Gaza's roads, cameramen passing in their cars – those have been the dominant scenes in Gaza. Those, along with the ambulances racing from destroyed buildings to overcrowded hospitals.

"It's a war crime. Many innocent civil-

ians have been killed, particularly kids and women," says Momen, a Gaza resident. "Besides, the humanitarian situation gets more difficult and totally inhumane because of lack of flour and gasoline."

The shortages are not only in basic foodstuffs and the power supply but also in room in Gaza's morgues. As a result, hospital employees are gathering bodies in the open air. The identification process has taken on a grizzly nature, with family members having to walk along the rows of bodies to see if any are their loved ones. Many of the bodies are mangled beyond recognition.

A car arrives at Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest. Someone rushes in screaming, "He's alive. Save him. Please save him." It is a man carrying a young adult. The wounded man is dying. He is a cameraman with Hamas' Al-Aq' sa TV. It appears unlikely the ill-equipped ambulances and dirty conditions in the hospital will help in his failing fight for survival.

The decision makers at the local level are at a loss. In Gaza there is little advice they can offer and no comfort. People cannot flee the situation. Many want to quit Gaza via the Rafah crossing into Egypt, but for the vast majority of the time Cairo insists the border remain closed.

Hamas' leadership has gone to ground in bunkers, tunnels and elsewhere, meaning there is no one to whom the public can turn for help.

In Israel, there are more options available to the population but local politicians are still unsure how to advise their electorate.

"I'm not the general manager of the lives of the people here," Sderot Mayor David Bouskila says from his underground logistics bunker. "I don't know what to tell the people – to be here and suffer or to go elsewhere."

In Israel, at least, the radio and TV channels are constantly broadcasting warning messages as to where the rockets are headed and offering phone numbers of psychological services available to residents of the south. National radio is calling on those living in northern Israel to offer home hospitality to all who desire. Many southerners take advantage of this support and are relocating to spare bedrooms up and down the country.

Schools, synagogues and offices are collecting foodstuffs, which are distrib-

uted to those still in the south. While fewer rockets are being fired from Gaza now the Israeli ground offensive is in full swing, their range has increased with Grad rockets capable of traveling some 25 miles being launched from Gaza.

In previous years the name Sderot became synonymous with the Qassam rockets of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, but now the coastal cities Ashqelon and Ashdod can be added to the list, as well as the capital of the south Beer Sheva, Netivot, Qiryat Malachi and a host of other towns and villages.

While the damage is far less significant on the Israeli side of the border, the number of Israelis now within range of the rockets is reaching a par with that for the Palestinians. Schools are closed throughout the south. City and regional councils have unlocked bomb shelters that have been closed for years to prepare for worst-case scenarios.

While Israel has had to get used to daily rocket attacks over the last eight years, the international community is now firmly focused on Israel's strikes against Hamas, with many ambassadors to the United Nations speaking of Jerusalem's "disproportionate use of force."

As has been the case in recent decades, Israel's main detractor on the international scene is the Muslim bloc, as represented by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which is arguably the strongest grouping in the U.N.

In the days leading up to the Israeli strike and immediately following, Egypt proved to be the key exception by blaming Hamas for all the ills that have befallen the civilian population of Gaza.

The Islamist movement handed Israel an opportunity "on a golden plate" to attack, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu Al-Gheit told reporters. Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud 'Abbas made similar remarks as he toured regional capitals on the day the warfare commenced.

Israel's key ally is the United States, with other "old friends" attempting to prevent comprehensive condemnation of Jerusalem's actions. Among them: the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic, which crucially has just taken over the presidency of the European Union from France. Prague is stressing the Israeli action is "defensive" rather than "offensive."

Yet, most in the international communi-

ty see things differently. While criticizing Hamas' rocket firing, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon roundly condemned Israel: "While recognizing Israel's right to defend itself, I have also condemned the excessive use of force by Israel in Gaza. The suffering caused to civilian populations as a result of the large-scale violence and destruction that have taken place over the past few days has saddened me profoundly."

