



## **ASIA/YEMEN - No marriages to minors: the Ministry intervenes for the Protection of Human Rights**

Taiz (Agenzia Fides) - After the most recent reported cases of early marriages, reported by the YemenPost, the Ministry for the Protection of Human Rights in Yemen has issued a warning to local authorities to prevent the marriage of some young students from the southern city of Taiz. Many Yemenis in Taiz who, for fear of falling victim of social stigma and to comply with the tribal traditions, often give their young daughters in marriage. According to some, marriage at 16 is too early for a girl, imams insist that in Islam it is important to have a physical and mental maturity to be able to give a minimum consensus. To try to cope with the phenomenon, the Ministry for the Protection of Human Rights, in the months of October and November is working on a bill to establish a minimum legal age for marriage. (AP) (Agenzia Fides 11/11/2013)