

Egypt teachers return to Yemeni schools

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After almost 20 years of decreasing numbers of Egyptian teachers working in Yemen, educators from both countries are discussing in Cairo a suggestion to bring Egyptian teachers back into Yemeni schools

Deputy Minister of Education, Mohammad Hadi Tawaf, said in a statement to the Al-Thawrah Net that the purpose of his current visit to Egypt is to discuss the possibility of the return of Egyptian teachers to Yemen.

He added that this step is a part of a strategy of the Ministry of Education to improve the quality of the country's education.

Ahmad Al-Rabahi, the head of the Yemeni Teachers' Syndicate, said he appreciated the role of foreign teachers, including Egyptians, in the education development of Yemen in the 1960s and 70s.

He attributed the reasons behind the past positive and influential roles of Egyptian teachers in Yemen to the small population at that time, the high salaries they used to have compared to Yemeni teachers and the amount of experience they brought to the job.

"It is strange and questionable to bring Egyptian teachers to teach in Yemen while tens of thousands of students graduate from faculties of education in the different governorates," he added.

Al-Rabahi said he wondered what made the Ministry of Education want to bring Egyptian teachers to Yemen.

"Is it the lack of teachers in some school subject specializations? Or to cover the remote areas where Yemeni teachers don't usually settle down?" he asked.

Yemeni teachers do not like to work in remote areas because they do not receive incentives and advantages from working there, he added.

Media reports said that the ministry will bring Egyptian teachers to Yemeni schools to spread tolerance and moderation, reject extremism and violence in the Yemeni society, especially the youth as well as instilling national noble values.

Al-Rabahi said that this statement accuses Yemeni teachers of extremism.

"We totally refuse that," he said "Yemeni teachers are moderate and if some deviated, this would not be a rule and it happens in all societies."

In the mid 1980s there were around 20,000 foreign teachers were working in former Yemen Arab Republic, mostly, teachers from Egypt and Sudan. In the year 2000, there were 6,160 non-Yemeni teachers.

After the Gulf War in 1990, Kuwait withdrew its financial support for education in Yemen, so the number of foreign teachers decreased.

Yemen had received about one million Egyptian teachers, in all subjects and the Egyptian school curriculum has been taught in Yemen for over twenty years. Currently, In Yemen, Egyptian school teachers receive about \$500 per month.

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