In Muslim capitals and elsewhere the rhetoric has been far stronger than that adopted by U.N. diplomats.

"Muslims of the world should stay united against world arrogance, the criminal Zionists in particular... to line up against [the] wicked party with more solidarity than ever," the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps was quoted as saying by Tehran's official news agency IRNA. The comment was published as Iran's security chief 'Said Jalili was in Beirut for talks with Hizbullah leader Hasan Na'srallah, among others.

In Malaysia, Israel's actions were described as "tantamount to genocide," by the country's deputy foreign minister, 'Abd Al-Rahim Bakri.

However, Israel maintains that during its aerial bombardment of Gaza it was doing its utmost to ensure civilians were not caught up in the air strikes and only Hamas members and other combatants were targeted.

"We're using very high-precision weaponry," says Maj. Avital Leibovich, a senior spokeswoman with the Israel Defense Forces.

The Israeli message to the world has remained the same throughout the campaign: Hamas has brought the warfare upon itself and ordinary Gazans. It goes back to the time Israel withdrew all its civilians and military personnel from Gaza three years ago.

"We hoped the Palestinians would do something good with their lives. We wanted a better future for them and for a while it worked," says Leibovich.

She points to the successful exports of millions-of-dollars worth of flowers and fruits exported from Gaza in the first months following the Israeli pullback.

"But then Hamas was elected and changed the priorities. It invested a lot of money in building headquarters, recruiting troops, training them, digging hundreds of tunnels, buying weapons and

explosives. That money did not go to the Palestinians themselves."

A similar message came from Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak when he explained why Israel had moved to a land invasion of Gaza on January 3: "I have said all along that our military activities will widen and deepen as much as needed. Our aim is to force Hamas to stop its hostile activities against Israel and Israelis from Gaza, and to bring about a significant change in the situation in southern Israel.

"We have carefully weighed all our options. We are not war hungry but we shall not, I repeat – we shall not allow a situation in which our towns, villages and civilians are constantly targeted by Hamas. It will not be easy or short, but we are determined."

Hamas too has repeatedly made a single point whenever it has been given the chance.

"We first declared a truce between the Palestinian parties and the occupation [Israel], to protect the Palestinians from the daily attacking, daily killing and assassinations, but the calm failed to put an end to their tragedy," says Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum.

As a result, he adds, Hamas had little choice other than to refuse to extend the truce. The mood in Gaza made it clear the people did not want the unilaterally declared truce to continue any longer.

Comments like these and others from Palestinian parties and world leaders will soon be forgotten, but the vivid images from Gaza and southern Israel will be remembered for years to come: Palestinian and Israeli civilians alike weeping uncontrollably in the face of a fate they cannot control.

The two people are divided by an enormous chasm, by fences, ditches, armed forces and a deep-set paranoia about the intentions of the other. Yet the two have far more in common than perhaps they are ready to admit as the rockets and shells still pound away.

Israelis and Palestinians are united in their fear of the power of weaponry in the hands of the enemy. Both sit in their homes wondering if the next explosive projectile is heading for them. They are making the same visits to hospitals to visit the victims of warfare.

And both are as one as they pay the ultimate price – burying their dead.



Invitation for General Bid No. (1) for the year 2009

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (1) for the year 2009 for:

Importing, installing, licensing, testing, guaranteeing and delivering mobile cameras with their peripheries to the Eman Satellite Channel.

All the interested importers and specialized companies must 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)**

Cost for buying the bid documents (\$200) non refundable.
The deadline of selling the documents is: 11/2/2009.

The bids must be presented in a red wax sealed envelopes t the bids and tenders committee's secretariat at the corporation. The names of the bidding company and of the project along with the tender number and the bidder's name must be written on the envelop, which should contain the following documents:

1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 12,500\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
3. A copy f valid insurance certificate for the year 2009 (insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
4. A copy of valid registration and classification for the year 2009.
5. A copy of valid Zakat certificate for the year 2009.
6. A copy of valid commercial registration valid for the year 2009.
7. A copy of valid profession license certificate for the year 2009.
8. A copy of valid sales tax registration certificate for the year 2009.

The deadline for receiving the proposals is at 11:00 am on Sunday 15/2/2009 at the corporation's main premises.



Invitation for General Bid No. (2) for the year 2009

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (2) for the year 2009 for:

Importing, installing, licensing, testing, guaranteeing and delivering a variety of mobile equipment with wireless montage units their peripheries to the Eman Satellite Channel.

All the interested importers and specialized companies must 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)**

Cost for buying the bid documents (\$200) non refundable.
The deadline of selling the documents is: 11/2/2009.

The bids must be presented in a red wax sealed envelopes t the bids and tenders committee's secretariat at the corporation. The names of the bidding company and of the project along with the tender number and the bidder's name must be written on the envelop, which should contain the following documents:

1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 7,500\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
3. A copy f valid insurance certificate for the year 2009 (insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
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6. A copy of valid commercial registration valid for the year 2009.
7. A copy of valid profession license certificate for the year 2009.
8. A copy of valid sales tax registration certificate for the year 2009.

The deadline for receiving the proposals is at 11:00 am on Sunday 15/2/2009 at the corporation's main premises.

Chairman of the Center for Media and Economic Studies to the Yemen Times:

“Business and economic journalism is needed to protect consumers’ rights”

By: Ali Saeed

Mostafa Nassr, 31, is an economic journalist from Taiz. After having worked in the field for over eight years, he decided to establish the Center for Media and Economic Studies in August 2008 to fill a void in Yemeni media. Ali Saeed interviewed Nassr about his center.



Mostafa Nassr

Why economic journalism?

“Although [economic journalism] is very important, it is not available in Yemen. I used to work for the Al-Sahwa newspaper in 2000 as an economic editor and I felt that there is an urgent need for economic and business journalists. There is scarcity of eco-

economic journalists so I decided to specialize in this field. My colleagues encouraged me to fill the gap [with a] center that would provide interested journalists with training or technical support to continue their reporting. The center provides training courses in economic and business news coverage and macro and micro economy.

“Economic reporters do not necessarily have to know everything in the economy like experts, but they do have to learn the fundamentals to convey what he or she is reporting on to readers in simple language. The economic reporter does have to acquire the relevant skills such as the analysis indicators, data and budgets, something that many business reporters in Yemen do not do.

The center

“The center was established in August last year. The main objective in its establishment was to provide a professional reference for the economic media in Yemen. We are working to create professional economic and business journalism in Yemen, and aim to launch awareness campaigns –through the media for example- on economic issues.

“Political issues in the media occupy most of the coverage, but economic issues have not yet found their right place.

“Nowadays, the consumer is attacked by high prices, smuggled low-quality goods and other issues. By exposing the latter in the media in a professional way, we can help the consumers to obtain their rights. Business

and economic journalism is needed to protect consumers’ rights.

“Ibrahim Al-Ashmawei who is the economic reporter for Al-Hayat in Yemen, Ali Al-Bashairy, economic editor of the economic supplement of Al-Thawra and Fuad Al-Qadhi, in charge of economic news for Al-Siyassiya, are among the consultants of the center who provide input to the journalists who need support.

“The center also carries out regular economic studies on Yemen. We conducted [a study] on the onion industry in Yemen and how it is mismanaged, and [organized] a symposium on money laundering as well as training courses on the fundamentals of economic journalism. We intend to hold a training course for economic reporters on using the internet.

“Our latest studies will be on exports from the area of Abs in the governorate of Hajjah and the agricultural industry there.

Access to information

“As an economic reporter, the biggest challenge is finding access to information. In Yemen, information is still withheld. Governmental bodies deal with simple information as secrets or national security issues.

“The private sector is not very cooperative either in giving access to information. Traders and businessmen do not want to reveal their budgets, profits or even economic policies, even for academic studies under a non-disclosure agreement. They fear that if the real numbers are revealed, they will have to pay more taxes.”

Depression Economics

by J. Bradford DeLong

A decade ago, the 2008 Nobel laureate in economics, Paul Krugman, wrote a little book entitled *The Return of Depression Economics*. It sank like a stone.

The East Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998 was sharp but short and quickly cured once the IMF realized that feckless governments were not the problem and then United States Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin parachuted the New York banks into South Korea’s economy. The collapse, not long after, of the dot-com bubble in 2000-2001 brought on not a depression but merely an output decline so mild as to barely warrant the name “recession.”

Now Krugman is back with a revised and expanded version of his book, and, sadly, the timing is perfect. For there is a much better case to be made today than there was in 1998 that we should be thinking in terms of “depression economics.”

But the book does not tell us what “depression economics” is supposed to replace. So let me try my hand at defining non-depression economics:

Short-run economic policy should be left in the hands of the central bank, with the legislature and the executive focusing on the long run and keeping their noses out of year-to-year fluctuations in employment and prices;

Central banks’ highest priority should be to maintain their credibility as guardians of price stability, and only then turn their attention to keeping the

economy near full employment, which they should do by influencing asset prices – upward when unemployment threatens to rise, and downward when an inflationary spiral looms;

Central banks should influence asset prices through normal open-market operations – by buying and selling short-term government securities for cash, thus changing the “safe” interest rate and the price of longer-duration assets;

While the central bank should stand ready to intervene to prevent bank runs, it should let the financial sector run itself with a light regulatory hand, viewing itself not as a chaperone but rather as the designated driver in the case of speculative excess.

This is the doctrine that Krugman argues is no longer sufficient for our

age. And he has a very good case. Nearly all of these principles are, today at least, honored more in the breach than in the observance.

Today, short-run economic policy cannot just be left to the central bank alone. For one thing, its balance sheet is not big enough. At a minimum, the central bank now needs the assistance of that part of the government that taxes and borrows.

Moreover, the highest priority for central banks can no longer be to maintain their credibility as guardians of price stability, but rather their credibility as guardians of the financial system’s stability and soundness. Once that highest goal has been achieved, central banks can turn their attention to trying to keep the economy near full employment.

One principle does remain true: central banks should try to keep the economy at near full employment by pushing asset prices up when unemployment threatens to rise. But central banks today are influencing asset prices through a very large number of channels and procedures other than conventional open-market operations: they are trying to affect not just duration discounts but risk, default, and information-driven discounts as well.

Nor is it any longer accepted that such actions will be sufficient. Fiscal stimulus is needed as well. Non-depression economics eschews fiscal policy, on the grounds that central banks’ tools are powerful enough and their decision-making more effective and technocratic than that by legislatures. But in today’s prevailing condi-

tions, we cannot afford this perspective.

Finally, central banks still stand ready to intervene to prevent bank runs. But the presumption in favor of light financial-sector regulation now has few defenders. The consensus view is rather that of William McChesney Martin, who served as US Federal Reserve Chairman from 1951 to 1970: a good central bank prevents speculative excess by “taking away the punch-bowl” before the party really gets going.”

J. Bradford DeLong is Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley and a former Assistant US Treasury Secretary. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008 www.project-syndicate.org

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

Republic of Yemen

Public Works Project

IFB No: GUS-11/3

Procurement of Health Equipments, furniture for Baihan Hospital

- The Republic of Yemen has received a grant from the US government toward the cost of Agriculture and Health facilities and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the Contract for GUS-11/3.
- The Public Work Project now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for procurement of equipments and furniture for Baihan Hospital.
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Public Works project head office Electronic and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below
2nd turning n left of 20 m Rd west 60m Rd,
Telephone: 407354/407358, facsimile: 407353 –
E-Mail: pwp-yem@y.net.ye
P.O. Box: 18316 Sana’a – Yemen
from 8am to 3:30 pm
- Qualifications requirements include previous experience. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee YR30,000.
- Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before 11:00 am on 1/3/2009. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders’ representatives who choose to attend in person at the address above at 11:00 am on 1-3-2009. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security valid for 120 days of US\$16,000 for Lot-1, US\$5,000 for Lot-2 and US\$3,000 for Lot-3, US\$5,000 for Lot-4 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

يعلن مشروع الأشغال العامة

عن إنزال المناقصة العالمية لتوريد تجهيزات طبية وأثاث

لمستشفى بيحان – شبوة

رقم ! "##%&'()*

حصلت الجمهورية اليمنية على هبة من حكومة الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية من مادة الدقيق والقمح في إطار برنامج ! "## يتم بيعها وتخصيص جزء من ثمنها لمشروع الأشغال العامة لتمويل تنفيذ مشروعات صغيرة ومتوسطة في مجالات التربية والصحة والمياه والصرف الصحي وقد خصص جزء من هذه المنحة لمواجهة تكاليف توريد وتركيب أجهزة طبية وأثاث لمستشفى بيحان – شبوة.

١. تدعو وحدة إدارة الأشغال العامة الموردين المؤهلين بحسب شروط البنك الدولي لتقديم عطاءاتهم المغلقة لتوريد وتركيب أجهزة طبية وأثاث لمستشفى بيحان – شبوة.

٢. يمكن شراء وثائق المناقصة بموجب طلب كتابي من العنوان:

مشروع الأشغال العامة

ص. ب. ! "##%&'()* شرق تقاطع الستين الغربي مع شارع العشرين

(مبنى كلية المجتمع سابقا) تلفون ##%&'()* فاكس ##%&'()*

مقابل دفع مبلغ لايرد وقدره (##%&'()* ريال) ثلاثون ألف ريال للنسخة الواحدة

ويمكن للمتقدمين الراغبين الحصول على المعلومات الإضافية من نفس العنوان.

٣. تقدم العطاءات في ظروف مغلقة ومختومة بالشمع الأحمر وتكون من أصل وصورة وتسلم إلى

العنوان المذكور أعلاه في موعد أقصاه الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً من يوم الأربعاء الموافق

"##%&'()* على أن تكون العروض صالحة لمدة (##%&'()* يوماً بعد موعد فتح المظاريف ومرفق

بالعطاء ضمان ابتدائي للمجموعة الأولى (##%&'()* دولار) وللمجموعة الثانية (##%&'()* دولار

وللمجموعة الثالثة (##%&'()* دولار) وللمجموعة الرابعة (##%&'()* صالح لمدة (##%&'()* يوماً بعد

موعد فتح المظاريف لصالح وحدة إدارة مشروع الأشغال العامة.

٤. على الموردين المحليين إرفاق صورة معتمدة من البطاقة الضريبية مجددة لعام (##%&'()* .

٥. سيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً من يوم الأحد الموافق

"##%&'()* وذلك بحضور من يرغب من ممثلي المتقدمين، ووحدة تنفيذ المشروع غير ملزمة

بقبول أقل الأسعار ولها الحق في رفض أي عطاء أو كل العطاءات دون إبداء الأسباب.

Through

The Mind's Eye



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

Male and female, how to deal?

Allah Almighty has created humans in two different genders that basically complete each other so that life goes on. The relationship between them, however, is not limited to only the area of marriage and family; they are brought together in many other aspects of life as well. What surprises me is the thinking style of some women who look at dealing with men as something against morals and against social traditions.

Of course, modern life is different from life in the past in terms of the needs of each gender for the other. In spite of this, men and women used to do many things together in the past. For instance, during the time of our Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon Him, women dealt with men in many fields such as Jihad, trading, etc. Dealing with each other was not done in order to establish immoral relations; rather, these relationships were dominated by religious principles and social morals which in turn determined the boundaries of their relations. When such boundaries are destroyed by one or both genders, the fault would be from the people involved themselves, and not because men and women were dealing together in the first place.

To illustrate the point, let us refer to an example of a woman who is dealing with men in study, work, and other social fields. She is of good morals, respecting the religious principles and the social customs. Of course, among the men she is dealing with, there are some men who think of establishing inappropriate relationships with her since she is frequently around them. In time, however, her personality shakes those bad people, forcing them to deal with her in the way she likes. The same example can be taken in the case of a man who has to deal with women.

What surprises me most is the women who claim that they do not like to deal with men at all. Of course it is possible for women to live without dealing with men. This happens with some conservative families who prefer women to stay at home, having all their needs from outside taken care of by their male family members. If a woman is satisfied with this, and really follows it, she has the right to say: "I do not want to deal with men," and must follow her interest by keeping her words.

I do not know what to call a woman who has started her life since childhood in dealing with men, and then in one or maybe two cases, she claims that she doesn't want to deal with men. Such a woman might have been taught by men, studied with men, worked with men, and maybe daily deals with men in the markets and other fields of life. In all these fields, she easily deals with men without any disgust or even hesitation. Then, all of a sudden, she announces her disgust in dealing with men only for the simple reason that they are men.

When such women discuss this behavior, they say the reason is because men deal immorally with them. Here I remember the story of the example mentioned above which shows how women as well as men can control their relations with each other. So it depends on the woman herself and how she defines limits and boundaries in dealing with men, even those men that are morally bad.

Some other women claim that dealing with men is regarded as breaking the social norms. Surprisingly, some of these women have jobs in which they have daily contact with men. When they are asked why it is they work at all if there will be contact with men in the workplace, they simply say, "We can control the way we deal with such men at work." Good. The answer is convincing enough so that such a treatment of men is not considered against the social norms. As a result of this answer, one can ask: "Why not control relations with men in all fields so that the social norms will not be broken at all, as is claimed?"

Anyway, I am not writing such an article to call women to deal with men or vice versa. But I really support the idea that men and women can deal with each other; their relations depend on their personalities and the limits that are determined by each person. Nevertheless, I call you, dear readers, to share your ideas either supporting or rejecting mine for the purpose of spotlighting the topic from different angles

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinions writer form Taiz. He holds a Masters Degree from the English department at Taiz University and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

Why do we need friendships?

Friendships are a gift to mankind. The relations we have in this world are blood related, but the only relationships which aren't related to blood are friendships. Friendship has many forms and shapes. It is like water. If we pour the water into a jug, it takes

the shape of jug. If you pour the same water into a bowl, it takes the shape of a bowl. Friendships will take different shapes and sizes according to our hearts. Friendship gives pleasure to human beings.

Where there is friendship then there will not be any sorrow. When you see a child laughing, you will

forget your sorrows for a second; when you are with a friend, you forget your sorrows completely.

The world is rotating smoothly because of the friendly hearts in the world. Friendship crosses boundaries and shares a mutual bond of love. Friendships will take care of this entire world's problems. When our countries are friends then

there is no need of weapons. So take the weapons named friendship and love and conquer the world with love.

True friendship never lets others down. It helps a lot to make friends in order to overcome any problem in life. For all that a friendship can offer, true friendships never expect anything in return. It can save lives

without looking closely into the situation. Friends come along with friendships; friends are the channels of love and affection. Friends are like a child's heart which doesn't know wrongdoings.

When there is a friend with us we feel secure, happy, supported, and comfortable; feelings impossible to get from strangers.

By: Enas AL_Radami
enasradami@gmail.com
(These lines are devoted to my dear friend Asia)

I had no time to pick up my stuff, but my friend told me to wait for her. As usual, she would blame me for leaving my heavy books for her to carry, but I didn't really mean to tire

her. She was like the light coming from my heart, or like a drop of water when thirsty. Unlike me, she would endure hardships, or comments from curious individuals, and all the while she barely complained. I tried to learn a little patience from her, but I found it difficult to achieve what was not in my mind! Once I asked her, hesitantly, "Do you feel happy when being patient all the time?"

"How can we have life without patience!?" she replied quietly and satisfyingly, as if patience were her first priority in this half-dark life! I was speechless, trying to keep in mind that I had to adopt some of my close friend's characteristics if I was to be able to live in peace and tranquility. In fact, these strong words were repeated over and over again in my head, and whenever I felt

impatient I attempted to remember her precious words. Nevertheless, I found it hard to be like her, and I started realizing that being alone without a true friend could lead to unknown consequences. In other words, I felt supported by her even if she wasn't there.

Just recalling her wonderful friendship in the past instills me with a strong sense of hope, and I look to

the future with stable eyes and generous hands. She could be a light or a spirit that supports me in difficult times, and leads me to a peaceful path by which I can find her constantly in my mind. She was, and still is, my guide to companionship for Allah's sake, and so our friendship will obviously last a long time, and I would be a good friend to her for my entire life!

As a Star!

RED -Colored sand

By: Mona abduhman Hashem
somedagoodrem@hotmail.com

Sometimes tears have to drop But too many tears turn into blood

Oh Palestine my ancestors' land Your earth has turned into red-colored sand In it you have buried so many boys Innocent, young still playing with toys

But their little hearts have turned into men So fast before they had a chance to begin A life like other men with family and

kin Born into their own country they face persecution And live their lives full of confusion Oh little boy playing with sand

Shot dead from snipers in your own land Mother's tears fall like razor sharp Penetrating down deep with permanent scars

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- Powered by BRAVIA ENGINE 2
- 1 Tuner PAP & PC PIP
- 5-Force Front Surround

Available in 40", 32", 26" & 20"

1 YEAR WARRANTY

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1 YEAR WARRANTY

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Invitation for General Bid No. (3) for the year 2009

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (2) for the year 2009 for:

Importing, installing, licensing, testing, guaranteeing and delivering a mobile Satellite Transmitting Station SNG (Satellite News Gathering) with all its peripheries to the Eman Satellite Channel.

All the interested importers and specialized companies must 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)

Cost for buying the bid documents (\$200) non refundable.
The deadline of selling the documents is: 11/2/2009.

The bids must be presented in a red wax sealed envelopes t the bids and tenders committee's secretariat at the corporation. The names of the bidding company and of the project along with the tender number and the bidder's name must be written on the envelop, which should contain the following documents:

1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 7,500\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
3. A copy f valid insurance certificate for the year 2009 (insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
4. A copy of valid registration and classification for the year 2009.
5. A copy of valid Zakat certificate for the year 2009.
6. A copy of valid commercial registration valid for the year 2009.
7. A copy of valid profession license certificate for the year 2009.
8. A copy of valid sales tax registration certificate for the year 2009.

The deadline for receiving the proposals is at 11:00 am on Sunday 15/2/2009 at the corporation's main premises.

بِقَلُوبٍ مُّؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ
نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَارٍ التَّعَاذِي وَأَصْدَقِ الْمَوَاسَاةِ إِلَى
الإخوة/ أحمد ومحمد وإسامة علي البار
وكافة آل البار
وذلك لوفاء المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى والدهم
الدكتور/ علي البار
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ومغفرته
وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته ويُلهم أهله و ذويه الصبر والسلوان ...
إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
الأسيفون:
آل السقاف
كادر جامعة صنعاء
الجيران في مجمع الأوقاف

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



YEMEN

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the project **Strengthening Socotra's Policy and regulatory frame work for mainstreaming Biodiversity**.

1- Post Title: National Project Coordinator
Duty Station: Socotra

Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership and strategic thinking to ensure proper implementation of project activities
- Overall management and planning of the implementation of the project's outputs and activities
- Manage and administer the day-by-day operations to ensure the effective implementation of the activities of above mentioned project
- Initiate coordination with relevant national organizations, private sector companies and civil society initiatives where necessary
- Undertake all necessary financial arrangements, processes, request for authorizations, payments and ensure financial accountability
- Ensure the formulation of the Project Board
- Arrange and coordinate the Project Board and act as Secretariat of the Committee.
- Prepare the work plan, quarterly, progress, annual reports and Terminal Report.
- Undertake any other related tasks at the request of the Project Board
- Supervise all staff assignment and consulting agreements

Qualification:

- 7 years working experience preferably in the field of environment in Yemen
- 5 years experience in project management in the public or private sectors.
- Advanced university degree in environment, international development
- Proficiency in English and Arabic Languages spoken and written.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Resourcefulness and strong networking skills

2- Post Title: Technical Project Assistant

Duty Station: Socotra

Responsibilities:

- Produce public relations materials, edit reports and assist with planning, publicizing and carrying out training activities and stakeholder consultations for the project
- Participate in and facilitate training and workshops as appropriate
- Act as a communications focal point for the project including management of press and other media inquiries
- Support the National Project Coordinator in the day-by-day operations to ensure the effective implementation of the activities of above mentioned project
- Initiate coordination with relevant national organizations, private sector companies and civil society initiatives where necessary
- Undertake necessary administrative assignments as requested by the National Project Coordinator.
- Assist the National Project Coordinator in preparing reports, correspondences, and any other material needed.
- Organize and maintain up-to-date documentation of all files and documents related to the project (both paper and electronic).
- Perform other related duties as requested by the National Project Coordinator.

Qualification:

- Degree in development studies/communications or equivalent
- At least 3 years work experience in the field of project management, public information and communication
- Proficiency in English and Arabic Languages spoken and written.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Resourcefulness and strong networking skills

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: (hr.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Friday, 23 January 2009.

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



YEMEN

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking energetic and skilled Yemeni Nationals to join our core team. Following are the positions we seek candidates for:

1- Procurement Assistant

The Procurement Assistant will support the procurement unit ensuring transparent and efficient procurement and travel services and processes. The procurement assistant will promote a client-focused, quality and results-oriented approach in the unit.

Responsibilities will include:

- Issuing purchase orders and contracts ensuring full compliance of rules and regulations;
- Assist in dealing with procurement and travel processes.
- Prepare letters to various government offices requesting visa, resident permits, etc.,
- Organization of travel including purchase of tickets, Daily Subsistence Allowance, staff entitlements etc.,

Qualification Requirements:

University Degree in Business or Public Administration with 2-3 years relevant experience (specialized training in procurement would be an asset but is not a requirement);

OR Secondary Education with at least 5 years relevant experience;

2- Project Management Assistant

The Project Management Assistant will support the programme teams and provide project management support services ensuring high quality, accuracy and consistency of work.

Responsibilities will include:

- Handling missions (follow-up visas, security clearance, airport pick up, arranging transport and accommodation while in the country, arranging their meetings, ...)
- Assisting in the advocacy of and preparation for events (sending invitations, reporting etc.)
- Financial reports follow-up
- Drafting and sending routine correspondence
- Other day to day administrative support to team as required

Qualification Requirements:

University Degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics or Social Sciences with 2-3 years relevant experience;

OR Secondary Education with at least 5 years relevant experience;

3- Donor Relations Assistant

The Donor Relations Assistant will provide programme support services in the development and implementation of the Resource Mobilization strategy and provide assistance in tracking donor contributions and ensuring donor reporting requirements are met.

Responsibilities will include:

- Supporting the administration of donor contributions and contribution agreements;
- Assisting with Donor reporting and monitoring of programme delivery
- Supporting the enhancement of regular and results based donor reporting and the tracking of donor contribution in projects.
- Supporting the advisory team in formulating and implementing a monitoring and evaluation plan

Qualification Requirements:

University Degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics or Social Sciences with 2-3 years relevant experience;

OR Secondary Education with at least 5 years relevant experience;

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye>

for detailed term of reference of the positions and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

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